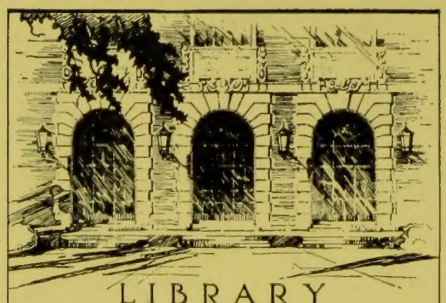

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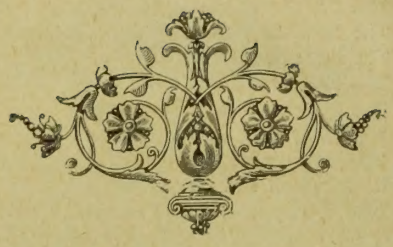
THE TWENTY-FIFTH "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW, 1599

A Modern Blue Beard and Other Stories : being the 28th Christmas Number of TRUTH. Illustrated by Mr. Roland Hill.



· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

INVITATIONS have been issued by the Lord Chamberlain for the State Ball which is to be given at Buckingham Palace on Friday night, for about 2,500 guests, for half-past ten o'clock. All the members of the Royal Family are expected to be present at this ball, including the Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who has not attended such an entertainment at the Palace for many years past. The Corps Diplomatique and Ministers have all been invited, and will arrive at the Pimlico entrance, while the Garden entrance is to be reserved for the Prince and Princess of Wales and the other members of the Royal Family. The ball will commence with a *quadrille d'honneur*, which is to be danced directly after the King and Queen have taken their seats on the daïs. The Royalties will dance at the top and bottom of the room, and "distinguished guests," who have previously been instructed by the Lord Chamberlain, at the sides. The supper arrangements will be the same as at the first ball. The whole suite of rooms on the garden front will be thrown open, and the terrace and gardens are to be illuminated. Cartloads of fruit are coming up from Frogmore gardens for the supper tables. The floral decorations will be profuse, except in the ballroom, where it has been found that they become oppressive on a hot night, and cause headaches and a general sense of discomfort.

The King held an Investiture of the Royal Victorian Order on board the *Victoria and Albert* when he was staying at Kiel. His Majesty then conferred "the honour of Knighthood" upon Rear-Admiral Sir Archibald Berkeley Milne, and invested him with the Second-Class (K.C.V.O.) of this Order, while the same decoration (Fourth Class) was conferred upon Commander Stanley (a son of Lord and Lady Derby), of the Royal yacht. It is understood that Sir Archibald Berkeley Milne, who is a *persona gratissima* at Court, will retain the command of the *Victoria and Albert* until the end of the year. Sir Archibald will, of course, attend the annual dinner of the officers of the Royal yacht, which is to take place to-morrow evening at the Grand Hotel, and the Prince of Wales will be present.

It was announced in Truth last week that the King would shortly pay a visit to Lady Gerard at Eastwell Park, near Ashford. His Majesty went down to Eastwell on Saturday afternoon and returned to town on Monday morning. I hear that the King will very likely pay week-end visits from the 9th till the 11th, and from the 16th till the 18th, to the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch and Countess Torby at Keele Hall, and to Mr. and Mrs. George Cavendish Bentinck at Highcliffe Castle. If the King goes to Keele he will travel by special train from Euston to Whitmore station. Highcliffe is the late Lady Waterford's beautiful place on the Solent, near Christchurch, where his Majesty has been several times a guest during the last twenty-five years.

I hear that the King would not sanction the creation of any new peerages on the occasion of the Birthday, but if his Majesty had been willing the Honours List would have included three or four new barons and two or three promotions. The King is keenly alive to the evil of cheapening the higher honours. There will of course be a long list of honours whenever Parliament is dissolved, but the situation is much the same as at the period described by Lord Beaconsfield when he wrote: "If the Whigs go out to-morrow they will disappoint all their friends. Their underlings have promised so many peerages that treachery is inevitable, and if they deceive some they may as well deceive all. Perhaps they may distribute a coronet or two among themselves." It is generally expected, however, that, although there may be difficulties as to the new peerages which are desired, there are nevertheless certain to be several promotions. It is understood that Lord Londonderry's marquisate will be

improved into a dukedom, that Lords Cadogan and Dudley will be promoted from earldoms to marquisates, that Lord Windsor will become Earl of Plymouth, and that Lord Barnard will find himself Earl of Darlington.

The King goes next Tuesday morning to Newmarket, travelling by special train from St. Pancras to Dullingham, and driving thence to the July Course. His Majesty will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild at Palace House, and of Sir Ernest Cassel at Moulton Paddocks, during his stay at Newmarket, and he is to return to London about four o'clock on Thursday afternoon.

Preparations are being made at Goodwood House for the visit of the King and Queen, who will entertain a large party there from Monday, the 25th until Friday, the 29th. Goodwood House has been closed to visitors until August 1, which day will be the Bank Holiday.

Lord Swansea, who is at present in a delicate state of health, is staying at Innsbruck, and he will not be able to return to Wales to receive the King and Queen when they visit Swansea to open the new docks on Wednesday, the 20th. It has, therefore, been arranged that their Majesties are to be entertained at Clyne Park, the beautiful seat of Lord Swansea's uncle, Mr. Graham Vivian, who will entertain a large house party during the week, including the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort and Lord and Lady Windsor.

The King has granted the vacant "apartment" in Hampton Court Palace to Lady Palliser, widow of General Sir Charles Palliser, who greatly distinguished himself as a cavalry officer in India. The case is one of exceptional merit, and the selection of Lady Palliser for this benefaction has given much satisfaction in Service circles, as Sir Charles was a most popular and highly respected officer.

His Majesty has also granted the Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, to Sir Arthur Ellis, who at present occupies Frogmore Cottage, another of the Crown residences near Windsor. The Royal Lodge, which was granted in 1898 by Queen Victoria to the late Lord Bridport, is well situated in the most picturesque part of the Great Park, surrounded by old trees, and only divided by the wilderness (a wild garden) from Cumberland Lodge, the residence of Prince and Princess Christian. The Royal Lodge was a favourite residence of George the Fourth, but after his death a part of the house (which was a large, rambling building in the cottage style) was pulled down. His late Majesty's immense conservatory still remains, and there is a pretty flower garden.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 55.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 54.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 53.
For APPEALS, see page 56.
For EDUCATIONAL, see page 56.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 61.

The State apartments at Windsor Castle have been reopened to the public, and it is understood there that the Court will not be again in residence until the middle of November.

An evening paper states that the last visit the Emperor William paid to England was on the occasion of Queen Victoria's death. The Emperor William was in England for a fortnight in November, 1902, when he was the guest of the King and Queen at Sandringham for a week, and he afterwards paid a visit to Lord and Lady Lonsdale at Lowther Castle.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were down at Newmarket for two days last week on a visit to Sir Maurice and Lady FitzGerald at The Severals. The Duke and Duchess will be among the guests of the King and Queen at Goodwood House during the race week. The Duke will probably pay one or two visits in the North of England and in Scotland during August, and the Duchess is going to Bagnères de l'Orne, a pretty little watering-place in Normandy, and will most likely be accompanied thither by her son, Prince Arthur, who is now at Aldershot. The Duke and Duchess will reside at Bagshot Park during the autumn and winter.

The Crown Prince of Sweden and Norway, who paid a visit last week to Lord Sackville at Knole Park, the magnificent old seat of the Dukes of Dorset, near Sevenoaks, left London on Friday for Frankfort, and he will return this week to Stockholm, travelling by way of Copenhagen. The Crown Princess is taking the waters at Franzensbad.

Prince Christian is going to Germany at the end of this month, and will be away until October. H.R.H. will take a course of waters at Kissingen. Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein are going to South Africa next month, and will be absent from England until the end of October.

The Empress Eugénie, who has been staying in Paris since she left Madrid, is to return this week to Farnborough Hill. The Empress is to proceed shortly on a cruise in her yacht *Thistle* (which vessel she will join at Southampton), and will probably go to Scotland and Norway. It is very probable that Princess Henry of Battenberg will accompany the Empress Eugénie on this cruise.

Princess Henry of Battenberg is to pay a visit to Bristol on Thursday, the 14th, when she will lunch with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, either at the Council House in Bristol or at the Mansion House at Clifton. Princess Henry will proceed from Bristol to Portishead, where she is to lay the foundation-stone of the National Nautical School. Princess Henry's last visit to Bristol took place in November, 1899, when

Queen Victoria opened the Jubilee Convalescent Home at Redland, and the Duke of Connaught and Princess Christian also accompanied her late Majesty.

The Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans, who have gone from Ostend to the Baltic for a cruise in their yacht *Maroussia*, will spend two months during the autumn at Wood Norton, the seat of the late Duc d'Aumale. The shooting on the Wood Norton estate has been much extended and greatly improved during the last few years. The Duc d'Orléans is expected at Marienbad about the middle of the month for a course of the waters, when the Duchesse is going to visit her parents the Archduke Joseph and the Archduchess Clotilde at their seat in Hungary.

Lord Dudley's motor accident in the North of Ireland last week might have been a bad one, but was fortunately without serious consequences to any of the Viceregal party. The Lord Lieutenant's inspection of industries and schools was not interrupted nor his continued motoring through the picturesque wilds of Donegal. North, south, east, and west, Lord Dudley has been in every province of Ireland and in most of its counties. For the first time in history the unknown entity, the "Lord Liftinant," has taken shape amongst the Irish people. A popular shape, too.

The annual Horse Show will take place this year at Ball's Bridge, Dublin, under the auspices of the Royal Dublin Society, beginning on August 23 and continuing for four days. The usual crowded attendance is expected, which now centres in Dublin from all parts of the world for the great show. Already rooms at the principal hotels in and about Dublin are engaged, and being engaged for the week. Horse Show house parties are being formed all over the country within motor reach of the capital, and the usual number of big yachts are expected at Kingstown with their parties for the Show. Lord Ardilaun, who is the President of the Royal Dublin Society, usually entertains a large and fashionable party of visitors at St. Anne's, his residence near Clontarf, for the Horse Show.

A friend of mine who lives in the S.W. postal district sends me the following complaint. I rather sympathise with him—indeed, I think big dogs are altogether out of place in London. But the truth is that though London is much quieter than it used to be, we are still much more tolerant of aggressive noises than most civilised cities—at any rate north of the Alps and east of the Atlantic. Another friend of mine once said, "The English law allows a man to do anything to annoy his neighbours except make a stink," and I think this is a pretty accurate statement of the case:—

> Some years ago, being in indifferent health and in need of repose, I embarked some capital in the purchase of a house in what I was credibly informed was one of the quietest squares in London, and for a brief space I found it fully realised my fondest aspirations in this respect. But in due course there came to reside hard by a fiend in human shape who owns two collie dogs. No one is more devoted to dogs than myself, but these particular animals are turned loose from early morning often till after midnight, pursuing all wheeled traffic that passes, and disturbing the whole neighbourhood with discordant barking. No less a personage than the Chief Magistrate of the Metropolis characterised them as a disgrace to the square, but unfortunately they have not been brought before him in his judicial capacity. The police say they are powerless to act, and that, so long as the dogs are not proved to be "savage," and wear their collars, they are under proper control. Now, the London County Council has enacted a very salutary bye-law for the suppression of noisy animals, and a prosecution was recently instituted under it at one of the metropolitan police courts. The enlightened magistrate who heard the case held, however, that the barking of dogs was a "natural noise," which could not be suppressed, and dismissed the summons, although the annoyance to several persons in the vicinity was established up to the hilt. The bye-law has thus become a dead letter. In my particular case all representations and remonstrances have alike fallen upon deaf ears. Is there no redress for such a state of things?

Mr. Fox-Davies, who is known, I think, as an authority on the subject of heraldic arms, does not approve of my suggestion—apropos of a discussion among a provincial Board of Guardians—that every one should be addressed as "Esquire" who is likely to be pleased thereby. He writes to me in this strain:—

> Are you a "passive resister"? If so, of course I can understand a suggestion to ignore established uses which do not meet with your approval, as I am aware you have a supreme contempt for titles, and I know also that you are an opponent of privilege. But I take it you overlook the obvious point that whilst by the law of the land and by constitutional usage "privilege" *does* lawfully exist, it should be accepted and conformed to, until by legislative action the particular privilege objected to has been abolished. Your plea, based upon a desire to please others, may be admirably Christian, but it suffers from the obvious disadvantage of the absence of any finality in the range of its application. If for no other reason you term a man an Esquire, why stop *there?* He would much prefer to be a Baronet, to say nothing of being styled a Duke. . . .

No, I am not a "passive resister," and I do not quite understand what passive resistance has to do with the case. When there is anything to be resisted, I am an active resister; but so far from resisting the practice of dubbing people "Esquires," I am in favour of its extension. If this plan has the merit of being "admirably Christian," that is good enough for me, and I do not in the least perceive the disadvantage that is "obvious" to Mr. Fox-Davies. If it would please this gentleman, or any one else, to be addressed as a Baronet or a Duke, I would not grudge him the "Sir" or "Your Grace." But it seems to me that in his discovery of the obvious, Mr. Fox-Davies "overlooks the obvious point" that many men might resent having these ranks gratuitously conferred on them. For instance, the greengrocer of my original paragraph, if addressed as "Sir John" or "My Lord Duke," might suspect an intention of "getting at" him, and retort unpleasantly.

However, there is not much difference between Mr. Fox-Davies and me at bottom, for he goes on to admit that the designation "Esquire" has become meaningless, and to propose that it should be "swept away." He wants to have the title of "Armiger" restored in its

UNFURNISHED ROOMS, two on first floor, with kitchen in basement. Midway between City and West End. Quiet neighbourhood. Apply in the morning, between 10 and 12, 2, Powis Place, Queen's Square, W.C.

place, subject to a tax on arms, which would yield "an enormous yearly revenue from the stamps upon Grants of Arms, Matriculations of Arms, and Confirmations of Arms." I need not remind the habitual reader of Truth that this suggestion is entirely on the lines I have always advocated.

My view of all these matters is that rank apart from cash has no longer any social value, and that one of the great needs of the times is the formal reoganisation of rank on a cash basis. The several ranks should correspond to the gradations of income, and the payment exacted from each rank would introduce a scientific graduated income-tax. At the top of the tree you would have the Duke paying on, let us say, £50,000 a year; at the bottom Mr. Fox-Davies's Armiger, paying on, say, £500. Below £500 would be the plain "Mr.'s," with no rank at all. Titles are paid for now, as we all know, either in cash or services rendered. But for the most part the payment goes to the Minister who confers them, or the party which keeps him in office. My plan would correct this anomalous state of things, add enormously to the public revenue, redress all the grievances and iniquities at present associated with the income-tax, and give formal and constitutional expression to the fact that the position of a man or woman in modern society is a question of cash and nothing else.

Last week I remarked that the Knighthood bestowed upon Mr. E. H. Dunning, of Stoodleigh Court, Devon, was a reward for his complacency in withdrawing from his candidature for the Tiverton Division in order to make way for Mr. Lionel Walrond, son of Sir William Walrond, the popular sitting member. Apropos of this, a correspondent has sent me a copy of the *Tiverton Gazette* of May 17, containing a report of an action brought against Mr. Dunning by his former steward to recover certain sums of money which the latter said that he had spent in promoting the candidature of his employer. The report is a diverting revelation of the devices that may be adopted in wooing a constituency, and Tory aspirants to the representation of rural constituencies in Parliament may get some useful hints from it in regard to the ways and means by which they can ingratiate themselves with the farmers. Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that after spending so much money he should have consented to retire. But I think that Sir E. H. Dunning has shown great prudence. After all, a Knighthood in the hand is better than a Parliamentary seat in the bush—very much in the bush, too, for it is almost certain that a Liberal will be returned for the Tiverton Division at the next election.

The sale of the collections of the late Mr. Hawkins, of Portland-place, which has occupied twenty-one days at Christie and Manson's, was concluded on Thursday evening, and upwards of £186,000 has been realised for nearly 3,000 lots.

SUMMER SALES.

From the Notebook of a Modern "Childe Harold."

Lo! the much-yearned for "Summer Sales" are "on,"
And crowds of ladies seething round the doors
Of West-End drapers—wholly blocked anon—
Line the long counters, teem on all the floors,
And, by a surging stream that hoarsely roars,
Borne ever onward hurry, tempest-tost,
To where they come with joy on piled-up stores
Of remnants far too tempting to be lost—
Of bargains freely offered greatly under cost!

Have you not watched them? Have you never seen
The well-dressed women struggling in the street?
Do you not know how they themselves demean
When bargain-hunters remnant-seekers meet,
And roughly, rudely one another treat?
Committing acts, as they contend and crush,
Which courtesy would shudder to repeat;
Stooping to conduct in their vulgar rush,
Which shames their womanhood and puts it to the blush!

For there, alack! is bandying to and fro
Of angry looks and words of bitterness,
And rampant gestures, which too clearly show
A greed for cheapness carried to excess.
And there is no endeavour to repress
The furious glances and the jealous sighs
Of those who, failing—much to their distress—
To snatch from rival dames a worthless prize,
Make no attempt their sore annoyance to disguise.

And as they clamour for the "special lines,"
For blouses manufactured to "misfit;"
For fabrics of primordial designs,
For gloves predestined but too oft to split;
Fair customers with nowhere they can sit,
Wedged in 'mongst people whom they can't disperse,
And, worn by heat, perchance succumb to it;
Or, if they faint not, find, which some think worse,
That others in the crowd have eased them of their purse!

Why, then, should ladies run such risks as these?
What can their pretext be—what their excuse,
For spending money on such feeble pleas?
Why should they be of effort so profuse
In buying bargains of no earthly use?
Woman, as those are well aware who keep
Close watch upon her, rarely is obtuse,
And yet we find her, like Panurge's sheep,
Flocking to purchase needless things because they 're cheap!

She gets up early, bolts her morning meal,
And, on a course of bargain-hunting bent,
Will push and hustle with persistent zeal
Until, her strength and cash alike are spent.
One "Sale" but serves her ardour to foment
For others, to a yet more strong degree,
Till, by a Fate she cannot circumvent,
She buys five-guinea hats for three pounds three,
Although for her she knows too small they 're bound to be!

We taxed a lady with her sex's fault,
But she protested it was not to blame—
"What if we *do* take counters by assault,"
Said she, "and bargains with such zest acclaim?
Pray, does not man do very much the same?
When he in bargain-hunting would compete,
Decorum, as a rule, is not his aim.
What "Summer Sale," with all its noise and heat,
Can match the stress and strain that fill Throgmorton-street?"

"At races, too," said she, "does not the Ring
  Shout when it bets, and crowd and rant and rage?
In short, might not the charges that you bring
  Against my sex be brought against the Age?
  And your attempts a nuisance to assuage
Be, with good reason, used by you instead,
  War on a more extended scale to wage,
And squelch that social hydra, lately bred,
Of which the 'Summer Sale' forms but one lively head?"

The Great Central Railway has excellent carriages and fast trains. But it is under the misfortune of running for a considerable distance over a line so badly laid that passengers are banged about as though they were going in a motor at fifty miles an hour over a ploughed field. Only a day or two ago I was in one of its fast trains. Opposite me sat a gentleman, who, I presume by his attire, was a bishop. That right reverend prelate confided to me that never again would he travel on the line if he could get to his destination otherwise. Reading was impossible. The bishop, having risen from his seat, performed feats of equilibrium that would have done honour to a professed acrobat, and I began to think that I should have him on my knees. I spent my time grasping firmly my seat, and the bishop seemed to fall back on some sort of devotional book, which, I imagine, was one that he knew already by heart, and aided him to prepare himself for a possible translation into another world.

An evening fête is to be given at the Botanic Gardens on Friday, July 15, under the patronage of the Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. In addition to the ordinary attractions of the gardens, which are never seen to more advantage than on these occasions, a pastoral play will be performed, and entertainment provided by some of the leading favourites from "the halls," while the band of the 2nd Life Guards will provide the music. It may be mentioned that in the event of the weather being unpropitious the entertainments will be given and supper served in the conservatories. Also that tickets may be obtained, and supper tables booked, at the Social Bureau, 30, New Bond-street.

There is to be a garden party at Guy's Hospital on July 6, in conjunction with a distribution of prizes to the students by Lord Goschen, and I cannot say how deeply I regret that I am unable to avail myself of the invitation with which the Governors have favoured the Press. As usual, the visitors are invited to join with their hosts, and the staff, and students "in assuming academic costume," and it is intimated that a well-known firm of robe-makers will provide all the essentials to order. Not only would it be a personal gratification to me to disport myself in the Borough in the garb of a D.D. or a D.C.L., but I should dearly love to see some of my fellow-Pressmen got up as Academic Guys. As it is, I can only hope that the illustrated papers will do justice to the scene.

Lord Harlech was very popular in general society, and well known as a generous and considerate landlord, and as a most hospitable county magnate. He was the head of a very old Shropshire family, and owned large estates in that county, in North Wales, and in Ireland. Brogyntyn, his place near Oswestry, is noted for its beautiful grounds, and for the fine views over the Welsh hills and the Shropshire plains, which are obtained from the higher part of the demesne. The Harlech peerage was created by Lord Beaconsfield in 1876. The late Lord Harlech, who succeeded his brother in 1876, under a special remainder, had then sat in the House of Commons for thirty-five years, during the greater part of which period he had faithfully supported Mr. Disraeli, as he had a firm belief in his leader's prescient sagacity.

In the technicalities of Art I am an ignoramus. But an ignoramus may, I think, record without presumption the opinion that George Frederick Watts was not only one of the great men of his age, but one of the great men of all time. There is a greatness which reveals itself to babes and sucklings as well as to the wise and prudent—from whom, indeed, it is sometimes hidden—a greatness which needs no grammarian's knowledge of the language in which it speaks to make itself understood. Such is the greatness of Shakespeare and Goethe, of Handel and Beethoven, of Michael Angelo and Titian, and I think also, of Watts.

Of course, his defects are not difficult to see, and contemporaries are always the first to see them. They are the defects of his qualities. He was occasionally obscure, not to say incomprehensible, which is the natural result of striving to teach, or preach, through a medium which for didactic ends is of narrow limitations, at any rate, in the hands of a true artist. He lacked, too, something of the many-sidedness which is usually a characteristic of the greatest painters; though the more one studies his work, the more disposed one is to attribute this to self-imposed restraint. I rather think that he could have painted almost anything in the whole region of fact and fancy had he chosen, and painted it well. He may have had faults of technique, but this is where my ignorance forbids me to speak. What I think I do understand, however imperfectly, about Watts is that he was a man of noble and lofty ideas, and apparently incapable of all others; that he formed, and always lived up to, a conception of the scope and capacity of his own art which seems higher than that of any painter before him; and that with all his high ideals he was a consummate master of everything that goes to make painting a delight to the carnal eye, so that the greater part of his works must always be prized for their mere beauty and strength of drawing, composition, and colour, even by those who care nothing for their symbolism.

And in attempting to form a complete estimate of the man, one cannot altogether forget the modesty and simplicity of his whole life. For the most part, the great painters have been men of the world, and have rather prided themselves on it; and few have been above making all that they could by their brushes. Of

Watts it may certainly be said that no man of his intellectual rank was more indifferent to honours and social distinction; and, though he could get almost what he chose to ask for his work, no small part of it, and much of the finest of it, was done for its own sake alone, and dedicated to his fellow-citizens. He became successful and even famous at a comparatively early age, but he always lived a retired life, with no ambition outside his art. To this reason is probably to be attributed his consistent maintenance of the highest standard of workmanship, as well as the preservation of his great gifts almost unimpaired to the end of an exceptionally long and active life. Whatever may be the verdict of posterity upon his work, his own age scarcely produced a rival to him, and has no one who can fill his place in the world of art.

During last year a monster competition was run by one of the penny weeklies in which a prize of £5 a week for life was offered for the solution of a long series of picture puzzles depicting railway stations. The result of this competition has now been published, and, in consequence, I am beginning to receive the confidences of dissatisfied competitors. I therefore take the earliest opportunity of saying that I really cannot undertake to sit in judgment upon a question of this kind. In the first place, such a discussion would be as long as the competition itself. In the second, the conditions of the competition make the editor's decision absolutely final; and, though the decision may be impeached on the ground that it is at variance with the rules which the editor himself has laid down, it seems to me obvious that there is so much room for difference of opinion in the application of the rules to the deciphering of individual puzzles that the editor has a very wide margin within which to exercise his discretion. If people choose to waste their time over a competition of such a nature, they must abide by the consequences.

All these competitions are the outcome of the legal decision a few years ago on the legality of the "missing word" business, of which, if I remember rightly, Mr. C. Arthur Pearson was the inventor. Newspaper proprietors, like the rest of the community, are forbidden to run lotteries, and some of them accordingly exercise their ingenuity in devising so-called competitions, which purport to offer to everybody a chance of winning a big prize, while also purporting to make the decision dependent, not upon chance, but upon skill and industry. It stands to reason that if such a competition is to appeal to any very large number of people, the opportunity really offered for the exercise of skill and industry will be very small. For instance, it is currently reported in the newspaper world that the competition above-mentioned added upwards of half a million a week to the circulation of the paper during the time it was running. Necessarily, therefore, the puzzles must be, on the face of them, so easy that all these half a million people fancy they have a chance of solving them; and if they really were as simple as they look, many thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, would "tie" for the prize, and divide it between them.

There is, of course, a class of competitions in which this result is the normal one, but they are essentially fraudulent. But, setting these aside, and assuming that there is an intention of discriminating in some way between the hundreds of thousands of competitors, so that the prize may be given to one individual, it follows that there must be certain "catches" or tricks in the competition which the majority will overlook, or else that the judge must assume a sufficient latitude of choice to enable him to pick out one man as the winner. Either, therefore, the competitions are not altogether straightforward, or the decision is more or less arbitrary. Either way, the element of chance enters largely into it, and I cannot help thinking that when many hundreds of thousands of people go on, week after week, paying their money, and solving puzzles in the hope of winning a prize out of all proportion to the expenditure of money and effort, they are largely inspired by the element of chance. Although, therefore, the things may not be lotteries within the legal definition, it seems to me as absurd for the unsuccessful competitors to find fault with the result as it would be for the purchasers of lottery tickets to complain that they have not drawn the winning number. There is one party, at any rate, who is always sure of winning a big prize in an enterprise of this kind—and he is the promoter.

Advertisements have been appearing lately in the *Times* and other papers, intimating that the *International Illustrated Gazette* (Geneva) requires some correspondents. Those who have responded have received a long type-written letter which is rather a curious document, as the following extracts will show:—

SIR,—In answer to your letter, we beg to inform you that we should be very pleased to accept your offer and reckon you as one of our faithful collaborators.

According to the great extension our newspaper has taken lately, we feel bound to secure as quick as possible for our readers any documents about all what may prove interesting in the world; we have also decided to develop in a large extent the outside as well as the illustrated part of our publication.

For that purpose we have decided to adjoin us new collaborators which would be able to send us, from any part of the world, genuine articles or photographs about actualities.

Wishing to make our publication a most interesting one, we are ready to make great sacrifices, in order to pay the highest price for articles or photographs worth being published (see further our conditions for payment).

You have certainly lots of occasions in the space of a year to send us good articles or photographs about actualities. And if these are published (and you may be sure they will) you will receive a high price—something worth considering—besides a card of press, with its numerous advantages.

We send our Illustrated International Gazette free of costs to all our regular collaborators, and we feel quite inclined to do you the same favour; before this, however, we wish to get acquainted with you, that is, to receive some articles or photographs from you.

As soon as we have published one of your articles or photographs we shall put down your name in the list of our official collaborators, and we shall send you a card of correspondent, so

FOR MOSQUITO BITES nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S, and it is an immediate remedy for Wasp or Bee Stings. Always ask for SCRUBB'S. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

that you may be able to attend, as a representative of the press, to the feasts, solemnities, great events of your country, etc.

Elaborate instructions as to the requirements of the journal follow, with particulars of the prices to be paid for contributions. An important condition, however, has to be fulfilled before the would-be contributor gets any forwarder:—

We beg you also to let us know as soon as possible if we can rely upon you, and in an affirmative case to send us a postal order of 3 francs or 3.50 francs, so that we may send you four or five samples of our newspaper.

The *International Gazette* may be as the printed heading of its stationery alleges a "great illustrated review published twice a month," and dealing with "actuality, politics, literature, arts, science, industry, trade, sports, finance, etc., etc." But never having come across it myself, I think I should like to see a copy before remitting 3 fr., or 3 fr. 50 c., for samples with a view to becoming "one of our faithful collaborators," and obtaining a card of admission to the feasts, solemnities, and great events of my country.

The Shropshire sanitary authorities are agitated over a momentous question respecting the carcass of a cow. It seems that the poor beast came to an untimely end by drowning in the Severn, and the carcass was carried by the stream on to a sandbank in the middle of the river, where it remained partially submerged. After it had been lying there for some time it was seen by the Medical Officer to the County Council, who reported the matter to his Committee. The latter said that it was the duty of the Atcham Rural District Council to deal with the nuisance. "No," replied the District Council, "it is not our business, but the business of the owners of the banks of the river opposite the spot where the cow lies." There appeared to be some likelihood that the carcass would be left in the river till it disappeared by decomposition. However, on Saturday the county authorities resolved to take the cow by the horns and remove the rotting carcass, leaving the question of the liability for the expense incurred to be settled subsequently.

An absurd to-do has been made in certain daily papers about three Eton boys having gone to Sandown Park when they were supposed to be at the cricket match at Winchester. Such incidents are common enough in all schools, and if Eton differs from any others it is only in the efficiency of the precautions taken to guard against them. In this particular case the Pressmen who have got so much copy out of the incident, and made so much of the measures adopted to discover the offenders, may perhaps be surprised to hear that the identity of these three youths was perfectly well known to the Headmaster before he called on them to come forward. Probably the three suspected as much themselves, for they responded as soon as the invitation was given. Considering how many owners of racehorses have sons at Eton, it is not surprising if some of the boys take a keen interest in the sport, and not indicative of very great depravity, so far as I can see.

A Synod of the Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church was held in the Charter House of St. Ninian's Cathedral, Perth, on Thursday, when Bishop Wilkinson was elected Primus, in the place of the Bishop of Moray and Ross, who has resigned through infirmity and ill-health. Bishop Wilkinson, who enjoys a world-wide reputation both as a preacher and as a model parish clergyman and prelate, was for nearly thirteen years Vicar of St. Peter's, Eaton-square, where he accomplished a great work. Early in 1883 Mr. Gladstone appointed him to the See of Truro, in the place of Archbishop Benson, but after eight years of highly successful work in Cornwall his health broke down badly, and he at once resigned the Bishopric, thereby showing an excellent example to other Anglican prelates, many of whom stick so pertinaciously to place, stipend, and patronage long after they are incapable of properly performing the duties. After travelling for two years the Bishop regained his health, and when Bishop Charles Wordsworth died in 1893 he was induced to accept the Scotch See of Perth, Dunkeld, and St. Andrews. He has done much good work in the north, and has rendered most valuable services to his Church. Bishop Wilkinson, who is at once High Church and strongly Evangelical, was Mr. Gladstone's spiritual guide during the last years of his life, and he attended him on his deathbed. The Bishop is the author of many devotional works which have had an immense sale.

Canon Drew, Vicar of Buckley, Flintshire, is to succeed his brother-in-law, the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, in the important living of Hawarden. The rectory of Hawarden is now of the net value of about £600 a year, with residence, but the stipend was formerly over £3,000 a year. This living and that of Buckley are at present in the gift of Mrs. W. H. Gladstone, as guardian of her son, the owner of the Glynne estate, who is a minor.

Archdeacon Wilberforce has replaced Bishop Welldon as the Canon-in-Residence at Westminster Abbey. The Dean is also in residence officially.

Canon Freer, who has been for twenty-seven years Rector of Sudbury, died very suddenly on Sunday week while preaching in the parish church. He was an admirable scholar, and an excellent clergyman, and was greatly beloved and esteemed by all classes of his neighbours. He was distinguished for his munificent charities, and since his death the Bishop of Worcester has revealed the fact that he was the anonymous contributor of £10,000 to the Birmingham Bishopric Fund. Canon Freer was an intimate friend and an old schoolfellow of Archbishop Benson, with whom he worked at Wellington College for twelve years. The Bishop of Southwell appointed him to the Archdeaconry of Derby

UP-TO-DATE STATIONERY.—Note Papers, At Home and Visiting Cards, Menus, &c.—PARKINS & GOTTO, Stationers to Her Majesty the Queen, Oxford-street, London, W. Patterns free.

in 1891, but he resigned that office in 1900, and he had been for fourteen years Examining Chaplain to Dr. Ridding. He belonged to a well-known and much respected Birmingham family.

A further item of information respecting the career of Mr. James Rogers ("the well-known Oxford coach") has reached me as the result of inquiries that have been made of the Bishop of Antigua. It will be remembered that Mr. Rogers was originally ordained deacon in 1892 by Bishop Branch, then Coadjutor-Bishop of Antigua. In the earlier information which he furnished to the editors of "Crockford" and Kelly's "Clergy List," he added that he had been ordained priest by the same bishop. Subsequently he dropped this, and, as my readers will remember, he was ordained priest last year by the Bishop of Brechin, while holding a curacy in Scotland. The records of Antigua diocese show that he was ordained deacon on November 8, 1892, and that Bishop Branch directed that, for reasons seeming good to him, the Rev. James Rogers should remain in the diaconate for the space of two full years. The next official record is under the date of July 23, 1895, to the effect that "the Rev. James Rogers, late curate-in-charge of St. Bartholomew's in St. Barts., has left the diocese and was refused the usual letters of commendation by the Bishop." This entry does not tell much, but it is sufficiently suggestive, and it indicates pretty plainly that Mr. Rogers' record in the West Indies was not more creditable than it has been in England. I may add that Mr. Rogers married a lady in the West Indies, but left her with her family when he came to England very soon after his marriage. His wife does not appear to have joined him in England, and it will probably surprise most of those with whom he has been associated since his return to learn that he is a married man.

The following ticket is a curiosity in its way, and I hardly think the public at large can be familiar with its terms:—

No..... 6D.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON.

ADMISSION TO SEE SHAKESPEARE'S GRAVE.

All Children except those in arms must be paid for.

Free Admission to the Church is granted to—

Parishioners and friends with them, Residents in the neighbourhood bringing Visitors for whom payment is made, Clergymen and their families or surpliced Choirs (on presentation of their Visiting Card), and Persons who wish to pray in the Nave without entering the Chancel.

Parties of twenty and upwards are admitted at Threepence each, between the hours of 11 and 12, or 2 and 4.

No further gratuity is expected unless special services are rendered. The Custodians have not time to go round with Visitors, but

An Illustrated Guide can be obtained in the porch for 3d.

The Daily Services are:—Holy Communion at 8. Matins at 10.15. Evensong at 5. Evensong is Choral except on Wednesdays and in the month of August. Prayer Books are provided at the Door.

"Shakespeare Sermons," being Sermons preached in this Church by the Bishop of Bristol, the Deans of Canterbury and Ely, the Master of the Temple, and others, can be obtained from the Custodian—Price Half-a-crown.

It is written "My house shall be called the house of prayer," but the Vicar of Stratford appears to have made it a—profit-earning machine, though credit must be given to him for the gracious concession of free admission to those who merely wish to "pray in the nave." We look upon Shakespeare as one of our greatest national possessions, and the Church of England is by way of posing as "the National Church." Under these circumstances, it seems to me about time that the nation should resume possession of its property at Stratford, and take the management out of the hands of its present "custodians."

It seems to be now the accepted doctrine that all the social troubles of humanity can be put right by a paragraph in TRUTH, and it is not for me to contest this doctrine. Let me, therefore, invite the attention of the beneficed clergy to the bitter cry of a Churchwoman in a small provincial town. The poor lady has lived alone in the town for two years past. During that time she has been a regular attendant at all the services of the parish church, "always giving silver at the various collections." She is known to the Vicar, but during all that time neither his reverence nor his lady has called upon her, nor has any one connected with the church ever taken the slightest notice of her. She thinks that such a thing could not happen in any other religious community, and I think she is right. She thinks that it would not have happened in the Church of England if she had been rich, and this strikes me as highly probable. As it falls to me to prescribe a remedy, I would suggest to the lady that, instead of putting her piece of silver into the bag at each collection, she should confine herself to farthings or halfpence at these times, save up her silver, and put down her name for a sovereign once or twice a year in one of the subscription lists which are no doubt in circulation in the parish. That ought to bring the Vicar round to call, if not Mrs. V.

The correspondent who started a discussion in TRUTH with regard to the distribution of the new Wesleyan hymnal sends an answer to those who have followed him. I am sorry that I cannot find space for the whole of it, but the chief points seem to be (1) that a discount to the trade, which "works out to something like 25 per cent. on first purchases," does not amount to very much; (2) that even if the Ministers only get the same discount as the trade, 25 per cent. will yield to them in the aggregate over £37,000—considerably more than the first estimate put forward; and (3) that in addition to this the Ministry participate in the publisher's profit, the Wesleyan Book-room being an official establishment, the profits of which "are applied entirely to certain limited ministerial uses."

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for SCRUBB'S "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

JEFFREY & CO.'S ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

What interests me more than these observations is my correspondent's reply to my own suggestion that Wesleyan ministers are not so highly paid that the community need grudge them these perquisites. He says:—

You are mistaken in your estimate of the stipends of Wesleyan Ministers. There are no great prizes, it is true; but there are no blanks. House-rent and taxes, furniture and furnishing of all kinds, cost of removals, maintenance and education of children till past the stage of boyhood and girlhood—all these things provided in addition to the stipend, make the Wesleyan ministry, financially, the most comfortable, on the average, in the Kingdom. An institution for supplying the clergy with cast-off clothes is unknown and unneeded in their church.

This was confirmed by a gentleman who knows something of the facts, and with whom I was talking on the subject. I am very glad to know it, and it seems to me that the Wesleyan community offers an admirable example in this respect to the Anglican.

BRAVO, GENERAL!

"I was lately horrified to learn," said the Rev. F. B. Meyer, of Christ Church, Westminster, "that the members of a 'Pleasant Sunday Afternoon' band had a dance. I was also surprised and pained to find kissing games very popular at chapel gatherings in the North of England."—*Daily Mail*, July 4, page 3, column 6.

"During the week, General Booth, overcome with joy at the results of his Congress, danced round the platform with a negro 'mammy.' He has also kissed his followers in a passion of admiration for their preaching and praying."—*Daily Mail*, July 4, page 3, column 2.

Well done! good General! You, at least, forbear
To show to prurience a misguided leaning;
You, in your wisdom, take especial care
Not to give innocence a vicious meaning!
You, knowing human Nature, do not strive
To sourly put down all that smacks of pleasure;
But, with oft-proved sagacity contrive,
To recreation to devote *some* leisure.

Upon the safety-valve *you* do not sit,
Nor seek to mummify your lads and lasses;
You have the wholesome courage to admit
That human nature animates *all* classes;
And whilst more strait-laced brothers shake their head,
And chill the hearts of those about them flocking,
You, by a wiser intuition led,
Do *not* esteem all natural instincts shocking!

I mentioned the other day the claims of the Church Lads' Brigade, and I ought to give equal prominence to those of the Boys' Brigade, which has its office at 34, Paternoster-row, and Mr. A. F. Buxton for its hon. treasurer. This institution also is now organising its summer seaside camps, and wants all the money it can get for the purpose, for though it gave 2,237 London boys a holiday last year, there were about 5,000 more in the brigade who could not be provided for. The value of these camps is difficult to exaggerate, and the work is done very economically, for the expenditure last year was only £1,700, and half of that was paid by the boys, so that, roughly speaking, every guinea contributed by the public enables three boys to get a holiday.

The sums of £1 from M., and 3s. 4d. from R. Somborn, have reached me towards this year's Toy Fund.

COMFORT WITH ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—Natural conditions restored by improved system of Crown and Bridge work, avoiding bulky plates and objectionable fastenings. Old sets remodelled. Moderate fees. Write for pamphlet.—GOODMAN'S, LTD, 2, Ludgate-hill, E.C

The following communication is from an officer in India, but I do not understand the question sufficiently to express any opinion upon it:—

DEAR TRUTH,—A recent Indian Army Order lays down that officers of the Indian Army will not be able to pass their C and D examinations in England after December, 1904. Why this restriction? Has the standard of qualification for the Indian Army been fixed above that required of officers of the British Army, or would it be considered detrimental to the Indian Army if its officers passed the same examinations as officers throughout our dominions? It seems to me that either the standard in England must be too low, or the regimental officer of an Indian regiment must be a very superior article. I assume, of course, that the Order has not been framed for the express purpose of causing annoyance to those officers who find it a convenience to be examined whilst on leave in England.

N.B.—I do not refer to the examination in the Indian Articles of War and Army Regulations, India, which have always been separate.

The non-commissioned ranks of several battalions are much perturbed by a War Office letter of May last, amending paragraph 1,879, K.R., by extending to four years the tour of depot duty of men employed as Militia orderly-room clerks. Owing to the fact that promotion runs as a rule much more quickly at the depots than in the battalions, a man who serves at the depot for four years is likely to jump over the heads of many of his seniors when he returns to his battalion. Moreover, there appears to have been some difference of opinion as to whether the exception of orderly-room sergeants from the two-years' limit in paragraph 1,879 applies to orderly-room clerks, and in some cases—it is impossible to say how many—men have been allowed to remain at the depot beyond their two years on the assumption that it does not. The same thing has happened in cases where men were appointed orderly-room sergeants during the embodiment of the Militia.

It has now been laid down that the exception of "the orderly-room sergeant" from the two years' limit in paragraph 1,879 only applies to the depot orderly-room sergeant, and not to the orderly-room sergeants of embodied Militia battalions. The reposting of such men to their battalions will inflict much injustice on the senior N.C.O.s. In one extreme case a man who is junior to all the colour-sergeants of the battalion, and has been serving at home while they were in South Africa, will come back over all their heads as a quartermaster-sergeant. If it is to be the rule in future that orderly-room clerks may remain at the depots four years this hardship will be felt almost universally, and steps should be taken to mitigate it. I should think that the best way would be to make the depot rank temporary or provisional, and let the men revert when they rejoin their battalions. But is it desirable, or necessary, to keep men away from their battalions in clerical billets for as long as four years, and then return them to duty?

With reference to a paragraph in last week's TRUTH on the number of N.C.O.s in the band of the 2nd Royal Dublin Fusiliers in excess of the regulation establishment, a Service reader points out that the regulation establishment of privates in the band of an infantry

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

regiment is twenty, not ninety. I felt pretty sure that the latter figure was wrong when I saw it; but as the error appears in my copy of the King's Regulations, which, so far as I know, is the last issued, I let it stand. By the way, when is the next issue of this precious work to be expected? I am also told that in a case like the above-mentioned there is no loss to the taxpayer, because the extra N.C.O.s are not supernumerary to the battalion, but are merely men taken from duty for employment in the band or drums. That may be, but though the bill may not be increased, the taxpayer is not getting what he pays for.

Captain Prince Louis of Battenberg has been promoted to the rank of Rear-Admiral. He is a personal Aide-de-Camp to the King, and fills the office of Director of Naval Intelligence. Prince Louis has earned the reputation of being one of the best officers in the Navy, and a thoroughly practical man.

The advancement of Lord Walter Kerr to the rank of Admiral of the Fleet gives promotion to Vice-Admiral Oxley, who becomes Admiral, and to Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Drury, who becomes Vice-Admiral. Admiral Oxley served in the Chinese war of 1859-60, and at a later period he was for some years second in command on the China station. Sir Charles Drury was Commander-in-Chief on the East Indies station when he was appointed to succeed Sir John Fisher as Second Sea Lord at Whitehall.

Captain Morgan, late in command of H.M.S. *Doris*, has been selected for the appointment of Naval Attaché to the Embassy at Paris, in succession to Captain Ottley, who becomes a naval member of the permanent section of the Defence Committee.

Here is a good example of the loss and inconvenience that result from blundering over the transmission of telegrams. A lady went to a London agency and engaged, at rather short notice, a performer for a drawing-room entertainment. The agency sent instructions to the artist by telegram. The telegram was delivered about a week subsequently. The lady who was giving the entertainment suffered, of course, much annoyance; the artist suffered more substanially, losing a fee of several guineas; the agency lost its commission; and for all this there is no redress. A complaint to the G.P.O. elicited in due course the information that the telegram had "unfortunately been overlooked at one of the transmitting offices." The usual formula was added that "serious notice has been taken of the matter," and any inconvenience that had been caused "is much regretted." Payment for the telegram was also refunded, in the usual course. But there the incident closes so far as the Post Office is concerned.

I have never been able to understand on what principle the Postmaster-General is legally exempted from liability for the negligence of his servants. If an incident like the above occurred in connection with the despatch of a parcel by railway or carrier, and loss resulted, the railway company or carrier would have to make good the loss as a matter of course. An immense amount of important business is transacted every day through the medium of the Post Office, and blunders on the part of the staff may frequently involve losses of great magnitude. Why should the P.M.G. be exempt from the liability to make good these losses, which would rest upon any private firm in the same circumstances? It is perfectly true, of course, that the compensation would have to come out of the public purse—that is to say, the profits of the Post Office would be reduced to that extent; but this argument does not touch the equity of the case. Moreover, if the argument had any validity, it would apply to municipal corporations, which are under the same responsibility for the acts or negligence of their employees as all other employers, notwithstanding that the ratepayers have to pay the bill.

Mention has already been made in the Press of the fact that an action has been commenced by Mr. Joshua Jones against Mr. Wickham Flower and others who have been associated with him in the long story of the Mokau Estate, on which so much has been said in Truth. This action, in which damages on a huge scale are claimed, is now ready for trial, and as the result of an application to the Court last week the trial was fixed for an early date in the present sittings, probably the 21st inst., or a day or two later. At the moment it is not permissible to say anything further about the case, but it is a matter for satisfaction that there is at last a prospect of the dispute being fought out on its merits before a jury.

Judge Rentoul, of the City of London Court, appears to have developed at an early stage of his career the habit of saying unnecessary things from the Bench. Last week the gentleman who styles himself "Lord de Morley" was a plaintiff in the City of London Court in some action for commission for introducing capital into a company, and gave some evidence in cross-examination about his claim to the barony of de Morley, extinct for some hundreds of years. In summing up the case, the Judge told the jury that the plaintiff "was in no sense a bogus lord. He was a peer of the realm, but was unfortunate in being obliged to do what many peers had not to do—engage in business."

De Morley, as some of my readers may remember, formally laid his claim to the peerage before the House of Lords some years ago; and the then Attorney-General, the present Lord Chief Justice, reported that there was not even a *primâ facie* case for the House to consider. It seems rather a strong measure, therefore, for the Judge of the City of London Court to lay down *ex cathedrâ* that the gentleman is now a peer of the realm. Nor is it clear on what ground a person who styles himself a peer after the only competent tribunal has declared that he has no claim to a peerage can be said to be "in no sense a bogus lord." The word "bogus" may have many senses in the City of London

Court, but in the sense which it conveys to the ordinary mind it is precisely applicable to this case. Nor is the Judge more fortunate in the last sentence of his remarks, for there are quite enough peers engaged in the same kind of business as "Lord de Morley." This gentleman is chiefly known as having lent his name and his peerage to the notorious Arthur Dougall Cochrane for the adornment of the "Royal British Bank," which has been before the public in the law courts in a series of downright swindles. And "Lord de Morley" consented to pose as "Managing Director" of this concern, although the articles of association expressly provide that the whole power of management, including that of appointing directors, is in the hands of Cochrane himself.

In an action in the Chancery Division last week Mr. Justice Kekewich took a much broader view of his powers under the Moneylenders Act than some of his brethren in the King's Bench Division have done. The action was brought by two usurers named Braham and Phillip Samuel, trading under the registered alias of "P. Saunders," against the executor of a deceased Derby gentleman. In October last the deceased borrowed £2,000 from the plaintiffs upon a promissory note for £3,300, payable in twelve equal consecutive monthly instalments. The note contained the usual condition that the whole amount outstanding should become due immediately default was made in the payment of any instalment. Before the first payment was made, the borrower died, and his executor having repudiated the transaction on the ground that the interest charged was exorbitant, the usurers sued him for the recovery of the £3,300. It was calculated that if the loan had run its course, the instalments being paid from time to time, the rate of interest would have been 104 per cent. per annum. As it was, default having occurred, the interest claimed was at the rate of no less than 418 per cent. per annum.

It was shown that for some time prior to his death the borrower had become incompetent and negligent in matters of business owing to the effects of excessive drinking. There was no proof, however, that the moneylender was aware of this, and the Judge thought that he was justified in dealing with the deceased as a man of ordinary capacity, quite competent to arrange for a loan. But it was also proved that the deceased was in a position which rendered a loan to him of £2,000 absolutely safe, and that this fact must have been within the knowledge of "P. Saunders." On the ground, therefore, that "there had been no risk at all and no reason whatever for a high rate of interest," Mr. Justice Kekewich held that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable within the meaning of the Moneylenders Act, and ought to be set aside. His Lordship accordingly set it aside, and ordered that an account should be taken. It was suggested by the defendant's counsel that the interest allowed on the £2,000 should be 10 per cent., and to this the Judge agreed, though he added that he was not sure that he should have given so much himself. The net result is that, instead of the 418 per cent. which they demanded, the plaintiffs will have to accept 10 per cent., and, in addition, they will, of course, be saddled with the costs of the actions. It is gratifying to see that the bloodsuckers are not always able to snap their fingers at the Moneylenders Act.

It was mentioned in Truth recently that the man Todd, who trades on the credulity or improvidence of servant girls under the name of Leicester and Co., had been committed for trial in conjunction with one of his travellers named Williams. The charge was that of conspiring to obtain money from a domestic servant by one of the tricks in connection with the sale of a Bible which have been already described in Truth. The pair were tried last week at Cheshire Quarter Sessions, when Williams was convicted, and sentenced to three months' imprisonment. My readers will remember that this man is now serving a similar sentence, passed upon him a few weeks ago at Newcastle-under-Lyme, so he gets six months altogether, and it is not a day more than he deserves.

The charge against Todd himself was withdrawn; but the jury took upon themselves to express the opinion that he was equally guilty, and Sir Horatio Lloyd, the Chairman, evidently sympathised with that opinion, for he discharged Todd with a warning as to his future conduct, which that worthy can set off against the favourable expressions, which in a recent letter addressed by him to me, he alleged were delivered by the Newcastle Bench, when he was charged with Williams there. It is, from the nature of the case, extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prove in any given case, that Todd, and other gentry in the same line of business, are parties to the tricks and misrepresentations employed by their travellers. But morally there can be no doubt upon this point, and this was evidently what both the jury and the Chairman felt, as it is what I feel. The business is tainted with trickery and dishonesty. The men employed as travellers are frequently of the shadiest character. It is incredible that their employers can be ignorant of the dodges employed by them, and in point of fact, the complaints that are constantly made by the girls who have been taken in and the attitude of the principals when invited to test the question in county court actions, show conclusively that they are fully cognisant of what goes on. They are, indeed, morally worse than their agents, on the same principle that the receiver is worse than the thief.

Mr. Harold Wright, the stipendiary magistrate for the Potteries, last week passed the exemplary sentence of two months' imprisonment upon James Linday, general manager of a colliery company, for causing a number of ponies to be worked in an unfit condition. The evidence showed that the grossest cruelty occurred in the working of the animals in the pit. Only two out of the nineteen employed there were in anything like good condition, and ten were in such a shocking state, as the outcome of overworking and underfeeding, that a veterinary surgeon directed that they should be destroyed. Defendants in the position of Linday are

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too often given the option of a fine for offences of this description, but the stipendiary rightly came to the conclusion that no pecuniary penalty would meet a case of such callous brutality. It is to be feared that a good deal of cruelty to animals occurs in coal mines, and great difficulty is necessarily experienced in detecting these offences. Apart from employees, the only persons who have a right to enter the pits are Government officials, and though it may not, strictly speaking, be part of their duty they might surely give information to the N.S.P.C.A., when cases of cruelty come under their notice.

The First Offenders Act was somewhat strained for the benefit of one Walter Hill Forster at Norwich Police-court last week. Forster, who was formerly in business at Norwich as an auctioneer, pleaded guilty to a charge of obtaining money by false pretences. The sum involved was no less than £1,500, the proceeds of property that he was employed to sell. The purchase money was paid to the vendor's solicitor, but Forster induced the vendor to let him have it by representing that he could invest the £1,500 on the security of a mortgage. The false pretences were in respect of the value of this security, and of the fact that Forster himself—not, as he had suggested, a client of his—was the borrower. In consequence of the disclosure of this transaction in a civil action in 1901 the Treasury instituted a criminal prosecution against Forster. In the meantime he had become a bankrupt, and absconded from the country, and the warrant remained unexecuted till a few days ago, when he returned and surrendered himself to the police.

Counsel for the defence informed the magistrates that restitution had been made to the defrauded party to the extent of £900, and their worships were urged to deal with the accused under the First Offenders Act out of consideration not only for him "but for his father and his father-in-law and family." The solicitor for the prosecution said that he would be quite content if this were done, and after observing that "their minds had been directed strictly to the evidence before them" (clearly in anticipation of criticism), the magistrates discharged Forster to come up for judgment if called upon within twelve months. I do not like to fall foul of the magistrates for erring on the side of mercy; but I doubt whether it was ever intended that the First Offenders Act should be applied to the perpetrator of a fraud of this character and magnitude, and it is certainly undesirable that magistrates should take upon themselves to dispose summarily of so serious a case. When "the strong lance of justice hurtless breaks" against such an offender, the suspicion is sure to arise that those wielding it were influenced by other considerations than a rigid regard for the facts of the offence.

The conviction at London County Sessions of the man Bartlett, of the "London Penny Omnibus Association," recalls a remarkable series of frauds which were fully dealt with in Truth in the year 1901. The principle of all of them was the same—namely, to obtain cash deposits at high rates of interest as investments in some bogus business, represented as being of the most flourishing and profitable character. The game was begun with the London Cab Co-operative Company, the originators of which were two Jews, one of Dutch and the other of Polish extraction. They obtained upwards of £40,000 from some hundreds of simpletons, on the security of a supposed cab business, which, beyond hiring, for the purpose of imposing on the victims, one or two yards and a few cabs, had no property and no trade. A Portuguese Jew named Saruco, apparently a friend of the other two, started on the same lines a Grocery and Provision Shop Association and a Co-operative Meat Supply Association. By means of these two concerns the public were defrauded to the tune of about £12,000. Two other men, who had been at first associated with the cab company, left it and started a similar swindle of their own under the name of the London Penny Omnibus Association. This concern took £17,900 in "deposits."

Though such large sums were made by these frauds, the game was necessarily short-lived. As long as the money continued to come in, the promoters could keep the ball rolling by paying the interest due to the first depositors out of the deposits received from their successors, and the first dupes acted as decoys to catch others by testifying to their complete satisfaction with their investment. But it was easy to discover that the cab company had no cabs, the omnibus company no omnibuses, and the other companies no trade, and when the swindle was exposed in Truth, and other papers, the supply of victims began to fall off, and the business collapsed. The result was that Saruco got four years' penal servitude in July, 1901, and four of the cab company gang terms of six and five years in the following November.

On the collapse of the Penny Omnibus Association about the same time, Knowles and Bartlett, the two principals in the business, bolted, and escaped arrest. Bartlett, however, was caught in London a few weeks ago, and his appearance at Sessions was the result. Some of the evidence as to the dodges adopted for convincing investors of the substantial nature of the omnibus business was rather amusing—from the point of view of those who have not put their money into it. For instance, photographs of the premises and stock were distributed, in which a few horses and bags of oats were moved about to do duty in different positions; a coach and four was hired for the purpose of being photographed; a blank wall was depicted as a range of stabling, and so on. Eventually Bartlett got off with a sentence of five months' imprisonment in the second division, apparently on the strength of his own statement that he was only a subordinate in the business, and that the real principal and villain was the still-missing Knowles. It may have been so, but it strikes me that the Chairman took a somewhat kindly view of the case, and that Bartlett was uncommonly lucky.

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My Legal Pillory this week contains some sentences which throw an interesting light on the views of Courts of Quarter Sessions with regard to the relative heinousness of offences against the person and offences against property. The cases from Shropshire are particularly instructive, inasmuch as both the accused were old offenders. One of them was convicted of an outrage which drew from the chairman the remark that "women must be protected from such men," but nevertheless this ruffian was let off with just half the punishment that was inflicted on the other prisoner, whose crime was the theft of a pair of candlesticks. Further contrasts between sentences for gross assaults and for petty larceny are recorded from Staffordshire and the West Riding; and, seeing that Quarter Sessions are supposed to represent the quintessence of magisterial wisdom, it is not, perhaps, surprising that similar errors of judgment are so plentiful in the minor courts:—

Shropshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. R. Ll. Kenyon, and other magistrates. Michael Henry, convicted of unlawfully assaulting Emma Cooke. The prisoner entered her cottage, where she was alone, and committed the assault. The Bench remarked that Henry began his evil career twenty years ago, and women must be protected from such men. Three months.

Shropshire Quarter Sessions. Before Sir Offley Wakeman and other magistrates. John Drake, charged with stealing a pair of brass candlesticks. The Chairman remarked that the prisoner had spent his life in committing small offences, varied by two more serious departures, which brought him penal servitude. Six months.

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Before Sir Reginald Hardy. Edward Hewitt, convicted of wounding Caroline Sutton with intent to do her grievous bodily harm. Two months.

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Before Sir Reginald Hardy. Charles Frederick Sidby, convicted of stealing a pair of trousers. Four months.

West Riding Quarter Sessions. Before Sir T. Brooke and other magistrates. Wm. Wigglesworth, convicted of unlawfully wounding James Smith. Two months.

West Riding Quarter Sessions. Before Sir T. Brooke and other magistrates. Edward James Shean, convicted of stealing a pair of shoes. Six months.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. F. B. Parfitt and H. M. Wallis. Thomas Parsons, charged with assaulting his wife. After throwing the baby on the floor, defendant struck the woman on the forehead, dragged her out of the house into the road, and kicked her severely. He had been previously convicted of assaulting her, and a separation order was made. Fined 40s. and costs.

Reading Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. George Potts, charged with stealing a milk can from a doorstep. Twenty-one days.

Barnsley Borough Police-court. Wm. Ferriter charged with assaulting a railway constable. Defendant refused to show his ticket at the station, and seizing the constable by the throat, pulled him to the ground, and kicked him in the stomach. For some days the constable was detained in the hospital. Fined £3 and costs.

Thrapston Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Kidner, J. W. Jellis, C. Groom, E. A. Milligan, T. W. Buckley, Wm. Previns, and G. Smith. Thomas Knight, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 7s.; in default, one month.

Monmouthshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. S. C. Bosanquet and other magistrates. Florence Pockett, charged with stealing an umbrella. Six months.

Kettering Police-court. Before Messrs. J. A. Gotch and T. Bird. Frederick Simpkins, platelayer, charged with an aggravated assault upon his mother. He knocked her down and kicked her. Fined 20s. and costs, and bound over.

Horsham Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Padwick and E. J. Bostock. Alfred Denyer, charged with stealing a fowl. Twenty-one days.

Lancaster Quarter Sessions. Bernard Bryan, charged with stealing a ham. Twelve months.

Oldbury Police-court. Abraham George, a young collier, charged with stealing an egg from a fowl pen. Fourteen days.

Rutherglen Police-court. Before Bailie Johnstone. William Watt, convicted of assaulting a woman by knocking her down and kicking her. Fined 21s.

Southampton Police-court. Before Mr. G. P. Perkins and other magistrates. James Finlay, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Two months.

Nottingham Police-court. George Smith and James Gannon, convicted of assaulting Samuel Roper. Without any provocation, complainant was knocked down and kicked on the head. He was unconscious for some hours, and he had since been under medical treatment. Gannon fined £3 and Smith £2.

North Riding Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. E. R. Turton and other magistrates. Thomas Brown pleaded guilty to stealing a jacket and a vest. Three years

Darwen Police-court. James Crawshaw, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting a policeman. He was extremely violent, hitting the officer in the face and kicking him. Fined 15s. and costs.

Torrington Police-court. John Fitzgib and Thomas Powell, convicted of sleeping in an outhouse and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Warwick Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. T. M. Colmore. Thomas Jones, charged with stealing a pair of trousers. Eighteen months.

Padiham Police-court. John Hodgson, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and costs.

Wishaw Police-court. Robert Shirlaw, convicted of assaulting his wife. Because she would not give him money for more drink, he dealt her a severe blow on the forehead with a poker. Fined £3.

Here is an example of Justices' justice which deserves to be pilloried by itself:—

Wallasey Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Smith and J. C. Stead. Lewis A. Ewart, a Kensit preacher, charged with obstructing a public road by addressing a meeting. He refused to move at the request of the police. The pavement was blocked, and the crowd extended half-way across the street, vehicles having to go on the wrong side. Fined 5s.

Wallasey Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Smith and J. C. Stead. Bedalia Harrington, a young woman, charged with obstructing the Lower Parade by touting. The defendant, who was employed at a refreshment house, was asking passers-by if they wanted tea. It was not alleged that any crowd assembled. Fined 20s. and 8s. 6d. costs; in default, fourteen days.

Comment upon these decisions would be superfluous. I may add, however, that upon the "preacher" declining to pay the fine the magistrates directed that in default he should be imprisoned in the first division. Their worships were afterwards asked whether Bedalia Harrington's imprisonment in default of payment would also be in the first division, to which the chairman replied: "We don't think the two cases are *synonymous*"!

As I persistently expose the mistakes and faults of the Great Unpaid, a correspondent thinks that I ought in fairness to notice a pleasing incident that occurred at Stratford Police-court last week. A man, his wife, and their six children were found sleeping out, and the parents were brought before Colonel Garrett on a charge of "exposing" the little ones. It appeared to be a very distressing case, and instead of sending these poor people to gaol, as many Petty Sessions Dracos would have done, Colonel Garrett discharged them and handed the Court missionary half-a-sovereign, with instructions to "go and get some grub for them and give them the change." While I mention this good deed, I hope it will not be supposed that I look upon a charitable J.P. as a rare bird. There are many generous and sympathetic men on the Bench, and not a few of the decisions that call for censure are due to want of thought rather than to want of heart.

To his other multifarious swindles, Mr. Pointing has now added a branch which is engaged in the free portrait trick. The branch is described as the "International Art Studio," 7-9, Regent-street. The business is nominally carried on by the "Crown Art Society, Ltd.," but this company, which was only registered three months ago, was merely formed to take over the business previously carried on under the same name

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as waste paper.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

by Pointing in conjunction with one Nielson; and Pointing and Nielson are joint managing directors of it.

It appears that the International Art Studio operates chiefly through canvassers. The canvassers pay special attention to the working classes, and I heard of the concern the other day through a lady who is a district visitor in Pimlico. The canvasser comes round and obtains an order for an enlargement of a photograph, taking away the photograph for the purpose. Before the enlargement is delivered an order for a frame at 16s. is solicited, and the victims then find that they are unable to get their photographs back unless they give this order. I have often remarked that Pointing's swindles have not even the merit of originality. He "takes his goods where he finds them." Generally this is in America, but he appears to be now aspiring to cut out Mr. Tanquerey, of Paris.

In the facetious epistles which Tanquerey is in the habit of sending to this office—usually, I think, when he has exceeded his usual allowance of liquid refreshment—he has frequently boasted of being the champion "boodler" in this line of business. He will have to look to his laurels, for there seems to be a lively recrudescence of the free portrait swindle just now in all parts of the country. A female canvasser called at a house in the West End the other day to solicit an order for a free enlargement of a photograph. She stated that she came from Bond-street, though I suspect that she was one of Pointing's agents. A few months back I mentioned another firm practising in this same line in Westminster. There is another of them at Liverpool under the name of the "British Artists' Association"; and this firm appears to have branches in Manchester and Glasgow.

A correspondent at Manchester describes an incident precisely on the lines of Pointing's business in Pimlico above mentioned. A working-class woman was induced to part with a photograph for the purpose of obtaining an enlargement from the "British Artists' Association," and a few days afterwards an agent called and requested her to sign an agreement to purchase a frame at 17s. 6d. On her objecting, the man became abusive and bullied the woman into a verbal agreement to pay for the frame at the rate of 6d. a week. This trick of obtaining a photograph for enlargement and refusing to return it unless the frame is paid for practically reduces the free portrait swindle to the level of ordinary blackmail.

For some months past an individual styling himself "Price and Cameron," and dating from 34, Craven-street, Charing Cross, W.C., has been advertising an "investment" producing profits at the rate of one shilling per week on each £1 invested. It is almost superfluous to say that this wonderful "investment" was a betting system. Equally of course, the business was "not gambling in any sense of the word," inasmuch as there was an "absolute impossibility of failure." The investor desirous of sharing in this good thing was invited to forward his capital—any sum from £5 upwards—to Price and Cameron, who would work the system for him at the modest charge of 5 per cent. on his winnings. In March last a gardener in the employ of one of my readers sent £10 to this harpy on the strength of a letter assuring him that he would receive 10s. a week profit and get his £10 back intact whenever he asked for it. "Any investment made by you," Price and Cameron wrote, "would be as safe as if invested in the Post Office." In the following week the gardener received 10s., which was doubtless paid to induce him to increase his investment. For the next two weeks he heard nothing more from Price and Cameron, applications for the weekly profits being unanswered, and he then consulted his employer, who advised him to demand the return of the £10. To this Price and Cameron replied that their business was being wound up and that he would hear from their solicitors in a few days. This was a month ago, but, as may be guessed, no communication has come from the solicitors; and the gardener has not, I fear, the remotest chance of recovering his money.

It is surprising that the police do not turn their attention to the betting system swindles, of which this is a typical specimen. The prospectus issued by Price and Cameron was, on the face of it, fraudulent, and it is ridiculous to suppose that this rascal was such a noodle as to throw away the money he received by working any betting system whatever, let alone the futile and discredited first favourite system, which he mendaciously described as impossible of failure. It may be said that only fools are humbugged by such means, and that as a rule they deserve to receive a lesson. I agree, though the lesson is very hard upon such a victim as this poor working man. But, after all, it is one of the functions of the law to protect fools from knaves, and there is no reason why betting system swindlers any more than other swindlers should be allowed to carry on their frauds with impunity.

On one or two occasions I have published a warning against a firm of turf commission agents calling themselves Edgar and Co., of 24, Trevor-square, Knightsbridge. Another instance of their unsatisfactory treatment of backers has just been brought under my notice. On May 24 a gentleman whose business they had solicited wired to Edgar and Co. asking if they would take a £10 commission for a race that day. They replied, "Yes," and the commission was telegraphed five minutes before the race, which, according to their own rules, was soon enough. The horse backed won, but no cheque for the £50 due to the backer was forthcoming on the following Monday, and several applications to Edgar and Co. for the money were ignored. Eventually, on June 8, the backer received this telegram: "Kindly wait till after Ascot.—Virtuously." ("Virtuously, London," is, it seems, the somewhat inappropriate registered telegraphic address of Edgar and Co.). Ascot has come and gone, but the backer's patience has not yet been rewarded by a remittance of the £50, and I am not surprised at his conclusion that "evidently Edgar and Co. do not mean to part."

With reference to a recent remark in Truth upon the pension tea business, a correspondent in the insurance line writes:—

In your issue of 23rd, I notice your remarks *re* the case where the Nelson Company refused payment of a pension because the person who bought the tea was away from home one week when the agent called.

It appears that no notice was given, and that the woman was out of benefit owing to non-purchase this week. As an insurance man myself, I consider that such failure to give notice is very little short of fraud, for no doubt the woman kept on purchasing the tea with the idea that no notice would be taken of the lapse. Does it not strike you that this opens up a means whereby such a Company could easily evade its liabilities? What would be easier than for the agent to fail to call, say a few weeks before the Company becomes liable? How easy it would be for the agent to say that he called and found no one at home. We all know that in the absence of corroboration one person's word is as good as another's in a court of law.

Mind, I am not suggesting that Nelson's or any other Company have stooped, or would stoop, to such a trick. I merely wish to point out that the opening for it exists.

In order to make the trick pay, it would have to be carried out pretty systematically, and this in itself would be sufficient to expose it. For this reason I do not think my correspondent's last suggestion of very much importance. But the first remark as to the woman continuing to purchase the tea under the impression that the company had waived the temporary lapse presents a point of the greatest importance. It was this point which caused a difference of opinion over the case in the Court of Session at Edinburgh. The dissenting judge considered that, as the company had gone on taking the woman's money week by week after the lapse, without notifying, however, that she was "out of benefit," it was contrary to equity that they should afterwards plead the lapse as a bar to her claim to a pension. I take it that it was for this reason that Parliament laid down in the Collecting Societies Act that in the case of industrial associations, where small premiums are paid and collected at short intervals, notice of the lapse must be given before the society can avail itself of it. As I have already said, I have a strong impression that this Act applies to the pension tea business. But if it does not, it certainly ought to.

BOANERGES JUNIOR.

For the juvenile phenomenon, to tell the simple truth,
  Our liking is at best a very small one;
And we think the infant prodigy, whatever be its sex—
  Is a freak that tends too often to appal one.
So for fiddling little lassies, and for boys of six or eight
  Who bang the grand piano all too "slickly,"
We've developed an affection of a very feeble kind,
  And a feeling of esteem at best but sickly.

So, again, we think those children who take early to the stage
  Are self-conscious to a point that's most annoying;
And the nursery reciter, be it girl or be it boy,
  We have always found to be extremely cloying.
Of precocity in childhood such a little we demand
  That in praise of it we're highly economic;
But, perchance, the type of genius we most highly reprehend
  Is the five-year-old grimacing "serio-comic."

Stay! the depths that we have sounded may be deep ones we admit,
  But of the pests to which we have alluded,
One worse than all the others, but a little while ago,
  On our much-enduring City was obtruded.

Brought to us from that far country whence the cyclones always come,
  And false prophets, and false doctrines, and their teachers,
We have now a half-caste urchin who is posing in our midst,
  As the latest, "up-to-datest" thing in preachers!

Such a sorry exhibition as this young boy-preacher makes,
  With his nightly bids for converts and revivals,
May, alas! if not suspended, to adjacent pulpits bring
  Quite a host of other young and daring rivals!
So, by all that we hold dearest, whilst we sanction with a frown
  Fiddling boys and such precocious little creatures,
Let us, moved beyond endurance by these infantile displays,
  Draw the line without delay at all boy-preachers!

One of the most curious results of Party Government is that no sooner is a man made a Minister, or placed in some position of large responsibility by a Government, than all the organs of the Party at once rival each other in vowing that at length the right man has been found for the right place. The latest instance of this is Mr. Arnold-Forster. For years this gentleman has spasmodically criticised everything connected with the Army or Navy. These efforts led no one to the conclusion that he knew more about the Services than the dozens of civilian M.P.s who believe that they are Heaven-born Carnots. Suddenly he was made Minister of War, because Ministers, after having vowed for a year or two that Mr. Brodrick was the ablest of military organisers, threw him overboard to lighten their ship.

At once Mr. Arnold-Forster became the man who could effectively reorganise the Army. He may be. But all that we know of his powers is that he himself says that he has a scheme by means of which the Army is to become the best in the world, and is to cost the taxpayer less, and that unless his colleagues let him have his way he will resign. All, however, that as yet he has done has been to make a clean sweep of all Mr. Brodrick's military advisers, and to substitute for them others. As for his scheme, he has put off any explanation of it again and again on the excuse that it is not yet perfect, and it seems likely that he will have to make considerable alterations in it to obtain the assent of his colleagues to it. There are two things in which I am never prepared to believe: (1) A Ministerial resignation until it has taken place; (2) a perfect scheme of Army reorganisation until it is known what the scheme is in all its details. I have heard a dozen of the latter lauded to the skies which have proved the most dismal failures.

Lord Milner is another instance of the Heaven-born administrator. Before he went to South Africa he had administered nothing beyond a balance-sheet. On his arrival there he did his best to involve us in war, and with success. He meddled with the generals so soon as the war broke out, and meddled foolishly. He insisted

that it would be over in a few months and cost us at most ten millions, which his friends, the Transvaal magnates, would willingly pay. At the commencement of the present year he averred that never was a country so prosperous as the Transvaal. Shortly afterwards he had to admit that it was almost bankrupt. He advocated the importation of Chinese chattels, and announced that he did not care twopence for public opinion here. A more incapable and incompetent Governor has never ruled over a British colony. He started a huge scheme of railway extension, and so costly and so impractical was it that he has managed to quarrel with his dear friends, the mine-owners, over it. He has managed to put them, the English labourers in the Transvaal, the Boers, the Kaffirs, and almost every one there, against him. Yet, as he knows that Mr. Lyttelton does not dare dismiss him, he will not condescend even to answer his piteous telegrams for information to enable him to reply to questions in the House of Commons.

The *Empire Review* is not, so far as I know, under the reproach of being a "Little-Englander" publication. It may, therefore, be permissible to draw attention to the very timely article in its current issue, "The Truth about the German Navy." The article is avowedly designed to combat the idea that the development of the German Navy is an open menace to England, and that the Kaiser cherishes a sinister design of wresting from us our boasted maritime supremacy at the earliest convenient opportunity. Many facts are given in support of this view. The most striking of them is a comparison of the naval strength in battleships and big cruisers of the five leading Powers—Great Britain, France, Russia, the United States, and Germany—as they stand to-day, and as they will stand, in accordance with their present programmes, in 1908. These paper comparisons cannot be worked out very closely, but roughly the result in this case is that, except for the probable position of Russia four years hence being incalculable, the other Powers will stand in pretty much their present relation, though our superiority will be slightly increased. Germany remains at the bottom of the list from every point of view. The figures fully justify the words which the writer quotes from "an eminent German naval officer":—

> To naval men in Germany the charges brought against our Admiralty of preparing an aggressive war against England appear to be too foolish to deserve even any notice—still less repetition. . . . You have only to contemplate the number and strength of your battleships as compared with ours; of your armoured cruisers, many of which are all but as good and strong as first-class battleships, carrying equally heavy guns; and the amount of your Naval Estimates—in short, the position you actually hold as a naval power as compared with ours; and you can then form only one opinion, namely, that, even if we would, we could not even overtake you.

Undoubtedly this is so. The development of the German Navy within the last twenty years is perfectly natural and reasonable. During that time the Germans have advanced to the front rank in the commerce of the world, and their mercantile marine has advanced by leaps and bounds. On the principle which we ourselves swear by, they are entitled to have a navy capable of defending their commerce in time of war. More than that, they are entitled, if they choose, to maintain as strong a navy as their immediate neighbours on the Continent. They might make it their policy to raise their naval strength to an equality with that of France, and still give no reasonable ground for any suggestion that they had any other motive but that of defence—the defence of their commerce and of their communications with their colonies. At the fraternal meeting between the two Sovereigns and their fleets last week, the Kaiser told, as he has done before, how, from the time when, as a boy, he visited Spithead and Portsmouth, he formed the design of creating a fleet, which his country had never as yet possessed. It is a perfectly natural, and, within the limits that have hitherto been set to it, a laudable ambition. That we should see no motive for it, the position of Germany in the world being what it is, but a hostile design against ourselves can only be attributed to a morbid, nervous condition; and that, our position being what it is, we should regard the German navy as a possible source of danger to us is unworthy of a great nation.

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THE SELF-DECEIVING CRONE.

A Crone, in far-advanced Senility,
Still aped the Airs of Juvenility;
The more her Age increased, in Truth,
The more she donned the Mask of Youth.
Her Hats, her Frocks, as I'm alive,
Suggested scarcely Twenty-five,
While, thanks to Stays' enlacing Rigour,
She showed a really waspish Figure;
With Gold (from Truefitt's) glowed her Hair;
And pink Enamel's artful Care
Made her Cheeks smooth as Dresden's Ware.
Now, wearing long the Mask of Youth,
This Crone had come to think it Truth;
And scoffed if any dared suggest
Her Charms were something past their best.
But Nature, all Delusions scorning,
Gave her, one Day, a timely Warning;
Yea, in most urgent Language spoke—
To wit, a Paralytic Stroke.
The Doctor called. He shook his Head.
"Another—and she's gone," he said.
That Crone, although so faint and weak,
She's hardly Strength enough to speak,
Cries: "Pooh! The ignorant Physician!
'Tis but a brief Indisposition;
Some slight Affection of the Liver!
To-morrow I'll be well as ever!"
The Hours they sped: To-morrow came.
A second Seizure took the Dame.
Half-conscious on her Bed she's lying,
And all around can see she's dying.
Her last Commands they, grave, request.
Says she: "'Tis clear you speak in Jest.
My *last* Commands? Absurd the Thought is!
D'ye think I'm *in artic'lo mortis?*
Why, this Attack, it simply Nought is;
'Twill pass. I'll soon get well," she cried,
"And live to be——" she gasped, and died.

Moral.

The *Moral* of the Fable's meant
To fit our present Government,
Which, *passé*, senile, and decrepit,
Won't see the Country's Hints to step it.

SCRUTATOR.

THE WESTMINSTER PORT ARTHUR.

THE Russians are shut up in Port Arthur, and are endeavouring to avert the moment of capitulation by keeping the Japanese from attacking at close quarters. They have their mines and their batteries. In like manner the Port Arthur which is represented at home by the Treasury Bench is being defended. But its garrison is almost in revolt. It can hardly be induced to fight, and its commander is reduced to devices more worthy of a pettifogging attorney than of the Premier of a mighty Empire, in order to keep his men in the fighting line. I had imagined that our wriggling Premier could not have beaten his own disgraceful record. But he is a man of resource, and he has managed to do so. He is a Minister of the King in name; in reality he is a Minister by the grace of Mr. Chamberlain, and he is so singularly constituted that he seems to find a positive delight in doing that gentleman's dirty work, and when he is not on this job, doing the dirty work of the liquor trade. No matter how successful has been his previous course in degrading Parliament and in turning the government of the people by its representatives into ridicule and contempt, he has found means to provide us with a new object-lesson in this baneful art. He managed to evade discussion upon the most important issues before the country. But whilst he could defy the House, he could not afford to defy the liquor trade. "The local magistrates," said the brewers, "have been giving effect to the law which has given us a licence for only one year. To meet this, they must be deprived of their jurisdiction, and the one year's licence must be converted into a freehold of which we can only be deprived by compensation." These brewers are practical men, and decline to be humbugged like so many Unionist M.P.s. At previous General Elections they subscribed their money to the Unionist Party funds, and they voted and canvassed for Unionist candidates, and they have made it abundantly clear that unless they receive their pound of flesh for past favours, there will be neither votes nor cash for the Unionists at the next General Election. All else therefore had to be put aside, and a Bill had to be introduced to satisfy these powerful cormorants. Assuming even that the Government be right in paying its Party debts from public funds, and sacrificing temperance to Party exigencies, the Bill is necessarily one of much complexity, and its provisions require to be exhaustively threshed out. Generally speaking, such a Bill is in Committee for about three weeks. But the Government soon found that, whilst it could count on a majority for some special division, its followers were not disposed to attend regularly during lengthy discussions. The result has been that the champion Unionist obstructors have had again and again to be put up to talk against time in order to avoid defeat, whilst the gentlemen on the Government side who really do know something of the question themselves have insisted on explaining their objections to one or other of the provisions of the Bill. Thanks to all this, and to the efforts of the Liberals to knock the Bill into some sort of shape, progress of the Bill in Committee has been slow. This is the true history of the Bill, and of the "closure by compartments," and anything more discreditable to the honour of Ministers, of the Unionist Party, and of the House of Commons, never has been witnessed.

I have my own view of what ought to be done. We cannot defeat the Bill. We may argue as we like, Ministers dare no more alter it in any essential particular than a Chinese chattel in a Transvaal mine can beard his taskmaster. I believe that the right course would have been for the Opposition—one and all—to decline to abet this outrage on legislation. They should all have withdrawn after our leaders had announced that, so soon as there is a Liberal majority in Parliament, the Act will be repealed. This was the view taken by many, but there seemed to be a dread on the part of several that their constituents would misunderstand their action. I doubt whether their constituents are such fools as they imagine them to be. But, be this as it may, mine are men of common sense, and, so far as I am concerned, I decline to take part in the sorry farce that is to be enacted. I am not a Chinese chattel, nor do I represent Chinese chattels. I shall do what I did under somewhat similar circumstances under the lead of Mr. Gladstone in 1889 and decline to vote in fetters. The ablest speech delivered during the debate on Mr. Balfour's gagging motion was that of Mr. Whittaker. He thoroughly knows the subject, and he conclusively proved that fair discussion under a short-time limit is impossible, and that the Bill cannot be bettered under the rule of gag. If so, in my humble opinion, the wisest course is to leave the Government the full responsibilities of their Bill, to refuse to recognise any of the rights of property created by it, and to repeal it so soon as the country has returned a Liberal majority.

Mr. Chamberlain, in default of being able to capture the country for his fiscal scheme, is on the high road to capture the Unionist party. On July 8 he is to rally his forces. His henchmen have organised a dinner in his honour, where, like Alexander at his Eastern feast, he is to "assume the god, affect to nod, and seem to shake the spheres." Seated on high, he is to be surrounded by captured Unionist M.P.s., and in order clearly to mark who is the real master of the Unionist Party, all occupants of the Treasury Bench are to be excluded. When an Imperator entered Rome in triumph, a slave was seated by his side, and my only surprise is that Mr. Balfour is not playing this part at the banquet. Possibly he refused, for even the crushed worm has its feelings. The omission, however, is to be rectified on July 14. Two members of the Cabinet, Lord Lansdowne and Lord Selborne, are to be elected as the Vice-Presidents of Mr. Chamberlain's Unionist Council, the aim

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and object of which is henceforward to be to substitute the Chamberlain tariff programme for what Mr. Balfour terms the programme of the Government.

Apart from all party politics, I am utterly ashamed of being ruled by the present Government. I regard it as so degrading to be ruled by this gang of shifty incapables that, in despair, I appeal to Mr. Chamberlain to direct his chattels at once to perform the happy dispatch. I disagree with Mr. Chamberlain. But, ruler for ruler, I prefer a man to a limpet. It is true that he changes his political creed to suit his interests. But he does know his own mind for the time being, at least, and he is a man of action. I make no doubt that he despises the present Ministry as much as I do. He can sweep it aside whenever he pleases. Let him, then, sweep it aside at once. Let him make it clear to the Balfour gang that they must resign, or dissolve Parliament and accept the verdict of the nation. He knows too well the ethics of Party warfare not to be aware that his Party must suffer by divided counsels and weak Leadership. He must by this time have realised that Mr. Lyttelton is alienating the Colonies, and that he has already gratuitously alienated a large number of the electors at home by not having ventured to resist Lord Milner and the mining magnates in regard to Chinese labour. He knows that Mr. Balfour and Mr. Arnold-Forster are no more likely to reorganise the Army on sound lines than a pair of children playing with tin soldiers. He is aware that everything is going from bad to worse in the conduct of the Unionist Party, and in the conduct of public affairs. From his own personal standpoint he has nothing to gain by prolonging the agony. At his age every year tells. If he really believes that he will win the country over to Protection, he cannot afford to play a waiting game, and Protection will soon lapse into the pious opinion of the few, if it does not become very soon the militant creed of one or other of the great Parties of the State.

I can understand that he should be desirous to give his son an opportunity to submit to the country next year a popular Budget, but he can hardly believe that his son will be able to do so, for trade, as he must be well aware, is by no means good, and it is more probable that new taxes will have to be put on than that taxation will be reduced. He must not suppose that the country will blame the present Ministry and acquit him. Their bungling will be charged to him, and their loss of popularity will reflect on him, for every one knows that they are his dummies. I am convinced that food never will be taxed in his lifetime. He presumably holds an opposite opinion. Be this, however, as it may, his line of action is clearly marked out for him, and I would have him boldly, energetically, and ruthlessly pursue it, not because I approve of it, but because this will put an end to a condition of things which is discreditable to a self-respecting country, and which discredits us all. If any man holds that a return to Protection is desirable he has as perfect a right to fight for this view as he would have to advocate the substitution of bows and arrows for modern artillery. But if a Cabinet agrees with such a proposal, it has no right to hang on to office by sitting on the fence, and still less to pretend to disagree with it whilst secretly and traitorously abetting it. The issue once raised by a gentleman who has managed to enlist in its favour the Party in which he has for long been the most prominent figure, ought as speedily as possible to be submitted to the country. If the proposal is defeated, then the Party becomes the Opposition, and as an Opposition has a right to endeavour to reverse this first verdict. All this is fair and straightforward; and it is because the present Ministry have been neither fair not straightforward in their mode of treating the issue, that I regard them as unworthy to rule one day longer. If the Unionist Party accepts Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal creed, so much the better for the Liberals, for that Party will be tying a millstone around its neck which will keep it out of office for many a day. That is not, however, why I appeal to Mr. Chamberlain to save us from what is a national degradation. It is because I would have English statesmen, whether they be Liberals or Unionists, honourable and honest. Mr. Balfour may believe that he is so eminent a statesman that he is bound in duty to secure to the country by every means—good, bad, and indifferent—his services as Prime Minister, just as Dowie believes himself to be a reincarnation of the prophet Elijah. But no one else shares the opinion of these two prophets as to their divine mission. Dowie found that he had to leave this country, and betake himself to a transatlantic Zion. Mr. Balfour is aware that Downing-street will cease to be his Zion so soon as the electors of this country have had an opportunity to aid his departure from it. They have done their best at the bye-elections to make this clear to him; the Liberals in Parliament have done their best; a considerable number of Unionists have done their best. We have all failed. Mr. Chamberlain is the only man who has the power to convince him. Let him, then, do so.

THE CANTEEN QUESTION IN INDIA.

Lord Kitchener has been addressing himself to the burning question of Army canteen management, which, from all I have heard, calls even more urgently for consideration in India than at home. A scheme for the constitution of an "Indian Army Canteen" has been drawn up, and has been submitted to commanding officers for their observations. It has not yet been formally divulged to the public, and a mere journalist is not supposed to know anything about it; but I suppose it is no particular secret, and the matter is of public interest in many ways. It gives us Lord Kitchener's solution of the problem which was recently submitted by the War Office to the Committee on Regimental Institutes—the problem of introducing the co-operative system into canteen management. The solution, as I understand it, is a compromise. It seems to come to this, that the supply and management of the whole of the Indian canteens is to be entrusted to a

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firm of civilian contractors; but the contractors undertake to work on commission, and to hand all of the profits over to the Government. The "Indian Army Canteen" will be an organisation embracing all regimental institutes in India, and will take over all the stock, furniture, and plant of the existing institutes. It will be controlled at headquarters by a committee of military officers. A Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General for Institutes will represent the headquarters committee in each command. Commanding and regimental officers will be relieved of all administrative work in connection with the business; but the commanding officer will have the power of inspecting the supplies and rejecting them if unsatisfactory, making regulations for his institute, and objecting to any servants who may be put in by the contractor. The "Managing Agents," as they are called—that is to say, the contractor—will do the whole of the commercial part of the business under the direction and supervision of these military authorities. They will be the sole purchasing agents; they will undertake to buy at manufacturers' prices, or at the cheapest obtainable rates; and they bind themselves under a heavy penalty to disclose all discounts, commissions, etc., and to make a declaration on all shipment invoices that the prices charged are net prices. All contracts made in India are to be subject to the approval of the D.A.A.G. for Institutes. The selling price-lists of the respective institutes will also be subject to the approval of the same officer. In short, the Managing Agents will do everything that a contractor does under the tenant system in England; but their position will be that of agents, not principals; the whole of their books and contracts will be open to the inspection of the military authorities, and they will undertake to make no profit beyond their agreed commission. This commission is to be calculated on the total turn-over. The exact amount of it, I suppose, will have to be left for adjustment when the system comes into operation, if it ever does.

In regard to the distribution of profits, the scheme proposes that grants shall be made to commanding officers at fixed rates—*e.g.*, Rs. 500 per mensem for a battalion of infantry, Rs. 300 for a cavalry regiment, and so on. This grant seems to be intended to supply the purposes of the present "C.O.'s Fund," covering such incidental expenses as grants to companies, the provision of appliances for games, charitable donations, etc., which are now met out of canteen profits. The balance of the Army Canteen Fund is to be applied to the improvement of regimental institutes on what may be called their recreational side; or, as Lord Kitchener puts it, "the gradual conversion of the present institutes into properly-constituted soldiers' clubs." The strongest stress is laid upon this side of the scheme. Lord Kitchener is desirous that the attractions of the regimental institute should be increased in every way in which it can add to the general comfort of military service, and encourage the soldier to lead a regular life. As a step to this end the institute is to be under the management of a committee elected by the men themselves, and presided over by the second-in-command. It is intimated that a standard plan for regimental institutes is under consideration, and it is Lord Kitchener's desire that money should be spent freely on buildings and equipment to bring all institutes up to this model. Provision is also to be made through the institutes for teaching men trades which will be useful to them on discharge.

All this is thoroughly admirable. It aims at precisely the same ideal of canteen management which in a humble way I have been preaching for many years past. The essentials of that ideal are that the whole of the profits of the canteen trade should be secured to the soldier in two ways, first, by enabling him to buy all such articles as are dealt in at the lowest price compatible with the best quality, and, secondly, to provide him with a thoroughly good club for his recreation when off duty. If these ends are gained, the precise means adopted for the purpose are not a matter of much consequence. I am bound to say, however, that the practicability of the Indian Army canteen scheme as outlined above seems to me somewhat doubtful. The *x* in the problem is the possibility of finding a contractor who will undertake the whole of this huge business on the terms specified, and carry out his contract faithfully. As Lord Kitchener is nothing if not practical, it must be presumed that before promulgating this scheme he has taken steps to ascertain that there is in existence somewhere, either in India or England, a firm who will take the contract. But as the choice is too limited to create much competition, until the contract is made, considerable doubt must be felt as to the possibility of concluding it on any terms which will leave such a margin of profit for the Army as the scheme seems to contemplate. In the alternative, if the contract should be placed on satisfactory terms, a doubt suggests itself whether the contractor who makes it may not contemplate the possibility of securing something for himself beyond the agreed commission, whatever it may be. Most people who have been behind the scenes in wholesale and retail trade, and more particularly in the Army canteen trade, will probably agree with me that it is almost impossible to lay down on paper conditions which will exclude the possibility of "undisclosed profits" in a business of this magnitude. Perhaps I take too low a view of human nature at large, and particularly as manifested in Army contractors; but I fear that there are a good many smart business men about who could manage to get round all the stipulations and safeguards of Lord Kitchener's scheme, more especially when they will only have military men to deal with. In cases of this kind you want not merely drastic regulations, but men to enforce them who know as much of the ins and outs of trade as the contractor and his men, and this is just what the Army cannot reckon on supplying. In short, the more readily a contractor is found who will undertake this job at a commission of 2 or 3 per cent., the more misgivings I should feel as to the balance of profit likely to be netted by the Army. The prospect of a satisfactory balance might, however, be materially improved if the "managing agents" were given a commission on the profits either in lieu of, or in addition to, a commission on the turnover, in the same way that

a trustee in bankruptcy is allowed a percentage on the dividend he distributes. I respectfully commend this suggestion to Lord Kitchener's consideration. It is always well to give servants in responsible situations an interest in your business, and it seems to me imperatively necessary to do so in a case like this, where the amount of profit earned must depend entirely on the servant.

It seems to me a great pity that while he was about it Lord Kitchener did not go in boldly for an out-and-out co-operative scheme. What is the difference between his scheme and the one recommended by the majority of the Committee on Regimental Institutes? Their proposal was that the whole of the regimental canteens at home should be federated into a co-operative concern managed by a central department in London. Lord Kitchener aims at federating the whole of the Indian canteens into a profit-sharing, if not a co-operative concern, managed by a military department at Calcutta or Simla. He ingeniously gets over the difficulty about investing public money in a military trade enterprise, which was one of the objections to the proposal of the Regimental Institutes Committee, by introducing the private capitalist in the character of an agent working on commission; but for the rest the machinery of his scheme is precisely the machinery which would have to be employed for a co-operative organisation. There is the headquarters committee supervising the whole thing, which was one of the features most strongly objected to in the proposal of the Institutes Committee. There are a number of district officers as branch managers, who will be practically withdrawn from all military duty for this purpose. It was objected to the Institutes Committee scheme that it would deprive commanding officers of the control of their own canteens. In my opinion the objection is worth very little, and Lord Kitchener has probably quite got over it; but, whatever the objection was worth, it applies equally to the Indian scheme. Surely, if the Army is going to take this business into its own hands and under its own control in such a way as to ensure the profits being applied to the benefit of the soldier, the only logical and businesslike way to do it is to work it with your own money and through your own servants. I can see only one motive in introducing the civilian contractor and endeavouring by an elaborate system of artificial restrictions to put him into the position of a servant, while appointing your own board of management and local superintendents; and that is that you are not able or not willing to find the capital yourself, and that the contractor-servant agrees to do so. Really, the amount of capital required for such a business is very limited, as has been shown by the history of the Canteen and Mess Co-operative Society in London, which, I believe, has never had a capital of more than £10,000, and has now an annual turnover of about half a million. The reason of this is obvious. The premises, furniture, and fixtures for the retail trade are more or less in existence already. The retail business is a ready money one; the wholesale buying can always be done on a few months' credit. It is only now and then, in the case of certain goods or in certain exceptional circumstances, that there is any advantage in buying any considerable quantity of stock in advance of the current requirements of the trade. The only purposes, therefore, for which capital is required are the provision of a central office and warehouses, and perhaps a few local depots, and a small amount of cash for working the business. Although in England Government might for political considerations shirk the responsibility of supplying a few thousand pounds of public money to start such a business, the Indian Government is in a position of "greater freedom and less responsibility." Whether the Indian Government refused to advance the cash required to enable their Commander-in-Chief to run the Indian Army canteen "on his own," or whether the Commander-in-Chief, like some of our officers at home, dislikes the idea of committing the Army to a purely commercial undertaking, the result is equally to be regretted, for not only has the opportunity been lost of trying, under more favourable conditions than are possible at home, an experiment which might have been of as much service to England as to India, but in point of fact the scheme really commits the Indian Army to a commercial undertaking, free, it is true, from any commercial risk, but with the disadvantage, on the other hand, that its control over the commercial side of the operation is precarious and doubtful. However, I offer this criticism in no spirit of ill-will to Lord Kitchener's scheme. If only he can find the right men to manage the thing centrally and locally, it may easily yield to the British Army in India some of the advantages he has in view, if not all. I hope it will.

THE GLASGOW FRIENDLY SOCIETY SCANDAL.

The following letter, dated June 30, from Mr. James Stewart, managing treasurer of the City of Glasgow Friendly Society, reached me on July 4:—

Dear Sir,—You have been writing rather ill-informed articles on our Society; or, at least, some one has been doing so for your periodical. There is no reason, of course, why you should not deal with the crisis in the affairs of the City of Glasgow Friendly Society, but I think that you might, in fairness, have communicated with me on the point. It would take me too much time to go into the matter in detail, if, indeed, it were worth while to do so. The Society has already expressed its opinion on the conduct of the former Board; and you may rest assured that a decision unanimously reached by a representative body like the delegates of the Society is not to be readily set aside. You do not know how the Board came to be set against me; and if you knew the facts you would not have cared to write as you have done. Before your articles appeared I heard frequently that something of the kind was expected. It would seem, therefore, that if the articles were not inspired, pressure had been brought upon some member of your staff by some one. I think that if you care to look into the matter you will find that I have not been wrong, but wronged. I enclose two pamphlets on the point.
—Yours sincerely, James Stewart.

It is perhaps hardly worth while to notice Mr. Stewart's ridiculous and impertinent suggestion that I have acted under "inspiration" or "pressure" in writing upon the affairs of this Society. The matter was one of public interest, and I dealt with it accordingly. My first article was based upon the report of the Inspector appointed by the Assistant Registrar of Friendly Societies in Scotland to inquire into the affairs of the Society; and the subsequent paragraphs referred to the proceedings in the Court of Session when an interdict was granted against Mr. Stewart at the instance of the then Board of Management. The idea that I ought, "in fairness," to have communicated with Mr.

Stewart before commenting upon the report of the Inspector or the judgment of the Court of Session is preposterous. The former was an official document, setting forth the facts that the Inspector ascertained, and the conclusions that he formed as the result of an exhaustive investigation in which the fullest consideration was given to Mr. Stewart's explanations of his conduct as managing treasurer of the Society. Before the Inspector, as in the Court of Session, Mr. Stewart was practically in the position of a defendant, and the verdict was against him.

In characterising my articles as "ill-informed," Mr. Stewart has, I find, let me off lightly in comparison with his treatment of the Inspector. One of the pamphlets enclosed with the above letter contains twenty-two pages of "remarks on the Inspector's Report by the managing treasurer," and in it he complains that "the Inspector has failed to take a fair and comprehensive view of his duties," and "so magnified trifles and so frequently used vague and misleading language that a distorted view of the position is placed before the members." This is pretty cool, and the rest of the pamphlet is in keeping with it. The Inspector showed that Mr. Stewart, by a usurpation of authority, had become the sole manager of the society, the directors and other officers being entirely subservient to him; that his management had been marked by gross laxity and incompetence, and not a few violations of the law; that the cash-book and other books and registers were not kept in a satisfactory manner—neither the cash nor the cash-book had been balanced for five years; that the managing treasurer had received and retained for his own use £503 as commissions on fire insurance premiums that he paid for the society; that he had received and retained discounts on other payments that he had made for the society; and that he had exacted and received royalties on the sale of collecting books—an offence under the Collecting Societies and Industrial Assurance Companies Act of 1896. In regard to the cash-book, the Inspector mentioned that on counting the money in the society's till he found that it amounted to £274, whereas, according to the book, it should have been only £151. The fact that there was a surplus proved, at any rate, the utter unreliability of the cash-book as a record of receipts and payments. In his "remarks" in reply to the report Mr. Stewart airily dismisses many of the complaints against him as "trivialities" or "technicalities," and offers disingenuous explanations in regard to others, or else flatly contradicts the Inspector. He must have a good deal of effrontery if he really imagines that his *ex parte* statements will be generally accepted as a sufficient answer to the official report, though it would seem that he has unfortunately succeeded in throwing dust in the eyes of a majority of the delegates of the society.

Mr. Stewart speaks in his letter of "a decision unanimously reached" by the delegates of the Society. If this is a reference to the decision of the delegates at their meeting last week, it is incorrect. According to the official account of the proceedings supplied to the Glasgow newspapers, a resolution for the reinstatement of Mr. Stewart as Managing Treasurer of the Society was carried by 51 votes against 32—a substantial majority, but scarcely a "unanimous" decision. It has been asserted that this majority represented 80,000 out of the 120,000 members of the society. No doubt it is the theory of the rules that they did so, but it is quite incredible that two-thirds of the members actually desired that the management of their affairs should again be placed in the hands of an official guilty of such gross irregularities as those that were brought home to Mr. Stewart by the Inspector. As usually happens in connection with collecting societies of this kind, whose members are not kept in touch with one another by frequent meetings, the election of delegates is largely a farce. District meetings of this Glasgow Society, which has members in England and Ireland, as well as in many places in Scotland, are only held triennially, and, as a rule, the delegates are to all intents and purposes the nominees of the local collectors. The latter in their turn have been for years completely under the control of Mr. Stewart, and in view of the influence that he was able to exercise, the decision arrived at last week was not altogether unexpected. It is in every way a lamentable decision, and the case raises the question whether the law relating to these societies ought not to be amended for the better protection of the members. They are supposed to control their own business, but under such conditions as prevail in this society they are practically helpless against a powerful official. The irregularities and illegalities which have marked Mr. Stewart's management should have absolutely disqualified him from again holding the office of treasurer, and it is to be hoped that the Assistant Registrar will yet call him to account for the breaches of the Collecting Societies Act which the Inspector pointed out.

THE THEATRES.

"La Bourse ou la Vie?" and "La Layette," at the Avenue.

The distinguished company which includes M. Tarride, Mlle. Dorziat, and Mlle. Régnier among its members concluded its season last week with the production of the above plays. The first of these, "La Bourse ou la Vie?" a satirical comedy in the lightest vein of M. Capus, opens to us the world of the Parisian outside stock-broker, and through the glittering absurdities with which it is studded one can trace the minute powers of observation upon which it is based. To make fun of any person or institution one must know the ins and outs of its mechanism, and M. Capus is evidently well acquainted with the world which he describes. His talent is revealed by the indulgent amusement, amounting almost to sympathy, which we feel for the stock-broker Brassac, whose moral sense has dwindled to the vanishing point. His departure for Belgium when prices have gone against him is one of the most amusing moments of the entertainment. In the hands of M. Tarride, Brassac becomes a sympathetic swindler.

Mlle. Dorziat was excellent as the extravagant wife of the young aristocrat, who drives him to partnership

with the stockbroker, that they may be able to continue living extravagantly in Paris, and M. A. Loberty also did well as that foolish young man. Mlle. Marthe Régnier brought much of lightness and a keen sense of the comic to the part of the *cocotte* ever in search of a husband, finding one at last in her first lover, reduced to being a clerk in the prison of "La Douillette." But perhaps the most amusing moment of all was the last, when the inmates of that cosy house of detention, including Brassac and his blue-blooded partner, meet. The former is about to be married to a rich South American widow, and, meeting with his partner, who has been imprisoned owing to their partnership, offers to make his fortune for certain this time. He rushes from the room, and returns with a legal document. Using the identical words employed when they first became partners, he cries, "Sign here and here," pointing to the vacant places for signature. The other raises his hands deprecatingly, and, amid much laughter, energetically refuses as the curtain falls.

"La Layette" is also the lightest of light comedies, and even more amusing than its predecessor. The twenty-five thousand francs claimed from his father-in-law by Letourneur upon the birth of his fifth child, and refused by the former, is the nucleus of a series of comic adventures. M. Tarride excelled himself as Letourneur, and gilded his astonishing adventures and those of his father-in-law with all that plenitude of life and of high spirits that is re-echoed from pit to gallery in peals of laughter. Mlles. Marthe Régnier and Gabrielle Dorziat were respectively the angry spouse of Letourneur and the astonished courtesan to perfection, and M. Emile René, as the obstinate father-in-law who follows Letourneur in his search for a mistress, played also exceedingly well. This bright comedy of M. A. Sylvare was warmly applauded, as, indeed, it well deserved as much from the skill of the dramatist as from the high quality of the playing. I trust that M. Tarride will be tempted to pay us another visit with an equally good company.

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The Court Theatre will reopen in October. As I announced some weeks ago, Mr. J. H. Leigh intends to let this theatre for theatrical performances at a fixed fee per performance if booked before December 31, 1904. This fee will include the use of the theatre for a matinée as well as for an evening performance.

* * * * *

"The Artist's Dream" will be repeated at the Comedy Theatre on Tuesday, July 12, at three o'clock, in aid of the Deptford Fund and Princess Alexander of Teck's Children's Guild. Tickets may be obtained from any of the patrons, or from the hon. secretary, Viscountess Maitland, 14, Lower Sloane-street.

* * * * *

Lady Colin Campbell and Miss Clo Graves will appear in addition to those dramatic authors whose names have already been announced as taking part in Mr. W. S. Gilbert's parody of "Hamlet" at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, July 19. This performance will be in aid of the Bushey Heath Cottage Hospital.

* * * * *

Mr. Patrick Kirwan's Idyllic Players are giving this week a series of eight varied performances at the Royal Botanic Society's Gardens, Regent's Park. On Friday, July 8, at 8.30, the programme is "Ferdinand and Miranda," "A Dream of Old Versailles," and "Priscilla." If the fine weather continues, it will be pleasant to spend an evening there in the company of Rosalind, Marguerite, and other heroines of other dramas who will appear between the glimpses of the moon.

* * * * *

I hope that Mr. William Toynbee's play, "Necessity Knows no Law," which was produced at the Court Theatre at a matinée last week, in aid of St. Monica's Home of Rest for Women, will see the footlights again ere long, for it contains much of the true dramatic quality, and has further a fine historical and literary flavour, which lifts it at once out of the ruck of the ordinary machine-made drama. The play is described as "A Comedy of Personages," and gives with clear-cut precision the outline of the smart Society lady who steals the secret of the Foreign Office to sell it to a newspaper, of the aged statesman, with reminiscences of Palmerston and of other familiar types. Mr. C. M. Lowne, Miss Sarah Brooke, and Miss Beardsley were among the players, who gave their services in a good play for a good cause.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A CELESTIAL INTERVIEW.

PRINCE PU LUN, nephew of the Empress Dowager of China, has, *retour de* St. Louis and Washington, been visiting Paris. He put up at the Chinese Legation, where I saw him in all the glory of gorgeous brocade. When the Yellow Peril has become an accomplished fact, it will open a new field to the fashion papers. Pu Lun should surely rank as a fashionable, if fashion depended on fine and many-coloured garments. He dresses in a pale blue skirt and Chinese trousers in which rose and lavender are sweetly blended. A cowslip-yellow jacket, loose, and of the *caraco* form, enters harmoniously into the scheme of colours, which admits of a magnificent peacock's feather, broad at the end as a widespread fan, descending from the back of his cap. I never saw a feather of the kind so broad, so long in the feathery or fluffy parts, or with so fine a double eye.

To celestial eyes Prince Pu Lun might appear an Adonis. The face is rather fleshy, and of that colour of which we have been hearing so much in connection with his race. Although but thirty-two, he might in clothes properly made by a French *couturière* seem a mild, benevolent lady of sixty. His full cheeks do not seem to have grown a beard. The gold-rimmed spectacles add to the mildness of his appearance. To see him is to feel assured that the Yellow Peril is a bogey. He declares that he knows no English, nor French. I hardly believe him. The twinkling eyes betray knowledge of what has been said in either language before the secretary translates it.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., CONVALESCENT HOME, Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

There are four secretaries in attendance. They also wear Celestial garments, but less rich and rare, or gaily-coloured than the Prince's. Their names are as hard to remember as the names of localities where Japs and Russians fight, or retreat from, and some are double and others triple. Wong and Kung, and Chung and Cheng, and Pong and Tung, and Yun and Lang, and Yu and Kai, and Tze and Pei are combined in them. How could any Western form friendships with people so named? The interpreter Pong Tze Wong, or Wong Tze Pong (the sneeze is in the middle word, however the Wong and Pong may be placed), speaks good English, which he learned at a Protestant Mission school at Shanghai. He uses the words "sentiment," "appreciate," "girl" (servant) as might an American, and speaks of the Empress Dowager as "a remarkable specimen of Chinese womanhood, and quite on a line with the cleverest ladies of Europe and America." She is conservative, of course, but in many respects an advanced reformer. For instance, she is against crippling the feet of female infants, and she has told the mandarins about her to leave off burying their minds in books of philosophy, and study those sciences in which the Japanese have acquired proficiency. She will be all curiosity to hear of the entertainments to which the Prince went at Washington and St. Louis, of his impressions of American society at the White House, at the residences of Secretaries of State, and on the golf links, and the peculiarly American features of the Exposition, which is simply the most American product the United States has ever evolved, and quite equal to Niagara in stunning bigness and power. The Japanese Minister and the Chief Commissioner at the St. Louis Exhibition are counted crack golf players.

I asked the Prince what he thought of President Roosevelt. He at first attempted to *mimer* his answer, and then explained that the President impressed him as a noble spreading tree growing in height and dignity. He looked a good king-man. Miss Alice Roosevelt struck his Highness as "just lovely." In answer to the question, "Perhaps the Empress Dowager might like to secure her hand for the young Emperor?" the Prince looked grave first, and then went into a fit of laughter.

The President asked the Prince to a State dinner, and sent him round to see the sights of Washington in a buzz car. They saw naval homes, demonstrations by fire ladders, Washington's grave; went every day to receptions, teas, dinners, and they left Washington wondering how any human creature could bear such high-pressure life. They found the pressure at St. Louis even greater. The waterfall palace there took away the Prince's breath, and he felt lost in admiration at the gigantic flower clock. The hands and all the figures on the dial of this monster clock are jardinières. It keeps time with the exactness of a naval chronometer. It was just the thing for a Summer Palace garden in China.

It would have been silly to have tackled the Prince on questions of high policy. He cannot know much about them, and if he did he would *parler pour ne rien dire*. One could not extract high-flown matter from his gestures, nods of the head, oblique little blinking eyes, benevolent smile, and very celestial clothing. An answer to a question as to whether China were likely to relapse to her old ways would have been too much for a serious interviewer. Going to revert? Not so foolish. Old-fashioned China is dead as old-fashioned Japan. The importation of American flour has killed it. "Eating that flour has altered for the better the bones, the brains, and the sinews of our people, and is giving them an energy far greater than any they showed when they lived on rice only."

It would have been useless to try to draw the Prince on the comparative merits of Paris or Washington and St. Louis fashions. He thought, however, that venerable French ladies dressed less elegantly than venerable American ladies. The latter, he had heard, had French maids skilled in hair-dressing and dressmaking. As they received better wages in America, they deserted their French mistresses, to the disadvantage of the latter. Chinese ladies of rank were second to none in elegance, but of the old-fashioned Chinese sort. They wore robes of silk and satin made flowery with coloured embroidery, and had means for renewing on their lips and cheeks the bloom of extreme youth. Their courtesy to each other—for they never received visits from gentlemen—had a more ceremonious character than the courtesies of an American drawing-room. Chinese philosophers remarked that when women took care to leave no ceremony out in visiting each other, they had little time to retail the gossip of the neighbourhood. At the same time, there was no saying what the century might bring forth. The world now spins round faster than it used to. One thing is certain. "What?" "That high philosophy has had its day." "Confucius, you mean?" The Prince nodded slyly before the interpreter had time to translate. I took note of the nod, and caught the Prince's eye in putting the questions that followed. However, his wariness prevented him giving direct answers.

Agriculture is held in high honour in China, so high that once a year the Emperor guides the plough the whole length of a long piece of fallow ground. Pu Lun inspected with deep interest the Agricultural Palace at St. Louis and has picked up for importation some cunning notions about husbandry and fowl-rearing. The beamingly benevolent face spread into a broad laugh as he thought of how the chicken farmer over there cheated Nature with the incubator. There were no mother hens to grieve at massacres of week-old chickens, now so much appreciated as a delicacy by Americans who have travelled in China. Pigeon-breeding for racing and carrying messages had been also brought to a high pitch of perfection. Pu Lun's eyes became dull, not to say dead, when these birds brought round the conversation to the war in the Far East. It would have been no use tackling him about the Kiel interview in connection with the German Emperor's encroachments in Shantung and his Tientsin-Nanking railway enterprise. So I asked him if he had given any thought to Equal Rights Congresses. He had, but did not see what now remains for the American ladies to gain if it be not the disfranchisement of man. I called his attention to the fact that American ladies at the Berlin

Congress disclaimed allegiance to husband or to State. The Prince wondered why they had gone all the way to Berlin to make this declaration. It has in the United States a universal social state to back it up. "But the ladies do not vote at legislative elections, and are not members of Congress and of the Senate?" The sly look again brightened up his face. He said something in Chinese to the Secretary, who answered that a subject so important required the deepest reflection. If I may be allowed to guess what really passed between Prince and interpreter, it would have been: "The members of those bodies lobby to enable the ladies to come to Paris and have a good time."

The Empress Dowager and the Empress may, and probably will, give their miniatures, framed in carved ivory, to the American Ambassador's wife when Prince Pu Lun returns to Pekin, to mark their satisfaction at the hospitable and distinguished reception he met with at Washington. The Empress Dowager and the Empress of Japan have exchanged miniatures. If the Chinese are no lovers of the Japs, they feel far less aversion for them than for the Russians. That Far Eastern Catherine de Médicis, Tsou Hsi, will, if she can, play them against each other, and if she must yield to one or the other side, she will prefer the Japanese. This I heard from Baron de Plancy, who has been here on leave of absence. He is French Minister at the Court of Seoul.

Tsou Hsi had, it appears, a famous flirtation with the twenty-years-old sailor Prince, Adalbert of Prussia. He is good looking, and has an ingenuous air that may be deceptive. She retained him at the interview she granted him for a whole hour, and chatted all the time in the liveliest manner, not seeming to remember in the least the orders given four years ago to Marshal Waldersee. An old lady, talking to a darling grandchild, could not have been more affectionately nice. She gave the sailor Prince a photographic likeness of herself, with an autograph inscription and in a precious frame. The Prince's interview with Kouang Su lasted the regulation time of ten minutes, and was taken up with formal ceremonial.

The eldest daughter of the Hon. Levi Morton, ex-Vice-President of the United States, and U.S. Ambassador to Paris, has divorced the Duc de Valençay, whom she married in London in the autumn of 1901. The Divorce Court of the Seine heard the pleadings on both sides, Me. Roussett for the lady and Me. Srauss for the Duc, and decided on every point in her favour. This judgment may be held a triumph. She had a large fortune, and, both before and after her marriage, every social advantage. What I could never understand was how with her Presbyterian bringing-up she could have married into the Talleyrand connection. Throughout the last century the Talleyrands have thought themselves too grand seigneurs to cultivate the moral sense. There are three American ladies now in Paris who have divorced Talleyrand husbands. The senior one is the Marquise de Talleyrand *née* Beer Curtis, of New York, and the third Helen Morton, to whom so many sympathies go out. The Duc de Dino is also the ex-husband of the Marquise de Talleyrand, who, I suppose, retains the title marriage conferred on her in virtue of some special arrangement.

The ex-Duchess de Valençay and her husband lived in Paris in a private house of their own in the Rue Constantin and at the Château de Valençay, which has ceased to be a *majorat* estate, and was bought in by them, at the liquidation of the late Duc de Talleyrand's real properties. Bonaparte kept there as prisoners the King and Queen of Spain and the Prince of the Asturias before he ordered his removal to Compiègne. It is a noble residence, but more fitted for a Court than for private persons.

I have touched on a certain moral callosity of the Talleyrand family from a far-back period. Prince de Talleyrand afforded many examples. He lived in the Rue St. Florentin, in the house now the residence of Baron Alphonse de Rothschild. After the death of the Princess (ci-devant Mme. Grand) the Dowager Princess of Courland took her place, and after her the Princess of Courland and Sagan, Duchess de Dino, who presided with renown at the receptions held there. She accompanied her uncle-in-law to Brussels and London when he went there in the reign of William IV. on diplomatic missions. He died in the Rue St. Florentin. Louis Philippe, hearing that recovery was impossible, went there to appeal to his better feelings and so extract from him some important family papers. Whether owing to extreme illness or to a secret determination not to yield these documents, the dying man took no notice of the King, but kept groaning. His Royal visitor at length said loudly into his ear what he wanted. "Laissez-moi tranquille," cried Talleyrand. "Je n'en peux plus. Je souffre comme un damné!" "Quoi? Déjà?" cried Louis Philippe. "Dans ce cas il n'y a plus rien à espérer."

The publicly-spoken words of King Edward at Kiel and Hamburg have found favour here, and are thought charmingly characteristic. The King and Emperor are both actors, the former perhaps because he must be, and the latter from histrionic taste. Each, however, understands the stage differently. William wants to fill it; Edward just cares to play his part creditably, and has elected to be the good-humoured, debonair Sovereign, filling the oldest throne on this side of Japan, and yet very much up to date, and the genial representative of a people fond of handsome festivity, more material than ideal, and tending towards jollity and good-fellowship at the festive board. William has a taste for resonant oratory, and aims at striking effects. If the German flamboyant style of architecture could be transposed into after-dinner speeches, it would be the counterpart of the many that he has uttered. They may, in after ages, have a place in works of fiction *à la* Sienkiewics. He apparently forgot at Kiel that he had a few weeks ago seen, at Carlsruhe, Strasburg, and Mayence, only black war-clouds on the horizon. Speaking as the host of King Edward, he resorted to oratorical pomp and brilliancy to give force to his call on Heaven to witness that if he kept up a great army and sought to create a proportionate navy, his one object was to preserve peace among the nations. As chief of the young German Navy, he hailed with pride and pleasure the sea king

who had come to visit him as an honorary German Admiral. This and other effective flowers of rhetoric have been quoted with approval by *Le Temps*. The answer to them is thought delicious. King Edward would have felt he had no call to orate, and did not feel ashamed to own that he had come, as a sportsman, to see the regattas.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

EUROPE maintains, dear Lady Betty, that America was founded by housemaids out of place and mechanics out of work; but the descendants of those housemaids have become duchesses, and of those mechanics, millionaires.

The Continent of the Outcasts is in modern civilisation a quarter of a century in advance of Europe; it is the centre of the life of our times! The men and women whom the mediæval system has driven from the Old World to the New as undesirable or unsuccessful have prospered prodigiously in more favourable circumstances. Nevertheless, we cling tenaciously to our unreasonable institutions!

Of the old, nothing but good, is an unwritten precept which appears to influence the minds of many on this side of the Atlantic; but most of our old institutions and convictions are conspicuously out of place in the new circumstances which America, modern thought, experience, and discovery, and more liberty and enlightenment, have produced. The system is the enemy!

Everybody that was bad went to America, and everything that is bad comes from there! America the vulgar! Which are the more "vulgar," the women who sell their fortune for titles, or the men who sell their titles for fortune? Is it "vulgar" to buy the art treasures which Europe has produced in the past, and to pay handsomely for them, or to sell these at an enormous profit, and then declare that the purchasers are ignorant and ostentatious? Is it "vulgar" to visit Europe, and endeavour to become acquainted with those who rule and are respected in the Old World, or to visit the United States, and be entertained regally, and, on returning to Europe, to write an article in which your hosts, hostesses, and their country are described with ill-concealed contempt?

It is vulgar to be new; that is a convenient mediæval principle. Is it not possible that Europe is as vulgar as America, and that old customs and conditions, viewed by modern lights, are becoming recognisable as detestable vulgarities?

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An interesting article, which is published in the *Burlington Magazine* for the present month, has suggested these thoughts. Several American millionaires have in recent years paid uncomplainingly enormous prices for "art treasures," some of which are unequalled in their own department, some indifferent, and some spurious. Moreover, the New World is rapidly furnishing itself with Old World accumulations of the kind, which is very wise, for how few of the artists or workers of to-day are producing objects which are admirable, or will be valued by those who are to come after us? The supply of such old work is limited, and the more education and prosperity there is, the more will that work be appreciated, and the higher the prices asked for it will become. Those circumstances have, during the last quarter of a century, driven the prices up to a point which to many appears to be excessive, and to the experts in such matters only a short distance in the direction in which prices must inevitably advance. The American collector may have frequently bought unintelligently, but when he makes up his accounts a quarter of a century hence, will he find that he has suffered a loss by his transaction? Those dealers and amateurs who have the most experience predict that he will not.

The Beckett-Denison collection was sold at auction in 1885 for £71,000 odd; the Dudley collection in 1892 for £101,000, and the Hawkins collection has now realised £190,000. At the last-mentioned sale, Mr. Partridge paid over £10,000 for a few snuff-boxes, and at the Thurlow sale, 450 guineas for a pair of Sèvres vases! The prices of paintings, of water-colour drawings, of prints, of trinkets, of china, and of furniture, are steadily rising. That this year, or in that short period of years, dealers or owners of art treasures cannot find buyers does not matter except for the moment. War, financial difficulties, bad harvests, and other causes, make money temporarily scarce, but the volume of wealth is continually increasing.

That there are fashions in the art world is obvious. The Spanish, Dutch, and Italian schools of painters have been deserted by the many now for the British or the French; but the former have their admirers still, and will have more in the future. The British school of art was ignored for a period, but is now rising in esteem with leaps and bounds. There are also artificially-manufactured fashions. Just as stocks are manipulated in the City, so is this or that "craze" created in the art world. A group of dealers make, for instance, a "corner" in engravings by a certain artist; they then have his work discussed in the Press; after a while a demand for the engravings arises; high prices are secured and announced, and the dealers who bought for shillings sell for sovereigns. That the Americans have been frequently the victims of such fashions or tricks is not to their discredit. The celebrated private galleries and collections in Great Britain and on the Continent are filled with paintings by Spanish, Dutch, and Italian masters, whose works were in fashion when the pictures were bought, but are, for the moment, less valued by many than they were.

. . . . .

When the American Government abolish the tax on art treasures and curiosities which is unreasonably imposed now on those exports from Europe—for they do not interfere with the industries of the country—and thousands of art dealers and curiosity shops spring up throughout the United States, the markets of the Old World will be emptied. When Australia and Africa, become rich and follow the lead, what prices will be obtained! The Bank of Art will never fail, and the American millionaires have been as shrewd as ever in securing stock in this concern, even if they now appear to some to have bought their shares expensively.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

TWO or three years ago there was a project for establishing a second meeting, extending over two days, at Ascot, but it evaporated for various reasons. In the sixties, the experiment was tried of a spring meeting there, which proved a great success, but the novelty did not meet with the approval of Queen Victoria, so the fixture was given up. It has now been proposed that the existing meeting at Ascot should be extended over a fortnight. This arrangement, which is considered to be an admirable suggestion by one of the evening papers, would no doubt be welcomed by persons having houses to let in the Ascot district, and by the local tradesmen, and so on and so forth. Practical people, however, who understand something about the real business of racing, will regard it as utterly chimerical, and obviously founded in fathomless ignorance of the manifold and insuperable obstacles to such a scheme. The fact is that Ascot has come to be generally regarded as a vast social orgie. During the week of the meeting the daily papers were full of florid accounts, indited in the most gorgeous and excruciating journalese, of the smart company, and their superb attire, and their

Gargantuan luncheons; but the racing appeared to be quite a secondary consideration. As a matter of fact, the character of the sport at Ascot has deteriorated of late years in a very remarkable manner, considering the amount of money which is given to the various stakes; and it must be remembered that at Ascot every penny goes to the placed horses, the huckstering devices of entrances and forfeits to the fund being unknown there. On the Cup day there were seven races, with £7,600 of added money, and during the afternoon only thirty-eight horses started! This is an abject failure, and it cannot be explained away.

The fact is that the Ascot programme stands in most urgent need of a thorough revision. There ought to be only six races on each day, but each of these events should be of high class. There are far too many events on the same lines, and this is particularly the case with the three-year-old races. Many horses are engaged over and over again, the result being that the races are cut up, to the utter destruction of sport, for the animals of high-class carefully avoid meeting each other. "If you run yours for the Prince of Wales's I will keep mine for the Ascot Derby," or "I will start mine for the Biennial if you will wait with yours for the St. James's Palace Stakes." There ought to be two rich three-year-old stakes during the week, the Prince of Wales's being one, and the St. James's Palace Stakes the other. The former being run over a mile and three-quarters and the latter over a mile only, good fields might reasonably be expected for each. The Alexandra Plate should be abolished, and the amount saved could be devoted to the enrichment of the Vase, which would attract a larger and a better field if it had an endowment of £1,500 in money, besides the piece of plate, which is of the advertised value of £200. The added money to the Ascot Stakes (£2,000) should be cut down to £1,000, for quite as large a field would be attracted, and the less said the better about class, for the present lot of handicap horses are a miserable collection of scugs, with but two or three exceptions. The money saved could be given to the weight-for-age races. The number of Biennials is at present altogether bewildering, and some of them might advantageously disappear, the money saved being devoted to increasing the value of those which were kept on. The added money to the Wokingham Stakes should be doubled, and the programme of Thursday afternoon might advantageously contain a second T.Y.C. handicap. There ought to be only one two-year-old race on each day. The added money to the Coventry Stakes and the New Stakes (£1,000 to each race at present) should be doubled, and £1,000 should be given to each of the other two-year-old events, one race on Wednesday and one on Friday.

The Ascot Cup consists of a piece of plate of the nominal value of £1,000, with £3,000 of added money besides. The value of the piece of plate should be cut down to £200, and the £800 saved could be advantageously added to the race in cash. At present there is £700 for second horse, and £300 for the third, which is a ridiculously large withdrawal from the winner's gains; £500 would be quite enough to divide between the second and third horses. Owners of the present day do not care to possess gaudy pieces of plate, and there is something truly ignominious in the descent of such a trophy to the auction room. Several Ascot Cups and Royal Hunt Cups have been sold, and members of the Jockey Club have been among the vendors. I have never heard of a modern racing "cup" which realised anything approaching to its advertised value when it was put up for sale. The Ascot Cup which Frederick Duke of York won in 1821 with Banker was of the nominal value of one hundred guineas. After the Duke's death in 1827 this cup was sold along with the remainder of his effects, and it was purchased by William Duke of Gloucester. Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, left this cup, along with the remainder of the property in Gloucester House, to her nephew, the late Duke of Cambridge, and it was sold the other day at Christie and Manson's for upwards of two hundred and fifty guineas. I am sure that the Ascot Cup would be a very much more popular race among owners if it consisted of £4,000 of added money, with a piece of plate value £200. The race might be arranged to close on the Tuesday after the Newmarket Houghton meeting, instead of on the first Tuesday in January, with a sweepstakes of £20 each, to be the only liability if forfeit was declared by the last Tuesday in March, and a sweepstakes of £50 each in addition for every horse left in after that date.

Mr. Redfern, who died last week at the age of eighty-four, was at one time a well-known *amateur*, and a prominent figure on the Turf. He was an owner of steeplechasers in the forties, and he ran horses under Newmarket Rules from 1851 until 1899. It is a remarkable circumstance that during that long period he never owned a good horse nor did he win a single important race. He was a most intimate and a thoroughly trusted friend of the late Mr. James Merry, who frequently consulted him as to the management of his horses, and he usually followed his advice. It was mainly in consequence of Mr. Redfern's representations that Doncaster and Marie Stuart were both started for the St. Leger of 1873 without any formal declaration being made, their owner's wish being merely that the best should win.

A writer in one of the daily papers predicted that Rock Sand would find L'Aiglon his most dangerous opponent for the Princess of Wales's Stakes, but added that last year's Derby and St. Leger winner would probably be able to defeat Mr. Neumann's horse. I have seldom read more emphatically asinine drivel. Can any sane person suppose that L'Aiglon could give weight to Rock Sand over any imaginable course? As a matter of fact, besides, it had been well known at Newmarket for some time that L'Aiglon would not start for the Princess of Wales's Stakes, as the horse is desperately groggy, and he has been doing no work of any importance for some weeks. L'Aiglon, indeed, has been practically "thrown up" for the summer, and this is the most judicious policy to adopt for such a horse, as if he is rested until the ground becomes soft again he may win a good race in November.

Last week's racing at Newmarket was most uninteresting, as the two principal events of the week collapsed altogether. Cicero of course cantered away with the July Stakes, and it was said after the race that Lord Rosebery does not intend to start the colt again this season, but I fancy he will be seen out at Sandown Park next week. Cicero is not a big colt, but he is well-shaped in all respects, and his action is perfect. Hammerkop was heavily backed for the Hare Park Handicap, but she was amiss, and never showed prominently in the race. Peroration won cleverly from Whistling Crow, after Mr. King's horse had appeared to have everything beaten. I predicted some time ago that Chaucer would soon win a T.Y.C. handicap, and Lord Derby's horse found no difficulty in securing the Soham Plate, for which he started a hot favourite. Csardas carried most money for the Duke of Cambridge's Handicap, but he had quite enough weight to carry, and he ran badly. Morgendale, who is a useful horse over a mile, won this race easily, having started without a price in the betting. Another crash for backers was the defeat of Grandiflora for the Stud Produce Stakes. Lord Carnarvon's filly was backed against the field, with twelve starters, and Amitié carried a good deal of money, but Desirée defeated them both. If the public running has been right, Desirée must be a very smart filly, as she was giving 9 lb. to Grandiflora. This "turn up" led to a terrible catastrophe in the next race, as Petit Bleu, being regarded as much superior to Desirée, was recklessly plunged on, but the money for Whistling Rufus appeared to be inexhaustible, and he finally started a slightly better favourite than Mr. Neumann's ridiculously-named filly. The pair were both beaten by Shanid-a-boo, by Desmond, who was heavily backed, and the two-year-olds in this stable certainly improve miraculously in their running. Capresi was all the rage for the Stetchworth Plate, and Burses was backed

by his owner for £1,000, but Lanfine won easily from the favourite.

The race for the Princess of Wales's Stakes on Thursday was a mere farce, but backers came to dire grief in the endeavour to place the second, as nobody expected that so bad a horse as Saltpetre would fill that position and thereby gain £1,700 for his owner. Cheers would certainly have finished second, if all had gone well with him, but the Duke of Devonshire's horse broke down, and he has run his last race. There was some heavy gambling between Cossack and Sundridge for the July Cup, and Sir James Miller's horse was favourite, although he appeared to be stale and jaded. I had given a plumper for Sundridge a fortnight ago, and was therefore delighted to see Mr. Joel's horse win in a canter, this being his third victory for this race in three consecutive years. Sundridge is unquestionably the best T.Y.C. horse in training. Llangibby of course won the Exeter Stakes, and Shah Jehan, who was a general tip, did not start, Sir Edgar Vincent's colt being in reserve (as was stated in Truth last week) for his valuable engagement at Liverpool on the 20th.

Backers had a desperately bad day on Friday, the smash of the afternoon for plungers being the tragical defeat of Full Cry (the filly by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins) in the Princess's Plate. She was well galloped before Ascot, and her running in the New Stakes was considered to have been all wrong, so she was backed on Friday as if the race was over. Providence was on the side of the ring, for the Duke of Devonshire's filly again got off badly, and was awkwardly shut in. She made up her ground so fast that Galangal (who was not backed for a penny) defeated her by a head only, and the mishap was the more exasperating, inasmuch as it was obvious that Full Cry was far and away the best animal in the field, and that she ought to have won by many lengths.

Most of the sales dragged dolefully, like the chariots of the Egyptians in the Red Sea, but three yearlings were run into four figures. Lord Hamilton of Dalzell gave 1,200 gs. for Mr. Sievier's much-admired filly by Florizel II. out of Dame Heron (this was a private transaction, as the animal had not reached her reserve at the auction). Mr. Dent Brocklehurst disposed of a good-looking filly by Diamond Jubilee out of Capucine (dam of Victor Don) for 1,050 gs.; and Mr. Russell Swanwick sold an exceedingly nice colt by Diamond Jubilee out of Dame Agneta for 1,850 gs., Mr. Bass being the purchaser.

Sir Blundell Maple's mares, fifty-nine in number, realised £43,900. The highest price (4,300 gs.) was paid by Mr. Raphael for Cimiez, by St. Simon out of Antibes, by Isonomy. White Lilac, own sister to Briar-root (3,600 gs.), was purchased for his Majesty's stud at Sandringham; 3,600 gs. was also the price of Nun Nicer, by Common out of Priestess, by Hermit, Mr. Weinburg being the purchaser. Royal Footstep, by Royal Hampton out of Lightfoot, by Muncaster, was bought for 3,000 gs. to go to Germany. Several mares were purchased for France, Germany, and Italy. As to Sir B. Maple's sires, Mackintosh was sold well within his value for 5,200 gs. to Mr. Leach; and Mr. Hoole got Lord Bobs for 1,500 gs. The reserves on Sir Daniel Cooper's grandly-bred pair of fillies were not reached. Cimiez was a profitable investment to her late owner, who paid 2,400 gs. for her. The mare now realised 4,300 gs., and her daughter, Queen's Holiday, won £2,000 in stakes last year, and was sold in April for 4,600 gs.

The sport at Newmarket next week does not promise to be of much interest, but the Second July meeting is certain to be a success from the social point of view, as the King is to be down, this being his Majesty's second visit to Newmarket this year. I am informed that next week's Sandown Park fixture, Goodwood, Doncaster, and the Newmarket Second October and Houghton meetings will in all probability be patronised by his Majesty. The Prince of Wales and Prince Christian are also expected at Newmarket next week.

The Soltykoff Stakes is a race of £5 each for starters, with £300 added, entrance £5. As a matter of fact, the whole of the added money is recovered from the subscribers. The event would be more attractive if the entrance fee had been the only liability for horses struck out by the first Tuesday in May, with a sweepstakes of £10 or £20 each for every animal left in after that date. Llangibby will run if it is thought worth while to start him for so paltry a race. Newsboy should be able to win the Dullingham Plate if he can stay the course. A miserably bad lot of animals were entered for this race when it closed last December. The First Foal Stakes on Wednesday will be a walk-over for Rock Sand. Most of the three-year-olds engaged in the Zetland Plate are shocking rubbish, and Mousqueton or Grey Plume may be able to win. The Chesterfield Stakes, formerly the great race of the week, has a wonderful entry, considering that there is not a penny of money even nominally added and the liability on each entry is £20, forty-one two-year-olds being engaged. Llangibby is not likely to be stopped by his 7 lb. penalty. Antonio may win the Midsummer Stakes, for which race Fiancée is not likely to be a starter.

There were 190 entries for the Eclipse Stakes when this race closed in July, 1901, and thirty-seven horses were left in when the final forfeit was declared on January 5. The conditions are much more sensible than in the corresponding races at Newmarket, as there is a deduction of only £600 for the second and third horses, instead of £2,700, which is insanely extravagant. Another laudable feature is that there is no maiden allowance. St. Amant (10 lb. extra) is of course a certainty on his Two Thousand and Derby form; but if Mr. de Rothschild's horse should be fairly tackled, even by an animal to which he could give stones, he is quite likely to "turn it up." Still, I do not see anything in the entry that is likely to trouble St. Amant if he gets away nicely, and is able to keep well in front from start to finish. The race, indeed, has collapsed as grievously as the Princess of Wales's Stakes. It is greatly to be regretted that Rock Sand should not have been entered for the Eclipse Stakes. Flotsam will not start, and William Rufus appears to have gone to the bad, while Bobrinski, Lancashire, Darley Dale, Admiral Breeze, Rydal Head, and Jolly Beggar are all dreadfully moderate. If St. Amant is beaten (*i.e.*, if he will not do his best), Henry the First or Darley Dale should be the winner, each having 3 lb. the better of the weights with Mr. de Rothschild's horse.

The National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000 is the richest two-year-old event of the season. There were 272 entries when the race closed in July, 1901, and seventy were left in when the final forfeit was declared on January 5. The best public form is represented by Cicero, and I see nothing in the entry that is likely to defeat Lord Rosebery's colt, who has incurred a penalty of 9 lb. Mr. Faber's Queen of the Earth can have no chance of beating Cicero, and there has been no laudatory talk about anything in the dark lot. One writer has suggested that Adula may reflect the victory gained here last year by her own sister, Pretty Polly, but Major Loder's filly is not likely to be in condition to show her best form until the autumn. The Duke of Devonshire's highly-tried, but very unlucky, filly by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins does not appear likely to defeat Cicero at 9 lb. However, there is the consolation of £400 for the second horse, and if Lord Rosebery's colt does not start, the Duke's filly ought to compensate her owner for his Ascot and Newmarket disappointments.

There are to be five sales at Newmarket next week, beginning on Tuesday morning and ending on Thursday morning. On Tuesday evening Mr. Gubbins's horses in training, nineteen in number, will be sold, twelve of them being two-year-olds. He also sends up eight yearlings. It may be hoped that the reserves will be reasonable

Havana Cigars.—"The 'Bolivar' is the finest Cigar I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the good old crops of back years."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

if it is really desired to get rid of these animals. On Wednesday morning Lord Rosebery sends up thirteen yearlings from the Mentmore Stud, including colts by Velasquez out of Corposant (half-sister, by Sheen, to Ladas); by Ladas out of Seabreeze, out of Tressure, and out of Orle; and fillies by Velasquez out of Serpentine, and by Ladas out of Carmela. Three of the lot are sired by Sailor Lad, an animal that was expected to achieve great things on the Turf, but he turned out a grievous disappointment. Perhaps he will do better at the stud. Mr. W. B. Cloete sends up four yearlings, all sired by Cherry Tree, on Wednesday evening, and Lord Bradford will offer seven, four of which are sired by Sir Hugo, and Mr. Theobalds sends up eight. On Thursday morning the late Mr. E. Courage's horses in training (eight in number) will be offered, followed by Mr. Brassey's team of eleven, and a number of miscellaneous lots, including three of Mr. D. Baird's horses in training, and four belonging to the King, whose lot includes the three-year-old Plinlimmon, by Persimmon out of Laodamia, who ought to have turned out a flyer if there is anything in running blood, but he has been a direful failure. His Majesty is getting rid of a couple of two-year-olds—Politely, by Persimmon out of La Carolina (sister to Energy), and Cornflower, by Persimmon out of Wheatley, by Orme out of Shotover. Here are two more animals of the very highest breeding which are presumably of no value for racing. Politely must have been well thought of as a yearling, for she was entered for thirty-two races, but Cornflower commenced her career with only nine engagements. It must surely have been through an oversight that Cornflower was left in last January for the National Breeders' Stakes at Sandown Park, the filly having been entered for that race by her breeder, Captain Greville. Indeed, very little care appears to be taken in overhauling the engagements of his Majesty's horses. It was mere throwing away of money to leave Mead in for the Princess of Wales's Stakes and the Eclipse Stakes, and Chatsworth might very well have been struck out of the Eclipse Stakes and the Jockey Club Stakes, these four forfeits amounting to £208.

Never did a team more singularly fail to redeem its promise than did the Oxford team at Lord's last week in the match against Cambridge. Thanks to the *Daily Mail* system, whereby every cricketer is his own reporter, one had a pretty shrewd idea that Dr. W. G. Grace considered the Cambridge men a much better team in bowling, at all events, than many people thought. As I anticipated, Cambridge were quite strong enough to draw, and they would have won but for the eternal if, and the ifs were fourfold. If Evans, who certainly as captain and batsman played the two innings of his life, had been caught when he gave two chances in his second innings, and if Bird, who stayed with him, had not been let off! The Oxford wickets were falling fast. But the other two ifs were preventable, and were due to errors of judgment. Over-anxiety may be an excuse for the misfielding. But that anxiety was brought about by preventable causes. Why was that valuable hour before luncheon on the first day wasted? Mann, in a bright innings, showed that the bowling was not too difficult. And yet Keigwin for nearly a solid hour never scored a run. He must be qualifying as a Passive Resister, and during that time Eyre and Phillips were suffering badly from Lord's needle, and not doing anything. At all events this is the impression I formed. Otherwise they would not have been worth their places in the team. Then on the last day of the match Marsh stayed in to make a record score in the University match. He and Hopley hit brilliantly, and he succeeded. But I cannot help thinking that valuable time was wasted, especially having regard to the showery state of the weather. It had been far better for the team to win. There is a feeling that, to a very considerable extent, the match was sacrificed to the record fetish. At the same time, Wilson, the Cambridge captain, is to be congratulated on the way in which he made a team out of very problematic materials. He played well himself. Marsh's innings was splendid, and Fry, with more confidence, will be a very free batsman. That McDonell was the alternative last choice for the Gentlemen is a sure indication that there is substance in his bowling, and his batting in the first innings was invaluable. Of the Oxford men Martin and Ernsthausen bowled best. Taking everything into consideration, it may be said that in this match the bowling showed an improvement on the amateur standard, and that in too many cases the batsmen were dismal failures. There seemed to be an epidemic of nervousness. No doubt the Cambridge captain, in his unparalleled *Daily Mail*-ese, would ascribe the draw to "aqua damnatus," but this may have been a printer's error.

Owing to a tremendous entry for the Diamond Sculls the total number of entries for Henley Regatta was quite up to the average. Goodness only knows why some men enter for this event when they have no earthly chance of success—in other words, when they are not nearly up to first-class form. The reason is, perhaps, that rowing men, even as other folk, suffer from vanity. Sculling is the only event in oarsmanship in which the competitor depends upon himself alone. He indulges his vanity by entering for the Diamonds, and puffs himself with pride when he reflects that in his small life's history he has sculled at Henley. In other sports—for instance, running, golf, or lawn tennis—such indifferent performers would never enter. A future cart horse is not entered for the Derby. These entries entail preliminary heats on the day before the regatta, and I am glad that it should be so, for this absence of publicity may be a check to vanity. At the same time, a really good man may be turned out by the ultimate winner, and so those of the public who care for really good sculling may be deprived of the chance of seeing a really good race. To check this craving for notoriety, and at the same time to preserve the interests of really decent scullers, the Committee should take power to decide who should compete in the preliminary heats, and thus avoid leaving the first round solely to the luck of the draw.

Once again Meredith won the Cawardine Gold Cup for 100 miles cycling at the Crystal Palace. Having regard to the way in which the popularity of cycle racing has declined, there was quite a good attendance. In the course of the races the winner cut many records, including that of Palmer, made in 1896, for the whole distance by nearly twelve seconds. Of such fractions of time are we now so careful! He rode the last mile in 2 min. 1 sec. I wonder what the Surrey police will say to that?

The Amateur Athletic Championships were held at Rochdale. The attendance reached something like 15,000, and there was very great enthusiasm, due no doubt to the fact that the A.A.A. rules as to betting were not obeyed. No doubt this is very shocking. With the moral aspects of betting as between the bookmaker and the backer I am not concerned. A minute's reflection will show that it is objectionable where men are racing. It can so easily lead to roguery of the worst description. Betting has ruined professional pedestrianism. In the championships it is least harmful. Every man's form is known. But were the A.A.A. to permit it at such meetings, it would not be long before men would be entered for the championships who would run simply to make money for their backers. Betting has been colloquially referred to as a mug's game. Of the flat races there were only two in the championships that were at all open to doubt, so that the bookmakers ought to have had a good time. These were the hundred and the quarter. In the hundred, Morton, the South London Harrier, beat the American Duffey (who had won for four successive years) by inches in even time with a wind behind the runners. The quarter was not a very strong

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GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

field, and this was won by the Scotchman, Watson. Jupp is to be heartily congratulated on his win in the 220 yards. His runner-up was another good sportsman, Tremeer. Workman, the old Cambridge president, made his own running, and won a most popular victory in the half. It is a very great pity that the University athletes, with the Yale and Harvard meeting coming off in three weeks' time, did not compete. A race with Workman would have done Cornwallis a lot of good, but then Workman would probably not hold the championship. Of course Shrubb won the four miles and the mile, but only after a very punishing finish with McGough and Butterfield.

The Lawn Tennis Championships were brought to a successful conclusion at Wimbledon, and once again it was evident that the element of international competition is not necessary to provoke a popular attendance. The meeting was well attended from start to finish. In the gentlemen's singles Doherty again won the championship, and beat Riseley fairly easily. But then the loser had done a lot of work during the previous week. As I have for many years advocated the adoption of a fresh method at Wimbledon, whereby the champions should be called upon to play all through the tournament, I am naturally very pleased to see the *Field* taking the same attitude. It does seem to me that the challenger is at a disadvantage. It is true he has a Sunday's rest. But after a hard week's work he is not likely to be at his best the following Monday or Tuesday. Surely the strain must tell even more against the ladies. In this event Miss Douglass was never pressed, and she easily beat Mrs. Sterry, who first won when she was Miss Cooper. Both ladies learned their tennis at Ealing, but Mrs. Sterry now lives at Surbiton. The gentlemen's doubles was won by the Dohertys, who on the score easily beat Riseley and Smith. There was some excellent play, but at the same time it was perfectly evident that the challengers were severely handicapped by their work during the previous week.

It is suggested in the *Field* that the length of sets should be altered. The suggestion is that four sets should be sudden death, and then advantage should be played. But why not always sudden death? Is the present system adopted because the server has too much advantage? Of course, in tennis a player is expected to win his serve. The reason is that he may be able to send such a stroke that his opponent either fails to return it, or else returns it in such a way that the server can kill it or assume the offensive. There is another method of shortening a game, and at the same time reducing the server's advantage, which ought to be tried. It is very simple. No fault should be allowed. The server should not be given a double shot. He should not have the advantage of having a try at a hard service, and then if that fails have another go with a fresh start. He gets an undue advantage. If only one serve were permitted, the general standard of serving would be improved, and games would be shortened if the player went on at his fast service and failed. In any event, the preponderance of advantage to the server would be hugely diminished.

The Advisory Committee of the M.C.C. have suggested that with regard to the test matches against the Australian cricket elevens, if the result of the first four is that each wins two, the fifth shall be played to a finish. Surely five test games are too many. These matches do away with the interest in county games, and make the matches against the M.C.C. and Gentlemen and Players very small affairs. With the number of first-class cricketers we have, surely each of these matches is well worthy of consideration, and then three test matches would be all sufficient for the purposes of testing the teams' abilities. At present test matches are gate matches.

Afternoon Tea at MACKENZIE'S, 80, New Bond-street, W. The fashionable rendezvous of London Society. Luxurious Saloons. Music. Exquisite chocolates and dainty French sweets. Fancy boxes, &c. Parcels sent by post anywhere.

MAMMON.

STOCK MARKETS IRREGULAR—HELPING THE "LAME DUCKS"—MONEY MARKET INFLUENCES—PREPARING FOR THE PUBLIC—HOME RAILWAYS' LITTLE BOOM—THE STATE OF HOME POLITICS—WAR INFLUENCES—AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.

THERE has been rather more business in the Stock Markets, but there is little enough buoyancy, and the tone is irregular. The arrangement of the account in the earlier part of the week disclosed some difficulties, mostly on the part of over-venturesome professionals who got left somewhere near the top in the recent Westralian boomlet, and there were fears of two or three important failures. But friends came to the rescue of the "lame ducks," and only one actual failure was announced. The "lame ducks," however, remained as a menace to the rest of the market, and liquidation on their account has been noticeable throughout the week, whereby favourable factors have been to a material extent neutralised. While the money market suffered some stringency down to the turn of the half-year, nobody worried much about that because it was known that immediately afterwards Lombard Street would be flooded with bankers' money and with between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000 in dividends and coupon payments released. So far from the tightness restricting dealings it actually stimulated them, the anticipation of reinvestments following the release of the dividends causing some buying. The public did a fair amount, but the jobbers did more. Stock was not particularly plentiful, and these gentry thought it wise to make preparations for a big outside demand. In Home Railways especially the bidding caused something like a small boom, and there is no doubt that prices were raised to a height scarcely warranted. The result has been some reaction helped by the fear—a very natural fear, too—that this groggy Government will very soon collapse; and there are other markets, besides that in Kaffirs, which do not yearn for a General Election this side of the new year. Home politics, in fact, are the great adverse factor of the moment, and they have caused a pretty smart relapse in Consols when they and other gilt-edged things might have been benefiting by the abundance of money for investment. The war developments have had little effect, but that little is of the good sort, for buying on the part of Paris has resulted from them, and has encouraged the impression that the hostilities will soon come to an end by the intervention of the Powers. This opinion, I may observe, is entertained the most generally on the Continent, and it is not without significance that the tone of the French Press is becoming brutally candid with regard to the shortcomings of Russia, and the advisability of an early peace. The same Press was foreshadowing bad things for Great Britain in the earlier stages of the Boer war, but the cases of this country and of Russia are not parallel. It would be a good thing for both combatants, and for the rest of the world, if hostilities could be brought to an early termination instead of being allowed to drag along for a couple of years or more, impoverishing and possibly ruining both, and disorganising all enterprise. There are two or three influences operating against speculative dealings, but the present range of prices, with cheap money assured and gold production steadily on the up grade, is tempting enough for investment business.

MONEY EASY—MARKET FLOODED WITH CASH—THE "WINDOW-DRESSING" EVIL—BORROWINGS FROM THE BANK—DISCOUNTS WEAK—A LONG SPELL OF CHEAP MONEY—GOLD ARRIVALS—POSITION OF THE BANK—SILVER STRONG.

Down to the end of the month money was in strong demand in connection with the usual half-yearly requirements helped by the Stock Exchange settlement, and the

payment for Treasury Bills and for various new issues of stock. The joint stock banks withdrew cash from the market wholesale for balance-sheet purposes, and consequently the borrowings from the Bank of England were on a very large scale. It is estimated that something like £15,000,000 was obtained in this way, and at the moment the market has the better part of this sum to play with, besides being enriched by the Home, Colonial, and Foreign Government and other dividends. The bankers, too, are willing lenders once again, and after ranging from 3½ to 4 per cent., and even higher earlier in the week, money rates are now no better than 1 per cent. for call loans, and 1½-1¾ per cent. for fixtures for a week. During this current week the indebtedness to the Bank of England will have to be paid off; but after that the market ought still to be sufficiently well furnished with funds to ensure very low rates for accommodation. Discount business is small, for the reason that bills are in very short supply, and the tendency is weak because of the home and foreign competition for the few that are on the market. Short-dated paper is taken at 1⅝ per cent., and full three months' paper at 1¾ per cent.—from which it is a fair inference that the market looks for very cheap money for some time to come. Everything, in fact, points that way. Gold is arriving from abroad in increasing quantities, Paris and Berlin have more than they require, the slight demand for Vienna will soon come to an end, and the better part of the metal on its way and yet to be shipped will go into the Bank of England. In spite of the outflow of cash to the country, usual at the end of the half-year, the Bank's reserve has only lost £607,000 to £24,920,000, and another two or three weeks should see the total substantially higher than this figure. During the week the ratio fell nearly 10 per cent., but that was a purely temporary affair due to the increase in the liabilities in connection with the half-year end movements. Silver has been a strong market consequent upon much special buying which appears to be mainly on Russian account, though China is also in the market.

Consols Harden—Reaction on Political Fears—Gilt-edged Undertone Strong—Helped by Easy Money—Water Stock Conversion—New Stock Issues—India Rupee Loan—Cape Three and a Half per Cents.—Argentine Bonds and the Conversion Scheme—Colombians—War Stocks.

Consols improved to 90¾ consequent upon the disclosure of a very moderate open account at the monthly settlement in the stock, upon the course of affairs in the Far East, and upon buying in anticipation of cheap and abundant money following upon the release of the home and foreign Government dividends. They have since reacted to 90⅝ on fears that the present Government may be forced to resign, its position being highly dangerous, and the tendency among other high-class securities is to go off in sympathy. The undertone, however, is kept fairly strong by the assurance that there will be a lot of investment money about during the summer and the autumn. One thing in their favour is that the payment for the water undertakings will be made almost entirely in Water Board stock, so that there will be no disorganisation of the Money Market. Another favourable element is that there are few really big issues of capital impending, and the colonial and home corporation borrowings contemplated are likely to be kept in bounds by the unwillingness of the public to subscribe for them, and the consequent shyness of the underwriters. The India Rupee Loan for Rs. 3.00.00.000, for which tenders are received until the 13th inst. at Calcutta and elsewhere, is largely an Indian concern; and the response to the Cape of Good Hope's offer of £3,000,000 in Three and a Half per Cent. stock at 95 has not been enthusiastic, since the premium is only about ¼. The most important loan of the near future will be another Japanese issue for about £14,000,000, but the terms spoken of in the market are vague, so discussion of them may be waived for the present. In the Foreign market, the most prominent stocks have been those of Argentina. They have been supported chiefly by the Continent on the strength of conversion talk, and, as they are likely to go appreciably higher, they might be bought. The conversion scheme is being controlled by a powerful Berlin syndicate, which is said to be making good progress with it—facts which are sufficient to explain the steady buying on German account. Here is a small table of Argentine bonds showing yield, which is apart from the probabilities of appreciation:—

Present Amount.	Name.	Per Cent	Price.	Yield per Cent.
£				£ s. d.
1,360,700	Argentine, 1884	5	97 — 9	5 3 9
7,191,700	Do. 1886-7	5	103 ,, 4	4 19 0
3,609,800	Do. 1887-9 (N. Ct. Ry.)	5	97 ,, 8	5 5 3
3,567,900	Do. 1888 (Internal)	4½	88 ,, 90	5 2 9
4,787,460	Do. 1888 (Sterling)	4½	88 ,, 90	5 2 3
2,256,660	Do. 1889 (External)	3½	69½ ,, 70½	5 1 3
7,383,580	Do. 1891 (Funding)	6	103½ ,, 4½	5 17 0
6,092,340	Do. B.A. Water	5	99 ,, 100	5 8 0
7,831,100	Do. Rescission	4	83 ,, 4	4 18 3
6,575,651	Do. 1897	4	79½ ,, 80½	5 1 3
1,921,700	Do. Port of Buenos Ayres	5	98 ,, 9	5 2 9

It may be added that the terms of conversion are said to involve the creation of a Unified Four per Cent. bond at 85, but of course nothing definite can be stated on this point for some time to come, and it is thought improbable that anything official will be announced before the installation of the new President in February next. Brazilians, Peruvians, and Uruguays have all received support from the Continent, which has more capital available than it knows what to do with to full advantage; and among the "rubbish," Colombians have been bought on a report about the conversion of the external debt—a condition sufficiently remote to be scouted as ridiculous. The rumour appears to have had its origin in an instruction sent by the Council of Foreign Bondholders to its agent for an arrangement for the settlement of the arrears of interest—another consummation which the Council hope to bring about in another few days. A cable has been received in the City stating that immediate payment has been decided upon. The "war" stocks have been mostly firm, Russians on the defeats which have brought in Government support, and Japanese on the victories. These latter have now developed some weakness consequent upon the talk of another new loan to carry on the war, and the commencement of the rains which will retard military operations for some time to come. Mexican Fives and Chinese stocks have hardened on Continental buying.

Home Railways Strong—Buying in Anticipation of Dividends—Easy Money—Investment Demand—"Leeds" Better—Fine Weather Hopes—South-Easterns—The Blessings of a "Bear" Account—An Upward Tendency—Half-year's Traffics—Metropolitans.

Decided strength has marked the Home Railway market throughout the week, though, in sympathy with Consols, prices now are not at the best. The latest traffic return virtually completed the half-year, and, allowing for "sweepings" yet to come in, it is possible to arrive at a sufficiently close estimate of the forthcoming dividends to stimulate buying in anticipation thereof. Stocks now carry a full six months' interest, and, as I showed in my forecast a fortnight ago, declarations promise to be maintained, with two or three improvements and only a couple of reductions, these last applying to the Lancashire and Yorkshire, which has been hard hit by the depression in the cotton trade, and to the London and North-Western, which has suffered from the same cause to only a slightly lesser extent. Money is very cheap once again, and is likely to remain easy, with beneficial effects upon the gilt-edged class and sympathetically upon the whole of the Home

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Railway market. A considerable part of the activity has been brought about, as usual, by professional preparations for a public which has hitherto been more than a little coy, but outside support in fair volume has been forthcoming. In part this represents genuine investment, it being recognised that prices are at a very moderate level, and in part it is the outcome of a desire to secure dividends, the hope being that, with the whole market on the up-grade, the amount of dividend soon to be taken off the price of stock will promptly be recovered. Prior-charge issues continue on their upward way; and the Ordinary stocks of all the "trading" lines have gained ground during the week, North-Easterns being something of a feature perhaps because it did not participate to the full in the earlier recovery among the "Heavies." Lancashire and Yorkshire stock, again, shows a fair improvement after its previous drop, there being buyers convinced that the promised reduction of ¾ or 1 per cent. has been fully discounted in view of the better conditions of the cotton trade and the tendency of the money market. Scotch stocks have been inclined to hang back, especially Caledonian issues, which are still affected by the talk of labour troubles and a fresh capital issue with the addition of a distinctly poor traffic return. But even they are unable to withstand the general tendency. The better weather, giving the hope of a decent summer—which will be all the more welcome and profitable to the Companies since last summer was a wretched one—has been an all-round influence for good, but the effect has been particularly marked upon the stocks of the Southern Railways, in combination with other factors. Dover "A," for instance, has been cheered by the opening of the new Chislehurst loops, by the widening to Orpington (which will jointly facilitate traffic as between the South Eastern and the Chatham Companies, and make them virtually one concern, with considerable possibilities of saving here and there), and by the fact that the Hamburg-American steamers are about to begin calling at Dover. A great deal is made of this last point, but if the Company really intend to make a bid against the North-Western, Great Western, and South-Western in competing for the Atlantic business, it will have to spend much money on its roadway, which was condemned only a few weeks ago by a Board of Trade inspector for a speed of fifty miles an hour. However, one need not labour this point. The others are favourable, and, thanks to the very heavy account for the fall which always exists in Dover "A," the "Bears" have had a very nice twisting by way of a change. Optimistic people are even talking about a distribution on the stock, which has received nothing since the 1¾ per cent. paid for 1899; but that luxury is somewhat remote at present. Chathams have moved with South-Easterns. These are not the stocks which the investor picks up, but they are dear to the heart of the speculator, and may therefore be counted upon to be cheerful enough when times are even moderately active. Brighton "A" and South-Western Deferred have had a good rise, and, assisted by outside and inside support, the whole list is higher on the week. An early reaction may be expected with confidence, because people must have their profits; but Railways seem a hopeful purchase on any setback due to profit-taking, for the tendency will be upwards along with the gilt-edged group, for which at least a moderate advance seems assured during the coming month or two. The man who does not buy for investment would do well to be content with a fair profit, and should not go recklessly, because, although monetary ease is in his favour, the state of home and foreign politics is uncertain. Our own Government is not in a good way, and there is always the Continent to be reckoned with in relation to the war in the East. My table of movements is appended:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, June 25.	Price, July 2.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80½	75¼	75½	76	+ ½
Do. Def.	28	29½	29½	30	+ ½
City and S. London	70½	49	49	48	−1
Central London	105¼	91½	92	92	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	49½	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	29¼	25½	25¾	26	+ ½
Do. "A"	16½	14½	14¾	15	+ ½
Great Eastern	97½	91	91	92½	+1½
Great Northern Pref.	105	102	102	102	—
Do. Def.	46	40½	41	40¾	− ¼
Great Western	143	142	142	144	+2
Hull and Barnsley	45½	37½	37	38½	+1½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	105	93	93	95	+2
London and Brighton "A"	128¼	121	121	123	+2
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¾	15⅞	15⅞	16¼	+ ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	103	98	98	101½	+3½
Do. 2nd Pref.	70	62½	62	68	+6
London and North-Western	164	150½	150½	152½	+2
London and South-Western Def.	61	55	55	57	+2
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	96	96	97	+1
Metropolitan District	38	38	38	38½	+½
Midland Pref.	71¼	69½	69½	69½	—
Do. Def.	70½	67½	67¼	68½	+ 1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	80	78	78	78½	+ ½
Do. Def.	47¾	44½	44¼	44¾	+ ¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	146½	140½	140½	142½	+1½
South-Eastern "A"	62⅝	58	57⅞	61	+3¼

It will be seen from the following table that (Scotch stocks apart, their half-year ending July 31) the past six months have not been poor, save for the Lancashire and Yorkshire and North-Western companies, while they have been distinctly satisfactory for the Great Western and in smaller degree for the Great Central, the South-Western, the South-Eastern and Chatham, and the Brighton as well:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 2,639	− 8,242	+ 14,377
Caledonian	− 3,809	− 2,252	− 32,690
Great Central	+ 3,705	+ 3,927	+ 27,541
Great Eastern	− 300	− 4,400	− 13,700
Great Northern	− 324	+ 2,712	− 5,076
Great Western	+ 1,300	+22,900	+107,600
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 45	+ 7,435	− 84,873
London and North-Western	−10,000	+25,000	− 91,000
London and South-Western	+ 2,300	− 7,000	+ 82,600
Midland	−10,033	+26,333	− 5,725
North British	− 3,904	+ 4,113	− 8,552
North-Eastern	+ 877	− 6,102	− 831
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 4,675	− 5,187	+ 18,075

The Tubes are not prospering, but the Metropolitan finishes its half-year with an increase of £16,474 and the District with an increase of £6,370. "Mets." were at one time depressed, though that feeling has since worn off, by doubts about the outcome of the dispute between that Company and the Great Central over the question of through mineral traffic. It is feared in some quarters that when the Great Western extension from Ealing to Graydon Underwood is completed, the Metropolitan will lose not only the passenger traffic which it is at present deriving from its connection with the Great Central, but the goods traffic as well. The market estimates the privilege to the Metropolitan as being worth £60,000 per annum, or 1 per cent. on the Metropolitan Ordinary, so that the matter is of more than a little importance. Negotiations are on foot as a result of which the Company may retain at least a portion of this traffic, but so far they have not stopped the preparations for arbitration over the compensation to be paid by the Great Central.

AMERICANS IDLE—NO PUBLIC RESPONSE—GIVING IT UP AS A HOPELESS JOB—"UNLIKE ANYTHING WITNESSED FOR YEARS"—LOSS OF CONFIDENCE—THE POLITICAL SITUATION AS A FACTOR—CROP REPORTS—UNSATISFACTORY EARNINGS—SLACKER TRADE.

The attempt to instil life into the American market has, as seemed most probable, not proved successful. The big Wall Street interests, realising that the American and the British publics refuse positively to take a hand in the game, have slackened their efforts, and, as a consequence, the inactivity has become as marked as

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ever again. *Bradstreet's* is constrained to express its wonder at this condition of business, which, it says, is of a nature and quality unlike anything that has been witnessed for many years, and it adds that "declines in prices for both railroad and industrial securities have been so general and extensive that they would naturally seem to have discounted not only the halt in the country's industrial activity and general trade, but the possibility of small crops and unfavourable results as regards our agricultural productions. The lower range of stock market valuation does not, however, attract buying of such securities, except where railroad mortgages and high-grade bonds of an undoubted quality are concerned." I suggest that the causes are the slackening state of trade, and even more than that, the loss of confidence in the market leaders. Whatever the reason, the idleness is striking, and as the London market has for a long time been nothing but a mild reflex of Wall Street conditions, it has only to be added that in Capel-court the idleness is equally striking. In addition to the two reasons named, there are other detriments to business. The political situation is disturbing, and though there may be nothing in the story about the nomination of Mr. Cleveland as Democratic candidate, there is a disposition to curtail dealings until the result of the Democratic Convention is known. Again, though the weekly crop reports are favourable, save as to corn, the market prefers to wait for the monthly statements, that on cotton being due on the 5th inst., and those on wheat and maize on the 10th. Many of the prominent New York traders are away, and the closing of all the exchanges in the United States for two days for the Independence celebrations has not made for activity. Union Pacifics and Southern Pacifics have been among the steadiest features of the past week. The inside interests are supporting, in view of the recent creation by the latter company of $100,000,000 Seven per Cent. Preferred stock, of which $40,000,000 is issued at once. My table is appended:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest	Closing Price, June 11, 1904.	Closing Price, June 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	73	74⅜	75
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	96½	98¼	96½xd
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73¼	82	82½	82
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	31⅜	31¾	31⅜
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	20½	21½	21½
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅞	71½	72¼	70½xd
Erie	43 9/16	23⅛	24⅜	24	24½
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	60½	59½	60¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	112	113½	112½
Milwaukee	187½	137¼	146	147½	147
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	16⅞	17⅛	17
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	89½	89½	89½
Do. Common	78½	55⅞	57½	57⅝	57¾
New York Central	158	116⅜	118½	119	119½
Ontario	36	19⅜	25⅝	26⅜	27⅜
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	59	59½	59½
Reading	35½	20	24½	24⅛	24
Do. First Pref.	45¼	36¾	41⅜	42	42
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	21½	21⅞	21⅞
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	86	86½	87½
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	48½	48⅛	48⅛
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	87¾	91¼	91
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	94½	95	95¼
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	35½	35½	35
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	60½	58	58
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	9⅜	10⅛	10
Do. Pref.	—	—	56	57½	57⅓

Canadian Railways—Disappointing Trunk Statement—Canadian Pacifics Strong—The Argentine Railway Year—Railway Prospects—Mexican Railway and Silver.

Instead of a net increase of £40,000, which was the latest market estimate of the Grand Trunk revenue statement for May, the actual increase is no more than £21,900, and the "knowing" ones who were selling on the eve of the announcement have once again been justified by the event. The net earnings for the five months amount to £553,900, which is £196,600 less than those for the corresponding period of last year; and it will depend upon what is accomplished in the way of savings in June, and upon the size of the half-yearly "sweepings" whether the Company is able to pay anything for the first half of the year on its First Preference stock. At present it appears to be about £80,000 short of the sum required to meet the interest on the Guaranteed stock. But the second half of the year promises to make amends for sacrifices in respect of the first half. Meantime it was only natural that the disappointing statement for May should have caused weakness in the Company's stocks, but this was short-lived, covering by "Bears" causing a quick recovery, and a good traffic for the last nine days of the half-year came as a welcome surprise. In the present uncertain condition of things it will be obvious that Grand Trunk issues, though interesting to contemplate, do not possess much interest for the outside speculator. At the same time, the gross earnings are satisfactory, the coming half-year looks like being "fat," and the adverse conditions seem to have been quite liberally discounted. Canadian Pacifics have continued in favour among home as well as Canadian and American buyers, and the quotation has risen further. The May statement shows a net increase of only $8,000, but on the other hand it must be remembered that the Company is in a position to maintain the dividend on the 6 per cent. basis if it chooses to do so, the sum of net earnings being sufficient for that; and, in addition, there are the good land sales, the active immigration movement, and the promise of record crops as "Bull" points. As an investment at the current price "Canadas" are quite reasonably cheap. Here is my usual table:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	127	120	127¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102
Grand Trunks	19	14⅞	14½
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102¾	98½	96⅞
,, 1st Preference	112½	103	102½
,, 2nd ,,	98⅜	88½	87½
,, 3rd ,,	49⅛	39⅜	39
Bengal and North-West	126	137½	137½
Bombay Baroda	156	157	154xd
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	131	129	129
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	102½	102	101½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	95	115	112xRts
,, ,, 1st Preference	100½	102½	101
,, ,, ,, 2nd ,,	88	93¼	92x liv
,, Great Southern	134½	132¾	132¾
,, Western	127¼	124	124½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	56	59	59
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	82¾	91½	91¾
Costa Rica Railway	2 1/8	1⅝	1⅞
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	101½	90	87½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	90	80	77
Mexican Railway	19½	18½	19½
,, 1st Preference	72½	84	86¼
,, 2nd ,,	28½	30½	31½
Nitrate Rails	5 13/16	7¼	7¼

A majority of the Argentine railways complete their financial year at the end of June, and the returns of the past week virtually round off the gross results of the twelve months. Thanks to most excellent crops and the general prosperity resulting therefrom, they all show large increases. The B.A Great Southern has an increase of £300,125, the B.A. and Pacific £235,294, the B.A. Western £199,838, and the Argentine Great Western £51,295. The Rosario's year corresponds with the calendar year, and for twenty-five weeks it has a gain of £273,423, which is the more striking since for the first half of 1903 there was an improvement of as much as £469,000. With the dividend prospects I dealt a couple of weeks ago, and the earnings since have only served to confirm the estimates then given. The moving of the maize crop is about to commence, and as it is large it is safe to look forward to a continuance of good traffics. Speculative dealings ought soon to be stimulated, too, by the dividend expectations. There seems room for a further rise in the prices of most stocks. Mexican Railways are receiving attention once again, and the advance in silver is in the Company's favour, but an indifferent traffic—an increase of only $3,200—is checking the pace, but for the half-year the gain is quite large. The Interoceanic has a gross increase of $724,460 for the twelve months, its year ending with June.

KAFFIRS IRREGULAR—CLEARING AWAY THE WRECKAGE—CHEERING INFLUENCES—LAYING-IN STOCK—WHERE IS THE PUBLIC?—LABOUR, NATIVE AND ALIEN—POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT—HOW THE COOLIES ARE SHAPING—GOLD PRODUCTION AND DIVIDEND PROSPECTS—THE UNHAPPY MAGNATES—DISGUSTED HOLDERS—PREMIER DIAMONDS—DEEP LEVELS.

In Kaffirs I have to record another inactive and disappointing week. The wretched nineteen-day account brought much forced liquidation in its wake, jobbers who had thought well to vary the monotony of things in their own market having burnt their fingers badly by taking a hand in the "little" Westralian boomlet. The net outcome was one small failure, but the accounts of more than one firm were taken over, and as usual these have continued as a menace to the market. When it was seen that only one actual default was announced the market took heart, and began to bid freely. The Continent sent over a few orders, and the Cape was also disposed to buy, regardless of beri-beri. The promise of very easy money, since fulfilled, was also a cheering influence, and the professionals thought the occasion and the outlook good enough to justify them in laying in stock in anticipation of a public inquiry. As usual in the Kaffir market, the unexpected happened. The public did not put in an appearance, having a sufficiently large holding already, or not having the wherewithal for a further speculative flutter, or not being convinced that the moment was auspicious enough; the Continental and South African support was not maintained, pawned stock came on to the market, and, in brief, prices have receded again. The "Bears," who had thought it advisable to cover about the middle of the week, have become active again, and, as usual, they are fertile in the invention of points to suit their book. The natives, it appears, are leaving, or are threatening to leave, the Rand because of the presence of the Chinese—which, if true, is a very short-sighted policy, because the gentlemen must do something occasionally for a living so long as they are not opulent enough to buy wives to save them from the necessity of working at all, and it is only in the mines that there is anything of a shortage, the farms and the seaports having a sufficiency. Then, in spite of the obstructive efforts of the Chinese officials in the search for backsheesh, there is no question whatever of a sufficiency of coolie labour to take the place of the niggers should the latter prove too "uppish." The position of the Government is a far more convincing factor as a "Bear" point. My table follows:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, June 7, 1904.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	7	7¼	7⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 13/16	3⅜	3⅝	3 7/16	3⅜
Aurora West	3¾	2	1 5/16	1 7/16	1 7/16	1¼
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	⅛	1/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1/16	1⅛	1 3/16	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 3/16	2 13/16	2⅝	2⅝
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅞	5¼	6¼	6½	6 5/16
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅛	4 15/16	6¾	6⅞	6 7/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 15/16	1 13/16	1⅝
Crown Reef	12⅞	18½	16½	14¾	14⅝	14¼
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¾	18¾	18½	18¼
Do. Def.	—	26½	18½	19 7/16	18⅝	19 3/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5	6	5⅜
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	6½	5½	5½	5½	5
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2 7/16	2½	2 3/16
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	8	7 1/16	7⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¾	3/16	3/8	3/8	3/8
Ferreira	22	26	18	20⅜	21	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 7/16	1¾	1⅝	1⅝
Geduld	—	9 13/16	5	6⅝	6⅝	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4¼	3	3 5/16	3 5/16	3¼
Goch (New)	3⅜	4¼	2½	3 7/16	3 3/16	3⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7¾	5¾	5 5/16	5 5/16	5 5/16
,, Main Reef	1 11/16	¾	¼	9/-	⅜	⅜
Glencairn	4¼	2⅝	1¼	1 7/16	1⅝	1⅝
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 7/16	2 1/16	2¾	2⅝	2⅝
Henderson	5½	2 7/16		1 7/16	1 5/16	1½
Henry Nourse	8 7/16	10¼	7⅜	8⅝	8¼	8¼
Heriot	12½	8½	3¾	3⅝	3½	3⅝
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	28¼	28¼	27½xd
Joh. Con. Invest.	6¾	4 7/16	2½	2⅝	2½	2½
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 7/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅝	⅝	1 1/16	15/16	15/16
Jubilee	12½	7½	4¼	4¼	4¾	4¾
Jumpers	8¾	5⅝	2⅝	3¼	3	3
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1½	1 7/16	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4¼	3	1	—	—	—

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up June 7, 1904.	Make-up June 24, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
Kleinfontein (New)	6¾	2 1/8	1⅛	2 1/16	2⅛	2⅛
Knight's	11½	9 1/16	4¼	5¼	5 7/16	5 1/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 5/16	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 7/16	3 7/16	3 5/16	3 5/16	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3¼	2¾	2⅝	2⅝
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅜	1 5/16	1 7/16	1½	1½
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 7/16	2⅜	4 1/16	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5⅝	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14 7/16	7½	9¼	8¾	8⅝
Mozambique	3 7/16	2⅜	1¼	1½	1 5/16	1 7/16
Nickerk	—	18/-	7/6	14/9	14/-	13/6
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2⅜	2¼	2¼
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	2 1/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
New Comet	4¼	4	2	2 5/16	2¾	3
New Rietfontein	6¾	8¼	1¾	2¼	2 1/16	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅞	1 1/16	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	⅞	15/16	⅞	⅞
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Primrose New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3¾	3 1/16
Princess Estate	4½	2	1/16	1/16	1/16	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 1/16	10⅜	10 1/16	10 1/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3 1/16	3¼	3⅛
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 1/16	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2 1/16	2 3/16	1	2	1⅛	1 1/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1⅛	2	1⅛	1⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1¼	1⅛	1 1/16
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9 15/16	9⅝	9½
Roodepoort United	8½	4 7/8	2⅛	3 1/16	3 1/16	2¾
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/8	9 3/16	4⅜	5⅛	5 1/16	5 1/16
Sheba	2⅞	1 13/16	11/3	4/3	4/-	3/6
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1 1/16	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	12/9	12/6	12/6
South Afr. Terriers	—	—	—	2/-	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3 3/16	4⅜	4½	4 1/16
Transvaal Development	2⅛	2 5/16	24/-	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅜	¼	7/3	7/-	7/-
Transvaal Gold	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅝	2 3/16	2⅛
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4⅜	3 15/16	3⅞
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	2/6	1/6	2/-
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	3 1/16	3⅜	3⅜
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅛	6⅜	6¼	6⅜
Violet	—	3¾	2	3 1/16	3⅛	3 1/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Welgedacht	—	8¼	6⅜	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	11¼	11¼	11¼
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	—	—	—
,, (New)	—	2¾	⅞	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Wolhuter	12	6¼	3	3⅜	3¼	3¼
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜

* £5 shares.

The labour position is improving. The coolies are coming along quite freely, especially in the North of China, and in Hong Kong the only trouble is, as I surmised last week, not an inadequacy of recruits, but a desire for more backsheesh on the part of the smaller mandarins, who are confessedly in office for what they can make out of it. There are now about 6,000 Chinese on the Rand, or on the way thither, and for those who have begun to work a good testimonial has already been given, it being allowed that "both industrially and economically they are better than the Kaffirs." They give better service, and are industrious, and the result will be seen in due course in improved profits and enhanced dividends. It is highly probable that, in spite of the drawbacks from which the industry has suffered, and continues to suffer, the output of gold for the whole of the current year will be in excess of that for the record year 1898 (the showing of 1899 having been upset by the outbreak of war in October), and it is estimated that the sum distributed in dividends will amount to between £4,500,000 and £5,000,000 as compared with an actual £4,822,358 for 1898. The coolie is in South Africa to amass as much money as possible during the period of his service, in order that he may return to his home afterwards a relatively wealthy man, and it is quite certain that he will give better results on piecework than does the Kaffir. It will not be long before the 20,000 required are on the goldfields, and the money market as well as shareholders will have cause to rejoice. If the market leaders were only sure that the present flabby and invertebrate Government would hold its end up until the rising of Parliament next month, thereby ensuring the postponement of a general election until the early part of next year, I think it probable that they would be supporting their several specialities. In the uncertainty, however, they prefer to wait. Shareholders who bought at prices much higher than those ruling now are to be forgiven for displaying disgust over the position, but I see no reason whatever to modify my opinion that a purchase made now and paid for outright with a view to holding for active con-

ditions will give a good profit. I am afraid the writer of the following letter is not the only one who harbours bitter feelings against the magnates because of their inability or their refusal to engineer cheerful and active markets:—

DEAR SIR,—I bought Glencairns at over £2 each, Hendersons at £2, Transvaal Devels. £2, Development and Finance at £1, Orange Diamonds at 1½, over two years ago, and have only received about £2 dividends. I should like to see my money again, and would take good care never to touch Kaffirs in future. I am told by one of the leading men in the Exchange that thousands have sold their Kaffirs at a loss during the past two years, and, like myself, feel disgusted. I know we must thank our friends the magnates, but they seem to have ignored the genuine investor in their fight for the yellow man; and they will find the greatest difficulty in obtaining money for new issues after such treatment, for the British public can see it is useless to play against loaded dice. All the best firms in the Exchange now decline to give opinions or advice on Kaffirs. This I am told by one of the principal firms in the Exchange. Look at quotations now and when peace was declared. Kindly give me your advice; and you might just remind the magnates.—Believe me, dear Sir, yours truly, BOSCOMBEITE.

No doubt the magnates have sacrificed something in order to gain a principle, but the reward for that is about to be reaped, and for the rest it must be remembered that they are very considerable holders of stocks which they were forced to buy off and on during the prolonged period of fighting for alien labour, which caused many outsiders to throw shares on to the market. Stale "Bulls," professional and non-professional, have, in the circumstances, one of two courses open to them—to sell at a loss or to hold on in the hope of better times to result from the better conditions. To me it seems more reasonable to hold on. It is absurd to say that the English public will not look at Kaffirs again. As soon as things begin to move cheerfully, they will come in quickly enough. The only question is: When will they move cheerfully? Inherent conditions are healthy and promising enough. The political uncertainty is the one really adverse point. Among Deep Levels movements have been few, but the group has sympathised with the rest of the market, as my table shows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, June 7, 1904.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Cent. Nigel Deep	1/16	1	½	¼	¼	1/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2 7/16
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13½	13	13
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 5/16	2	2⅝	2⅜	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	6	5⅝	5⅝
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3½	4¼	4¼	4¼
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11	11⅛	11⅛
Jumpers Deep	5½	6¾	3½	4 7/16	4⅜	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3 5/16	3½	3⅜
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4 7/16	2½	2½	2 5/16	2 5/16
Lancaster	3⅜	3 7/16	2	2 3/16	2 3/16	2½
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅞	2 7/16	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2 11/16	5 1/16	2½	3 1/16	3¼	3⅛
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6¾	3½	4⅜	4¼	4¼
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	9/16	⅞	2 5/16	¾
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4⅜	2⅜	2⅝	2½	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6 7/16	4½	5 7/16	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. Cent. Deep	4¼	5 1/16	2⅝	4½	4⅝	4 7/16
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6¾	8¼	8⅜	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅜	3½	1⅜	1 15/16	1 13/16	1⅞
South Rose Deep	3⅝	4½	2	2½	2½	2½
South Geld. Deep	3¾	4⅞	2 3/16	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	3½	2⅝	2½	2 7/16
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 1/16	2⅝	3 7/16	3½	3½
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅝	2⅜	1⅜	1 7/16	⅞	⅞
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	3 1/16	3⅛	3 1/16

WESTRALIANS UNSATISFACTORY — COLONIAL DIFFICULTIES—"BEARS" ACTIVE—ASSOCIATED AND OROYAS WEAKEST—IVANHOE DIVIDEND — ANOTHER BOOMLET? — BURNT FINGERS—THE "LITTLE" WESTRALIANS—HANNAN'S STAR REPORT.

During the earlier part of the week the Westralian market was tolerably cheerful owing to the satisfactory arrangement of the accounts of several "Lame Ducks," who had to be helped over at the settlement. In this manner the difficulties which were anticipated were fortunately obviated, although the knowledge that these shares would probably come on to the market later was not encouraging. Moreover, there were evidences of more liquidation as the outcome of the recent abortive boomlet in the "little" descriptions, there being sales on London as well as on Colonial account. Practically everything went lower, Associated and Oroyas being noticeably weak on more "Bear" attacks. Having regard to their successes in the past the persistency with which the "Bears" pay "backs" on Oroyas is very significant, and would undoubtedly appear more so were it not for the plain and carefully-reasoned calculation of ore reserves given by the managers. Horseshoes and Ivanhoes also felt the influences which prevailed, but the latter hardened again on the announcement of a first quarterly interim dividend in respect of 1904 of 5s. per share. Fingalls also hardened on a favourable report from the mine, and have, in fact, been the one strong share of the week. Despite the optimistic talk of a revival of the boomlet in "Little Kangaroos," these shares show but little movement on the week. The recklessness with which prices were hoisted during the last boom has effectively frightened away the public, and the professionals themselves ought to have learned from their recent experience in the game that it is an exceedingly risky one to indulge in, especially when the outsiders refuse to relieve them of the shares at any price. In this group Boulder Deeps were again the most active shares, and hardened at first on Colonial buying, although some selling from the same quarter subsequently caused a set-back, and they remain depressed. South Kalgurlis were also offered from the Colonies, and reacted sharply, while Hannan's Stars finished dullish. The report of this latter Company, which was sent out during the week, states that the mill was employed in crushing for other companies to the middle of June, and earned in this way £10,859. During the remainder of the year £33,341 was realised from the Company's own ore treated. After deducting payments for working expenses, providing for depreciation of plant, and writing off £7,443 for redemption of development, the revenue account shows a profit of £5,139, and, including gold in transit, the available cash balance at the end of the year totalled £20,651, as compared with £11,520 at the end of 1902. On the other hand, working costs have diminished from 59s. 9d. per ton in 1900 to 34s. 8d. per ton during 1903, while for the first five months of 1904 the figure had fallen to 32s. 4d. My table follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, June 7, 1904.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Closing Price, July2, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	3 5/16	2 15/16	2⅜
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 7/16	1⅜	1½	1 7/16
Brownhill Ext.	3⅞	1⅞	⅝	½	¾	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	11/6	10/3	11/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7⅜	7 1/16	7 7/16
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	7/-	5/-	6/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	27/9	26 6	25/9xd
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	7/9	6/-	6/-
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 11/16	1½	18/-	12/-	11/-
Do. South	3½	1⅞	¾	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 15/16	9 13/16	5 1/16	8⅜	7 15/16	8 1/16
Hainault	1⅞	⅜	¼	⅜	27/32	13/16
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	7/6	8/-	7/6xd
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10½	6¾	7 15/16	7⅞	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 13/16	⅝	⅞	¾	⅝
Kalgurli	9¾	4½	2 13/16	5 7/16	5 7/16	5 7/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1 7/16	1½	1 7/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 15/16	1 1/16	¼	9/-	8/9	¾
North Kalgurli	1 13/16	10/-	4/-	8/3	7/3	7/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3⅜	3 7/16	3½xd
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¾	⅝	¾	¾	⅞
Sons of Gwalia	6 3/16	2 9/16	1	2	1 15/16	1¾xd
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¾	1⅜	1¼	1¼
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 15/16	¾	¾	¾	⅞

WEST AFRICANS BADLY NEGLECTED—THE LATE MR. TARBUTT'S HOLDINGS—WASSAU DEEPS—WAIHI GRAND JUNCTIONS—TYEE COPPERS—CHARTERS TOWERS SHARES.

The Jungle has not displayed any activity during the week, and apart from a little inside support for some of the better-class shares such as Wassaus and Amalgamated, there has been no feature in the market. A strengthening influence was the announcement at the Wassau Deep meeting that none of the late Mr. Tarbutt's

holdings would come on the market with prices at anything like present figures. But the effect of this statement was only temporary, and in sympathy with the dulness which prevailed in the rest of the House, quotations were inclined to sag towards the end of the week. Beyond the remarkable optimism of the Directors concerning the future of West Africa as a gold-producing country, nothing of great interest transpired at the meeting of the Wassau Deep Levels Syndicate. Movements on the week will be seen from the appended table:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, June 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	2⅝ 2¾	2⅝ 2¾
Axim Mines	100 000	62,393	1	f.p.	¼ ⅜	¼ ⅜
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	1/16 1/8 dis	1/16 1/8 dis.
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	1/16 1/8	1/16 1/8
AttasiMines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅜	1/16 ⅛
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16 1 1/16	1⅛ 1¼
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1/16 1/8	⅛ ⅜
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1/16 1/8	1/16 1/8
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	2¼ 2⅜	2 2¼
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	4/6 5/6	4/6 5/6
HimanConcessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
London and W. A. G Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f p.	¼ ⅜	⅛ ⅜
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1 1/16 1 1/8	1 1/16 1 1/8

There has not been much activity among Miscellaneous Mines. Indian shares were inclined to harden, but show little movement. Among New Zealanders, Waihis were dull, but Waihi Grand Junction, a share in which I think there is considerable speculative possibilities, improved to 2 7-16 on a cable from the mine stating that at the 500-ft. level the width of the seam was 3 ft. 6 in., and the assay value £2 1s. 6d. per ton. Tyees, among British Columbians, fell to 1⅞ after being 2⅛ on the report, which is not altogether encouraging, notwithstanding that a final dividend of 5 per cent. is recommended, making 10 per cent. for the year. In the Charters Towers the shares have been mostly weak, especially Queen's Cross Reefs and Brilliant and St. George. Concerning the properties, the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* publishes an interesting interview with a well-known gentleman who had just visited the Charters Towers field. He did not consider that the Charters Towers goldfield looked so well as it did a year ago. Most of the older producers are not yielding so much metal as they formerly did, but he was very hopeful of the field to the north-east of Queen's Cross, mentioning the Brilliant Central as the mine of the future. In his opinion, the mine looks exceedingly well, and possesses a great deal of promising ground, practically undeveloped. The Queen's Cross, he says, also looks well, more especially above the No. 1 level to the Victoria and Queen boundary, where there is one face of splendid stone for 1,000 ft. Among Copper shares, Etruscans and Mount Lyells have gone off. Rio Tintos were in demand on Paris account, and show a slight appreciation on the week. Silver shares have also been cheerful on the higher price of the metal.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, June 24.	Closing Price, July 2.
Anaconda Copper	7 7/16	3 3/8	3 5/16	3⅜
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	16/6	16/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1¼	36/3	37/-
Cape Copper	5	2	3½	3 5/16
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	33/-	1⅜
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Mason and Barry	4¼	3½	3	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4¼	2	14/-	13/-xd
Mysore Gold	7⅛	5 1/32	6 1/32	6⅜
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
North Mount Lyell	1 5/16	⅝	—	—
Nundydroog	2 1/16	1⅝	1 7/16	1 7/16
Ooregum	2⅜	21/9	1	1
Rio Tinto	53 3/16	38⅛	52¼	52¼
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Waihi Gold	6½	4 3/16	5 3/16	5⅛

RHODESIANS HARDEN AND REACT—EARL GREY'S OPTIMISM—THE PUBLIC APATHETIC—NORTHERN COPPER DEVELOPMENTS—EXTENDING THE RAILWAY NORTHWARDS—WANTED, A STRONG LEADER—SELUKWE, WILLOUGHBY CONSOLIDATED, AND RHODESIA GOLDFIELDS REPORTS.

The Rhodesian Market has not presented any striking feature during the past week, but it may be remarked that after the recent set-back occasioned by the flatness of Chartereds, the tone has improved slightly. For this the cessation of forced selling, to which I alluded last week, is in the main responsible, although the optimistic remarks of Earl Grey, made at the Charter Trust meeting concerning the future of the country, also contributed to bring about this better feeling. In the earlier part of the week there was a disposition to put prices slighter higher, Chartereds advancing to 1 23-32, but this was not sustained, and the shares fell back to the former figure of 1 21-32 again. The outside public still continue to ignore the market, and the volume of business transacted on professional account has not been on a good scale. Copper shares show a slight appreciation on the week, Northern Copper especially being helped by the cable from Mr. Davey announcing the discovery of a strong lode of copper sulphate at the 200-ft. level, accompanied by deposits of native-silver and native copper. The statement that the railway to the north from Victoria Falls is to be continued without interruption also served to strengthen Tanganyikas and Zambesias, as it is realised that this is essential for the proper exploitation of these and other properties situated in the north. A good reason why the general public do not display any interest in the Rhodesian shares is because they realise that the market is without any strong backer to support it when bad times prevail, and also because they are aware of the bad financial position of most of the Companies. During this last week the Selukwe report has been published. The gold produced amounted to 47,723 oz., and realised £167,697, which, after deducting working costs, etc., leaves a net profit of £37,388, comparing with a net profit last year of £46,717, when a distribution of 4s. per share was made. But in view of the expenditure recommended by Mr. Franklin White for plant and machinery, amounting to £5,500, the additional monthly expenditure of £2,000 for development in depth which the Directors have already authorised, and the probability of further expenditure amounting to £13,500 being required to provide additional stamps should the further developments of the mine at the lower levels justify it, the Directors are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend for the past year. The Willoughby Consolidated Company's report is also out, and shows that after payment of £5,430 interest on the existing debentures, and £325 for income tax, and writing off £29,086 loss on securities in other Companies, the profit and loss account shows a debit balance for the year of £33,648. In addition to which, the market value of holdings in other Companies shows a depreciation of about 70 per cent. The Rhodesia Goldfields report is also unsatisfactory, and a significant item is that dealing with the depreciation of securities held in subsidiary Companies, which show a shrinkage at the end of the year of £385,651, being £75,000 increase on the amount stated at the meeting in November last. Included in this is an item of £20,193 written off reserve on account of claims abandoned, and on account of shares in various Companies reconstructed; and in view of the forlorn condition in which Rhodesians have been in during the present year it would be interesting to learn what further loss has been incurred by this and other Companies since the periods to which the accounts are made up, by depreciа-

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tion of securities of subsidiary Companies. Here is my usual table:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up. June24, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/4	3/32	1/4
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2 1/4	1 7/16	1 5/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1 3/4	1 3/4
Bulnwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	7/8	7/8
Bulnwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1/8	3/32	3/32
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	7/16	7/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	7/8	7/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/4	1/2	7/8
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 3/4	3/8	1/4
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 5/16	1 5/16
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/4	1 3/16	1 3/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	1	15/16
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4 1/4	3/4	1/2
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/4	2 3/4	2 5/16
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1 1/4	1/4	1/4
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	7/8	1/2
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9 1/8	3 3/4	3 7/8
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 7/8	1/4	1/8
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2 1/2	2 1/2
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/4	7/8
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	3 3/8	3 7/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	3/8	3/8
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/4	1/8
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	3/4	3/9	3/4
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	6/-	6/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/8	1 1/4	1 5/16

Cunliffe, Russell, & Co.

It has been the duty of Truth to warn its readers against having dealings with Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., of Place de la Bourse, Paris, who specialise in combinations of the more or less depreciated lottery bonds of various Continental Governments and municipalities. By means of seductive and well constructed pamphlets the firm continues to put an attractive appearance upon these bonds, and while emphasising the prospects of a prize more or less magnificent declared at the periodical drawings, they leave in the background as much as possible the disabilities attaching to a purchase, and they appeal to man's instinct for thrift by accepting payment by instalments. I should not be much concerned with their business were it not for the fact that a majority of the bonds which make up their combinations are exceedingly undesirable, and at a heavy discount, while they ask for these same combinations very much more than they may be obtained for by purchase through a reputable source—say one of the foreign banks which have houses in this country. That something reasonable may be exacted in return for deferred payments and for the other services thrown in, I have always been prepared to admit, but 40 per cent. or more seems to me to be altogether unreasonable. For these reasons I have advised those readers who allowed themselves to be taken in by the concern's blandishments to threaten proceedings failing the return of the money paid over to it, and I am pleased to know that a number of Truth readers have within the last year or so recovered an average of about 80 or 85 per cent. of this money. An English solicitor who had instituted procedings was obliging enough to furnish me with the details of his experience and with the name of the Paris solicitor—the representative of a large London firm—who had acted on his behalf: and this same gentleman has acted for others, with successful results. Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., in fact, will not go into the French courts to contest these claims, arguing that, however good its case might be, "it did not court publicity"; and it will not indulge in the luxury of a libel action for the same reason, and for the additional reason that, lottery bonds being unlawful in this country, they would be promptly nonsuited. Their latest device, after proceedings have been instituted against them for the recovery of the purchase money of the bonds, is to send a representative to interview the principal, presumably to effect a compromise. I would put those who have a case against the firm on their guard against coming to terms. I am informed that, should they do so, they will incur heavy legal expenses. One of them—one who received a visit from Cunliffe, Russell, and Co.'s representative—has sent me a letter, from which I make the following extract:—

> According to their representative, Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. are the victims of a gigantic attempt at blackmail on the part of Truth, M. ——— (the Paris solicitor), and old employees. There was not the least chance of recovering the money, and so forth. I observed it was rather a long journey to take over such a small matter, and that I was quite certain M. ——— would be successful in recovering the greater part of my money. As this individual will certainly call on others who are in the same plight as myself, it is as well to warn them on no account to accept any compromise.

The idea of Truth attempting to blackmail Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. is too ridiculous to need comment; the Paris solicitor has done his best for his clients, and has succeeded remarkably well; and as for "the old employees," they are not known to me. As I say above, and as I have said before, I have no objection whatever to the firm carrying on business in lottery bonds. There are many estimable people who do not mind taking risks, so long as they are buoyed up by the possibility of a big prize. What I do object to is the excessive prices charged by the concern for individual bonds and for combinations of bonds, as well as the delusive character of their misrepresentations as to the chances of a prize.

An Ideal Method.

In a conspicuous place on the map which accompanies the Official Sailing List of the Manchester Ship Canal appears the following advertisement:—

> If you are looking for a means by which a few pounds ready cash may be made to yield a large return, send a postcard for our "Ideal" method, by which profits at the rate of 1,300 per cent. per annum and upwards may be realised. No work, trouble, or experience is necessary. If you have a little ready capital, 50s., £5, or £10, you can make large weekly profits by this plan.—Ives, Anderson, and Co., 170, Oxford-street, Regent-circus, London.

In drawing my attention to this exceptional offer, an unhappy shareholder in the Canal Company suggests that the Directors of the concern might be induced by a word from me to have a deal with Ives, Anderson, and Co. and so earn the undying gratitude of the community. A matter of £50,000 judiciously invested with these philanthropists would, my correspondent points out, bring in £650,000 a year, sufficient to pay all the shareholders of the Company a liberal dividend, and make innumerable homes in the North of England happy. I have pleasure in passing on the idea to the Directors. If they decide not to take advantage of the offer of 1,300 per cent. per annum profit, in the interests of their shareholders, they may perhaps be induced at least to make some inquiry into the nature of the business whereby—by the assurance of Ives, Anderson, and Co. themselves—such a fancy profit becomes possible. The Official Sailing List is not very well off for advertisements, if one may judge from the occasional blanks in its pages, but the Directors owe it to the people who have lost money in the Ship Canal not to put them into the way of losing more to Ives, Anderson, and Co.

Mining "Bargains" from the States.

The American Exploration Company, whose London address is at Hotel Cecil Chambers, Strand, W.C., is not slackening its efforts to put the English people into Californian mining ventures. On the contrary, it is adopting the plan of sending its representative round for orders as though it were engaged in selling butter or bacon—of which last I am reminded because the name of its president is Gammon. The following letter will explain the mode of operating:—

> Dear Sir,—I beg to draw your attention to the enclosed, and purpose calling upon you *re* the subject in the near future.
>
> It is probable you are acquainted with many of the Somersetshire and London shareholders.
>
> The kindness of an intimation from you, stating the most convenient time for me to call, will be appreciated by,—Your obedient servant, W. Austin Edwards.

The recipient's wife received a communication at the same time, and in exactly the same terms, and for some

time they were puzzled to know how their address had been obtained, since they had only quite recently been in the place. Finally, it dawned upon them that the Exploration Company had got hold of the last report of the Society of Somerset Men in London, and had utilised it for the purposes of pushing its dubious wares. I adduce this as further evidence of the firm's enterprise. With the American Exploration Company and its methods I have had occasion more than once to deal in the columns of Truth. It professes first to obtain options on promising mining "prospects," to buy those it proves good, and then to transfer them to the syndicates at exact first cost. Four per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares in the Syndicates are then offered for subscription, carrying therewith a bonus of an equal number of Ordinary shares, and a further like number of Ordinary shares is received by the American Exploration Company for its remuneration. "The par value of the Preference shares must be repaid in full with interest before any dividends are paid on the Ordinary shares. The Preference shares are then retired, and until this is effected the American Exploration Company does not make one penny of profit." All this looks very nice, and it will not cause any one surprise to be informed that on the Eclipse and La Fiesta Mines, taken up after the usual examination, the developments have been of a most satisfactory character. But I am quite at a loss to know why the English people should be thus pertinaciously canvassed to buy the shares of Californian mines when there must be uncounted thousands of people in California and other parts of the United States who would be only too pleased to subscribe the cash required for every venture of promise brought out by the American Exploration Company or any other concern or individual. The Company is American, organised under the elastic laws of the State of New Jersey, and its officers are good Americans from Mr. Gammon downwards. Why should they go out of their way to benefit Englishmen when they might be doing a good turn for their own fellow-countrymen? It seems to me that this circumstance alone ought to be sufficient to make people in this land fight very shy of the Company. Besides, assuming for a moment that it is in business for the advantage of Britishers, what proof have we that the engineers' reports on the Fiesta and the Eclipse are reliable? Are they all honest in California? On the whole, I should ask to be excused. Experience has shown—especially during recent years, when wealth has grown so rapidly in the United States—that there is no lack of capital for the exploitation of everything of promise, and that it is only the rotten ventures, into which it would be a pity to sink good Yankee dollars, that are sent over here.

New Issue.

The following prospectus has been published:—

Samuel Courtauld and Co., Ltd.—The Company has been formed to acquire the well-known business of crape manufacturers of the same name. The share capital is £500,000, divided equally into Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference and Ordinary shares of £5 each. The vendors take 20,000 Preference and 40,000 Ordinary shares in part payment of the purchase money, and there are now offered for subscription 20,000 Preference shares at par, in addition to 4½ per cent. debentures to the amount of £200,000. The profits for last year were £48,487.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Small Investor, Wolverhampton.—Obviously I cannot undertake to specify a date by which Consols will reach par again. Though the tendency is upwards, the condition of the Government at home, the war in the East, the flood of new high-class issues, and other causes prevent any rapid recovery. The termination of the war and the formation of a strong Government here would be good for a quick rise of some points, and the influence of cheap money would also tell forcibly. Gold production is growing very rapidly, the Continent and the United States, by reason of slack trade, have more than they can find profitable employment for, and therefore the bulk of the new metal to arrive is likely to remain in this country. We are recovering from the drain of the Boer war, and our national savings are asserting themselves, while commerce and industry here also are slack, implying accumulations. Remove the disabilities, and we ought soon to see Consols near or at par. In three or four months there has been a recovery of over five points. *Tiverton.*—Turkish Government Four per Cent. stock of 1855 brings in over 3¾ per cent, and is desirable, since the interest is guaranteed by the English and French Governments, and is secured upon the Egyptian tribute, as well as upon the Customs duties of Smyrna and Syria. *O. T.*—India Three and a Half per Cent. stocks would suit you. *Tired.*—The Queensland and South Australian Fours might be held. They ought to have some recovery along with the rest of the gilt-edged market. *Buff.*—Negotiations in connection for the conversion of the Argentine debt are in progress. Hold the Funding and B.A. Water stocks. *Jap.*—In view of the uncertainties of war and of the fear that the present one will be prolonged, I do not care to recommend a purchase of Japan Fours. Indeed, a prudent investor might think about realising now that they have had a big recovery. The new Sixes are more desirable, because they have a specific claim upon the Customs duties. The country will be in the market again before long.

Railways.

Good Faith.—Canadian Pacifics seem good for a higher price, but you have a good profit, and if it is not your intention to hold for investment, you might realise. *E. E.*—Bengal Dooars Ordinary stock is all right to keep, also Indian Midland. *Armagh.*—East Indian Railway Deferred Annuities "D" would give you almost 4 per cent., Great Indian Peninsula Railway "A" Annuities nearly 3¾ per cent., and East Indian "A" Annuities 3⅝ per cent. *Spec.*—Grand Trunks are much too uncertain for a "spec." just now. *South Wales.*—I see no objection to a purchase of Alexandra (N. and S.W.) "A" stock, which at the present price returns nearly 4½ per cent. Barry First Preference is better, but on that the yield is only 3⅝ per cent. *Gaucho.*—Rosarios should go higher. For investment, I should choose Great Southerns, which will bring in 5¼ per cent., provided the 7 per cent. rate be not improved upon, and it is quite possible that it may be. On the other stocks the yields are: Argentine Great Western, 5⅞ per cent.; Rosarios, 5⅝ per cent.; Westerns, 5⅝ per cent. Should the Pacific distribute 7 per cent. for the year to June 30, the yield at the present price would be over 6 per cent. *A. H.*—Great Western and North-Eastern Railway Ordinary stocks are both good purchases. *Dominion.*—I regard Qu'Appelle Long Lake stock as a good lock up.

Mines.

M. S. N.—1. You are not compelled to take the debentures. With proper management, the outlook for the Ordinary shares is promising enough. 2. Do not join the reconstruction. 3. Sell, as the prospects are very poor. 4. Also poor. 5. Better wait for the meeting, as nothing can be done before. 6. Hopeless. 7. Keep the shares for the present. Recent developments are more promising. *Moyses.*—You should not permit yourself to be frightened out of Horseshoes and Ivanhoes because of a "Bear" success in Perseverance. As to Oroyas, I prefer the verdict of the managers to the vague insinuations of the "Bears." *Traveller.*—Brilliant shares are not worth buying. The mine is about played out. Queensland mines are not in much favour on this side, owing to the slipshod methods employed. Inquiries in good quarters state that there is nothing wrong with the No. 2 South Great Eastern, but the drop in the price is more than a little suspicious. *Perplexed, Halifax, N.S.*—I am afraid you are not likely to see a recovery in Chartered shares to anything like the prices paid by you, even on the average. The same applies to Bechuanaland Explorations. You might hold, if you are not too tired, for some recovery following more activity in the mining markets, and then cut your loss. Bulawayo Syndicates might be sold now. Henderson's Transvaal Estates are good to hold for a recovery to £2 or £2 10s. *W. H. Castell.*—The Phœnix Gold Mines Company was reconstructed at the beginning of last year as the Crown Gold Mines. I am unable to obtain a quotation. Better sell, if a purchaser can be found. *Sylva.*—I fear it would only be throwing good money after bad. Do not join the reconstruction. *Sedgwick.*—The Boston Copper figures seem encouraging. *Albemarle.*—1. I am unable to say what is the life of the mine. 2. In "Johnnies" the speculative possibilities consist largely in the Company's holdings in other undertakings. *W. H. J.*—There is little speculative attraction in Anacondas, which lost all interest for the English public since the Company was taken over

by the American Copper Combine. *J. King.*—I suggest Angelo Deeps, Glen Deeps, Robinson Deeps, and Modder Deeps of those proposed. *J. C. G.*—It would be impolitic to sell your Transvaal Estates, Transvaal Goldfields, and General Mining at present, as you are under no necessity to do so. *Valle Crucis.*—Rand Collieries are a hopeful purchase. *A. C.*—I think Broken Hill Props are promising, especially as the prospects of silver are good. Pigg's Peak Developments ought to be kept. *West End.*—Sons of Gwalia and South Kalgurlis are promising speculations. Hold the Langlaagte Estates and Johannesburg Estates. *Mummy.*—I see no reason why Nile Valleys and United African Exploration should be sold now. On a more active mining market they should have a good appreciation. *Antrim.*—Hauraikis are a poor speculation. Waihi Grand Junction have considerable promise. *C. G., Grimsby.*—Geldenhuis Main Reefs are only a gamble. *Citizen of the World.*—Lachlan Goldfields might be bought. *C. S. N.*—Lace Diamonds and Elandsdrifts are good to keep for better conditions. I have not a good opinion of Klerksdorp Gold and Diamonds as reconstructed. *J. R. D.*—Cloverfields and Western Rand Estates.

Miscellaneous.

Novice, Gosport.—The sum is too small for an investment. Leave it in the Savings Bank. *Medicus.*—Jones and Higgins Ordinary and Lever Brothers Preference shares would suit you best of the investments suggested. The first give 4⅞ per cent. and the second 4½ per cent. *B. H.*—Greenwich Inlaid Linoleums are all right. They bring in 7½ per cent. *Draper.*—I am obliged for your communication. *Premium.*—1. Have no dealings with the Provident Association of London. 2. The Century Insurance Company is all right. 3. The ratio of expenses is altogether too high, and I do not think particularly well of the office. *Y. C.*—British Electric Traction Preference shares are all right to hold. Anglo-Argentine Trams are very promising. *Blairgate.*—It is not a very good medium for a working man to adopt for the purchase of a house. *J. T. M.*—I am obliged. I have already drawn the attention of a somewhat sceptical age to the philanthropic efforts of Stephens and Henderson to make 100 per cent. for all who choose to avail themselves of its services. And in cotton "futures," too! But evidently circularising pays. *Hen.*—There is no doubt a prospect of obtaining a loan at the end of the five years, but it appears remote. *T. C., Carrick-on-Suir.*—A duplicate will not be issued without an indemnity guarantee. *Scrutiny.*—Evidently a swindle of the old sort. *St. Kilda.*—1. The prospects of both concerns are poor. 2. I understand the firm you name deals fairly by its clients. *F. D. P., Folkestone.*—I do not consider the concern a desirable one. *Wales.*—British Electric Traction shares should have a good recovery eventually, when all the allied undertakings have been developed fully. *Camp Town.*—Aux. Classes Laborieuses Preference and Hope Brothers shares are fairly respectable investments. *Como.*—The customer, as the banker was only acting as his agent. *Carisbrooke.*—My thanks for the circular. It is sad that the philanthropic intentions of Stephens and Henderson should be so badly misconstrued by a sceptical world. They appear to be particularly active just now in the Isle of Wight. *One in Doubt.*—Have nothing to do with the concern. Their system of immediate advances to bondholders on house purchase is a delusion and a snare, and their agents are not truthful. *C. E. U., Folkestone.*—I have not a high opinion of the concern. *Lyds.*—You are quite safe in keeping Cape Electric Tram shares, which are a very good investment of their sort, with a respectable yield. The Company has good reserves.

Mixed Securities.

Safety.—1. Chatham Railway Three per Cent. debentures are safe. 2. Bergvik Deferred shares might be kept. 3. R. White and Co. Preference shares are moderately attractive. 4. The debentures of the New Cape Central Railway make a good investment. At the present price the return is about £4 9s. per cent. *Apidee.*—1. I regard Hudson's Bays as a very healthy speculative investment. Read my summary of the position in this week's Industrial article. 2. The recovery in Canadian Pacifics is due to the recognition of the merits of the shares, added to the knowledge that this year's harvest promises to be another record. *Elpmet.*—I suggest Egyptian State Domains, Great Western Railway Ordinary, North-Western Railway Ordinary, Canadian Pacific First Mortgage bonds, East India Railway Deferred Annuities, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern Preference stock. These will average you almost 4 per cent. *Pavilion.*—1. Interoceanic of Mexico ought to go to 120 before the end of this year. 2. I should choose Johnnies, General Mining and Finance, and Robinson Deeps of the South Africans suggested. 3. Do not sell the Grand Trunk Second Preference stock. *Danum.*—1. Newcastle Electric Supply shares would make a good purchase. 2. Etruscan Coppers are altogether a mystery, and if you bought you would be doing so in the dark. *Welshman, Cardiff.*—Spread the money over Chinese Gold Bonds (1896), Ind, Coope Irredeemable debentures, Argentine Great Western Railway Preference stock, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary. *M. S.*—1. Provincial Tramways Preference shares are all right to hold. 2. Mashonaland Railway Debentures should not be sold at present. 3. Keep the Fine Spinners Ordinary. *Delta.*—1. Imperial Bank of Persia shares are reasonably good, though not of course among the choicest things in the Banking group. Standard of South Africa are better, but both are worth holding. 2. Interoceanic Preference shares are a fair speculative purchase, as there is a probability of them receiving a dividend in respect of the past year. 3. B.A. Rosario Deferred and B.A. and Valparaiso "B" Debentures.

Industrials Inactive and Irregular—India Docks Better—Water Board Stock—Anglo-American Telegraphs—British Electric Tractions—Foreign Traction Shares—Breweries—Weak Hotels—"Polly" Dividend—Nelsons Active—Hudson's Bay Prospects.

The Miscellaneous Market has not been particularly well off for business, and while the abundance of money has caused further inquiry for a number of Debentures, it has not caused activity in the section as a whole. The "heavy weights" of the market have had little movement. Dock descriptions are without change beyond a recovery in London and India Deferred to 75½. Holders have reconciled themselves to the abandonment of the Port of London Bill, at any rate for the present, and the important trade deputation which urged the immediate necessity of the measure had no effect whatever. Those who hold and those who are buying now do so as an investment, recognising that the stock is quite cheap at the current price whether the measure becomes law or not, since the Company is doing well and is likely to pay more than the 3⅛ per cent. distributed for 1903. Water securities have relapsed into inactivity again, the only movement of consequence being a further slight improvement in Southwark and Vauxhall. The Water Board stock has improved again to 93⅜. Telephones continue steady, the Deferred being dealt in to a small extent at 7½. Telegraphs are without change, apart from the dulness of Anglo-Americans. Shipping descriptions are without a single feature, and in the Iron and Steel groups prices are unaltered for the most part, the only changes being a further fall to 8¼ in Pease and Partners and to 9-16 in Beyer Peacocks. Traction shares generally are firm, Anglo-Argentine Trams and City of Buenos Ayres Trams being supported again on the strength of the amalgamation proposals. London General Omnibus stock has moved up a point to 118½ but British Electric Tractions have weakened on the report following upon the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. for the past year, as against 8 per cent. for 1902-3. The traffic receipts show an improvement to £1,162,005 from £922,635, and the gross profit amounts to £290,123, as compared with £238,961; but debenture and Preference changes are considerably higher, hence the reduced dividend on the Ordinary shares. Considerable progress, says the report, was made in the past year in the development and consolidation of the Company's interests in the associated undertakings. During the year £232,407 Five per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock was issued. An issue was also made of £250,000 Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock. The net premiums received in respect of the issues amount to £30,043, and the whole of this amount has been added to reserve. The subscribed share and debenture capital at March 31, 1904, was £1,333,010 in Ordinary shares of £10 each, £1,564,370 in Six per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £10 each, £1,256,225 in Five per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock, £250,000 in Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Second Debenture stock. It is pleasing to learn that the present policy of the directors is to limit as far as possible the further capital commitments of the Company, but since the closing of the books arrangements have been made with a syndicate for the sale of £50,000 Five per Cent. Perpetual Debenture stock and for an advance to the Company of £550,000 by instalments, with a view to the development and completion of undertakings in hand, and an option has been given to the syndicate to call for allotments at any time before December 31, 1905, of Debenture stocks and shares, the proceeds of any of such allotments to be applied in the first instance to repayment of the advances, with interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. I give below a selection of

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

Preference shares of home and foreign traction companies:—

Name.	Price.		Yield per Cent. £ s. d
British Columbia Electric Def. Ord.	103	.....	5 18 0
Do. Prfd. Ord.	99	.....	5 0 6
Do. Pref. (£10)	10¼	.....	4 17 6
B.A. and Belgrano (£5) "A" Pref.	5¼	.....	5 10 0
Calcutta (£5)	7½	.....	4 2 6
City of Buenos Ayres (£5)	9¾	.....	4 2 0
Perth (W.A.) Electric 5 p.c. Debs.	100	.....	5 0 0

Brewery shares have relapsed again into quietness, and movements are few, though mostly upwards save for such speculative things as Allsopps and Watney Combe Reids. Some Hotel shares have developed weakness, notably Gordon Hotels and Frederick Hotels, in which there is quiet liquidation of a deceased account; Apollinaris shares are better on the dividend, which is at the same rate as last year, but the carry-forward is increased from £8,216 to £11,381. The Debentures may be recommended to those who are content with 4½ per cent. with good security. The sum required to pay the charges on this stock is £34,000, so that it is five times covered by the profit of the past year. Refreshment shares have nothing much to show, dealings being poor. A decided increase of dealings has taken place in Nelsons on the strength of lower prices of meat in Argentina, and the Ordinary shares have been taken up to 24s., and the Second Preference to 25s. Hudson's Bays have risen to 41⅜ on the meeting. The shares make a promising speculative purchase, as I have before pointed out, because the position is highly satisfactory. Leaving out of count the fur and trading profits, the land sales are likely to be good because of the strength of the immigration movement. The payment for land sold spreads over several years, and without selling any more land during this year the receipts from ground already disposed of should be at least £180,000. Adding interest on instalments, unpaid, and deducting about £30,000 for disbursements, the total from this source will be £195,000 or £200,000. Say the trading profits are £90,000, which is a very moderate computation since the receipts for the past year were £9,000 more, the company will have (with the £93,730 brought into the accounts) something like £380,000 to deal with, or rather more than for the past period. A distribution at least equal to that for 1903-4 can be counted upon and instead of any return of capital the receipts from land sales will be available with trading profits for direct dividend payments.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A HOUSE-BOAT AT HENLEY.

TOWARDS the latter end of June, some three or four years ago, the following advertisement was appearing in the *Morning Post*, *Standard*, *Daily Telegraph*, and other London papers:—

HENLEY.—To be Let for the Regatta, luxuriously appointed HOUSE-BOAT, in one of the best positions on the Course. Rent for the week 100 guineas.—Apply X., 2,891, c/o this paper.

The advertisement caught the eye of Charles Dangerfield, who happened to be looking out for a house-boat for Henley that year; and he wrote to X. 2,891 inviting particulars.

Charles Dangerfield had recently come down from Oxford, after spending seven years at that seat of learning without taking a degree. He was a good-natured, manly, athletic young fellow, not over-burdened with brains, but having plenty of money, which he liked to spend in entertaining his friends, and it was his intention, if he could find a commodious house-boat available, to make up a pleasant little party, that year, for Henley Regatta. Hence his reason for answering the advertisement. In reply to his inquiries, the advertiser called in person on Dangerfield at his rooms in the Albany. The card which he sent in was inscribed, "Mr. Philip Kyd, 901, Earl's Court Mansions, W."

Mr. Kyd was a well-dressed man, of pleasant, gentlemanly manners, and distinguished appearance. His age might have been anything between forty and fifty, and he had that well-bred, easy, self-possession that invariably characterises the man of the world.

"You answered my advertisement in the *Morning Post* about my house-boat at Henley," he said. "I thought it would save trouble if I replied to your inquiries in person."

"Very kind of you, I'm sure. Pray take a seat, Mr. Kyd," said Dangerfield.

"You wish to know the boat's accommodation," observed the other, as he seated himself and took a cigarette from Dangerfield's proffered case. "It has six sleeping apartments, a large saloon, and is fitted with every possible convenience. All the furniture and decorations are by Waring, and quite new. I had the boat done up only last month for my own occupation. But, unfortunately, I am called away to Paris on business, which will preclude my return until after Henley, so I thought I might as well try to let the boat."

"Quite so," nodded Dangerfield, "and from your description, I should say that the rent you are asking is not at all exorbitant. But as to the position, now——"

"Within six hundred yards of the winning post," answered Mr. Kyd. "You would have excellent neighbours, too. The Duke of Pimlico's boat is on one side of you, and Sir Talboy Talboy's on the other. I may say that my boat was the property of Prince Sagarovski, from whom I purchased it in the spring."

"It all sounds very desirable," replied Dangerfield, "and I should think it would suit me exactly; but I should like to see the boat before deciding."

"Of course. That's only natural. You can do so whenever you please. To-morrow? The day after?"

"I am disengaged to-morrow. I can run down to Henley in the afternoon."

"Very well. I'll meet you there, or, better still, I'll meet you at Paddington and go down with you. What train shall you travel by?"

Dangerfield looked out a suitable train in the "A B C," by which he arranged to travel to Henley in Mr. Kyd's company.

The result of the expedition was entirely satisfactory, the *Andromeda* (which was the boat's name) proving, in every respect, equal to her owner's description. In truth, she was a large, roomy, luxuriously appointed craft, everything about her beautifully spick and span. Moreover, she was moored in as good a station as the most exacting could wish. Considering all these advantages, she was by no means dear at 100 guineas for the week, and Charles Dangerfield had little hesitation, after seeing her, in drawing Mr. Kyd a cheque for that sum, and so clinching the bargain.

He then proceeded to get together his party. As finally made up, it consisted of Mrs. and Miss Lambart (a girl on whom Dangerfield was sweet); Miss Mary Royden, his cousin; Captain the Hon. Townleigh Parkstone, of the Blues (interested in Miss Royden); Harry Fulker, an Oxford friend; and himself.

These six accounted for all the sleeping accommodation on the *Andromeda*. The servants engaged to wait on the party were billeted out in the town.

Dangerfield's guests arrived on the Saturday before the Regatta. Sunday and Monday, both gloriously fine days, were spent in agreeable boating excursions on the river. But when the party returned to the *Andromeda* on Monday evening, all in the highest spirits, their host found a very unpleasant experience awaiting him.

Two men, one a youngish fellow, whose dress and appearance denoted him a respectable auctioneer's clerk, or something in that line, the other an elderly individual shabbily attired and of unkempt appearance, were standing side by side on the deck of the *Andromeda*, as calmly as though the boat and all that was in it belonged to them.

"Who the deuce are those fellows?" exclaimed Dangerfield, indignantly. "They seem to be making jolly free with my property, don't they? I should think they

must have made a mistake and come to the wrong shop. But whoever they are, I'll send 'em about their business pretty sharp."

"What a shabby-looking wretch the one with the beard is!" ejaculated Miss Lambart. "He looks for all the world like an old clothes man."

"Seems to me," remarked Captain Townleigh Parkstone, who, in his younger days, had seen something of the seamy side of life, "that he's rather like the sort of Johnny whom they send round to serve a County Court summons on a fellow, don'cher-know. S'pose you're not expecting any little attention of that kind, Dangerfield? Eh! What?"

"Not I," replied his host, repudiating the suggestion with some warmth.

And just then the dinghy drew alongside the *Andromeda*.

The younger of the two strangers came forward, as the party disembarked, and, raising his hat, inquired civilly:

"Mr. Dangerfield?"

"Yes; I am Mr. Dangerfield," answered Charles, in curt tones. "Who the deuce are you? And what the deuce do you want? This unwarranted intrusion——"

"Pardon me, sir. Can I have a word with you alone?" interposed the other, regarding Dangerfield with a meaning glance.

"Very well. But I am engaged, and cannot spare you more than a few moments. What the devil is it?" demanded Charles, irritably, as he stepped aside with the intruder.

The other's answer fairly staggered him.

"We're sheriffs' officers, sir. We've been put in possession. Very sorry to inconvenience you, Mr. Dangerfield. But we have to execute our instructions."

"Sheriffs' officers?" gasped the horrified Dangerfield.

"Yes, sir. Judgment in the High Court against Mr. Philip Kyd for £450 odd at the suit of Wilding and Co., moneylenders. Mr. Kyd having failed to satisfy the judgment, the plaintiffs have issued execution, and our instructions are to seize the boat, sir. Very sorry, sir. It's extremely rough on you, I know, but we cannot help it."

"But I have rented the *Andromeda* for this week at 100 guineas, and paid Mr. Kyd in advance——"

"Then, if that's the case, it is very hard lines, sir. Mr. Kyd has let you in shamefully. He has come under our notice before, and, from what I can gather, is altogether a wrong 'un. We are informed by the plaintiffs that he has left the country."

"It's disgraceful; it's damnable!" cried poor Dangerfield, pale with dismay and indignation.

"I quite agree, sir. But, of course, we cannot help that. We have to carry out our instructions. Our orders are to tow the boat down to Windsor, in order that she may be put into an auction of houseboats, which is being held there next week. A steam launch will be here in the morning for that purpose. And I am afraid I must leave my man in possession for to-night. We have to get away by 10 a.m. to-morrow. I must caution you, therefore, to remove all your effects from the *Andromeda* before that hour."

"Good God! But I have the boat full of guests, whom I have invited for the week. It is simply impossible——"

"Very sorry, sir. But our instructions are imperative. The *Andromeda* will leave here at 10 a.m. prompt, to-morrow. If any of your property, or that of your guests, remains on board after that hour, it will remain at your own risk. I quite recognise how embarrassing your position is, sir. It is evident this fellow Kyd has taken a shameful advantage of you. At the same time, your only course (so far as I can see) is to make the best of a bad business, and clear out of the boat with the least possible delay."

"But if the auction at Windsor is not until next week, why need you remove the boat in such a hurry? Surely it would be in time if she were taken away on Saturday?" exclaimed Charles Dangerfield, who was almost beside himself with dismay.

"We have our instructions, sir, and we cannot go behind them. I sympathise with you in your unfortunate situation; I do, indeed. But, as sheriff's officers, we have to do our duty."

"Is there, then, no way out of the infernal *impasse?*" cried poor Dangerfield, with a despairing groan.

Fancy having to go and tell his guests that the *Andromeda* had been taken in execution by the sheriff; and that the agreeable little visit they had promised themselves must come to an abrupt termination! The thought of such a thing was intolerable.

"Is there no way out of it?" he repeated.

"Well, sir, there is a way out of it," answered the other. "That is, if you think it worth while to take this man Kyd's obligations on to your own shoulders. I mean, you can pay the execution out, of course——"

"Oh! I can pay you out, can I?" cried Dangerfield, grasping at the notion as a drowning man at a straw.

"Of course—assuming you think it good enough. We only have a claim on the boat to the extent of Wilding and Co.'s claim, with costs. If that claim is satisfied, why there's an end of it."

"How much is it altogether?" inquired Dangerfield, with eager, tremulous lips.

"Judgment, with costs, including costs of execution, £468 2s. 3d.," answered the other, referring to a long blue document that he took from his breast-pocket.

"And if I pay that, you and your man will withdraw at once?"

"Certainly."

"Then I'll write you a cheque for it now."

The other shook his head.

"We mayn't take cheques," he said. "If you want to pay us out, you must give us cash, sir."

"But I haven't the cash here, and I bank in London. Even if I go up for it in the morning, I couldn't be back here before noon. My cheque is as good as cash, I give you my word. Can't you make an exception for this once?" cried Dangerfield, imploringly.

"I should lose my berth if it were known that I had taken a cheque," was the other's reply.

"But look here. Why need it be known?" persisted the desperate Dangerfield. "If I give you an open cheque, you can cash it in London first thing to-morrow morning; and no one need be any the wiser. If you'll meet me to this extent, I'll make it worth your while. I'll——"

"Oh! I don't want anything of that sort, sir," replied the other, quickly. "I'm not in the habit of being bought off doing my duty, Mr. Dangerfield. If I take your cheque, it will be simply and solely because I am anxious to meet a gentleman placed in an unfortunate position through no fault of his own. I believe I can trust you, sir, and that your cheque will be duly honoured on presentation. Will you give me your word that it will?"

"Most emphatically. My balance at the bank is sufficient to meet a cheque for five times the amount," Dangerfield answered, eagerly.

"Very well, sir. Then, relying on that assurance, I will take your cheque."

The cheque for £468 2s. 3d. was duly drawn and handed to the sheriff's officer, who gave a receipt for the amount. Then—to Dangerfield's great thankfulness—he and his man took their departure.

In the meanwhile, during the above lengthy interview, there had been no small curiosity on the part of Dangerfield's guests as to what it all meant. Of course, they were too well-bred to ask any questions. But when the bailiffs had withdrawn, and all danger of a premature breaking up of the party was removed, their host volunteered to gratify the inquisitiveness with which he could see that all—but especially the ladies—were bursting.

Their expressions of indignation against Mr. Philip Kyd were loud and emphatic.

"He deserves to be put in prison," said Mrs. Lambart. "But how good of you, dear Mr. Dangerfield, to pay all that money rather than disappoint us of our Henley! I do call it downright sweet of you."

"Most sweet," murmured Miss Lambart.

"Charlie, you're a sportsman," added his cousin, Mary Royden.

"If I were you, Dangerfield, I'd jolly well stick to the boat until you see your oof back," said the more practical Captain Townleigh Parkstone. "I don't quite know what your legal position may be. But there's a useful old maxim that possession is nine points of the law. And I'd certainly freeze on to the *Andromeda* like grim death."

"Oh, as to that," replied Dangerfield, "I'll consult my solicitor when I return to town next week. In the meanwhile, I shall not trouble my head further about the business aspect of the situation, but shall devote my energies solely and entirely to the enjoyment of my present surroundings."

This philosophic resolution was greeted by his assembled guests with a murmur of applause.

Dangerfield was as good as his word. He surrendered himself to all the enjoyments of Henley—the chiefest of which was the perpetual society, under free and easy conditions, of Miss Lambart—for the remainder of that week, and never gave so much as another thought to his £468 2s. 3d.

But upon his return to London he took occasion to call upon his solicitor and lay the whole matter before him.

"I've left some of my servants in charge of the *Andromeda*," he said, at the conclusion of his statement. "Seems to me I may as well stick to this fellow Kyd's boat until I can get some satisfaction out of him. I wrote him a pretty warm letter to Earl's Court Mansions, but it came back this morning marked 'Gone away. No address.' I expect I shall have to sell the boat if I'm ever to see my money back. At least, I suppose I can do that, can't I?"

"I am afraid not," replied the solicitor. "That is to say, not until you have first brought an action against him and recovered judgment. But before taking that step, which will involve you in considerable expense, I had better make a few inquiries about the man, and see whether it is worth while. Pending these inquiries, however, I think you may safely take the risk of remaining in occupation of the *Andromeda*. Considering the circumstances, he will scarcely have the cheek to bring an action against you for detenue, and he probably would not get a verdict if he did. But leave the matter in my hands, and I'll do whatever I find best for the protection of your interests."

"Very well. I'll leave it so," answered Dangerfield. "It's not the loss of the money I mind. But I do hate being 'had.'"

"Quite so. It is horribly annoying," said the solicitor, in feeling tones. "However, I'll do what I can to obtain satisfaction for you."

Dangerfield heard no more of the matter for some little time; but, about a fortnight later, he had a letter from his solicitor asking him to call and see him, as he had important facts to communicate.

"Well, Mr. Dangerfield," said the lawyer, when Charles obeyed the summons. "I have made my inquiries and the result is as follows: In the first place, the *Andromeda* is not this man Kyd's boat, at all. He merely leased her from Prince Sagarovski, and has not paid a penny of rent for her to this day."

"You don't say so? Then, why the deuce did the sheriff seize the boat, if she was not Kyd's property?"

"I am coming to that. You told me, did you not, that the bailiffs were put in possession at the instance of Wilding and Co., moneylenders, who had recovered judgment for £450 odd against this fellow Kyd?"

"Yes. The sheriff's officer informed me of those particulars."

"Umph! Well, I cannot find 'Wilding and Co.' in the moneylenders' register. I have searched the records of the High Court in vain for any judgment against Philip Kyd, and the Sheriff of Berkshire informs me, upon inquiry, that no execution has been levied upon the *Andromeda*. These facts speak all too plainly for themselves. You have been the victim of a fraudulent hoax, Mr. Dangerfield."

"A hoax? But I saw the writ of execution. The sheriff's officer showed it to me."

"Ah! A bogus document, doubtless; just as the man who showed it you was a bogus bailiff. There can be no question about it. You have fallen among thieves, Mr. Dangerfield, and the whole thing has simply been an elaborate trick on the part of Mr. Philip Kyd and his confederates, to relieve you of coin of the realm to the tune of £468 2s. 3d."

ART NOTES.

THE public always takes special interest in the personality of those who minister to its amusement. And as a rule, it may be added, those who thus minister to its mirth are only too pleased to satisfy the curiosity that exists about their appearance and their social environment, their pastimes, and pursuits. They, in short, play-up with the greatest alacrity to the snap-shot interviewer, the puff-paragraphist, the club-gossip, the fashionable photographer, and all the other well-known aiders and abettors of publicity into whom the once single-handed "Jeames" of the pre-personal-journalistic period has developed. Mr. J. M. Barrie, however, is a notable exception to the rule in question. The author of "Little Mary" is as elusive as his own Puck-like fancies. I doubt if the interviewing fiend has ever crossed his threshold. The studio of the portrait-painter knows him not. He is the despair of the indefatigable ladies who "do" the social onlooking and personal tittle-tattling of the halfpenny Press. He is probably one of the few existing celebrities who has never been successfully stalked by Mr. Mortimer Menpes, and to whom Canon H. D. Rawnsley has never addressed one of his inevitable sonnets. More than ordinary interest therefore attaches to the fact that Mr. Barrie's portrait has been painted by his friend, Mr. William Nicholson, and that this admirable work is now being publicly exhibited at the Leicester Galleries in Leicester-square. For admirable the picture in question assuredly is. Painted on a small scale, and with no attempt at those bravura effects now so common in contemporary portraiture, the picture shows us the author of "The Little Minister" simply and unsensationally, as he is best known to his acquaintances. The interest naturally centres in the somewhat disproportionately large head with its dark hair as yet unsilvered, and in the refined and delicately cut features of a face as unlike that of the ordinary type of humourist as can be imagined. Mr. William Nicholson is to be much congratulated on what is an undoubted success.

The walls of the Gallery in Leicester-square, in which the portrait of Mr. Barrie is on view, are covered with examples of a type of humour which has nothing in common with the whimsical fantasy of the creator of Thrums. For it is a collection of the original drawings made for *Punch* by Mr. L. Raven Hill, by which Mr. Barrie's painted presentment is surrounded. There is nothing elusive, as I need scarcely say, about the humour of Mr. Raven Hill. It is of that thorough, direct, outright, down-straight description which he has taught us to expect from his pencil. And assuredly no signs of any falling off are discernible in this humourist's latest series of drawings. Now, Mr. Raven Hill, it is an open secret, is one of the few successful *Punch* artists who do not make London their home. He lives in the West Country, in the very midst of the yokels, whose humours he so faithfully illustrates, and doubtless his efforts owe to this fast much of the vigour and raciness which characterise them. And I think I must be right, too, in surmising that Mr. Raven Hill is himself a member of the Auxiliary Forces he so good-humouredly chaffs. His exceptional knowledge of the average provincial Volunteer's foibles and failings would seem to suggest that his studies are made from inside the training camp, and that he has himself been an actor in the scenes which make his Autumn-Manœuvre sketches so laughably true to nature. Be this as it may, however, the One-Man-Show, of which they form so considerable a part, is an exhibition that is as welcome amongst the hundred and one ordinary side shows of the Art Season

as a fresh breeze is that comes from an open window into a room heavy with mingled perfumes and a more or less mephitic atmosphere. A good laugh is, in itself, an excellent pick-me-up for the Londoner jaded by the social excesses of the season, and there is any number of good laughs to be obtained by paying a visit to Mr. L. Raven Hill's Show.

The proprietors of the Leicester Galleries believe in the charm of variety. Not long ago they were delighting us with Whistler etchings and the rather recondite art of Frederick Sandys. Then we had an *à propos* exhibition of poor Phil May's drawings, and a collection, only too small, of Mr. E. T. Reed's inimitable caricatures. Now, as I have said, they are giving us a feast of wholesome fun of Mr. Raven Hill's providing; and, by way of a serious balance, less we should laugh too much, are supplementing it by a Show of Water-colours, by Mr. W. Lee Hankey, R.I., which the artist calls collectively "Idylls of the Country." The apparent fault of these "Idylls" is their lack of any marked individuality. They are, to a considerable extent, reminiscent—reminding one now of Mr. Wilfrid Ball, and now of a sort of softened and sentimentalised Josef Israels; or rather, perhaps, of an anglicised Jules Breton. One, in fact, traces the effect of several well-known French masters in the brushwork. But, having made these reservations, I am glad to be able to add that Mr. Hankey has likewise been able to invest his drawings with a charm of their own. He has a good eye for colour, and finds much that is beautiful in the peasant life he idealises so prettily, though, as some will think, to an extent that tends to become excessive.

MUSIC.

PASSING OF THE RICHTER CONCERTS.

THE famous Richter concerts have at last ceased to exist in London, after a brilliant, though latterly more or less fluctuating, career of a quarter of a century. For nearly all that period Mr. Vert was their entrepreneur, but of late years the competition has been heavy, for many great conductors have visited us from France, America, and Germany, and British orchestral chiefs have developed qualities of their own. So when it was discovered that the charge for seats at the Richter performances was twice as high as at the Queen's Hall concerts, and much higher than the prices at the Philharmonic, or even at the Richter concerts at Manchester, the clientèle fell off, and Dr. Richter thought he would try another entrepreneur in the person of that energetic manager Mr. Schultz-Curtius. But Richter made the fatal mistake of insisting that the band engaged should be the Hallé Manchester orchestra. Such a scheme was bound to fail. Hallé himself had tried it in 1882 in opposition to Richter, but although Sir Charles looked upon a London season chiefly in the light of an advertisement, the losses were so heavy that it was abandoned. Last year Dr. Richter induced Mr. Schultz-Curtius to try it again, but with the same result. Mr. Curtius is even now willing enough to continue the Richter concerts if Dr. Richter will conduct a London orchestra, but the Doctor has not the time to come to the Metropolis for the necessary rehearsals, and he has declined. To bring a band from Manchester for each concert is too costly, and, moreover, London amateurs, who do not accept for gospel all that interested writers may say, soon discovered that the Manchester band was not the equal of the Queen's Hall, the Philharmonic, and other crack Metropolitan orchestras. So, although we may see him at an occasional concert, the connection of Dr. Richter with London music will henceforward be confined to the Opera. Indeed, at Covent Garden there is already a talk for next year of some "Ring" cycles, as well as of revivals of the "Flying Dutchman," "Fidelio," "Cornelius's "Barber of Bagdad," and other good things.

Dr. Richter has been said, by those who know not musical history, to have been the pioneer in this country of the "higher development" of symphony conducting. But the honour really belongs to Dr. von Bülow, who in the middle seventies not only gave us readings of Beethoven and Wagner, to say nothing of Berlioz and others, which startled and shocked the respectable mediocrities then wielding the bâton, but who did stout journalistic battle with his critics and with the old-fashioned conductors, whom he contemptuously referred to as "time-beaters." Bülow, however, was in advance of his time, and, moreover, as he was already a great pianist, the public refused to believe in a Jack-of-all-trades. Richter on the other hand, is a conductor and nothing else, for when he finally adopted the baton he burnt all his compositions, making with them, he said, "the sweetest cup of coffee I ever tasted." Moreover, in London, he came on the crest of the wave. The absolute failure as a conductor of Wagner at the Albert Hall Festival of 1877, and the pitiful spectacle of the great composer seated on a chair in the orchestra "on view," while his brilliant pupil took the bâton, drew all eyes to Richter. Two years later his visits to London became annual, and sometimes he gave two series of concerts a year. I am not going to enter into the vexed question as to who really was responsible for bringing him over for his first concert season in June, 1879. I have reason to say that the original idea was Carl Rosa's, although he took no part in the management. Indeed, there were several cooks to spoil the broth in the first season, during which a concert was given every night for a single week, and the only crowded house was the last, when Richter directed a performance of Beethoven's choral symphony (with Frantzen, now retired to Switzerland, as chorus-master), such as we had never heard before. Afterwards Mr. Vert took sole business control, and the Richter concerts were established. For many years people went to them on Monday nights, as on a musical pilgrimage, for much the same reason that they wended their way every Saturday afternoon during the winter to Sir August Manns's symphony concerts at the Crystal Palace. But curiously enough, although Richter desired to produce novelties, his special audiences showed that they had no taste for such things, and were never well satisfied when the programmes strayed far away from Beethoven and Wagner. Dr. Richter is now, beyond question, the greatest of living conductors. But in his younger days he was considered plodding rather than brilliant, and it was said that for a perfect performance the band ought to be laboriously prepared and rehearsed by him, but conducted at the concert itself by the fiery and emotional von Bülow.

On the production of Massenet's "Salomé," the most important of the season's novelties at Covent Garden, we shall doubtless hear a good deal concerning the iniquities of the Lord Chamberlain, who refused to license a caricature of St. John the Baptist, singing in prison a love duet with the damsel who danced before Herod, even as he or his predecessors had refused to pass Gounod's "Queen of Sheba" ("Irene"), Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Delila," Verdi's "Nino" ("Nabucco"), and other Biblical operas. But the Lord Chamberlain of the period really had less to do with the matter than the public. Massenet's opera, under its original title of "Hérodiade," was announced at Covent Garden in 1882, when Ernest Gye was manager, Edmund F. Davis was City organiser of the company, and Lord Lathom, the Lord Chamberlain, was Chairman of the Directors. But although the Biblical names and scenes had been changed, the public would have none of it. Strong protests from many quarters appeared in the daily papers, and the opera, in which Madame Albani was to have sung Salome, was quietly dropped.

The fault lay with the librettists, who, in wholly unnecessary fashion, dragged Biblical names and scenes into a conventional operatic story of love—good, bad, and illicit—of revenge, and finally of suicide. M. Milliet, one of the original librettists, has now wisely dropped

Herod and the Baptist, and has simply changed the locale from Palestine to Abyssinia, where at Axoum (which, by the way, did not become at all celebrated as the remote headquarters of the Christians till four centuries later) we find Moriame, the rather frolicsome King of Ethiopia, a little afraid of his second wife, Hesatoade, but greatly attracted by Salome, a girl of her court. Salome, in her turn, is infatuated with Jean, a semi-political revolutionist, who, however, will have nothing to say to her. Nor will Salome listen to the love-making of King Moriame, while Queen Hesatoade, who is a species of Ethiopean Conservative, is mortally offended by the outspokenness of Jean the Anarchist. Matters stand thus on the arrival of the Roman proconsul, for (I fear in defiance of history) the librettist has invented a Roman occupation of Ethiopia, where at that time reigned the descendants of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba. Queen Hesatoade easily persuades the Roman official to throw the firebrand into prison, where he is visited by Salome, chiefly to sing a love duet. After Jean has been put to death Salome seeks to kill her sweetheart's enemy, the queen; but on learning that her majesty is her long-lost mother, she prefers to commit suicide on her own account. Of all this there is not, of course, a single word in the Bible narrative.

As to the music, it may even to those who recollect "Le Roi de Lahore" be considered a product of Massenet's best period. It is true that the style may be a little out of date, for the opera was written in 1880, and it was brought out at Brussels in 1881, but after the libretto had been considerably altered, and some of the music had been transferred (a dance before the king was taken from the Temple scene, and the matter was re-arranged in order that the monarch's love for the dancer might not seem so sudden), it was produced in its present musical form at La Scala, Milan, in 1883, and was given for the first time in Paris at the Italiens, with Fidès-Defries, Tremelli, Jean and Edouard de Reszke, and Maurel in the cast, in January, 1884, a few days after the successful production of the same composer's "Manon" at the Opéra Comique. "Hérodiade" (or "Salome") only ran nine nights that year, for the reason, which to present-day audiences may seem extraordinary, that it was considered too Wagnerian; M. Massenet's treatment of representative themes then being in advance of Parisian tastes. The first performance at Covent Garden was on Tuesday postponed till Wednesday in order that the King and Queen might be present, but although I cannot of course indulge in anything but description until after the opera has been produced here, it is not too much to say that the orchestration shows fancy and exquisite finish, and moreover the music contains gems, such as the well-known concert air, "Il est doux, il est bon," in which Salome soliloquises upon the virtues of her beloved Jean, her duet with Jean, the military chorus, Salome's air, "Charme des jours passés," and her duet with the amorous Ethiopian king, the duet between the queen and the Chaldean, the scene in the temple of Azoum, with the lovely couplets of the temple youth (to be sung by young M. Dufriche), the love duet in prison, the "Aïda"-like dances in the final scene, and so forth. Dr. Saint-Saëns, when he first heard the opera twenty years ago, expressed himself as struck by its youthful freshness. To-day, I fancy we shall wish it shorter, and admire the lighter scenes, the delicious scraps of melody, and the refined, if essentially Gallic, instrumentation, more than the situations which aim at being dramatic. The two leading members of the cast are familiar with their parts, for Mme. Calvé has sung that of Salome in New York and M. Dalmorès that of Jean at Brussels.

The newest "prodigy," Florizel von Reuter, is by birth a citizen of the United States, with an American mother and a German father. He has played before the Sultan, before the Queen of Roumania ("Carmen Sylva" is said to be writing an operatic libretto for the youngster), and before Queen Alexandra, who graced the boy's début at Queen's Hall with her presence. As to the public, no doubt their enthusiastic applause was sincere, but it would be absurd to describe them as a critical, or even a well-informed audience. They were not even acquainted with Vieuxtemps' Concerto, and began applauding from time to time long before the first movement was over. There can, however, be no doubt that Reuter is a wonderful player. His style is, to a certain extent, feminine, for, although a lack of power may have been due to the fact that he plays a small-sized violin, yet the graces, the delicate finish, the sweet, pure tone, and the romanticism are scarcely qualities usually associated with a boy of twelve. As to his symphony in F sharp minor, if his seniors had touched up the orchestration (and very celebrated boys have accepted hints as to such details), it is just the sort of music which might be expected from a clever lad. The first two movements are best, while the slow movement and finale seem to have been lopped off before their time. As to his knowledge of the score, there could not be the smallest doubt, and the comical manner in which he persisted in giving the "entries" to the splendid orchestra which Dr. Cowen had collected was not at all the least interesting feature of the performance.

A Strad guaranteed by those eminent experts, Hill and Sons, and probably dating from 1728, was sold by auction last week, fetching £700, although the purchaser's name was not given. The record price of a Strad at Puttick and Simpson's is £826, and, as I have frequently stated, no violin of any sort has ever yet in this country at auction fetched anything like £1,000.

The concert season will practically end this week, although there are several charity and other performances to come. Indeed, the charitable concerts this year have seriously affected more legitimate entertainments. What, for example, could be done at an ordinary recital last Friday, in competition with the matinée at the "New" Theatre of the Foreign Press Association, at which, although Mesdames Calvé and Sarah Bernhardt could not appear, yet the cast included Réjane, Regnier, Mary Moore, and Dorziat, Sir Charles Wyndham, Beerbohm Tree, Plançon, Renaud, and Kubelik. Even some charity concerts have, however, come to grief, and at one of them last week I learn that after waiting nearly an hour somebody came on the platform and announced that as the audience was so small the concert would not take place. One of the most curious of last week's professional concerts was that given by Mme. Leblanc-Maeterlinck, the wife of the famous Belgian dramatist. This lady had Bechstein Hall completely darkened, and, clad in an evening robe of red, she sometimes stood on the platform, which was lighted from the side, sometimes reclining in a large chair, to sing French translations by her husband of various lieder by Schubert and Schumann, and more particularly four settings by M. Fabre of Maeterlinck's poems. The last were the most successful, although in these, as in others, Mme. Maeterlinck relied less upon her voice and style than upon the stage surroundings and her gestures. At the last of the Philharmonic Concerts M. Kubelik appeared, and gave a very fine rendering of Lalo's Spanish Symphony, the programme otherwise comprising the orchestral version made many years ago by the composer for this Society of the Scherzo from Mendelssohn's Octet in E Flat, and Mr. German's Rhapsody on March Themes, which had already been heard at the Norwich Festival and in London. The Philharmonic have, I believe, had a good season, and although no work of exceptional interest has been produced, the improvement which Dr. Cowen has effected in the orchestral performances has been very marked.

A pianoforte recital, attended by the Queen, has been given by Miss Johanne Stockmarr, a Danish pianist who was here about four years ago, and whose playing is remarkable, less, perhaps, for sensationalism than for fastidious taste. Miss Antonia Dolores (otherwise that artistic singer Antoinette Trebelli) attracted a large audience to her second recital, while concerts have also been given by Mlle. D'Argo, a soprano with a powerful voice; Mme. Alice Esty; Mr. Charles Williams's orchestra, which affords such pleasure to the poor at the

Passmore Edwards Settlements; Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, who introduced for the first time to London Mlle. Emma Holmstrand, a soprano with an extremely sympathetic voice; by Mr. and Mrs. Julian Clifford, Mr. Henry Boulderson, Mr. Joseph Holbrooke, Miss Marion Harrison, a promising child 'cellist; Mrs. Werner Laurie, who has a fine contralto voice, and is a singer of genuine artistic sympathy and intelligence; Madame Roger-Miclos, the eminent French pianist; and by young Von Vecsey, who on Saturday, in the presence of the Queen and a large audience, tried for the first time a concert with orchestra, in which, however, he seemed less at his ease than at his recitals. The best things, indeed, he did were two pieces by Bach played as encores. This week there are only about twenty concerts, a great falling-off on the figures of a fortnight ago.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Gleig has supplemented his "Life of the Duke of Wellington" by "Personal Reminiscences" (1) of the hero of Waterloo, whom he had the advantage of knowing more intimately than most of his Grace's *protégés*. The late Chaplain-General, however, is so far from being infected virulently with the Lues Boswelliana that he gives you in these "Personal Reminiscences" a picture of his hero, which can hardly be called winning. It confirms, too, my impression that a mere General—who is not also like Cæsar, Napoleon, etc., a statesman—may be intellectually rather a poor creature. How poor a creature the great Duke was as a statesman everyone knows; but his insight and far-sight even in his own special business, was almost incredibly limited. It was difficult—*e.g.*, to persuade him that any improvement of the "Brown Bess" of his day was possible, and he resisted as long as he could the substitution for it of the "Minie rifle." Indeed, he long resisted the substitution of the copper cap for the flint and steel! He would not hear of the special education of officers, while "the proposal to train masters and to open schools for the benefit of non-commissioned officers and men made him furious." When Mr. Gleig, with the consent of the Secretary of War, tried to ascertain by a round of inspections the degree of general intelligence amongst the men, the Duke interfered with a peremptory order forbidding any such investigation. Sir George Brown quoted to Mr. Gleig the Duke's prophecy of the result of education in the army. "By Jove! if ever there is a mutiny in the army—and in all probability we shall have one—you'll see that these new-fangled schoolmasters will be at the bottom of it." "The Duke," says Mr. Gleig, "was heart and soul an aristocrat. He earnestly desired that the people should be well and wisely governed, but he scouted the idea that wise and just rulers were to be found among the uneducated classes." Were these classes to be kept uneducated in order that the supply of wise and just rulers should come always from the aristocracy? So inveterate were the Duke's aristocratic prejudices that they occasionally caused him to forget that he was a gentleman. When he had occasion to find (unjust) fault with Major Todd, who was the son of the butler of one of the Royal dukes, he absolutely taunted him, in the presence of his fellow officers and of the Duc d'Angoulême, with his humble origin. The Duke was at dinner when he administered this wigging to the Major, who stood paralysed by the fury of the onslaught behind the Duke's chair, when his grace turned round to say savagely, "Are you going to take up your father's trade?" Next day the wretched Major committed suicide by riding, against all orders and remonstrances, into the enemy's lines. Mr. Gleig attributes the Duke's death to an odd cause. As long ago as 1825 the Duke had the drum of one ear unintentionally destroyed by an operation for the cure of partial deafness, and the destruction of the drum allowed the accumulated wax in that ear free access to the brain. "The wax pushed inward in the shape of a cone, and, hardened by time, impinged upon the brain. Had a surgeon taken immediate steps to remove the pressure, the convulsion would have ceased, and the Duke might have recovered. As it was, the remedies adopted served only to aggravate the malady by rendering the paroxysms more frequent and severe, and the Duke's strength was unequal to sustain a prolonged struggle with these convulsive fits." Even if Morocco were not very much to the fore at this moment, I should strongly advise you to read Mr. Dawson's singularly vivid "Things Seen in Morocco" (2). In an unduly modest estimate of his work Mr. Dawson disclaims for it any more serious or coherent character than that of a book of jottings and suggestions. "I cannot give you," he says, "Morocco, or I would. I cannot hope to make you feel the wonderful fascination of the land; but what I do hope I may have succeeded in doing is the presentation of suggestions." But he has most certainly and graphically and profoundly made you feel the wonderful fascination of the land. Then, besides these stereoscopic pictures of Morocco, you have such stirring stories as "Achmet's Charm," as interesting a tale of treasure-trove as Poe's "Golden Bug." The politician also will find here matter to his purpose though not, perhaps, to his liking, since Mr. Dawson italicises his opinion that "*Britain cannot afford to let France have a free hand in Morocco.*" Messrs. Chatto and Windus, in announcing a collected Library Edition of Mr. Swinburne's works in six volumes, are well within the truth in saying that volume I. of the series (3) "is preceded by a long and deeply interesting dedicatory introduction." In this introduction, dedicating gracefully and gratefully the edition to Mr. Watts-Dunton, Mr. Swinburne reviews his works with a rare detachment, and at the same time with a more competent criticism, at least, than that which he pillories here. Indeed, the critics seem to have been almost ideally wrong as to matters of fact, "dismissing with a smile as ideal or imaginary what was real and actual, and taking for obvious transcripts from memory what was utterly fantastic or dramatic." And as to matters of criticism, these experts, like the Kilkenny cats, annihilated each other. "I have been told by reviewers of note and position that a single one of my plays is worth all my lyric and otherwise undramatic achievements; and on equal or similar authority I have been told that, whatever I may be in any other field, as a dramatist, I am demonstrably nothing." As to criticism in general, Mr. Swinburne stands alone amongst all the poets that have ever breathed the breath of inspiration, in his gratitude to his enemies. "It is a subject to him of thankfulness that his friends and foes alike have been always the very men he would have chosen, had choice and foresight been allowed him, at the very outset of his career in life." Mr. Maarten Maarten's "Dorothea" (4) is a prig certainly, but a noble prig, whose repellent priggism, moreover—the creature of circumstances—was by circumstances eventually softened to a divine humility and sympathy. Dorothea's Puritan purity is thrown into relief by the bestial crew of Comus in which she is set as a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, while the distraction of the hero between Venus and Diana is dramatically described. The most natural thing of all in a novel, where Nature throughout is copied with uncompromising fidelity, is perhaps the humanising of the heroine through the death of the pastor's son, who had adored her in silence from childhood. Maarten Maartens seems to me to have surpassed himself in this fine novel. "Wolves" (5) is an old story retold and well told. It is taken from the novel by Elie Berthet, "The Wild

(1) "Personal Reminiscences of the First Duke of Wellington." With Sketches of Some of his Guests and Contemporaries. By the late George Robert Gleig, M.A., Chaplain-General to H.M. Forces, &c., &c. Edited by his daughter, Mary E. Gleig. (London: William Blackwood & Sons. 15s. net.)

(2) "Things Seen in Morocco." By A. J. Dawson. With Seventeen Illustrations. (London: Methuen & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

(3) "The Poems of Algernon Charles Swinburne." In Six Volumes. Volume I. Poems and Ballads. First Series. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(4) "Dorothea." A Story of the Pure in Heart. By Maarten Maartens. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

(5) "Wolves." An Old Story Retold. By Robert H. Sherrard. (London: Greening & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

Beast of Gevaudan," and some of its most thrilling scenes—which, indeed, are almost horrible in their realism—have to do with a maniac who fancied himself a wolf, and used to hunt for a real wolf its human prey. The heroine, as in the old fairy-tales, promised her hand to the slayer of this frightful monster, and as in those tales also, the hero earns and wins this coveted prize. He has the additional triumph of proving the falsehood of the villain's claim not only to the hand of the heroine and to the glory of slaying the monster, but also to the family property, and the curtain falls in good old fashion upon the death, in a duel, of the villain, and upon the marriage of the hero and heroine. The wolf, by the way, is an historical monster, which had really in its day devoured eighty-three persons, grievously mauled thirty, while defying for years the pursuit of many thousand hunters.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, every yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—This has been an exhausting season. Even pleasure-hunters declare it to be so, and close their eyes in languorous self-pity when they think of all they have done and of all they have still to do. And lovely June has slipped away, one of the loveliest on record, and so far the most beautiful bit of a beautiful year. It is an awful shame that the London season should be, apparently immutably, fixed for the time of year when country joys are at their best. Small wonder that Londoners prize the week-end sojourn in rural parts. If the King would change the season-period to October and November, there would then be no rush from town for week-ends. London is most enjoyable in those months, and dancing all night is not nearly so tiring as it is at this time of year. Paving-stones are a bad exchange for meadows full of wild flowers. Walking down Bond-street yesterday in the glaring heat, Bee quoted to me in a thrilling whisper:—

"I will arise and go now, for always, night and day,
I hear lake-water lapping with low sounds by the shore;
While I stand in the roadway or on the pavements gray
I hear it in the deep heart's core."

Lilian called to-day and told us about a lovely little trip she has just enjoyed in Staffordshire, where a new little railway has opened up a lovely country, the Dovedale of old Izaak Walton. She describes the scenery as grand and wild, one bit of it quite Californian in character, and all of it what the land agents call "well-timbered." So rude to the dear beautiful trees to talk of them as timber while they are still all a-growin' and a-blowin'. One might as well address a live sheep as mutton! The little railway is going to be a great favourite for tourists. The Manifold valley has so many beauties that it has been called the Switzerland of England. Very few people know it, on account of its inaccessibility, but this will no longer be an obstacle. The river is a rapid one, and now and then runs underground, emerging at its own sweet will and again brightening the landscape with its rushing silver. Geologists will be enchanted with Beeston Tor, a huge limestone rock, and artists will find fresh fields for fancy—so Lilian says. She is greatly in love with the Compleat Angler's classic haunts.

After the opera on Thursday, where we had heard Melba's marvellous trilling as Lucia and a bit of magnificent drama in Mme. de Nuovina's "Anita," we went on to a concert in aid of the Great Northern Central Hospital at Lady Dickson-Poynder's beautiful house in Chesterfield-gardens. The music-room has an excellent pitch for sound, and the walls and ceiling, in cream-colour with gold mouldings, find an effective contrast in the rich crimson of the long curtains that hide the windows. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were present with their daughters, and appeared to appreciate the excellent programme. It included songs by Mme. Cavalieri, Mr. Gervase Elwes, Mme. Maria Gay, and Mr. David Bispham, violin solo by Mr. Aldo Antonietti, and piano solo by Herr Rudolf Schwintzer. Mrs. Pat Campbell gave us two thrilling recitations to the music of Stanley Hawley.

Among the white-shouldered company—the audience was chiefly ladies—I noticed the Duchess of Portland, sitting between the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, Lady Granby and Lady Marjorie Manners, Mrs. Adair and Miss Muriel Wilson, and Mrs. W. H. Grenfell. The beautiful hostess wore a simply-made gown of black net, over white silk, with large, puffed sleeves.

It occurred to me that evening, when looking at a lovely face, that diamonds go better with grey eyes than with those of any other colour. There is a hint of grey in even the whitest diamonds, and this, soft and pale, gives the hard stones an affinity with grey eyes, especially when they are large and expressive.

Most of the girls and young married women at this concert wore their hair in the classic style, coiled upwards and backwards in a semi-spiral knot. In one or two cases a few flowers were caught in the circle of hair below the knot, and a poetic example showed a few snowdrops carelessly (carefully carelessly) entwined in pretty tresses.

Sir John Dickson-Poynder is Chairman of the Great Northern Central Hospital, which is badly in need of funds.

In Gordon Craig's studio, on the hottest, most stifling day of last week, I saw a picture of a beautiful tall tree, its branches all very high, above a tiny cottage, a little dwelling that seemed to be protected in its humility by the great tree in its pride. Our eyes are so tired of huge houses in London, of towering flats and enormous caravanserais, that there was something perfectly delightful in the sight of this little cottage. We wanted to take it at once, and furnish it with French beds, cottage tables and chairs, and dimity curtains. Imagination revelled in the cool green of the meadow, in which the cottage stood, and fancy heard the song of the thrush and the lark and nightingale in the clear, pure air.

But in reality the cottage would be most inconveniently small and terribly stuffy. The little windows could not possibly let in enough air at night for lungs accustomed to a full allowance. The chimneys would certainly smoke when there was a high wind, and the great tree would invite the lightning when a storm should come.

We gave up the idea of that cottage, but only to fall in love with another, with a flagged path, from door to gate, and flowers arrayed on either side, a goodly company, the little ones in front, the tall ones at the back, just the sort of cottage garden that an artist likes.

A house-agent told me the other day that he had more applications for country cottages with gardens than he could supply in a month of Sundays. Such is the growing love of Londoners for rural life. "They all want freeholds," he said. "The garden must have fruit trees and old yew hedges, and more than one of my clients stipulates that there must be a mulberry tree and a sun-dial."

I see that some one has written a little booklet published by Gay and Bird on "Week-End Cottages," and relates how he furnished one for £100. He bargains for simplicity, but elaboration would be scarcely procurable at the money. A friend of ours has

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furnished her cottage drawing-room with bits of Chippendale picked up here and there. The pieces are all small, and look perfectly at home in the pretty little room with its long, low window. The writer of the booklet says that the furnishing of a country cottage should be the work of an hour spent at some big shop. What a waste of opportunities! Half the joy of furnishing lies in measuring the nooks and corners and then routing about in shops in search of what will fit into them. Each successful purchase is felt to be an achievement.

I don't like gilt chairs or gilt-frame mirrors in a country cottage, and at one time thought elaborate carving out of place. But a bit of Italian oak in the shape of a dinner-waggon with the drawers richly carved in a scroll design looked so perfectly beautiful against a pale sage-green wall in a tiny cottage dining-room as to put to rout all preconceived ideas.

Furniture designers do not always draw the line between simplicity and severity. The latter characteristic is as much out of place in a cottage as elaboration. Don't you think so? I saw a sideboard not long ago which was being praised up as a model of simple design. It was all straight lines, and aggressively unornamental. It was simplicity without extenuating circumstances, and that is what I call severity.

Ella found a country cottage, and was enraptured with it for a short time. Then a reaction arrived. There were four doors in the dining-room, and wherever one sat there was a piercing draught, as none of the doors fitted into their frames. The wood had all coyly shrunk. In the bedrooms only half of the very small windows would open. This seems to be the rule in rural cottages, and County Councillors should see to it. Ella's staircase has no window, and she suspected it of harbouring germs. It very probably did, and does. Her thatch is most picturesque, but all her joy in it is gone since some one told her that it makes the rooms below it damp by retaining the moisture after rain. Ivy covers the walls, and looks lovely, but then it is the home of whole nations of earwigs and other creepy, crawly things which delight in excursions through the rooms. Ella saw a whole beanfeast of earwigs in her wicker chair one day, whereupon she threw it off her little balcony, and has never looked at the chair since.

Country joys have their alloys.

I can sympathise with pretty little Mollie's difficulty about the fancy-dress garden-party. Most of us have experienced the wish to be exceedingly well-dressed without spending much money. I think I can help her, though. Bring her to town and take her to the Imperial to study Miss Grace Lane's mob-cap. It is, in conjunction with her grey dress and white fichu, the most astoundingly becoming headgear I have ever seen. "Miss Elizabeth" would be a charming fancy dress, especially if Molly added the wonderful brown scoop hat lined with scarlet, and pelerine to match, that Miss Lane ties on without even a looking-glass. Mollie is not so pretty, of course, but I am sure she would look charming in that get-up. Do bring her to study it, and do not let her get too much interested in the play if you can help it. There's a darling brown horse in it that you will love; and do tell me what you think of Miss Lottie Venne's marvellous delivery of the question in two words "My attack?"

Before you furnish the three new rooms you have just built send for Gill and Reigate's little pamphlet on furnishing throughout. The booklet is a tiny one, but you will find the illustrations really helpful. They deal with not only the splendid collection of antique furniture to be found in the Oxford-street show rooms, but also with all branches of furnishing and decorating. The various periods are clearly shown—the Jacobean, Queen Anne, Georgian, etc.—and the French Louis XIV., XV., and XVI., Empire, and so on, besides acres of modern furniture, much of which is copied from old models. On p. 21 you will find a capital suggestion for the end of a conservatory, and the design for a billiard room on p. 24 is full of beauty.

If you yearn to be dressed by Paquin—and, since you are neither a nun nor a Senior Wrangler, I suppose you do—now is your chance. Beg, borrow, or steal all the money you can get, and come and invest it on glorious clothes at delicious prices. Listen to the description of a gown bought there on Monday. It is a very handsome cloth, in a rich champagney beige colour. The skirt is full all round, and rather long, though not excessively so. The cut and the hang of it are, of course, perfect. The bodice is full, and is drawn up in a way very becoming to the figure. The elbow sleeves are gathered just above the elbow, whence little frills of white, fine lace fall to the wrists, with loops of pale-green velvet here and there.

Among the other models is a pale blue glacé silk, embroidered in ruddy mauve and white beads, of all things! The effect is very good indeed, and not a bit like beads, while the colouring is beautiful. These glacé gowns, edged with heavy silk and tinsel embroidery, beads, or the heaviest Irish lace, are really dreams; and the reduced prices reigning just now also seem too good to be true. What would you think of a creamy cloth gown, the whole skirt (of which the cloth foundation is a handsome garment in itself) veiled with rich Alençon repoussé lace bound with the cloth? Or would you not like a pink chiffon gown trimmed with fine imitation of the loveliest Brussels lace? And I know you would succumb at once to *such* a dark-blue serge gown, trimmed with bosses of black silk braid! And blouses, and hats galore, of every fascinating kind! During August all materials in stock will be made up at reduced fees also. But with even that prospect do not lose this present chance, unless you are afraid of being exquisitely dressed for fear of your local ladies who think such things worldly. I know how folk think in quiet villages as a rule. But do not let them intimidate you. If you could see that blue serge!

The Correctors of the Press. Do you know what that means? They are the persons to whom the whole reading world owes a debt of thanks. They clear away the mistakes of authors (and printers), and make the printed page plain and accurate for the public eye. It is whispered that there are great authors whose grammar has occasionally to be queried in the margin of a proof by the careful professional "reader," and I have even heard that mistakes in spelling are not unknown. All these are corrected by the patient "readers," and we should cultivate a sense of obligation towards them. There is now an opportunity of showing that we entertain it and are duly grateful. The London Association of Correctors of the Press, which enables the proof-readers in London printing offices to make some provision for their old age, is to celebrate its jubilee on Saturday, the 16th, by a matinée performance in the Albert Hall Theatre. It will take place in the afternoon and will consist of a performance of "His Excellency the Governor" by the Albert Hall company of amateurs. It is an amusing play, and a good company. The matinée will be under distinguished patronage, and every one who dislikes seeing mistakes in a book or article should forward a subscription to the offices at 33, Chancery-lane. After all, reading is the greatest pleasure of the greatest number of persons in the world, and anything that tends to make it pleasanter should be distinctly encouraged. You agree with me, do you not? The entertainment will begin with a musical monologue by Miss Nellie Ganthony.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Those generally and variously known, to different classes of the community, as Society, the smart set, the best families, and so on, have a birthright of frivolity to which the majority adhere most faithfully. A select few, no doubt, cast off the birthright and break away from its traditions; the

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larger number, however, with apparent satisfaction and untiring zeal, "frivle" through life as a matter of course. Like the "multitude" of Lindley Murray's syntax example, "they eagerly pursue pleasure as their chief good." Whilst a moralist might have a good deal to say on the admissibility of pleasure as an absorbing object of pursuit, an ordinary mortal, with no mission for instructing a heedless world, may well wonder at some of the curious ways of conducting the pursuit. Only think of all the amusements of Society which centre round the horse. What a leading interest he is; one which never seems to pall or go out of fashion. Can you imagine Society without the horse in all his works and pomps? Would it not be to leave the part of Hamlet out of the play? Strangest thing of all, in what is supposed to be an age of progress, the interest in the horse is rapidly growing, instead of diminishing. How far Society has gone in this way since the time of that model of fashion in his day, Lord Chesterfield, who classes, in his instructions to his son, horse races with "sottish drinking" and "indiscriminate gluttony," as things to be avoided by a man of fashion! Imagine even a woman—or, for the matter of it, a young girl either—of fashion avoiding race meetings now. The mere idea of doing any such thing would be so impossibly dowdy, so quaintly absurd. And to think of "gaming, field sports, and such sort of amusements, where neither the understanding nor the senses have the least share," being looked upon "as frivolous" by the same noble authority. Times have indeed changed since then, in the world of fashion!

Last week an interesting and frivolous event in Dublin was the conferring of degrees by Trinity College, for the first time in its annals, on women. At the head of those who received honorary degrees was Miss Jane Barlow, whose Irish Idylls, sketches, and stories have had such a success, and are so true to life. For my part I look on Miss Lawless's "Hurrish" as more powerful and poetic than, whilst equally true to nature as, Miss Barlow's works. No doubt Miss Lawless will have her turn for receiving literary honours too. It is curious how Trinity College, from having been so much more backward than the English Universities in giving educational privileges to women, should suddenly have advanced beyond them, and thrown wide open the doors of learning, and placed their degrees within woman's reach. They are no doubt making a bid for the favour of our sex, in view of a possible critical time to come. When we women, however, get what we desire, we should not be so carping as to question too closely why it has at last come to us. Everything comes to those who wait; the pity is that the waiting is too long for some. Do not think that all this feminine progress is new. Like everything else under the sun, it has all been before. A learned antiquarian tells us that lady B.A.s, physicians, and even lawyers, existed more than a thousand years ago in Ireland. One wonders why women fell away from these things, and why they are only returning to them after so many centuries of renunciation. One wonders, too, if they had to struggle hard for their degrees and professions in the old days also. We have not as yet got back to "the great lady lawyer whose judgments were long quoted as precedents." History doubtless will repeat itself in her case as in the other cases. Women above all things ought to make good advocates. Our enthusiasm is undoubted, as a rule, in any cause which we take up. And how effectively a burst of tears might be introduced in an appeal to the jury. Only the jury should still be men. Lady Dudley shows a most active interest in the working women of her sex, in every branch of work. She may well be called a working woman herself, she takes the position of "Her Excellency" in Ireland so seriously and with such goodwill. The business of being the Viceroy's wife is serious enough, when heartily entered into. Each year seems to develop duties, "fresh woods and pastures new" for the work, which is amongst the most progressing of Irish industries. Whilst Lady Dudley's mind is busily engaged in her invaild days at the Viceregal Lodge, Lord Dudley has been touring in the North of Ireland, and as usual combining business with pleasure, visiting industries, inspecting schools, listening to tales of local grievances and of the suggested remedies, and so on. An unplanned part of the programme, a motor accident, which might have been very tragic, was an unpleasant incident in Donegal. However, the Viceregal party escaped serious injury, but Mrs. Ridley got some cuts on her face. Though Lord Dudley and the party continued their tour, the shock must have been great, unless the nerves of those who motor with daily,

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38th ANNUAL MEETING and FOUNDERS' DAY of the NATIONAL WAIFS' ASSOCIATION

(Dr. Barnardo's Homes.)

LORD BRASSEY will preside over the Meeting at 3.30 p.m., and will be supported by, among others, the Right Rev. the BISHOP of ST. ALBANS, D.D.; LADY JEUNE; Sir HENRY BEMROSE; HOWARD WILLIAMS, Esq.; Very Rev. the DEAN of NORWICH, D.D.; Hon. JOHN E. GORDON, M.P.; Rev. GEORGE HANSON, D.D.; T. A. DENNY, Esq.; WILLIAM McCALL, Esq.; HUGH CRAWFORD SMITH, Esq., M.P.; Rev. CANON FLEMING, B.D.; Sir ROBERT ANDERSON, K.C.B.; Rev. F. B. MEYER; WILLIAM FRY, Esq.; Colonel WELLESLEY ROBINSON, C.B.; THEODORE HOWARD, Esq.; and Colonel ED. DRU DRURY, and

H.R.H. PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG

has graciously promised to be present, and to RECEIVE PURSES; to Declare several New Buildings Open; and to Present PRIZES to the Older Girls now in Service.

The varied Engagements of the day will include

A SERVICE OF PRAISE IN THE CHILDREN'S CHURCH at 11.30 a.m.

EIGHT NEW COTTAGES will be opened: also A SANATORIUM FOR LITTLE CONSUMPTIVES.

TWENTY WORKSHOPS will be in full swing all day, operated by Trained Boys and Girls from the Homes. There will be MUSICAL DRILLS by Boys and Girls; and GYMNASTICS by Boys. A SPECIAL SQUAD OF LITTLE HANDY MEN will be present from the WATTS NAVAL TRAINING SCHOOL. Life-Saving from a Wreck by Rocket Apparatus. A party of 450 YOUNG EMIGRANTS TO SAIL FOR CANADA (D.V.) the following week will say FAREWELL There will also be CHORUS SINGING in the ORCHESTRA & ELOQUENT SHORT ADDRESSES by WELL-KNOWN SPEAKERS.

REFRESHMENTS.—An excellent Cold Meat Luncheon can be obtained (2s. 6d. and 1s. 6d.) on the grounds at any hour from 12 noon until 6 p.m. Tea (9d.) available all day long; also Ices and Mineral Waters.

Admission—ONE SHILLING. CHILDREN (under 12) SIXPENCE.

Cheap Return Railway Tickets from Liverpool-street or Fenchurch-street and intermediate stations to Barkingside, can be obtained beforehand from the Hon. Sec., 18, Stepney Causeway, E., at the following rates: 9d. third class; 1s. 1d. second class; 1s. 5d. first class.

The Great Eastern Railway Company will issue Return Tickets at Single Fares and a quarter, plus fractions of a penny, from all stations on their system to BARKINGSIDE (within a few yards of the village gates), to parties of not less than 10 adult third or second class, or 6 adult first-class passengers (2 children to count as 1 adult), on applications being made at least three days beforehand to the Superintendent of the line, Liverpool-street Station, London, E.C., stating (1) That application is in connection with Dr. Barnardo's Festival at Barkingside, Saturday, 16th July; (2) station from which tickets are required; (3) for which trains; (4) class of carriage; (5) probable number of party. (Minimum fine, 1s. for each adult.)

TRAINS VIA ILFORD.	LIVERPOOL STREET—Dep.	Spec 10.42	10.45 Spec.	11.48	12.41	1.28	1.43	2.18
	FENCHURCH STREET—Dep.	10.22	11.58	12.46	1.17	1.44	2.20	
	BARKINGSIDE—Arr.	11.15	11.26	12.34	1.23	2.2	2.21	2.58
TRAINS via WOODFORD.	LIVERPOOL STREET—Dep.	10.0	11.11	12.41	1.20	2.8	2.25	2.44
	FENCHURCH STREET—Dep.	9.51	10.55	12.28	1.0	2.0	2.12	2.20
	BARKINGSIDE—Arr.	11.6	12.18	1.34	2.20	3.7	3.20	3.34

Day and short date excursions to London will be run by the various Railway Companies from most of the Cities and Towns on their respective systems, including:—Accrington, Blackburn, Bath, Bristol, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Cardiff, Coventry, Cambridge, Derby, Dewsbury, Dudley, Doncaster, Grimsby, Gloucester, Harrogate, Huddersfield, Hull, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Newport (Mon.), Nottingham, Norwich, Peterboro', Preston, Rugby, Reading, Southend, Swansea, Scarboro', Sheffield, Stockport, Wolverhampton, Warwick, Wednesbury, York.

Full particulars of excursions from these and many other places may be had on application to the undersigned.

Head Offices of NATIONAL INCORPORATED WAIFS' ASSOCIATION, GEORGE CODE, Honorary Secretary.
(DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES),
18 to 26, Stepney-causeway, London, E.

untiring energy become like those of the war horse, accustomed to danger.

Lord and Lady Ashbourne had a large reception in their house in Merrion-square on Saturday, when Miss Frances Gibson was married to Mr. A. Porter. The available world of fashion was present, and a great array of the light and leading of bench and bar in Ireland. On the same day, it is recorded in many journals, the Lord Chancellor completed fifteen years of office as the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. The position is a very pleasant one, without even, as in Lord Ashbourne's case, the added dignity of being a Cabinet Minister as well. Lord Ashbourne's eldest daughter is married to Mr. A. Orde Powlett, Lord Bolton's only son.—Yours ever, CLARE.

While strawberries are at their best, try this bombe de fruits:—

Pick half a pound of ripe strawberries into a basin, sprinkle them with castor sugar and add a spoonful of liqueur. Cut three or four ripe bananas into slices with a silver knife, add them to the strawberries, and put them in a "bain marie," surrounded with ice and salt until required for use. Crush four ripe bananas and half a pound of strawberries in a basin with the juice of half a lemon, allow them to stand for an hour, then rub them through a hair sieve. Mix the purée with a gill of syrup and freeze it in the ice machine. Put the ice into a bombe mould with a tube cover, and embed it in ice and salt. When serving the bombe remove the tube cover, mix a little whipped cream with the frozen fruit, and with it fill the cavity in the bombe, putting the remainder of the fruit round it.

You will think this compôte of strawberries a delicious dish:—

Crush 1 lb. of ripe strawberries with 5 oz. of castor sugar in a basin, adding the juice of an orange; allow them to stand for an hour, then rub them through a hair sieve; mix the purée with half an ounce of dissolved gelatine and a few drops of cochineal, then set it in a border mould which has an indented top. Cut four ripe bananas into slices, slantways, dip them in a little thick syrup that is mixed with a spoonful of passed apricot jam, and arrange them on the top of the mould, when it is turned out. Pick half a pound of ripe strawberries into a basin with 2 oz. of pounded sugar and a tablespoonful of maraschino, then mix them with a gill of whipped cream and pile them in the centre of the dish.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

THE King is to return to Buckingham Palace to-morrow (Thursday) evening from Newmarket, and on Friday morning his Majesty will hold a Council before going to Sandown Park races. The King went to Sandringham on Saturday morning, and spent the day there. The next Council, after that of Friday, will be the one for the Speech at the prorogation of Parliament.

The King and Queen are to leave Buckingham Palace on Tuesday morning for Liverpool, where they will lunch with the Lord Mayor before driving to the site of the new cathedral. The service, which is to be conducted by the Archbishop of York and the Bishops of Chester and Liverpool, will last altogether for about forty minutes. The ceremonial is to be very much the same as was observed when the King (then Prince of Wales) laid the foundation stone of Truro Cathedral in May, 1880. After the service the King and Queen will drive to the landing-stage, where they are to embark on board the *Victoria and Albert*, which will then sail for Swansea.

On Wednesday morning the King and Queen will open the new dock at Swansea, and in the afternoon their Majesties are to visit Gower and Clyne Park. On Thursday morning the King and Queen will leave Swansea by special train for Rhayader, where the Birmingham Waterworks are to be opened by his Majesty, and there is to be a luncheon. In the evening the King and Queen will return from Rhayader to London, instead of proceeding from Swansea to Portsmouth in the Royal yacht as was originally proposed.

Their Majesties' visit to Liverpool is to be a State function, and the Royal servants, horses, and carriages which will go down are to be accommodated by Lord Derby at Knowsley Park.

The Liverpool Cathedral is to cost £240,000 and at present £150,000 of the sum which has been contributed will be available for building purposes. This outlay will produce the choir and transept, with accommodation for 3,500 persons. It is hoped to complete the work so far in the course of six or seven years, by which time property will have fallen in which will yield an annual income of about £5,000 for the endowment of the Cathedral staff. The Freemasons have undertaken to provide a chapter-house, which is to be a memorial of the late Lord Lathom. Considering that the existing churches in Liverpool are seldom more than half full on Sundays, it is not easy for practical people to apprehend the necessity for so great an expenditure. If the Cathedral is fairly full it is quite clear that the churches will be empty, unless there is a marvellous revival of "Church life" in Liverpool.

Under the heading of "Prospective Arrangements" in the *Times* of Saturday, it was announced that on the 27th "the King leaves England for Marienbad." From the 23rd until the 29th the King will be at Goodwood, and during the first few days of August his Majesty will be at Cowes, so that he will not leave England for Marienbad until August 10 or 11.

The King has sent orders to Cowes for his racing cutter *Britannia* to be at once fitted out, and she is to be ready for service by the 29th, on which day their Majesties are to arrive in the Solent on board the *Victoria and Albert*. An intimation has been received at Cowes that the German Emperor's yacht *Meteor* is coming over from Kiel for the Solent regattas, which begin on August 2.

The second State Ball was very splendid, very crowded, and desperately hot. Nearly 2,500 invitations had been issued by the Lord Chamberlain, and many of the guests were also bidden to the first ball. The Corps Diplomatique and people who are or who have been in

office are invited *ipso facto* to all State entertainments. The whole of the rooms on the garden side were thrown open, and the floral decorations were most beautiful, particularly on the staircases. The terrace and grounds were brilliantly illuminated. Dancing commenced with a *quadrille d'honneur* about eleven o'clock, shortly after the arrival of their Majesties' procession. The King and Queen retired to supper at midnight, followed by the Royal Family, the Ambassadors, and a few specially-invited guests. There was, as usual, a superb display of gold plate in the supper rooms, and a most sumptuous show of fruit from Frogmore.

Their Majesties' party at Goodwood House during the race week will probably include the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia, Prince Christian, Count Metternich, Count Albert Mensdorff, the Duke and Duchess of Portland, Lord and Lady Londonderry, M. de Soveral, Lord and Lady Derby, Lord Howe, Lord Rosebery, Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lord Dudley, Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley, Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Lord and Lady Farquhar, Sir Ernest Cassel, Mr. Henry Chaplin, Mr. Sassoon, and all the members of the Household-in-Waiting. The guests are to arrive on Monday, the 25th, and the party will separate on Friday, the 29th, after the races. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has lent Goodwood House to the King for the race week, and will himself entertain a small party at Molecomb, the family dower-house on the east side of Goodwood Park.

The Princess of Wales is going abroad for five or six weeks, either on Saturday, the 23rd, or on Monday, the 25th, so H.R.H. will not be at Goodwood during the race week. The Princess will probably pay a visit to her aunt, the Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz before going to Switzerland. The Prince of Wales will probably stay at Goodwood House with the King and Queen during the race week, instead of being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William James at West Dean Park, as was originally arranged. The Prince will accompany their Majesties from Goodwood to Cowes on the 29th.

The Prince of Wales is to be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon at Tulchan Lodge, Morayshire during the fourth week in August. H.R.H. will arrive at Tulchan on Monday, August 22, and he is to have several days' grouse shooting over the Tulchan and Advie moors, which are rented by Mr. Sassoon from Lady Seafield, along with a stretch of salmon-fishing on the Spey. This water was fished during many autumns by Mr. John Bright, who paid an annual visit to the late Mr. M. T. Bass, M.P. for Derby, the father of Lord Burton, who was then the tenant of Tulchan.

It had been rumoured in the North that the Prince of Wales would visit the Highland and Agricultural Society's Show at Perth, and that H.R.H. would be the guest of Lord Mansfield (the president of the Society for this year) at Scone Palace. The Prince of Wales, however, will not be able to go down to Scotland next week, but Lord Mansfield is to entertain a large house party at Scone during the show. The Prince of Wales (then Duke of York) visited the Highland Society's show at Aberdeen some years ago, when he was the guest of Lord and Lady Kintore at Keith Hall. The King (then Prince of Wales) attended the Centenary Show at Edinburgh, when he stayed at Dalkeith Palace with the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will have a full day to-morrow. H.R.H. is to leave Paddington at 10.10 by special train for Bristol, where she will be received at the station by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, the Bishop, Sir William and Lady Butler, and numerous local magnates. H.R.H. is to drive to the Mansion House at Clifton, where she will stay for an hour and a half, luncheon being served at one o'clock. At 2.15 the Princess is to drive to Clifton Station, whence she will proceed by special train to Portishead, arriving at three o'clock. H.R.H. is to lay the foundation-stone of the Nautical School, and she will present the prizes to the boys of the training-ship *Formidable*. Tea is to be served in a marquee, and at 5.30 the Princess will leave Portishead by special train for Paddington.

The Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and her daughter, Princess Beatrice, who have been staying in England since June 6, are leaving London this week on their return to Germany. The Duchess Marie will reside until the middle of September at Rosenau, her dower-house in the Thuringian Forest, whence she is to proceed to Tegern-See, in Bavaria, where she has a villa. The Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovitch and the Grand Duchess of Hesse, who were staying at Coburg during May with the Duchess Marie, have been on a visit during the last month to the Hereditary Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg at Schloss Armorbach, their seat in Bavaria. It is understood that the Emperor Nicholas has consented to the marriage of the Grand Duke Cyril and the Grand Duchess of Hesse, although they are first cousins. Such unions are forbidden in the Orthodox Church, but a dispensation can be obtained by paying for it, the price depending upon the position and means of the parties.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is absurdly wrong in stating that the Eastwell domain was "acquired" by the late Duke of Edinburgh, "when the last Finch who lived there had ceased to have any further use for the habitation." The Duke merely rented Eastwell for a term of years from the late Lord Win-

For SPECIAL FOR LADIES, see page 121.
For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 122.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 124.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 123.
For EDUCATIONAL, see page 123.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 133.

chilsea's trustees, and when he left the place was again let. The Duke's predecessor in the tenancy was the late Duke of Abercorn. Eastwell had not been inhabited by a member of the Finch family for nearly a quarter of a century when the Duke of Edinburgh took the place. After the death of the eleventh Earl of Winchilsea the estate, which was heavily mortgaged, was sold by the trustees to Lord Gerard, who had himself been anxious to sell the property for some time before his death.

Lord Dudley left Ireland last week for a short visit "across the water," Lady Dudley remaining with her children at the Viceregal Lodge. The weather was beautiful at the Viceregal Lodge, which occupies a central position in the Phœnix Park. The park lies just outside Dublin, and is in the summer time the resort of all sorts and conditions of men, who play polo and cricket, the wide-stretching acres affording ample space for all, with a good deal to spare. Motorists and cyclists abound, too, on the fine roads which run through the park. This extensive territory is ruled by that most powerful of Government offices in Ireland, the "Board of Works," over which even the Chief Secretary does not hold sway, to say nothing of the Under Secretary. The Lord-Lieutenant himself is helpless in the hands of the Board of Works, and many stories of Viceregal struggles, invariably futile, against the stern officials, are current at the Castle. In the first great Abercorn "reign" the Board persistently and firmly refused new curtains for the Viceregal drawing-rooms at the Lodge, without any consideration for the Lord Lieutenant's complexion or feelings.

The great Catholic ceremonial of consecrating the Cathedral of Armagh, to take place on July 24, will draw a large assemblage of those belonging to that creed to the historic northern town of Ireland. The event is an interesting one, especially with regard to late adverse comment on Catholic Church building in Ireland.

Sir William Rattigan was for many years a leading member of the English Bar in India, and he enjoyed a very large and highly lucrative practice. He was for some time Judge of the Punjab Chief Court and a member of the Supreme Legislative Council of India. He was most highly esteemed by the principal members of both the native and British communities, and he was a distinguished authority on all questions relating to Oriental literature and languages, or to the native customs and traditions of the people. Sir William was a man of cool temper and very genial manners, quite untainted by Party bitterness. He was a very useful Member of Parliament, and never spoke except upon Indian subjects, with which he was thoroughly acquainted. He was very popular on both sides of the House, and the delicate health which had kept him away from Parliamentary work during the greater part of the Session was much regretted.

Mr. Gilbert Beith, who died last week, was for many years one of the most active and influential leaders of the Liberal party at Glasgow, and he represented the Central Division of that city in the short-lived Parliament of 1885, but, being an enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule policy, he lost his seat at the general election of July, 1886. Mr. Beith sat for the Inverness Burghs from 1892 until 1895. He took a prominent part in the movement for improving the organisation of the Liberal party in Scotland, and was one of the founders of the Scottish Liberal Association. He was all his life a decided Radical, and he was specially conspicuous as a supporter of the claims of the Skye crofters and an advocate for the disestablishment and disendowment of the Scottish Kirk. He was himself a member of the Free Church. Mr. Beith was an Eastern export merchant at Glasgow and Manchester.

A correspondent writes:—

It is funny to read in one of your weekly contemporaries that "Mrs. Meynell-Ingram is evidently one of our rising hostesses." It seems to me that most of the "she writers" who discourse upon the entertainments of "Society" have only commenced their own social existence within a very few years, which fact accounts for the amazing blunders which they commit, and of which the passage quoted is a sample.

Mrs. Meynell-Ingram has been a leading hostess both in town and in country for a period of nearly forty years, but for some time past she has not been much in town, and has limited her "entertaining" to Temple Newsam, her seat in Yorkshire, where she has received visits from the King and Queen (then Prince and Princess of Wales) and other members of the Royal Family during the last thirty years.

"I see you advertise a remedy for sea-sickness and train-sickness called 'Yanatas,' writes another correspondent. "I suppose you wouldn't do this if you thought it was humbug. But I wish you would tell me whether you know anything about it, for I want to go to Norway, and am at present hesitating simply because my wife is such a wretched sailor." I beg to inform this gentleman that he is right in his surmise that I do not advertise anything which I know to be humbug; though, on the other hand, I do not profess to guarantee the accuracy of all the statements made by my advertisers. Nor does any other newspaper proprietor, so far as I am aware. *Caveat emptor*. In regard to Yanatas, however, as I have said before, I have tried it on my own vile body, with the best results; and I know many others who can say the same thing truthfully. One remedy will not cure everybody, but Yanatas has taken many a "wretched sailor" across the Channel in comfort, and I suppose the effect would last as far as Norway, if not New York. But if my friend decides to experiment on his wife to this extent I warn him to follow the instructions on the bottle religiously.

One of my readers complains that after corresponding with an hotel at Llandrindod Wells, where he had been ordered for a "cure," and engaging rooms for a certain date, he went down with his wife, only to find on his arrival that the hotel was full up and would be till the end of August. He was unable to obtain rooms in the place and had to come back to town by the next train. Considering that this means a journey of 400

miles for nothing, and that there was ample time to inform him that he could not have rooms, I certainly think that the unfortunate victim is justified in protesting. There are probably not many hotels in the Kingdom which would put a possible customer to such inconvenience, and it looks as though they were too prosperous just now at Llandrindod.

I have received a good many letters corroborating my personal experiences in coming up to London by the Great Central Railway, and more than confirming what I said in regard to the jolting of the carriages. Where this occurs is on the last forty miles before London is reached. Beyond this forty miles there is no jolting. This is not the fault of the Great Central, for this portion of the line does not belong to it, and it has only running powers over it. I am glad to hear that its own line into London will be open in about six months, when things will be different.

A correspondent, dating from Folkestone, sends me a complaint which, if somewhat crudely expressed, is so undeniably heartfelt that I am induced to publish it. If my memory serves me this is not the first time that the campanological excesses of the Folkestone Parish Church have been mentioned in these pages:—

THE BELLS OF FOLKESTONE.

By Their Latest Victim.

"In search of that rest, of that health-giving ease
With which we the stress of the season appease,
I hied me to Folkestone, there hoping to find
Contentment and quiet of body and mind.
Well, Truth, I arrived here just two days ago,
And I write to you now in the deepest of woe,
A victim to dire campanology's spells,
Distraught by the clanging and banging of bells!

"For my sins, near the old Parish Church have I sought
For surcease from the burden of trouble I wrought.
Near the Old Parish Church! Ah! you little can guess
What to me 'tis those five simple words now express,
For that church has a tower, and that tower, on my word,
Has a peal of the noisiest bells ever heard;
And these bells, I assure you, from morning till night
Are kept banging and clanging with main and with might!

"I know, Truth, you think in this matter with me,
And with muffling church bells are prepared to agree.
Once, perhaps, they were needed, but all must allow
That in towns they 're no longer necessities now.
Nay, in places we visit when searching for rest,
They may, with good cause, be considered a pest;
And if Folkestone is wise, it will strive to put down
The bells that are ringing folks out of the town!"

By way of corroborating my view that the title "Esquire" is utterly devoid of meaning, one of my readers mentions that in Singapore, where he has resided for eleven years, it is not only universally bestowed on every white man, but also upon the wealthier Chinese and Asiatics. "Ah Sin, Esq.," looks and sounds well. It will surely lend an additional attraction to life in a Rand mine or compound when the Celestial knows that the wealth he amasses out of his "average minimum" wage will entitle him to such a designation. He could not get a peacock's feather or a yellow jacket at home for anything like the price.

The annual return of Civil List pensions that have been granted during the year to the amount of £1,200 is always melancholy reading. As a rule the sums granted are miserably small, and the list nearly always contains names which have no claim to be included in it. This year, for example, a lady gets £100 a year "in recognition of the services of her late husband in connection with the disembarkation of troops during the Crimean war." The lady is well entitled to her pension, but it ought not, most assuredly, to come out of the pitifully inadequate sum that is set aside for literary men, artists, and scientists, or their near relatives.

I happened a week or two ago to find myself at Stratford-on-Avon, and I inquired into the present position of things in the war between Miss Marie Corelli and her opponents in respect to the surroundings of Shakespeare's birthplace. She seems, as I make it out, likely to come off victorious. The question at issue is whether two houses adjoining the birthplace shall be pulled down. These houses formerly belonged to a grand-daughter of Shakespeare. Between them and the birthplace a custodian's house has been erected, and on the other side of the houses the Carnegie Library has been built. The houses were presented by Mr. Carnegie to the Trust established by the Shakespeare's Birthplace and Trust Act of 1891. On May 5 of this year the Report of the Executive Committee of the Trust was issued, signed by the chairman, Mr. Sidney Lee. The report recommends that the houses should not be pulled down. When, however, the report came before the full body of the trustees this was opposed, and it was decided that a decision should be deferred until a meeting to be held next October. That the recommendation of the Executive Committee will then be adopted can hardly be doubted, for the opposition seems to be confined to a few local nonentities, who do not like Miss Marie Corelli or any one else to interfere with them. But as the Executive Committee of the Trust itself sides with the lady, it would be a public scandal were these nonentities to have their own way in a course which seems to be gratuitous vandalism.

So far as I can understand it, the theatre and the museum close by the parish church constitute a

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separate trust. The theatre is a singularly ugly building, and the Shakespearean performances periodically held there are not of the highest class. If a theatre was to be built, it ought to have been a replica of Shakspeare's own theatre in the Borough, and the plays should be enacted in it precisely as they were under his management. The museum contains a good deal of utter rubbish. I believe, however, that there are a large number of historical records of Shakespeare and his time that have never been examined, and I would suggest that the Historical Record Commission should look them over, and, if valuable, publish them.

There has been much comment at Oxford upon the significant fact that no candidate has entered for the Chancellor's English Essay, a prize founded in 1768, for which there has usually been a large number of competitors. Prizes of this description have become obsolete since Schools work has engrossed the attention of undergraduates, while junior graduates prefer to devote themselves to some object likely to prove more permanently profitable. There has been a grievous deterioration in the art of English composition at Oxford, and neither the essays of undergraduates nor the publications of graduates are now marked by careful writing, finished style, or pure and grammatical English.

The Bishop of Stepney "sailed on Saturday for Capetown." So I read in a weekly contemporary, which has not verified its facts. Bishop Lang had intended leaving England for South Africa on the 2nd, but his doctors have forbidden the trip, and have ordered him to Nauheim for a course of treatment, and he is to take a three months' holiday. The Bishop is suffering from overwork, and unless he has complete rest at once for an adequate period the consequences may be most serious. Bishop Lang, who is the son of a distinguished minister of the Scottish Kirk, commenced his clerical career as curate of Leeds Parish Church, under the present Bishop of Rochester, and he was successively Vicar of the historic parish of St. Mary's, Oxford, and of Portsea (where he succeeded the Bishop of St. Albans), until he became Suffragan for the Diocese of London and Canon of St. Paul's about three years ago.

The Bishop of Newcastle has appointed Canon Hodgson, Vicar of Berwick-upon-Tweed, to the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne, vacant by the death of Archdeacon Martin, rector of Eglingham. Archdeacon Hodgson, who took high honours at Oxford, was for seven years senior student of Christ Church, and he has been Vicar of Berwick since 1897, having been previously Vicar of Thornbury for eleven years.

The idea of erecting "public" monuments or memorials in the form of churches or church decorations has hitherto been confined, so far as I know, to the Anglican community; but a reverend gentleman named Hall, of Port Elizabeth, has applied it to the requirements of the Baptists with an astuteness which leaves nothing to be desired. From an animated correspondence that has been going on in the local press, it appears that Mr. Hall's chapel at Port Elizabeth would be the better for extension and beautification—a common state of things. Adjoining it is a piece of freehold land belonging to the community. Simultaneously with the need of improving the chapel, it occurred to Mr. Hall that there was an equally urgent need of a memorial to the settlers who first colonised this corner of the Empire in the year 1820.

From this the happy thought evolved itself of combining the two beneficent schemes into one harmonious whole, covered by a single public subscription list. On the vacant site beside the chapel should be built a tower, containing a peal of bells, which should be rung annually on the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers of Port Elizabeth, and also on the coronation day of the reigning Sovereign of Great Britain and Ireland. The Baptists would give this site free of charge. The enlargement and beautification of the chapel should be carried out at the same time. The total cost would be £6,500—£4,000 for the tower, and £2,500 for the church. The Baptists would subscribe £1,500 of this, and the public would find the rest, without inquiring too nicely whether their individual contributions went to the tower or the chapel.

It will surprise no one familiar with the darker side of human nature to learn that small-minded critics have arisen to pick holes in this beautiful scheme. They say point-blank that Mr. Hall is exploiting the Pilgrim Fathers of the Colony with a view to enlarging and beautifying his church by means of a patriotic public subscription. Mr. Hall says this is a libel, and points out that the Baptists have given the land, that the tower is to be vested in a public trust, and that the bells are to be rung on Settlers' Day and Coronation Day, as though this were conclusive evidence that the whole movement is essentially of a public and undenominational nature. As an unbiassed spectator, I hardly find the worthy pastor's reasoning conclusive. And it seems to me that Lord Milner and other local dignitaries who have bestowed their patronage on the movement must be rather easily convinced.

Lord Milner has given the scheme more than his patronage. A feature in Mr. Hall's movement is that "illuminated artistic certificates" recording the sums contributed are to be given to subscribers; and the prospectus states that "we have the honour to announce that certificates for £50 and upwards will bear the personal signature of Lord Milner." This announcement reads very like an offer of his lordship's valued autograph for sale at this price. Far be it from me to suggest that it is not worth the money; but at the same time the promoters also proclaim that "no bazaars,

theatricals, or lotteries will be used to raise funds, but, as more harmonious with the exalted sentiments which permeate the whole project, the PRINCIPLE OF DIRECT GIVING is relied upon;" and it seems a little difficult to understand how the sale of Lord Milner's autograph at £50 is to be reconciled with this fine principle, however consonant it may be with the exalted sentiments which permeate the whole project. I hear that the subscription list will shortly be in circulation in England, if it has not already made its appearance, and it seems desirable, therefore, that its general bearings should be made plain, which the wording of the appeal itself certainly does not do.

A brother editor sends me a letter addressed to him in his editorial capacity by a Mrs. Baynes, of 69, Haverstock Hill. It is written apropos of a recent discussion on the project for the taxation of cats; but its real object is to make an appeal for cash on behalf of the "noble work" of the "London Institution for Lost Cats," otherwise Mrs. Morgan's Cats' Home at Camden Town. I do not know who Mrs. Baynes may be, but if she knows anything of the said "Institution," she must be aware of the criticism which it has incurred and which remains unanswered. Assuming that she has nothing more than a sentimental interest in the concern, she would employ her energies with far more benefit to the feline race by getting the management placed on a respectable footing, and prevailing on Mrs. Morgan to publish her last accounts, than in inducing foolish people to subscribe to it while it stands on its present footing.

For a long time past I have received inquiries from readers in Lancashire and Cheshire respecting the White Rock Home for Orphan and Destitute Children, carried on by Mrs. Morris, Acre House, Everton Brow, Liverpool. Owing to the many calls on my attention nearer home, it is a difficult matter to undertake inquiries so far off as Liverpool, and hitherto I have been unable to give any definite answer to these inquiries. But I have recently come into possession of Mrs. Morris's annual report for the year ending December 31, 1902, apparently the last report issued up to the present time, and it has the merit which every such report ought to possess of enabling a pretty accurate judgment to be formed upon the nature of the charity. To begin with, Mrs. Morris appears to be in sole charge of the institution and of the finances. The report contains the names of a "Committee of Reference," whatever that may mean; but there is no committee of management, no treasurer, no auditor, and apparently no one in any way concerned with the management, except Mrs. Morris herself. This state of things alone should be sufficient to deter any prudent person from supporting the institution.

Another significant point is that out of the £552 expended during the year, £201 12s. went in salaries and travelling expenses of collectors. That is to say, out of every 2s. 6d. which Mrs. Morris received, only 1s. 6d. went to the benefit of the children. The reason for this outrageous expenditure on collecting expenses is evident from the subscription list. This comprises no less than fifty-seven pages, or 104 columns, the bulk of the money collected being in sums of one or two shillings. The columns, in fact, are only ruled for shillings and pence, and I cannot find a single subscription above 10s. Some of these amounts appear in the names of business firms, and such addresses as are given are in all parts of the country. For instance, Sir Thomas Lipton is down for 10s., Messrs. Ind, Coope, and Co. for 5s., and there are other subscribers of similar amounts as far north as Dundee, as far south as Birmingham and Nottingham, and as far west as Dublin and Belfast.

It is quite clear from all this that Mrs. Morris's home is one of those "one man" or "one woman" charities which ought not to be encouraged. It is quite wrong in principle that anybody collecting this amount of money every year should assume the administration of it without a treasurer, without issuing independently audited accounts, and without any responsible committee, whose names would afford some guarantee to the public that the thing is honestly and efficiently conducted. It is equally wrong that collectors should go about scouring the principal towns in England, Scotland, and Ireland to pick up shillings for the support of such an institution, pocketing out of every 5s. collected 2s. for their own salaries and expenses. People are extremely foolish to give their money to collectors who go about in this way on behalf of obscure local institutions. And the results have shown this so frequently that it is surprising that the business can still be carried on so successfully.

The income and expenditure account for the year in question is signed "Marion Morris." It shows that during the year Mrs. Morris received £552 0s. 5d., and that she expended £552 0s. 5d. That the expenditure for the year should correspond to a penny with the income is in itself a curious circumstance, and becomes more curious in view of the fact that the same thing must have occurred the previous year, for the account shows not one penny of cash nor one penny of debt brought forward. Nobody with any knowledge of book-keeping and accounts could view without suspicion an account in which income and expenditure balance themselves in this way, and it is almost incredible that for two years in succession Mrs. Morris cannot have had a single penny in hand at the end of the year to the credit of the charity.

I was agreeably surprised the other day by the receipt of a letter from Mr. G. W. Linnecar, whose name has so often been mentioned in TRUTH in connection with the so-called "Mansion House Mission" in Camberwell, over which he presides. The letter is dated from 221,

Brixton-road, and headed with the words: "Motto for 1904, 'Learn of Me,'" the appropriateness of which under the circumstances seems open to question. It begins thus:—

> Dear Friend,—For the past twenty-three years I have been engaged in work at the above mission. I am writing to ask if you will send a small donation. The work continues, and we believe is under the Divine smile. Salvation has come to many, and homes have been made bright and happy, but our people are very poor and needy, etc., etc.

It is very gratifying to me to know that Linnecar regards me as a "dear friend." Although I have been under the painful necessity of expressing the opinion that he is an unprincipled old humbug, I have no unfriendly sentiments against him personally, and it takes a weight off my mind to know that after what I have said we can still remain "dear friends." It would be altogether inconsistent, however, with what I have said about the mission in Truth, if I were now to express my friendship by sending Linnecar a small donation. Indeed, it would be an unfriendly act, for it might easily be the means of getting Linnecar into trouble. I say this because his letter implies that my small donation, if sent, will be devoted to the benefit of his people who are poor and needy; whereas it is abundantly clear from the financial records of the mission that the poor and needy person who chiefly benefits by the subscriptions is Linnecar himself. He is no true friend who would expose another to the possibility of a charge of obtaining money on false pretences, and that is what everybody does who responds to Mr. Linnecar's appeals.

> Dear Truth,—The enclosed was presented at my house by an elderly, stout, well-dressed lady, with a request for "one penny," which my wife gave. I presume the affair is genuine, though there are so many frauds going about that I have thought it desirable to send the leaflet on to you.

It is a great pity to presume that any such affair is genuine when there are so many frauds going about. This particular affair is "The London Samaritan Fresh-Air Fund"; and at the bottom of the leaflet are the magic names, "Treasurer, E. Lloyd Morton; secretary, E. Pass"; and the address of the "office," 40 (late 5), Newington-crescent, Kennington Park-road, S.E. I have no difficulty in identifying the "elderly, stout, well-dressed lady" with the buxom treasurer of this Samaritan Sisterhood, from whom I had so entertaining a visit some three years ago. I suppose that the worthy pair find it pay in the long run to limit their requests to pennies; and people are as much to blame for giving pennies to such beggars without inquiring into their character as for giving sovereigns. It was only a couple of months ago that an ex-collector of Mesdames Morton and Pass was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for starting on her own account a "fresh-air fund" on much the same lines as the Pass-cum-Morton enterprise; and it is not easy to understand why the police take no cognisance of the proceedings of these two benevolent females.

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

Princess Henry of Battenberg is to attend the annual meeting of the National Waifs Association ("Dr. Barnardo's Homes"), which will be held on Saturday next at the Girls' Village Homes, near Ilford, and she will open several new buildings, receive purses of subscriptions, and present prizes to girls who have passed out of the homes. Lord Brassey will preside at the annual meeting, and the Bishop of St. Albans, the Dean of Norwich, and others will take part in the proceedings.

For some time past the Apprenticeship Committee of the Women's University Settlement, Southwark, has carried on a useful work by apprenticing poor boys and girls to skilled trades for which their abilities naturally fit them, but which they would be unable to enter without such assistance. Careful inquiries are made into the circumstances of the parents and the likelihood of the children succeeding, and the results of the system so far have been very encouraging. To ensure its continuance unchecked, however, it is necessary that a fund of about £1,000 should be raised, and I am asked to call attention to the appeal for subscriptions which is being made by Miss Helen Gladstone, Warden of the Settlement, and Mr. H. V. Toynbee, Chairman of the Committee. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss M. K. Bradby, 45, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road, S.E.

I have been asked to call attention to the *General Slocum* Relief Fund that has been organised in London and Paris by the *American Register*. In addition to the other horrors of the *General Slocum* disaster, many families have been plunged into destitution by the loss of their breadwinners, and this fund offers at once an opportunity of helping them and giving a practical turn to the *entente cordiale* between the United Kingdom and the United States. Subscription lists are open at all the principal hotels, but those who do not come across them may send their subscriptions direct to the Hon. Secretary, at the *American Register* office, 32, Piccadilly, or purchase from him tickets for the performance in aid of the Relief Fund which is shortly to be given at one of the London theatres.

I am also asked to mention an appeal that the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty is making for subscriptions for the purchase of an estate on Ullswater, comprising the famous Aira Force and Gowbarrow Fell. It is urged that what is universally admired as one of the most exquisite bits of scenery in the Lake District ought if possible to be secured as a national possession. Any one interested in the project can obtain further particulars from the Secretary to the Trust, 25, Victoria-street, S.W.

The following amounts have been received by me for Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor London Children: Eileen, Bowes, and Denise, £25; P. M., £5; M., £2 2s.; O. G., £2.

"A Sepoy Officer in India" sends me the following letter. The practice referred to was the subject of some discussion in TRUTH a few years ago, when it was condemned as strongly as it is by my present correspondent, and it is surprising that nothing has been done in the meantime to stop it. Now that the Indian Army has a Commander-in-Chief of a practical and businesslike turn of mind, perhaps this further reference to the matter may have some effect:—

For many years past it has been the custom in nearly every regiment I have come across to hammer the butts of the rifles on the ground when ordering arms. I have even known regiments taught to tap the butts of their rifles before sloping arms from the "order." The idea is that it is smart. There is, of course, nothing smart in it; but it is noisy and senseless, and it undoubtedly damages our rifles, on the accuracy of which so much depends, and which cost the State a good deal of money. As a matter of fact, the practice is contrary to regulations. The drill books say that the rifle must be brought down from the slope to the order and placed on the ground without noise, but this instruction seems to be a dead-letter in most regiments. I may add that to my knowledge Ordnance officers object to the practice, though they do not seem to have protested against it.

I had a letter the other day from an Army schoolmaster who thinks he ought to have more pay. I am disposed to sympathise with him, if only because I have precisely the same feeling in regard to myself. Without, however, going into the merits of my own case, I certainly think that the Army schoolmaster's is a strong one, more especially in view of the fact that he is serving in South Africa. He is a man of a certain amount of education, in charge of schools for children and adults, with an attendance of upwards of two hundred. He is engaged in the children's school for nearly five hours daily, and after that he has the adults for two periods of one hour and a quarter. This makes up about seven and a half hours' work in school, in addition to another hour or so for correcting written exercises.

Now, what does this man get? Four and sixpence a day, or £1 11s. 6d. per week, a mere workman's wage, though, of course, he has certain allowances. It is only necessary to compare this pay with that of elementary schoolmasters in England to see that the man is grossly underpaid as well as a good deal overworked. But, as I have said, this particular complaint comes from South Africa, where notoriously the cost of living is pretty nearly double what it is in this country, and where all wages and salaries are proportionately above the rates ruling at home. Looking at all these facts, it seems to me that an Army schoolmaster in South Africa would be justified in going on strike; and I really think that the War Office and the Treasury between them ought to do something towards raising the pay of this branch of the Service all round.

A man who took his discharge from the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa, and is now settled in that country, asks me for information as to when war medals are likely to be issued to men in his position. If I had the information I should cheerfully place it at my correspondent's disposal, but the time when the distribution of war medals will be completed is one of the few official secrets which have been effectually kept secret. My correspondent states that there are a number of men in his position unable to obtain their medals, although their comrades who returned to England with the regiment received them a year or two ago. My impression is that we shall sooner or later have to have a Royal Commission on this question of the distribution of war medals.

It is precisely laid down in paragraph 772A of the Royal Warrant for Pay that no man is to draw specialist pay in the Artillery unless he is actually present and doing duty in the district establishment to which he is attached. This seems a very proper proviso, but, like many others of the same character, it is not always observed. If the War Office should want evidence of this fact I can give them the case of a bombardier on a district establishment who is drawing the extra pay of a position-finding specialist while he is merely employed as a clerk, and has not been on parade for a couple of years at least. I do not wish, however, to gibbet any particular case, because it seems to me that proper measures ought to be taken to prevent all abuses of this kind, for it is a scandal that N.C.O.s should be put on extra pay, which is supposed to be given for special duties, while they are doing no work which could not be performed by a recruit of average intelligence.

Judging from the complaints that reach me on the subject, as soon as a battalion gets on to some remote colonial station advantage is taken of the fact to discontinue the publication of canteen accounts. It generally seems to happen at the same time that grants for canteen funds fall off, though prices show no corresponding tendency. The latest example of this state of things comes from Jamaica. As I have often remarked, it is a great pity that commanding officers do not look more closely after the publication of canteen accounts, for in such cases the men generally jump to the conclusion that they are being robbed, and no one can be surprised if they do so.

By the way, I also hear that men of the 4th Worcestershire Regiment—the battalion just referred to—have been employed for some time at navvies' work, doing road-making, under the superintendence of the Royal Engineers, but getting no working pay for it. Apart from any question as to the desirability of putting soldiers to such work, they certainly ought to receive extra pay for it, especially in such a case as this, where they are working side by side with the Engineers, who *do* receive working pay for the same job.

A correspondent at Hong-Kong calls attention to what seems to be an expensive irregularity in the Hong-Kong and Singapore battalion R.G.A.—a native battalion. Some months ago, authority was obtained from the War Office for the appointment of an acting battalion sergeant-major. On the strength of this a corporal, serving as battalion clerk, appears to have been nominally appointed to this post, and has been ever since drawing 6d. a day as extra duty pay; but he remains a clerk, and

never attends a parade. I am given to understand that the appointment of an acting sergeant-major in this battalion is altogether unnecessary, there being few or any duties for him to perform. The above facts appear to bear this out, and it is surprising that the appointment should have been approved at Headquarters; but it can hardly have been contemplated even there that the 6d. a day should be used as a little extra perquisite for the battalion clerk.

When certain articles of kit are issued to a man it seems altogether wrong that his officers should require him to show at kit-inspections articles in excess of the quantity issued. This observation applies to all branches of the Service, but the particular case which I have in mind is that of certain Marines on the China station. A Marine receives two suits of white clothing when he leaves on foreign service, but in this instance—which occurs on H.M.S. *Britomart*—the men have to produce *six* suits of white clothing at kit inspection. That is to say, every man is expected to provide himself, at his own expense, with four suits of clothing which is supposed to be supplied to him free. It seems to me that the proper way to deal with a case like this would be to make the officer who has ordered the clothing on his own responsibility pay the bill for it, and I respectfully suggest this course to the Admiralty.

The Paddington District Post-office is anything but a comfortable one to work in, judging from the growls that have reached me during the past month or two. Since the present postmaster took over the office he sems to have been playing the part of a new broom with more zeal than tact, and the staff have been in a constant ferment over what they regard as his arbitrary and unwarrantable treatment of them. In a recent case a sorter exercised his right of appeal to the Controller against an alteration of his hours of duty that had been ordered as a punishment. The appeal was successful, the Controller directing that the man should be allowed to return to his former duty. Thereupon the Postmaster rendered this decision practically inoperative by a readjustment of the hours of duty of two whole sections of men, including the section to which this sorter had belonged. The circumstances under which this readjustment was made—thereby inconveniencing not merely the individual who appealed, but upwards of thirty other men—certainly seem to merit the attention of the Controller, and it would be well if he would at the same time inquire into the causes of the discontent which is so prevalent in the office.

When an application is made to the General Post Office for a certified copy of a telegram, is the practice to give a copy of the telegram as handed in or the telegram as delivered? The question is of considerable public importance, because it may easily happen that the certificate is required in consequence of some dispute arising out of a mistake in the transmission of the telegram. For instance, a gentleman who does not wish his name disclosed, and whom, for the sake of perspicuity, it will be sufficient to allude to as "Blockhead," recently sent a cipher telegram to a bookmaker giving him a commission for an investment on a certain race. He signed the telegram with his name, but the post-office beheaded his name in transmission—that is to say, they cut off the "head" and delivered the telegram signed "Block." In consequence of this the commission was not executed. The sender of the telegram naturally objected, and to prove his case applied for a certified copy of his telegram, and the certified copy given him was a copy of the telegram as he handed it in, signed "Blockhead." Not having any legal remedy, he brought the facts to my notice. I thought I would hear what the bookmaker had to say, and on my communicating with him he produced the original telegram as delivered, signed "Block." There is therefore no doubt about the facts.

Now, had this happened in a commercial instead of a betting transaction it is possible, and indeed likely, that the aggrieved party, having obtained the certified copy of his telegram from the Post Office, would have placed the matter in the hands of his solicitor, and possibly have involved himself in considerable costs, only to find in the end that he had no case, the only party at fault being the Postmaster-General. As I said last week, it seems to me altogether anomalous that the public should have no remedy for such mistakes on the part of the Post Office. But this state of things is aggravated if the Post Office further misleads the public by furnishing them with certified copies of telegrams which only tell half the truth. This matter really ought to be considered at St. Martin's-le-Grand.

A legitimate grievance of the medical profession in regard to the fees allowed them by the Metropolitan Police is ventilated in the *General Practitioner*. It seems that when a doctor is fetched by the police to an urgent case between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. he is paid 3s. 6d.; for a later or earlier call he gets 7s. 6d. There are, of course, plenty of practitioners who attend their own patients for 3s. 6d. or even less—indeed, a recent lawsuit revealed the fact that in some poverty-stricken neighbourhoods they have to accept as little as sixpence—but that is no reason why they should be expected to take the same fee from a public department for special services, which are often rendered at great inconvenience to their ordinary work. A lawyer would not be asked to conduct a police prosecution for anything like the minimum charge of the humbler class of police-court practitioners; and it is unjust that a doctor called in upon an emergency to treat a serious and troublesome case—it may be one of attempted murder or attempted suicide—should be required to accept a 3s. 6d. fee.

Not only is the fee inadequate in nine cases out of ten, but owing to red-tape regulations the medico is put to unnecessary trouble, as well as an expense of at least twopence in postages, in collecting the money from the Receiver of the Metropolitan Police. Surely he could be paid at the local police-station instead of having to forward first a "certificate" and then two or three official forms to New Scotland Yard.

The case of the Nelson Share Syndicate *v.* Fleming and others, which was before the Court of Appeal on Thursday last, throws a useful side-light on the present position of affairs in this company. A committee of shareholders representing very large interests in the company has been appointed to inquire into the management and make suggestions for reforming the board and putting the business on a more satisfactory footing. This committee addressed certain "requisitions" to the board. As described by the Master of the Rolls, the requisitions asked the directors "to call a meeting of the company for the purpose of discussing certain acts of leading directors, and for the purpose of passing a vote of censure on the chairman with regard to his conduct in assisting to appoint his son as a director, and with regard to his attitude to other matters connected with the business of the company." As I understand the facts, the directors declined to comply with this request. They either guessed or learned that the committee proposed to publish it—I suppose by sending it to their brother shareholders, or, it may be, by communicating it to the Press. Accordingly they applied for an injunction to restrain such publication, which Mr. Justice Bucknill granted. Thereupon the committee appealed and the Court of Appeal set aside Mr. Justice Bucknill's order.

This abortive proceeding shows very clearly the obstructive attitude which the present board has taken up towards the attempt to reform the company which was initiated by Mr. Emerson Bainbridge; and it also shows that Mr. Catton and his henchmen are resolved to fight tooth and nail for the control of the company. So desperately afraid are the Catton directors of facing either the shareholders or the public on this question, that every nerve was strained to prevent even this application to the Court from becoming public. The original application was made in Chambers. When the case came before the Court of Appeal, counsel were instructed to request the Court to hear it *in camerâ*, because the mere discussion of the motion in open Court would acquaint all concerned with the nature of the struggle that is going on.

The Court declined to grant this request, which seems to me as foolish as it was futile. Unless the requisition contained a great deal more than is contained in the above words of the Master of the Rolls, it shows little or nothing either as to the present position of affairs, or as to the conduct of the Catton section, which has not been published long ago in Truth. The chairman on whom it is desired to pass a vote of censure is, of course, Mr. Alderman Barker, and it is his son who was recently jobbed on to the board; and nothing that could have been said in the requisition would convey a stronger censure upon this transaction than is implied in the facts themselves as they were recently stated in these columns. Mr. Barker and the rest of the Catton nominees may fight as hard as they please against ejectment from their present position; that is to be expected. But it is childish of them to suppose that the nature of the situation can be concealed either from the shareholders or from the public.

The case of Mary Jane Kennedy, who was indicted last week at Cumberland Assizes for bigamy, perjury in a County Court action, and attempting to obtain money by false pretences, will hardly enhance the reputation of the Nelson Tea companies in the districts where the facts are known. The woman, who was more or less illiterate, was married for some years to a man named Kennedy, who ill-used and finally deserted her. He was sent to gaol in 1886, and she never saw him again. Having heard that he was dead, she, in 1891, married a man named Morrison, with whom she lived happily until his death in 1903. In the meantime, she had joined the Pension Tea scheme, and, having paid regularly for the prescribed time, she claimed her pension on Morrison's death. The company seem to have refused payment on the ground that she was not a widow at all, having married Morrison during the life of her first husband. Hence the charge, not only of bigamy, but of endeavouring to obtain money by false pretences from Nelson and Co., and committing perjury in a County Court action against them.

Everything turned, therefore, on the charge of bigamy, and it seems to have been of the flimsiest possible character. Although one or two witnesses swore that they had seen Kennedy, the first husband, alive within the last two or three years, the man himself was not produced, nor was any explanation given as to why he could not be traced. One of the witnesses was the prisoner's step-son, who swore that he had seen Kennedy in 1901, ten years after his father's marriage to the prisoner; but he appeared to have said nothing about it till after his father's death, when he quarrelled with the prisoner because she would not give him some of his father's property, all of which had been left to her. There was no suggestion that the woman herself knew that her first husband was alive when she married again; and it is not surprising that the jury acquitted her.

There seems to be no doubt that Nelson and Co. Limited, were, as prisoner's counsel said, "the real prosecutors in the case." The whole circumstances show that the charge grew out of the claim made by the prisoner on them, and the solicitor who acted for the prosecution had appeared for them in the previous County Court proceedings. It is utterly impossible to understand their attacking the woman in this fashion, or their refusing to pay the pension, for she had fulfilled her contract with them, they had looked upon Morrison as her husband, and if the marriage were technically invalidated, that was no affair of theirs.

If the Company is going to take up such high moral ground there is another matter which calls much more

urgently for the attention of Mr. Joseph Barker, Mr. J. M. Catton, and their puritanical colleagues, namely, the inducement that their pensions offer to widows *not* to get married a second time. It will be remembered that the pension ceases on the remarriage of the pensioner, though otherwise it lasts for life (provided the company have the money to pay it). No one who has a large experience of the working classes, especially in the North of England, will fail to see the force of the temptation that is thus placed in the way of the woman in the event of her contemplating a second match, and, for the matter of that, in the way of the gentleman of her choice. Why go through a ceremony so easily dispensed with, when it means a loss of 10s. a week for life to the bride and her family? This is not a fanciful suggestion. I hear many complaints of the effect of the Pension Tea in fostering irregular unions, and the directors can easily obtain evidence of it through their agents if they care to do so.

Judge Rentoul's gratuitous testimonial to the *soi-disant* "Lord De Morley" was brought before the House of Lords on Friday by Lord Hawkesbury. The Lord Chancellor did his best for the learned Judge—as was to be expected—by suggesting that he had been misreported, and that "he was endeavouring to show that the gentleman was not a mere impostor, claiming to be what he had no right to claim." The distinction, however, is rather a fine one, especially when the title claimed is utilised for the purpose of adorning such a shady concern as the Royal British Bank; and if Mr. Rentoul was really misreported, it seems probable that the fact would have become known to Lord Halsbury before this strange judicial utterance was commented on in the House of Lords.

There is a line of motor omnibuses running up and down the Edgware-road, and every passenger by them is presented with a ticket with this legend, in very small print:—

> This ticket is issued on the condition that the company are under no liability in respect of damages personal or otherwise which may be incurred by passengers through accident or any other cause.

I was asked the other day whether such a notification can have the effect of relieving the company of liability for the negligence of themselves or their servants. This is a lawyer's question, but it is one of some interest, and I should rather like to hear a lawyer's answer to it. My impression is that the notice is not worth much, and if it were, I suppose that every railway company and carrier of goods or passengers would adopt it. On the other hand, if the notice has any legal effect, the public would do well to think twice before getting into one of these omnibuses.

The immunity from prosecution of the West End palmists, crystal-gazers, and other fortune-telling charlatans grows stranger and stranger. According to the Home Secretary, the police have instructions to take proceedings against these persons, if there are good grounds for believing that fraud or imposition is practised and satisfactory evidence is available. There is just as much fraud and imposition in these cases as in those of the humbler class of fortune-tellers, who are fined or imprisoned almost every week in country towns. As to evidence, the Metropolitan Police could surely obtain it as easily as the country police, if they really desired to do so. In outlying suburbs, in fact, the Metropolitan Police have more than once successfully prosecuted practitioners of palmistry; and I have too much respect for Scotland Yard to suppose that it is not equal to the task of dealing in the same way with the humbugs who prey upon credulity and ignorance in Bond-street. One is forced, therefore, to the conclusion that, in spite of official assurances, a blind eye is deliberately turned towards these fashionable offenders. It has been suggested that persons of some position in Society are interested in certain of the businesses, and though I do not myself for a moment believe that this—even if the statement is true—accounts for the inactivity of the authorities, the authorities will only have themselves to blame if such an idea gets abroad.

Great is the indignation of the tribe of "occultists" at the recent exposures in the *Daily Mail*. They held a meeting on Saturday when, after using much strong language, they passed a resolution declaring, that the faculties of those who exercise clairvoyance are worthy of serious attention, and the ribald treatment of such persons by any newspaper is unworthy of journalism. In seconding the resolution, "Professor Keiro" suggested that the Secretary of the Occultists' Defence League should call the attention of the President of the Journalists' Institute to this sensational and untruthful style of journalism, and ask him whether he feels inclined to take any steps with regard to the matter. I am afraid that the reply of the President will not be favourable to the "occultists." Any newspaper renders a public service by showing up these arrant humbugs.

A curious remark fell from the Bradford Stipendiary at the swearing-in last week of the newly-appointed magistrates for that city. "The Lord Chancellor," said the Stipendiary, "had made a wise choice; the new magistrates were all sensible men, and he had no doubt that they were *all wealthy men*, despite the bad state of trade." This seems to imply that if magistrates are wisely chosen they are wealthy, as well as sensible, men. Judging by results, I should say that the Lord Chancellor pays more heed to the former requirement than to the latter. But, though it is true that magistrates belong almost exclusively to the richer class of the

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BRIGHTON.—NEW SHIP HOTEL.—The best of everything. Electric light throughout. Night porter. Telephone No. 292. Manageress, Miss Tucker.

community it appears scarcely judicious to accentuate this fact from the Bench, more especially in an industrial centre where the administration of the law sometimes involves a conflict between the interests of capital and labour.

From some of the speeches in support of the Brewers' Bill one might imagine that magistrates are in the habit of exhibiting an unreasonable stringency in the enforcement of the licensing laws. Even the strongest partisan of the liquor trade, however, will hardly venture to cast this reproach at the Mayor of Truro and his colleagues after a decision they gave last week. A man was summoned for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. According to the Chief Constable the defendant had frequently left the public-house in question after closing time during the past twelve months. On the occasion in respect of which the summons was issued he entered the house at ten minutes to eleven and did not come out when it was shut up. Two policemen who were watching afterwards got into the house and found the defendant in the bar with his hat and coat on and a pint of beer in front of him. The ostler and landlord were also there. In the yard the defendant's horse and trap were standing, apparently awaiting his departure. But on the police coming into the bar, both the landlord and the defendant affirmed that the later was staying in the house for the night, and, on reference being made to the horse and trap, the defendant said he had changed his mind about going home since the horse was harnessed. The horse was then put in the stable and the defendant remained at the house that night. On these facts the Bench were asked to believe that the defendant was a bonâ-fide lodger. It speaks volumes for their charitable-mindedness that they did so to the extent of giving him "the benefit of the doubt" and dismissing the summons, "though they considered that the Chief Constable acted quite rightly and judiciously in laying the information." I wonder whether the Chief Constable would reciprocate their worships' compliment!

Apropos of a paragraph in last week's TRUTH, I find that the Coal Mines' Regulation Act, 1887, requires the Government Inspectors to inquire into the condition and treatment of animals used in mines; and the Home Secretary states that he has every reason to believe that this duty is carried out. There have been a number of prosecutions at the instance of the inspectors, and the Treasury Solicitor was instructed to take proceedings in the recent case of cruelty before the Potteries Stipendiary; but in the meantime summonses had been obtained by the R.S.P.C.A. As the Stipendiary pointed out, the Government Inspectors are the only persons, apart from the employees, who have the right to enter a mine, and it is therefore satisfactory to know that they are directed to keep an eye upon the treatment of the horses working underground.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give several examples of the misguided leniency of the magistracy in dealing with ruffians convicted of assaults upon their wives or other women. Offences of this kind will not be suppressed so long as it is the custom to let the accused escape with a pecuniary penalty instead of awarding the sentence of imprisonment, which is the only punishment likely to have a deterrent effect upon such miscreants. There are plenty of men who believe that it is a husband's prerogative to thrash his wife—witness the naive plea of the defendant at Ardrossan, who sought to excuse his ill-treatment of a woman by stating that he mistook her for his wife—and some of the decisions that I record almost suggest that the magistrates are inclined to sympathise with this idea. The indulgence with which acts of violence and cruelty are regarded is indeed astounding. On the other hand, no magisterial mercy is bestowed upon persons guilty of such crimes as poaching, sleeping out, and petty larceny:—

Workington Police-court. Patrick Kane, charged with assaulting Georgina Scott. Without any provocation defendant, who was under the influence of drink, struck the woman about the head with his clenched fists, bruising her lip and ear. Fined 30s.

Worksop Police-court. Before Messrs. F. J. S. Foljambe and R. Eddison. Samuel Slater, charged with assaulting Frederick Townrow. Complainant was knocked down and rendered unconscious, receiving injuries for which he required medical treatment. There were two recent previous convictions against him for assaults. Fined 40s.

Swindon Police-court. Before Mr. A. D. Hussey Freke and other magistrates. Edward Cullum, charged with assaulting his wife. He knocked her down and thrashed her with a strap and brass buckle as long as he could stand over her. She had to go to the hospital. Fined 40s.

Middlesbrough Police-court. Before Mr. C. J. Coleman. Robert Richmond, convicted of an aggravated assault upon a woman with whom he lived. He struck her on the head with a poker, rendering her unconscious, and she had to be taken to the infirmary. Fined 40s.; in default, one month.

Bradford Police-court. Before the Stipendiary. Ben Clough, charged with cruelty to a dog. The dog was starved to death. Fined 20s. and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. G. Norman and R. Laurie. William Land, convicted of assaulting his wife. He had repeatedly struck and kicked her, and she was now under medical treatment for an injury that he caused to her breast. A separation order was made, and a fine of 40s. and costs inflicted.

Ross Police-court. Before Captain E. Wynde Allen, Colonel O. R. Middleton, Colonel Evan Thomas, and Messrs. Guy Trafford and J. Meredith. Henry Williams, labourer, charged with stealing coal of the value of sixpence. One month.

Oakham Petty Sessions. Before Sir A. J. Fludyer and Messrs. G. C. Noel and E. Worrall. George Smith and Arthur Smith, charged on two summonses with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £3 each; in default, one month.

Slough Police-court. George Brown, convicted of sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Chester City Quarter Sessions. Mary Ellen Robinson, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Two months.

Epping Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Todhunter, A. W. Leech, W. Patchett, and F. G. Sinclair. George Parker, charged with stealing a padlock, value 2s. 6d. Twenty-one days.

Preston Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. H. W. Worsley Taylor. Ellen Bradshaw, charged with stealing a shawl from outside a shop. Twelve months.

James Wilkinson, charged with poaching. Six months' hard labour, and a further twelve months if he failed to find two sureties of £20 each that he would not so offend again for a period of two years.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Fitzhugh and A. Brownsword. Charles Crockle, charged with stealing two fowls. One month.

Lincoln City Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. G. Sills. George Smith, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Seven months.

Castle Cary Police-court. Before Mr. J. S. Dunne. Herbert Edgar, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Ardrossan Police-court. David Marshall, charged with assaulting a woman by pulling her hair and striking her on the face to the effusion of blood. He admitted the offence, but pleaded that he mistook the woman for his own wife. Fined 40s.

Mansfield Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. James Wright, convicted of assaulting a woman. She was badly hurt, and her head was swathed with bandages when she appeared in Court. Fined 21s.; in default, one month.

Epworth Police-court. Samuel Autey, charged with stealing two fowls. Three months.

Berkeley Police-court. James Bowen, charged with sleeping in an outhouse and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Leeds Quarter Sessions. Before the Recorder. Joseph Atkinson, charged with stealing two tame pigeons. Twelve months.

Stockton Police-court. Ernest Holden and William Johnstone, charged with stealing two hens. Two months.

Brentwood Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. F. Petre, J. H. Horton, J. Bigge, W. Arrow, and E. Murray, jun. John Corder, charged with cruelty to his daughter, aged fifteen. During the past four years he had persistently ill-treated the girl, who kept house for him. She had been kicked and beaten with a broom handle, and he had threatened to cut her throat. Ordered to pay 4s. costs, and bound over to keep the peace.

A correspondent sends me a report from a Congleton newspaper of a case in which a labourer was summoned for doing damage to growing potatoes at Hulmewalfield. The defendant did not deny that he went across a potato field, which was the nearest way to his house, but he asserted that there was a right of way over a public footpath, though the path itself had been ploughed up by the complainant. In answer to the magistrates, the complainant admitted that there was such a footpath, that he had ploughed it up, and that no trace of it remained, so that people had to make their own choice as to where the path ran. In the face of these admissions it is surely a miscarriage of justice that the magistrates should have convicted the defendant, ordering him to pay the costs and 3s. for the damage. It is obviously the complainant who should have been summoned and fined for destroying the path, and I trust that steps will now be taken to compel him to restore this right of way. No doubt the Commons and Footpaths' Preservation Society would give advice and assistance in the matter.

At Radcliffe Police-court last week, David Bowen Evans, a solicitor, was fined £50 for carrying on the business of a moneylender without registering himself in accordance with the Moneylenders Act. It appeared that the defendant had been running a loan office in conjunction with another man, who, however, declined to swear that he was the principal. So far as I recollect this is the first prosecution of the kind since the passing of the Moneylenders Acts four years ago, and it is welcome as a sign that the law is not, after all, absolutely a dead letter. There are doubtless many persons who are surreptitiously engaged in the same line of business, and who might be brought to book for non-registration if the authorities did their duty.

The nominal penalty imposed upon Pointing in March last by the magistrate at Marlborough-street for selling "Magic Foot Drafts" without a Government stamp obviously failed in its effect; for last week Pointing was again summoned for a similar offence under the Medicine Stamp Duty Acts, and fined in sums amounting to over £20 in all. In the course of the case, the magistrate asked the prosecuting solicitor if he could calculate what the Revenue had lost by Pointing's failure to comply with the Act, and the reply was that according to the defendant's own statements the amount would appear to be about £70 a week. At this rate, it would seem to be well worth Pointing's while to pay a fine of £20 or so every three months in the police-court rather than attach patent medicine stamps to his much-advertised specific for rheumatism.

Incidentally these figures throw considerable light upon the enormous business done by Pointing in flat-catching. The price of the foot-drafts is 6s. 6d. a pair, and the stamp duty upon each pair would be a shilling. This makes a weekly output of 1,400 pairs of the plasters at 6s. 6d. a pair, producing a weekly revenue of £455. Threepence a pair would, I think, be an ample sum to cover the net cost of the foot-drafts; so that the gross weekly profits would be £437 10s. Of course, to get at Pointing's net profits from this source one would have to deduct the cost of advertising, printing, and postage—the latter no inconsiderable item when one remembers the extent to which Pointing makes use of the "follow-up" letter. But, even supposing that he expends 50 per cent. of his gross profits in these directions, the net profit of over £200 a week is enough to show that the merchant who trades upon the credulity of his fellow-creatures may reckon upon very handsome returns.

I see, by the way, from the current issue of the *Pharmaceutical Journal* that an attempt is to be made in the United States to deal with the advertising quack of the Pointing type. The Post-Office Department at Washington has declared its intention of opening a campaign against the use of the mails for proprietary articles of a questionable nature. Official orders are to be issued against all medicines the vendors of which make promises of extravagant cures which are incapable of fulfilment. Then the newspapers and magazines containing the advertisements of articles so barred will also be stopped in the post. One result will, I am afraid, be merely the appearance on this side of the Atlantic of a new set of quacks of the McLaughlin and Dr. Kidd type, for in view of the action recently taken by the police in Germany in regard to these pests there will soon be left no other place but England where the quack may plunder the unfortunate sufferer not only in peace but with the approbation of a benign Government and with the approval of a Press which shares in the "swag."

The proverb about hawks not picking out hawks' eyes does not apply to the birds of prey hovering around the Turf. Here, for instance, is a circular from "Brown and Bell," racing tipsters, betting agents, and system-mongers, of Manchester, in which the public are warned against those unprincipled sharpers who solicit money "for all kinds of absurd system investments," and print "fictitious testimonials in order to make their lying statements appear genuine." To emphasise the

warning, reports are given of some recent prosecutions. No doubt simple-minded people are much impressed by this show of virtuous indignation on the part of "Brown and Bell." It may, therefore, be useful if I point out that William Sample, the individual calling himself "Brown and Bell," is a bird of the same feather as those whom he denounces. He is engaged, like the rest of them, in the business of extracting money from the pockets of fools, and, as was revealed in some proceedings at the Manchester Police Court, he publishes fictitious testimonials in order to make his lying statements appear genuine.

Here is a tempting advertisement from the *Yorkshire Post*:—

Partner wanted, with £100 capital, to finance Advertiser in working an Infallible Starting Price Turf System. A profit of £200 secured every month. Money entirely under own control and no risk whatever. Half share of the profits given and a free trial allowed before commencing operations. Private interview can be arranged, though not absolutely necessary.—Address T. Sutton, &c., &c.

I know nothing about this advertiser, but it is obvious that any individual professing to have an infallible system of betting, which with a capital of £100 will produce a profit of £200 a month, must be either a self-deluded idiot, or something worse. It is a pity that newspapers give publicity to advertisements of this class which inveigle innocents—very often women—into throwing away money that they can, as a rule, ill afford to lose. "T. Sutton" has, however, the merit of frankness. Unlike many betting-system mongers, he does not attempt to disguise the nature of the business for which the capital is required, but boldly avows the purpose for which it is to be used, so that his victims have, at any rate, no cause of complaint on this score.

A story was told in Truth the other day of a woman who, having been defrauded a few years ago over the purchase of a "home knitter" from the Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company, and having learned that Messrs. Bennett and Hunter, who constituted the aforesaid company, had reappeared as the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company at Manchester, wrote to them at the Manchester address demanding the return of the money she had sent to the Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company. Strange to say, she got it; and in telling this story I suggested that the other victims of the Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company might profit by it. This advice caught the eye of Mr. Edgar De Knevett, a solicitor, who happened to have several clients who had been defrauded in the same way. Mr. De Knevett accordingly wrote to Messrs. Hunter and Bennett, "care of the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company," demanding £4 on behalf of one of his clients. In this case also the money was refunded. Naturally, Mr. De Knevett thought he would try again. So he wrote to the same address on behalf of four other clients, who wanted £16 among them. Evidently, however, Hunter and Bennett began to be alarmed at this resurrection of their former victims, so they assumed a new attitude, which is shown in the following letter:—

The Hardy Machine and Woollen Company,
62, Market-street, Manchester,
June 28, 1904.

Dear Sir,—Herewith you will find enclosed your letters addressed in care of us.

We have nothing to do with the matter in question, but may add that any more sent here will also be returned to you, and Mr. Hardy, who will be here very soon, may have something to say to you.—Yours truly,

pp. The Hardy Machine and Woollen Company,
Thomas. Orford, Manager.

It seems rather late in the day for the company to pretend that they had "nothing to do with the matter in question" after they have refunded £8 to former customers of the Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company; and, as I have already said, there is no doubt that Hunter and Bennett are the real principals in the Hardy Company. I would suggest, therefore, to the solicitor in question that he should now take stronger measures against these two worthies, who evidently have assets which make them worth powder and shot. In view, however, of the fact that Hunter and Bennett were pronounced by Judge Edge to have been guilty of "a gross and cruel fraud" in the character of the Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company, I should have thought that steps would have been taken by other parties before now to put a stop to their present business. I feel personally interested in the intimation in the above letter that "Mr. Hardy will be here very soon." It may be remembered that a few weeks back Mr. Orford wrote to Truth and gave me to understand that Mr. H. had been "sent for." I do not know where Mr. Hardy may have been, but it seems to take him a long time to get to Manchester, and I had almost given him up. However, now that he is really coming, we shall all be anxious to hear what he has to say.

Here is another point in connection with this same concern. On their circulars the Hardy Machine and Woollen Co. give a reference to Messrs. Gibbs, Smith, and Co., of High Holborn. A purchaser of one of the knitting machines—who now finds that the thing is altogether unsatisfactory—wrote to make inquiries of Messrs. Gibbs, Smith, and Co. before making the purchase. This is the reply he received:—

Dear Sir,—We have acted as advertising agents for these good people for years, and have no reason to think but that they will carry out all they undertake to do.—Yours truly,
G., S., and Co.

Now, as already mentioned in Truth, the Hardy Machine Co. has only been in existence two or three months. If, therefore, Messrs. Gibbs, Smith, and Co. have acted as agents for "these good people" for years, they must have done so when the good people were trading as the Home and Colonial Knitting Co., which collapsed in consequence of being stigmatised by a County Court Judge as "a gross and cruel fraud," with the result that the good people bolted to America in fear of the police. It seems also fair to infer from

Lyndhurst, New Forest. The Hampshire Motor Repair Works. Daimler Cars, from 7 h.p. to 22 h.p. for Sale or Hire. Telegrams: "Reliable." Manager, A. Slater.

the language that Messrs. Gibbs, Smith, and Co. acted for one of the good people, Bennett, when he was lately engaged in the "Magnetic Socks" swindle at Southampton, not to mention the Memorial Printing Co. and other swindles with which he was previously connected in London. Under these circumstances the fact that Messrs. Gibbs, Smith, and Co., not content with acting as advertising agents for the good people, undertake to assure prospective victims of their bona fides, is open to somewhat unfavourable remark. Perhaps they would like to explain.

Numerous references have been made in TRUTH of late to the advertisements of "Davis, Pawnbroker," 524, Chiswick High-road; and "Emmanuel, Pawnbrokers' Emporium," 31, Clapham-road; and "Davis, Pawnbroker," 26, Denmark Hill. All these advertisements offer extraordinary bargains of one kind or another, and the obvious suggestion is that they are unredeemed pledges, which the pawnbrokers are realising. I have now definitely ascertained that none of these firms are in reality pawnbrokers. They are simply small silversmiths or jewellers. Of course, it is quite true that the class of shoddy goods which are disposed of by these advertisements are also dealt in extensively by pawnbrokers; but when the dealers falsely represent themselves to be pawnbrokers the iniquity of the swindle is that much aggravated.

Talking of this class of business, a Southampton correspondent calls my attention to advertisements of second-hand pianos which have appeared in local papers for a long time past from the address 26, Brinton-road, Southampton. The latest of them appears in the *Southern Echo* of June 29, and offers an instrument which "cost £37 two years ago," for £12 10s., with a revolving music-stool thrown in. A new feature in the advertisement is the intimation "receipt shown." A Mr. Charles Thomas has been living at the address mentioned for the past five years, and as he has been advertising pianos for sale in this way all the time, it is perfectly evident that he is merely a dealer or agent, and the probability is that, as in all these cases, he merely acts for the maker, and that the pianos are not second-hand at all. If, therefore, he shows receipts purporting to apply to his own purchase of the piano at the price he states, those who are taken in by this trick would seem to have an effective remedy available.

Two or three letters have reached me from agents of the City of Glasgow Friendly Society, who repudiate the suggestion that they are under the thumb of the managing treasurer, Mr. James Stewart, and that in their turn they secure the appointment of delegates who can be relied upon to carry out the wishes of that autocratic official. Of course it would be absurd to assert that all the agents and delegates are mere tools in the hands of Mr. Stewart—indeed, a minority of one-third of the delegates at the recent meeting voted against his reinstatement in the post of managing treasurer. But the fact remains that the agents have hitherto been absolutely under his control, liable to dismissal if they incurred his displeasure, and that the delegates have been, as a rule, virtually the nominees of the agents.

It is to my mind quite incredible that Mr. Stewart would have been restored to his office in the Society after the damning report of the Government Inspector if the decision had rested with a really independent and competent body of delegates. The majority responsible for the decision must have thought more of the interests of Mr. Stewart than of the interests of the Society, and having regard to the seriousness of the irregularities disclosed in the inspector's report it is assuredly a gross scandal that he should be permitted to remain managing treasurer.

A PREMATURE BIG GOOSEBERRY.

There is a widespread craze amongst the matrons and maidens of the "ultra smart" set for intoxicating sweetmeats. Liqueurs of the strongest and most fashionable kinds are now bought freely, disguised as *bonbons* of various kinds. The taste for ordinary "sweeties" has quite gone out.—LONDON CORRESPONDENT.

What! No more taste for lollipops?
And have the gossips truly noted
A slump in all the many "drops"
On which the "Smart" have lately doted?
Do "chocolates" no longer sell?
The craze for gum—has *that* abated?
And is the creamy caramel
Deemed now a trifle antiquated?

Does Rumour speak with truthful lips
When it, with nods and winks, divulges
That 'tis a craze for potent "nips"
In which the damsel now indulges
When she the latest *bonbons* buys?
Since these, 'tis currently reported,
But serve with sugary disguise
To neatly hide liqueurs assorted!

What! Is it true this yearning great
Pervades the sex's upper levels?
That she who would be up-to-date
In Green Chartreuse (or Yellow) revels?
And can it be, as some announce,
Regardless how their libels irk us,
That alcohol, so much per ounce,
Is sold near Piccadilly circus?

In short, do bonbon shops, at best,
Suggest the bars of a casino?
Do schoolgirls now display a zest
For *crème de menthe* and *maraschino*?
Do dainty dames who, one might think,
Would any alcoholic shock shun,
Scheme surreptitiously to drink
The Benedictines' famed concoction?

We doubt it; nay, we farther go,
And brand as journalistic treason
This premature attempt to grow
A Monster Gooseberry out of season!
The topic that we now pooh-pooh
Has been unduly expedited;
For 'tis not, at the earliest, due,
Till the Sea Serpent has been sighted!

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

The new Cape Colony Loan has proved a failure, and I do not wonder at this, for a Colony with Dr. Jameson as its Premier does not exactly inspire financial confidence. For a converted poacher to make a good gamekeeper, he must at least have shown intelligence in his previous line of life. Not only, however, was Dr. Jameson a raider, but he made a terrible mess of his raid. A self-governing Colony may return a majority in favour of the Premiership of a bungling filibuster of this sort, he may be *persona grata* to a few capitalists who were concerned in his raid, but neither the public nor capitalists unconnected with his previous career are likely to confide their cash to the Colony over which he exercises his sway. The Raid has cost Cape Colony dear, and the Premiership of the chief raider is likely to render it difficult for it to re-establish its affairs by means of loans.

It is somewhat surprising to hear that Jamaica is troubled, like the mother country, with the housing question. The attention of the Governor was lately directed to the matter. In reply his Excellency frankly admitted that there is in the town of Kingston a deplorable amount of overcrowding in the dwellings of the poorer classes, and that the worst results to the morals of the young of both sexes arise from such conditions. He declined, however, to appoint a Commission on the grounds that the facts were already known and that "a Commission would not remedy the evil." In the cities of more advanced communities, his Excellency continued, such evils were dealt with by building regulations and sanitary laws prohibiting overcrowding, but he felt sure that any attempt to enforce such restrictions in Kingston would be immediately denounced as oppressive to the poor and unsuited to the circumstances of that city.

The confession of its impotence to deal with the evil, or, rather, of its disinclination to render itself unpopular by doing so, is not perhaps very creditable to the Jamaica Government. I think, however, that the gubernatorial explanation is an improvement upon those we usually get from Ministers here when they are confronted with a difficult problem. Mr. Balfour would certainly have been unable to resist the temptation to make a show of doing something by appointing a Commission, though knowing all the time that nothing would be done to remedy the evil.

Mr. George Meredith is a wise man, and his opinions on things in general, expounded to a *Chronicle* interviewer, are interesting and suggestive. But he is absurdly wrong in attributing English dislike of conscription to the fear of death. Everybody is afraid, he says, of being called out to be shot. Lord Wemyss delivered himself the other day in the same sense. But no scheme of conscription that I have seen suggested would apply to men above the age of one-and-twenty, and the youths who would be affected by it are not consulted, and have no means of expressing their opinions. I do not myself anticipate being called out to be shot in any event, nor do I think that we should call out Mr. Meredith, or even accept him as a Volunteer, unless in the last hour of our national existence, when the last Briton has to die in the last ditch. The vast majority of people whose voices are heard on this question have passed the age of liability to military service; and the reason for the national aversion to compulsory service must be looked for in other directions than personal cowardice.

The topical songs that figured so prominently in the Chertsey election—I allude particularly to "There is a happy Rand" and the tasteful parody of "Jerusalem the Golden"—may be works of high literary merit; but, speaking as an opportunist rather than a critic, I doubt the expediency of burlesquing anything pertaining to religion for the ends of Party warfare. I cannot understand how any man who would otherwise have voted Tory would be induced to vote Liberal by listening to one of the above-mentioned ditties. On the other hand, I can understand that they might induce people who would otherwise have voted Liberal to vote Tory out of sheer disgust. Whether this result followed at Chertsey nobody can say; but there is nothing to exclude that view, and I suggest that the poet of the "Happy Rand" should be muzzled before the next contested election.

At the same time, it is the height of absurdity for Party hacks on the other side to howl about this sort of literature—except for the purpose of making capital out of it for their own side. I suppose there is no one on the *Daily Mail*, which has been howling the loudest, old enough to remember the time when Mr. Gladstone was in politics, and the spicy profanities in which Party malice then vented itself. Let me quote a sample from the election literature of the Nineties:—

When the Grand Old Man goes to his doom
He will ride in a fiery chariot,
And sit in State
On a red-hot plate
'Twixt Satan and Judas Iscariot.

Says the Devil, "My place is quite full, as you see,
But I'll try and do all that I can;
So I'll let Ananias and Judas go free,
And take in the Grand Old Man."

Here are a few other compliments directed at the same statesman:—

Gone from the sweets of office,
Gone from the head of affairs;
Gone in the head they tell us;
Gone—and nobody cares.

Gone, let us hope, for ever,
Gone whither none can tell,
Gone, let us hope to Heaven,
There are devils enough in Hell.

I doubt if any Liberal poet will ever rival these gems, and it seems to me a style of composition which may be left to the other side with advantage—to us.

Looking through the list of the names of the 200 M.P.s who have been roped in by Mr. Chamberlain, I observe that forty of them—*i.e.*, one in every five—is a

"Sir." That these gentlemen should have descended on the Birmingham side of the fence is a sign that it is pretty well recognised that the Birmingham programme will shortly be that of the Unionist Party, and that Mr. Chamberlain already has his hand on the machine. Of the entire 200 names, I doubt whether there are twenty who have ever been heard of as politicians outside the House of Commons and the locality for which they sit.

Leaving out the Ministers, who, as Mr. Balfour has explained, are still collectively Balfourites, whatever their personal opinions may be, there remain 148 Unionist M.P.s who have not as yet betaken themselves to the house of Rimmon. The problem is: how many will remain firm amongst those who intend to seek re-election, and what will be the fate of those who do?

I was talking to an intelligent Unionist M.P. a week ago. He told me that, if his party were asked to give their opinion by ballot on the expediency of making any sort of fiscal reform their electoral cry, he believed that not twenty would be for this. He was, he said, himself a Free Trader, and he was a strong Conservative. He did not intend to take part in the Chamberlain demonstration, and he had called himself up to now a Balfourite, as this seemed the least compromising position that he could take up consistently with self-preservation. "But when Balfour openly ceases to be a Balfourite, where am I?" he plaintively added. "What," I asked him, "does the Unionist Party hope to gain by putting off the election for a year? It seems to me it has no trump to play before the election, even though it be deferred?" "No," he said, "I do not think we have; still, perhaps the agitation against Chinese labour may peter out, and there is always the off-chance of something unexpected turning up to our advantage." And this off-chance is, I think, the sole hope of a good many Unionists, much as condemned murderers always expect a reprieve, although they know that they will, according to all reasonable probability, have to make acquaintance with the rope sooner or later. I am really sorry for them, though perhaps I ought not to be. They only asked to be let alone, and not to be dragged into a fiscal controversy, which its promoter himself admits will, whichever side they take, lose many of them their seats.

Lists of the coming Liberal Ministry are being handed about. The latest that I have seen makes Lord Spencer Premier, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman Foreign Secretary with a seat in the Lords, and Mr. Asquith Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader in the Commons. The other Cabinet posts are mainly distributed amongst members of the League of Liberal Imperialists, although the name of Lord Rosebery, its President, is absent. Sir Edward Grey is Colonial Secretary; Mr. Robson, Home Secretary; Mr. Emmott, President of the Board of Trade; Mr. Lawson Walton, Attorney General; Mr. Haldane, Lord Chancellor; and so on. Neither the name of Mr. John Morley nor of Sir Robert Reid appears on this latest list.

Were the Party consulted, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman would be its choice as Premier. That is because the Liberals regard him as the best fitted to fill the post—in part because he has been selected by the Unionist Press as the special object of their abuse; in part because he has done good and diligent service as Liberal Leader; and in part because there is a strong opinion that a Liberal Premier should be in the Commons. There is no personal feeling against Lord Spencer. He is regarded as a very fair specimen of a Liberal peer, but he is only a name to the majority of Liberals.

As for the names on this or any other list, I attach very little importance to them. They are generally "tries on," either by the aspirant himself, or by some of his friends. The Radicals would, I am sure, strongly resent the Cabinet being packed with Whigs. There are able men amongst them, and there is no desire to ostracise them if they are prepared to renounce the error of their ways and to accept the Party creed. Their record is, however, by no means good. They drove Sir William Harcourt out of the Leadership. They have again and again demonstrated against the Leadership of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. Knowing that they were a small minority in the Liberal Party, they formed an Association of their own, and announced that they only would be true to the Party if they could impose their views and themselves as its leaders.

I have reached an age when I look with philosophic contempt at the rival efforts of politicians to be privileged to sacrifice their ease to the service of their country. I do not care whether this particular man or that particular man becomes a Minister. Being a Radical myself, I would have Radicals masters in a Liberal Administration. The Liberal Party has often in the past suffered by lapsing into official subserviency to Whiggism so soon as it has been able to get into office. The next General Election will, in all probability, give the Party one final chance to secure the confidence of Radicals. Mr. Chamberlain counts upon the next Administration being driven from office very quickly, and he professes to believe that the country will then, on the principle of Hobson's choice, accept him and Protection. He is an exceedingly clever electioneerer, with a very pretty talent for getting his own way. It is therefore all the more essential that the Party should not aid him in this plan of campaign. If the Whigs dominate in the next Cabinet, and Radicals are in the majority in and out of Parliament, such a Cabinet will not last long.

Whigs are far better tacticians than Radicals. Their aim has always been to man the Downing-street fort. When the Party is in opposition, they pave the way for

this by acting together and making it clear that their fidelity will depend upon the recognition of what they deem their natural right to be leaders. No sooner have they become its leaders than they denounce every one who is in favour of thorough Radical legislation. As the vast majority of Liberal electors are Radicals, the Party soon becomes so thoroughly discredited that the next General Election goes in favour of the Conservatives.

There are only two Parties in Parliament that I respect—the Irish Party and the Labour Party. The members of neither seek the loaves and fishes of office. Each Party acts collectively, knows what it wants, and seeks to secure it, without any eye to Downing-street.

Just now the Liberal M.P.s are all rivalling each other in declarations that the first duty of a Liberal is to stand by his leaders, no matter who these leaders may be. I was at a meeting of the Liberal rank and file last week. To hear most of the speakers, one would have supposed that no one off the front Opposition Bench had a right to express any opinion beyond the conviction that the occupants of this Bench are Brahmins and that all others are pariahs. I confess that I was greatly amused at this naif exhibition of Parliamentary human nature, which I have often noticed on previous ocasions when a Liberal Administration is soon likely to be formed. M.P.s are on such occasions like cats when the cats'-meat man comes into the street. Soldiers, we are told, must obey their officers blindly, discipline was the first of party virtues, etc., etc., and the meeting, after an hour or two of this, broke up, after resolving nothing beyond a general consensus to leave everything to the Brahmins. Under the particular circumstances of the moment I am not prepared to say that this was not a wise resolve, for *tot homines tot sententiæ*. I could not, however, resist the thought how very differently the cats would conduct themselves at a meeting when the tit-bits from the meat-basket have been distributed. Those left out will then be all claws, and there will be very little of amiable purring.

Charles Dickens, in one of his novels, described the formation of a Government, and things do not seem to be greatly changed since his day:—

Lord Boodle perceives with astonishment, that supposing the present Government to be overthrown, the limited choice of the Crown in the formation of a new Ministry would be between Lord Coodle and Sir Thomas Doodle—supposing it be impossible for the Duke of Foodle to act with Goodle, which may be assumed to be the case in consequence of the breach arising out of that affair with Hoodle.

Then, giving the Home Department and the Leadership of the House of Commons to Toodle, the Exchequer to Koodle, the Colonies to Loodle, and the Foreign Office to Moodle, what are you to do with Noodle? You cannot offer him the Presidency of the Council—that is reserved for Poodle. You cannot put him in the Woods and Forests, that is hardly good enough for Qoodle.

On the other hand, the Right Hon. William Buffy contends that the shipwreck of the country is attributable to Cuffy. If you had done with Cuffy what you ought to have done when he first came into Parliament, and had prevented him from going over to Duffy; you would have got him into alliance with Fuffy; you would have had with you the weight attaching as a smart debater to Guffy; you would have brought to bear upon the electors the wealth of Huffy; you would have got in for three counties Juffy, Kuffy, and Luffy, and you would have strengthened your administration by the official knowledge of Muffy. All this instead of being, as you are now, dependent on the mere caprice of Puffy.

Mr. Lyttelton and Lord Milner are playing the game of evading all Parliamentary control in a manner which must almost excite the envy of Mr. Balfour. When pushed to the wall, Mr. Lyttelton cables for information to Lord Milner. No answer. Again he cables. Again no answer. Then he says that he has no doubt that Lord Milner has good reasons for his silence. At last the answer comes. It is vague, and Lord Milner promises to send particulars by post. On other occasions, when questioned as to something that has occurred in South Africa, Mr. Lyttelton replies that he does not know whether it is true, and refuses to ask Lord Milner for information. In this way it is hoped to get through the Session without the House learning officially what is the real state of things in regard to the Chinese chattels in the Transvaal. The inference from all this is that when a Ministry has a majority, and its followers know that an appeal to the country will result in a great many of them losing their seats, there is no trick so mean, that they will not wink at it.

The South African Press is almost entirely in the hands of the owners of the chattels. Lord Milner announces that he does not care twopence for public opinion over here. Mr. Lyttelton gives his personal pledge, and, when he violates it, explains that he is keeping it in the spirit, if not the letter. But all is deemed fair, provided that the end of the Session can be reached and Ministers left in possession. Statements appear in the newspapers that numbers of the Chinese are ill, and that many of them desert, having discovered what the mines and the compounds are, and are hunted by the police until they are recaptured. Not one single word of Lord Milner's can be believed, even when he does condescend to telegraph. But the Unionists chuckle, and are made happy in the thought that they will at least be able to remain M.P.s for a few months longer.

Probably the truth of the servitude into which they were selling themselves was never really explained to the poor chattels, and most of them would already be glad to return to their country. The Ordinance declares that this can only be permitted if they can pay their passages home, but to do this they must work on at one shilling per diem, until they have put aside enough money to defray the cost of the passage.

I do not believe myself that we shall ever put an end in this country to the consumption of alcoholic liquor, nor, to confess the truth, do I think that it would be fair to those who make a temperate use of such liquor to deprive them of all power to purchase it. Nothing, to my mind, would conduce more to temperance than making it obligatory on all persons licensed

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to sell beer and spirits to provide tables at which simple refreshments, and non-alcoholic drinks, such as tea, etc., would have to be provided. Of course, their premises would have to be a good deal larger than the present public-house, and the number of such houses would be necessarily reduced. The reason why I hold this view is that in France, Germany, and Italy people frequent cafés, which are somewhat like the afternoon tea-shops of London. They take their families, and whilst some drink beer many drink coffee, and partake of simple refreshments. They are, in fact, places of social resort, and those who frequent them are not obliged to pay for remaining in them by calling for alcoholic liquor if they prefer something else.

In France and in some of the great towns in northern Germany, a habit has sprung up of consuming large amounts of spirits. But this used not to be so thirty years ago. This habit is undoubtedly harmful, whereas I question whether any one's health is much injured by beer drinking. I would provide for this by granting a licence to sell beer only in the public-houses converted into cafés. If it be held that a person must have somewhere to drink spirits, I would give separate licences to a few houses to sell spirits but not beer. These would only be frequented by the confirmed spirit toper, and soon it would damage a man's reputation to be seen going into one of these spirit dens.

I myself never drink spirits—or, indeed, either wine or beer when I can get water—not upon any moral ground, but because I prefer water, or tea, or coffee, or ginger-beer, or something of that sort. I can understand the liking for beer or wine. The taste for spirits, however, is incomprehensible to me. I have never discovered whether they are drunk because they produce an agreeable effect on the palate or because they are comforting to the stomach. It is an acquired habit, and, once acquired, it seems difficult to escape from it. This is because so soon as the effect of one dose on the stomach and brain goes off a sense of depression succeeds which is only overcome by a second dose. Spirits certainly do not quench thirst, and in the long run they are harmful to the health. A few years ago I was staying with a friend who seemed to get through a considerable amount of spirits in the course of the day. He insisted that I was mistaken in thinking that I did not like them, and suggested that I should try all of them, and he was certain that I should discover that one at least was pleasant drinking. This I did under his auspices. The experiment did not succeed, but gin struck me as the least nasty.

The following is from a gentleman who is in a position to have known the secret history of the Greco-Turkish war, and what is now going on in Athens and Crete. No one doubted that the King and his family took very good care to make that war a sham one in order to curry favour with the Czar, whilst, as for the interview that took place between the High Commissioner of Crete and the Cretan representatives, there is not the shadow of a doubt that the report of the involved language of the High Commissioner which saw the light in one of our daily papers was entirely correct. When King Otho was driven out of Greece by his subjects, the Greeks would have done well not to have selected another King from amongst foreign Royalties. Such Kings rarely regard the country that they are called upon to rule as anything but a well-paid berth, and almost invariably they sacrifice the interests of their new country to their own. King George of Greece is no exception to this rule, and the appointment of his younger son to the High Commissionership of Crete was a lamentable error:—

You have, no doubt, noticed that the interview between Prince George and certain Cretan chiefs, as well as the astounding reply of the High Commissioner, which was minutely reported in the English Press and severely commented upon, has been "contradicted" by certain irresponsible apologists of the Prince. This is usual in regard to Royal indiscretions, and the more outrageous the indiscretion the more vehement is the contradiction.

In the present instance a Greek correspondent informed one of your daily contemporaries that the published statements "have, by the Prince's aide-de-camp, been fully and indignantly contradicted and characterised as malevolent fabrications." The *text* of this contradiction has not been vouchsafed to the Press of this country and the Continent, whilst, as a matter of fact, reliable Consular reports have been received confirming every word in regard to the interview that was published. The *Neon Asty*, which first published the interview with the five Cretan representatives all men of the highest standing in the island, three of them aged heroes of the repeated revolutionary wars of Crete—gave the conversation that ensued *verbatim*, and with the names of each interlocutor prefixed to what each successively said. If the report of the interview had not been true in substance and in fact, would they not immediately and indignantly have disavowed what we are now told—by command of the Prince—is "a malevolent fabrication?" And as yet the Prince has not succeeded in inducing one single member of the deputation to come forward and attest, over his signature, that the report of the interview was false? All the Athenian papers have accepted it as substantially true and accurate, including the *Akropolis*, the one journal which has sought to palliate the discreditable proceeding, by representing the High Commissioner as merely a blunt and devil-may-care sort of Prince. "We all know," it said, "that the High Commissioner of Crete is not distinguished for the nicety of his speech or the delicacy of his manner. . . . Ever since he passed the age of childhood those around him became convinced that they had to do with a Prince hardly princely in his ways or his conversation." Unfortunately, the Prince, who is hardly princely, has surrounded himself with men of like stamp, and the present indiscretion is by no means the first that he has committed. He cut a deplorable figure during the Greco-Turkish war, when he took care to leave behind him, safely in the Arsenal, the firing fuses of the torpedoes with which he had declared he intended to blow up the Turkish fleet, and the Czar, who had arranged that Greece should be defeated and disgraced, rewarded him with the High Commissionership of Crete, and with the scandalous excessive yearly stipend of £8,000, a sum drawn out of an exhausted and impoverished island.

In Crete it is as it is in Athens. People are dispirited and made sick at heart by the worst abuses of Court life, and by the moral degradation of the country, a parallel to which can only be found in the system which Napoleon III. introduced into France. Court functionaries, favourites, confidants, aides-de-camp, and representative officials are recruited from "Society," whilst men of integrity, tried capacity, and ancestral pride, who will not sacrifice family honour and patriotic duty for place or emolument, are not only ostracised, but are hunted down, libelled, and defamed, by the unscrupulous tools of those who are fast turning Athens into an Alsatia. On the other hand, well-tried and brave officers, who are not courtiers, and who, during the sham war of 1897 refused to be guided by other considerations than those of honour and duty, and, consequently, were not parties to the dark intrigue which prepared the disgraceful flight from Larissa, have ever since then been systematically maligned and persecuted. All this may appear to your readers mythical, for the English public knows of the true state of affairs in Greece about as much as of Kamtschatka. But some fine morning there will be a wide-awakening.

P.S.—On the 1st instant the *Daily News* received a telegraphic message from sixty-two "Cretan Deputies," who declared their faith and devotion to the High Commissioner. This was interpreted as "disposing of the incredible stories which were published a few weeks ago. Now, as the entire Cretan Assembly does not number sixty-two deputies, one can only infer that it was somehow found possible to affix sixty-two signatures to a document the

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Mr. Labouchere in "Truth" writes:—"One of the largest practices in the world * * * Can do everything science and experience suggest to satisfy every customer." GOODMANS, LTD., 2, Ludgate Hill, & 61, Seymour St., W.

text of which is not given, and which, while expressing "devotion to the Prince" on the part of those who were got to sign it, does not in the least invalidate the accuracy of the report of the interview, nor does it so much as attempt to contradict it. So much for the critical acumen with which are scrutinised documents of this description emanating from foreign parts and championing princely delinquents.

According to military experts, it is only necessary to kill or wound a certain percentage of a force making a frontal attack for it to fall back, and this percentage is very nearly the same amongst European nations. I remember that I was once in a French battery towards which a considerable body of Prussian infantry were seen in the distance to be advancing. The commanding officer in the battery was a friend of mine, and I said to him that I thought that I would withdraw, for I was a non-combatant, and possibly the Prussians might not recognise my peaceful character. My friend assured me that I could remain in perfect safety, for so soon as the advancing force had reached a certain point, he should open fire on it, and it was a mathematical certainly that, however brave the Prussian soldiers might be, they would have to fall back. So I remained and watched what happened. When the guns first opened on them they still advanced but more slowly, then the advance stopped, and then they fell back.

The Japanese appear to ignore entirely this mathematical rule. No matter how many may be put *hors de combat*, the survivors still advance. Far from objecting to be killed, this appears to be their particular desire, and this mental attitude is standing them in good stead. So it was with the Germans and other barbarians in the days of the Roman Empire. They generally conquered or died, and that they usually did the latter was due to the superiority of the Roman arms and discipline. The Japanese, however, are as well disciplined and as well armed as the troops of any European nation, and apparently their commanders are equal, if not superior, to European commanders in the science of war.

I have no particular hostility to the Russians, and I am convinced that had we been in their place we should, like them, have tried to get hold of an open harbour on the Pacific. I should like the Japs to beat the Russians, because I am in favour of Asia for Asiatics. They are not intellectually inferior to us, and we Europeans are perpetually conquering them or bullying them, or grabbing something from them, because they have been unable to defend their own. To my mind, the best settlement of the Eastern Question would be that the Easterns should be able to settle it amongst themselves; otherwise one of these days we shall be all fighting amongst ourselves over the booty.

It is curious that this assumed right to rule over all nations that are not Christian is based originally on the doctrine that the Pope is the owner of the territories of all such nations. Even now, the plea for grabbing their lands is often defended on the ground that it is the duty of Christian nations to spread Christianity, and that if we make ourselves the masters of men of other religions to ours we are fulfilling a Christian mission.

The more I read of our proceedings in Tibet the less I like them. According to the Government we intend to evacuate the country, as soon as we have taught the inhabitants what very formidable persons we are. But why should we slaughter a vast number of Tibetans to teach them this lesson? Our trade with the country is valued at about £200,000 per annum. We may make a commercial treaty with the Lamas, but unless we occupy Tibet our present proceedings are not likely to increase that trade. It is horrible to hear of the massacres that are taking place in what our Jingo newspapers celebrate as heroic victories. I have no doubt that our soldiers fight bravely, but there must be some equality between the arms of the conquerors and the conquered for the former to boast. Of course we capture jongs armed with jingals.

Our old friend the Mullah seems not to be the worse for our having again and again crushed him. This is disheartening to those who deem it our mission to crush Mullahs when we have no other little war on hand. The crushing has cost the British taxpayer a good round sum. A few of our soldiers and a great many of the Mullah's men have been killed, and so far as this African potentate and his country are concerned things seem to be precisely as they were before we meddled in his affairs.

THE RECKLESS PERCH.

An Angler fished a country Brook
With a fat Brandling on his Hook.
A Perch, in feeding Vein, espied it,
And promptly put himself outside it;
Then sore bewildered was to feel
The Presence of the hidden Steel,
Whose Barb's discomfortable Prickings
Hurt his poor Innards, like the Dickens.
The Angler struck to land his Prey,
The Perch, he tugged the other Way,
Till, on a Sudden, 'neath the Strain,
Those luckless Innards part in Twain.
Thus Perch escaped, yet paid the Cost
In half his precious Vitals lost.
The Fisherman, howe'er, was fly,
And straight must have another Try;
The Perch's Innards, cunning, took,
And re-arranged them on his Hook;
Then in the Water dropped the Bait,
And patient sat him down to wait.
The foolish Perch he soon descries
His Vitals lost before his Eyes.
"By Lobs! I'll get 'em back," he cries.
So says, and scorning prudent Pause,
He claims 'em with voracious Jaws.
This time the Hook had better Luck—
Fast in the Perch's Lip it stuck;
And, ere he knows what's come to pass,
He's landed, wriggling, on the Grass.
The hapless Fish, on Point of Death,
Thus murmurs with his latest Breath:
"O Fool, my Life away to toss
In getting back a lesser Loss!
Would that, of half my Vitals reft,
I'd been content with what was left!"

Moral.

The *Moral's* this: "When you've been 'had,'
Don't throw good Money after bad."

SPECIAL NOTICE.—A 10s. 6d. DINNER is now served daily at PRINCES', PICCADILLY, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

SCRUTATOR.

"LET HAROLD SKIMPOLE LIVE."

A GOVERNMENT is justified in adopting *ad hoc* restrictions on debate should the Opposition seek to prevent the passing of a Bill by persistent verbal obstruction. The issue between the present Government and the Liberals is whether a fair case has been made out for adopting such restrictions in regard to its Licensing Bill. Admittedly, it is of great complexity, and very detailed consideration of various of its provisions would be desirable. Mr. Balfour, in defending his motion for closure by compartments, declined to assert either that there had been obstruction or that the term to which he limited discussion on its various clauses was sufficient for the requirements of the case. He could not well openly state that the real reason was that his supporters could not be counted on for regular attendance during a discussion lasting many days, or for sitting after the middle of August. Nor could he dwell upon the urgency of the Bill being passed in the present Session, for he could not avow the real reason for urgency. The Bill has only been brought in during the fourth Session of the tenure of office of the present Administration; and although it was announced in the King's Speech as most important its introduction was put off until a comparatively late period of this Session. A considerable interval occurred between its first reading and its second reading, and after two days of discussion in Committee, further progress was interrupted because its supporters wanted to attend Ascot races. But the brewers are hard taskmasters; they have announced that their fidelity to the Government depends on the Bill being passed this Session, and where the brewer drives, Mr. Balfour needs must go. This may be an excellent Party reason for pushing the Bill through Parliament, but can hardly commend itself to those who have too much regard for the interests of temperance and of finance to obey the crack of the brewer's whip. The Church of England, however, is heart and soul with the brewers in view of their threat that they will all turn Dissenters unless the Church helps them to rob the national till.

Equally degrading has been the attitude of the Unionists in the House of Commons, who make profession of being more under religious influence than their colleagues. These goody-goody men have made speeches for years in favour of temperance, but, faced with the alternative of standing to temperance and voting against their party, they have taken the baser course, and, with the same opportunist hypocrisy that has characterised the action of the Church of England, have hypocritically pretended that a Bill converting annual liquor licences into perpetual licences is a temperance measure. The business of brewers is to sell beer. The more they sell, and the closer their monopoly, the greater is their annual profit. They may be presumed to understand their own interests, and if they had thought that the Bill would reduce their profits, does any one suppose that they would have forced it on the Government? A man must be, therefore, either an idiot or a hypocrite when he terms the measure temperance legislation.

Both Mr. Balfour and Mr. Chamberlain have been "dined" during the past week by political friends, and each has made a speech. Mr. Balfour explained that he and his limpets have not the slightest intention to resign until they have lost the support of the Unionist M.P.s. If this happened, he grandiloquently added, there was not a single member of the Government who would retain office for a second. So I should suppose; for, if the Government is beaten in the House of Commons owing to a Unionist revolt putting him in a minority, this would be a notice to quit that even he could not ignore. He admitted that were he to dissolve at present he would be beaten in the country. But this he ascribed entirely to the wicked misrepresentations of the Liberals in regard to that most beneficent Chinese Ordinance. In all else, he would have us believe, the country shares with him the conviction that his loss at the head of affairs would be a "national misfortune." According to him, the want of loyalty in some of his own supporters is the only danger ahead of him and his limpets, and he severely lectured every Unionist not ready to vote black or white at his bidding, or who may take exception to the contemptible trickery by which he staves off a vote on issues in regard to which he pretends not to be at one with Mr. Chamberlain. The speech was entirely in the Harold Skimpole vein which he affects. "I am," said that worthy gentleman, "a mere child in the world, but I don't cry for the moon. I say to the world: 'Go your several ways in peace. Wear red coats, blue coats, lawn sleeves, or aprons; put pens behind your ears, go after glory, holiness, trade, commerce, or any object that you prefer, but let Harold Skimpole live.'" And in much the same way Mr. Balfour would have the Unionist Party adopt any course, provided that there be an understanding that he is to be their leader under any circumstances.

The Chamberlain dinner was a more important affair. The chairman announced that the number of M.P.s attending it would have been 200 had all been able to come who had promised to do so, but that it was 176. My only surprise is that there were not more, considering the teasing and bullying that have been employed to swell the flock, and the flabbiness of the Unionist Parliamentary rank and file. After the chairman had explained that their guest had "sent a thrill of brotherhood and pride from end to end of the Empire, the like of which they would not find without going back to the days of Drake and Frobisher," and that what specially distinguished the hero was "his inflexible loyalty to the official chiefs of his party," the great man himself rose, amid a general waving, according to the *Times*, of napkins and handkerchiefs. He announced that he and his friends would keep the present Government in power, "so long as they feel that they can continue to render service to the country," and then, after a somewhat lengthy and confused explanation of how he had gradually by a process of natural evolution changed from a Free Trader into a Protectionist, he proceeded to dwell on his fiscal

proposals. It would seem that they are entirely due to his conviction that the maintenance of the Empire depends upon them, and that the economic side of the question has been only a secondary consideration with him. We may, he said, if we reject his revelation, be rich and increase our wealth, but our national welfare will disappear and our national mission will be ended, whilst, if only his policy is boldly adopted, and boldly defended by an appeal to patriotism, it will assure an enthusiasm that will be denied to those who fear to give effect to their convictions, and who play for safety by sitting on the fence. With this warning to Mr. Balfour and the Balfourites he sat down, and again the napkins and the handkerchiefs waved.

For my part, I had been under the impression that the expediency of a fiscal policy depends upon its being proved to be greatly beneficial to those who adopt it. To assert that, if we do not become Protectionists in order to enable us to offer a bribe to our Colonies, our Empire will break up, is rather in the nature of a prophecy than of an argument. As a prophet Mr. Chamberlain has not been as yet a conspicuous success. Often as he has reversed his opinions, he has invariably prophesied terrible things in the future if they were not adopted, but they have never occurred. If any one had in his Radical days told him that he would one day become a Conservative, like the Hebrew King, he would have asked whether he was a dog. The war in South Africa, which has been his latest exploit in the field of prophecy, was to cost ten millions and last a few months, and no sooner was it to be over than an era of prosperity was to commence here and in South Africa. I hardly think that the most ardent of those who waved their napkins or their handkerchiefs at the apotheosis of the prophet would be prepared to assert that, in this particular case, the event had quite borne out the prediction. Assuredly, we have a right to demand some more conclusive reason for being suddenly converted to Protection than his assurance that, if we are not, the Colonies will separate from us, all the more as the Colonies themelves indignantly deny that they have the remotest intention to cut the painter, whether we become Protectionists or remain Free Traders.

The dinner wound up by Mr. Chaplin pronouncing a blessing upon Mr. Chamberlain and his speech, and expressing his delight that the flower of the Unionist Party were thoroughly united in renouncing the fiscal heresies to which he himself had been always opposed. In this personal note of triumph, he was, I think, justified. He has been for years ridiculed and abused for standing to Protection when but a very few were in favour of it. He is a leading representative of the agricultural interest. Of course he would not be satisfied with a duty of 2s. per quarter on foreign wheat. But, no doubt, he and his friends the landowners are right to welcome the thin end of the wedge, in the expectation that it will later on be driven home, in which case there would be, of course, a general rise in agricultural rents, to the great contentment of those in possession of this form of property.

Mr. Chamberlain has been wise in dismissing to a secondary place the fiscal advantages of his revelation and falling back upon an appeal to our patriotism to make monetary sacrifices to the Imperialist idea. But he is in error in supposing that the sort of fiscal arrangement that he urges between us and the Colonies would in any way conduce to the maintenance of the Empire. The Colonies are determined to retain their independence of all subordination to the United Kingdom. They are perfectly satisfied with the present existing tie, and they have good reason to be so. We pay for all the costs incidental to Empire, and they share in the benefit. I very much doubt whether—when it comes to the point—they will consent to enter into any fiscal arrangement with us which would be personally binding on them. In any case, they would only do this if we were to bribe high enough. The arrangement would be a cause of perpetual squabbles that would create bad blood. This is not a prophecy, but merely a statement of what actually occurred in the days of preferential tariffs—for it must never be forgotten that Mr. Chamberlain's scheme is no new idea, but as old as Protection, and that, like Protection, it has been weighed in the scale of experience and found wanting. Free Trade would not be killed in England, even if we were to revert to Protection. Nor does it necessarily follow that Protection would prove a success because Mr. Chamberlain says it would. Good times alternate with bad times. During the latter, there would be an outcry against taxation on food which no Ministry would be able to resist. In former times the Colonies were regarded as the natural feeders of an Empire. Their interests were ignored. This was so with Rome and Carthage, and Greece, in old days, and with European Powers, including ourselves, not very long ago. This injustice has, in most cases, been remedied. But the Chamberlain ideal is that the United Kingdom should be taxed, and its entire fiscal system should be subordinated to purchasing the assent of our Colonies to maintain their connection with us. This would be unjust to us, and we should soon revolt against such a one-sided arrangement. For my part, I honestly believe that it would be difficult to devise a scheme more calculated to break up the Empire than that which Mr. Chamberlain assures us we must adopt, if we would not see this break up. It has obtained a certain measure of support—not on Imperial considerations, but because the classes see their own advantage in it.

A MATRIMONIO EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

Certain lively scenes which took place at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Alliance recently caused my attention to be directed to the domestic affairs of that body; and I think that the result of inquiries that I have been making may prove of interest to the Evangelical section of the community, and possibly also to those of a different persuasion. That I do not exaggerate in describing the annual meeting as "lively" may be judged from the following passages in a descriptive account of the proceedings, which was sent to me at the time by an eye-witness:—

> The first thing which struck me on my arrival was the presence of the police, as though special precautions had been taken to prevent a breach of the peace at this gathering of a Christian organisation. I found the meeting a scene of utter disorder. The chair-

man, Lord Kinnaird, was on his feet, as were also two or three others on the platform, and at least half a dozen people in the body of the hall. They were all trying to speak at the same time, and each attempting to shout the others down, while a young Dissenting Minister standing at the door added to the confusion by bawling out, "Silence! Silence!"

I discovered that the balance-sheet of the Alliance for the previous twelve months had just been read. It showed some £1,100 received in subscriptions and over £1,000 paid away in litigation and quarrelling among the members. Questions were pelted at Lord Kinnaird, which he seemed utterly unable to answer. "I rise to ask," said one, "if the Council have directed the pages of the minute-book to be gummed together in order to conceal what has occurred?" The chairman stammered out something about another matter. "Please answer the question with 'yes' or 'no,'" continued the remorseless heckler. Lord Kinnaird then admitted that the Council had ordered the pages of the records of the society to be gummed up. He also admitted that the £1,100 which had been subscribed for very different purposes had been mostly spent by the Council in litigation. . . .

Without quoting further, it will be seen that a good deal of heat was developed, considering that this is an organisation based, as one gathers from its mottoes, on the mutual love of Christians. Now, what was it all about?

It appears that the Council of the Alliance recently quarrelled with their secretary, and it was this quarrel that led to the expensive litigation which absorbed the best part of the revenue of the society for the previous year. The bare facts of this litigation are sufficient to show that the Council was altogether in the wrong. The secretary was a zealous Evangelical from Australia, and it appears to have been his zeal and nothing else that generated all this friction. He has put the case from his point of view on record in a sworn information, which is very edifying reading. The chief point in it relates to what he picturesquely describes as "the South London Matrimonial Market meetings." One learns from his statement that it has been the custom for the brethren and sisters of Clapham and Brixton to foregather at the hospitable mansions of the wealthier elect, ostensibly for prayer, evangelical exercises, and mutual edification. But the Father of Evil, going about seeking whom he might devour, and taught by long experience that his victims are never so accessible as when engaged in concerting measures to circumvent him, cast his eye on these pious gatherings, and bethought him how he might use them for his own ends. It was not long before he had captured those meetings as thoroughly as Mr. Chamberlain captures a caucus of Unionists. He made of them an occasion whereat the retails of Clapham rubbed shoulders with the wholesales, where the retired from all sections of trade made the acquaintance of the upper crust of suburban society, where young Evangelicals of both sexes flirted after prayers, and perhaps without even waiting till prayers were over, and where Evangelical match-making mammas found promising introductions for their daughters. In short, these assemblies of the "unco guid" became full of the lust of the eye and the pride of life—like the drawing-rooms and "at homes" of mere worldlings. Listen to the secretary's account of this mockery and abasement of religion, and remember also that he is on his oath:—

"I know the meetings are all wrong," said one of the Committee to me; "but then I ought not to complain, because my daughter made such a very good match."

I was sent to these meetings as a delegate from the London Council, and as representing the patronage and approval of these Evangelical leaders. When I went I was amazed to find, under the pretence of a religious meeting of the Alliance, a table spread as for some ball-room supper, with all kinds of delicacies, including wine. Supper was followed by some two hours' entertainment, love songs, theatrical recitations, violin display, philandering, and general foolish gossip, prefaced by a few gabbled verses from Scripture, short speech, a brief hymn, and still more hurried prayer, concluded sometimes with a distribution of cigars.

The whole affair was a mischievous Farce, wherein men who had made money, and were ready to display it, used the name of the Evangelical Alliance to induce people to go to their houses.

The meetings were only held during the London season, and were poorly disguised arrangements for promoting marriages.

It might have been supposed that all right-minded members would have resented this conversion of the Evangelical Alliance into a Matrimonial Alliance. When, however, he set himself to reform this state of things, the secretary soon found that he had potent influences to contend against. Possibly there were parents on the Council who still had unmarried daughters on their hands, and those who had already got rid of their girls through the Clapham Market entertained a fellow-feeling for them. At first the Council passed resolutions condemning the South London junketings; but afterwards other influences got the upper hand, and then it was that the pages of the minute book containing these resolutions were pasted up, as suggested by Lord Kinnaird's heckler at the annual meeting. Encouraged by this success, the pro-matrimonial market interest next persuaded the Council to ask for the secretary's resignation, without cause assigned. He demurred, and a meeting took place, at which he was offered £500 and a certificate that there was no imputation against him, if only he would resign. The offer was declined, and the secretary was virtually dismissed. But the secretary was a lawyer, as well as an Evangelical, and he was not going to be shunted so easily. In accordance with the constitution of the society he had a right of appeal to the Annual Conference, and he gave notice that he intended to appeal. The Council met this by abandoning the Annual Conference. The secretary next brought an action against the Alliance. I do not know its exact nature, but it must have been something in the nature of a claim for reinstatement. The Council defended the action up to a point, but then climbed down, and settled the case on the terms that they should pay the plaintiff £600 and all the costs. Thus was compiled the little bill of upwards of £1,000 for legal proceedings which is the other matter referred to in the above account of the annual meeting.

The secretary's allegations against the management of the affairs of the Alliance are not confined to the South London Matrimonial Market, or to his own personal grievances. He asserts (still on oath) that the funds of the society have been misappropriated, and that the Council has condoned the misappropriation. A former official is alleged to have been short in his accounts to the amount of £125. The Council called for his resignation, and, on his tendering it, went through the form of voting him a bonus of £125, which was not paid, in order to square the account, and conceal the facts from the subscribers. In December last the Council issued an appeal in the official journal of the Alliance—aptly designated *The Life of Faith*—stating that funds were needed. The late secretary says (still on oath) they had

no need of funds at all, having shortly before received a legacy of £5,000, and having besides this "hundreds invested in Consols." He also states that, although the printed constitution requires that the Council shall be elected at the Annual Conference and hold office for one year only, no election has taken place for more than five years, so that "there has been no legally authorised Council for some years." All this leads me to the conclusion that a certain Personage, referred to above, has extended his operations beyond the South London Matrimonial Market, and that he is playing the dickens with the Evangelical Alliance generally. From the way those statements are made I do not think they can be seriously controverted. It is at any rate certain, as I have already said, from the upshot of the late secretary's action, that the Council treated that gentleman in a way which they could not hope to justify, and that they should thereby have let the Alliance in for an expenditure of £1,000 in compensation and costs is simply scandalous. If it is also true that this same Council has no legal warrant for its existence, and holds office in defiance of the constitution, no time ought to be lost in getting rid of it. There may be room for difference of opinion over the South London Matrimonial Market, but it does not require a Puritanical imagination, or even an Evangelical code of theology, to see that there is something radically wrong about the recent administration of the affairs of the Alliance, and that the sooner the members take the work of reform into their own hands the better it will be for the cause.

A POST-OFFICE INJUSTICE.

I have lately learned the details of a case of injustice in the Post Office, which, though it occurred some time ago, is nevertheless deserving of the attention of the public. Since it occurred, repeated appeals have been made to the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand to reconsider the case, but it would seem that, having once given a decision, they stick to it at all costs, no matter how strong the evidence may be that they have erred. It is in these circumstances that, as a last resort, TRUTH has now been asked to notice the case, and despite the delay I think that the whole story may be usefully published. For one reason, it is not yet too late to repair the wrong that has been done, and, for another, the facts reveal the existence of a system of dealing with employees in the Post Office which ought not to be tolerated in any Government Department. Military justice is sometimes severely criticised, but in its way this Civil Service case is as bad as any that has happened in the Army. In one respect, indeed, it is even worse, for a soldier is at least entitled to a trial before he is dismissed in disgrace from the Army.

The victim is Alfred Charles Careless, for fifteen years a sorter in the Circulation Office, G.P.O., and the history of his affair is as follows. While on duty in the Inland Section at Mount Pleasant on the evening of December 20, 1900, Careless was called into a private room and requested to turn out his pockets. He did so, and nothing but his own property was found upon him. Two postal orders of the value of 8s. 6d. and payable to the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society were then shown to him and he was asked whether he had seen them before. He replied that he had not. He was next asked if he would stand in company with some other men for the purpose of identification, and, though surprised and indignant, he consented. Half-a-dozen men were placed in a line with him and two detectives of the Confidential Enquiry Branch of the Post Office were present. Two women were brought into the room. One, whom I will call Miss X., went along the line of men, and, stopping by Careless, said that she had seen him before. The other woman hesitated at Careless, and one of the detectives told her to have a good look at him, but she finally declared that "the man who cashed the orders" was not there. Careless was asked whether he had seen Miss X. before. He answered that he knew her face but did not remember where he had seen her. The detectives also questioned Miss X. Several of her answers began with the expression "I think" so and so, whereupon one of the detectives exclaimed that "there must not be so much of the thinking business. They had a written statement in which she said that she could positively identify the man; *they had caught the thief*, and she must say yes or no." Miss X. then replied with an unqualified "Yes." Careless admits that on hearing himself described as a thief he lost his self-control and broke out into a denunciation of his accusers in which he used bad language. After the so-called identification he was detained at the office for some hours. In the meantime his locker in the office and his house in Romilly-road, Finsbury Park, were both searched, but not a single article of any kind belonging to the Post Office—not even a lead pencil—was discovered. When Careless was at length allowed to leave the office at 2 a.m., he was informed that he was suspended from duty. The supension lasted till January 26, 1901, when he was dismissed from the service and the value of the two postal orders (8s. 6d.) deducted from the balance of wages due to him.

These postal orders were undoubtedly stolen, and were cashed by the thief at an off-licence beer-shop in the Seven Sisters-road, of which the above-mentioned Miss X. was at that time the tenant. The other woman was Miss X.'s barmaid. Their statement to the detectives was that the man who cashed the orders spent most of the 8s. 6d. at the shop, purchasing whisky, cigars, and cigarettes, and receiving some small change. He stayed in the shop talking for about an hour, and afterwards he was talking outside to two policemen for another hour or so. Both women said that he was a frequent visitor to the shop, that he had proposed marriage to the barmaid, that he represented himself as a detective, and that he used to talk a good deal to the constable on point duty outside. It will be noticed that, although the thief ought, according to this account, to have been perfectly well known to Miss X. and her barmaid, the latter declared that Careless was not the man, and the former only identified him definitely after being pressed by the detectives to say "Yes" or "No." Careless's own admission that he knew Miss X. by sight is explained by the fact that he passed her shop every day on his way to and from the office. When the question was put to him, however, he did not

know where she lived, and so he could not at the moment call to mind where he had seen her. It may be added that during the period of his suspension Careless and his wife went to the beer-shop, and that it was not until he had inquired, "Don't you know me?" that Miss X. replied, after some hesitation, "Oh, you are the young man from the Post Office." Apart from the supposed identification by Miss X., which would have been laughed out of Court at a trial, the Post Office possessed not a shred of evidence connecting Careless with the cashing of the postal orders. The constables with whom the thief was said to have held frequent conversations were not brought forward to identify Careless; and as a matter of fact both deny that they ever held any such conversations with him, or knew him as a visitor to the shop. Not only is there an entire absence of reliable evidence that Careless cashed the orders, but the Post Office has never yet proved that he was in a position to steal them. The letter containing the orders might have circulated via the Inland Section where Careless was employed, or through the Eastern Central District office; and the authorities have from first to last refused to say what proof they have (if any) that it went to the Inland Section.

Against the lack of evidence of Careless's guilt are several circumstances tending to show his innocence. I have already mentioned that nothing in the slightest degree incriminating was discovered at his house. He is alleged to have spent the money in cigars, cigarettes, and whisky. He is a non-smoker, he never kept whisky in the house, and the detectives found there no cigars, cigarettes, whisky, or whisky bottle. On the night Careless is alleged to have cashed the orders he finished one spell of duty at 8 p.m., and was on again at four o'clock the next morning. Two fellow-sorters went most of the way home with him, he was then met by his wife, and by half-past nine o'clock he was in bed. The orders were cashed between ten and eleven o'clock, and Miss X.'s statement was that the thief remained in her shop for an hour, and stood outside for another hour or so. It is scarcely probable that a man who had been working up till eight o'clock and who had to begin at 4 a.m. would be dawdling about the streets instead of going to bed till midnight. There is, finally, a significant fact bearing on this case in the conviction at the Old Bailey in December 1901, of "an examiner of sorting" at the Eastern Central Office, who might quite possibly have been the thief. This man had been systematically stealing postal orders for a period of eighteen months, which covers the date of Careless's alleged offence. He bore a considerable resemblance to Careless, he lived in the same locality, and it has been ascertained that, unlike Careless, he was in the habit of taking home whisky, cigars, and cigarettes, with which he regaled his friends.

At the time of his dismissal Careless appealed to the Postmaster-General to prosecute him for stealing or receiving the postal orders, so that he might have an opportunity of proving his innocence. Lord Londonderry, who was the P.M.G., refused to do this, and, upon a question being asked in the House of Commons, it was stated that Careless was dismissed because "he was not a fit person to be retained in the Service," the fact that he was dimissed because of the theft being disingenuously evaded. There is, however, incontrovertible evidence that this and this alone was the reason for his dismissal. First, there was the deduction from his wages of the value of the stolen orders; secondly, there is an official "statement of his service" supplied to him at his own request, which sets forth the dates of his service, and concludes:—

> Identified as person who cashed certain postal orders enclosed in a post letter which had failed to reach its owner, and with which he would have had an opportunity of dealing.
> Ordered by Postmaster-General to be dismissed, January 21, 1901.

In April, 1902, Careless was advised that the Postmaster-General had acted illegally in deducting the value of the stolen orders from his wages, and he therefore demanded payment of the 8s. 6d. A month later the Postmaster-General forwarded the 8s. 6d. to him as "balance of wages due to you." But persistent efforts on the part of Careless to induce the P.M.G. to prosecute him, or to hold a proper inquiry into his case—for nothing worthy of the name of an inquiry by the Department has ever taken place—have been unavailing. The invariable reply is that the case cannot be reopened.

If a private employer had treated Careless in this way, he would certainly have been able to recover heavy damages for wrongful dismissal and libel. He might, of course, have brought an action against the Postmaster-General. But, putting aside the probability that such an action against the Crown would have been defeated by a plea of privilege, Careless was too poor to embark upon litigation. As may be imagined, he has had the greatest difficulty in procuring any kind of employment since his dismissal. In this connection, by the way, it may be mentioned that he happens to be a member of the Hearts of Oak Society—the very society which he was accused of robbing—and that when, owing to his dismisal, he was unable to keep up his payments, the Committee, upon an investigation of his case, formed the opinion that the accusation was unjustified, and gave him the benefit he was entitled to as a member in distress. The truth seems to be that Careless was picked out on the strength of a vague description as the probable thief, and that, the charge having been made, the officers responsible determined to stick to it rather than confess that they had made a mistake. At the same time their own conduct shows that they were afraid to submit the case to a jury. A confidential inquiry branch is, unfortunately, necessary in the Post Office; but the humblest employee ought not to be treated as guilty of a theft until his guilt has been established in a court of justice. That a man with fifteen years' good character should be branded as a thief and dismissed from the service without any trial at all, let alone on the preposterously flimsy identification which was the only evidence forthcoming against Careless, is to my mind an infamous proceeding. In such matters the Postmaster-General is very much in the hands of his official advisers. I believe, however,

that if Lord Stanley would make an independent investigation for himself—not accepting off-hand any version of the facts that may have been submitted to his predecessors, but carefully probing the evidence on Careless's side as well as the other side—he would come to the conclusion that this poor sorter is a grievously-wronged man, and, even at the cost of hurting official susceptibilities, make some reparation by reinstating him.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—I.

The season has arrived when nearly everybody is asking himself or his wife, "Where shall we go this year?" There are some few, of course, who scarcely ask the question, or, if they ask it, have the answer ready at once. These are the people who migrate every year to the same spot with the same unwavering fidelity as the birds, which come year after year from the uttermost parts of the earth to build their nests in the same tree or the same hedgerow, or the one in which they were themselves hatched out last spring. There are others whose choice varies as little as that of the dishes on the domestic table—beef to-day, mutton to-morrow; Eastbourne last year, Folkestone this; or Cromer this year, Scarborough next. There are others with wider ambitions, who are so bewildered with the variety of choice that they have the greatest difficulty in making up their minds. I knew once a paterfamilias who never managed to solve the problem in time to book accommodation in advance for his numerous household, and hardly knew where he would take them until the day of departure arrived. I met him once with the whole caravan — nurses, perambulators, baby in arms— encamped in one of the most expensive hotels in Ryde during the regatta season, and he was by no means a rich man. He told me that he had descended in his unpremeditated fashion on Shanklin the day before, had failed to find enough bedrooms there for his party, and had to retreat after nightfall to his present quarters. He was off on an expedition round the island in search of less ambitious accommodation. He failed, and next morning I met the whole party leaving for Bognor or Worthing, or any place within reach that would take them in. I subsequently heard that they arrived by stages at Brighton, and I am not sure that the tour did not end there. A pretty expensive tour it must have been, if only in railway fares. This may be an extreme case; but there are a great many people who give as little forethought to this momentous question as my unfortunate friend. It has occurred to me, therefore, that it might be opportune and useful if I devoted a little space to a few hints on the possibilities of England as a holiday resort.

There is another class to whom I would respectfully dedicate these hints—namely, the many people I have come across lately who usually spend their holidays on the Continent, but who declare that, owing to the burden of the Income Tax or the slackness of trade, or the depression on the Stock Exchange, particularly the Kaffir section, they really don't see how they are going to take their wives and daughters to Homburg, or Marienbad, or Switzerland this year. From what I see around me in London I suspect that there is a good deal of humbug about all this talk; and probably there will not be any very striking diminution in the number of English people who will be flitting across the Channel during the next month. But still, many people are feeling the pinch, and it is worth the while of all such to think whether they cannot save twenty or thirty per cent. on the annual holiday bill and yet get as good value for money both in health and pleasure. I am the last man to deprecate foreign travel, even though it does not take any more ambitious shape than a fortnight at Ostend, Boulogne, or Dieppe. It is the duty of every man, especially in an insular nation like ours, to enlarge his knowledge of men and manners by getting out of his own country occasionally, and it is especially beneficial to young people to take them or send them abroad. If any grown man were to tell me that he is thinking of crossing the Channel this year for the first time in his life, I should tell him to go at once, and disregard anything he may read in this article. Another thing that is often said, and is perfectly true, is that many hardworking men feel that a holiday is more of a holiday when spent abroad. The complete change of habit, surroundings, and diet, the continual occurrence of novel objects of mental interest, no doubt make a foreign excursion specially attractive and specially beneficial to men who work chiefly with their heads. But as against all this, it is as much a reproach to a man to know nothing of his own country as to know nothing of others; in fact, I think it is the duty of a man to see the best that his own country has to show before he goes abroad in search of similar pleasure. And as to the mere virtue of change of surroundings, hotel life is the same all the world over, while on the other hand the people, the life, and the towns and villages in the different parts of the United Kingdom present as varied a field for the observant traveller as those of the more familiar parts of the Continent. Most parts of Scotland have as little in common with East Anglia as East Anglia has with the Netherlands. Connaught is as different from Cornwall as Cornwall from Brittany, perhaps more so. Thousands of English people who know every corner of the Engadine or the Bernese Oberland might devote a season or two to exploring England with equal profit to themselves and their own country.

But let us come to details. I am advising a Londoner, and we will start with a Londoner who wants a cheap holiday. Well, he may select any point between Colchester and Portsmouth, Oxford and Margate, and practically eliminate railway fares from his bill. Something under a sovereign per head will probably take him and his party to and from their destinations. "What rot!" he interjects at this point. "You don't suppose I am going to spend August at Clacton or Margate, or Brighton, or Hastings?" By no means, if you do not wish it. What I desire to point out is that there are plenty of places and districts within a seventy or eighty mile radius of London which have attractions of all sorts and kinds, and are as remote from London in everything but distance as though they involved a journey ten times the length. Let us look

at the map. We will begin at the North Foreland. You do not like Margate and Ramsgate in August. That is of no consequence, for plenty of other people do. But come a few miles south to the Cinque Ports. Do you know them? If not, you ought to have done so before going to Holland to explore the buried cities of the Zuyder Zee, and such-like wonders. Sandwich and Rye are two of the quaintest towns in the Kingdom, and the country all round them is full of beauty and interest, and as far from the maddening crowd as the most misanthropic holiday-maker can desire. Winchelsea is a unique curiosity from an antiquarian point of view, and a beautiful spot to every one who has eyes. Do you know Romney Marsh? There is no more characteristic stretch of marsh-land in the South of England, and no more delightful place for a day or two's cycling or motoring, and all the little villages and towns and churches, inland or by the sea, right away to Dungeness and Hastings, are charming. Then there is Canterbury close at hand, with one of the finest churches in Europe, and many other interesting things to show—not to mention the cricket week in August. A man might spend two or three weeks in exploring this corner of Kent, and not find a day hang heavily. Besides, are there not two of the finest golf courses in the world at Sandwich and Deal, and another, not to be sneezed at, at Littlestone out beyond Romney Marsh? If you must have first-rate hotel accommodation, make your headquarters at Folkestone, where there are not only bands and frocks to amuse your wife and daughters, but the steamers always ready to take you over to the delights of Boulogne. Do not retort to this that Folkestone is cockneyfied, for it is not more so than Interlaken or Lucerne. People go to these places merely as centres from which to "do" the surrounding country; and I cannot understand why they never adopt the same tactics in England.

Let us get back to the map. We cross the border into Sussex and come to Bexhill. We will stop here a moment for the benefit of the individual alluded to above who never leaves London except to go to one of half-a-dozen old-established watering-places on the East or South Coast. It is time he had a change, and the man who wants a change cannot do better than try Bexhill. Bexhill to-day is what Eastbourne was five-and-twenty years ago. A flourishing and lively watering-place has been constructed by sheer enterprise and intelligence out of nothing at all, and to-day it offers everything that people go to seaside towns for—excellent bathing, good bands and entertainments, golf of course, and a pleasant country in the background for driving, cycling, and picnicking. The lesson of Eastbourne has been thoroughly learnt, and the town and its amusements are all admirably managed. It would be foreign to my present purpose to discuss Eastbourne, for everybody who loves the seaside knows it, and we are looking now for the less known places; but old associations move me to remark again that it is the finest town of its class that England possesses, and if anybody does not know that, I recommend him to go and see for himself.

It is always necessary in discussing holiday resorts in the present day to have an eye to the golfers, and if any golfer who reads these remarks is in want of a quiet and cheap holiday, let me mention to him Seaford. I do not speak as an expert in regard to the links, but I am told that they are good. The town itself is of course an unpretentious little place, but nowhere do you see the Sussex downs and the chalk-cliffs to more advantage, and if ever you feel dull you can run across to Dieppe in well under three hours by the Brighton Company's newest turbine steamer from the adjacent port of Newhaven. Another quaint little Sussex town that golf has brought into favour lately is Littlehampton. I have only a casual acquaintance with it; but I know people who swear by it, and go there again and again. Littlehampton lies close to one of the great show places and beauty spots of England—Arundel and its castle—which, if it lay somewhere up the Rhine would be visited every year by thousands of British tourists. As it happens to lie within an easy day's excursion from London, I do not suppose one Englishmen in ten thousand has ever seen it, although the Brighton Railway Company offer a special excursion there once a week, at a low price, with luncheon and carriage fares thrown in. This corner of Sussex is as rich in interest and natural beauty as the Kentish district I was speaking of just now. There is a broad stretch of marshy country, excellent for riding and cycling, lying between the downs and the sea, and jutting out to Selsey Bill. There are pretty villages and quaint old churches dotted all over it. There is Bognor—a pleasant little place enough for those who want the sea before everything else. There is Bosham, with the quaint harbour which the artists have lately been advertising. There is Chichester, with its beautiful cathedral and old-world atmosphere. There is Goodwood Park with its natural beauties all the year round and its artificial ones, by no means to be despised, in the last week of July. There is Petworth, with its splendid picture gallery not far off. And there is Portsmouth within a short railway journey, with some of the finest sights England has to show. A man of an original turn of mind might lodge himself, say, at Arundel, in perfectly comfortable country quarters, and occupy himself for two or three weeks quite as pleasantly and healthily as in Normandy or Brittany, or on the Rhine, and at far less cost. In point of fact, he might do the same thing in almost any part of Sussex. I wonder it never occurs to anybody who is a little tired of the conventional seaside holiday to try some place like East Grinstead, or Lewes, or Horsham, or Chichester, and make his own amusements out of the infinite resources of the surrounding country. I will name some more places suitable for such a purpose next week, when we will resume our progress round the Kingdom.

THE THEATRES.

The past week has not been productive of any considerable theatrical event, if we exclude from that category the great series of Tableaux Vivants at His Majesty's illustrating the history of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem. Here, indeed, the theatrical intelligence of Mr. and Mrs. Tree and Mr. W. Poël, the

pictorial or sculptorial intelligence of Mr. F. Dicksee, R.A., of Mr. J. J. Shannon, A.R.A., and of Baron Rosenkrantz produced with the co-operation of many amiable amateurs a spectacle magnificent to the eye. But here, as in all such entertainments, it was the extrinsic element that prevailed and the spectators were naturally more engrossed in the identification of the various characters with the names on the programme than with the tableaux as arrangements of colour and form. This of course is only natural and in no way detracts from the merit or success of the undertaking. Only, one turns from this gorgeous show to the regular theatrical entertainments to but find them, almost all, alas! empty of interest. Excluding the domain of musical comedy, one is pulled up short of breath after naming "The Duke of Killiecrankie," and the admirable little "'Op o' me Thumb" which has just ceased with the temporary cessation of Mr. Alexander's work at the St. James's Theatre.

Adaptation after adaptation from the French, adaptation after adaptation from some novel that has been returned well-thumbed to the circulating libraries. These are our provender, yet we are capable of digesting better things. I suppose the fault must be laid upon the dramatists, whose empty skulls can be filled only from the brains of others. The fault cannot be with the managers, who assure us that they stand at the doors of their theatres craving of the passers-by the charity of a play. Some thousands reach them, I am told, by this and other means, yet are they almost one and all useless for the purposes of the modern British stage. Yet a very lofty standard of attainment can hardly be required by all the managers, since I saw somewhere the other day that Mr. Frohman, one of our syndicate kings, thus described in an interview his desiderata: A play to which a young man takes his young woman with the hope that she may identify the doings of the hero with himself, and to which she asks to be taken that her young man may find in the heroine just those sweet qualities that are blushing at his side. I do not quote textually, but this, I think, was the gist of Mr. Frohman's aspiration. Such a play, when found, should run for ten thousand nights.

In the circumstances, however, there seems to be room for a theatre which shall aspire rather more in height than in breadth, be satisfied, say, with a run of fifty or even of thirty nights. For it must be admitted that a considerable class of people has practically abandoned theatre-going in the course of the last year or two, certain that their shillings spent will not be repaid with minted pleasure. The Stage Society, which I am glad to know prospers exceedingly, is an example of what may be done in the way of producing plays for one or two performances, though in the selection of Mr. Yeats's play they showed a tendency to adopt conscious eccentricity in place of that eccentricity which is not a birth of calculation, but the natural expression of a rare temperament. I believe that a theatre run on the lines of the Stage Society without any attempt after a desire for other than normal sound drama free from neuropaths and cranks of all sorts would have a considerable chance of winning back to the theatre that class of playgoers who now spend their money at concerts or elsewhere than at the theatre.

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Mr. Lewis Waller produced last week a small first piece at the Imperial Theatre entitled "The Password." Lurid and Russian, Nihilistic and autocratic, amorous and culminating in assassination, "The Password" yet fails to convey that delightful thrill of the thing lived, the illusion of an ideal, more strenuous existence than we can taste of every day. Perhaps it is the improbability of the young Nihilist being guileless enough to believe that his mistress is a member of his very small secret society without his knowledge. Perhaps it is the unlikelihood of secrets of life and death being bandied about in loud tones in the room of the Minister for Justice. Perhaps Mrs. Charles Sugden does not grip her dialogue with the hand-fast of passion, perhaps—but of what avail is the building up of potentialities? The little play slips into its place among its million fellows, neither better nor worse than they. And yet when one thinks of what can be done in the short traffic of three-quarters of an hour or so, when one thinks of Messrs. Pryce and Fenn's "'Op o' me Thumb," one cannot help a sigh of regret over so many such three-quarters of an hour evaporated in the contemplation of—curtain-raisers.

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The Empire programme was enriched last week with the cinematographic presentment of the Hackenschmidt-Jenkins encounter of the Saturday of the week before. Personally I prefer to watch the evolutions of these giants at this respectful distance of the photograph from the sun. One obtains all necessary knowledge of their doings and it is with considerable relief that one remembers, as the plot grows disastrously thick for Jenkins despite his heroic half Nelsons, that he emerged safe and sound from an ordeal worthy of that Norse saga wherein a mere mortal wrestled with a god disguised to his utter discomfiture. Not that Hackenschmidt resembles a god, for he is simply a Titan. Such width of shoulder, such girth of chest, dwarf anything that has been seen since Captain Webb, whose battles were fought with Neptune—a Titan with a true god.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

LA PRÉSIDENTE'S GARDEN PARTY.

IF our friendship for our ally is unchanged, we cannot help borrowing shades of colour from the Japanese, with the names the latter give them. The steel grey now *à la mode* is called *la nuance Shimose*, after the terrible explosive that annihilated the Russian artillery in the different engagements between Japs and Russians. The *nuance poisson d'argent* is imitated from the torpedoes which wrecked the Russian war vessels. These implements of destruction look in the sea like great silver fish, and, if they twisted about the narrow ends, might

SCRUBB & Co., Ltd. caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of SCRUBB & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine

almost pass for sharks. The figured silk imitations of *linon* or cambric are covered with patterns borrowed from Japanese embroideries, and parasols used with them are bright, with colours reminding one of a parterre aglow with bedded-out flowers. This is very Japanese. Mme. Loubet herself followed at her garden party the mode that favours Japanese patterns.

On that occasion she and the President did not appear on the terrace earlier than four o'clock. Both appeared tired, and he no longer walks with an elastic step. They will be glad to find themselves again under the mulberry trees of their place in the Drôme. Not that they can have rest there, for they will have to extend hospitality to local civil and municipal servants, to the officers of garrisons in the Department of the Drôme, to old friends, neighbours, relatives, and connections. A *chef* and three *aides* will not be too many to prepare the lunches and dinners at the President's château. But M. and Mme. Loubet will be able to lay aside formality and receive *un peu à la bonne franquette*, which is the way South of France people like to be welcomed.

Things heard at the garden party:—(1) That "The German Emperor ardently desires the prolongation of the war until he has built more ships. He could then act as umpire and make conditions favourable to himself in regard to Europe and Asia. He has been furtively importing soldiers into China, ostensibly to protect his Shantung concession and the railways that German contractors make." (2) "Russia bothers Delcassé to secure means for coaling at French colonial ports war vessels she wants to send to the Farthest East. D. has so far avoided committing himself. Nelidoff thrusts the sword into his loins." (3) "Count Cassini thinks to gain Teddy Roosevelt. He and the Countess, since the war began, have had Alice Roosevelt every Sunday afternoon at the Russian Embassy to make much of her. She is in love with them. This will not have any effect on the policy of Teddy R. or of John Hay. While they appreciate Russian courtesies, they will not be drawn by them out of the course that American interests dictate or that public sentiment indicates. Japan is popular in the United States. They do not believe there in those charges of cruelty to wounded Russian soldiers which the French Press has swallowed. Allen, the United States Minister at Seoul, who went there originally as a Protestant missionary, is all the time sending accounts to Washington advantageous to the Japanese. He scouts the atrocity tales. The pulpit generally in the United States inclines towards Japan, which has been all the religious bodies could wish towards their missions and Christian schools."

One or two other things overheard: "Who's that prepossessing person you have just bowed to?" "Don't you know? Lagrave, the General French Commissioner to the St. Louis Exhibition. The man involved in the two millions of the Chartreux scandals." "Why, he looks sweet-tempered, open-hearted, and a person to whom the priest might *donner le bon dieu sans confession préalable*." "Just so." "You don't know he laid a trap for Combes *fils*?" "Not at all." "Nor that Combes *fils* wanted to blackmail the Chartreux?" "No." "Well, then, explain the mystery." "There is no mystery to explain. Lagrave blundered because elated with his good luck. A simpleton in some respects, a very clever fellow in others, and, like most persons suddenly raised from a humble station to a capital position, has no idea of the intricacies of the official and political spheres in which he now moves. Like many another parvenu, he confounds his own interest with what is morally or socially right."

The late M. de Magny, Secretary-General of the Minister of the Interior in Waldeck-Rousseau's time, fingered 2,000,000 fr. from some religious body or bodies. Lagrave probably knew of it, and thought accepting bribes or blackmail the way of the Ministry. Combes noticed how unconscious he was of lending himself to a rascally bargain when he spoke to him of the Chartreux as ready to give 2,000,000 fr. for an authorisation to combine at the Grande Chartreuse pious contemplation with a commercial operation that brought them in a net income of 9,000,000 fr. Waldeck-Rousseau is believed to have resigned when he found that his Secretary-General had agreed, for the 2,000,000 fr., to give satisfaction to the monks, and De Magny to have died of terror on finding that Combes had pledged himself to no compromise with them.

Lagrave is the son of a common policeman, and was educated at an elementary school. The policeman had made the acquaintance, when on duty at public meetings, of a political speaker, Mesureur, who had risen from the humblest rank to be a designer of patterns for a cotton manufacturer. On the entrance of this draftsman as Minister of Commerce into the Bourgeois Cabinet, the policeman called on him and asked his patronage for his son. The Minister took a great liking to the young man, and made him his private secretary. In six weeks he made him his official private secretary, and then the next step was director of *le personnel*, which invested him with the patronage of the Ministry. Mesureur obtained the post of *garçon de recette* at a bank for Lagrave *père*. Millerand, also a Socialist, but a man of college education, succeeded Mesureur, when the Waldeck-Rousseau Cabinet came in. He also liked Lagrave, and made him Secretary-General at the Ministry of Commerce, a Commissioner to the 1900 Exhibition, and General Commissioner to the St. Louis Exhibition. His obliging ways would have secured this rapid rise in an official department where promotion is usually slow, and in which a person educated at an elementary school could not under ordinary circumstances have risen above the grade of *expéditionnaire* or clerk for addressing letters. I dare say Lagrave wanted to oblige the Chartreux friends, and might have thought it fair game to plume the Chartreux, who so eminently

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—Miss Sharman, of the Orphan Homes, Southwark, writes:—"For more than twelve years Dr. Alabone has successfully treated patients from my Orphan Homes, and many children who were pronounced to be in *advanced Consumption* by the doctors attending the Homes, and some who have been patients at the Brompton and Ventnor Hospitals, *have been cured by Dr. Alabone's treatment*, and are now in good health and doing useful work. Three remarkable cases have occurred lately. I have seen among my friends as well as the Orphan Children so many good results." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

reconciled a life of prayer and contemplation with money-making hardness and greed. If he held this opinion he might not have seen the harm of Edgar Combes following the example De Magny set. The Chartreux surely were fair game. In the police the ideas of honour and honesty are elementary. At any rate they are not those of a bourgeois who has received a classical education. If Lagrave *a fait des bêtises*, he is not a bad fellow, which is consistent with that unconsciousness of doing anything wrong which the elder Combes noticed. Edgar Combes, from weakness or owing to his intimacy of five years' standing, gave an opportunity to the Chartreux and their agents to say he wanted to do as De Magny had done, and let them entangle him in their toils. It needed all the courage of Combes *père* to disentangle him and to throw light on the very bottom of the ugly affair. Sum and substance: "Lagrave did not know better; and Combes let him dangle for a moment the millions before his eyes."

At the same gathering I heard Pu Lun ask which are the least barbarous — the Chinese, who have kept through three thousand years the archives of their different dynasties; or the Europeans, who destroyed them the moment they could lay hands on them. See how he keeps himself ringed round with secretaries. He is Deputy Conservator of the Imperial Archives—now an empty title. Watch how he keeps going round in the crowded places. His object is not to incur the suspicion of Nelidoff by seeming to talk under the rose to Motono. What suavity Motono throws into his manner, and in what an easy mood he takes the ennuis that crowd upon him. He is all the time in the breach, defending the honour of Japan, watching developments at the Quai d'Orsay, communicating with agents for all sorts of purchases, or for collecting information. Nature seems to have provided those Japanese with a faculty that corresponds to the Marconi telegraph. They divine first, and then they look for proof. Did you read about General Dragomiroff's bet of five thousand roubles against five hundred? He cannot think more highly than he does of Japanese military organisation, discipline, courage, strategy, tactics, and intelligence department. Still, he feels certain the war will end in a drawn game. Japan must keep near the sea, and the Russians cannot go far from their long railway.

The young ladies who are being educated at the Legion of Honour school at St. Denis are now regularly invited to the Elysée garden parties, with their teachers and Grand Directress. The latter is as such entitled to wear the grand cordon of the Legion of Honour, the Sub-directress that of Grand Commander, and the governesses rosettes and simple red ribbons, according to their standing. All save the two highest were educated at the school in which they now teach. They like to be in place where the parlour, class-rooms, cloisters, and gardens have a grand air, and the teachers are dignitaries of the Legion of Honour. Food, clothing, sleeping quarters are severely plain. M. Félix Faure was the first to invite the pupils of the St. Denis School to the Elysée. The precedent he created has been since followed without interruption. There are few pretty faces, but many interesting ones.

It is not generally known that Watts might have remained much longer in obscurity but for a French art critic, Charles Blanc, the brother of Louis Blanc. Charles often went to London when Louis lived there an exile. They were both invited to Knebworth; to Hatfield, in the time of the late Marquis's father, the Marchioness fancying to have them there; to Lord Houghton's, and other country seats. Friends of the Orleans Princes, to spite Napoleon III., made much of them. Aristocratic society overlooked the Socialism and Republicanism of Louis in his bachelor days for the sake of his charming conversation, his graceful manners, well-restrained Corsican fire, and a deliciously finished way of expressing himself, even in faulty English. Charles, a tall, bulky, fair man, very unlike his brother, who might have struck a Japanese as undersized, had deep connoisseurship. He could not paint, but he had a Jewish talent for seeing in a moment the market value of a picture, and something more. He heard, at a lunch somewhere, Beresford-Hope say that England had not, at the time he gave this opinion, a single painter who deserved to rank as illustrious. Landseer being named, he brushed him aside as an animalist, just good enough to illustrate fables. Mulready's easel paintings were good enough to hang in those stucco-fronted houses built by Cubitt. Maclise had lost himself in painting down to a vulgar public. As to the portraitists, they were a Gore House set. Charles Blanc politely asked the critic where he placed Watts. "A winner of prizes for competitive paintings." The prizes were given to keep out worse things. Charles Blanc stood up for Watts, and held him to be immeasurably above his reputation, such as it was. His words carried weight with them, and what he said on this and other occasions had a marked effect in opening the eyes of the aristocracy and wealthy class to perceive the great merits of Watts. It is true that he had not painted up to what was highest in him in the Houses of Parliament. No competitive work ever was the best effort of genius. His ideal paintings, "Orpheus and Eurydice," "Love and Death," done to please himself, and his portraits, more fully justify the admiration Charles Blanc professed for Watts. Charles Blanc spoke of him, at some artists' conference held in England in connection with the Manchester Exhibition of 1857, as an honour to the age.

I had some of these details from Louis Blanc and others from the late Lord Lytton, who gave them as he showed me an unfinished portrait of himself by Watts, which stood on an easel in the first floor salon at the British Embassy. The face needed no further touches, but the hair, neck, and bust were merely outlined in bold strokes of the brush. This portrait proclaimed the *maîtrise* of the painter and his extraordinary thought-reading power. One might say of the portraits of Lenbach, which I had been seeing, that they were *bien maçonnés*, and first-rate workmanship. But there lay behind Watts's brush a subtle something that raised

him high above workmanship, which he by no means neglected. To paint the late Lord Lytton could have been no easy task. He always looked to me a Mercutio brought down to our time. Watts may have thus seen him, and found in him matter for a *chef-d'œuvre*. Any one who knew Lord Lytton can, in looking at this unfinished likeness, almost hear the unexpected sallies and curious lapidary sayings in which his conversation, so brilliant, so captivating, and so original, abounded. Watts discarded the professional diplomat, to bring out the poet who never borrowed an idea, and the Mercutio-like *fantaisiste*. The sketchiness of the curly hair and figure intensified what the painter read in the countenance. Watts belonged to the spiritual family, of which Michelet and Victor Hugo were members, but had more balance than either. In him the Welsh bard was transposed into the pictorial artist. The Celtisans here claim him as one of theirs. He came of a Welsh family.

Minna, Marchioness of Anglesey, who has just returned from a long visit to Italy, finds that her Ermitage villa at Versailles has been improved by her architect into too great spaciousness. The addition of another storey has made it too roomy for her, and she thinks of letting it by the year or for the season. She intends to inhabit Le Petit Château, standing in the same grounds and also belonging to her. This residence overlooks the Trianon nursery plantations, from which it is separated by a deep ditch lined with masonry, and called here a *saut de loup* and in England a ha-ha. A ditch of this kind, while giving security, does not shut out the view.

Lady Anglesey's house is beautifully furnished in the eighteenth-century style to match the house, which was built by the Duc d'Aguillon, nephew of Marshal de Richelieu, and governor of Brittany at the breaking out of the Revolution. After the death of Louis XV. that nobleman wore the colours of Mme. du Barry, and proved his fidelity in the stormy days in which, through the machinations of the Newcastle man Greeve or Greave, she lost her head. A Mrs. Bradley Martin might, if she hired the house, find much entertainment in tracing these and other souvenirs connecting it with the old French Court. Lady Anglesey has spent a mint of money on the improvements and in rendering it as comfortable as elegant. As it stands high amid parks and gardens, the air is keen and bracing, and the Ermitage district is in a part of Versailles well out of the way of trippers. There are now three Ladies Angleseys, the Marchioness Minna, the Marchioness whom she succeeded, and the Marchioness who married not many years ago the jewel and stage-loving marquis.

The Lady Anglesey who lives half the year in Italy and the other half at Versailles is remarkable for her goodness to her servants, though born and brought up in Georgia, where her father had 300 slaves. This kindness is consistent with the best housekeeping and the most *distingué* hospitality. Her old French servants, husband and wife, who have been with her twenty-three years, are now about to leave to keep a café, and the cook, who served thirty years, has left, *pour* (as they say here) *planter ses choux*. Paul, the *chef* she had before she and the late Marquis of Anglesey agreed to disagree, nearly died of grief when she broke up her grand establishment, in which his wife served with him. Paul wanted to stay on at greatly reduced wages. The Marchioness kept him on until she found a place for him, where he would have as good wages as she had been giving.

The late Mr. Gladstone, pressed by his friend M. Jules Simon to speak at a public meeting against the Southern States of America, then engaged in a civil war, excused himself first on the ground of neutrality, and, secondly, that he thought slavery would of itself disappear, and under conditions more favourable to the negroes than any the Abolitionists could secure them. He said that many servants in European families might envy the lot of domestic slaves in the houses of Southern planters. He had himself passed his early childhood under the care of blacks brought to Liverpool from his father's sugar estate in the Barbadoes. The fact of their being on British soil freed them, but they did not want to take advantage of this position, and were devoted to Lady Gladstone and her children. She took a deep Christian interest in their welfare. Keeping in mind this and Lady Anglesey's kindness to her domestics, it occurs to me that perhaps European ladies ought to go to Brazilian plantations, where the habit of negro slavery still rules, to learn how to treat their servants properly.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"NOTORIETY breeds respect," dear Lady Betty, should now be accepted as a companion to the proverb, "Familiarity breeds contempt." The following advertisement has directed general attention to a matter which is much discussed:—

"As Private Paragraph Writer.—A lady connected with several important London newspapers seeks re-engagement in the former capacity. Free through the failure of last employer.—Apply to X. Y. Z., etc."

A correspondent has interviewed the lady, and has sent to the writer this account of the conversation:—

Interviewer: "Let me congratulate you, for it is a new occupation that you have discovered."

The Lady: "Unfortunately, the credit of the discovery is due to another. There are many women in 'society'—and especially on the outskirts of it—who now keep their own paragraph-writer."

Interviewer: "How do those journalists assist them?"

The Lady: "I will describe my own methods. I am attached to several prominent London newspapers, and I undertake to describe in these the dresses worn by my employer, and the entertainments she gives; to mention the friends who attend them, if it is to her advantage that I should do this; to announce her movements; to write that 'general regret' is experienced when she is indisposed, and 'general satisfaction' when she recovers; to occasionally have her portrait, and the portraits of her children, published in the cheap illustrated papers, together with accounts of her occupations and accomplishments; and to annoy her enemies when the opportunity occurs."

Interviewer: "That is very valuable assistance. May I ask how you are rewarded for those services?"

The Lady: "I am not disclosing a secret in telling you, for it is commonly known that many women are adding to their income by this sort of work. I continually receive cheques from my employers, and frequently they give me a new dress, or hat, and other presents. Moreover, their dressmakers occasionally let me have a handsome costume, and the cost of these is, I expect, added to the bills of my employers under different items."

The Interviewer: "I suppose some of these women possess an assured position in 'society,' and are not overburdened with money. How do they repay you for your exertions?"

The Lady: "They introduce me to useful friends of their own; they tell me the gossip they hear, and I use much of it for my newspapers, and it is often of considerable value to me to have it known that I am acquainted with them."

The Interviewer: "Why should women of established position wish to have their names mentioned in the newspapers?"

The Lady: "If they are poor, it conveys to the tradespeople that they are favourites, and the latter, therefore, do not wish to offend them, and trust that they will recommend customers. If they are Americans, they are anxious to have it supposed in the United States that they are important members of London society."

The Interviewer: "Would it not be dangerous for an employer to quarrel with you?"

The Lady: "Personally, I should only discontinue to mention the name in the newspapers. As these women, however, tell us many things about themselves and their associates when we are assisting them, it is possible that some paragraph-writers might be seriously disagreeable. Besides, we know all the prominent dressmakers and milliners, and might hint to them that difficulties were arising. As yet we are not sufficiently strong to be openly vindictive, but some of us are combining into groups to be both more successful and more formidable."

The Interviewer: "I notice that the women who really occupy the most assured positions in England no longer advertise the names of their guests at dinners and other entertainments."

The Lady: "In that direction is the danger which is the most serious for us. When it becomes known that it is injurious to be written about in the newspapers—as it, unfortunately, is now—our occupation will be ended. But sensible movements travel slowly in the West End, and at a crawl from there to the suburbs and the Provinces; the vain, ignorant, and ambitious semi-suburban is our chief employer."

* * * * *

A class at auction! A bankrupt system! Those are two sentences which will supply much material for reflection to the thoughtful. In the West End all are complaining that money is scarce. Hostesses cannot afford to entertain as they did; tradesmen are despondent; prominent men and women are selling their treasures and estates; and most are compelled to economise. But in the suburbs hundreds of expensively-built villas have been, and are being, erected; the roads are gay with quick-running motor-cars, with blue, red, or yellow-wheeled carriages and pony-carts filled with extravagantly-dressed women, and with trim-looking bicycles ridden by neatly-dressed girls; here they are playing at golf, there at croquet, there at tennis, and in a dozen directions at cricket; and men and women riding on fine horses are to be met at every turn. It has been calculated that about eight thousand well-dressed women descend upon the West End daily from the suburbs! In the newspapers are published the wills of the dead rich, and two-thirds of the large fortunes mentioned have belonged to suburban and provincial men and women whose names are unknown in the West End! What is happening?

When the so-called "upper class" had the sole control of the Government it made laws to benefit itself, and to keep the other classes in moderate obscurity. The Liberal Party passed enlightened and generous measures which enabled the middle class to thrive. It has prospered enormously, and, of course, the "upper class" has suffered severely through the decrease of the opportunities for enriching itself. The mediæval system is bankrupt; the "upper class" is at auction—not only in Great Britain, but in every European country where Liberal measures have been adopted.

But are the tradespeople to suffer permanently through the change? On the contrary, they will soon have ten customers to every one they have now. The middle-class men and women have not yet the self-confidence which they shortly will have. "We are too obscure to have a box at the Opera," "Why should we move to Mayfair, our friends are at Highgate?" "Expensive furniture and art treasures are not for new people such as we are; our sons and daughters who have been highly educated may have them when they settle." Those are the thoughts which pass frequently through their minds now. However, they read in the newspapers that others of their class, and especially Americans, having more assurance, have established themselves in the West End, have been presented to Royalty, and have become recognised by "society." "Why should we not be as enterprising?" ask the sons and daughters. Within a year or two from this, the suburban hordes will invade the West End, and to every peer or peeress who now makes the money circulate, there will be ten rich commoners scattering gold. It is not the country that is poor; it is the bankruptcy of the Mediæval System; it is the upper class that is at auction!

In time the Radicals will pass still more enlightened and liberal measures, and the multitude will become prosperous, and much more money will be made and will circulate, though, of course, the most expensive luxuries may be less in demand. It is not by making a comparatively limited class prosperous that a country is made rich, but by spreading prosperity throughout the community. Of course, the Conservatives are desperately opposed to such a development, and the rich middle class has now become Conservative because it imagines that it is thus associating itself with the titled and fashionable world.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT is high time that the Rules of Racing were codified by an expert, as they are at present involved in the most perplexing confusion and uncertainty. The Rules have been so muddled about by constant tinkering that some of the most important of them are capable of being interpreted in two different ways, and recent events have demonstrated the urgent necessity for their being fixed, defined, and arranged in a lucid and business-like manner. A revision and reformation of the Rules would certainly confer a boon upon stewards of race meetings to whom disputes and doubtful points are constantly referred. The evils arising out of the present hugger-mugger are steadily increasing, and a decided effort might correct them.

The Stewards of the Jockey Club have decided that most of the entries made by Mr. Sievier are still good, although Rule 67 plainly states that a horse is disqualified by the disqualification of either his present owner or his owner at the time of entry. Now there appears to be no getting out of this, but the Stewards have, nevertheless, permitted horses which were nominated by Mr. Sievier to start for their engagements, thereby audaciously ignoring their own rule. If any

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owner who happens to run second to one of these horses will only claim the stakes in a court of law, he will assuredly get his money, and, by taking this course, he would render a valuable service to the Turf. The Stewards of the Jockey Club have no right whatever to act in flagrant defiance of their own rules, and if such astounding aberrations bring them to trouble and humiliation they will meet with no sympathy. Then, again, there is the Cossack case, in which the dunderheaded procedure of the Stewards has created a glaring scandal. Cossack was disqualified for the All-aged Stakes at Ascot because he had carried the wrong weight. This happened on Thursday, but on Saturday the case was absurdly and foolishly re-opened, and the Stewards complacently reversed their previous decision. Of course, there is really no appeal from a decision of the Stewards of the Jockey Club, who are the supreme tribunal, and Lord Durham, Mr. James, and Colonel Baird displayed a startling lack of common sense in appealing to themselves on Saturday against a judgment given by themselves on Thursday. Moreover, the fact remains that last year, running under the same conditions in every respect, Lord Bobs, who won, carried the weight which the Stewards declared on Thursday that Cossack ought to have carried. There was no talk of an objection, but it is clear that if Cossack's weight was right, as was decided by the Stewards on the Saturday, then Lord Bobs certainly ought to have been disqualified.

Another rampant evil on the Turf is the muddy-minded muddling in drawing up conditions of races, of which examples are scandalously common. All the clauses dealing with penalties and allowances ought always to be carefully overhauled at the office of the Racing Calendar before any advertisement is printed in that official publication.

Many visitors to Newmarket during the First July meeting noticed with great regret that the old stand at the Cambridgeshire Course winning-post has been pulled down. The fact that racing over this part of the Heath would be discontinued was announced in Truth two or three months ago. The Ancaster Mile is such a fine course, affording so thorough a test of stamina, that it seems a pity that there should be no more racing over it. The Newmarket meetings appear to be going to the bad altogether. Nobody can wonder that the public keep away, as Newmarket is now the most expensive and most uncomfortable meeting in England, what with high charges, meagre accommodation, and innumerable enclosures and restrictions. In the old days before the present hideous stand was built, Newmarket was the most enjoyable meeting in the country, as every one went everywhere, the charges were few and moderate, and the racing was a hundred times better.

I see it is stated that 600 to 100 would be taken about Cicero for the Derby. It seems to me to be simply idiotic to begin to cackle about a Derby favourite at this period of the season. It will surely be more prudent to wait until after the Newmarket Houghton meeting before attempting to reckon up the two-year-old form of the season, and it must be remembered that Cicero has really beaten nothing. When people are discussing the running of a two-year-old with a view to estimating his Derby chance, they need not so much consider the style in which the animal's races have been won as the class of the opponents which he has beaten. Vedas was coughing at Ascot, so I do not attach any importance to his defeat by Cicero in the Coventry Stakes.

Lord Crewe's Polymelus, who was highly tried before Ascot, was found to be considerably amiss after his disastrous defeat by Petit Bleu in the Triennial. This colt is engaged in the £5,000 race at Sandown Park on Saturday, and he has been left in for the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood, but he can scarcely have recovered entirely from his recent ailment, and he may not be seen out again before York, when he is engaged both in the Convivial Produce Stakes and in the Gimcrack Stakes.

The sale at Newmarket of Sheen for such a paltry sum as 55 gs. was a melancholy transaction, but there was not a single bid for Gold, winner of the Ascot Cup in 1890. Sires which have failed may just as well be shot for all the value they possess. It was quite expected that Sheen would prove a brilliant success at the stud. He won the Cesarewitch in 1890 with 9 st. 2 lb. on his back, and second to him was Alicante, who carried off the Cambridgeshire a fortnight afterwards.

Several of the papers are now discovering, surely somewhat late in the day, that the Stewards of the Jockey Club made a great mistake when they decided to exclude three-year-olds from the Princess of Wales's Stakes. When this fatuous change was made Truth was alone in pointing out that the race would be ruined, and the policy of the Stewards excited a general bray of applause. The Stewards have paid dearly for their blunder, as in three years the race has cost the Newmarket fund nearly £10,000. The papers express the opinion that a change must be made in the conditions if the Princess of Wales's Stakes is to be continued. These journals have overlooked the fact that last year the value of the race was reduced to £6,000, and in 1906 it will figure for the last time as a £10,000 event. This considerable reduction in the value has certainly not injured the race, as there are 228 entries for 1907, as compared with 237 for this year, 208 for next year, and 191 for 1906. The full subscription for the £6,000 stake is only half the amount which was demanded in the original race.

Rock Sand will now be given a rest, which he has well earned, his next engagement being the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket on September 29. He again has the benefit of a 9 lb. breeding allowance, so that he will have a considerable advantage in the weights. Sir James Miller's horse holds all the four-year-olds safe enough and the list of three-year-olds includes St. Amant, John o' Gaunt, Bobrinski, Henry the First, The Scribe, Admiral Breeze, and Rydal Head.

There are fourteen entries for the Jockey Club Cup, a race which would be more successful if there were penalties and allowances. The entry is a very satisfactory one in point of class, as it includes Mr Alexander's Throwaway (winner of the Ascot Cup), Lord Howard de Walden's Zinfandel, Mr. Bass's Sceptre, Sir James Miller's Rock Sand, and Mr. L. de Rothschild's St. Amant. Such animals as the King's Chatsworth, Lord Ellesmere's Kroonstad, Mr. Brassey's Wild Oats, and Mr. Joel's Bachelor's Button will be hopelessly outclassed. Zinfandel has been dreadfully messed about, but I shall expect him to win this race if he is then all right. Last year Zinfandel had the Jockey Club Cup at his mercy, but he was not started, and the Ascot Cup tragedy is still fresh in our memories.

The weights for the Stewards' Cup at Goodwood are to be published to-morrow, and there is sure to be a long list of quotations on the race in a day or two. I strongly advise my speculative readers to leave this event alone until the day of running arrives, as the early transactions only represent the harum-scarum fancies of eager backers. The Stewards' Cup is now a post-betting race, and the most important stable commissions are not likely to be executed until the numbers are up.

Tuesday next will be one of the most important nomination days of the year. The Derby and Oaks for 1906 will then close. The conditions of these stakes have not been altered, the one being still of the value of £6,500, and the other of £5,000. Considering the immense revenue which is drawn from Epsom races, I do think that the Stewards of the Jockey Club ought to insist upon adequate sums being added to each of these races, quite irrespective of the sweepstakes. At present the fund has to supply only the differences between the amount of the owners' subscriptions and the advertised value of the races. The whole of the sweepstakes should go to the winner, and a sum of added money ought to be given without deduction. Compare the generous pecuniary conditions of the French weight-for-age stakes with those of our own

great three-year-old races, which are notorious only for their beggarly meanness, not merely at Epsom, but also at Newmarket and at Doncaster.

At Ascot there are the Coronation Stakes and St. James's Palace Stakes for 1906, each with the old conditions. The managers of that meeting are a slumberous lot. When there is a sweepstakes of £100 each, half forfeit (as in both of these races), there ought to be at least £1,000 of added money. Only £300 is given to each event, and £400 is deducted for second and third horses!

There are nine events to close at Newmarket, all with singularly unattractive pecuniary conditions. The people who draw out the conditions of these races must have poached eggs for brains, as they could so easily be rendered more valuable (and therefore more likely to obtain large entries) without a single extra shilling being drawn from the fund. The July Stakes remains a sweepstakes of £50 each, £30 forfeit; while the Chesterfield is a race of £30 each, £20 forfeit, not a farthing being added to either event.

At Goodwood there are the Richmond Stakes for next year, and the Sussex Stakes for 1906, each with £500 added, and a minor forfeit of £3. At Gatwick there is the Foal Plate of £2,000, for now foals, to run at two years old in June, 1906; also the Gatwick Stakes of £5,000, for now foals and yearlings, to run at three years and four years old in October, 1907; and the Surrey Stakes of £2,500, for foals of 1904 and the produce of mares covered in 1904, to run in October, 1907, at two years and three years old. At Lewes there are somewhat similar events of the value of £1,500 and £2,000 respectively. At Liverpool there is a £1,000 stakes for now two-year-olds and upwards, to run at the Spring meeting in 1906, also a £2,000 stake, for now yearlings and upwards, to run at the Spring meeting in 1907. Advertising such events is an example of the triumph of hope over experience, as every one knows that weight-for-age races at the early spring meetings are never a success, and are never likely to do well, for several obvious reasons. The Atlantic Stakes of £2,000 is for now foals and yearlings, to run at three years and four years old at the Summer meeting in 1907.

Zinfandel has been resting since Ascot, and he is now doing only light work, as he is not likely to be seen out again before the Doncaster Cup, which is run on September 9. The ground has been very hard at Newmarket lately, and a considerable number of horses appear to be sore and out of sorts.

Lord Howard de Walden's mare Imperious is likely to win a T.Y.C. handicap before long, in spite of her poor performance in the Wokingham Stakes at Ascot. I fancy that Imperious prefers five furlongs to six, and the Ascot course may have been too severe for her.

The bad running of Mr. Arthur James's Atlas at Ascot was a great disappointment to the Egerton House party, as he is the highest-tried two-year-old in that stable. He is said to have met with a mishap in the race for the New Stakes, and it is confidently expected that he will retrieve his reputation next time he starts. He may run for the Chesterfield Stakes to-morrow, and he is engaged in the £5,000 stake at Sandown Park on Saturday, where, if he is a real flyer, he ought to beat Cicero at 9 lb. He has been left in for the £2,000 race at Liverpool next week, and at Goodwood he is engaged in the Ham Stakes and in the Rous Memorial Stakes. A high opinion must have been formed of Mr. James's son of Isinglass and The Gorgon when he was a yearling, as he commenced this season with forty-eight engagements. Atlas would have to meet the Duke of Portland's smart filly Pamflete in the Ham Stakes.

Not a bet has yet been laid on the St. Leger. Pretty Polly would be favourite if there was any speculation, but if St. Amant wins the Eclipse Stakes easily he is tolerably sure to be strongly fancied for the Doncaster race, in spite of the mare's immense superiority last season. My own opinion is that St. Amant's merits have been extravagantly over-rated since his victory in the Derby and that the Leger course will not suit him at all. Pretty Polly may prove deficient in stamina. I expect that Ajax will be the winner at Doncaster, and John o' Gaunt will probably finish in front of the Derby winner.

Baron Trauttmansdorff, the owner of Con Amore, winner of the Austrian Derby, is said to have won a large sum by a quadruple event bet—St. Amant for the Two Thousand, Pretty Polly for the One Thousand, and Con Amore for the Austrian and German Derbys.

Last week the Goodwood Stewards' Cup for 1873, which was won by Sister Helen, came up for sale at Christie and Manson's, and realised less than £64. The nominal value of this prize was £300.

St. Amant has been stopped in his work for several days, owing to an accident which caused lameness in his off foreleg. He resumed galloping on Friday, and the mishap is not likely to diminish his chance of winning the Eclipse Stakes on Friday. St. Amant is not a colt that requires a severe course of training, and I should fancy he will always show his best form when he is just a trifle "above himself."

Pretty Polly has been going very well in her gallops, and from the work she is doing it is evidently intended to start her for the Nassau Stakes at Goodwood, a race which is a certainty for her on public form, in spite of a penalty of 12 lb. Adula, the two-year-old sister to Pretty Polly, has commenced active work, but it is doubtful whether she will be started for any race this season. She is a lengthy, racing-like filly, with remarkably fine action. In any case, Adula will not be seen in public before the Middle Park Plate, the race in which Pretty Polly made such a dreadful show of St. Amant last year.

Lord Rosebery has decided to start Cicero for the £5,000 race at Sandown Park on Saturday, after which the colt will probably be thrown up for the season. Cicero has no engagement of importance during the autumn, except the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park on October 7, as he was not regarded with much esteem when a yearling, and is therefore not entered for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster or for the Middle Park or Dewhurst Plates. Lord Rosebery entered two of his foals of 1902 for the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes at Goodwood, which will be worth £2,800, but Cicero is not one of them, which is unlucky for his owner, as this rich race would have been a certainty for him. Cicero's first important engagement as a three-year-old is the Newmarket Stakes, as he is not entered for the Two Thousand, but he is in the Derby and St. Leger.

There is to be a meeting of the Jockey Club at Newmarket this evening, when the Duke of Westminster, Lord Howard de Walden, and Mr. F. Alexander will be proposed as members. There will no other meeting until September 28. The Duke of Westminster has a hereditary right to membership, for the only head of the Grosvenor family who has not belonged to the Jockey Club was the present Duke's great-grandfather, who, however, maintained the stud at Eaton, and he was the breeder of Macaroni. Mr. Alexander's father, the late Mr. Caledon Alexander, was a very old member of the Club, and, like Lord George Manners, he keenly disliked modern developments at Newmarket. Lord Howard de Walden is the representative on the Turf of Lord George Bentinck, as he is his grand-nephew. Lord Howard is the great-grandson of the fourth Duke of Portland, who was a member of the Jockey Club for nearly sixty years, and he won the Derby of 1819 with Tiresias. The Duke was a constant habitué of Newmarket, and in 1827 it was mainly through his efforts that the Jockey Club established a right to "warn off" objectionable people from Newmarket Heath. In 1831 the Duke advanced money to the Club for the purchase of the Coffee Room and the New Rooms and other freehold property. These buildings and the grounds on which they stood had been rented by the Club from Mr. Richard Vernon, who had

a sixty years' lease of the property, but this term expired in 1831, and it was then purchased from the Erratts (one of the old Newmarket racing families) and conveyed to the Duke of Richmond, Lord Verulam, and Lord Lowther (afterwards Earl of Lonsdale) as trustees for the Jockey Club.

The racing of last week was of no general interest. The Bibury Club meeting, where the sport was of high class in the old Stockbridge days, was an orgie of plating. Rock Sand won the £3,000 stake at Lingfield with a stone in hand, and I cannot conceive what the bookmakers were thinking about to ask for only 3 to 1, as the real odds on Sir James Miller's horse were 50 to 1. Rock Sand resembles Isinglass in being a very lazy horse, but he comes along all right when called upon, and he is thoroughly game.

Next week there will be racing at Leicester, Liverpool, and Windsor. There ought to be some interesting sport at Liverpool, but it is preposterous that this meeting should be dragged over three days.

The Great Lancashire Produce Stakes of £2,000 has over forty two-year-olds left in, including Atlas, Grandiflora, Galantine, Llangibby, and Shah Jehan. Llangibby (5 lb. extra) or Atlas may win, but we shall see how they run at Newmarket to-morrow. The St. George Stakes of £2,000 has more than thirty three-year-olds left in, and John o' Gaunt will win if he starts. Shah Jehan may win the Mersey Stakes of £750 on Thursday, as Cicero is not likely to run, although he has accepted. Andover and Challenger are the best animals left in for the Knowsley Dinner Stakes of £800. The Liverpool Summer Cup, which is run on Friday, can be better dealt with next week. This is now a post-betting race, and there will be no speculation worthy of notice until the numbers are up. Cades and Foundling are strong tips at Newmarket for this handicap, but I rather fancy that Lord Stanley will win with Flamma, who is a very useful mare, and she stays well.

In glorious weather another Henley has been numbered with the past. Good racing and big crowds of visitors. Some said the boating folk were not so numerous as usual, but I do not agree. There were fewer house-boats, perhaps. But the course is so well boomed, and the arrangements for the in and out going of the craft so excellent, that the old crush is absent, and so the number of visitors seems fewer. Now as to the racing, which, except in the Grand and Goblets, was excellent. Thames had to scratch for the Grand. Borrmann could not get leave of absence, and with the loss of their six there was no course open but to scratch. Of course the Grand was little more than a paddle over for Leander. As I anticipated, the composition of this crew gave rise to a deal of criticism. The strength of this club naturally makes other clubs jealous. But English oarsmen are generally very pleased that Leander is to be relied on when a foreign crew comes over to pit itself against the best of English oarsmen. This year there was no such contingency to be faced. If there had been, Third Trinity would have been well justified in throwing in its lot with Leander. But I really cannot understand why Third did not go for the Grand. If, however, there was good reason for not doing so then I do not think there was good reason for rowing six Third men in the Leander crew. It seems to me, with all deference to those who control the destinies of Leander, that a mistake was made. I quite appreciate the difficulty of keeping a club like Leander going as an effective organisation if its representation at Henley is not continuous. But the object of Leander seems to me to be two-fold. It should be able to put on a fine crew to meet foreign oarsmen who do not come over unless they have a very good chance of winning; and, secondly, it should seek to maintain the high standard of the best University oarsmanship. Now, when no foreign crew has to be met, attention should be devoted to the second object. Nothing would have been better for University rowing than for some of the more promising oars at both Universities to have rowed for Leander in a crew leavened with oarsmen like Kelly and Escombe. An instance of what may be done in this direction was shown by the presence of the Granta crew drawn from different colleges at Cambridge, and composed of men who had not even their trial eight caps. It was a shocking crew at first. Those who judge rowing by the standard of the present University, Leander, or College crews may perhaps shrug their shoulders at the form of this crew. These critics regard the Thames Cup as beneath contempt. But that Cup provides most exciting racing and a valuable training for all oarsmen, college or otherwise. It was won after some close finishes, in which First Trinity, St. John's, Molesey, and Caius, and Granta took part by Caius, to whom Gillies, the Blue, was invaluable at seven. The Eton boys had a very heavy crew, with nicely-weighted schoolboys of over 13st. Naturally they did not look as lively as usual in their style. Their heavy-weights demanded more mature methods. They had a rare race with First in the final, and won by a length. St. John's, Oxford, had not been at Henley for very many years. But they did well in this regatta, especially over the first half of the course. Naturally enough, Taylor and Goldie, the old Blues, had little difficulty in winning the Goblets for Third. Their four rowed and steered splendidly in the Stewards, and equalled record time in beating the Winnipeg crew, whose steering was rather vagarious. Indeed, Third might easily have won on a foul if they had not decided to draw well away and so avoid the accident. The Canadians made a plucky struggle. Probably Third, if pressed, would have cut the record, for the weather was very favourable to record-breaking. Another good race was the victory over University by Third's second four, which contained at least one oarsman who has been tried for the University boat. Such a success will have taught men how to stay and how to work. It was a great pity that the tight fight between Birmingham and London in the final of the Wyfold resulted in a foul. It was a great struggle, and in the final spurt Cloutte, in spite of his hard fight in the Diamonds, fairly carted bowside. I must say I should have liked to see the Metropolitan crew successful. Of course, the event of the regatta was the victory of Scholes, the Canadian, in the Diamonds. To him the heartiest congratulations are to be extended. He came over to tackle one who comes from Australia, and is at Oxford, and one on whom the experts entirely pinned their faith to defend their title, and that is Kelly, of Balliol. He certainly chose no weak year for his visit. He met Kelly and fairly beat him after the latter had vainly tried to kill him for pace. He was outpaced. But, so far as one could judge, the pace killed Kelly, and so Scholes overtook and passed him and won his heat. Then, in the final, he had another grand race with Cloutte, of London R.C. The men were practically never clear, and he won only by a length, both men beating the record of the Cambridge-American, Howell, by six seconds. I doubt if two finer races for the Diamonds have ever been seen in one year.

To summarise, Henley was an Eton year. Old Etonians won the Stewards and the Visitors, and the Goblets. Six of them were in the Grand, and Eton won the Ladies'.

Kingston Regatta certainly did not suffer by being the Saturday after Henley. The Winnipeg four won the Challenge Fours, beating London easily in the final. In the Grand for eights London beat Thames after a fine race, while Thames' other crew rowed capitally, and won the Surbiton Challenge Cup.

As was anticipated, the Dohertys and Risely had little trouble in defeating the Belgians in the competition for the Dwight-Davis bowl. At the same time de Borman put up a great match with Risely. The French players were rather disappointing. A very pleasant dinner was given to the visitors after the match was over.

With Crawley playing for Oxford and Wilding for Cambridge, good play was seen in the Inter-University lawn tennis at Queen's Club. Crawley won all his

matches. But he could not do everything, and Cambridge won both the singles and the doubles by five matches to four.

In the latter half of last week a sort of midsummer madness overcame first-class cricket. At Harrogate the wicket was watered during the night, and the Yorkshire and Kent match was declared off. At the Oval two of the gentlemen did not turn up on the second day, namely, Warner and G. W. Beldam, and so Murdoch and Harper took their places. At Blackpool the Lancashire team did so badly against a team of more or less veteran players who had played against Australia, that time was wasted and fielding slackened to make a third day's play for the holiday crowd. These things are not cricket. Thus is the game made skittles to the multitude.

A member of the Surrey Club writes to say that the club should abandon the Gentlemen v. Players match unless better support is received from the players themselves. Matches with such teams and alterations as occurred last week lower the dignity of cricket, make the title of the game ridiculous, and render the position of the Oval authorities absurd. And then these Oval folk charge a shilling admission to see cricket which is even weaker than the ordinary county cricket under the mutoscopic captaincies of the Surrey team.

The Surrey Selection Committee must have had a miserable time last week. They had no work to do. Surrey was not playing a county match. There was no fresh captain to be chosen. Compared with a Surrey County cricket captain, the President of a South American Republic must be regarded as an hereditary Sovereign.

The play in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lords was brilliant in the extreme in all parts of the game. King made a double century, Ranji and Hayward were at their best, and Rhodes came out as a bat, while Jones literally pulled the match out of the fire with the help of Bosanquet, Payne, and Hesketh-Pritchard. It was as sensational a finish as any ever seen at Lords, ending in the victory of the Gentlemen. Eton scored a great win over Harrow by an innings and sixteen runs. Boles, for Eton, made the record score for the match; but he was much too slow making his first fifty. Matches do not last a week. Bailey, the Harrow captain, played a fine innings, although he had been badly hit over the eye. He and Brandt and Craike nearly forced a draw. Horlick (Eton), a slow left-handed bowler, was about the best. He kept a good length, and bowled more than any one else. The fielding was good. Oxford gained a sensational win over Warwick, who declared, and left the Dark Blues with 400 to get to win in four hours and a half. The spare half-hour was not needed. Raphael hit in his best form. He and Bennett scored centuries, and Carlisle followed up a fine century with a 71. Some of that vigour ought to have been used at Lords. At the Oval, although Hayward scored a double century, the Gentlemen beat the players by an innings, thanks to Bosanquet's bowling and centuries by Hunt, Murdoch, and Bosanquet. I hope this match will not be allowed to die out. The South Africans simply overwhelmed Hampshire.

London Hospital is to be congratulated on winning the Athletic Challenge Shield, beating Barts. (holders) by three points. Orton's win in the hundred, and Candler's in the mile, were good times. Both the hammer and weight were above the ordinary. At Herne Hill, Larner cut the three miles' walking record by forty seconds, doing the distance in twenty minutes, thirty-four seconds. The weather was ideal for record-making. In the half and mile handicaps remarkable times were made. By the way, I see that the Yale representative was not allowed to use his loop handle at the A.A.A. Championships. Why should the hammer be made more farcical by the use of this implement when the four Universities give battle? The Americans used it on the last visit.

"Modern Lawn Tennis," by Mr. Percy A. Vaile, is in many respects the best book on the game that has yet been published. The instantaneous active photographs taken by Mr. G. W. Beldam (who lately placed golfers under a debt of gratitude by a similar service) form a specially valuable feature of the work. A number of well-known players are shown in the act of making strokes, and the explanations by means of photographs, diagrams, and letterpress of the forehand drive and the American service will be particularly useful. Mr. Vaile, indeed, deals with every aspect and point of the game in a thoroughly practical and lucid manner. His book is published by Mr. Heinemann, price 6s.

MAMMON.

STOCK MARKETS UNSATISFACTORY—HOME POLITICS—MONEY POSITION UNSATISFACTORY—FORCED LIQUIDATION—CAPE LOAN FIASCO—SHORT-LIVED SPURT IN AMERICANS—A BANK DIRECTOR'S SPECULATION—"SERIOUS FINANCIAL DISTURBANCE AVOIDED"—A SHEAF OF "BEAR" POINTS.

THE week has witnessed a short-lived spurt in Americans and a brief spell of old-time activity in Dover A and one or two other Home Railways; but in other departments business has been on a poor scale, and the tendency has been towards lower values. The political situation here at home is very unsatisfactory, and, as I remarked before, Kaffirs are not the only market which has no use for a General Election at present. But the evidences of crass ineptitude and weakness shown in the abandonment of measure after measure, with the one exception of the Licensing Bill, make it clear that the life of the Government cannot be greatly prolonged, and the unsettlement arising therefrom must be injurious to Stock Exchange business, the more especially as the holiday season is drawing near. The position of the Money Market is enigmatical. It would appear, from the inability to pay off during the week the whole of the amount borrowed from the Bank for the half-year-end requirements, that the floating supply of cash must be small, and that the pronounced ease which was anticipated must be reckoned as one more of the aspirations which have gone into the limbo of unfulfilled hopes. The failure of the Cape of Good Hope loan—the underwriters having been saddled with about 72 per cent. of the whole issue, much to their disgust—was made the text for much pessimistic talk about the prospects of money and gilt-edged stocks. For my part, I see no reason to pity the Cape or the underwriters; the former has been a great deal too much on the borrow, and has asked for over £15,000,000 in the past four years; and the latter have become a great deal too venturesome in the guaranteeing of public loans on the strength of a few notable successes. Nor do I see ground for predicting a run of relatively dear money because of this fiasco. The market is not at all badly off for money, but the banks are not lending freely because of some trouble in their own circles. Not knowing the extent of the trouble, the lending institutions were disposed to pull their purse strings tight. Now that the extent of the difficulty has been ascertained and provision made against it, the market breathes more freely. It appears that the managing director of the International Bank of London has engaged the liability of the bank to a large amount in connection with transactions with the North German Pitwood Company without the consent of the rest of the Board. As soon as the existence of this liability became known immediate steps were taken to safeguard the position of the bank, and "with the help of some powerful friends" a guarantee fund of £275,000 was formed, sufficient to retire all the bills referred to and "to allow the bank to continue its ordinary business

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

without interruption." The frank statement of the position is reassuring. It explains in a large measure the otherwise unaccountable weakness of Consols and the rest of the markets, and probably the forced selling of stocks, which was said to emanate from Paris and Brussels as well as from London, is mainly referable to the same cause. It is only too clear, however, that serious financial disturbance in the City has only just been avoided, and distrust will remain for some time to come. In explanation of the selling from the Continent, a number of highly picturesque canards were circulated by disreputable "Bears"—the Anglo-French agreement was in serious danger from the development of an unexpected hitch; there were political disturbances in Madrid; Germany had bound herself to give refuge to the Russian Port Arthur fleet at Kiao-chau; and Japan would call upon Great Britain to fulfil the treaty of alliance. These and other yarns were seriously discussed—which shows how badly off the markets are for something to occupy their thoughts.

Money Tightness—Lombard Street and the Bank—Artificial Stringency—Banks Hoarding Resources—Water Stock Conversion—Money now More Plentiful—Bank's Position.

Contrary to expectation, the turn of the month did not develop that glut of money with nominal rates which the optimists had foretold so confidently. On Thursday the market was unable to pay off the balance of the sum borrowed before the end of June, and at the same time to meet an instalment of less than a million on the new Transvaal Three and a Half per Cent. stock, and consequently it had to re-borrow on that day and on Friday. The beginning of the week had seen the distribution of the quarterly dividends on the Funds, thus enriching supplies to the extent of about £6,250,000, and in view of this and the release of over £20,000,000 on the first day of the month, the scarcity of supplies seemed inexplicable. The fact, as it turned out later, was that the banks were hoarding their resources in view of the talked-of troubles in the timber trade which culminated on Saturday in the announcement, above referred to, by the International Bank of London. That affair having been satisfactorily arranged, the market breathes more freely, and, though a spirit of caution is maintained, money is more readily obtainable and rates are fairly easy at 2 per cent. for call loans and 2¼-2½ per cent. for weekly fixtures. A menace to the market has been removed by the announcement that 95 per cent. of the new Water Board stock has been accepted in lieu of cash by the water companies in respect of the award, thus leaving less than a million and a half to be provided in money. The action of the Bank of England, in refusing to raise its buying price for gold, thereby allowing most of the bullion arriving from abroad to go to the Continent, is not readily understood, and with the Reserve standing now at only 23½ millions and the autumn demands not very far off, the market is beginning to despair of any further reduction in the official rate this year. This week sees several important calls on new issues of capital, and it would appear that a further expedition to Threadneedle-street will be necessary. On the other hand, the cash sent into the country at the end of the half-year is now beginning to return; the Japanese Government is expected to make moderate disbursements from the funds now lying to its credit at the Bank of England; and the Transvaal Loan instalment has been transferred to the bankers of the Transvaal Government. All these will help to keep conditions fairly easy, and, as I have already said, the joint-stock banks are lending more freely. The Bank of England must soon, one would think, modify its present policy if it is to be in a position to meet the autumn demand for gold for Egypt and Argentina.

Ostend, Royal Palace Hotel, Hotel de la Plage. The Chateau Royal d'Ardennes. Golf, fishing, tennis, shooting.—Travel Tickets, &c., Sleeping Car Co., 20, Cockspur street.

Consols Weak on Forced Selling—Significance of the Cape Loan Fiasco—Spirit of Caution—Foreigners Weak—Forced Selling from Brussels and Paris—Chinese Railway Loan—War Stocks—American Rubbish.

The whole of the gilt-edged market has been more or less weak, along with Consols, which have suffered from realisations, some of them from Paris. At one time the price for the account was no better than 89⅝, but there has been some recovery with the adjustment of accounts in difficulties, and it is to be hoped that, now we are assured of a little peace in the matter of new issues of high-class stock, prices may improve still further. The failure of the Cape loan is by no means the evil it was thought to be; on the contrary, it seems to me to be a blessing, and not in disguise, either. Investors have had too many of these Colonial and other issues, and the rebuff to the Cape will cause others who are contemplating the offering of stock to think twice before courting a similar disaster. In this way the older-fashioned stocks will be allowed a chance of appreciation such as has not come their way since the outbreak of the Boer war. As I point out above, the evidences of monetary scarcity are artificial, and are the outcome of a spirit of caution engendered by the banking troubles. All the best classes of Home Government stocks make a good purchase at the current levels, because they give a fair yield and seem safe for an advance before long. In the Foreign market, the tendency, especially towards the end of the week, has been downwards. The better part of the support for these descriptions comes from the Continent, and the difficulties of an important house in Paris have led to forced selling and general weakness. Free offerings have come also from Brussels and elsewhere. All Paris stocks have fallen away, and the drop in Spanish has been accelerated by the rumour of political trouble in Madrid. South Americans have held their ground fairly well, especially Argentines. Chinese sterling issues have participated in the decline, though the Railway loan was supported at one time in anticipation of another similar loan for 2¼ millions. Russians, after some inside support, which must be becoming burdensome by this time, have gone back; and though the latest successes are making for higher values again, Japanese are lower on the week, on sales by "Bulls," disappointed at the delay in the taking of Port Arthur and the lack of a decisive engagement before the beginning of the rainy season. Among the Central and South American rubbish, Colombians and Guatemalans have been bought especially by the Continent on the prospect of an early settlement of the whole or part of the outstanding arrears of interest, and mighty poor purchases they make.

Home Railways React with the Funds—A Neglectful Public—Scotch Stocks Weak—Dover "A" Developments—South-Eastern Preferred Ordinary—Metropolitan Prospects—Tube Construction Profits—City and South London—Traffics—Stocks worth Buying—Great Central Preference Stocks.

The Home Railway Market has suffered a reaction after the smart advance of the previous week. With the funds once more depressed by a variety of causes, and with the public not over anxious to buy, or not over well supplied with the requisite capital, a set-back was quite inevitable. The fact is that, although some of the support of the preceding week was at the instance of outside investors desirous of securing the half yearly dividends shortly to be declared, the better part of it was of a professional character, and was induced by the expectation, or at least the hope, that the half-yearly distribution of dividends on Home and Foreign Government and other stocks would drive a fair amount of money into the Railway market. When it was seen that the response was feeble, the jobbers found it desirable to reduce their commitments; hence the

re-action. Special factors have influenced particular stocks. Scotch issues, for instance, developed further weakness, Caledonians being noticeably flat as a result of another bad traffic, more talk of trouble with the coal-miners, and reiterated rumours of further capital requirements. Thanks to some late support from Glasgow, quotations of the Company's stocks are now above the worst, but the under-tone is not good, the market being nervous and easily liable to fright. Southern stocks have again been prominent, and in Dover A the dealings were at one time so lively as to call up reminiscences of the old days in Brighton A. The closer union with the Chatham is made to do duty once again, but the outstanding influences are the decision of another Atlantic Company, the Red Star, to call at Dover, and the negotiations with the Government in connection with the Continental mails. Public buying of Dover A is on a small scale, but the insiders have contrived to give the "Bears" a further twisting, and wonderful is the talk indulged in by some of the "Bulls" concerning the future. The market has many stocks more attractive from a shareholders' point of view than this particular stock, which is now 15 points above the lowest of the current year; but the Preferred Ordinary might be bought on the chance of its receiving the full 6 per cent. to which it is entitled for the current year, instead of the 5 per cent. which was paid for 1903. When last it received 6 per cent. this stock stood at about 180 as compared with 133 to-day; while if the 5 per cent. be not bettered this year, the return will still be 3¾ per cent. Metropolitans have slackened off on doubts as to the future of the Great Central traffic, which now brings in an estimated £60,000 per annum, although it is hoped, as I stated last week, that some at least of this will be saved. Meantime proposals are being made for the arbitration which is to fix the amount of compensation should the traffic be withdrawn. Districts keep tolerably steady, but as the insiders are inactive, and the outside public somewhat scornful of the stock, there is not much dealing in it. The profit-sharing notes of the Underground Electric Railways of London, which is largely interested in the District, have had a moderate improvement following upon the distribution of the assets of the Electric Railways Company, the syndicate which was formed for the construction of the Central London Railway. The distribution amounts to £1 7s. per share upon every £10 Ordinary share and £43 per share upon every £1 Deferred share, and it is probable that there will be a further distribution of £1 on the Ordinary share and of £7 upon the Deferred share before the total assets have been distributed. Those who hold the profit-sharing notes of the other concern are hopeful of an ultimate distribution to them in respect of the District electrification and of the other new tubes in which it is interested—the Charing Cross and Hampstead, Brompton and Piccadilly, Great Northern and Strand, and Baker-street and Waterloo. Movements on balance during the week are shown in my usual table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, July 2.	Price, July 9.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80¼	75½	76	75½	– ½
Do. Def.	38½	29½	30	29	–1
City and S. London	70	49	48	48	—
Central London	106½	91½	92	92	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	49½	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	29½	25½	26	25½	– ⅜
Do. "A"	16½	14½	15	14⅝	– ⅜
Great Eastern	98½	91	92½	91½	–1
Great Northern Pref.	105	102	102	101½	– ½
Do. Def	46½	40½	40⅜	40⅝	+ ⅜
Great Western	143½	142	144	143	–1
Hull and Barnsley	45½	37½	38½	38	– ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	106	93	95	94	–1
London and Brighton "A"	128¼	121	122	121½	–1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	16¼	15⅝	16½	16½	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	102	98	101½	101½	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	69	62½	68	68	—
London and North-Western	165	150½	152½	150½	–2
London and South-Western Def.	60	55	57	56	–1
Metropolitan Consolidated	89½	96	97	96½	– ½
Metropolitan District	37½	38	38⅜	38½	– ½
Midland Pref.	71	69½	69½	68½	–1
Do. Def.	71	67⅜	68½	68	– ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	80¼	78	78½	78	– ½
Do. Def.	48¼	44¼	44⅝	44½	– ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	147½	140½	142½	141	–1½
South-Eastern "A"	62¼	58	61	61⅜	+ ⅜

Earnings for the beginning of the half-year are fairly encouraging, having regard to the comparison with last year's figures, the totals of the Great Western, Great Central, and Great Northern being, as usual, most satisfactory, though the Metropolitan has nothing to grumble about. Here is my traffic table:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 577	– 1,797	—
Caledonian	– 1,124	+ 4,545	– 38,814
Great Central	+ 309	+ 5,232	—
Great Eastern	– 3,700	+ 4,000	—
Great Northern	+ 3,458	+ 3,230	—
Great Western	+ 2,500	+ 4,400	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	– 1,064	– 1,138	– 86,537
London and North-Western	– 6,000	+ 5,000	—
London and South-Western	+ 800	– 3,500	—
Midland	– 3,494	+ 173	—
North British	+ 603	+ 1,536	– 4,945
North-Eastern	– 503	+31,298	– 1,334
South-Eastern and Chatham	– 802	– 1,515	—

The Tubes are not doing well, and the "Bears" are very busy with City and South Londons, which have been carried down to 48, as compared with 80½ at one time last year. A fanciful story about the intention of the Metropolitan to construct subways connecting Gower-street Station with Euston, St. Pancras, and King's Cross has been circulated to the detriment of the City and South London in connection with the extension to Euston, but as this extension would aim to provide rapid communication between North and South London I do not quite see the point. Stocks which are worth buying for investment are Great Westerns, yield (at the current price, and apart from a probable increase in the dividend for the half-year) 3¾ per cent; London and North-Western, yield nearly 3⅞ per cent.; North Easterns, 3⅞ per cent.; Midland Deferred, 4 per cent.; South-Western Preferred Ordinary, 3⅝ per cent.; Brighton Preferred, 3⅞ per cent.; Great Northern Preferred, 3 15-16 per cent.; and among the smaller concerns, Tilbury, 4¼ per cent. Great Central Preference issues are worth picking up, in view of the progress of the Company and the likelihood that it will make further headway. Here is a table showing the yield obtainable:—

Present Amount.	Name.	Per Cent.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
£				£ s. d.
1,008,000	Great Central Perpetual, 1862	5	133 — 6	3 15 6
1,100,000	Do. do.	4	106 ,, 9	3 15 6
1,000,000	Do. do. Convertible, 1872	5	131 ,, 4	3 16 9
1,080,000	Do. do. do. 1874	5	130 ,, 3	3 17 3
1,500,000	Do. do. do. 1876	5	128 ,, 31	3 18 6
1,000,000	Do. do. do. 1879	5†	126 ,, 9	3 19 9
1,380,000	Do. do. do. 5 p.c. 1881	1¼†	108 ,, 11	1 7 6
1,500,000	Do. do. 4 p.c., 1889	nil	73 ,, 6	nil
2,230,000	Do. do. 4 p.c., 1891	nil	53 ,, 6	nil
3,100,000	Do. do. 5 p.c., 1894	nil	45 ,, 8	nil

It is probable that for the year the full 5 per cent. will be paid on the 1881 Preference, and there may be something left for the 1889. To put away for a year or two the other Preference stocks are among the most attractive things in the Home Railway market.

AMERICANS SPURT—WALL STREET QUITE ACTIVE—"EVERY FACTOR A 'BULL' POINT"—CROPS AND THE STATE OF TRADE—PUBLIC SCEPTICAL—SQUEEZING THE "BEARS"—THE INFLUENCES OF THE MOMENT—SIGNIFICANCE OF CROP REPORTS.

Wall Street celebrated the reopening after the Independence Day celebrations by a decided spurt in business. The whole market was good, under the lead of Union Pacifics, which were supported by the Rockefeller and Harriman interests. Among the stocks which were most prominent were Louisvilles on the cotton crop report; Readings and Ontarios were bought by "well-informed interests"; and Milwaukees and Atchisons were "Bulled" by the Western group. Next day the movement gathered pace, and sales reached 794,000 shares, quite a big figure in these days. Every factor which cropped up, we are told, operators seemed to regard as justification for an advance in prices—the

Democratic nomination for the Presidency, the wheat and maize crops, the state of trade, etc.; thus showing what a short memory Wall Street has, or how willing it is to change its point of view on the blowing of the slightest wind from a favourable quarter. The market was "on a much broader basis"; there was "great animation and breadth of dealings," with much more to the same effect. Naturally the effect upon the London market was favourable, and dealings here, too, were quite fairly numerous. Needless to say, they were confined to the professionals in the House and on the curb. The English public did not betray the slightest interest in the movement, and apparently the American public was equally callous. It was manifest from the start, in fact, that the whole thing was engineered in order, if possible, to arouse outside support, and success up to a certain point was assured from the quantity of stock in pawn, and from the large size of the "Bear" account. But if it was to be carried beyond this point, outside co-operation was inevitable, and this not being forthcoming, there resulted the expected and inevitable reaction, which was accelerated by the report of floods in Kansas. The people who talked the loudest about the good prospects were, as usual, the first to realise on the sight of a profit, and as the taking of quick profits and the cutting of quick losses are the order of the day on both sides, and as the feeling is nervous, there does not seem to be room for any big advance just now. At the same time, the leaders have the market so well under their thumb that it is unsafe to say what will not happen, especially as the "Bears" are still very numerous. Meanwhile, the market has steadied again, the wheat and corn crop reports showing an improvement. Movements on the week are shown in my table below:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, June 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.	Closing Price, July 9, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	74⅜	75	77
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	98¼	96½xd	97xd
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	82½	12	84¾
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28½	31⅜	31¾	33⅜
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	21½	21½	22⅜
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	72¼	70½xd	72xd
Erie	43 9/16	23⅛	24	24¼	25⅜
Do. First Pref.....	75⅝	64½	59½	60¼	61¾
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	113½	112½	115
Milwaukee	187½	137¼	147⅛	147	149½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30¾	16 7/16	17⅛	17	18
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	89½	89½•	89½
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	57⅜	57¾	60⅜
New York Central	158	116¾	119	119½	120
Ontario	36	19¾	26⅜	27⅜	28⅜
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	59¼	59½	60½
Reading.....	35½	20	24⅛	24	25⅜
Do. First Pref.....	45¼	36¾	42	42	42¾
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	21¼	21⅔	23
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	86½	87½	89½
Southern Pacific	69¾	39¼	48⅛	48⅛	49¼
Union Pacific	107 3/16	69 5/16	91¼	91	94⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	95	95¼	95½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	35½	35	36
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅝	55½	58	58	59½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	10½	10	11⅛
Do. Pref.	—	—	57½	57½	59¾

The influences of the moment are the Presidential election and the crop reports. The first is not likely to exercise as much dislocation as usual, because the issues are plain and the two candidates respectable, while a Republican victory is regarded as a foregone conclusion. Crop reports are unusually interesting this year because it depends upon them whether trade stagnation is to develop into depression or whether there is to be an all-round recovery. By the latest showing the prospects are moderately good and nothing more.

Canadian Railways—Canadian Pacific's Year—Dividend Outlook—Grand Trunk's Position—The "Fat" Half-year—Argentine Rails Dull—The Yield on Argentines—Mexican Rails and Silver.

On merits and in sympathy with the American market Canadian Pacifics have received a more than moderate amount of attention and show a further expansion on the week. A traffic increase of $59,000 for the last nine days of June was all the more satisfactory since it followed upon an increase for the same period of last year of $353,000. For the twelve months the Company is $2,461,100 to the good in gross earnings, the total amounting to $46,418,000 as compared with $43,957,000 for 1902-03, and $37,503,000 for 1901-2. In net it does not come out anything like so well, having a net decrease for the eleven months to May of $1,827,000. The points which a purchaser of the shares has to keep in mind are that the Company has been making large outlays upon betterments out of revenue, that the crop prospects are of the best and are attracting much attention at the hand of Wall Street (which is, in fact, responsible mainly for the recent recovery in the price), that the net earnings for the year will still enable the Directors to maintain the 6 per cent. dividend rate, should they think it advisable, and that the financial position of the Company is very strong and the management very conservatively enterprising. Even should no more than 5½ per cent. be paid for the year, the shares, which carry six months' dividend, are not dear considering the nature of the holding and the outlook for Canada. Grand Trunks, after some "Bear" closing following upon a traffic increase of over £9,000, when "even to £2,000" was the general estimate, have developed irregularity, though the strength of Americans is a helping influence. There is no inducement for the public to take an interest in the stocks just now. No revenue statement for June will be issued, and it will not be possible to appraise the position until the publication of the half-yearly report. Down to May the Company appeared to be £70,000 or £80,000 short of the sum required to pay the full 4 per cent. per annum on the Guaranteed stock, and although I have no doubt that it will contrive to meet that charge it is not easy to see how, in respect of the half-year at all events, it is going to do any more. The Trunk has now embarked upon what ought to be its "fat" half-year, and if, as seems probable, it is able to report some increase in gross earnings and a respectable saving in expenses, the First and Second Preference stocks will not be in any danger, while there are not a few people sanguine enough to believe that the Third Preference will receive as much as last year. Traffics since the resumption of normal conditions have shown increases on top of big figures last year, and good trade and big crops should ensure an aggregate larger than that for the second half of 1903, while cheaper coal and materials give promise of moderate expenditure. In the December half of last year expenditure rose by £239,263, equal to an increase of 4.22d. per train mile. The Company ought to derive considerable benefit from the revision of freight rates. Here follows my table of Colonial and Foreign Railways:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	128⅜	126	128¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference ..	105	–	102
Grand Trunks	19¼	14⅜	14 11/16
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	103	96½	96½
,, 1st Preference	112½	103	103
,, 2nd ,, ...	95⅜	83½	85½
,, 3rd ,, ...	50⅜	39⅜	39½
Bengal and North-West.....	126	137½	137½
Bombay Baroda.....	156	157	154½xd
Madras Railway 5 per cent.....	131	129	129
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	102	102	102
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97	115	111½
,, ,, 1st Preference..	101	102½	103
,, ,, 2nd ,, ..	89	93½	91½
,, Great Southern.....	136	132⅜	132½
,, Western	127	124	124½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	56½	59	58½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	88½	91½	91½
Costa Rica Railway.....	2 3/16	1⅝	1⅜
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	90	87½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89½	80	77
Mexican Railway	19⅜	18½	18⅜
,, 1st Preference	73	84	85
,, 2nd ,, ...	28½	30½	30½
Nitrate Rails.....	5⅛	7¼	7¼

There is very little life at the moment in Argentine Railways. This is the off-season, and while traffics are satisfactory, there is not much disposition to deal,

in spite of the moving of the maize crop and the nearness of dividend declarations. Rosarios have gone off slightly, but the others keep steady and firm. Mexican Railways, in sympathy with silver, moved upwards, but are now rather below the best of the week. The traffic increase of $14,500, coming at a time when profit-taking was in progress, was thought to be indifferent—which shows what operators in this particular market have come to expect.

KAFFIRS INACTIVE AND DEPRESSED—PUBLIC APATHY—FORCED SELLING, HOME AND FOREIGN—GOLD OUTPUT PROSPECTS—APPORTIONMENT OF COOLIE LABOUR—THE GOVERNMENT AS A FACTOR—PREMIER DIAMONDS—DEEP LEVELS.

In the South African Mining market business continues poor, and the tendency of values throughout the past week has been downwards. The making up prices of the account which is arranged this current week are, in fact, lower than those of the previous settlement. The explanation is found in the continued apathy of the public, who are not looking at Kaffirs or anything else just at present, and in a resumption of forced selling from Paris and London. A large French house has been in difficulties, and the accounts of a fairly considerable firm on this side of the Channel have had to be closed. In the circumstances, a recovery was not to be looked for, and the weakness of the Funds in connection, apparently, with the timber trade trouble and the International Bank of London, has been anything but a strengthening factor upon a market which is peculiarly susceptible to the influence of Consols. It was stated that the June figures of gold output would show a very appreciable increase, but one failed to see why the gold production should have a sudden spurt at present, with the Chinese only just arrived, and the niggers falling away in numbers, and this view is borne out by the official announcement of a falling off of 6,261 fine oz. Later on a sharp increase seems assured simply as a result of the accession of the coolies. Apart from those now on the mines and on the way thither, it is expected that 12,000 will embark at a North China port before the end of August, the allocation agreed upon being: Van Ryn, 1,200; Aurora, 300; Glen, French Rand, and Simmer and Jack, 1,800 each; Roodeport, 600; and Geduld 500. The leading mining representatives are quite satisfied with the Chinese labourers now on the field and there is no reason to doubt that the experiment will prove still more successful when the men have become fully accustomed to their surroundings and their work. A few desertions there will be, but they occur everywhere; and as for beri-beri, one hears next to nothing about it now. The provision of an adequate labour supply will rapidly make a big difference in the condition of the mining industry, and a steady increase in the gold yield will inevitably draw speculative attention to the market and the bargains which it has to offer. At present the rocky condition of the Government is a factor to be reckoned with, but it is hoped that the limpets will cling to office over the vacation, and by the time Parliament reassembles the industry should be in a position to withstand all political assaults. In the way of features the week has developed nothing of much significance. Work is progressing quietly, but steadily, on the mines, and conditions there are healthy, wanting only the labour, which is now or soon will be on the way to the country; but with forced liquidation and lack of support on the part of the market leaders, it is impossible that values can respond, and the market ignores "Bull" points for the moment. At the same time values generally are low enough to make a purchase sufficiently tempting to the man who can afford to wait for his profit. In addition to the old market favourites, the shares of the companies working on the Eastern and Western extremities of the Rand will come in for much attention, and these latter are likely to have the smartest recovery because the situation in both districts leaves something to the imagination—a very important factor in the Mining market. My table follows:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 11, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9	6	7⅛	7	7⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 13/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3½	3½
Aurora West	3¾	2	11/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Bulfelsdoorn	—	1⅞	7/8	⅞	⅞	⅞
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	1⅜	1 5/16	1 7/8	1 7/8
Barnato Consols	5¼	4⅜	2 5/16	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7½	5½	6½	6½	6½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 13/16	6¼	6⅛	6 5/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 13/16	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	10½	14½	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20⅛	18½	18½	18⅝	18½
Do. Def.	—	20½	18⅝	18⅜	19	18 15/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	6	5	5⅛
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	6½	5½	5½	4 15/16	4⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2¼	2	2
East Rands	12	10 7/16	6⅜	7 1/8	7⅛	7 1/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¼	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	20¾	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 5/16	1⅜	1 7/16	1½
Geduld	—	9 15/16	5	6⅜	6 5/16	6½
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4	3	3 3/16	3½	3½
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2½	3 7/16	3 5/16	3
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5 5/16	5½	5½
,, Main Reef	1 13/16	⅝	¼	⅜	7/16	5/16
Glencairn	4⅜	2½	1½	1⅜	1¼	1½
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 1/16	2 1/16	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16
Henderson	5½	2 7/16		1 5/16	1½	1¼
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8¼	8⅛	8⅜
Heriot	12½	4¼	3½	3½	2⅝	2 1/16
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	21	28¼	27½	27⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 1/16	2½	2⅜	2 3/16	2 1/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4½	4½
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅝	3	2⅝	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6½	2 1/16	1⅜	2⅛	2	2
Knight's	11½	9⅝	4⅜	5 5/16	5½	5½
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 5/16	2 15/16	3⅜	3 1/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4½	3⅜	2 5/16	2 7/16	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei New)	2½	2¾	1 5/16	1½	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4 5/16	5 7/16	2½	4	3 15/16	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5⅜	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	11 1/16	7 7/16	8⅞	8 7/16	8 7/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2½	1½	1 7/16	1⅜	1 5/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	14/-	13/-	13/6
Nigel	8 5/16	4	2⅜	2½	2½	2½
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	1 15/16	1⅞	1 13/16
New Comet	4⅞	4	8	2⅜	2⅜	2 3/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2 1/16	2½	2 1/16
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1 1/16	1⅜	1½	1½
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	1/16	½	½	½
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	1/16	½	½	½
Primrose New)	8 5/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	3⅞	3¾	3 15/16
Princess Estate	4½	2	15/16	15/16	15/16	15/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅝	13 3/16	8 5/16	10 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16
Randfontein	4⅝	4½	2½	3½	2 15/16	2 15/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1½	1⅜	1 5/16
,, Robinson	2 5/16	2 5/16	1	1½	1½	1½
,, North	—	2 3/16	1½	1½	1 15/16	1⅞
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9⅝	9¾	9¾
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2	3 3/16	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	7⅜	7½	7⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅛	9⅜	4⅜	5 3/16	4 15/16	4⅞
Sheba	2⅞	1 3/16	11/3	4/-	3/3	3/3
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅞	1½	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	12/6	11/6	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅝	6⅜	3 3/16	4½	3 15/16	3 15/16
Transvaal Development	2½	2 5/16	24/-	1⅜	1½	1½
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅜	¼	7/-	6/3	6/3
Transvaal Gold	8¾	3½	2¾	2 5/16	2½	2½
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3 15/16	3⅞	3⅞
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/6	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	3⅜	3½	3½
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅜	6¾	6 11/16	6¾
Violet	—	3½	2	3¼	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2½	1½	1⅜	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6½	7¼	6¾	6¾
Wemmer	13⅛	15	9½	11¼	11¼	11¼
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	—	—	—
,, (New)	—	2⅜	15/16	2 1/16	2	2⅛
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1½	1½

* £5 shares.

De Beers have been offered from Paris in connection with the weakness in that centre, and some of the second-rate Diamond shares have been sold, especially Lace and Frank Smith Diamonds. A share which is likely to be heard of more in the near future is that of the Premier (Transvaal) Diamond Mine. The price is not at all cheap, the £1 shares being now close upon 40, but the mine has made enormous strides, and threatens to become a factor which the De Beers will have to face seriously. In well-informed circles it is declared that the price will reach 50 within another few months, and that ultimately they will go up to 100. This last figure looks a trifle extravagant, and I am not prepared to adopt it. But the shares are a rich man's speculation,

and ought to give a good profit within a reasonable time. The intention was to expend £420,000 on the mine, one-half this year and one-half next year, before paying dividends. But that was reckoning profits at £50,000 a month, whereas latterly they have reached £80,000, and a dividend may be paid this year after all. These profits have been made with six washers, and it is intended to increase the number to twenty-four. Deep Levels have followed the course of other South Africans, and prices have eased off to a slight extent, as my table shows:—

—	1900.	1902-03.		Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 11, 1904.
	High'st.	High.	Lowest			
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1⅝	1½	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅜	1	½	½	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅛	2⅛	2½	2⅓
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	13
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4⅝	2	2⅝	2½	2½
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5½	5½	5½
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4½	4	4
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅞	12½	8⅝	11⅛	11½	11½
Jumpers Deep	5½	6½	3⅝	4⅛	4⅛	4
Knight's Deep	4½	5⅝	3⅜	3⅛	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3⅛	4⅞	2½	2⅛	2½	2½
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅝	2	2⅛	2½	2⅞
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅝	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2½	3½	3	3
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3½	4½	4	4
Nigel Deep	2	1⅛	⅞	2⅛	⅛	⅛
Rand Victoria	3⅝	4½	2⅜	2½	2⅛	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅞	4½	5⅞	5⅜	5⅞
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5⅛	2⅝	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8⅞	8½	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1¼
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2⅜	2	2
South Geld. Deep	3½	4⅜	2⅞	2⅜	2½	2½
Simmer and Jack East	3⅛	4⅜	3½	2½	2	2
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅝	2⅜	3½	3	3
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅝	2⅜	1½	⅜	⅜	⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅛	4⅛	2⅛	3⅜	3⅛	3⅜

The report of the Treasury Gold Mines for the year to March 31 shows that 186,322 tons of ore were developed, being 73,448 tons in excess of the ore mined during the same period. After allowing for 20 per cent. wastage, the clean milling rock developed amounted to 262,800 tons, as against 178,536 tons a year earlier. The total extraction of ore was equal to 9.52 dwt. per ton, representing 88.72 per cent. of the value of the ore. The profit for the twelve months reached £88,265, out of which dividends aggregating 12½ per cent. have been paid.

RHODESIANS DULL—CHARTERED LOWER—NORTHERN COPPER AND RHODESIAN COPPER PROSPECTS—WANKIE COAL AS A "BULL" POINT.

Very little interest has been taken in Rhodesians during the past week, and the tone generally has kept dullish in sympathy with Kaffirs. The little business recorded is almost entirely of a professional character, the outside public continuing to hold aloof, and the few movements are all in a downward direction. Chartereds have shown no signs of recovering from their dulness, but, on the other hand, have been further depressed, falling to 1½, as against 1 21-32 a week ago, while Lomagundas and Globe and Phœnix have also been dullish. Among the Copper things in this market the tendency has been better chiefly on the interim reports. That of the Northern Copper shows that since the last statement covering the period to December, 1902, prospecting operations have led to important discoveries of silver, copper, lead, and zinc. Satisfactory results have also been obtained from the development of several of the mines, but "owing to the difficulties and very high cost of transport it has been deemed advisable to reduce expenditure in connection with the development of the properties, and instructions have been sent to the consulting engineer to concentrate the mining staff at three of the mines, thus avoiding the necessity of maintaining several mining camps at a very high cost." Arrangements have been made by which the railway will immediately proceed to Kalomo, about 100 miles from the Zambesi, with a view to ultimately reaching the Rhodesia Broken Hill mine and other properties. At the Lewis mine the outcrop of the lode is 600 ft. long by 200 ft. wide. At the Hippo mine the prospects are said to be very encouraging, while as to Bwna M'Kubwa we are told that this is one of the most important copper areas yet discovered in North-Western Rhodesia. On the Silver King property five shafts have been sunk, the greatest depth reached being 500 ft., and "should ore at this point be equal in value and extent to that developed at the 100 ft. level, it is considered that the mine will have been sufficiently proved to warrant flotation." An important factor relating to the more economical working of Rhodesian properties is Wankie coal, about which a great deal of interest was displayed some time ago; and at the meeting of the Selukwe Co. reference was made to this. An agreement had been come to with the railway by which the freight is to be reduced from one penny to ⅝d. per ton per mile from Wankie to Buluwayo, which brings down the cost of the fuel to the Company from 40s. to 35s. per ton, a saving which ought to have an appreciable effect upon working expenses. My table is appended:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 11, 1904.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅞	½
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2¼	1	1
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	1⅝	1½
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	☆	☆
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	⅞	⅞
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅜	⅜
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅜	☆
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅝	⅝
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	⅞	⅞
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅛	1½
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p	6½	1½	1½
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	⅜	⅜
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	⅜	⅜
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	2⅛	2⅜
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1½	⅝	½
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	½	½
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	3	3
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅞	⅞
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2½	2½
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	⅝
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	⅜
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3⅞	3½
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	½	½
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅝	⅝
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	¾	2/6	⅝
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	5/-	5/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅝	1⅜	1⅜

WESTRALIANS IRREGULAR—GOOD ON THE WHOLE—"BEARS" AND OROYAS — HORSESHOE DEVELOPMENTS — FINGALL DISCOVERY—ASSOCIATED REPORT—THE CHEAPER SHARES.

Although the Westralian section has been somewhat irregular, it has displayed a better tone than any of the other mining markets during the past week, and the leading shares have been tolerably firm. There were evidences of a "Bear" attack on Oroyas, but they made little impression on the price. Those gentry have been rather more successful with Great Boulders, sending the price down to 23s. 3d. Fingalls hardened on a cable from the mine stating that on the No. 11 level the reef had been struck without driving the further 80 feet which was thought necessary to meet it. It was suggested that this was a new reef, but the managers are now of opinion that it is the main reef which swings round and persists downwards. Horseshoes were also better on the statement that there were 120 stamps in operation at the mine and some news respecting development at depth. On the No. 11 level the ore is proved to be of good width, and in the north drive assays 9 dwt, and in the south drive 30 dwt. per ton. Associated improved on the report, which is entirely satisfactory, and shows an increase in the ore reserves, which now total 163,139 tons, estimated to contain 196,785 ounces of gold, as against 108,307 tons, containing 135,921 ounces, at the beginning of last year. It is also observed that "when it is taken into consideration that no ore below the No. 8 level has been included in the above totals, more especially in view of important discoveries at No. 10 level, the result cannot be looked upon as other than highly satisfactory. The position of the mine with regard to ore reserves has been much improved by the year's operations. Valuable ore chutes

have been found at No. 10 level, both north and south of the properties, which have not as yet been opened out, but which will considerably increase the ore reserves." The cost of milling and mining was reduced by 23 per cent. below the figure last year, and during the last quarter a further reduction by 31 per cent. was made. In the following table will be seen the progress made during the past three years:—

—	1903-1904.*	1902-1903.	1901-1902.
Ore treated—tons	62,083	58,453	41,384
Value of bullion recovered	£293,671	£199,579	£140,397
Working costs per ton*	£1 19 8	£2 9 1	£2 15 3
Net profit	£154,579	£81,959	£13,636
Dividends declared	4/6	2/-	nil.

* Not including development, depreciation, &c.

Among the cheaper shares in this market there has been a renewal of the Colonial buying of Boulder Deeps. Hannan's Stars improved at one time, but, in spite of the chairman's contention at the meeting that the shares are worth considerably more than their present price, the upward movement was not sustained. There was also some buying of Cosmopolitan and Northern Territories, both of which scored slight advances, but the former developed weakness later on, and closes lower on the week. My table follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 11, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	3⅜	1	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1⅞	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¾	⅛	¼	¼	¼
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	10/3	9/9	10/-
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅜	7	7⅛	7¼	7¼
Golden Link	3½	15/8	6/-	5/-	5/-	5/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	26/6	24/-	23/3
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	6/-	5/-	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅝	1½	12/-	11/-	11/-
Do. South	2⅛	1⅜	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅜	9⅛	5⅛	7⅜	8⅛	8⅛
Hainault	1¼	¾	¼	⅝	⅝	⅝
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	8/-	7/-	7/6
Ivanhoe (£5)	16½	10⅜	6¼	7¾	7⅞	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	⅛	¾	⅝	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5⅞	5⅜	5⅜
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1¼	1¼	1¼
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅜	¼	8/9	⅞	⅞
North Kalgurli	1⅜	10/-	4/-	7/3	7/-	7/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅞	3½	3⅝
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅞	1	1⅝	1⅞	1⅝
South Kalgurli	6¼	2⅞	¼	1¼	1⅜	1¼
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜

WEST AFRICANS NEGLECTED—PRICES EASIER—AN EXPERT ON WASSAU—INDIAN MINES FIRM—COPPER POSITION—WAIHI GRAND JUNCTIONS.

The Jungle has been as idle as ever during the past week, and there are no evidences of the outside public taking any interest in the market, despite the optimism as to the future of the country which has been expressed by various interested parties. But an event of much interest was the publication of Mr. Feldtmann's report on the Wassau property, in which he says that the mill is doing satisfactory work, and that the position is sound, and promises well for the immediate future. In itself this statement is very encouraging, but Mr. Feldtmann adds that "everything depends upon an increased tonnage crushed, which will be obtained when labour underground becomes better organised." There are to be some reforms in the method of working which it is expected will result in more economy, though nothing is said on the subject of working costs, which is the one point upon which information is really desired. From this it is a clear inference, I think, that at the present rate the working is not profitable. Among the other shares in the market movements have been confined to losses in Amalgamated and Ashanti Goldfields. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.	Closing Price, July 9, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGoldfields(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	2⅜ 2⅜	2⅜ 2⅛
Axim Mines	100,000	62,393	1	f.p.	¼ ¼	¼ ¼
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅞ ⅞dis	⅞ ⅞dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅞ 1⅛	⅞ 1⅛
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅞ ⅞	⅞ ⅞
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1⅜ 1½	1⅜ 1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅛ ⅛	⅛ ⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅞ ⅞	⅞ ⅞
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	2 2¼	2 2¼
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	4/6 5/6	4/6 5/6
Himan Concessions London and W. A. G Synd.	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Obbussi Syndicate	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	½ ⅝	½ ⅝
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅞ 1⅛	⅞ 1⅛
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅞ 1⅞	1⅞ 1⅞

Among Miscellaneous mines there has not been much life. The Indian mining reports for June are satisfactory and the shares have remained steady without any feature. In the Copper group the price of the metal and the poor visible supplies helped to give shares a slightly better tone, and Silver mine shares were inclined to harden on the continued firmness in the price of that metal. British Columbians as a whole show little change, but New Zealanders were dull, especially Waihi Grand Junction, on the proposed new capital issue and the statement that it will take quite twelve months to erect the mill. At the beginning of the week Egyptians showed some signs of life, but this was not maintained, and prices have sagged back to their former level.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11,	Closing Price, July 11.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	3⅜	—	3⅞
Balaghat Gold	1½	14/-	16/-	16/-
Broken Hill Props.	1⅛	1¼	39/-	39/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	3⅛
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	33/-	1⅛
Le Roi	4⅜	⅝	⅛	¼
Mason and Barry	4½	3⅜	—	⅜
Mount Lyell Mining	4¼	2	12/-	13/-
Mysore Gold	7⅛	6⅛	6⅝	6⅝
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	2⅜	2½
North Mount Lyell	1⅝	⅜	—	—
Nundydroog	2⅜	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Ooregum	2¾	21/9	1	1
Rio Tinto	53⅞	28⅜	—	53½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	—	4½
Waihi Gold	6⅜	4⅛	5½	5½

THE BRITISH INVESTORS' UNDERWRITING SWINDLE.

That precious swindle, the Texas Oil Securities Company, whose shares were so sedulously and successfully palmed off upon credulous English people through the instrumentality of the British Investors' Underwriting Corporation, has entered upon another phase. At a special meeting held at that convenient centre, Phœnix (Arizona), it was decided to sell the undertaking to the Indian Territory Oil Fields, Ltd., for the sum of £126,976 sterling, each £1 share surrendered receiving in exchange one fully-paid Twelve per Cent. Cumulative Preference share of £1 each, and one Ordinary share also of £1. That the old crowd are still in control is a fair inference from the fact that Mr. F. O. Alberga, who was formerly Secretary of the British Investors' Underwriting Corporation, was appointed Trustee, with authority to maintain an office in London "for the greater facility of performing duties which may accrue to him in such trusteeship." Alberga is a creature of R. Cruikshank, who was Managing Director of the British Investors' Underwriting Corporation, and who in his turn was the English tool of an astute American. Since the B.I.U.C. went into liquidation, having disposed of all the shares of the Texas Oil and other swindles which it

Dainty Luncheons and afternoon Teas at MACKENZIE'S, 80. New Bond-street. Choice cooking. Strictly moderate prices, Luxurious Saloons, Music. Finest Chocolates, 3s. per lb. Delicious French Sweets, Capidor Shortbread, &c. Parcels by post. Souvenir free.—MACKENZIE'S, 80, New Bond-street.

was brought into existence to unload, and having acquired a most unenviable notoriety, the game has been carried on under the name of the City and Provincial Share and Debenture Company, of Moorgate Station Chambers, E.C., which endeavoured—without much success, I am pleased to learn—to obtain subscriptions for the West Candelaria Group of Gold Mines and the Doyle Perfect Combination Company. The man Cruikshank came in for some attention not long ago at the Guildhall in connection with the prosecution of the Managing Director of the City and Provincial, a clerk twenty-one years of age, who had taken a typewriter and some other articles from the office because his salary of £1 a week was much in arrears. I gather that the more recent swindles have not been well received. In the circumstances, what more natural than to endeavour to ring another change on the Texas Oil Securities, and, by means of a simple device which I will explain in due course, bleed the fools who took its shares a little more?

I have had a good deal to say in the past about the British Investors' Underwriting Corporation, and if the police had been alive to their duty the individuals concerned would not need to have attention drawn to them once again by me. It seems desirable, in view of the attempt to regenerate the swindle under another name, that the facts of the whole business should be recalled as briefly as possible. At the end of April, 1903, strangers up and down the country received a circular from the B.I.U.C. reminding them that six months earlier their attention had been drawn—as a fact it had not, but that does not matter—to the shares of the Texas Oil Securities Company, which was paying dividends at the rate of 12 per cent.; that in the interval the distribution had been doubled; that an extra dividend (of which private advice had been received) of 5 per cent. was probable, to be paid on May 15; that it was intended to advance the shares on and after May 4 from 25s. to 30s.; and that application before that date was strongly recommended. What decided a number of ignorant people to subscribe was the offer of the B.I.U.C. to repurchase the shares at the price paid for them at any time within two years from any one who should become dissatisfied. This sounded really convincing, but, as I said in Truth at the time, there was no one to guarantee the B.I.U.C., about which little was known, and that little was unfavourable. To those who took the bait it was pointed out that "such a desirable investment came but seldom, and should be taken advantage of to the fullest extent." If it was inconvenient to pay up in full for any more which might be bought, the B.I.U.C. was willing to accept 10s. per share cash down, and if the balance was paid within two months no interest would be charged. On June 13 it was stated in another circular that "through an oversight" shareholders were not notified of an allotment of shares at par, to which they were entitled, this allotment being one share for every two held. The idea was, of course, to egg on the deluded fools, and to ensure their biting it was added that the price of the shares would shortly be advanced to 50s. each prior to being withdrawn from the market, and that the surplus would afterwards be divided. The Directors felt that having accomplished a great deal for the Company, they were entitled to preferential allotment of shares at such a price as would permit them to realise a good profit, but the laws under which the Company was incorporated forbade them to receive shares at a price lower than that at which they were offered to the public, "unless every shareholder be notified of the amount to which he is entitled;" hence the offer to the latter to come in on the ground floor. The particularly generous feature was that only 10s. was to accompany the application, the other 10s. to be deducted from dividends as declared. To lull the deluded ones into a more perfect sense of security the B.I.U.C. added a paragraph—on its own account, as it were—stating that on the withdrawal of the shares from the market it should no longer act as agents for the Company, and offered to enter into a contract whereby it might purchase all shares which should be offered at 20s. each, the two to divide equally the profit—estimated at 20s. or 30s. per share—on any resale at more than that price. On June 22 another offer went out to those who were not in a position to take up an allotment at 10s. per share, cash down, to accept 5s., the B.I.U.C. (which was not permitted to subscribe for any of the shares under the conditions offered to the shareholders) being willing to furnish the other 5s., and undertaking to sell the shares at not less than 30s. each. The profits were to be divided equally and application was to be made in the shareholder's name. A number of gulls went in on the 10s. basis; a number more on the 5s. basis; and gradually the shares of the rotten concern were well distributed. But the B.I.U.C. had not yet done with the British public. At the end of June shareholders were delighted to receive a letter advising, "from a source most reliable," that with the next interim dividend a very large cash distribution was to be made—not less than 20 per cent., and probably 25 per cent.; and the B.I.U.C. offered its felicitations over the delightful prospect.

A little later came a letter to all the shareholders from the Securities Corporation, 32, Broadway, New York, offering to buy Texas Oils at $9.25 per share, and enclosing purchase contract note. Stock could be forwarded through the shareholders' own bankers, who would send it to their New York representatives to deliver against cash. The letter to this effect left New York on July 21. On the 28th—that is, almost simultaneously with the receipt of the letter in this country—the B.I.U.C. sent out its little bill to those who had not paid up in full. Those who had paid up had received the dividends as they became due—presumably out of capital; those who had not had their dividends credited to their account in part payment, according to the agreement. But it was necessary that the whole of the purchase money should be paid up before share certificates could be delivered, and those who saw in the offer of the Securities Corporation a chance to realise at a profit, naturally made an effort to pay up. The B.I.U.C. was once again their faithful friend. In order to put the shareholders into a position to claim the certificates, it suggested that the balance due should be remitted by return under discount at 5 per cent. They were also advised to accept the offer of the New York concern, and the number of shares which this Company was prepared to buy being in every case in excess of the number held by the shareholders addressed by it, a further purchase was recommended in order to take full advantage of such an exceptional opportunity. Shares could be had up to the number of 3,000 at 30s. each, and as the Securities Corporation price worked out at about 46s., this left a pretty margin. Need it be said that by the time shares were sent over to New York the Securities Corporation had ceased to dwell at 32, Broadway, and had left no address behind it? Having got out of the shareholders all there was to be got, the B.I.U.C. proceeded to pull in its horns. At the beginning of August shareholders were advised that the bonus cash distribution due on the 15th of that month had been postponed until September 1, and this was followed up by a further intimation that it had been deferred until the end of the year, and that no further dividend would be paid before the regular quarterly distribution due October 1. "Owing to the tight money market in New York and the unsatisfactory state of the markets generally, the Directors deemed a postponement of the cash bonus desirable, and the B.I.U.C. felt confident that the shareholders would unite in approval of an action which cannot fail to be to the ultimate advantage of the Company as a whole"! On September 16 cheques for a dividend of 10 per cent. "in lieu of the interim dividend payable August 15 and the regular dividend payable October 1, also of the extra bonus" were sent out with the object of putting the shareholders into good humour again, but they were payable on December 24, and in November the B.I.U.C. went into liquidation, and the cheques or dividend warrants were not honoured.

I shall have something further to say about the B.I.U.C. next week.

NEW ISSUES.

The following prospectuses have been published:—

Electric Supply Corporation.—Capital, £250,000 in 50,000 shares of £5 each, of which 46,600 shares are now offered. The Company has been formed to undertake the supply of electrical energy to a number of towns in the United Kingdom.

A. W. Gamage, Limited.—Issue of 40,000 Five and a Half per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares of £1 each at par, and 20,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each at a premium of 2s. 6d.

Westrumite, Limited.—The Company has been formed to acquire patents for the manufacture of the product known as Westrumite, for laying the dust on roads and in mines. The capital is £200,000 in £1 shares, and 39,241 shares are now offered for subscription.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

E. W., Earl's Court.—I recommend County Council or War Loan stock, the former yielding £3 4s. per cent., and the latter a good 3 per cent. *C. L.*—Honduras stocks are quite hopeless. Personally, I should not handle either Colombians or Guatemalans, notwithstanding that negotiations are on foot for the payment of some of the outstanding arrears of interest. *Johanne.*—Hold the Consols for a better recovery. Your interest is safe in the meantime, and the prospects of a further appreciation are good. *Plumstead.*—West Ham Corporation stock is not in favour because of the reckless expenditure of the past, and you can obtain far more attractive investments. At the same time there is no reason to fear for the regular payment of interest.

RAILWAYS.

Maple Leaf.—Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock makes a good investment, and might be bought at the present price. Other investment purchases which are recommended are Antofagasta Railway Debentures, Argentine Great Western Preference, and B. A. Great Southern Preference, which will average 4½ per cent., or a little more. The Grand Trunk dividends are sent out from the office half-yearly. *C. E. V.*—It would be better to await the elections. The other railway is not much known here. *Dunbar.* Great Western stock makes a good investment purchase. *Investor, Horwich.*—Illinois Central Four per Cent. bonds and Louisville and Nashville Unified Four per Cent. bonds would suit you. The first yields over 3⅞ per cent. and the second 4 per cent. The market in American railroad bonds is a very firm one, owing to the abundance of investment money in America, the ease in trade, and the disinclination to buy Common or even Preference stocks. *Hertford.*—Prospects are poor, and you had better get out. *G. M. N.*—I see no prospect of much appreciation in Nitrate Railways—certainly not to anything like the figure at which you bought. If you were to realise and buy Hendersons and Johnnies you might hope to obtain your money back in this way if you can wait for active conditions in the Kaffir market.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Poet.—The debentures are safe enough. *C W Austin.*—I hope to deal with the subject of house-purchase assurance in an early issue of TRUTH. *Lex.*—There is no active market in the shares on the Stock Exchange, and probably their actual value is well below that at which they are offered to you by the outside broker. As you say, it is difficult to see why these tempting offers should be made to perfect strangers. But then, one has to remember the philanthropist in the city. I hope to draw attention to the concern. *G. W., Howden.*—Threaten them with an action and let me know the result. *C. H., Bournemouth.*—My thanks for the Bremen lottery circular. Efforts are being made by the police and the Post Office authorities to restrict the circulation of these pernicious circulars in this country, and there have been two or three prosecutions recently. Persistent endeavours in this direction will reduce the evil in time, but meanwhile it is to be feared that the victims are numerous. *Nut Brown Maid.*—I do not recommend Spiers and Pond in view of the poor dividend. Try Lyons and John Barkers. *M.A.H.A.*—My thanks. Yes, the thing is illegal, and TRUTH has done all in its power to move the authorities to action. *Lex, Dublin.*—A fairly good office, but not an English one, and as the annuity you are after is a rather large one, your best plan would be to stick to a good English office, even though the terms are not quite so generous. *Wales.*—The shares are a fairly safe investment. *Parson Primrose.*—The only way to get your money back would be by putting a solicitor on the firm's track. Send me a stamped envelope and I will let you have the name of the solicitor who has acted for other TRUTH readers in the matter. *A. B. C.*—I do not know the firm, and cannot offer you advice. Consult a trade protection society. *T. T. M.*—You would be well advised to have no dealings with Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool. *T. Eustace.*—Gilbey Debentures are quite good. The price is 102-4 and the yield nearly 3¾ per cent. Interest is paid quarterly. *Calgary.*—The shares of the Canada Company are a good purchase. The price is high, but the yield is 9 per cent., and the Company has good land holdings. *Welshman.*—Neither the North Wales Slate Quarries nor the Empire Brighton prospectus strikes me as encouraging. The latter is the most undesirable of the two. *Prestonian.*—The office is one of the best that could have been chosen for house purchase and insurance. *Lichfold.*—All six banks are well managed and fairly strong. The strongest are the London and Brazilian, British of South America, and Natal Banks. *C. W. Price.*—A good industrial selection, especially Lyons Preference, John Barker Preference, and Spratts Preference.

MINES.

W. Rule.—I should not sell Oroyas; nor should I, on the other hand, buy Perseverance on the strength of the present position, which is poor. In the case of this mine nearly everything depends upon further discoveries, and although you have a sportive chance in this particular, you must realise that the risks are great. *Expectens.*—The best hope for Chartered shares lies in a revival of Kaffirs, and an immediate revival is not anticipated, while the position of the Company is not very satisfactory. But it would be the lesser of two unpleasant alternatives for you to hold for a slight recovery. *W. H.*—Broken Hill Props. are a good purchase. For a cheaper silver-mining share, British Broken Hills are a fair speculation. *Anxious, Huddersfield.*—Better sell Clark's Consolidated, but Chartered might be kept for some improvement with Kaffirs. Then you should realise, and do not wait for a return to the price which you paid for the shares. *Wimbledon.*—I had something to say about the American Exploration Company last week. If many distinguished gentlemen in the West End are buying La Fiesta and Eclipse shares in ignorance it is because they ignore the warnings of TRUTH and other journals. *John Sligo.*—Camp Birds are a good speculative purchase. The mine is a good one. *H. H.*—H. E. Props. are a good gambling counter, and on an active market may be expected once again to move cheerfully. The Company holds 1,669 gold-mining claims in the Murchison Range district, in which two parallel reefs have been traced for miles. *P. S.*—Rio Tintos are generally a good speculative purchase on a fall. Every self-respecting Parisian speculator carries a line in them, and just now the scarcity of copper supplies gives the shares a good backbone. *Arsenal*—You might hold the Bibianis and Abbontiakoons, as you fancy the market and are "prepared to hold on indefinitely." The silence of the Board on the subject of working costs tells against Wassaus. Apparently at present these costs are so high as to leave no margin on the right side. *Jack Daw.*—You can make no mistake in buying Randfonteins. Geduldes, Barneys, and Simmer and Jacks, if, as you say, you can afford to wait for the stronger and healthier markets which will follow from the provision of a full labour supply and a materially enhanced gold output. *W. L. E.*—Hendersons and Welgedachts are good to keep. *C. B.*—Tyee Coppers are a sportive holding, but the shares do not strike me as particularly cheap. *Spec.*—Casons, Cloverfields, East Rand Mining Estates, and Welgedachts. *Aber.*—1. Hold Natal Navigation Collieries and Rand Collieries. 2. The Henry Nourse has 80 stamps erected and 75 crushing, the Langlaagte Estate has 200 erected and 150 crushing. *W. R. C.*—I do not recommend a purchase of Rossland Kootenays, and should be inclined to sell Le Rois, and get into a decent Kaffir or Westralian. *E. G. Macgeorge.*—Keep Bechuanaland Explorations for a moderate recovery, then sell. Sell Gold Coast Investments and W. A. Gold Trusts. Prospects are poor.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Ballylegan.—B. A. Rosario Ordinary, Stewarts and Lloyds Preference, and Vickers Maxim Preference make a desirable trio. *Safety.*—Natal Land and Colonisation and River Plate Trust Loan and Agency shares are desirable. Cordoba Central (C.N.S.) First Debentures are also reasonably safe. *John Smith, Colchester.*—1. I should not recommend a purchase of Denver United or City of Chicago Brewing Ordinary shares. St. Louis Preference are more hopeful, especially in view of the Exhibition. 2. I should prefer the New Japanese Six per Cent. Loan, which is specifically secured on the Customs Revenue. 3. Argentine Great Western Railway Preference and B. A. Pacific First Preference would suit. The first gives 5⅝ per cent. and the second almost 5 per cent. *A. R., Mitcham.*—1. The Pennsylvania and Union Pacific First Mortgage bonds are safe holdings, and are likely to have a fair appreciation. 2. Brighton "A" and South-Western Preferred. 3. Hold the Grand Trunk Second Preference stock. 4. The amalgamation should be to the benefit of both the City of Buenos Ayres and the Anglo-Argentine Tramway companys. Keep your shares. *Paddy.*—1. Union Castle Ordinary and P. and O. Deferred are the best of those suggested. On the first the return is about 5⅞ per cent., on the second it is 6½ per cent. 2. The Colonials are quite good to keep. 3. I cannot give an opinion. Consult a solicitor. 4. United States Steel Common stock is very undesirable. *Medicus.*—1. I should not buy Willans and Robinsons. 2. Armstrong Whitworths should be held. 3. Not Beyer Peacocks nor South Durham

Steels. 4. Canadian Pacifics are a good purchase. 5. Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, and Saskatchewan bonds are a promising lock up. *E. D.*—1. Hold the Mashonaland Railway Debentures. 2. Beeston Brewery shares are more than a little risky. 3. Slaters are quite a fair industrial. 4. The Brighton Railway dividend is expected on Monday next, the 18th inst, and the South-Western on the 28th. 5. Cape Town and District Gas, European Gas, and San Paulo Gas are good of their kind. The first gives a yield of 6⅞ per cent., the second 5⅞ per cent., and the third 6⅜ per cent.

INDUSTRIALS IRREGULAR—DOCKS AND THE LOST PORT BILL—WATER STOCK CONVERSION—GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT STOCKS—METROPOLITAN ELECTRICS—NATIONAL TELEPHONE DIVIDEND—ARGENTINE TRAM AMALGAMATION—BREWERY SHARES—PREFERENCE ISSUES WORTH BUYING—RIVER PLATE MEATS — HOTELS WEAK — CANADA COMPANY SHARES.

As in other sections, idleness characterised the Industrial market, and although there is some irregularity the general tendency was downwards. Dock stocks were depressed with India Deferred weakest on the dropping of the Port Bill for this Session. Water issues displayed a fairly steady tone, and though the Water Board stock fell back to 93, it has since improved to 93½. In connection with this latter, it was said by Lord Welby at the meeting that 95 per cent. of the total award had been accepted in Water stock, and the following little table shows the apportionments to the various Companies:—

Company.	Award in Cash.	*Stock Equivalent Accepted.	Water Stock "B" at 109½.	Balance.
	£	£	£	£
West Middlesex	3,524 000	3,499,850	3,832,335	24,150
Chelsea	3,305,700	3,287,893	3,600,242	17.807
East London	3,900,000	3,637,626	3,983.200	262,374
Grand Junction	3,349.500	2,727,829	2.986,972	621,671
Kent	2,712,000	2,697,800	2,954,091	14,200
Lambeth	4,301,000	4,260 000	4,664,700	41,000
Southwark and Vauxhall	3,603.000	3,144,806	3,443 563	458,193
	24,695,200	23,255,804	25,465,106	1,439,395

* In lieu of cash.

This is a good tribute to the excellence of the stock itself, and, so far as the Money Market is concerned, the result is exceedingly satisfactory, as it obviates the serious disturbances which at one time seemed to threaten it. Apart from a fall of 1 in P. and O. Debentures, as the result of a small line of stock coming on to the market, Shipping issues are without feature. Gas Light and Cokes were offered at one time, and show a slight loss, but South Metropolitans have been firm. Among Telegraph issues Eastern Extensions improved slightly on small buying, and National Telephone Deferred hardened on the dividend of 5 per cent., with an increase in the carry-forward and an appropriation of £100,000 to reserve. Traction shares are in favour, especially Anglo-Argentine Trams and City of Buenos Ayres Trams in connection with the proposed acquisition of the latter by the former Company. Electric light shares keep quietly firm, and Metropolitan Electric Supply hardened on the decision of the Board to pay a bonus of £6 per share to holders of the Ordinary out of the profits on capital account made by the sale of the Marylebone undertaking. Brewery shares have been inactive in spite of the better prospects of the passing of the Licensing Bill. They had, of course, a very good recovery recently, and a little rest now will do them no harm. Among the more speculative descriptions Allsopps have recovered, and Watney Combe Reids are steadier, but City of London have been weak at 82½, as against the highest during the current year of 95. Some attention has been paid to Lion Brewery issues. Among Brewery Preference stocks which might be bought are Meux Preference, which yield 5¼ per cent., Ind Coope "B" Preference, which yield 7⅝ per cent., Ashby's Staines Preference, 4⅞ per cent., Northampton Preference, which give 5½ per cent., and Stretton's Derby Preference, which return 3⅝ per cent. In the Meat class some support has been forthcoming for River Plate Meats, notwithstanding the unsatisfactory position shown by the last report. With the exception of Aërated Breads and British Tea Table, which are inclined to be weak, Refreshment shares have been steady, but there is some weakness in Hotels, including Gordons, Frederick Debentures, and Savoy Preference, while Spiers and Ponds have fallen away on the poor results for last year. Apollinaris Preference hardened to 8 on the report. As a group, Textiles have been firm without much activity, and Iron and Steel shares are tolerably steady, Pease and Partners recovering to some extent. Linotypes keep dull, and some rather free offering carried Willans and Robinson's Debentures down to 80½, the Preference to 3½, and the Ordinary to 2½. Hudson's Bays showed a disposition to sag on profit-taking, but the shares have been well absorbed, and the price is now strengthening again. Another Canadian venture whose shares are very well worth buying is the Canada Company, which recently declared a dividend of two guineas on the £1 shares in addition to 20s. paid in December last. At the present market price of 35-8 cum dividend the return is a full 9 per cent.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A CROQUET ENGAGEMENT.

"D——N you!" cried Robert Jephson, apostrophising his croquet mallet, which he shook viciously, as an incensed mother might shake a naughty child. "It was all your doing."

And he flung it away from him into a corner of the room, with an air of intense disgust.

Now, what had the poor croquet mallet done to merit such abuse? I will tell you. It had been instrumental in fixing up an engagement between Mr. Robert Jephson and Miss Cecilia Sinkins. *Hinc illæ lachrymæ.*

You see, Miss Cecilia Sinkins was not (if I may use a commercial phrase) "everybody's money." Indeed, as a matrimonial speculation, she appealed to very few. Not but what she had her attractive points. Her physiognomy was handsome; and her figure, thanks to steels and stuffing, was remarkably good. Moreover, she did her hair becomingly, and knew how to put on her clothes. So that she always looked stylish. The general effect of her was heightened, above, by a very pretty taste in hats, and, below, by an uncommon nattiness in shoe-leather.

So far, therefore, as appearances went, a man might have gone farther and fared worse. But when it came to realities, it was another matter. I do not wish to particularise too closely just here. It is an invidious thing to pick a lady to pieces. But these two prominent facts I must disclose. The fair Cecilia was, without question, of a certain age, and, equally without question, of an uncertain temper. The age was managed with commendable self-restraint, and kept (as was befitting) in the background. But the temper had an unhappy knack of obtruding itself.

However, to come back to the croquet mallet and to the part it had borne in fixing up Mr. Jephson's engagement to Miss Sinkins.

The mallet—a lovely box-wood weapon, flattened and shod with brass beneath, roughened at either end, and ruled in black along the top; its handle beautifully bevelled and the upper part thereof encased in red rubbers, had been bought at a noted athletic outfitter's by Mr. Robert Jephson for 10s. 6d., and taken by him, on his summer holiday, to Seatown.

It so chanced that Miss Cecilia Sinkins, his near neighbour and acquaintance, also went to Seatown for her summer holiday, and, as luck would have it, neither of them knew a single soul besides in the place. What more natural, then, that these two should fraternise? What more natural than that, both being croquet enthusiasts, they should play many a match together upon the lawns of the Seatown Club? Aye! What

more natural than that, when the club held its annual summer tournament, Mr. Jephson and Miss Sinkins should enter their names together for the mixed doubles?

And here comes in the responsibility of Mr. Jephson's mallet for what subsequently occurred. That mallet suited him to a T. Indeed, so finely did he perform with it, that he and Miss S. literally swept the board. At the time, he was proud and pleased, and lauded his new mallet to the skies. Short-sighted man! If he had but known! If only he could have foreseen! Given an unsuitable mallet, bad play, and consequent failure —then Miss Sinkin's temper must have come into evidence; bickerings and recriminations, followed by a merciful estrangement, must have ensued. But, as it was, her partner's great success with the mallet that suited him so well put her into a perfectly heavenly temper and brought out all that was best and most amiable in her disposition; while their daily partnership in victory drew them daily closer together.

No other female acquaintance was there to act as a counter attraction to Miss S. She had the floor to herself. You know what this means. You, doubtless, have often seen how some girl, or woman, who, in competition, would have had no earthly chance, has secured an eligible husband by the mere accident of having him to herself for a month or two *hors concours*. So now. Thrown together in a little sea-side town for six long weeks—always in each other's society; playing croquet together; swimming in the sea together; strolling, by moonlight, after dinner together—these two would have been less than human if they had resisted the sentimental influence of such surroundings.

Probably, indeed, Miss Cecilia had been "willing" from the first. Her case was like that of William of Orange in A.D. 1688—"Aut nunc aut nunquam." But Robert Jephson's position was less desperate. Youngish, good looking, and not badly off, he had a wide field of possible selection. And it was only the special circumstances to which I have alluded—those circumstances which act upon sentiment as a forcing pit does upon cucumbers—that could ever have induced him to think twice of Cecilia Sinkins. However, there the circumstances were; and there Cecilia was. And to cut the matter short, he flirted injudiciously, indulged in indiscreet sentimentalities, said more than he meant, and, finally, let himself in. They returned home together an engaged couple.

At first, Jephson was tolerably content. Even when he awoke to the fact (as he soon did) that his ardour for Cecilia did not exactly register boiling point on his heart's thermometer, he accepted the position with composure, and philosophically resolved not to make himself unhappy about it. But, by-and-by, when the increasing intimacies of courtship gradually discovered to him the less agreeable features of Cecilia's character, and, in particular, made clear to him what a devil of a temper that young woman possessed, his philosophical composure became seriously disturbed.

But when—to top it all up—he fell head-over-ears in love with some one else—a really nice and charming girl, too, by comparison with whom Cecilia Sinkins appeared intolerably odious—then it was that he was led, in the bitterness of his heart, into cursing the innocent cause of the mischief, his half-guinea croquet mallet.

"Yes, devil take you,' he continued, regarding the box-wood with a glance so baleful, that it is a wonder it did not blister the varnish. "It was all through you. Why, in the name of mischief, did you suit me so well?"

Then, he further vented his feelings by kicking the mallet, and, finally, by stamping on the shaft and breaking it.

"If only you'd made me play badly, you accursed thing! Then she'd have lost her wool (she always does when her partner fails at croquet), and I should have seen what sort of a girl she was and been warned in time. But you suited me so well that I simply could not make a mistake. And, consequently, she was all smiles and sweetness—ugh! Well, you shall do no further mischief, anyway."

He rang his library bell. The parlourmaid appeared.

"Jane, take this confounded thing away, and light the fires with it."

"Light the fires with it, sir? Yes, sir," replied Jane, with all the sang froid of a well-trained domestic, as she gathered the fragments of the mallet into her apron.

"And mind you see that it is burned to ashes," said Mr. Jephson, scowling gloomily.

"Very well, sir," answered Jane. "This here part of it"—she indicated the head—"is rather hard and solid, I'm afraid, sir; but I daresay it will turn out all right in the kitchen range, if Cook pulls out the dampers, sir."

"Then let her pull the dampers out, and keep 'em out," said Mr. Jephson, fiercely.

Jane departed, wondering within herself at these strange commands, which she discussed, at length, with her fellow-servant.

"Whatever makes master so vicious against these bits of wood, Cook? Lumme if I can understand it."

"Nor me, Jane—except as I 'm certain of one thing."

"What's that, then, Cook?"

"Why, as there's a woman in it," answered Cook, impressively.

"What makes you say that, now?"

"'Cos when gentlemen does mad things, and generally behaves like lunatics, there always is. It's a sure sign. Did I never tell yer what my Charlie done, not long ago, when him and me had words about that p'leeceman what fancied me?"

"No, Cook, you never did."

"We was on London Bridge at the time, Jane, and he actually threw his new hat into the river, just to spite me."

"Lor', now! But how did his doing that spite you, Cook?"

"It didn't, Jane. That was just the madness of it. What's more, he very near went and threw hisself after the hat, only I hung on to his coat-tails, and implored him to consider before behaving so rash. Ah! a deal of responsibility rests on us women, Jane," sighed Cook, sententiously, "seeing as how we have such power to drive the men distracted."

"D'ye think as Miss S. have drove the master distracted, then, Cook? For my part, I say she ain't worth it. And I've often wondered what a fine young gentleman like him could see in her."

"P'raps *he* didn't see nothing. P'raps it was *she* as done all the seeing," answered Cook, with sly insinuation.

Just then the front door bell rang, and Jane, having to answer it, was debarred from pursuing the conversation.

The visitor who had rung the bell was Mr. Thomas Twidger, Hon. Secretary of the local Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, who had called to see Mr. Jephson, the Hon. Treasurer, on business in connection with the club's approaching croquet tournament.

Robert Jephson was not exactly overjoyed to see him. He was too full of his own bitter thoughts just then to be in the mood, or to have the heart, for discussing such petty matters. However, the man was there, and the details of the tournament had to be settled. So Jephson roused himself, as well as he could, from his gloomy reflections, and endeavoured to concentrate his attention on the subject in hand.

"The ladies' singles are more or less of a farce," said Mr. Twidger, in the course of his observations. "There's only one lady in it. None of the others have the ghost of a chance with Miss Sinkins."

"I have heard that Miss Baldock has come on a good deal lately," answered Jephson, carelessly.

"I believe that is so. Still, she is not in the same class with Miss Sinkins."

"No? Well, I understand that she has been practising almost daily in the best of company at Wimbledon, and several good judges have told me that they think she stands an excellent chance."

"I don't agree. I think Miss Sinkins carries too many guns for her. What's more, she is dead set on winning. Very natural, too, for if she brings it off this year, it will be the third time in succession, and the challenge bowl will become her own property. I hope it will. I

should like to see that handsome piece of plate decorating your side-board in perpetuity, old man," said Mr. Twidger, chuckling, and giving his friend a sly dig in the ribs as he spoke.

The latter forced a perfunctory smile with his lips; but inwardly he was very far, indeed, from smiling. That challenge bowl on his side-board in perpetuity, and Cecilia Sinkins attached! It was not exactly a prospect to make a man's heart leap for joy.

"By the way, when's the event to be?" inquired Mr. Twidger.

"What event?"

"Why, *the* event—the auspicious occasion, of course," said Mr. Twidger, winking facetiously.

"The date is not yet fixed," replied Robert Jephson, frowning. "Excuse me, Twidger, but I see no reason for branching off into a discussion on my private affairs. Let us, if you please, confine ourselves to business."

"No offence. Sorry I spoke, old man," answered Mr. Twidger surprised and apologetic. And for the rest of the interview, he limited his observations strictly to the croquet tournament.

Presently the subject of the prizes cropped up.

"By the way," said Robert Jephson, "I meant to have told you last time we met, only it slipped my memory. A wealthy friend of mine, who wishes to remain anonymous, but who takes a great interest in croquet, has sent a very handsome prize for the ladies' singles, to be given to the winner of the challenge bowl. I had better hand it to you now, so that you can put it on show with the other prizes."

As he spoke, he unlocked his table drawer, and took out a jeweller's case, which he pushed across to Mr. Twidger.

The latter opened it, and a long-drawn "Phew!" of admiration escaped his lips. There, sparkling and glittering before his eyes, lay a splendid emerald brooch.

"By Jupiter! what a lovely thing! Why, this is worth fifty pounds, Jephson, if it's worth a penny."

"I dare say," replied Jephson, indifferently. "The donor is not the one to do things by halves, and wouldn't give a prize at all, if it were not worth winning."

"I say, won't the girls buck up just, when they see this," exclaimed Mr. Twidger, still regarding the emeralds with admiring eyes.

"That, I take it, is what prizes are meant for—to stimulate the play," said Jephson, drily.

"I hope it won't also stimulate envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness—not to say cheating—on the part of those damsels who are getting the worst of it," smiled Mr. Twidger.

"The umpires will see to that, I presume," remarked Jephson.

"And I think they'll have their hands full—poor devils! I'm only chaffing, of course. I'm sure none of our ladies would lose their temper, or cheat. Besides, they will already have resigned themselves to the inevitable fact that the first prize, in this event, is a gift for Miss Sinkins. And, now I come to think of it, I've more than once heard her say that emeralds are her favourite stones. So it's a lucky coincidence, isn't it, Jephson?"

"Yes, if she wins the brooch."

"My good chap, I tell you it's a gift for her. She can't be beaten."

"Well, I hope you are right," said Jephson. "Situated as I am in regard to Miss Sinkins, I am naturally keen that she should bring it off. All the same, what I hear about Miss Baldock makes me less confident than I should like to be. And I shall not feel happy about Cecilia's success until I have actually seen her get home."

"I assure you, you may make your mind perfectly easy. Miss Sinkins is a dead cert."

"Well, we shall see. It is possible I have heard exaggerated reports of Miss Baldock. I sincerely trust I have," was Jephson's reply.

Now Robert Jephson was not the only person who had heard flattering rumours of Miss Baldock's recently-acquired skill with the croquet-mallet. It was common talk among the croquet players of the neighbourhood. Moreover, it had a very solid foundation in fact. For the past three months, that young lady had been assiduously practising at Wimbledon, under the tuition of a friend of hers, a champion player, whose name was a household word in the croquet world.

Miss Baldock naturally possessed a true eye and a steady nerve, so that all she needed to make her a fine player was scientific instruction, combined with regular practice. This she had had, and of the very best. Consequently, at the end of three months, she had developed a really strong game.

All this reached Miss Sinkins's ears and gradually aroused in her bosom a sense of jealous uneasiness. Long the acknowledged star of her neighbourhood, the mere thought that she was in danger of being eclipsed by a rival luminary was insupportable to her. But, in order to satisfy herself whether there were any real grounds for such apprehension, she made a point of running over to Wimbledon once or twice when she knew Edith Baldock would be there, for the express purpose of watching her, and what she saw increased, rather than allayed, her uneasiness. There was no doubt at all—loth as Cecilia was to admit it—that her younger rival was playing a very strong game indeed, and that she—Cecilia—should have all her work cut out to beat her. Yet, beat her she would, by hook or by crook, and retain her unbeaten laurels. With set teeth and contracted brow, she made up her mind to that. She had no intention of going down before "that child" (as she contemptuously styled the twenty-year-old Edith Baldock). Besides, apart from the mortification of defeat, there would be the loss of the challenge bowl, which she had confidently counted on making her own this year. And then, there was that emerald brooch. Miss Sinkins had a passion for stones, but especially for emeralds. They suited her colouring and complexion better than any others. Indeed, so much enamoured was she of the brooch that she felt ready to go any length in order to win it; and she vowed—with vicious determination—that, come what might, that splendid trophy should never, never, glitter on the throat of Edith Baldock.

In due course, the first day of the tournament arrived. As usual, it began with the ladies' singles. The entries numbered twenty—thus involving eight matches and four byes in the first round. Each match was for the best of three games, excepting in the final, which was for the best of five.

As the club had half-a-dozen grounds at its disposal, the ladies' event was well advanced by the evening of the first day. In fact, the semi-final was reached and partly negotiated before the clock struck seven, which was the agreed time for pulling up hoops. This semi-final drew a large gallery, since it brought together, for the first time, Miss Cecilia Sinkins and Miss Edith Baldock.

It was universally recognised that the winner of this heat was the winner of the event. Hence it was invested with all the *éclat* of a final, and the appearance of the two ladies on the lawn of encounter was watched with eager interest by some two hundred persons—including all the leading croquet lights of the neighbourhood.

The first game was desperately contested. But Edith Baldock won, on the post, amid loud applause. Her initial success was evidently popular with the onlookers. Miss Sinkins turned white with anger.

As there still remained half-an-hour for play, the second game of the heat was begun. Miss Baldock, encouraged by her success, played in grand form, and enjoying some luck, had established a lead of twelve hoops when play ceased.

The position, then, was this: Miss Baldock had won the first game, and was twelve hoops in hand towards the second, against Miss Sinkins's nil. It seemed, therefore, that the former's victory was practically assured.

Poor Cecilia! She could hardly speak for rage. The moment the clock struck seven, she hurried away home,

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without a word to any one, her eyes filled with scalding tears of mortification, spite, and bitterness.

* * * * *

But we all know the proverb about the "cup" and the "lip," and those sporting wights who, at the conclusion of the day's play, had laid ten to one on Edith Baldock had reason, next morning, to regret having been so premature. When the second game of the semi-final was resumed next morning, Miss Baldock (suffering perhaps from fatigue consequent upon her yesterday's exertions) proved to be clean out of form. Beginning weakly, she let Miss Sinkins in, at the outset, and that lady, making no mistake, soon caught her up, passed her, and finally ran out a winner before Miss Baldock had added more than two points to her overnight score.

In the third, and deciding bout, the younger lady again failed to find her game, and was badly beaten by fourteen hoops.

Miss Baldock being now disposed of, there was nothing further to trouble the fair Cecilia. For, in the final, she had to encounter no more formidable an opponent than Mrs. Lethbridge—a very moderate performer—against whom she won three games straight off the reel; thus securing the club (ladies') championship; appropriating to herself the challenge bowl, and annexing the coveted emerald brooch.

It was a triumphant day for Miss Cecilia Sinkins, and (for undue modesty was never one of her failings) she put on "side" to correspond.

* * * * *

Let me, however, whisper to you a little secret. On the evening of that first day of the tournament, Edith Baldock had paid a private visit to the mortified and desperate Miss Sinkins, and had made certain overtures to her. The gist of them was that if Miss Sinkins desired to secure the championship, the challenge bowl, and the emerald brooch—to say nothing of unlimited kudos—it was open to her to do so—for a consideration. At that moment, it is probable that Cecilia would cheerfully have mortgaged her soul to the Devil to gain such a result, and she literally jumped at the chance now offered her.

You have guessed what the "consideration" was? Yes; you are quite right—the surrender of Mr. Robert Jephson by Miss Cecilia Sinkins, with a view to his being taken over by Miss Edith Baldock.

MUSIC.

BIBLICAL OPERAS.

OPERAS on sacred subjects are evidently not wanted here. It is true Biblical characters are beloved by prime donne, but Bible stories are a pitfall to composers, for the Continental public do not take very kindly to them, while British audiences will not have them at any price. In 1882, when a Lord Chamberlain was chairman of directors at Covent Garden and "Hérodiade" was licensed, it was the strong protests by readers of newspapers that caused the project to be dropped by Mr. Ernest Gye, although his wife was the prima donna destined for the principal part. Even when, in accordance with the rules of the Lord Chamberlain's department, operas are deprived of Biblical names, and the scenes are transferred elsewhere, they rarely or never succeed. Massenet's "Salomé," of which I gave an account last week, drew (or, perhaps, Mme. Calvé drew) at its première a considerable audience to the dress seats at Covent Garden, but the cheaper places, where it is popularly supposed the middle-class lovers of novelty congregate, were nothing like so crowded as for "Rigoletto" on a Melba night. Nor, despite a good cast and a pretty *mise-en-scène*, is the opera likely, after its second performance next Saturday, to keep the repertory, for it is long spun out; it is in many acts or tableaux (at the time it was written French opera managers were bound by the terms of their subventions to produce so many "acts" annually), while although at times it is delightfully lyrical, yet no sooner does the composer attempt to become dramatic than his music is as prolix and dull as a Scotch sermon. It was not, of course, M. Massenet's fault that the scenario was so vague, that the Palace of the predecessor of King Menelik had as background the forbidden city of Lhassa; that Phanuel the Chaldean lodges in the hut of Hunding, the Abyssinian queen stepping straight from Alexandria to Germania in order to consult the stars, or that certain Roman soldiers from "Norma" seem, in the picturesque situation in the market-place at Axoum, to have strolled into an act from "Aïda." But it was M. Massenet's fault that he did not employ the blue pencil to excise at least an hour of his more ambitious music. Many times must the audience have wished the singers to cut the cackle and come to the plot.

Biblical operas, for some reason, almost always are dull. Take, for example, Rossini's "Moses in Egypt," which was given as "Peter the Hermit" at the King's Theatre in 1822, and as "Zorah" at Covent Garden in 1850, that is to say, before most of us can remember. But Dr. Cummings conducted it as an oratorio at the Sacred Harmonic Society's concerts towards the end of their career, so that the present generation could then appreciate what a very dull dog Rossini's "Moses" was. As far back as 1833, by the way, this work really was given as a "sacred opera," with scenery and dresses, at Covent Garden, under the direction of Rophino Lacy, but it was considered so monotonous that additions from Handel's "Israel in Egypt" had to be interpolated to enliven it. Take, again, Gounod's "Queen of Sheba," which Farnie brought out in English form, under the title of "Irene," at the Crystal Palace forty years ago. In its original French guise the Queen comes to visit Solomon, but instead falls in love with one of his workmen named Adoniram. That industrial worthy is killed by three brother workmen, amid a "picket" scrimmage in a sort of early Jewish strike (at any rate, it was upon a question of wages) whereupon, the Queen of Sheba suspects the wisest of kings of the major crime of jealousy and the lesser offence of murder. Then there was Verdi's "Nabucodonosor," or, as we in London had it, "Nino." The frequenters of Her Majesty's in 1846 laughed at the mad king, while even Parisians were greatly amused at the extravagant employment of trombones, ophecleides, trumpets, and cornets à pistons, and, in fact, of a battery of brass in the scene in which the King set up the image in the plain of Dura. Saint-Saëns' "Samson et Délila," Liszt's "Christus," Rubinstein's "Paradise Lost," the first scene in which (the stage is divided into three parts, namely, Paradise with all the angels of Heaven, secondly, hell, with its legions of demons, and thirdly, earth, with "all the inhabitants thereof") even Sir A. Harris declared impracticable; and Wagner's "Parsifal," which in parts, at any rate, is sacred opera, we know only in the concert room, while Goldmark's "Queen of Sheba," Méhul's "Joseph," and similar sacred operas of the old and new repertory untravelled amateurs do not know at all.

Some people—a decided minority, however—would overrule the censor's objection to the use of sacred names and scenes in opera. Logically, no doubt, the assumption in oratorio of the characters of the most sacred personages in history by robust tenors in evening dress, or by smiling prime donne in décolletée costume, may be equally indefensible. Indeed, it was officially considered so by the management of Exeter Hall, who some years ago resolved on this ground to prohibit the performance of oratorio in that building, although they freely permit secular concerts. But the vast majority of the public strongly uphold the judgment of successive Lord Chamberlains, and prefer Bible matters to be forbidden on the secular stage, if only because in opera they are apt to be cast into ridicule. For example, in "Salomé," the Temple scene would have been absurd if it had really been laid in Jerusalem, although neither Jew nor Christian would be likely to experience anything but amusement at the worshippers with undraped heads,

in the scene by the altar at Axoum, with its Chaldean candlesticks, and its gigantic ship floating aloft—a stage managerial idea, perhaps, of the Ark of the Covenant. Even the use of real or imitated Hebrew melodies (with, be it said, a singularly beautiful effect) and the dancing of a ballet before the altar, did not seem to "jar," the audience apparently accepting the spectacle as an incident in the private devotions of an Ethiopian king nineteen centuries ago. On the other hand, the make up of an amorous though highly conventional tenor, as a cross between a Christian friar and a mad Mullah, and the holding of palms by the crowds who went before him singing "Hosanna" were considered a mistake by many in the house. The result of "Salomé," at any rate, is not likely to tempt the Covent Garden management to any further experiments in the direction of Biblical opera—unless, of course, some eminent prima donna should insist upon it.

The fact that the Broadwood concerts are this season to be removed to the Æolian Hall supplies a reminder that St. James's Hall is doomed. Whether or no, when the long-threatened hotel is built, there will be in it a hall available for concerts—as I understand there very likely may be—it seems pretty certain that during the coming winter season our premier concert-room will be closed. It is a pity, but it was bound to come. The hall, admirable as it was from an acoustic point of view, was quite out of date. Imagine a building intended for winter concerts, and yet not fitted with any expedient for warming the room, except the very primitive one of closing the ventilators.

As to Æolian Hall, it sadly wants reseating. For a new room of this modest size to have nineteen rows of stalls (sixteen seats in a row) without a centre gangway is absurd. The sacrifice of thirty seats would not be much, and it would make the audience more comfortable, and this otherwise excellent concert-room perhaps more safe.

Mr. Robert Newman is settling the final details for his tenth season of Promenade Concerts, which will commence at Queen's Hall about three weeks hence. Both musical and dramatic entertainments are to begin earlier than usual this year, and the "Proms." revert to the old and sound idea which the Gattis held, that every day missed after the August Bank Holiday is a day lost. The concerts this autumn will start on the 6th prox., and until October 21 they will enjoy a monopoly of symphony performances in London. The only trouble is that the weather may be hot, and Queen's Hall has so elemental a system of ventilation that on a Saturday night in August it is not a pleasant place. The method adopted is to throw the doors wide open to the street. But this simply means an intolerable draught. It is strange that in the twentieth century the science of ventilation seems almost a sealed book to British architects. The best system of ventilation that has yet been devised for theatres appears to be that in use at the Opera house and at the Hippodrome, where the fresh air is by electric fans forced down from the roof. Indeed, when the Covent Garden man becomes too extravagant in electrical energy, we in the stalls have to send for our great coats.

"Groves' Dictionary" is, I learn, being entirely recast, made more handy, and brought up to date by Mr. Maitland. The issue of the first volume is expected in November.

The late Mr. Coleman's Reminiscences, which were recently published, form two entertaining volumes; but it is hoped they will not go down to posterity as an authority on musical history. Take for example the following extraordinary misstatement:—

> One day when we happened to be dining tête à tête, the news came of the death of Mr. Gye, who had so long presided over the Covent Garden opera. "I'll take it," exclaimed Augustus. "Take what?" "Covent Garden." "You are taking leave of your senses." "No, I am, not, I was brought up behind the scenes there, and know every rope in the ship."

All this, of course, is purely imaginative. Gye died in 1878 from the results of a gun accident, while Harris did not take Covent Garden till 1888. So that dinner, if it ever occurred at all, must have lasted ten years. Again:—

> He did take Covent Garden. During his first season he lost £12,000, during his second he cleared £14,000; then he must try a provincial tour of opera on a grand scale, over which he lost £20,000.

All of which goes to prove that when Coleman failed as a London theatre manager, he might have made a first-rate writer of fiction.

Last week Frau Destinn resumed her duties at Covent Garden, playing for the first time Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana," which had apparently been saved for Mme. Calvé, but of which that great prima donna now seems to have had enough. Frau Destinn was a highly dramatic representative of the abandoned girl, and she introduced into her impersonation a good deal of new business, some of which was really effective. But the part does not suit her so well as Nedda in "Pagliacci," which she will resume this week. The Opera is still drawing large audiences, and some member of the Royal Family contrives to be present almost every night.

Three gentlemen, one a musical man, another a politician, and the third a foreigner, were politely disputing the other night during an entr'acte at the Opera whether Goodwood races had been run or not. The Opera waiter looked wise, and doubtless could have offered an expert opinion; but a friendly peer decided the question in the negative. The joke was that the foreigner was right, and the two Englishmen were wrong, although it is only fair to say that one of them afterwards explained he "must have been thinking of the St. Leger."

Opera goers, however, ought to know the date of Goodwood, because the opera season almost invariably closes on the Monday of Goodwood week. In the old days there was a supplementary opera season lasting well into August, without the very great stars, but at cheaper prices, and Mapleson used to make a handsome profit by it. It might be interesting to try if such a scheme would be equally successful now.

Here is another sporting story, unpublished and true. A well-known musical critic was in a newspaper office on the eve of the Derby, when one of the staff asked him to join in a modest shilling "sweep." The musician explained he knew nothing about horse-racing, but did not mind the shilling. He evidently drew a dead horse or a blank, for half an hour later, as he was leaving, his friend put his head in the room and said, "Very sorry, old fellow, but you've lost." But the musician, as he wended his way homeward, reflected: "I know Jones to be a strictly honest man. But how on earth did he know I had lost, when the race is not to be run till to-morrow?"

At Drury Lane last Friday "La Traviata," was revived in English, with Mme. de Vere and Mr. O'Mara in parts that have recently been played at Covent Garden by Mme. Melba and Signor Caruso. Nobody, of course, supposed the performance would be up to Royal Opera standard; but it was commendable, despite the fact that this opera gives comparatively little employment to the chorus, which is the strong point of the Drury Lane company. The manager is, I am sure, taking too low an estimate of middle-class London musical taste, although I have no doubt he has enjoyed exceptional experience in gauging the musical taste of the provinces. And it is curious that, although the enterprise is officially described as "National English Opera," the only English opera yet tried is Balfe's hackneyed "Bohemian Girl."

The German papers are fond of musical hoaxes, and the latest about the supposed discovery among the papers of King Ludwig of a hitherto unpublished opera by Wagner seems to have taken several people in. Yet it is a hoax on the face of it. It was supposed to be a sacred opera, "Sarah," and to have been written for the mad King of Bavaria, who was to have been the only person

to hear it, at one of the solitary performances in which he delighted. Then this delectable paragraph went on to give an account of the opera, its first scene in Eden, with Adam and Eve singing a love duet beneath an apple tree, and the serpent occasionally making it a trio; the burning of Sodom, a tableau of Lot's wife, and the fall of Babylon. The opera, it was further said, was to last fifteen hours, but with luncheon after the first act, dinner after the second, eight hours sleep after the third, breakfast next day after the fourth, and so on. It must have been a highly credulous person who could have believed such amusing nonsense.

Sir Frederick Bridge gave last week a most interesting concert lecture, with illustrations of music composed at or before 1604, played on the instruments in use three centuries ago. So many hundreds of people were were unable to gain admission to Fishmongers' Hall that the lecture will be repeated on the last day of the Musical Exhibition there. Last Monday the Rev. Mr. Galpin lectured on the Water organ mentioned in the Talmud, the illustrations being versions of music attributed to the first and second centuries of the Christian era.

Towards the end of the season even charity concerts, which this summer have done so much harm to more legitimate musical performances, have suffered. At the Albert Hall on Thursday for a convalescent hospital there was only a comparatively small audience, although Kubelik had generously postponed his departure to play. Kubelik, by the way, writes to deny a statement which has been made by some halfpenny paper that he has changed his name to "Polgar." At St. James's Hall on the same day, for an Italian charity concert, Mme. Calvé could not appear, but several of the other operatic artists did. Von Reuter (the prefix denoting sex has now been dropped from the programmes) has given an interesting recital, at which he seemed to be much more in his element in pieces of display than in a suite by Bach, in the course of which, however, he had the misfortune to break a string. There is no doubt that he is for his age a most skilful performer. He gives an extra concert next Saturday. On Friday, Mr. Jan van Mulder gave a concert, and on Saturday we had the third vocal recital of that artistic singer Miss Antoinette Trebelli-Dolores. She, however, announces an extra concert on the 20th, and this will probably be the last performance ever given at St. James's Hall.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Here are the credentials handed to you in the preface of "Russia as It Really Is" (1), to assure you that its truly terrible indictment for those responsible for the misgovernment of that country is based upon adequate evidence:—

> It has been my lot to spend nine years in Russia. During that period I have visited every government in the Empire, I have associated with every class, I have been the guest of princes and the bedfellow of peasants, I have feasted in the palaces of St. Petersburg with the dissolute, and I have sat at the feet of the greatest thinker and philanthropist in Russia. I have acquired the languages of the country—Russian and corrupt Russian, Polish, Lettish, Lithuanian, and Yiddish.

This wide, deep, and varied experience has convinced Mr. Carl Joubert that all the elements of a tremendous revolution, beside which that of France will pale its ineffectual fire, are heaped high in Russia, awaiting only a match. According to Mr. Joubert, the tyranny and corruption of the officials, civil and military, in Russia, are at once universal and appalling, while the soldiery, peasants, students, and Jews, who are all alike treated as dogs by these officials, are patient, no doubt, but with a volcanic patience, which when it at last gives way, will be implacable. "Furor fit læsa sæpius patientia"—"Beware the fury of a patient man," as Dryden has it; or, to take an apt image from old Fuller, "Some men, like a tiled house, are long before they take fire; but, once in flames, there is no coming near to quench them." The Russian moujik is, says Mr. Joubert, colossally ignorant, profoundly stupid, and infinitely patient, but beneath there is a smouldering fire which occasionally breaks out. "He resembles a badly ventilated haystack—cumbersome, stolid, imperturbable, but on fire within from over-pressure and want of air." That these flames should break forth only occasionally and sporadically astonishes the reader of "Russia as It Really Is," who is alternately turned sick and savage at its pictures of the treatment by officers and officials of soldiers, peasants, colonists, students, and Jews. When, however, the fire does break out here or there, or when there is smoke or even the bare suspicion of smoke, the measures taken for its immediate extinction are thorough.

> In the year 1898 a *partia* of 310 political prisoners left the Moscow prison for Siberia. Only seventy-two arrived at their destination. Some were murdered by their guards, some by infectious diseases, some by starvation, and some because they wanted to be murdered.

Here is Mr. Joubert's picture of a group of political prisoners *en route* to Siberia to expiate such offences as this:—

> A girl aged nineteen was found in the house of a Nihilist. The Nihilist got away before arrest, but she was taken, though absolutely innocent, as a substitute. No trial. Twenty years' imprisonment. . . . The cells were without furniture, and were fitted with sloping plank beds. There was no straw or covering of any kind for the wretched prisoners, who sat huddled together on the bare benches, which formed their seat by day and their resting-place at night. In the women's cells the state of things was just the same; no consideration was extended to their gentler sex. They were prisoners, that was all; and a Russian prisoner has no sex. On one bench I saw as many as fourteen prisoners sitting or lying together with their heavy chains upon their legs. At every movement the chains clank and rattle upon the boards, and as they can never keep still for a moment, but must of necessity scratch their tormented limbs, the clatter of the chains is ceaseless. Their food is repulsive. They are given a piece of bread and a bowl of soup. I inspected the rations. The soup stank with the odour of a soap factory. I asked for a piece of bread from a warder, and when I had examined it I called for a bowl of warm water, and in a couple of minutes I handed the bowl to the doctor of the prison and asked him to look at it. "Why should I examine it?" he asked. But a moment later I heard him exclaim, "My God! my God!" The surface of the water was covered with worms.

But it is in its ferocious persecution of the Jews that the Russian Government surpasses itself, and rivals the Inquisition. Here the besotted superstition of the Russian priests and people help the Government in their work of extirpation. A single incident will illustrate at once this superstition and its cruel consequences. A Jew, who lived by the sale of meat-pies, was murdered for a basket of these dainties by two peasants who were in the same railway compartment with him:—

> As it was only a Jew who had been killed the sympathies of the gendarme were with the two moujiks. "Why," he asked them, "did you not eat the pies and throw the basket away?" "You forget that to-day is Friday, and it is not allowed to eat meat."

I ought to say that the most interesting, and not the least instructive, chapters in this opportune book are those which give you a really thrilling description of Mr. Joubert's rescue of three Siberian exiles. "The Views of Christopher" (2) to which Mr. Coulson Kernahan has written a vigorous and chivalrous preface, is a lady's ideal, nobly conceived and forcibly presented of "The Christian Hero." Dick Steele himself did not do more generous justice to the theme. It might have had for its motto that fine quotation from "Horæ Subsecivæ," with which it closes:—

> A poor woman of great worth and understanding, in whose conversation Brown, the grandfather of the author of "Rab and

(1) "Russia as It Really Is." By Carl Joubert. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 7s. 6d.)

(2) "The Views of Christopher." With a Preface by Coulson Kernahan. (London: Elkin Mathews. 2s.)

(3) "The Faith of Men," and Other Stories. By Jack London. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(4) "Made of Money." By Dorothea Gerard (Mme. Longard de Longgarde). (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(5) "Lychgate Hall." A Romance. By M. E. Francis (Mrs. Francis Blundell). (London: Longmans, Green & Co. 6s.)

his Friends," took much pleasure, was upon her death-bed. Wishing to try her faith, he said to her, "Janet, what should you say if, after all He has done for you, God should let you drop into hell?" "E'en 's He likes. If He does *He 'll lose mair than I'll do.*"

By the way, I can give the author a witty parrallel to her story of Archdeacon Gray's solemn warning to the young spendthrifts of his Bombay congregation not to dare to contribute to the collection money that rightfully belonged to their creditors. When Rowland Hill was preaching for a public charity, a note was handed up to him in the pulpit, asking if it would be right for a bankrupt to contribute. Having in his sermon answered that such a contribution would be robbery, he added, "And, my brethren, I would most strongly advise you, who are not insolvent, to contribute this morning, since, if you are seen to pass the plate, your neighbours will be sure to say, 'That's he! That's the bankrupt!'" Jack London has come to stay, judging by "The Faith of Men" (3), which seems to me an advance upon the work that brought him into such immense and immediate fame. Perhaps the strongest of the eight short stories is "Bâtard," illustrating the old saying that "When two devils come together, hell is to pay"—the two devils being a dog whose father was a wolf, and his master, whose father seemingly was Satan himself. The dog succeeds in hanging his master! "The One Thousand Dozen" ends also in a hanging—the suicide of a speculator in eggs which turned out addled; not, you would say, a promisng subject for a thrilling tale, but it is the cooking that makes the omelette. Dorothea Gerard illustrates, in "Made of Money" (4), the difficulty of perhaps the most perplexing problem in the world—how to do more good than evil with the millions you are bent upon distributing in charity. The hero does with them infinitely more evil than good; but, then, he has, to counter-balance his experiences of the trickiness, ingratitude, and corruptibility of his beneficiaries, the sublime devotion and self-sacrifice of his Italian heroine. For the other heroine I confess I do not very much care, since she seems to me a somewhat impracticable prig. In "Lychgate Hall" (5) it is the man who effaces himself in favour of his rival. It is an interestingly told story of a mysterious chest buried by the heroine, whose contents no reader, I venture to say, will correctly guess. It will hardly, however, suggest to him, as it did to her eighteenth-century neighbours, that she was a witch. Its real contents, whose secret is so securely kept, solves almost all the many mysteries of this pleasant story.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Our diversions have been frequent and free during the last week, and it is unnecessary to say that we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves, though the heat has been oppressive, on Thursday particularly.

The Swimming Entertainment given at the Bath Club on Monday evening was very interesting and amusing, as well as smart. The gallery was crowded with spectators, and there were flowers everywhere. The Royal box was very tastefully ornamented by the executive, and still more by the Royal party. The Princess of Wales looked remarkably well in a very becoming gown, with transparent black over white.

Lady Cynthia Graham, in bright rose-red, was a very ornamental addition to the party. The Prince and Princess were very animated spectators of all the items on the programme, but especially of the diving by both lady members and others. Lady Constance Stewart-Richardson (*née* Mackenzie), who is probably the greatest lady athlete in the world, can do anything in the water. She did a propeller under water, imitated a fish, swam in various fashions under water, and dived from a spring board. Several ladies acquitted themselves almost as well, and a particularly graceful "swallow dive" was executed by Miss Vere Dawnay. Miss Grace Waterlow swam with her feet up right out of the water.

Marvellous feats were accomplished by the Swedish divers. Some came from the roof in a sitting posture, and plumped into the water with such a forcible bang that the occupants of the front seats under the Royal box had an unexpected shower-bath. We had head-dives from the hands, one and a half somersaults, backward somersaults (which looked very dangerous indeed), reverse somersaults from a board in the roof, and, to finish, leapfrog and somersault. In this last we were greatly afraid that the second diver would collide with the first when he struck the water.

Miss Ada Lewin, who teaches the lady members swimming, did some very clever things, and was much applauded for her imitation of a torpedo. Her performance was followed by the second competition for the Silver Challenge Cup presented by the King to the Life-saving Society. Each competitor had to wear a shirt, collar, tie, trousers, and either boots or shoes, so as to fulfil the ordinary conditions of saving any one from drowning. After swimming the 150 yards which formed the first portion of the test, each competitor had to carry a living subject on the surface of the water to the winning-post. This was far from easy, and, as the partisans of each competitor shouted like mad creatures, the excitement got well into the air. A young man, himself a Swede, and a son of the Vikings of old, but wearing such boots as could not be had for love nor money in their ancient days, shouted "Johannsen! Johannsen;" continually at the top of his voice, and his man won. Some of the "subjects" saved from drowning looked far from comfortable, but their expression excited much mirth.

Mr. Gadsby, the clever one-legged swimmer, gave an exhibition of his skill, which is extraordinary. For technical reasons he had withdrawn from the competition for the cup. The hon. sec. of the Life-Saving Society and a member of the same performed some astonishing feats, floating motionlessly with hands and feet tied while in full boating dress.

Very exciting was the polo match in the water, the Club against the United Hospitals, after which came the presentation of the cup to Mr. Johannsen, the winner.

The foundation stone of the new buildings in connection with St. Bartholomew's Hospital was laid by the King on Wednesday morning, and your cousin had the privilege of being one of the enormous concourse in the Brobdingnagian marquee erected for the occasion. The awning was pale green and white, and the effect was as of great coolness, though, to judge from the flutter of fans and programmes, this effect was more apparent than real. The stone itself was hung from a huge iron hook, and on it was the following inscription:—

This Foundation Stone
of the
New Buildings of St. Bartholomew's Hospital
was laid on
6th July, 1904,
by
Edward VII.,
King of Great Britain and Ireland,
and of
The British Dominions beyond the Seas,
Defender of the Faith,
Emperor of India,
near the site given in
1123
by
Henry I.,
King of the English,
and ever since
devoted to the relief of pain and the cure of disease
among the poor of London,
and through the increase of knowledge in the medical art
here attained
to the alleviation of human suffering
throughout the world.

Fear God. Honour the King.

One wonders why Henry I. is here referred to as "King of the English." Probably the answer is to

be found in some bit of history that one ought to know. Every day I make fresh discoveries of my own abysmal ignorance! So very uncomfy, Amy dear.

The daïs was covered with crimson, and bordered with a fringe of pink roses. Shields covered with roses ornamented the front of the crimson-covered spectatorium. The sheriffs and aldermen, in fur-trimmed robes, and students of medicine in academic fur-lined hoods, must have felt very hot, but they all preserved their amiability of expression. This was more than we did when they all crowded round the King at the moment of laying the stone, preventing some hundreds of persons from witnessing what they had come forth to see.

The King was in military, the Prince of Wales in naval, uniform. The Queen had a very pretty pale mauve gown of soft silk, trimmed with panels of pearl embroidery, and with a pearl-embroidered collar of a novel shape. I particularly noticed that the sleeves were very simple in make. The becoming toque was in the same material as the gown, with pearl embroidery round the puffed brim, and a high aigrette of jessamine blossoms on the left side. The Prince of Wales read the address (as President), in his fine voice, and the King read his reply, with his slightly foreign accent. The Queen was then made a Governor of the hospital, her Majesty being the first lady to be so elected, and also the first donor to the Building Fund. She was then instructed in her duty by Mr. W. H. Cross, the Clerk of the Hospital. He held out a miniature staff to the Queen, and when her Majesty put out her hand for it, he drew the little staff back again, upon which the Queen smiled very prettily, and was evidently much amused.

When the Royal party first advanced to the front of the daïs, the Princess of Wales stood behind the King and Queen, but the former said, "May, come here," and the Princess then stood on his left, the Prince being on her left. Mme. Albani and a few other musicians sang Sir Edward Elgar's new setting of the National Anthem. The way in which his Majesty looked with boyish curiosity at the alto when he pirouetted some of his high notes with unusual loudness made some of us smile.

While the Royal party were getting away, Mme. Albani sang "Home, Sweet Home," most beautifully. No one moved till the last soft, sweet note had died away.

It is some years since Henley was favoured, on the whole, with finer weather than last week. But for the showers before lunch on Tuesday and the curious dim greyness of a portion of Thursday, it would have had unclouded sunshine. "The river was a poem and a picture in one," said to me an enthusiastic man who saw Henley for the first time in its regatta array. He added, "Your pretty English girls look never so better as in a boat with chunks to lean upon and a lively-colour umbrella to cast upon their faces a so becoming shadow. And their summer garbage, with sleeves falling away from arms so white and round, I think it, more than I can tell, graceful and becoming. I myself, on having seen the regatta on so glorious a day, most sincerely compliment." You will have no difficulty in divining his nationality.

It is as good as a course of lessons in living languages to go often to the Italian opera. At the beginning of the season the audience was intensely German on the frequent Wagner nights. Verdi and Mascagni attract their own compatriots, and on Wednesday last Massenet's "Salomé" brought together a concourse of French. Most of them made no secret of their opinion of the music. I must tell you of Mme. Calvé's wonderful gown as Salomé. It is a sort of sheath of palest gold, clinging closely to the limbs, a Vivien gown "that more expressed than hid her," embroidered with many jewels and ornamented with great bosses of turquoise. Add to this the longest possible wing sleeves of golden amber silk, soft and supple as silk muslin. You can imagine what an aid to dramatic expression such sleeves could be, and Mme. Calvé is too intensely dramatic not to have made the most of them.

We saw her later at the "musicale" given at the Francis Joseph Institute, in aid of the fund for the relief of Austro-Hungarians in distress in this country. It was a highly successful evening. Mr. Mark Hambourg surpassed himself, Kubelik played, and Fräulein Selina Kurz was among the operatic artists who sang. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were present with the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador, and there were many other distinguished persons in the audience. It is a good cause, so many of these poor foreigners suffering great distress when they come to what they are foolishly taught to regard as the land of gold.

Half—nay, two-thirds—of dramatic London streamed over the sunlit lawns of the Botanic Gardens last Friday, on the occasion of the theatrical garden party given in aid of the Actors' Orphanage Fund. It must have been an unparalleled success, for there were nearly ten thousand present. The sun shone as he can when he likes, everyone wore their prettiest frocks, and amusement reigned everywhere. Miss Vane Featherstone and Mr. Aubrey Smith were captains of an actors v. actresses cricket match, watched by a happy crowd, which occasionally jumped and squealed when the ball came among them. Mr. Rutland Barrington bowled with an intense seriousness of expression which indicated a laudable concentration; Mr. Hayden Coffin and Mr. Ben Webster fielded for all they were worth, the former making a brilliant catch; Miss Featherstone, Miss McIntosh, Miss Eva Moore, etc., were as serious as Mr. Barrington. From a tent near by came sounds of pistol shots and thunder of a tinny kind. A gentleman in the garb of a showman lured people in by persuasive methods, though indeed they were simply fighting to get in anyhow. A closer inspection revealed that it was Mr. Brandon Thomas, while Mr. Lionel Brough in tights and a green sash edged with gold fringe, added his persuasions.

The attraction inside was Mr. Robert Marshall's melodrama, "The Track of Blood," acted by leading lights of the profession, and positively bristling with murders and long-lost children and pistols and thunderstorms. It took place every half-hour, and one of the most interesting sights of the afternoon was afforded by the five-o'clock representation. In the front row sat the Prince and Princess of Wales, Sir Henry Irving, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Tree, and Mr. Cyril Maude, and the study in expressions was intensely amusing. The Princess laughed heartily, and the Prince was as happy as a boy; a special interest attached to Sir Henry's laughing appreciation of the lurid and marvellous absurdities enacted before him, while the orchestra played trembling chromatic scales downwards in the bass, and the drum rattled dismally and dreadfully.

Outside, wherever one turned, there were "stars," in wonderful gowns. "There's So-and-so," "Look at some one else," kept one's tongue busy. Space forbids my beginning to catalogue the interests of the afternoon. The dramatic profession is ever ready to work hard for charity, and it is hard work. For instance, that very evening we saw Mr. Ben Webster, after playing cricket in a good cause and a blazing sun all the afternoon, running away with a most fascinating bride and losing her and getting her back again, in "The Finishing School," at Wyndham's, as though he had never heard of wickets. Miss Annie Hughes is delightful all through, but as a naughty schoolgirl she is specially so, perhaps because we all remember the time when we made fun of the dancing-master and giggled (though not so infectiously as she does), and were kept in in consequence.

At the State Ball on Friday, the Queen wore a lovely

REDFERN'S SALE PROCEEDING.—This unique opportunity to secure a Paris Costume for a nominal sum should not be lost; also Dress Lengths, Furs, Millinery, &c.—26 and 27, Conduit-street; 27, Bond-street.

gown of primrose satin, embroidered with mauve and silver orchids. With this her Majesty had a ruby and diamond tiara, necklace, and pendant. The Duchess of Saxe-Coburg wore mauve satin, beautifully embroidered. Each of the tapering pleats in which the skirt was arranged had its long line of painted embroidery. The Duchess's jewels were superb. Her daughter, Princess Beatrice, who is tall, dark-haired, grey-eyed, with dimples in her cream, pale cheeks, had a sweet frock of white silk muslin, sewn with iridescent sequins in such a way that it looked as though a miniature rainbow had been faintly reflected on it. The long, diaphanous sleeves and the touches of pale blue on the bodice made it a most poetic gown.

The Marchioness of Londonderry's exquisite dress was of deep cream-coloured satin, embroidered all over, as if brocaded, with William Allen Richardson roses. Round the feet and the shoulders were full frills of exquisite real lace, creamy in tone.

Several of the gowns were in brocade, a material which is coming rapidly into fashion again. Lady Petre's was a beautiful chené brocade, the design of which was large garlands of roses in pale tones of pink, mauve, and green. Lady Battersea's brocade was pearl-grey, relieved with grey tulle sewn with rings of silver. Lady Katharine Somerset also wore brocade, a champagne ground strewn with baskets of delicate pink and green flowers.

Elizabeth Countess of Wilton had one of the prettiest gowns, a shaded mauve silk muslin, with delicate embroideries in mauve and gold.

An invitation to spend an afternoon in a Garden City sounds tempting to the Londoner. The occasion is the celebration of Founders' Day of the National Waifs' Association at the Girls' Village Homes, Barkingside, Essex. Dr. Barnardo holds his thirty-eighth annual meeting there on Saturday of this week, and Lord and Lady Brassey have sent out the invitations. Princess Henry of Battenberg has promised to be present, and will receive purses, present prizes to some older girls now in service, and will also declare several buildings open. The latter include eight new cottages for the girls and a sanatorium for little consumptives. There will be plenty to see. Twenty workshops will be in full swing all day, the workers being trained boys and girls from the Homes. Other boys and girls will do musical drills and gymnastics. A special squad of little handy men will be present from the Watts Naval Training School, and there will be an exhibition of life-saving from a wreck by rocket apparatus. A party of 450 young emigrants will say farewell before sailing for Canada next week.

The Garden City is only twenty-five minutes from Liverpool-street, and visitors can lunch in a marquee in the village at a small charge, and have tea for a few pence at any hour. Dr. Barnardo deserves a bumper meeting.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Who on a fine summer day would be persons of fashion, living, moving, and having their being in a town, let it be ever so high and mighty a capital? Days of the kind, in these climes, are, as the valiant woman, "far above rubies," and, alas! like all precious things, rare. When they do come the wonder is that those free to enjoy their exquisite delights do not enter into the fulness of enjoyment to be had only in the country. Think of those that could do otherwise turning their backs on Nature, just at the very time when she is doing her best for us, having her "show" of the year—when she has donned her loveliest garments, in field, forest, and garden, in the blue skies and sparkling waters, glorified by brilliant sunshine. Last week we—lucky ones was our unsophisticated view—had many delicious days at Nature's "show" in our island, amongst the lilies and the roses, and need one mention? the more material delights of the garden. Apropos of the latter, each year seems to take some special thing into its favour; the gooseberries are having their turn this season—is it the same with you as with us in this respect, I wonder? The trees are laden with these berries, which of all others should be eaten on the spot. One feels sure that Brillat-Savarin must have partaken of them in this way, and selected sunny mornings for the feast. To know what light and sunshine are to fruit try the experiment of what it is without them. Take the case of gooseberries, for instance. Go into a garden at night, gather and eat them there, you will find them absolutely tasteless. Whether or not this may be a scientific fact it is a practical experience. You can test it for yourself. Whilst we, in the country, were fully enjoying the perfect summer days of last week, those who had been for various reasons detained in Dublin were fast dispersing, and leaving the capital to the tourists, who now visit it in increasing numbers each season. Dublin in itself is not picturesque, like Edinburgh and other towns, but its environs are such as few capitals can boast of. Lovely scenery abounds within half an hour's car drive—and still less by motor—of the heart of the town. The Bays of Dublin and Killiney, the Hill of Howth, the Dublin and Wicklow mountains give infinite and charming variety to lovers of the picturesque. The freshest of fresh air, both from sea and mountain, are, as one may say, to be had for the asking, within a quarter of a mile of Dublin on every side. The wonder is that Sir Horace Plunkett's Department, with all its utilitarian and economic pretensions, does not utilise all the fresh air which is going a begging up in the mountains, and start and develop a fresh-air industry. We are a very unenterprising people, no doubt. There is certainly an opening for a sanatorium industry in the Dublin mountains. The number of doctors in our capital is prodigious; the wonder is that none of them think of starting an air-cure place in the neighbourhood of Dublin, now when every one is awaking to a sense of the health-giving and curative value of fresh air. Perhaps it will be started some day by some one from over the water. And we shall have a gentler and softer Nordrach which may vie with the more drastic one. Are you a believer in heroic cures? For my part I incline to those which deal more gently with human ailments. It is all very well to kill the microbe outright, but how sadly often his victim gets included in the destruction.

Lord Dudley returned from his northern motor tour, and after a short stay at the Viceregal Lodge set out to pay a visit to London. One of the Lords Justices sworn in to hold Viceregal rule in Ireland during the Lord Lieutenant's absence was Lord Grenfell. The Commander of the Forces is ex-officio a member of the Irish Privy Council, and on appointment becomes part of that extraordinary system of governing Ireland known as "Dublin Castle," which is perhaps, amongst many things, the most active factor in producing the perennial Irish Question.

The Lord Chancellor and his family have taken a summer residence in the neighbourhood of Dublin, having remained in Merrion-square until the marriage of Miss F. Gibson. Lady Ashbourne has been abroad for some months. Lord O'Brien returned from London, where, with his family, he had taken a house for the season, to resume his judicial work on circuit. Lord O'Brien led the fashion of Irish judges not living in the capital. This year the Chief Baron, the Master of the Rolls, and Mr. Justice Kenny have given up their Dublin residences and repaired to country abodes several miles distant. The tendency is increasing everywhere to give up living in towns. As fashions always run to extremes, towns will soon get deserted, except that the country people will then have to repair to them for change of air. The weather of last week filled all the seaside resorts. Not for several years had so much real summer visited the land. In real heat even the sight of an expanse of water is cooling. The Kingstown Regatta will take place this month, as usual. The event of all others which engages attention in Ireland this month is the gathering together of the Catholic world in Armagh on the 24th. Besides all the dignitaries of the Church who will be present, many laymen and women of light and leading in the fashionable as well as in the cultured and the official world will be amongst the assemblage. Notwithstanding all the homilies and [illegible] advice so lavished on them by English journals of a particular

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class, how persistent the people of our country are in remaining Irish and Catholic!—Ever yours, CLARE.

Here is an original and agreeable strawberry recipe—strawberry mousse:—

Crush 1 lb. of ripe strawberries and rub them through a hair sieve. Put the purée into an egg bowl with a gill of syrup and the yolks of three eggs; whisk them over a saucepan of boiling water until hot and frothy, then add half an ounce of dissolved gelatine, a few drops of carmine and a tablespoonful of maraschino. Whisk the mousse till it is cold, mix it quickly with a gill of whipped cream, and pour it into a mould.

Try these peas à l'Orde some day:—

Put a pint of freshly-shelled green peas into a stewpan with 4 oz. of butter, about a gill of water, and a good sprinkling of salt and sugar. Put a well-washed lettuce in the centre, with a small bunch of green onions, cover them closely, and cook them in the steam until they are tender. Then remove the onions and lettuce and stir lightly together the yolks of two eggs previously mixed with a gill of thick cream. When the eggs are set and slightly thickened serve the peas garnished with crescent-shaped pieces of fried bread.

Salade à la Polonaise makes a nice second course dish:—

Pick the breast of a cold roast chicken into shreds, mix it with a few finely minced chives, two shredded hard-boiled whites of eggs, half a dozen minced olives, and two or three picked, firm, white lettuces. Season it with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, and pile it in an entrée dish. Make a border with slice of cooked red tongue, take the centre from each slice with a small cutter and fix a stoned olive in an upright position in the centre of the tongue, garnish the salad with the little rounds of tongue, and sprinkle it lightly with passed hard-boiled yolk of egg.

Cherry kalteschale is a delightfully cool sweet:—

Remove the stones from a pound, or more, of ripe cherries; crush some of the stones, blanch the kernels, and stew them with the cherries, adding about 8 oz. of sugar. Rub the fruit through a hair sieve, mix it with a glass of sherry and a couple of spoonfuls of kirsch. Put the purée into a stewpan surrounded with ice and salt, stirring it occasionally, until it is partly frozen. Serve the Kalteschale in a deep glass dish, and garnish the surface with three-corner shaped pieces of genoese.

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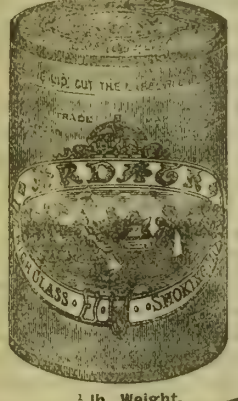

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· TRUTH ·

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen are to leave the train at Drayton station when they go to Goodwood, and on Friday, the 29th, their Majesties will drive after the races to Chichester station, whence they are to travel to Portsmouth Harbour, where they will embark on board the Royal yacht for Cowes at the south jetty, which was always used by Queen Victoria on her visits to the Continent. The streets of Chichester are to be decorated, and the Mayor and Corporation will present an address at the station.

It was announced some time ago in Truth that the King would pay a week-end visit to Mr. and Mrs. George Cavendish-Bentinck, before the close of the season, at Highcliffe Castle, near Christchurch. His Majesty arrived at Highcliffe on Saturday evening, having travelled by special train from Esher to Hinton Admiral after attending the races at Sandown Park. Highcliffe is the late Lord Stewart de Rokeby's delightful place on the Solent, which is remarkable both for its beautiful gardens and grounds and for the charming house, a part of which was formed out of an ancient French Abbey which was transferred *en bloc* to this country. Highcliffe was for many years the favourite residence of Louisa Lady Waterford (Lord Stewart's daughter), and the place is now rented from Colonel Stuart-Wortley by Mr. and Mrs. Cavendish-Bentinck. The King has paid a number of visits to Highcliffe at various times during the last forty years.

The regulations as to the quadrille d'honneur with which a Court Ball always opens at Buckingham Palace are evidently not generally known, to judge from the nonsense upon the subject which has lately been printed in certain journals. Directly the King and Queen have taken their seats on the daïs the Lord Chamberlain gives the signal to the leader of the band, and the State Quadrille is formed. The Royal Family only dance at the top and bottom, and "distinguished persons," who have previously been warned by the Lord Chamberlain, fill the side places. Princes and Princesses often dance afterwards, but there is only one quadrille d'honneur. In the subsequent dances the general company are permitted to dance in the Royal circle, but not so as to interfere with the Princes and Princesses.

The Princess of Wales will probably spend a fortnight or three weeks of next month in the Engadine, and it is understood that H.R.H. will join the Grand Duchess Vera of Wurtemberg at St. Moritz. The Grand Duchess Vera is the widow of Duke Eugene of Wurtemberg, a daughter of the late Grand Duke Constantine Nicolaievitch, and a niece of Queen Marie of Hanover. Her twin daughters are the co-heiresses of the immense fortune of their great-aunt, the late Queen Olga of Wurtemberg. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden are to arrive this week at St. Moritz from Vulpera.

The annual dinner of the members of the R.Y.S. is to take place at the Castle, West Cowes, on Tuesday, August 2, and the Prince of Wales will be present. The King, who invariably attended the R.Y.S. dinner when Prince of Wales, may possibly be present this year.

There is no foundation for the report that the Emperor William is to pay a visit to Cowes during the regatta week. This rumour has probably arisen through the fact that the Emperor's racing cutter *Meteor* is

coming over from Kiel to take part in some of the races. The Emperor will probably spend the last fortnight of November in England, in which case he is to be the guest of the King and Queen at Windsor Castle, and of Lord and Lady Lonsdale at Lowther Castle, Westmorland.

Princess Henry of Battenberg's visit to Bristol and Portishead last Thursday was a complete success, and went off with much *éclat*. The streets of Bristol were decorated, and the Princess was loudly cheered by large crowds as she drove from Temple Mead Station to Clifton. H.R.H. was escorted by a squadron of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars. The Princess drove to Portishead in a carriage sent from Ashton Court by Lady Smyth. Princess Henry leaves Kensington Palace on Friday for the season, when she will return to Osborne Cottage, her residence in the Isle of Wight, after an absence of about eight months.

The Duke of Oporto has been spending a week in London, having come over from Paris, where he had been staying at the Hotel Liverpool for a fortnight in strict incognito. H.R.H. was on his way from Lisbon to Aix-les-Bains, where he makes a cure every summer. The Duke of Oporto is the brother of the King of Portugal, and a weekly journal has described them as being first cousins of the King, as their father was a brother of the late Prince Albert. This is a farrago of blundering nonsense. The father of the King of Portugal and his brother was the late King Louis, who was the son of Queen Maria, by her second husband, Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who was a first cousin of Queen Victoria and of Prince Albert. This is the only connection between the King of Portugal and the Duke of Oporto and our own Royal Family. The King Dowager of Portugal (grandfather of the present King) was a son of Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, brother of the King of the Belgians and of the Duchess of Kent, who became a Roman Catholic in 1815, when he settled in Hungary, and married the only daughter of the last Prince of Kohary, who was one of the richest heiresses in Europe. Prince Albert's only brother was the late Duke Ernest, who reigned in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha for nearly half-a-century.

With reference to the statement in last week's TRUTH that during the King's visit to Liverpool the Royal horses and carriages will be accommodated at Lord Derby's, I am asked on behalf of the firm of Thomas Maguire, Limited, of Liverpool, to say that this is incorrect, and that this firm has received orders to provide accommodation for all the King's horses and all the King's men, as well as for the carriages, as they did on the occasion of the late Queen's visit to Liverpool in 1886.

In Dublin, a disastrous St. Swithin's Day was followed by charming weather, in direct contradiction to tradition. Social functions are few and far between in Ireland at this season. This week the Kingstown Regatta is being held under the auspices of the St. George's Yacht Club, and many yachts are crowding Kingstown Harbour. Throughout the month the winds have been very vigorous, but through the contrariety of things in general they only too frequently fail to rise to the occasion when the regatta season begins.

The writer of "Asterisks" in last Wednesday's *Pall Mall Gazette* described the Duke of Leeds as Master of the Beagle, whereas his Grace ceased to hold that position at the end of last season. The late Duke of Devonshire is stated to have been "a good way from the dukedom" when he went up to Cambridge from Eton. As a matter of fact, he was from the day of his birth the presumptive heir to the dukedom, and his succession was always regarded as a certainty, as it was well known that the sixth duke (whose life was spoilt by severe and incurable deafness) would never marry. The late Duke was Earl of Burlington until he succeeded his cousin in 1858, and he owned large and valuable estates in North Lancashire, including the fine domain of Holker.

When the sixth Duke of Devonshire died there was considerable anxiety about his will, as the immense family estates were absolutely in his power. The property had been disentailed when he came of age in 1811, and it had not been resettled when his father died suddenly a few weeks afterwards. However, everything was left to pass with the title. The Duke had sold the East Riding estate (Londesborough Park) to George Hudson for £470,000, and it was soon afterwards purchased by Lord Albert Conyngham, who was raised to the peerage as Baron Londesborough by Lord John Russell in 1849. This property was remarkably well sold, as if it were now placed on the market it would not fetch more than a quarter of a million.

Mr. George Waldegrave Leslie, who has just died at the age of seventy-nine, had an active and varied career during the early part of his life. Between 1845 and 1864 he was successively Clerk of Committees and Assistant Librarian in the House of Commons, private secretary to Lord Elgin when Governor-General of Canada, a member of the diplomatic staff of Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General of India, official secretary to two Speakers (Shaw-Lefevre and Denison), Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople under Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and private secretary to Sir George Grey when Home Secretary. Mr. Waldegrave Leslie sat as Liberal member for Hastings from 1864 until 1868, when he practically retired from public life, and he had since

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 192.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 193.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 191.
For EDUCATIONAL, see page 194.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 197.

made Leslie House, his place in Fifeshire, his principal residence, and he was for many years the most prominent and one of the most popular "lairds" in that county. He took an active part in public business of all kinds, and he farmed on a large scale. He was a perfect reservoir of anecdote, he having known a host of most interesting people.

Mr. Waldegrave Leslie was a younger son of the third Earl Waldegrave, and his mother was a daughter of Mr. Samuel Whitbread, the well-known Whig member of Parliament, who was an intimate and trusted friend of Charles James Fox and of Lords Grey, Holland, and Grenville. In 1861 he married the Countess of Rothes, whose name he assumed, and she left him a life interest in her large estates, which now pass to the present Lord Rothes. The Leslies of Rothes are a very old Lowland family, descending from Malcolm, who was Constable of Inverary Castle in the twelfth century. Leslie House, Lord Rothes' place in Fifeshire, was built by the Duke of Rothes, who was the most notable member of this family.

Sir Reginald Palgrave was a member of a clever and successful family. His father, whose name was really Cohen, was for many years Deputy Keeper of the Records, and he was eminently distinguished, both as an antiquary and as a historian. Sir Reginald was employed in the House of Commons for nearly half a century, and he succeeded Sir Erskine May as Chief Clerk, and discharged the duties of that important post with general approbation. Sir Reginald passed most of his spare time in his library, and he was an enthusiastic historical student. His "Chairman's Handbook" is an admirable piece of work, and his writings on Cromwell are most interesting, and form a valuable addition to historical literature.

Miss Julia Moore, who died last Tuesday at her house in Bolton-street in her 101st year, was the daughter of the late Mr. James Carrick Moore, of Corsewall, and a niece of Sir John Moore, the hero of Corunna. Miss Moore, who was well known for many years in the best society, was a clever woman, full of interesting reminiscences, and her conversation was always agreeable. Her death will be lamented by many attached friends, who were drawn to her both by her amiable disposition and her bright and varied talk. She had ranked many remarkable people among her friends and associates, and she was the last link between the present age and one fertile in high intellectual distinction.

The report that the Duke of Devonshire's celebrated grouse moors in the Upper Wharfedale district of Yorkshire have been let to a small syndicate (as in 1902) is incorrect. The Prince of Wales is to be the guest of the Duke and Duchess at The Hall, Bolton Priory, early in the shooting season.

The beautiful estate of Thorpe Perrow, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, which has been long owned by the Milbank family, was sold on Friday to Mr. William Gray, of Hartlepool, who not long ago purchased Membland Hall, the late Lord Revelstoke's place on the South Devon coast. Thorpe Perrow comprises upwards of 5,000 acres in the Vale of Mowbray. The house is a very good one, and there are excellent gardens, and a picturesque and well-wooded park of two hundred acres.

The sale of pedigree stock from the Brookfield Stud, which is to be held in the stud grounds at Highgate on Friday, July 29, will be on a larger scale than its predecessors. Mr. Burdett-Coutts has found it necessary to reduce the numbers of the stud considerably, and upwards of a hundred harness horses of the best Brookfield quality will be offered on this occasion.

BALDNESS AS A BOON.

Our daily life, of one great truth,
  Fresh and insistent proof produces;
The oddest, most unlikely things
  In Nature's store possess their uses.
Thus, even for the baldest head
  The Press is now a use recording;
For it in Paris has become
  A moving advertising hoarding!

Men with a polished frontal dome
  'Neath hats no longer seek to stow it;
If they 've a hairless scalp, it pays
  At tariff price per inch to show it,
Scored with the praises of a soap,
  Or with the warning, stencilled gaily—
"Let those who'd shun a poll like this
  Use 'Bunkum's Hair-Restorer' daily!"

Good heads of hair may now become
  A deprecated superfluity,
Whereas a cranium like an egg
  May prove a positive annuity.
Locks, prematurely lost, may start
  Anew in life our errant brothers;
And sons may even shave their heads
  To be the prop of widowed mothers!

Apropos of what I said last week on sea-sickness, one of my readers contributes the interesting information that a sea voyage to Scandinavia need not exceed an hour and a quarter. You go from Dover to Calais (under an hour by the *Queen*), from Calais to Helsingor, and from Helsingor to Helsingborg (about eighteen minutes' passage). My informant has himself cycled to Norway and back by this route, and it may interest other people to know how the thing can be done.

A bicyclist appeals to me in the following circumstances. Being in a hurry to get to London he went to East Croydon Station, and took tickets to Victoria for himself and his machine, there being a train just due. On the platform he was informed that the Victoria train would be eighteen minutes late, which was

too late for him. At that moment a South-Eastern train came in which would have served his purpose equally well. On explaining the position to the guard, however, he was told that his passenger ticket was available, but his bicycle ticket was not, and though he offered to pay again for the bicycle, the guard refused to take it, and, there being no time to get another ticket, he was left behind. That passenger tickets over the two lines should be interchangeable and bicycle tickets not is a red-tape absurdity more worthy of a Government Office than railway administration; and I should think that the general managers of the two lines only need their attention called to it in order to put the matter right.

A gentleman wrote to me the other day to ask if there is such a place as Gloucester-road, Kensington. He said he had been looking for it, and had found Palace Gate, Petersham-terrace, Queen's Gate-gardens, Atherstone-terrace, and a lot of other labels on the houses in the thoroughfare to which he was directed; but he came to the conclusion that if there was such a place as Gloucester-road, the name merely applied to the roadway, not to the houses. There are a good many thoroughfares in London in regard to which much the same thing might be said. It would be a good thing if the competent authority, whatever it may be, swept away all these subsidiary designations, and had the streets numbered from end to end in proper order. How many different "places" and "gates" and other fancy labels are there for the houses between Hyde Park Corner and Kensington High Street, or between the Marble Arch and Notting Hill Gate?

Armagh, where the great ceremony takes place next Sunday, at which so many Catholic personages, clerical and lay, will assemble together, lies over thirty miles south of Belfast. It is the seat both of the Protestant and Catholic Primacies of Ireland. The town and its neighbourhood are full of historic and antiquarian interest. Armagh stands on a hill, its cathedrals, Protestant and Catholic, rising above the mass of houses, "thus," says the benighted guide-book, with an utter ignorance and disregard for the new school of Irish economics, "producing a peculiarly pleasing effect." Armagh was the capital of Ireland up to the ninth century, and of much renown as the school of theology and literature.

The Bishop of Bristol held an uninvited visitation of the Cathedral last week, to which the Dean and all the members of the Chapter were summoned, and most of them attended. The Bishop, in the course of an interesting address, claimed the fullest "jurisdiction, power, and authority" over the Cathedral, with liberty "to examine, judge, punish, and reform in the case of any member of the Cathedral body." The claim is founded on the charter of foundation and statutes of Henry VIII. The Bishop highly complimented the Dean and Canons on the way in which the services are maintained. It is asserted at Bristol that the Dean and Chapter intend to challenge the Bishop's claim to unbounded authority over the Cathedral.

The Bishop of Winchester has returned to Farnham Castle after an absence of nearly three months in North Italy, and he hopes to be shortly restored to health. The Bishop has been laid aside from his duties for about seven months, and the routine work of the diocese has been undertaken during his absence by the Bishops of Southampton and Guildford and Bishop Welldon. The Bishop and Mrs. Ryle are to give a garden party next Tuesday in the beautiful grounds of Farnham Castle, for which nearly a thousand invitations have been issued to the clergy and laity of the diocese.

The Rev. A. G. Musgrave, who has been for seven years Vicar of Horsford, Norfolk, has been presented by the Lord Chancellor to the Rectory of Windlesham, Surrey. According to a Norwich paper, Mr. Musgrave "has received no fewer than four offers of livings in the gift of the Lord Chancellor;" and it is to be inferred that he has refused the previous three. Mr. Musgrave has the reputation of being an able and most zealous parish priest, but even the ablest and most zealous do not always find patrons so determined to reward them, especially against their own wishes.

The Low Church Trustees who are the patrons of the important living of Holy Trinity, Hull, vacant by the death of Archdeacon Hughes-Games, have presented the Rev. A. B. G. Lillingston, who has been Vicar of St. Margaret's, Ipswich, during the last five years, and was previously beneficed at Blackburn. The net stipend of this living is about £500 a year, with house, and it is understood that the preferment had been declined by more than one clergyman before it was offered to Mr. Lillingston.

Dr. Hayman, who died last week at the age of eighty-five, was an accomplished scholar and a prolific author on a remarkable variety of subjects. He produced an admirable edition of the "Odyssey." He will be best remembered as having been the successor of the late Archbishop Temple as headmaster of Rugby. His term of office was stormy, and when four years had elapsed, and things were going from bad to worse, he was dismissed by the governing body. Vice-Chancellor Malins expressed the opinion in court that Dr. Hayman would have succeeded in the management of the school "if he had a fair chance, but that he has not had." The fact was that the governing body, the headmaster, and, above all, the assistant masters, all incurred severe and impartial censure in the hands of competent critics.

A short time after Dr. Hayman's departure from Rugby he was presented by Lord Beaconsfield to the valuable Crown living of Aldingham, Lancashire, where his predecessor had been a brother of Lord Macaulay, and he held the benefice until his death. Dr. Hayman was an excellent man, but he was destitute of tact, and if he had been well advised he never would have left Bradfield for Rugby, a school with which he had no connection, and where he was greeted with a round robin, signed by twenty of his subordinates, setting forth his disqualifications. Many of the Rugby assistant masters were clever men, but they were an intolerably conceited lot, and dreadfully priggish.

An appeal is issued by Lord Roberts, General Evans, and other officers of the White Cross League, for the sum of £150, to defray the expense of sending one of the officials of the League to conduct a mission to the principal towns and cantonments of India. A similar mission was recently undertaken with such good results that it is desired to repeat it, and contributions for the purpose may be sent to the Secretaries of the League at 7, Dean's-yard, Westminster, who will gladly supply any further information that may be desired. It is an object which should appeal to all who have the welfare of the Army at heart, apart from abstract moral considerations. A great deal has been done of late years to promote temperance in the Army, but there are other forms of vice besides indulgence in liquor which are quite as pernicious to the individual and quite as disastrous to the efficiency of the Army. It is not my business to preach moral discourses to young men, but it is necessary for some one to do so. Almost every soldier reads Truth, and I recommend them to listen to the White Cross missionary, and lay his teaching to heart.

A friend of mine sent me an account the other day of St. Francis Lodging Houses for Boys. The houses are run by an Anglican sisterhood for the accommodation of working lads who would otherwise be alone and uncared for in private lodgings. The idea seems an excellent one. As my friend explains it, out of his first 5s. a week wages a boy pays 3s. 8d. for board and lodging, and 6d. out of every shilling above that amount; so that if he is earning 10s. a week he pays 6s. 2d. to the House and has 3s. 10d. for himself, out of which he contributes to a savings bank for the purchase of his clothes. There are now two houses—one at 39, Albany-street and the other at 7, Houghton-place, N.W., each under a lay manager. Each has nineteen boys, and both are full. The boys' payments cover all the housekeeping expenses, but subscriptions are required to meet the rest of the expenditure, such as rent, rates, and taxes; and contributions for the purpose may be sent to Mother Gertrude Clare, 173, Seymour-place, W.

Lady Llangattock asks me to call the attention of readers of Truth to the needs and claims of Princess Frederica's Homes for Gentlewomen at Tulse Hill, of which she is President. These homes have for twenty-six years past afforded great help and comfort to a number of ladies in reduced circumstances, but the expenditure has lately exceeded the income. The opportunity now presents itself of acquiring the freehold of the premises, and thus relieving the institution of the charge for rent, and a sum of £3,000 is required for the purpose, towards which £600 has been promised. Lady Llangattock, whose address is South Lodge, Rutland Gate, S.W., will gladly receive and acknowledge any contributions to the fund. It is unnecessary, I hope, to say anything in support of this appeal. There is nothing more melancholy than the position of ladies who are left in poverty by advancing age or other adverse circumstances, and no one in a better position can fail to sympathise with them.

The Ward Room Officers of H.M.S. *Cambridge* have forwarded me £6 for Lady Jeune's Fund; E. J. L., £1; and "A Boys' Reformatory Band" (first donation), £1 1s.

I call attention to the donation of a guinea in the above list from a Boys' Reformatory band. The band in question is, I am told, a first-rate one, and earns a good deal of money by private engagements; and it was the idea of the boys themselves that they should apply some of their earnings to providing country holidays for children of their own class. The above is one of a series of donations which they are making, or hope to make, for this purpose. It is not desired that the name of the reformatory should be mentioned; but the source of the donation seems worth noticing as a hint to other schools and richer people.

Lord Arran, who is the hon. treasurer of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, writes:—

> At the present time of the year, when the thoughts of every one are turned to the subject of holidays, it is not out of place to remind the charitably disposed of those many thousands of children whose only chances of change from the hot courts and dusty streets, which are their homes from year's end to year's end, depend entirely on the generosity of the public.
>
> The holidays are now upon us, and the children are clamouring to go. May I suggest to your readers the immensity and the boon of a fortnight's holiday to every child, a boon as great morally as it is physically, and to ask that among the other charitable institutions which demand and obtain public sympathy, this very deserving one may not be forgotten?

It was remarked in Truth the other day, apropos of the charitable collections that are made at seaside towns, that people always seem to be in a benevolent frame of mind when holiday-making, and to care little what they give their money to so long as they give it. It would be a good thing if, instead of this promiscuous almsgiving, which, according to my experience, generally benefits only the most disreputable charity-mongers, they would take the trouble to send their contributions to one of those country holiday funds which are beyond reproach, and the good work of which is only limited by the want of means. I think, too, that many men and women might enjoy their holidays the more under the consciousness that they had also provided the same treat to a couple of denizens of the London slums. This they can do by sending a sovereign to the Children's Country Holidays Fund, the address of which is 18, Buckingham-street, Strand.

HANKY PANKY AT PALL MALL.

More change, more fuss! Britannia now,
However much she finds it cost her,
Having, in vain, tried Brodrick's scheme,
Must tackle that of Arnold-Forster!
Though she no difference can see
'Twixt Hanky-dum and Panky-dee!

I heard the other day an extraordinary story about a house that is supposed to be rented at Woolwich as quarters for officers of the R.A.M.C. The house has apparently been in the possession of the Government for some time past, and there are five captains and lieutenants who have had their lodging allowance stopped during that period on the ground that quarters are there provided for them. But the house has never been occupied—apparently owing to its sanitary defects and the lack of proper water supply—and is still unfurnished. There may be something more in the background which I do not understand. But there seems to be no doubt that the Government is making upwards of £3 a month from five junior officers—about £200 a year altogether—on the strength of their imaginary occupation of this empty house; and, if that is so, the matter requires looking into by some superior authority.

About a year ago reference was made in Truth to the difficulties in the way of men in the R.A.M.C. who wish to qualify as compounders of medicines. They are required to do this before they are eligible for promotion to sergeant, but though a pretty stiff examination has to be passed, there is no proper system of preparing candidates for it, each man being left to get up the subject as well as he can in odd moments when he is off duty. On the other hand, N.C.O.s and men in training for laboratory attendants are sent to the Royal Army Medical College for a course of instruction which sometimes lasts for several months, and during this period they do nothing else. Their examination is much shorter and easier than that which the compounders have to face, and, considering the importance of the latter's duties, it is an extraordinary thing that they should still be denied adequate facilities for qualifying themselves. The need of a thoroughly efficient training for men entrusted with the dispensing of drugs is obvious, and it is high time that the matter received the attention of the authorities of the R.A.M.C. I am told that there is already a class of Militia and Volunteer N.C.O.s undergoing a twelve months' course of instruction as compounders at the Cambridge Hospital, Aldershot, and this fact accentuates the anomaly of the position in which would-be compounders in the R.A.M.C. are placed.

A very substantial grievance has lately been caused among certain warrant officers of the R.A.M.C. by the refusal to allow them to extend their service to twenty-five years in order to obtain a full warrant officer's pension. It is understood that this step is being taken with a view to the reduction of the establishment, which was largely increased during the war. The reduction, however, by this process operates very unfairly. During the war large numbers of men were promoted to warrant rank—something like ninety to one hundred—in order to make up the deficiency caused by the undermanning of the Corps. Many of these men were unqualified, and some comparatively junior in rank; cases even occurred in which a man rose from sergeant to warrant officer in the course of one year.

The step that is now being taken means that men who have steadily made their way up in the course of twenty-one years are to be got rid of, and that those who suddenly jumped up in this way during the war will get the benefit. For instance, one of the men affected was promoted to full corporal two years after he enlisted and to sergeant two years later. He attained warrant rank in 1899. A man who has been a non-commissioned and warrant officer for nineteen out of twenty-one years' service may reasonably expect to be allowed to make the full pension of the warrant rank—the more so since the examination that he has passed qualifies him for promotion to quartermaster. There is no sense in fixing twenty-five years as the qualification for full pension, if men of exemplary conduct, who have gained each step of promotion at the earliest possible moment, are not allowed to serve for that time. If for the convenience of the Service or the Government a man is got rid of sooner, he ought to be granted the maximum pension. In the present instance, I should have thought that the fairest way of going to work would be to get rid of a few quartermasters who have earned their full pension, and promote the supernumerary warrant officers in their place.

I suppose the latest official ideas on the subject of "unnecessary fatigues" have not extended themselves to India. In a heavy battery, R.G.A., stationed at Roorkee, a party is told off every Saturday morning to polish up the pewter pots of the sergeants' mess, scrub the woodwork, oil the furniture, clean the windows, and so forth. There are, presumably, natives engaged for this work, but it may be that the sergeants prefer to have their drinking vessels and mess furniture cleaned by white men. Whatever may be said for this taste, I hardly think that N.C.O.s should have the power to "fag" men of lower rank in this way, and this view may perhaps commend itself to the military authorities.

It is some time since I heard any grumbling about the depot at Deolali. This, however, does not mean that all the stock subjects of complaint in connection with that establishment have been eliminated, judging by the latest account of things there. For instance, "the

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Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income Expenditure £14,000. —L. H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

canteen beer is not fit for a pig to drink" (my impression on this point is that the worst water would be more fit for a pig than the best beer); "the food supplied to the sergeants is disgusting," especially the meat, a steak being "simply like shoe-leather"; "the hospitals do not seem to be controlled by anybody, the natives being most impertinent and quite useless"; and everybody has something to complain of, except certain of the staff, who seem to thrive on the grievances of the rest of the community. I suppose there is a natural tendency in a place like this, with a constantly shifting population, for management to get slack, and the permanent element to do very much what it likes; but if this is to be expected, that is just the reason why special care should be taken to see that it does not happen.

I am very glad to hear that the movement for establishing regimental cottage homes for disabled soldiers is making good progress. The Duke of Bedford has just presented a site near Oakley to the Bedfordshire Regiment, and has offered to build two homes at his own expense. The Duke of Devonshire has given a site near Carlisle to the Border Regiment. Three homes have just been opened for the Berkshire Regiment and four for the Rifle Brigade and the King's Royal Rifles, and two for the Royal Artillery are to be opened near Bath on August 5. At this rate it will not be long before every regiment in the Army has its homes.

In spite, however, of the excellent progress that has been made, I cannot help being impressed with the necessary limitations of this movement as long as it is left to a voluntary military organisation and private benevolence. It is a very proper and useful thing for every regiment to have two or three houses as asylums for its disabled veterans. But I think the great end to be aimed at is the abolition of the scandal of old Army pensioners ending their days in the workhouse. This can only be done with Government assistance on a considerable scale, and as one of the great results of it is to popularise military service and add to "the advantages of the Army," it is properly the business of Government. As I have said before, what is wanted is a local Chelsea Hospital in each regimental district to meet the fact that an old man, unless he has friends who will help him a little, cannot live in comfort on his pension; and it is really cheaper to provide him with lodging than to increase his pension. I hope that before long some Secretary of State will take up this idea, and in the meantime it seems to me that Government help ought to be granted to the "Cottage Homes for Regiments," which are really doing public work.

The Lords of the Admiralty are to arrive at Portsmouth this evening for the annual official inspection of the Dockyard, which will extend over three days; they will afterwards proceed to Sheerness and Chatham, where the dockyards and naval establishments are to be inspected on Monday and Tuesday next.

The battleship *Colossus*, tender to the gunnery establishment at Portsmouth, is to be the guardship in the Solent while their Majesties are staying in Cowes Roads on board the *Victoria and Albert*. The *Colossus* is to arrive off Cowes on Thursday, the 28th, and she will probably anchor in Osborne Bay.

For the first time within my recollection a case of bribery, or whatever it is to be called, in naval barracks was last week the subject of a court-martial. The court was held on board the *Victory* at Portsmouth. The prisoner was a sick-bay steward named Grout, and he was charged with receiving a bribe in order to excuse three engine-room artificers from vaccination, and also with knowingly making false entries in the vaccination book. The three E.R.A.s were entered as having been vaccinated; the doctor who was alleged by prisoner to have vaccinated them said he could not remember vaccinating them; a second doctor deposed that he could find no sign on them of their having been vaccinated. The evidence of the first of the three men was that on his being ordered to the sick-bay to be vaccinated, prisoner asked him whether he wanted to be vaccinated, and on his answering in the negative, said, "Well, give me 2s.;" and that he then arranged to pay 3s. for himself and the other two men, in accordance with a previous agreement among them. The second of the E.R.A.s corroborated as to being told by the prisoner that they could get off on payment of 1s. The prisoner declared that he had seen the men vaccinated, and that the charge was trumped up maliciously.

The result was that the Court acquitted the prisoner on the first charge, and found him guilty on the second (making a false entry), on which he was sentenced to be dismissed the Service. The finding and sentence seem to be one of those absurdities with which one is only too familiar in courts-martial. It is true that there was no evidence to corroborate the one man who deposed that he paid the money. On the other hand, the prisoner had no conceivable motive for making a false entry unless he was paid for it, and it is incredible that he could have made all three entries by mere inadvertence. Besides, if the view of the Court was that he made them inadvertently, then the sentence was out of all proportion to the offence. Dismissal from the Service is an utterly indefensible punishment if the prisoner was not actuated by a corrupt motive.

Apart from this, the case shows only too significantly how difficult it is to prove this offence, and at what risk to himself a man makes a charge of this nature against a superior—as one of the E.R.A.s did in this case. In the face of this trial, the refusal of Lord

Selborne and his colleagues to take note of all that has appeared in the Press respecting this scandal, and to avail themselves of the evidence which I have myself collected and tendered to them, looks much uglier than it did before. Nor does the reluctance of a court-martial—the members of which cannot be totally ignorant of all that has been lately said on the subject—to record a conviction for bribery, when they indicate their belief that the prisoner was really guilty of it, suggest any active desire to purge the Service of this rampant evil.

My attention was called the other day by one of my readers in the West of England to the case of a rate and tax collector appointed by a city council who is shelved at the age of seventy-seven without anything in the shape of a gratuity or pension, although the local Commissioners, in saying good-bye to him, express their high appreciation of the way in which he has performed his duties. An editor is supposed to know everything, but I confess that the position of an official who is appointed by a local authority, but works for the Inland Revenue Office, is one of the mysteries of the British Constitution which I do not fully comprehend. It may possibly be because the man is between the two stools that he falls to the ground; but at the same time it ought not to be. A rate collector under a municipal corporation gets a pension. So, I suppose, does a Revenue official appointed by Somerset House. The man in the above case ought to be in the same position, and the party that pays him ought to pension him.

Just after penning the foregoing reference to Government offices, I have come across a somewhat similar absurdity in postal administration; though the post office at fault is situated at the Antipodes. A gentleman in the City received a letter from Sydney, bearing a Victorian stamp, and had to pay 5d. for it. As the stamp was sufficient in amount he inquired the reason, which of course is that the New South Wales Post Office does not recognise Victorian stamps for any purpose, and therefore treated the letter as unstamped, leaving the English Post Office to collect the amount. How much longer will it be before the Commonwealth of Australia issues its own postage stamps?

I am glad to see that something has at last been done to stop the nuisance caused by the indiscriminate circulation of obscene and objectionable advertisements by post. The man Berdot, of Stafford-street, Bond-street, who has been fined at Marlborough-street in penalties and costs to the substantial amount of £25 7s., has been a persistent offender in this way for several months past, and I have had innumerable communications from people who have been annoyed by his circulars. The law respecting the abuse of the Post Office in this way is not as effective as it ought to be; but Berdot's case should serve to remind the public that there is a remedy for this nuisance, if only people will take the trouble to use it for their own protection. My advice to everybody who feels aggrieved by having this sort of garbage shot into his letter-box is to remonstrate at once with the Postmaster-General.

Following the example of the Glasgow and Manchester Corporations, the London County Council have resolved to apply to Parliament for power to licence and supervise all employment agencies in the metropolis except labour bureaux under the control of public authorities. This is a measure that I have long advocated, and I am pleased to see that it is welcomed by the great majority of the respectable registry-office keepers. It will really be an advantage to them as well as to the community to have a system of reasonable but efficient official supervision over all businesses of this kind, for an end can then be put to those which are dishonestly conducted.

Some most unpleasant revelations concerning the conditions under which the fruit-picking industry is carried on in Kent are given in the current issue of the *Lancet*. According to the *Lancet* correspondent the greater part of the fruit which comes to London is picked and handled for market by the very filthiest people in the whole community. These pickers, denizens during the winter of the worst slums, are housed in little iron shanties 13 ft. by 7 ft., seven or eight persons being crowded together in each hutch. The sanitary arrangements are of the most primitive description, and water is hardly ever found laid on to these pickers' "compounds," so that the personal condition of the men, women, and children who handle the "morning gathered" strawberries for the market may be left to the imagination, without the aid of other details supplied by the *Lancet*.

If the foregoing is a correct description of the conditions prevalent on the majority of fruit farms, it is high time that the sanitary authorities of the Kent County and District Councils were awakened to a sense of their responsibilities in the matter. It is probably necessary for the fruit farmer to employ casual labour for the ingathering of his harvest, but there seems no adequate reason why he should not be compelled to protect the consumers of his crop against the wholesale consumption of dirt, and the risk of acquiring a variety of diseases. A good deal has been written at one time and another of the value to the slum-dwellers of an annual holiday at fruit picking or hopping, but if they are allowed to reproduce their ordinary environments in the gardens of England, I cannot quite see

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for SCRUBB'S. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

how they benefit. On the other hand, if they were compelled as a condition of their employment to live under sanitary conditions and practise personal cleanliness, the result could not fail to have an educative, as well as physical, value for them.

Recently a Committee of the Lambeth Board of Guardians appointed a trained nurse at the poor law schools without asking at the time any question as to her religion. The nurse discharged her duties in a very satisfactory manner, but upon learning that she was a Roman Catholic the Committee brought the matter before the Board with a recommendation that, "having regard to her religious denomination, and that of the children, nearly all of whom belong to the Church of England," her services should be dispensed with. This recommendation has been adopted by the Guardians, although it was pointed out that the nurse had nothing whatever to do with the moral or religious training of the children. The Guardians apparently imagine that the Protestant faith of the juvenile paupers would be imperilled if they received their doses of brimstone and treacle and other little attentions when they are sick from the hands of a Catholic nurse. It may be said that Catholic Guardians in Ireland are apt to be just as intolerant in making similar appointments; but this is of course no excuse for these Lambeth Bumbles. The introduction of such religious tests for poor-law officers is an equally odious and reprehensible proceeding whether Protestants or Catholics are responsible for it.

It is satisfactory to learn that the recent disclosures as to the treatment of patients in the workhouse infirmary at Gloucester came under the notice of the Local Government Board in spite of the attempt of the Guardians to hush up the matter. Much to the surprise and indignation of some of their number, the Guardians last week received a letter from the Board expressing disapproval of the use of sleeping draughts and mechanical restraints for restless patients—except when specially ordered by the medical officer—and desiring that these practices should be discontinued. The lady Guardian who first brought the scandal to light was accused of "crooked" conduct, inasmuch as she admitted that she forwarded newspaper reports of the proceedings to the Local Government Board Inspector! If anybody behaved crookedly, however, it was the majority of the Guardians who sought to burke discussion and inquiry, and the Local Government Board would have been justified in administering a more severe censure than they have done.

Those who read the article in last week's TRUTH on the affairs of the Evangelical Alliance may have noticed that simultaneously with the appearance of the article judgment was given by Mr. Justice Buckley in an action in which Lord Kinnaird, on behalf of the Alliance, asked among other things for an order restraining the late secretary from carrying on any agitation against the Council. I have since received the following letter:—

8 and 9, Great James-street,
Bedford-row, London, W.C.,
July 18, 1904.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

SIR,—Our attention has been called to the article in your paper of the 14th inst., making allegations against the Council of the Alliance.

We may fairly take exception to the publication of this attack based on communications from an ex-secretary with an alleged personal grievance, without an opportunity being given to the Council to reply, but the more serious exception that we have to take is that on the 11th of June the Council had been compelled to issue a writ against their late secretary claiming an injunction (*inter alia*) to put an end to the agitation which he had for some time been carrying on against the Alliance and its Council, by his allegations in letters to various newspapers and circulars to members and others, and which were continued in a measure after the writ was issued. Notice of motion for this injunction was given for the 23rd of June, but the motion was not disposed of until Friday, the 8th inst., when at the close of the hearing, and without calling for a reply, Mr. Justice Buckley said as follows:—"The plaintiffs upon this motion are certainly entitled to an order, and I am going to postpone my judgment, not because I have the smallest doubt that they are entitled to an order, but simply in this view, that I shall be glad—although I think I should be too sanguine in thinking I should succeed—to put an end to this acrimonious dispute by the judgment which I propose to announce. With a view to that, and hoping to succeed in it, I shall reserve my judgment in order to give it more deliberation, and I shall ask the defendant plainly to understand that I am reserving it simply in justice to him, in the hope that he will consider that the judgment had been considered by me in detail and that the order I make in dealing with it is dealing with it thoroughly."

Notwithstanding this, the article to which we take exception appeared in your columns the following week.

On the 14th of July Mr. Justice Buckley gave a considered judgment, which was reported fully in the *Times* of the 15th (occupying more than two columns), and somewhat more fully in the *English Churchman* of the same date.

We send copy of the full report, and request that you will find hospitality for this report in the columns of your paper. You will see that the Judge granted an injunction until the trial of the action to restrain the late secretary "from carrying on any further agitation against the Council of the Evangelical Alliance (British organisation), its servants or agents, or against or amongst any members of the Alliance, with reference to any matter connected with the Alliance or the Council of the Alliance."

The matter is still *sub judice;* it will therefore be irregular for us to make any comments on the merits of the case until the final trial of the action, but we may point out that an affidavit by the acting honorary secretary—who affirmed that in any case the Council had a complete and satisfactory answer to all the defendant's allegations—was read in court, and that, as appears from shorthand notes, our leading counsel, in opening the case, expressly said, "What we want on behalf of the Alliance is first of all to have it known that we have nothing whatever to conceal."—Your obedient servants,

ANDREW, WOOD, PURVES, AND SUTTON.

I did not know anything about the proceedings in the Chancery Division when I published the article; in fact, my knowledge of the litigation did not extend beyond what I stated—namely, that there had been an action between the Council and their late secretary, which had been settled on terms highly favourable to the latter. However, as it happens, no harm can possibly have been done by the appearance of the article, and I do not clearly understand what it is that the solicitors to the Alliance complain of. If, as they say, the Council has nothing to conceal, and has a complete answer to all the allegations of the late secretary, I should have thought their most sensible course would be to make their answer public at once, instead of having recourse to Chancery procedure to restrain their late secretary from "agi-

SAVOY HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LONDON.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

tating." However, if other proceedings are still pending, I suppose the less said about the matter the better. The request of Messrs. Andrew, Wood, and Co. that I will reprint Mr. Justice Buckley's judgment seems to me contrary to all reason, and I really cannot comply with it. The judgment fills nearly four columns of the newspaper sent to me; it does not bear in any way upon the accuracy or otherwise of the late secretary's allegations; and, apart from the fact that it has already been reported in nearly all the daily papers, the effect of it is sufficiently stated in Messrs. Andrew, Wood, and Co.'s letter above, and in what I have now said, to acquaint anybody with the position of this edifying dispute.

An action came on for trial in the City of London Court last week in which Mr. Manning Press, the professional biographist, sued Mr. J. Turner Turner for the price of two copies of a publication of his, called "Hampshire Leaders." Some reference was made to this matter in Truth about twelve months ago. No order for the books had ever been given, but Press attempted to fix Mr. Turner with a contract to take them on the strength of his having made some corrections in a proof sent to him. The books were delivered, and returned at once. Since that Manning Press has let the matter rest for about a year. He then starts this action in the City of London Court, puts his victim to the expense of defending it, and on the day of trial does not put in an appearance, with the result that the action is struck out with costs, which the defendant may or may not recover. The result shows clearly that the whole proceeding is simply an attempt to obtain money by "bluff."

Many magistrates are apt to increase an offender's punishment unduly in proportion to the number of his previous convictions, but a worthy member of the Inverness Bench named Clark appears to err in the opposite direction. The other day a man pleaded guilty at the Police-Court to stealing a bicycle. He had previously received fourteen days' imprisonment for theft; but on this occasion Magistrate Clark announced that he would be fined 10s., or, in default of payment, fifteen days' imprisonment. An official pointed out that fifteen days' imprisonment could not be inflicted as an alternative to a fine of 10s. "Well, make it seven, then," said his worship, and the sentence was amended accordingly. Considering that accused was not a first offender, that thefts of bicycles are very common, and that the capture of the thieves is usually a difficult matter, it is not surprising that the magistrate's remarkable leniency, as well as his ignorance as to his powers, has been unfavourably criticised.

In reply to a question last week the Home Secretary stated that during the past three years there had been sixteen prosecutions for fortune-telling in the Metropolitan Police District and fourteen in Birmingham. It is a pity that the question was so worded as to obscure the point upon which information is really needed. The Metropolitan Police District covers a very wide area, and we ought to be told in what courts these prosecutions for fortune-telling have taken place. If the Home Secretary can be induced to obtain further details I believe it will be found that not a single case out of the sixteen has occurred in the West End. All the defendants were more or less humble practitioners of palmistry in unfashionable localities, and the fact that they were prosecuted by the Metropolitan Police makes all the more scandalous the failure of the same police to enforce the law against the "rogues and vagabonds" of Bond-street and Regent-street.

The man Todd, otherwise "Leicester and Co.," of Twickenham, who has been so much before the public lately, was bowled out at last at Brentford last week. As already mentioned, proceedings had been taken against him by the Incorporated Law Society, on the strength of a stock letter, already noticed in Truth in which he plainly suggests that he is a solicitor acting for the aforesaid Leicester and Co., and instructed to take proceedings on their behalf. The Bench found the offence proved and fined him £20, with £10 costs. This punishment should not only do something to restrain Todd's epistolary exuberance, but also serve as a warning to other gentry in the same line of business, who are always attempting to intimidate their victims by dodges of the same character.

Todd, however, seems to be quite incorrigible. It will be remembered that he was recently prosecuted at Newcastle-under-Lyme, in conjunction with his employee Williams, for defrauding a servant girl. Williams was convicted, but Todd was discharged, which was probably right enough in law, it being very difficult to prove the complicity of these gentry in the frauds by means of which their trade is conducted. After a short interval the servant girl, who had thus been defrauded by Todd's man for Todd's benefit, receives the following letter from a solicitor at Hanley named Watson:—

> Madam,—I have been consulted by Mr. T. H. Todd, of York-street, Twickenham, respecting his arrest on the 1st ult. under a warrant issued at your instance charging him with conspiring with one Charles Williams to defraud you of the sum of £2 5s., which charge, upon being laid before the justices sitting at Newcastle-under-Lyme, was dismissed. There is no doubt that the prosecution of my client by you was unjustified in law and altogether unwarranted. I am therefore instructed to apply to you for payment of the sum of £50 by way of compensation for the injury done to him, and unless this amount be paid legal proceedings will be taken against you without further notice.—Yours obediently, (Signed) Samuel Watson.

I gather from the remarks of the girl's employer, who sends me this precious letter, that he will leave Mr. Watson and his promising client to do their worst. I wish them both joy of the result.

Summer Holidays.—Weymouth, the charming Dorsetshire seaside resort. Delightful scenery. Steamboat and char-à-banc excursions. Send six 1d. stamps to Town Clerk for illus. guide.

My Legal Pillory this week contains for a wonder only a single example of magisterial leniency towards a wife-beater—a case at Preston, in which a defendant who finished up his chastisement of his unfortunate spouse by throwing her on the fire, was let off with the customary pecuniary penalty. But, as will be seen from the rest of the cases on the same side of the list, wife-beating is not the only kind of offence against the person which is regarded by the Great Unpaid with misguided indulgence. The cases from Ashton and Thorpe show that the cowardly ruffian who wishes to vent his violence upon one of the weaker sex need not confine his blows to his own wife, the fine being only about the same if he ill-treats some other woman. Perhaps, as so little is done for the protection of women, it is hypercritical to complain of the inadequacy of the penalties for assaults upon mere men; but at the same time it is obvious that such offences as those at Exeter, Wishaw, and Newbury should have been punished by a sentence of imprisonment. There seems to be an idea among the magistracy, however, that imprisonment is a severity designed almost exclusively for the punishment of such crimes as poaching, sleeping out, and petty larceny:—

Ashton Police-court. Before Messrs. Taylor and Lloyd Owen. Wm. Woodwooley, charged with assaulting Lizzie Nock and Edith Daniels. He gave Nock several blows in the face, blackening both her eyes and loosening several of her teeth. He then attacked Daniels, knocking her down twice and kicking her. Fined 40s. for the first assault and 20s. for the second.

Chepstow Police-court. Wm. Harris, convicted of assaulting James Gainsworthy by scratching his face, striking him about the head with a stick, and kicking him. Fined 20s. and costs.

Preston Borough Police-court. Edward Smith, charged with assaulting his wife. Besides striking the woman, who was in a weak state of health, defendant threw her against the fire-grate, with the result that she was burnt on the head. Fined 40s.

Wishaw Police-court. Before Bailie Nimmo. Robert Wright, convicted of two assaults. In company with two other men, the accused made a violent attack upon a man and his wife, maltreating the husband so severely that he had to be carried to his house and attended by a doctor. Fined £3.

Chard Police-court. James Harris, charged with assaulting Albert Harvey. As complainant was walking home he was attacked by defendant, who struck him in the face, knocking him down, and then knelt on him and bumped his head on the road. Fined 40s. and costs.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Hinton, A. D. Hussey Freke, W. Reynolds, J. H. Sadler, and J. T. Ward. George Griks and George Ball, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Smethwick Police-court. Joseph Lambert, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. He admitted the theft, but said that he had been without food for two days. Fourteen days.

Shoreham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. T. West, H. Head, W. Cattley, Major Gates, and the Rev. C. S. Dunlop. Ernest Hole, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £1 and £1 0s. 8d. costs.

Worksop Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Eddison, J. White, and J. Thornton. John Batty, Wm. Bates, and John Smith, charged with poaching. Batty three months, Bates and Smith one month each, and a further three months each in default of finding sureties.

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal Court. Before Sheriff Boyd. Thomas M'Cudden, charged with stealing a pair of sand shoes from a shop. Six months.

West Penwith Police-court. Before Mr. Field. Samuel Stephens, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Loughborough Petty Sessions. Wm. Stone, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 10s.; in default, one month.

Torrington Police-court. Before Major Mallett and Mr. W. Ashplant. Charles Taylor and Edward Fryer, convicted of sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days each.

Thorpe Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. Canon Norman and other magistrates. Wm. Warner, charged with assaulting Emily Gant. He gave her three brutal blows on the head, the last being struck after she had fallen to the ground. Fined 20s., and bound over.

Newbury County Police-court. Before Mr. A. R. Tull and other magistrates. Wm. Weaver, convicted of assaulting Frederick Pauling. Defendant beat complainant with a stick, rendering him insensible, and then knelt on him and knocked a tooth out. The Bench said that it was a very bad assault. Fined £3.

Exeter County Police-court. Before Messrs. C. R. Collins and A. K. Hamilton, Colonel Blake, Colonel Vaughan, and the Rev. F. F. Buckingham. John Palmer, charged with assaulting Samuel Westcott. It was a savage assault, defendant hitting complainant in the eye, cutting his lip, and breaking some of his teeth. Complainant had to receive treatment at the hospital for his injuries. Fined 20s. and 9s. 6d. costs.

Grays Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. B. Russell, B. H. L. Williams, E. R. Parker, E. J. Golding, F. H. D. C. Whitmore, and W. T. Houldsworth. John Frost, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 10s.

Coventry Police-court. Before Messrs. F. W. Franklin and W. Lee. Margaret Howarth, charged with stealing a pair of child's shoes, value 1s. 11½d., from outside a shop. Two months.

Billericay Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. Ward and T. W. Bacon, and Colonel H. Kemble. Edward Drake, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Grantham Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. T. Spooner Soden. Joseph Wm. Burton and George Henry Thurlby, convicted of stealing a fowl, value 2s. 6d. Thurlby, six months; Burton, nine months.

Retford Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. A. H. Hirst and G. Cutts, and Alderman Bescoby. Walter Whitlaw and Wm. Elliott, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 each.

A Lancashire J.P. sends me lists of the previous convictions of two poachers whose cases have lately figured in my Legal Pillory. The men were caught together, and one was dealt with summarily at Chorley Petty Sessions, where he was awarded six months' hard labour, to be followed by a further twelve months if he failed to find sureties that he would not so offend again for two years. The other elected to be tried at Preston Quarter Sessions, where he received a precisely similar sentence. Both prisoners were old offenders. Their last convictions prior to this were at Manchester Assizes in January, when, in company with three more men, they got three months each for armed night poaching, aggravated by an assault upon a keeper.

My correspondent—who is, I believe, a landowner and game preserver—evidently considers that the judge at the Assizes was unduly lenient. But I think myself that in a prosecution under the Game Laws one of his Majesty's judges is much more likely to fit the punishment to the crime than any chairman of Petty Sessions or Quarter Sessions, and the fact that at Assizes these men only received three months for poaching and assault, whereas they now have to suffer eighteen months' imprisonment (the alternative of finding sureties is, of course, a mere mockery) for poaching alone confirms my opinion as to the harshness of the latter sentences. As Mr. Chamberlain has said, the Game Laws are an anomalous and barbarous code, and not the least anomalous and barbarous feature of the Night Poaching

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

COMFORT WITH ARTIFICIAL TEETH.—Natural conditions restored by improved system of Crown and Bridge work, avoiding bulky plates and objectionable fastenings. Old sets remodelled. Moderate fees. Write for pamphlet.—GOODMAN'S, LTD, 2, Ludgate-hill, E.C

Act is the provision enabling Draconic magistrates to treble the maximum sentence of six months' imprisonment by demanding sureties which it is impossible for the accused to obtain.

There was ample justification for the strong comments that Coroner Troutbeck made in the case of a female lunatic whose death in the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary was investigated at an inquest last week. Prior to her removal to the infirmary the deceased was for some weeks under treatment in a nursing home kept by a Mrs. Virginia Mortimer at Balham. It seemed that the doctor who was first consulted regarding the condition of the deceased came to the conclusion that she was insane, but, apparently in deference to the objections of the relatives, he refrained from certifying her at once as a lunatic and arranged for her reception in the nursing home. The home was not known to the doctor, but it had been recommended to him, and, as the coroner observed, there is no doubt that he was misled. Mrs. Mortimer had had no training either as a nurse or lunatic attendant, and the young person who assisted her with this patient was only "a sort of a kind of a nurse." As the patient was violent, sleeping draughts were poured down her throat nearly every night; and the course of her treatment in the nursing home was characterised by the coroner as "extraordinary."

Fortunately for Mrs. Mortimer the evidence did not show that the death of the woman was accelerated by this extraordinary treatment, but both the coroner and the jury expressed the opinion that further steps should be taken in the case, and it is doubtless now under the consideration of the Lunacy Commissioners. The practice of placing persons of unsound mind in unlicensed and incompetently managed private establishments has become much too common, and it is high time that a lesson was taught to the proprietors of such institutions.

A firm of solicitors recently advertised for a comfortable home for a young lady in return for her services in some non-menial capacity. Among the responses was one from a lady in Gloucestershire, who offered to take the damsel, on the following conditions: (1) That she was "a lady by birth;" (2) that she would take charge of two children, and teach them French, German, piano, and violin; and (3) that she would pay 10s. a week for the privileges thus offered. This is another example of the advantages of being a lady by birth. A mere daughter of the commercial classes, going out as a governess, would expect to be paid 10s. a week for a job of this kind, as well as receiving her board and lodging. A "lady by birth" is expected to pay the 10s. a week instead of receiving it.

The "Select Employment Bureau for English and German Servants," Latchmere-road, Clapham Junction, has lately been advertising in the *Morning Post*, offering, in the usual way, the services of one of those ideal domestic treasures, of whom thousands of unhappy ladies are in search. One lady, who had written for particulars of the treasure, and got an answer from the Secretary of the aforesaid bureau, ventured to inquire of the Secretary whether the bureau had ever been noticed in TRUTH. The reply took the form of an impertinent reference to this paper, unsigned, but nothing more was said about the treasure, and apparently the bureau had no further inclination to do business. Considering that it is only a few months since the bureau, in the person of Mrs. Henderson, made an appeal to me not to visit Henderson's sins upon his wife and children—with which I did my best to comply—I do not know why it should be so spiteful towards TRUTH now, unless because Henderson himself is now back at work, and feels sore about my share in his recent troubles.

The following advertisement is published in some of the provincial papers:—

Sea.—Persons (inexperienced) desirous of becoming ship stewards, etc., send addressed envelope for information.—Forshaws, Victoria-square, Bolton.

A request for this information elicits from Forshaw a circular to the effect that on receipt of a fee of two shillings, together with particulars of the applicant's age, height, occupation, etc., he will "instruct him how to go about to get such employment." Having paid his two shillings, the applicant receives another printed circular from Forshaw recommending him to peruse the advertisements in the shipping papers, and setting forth "a specimen copy" of a letter of application for an engagement as steward, or stoker, or whatever may be thought a suitable situation. Even the most inexperienced person can hardly learn anything from this precious circular that he did not know beforehand, and though Forshaw guards himself from any promise to procure a situation, his so-called instruction is nevertheless a cruel imposition. The same harpy practises another fee-catching dodge by means of an advertisement offering employment to clerks with spare time, and he also runs an emigration agency of the shadiest kind. Forshaw is a very astute trickster, but I cannot help thinking that the police ought to have been able to bring him to book ere this.

At the end of last August "a clergyman's wife" advertised in the *Church Times* that she desired a lady partner to start with her a poultry and pig farm. The partner was soon forthcoming, and her experience seems worth narrating for more than one reason. The advertiser was a Mrs. Thomson, wife of the Rev. James Thomson, at that time curate at Llangibby, Newport (Mon.), and temporarily in charge of the parish in the

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S. Insist upon SCRUBB'S. "MAKES HOME, SWEET HOME IN DEED."

absence of the rector. The lady who answered the advertisement, whom we will call Miss K., went down to see Mrs. Thomson, and, the parties being mutually satisfied with one another, an agreement was concluded under which Miss K. paid £75, and was to receive her board and lodging and half the profits on the poultry and pig business. Under this agreement the lady went to reside with Mr. and Mrs. Thomson at a place they had taken near Usk, and the poultry business was started.

At the end of a few weeks Miss K. found herself decidedly uncomfortable, and, according to her account, Mr. Thomson made himself extremely unpleasant for no apparent reason. Indeed, the lady's statements suggest that either Mr. Thomson is a person of very eccentric manners and habits, or that he deliberately set himself to make her position in the house unbearable. The upshot was that at the end of five or six weeks it was agreed that the partnership should be rescinded, and that Miss K.'s money should be refunded, less £5 to be paid for her board and lodging during the period expired. Miss K. accordingly left. This was in the middle of December. The money was to be paid within three months, but it was not forthcoming. Miss K. endeavoured to come to an arrangement for its payment by instalments, but without success, and presently found that Mr. Thomson had departed from his house and left no address. A solicitor was then instructed on behalf of Miss K., but, after he had got into communication with another solicitor on behalf of Mr. Thomson, he advised his client that to take any further action would probably be to throw good money after bad. This brought Miss K. to Truth office, in accordance with what seems to be the usual procedure in such cases.

The conduct of Mr. and Mrs. Thomson in this case—I include Mrs. Thomson because she was the nominal principal in the poultry business, though Miss K. makes no complaint against her—is obviously open to such unfavourable construction that, as Mr. Thomson is a clergyman of some years' standing, I thought it only right to hear what he had to say before making any reference in public to Miss K.'s experience. I therefore sent a representative to see his solicitor. The solicitor said that he would let his client know that I had been to him, and suggest to him that he should communicate directly with me, but he did not see his way to give me the client's address. A fortnight has since elapsed. I have heard nothing from Mr. Thomson, and I conclude that he has nothing to say for himself.

The reader may, therefore, be left to place his own construction on the story. Having seen the lady who has lost £75 in this way, I cannot myself believe that there was anything on her side to justify Mr. Thomson in quarrelling with her as he did; but even had there been, the partnership agreement provided for the refunding of the money in such a case. Only a very few pounds of this money can have been actually expended on the poultry farm—the purpose for which it was required and paid—and there can be absolutely no excuse for any man, least of all a clergyman, obtaining money in such a way, and putting it into his own pocket. I am curious, therefore, to know more of the Rev. James Thomson, whose full name is, I think, James Edward. There is only one clergyman of this name in the recent Clergy Lists, and "Crockford" gives no record of his services for nine years past, while in the current issue he appears among the appendix of names the owners of which have not been traced, or have not supplied information. It is possible that there may be two Thomsons of the same Christian name in the Church, and I do not wish to implicate the wrong one. But if the late Curate of Llangibby is the James Edward Thomson of "Crockford," the story of Miss K. and her £75 makes one feel that fuller information as to what he has been doing since he held a curacy in London in 1895 might be useful. At any rate, the story should show ladies the danger of investing money with parties of whom they know nothing—even when those parties are in Holy Orders.

"A Racing Secret worth £1,000" for "the paltry amount of 2s.," is the latest offer of "Mr. Frank Rickaby, the Turf Millionaire," of Dudley. His circular is an amusing specimen of a tipster's blarney. Listen to him:—

> I have obtained this dark stable secret from a very intimate friend who is connected with this division. Of course, it is no advantage to me to let you in "the know" whatever, as I have won thousands of pounds before to-day, and I shall pile it on the top again next Saturday; I have not been on the Turf for twenty-seven years for nothing. It's no use walking about with one's eyes shut in this wide-awake century; it's no use going to catch the 12.49 express at 10 to 1; but where my advantage in letting you in "the know" of this secret does come in is that I look upon you as an honest Booked Sportsman Client of Mine, and I am never so proud of myself as when I am doing Clients a real Golden turn. Now, sir, is your Golden Opportunity. Hit the Chain Links while they are Hot, and Help yourself to an independency, so that you may hold your head up against the highest of Nobility.

It seems almost incredible that anybody outside an asylum for idiots can be humbugged by this preposterous nonsense; but, as a matter of fact, such impudently mendacious harpies as Rickaby find an inexhaustible supply of dupes among the backers of horses.

Another of these philanthropic purveyors of valuable stable secrets styles himself "Bishop Pie," otherwise "T. Cecil Mason," of 41, Upper Berkeley-street, W. More in sorrow than in anger, he states that some of his clients—"he will not accuse you personally"—lately disclosed his private information respecting an intended coup, with the result that it had to be abandoned. In consequence of this mishap, he cannot tell you about "one of the largest starting-price plunges of the season" which "we are organising" unless you

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 94, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

give him "your solemn word of honour" not to show the wire to a soul and "to get on as late as possible." If he has your solemn word of honour, however (plus a payment of 4s. 6d.) he will forward not only this particular tip, but another for the Liverpool Cup and also "a specially-reserved rod-in-pickle next week." No doubt many fatheads are taken in by the trickster's flattering appeal to their honour.

By backing St. Amant for the Derby a correspondent became entitled to £27 10s. from the circularising bookmaker named G. H. Chardson, of 27, Wellington-street, Strand. Chardson having failed to pay up and left unanswered all applications for the money, the defrauded backer now suggests that I should publish a warning against him. As my regular readers are aware, I have already done so more than once; but as Chardson is still carrying on the same old game it may perhaps be useful to repeat that he is a welsher.

There is a circularising betting agent named Fred Hylton, of 12, Wyndham-street, W., whose business is evidently conducted on the welshing plan of "heads I win, tails you lose." Succumbing to Hylton's importunities, a backer sent him some commissions, and at the end of the week had a winning balance (on paper) of £42 0s. 6d. But no cheque or communication of any kind came from Hylton on settling day, and though several weeks have since elapsed he has completely ignored all applications for the money. In his book of rules Hylton quotes a so-called "Press notice"—doubtless an advertisement—in which he is described as a member of Tattersall's, Victoria, and "for many years one of the recognised Leviathans of the Australian Turf." I believe a Leviathan is some sort of sea monster. Hylton certainly seems to be closely akin to a shark.

There has just been another wholesale distribution through the post of circulars from Bevan, Son, and Thompson, of Delft, Holland, and in consequence I am beset with inquiries respecting this firm of self-styled "turf accountants." It should surely be known by this time that in each department of their business—as starting-price bookmakers, as promoters of "placing contests," and as operators of betting systems—they are utterly untrustworthy and unprincipled. Just now they profess to be offering £2,500 for a "placing contest" on the Liverpool Cup, and £5,000 for a similar contest on the Stewards' Cup, each competitor being allowed as many guesses as he likes to pay for at the rate of a penny a guess. The idea that there will be a bonâ-fide division of any such sum as £7,500 among the successful competitors is transparently ridiculous. As to their betting system operations, the fact that Bevan, Son, and Thompson invite people to entrust them with capital for investment on "the last horse quoted in the betting returns" is in itself sufficient to show what swindlers they are. There are other systems which may be honestly worked, though the results are invariably disappointing. But, as I have frequently demonstrated, this so-called system of backing "the last horse quoted in the betting returns" cannot possibly be carried out, and every attempt to obtain money on the pretence of making such investments is unmistakably and deliberately fraudulent.

Besides circulating a collection of "Press opinions" on their business, which are simply their own advertisements from various obscure papers, Bevan, Son, and Thompson, now refer "intending investors" to all or any of the following banks: Parr's Bank, Limited, Bloomsbury Branch; London and County Banking Co., Oxford-street Branch; Lloyd's Bank, Holborn Branch; and the Union of London and Smith's Bank, Limited, Holborn-circus Branch. I have little doubt that the use of the names of these banks is quite unauthorised, and I should certainly be much astonished to learn that any one of them is prepared to answer inquiries about Bevan, Son, and Thompson, or, indeed, any other firm in the same disreputable line of business. In any event, a banker's reference in the case of such a business is absolutely worthless.

For some incomprehensible reason tramway tickets seem to be a favourite medium for money-lenders' advertisements. The latest instance of this is furnished by a correspondent who forwards a specimen of the tickets issued to passengers by the Poole Traction Co. It is adorned with an advertisement of the same local usury-shop which, as I mentioned some time ago, is permitted to flaunt its specious offer of loans on the tramway tickets in the neighbouring borough of Bournemouth. The latter tramways belong to the Bournemouth Corporation, and when a municipal body accepts such undesirable advertisements it is perhaps hopeless to expect a joint-stock company to exhibit a more sensitive conscience. But in any case the practice is a discreditable one.

The Johannesburg *Star* publishes a paragraph headed "Noises in the Head," which is obviously an advertisement of the Drouet Swindle for the Deaf, though no intimation of that fact is given, and even the name of the "Institute" is carefully suppressed. The reader, if afflicted with anything in his head resembling "the sound of bells, the singing of birds, or the rumbling of waggons," is bidden to send for a free copy of Mr. Carré's advertisement sheet, "The Review of Diseases of the Ear, Throat, and Nose," and a "report form" by means of which "any one can obtain free advice by post." Perhaps this notification is published for the benefit of any of the Oriental visitors to Johannesburg

Alfred B. Pearce, 39, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

who may hear the sound of bells, the singing of birds, or the rumbling of waggons in their Celestial heads. Anyhow, it is as well that anybody who discovers such uncomfortable symptoms should understand that the only "free advice" he will get by answering this advertisement is the advice to pay Carré anything from 13s. 6d. upwards for a parcel of his remedies.

Why do speakers and journalists invariably dwell on the guillotine "falling" when they refer to Parliamentary closure? The guillotine is a machine in the nature of a scaffold. A knife forms a comparatively small part of it, and descends by means of a weight with "the vibrating temper" that, according to Mr. Lyttelton, marks out Mr. Chamberlain as a leader of men, on the neck of a criminal, and thus severs his head from his shoulders. Were the machine to fall, this operation could not be performed. To talk of the falling of the guillotine is as absurd as it would be for a Frenchman to talk of the falling of the scaffold, on which an English criminal is hanged, instead of the falling of the trap.

The tactics of the Opposition on Mr. Balfour carrying his "compartment" resolution on the Licensing Bill have not commanded my unqualified admiration. If all Liberals had withdrawn and declined to take part in a farce of discussion, this would have been the most dignified course. But, though the majority were in favour of this, a minority were not prepared to join them. During the first compartment day the Opposition moved amendments to which only the mover briefly spoke and then took a division. What this object-lesson was intended to convey I do not know. Then it occurred to a good many that people outside the House might think that, if there was to be discussion, it was absurd to pass the allotted time in tramping through the division lobbies. On subsequent days, therefore, the tactics were changed, and amendments moved were more lengthily discussed. No change of any real importance was made in the Bill, for, whether an amendment was inadequately discussed, or not discussed at all, the result was the same, and when the knife fell the clause passed without the greater part of it having been reached. Withdrawal would have brought more clearly home to all the action of the Government, and more fully justified the intention of the Liberals not to recognise the rights of property created by the Bill, but to end them, and all else objectionable in the Bill, so soon as they have a Parliamentary majority. As it is, the brewers will find that they would have been wiser had they not forced the Government to raid the public till for their benefit. Mr. Balfour is fond of talking of fiscal retaliation. We shall act on his views, and then Heaven help the brewers—if really they are the special favourites of Heaven.

On the division upon the Welsh School Coercion Bill, Mr. Balfour was very indignant at any authority or individual venturing to disobey any law for conscience' sake. But if this had never taken place, the whole history of the world would have been changed. The Roman law obliged every citizen to offer incense to Cæsar. The Christian converts refused to obey the law, as this was contrary to their consciences. If they had not, Christianity would have been stamped out. Charles I. endeavoured to raise ship money. His right to do so was declared to be in accordance with the law by the judges. Refusal to pay ship money has secured to us liberty. It can hardly, therefore, be asserted that the obligation to obey the law is not subject to exceptions.

The merits of the Arnold-Forster Army reorganisation are discussed in another column. But in order to realise the unity of the Cabinet, a person must have been present when the Secretary for War made his statement. When he rose he was flanked on one side by Mr. Wyndham and on the other by Mr. Balfour. They were there to see that he did not go beyond the bargain that had been struck. Whenever he attempted to do so, they glared at him, and he became so confused between his plan and that of the united Cabinet, that he frequently had to turn to Mr. Wyndham to tell him what he was not to say. A few feet lower down on the Treasury Bench sat Mr. Brodrick. Occasionally Mr. Arnold-Forster explained that the plan that he was submitting to the House was not what he would have proposed had everything been left to him, and then Mr. Brodrick triumphantly smiled.

Mr. Arnold-Forster is by no means a very clear speaker, and it was difficult to follow him in his endeavours to distinguish between what he was to be allowed to do, and what he really wanted to do. He evidently honestly believed he knew more of military matters than Napoleon or Moltke. He lengthily explained that he has always advocated certain Army reforms, and that the Army had gone from bad to worse under Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Brodrick. Never was there a speech with more "I" in it. I gathered that the Army would not even now become what it ought to be, because he had not been allowed a free hand, and that this would only occur when all recognised his exceptional abilities. He seemed really to think that when a General Election sweeps away the Cabinet of which he is a member, an exception should be made in his case, and he should be humbly requested to remain War Minister. But whether this will happen I take leave to doubt.

No man was ever more foully abused than Paul Kruger. The South African Press was bought up by the

The Carlton Restaurant, Pall Mall, London, S.W.—*The* Restaurant of London. Telephone 1600 Gerrard. Telegrams "Carlton Hotel, London." C. Ritz, General Manager.

gold magnates of the Transvaal. They next wanted to buy up the President, and when they found this impossible, they called him corrupt. They wanted to enslave the Kaffirs, and when he would not allow this, they called him a despot. They were a crew of cosmopolitan money-grubbers. With them country meant money, and they would cheerfully have sold their own if money was to be made by doing so. Mr. Kruger did not understand patriotism in this way, so they said that he was no patriot. At home we were in the heyday of Imperialism. We wanted to extend, and "society" had bought shares in Transvaal mines. So we went to war to enlarge the Empire and fill the pockets of "society." Our Jingo Press at home vied with the South African Press in describing Mr. Kruger as a Satan in perpetual feud with the powers of light.

Mr. Kruger may have been somewhat narrow-minded although endowed with considerable natural acuteness, but he was a patriot in the best sense of the word. The Boers trekked into the wilderness to live as free men. We robbed them of their independence once. They refused to submit, and ultimately Mr. Gladstone restored their independence, for he held that we had no moral right to deprive them of it. Unfortunately for the Boers, gold was found in the Transvaal. At once we sought to get hold of this gold. The financial crew that flocked there were perpetually intriguing to become masters in the country, and we aided them. This culminated in the famous raid. When the raiders and the abject crew of gold-grubbers at Johannesburg were vanquished, Mr. Kruger dealt generously by them. Mr. Chamberlain was then Colonial Secretary, and although his connection with the raiders was capable of proof, all investigation was hushed. Under such circumstances, Mr. Kruger would have been a fool if he had not armed. But this was made a cause of complaint against him. Then followed negotiations in which it soon became clear that, yield as he might for the sake of peace, every concession was only made a plea for further demands. Mr. Chamberlain was determined to force on a war, and in this endeavour he was heartily aided by his henchman, Lord Milner.

Then came the war. It is often asserted that Mr. Kruger was responsible for it owing to his ultimatum. In point of fact, the ultimatum came from Mr. Chamberlain. He broke off all negotiations, and gave it to be understood that, so soon as he had assembled a crushing force on the Transvaal frontier, he would signify his demands, and if they were not accepted, the Republic would have to take the consequences. Such an announcement would be regarded as an ultimatum by any European Power to whom it was addressed. Mr. Kruger so regarded it, perceiving that war was inevitable unless he was prepared to surrender at discretion. As a wise man he therefore did not wait for Mr. Chamberlain's troops to arrive, but occupied the roads leading to the Republic.

How our Jingoes laughed when Mr. Kruger announced that the Republic would "stagger humanity." Mr. Chamberlain boasted that the war would be over in a few months, and for so small a cost that the Transvaal would pay it willingly. The mining magnates, having themselves fled the country, assured us that the Boers were cowards and would all fall on their knees so soon as a few English regiments crossed their frontier. Matters did not quite happen in this fashion; but, having got into the mess, we worried through in about three years at a cost of nearly 300 millions, and after laying desolate the entire Transvaal.

Mr. Kruger lived long enough to see a great change in public opinion over here. We are no longer proud of this war, and I think that few really doubt that it might, and ought to, have been avoided. We are ourselves doing in the Transvaal what we declared justified us in making the war when done by the Boers. We insisted that the Uitlanders should have votes. Neither Uitlander nor any others have votes under our rule. We asserted that we intended to convert the country into a working man's paradise. We import Chinese chattels, in order to exclude British working men, because the gold magnates say that the latter would insist on votes and a fair wage. At present, we respect the Boers, and we despise the greedy crew of cosmopolitan money-grubbers for whom we fought. Lord Milner is far more unpopular in the Transvaal than was Mr. Kruger, and Boers, Britons, and even the cosmopolitans for whom he has done so much, unite in denouncing him. Mr. Chamberlain's popularity has waned, and Birmingham Imperialism is resented as the very climax of boastful folly. He is reduced to intrigue and plot in the hope of imposing on us that very system of Protection which he deemed a folly when practised by Mr. Kruger. *Victrix causa diis placuit*, but the old Cato who died in exile was honoured and respected by the entire world, whereas—but I will not anticipate the verdict of the world when we lose Mr. Chamberlain.

THE BAT AND THE BALL.

Once, a Cricket-bat, entering into conversation with a triple-seam Ball, inquired:

"How comes it, Cousin Leather, that when I slog my hardest I frequently drive you a lesser Distance, than when I hit you with comparatively moderate Force?"

"Because, Cousin Willow, replied the Ball, "it is not Brute Strength that tells at Cricket, but accurate Timing. And an Ounce of Energy at the precise dynamic Moment is worth any number of Pounds of it indiscriminately applied."

Moral: The Size of a Nation's Army is of less Account than its effective Distribution.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W

SCRUTATOR.

BALFOUR BY THE GRACE OF CHAMBERLAIN.

IF a Liberal Administration, having obtained a majority at a General Election, and having later on forfeited the confidence of the country, were to insist upon remaining in office for seven years, the House of Peers would step in and force a dissolution by throwing out one or more of its Bills. But if a Tory Administration pursues this course there is nothing that stands in its way, as the House of Lords is Tory and consequently is not likely to take action against its own political friends. What has stood in the way of this abuse in the past is that even Tory Administrations have been composed of men who have had some idea of honour. I fail, therefore, to see why Mr. Balfour and his barnacles should dissolve next year—or, indeed, the year after, for the present Parliament has still three years before it comes to an end by the efflux of time. The arguments by which they attempt to justify their refusal to dissolve this year will, if sound, hold good next year and the year after. I observe that Mr. Chamberlain and his gang have just passed a resolution urging that a Redistribution Bill should be brought in next year, and if such a Bill be passed a General Election could not take place until 1906, owing to the subsequent arrangements that would have to be made respecting boundaries, registration, etc. It may be suggested that Mr. Chamberlain believes that it will be to his interest to force a dissolution next year. But if so, why this demand for a Redistribution Bill? If he comes to the decision that it will better answer his purpose to put off the dissolution for three years, I do not think that he would find either Ministers or the Parliamentary majority objecting to this course. The Cabinet largely consists of new men, who have only lately been blooded with office, and we may take it as certain that the longer they can retain it, the better will they be pleased. The same holds true with Mr. Balfour, judging by the humiliations to which he has already submitted, and the trickery to which he has stooped to remain Premier. As for the rank and file of the Unionist M.P.s, they cannot be eager to meet their constituents one day sooner than they are obliged, for they know that it will go hard with them when that day of reckoning comes.

But, whilst this may be the view of a great many Unionist members, there are probably a certain number of them who are possessed of a conscience, unless they have so often sneered at the "Nonconformist conscience" that they regard the whisperings of this organ as monitions that an honest man should set at defiance. Many of them have again and again declared that they are opposed to the taxation of food and raw material, and that they only support the Government on the understanding that it is at one with them in dismissing any such proposals from the area of practical politics. All that they are prepared to assent to in the way of fiscal reform is that we have the right to meet unfair and exceptional fiscal injustice towards us by retaliation, and that we should assert that right whenever it can be shown that the gain outweighs the loss. No one, so far as I know, has ever controverted this proposition. We possess this right in common with every other State, and during the tenure of office of the present Administration Parliament has acted upon it in regard to sugar bounties. But between the acceptance of this doctrine and protection there is the widest interval. When Mr. Chamberlain launched his fiscal scheme he explained that it was a cruel abuse of words to term it Protection. All this has been forgotten, and in his speeches he now plumes himself upon being a Protectionist, adding that even if his views are not economically sound, it is necessary for us to adopt them in order to bribe the Colonies into remaining within the Empire. This he admits can only be done if we are prepared to tax food and raw material imported from foreign countries. Up to now, the Government has declared that "it is opposed to any duties on raw material or food," and this was explicitly stated by Mr. Akers-Douglas, whilst Mr. Balfour announced that the country would not be invited by his Administration at the next General Election to levy such taxes. These pledges reassured the Unionist Free Fooders, and they have enabled Mr. Balfour to muddle through the Session without defeat until now.

But the situation is now entirely changed. Mr. Chamberlain has captured the Party, and the meeting at the Albert Hall last week was a demonstration to celebrate his success, at which Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Lyttelton attended as the representatives of the Government—or rather as the hostages that it had given to the triumphant Joseph. Lord Lansdowne worshipped at the shrine of Joseph. "We may see," he said, "that which is at present only an ideal and an aspiration pass into the region of accomplishment and reality, and if that time should come the country will owe a deep gratitude to those who have made themselves the pioneers of this great Imperial movement." Mr. Lyttelton was blatant and unabashed, and frankly Protectionist. He had, he said, often pictured in his mind the vibrating force with which a great Atlantic liner cleaves the waves of the ocean rather than goes over them; this is the temper of Mr. Chamberlain, and the scheme of the vibrator is to be submitted to the country at the next General Election. The keynote of the meeting was finally struck by Sir G. Doughty—an M.P. by the grace of his constituents and a knight by the grace of the Government—the meeting, he shouted, had elected Mr. Chamberlain as their great general to lead the Liberal Unionist Party to victory at the next General Election. Now that they had so excellent a general he would urge them to go home and set their associations on fire. As yet they had been firing with blank cartridge. But now that their general had taken his place they were going to fight for fiscal reform. They offered their general their whole-hearted support.

The meeting itself was more select than important. There were peers and peeresses on the stage, and the usual flock of smart ladies and gentlemen in the stalls to bask in their sunshine. The show was well stage-managed, and a number of resolutions in favour of food taxation from local Liberal Unionist

Associations were paraded, which had been obtained in the usual machine-made fashion. The Birmingham gang had sent a form of resolution to all these Associations, and requested each to draft one embodying the model, but couched in different words. All this was what was to be expected. But what was important was that the Chamberlain M.P.'s no longer conceal that they are determined to force the issue on the country at the next General Election, and that the Government has now openly given in to this plan of campaign. I have always supposed that this was the plan agreed to between Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour, and that all the professions of the latter were merely dust thrown in the eyes of his Free Food supporters to enable him to weather the Session. Be this, however, as it may, these gentlemen can no longer pretend that they are deceived. Had they stood from the first shoulder to shoulder and thrown in their lot with the Duke of Devonshire, they would not now be in so sorry a plight. Mr. Balfour is not a man of convictions. His policy begins and ends with a desire to remain Premier. Mr. Chamberlain is a man of energy and determination, and the Premier follows the line of the least resistance. Seeing that it was certain that the ex-Colonial Secretary would remain master of their Party, many Unionist M.P.s have ranged themselves on his side. The Free Fooders are still, however, sufficiently numerous to be able even now to defeat the Government if they act together. That they will do so is more than doubtful, for they are a weak and contemptible body of men. They have not even the pluck of the crushed worm. Up to now they have pretended to believe the assurances of Mr. Balfour, although, if they have the intelligence of an oyster, they must have been aware that they were deliberately made to fool them. Now that these assurances are proved to have been absolutely false, and they see the pit that Mr. Chamberlain has dug for them, they will possibly bark, but they will not dare to bite. They are even devoid of that instinct of self-preservation that is possessed by the lowest organisms. I am glad that they have not come over bag and baggage to our side. Our Party is not particularly strong in its backbone; with such allies it would become invertebrate.

As for the Government, we may take it that they will get through the Session—dishonoured and discredited. Former Governments have at least had something that they called a policy, and would have been prepared to resign or to appeal to the nation if they were unable to give effect to it. This Government persistently declines to pin itself to anything, or to accept any sort of responsibility. What they call their principles are mere pious opinions, and any disposition to act on them is dependent on their believing them to be popular. What Ministerial responsibility can there be under such a scheme of Government? When they think that their majority in Parliament may fail them they lie low; when they believe they can depend on it they defy public opinion outside. If they are asked whether they intend to submit to the country any fiscal proposals involving taxation on food or raw material, they pledge their word that they have no such intention, but no sooner does any one seek to pin them to this pledge than they at once refuse to be bound by it, and protest against being asked to pledge themselves to anything in advance as intolerable insolence. This is the sole method by which a Government can retain office whose Parliamentary majority is only kept together by the equivocations of its head; which is without the confidence of the electorate, and dares not consult it; and which has for its master a man who is not a Minister, and yet exercises absolute sway over the Cabinet. The situation is not likely to occur again, for few men would cling to power under such conditions, and few Parties would allow them, even if they were to attempt it. When the country is vouchsafed an opportunity to pronounce on conduct so utterly at variance with our traditions, our interests, and the honour of our public men, it will return a verdict which will, I trust, show that, differing as it may on many questions, it will never tolerate such mean and discreditable trickery.

ARMY REFORM AGAIN.

The truest thing that any Minister has said for a long time past was Mr. Arnold-Forster's remark last week that the Army is passing through a period of great danger. It seems to me that unless the Army reformers are speedily chained up we shall soon have no Army at all—nothing but a little bill for about thirty millions per annum. We have now had a succession of Army reforms extending over three years. We have had three heaven-sent War Ministers tinkering at the machine. We have had at least two Royal Commissions, and goodness only knows how many committees of how many different kinds. The Army has been turned upside down and inside out. And what is the result? The last of the heaven-sent War Ministers comes to the House of Commons and declares in the most uncompromising terms that the Army we have got is not in the least the sort of Army that is any good to us; that it is not organised with a view to war—which, after all, is one of the ends for which an Army must be assumed to exist; that the present system of enlistment has broken down so completely that the men cannot be found to keep the machine running in time of peace; that the greater part of the men we are paying for are inefficient and useless; in short, that the whole Army is in a rotten condition. He adds, what we can all see for ourselves, that its cost seems to increase in a direct ratio with its inefficiency, and that it is very difficult to see how things are to be improved. This unqualified confession of failure is the outcome of three years' Army Reform under a Unionist Government, the only kind of Government which is fitted to grapple with a question of this kind! Indeed, have we not been told by no less an authority than the *Times* that if it were only for the sake of the Army, the country is bound by the instinct of self-preservation to keep the present Ministry in office? It seems to me that if it were only for the sake of the Army, the country must decide to get rid of the present Ministry at the earliest opportunity.

We are now bidden, as the only course open in the face of the disastrous failures of the past three years, to give a blank cheque to the latest Army reformer put up

by the Government. Once again the Army is to be turned upside down and inside out, and we are to believe that this time it really will come out all right. This demand requires a degree of faith which is altogether beyond me. I have shut my eyes and opened my mouth at least once too often. When I was three years or so younger and Mr. Brodrick was the conjuror who was going to do the trick, I tried to believe that I was going to swallow something which would do me good even if it did not taste very nice. But the intervening years have disillusioned me. I am getting morbidly suspicious of Army reformers. It is even beginning to be a question with me whether they should not be dealt with in those columns of Truth which are at present devoted to such gentry as fraudulent advertisers, turf tipsters, and charity swindlers. Nor does the tone of the last of the conjurors tend to inspire confidence. You do not often find a Ministerial announcement so qualified with "ifs" and "buts" as Mr. Arnold-Forster's speech. In every other line it conveys that the performer would have liked to do a number of other surprising tricks, if the managers of the show had not stood in the way; and that he does not feel at all sure of his results under the limitations to which he has had to submit. It is not at all reassuring to be told that "those with whom he works," which presumably means the Army Council just constituted to manage the whole concern, do not approve of what he proposes to do. It seems to reduce the whole project to an absurdity when we are told that an important part of the scheme, which the Minister himself believes to be vital, will be carried out "if public opinion will allow." If the time has come when it is difficult to take the Army reformer seriously, the difficulty becomes insuperable when he talks in this qualified and hesitating style. I cannot believe, therefore, in the very latest Government Army Reform. I do not think the public will. I am pretty sure that the Government do not, and I am not sure that the author does, though no one can question his belief in himself.

If it is worth while, under these circumstances, to discuss the scheme in detail, there are points in it which every Liberal will welcome, and there are several with which I cannot quarrel, for they have repeatedly been advocated in Truth. It is a good thing that we have got at last an official repudiation of the traditional War Office policy of piling upon paper huge totals of men, without the slightest regard either to the country's need of them or to their fitness for any purpose, real or imaginary. It is satisfactory to have a Ministerial declaration that it is not the business of the Army "to stand with fixed bayonets round our coasts," that defence against invasion is the business of the Navy, and that the Army exists primarily for service abroad. This knocks on the head a great deal of nonsense which one school of Army reformers has lately treated us to, though one would like to know whether this is one of the points on which the rest of the Army Council are at issue with the Secretary of State, and, if so, what is going to be done to create harmony at Headquarters on fundamental principles of military policy. Again, the definite pronouncement against compulsory service will be welcomed by all rational people; and we shall probably not hear much more of the recommendation of the Norfolk Commission on this head after Mr. Arnold-Forster's declaration that he calculates conscription would mean an addition of £25,000,000 per annum to the Army Estimates. If only half that amount represented the truth, there is an end of the appeal to compulsory service on the score of economy. I have more than once made the suggestion that men should be enlisted on different terms for home and foreign service, and the proposal to organise separate armies for home and general service adopts and carries out this idea. I have for years urged the desirability of getting rid of the present depot system, and substituting big training schools for recruits on the model of the Guards and Rifle Depots, and I rejoice to find an Army reformer incorporating this point in his programme. The enormous increase in the demands on the Army abroad that have come with incessant annexations of territory, and have reached their climax with the necessity for a garrison of 21,000 men in South Africa, have made the retention of the linked battalion system an obvious impossibility, and the compromise of dropping the system for the purpose of drafting, while retaining it for the interchanging of officers, seems sound and practical. It is also a good thing that the Home Army should be strictly territorialised, and everybody knows that the old system was territorial in little beyond the name.

All this is to the good, and Mr. Arnold-Forster is welcome to the credit of it. Possibly if he had had a free hand, he might have laid the foundations for a practical scheme of Army reform on Liberal lines. As it is, I see only too much of the other side of the account. We are promised great economies, though only by degrees, and as the scheme comes into full operation. But the scheme obviously contains the elements of increased expense, which must be set off against the saving to be effected by the reduction of the infantry establishment—*e.g.*, in the new depot system, and in the improved barracks, which are promised as one of the attractions of the home service army. Mr. Arnold-Forster takes no account of such items. Again, the pressing difficulty that has brought a new scheme of Army reform upon us is the impossibility of finding men for the Indian drafts. What reason is there to suppose that men will be forthcoming for foreign service in greater numbers under the new system than the old? This question lies at the very root of the whole scheme. As regards the home service army, Mr. Arnold-Forster himself admits that after his proposed reductions are effected he will not have enough units to complete his very modest programme of 40 battalions of 500 men. In one of the curious tentative passages of his memorandum he throws out the idea of completing the home establishment with a few select Militia battalions; but he himself sees "serious practical objections" to this step—among others that it would involve the abolition of the rest of the Militia. He leaves us, therefore, with a mere sketch of a home army, which he admits his

inability to fill in. This is really a fatal blot on the scheme, and enough in itself to take it out of the region of practical politics. Whether we are of the "blue water school" or the "Surrey Hills school," we are all agreed that the presence of an efficient force of some sort on land is a necessity of home defence, and that it cannot be reduced beyond a certain point without danger. Mr. Arnold-Forster's force of Regulars is made up of the Brigade of Guards, 20,000 infantry of the Line (with about 60,000 reservists behind them, when the establishment is filled up), and 79 batteries of Artillery. There will also be the absurdly-named "Striking Force" at Aldershot, consisting of 16,000 men of the general service army, including, I suppose, a sprinkling of cavalry. I do not think the most extreme partisan of any school will say that the garrison thus provided for home defence is any too big for safety. If, however, you admit that this part of your scheme is mere theory, and that you do not see your way to materialise it without other measures which you are afraid Parliament and public opinion will not sanction, the whole scheme is hopelessly vitiated.

Even the Regular battalions which Mr. Arnold-Forster sees his way to assign to the home defence army have a nebulous look about them. Though nominally 500 strong, only 400 of these will really belong to the home service army, the other 100 will be made up of "staff," supernumerary general service men, and general service reservists. I confess I do not understand this 100—which means in the aggregate one-fifth of the entire force. Moreover, it is necessary to bear in mind that the Line portion of the home garrison under arms will consist solely of boys from eighteen to twenty years of age. The 60,000 reservists behind them, who are only to be called up in the extreme event of general mobilisation, will only have had two years' service with the colours and two subsequent courses of annual training. Even the artillery of the home service army is apparently to be enlisted on the same terms of age and service. If any one says that such a force as this is a mere mock army, and can be nothing but a source of national weakness and danger, I am not prepared to contradict him.

The truth is that over the home service army Mr. Arnold-Forster has failed hopelessly. If the home garrison of Regulars is to be reduced to those dimensions and to such material, it becomes more imperative than ever that the Auxiliary Forces should be reorganised on a basis that will make them serviceable and trustworthy. But what does Mr. Arnold-Forster offer under this head? He confesses his inability to deal with the Militia, while declaring that the force is useless in its present condition and cannot be left as it is. He wishes to abolish it, but admits that he does not dare. He will consult with Militia officers during the autumn, and see if anything occurs to him. Could an Army reformer take up a more ignominious position on one of the most pressing questions with which he has to deal? And it is not much better with the Volunteers. The Volunteers, says Mr. Arnold-Forster, "contain the best material we have in the whole Army." How does he propose to utilise this material? First, by cutting it down by 25 per cent.—from 240,000 to 180,000—on the plea of weeding out the useless and inefficient; and, next, by dividing the balance into two vaguely defined classes, the first consisting of 60,000 "who are willing and able to give a great deal of time to their drilling and training;" the second of 120,000 "who are willing, but unable to do so." While pretending, therefore, to eliminate the inefficients, he establishes two standards of efficiency, and practically recognises inefficiency. In view of what we have lately seen of the tendency of the force to reduce itself without any regard to efficiency, it is doubtful whether this arrangement has any motive other than the acceptance of the inevitable, or whether it will do anything but impair the efficiency of the force in the aggregate; but, however that may be, I cannot myself believe in the practicability of this extraordinary proposal, and I shall be surprised if it is received by Volunteers themselves with anything but ridicule.

The whole scheme bears on the face of it the patchwork appearance which is the result of compromise between contradictory opinions. I should like to know how the egregious "Striking Force" of 16,000 men at Aldershot got into it. The situation at the outbreak of the Boer war is appealed to as the justification of its existence. But no hint is given as to where or how this situation is expected to repeat itself. Where and against whom is the Striking Force going to strike? Who settled the odd figure of 16,000 men as the scientific dimensions of the Force? Are we going to strike at Paris or Berlin, or Pekin or Constantinople, with this imposing contingent? Apparently this is the first-fruits of the wisdom of the precious Committee of Defence. It is what might be expected from that body after reading Mr. Arnold-Forster's ingenuous enunciation of the results we are to expect from it:—"We do not yet know what are the true military requirements of the Empire, but *we have created an institution which will enable us in time to find out what they are.*" There, it seems to me, you have the whole philosophy of our Army-reforming Ministers. "We do not know what sort of an Army we want, or what we are going to do with it, but we have reason to hope that we shall find out some day." In the same spirit Mr. Arnold-Forster tells us, in regard to the dimensions of the foreign-service Army, that if the question is asked on what principle its strength should be fixed, the answer will be, "by the circumstances of the time." What is this method of computation but the application to the Army of Mrs. Gamp's rule for the administration of medicine: "You pours it out and you judges accordin'?" By such reasoning, doubtless, you arrive at the conclusion that the first necessity of the Empire is a "Striking Force" at Aldershot composed of exactly 16,000 men—no more and no less. To expect a coherent and intelligible scheme of Army reform from minds in this condition would be looking for grapes from thorns or figs from thistles.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—II.

Before discussing the holiday question further it may be a convenience to some of my readers if I answer the question propounded in the following letter:—

I have read with much interest your article on the holiday resorts of the South of England, and can fully endorse what you say as to the charms of many parts of Kent and Sussex which are hardly known to Londoners, except when they dash through them on trains, bicycles, and motors. But you overlook one difficulty in the way of any paterfamilias who would like to break new ground away from the more crowded watering-places, namely, the difficulty of finding quarters. One can always secure rooms at Eastbourne, Folkestone, Worthing, or such places after having been there once. If the people you know happen to be full they can generally, according to my experience, recommend you to someone else. But one is at a loss to know where to go or whom to apply to in small towns or villages, whether by the sea or inland.

I do not know whether this difficulty is generally felt. But there is a very simple means of getting over it. Nearly all the railway companies now publish elaborate "guides" and lists of boarding-houses and farmhouse and country lodgings available in the districts they serve. I have made an inquiry on this point, and I find that the South-Eastern Company issues such a book, containing a large choice of quarters in the districts of Kent that I named last week. The Brighton Company does the same for Sussex, the Isle of Wight, and all parts of its system. So do the Great Eastern, South-Western, Great Western, Great Northern, and I think I may say all the principal companies. Most of them, too, issue quantities of other books containing information of interest to tourists and holiday-makers; and I think the managers will always be found willing to give any assistance they can to people who care to consult them.

I might add to this, that the railway companies are equally enterprising in the matter of tourist and periodical tickets to places which have any attraction for holiday makers; and information on all such matters is always at the service of anybody who likes to ask for it. Take, for instance, the districts mentioned in last week's Truth. In addition to the tourist tickets issued by the South-Eastern Company, this company and the Brighton Company jointly give you for 50s. first class, or 30s. second, a tour embracing the whole of the coast from the mouth of the Thames to Spithead, or Herne Bay to Ryde, or a cheaper tour covering all places on the two lines east of Brighton. You can have a ticket covering the whole of the South Coast system between London, Hastings, and Ryde for 17s. third class. There are many others. I merely quote these figures in proof of what I said last week, that a man who chooses to take a holiday in the neighbourhood of London can almost eliminate railway expenses from his bill.

Now let us get back to the map. I have just mentioned the Isle of Wight, and one comes to it at once from the point where we stopped last week. Most people know something of the island, and one cannot do justice to it in a short paragraph. But it is a mystery to me why people who worship the beauties of nature should travel hundreds of miles on the Continent when they have anything so beautiful as the Isle of Wight within two or three hours' railway journey of London. "No mountains and no rivers," I hear some critic object. True, but there are the sea and the chalk cliffs almost always in sight, which to an Englishman should supply the place of both, and there are an immense number of interesting and beautiful places within easy reach outside the island. If you have any patriotic instincts and have not seen Spithead or Portland when the fleets are mustering for autumn manœuvres, you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Whether you look out from Ryde Pier or St. Catherine's Point, there is always more to be seen "in the offing" from the Isle of Wight than in any bit of seascape round our coasts. And if it is objected that places like Ryde and Shanklin are too much over-run in the holiday season, there are little towns scattered all round the coast, such as Bembridge, Sandown, or Freshwater, where you can be as quiet as you please. The world of fashion, of course, will be migrating *en masse* to Cowes and the neighbourhood a fortnight hence. But why start off to Homburg or St. Moritz the moment the regattas are over? Why not try for once what a few weeks in the breezes of the Channel will do for you?

But we shall never get round England at this rate. Let us cross over Southampton Water, and come to one of the finest sites for a holiday in England, and one of the least known—the New Forest. If a man wants to break new ground, within an easy journey of London, to get away from the madding crowd, and come face to face with nature, where can he do it better than here? You may drive, walk, and cycle about the New Forest for a month and hardly exhaust it, and though I dare say that an invasion of several thousand holiday-makers would exhaust the existing accommodation there is no difficulty in finding decent country quarters as things are. The London and South-Western Company's lodging list will be useful here. But if you cannot find what you want at Brockenhurst, Lyndhurst, or other forest villages I would point out that Bournemouth is quite close at hand, with unlimited hotel accommodation of the best quality. Bournemouth itself I will jump over, for the same reason that we have jumped over Eastbourne and Brighton, namely, that we are looking for new ground. There is plenty of it to be found in the adjoining county of Dorset. Most people know something of Bournemouth. But how many know Swanage? This is one of the most charming little places on the South Coast, with fine coast scenery all round it, excellent bathing, and a delightful country inland. One of the most interesting ruins in the country is close by—Corfe Castle, to wit. The whole coast of Dorsetshire, from Durlstone Head westwards, has the same beauty of rolling downs and chalk cliffs as the coast of Kent and Sussex; but the best of Dorsetshire lies inland, and not one Londoner in ten knows anything of it, unless through the medium of Mr. Hardy's novels. To those who have so much knowledge let me suggest a really "novel" holiday. Get hold of the little book which somebody published recently on Hardy's "Wessex," and explore the whole of that beautiful, unknown country, from Lulham Cove, where Sergeant Troy was *not* drowned; to Salisbury Plain, where Tess of the Durbervilles wandered in her trouble.

In the meantime, follow me into the further corner

of the county, passing Weymouth, which is making a bid to recover once more the proud position it held under the patronage of George the Third, quaint little Bridport—a place not to be overlooked when you are "doing" the Hardy country—and on to Lyme Regis and Charmouth. The name of Lyme Regis has become known in the world lately, the South-Western Company having just run a branch thither. The present writer has known it longer than he cares to reckon up, and would have been glad if the South-Western directors had never found it; but such regrets are vain in these days. You used to get to Lyme by coach from Axminster—where the carpets do not come from, though they did once—a glorious ride through a country of steep hills and plentiful wood, which is Devonshire in all but name; in fact, Axminster itself is in Devon, and the county boundary runs down to the sea only just the other side of Lyme Regis. Another beautiful coach ride in the olden time was from Bridport to Lyme. People who want to exercise their legs in their holidays, whether on foot or on bicycles, will find plenty of opportunity for it all round this corner of England, but the country is worth any labour that can be bestowed on seeing it. Lyme itself is a picturesque little fishing village, basking in the sun on the hillside, with a diminutive harbour, formerly a noted haunt of smugglers. It is an ideal spot for those who want a really primitive place for a holiday, though I suppose it will soon wake up and grow under the influence of the railway. Charmouth, two miles to the east, is another delightful seaside village, with a pretty little beach for children. A little further westward we come to the first of the Devonshire watering places, Seaton and Sidmouth, older established in public favour, but with the same charms of sea and surroundings. Budleigh Salterton, a few miles west of Sidmouth, is less known, but equally delightful, and within easy reach of Exeter and all the famous beauty spots of Devonshire.

To say anything adequate about Devonshire in a bird's-eye view of the country like this is out of the question. So far as I know—and I think I have been in all parts of the county—there is not a corner of it that is not worth a visit, and a month's tour would not suffice to exhaust it, even in these days of unlimited travelling facilities by road and rail. To any one who wants to make the acquaintance of Devonshire, I would say consult the Great Western and South-Western Companies, and try one or other of the tourist tickets that they offer in great variety, combining rail and coach—one of the great charms of Devonshire is the excellent coaching arrangements in all directions. To do the north it is best to approach by the Great Western, and begin with Minehead and the adjacent parts of Somersetshire, just as it is best to approach the south by the South-Western line, and include the West Dorsetshire district already mentioned. After doing Minehead—where do not omit Dunster and its castle—you make your way to Exmoor, where, taking in Lynton, you can spend just as long as you like, and thence on to Ilfracombe, Barnstaple, Bideford, and back by Exeter for the sake of the Cathedral. This round, of course, includes Clovelly, along with some of the most enchanting scenery that England can show. I hope it may be assumed that every reader of TRUTH has seen Clovelly, but if he has not he had better speedily relieve himself of this reproach. In spite of all the trippers that steamboats, coaches, and char-a-bancs can unload, it can never be anything but one of the beauty spots of the whole world, only to be equalled on the western coast of Italy. But when I find myself growing enthusiastic over the north coast of Devon, I am immediately prompted to pause, lest inadvertently I should deter any one from visiting the south. The mere village of Clovelly may be unique, but is there anything more beautiful on the north coast than the mouth of the Dart? I hardly think so. And is not Dartmoor a degree finer than Exmoor? When you have been over them both I think you will agree that it is. The best way to decide is to investigate Devonshire from end to end. But perhaps you have seen enough already of the show places of Devonshire; or perhaps taste and circumstances prompt you to a quiet holiday, rather than touring about. There are still plenty of openings for you. What do you say to Morthoe, a few miles west of Ilfracombe, or Woolacombe Bay, hard by? These places are on the west coast, and face the Atlantic breezes; there is no finer bathing in England than in Woolacombe Bay, and the charms of nature are rounded off by a golf course. Or come south again, and you will find another ideal spot of the same class just under Bolt Head at Salcombe, where John Anthony Froude lived and died. It is best reached by steamer from Kingsbridge, down a fine estuary, not unlike the mouth of the Dart. Kingsbridge itself you can get to by rail, though I recommend the coach ride from Dartmouth to any one who is not in a hurry. The coast scenery just here is perhaps finer than anywhere in North Devon, with trees growing and flowers blooming right down to the water's edge. But one might go on picking out places like these for hours. All over Devonshire, and especially round the fringe of Dartmoor, are to be found little earthly paradises for a quiet holiday, and they are not difficult to find.

Perhaps the best way to reach this end of England now is by the splendid Great Western non-stop express to Plymouth, which has brought the 246 miles down to less than a 4½ hours' journey—the finest railway run in the world. Plymouth Sound and Devonport Dockyard are worth seeing by every Briton for the same reasons as Portsmouth and Spithead; and Plymouth is an excellent starting point not only for excursions to Dartmoor and all over South Devon, but also for some of the prettiest parts of Cornwall. Cornwall itself is as fine a field for a holiday as Devon, with the advantage of being less over-run by holiday makers. Most people hurry through it to Newquay, St. Ives, and Penzance, but between the Tamar and Lostwithiel or Truro there is a country with many of the features of Devonshire—the same woods, dales, and streams, the same profusion of fruit at this end of the summer, the same rich dairy produce, the same clotted cream, the same cider. The south of Cornwall, to my thinking,

is most delightful in the cooler seasons, but the coast on the other side is generally breezy and invigorating in the hottest weather, and the sea itself is the veritable Atlantic. Newquay, where the coast scenery is perhaps at its best, is now pretty well known; but if you are in search of something new, let me introduce you to Boscastle, close by that famous spot, Tintagel. This is one of the most delightful little villages in the west, though it has many rivals scattered along the coast right down to the Land's End. One of the great advantages of a holiday in Cornwall is the cheapness of the living. It is perhaps wearing off a little, and of course the prices of the big hotels are much the same all the world over; but in those Cornish towns and villages which have not yet set up as advertising holiday resorts, the charges in the small inns and lodging houses are still lower than in most places further north, and I have known people who have been boarded and lodged in farmhouses at absurdly low rates. If you can make an arrangement with the right people, a saving may be effected in this way which will counterbalance the cost of the railway journey, though no one who makes his plans judiciously will ever grudge the money that takes him to Cornwall.

WHY ARE CHURCH BELLS RUNG?

The poet who declaimed in last week's Truth against the bells of Folkestone Parish Church has struck a chord which evidently vibrates responsive in many a breast. I could fill a column with the letters I have received on the same subject from different towns in the Kingdom; and this is not the first time I have had a similar experience. Where the evil is so widespread, it is perhaps invidious to single out any individual town, but I am specially impressed by a visitor to Bournemouth, who in denouncing the bells of St. Peter's Church in that otherwise salubrious town, asserts that they have driven many invalids out of the neighbourhood, if not out of Bournemouth. This suggests reflections well worth the consideration of the natives and local authorities in "health resorts."

Why are church bells rung? I ask the question seriously, because I really do not know the reason, and have never found anybody who does. The practice is apparently of mediæval origin, and I was once told by one who affected a knowledge of such matters that the idea was to drive away the devils from the scene of divine worship. I can understand that it might have this effect; but may it not drive away the sinners too, and possibly a few of the saints? Besides, is it justifiable to drive away the poor devils? I suppose the idea is that a devil would only come to church for his own devilish ends; but I do not know that we have any right to assume this. Even granting, on Athanasian principles, that all the devils are damned beyond redemption, they may still cherish secret yearnings after better things; and in that case we ought not to be too hard on them, however superior we may feel. Looking at it from the standpoint of the most orthodox theology, any devil, from the Arch-Enemy downwards, must be an object of pity, and if in his awful state he derives even temporary comfort from standing by the door and listening to a sermon, or even to the singing of a hymn, I would not myself leave my pew to throw a stone at him, still less ring a big bell at him. But I do not myself believe that the devils are a bit frightened of bells. It may sound heretical to say so, but I believe they *do* get into church sometimes in spite of the loudest peals, and perform all sorts of pranks inside—put devout worshippers to sleep; make people lose their purses, or all their money except the coppers, when the plate is coming round; cause young men and maidens to make eyes at one another; prompt boys to play secretly with marbles and things; inspire ladies with envy of their neighbours' bonnets; and incite even serious men to contradict the preacher. Besides, if there were anything in this theory of church bells, the effect of the instrument would not be limited to the precincts of the church. A man could always protect himself from the powers of darkness by carrying a bell about and ringing it occasionally. Every muffin-man would be an earthly saint.

I ask, therefore, again, Why are church bells rung? The practice clearly cannot have the authority of the primitive Church, on which modern Christians take their stand more and more. The early Christians worshipped mostly in back parlours, or in the convenient seclusion of places like the catacombs, and the last thing they desired, as a rule, was to obtrude their religious gatherings on the notice of their neighbours. Nor, when the Christian religion became, to its very doubtful advantage, "by law established," was there any reason to announce the hour of worship by ringing bells. Everybody knew the time of the church services, and if any one stopped away on the ground that he did not hear the bell, the excuse would have been as little use to him as it would to a modern schoolboy who failed to get up in the morning for the same reason.

It may be said that people had no means of knowing the time of day in the middle ages except by the church bells. That is the only intelligible reason I ever heard for ringing them, but it has ceased to have any point since the Swiss and the Germans and the Americans took to dumping cheap clocks in every Christian household. People get to chapel in time without a bell to call them. Why not to church? In point of fact, the bell-less little Bethel is often filled both fuller and more punctually than its haughty Anglican neighbour with the clanging peal. It is true bells are rung at railway stations when a train is about to start, but this is a convenience to the people who are seeking hurried refreshment in the bars, or smoking furtive cigarettes on the platform till the last second; and, what is of more importance, it does not annoy anybody who is not concerned with the train. If a peal of bells were set up in a tower at every terminus and at all the stations of the Twopenny Tube and the Underground, and rung for every train, there would be an insurrection. Yet it may be as bad for a man to lose his train as to be late for church. They do not even have bells at the theatres, and I doubt if they would be allowed to. We thus see that theology, primitive usage, modern utilitarianism, all alike fail to yield the slightest justification for this nuisance. I think, therefore, that the Church should be called upon to show cause why it should not be abated.

THE THEATRES.

"The Pharisee's Wife."

Taken in comparison with many of the plays that one has witnessed during the last twelvemonth, "The Pharisee's Wife" has—virtues. Not that the lady is absolutely impeccable from the point of view of the play any more than she is so in the play as a personage. As has been already remarked elsewhere, her promise to forgive her husband when he himself has learned to forgive, at the drop of the curtain on the first act, savours overmuch of prophecy, since she cannot be aware of her own little flirtation, which has its incipience in the second act only. There is also a certain element of unreality in the way in which dialogue is accorded to certain of the characters, remarks which in themselves are quite amusing, but rather the birth of forethought on the part of the writer than of inevitable circumstance. At the back of the play is the thesis of Alexandre Dumas—the equality of the sexes. "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; but if you promise not to pluck out my eye, I will leave yours undisturbed, and it will be much more comfortable for both." In this play the authoress, Mrs. George Paston, is however, very moderate in the amount of sinning which she permits to her heroine, who yields but for a moment to the fiery embrace of Henry Carrington. Only a kiss, on her side, and an entire Mrs. Lewis, with bills, and supper, and jewellery, on her husband's. But this modest allowance of osculation is enough to prove the thesis from the point of view of the stage. The reconciliation between husband and wife is effected in the last act, after the departure of Mrs. Lewis, with becoming triumph on the part of the wife and shame on that of the husband, who has hitherto been so Spartan in his requirements from others.

The scene between Miss Madge McIntosh, as the wife, and Miss Darragh, as Mrs. Lewis, the mistress, was the most interesting moment of the afternoon. Both ladies did very well here—Miss Darragh, who had not appeared in the first two acts, in creating a whole tradition of immorality by her walk, gesture, and speech; Miss McIntosh in the expression of pity and sympathy which overcomes all other feelings when she sees that Mrs. Lewis is a dying woman. There was no particular reason, so far as the construction was concerned, why Mrs. Lewis should have come on at all. It might have been managed by a conversation between the husband and wife, but on the other hand we should have missed the pleasure of seeing Miss Darragh and witnessing a fine piece of acting. Miss Madge McIntosh had a far longer period of probation, being the central figure and practically in view the whole time. The most wearisome period of the afternoon was the dialogue which opens the second act. Here Mrs. Rolfe held forth about matrimony, and gave tedious advice. Miss Hilda Rivers did not contrive to make this part sympathetic, but I am not sure it was her fault. Then there was a tiresome little boy with his holiday task which had nothing to do with the play, and his verses about Chamberlain and quotations from Shakespeare would be very well away, though they got a laugh from that part of the audience which would be equally well pleased if the play stopped for a quarter of an hour and the principals executed a breakdown. It would be quite sufficient to indicate that there are children of the marriage.

Mr. C. Aubrey Smith gave a notably fine performance of the husband, so stern to others and so lenient to himself. Helped by his physiognomy, Mr. Aubrey Smith looked a very Draco as he sat in judgment upon the young apprentice who had robbed the till. Mr. George Trollope was excellent in this study of a certain class as he had been in "The Man of Honour." To return to Mr. Smith, his work all through the piece was on a high level, especially the difficult scene of reconciliation with his wife.

On the whole, one can fairly say that the play was above the average, and the three players especially named in this article altogether superior, whilst their surroundings among the other characters, mostly also gleaned, I see, "by permission," from the leading managements, did justice to what was good, though they were unable to fill the gaps of ennui where the pen of the writer ran away with her.

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I am asked to announce the day and night fête in honour of Queen Margherita of Italy's birthday at the Italian Exhibition, Earl's Court, to-day (Wednesday). The whole of the buildings and grounds will be brilliantly illuminated with many luminous devices. The entire proceeds will be handed over to the Italian Hospital and other Italian charitable undertakings.

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"Sergeant Brue" has certainly benefited by his change of residence from the Strand to the Prince of Wales's Theatre. The piece seems to have been drawn together, and has more vitality than when it was first produced. Mr. Willie Edouin has built up his part as I thought would probably be the case. Miss Millie Legarde now takes the place of Miss Ethel Irving, and has a good new song in the last act, which takes the form of a skit on the stage. Miss Olive Morell and Miss Zena Dare have both new songs, and the latter adds to her song a charming dance. Miss Hilda Trevelyan being absent, the part of Daisy is now being played by Miss Ruth Savile, a change for the better. With these changes, and the advantage of a better theatre, I see no reason why Mr. Owen Hall's clever play should not have a long run.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE BEY OF TUNIS.

FETES on fixed dates seem to me a mistake. It is better to have them in connection with some fresh event, or the glorification of some great citizen. We are sick of the Fourteenth of July, which is now so different from what it was in the three or four years that followed the defeat of Marshal Macmahon and his Moral Order friends. The enthusiasm with which we kept "La Sainte Bastille" lent it a glamour, if not a poetry, that it has since lost by repetition. For the last quarter of a century we have been on the same date seeing the same

flags, artificial garlands, globular lights arranged as festoons; the same reviews, fireworks, illuminated public buildings, and dances at public places. This time the Government managed to vary the show by exhibiting the Bey of Tunis in grand state. He and his two sons in their Tunisian uniforms looked magnificent show guests. Their arrival, their drives through Paris, the official dinners and lunches in their honour, and their visit to Versailles, took place with all the pomp displayed when a king is the guest of the Republic. There was just this difference. M. Loubet did not accompany the Bey either from or to the railway, the opera, or the Château of Louis XIV., which the Bey had the good nature to visit, for he had often seen it before he rose to his present situation. In going to Versailles he complied with an official programme. He knew the Government wanted to amuse the public by exhibiting him, and, in spite of the heat that he found more than trying, he visited the museum town. But there he begged to be allowed to sit on a garden bench at the Trianon, while his sons were taken round. M. Pichon, the French Resident at Tunis, accompanied Sidi Mohamed el Hadji to France. They crossed in the *Desaix* man-of-war, and made the land journey in the Presidential train. The Resident attended all the festivities in the Bey's honour. The protocol allowed sovereign status to his Highness. If the Sultan, who claims to be his over-lord, did not object in terms, he ordered his Ambassador to proceed to Brussels, and remain there during Sidi Mohamed's visit.

The numerous suite included a French surgeon and physician, a German oculist, and an American dentist. The Tunisian doctor came rather for the Arab servants than for his Highness and the two Princes, his sons. The beylical party had the whole first floor of the Elysée Palace Hotel to themselves, and a part of the attic for the humbler attendants. The military members of the suite wore gorgeous uniforms resembling those of consular dragomans in the Levant, and glowing with gold braiding. The chief sumptuary distinction between them and the Princes was the long thick golden tassel ornamenting the fez of each of the latter. *A propos* of the fez, a funny printer's mistake caught my eye in reading a descriptive report of the Bey's visit. "Son Altesse, en saluant, porte sa main à son nez." The reporter would have written: "porte sa main à son fez." Only the difference of one letter, still——

The Bey is an early riser. His *petit déjeuner* is simply a glass of cold water, filtered by a porous jar of coarse pottery. His sons take *café au lait*, or chocolate with thin toast or those porous rolls known here as *flûtes*. The three lunched and dined out every day, and ate sparingly. Sidi Mohamed el Hadji is strikingly tall, has a healthy, florid complexion, an upright carriage, and a well-braced air. The eyes, black, bright, and watchful, and the cut of his features are those of a Corsican peasant. His short, stubbly beard, black at the roots and white at the end, is cut round and not imposing. He is the husband of but one wife, which he says is in conformity with the Prophet's teaching. The Koran allows plurality of wives on one condition—that of absolute justice to all, and no preference for any one in particular. Sidi Mohamed used to be as much the Boulevardier as King Edward, and speaks French like a Parisian. He takes pride in a Corsican ancestress. Her patronymic was Ramolino, which may or may not indicate relationship to the mother of Napoleon. Seized by Algerine pirates, she entered the harem of I forget what Bey of Tunis from the slave market, and, becoming the mother of his only son, became the lawful wife. She lost her husband early. His successor, a poor fool, allowed her to reign in his name, and she continued, when he died, to reign through her son and with marked ability. She fostered a movement to detach Tunis from the Turkish Empire, and contended that the Sultan had no right there to temporal power.

The Bey spends four months every year at Tunis and eight at grave, sombre Carthage. He takes a passionate interest in the ruins, and never tires of studying history in connection with them. Sidi Mohamed is perhaps the only Moslem prince who has shed tears over the lamentations of Dido, as given in Latin verse by Virgil. He encourages by every means those antiquarians who seek to lay bare the foundations of the city which Rome feared as a rival. In his mind, Carthage was the finest achievement of the Semitic race. As the dead never wholly die, who can say that the archæologists now digging among the ruins may not set her on her feet again? There would be no modern Athens but for the Acropolis. The new birth of Italy is due to the historical studies that followed the discovery of the buried cities on the flank of Vesuvius. The Bey sometimes uses Oriental figures of speech. Thus he speaks of having seen a huge being rising from an immemorial sleep, and dazed to see peoples, of whom Carthage knew nothing when the long slumber began, now masters of the blue sea in front and the vast continent behind. The time for them to lie down and sleep perhaps draws nigh. What is Paris compared to majestic Carthage? A lively, frivolous flirt!

His Highness has a large fortune besides his Civil List annuity. He looks carefully to the development of his estates, his horse farms, and vineyards, and to his royalty on the fisheries of the Bay of Bizerta. They are so considerable, since the French took them over, as to pay all expenses incurred in deepening the bay and turning it into a military port. Red mullet, tunny, and other Mediterranean fish are drawn there in shoals all the year round. The attraction is the superior warmth of the water. A net has only to be thrown down to be at once filled. A line of steamers will soon be established to take Bizerta fish to Marseilles.

The Bey had innumerable applications for decorations during his short stay in Paris. He stayed just the same length of time as Kings Edward and Victor Emmanuel. The photographs of ladies submitted to him were not sent back because there were so many. He is mistrustful of enterprising "Christian" ladies. The one who went with Count de Sancy to Tunis to inveigle the late Bey into granting the Count a long tract of pasturage may

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

be said to have enabled the French to get their little finger into beylical affairs. Mlle. Valtesse, set on by a consular official interested in the Dupuis claim on Tonquin, persuaded Gambetta to promote the first military expedition there. These reflections are made for the benefit of the two young Princes, the Bey not being a polygamist.

The accords between Great Britain and France on the one hand and Italy and France on the other have dashed any hope the Bey indulged in of something turning up favourable to independence. The French protectorate, he sees, has been advantageous to his State. Tunis governed by him under French advice is better off than it used to be. He points proudly to the fact that it is far better off than Algeria with its purely French Government.

The French Government have been all sweetness towards the Bey. They were glad to have him here for the demonetised Fourteenth of July, for the Parisians like to see a king as a gratis spectacle. They, secondly, wanted to parade him before the Moroccans as a well-satisfied protégé enjoying a quasi-royal position. News travels fast in Moslem countries. In a few days the Cherif of Morocco, nobody can tell how, and the wild tribes of his empire will have heard of the fine reception the Bey met with. The hospitable courtesies heaped on him and all the good he says France has done to Tunis may dispose Morocco to accept this Republic as an overruling Providence. I doubt, however, if it will. Atlantic winds and spray brace up the Moors, and make them in toughness and courage foremost among the sons of the Prophet. They are an intractable race and attached to their soil and customs, which suit them better than any Europe could force upon them. You might pit them against Scotch Highlanders in endurance and cat-like sinews. That Atlantic influence is a marvellous spur to combative qualities. The French owe to it their primacy among the Latin countries. France slopes gently from the Vosges and the Central Mountains towards the Atlantic, and is thus exposed to its breezes. The prevailing winds are south-west, bringing fertility and health with them. I have, when run down from life in Paris, gone to recoup to places on the Beauce tableland in preference to the immediate vicinity of the great ocean, which is too damp to suit me. How often have I not almost smelt the Atlantic air, divested of the spray, on the Place de la Cathédrale at Chartres? I have never been in the interior of Morocco, but am told by persons who have travelled there that health and long life may be found on those terraced highlands facing west. When it does not rain, the climate is the most bright, breezy, and bracing of any in the world. They preferred it to that of Southern California. It is alike good for man, horses, sheep, and goats. I am persuaded that Atlantic breezes have enabled little Portugal to hold her own against Spain.

I have often called attention to the scandalous appropriation of the State forests for the delectation of plutocrats. If they paid for the use of these public properties in proportion to their wealth there might be some excuse for the course the Domains Department follows. But official hocus-pocus helps them to lease at not much more than nominal rents the forest lands of the State. Under the Empire the public enjoyed them as fully as the Imperial Court, with the exception of some reserved parts, never very extensive, where pheasants were reared. For instance, the Marquis de Montebello, ex-Ambassador to St. Petersburg, pays 6 fr. 95 c. for his shooting in the Forest of l'Ile Adam. I forget what Dives rents the best part of the Forest of Compiègne for something under 9,000 fr. a year. The Domains let that forest for about the same sum to Sir Richard Wallace, the pretext being gratitude for the Wallace fountains in Paris and the hope of some lines in favour of France in his will. That most unscrupulous of business men, Lebaudy, father of Le Petit Sucrier and of the "Emperor of Morocco," hired for next to nothing the great stretch of forest on the ridge above the Valley of Montmorency. Its delicious paths up hill and down dale were blocked. Gamekeepers in the Lebaudy livery pounced down on any lover of nature who attempted to cross the obstructing fences, or, when they were of barbed wire, to turn them. In the autumn months, when the forests are in their most glorious clothing, notices warned off the public. The lessee and his friends then enjoyed the sport of shooting, and stray shot or slugs might maim or kill intruders. Lest game may be frightened, one must not take one's dog into the forest avenues, or so much as hum an air as one rambles in glade or wide avenue. M. Brisson, ex-Prime Minister, and again President of the Chamber, cannot go through the forest with anything like the same liberty as when the Imperial Court stayed at the château. He has had to give up taking his dog, gamekeepers in private liveries threatening to shoot the animal. The Forest of Fontainebleau is now leased, and for a trifling rent, to mondain syndicates for shooting and stag-hunting. From puffed-up pride and exclusiveness, they instruct their gamekeepers to make themselves disagreeable to ramblers. As they are lessees the law is on their side. The forests should be schools for the æsthetic sense and sanatoria open to all.

Perhaps in another twenty years France will have to give up all agriculture but dairy and fresh vegetable farming or gardening and to depend chiefly on her artistic faculties. She cannot compete, however protected by tariffs, with America on the lines the Americans have adopted. I met the other day a Californian asparagus king who had just had the news of the destruction by an inundation of 14,000 acres of asparagus raised for bottling. When the Panama canal is open, and farmers in the Pacific States are independent of the railways, preserved vegetables and fruits will be sold in Europe for less than half their present prices. This ought not to matter to the French, who have still the primacy in elegant and decorative taste. France is the artist country of Europe. But as such she may well, in two or three generations, be run close by the Americans. This any one can foresee who watches the tide of Italian emigration to the United States. At certain hours of the day one may see hundreds of Italian men, women, and children who have come by the Mont Cenis or the

Saint Gothard lines, and are hastening to the St. Lazare terminus to take ship at Havre for New York. One notices in them the very pick of the best peoples of Italy, those of Piedmont, Lombardy, Tuscany, and the Emilian provinces. They have fine bodies, and their faces glow with high vitality. All seem possessed by an idea that drives them on. Not one of them looks to right or left, so set are their faces on the Promised Land before them. It must prove a *mirage* to many, but the fine health and the lowly ambitions of the emigrants will make the promise reality. They are ready for any work, however humble, as were those who went before them not many years ago, and are now owners of the finest houses on the Lake front at Chicago. They will sell oranges in the streets, make ices on costers' carts, black shoes, help cooks in hotels as scullions, save money all the time, and, not drinking spirits, keep their health to old age. These crowds have been pouring through Paris for the last fifteen years.

Think of the effect American free schools, and American institutions generally, will have on the reserves of human energy that have been accumulating in Italians for the three hundred years in which they have lain in fallow. Those instincts, coming down to them from an old and very high civilisation, must undergo a new birth in the United States—an event that in all probability will be marked by a transcendent and thoroughly healthy bloom of artistic faculties. Against the Americanised Italians to whom we may look forward a few generations hence, France, deprived of the freedom of the parks and State forests, will be at a serious disadvantage. These open spaces are being everywhere turned into playgrounds for rich adults. They have crowded the working class—the class that produces in this country the greatest number of great artists—out of the Bois, which is now too small for tennis court, polo and golf grounds, and racecourses. On financial grounds the leasing of that park for fashionable recreations is like the sale of the birthright for a mess of pottage. Every such space in our over-crowded Europe should be held sacred as the highest school of all—the school for the visual and æsthetic senses. Modern artisans are inferior to those of past centuries because, cities and industrial towns being now so big, they had not in childhood an easy access to the country.

Another topsy-turvy event. The Théâtre de Cluny has obtained a café concert licence, the studious youth of the Latin Quarter having deserted it for Antoine's. One might write an essay on the reasons. Other theatres may go in the wake of Cluny, which at length follows the example of Les Folies Bergère.

The late Mme. Marie Laurent is, I hear, to be commemorated by a bust at Tulle, her natal town. Her father was a member of a theatrical family, the Luguets, remarkable for their power of expression and emotional intensity in melodrama. On retiring from the stage he went to live at Tulle. His sister, the great Mme. Dorval, whom we associate with the elder Dumas and Alfred de Vigny, gave Marie Laurent the few lessons she ever received. This actress could not personate a *femme distinguée*. She belonged, in a superior manner, to the people, and looked it. Strong instinctive virtues and honest emotions best suited her. No other actress of her time approached her as a stage mother. In this character, whether her children were infants or adults, she drew crowds. One of her grand successes was as the mother of the two little children hiding in the forest of Victor Hugo's "Quatre Vingt Treize." Dennery wrote for her "Les Deux Orphelines." Any one who saw her in "Thérèse Raquin" can never forget the power and verisimilitude with which she personated the paralysed, and, from paralysis, speechless old woman, who overheard the confession of a murder. The murdered person was her son. As she could not read nor write, the murderer, on finding he had spoken in her hearing, felt easy as to consequences. But when confronted with him the thrill of emotion that passed through her, enabled her to speak. She had clarion-like tones in her voice, which enhanced her inimitable diction and by-play. Marie Laurent played up to the age of seventy-four. She received, fifteen years ago, the Red Ribbon for her noble creation of L'Orphelinat des Arts, or asylum for the orphaned daughters of artists. She had the fine firm character she so well represented.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE Paragraph Duchess," dear Lady Betty, is responsible for many a ruined home! The writer of the following letter states his case clearly:—

"SIR,—I live at Highgate, and am a partner in a small firm in the City. The income which I obtain from my business enables me to employ three indoor servants, a coachman, and a gardener. I am, therefore, a man in comfortable circumstances, though of moderate means.

"My wife reads every day in the newspapers that the Duchess of this, Lady that, or Mrs. the other, has walked in Hyde Park, has attended some races, has been seen on the river, has had luncheon, dinner, or supper at a fashionable restaurant, has been present at the opera, has danced at a ball, and has worn priceless jewels and gorgeous costumes. She imagines now that every woman who does not live as those ladies apparently do is neglected by her husband, and this leads to continual quarrels at home.

"Do those prominent women really lead the dissipated lives which the paragraph writers describe; have they no cares or duties; have they received a dispensation to break the Ten Commandments; and is the pursuit of pleasure their only purpose in life? There are now thousands of men who would like to have those questions answered, for these 'society' paragraphs are read in almost every home, and influence the mind of almost every woman. When a woman marries is she entitled to sing with the Peri:

Joy, joy for ever, my task is done—
The gates are opened, and heaven is won?

And over the matrimonial door is man now to read th quotation from Dante:

All ye who enter here, abandon hope?

—Faithfully yours, "A DISTRESSED HUSBAND."

It is not all jewels and joy in Mayfair! That letter will be more easily answered by taking two lives to study.

The Duchess has a hundred-and-one connections who must not be ignored, many of whom have power, and can make it bitterly felt; has friends, and even enemies, who have to be cultivated, or propitiated; has political, social, public, and other duties that cannot be neglected; and has, moreover, calls upon her time and endurance from the various estates which belong to her husband, and from the counties in which they are situated. There are thousands of letters that have to be written in the year; there are thousands of irksome visits to be paid and received; there are a multitude of meetings to be attended; engagements must often be kept when ill, or when toothache or headache make life almost unendurable, or when the mind is occupied with private interests or anxieties; but, nevertheless, the manners must not be one whit less pleasant than usual, and the smile not a whit less agreeable!

The suburban lady has her small house to manage, has a dozen or two friends to cultivate, has comparatively few letters to write each day, and has seldom a public duty to perform which cannot be postponed or avoided.

There is a scramble in the street for a coin. Those who are nearest to the prize are struggling fiercely, tearing and hitting each other savagely. Those who are on the outer rim of the crowd make but occasional and good-humoured attempts to reach the centre. That is the difference between the two lives which have been described.

The surface of "society" is unquestionably delightful, and it is only that which the paragraph-writers describe; but below the surface are millions of mortifications, of disappointments, of duties, trials, and anxieties.

* * * * *

During the last half-century many men of obscure origin have made their fortunes. Their wives have comparatively few connections and friends, and few duties outside the home. Those wives and their daughters often find that they have much time unoccupied, and this no doubt is tiresome. They drive to the West End in the afternoon, visit the shops, and buy things which they do not require, merely because it occupies the time to choose them; sit in Hyde Park, where they seldom see any one they know; attend a concert, or a bazaar; and return home grieving that they are not associated with more people and more interests. But that is the chief disadvantage of possessing wealth which has been made in a moment. The accumulated interests which a long-established family has to deal with certainly occupy the time; but, on the other hand, they provide duties which cannot be neglected, and are frequently more than irksome.

* * * * *

Great Britain is the most high-principled nation in the world with the most unprincipled Government. Whenever the Tories are driven from office, the electors have combined successfully to diminish the influence of a class which insists that it has the right to rule and live on the community. It is really a revolution, but in England on such occasions, those who govern do not lose their heads but their seats!

* * * * *

Chartran is a portrait painter whose name is famous both throughout Europe and in the United States, and he has been known in England for many years past. There is a small collection of portraits painted by him being exhibited now at the galleries of Messrs. Knoedler, in Old Bond-street. Amongst the portraits which the collection contains is one of Mrs. Edward Clayton, which is very remarkable; one of Cardinal Gibbons, which has been much admired in America; and beautiful portraits of Miss J. Deering and Mme. Calvé. The portrait of Signor Paolo Tosti is unquestionably the best that has been painted of that popular composer.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE King and Queen are expected to reside at Goodwood House from either Saturday or Monday next until Friday, the 29th. The estate of Goodwood (formerly Godenwood) was purchased in 1720 by the first Duke of Richmond from the Comptons. The house, which was designed by Chambers and completed by Wyatt, has no architectural beauty, but the interior is well arranged, and the principal rooms are very handsome. There is a fine gallery of pictures at Goodwood, including some very interesting portraits. The famous Vandyke, in the staircase-hall, of Charles I., Henrietta Maria, and the Princes Charles and James, is a replica of pictures at Windsor Castle and at Chatsworth. This work was purchased by the third Duke of Richmond, at the sale of the Orleans Gallery for £1,000. The portrait of the third Duchess in the waiting-room is one of the best works of Reynolds. The most remarkable picture in the collection (in the billiard-room) is "The Cenotaph of Lord Darnley," which was brought from the Château d'Aubigny, near Bourges, and carefully restored. There is a good library in the house, and valuable collections of old china and historical relics. The park at Goodwood, which is finely wooded and much diversified, is very attractive, and the views from the higher grounds are very grand. There are over a hundred of the best cedars of Lebanon in England, some noble chestnut avenues, and enormous beeches, cork-trees, oaks, and spruce firs. The old deer-park of Halnaker has been incorporated with the Goodwood domain. The race-course is not "in the park," as is usually stated, but is on its borders, just on the verge of the Downs, which extend to Petworth.

The Goodwood meeting bids fair to be the most brilliant on record from the social point of view. This will be the first visit of the King since his accession, and the Queen has not been present at the meeting since 1891. I hear that their Majesties are to drive in state on each day of the races from the house to the stand and back. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon will be himself at Molecomb, and there are to be large parties during the week at Petworth House, West Dean Park, Burton Park, Lavington House, Cowdray Park, Dale Park, Stanstead, Walberton, and other country seats in the neighbourhood, while Halnaker, and all the houses which were to let at Boxgrove, Singleton, Lavant, and other villages near the course have found tenants. There will be no party at Arundel Castle, as the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk have engagements in Ireland which will keep them out of Sussex during next week.

The new stand at Goodwood is much better placed than the old one, and all the occupants will have a good view of the racing. The stand will be ready for use next week, but much still remains to be done before the new arrangements are in full working order. Some of the papers refer to the structure which has been removed as "the original stand," which was built about a hundred years ago. This is a mistake, for that stand, which, to judge from pictures of it, was a small and homely building, was pulled down during the reign of George the Fourth, and was replaced by the one which has since been used. The Duke of Richmond and Gordon has expended a very large sum of money in erecting the new stand, and I do not see how he is to get an adequate return for his outlay. Goodwood is a free and open meeting, and the expenses are very heavy. There are only four days' racing over the course in each year, and the stand charges to the public are exceedingly moderate.

The Dukes of Richmond have usually been supporters of the Turf. The second Duke, who was Master of the Horse to George the Second, owned the well-known Richmond Turk, sire of Dale's Horse. The third Duke, who was Ambassador to the Court of Louis XV., established the Goodwood meeting in 1802, when Lord Egremont gave up the races, which had been held over a private course in Petworth Park. The Duke was

himself an owner of racehorses, and a member of the Jockey Club. The fourth Duke did not much concern himself with racing affairs, but his eldest son and successor, the fifth Duke, was a member of the Jockey Club for forty years, and he won the Oaks twice, the Goodwood Cup twice, and the One Thousand once. This Duke was an intimate friend of Lord George Bentinck, under whose auspices the course at Goodwood was greatly improved, and in the thirties and forties the meeting was from all points of view the most brilliant in England. The late Duke, who owned a few horses in early life, was a member of the Jockey Club for more than sixty years, and his brother, Lord Henry Gordon Lennox, also belonged to that society. The present Duke (as Lord March) rendered valuable services to the Turf as Steward of the Jockey Club. The Richmond colours (yellow and black cap) were in abeyance for a long time after the late Duke ceased to own horses, and they were taken by the late Mr. Henry Savile, on whose horses they were successful in the Derby, the Grand Prix, the Ascot Cup, and many other important races.

That a large reduction in the number of meetings is eminently desirable is proved by the miserably small entries obtained for all the handicaps which have recently closed. Only thirty horses have been engaged in the Hurst Park Holiday Handicap of £1,000, although the minor forfeit is merely £3. The Brighton Stakes of £500 has only seventeen entries, but still more amazing is the collapse of the Marine Plate of £300, for which only twenty horses have been engaged, although it is run over the popular distance of five furlongs. The Brighton Cup of £500 has sixteen entries. Twenty-nine horses are engaged in the Lewes Handicap of £500, and twenty-eight in the Stockton Handicap of £400.

There is something melancholy also in the deplorable manner in which races with immense entries have lately cut up. This has been a marked feature in two-year-old events especially. At Newmarket there were 237 entries for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10.000, but there were actually only four starters (odds of 100 to 6 betted on the winner), although there were the baits of £1,700 for second horse and £1,000 for the third, which might surely have produced a respectable field if only in number. At Lingfield, again, there were 163 entries for the Park Plate of £3,000, but only three horses started!

I am much grieved to hear that Mr. James Lowther is very seriously ill, and his condition justifies grave anxiety. Even if Mr. Lowther rallies, it is improbable that he will be able to resume either active political life or his visits to Newmarket and other leading racecourses. Mr. Lowther has always been very popular on the Turf, and he has been held in the highest esteem by all classes of racing men. He was generally regarded as the natural successor of Admiral Rous, resembling him in his strong, shrewd common-sense, his thorough honesty, and his complete knowledge of every branch of racing affairs. He is an upright and a downright man, and there never was a more efficient Steward of the Jockey Club. His failing health has kept him away from the meetings of the Club for some time past, and he has been much missed. Mr. Lowther's political life has extended over nearly forty years, and his career in the House of Commons has been in accordance with his course on the Turf. He has been from first to last a thoroughly consistent politician, and has never deserted the old-fashioned Tory principles with which he commenced life, and which are hereditary in his family. Mr. Lowther has always been a thorough-going Protectionist of the Lord George Bentinck school, and has never played fast and loose with his views. He has always been very popular on both sides of the House of Commons, being clever, outspoken, and genial, and always full of dry humour.

There ought to be some interesting sport at Goodwood next week. The "going" there is always excellent, and at present the course is in first-rate order. The two-year-old events appear to be unusually open. It is to be feared that the two-year-olds are a moderate lot, for they keep beating each other, and seem to be all heads and tails together. Every one knows that this season's three-year-olds are desperately bad, with one or two exceptions, and there ought to be a fair number of runners for every race of this class at Goodwood. There are sure to be large fields for the handicaps, and, although the class of the starters for the Goodwood Cup will be grievously low, yet there ought to be several runners, as there is no "crack" left in with such a marked superiority in form as to frighten away opponents.

There are nineteen two-year-olds entered for the Ham Stakes on Tuesday, and the race will be worth £1,200 even if only five start. The Duke of Portland will probably win with Pamflete. Fifty-three two-year-olds are left in for the Richmond Stakes, which will be worth £1,180 if ten run. Vedas is the best of the public lot, and he may have recovered by this time from the cough from which he was suffering when Cicero defeated him for the Coventry Stakes at Ascot. Vedas, however, may not be able to give the weight to Lord Crewe's Polymelus, who was highly tried before Ascot, and he was amiss when he ran at that meeting for the Triennial. There are thirty-eight entries for the Lavant Stakes on Wednesday, and Full Cry and Thrush are the best of the lot. This race should be a good thing for the Duke of Devonshire's unlucky filly, if she has not previously incurred a penalty. On Thursday there are fifty-two acceptances for the Rous Memorial Stakes, which will be worth over £1,200, and the list includes Sir E. Cassel's Prudent King, Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Mr. James's Atlas, Mr. King's Comedian, Mr. Neumann's Llangibby, and Captain Orr-Ewing's Thrush. If the Chesterfield Stakes running was right, then Comedian ought to win here, as his penalty is reduced by a 5 lb. breeding allowance. The Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes, which will be worth £2,800, may be left to Full Cry, who can surely defeat Amitié, although Sir James Miller's filly will have the best of the weights. The entry includes Sir D. Cooper's Fleta, half-sister, by St. Simon, to Flotsam; Mr. Musker's 2,000 gs. filly Lilla, by St. Simon out of Melody; Lord Derby's filly by Persimmon out of Canterbury Pilgrim; Lord Rosebery's Samphire, by Isinglass out of Chelandry, and Vasco, by Velasquez out of Seabreeze; and the Duke of Westminster's Wetaria, own sister to Flying Fox. On Friday there are thirty-five entries for the Molecomb Stakes, including Vedas, Standen (winner of the Hurstbourne Stakes at the Bibury Club meeting), and Galantine.

Twenty-five three-year-olds are entered for the Gratwicke Stakes on Tuesday, and they are a moderate lot. Darley Dale or Henry the First may be able to win. Thirty-two dreadfully bad horses are left in for the Sussex Stakes on Wednesday, of which Mr. Baird's Mousqueton and Lord Farquhar's Airlie are perhaps the pick. There are forty entries for the Nassau Stakes on Friday, and Pretty Polly will win if she is all right. There are twenty-four acceptances for the Gordon Stakes of £1,000; John o' Gaunt or Montem may win.

There were 102 entries for the Goodwood Cup when that race closed in September, 1901, but only twenty horses now remain in the race, and they are animals of abject class. His Majesty's Chatsworth has been in reserve for this race, and he ought to win if he is worth keeping in training, as he has all the allowances, and most of the animals engaged which have been able to win races have extra weight to carry; William Rufus, for example, has 13 lb. the worst of the weights with Chatsworth.

Mr. Brassey's racehorses were offered for sale at Newmarket on Thursday morning, and the best prices realised were 1,550 gs., paid by Mr. Henning for the three-year-old Galapas, winner of the Zetland Plate on Wednesday; and 1,500 gs., which Mr. Faber gave for Saltpetre, in the hope of next week winning the Goodwood Cup with this horse. Wild Oats, Tom Thumb, and Joyous all failed to reach their reserves, which must have been preposterously high if it was really desired to get rid of these animals. In the opinion

of most people, Wild Oats would have been uncommonly well sold at 3,100 gs., and Joyous at 1,850 gs., if there were really bonâ-fide bids of those sums for these two animals. Mr. Brassey is desirous of selling Sefton Lodge, which is one of the nicest places at Newmarket, and admirably situated at the corner of the Severals, and overlooking the Warren Hill gallops.

The Second July meeting was a great success, there being good fields throughout, and some of the finishes were exceptionally close. The selling plate winners excited a remarkably brisk competition, and the class of the competitors in many of the other races was most satisfactory. There ought always to be large fields over the July Course, as in summer the going there is the best in England, only excepting Goodwood, when the weather is hot and dry. It is a point also in favour of the July meetings that the course affords both a severe and an easy track, so that an owner can select a race which will just suit his horse. The B.M. finish is decidedly severe, while the New T.Y.C. is one of the easiest tracks on Newmarket Heath. Prudent King was made a great favourite for the Soltykoff Stakes, but he ran very badly, and there was no excuse for his defeat. If (as was stated before the race) Prudent King was the best of his owner's two-year-olds, they must be an exceedingly moderate lot. The defeat of Wild Oats for the Dullingham Plate was a dreadful crash for plungers, for he was regarded as a certainty, although it was known that Mr. Brassey's horse had not done much work since Sandown. Wild Oats has no liking for hard ground, and he lacks stamina for a race over the B.M. The knocking out of Rondeau to 10 to 1 was most mysterious, for many good judges fancied her, as she had been going very well of late in her gallops. Bolsover was said to be a good thing for the Beaufort Stakes, but he performed miserably, and it would be interesting to learn what the trial had been which induced so many people to back him to recover their losses on the previous races. Chacornac managed to scramble home a neck in front of the much-fancied Vergia, which was a creditable performance, as the winner was running out of his best course. Hazafi ran well in this race, considering his heavy weight, and he is quite likely to win a handicap at Goodwood, in spite of his defeat at Sandown. Nabot was heavily backed for the July Handicap, although he was giving 12 lb. to Countermark, who won very easily, and he is an exceptionally smart horse over six furlongs. Odds were laid on Grey Plume for the Zetland Plate, but Galapas, who was not backed for sixpence, outstayed both the Duke of Westminster's colt and Mousqueton, who carried a lot of money. This was one of the worst races of the week for backers.

Fiancée is evidently out of all form, judging from her ignominious exhibition in the Midsummer Stakes, for which race Golden Saint was made favourite, but Antonio won easily. The Chesterfield Stakes was regarded as a good thing for Llangibby, but he began badly, and was never dangerous, Comedian winning in a canter from Atlas, who has been extravagantly overrated. If Mr. King's colt was all right when he ran at Gosforth Park last month, it is clear that Cyanean must be one of the smartest two-year-olds in training. This filly's next engagements are at Redcar and at Stockton, and she is entered for the £1,000 race at Derby on August 30. Cyanean is nominated in all these events by her breeder, Lord Londonderry.

The sales at Newmarket were very slack indeed, and there was a depressing tenuity in the biddings, many animals being passed out without a single offer being made. Mr. Gubbins obtained 3,000 gs. from Mr. Musker for Temple Hill, own sister to Galtee More, and she will be put to Melton next year. The next highest price was 1,350 gs., which was paid for The Dhow, a two-year-old filly by Pioneer out of Kendal Belle. She is probably smart, as she was not allowed to leave the Beckhampton stable, and among the other animals which returned to that establishment were Caravel and the three-year-olds Dividend, Sweet John, and Cinder filly. Dividend is a nice sort of beast to have been backed for the Derby, and he was quite a fancied outsider at one time. His price was 720 gs. Lord Rosebery must have been singularly sanguine if he really expected to get 2,000 gs. for the colt by Velasquez out of Orelia. He is handsome and racing-like, but this is a lean season, and it is a waste of time, trouble, and money to send up animals with high reserves. Eight of the Mentmore team changed hands, the highest price being 500 gs., which was paid by Mr. Harrison for a very nice filly by Ladas out of Apennine. Another filly which was much liked was the daughter of Velasquez and Serpentine, who went cheap to S. Loates for 300 gs.

St. Amant was finally withdrawn from the Eclipse Stakes because it was feared that a race on the hard ground, following on his recent mishap, might cause him to become sore, if nothing worse. The colt is likely to take things easily for the present, and when rain has fallen at Newmarket he will begin his preparation for the St. Leger, after which he is to be reserved for the Jockey Club Stakes. St. Amant will not fulfil his engagement at Derby on August 31.

The withdrawal of St. Amant from the Eclipse Stakes deprived that race of all interest, and it was contested by seven very moderate animals. I am much disposed to think that Henry the First would have won if he had been favoured with a clear course, but he appeared to be considerably muddled about during the latter part of the race, and the Kingsclere pair, Darley Dale and Rydal Head, finished first and second. Some wiseacres now describe the Duke of Portland's colt as improving rapidly, and likely to be heard of in connection with the St. Leger. While Ajax, Pretty Polly, St. Amant, and John o' Gaunt are on their legs, only a mooncalf would accept 100 to 1 about Darley Dale. My own opinion is that if Henry the First had been more judiciously ridden, he would have won the Eclipse Stakes easily. Madden appeared to have waited too long, and when at last he did come with his mount the colt could not get through.

After some hesitation, Lord Rosebery finally decided to start Cicero for the National Breeders' Produce Stakes on Saturday, and the colt's easy victory was an excellent performance, as he had much the worst of the weights with his opponents, and he was giving 22 lb. to Grandiflora, who finished second. If Cicero starts again as a two-year-old he will run for the Imperial Produce Stakes of £3,000 at Kempton Park on October 7, but I quite expect that Lord Rosebery's colt will not be again seen out before the Newmarket Stakes next spring. Most of the clever people went for Laughter on Saturday, and this filly was a strong tip from Newmarket, as she had been well galloped, and it was thought impossible that Cicero could give her 19 lb. Laughter's poor performance was a dreadful disappointment to her numerous backers, and her defeat was the more exasperating to the stable inasmuch as this race was her only good engagement. Full Cry was not much fancied by her stable, as she had not done well on Wednesday in a trial with two of her stable companions. It seems to me that there was no sort of necessity to gallop her again. It is a great and frequent error to try two-year-olds repeatedly, the consequence being that the race for which the animal is to go is really run in the private gallop. Polymelus has probably not yet fully recovered from the ailment which knocked him up at Ascot, and he certainly was not backed like a Kingsclere good thing. Lord Crewe's colt may do better at Goodwood.

ROWDIES ON THE RIVER.

On the upper Thames certain riparian owners have had to lodge a protest against a house-boat. In consequence the Thames Conservancy has ordered the owner to vacate the spot in a week's time. House-boat owners would do well to realise that unless they have leave and licence from riparian owners they anchor at their peril. They are trespassers. The tow-path is but right of way over the soil. It is very necessary to give house-boat owners this warning. For there is not the slightest doubt that some house-boat folk, possessed of

neither morals nor manners, use their house-boats for purposes of dissipation and debauchery. Indeed I am not going too far in saying that the owners of some house-boats would, if their premises were houses and not boats, find themselves being summoned and fined for keeping disorderly establishments.

With the return of a real bright summer season all fears that motoring had ousted the Thames from popularity have been dissipated. But with the return of the tripper—and the tripper includes folk of all sections of society—the amenities of the river suffer. It is not only the riparian owner who is annoyed. His banks, his shrubs, his trees are ruthlessly treated. The hedges and the wild flowers are despoiled. Islands and backwaters are made filthy with tins and broken glass and shattered bottles and remnants of teas and luncheons. There is no shady rest beneath the willow or the elm. When will those who go up the Thames realise what they owe to Nature, if not to their fellow mortals? When will they cease to desecrate a river as lovely as any in the world with their garbage, and spoil its peacefulness with raucous shoutings and filthy language? For such manners are too frequent at the lock-gates, and those who go in launches for beanfeasts are responsible. They should be prosecuted, and those who are in charge should be made responsible. Conduct which would not be tolerated from a brakeload of provincial trippers in Piccadilly when they are up for the Cup-tie at the Crystal Palace passes without police intervention on the loveliest reaches of the Thames. Than the Thames at any season of the year I doubt if earth hath anything to show more fair. Cold and bleak does it look in winter time? Then go over Cookham Bridge some bright moonlight night when the frost king reigns, and look towards Cookham lock and over the weir, and see the spray from the falling water glittering like crystals in the air against the dark background of the Cliveden woods. The first brown and green burst of early spring, the changing colours of autumn, are nowhere prettier than on the Thames. And now that the fields are golden with corn and the hay is gathered, it is pleasant to gaze on the countryside across the broad waters of Bourne End reach until the yelling company of beanfeasters comes along on a launch or some houseboat lets loose a grating gramophone to destroy the graceful stillness of the scene. Let those who go on the river behave themselves. If they picnic let them leave no trace of their feastings behind; above all, throw no remnants, no bottles, no tins into the river. Let them respect the river banks whenever they pull up and lie alongside. The riparian owners are not curmudgeons. They love the river, and would not deny its pleasures to those who are not as fortunate as they are. But in the interest of the Thames, for the preservation of the stream's beauties, they must protect their property. They cannot distinguish between the innocent and the guilty, and so the public as a whole suffers for the sins of a certain section of selfish and irresponsible cads. Local justices should not hesitate to enforce the utmost rigour of the law against those who contravene the Conservancy bye-laws or otherwise misbehave themselves. A few smart fines, aided by the publicity of the Press, will soon check the nuisances to which I have referred.

It is a great pity that owing to one circumstance and another the M.C.C. could not get a thoroughly representative team to meet the South Africans. At first the home team did not take matters seriously. It was not an All-England team that the South Africans met. These are not my comments. These are brief summaries of what divers papers said about the match in which England was so easily beaten by the South Africans. I see no reason for making excuses. The M.C.C. is a thoroughly conservative body, imbued with the staunchest principles of ancient Toryism. Therefore it held the South Africans too cheaply. These newcomers into first-class cricket were to be treated courteously, but not to be taken too seriously. For this match the M.C.C. was not to have the call of all counties, as would be the case if Australia were being fought. Still, the team the visitors met was in all conscience a strong one. It was a team capable of testing any county to the utmost. It was called an England Eleven. It might well have been England. But dignity must be saved at any cost. I know not what the future may bring, but I should not be in the least surprised if before many years are passed the South African matches did not equal if not surpass the Australian matches in interest. In a small community like Australia political and commercial circumstances are bound to affect sport. Those influences at the present time are anything but pleasing to the independent observer. I shall not be surprised to find Australia as decadent in cricket as she is in commerce and politics. In South Africa, with a larger population and no wild scheme of federation in the air, such influences are not likely to prevail. The match played last week-end at Lord's is likely to mark an epoch in South African cricket history. The visitors' success is bound to have a beneficial influence on the development of the game. Certain it is that the cricket was full of interest, especially on the last day. King, who on his present form is good enough for any England team, alone played the bowling with confidence. Ranjitsinhji revelled in Kotze's fast bowling, but Schwarz's slows were too much for him. He tried to knock that bowler off by running out to him, and he promptly got stumped. Jessop alone hit Schwarz. The ball went like a rocket to the boundaries, and the fieldsmen flashed along and saved boundary hits as brilliantly as ever I have seen men work. Sinclair bowled superbly. Halliwell was splendid at the wicket. In every respect the South Africans deserved to win. Schwarz, who played half-back at Rugby football for Cambridge, is an old Pauline. He has come out as a bowler since the tour began. He has copied Bosanquet, and he has, in the opinion of many good cricketers, surpassed him, as he keeps a better length. In that match three old Cambridge University captains were playing, namely, Jessop, Mitchell, and MacGregor.

Kent have every reason to be satisfied with their play during the Tunbridge Wells cricket week. They played advantageous drawn games against Sussex and Yorkshire. Some brilliant batting by Denton, Tunnicliffe, and Hirst got Yorkshire out of a nasty hole. In Humphreys Kent have a good bowler. Everybody was delighted to see J. R. Mason in form and making a century. Why in county cricket was Stogdon allowed to take Pilkington's place for Middlesex against Essex. Worcestershire might well have drawn with Lancashire if a similar course had been adopted. But cricket is cricket, and these breaches of rules are not creditable.

If this fine weather continues there should be some very fine performances at Queen's Club in the International Inter-University sports on Saturday. The hot weather will just suit the Americans, and under such circumstances one would not be surprised to see them win. The half-mile record ought to be beaten after a fine race. If Cornwallis runs the last fifty yards and does not lose his stride he will win. Our only certainties are the mile and two miles, and these are not such certainties as are the hammer, the hurdles, and the hundred for the visitors, who ought to win the odd event, if they are anything like up to the form they have shown in the States.

There was some interesting lawn tennis at Queen's Club last week, where the London Championships were played. R. F. Doherty and Eaves had a hard struggle to win the open doubles. Ritchie had all the best of the game with Mahony in the singles, while Miss Morton, the holder of the Ladies' Championship, had no difficulty in defending her title against Miss Stawell Brown.

HAVANA CIGARS.—"The 'BOLIVAR' is the FINEST CIGAR I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the GOOD OLD CROPS of BACK YEARS."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Irregular—Forced Liquidation—International Bank Affair—Pity the Poor Underwriter—Home Railways and Dividends—Spurt in Americans—Argentine Railways in Favour—The Surfeit of Gilt-edged Issues—An Opportunity for Good Industrials.

SOME forced liquidation and a subsequent failure united with uneasiness induced by the International Bank of London affair caused a heavy feeling in the Stock markets in the earlier part of the week, and though two or three departments have contrived to shake off these influences, the Funds have been consistently weak throughout. The glut of money which was to have followed the turn of the year has failed to show itself, and instead Lombard Street finds itself hardly able to meet its everyday engagements, and is forced to borrow from the Bank of England to meet every exceptional demand, however small. This disappointment is extremely distressing, of course, and one's sympathies go out to the poor underwriters who, having been landed with much gilt-edged stock of which the callous public has failed to relieve them, are compelled to sell their Consols in order to meet calls, thereby accentuating the depression in our premier security. The weakness is accentuated by the Russian action in the Red Sea. The Mining markets remain in a highly unsatisfactory condition and in the Kaffir market there are loud cries for a leader who will take matters in hand and lead the army of "Bulls" to victory after a thorough rout of the wicked "Bears." In Home Railways there has been quite a considerable business, some public buying having come along tardily on the eve of the half-yearly dividend declarations which commence this week; but here again the pace has been kept up mainly by the professional element, in its anxiety to be quite prepared in case the outside support should become pronounced. In Americans, which have been kept brisk by the Wall Street bosses, the interest is entirely professional. On the other hand, the buying of Argentine Railways is of the good sort, induced by present conditions and excellent prospects, and much of it comes from Buenos Ayres itself, that quarter taking Rosarios to the amount of £50,000 in virtually one block this week. Argentine confidence in the outlook for Argentina is a most convincing feature of the situation. For markets as a whole the prospects are satisfactory. Money is not a drug, but, on the contrary, it is cheap enough to encourage business, other things being equal, and the occasional spasms of stringency arise largely from artificial causes, including the hoarding of funds by the joint-stock banks and the recklessness of the underwriters in subscribing for the many gilt-edged issues of the past four months. The fact is that we have had a great surfeit of these issues, which give older stocks no chance of becoming thoroughly re-established in public favour. Besides, the investing classes are looking at present for a larger return upon their money than these descriptions afford. It is only when money is in reality a drug—as was the case before the outbreak of the Boer war—that people are content with 3 to 3½ per cent. interest. We are far enough from that condition just now, but at the same time there is capital available for all promising investments which give a yield of 4 or 5 per cent. The success of the Gamage issue of Preference and Ordinary shares this past week is the latest proof of this, and it seems to me that promoters have an excellent opportunity of placing decent wares, though they are not to regard this as an encouragement to them to bring out their second or third class things.

Money Market Conditions—More Borrowing from the Bank—Gold Arrivals—Berlin and the New Russian Loan—The Autumn Drain—New Treasury Bills.

The market was unable on Thursday to repay the whole of its half-year-end indebtedness to the Bank of England, and the payment next day of calls and dividends to the amount of about three and a-half millions made another trip to Threadneedle-street inevitable. Having this fresh loan to go on with, and being helped moreover by the return of cash from the country and by the gradual reconcentration of the dividend money Lombard Street is fairly easy again. The condition is only temporary, as this week some considerable calls will have to be met, but rates range round about 2-2½ per cent. and these cannot be called excessive. There is little prospect of a further reduction in the official rate of discount. The Bank is securing only a small portion of the gold which arrives in large quantities every week from abroad; it will not raise its price for bars, and a demand has sprung up for the metal in Berlin in connection with the new Russian loan, which is being negotiated there. Before long the Bank will be compelled to take steps to secure control of the open market and to maintain discount rates at a level which will prevent this steady drain. Its stock of gold is not large, and at the end of August the demand for Egypt and South America will have to be met. Discount rates are distinctly harder in view of the monetary outlook, and the tenderings at the beginning of this week for new Treasury bills to the amount of £2,500,000. Thanks to the return of cash from circulation and to the arrival of a small quantity of gold from abroad, the Bank's reserve shows an improvement of £451,000. the total standing now at £23,857,000, while the ratio to liabilities is 3.4 up at 49.73 per cent.

Consols React—Case of the Underwriters—A Weak Government—Turkish Guaranteed Stocks—The "War" Stocks—Chinese Railway Loan—South Americans—Mexican Fives—The Epidemic of Honesty—Venezuela's Case.

A number of influences have united to cause an appreciable set-back in Consols, the chief being the new Treasury Bills issue and sales by underwriters. In company with Consols, other gilt-edged stocks have receded slightly. The uncertain monetary outlook and the necessity for maintaining large liquid resources have been contributing factors, and there have been sales from Paris. There is a lot of pawned stock in the custody of the banks, and until this is reduced by absorption by investors there is not much prospect of a good and sustained recovery. Further, the shakiness of the Government is not without effect on the stability of the Funds. A stock which keeps remarkably steady and gives the high yield of 3¾ per cent. is Turkish Guaranteed Fours of 1855. The English and French Governments guarantee the interest, and the loan is secured upon the Egyptian tribute, and upon the Customs duties of Smyrna and Syria. Interest is payable half-yearly at the Bank of England. The bonds, it should be stated, are redeemable by a sinking fund of 1 per cent. Since May, 1875, none has actually been redeemed, and although the whole of the bonds outstanding have been drawn the interest is paid upon them regularly, and they are a "good delivery" in Stock Exchange transactions. Attention may be drawn at the same time to another Turkish loan which is specially secured, and which gives the high yield of £3 17s. per cent—the Four per Cent. loan of 1871, secured on the Egyptian tribute. The "war" stocks have naturally continued prominent during the week. The interested parties are heroically keeping Russian Fours in the neighbourhood of 92; and Japanese, after reacting on the wild St. Petersburg yarn about an engagement in which the Japanese lost 30,000 men, are on the up grade again, being kept firm by the expectation that the fall of Port Arthur is now only a question of days. Chinese have been in some favour, and have not been adversely affected by the new Railway loan, which, though not run after wildly, is still understood to be going off satisfactorily. Subscriptions are invited for £1,500,000 in Five per Cent. Sterling bonds, at the price of £97 10s. per £100 bond, the money being required for the Shanghai-Nanking line. The full amount of the issue is

£2,250,000, but £750,000 has been applied for and will be allotted in full. The loan is for fifty years from June 9, 1903, but the bonds are redeemable at six months' notice, after twelve and a half years and up to twenty-five years, at 102½ per cent., and after twenty-five years at par, at the option of the Chinese Government. The loan will be secured by a specific first mortgage in favour of the British and Chinese Corporation, Ltd., upon the railway now completed between Woosung and Shanghai, and also on all lands, materials, rolling stock, etc., of this line and of the extension. Under the provisions of the loan agreement the British and Chinese Corporation is entitled to 20 per cent. of the net profits of the railway when completed to Nanking. The right to the 20 per cent. is to be represented by 6,500 net profit certificates, to be issued under the authority of the Chinese Government at the same time as the bonds—namely, one such certificate for every five bonds of £100 each. South Americans are generally firm, but dealings in Argentines and Brazilians have quietened down considerably, the Continent taking a little rest after its recent exertions. The re-election of President Diaz has been reflected in an advance in Mexican Fives. Holders of Colombians and Guatemalans are still awaiting definite information as to the negotiations for the payment of arrears of interest, but they are likely to hear something in a few days, though that something will scarcely cause them to become exuberant in their joy. The epidemic of honesty has spread to Venezuela. A unification scheme has been decided upon, and it is said that a part of the Customs revenue is to be assigned as security for the new bonds which it is proposed to issue. An emissary of the Banque de Paris, who is carrying out the conversion, is expected at Caracas this week.

HOME RAILWAYS MORE ACTIVE—DIVIDEND ANTICIPATIONS—SOUTHERNS AND FINE WEATHER—POSITION OF DOVER "A"—HOME RAILWAY ANOMALIES—YORK DEFERRED AND SOUTH-WESTERN DEFERRED—CITY AND SOUTH LONDON—GUARANTEED STOCKS.

There is quite a fair amount of activity in the Home Railway market, and prices have moved upwards. The imminence of the dividend season (which has now, in fact, commenced) has given rise to speculative buying, in which the outside public is taking a hand, though not to the extent usual at this time of the year. Southern railway issues have been most prominent, the fine weather being a helpful influence; and among these Dover A has held the floor. The reported conclusion of an agreement between the South-Eastern Railway and the Government for the conveyance of the American and Continental mails by way of Dover has not been confirmed, and it certainly does not seem reasonable that the American mails should be transferred to that port, whereby a delay of something like nine hours would be involved as compared with the time from Plymouth. But the story is good enough to serve the purpose of the "Bulls," and the "Bears" for once in a way have received a very fine squeezing. The prospects of the combined Company are now much brighter, and this fact has much to do with the buying, speculators not being able to forget that Dover A was only a few years ago close upon 120, as compared with 63 to-day. There is no prospect of an early return to par or anything like that figure, but the stock is being energetically talked up to 75—from which it is a fair inference that before long there will be a pretty sharp reaction. A dividend is out of the question at present, and it is quite conceivable that the Preferred Ordinary will not receive the full 6 per cent. to which it is entitled for the current year, though there is the sportive chance that it may. The market has a number of more promising, if less lively, purchases, and those who see a profit might do worse than take it. Brighton A, for example, seems cheap, and it is coming more into speculative favour again. Great Northern Deferred, too, in its smaller way, is attractive, for last year it received 1 per cent., and 1¼ per cent. was actually earned upon the stock; but, whereas Dover A received nothing, and even the Preferred Ordinary had to go short by 1 per cent., the stock stands about 23 points higher than Great Northern Deferred. Still, it is undeniable that Dover A is a favourite, and an Anglo-American syndicate and the German shipping interests are credited with having been liberal buyers of it this week. In the "heavy" group there has been buying of North Westerns and Great Westerns, as well as of North Easterns, and Lancashire and Yorkshire has had a further recovery on the improved outlook for the cotton trade; but Midlands have been inclined to lag behind, the traffic for the opening week of the new half-year showing a rather considerable fall. The Undergrounds are steady; earnings are good, but the fine weather is not a favourable influence, and nobody seems to want Districts; while Metropolitans are still affected adversely by the negotiations with the Great Central. The tubes keep dull. As to City and South Londons, I hear that at the meeting the shareholders will be asked to sanction the issue of £300,000 Ordinary and of £100,000 Debentures for the construction of the extension to Euston. Movements on the week are shown in my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, July 9.	Price, July 16.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80¼	75½	75½	75	– ½
Do. Def.	37¾	29	29	29½	+ ½
City and S. London	67	48	48	48	—
Central London	105	91	92	91	–1
Great Central '94 Pref.	49¼	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	28¾	25½	25½	25	– ½
Do. "A"	16	14½	14½	14½	– ½
Great Eastern	97¾	91½	91½	91¾	+ ¼
Great Northern Pref.	105½	101½	101½	102	+ ½
Do. Def	45½	40¾	40¾	41⅛	+ ⅜
Great Western	142½	143	143	144	+1
Hull and Barnsley	45	38	38	38	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	105	94	94	95	+1
London and Brighton "A"	127½	121¾	121¼	123¾	+2½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15¾	16¾	16½	16¾	+ ¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	102	102	101½	103	+1½
Do. 2nd Pref.	68	68½	68	70	+2
London and North-Western	165	151	150½	153	+2½
London and South-Western Def.	59	56	56	56	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	89	96½	96½	96¾	+ ¼
Metropolitan District	37½	38½	38½	38	– ½
Midland Pref.	71	68¼	68½	68	– ½
Do. Def.	70½	67¾	68	68½	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	80	78	78	78	—
Do. Def.	48	44½	44½	44½	+ ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	146	141½	141	142½	+1½
South-Eastern "A"	61½	62¼	61¾	63½	+1⅞

For the guidance of investors I have prepared a table of Guaranteed Stocks which are attractive:—

Name.	Per Cent.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
			£ s. d.
Caledonian Guaranteed Annuities	4	123—126	3 5 3
Forth Bridge Guaranteed	4	118—121xd	3 7 0
Furness Consolidated	4	108—111	3 13 0
Glasgow & South-Western	4	120—123	3 6 6
Great Central 1st Preference	4½	125—128	3 12 3
Do. Perpetual 1855	3½	86— 89	3 15 6
Do. Perpetual	6	163—166	3 13 9
Do. S. Y. Rentcharge	5	134—137	3 15 0
Do. do.	4½	114—117	3 14 6
Great Eastern Cons. Rentcharge	4	119—122	3 6 6
Do. G. E. Metropolitan	5	148—151	3 7 0
Great Northern Perpetual	4	122—125	3 5 6
Great Western Rentcharge	5	157—160	3 4 0
Lancashire and Yorkshire Consolidated	4	122—125	3 5 9
London, Brighton, & South Coast Consd.	5	153—156	3 5 6
London & North-Western Consolidated	4	127—130	3 3 0
London & South-Western Consolidated	4	124—127	3 4 6
Midland	2½	78— 80	3 4 0
North British No. 1	4	119—122	3 7 0
North-Eastern Consolidated	4	124—127	3 4 6
South-Eastern Consolidated Guaranteed	4½	127—130xd	3 10 0

Here is my table of Traffics for the past week:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 3,340	– 1,622	+ 4,217
Caledonian	– 341	+ 2,182	– 34,155
Great Central	+ 960	+ 366	—
Great Eastern	– 1,300	+ 4,600	—
Great Northern	– 140	– 2,815	—
Great Western	+ 1,400	– 2,200	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	– 767	+ 2,422	—
London and North-Western	– 2,000	– 2,000	—
London and South-Western	+ 2,200	– 700	—
Midland	–11,216	+ 6,420	—
North British	+ 1,871	+ 777	– 3,074
North-Eastern	+ 5,264	+ 6,142	—
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 2,281	+ 4,826	– 213

The Brighton dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on the Undivided Ordinary stock is rather above expectations, only 3¼ per cent. having been generally anticipated. It compares with 3 per cent. per annum a year ago, and in addition to an increase of £5,000 in the carry forward a sum of £7,500 is placed to a special reserve. The Great Eastern's rate is 1¾ per cent., the same as last year, and the amount carried forward is also about the same. The South-Eastern and Chatham joint statement shows a net available total of £638,154 as compared with £616,137, and of this 51 per cent. is taken by the South-Eastern, and 49 per cent. by the Chatham.

CANADIAN PACIFICS—THE COMPANY'S PROSPECTS—PROFIT OF LAND SALES—FORTHCOMING DIVIDEND—GRAND TRUNKS SUPPORTED—ARGENTINE RAILS ACTIVE—BUENOS AYRES BUYING—PROSPERITY AND A GOOD OUTLOOK—MEXICAN CENTRAL.

In the earlier part of the week Canadian Pacifics developed some weakness consequent upon selling from Berlin on a rumour that the Company was about to make an issue of fresh capital to the amount of $20,000,000. The depression was only temporary, and there being no confirmation of the report, the shares have had a full recovery. They have been helped by the firmness of Americans, and have, in fact, been bought from New York, where there are people becomingly impressed by the excellent crop prospects. Further, a traffic increase of $98,000 following upon $219,000 last year and $96,000 in 1902, makes an excellent start for the Company's new year, and is eloquent testimony to the growth of transportation business in the Dominion. In addition to its ordinary revenue, it should not be forgotten that the Canadian Pacific derives much revenue from the sales which it is making of its lands at advancing prices. The Company has already received $37,119,500 from this source, and it still holds more than 18,000,000 acres, part of which include valuable coal areas in British Columbia. The actual figures, according to late available statistics, are as follows, in acres: Manitoba and the North-west, 12,081,776; British Columbia, 3,759,481; Columbia and Western grant, 2,500,000; total, 18,341,257. It is understood that deferred payments on lands already sold are now approaching the $20,000,000 mark. On these deferred payments, as is known, the Company charges 6 per cent. interest. The question of a maintenance of the dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., instituted a year ago, is one of some doubt in view of the conservative policy of the Board, and the decrease in net earnings during the past half-year following upon the extraordinary expenses entailed by the severe winter; but the Company is in a position to pay this rate, and, having large reserves and the outlook being very bright, the Board may quite conceivably keep up the dividend. But they are not among the men who sacrifice efficiency and a perfect equipment for the sake of keeping up the dividend for one particular half-year, and I hold that "Canadas" are quite a good purchase at the current price if the distribution be only at the rate of 5 per cent., making 5½ per cent. for the twelve months. The shares are certain to come in for much attention during the next few months, and will have a good appreciation. In Grand Trunks the position shows next to no change. The traffic increase of £3,000 was regarded as rather disappointing, but since the aggregate was high and the increase followed upon one of £23,852 a year ago, the market soon became reconciled and prices have hardened appreciably. Much good buying is reported, especially from the provinces, and in "Bull" circles they are hinting at a favourable surprise in respect of the past half-year. But the professional "Bull" is not a reliable guide to follow, and, pending the announcement of the actual results, there is not much inducement for the public to take a hand in the game. It is interesting, and, as a gamble, fascinating; but you must move in the dark because there are no sure sign-posts to point out the way. It seems highly probable, however, that the course of prices will be upwards. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	123½	127½	128½
Grand Trunks 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	18⅝	14⅝	15
" 1st Preference	103	96½	96⅜
" 2nd "	112½	102	103½
" 3rd "	93⅜	88½	90
Bengal and North-West	50	39½	40⅜
Bombay Baroda	126	137½	138
Madras Railway 6 per cent.	158	154	154½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	130	129	127½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	102	101½	102½
" " 1st Preference	97	111½	116
" " 2nd "	101	103	103
" Great Southern	88½	91½	92½
" Western	135½	132½	133¼
Entre Rios Railway Preference	126½	124	125
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	56	58½	58½
Costa Rica Railway	83½	91½	93
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	2 ⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	102	90	91
Mexican Railway	89½	76	77
" 1st Preference	19	18⅜	18⅜
" 2nd "	72½	85½	85
Nitrate Rails	28	31	31
	5⅜	7½	7½

Argentine Railway stocks are developing activity again. The maize crop—of record dimensions—is now beginning to move, and several of the Companies will benefit materially thereby. Trade in the country is as prosperous as ever, and good, steady rains have fallen, thereby rendering excellent the conditions for sowing the wheat and linseed. Bearing in mind that they come on top of very large totals a year ago, the traffics are quite satisfactory, the Rosario showing £8,610 increase, the Great Southern £4,895 increase, the Western £1,355 increase, and the Argentine Great Western £1,824 increase. Earnings promise to be still more satisfactory when the maize shipments reach their full volume. The Pacific tells of a decrease of £589, but there was a gain of nearly £7,000 in the corresponding week of 1903, and therefore this is not unsatisfactory. The dealings now are largely professional in character, but there is a moderate amount of public support, and large orders are coming from Buenos Ayres. Rosarios and Pacifics are again the most active stocks, but B.A. Great Southerns and B.A. Westerns make good investment purchases, with promise of a respectable improvement. I give a table showing the return obtainable on the prior charge stocks of the chief systems:—

Present Amount.	Name.	Price	Yield per Cent.
			£ s. d.
£750,000	Argent. Gt. Western, Cum. Part. Pf.	112 —14	5 7 6
£1,675,517	Do. 1st Debenture	103 — 5xd.	3 17 0
£1,700,000	Do. Irred. 2nd do	90 — 2xd.	4 8 0
£1,000,000	B. Ayres & Pacific, 1st Cum. Pref.	102 — 4	4 19 6
£770 000	Do. 2nd N.-Cum. Pref.	93 — 5	5 7 0
£2,755,000	Do. 1st Deb. Stock	103 — 6	3 17 [illegible]
£1,945,000	Do. 2nd do.	101 — 3	4 8 9
£750,000	Do. Deb. 1913 or after	102 — 4	4 12 9
£33,209	B. Ayres & Rosario Preference	16½ - 17½	4 2 [illegible]
£4,304,390	Do. Consd. Preference	158 — 60	4 8 6
£4,551,800	Do. Rosario Deb.	105 — 7	3 15 9
£422 305	Do. Central Deb.	147 — 9	4 1 3
£733,432	Do. do.	103 — 5	3 17 3
£1,117,207	Do. do.	90 — 2	3 17 [illegible]
£300,000	B. Ayres Great South. Extension	12 — ¼	3 5 [illegible]
£4,000,000	Do. Preference	135 — 7	4 0 3
£7,000,000	Do. Debenture	108 —10xd.	3 13 6
£30,000	B. A. Western Preference	13 — 0	3 19 3

Some improvement occurred in Mexican Railway stocks in the earlier part of the week, but prices are easier now on the relapse in silver and a traffic increase of $6,800, with which the market was not satisfied.

AMERICANS CHEERFUL AND MORE ACTIVE—LITTLE PUBLIC SUPPORT — BALTIMORE DIVIDEND — STEEL TRUSTS — NORTHERN SECURITIES' DECISION — SOME ADVERSE POINTS — THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CROP REPORTS — STRENGTH OF BOND ISSUES.

There is quite a cheerful feeling in the American market, thanks to the efforts of the New York leaders to create activity and really buoyant conditions. The British public have not brought themselves to view the

market with any keen show of interest, and apparently the American public are equally shy. Consequently the game is left to the professionals on both sides, and every moderate advance is followed by a quick reaction on profit-taking. The crop report issued last week shows an improvement as compared with a month ago, and other factors have been used for all they were worth, while favourable rumours have been almost as plentiful as gooseberries. The Baltimore and Ohio dividend of 2 per cent. was satisfactory. The advance figures of the Steel Trust's earnings for the past quarter show a distinct increase in the profits, and the fact was thought good enough to warrant bidding for Pennsylvanias and other stocks—a movement which was promptly nipped by a superabundance of sellers. A rumour was current, but was not verified—a small matter in the Yankee market—stating that a closer harmony of operations had been established between the Milwaukee, Union Pacific, and Northern Pacific companies. The granting of an interim injunction in favour of the Harriman interests in the matter of the Northern Securities litigation caused much bidding for Unions and Southern Pacifics. On the other hand, feeling has undergone some change on the subject of the crops, the damage done in Kansas being believed—by "Bears," perhaps—to be even greater than was at first suspected. A failure of some consequence has shaken confidence a little. The Chicago packers' strike has not had a good effect, and it is becoming clear that much of the activity arises from manipulation in order to facilitate liquidation in other directions. My table below shows movements on balance during the week:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.	Closing Price, July 9, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	75	77	77⅞
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	96½xd	97xd	97½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	12	84⅜	85⅞
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	31¾	33¾	35⅞
Denver	43⅞	18¾	21½	22⅝	23⅝
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	70½xd	72xd	74
Erie	43 11/16	23½	24¼	25⅝	26⅝
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	60¼	61¾	63¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	112½	115	119
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	147	149½	151½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	17	18	19⅛
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	89½	89½	90
Do. Common	78⅛	55¼	57¾	60⅜	62⅜
New York Central	158	116¾	119½	120	122½
Ontario	36	19¾	27⅜	28⅜	31¼
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	59½	60½	61¼
Reading	35½	20	24	25⅝	26⅜
Do. First Pref.	45½	36¾	42	42¾	43½
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	21⅞	23	25⅜
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	87½	89½	91
Southern Pacific	60⅜	39⅞	48⅛	49⅞	96½
Union Pacific	107 1/16	69 1/16	91	94¾	98⅛
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	95½	95½	96½
Wabash Pref.	55¼	30	35	36	37
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	58	59½	61
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	10	11⅛	12¼
Do. Pref.	—	—	57½	59¾	62¼

Crop reports, as I have before observed, are unusually interesting this year, and, being more favourable as to most of the States, they are causing much speculative buying. The crop reports issued in July have frequently been of a kind to affect prices materially, despite the admitted possibility of considerable change between this month and harvest time. The market is always inclined to anticipate the actual accomplishment of events and even the early crop reports have considerable weight. In 1901, when there was a partial failure of the corn crop, the roads most likely to be affected by the short crop declined heavily during July, and in the following year when the conditions were reversed the same month saw a sharp advance in these stocks. For the rest, however, everything depends upon the weather during the next month or two. All that can be said is that present prospects are good, and are certainly improving. All disputatious crop damage may be dismissed as either a market invention, or else inadequate if true. Floods seldom do much damage to corn; early frosts last year actually increased the yield of cotton; the wheat harvest is already progressing and is so far beyond damage. It is easy to talk pessimistically about anything, and possibly easier about the crops than almost anything else. For instance, it is easy to say that the crops are late and so in peril of early frost unless matured by a hot summer; and, if the summer is hot enough to ripen corn, it is certain to damage wheat, so that both crops cannot be good. It is well to remember these things. This year, in addition to the influence of crop reports, the market will be guided by the political outlook. The decrease in the bank clearings and railway traffic and the quietness in the iron trade must be admitted, but it may be hoped that they will disappear naturally if the crops are good. A striking feature of the market continues to be the strength of bond issues. Apparently low money rates have at last begun to tell, and as it has been seen that such financial and industrial readjustments as were made necessary by past excesses have been and are being accomplished without disastrous results, investors are gradually resuming their normal attitude towards the bond market, and are judiciously—perhaps still with a little timidity, but on an increasing scale, and with a gradual return to confidence—placing their accumulated capital in securities that will give them something more than the 2 or 3 per cent. which their money can earn in short time loans. The argument that low money rates would force investments in good securities has been advanced for a long time, but the re-establishment of confidence has progressed slowly, and it would appear that the full force of the cheap money argument has yet to be felt. But there is a distinct improvement to chronicle. Individuals and moneyed institutions alike have been absorbing the supply of good bonds, until now the quantity of stock is very small. To a large extent the securities that have been most in demand are not among those actively quoted on the Stock Exchange, but among these, too, there has been much improvement. Below is a list of representative bonds more or less actively dealt in on Wall Street, from which it will be seen that there has been a very general advance:—

—	Present Price.	Dec. 31, 1903.	High, 1903.	Low, 1903.
Atchison Gen. 4s.	102½	99⅛	102⅞	97½
Do. Adj. 4s.	93⅞	92	92⅝	86
Baltimore and Ohio Prior Lien 4s.	96⅜	96	97	91½
Do. Gen. 4s.	102⅞	101	103½	99¼
Chesapeake and Ohio First 5s.	117⅜	115½	119⅜	114
Do. Gen. 4½s.	105	102⅞	106⅜	100¼
C., B. and Q., Ill. Div. 4½s.	94½	94½	97	89½
C., C., C. and St. L. Gen. 4s.	101	96	103	95
Erie First Con. 4s.	100	99	99⅜	95⅜
L. and N. Unif. 4s.	101⅜	100⅞	101⅝	97½
Manhattan Con. 4s.	105	102¼	104½	99
New York Central 3½s.	100⅝	99⅜	104	95
Do. L.S. Col. 3½s.	92	88	94⅜	87
Northern Pacific Prior Lien 4s.	104⅞	103	104	99½
Pennsylvania Co. First 4½s.	110½	110⅜	111	107⅜
Reading Gen. 4s.	109⅜	97⅜	98½	93⅜
Southern Ry. First 5s	117⅝	114⅜	118½	111½
Union Pacific First 4s.	105⅜	103⅜	103⅜	99½
Wabash First 5s.	117¼	114⅜	118	112⅜

Westralians Neglected—Movements Irregular—"Bear" Attack on Great Boulders Unsuccessful—Horseshoe Dividend—Fingall Report Satisfactory—Cheaper Shares Quiet—Northern Territories Improve—Murchisons Better.

In the Westralian market during the past week not much public interest has been displayed, and movements have been irregular. Great Boulders developed some weakness at one time in consequence of the poor return from the property, which gave the "Bears" an opportunity to manœuvre. There were rumours of an impending change of management, but these, however, were promptly denied, and the temerity of the "Bears" in attacking the property seems to have so frightened the Directors that they cabled out to the Manager asking for an immediate reply concerning the position on the mine. This was forthcoming, and it stated that "in the lowest levels prospected they were in ore of a payable grade for the whole length of the drive," which reassured the market, and the shares

picked up slightly. Golden Horseshoes were helped by the interim dividend of 6s. per share; and Fingalls finished better on the Manager's report for June, which is quite satisfactory, as it shows a reduction in the working costs to 14s. 10d. per ton, this including general expenses, while the cabled information concerning the development on the No. 11 were also satisfactory. Associated were disposed to be easier on statements made at the meeting, but the rest of the better-class shares presented no important feature. Dealings in the cheaper shares have been very few, but Boulder Deeps remain tolerably steady at 11s. Hannan's Stars, on the other hand, were dull and depressed, and Paringas were likewise forlorn. Northern Territories were helped by the reassuring circular from the Managers, which states that "operations at the mines and at the smelters continue to be carried on with such satisfactory results that, after consultation with the Manager by cablegram it has been decided to increase the smelting plant, and accordingly an additional water-jacket furnace is in course of construction. Murchison Associated also improved on a cable from the mine, which points out that developments are proceeding satisfactorily. Movements on the week will be seen from my usual table which follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	8¾	1	2	2¼	2⅜
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3⅜	4⅛	1⅛	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	1¾	⅛	¼	¼	¼
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	10/3	9/9	9/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7⅛	7¼	7⅛
Golden Link	3¼	15/3	6/-	5/-	5/-	4/9
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	26/6	24/-	23/9
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1⅛	8/6	6/-	5/-	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅜	1⅛	12/-	11/-	11/-
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅝	9⅜	5⅛	7⅜	8⅜	8xd
Hainault	1¾	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	8/-	7/-	7/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10⅜	6¾	7¾	7⅞	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4¾	1⅛	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5⅛	5⅜	5½xd
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1½	1½	1¾
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅜	¼	8/9	⅞	⅛
North Kalgurli	1⅜	10/-	4/-	7/3	7/-	7/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅞	3½	3⅝
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¾	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅞
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅞	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	¾	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	⅞	½

KAFFIRS RELAPSE FURTHER—NOW ON THE MEND AGAIN—SOURCE OF THE FORCED LIQUIDATION—CHINESE LABOUR—MORE BAKSHEESH—NATIVE LABOUR RECRUITINGS—CONTINENTAL SUPPORT—WANTED, A LEADER—SOME ADVICE TO THE MAGNATES—MODDERS—LACE DIAMONDS WEAK—JUNE GOLD OUTPUT.

Though improving to a slight extent towards the end, the week has again been very unsatisfactory in the Kaffir Market, with forced liquidation and sales from the Cape and from the provinces, as well as from London. A small jobber who had been caught a "Bull" of Kaffirs and a "Bear" of Americans, accounted for a little of the liquidation, but his open commitments were not large enough to occasion such disturbance as was noticeable, and, though nothing definite has been obtainable, it is highly probable that the selling arose out of the difficulties of the International Bank of London, to which I made reference last week. With the hammering of the small jobber and the cessation of liquidation from the other quarter, the market pulled itself together a little and became almost cheerful. The Viceroy of Canton placed, or talked of placing, obstacles in the way of coolie shipments, but evidently he was only giving a hint that more "backsheesh" was required, and no doubt by this time that little matter has been arranged. At all events, there is no need to fear for a sufficiency of Chinese labour; a further batch leaves this week on the *Courtfield*, and it is quite certain that by the end of October there will be at least 20,000 Chinese on the Rand, and they will soon place the impress of their industrious habits upon the gold returns. In the circumstances, the continued decline in the number of blacks recruited by the Native Labour Association counts for nothing. I rather suspect the Association of being by no means so keen on roping in the nigger as it was a few months ago; but I do not see that it is blameworthy on this account. When the black gentleman finds his occupation threatened, he will probably become more tractable—may even think it advisable to put a little more energy into his work, and be content with rather less than nine months' holiday in the year. Concerning the worth of the Chinese for the particular avocation to which they have been called in South Africa, there is not room for two opinions, and now that the first batch has settled down one hears next to nothing about beri-beri or the other terrible visitations which were to have marked the vengeance of Providence upon the country for having sanctioned this so-called "horrible slavery." My table shows the net measure of movements during the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	7½	7	7
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅝	3⅜	3⅛	3½	3½
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Bulfelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2¾	2½	2⅞	2⅞
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¾	5½	6½	6½	6½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅛	4⅛	6½	6½	6⅝
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	14½	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18½	18⅜	18¾
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18⅜	19	18½
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5	5	5⅛
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅛	6¼	5½	5⅜	4⅜	4⅜xd
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2½	2	1⅝
East Rands	12	10⅜	6⅜	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅜	⅛	⅜	⅛	⅛
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	20¾	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1¾	1⅜	1⅜	1½
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4	3	3⅜	3¼	3½
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2¾	3⅜	3¼	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5½	5⅜
,, Main Reef	1⅜	⅜	¼	⅜	⅛	⅛
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1½	1⅝
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅛	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2⅞		1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8½	10½	7⅜	8½	8½	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8½	3½	3½	2⅜	3
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	26½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4⅜	2½	2¾	2⅞	2⅞
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1⅞	1⅞	1⅝
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝d
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4½
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	▮	2½	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2½	2	2
Knight's	11½	9⅞	4⅜	5⅜	5½	5⅞
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅜	▮	⅜	⅜	⅜
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅞	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei New)	2½	2⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅞	2⅜	4	3⅝	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14⅜	7½	8⅜	8⅜	8⅞
Mozambique	3⅞	2⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	14/-	13/-	12/-
Nigel	8⅜	4	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2⅜	2½	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1½	1½
Oceana Mineral	—	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Primrose New)	8⅜	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3½
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3½	2⅜	2⅜
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2⅞	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, North	—	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Roodepoort United	8⅜	4⅞	2½	3½	3⅜	3½
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	7⅜	7¼	7⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅛	9⅜	4⅜	5⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Sheba	2⅞	1⅜	11/3	4/-	3 3	2/9
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	12 6	11 6	11 6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	4½	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2⅞	24/-	1⅜	1½	1½
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅜	¼	7/-	6/3	6/3
Transvaal Gold	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅞	2½	2½
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3⅜	3½	3⅜
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/6	1/3	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4⅛	2½	3⅜	3½	3½
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅜	6⅜	6⅛	6½
Violet	—	3¾	2	3⅛	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6½	7⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	11¼	11½	10½xd
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	—	—	—
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2⅛	2	2
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1½	1½

* £5 shares.

The late recovery in prices has been brought about by German and French support, by some genuine buying at home, and also by "Bear" repurchases. Just now the undertone is good enough, but there is a lack of confidence which can only be removed by striking progress on the part of the mining industry or by vigorous operations on the part of the leaders to confound the army of small professional operators who in their scramble for "turns" to make a living prevent any sustained improvement, and to encourage the public to deal once again. Confidence has been shaken badly, and if they are to put the outside speculators into a humour to provide them with capital for the new ventures which they have in hand, I suggest to these "magnates" that it is about time they took action. People are not going to adventure more money in South Africans until they are encouraged by a profit on the shares they already hold, and the sooner the leaders recognise this, the sooner shall we have healthy and active markets. As the leaders, helped by the good results which will follow the importation of Chinese labour, are bound in their own interests to give support before long, Kaffir shares make a good purchase now. Individual movements at the moment are mostly insignificant. Modders have continued relatively strong. Barneys have received some attention from the "shop," and Knights have been picked up in expectation of an early resumption of crushing. General Mining shares are well above the worst of the week. Goldfields were at one time very depressed, some "Bears" emphasising the fact that the company's holdings have depreciated heavily. Unfortunately, they have, and from causes known to us all. Other land and finance companies have witnessed a considerable falling off in the market value of their subsidiaries; so that it is not fair to draw attention to the case of the Goldfields Company alone. The smaller Diamond shares have been heavy, and Lace Diamonds are noticeably flat, being now no better than 1⅛. De Beers and Jagers keep steady. Transvaal Consolidated Lands have reacted the turn on the announcement that the capital is to be increased by £200,000 to £1,000,000. Deep Levels have moved irregularly and within narrow limits, as may be seen from my table:—

—	1900. High's't.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, June 24, 1904.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1⅞	1¼	1 5/16
Cent Nigel Deep	13/16	1	⅝	½	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2⅝	2½	2½
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	13
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4½	2	2⅝	2½	2½
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	6	5¼	5½	5⅝
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3½	4½	4	4
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11⅛	11¼	11¼
Jumpers Deep	5½	6⅞	3½	4⅝	4½	4
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3½	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3⅛	4 1/16	2½	2 5/16	2¼	2 1/16
Lancaster	3⅜	3 5/16	2	2 3/16	2¼	2 1/16
Do. West	2⅜	2	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2 1/16
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½	3½	3	3
Nourse Deep	5¼	6⅜	3½	4½	4	4
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅝	2 5/16	1 15/16	⅝
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4½	2⅜	2½	2 5/16	2 5/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 9/16	4½	5 5/16	5⅜	5 5/16
Do. Cent Deep	4½	5 5/16	2⅝	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6½	8¼	8½	8½
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2½	3⅛	1⅜	1 13/16	1 13/16	1⅞
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2½	2	1 13/16
South Geld. Deep	3¼	4⅜	2 3/16	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 13/16	4 13/16	3½	2½	2	2
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 5/16	2⅜	3½	3	3 1/16
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	3⅛	3 1/16	3⅛

I mentioned last week that the output of gold for June showed a decrease of 6,261 oz. as compared with May, the reduction being explained by the one working day less and by the decrease in native labour. The appended table permits of a comparison with previous months:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Bullion. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	401,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,502
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	305,242
April	439,111	—	110,588	227,871	305,946
May	444,933	7,478	128,602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,329	303,219
July	456,474	25,960	149,179	251,643	—
August	459,703	28,474	162,750	271,918	—
September	411,762	31,936	170,802	276,197	—
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	—
November	65,941	39,075	187,375	279,813	—
December	68,525	52,297	196,023	286,961	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	1,815,213

In the next table is given the value of the output, together with comparisons:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846,489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,239
April	1,639,340	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576
May	1,658,268	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,926
June	1,665,715	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231
July	1,711,447	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	—
August	1,720,907	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	—
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	—
October	1,028,057	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	—
November		165,986	795,922	1,188,571	—
December		224,692	832,652	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	7,710,534

RHODESIANS CONTINUE WEAK—CHARTERED STILL OFFERED—REPORT AND MEETING POSTPONED—THE DEPUTATION TO THE GOVERNMENT—TANGANYIKAS AND ZAMBESIAS EASIER—JUNE GOLD RETURN SATISFACTORY.

The weakness which has characterised the Rhodesian section recently has again been the most noticeable feature during the past week, and in fact the market is becoming more and more demoralised. The public have been conspicuous by their absence, and the professional element seem to have reduced their commitments to very small proportions. Under the lead of Chartereds, which, by reason of some selling or a wish to sell, drooped to 1 7-16 at one time, nearly all the shares showed an inclination to fall back. A contributing factor to the dulness, in addition to the realisation, was the announcement of the postponement of the publication of the report until September. Towards the end of that month the meeting is to be held, Dr. Jameson presiding, and it is more than probable that the position of affairs revealed then will be unsatisfactory. Even apart from these adverse influences the market could not ignore the significance of the deputation which is en route to this country to urge upon the Government the necessity of taking over from the Company the administration of Rhodesia. The disbelief in the future of the Chartered Company itself would also seem to be spreading, for there are innumerable tired holders who would willingly get out of their shares if they saw the opportunity. Beyond Globe and Phœnix, Ayrshires, and one or two other mining shares, which have been relatively steady, there has been no bright spot in the whole market. The Copper shares have gone off in spite of the pleasant things said about their prospects within the past week or two, while Tanganyikas and Zambesias are also lower on the week. So far as the total is concerned, the gold return for June is satisfactory. It is larger than for eleven months past, but in large measure this is due to the increased output of the Ayrshire mine. No doubt the inadequacy of the labour supply is responsible for the poor return shown by the other Companies working in the country. From the

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—In a letter to the Editor of the *Christian World*, "L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S," writes as follows:—"I think it only right to state that for some years I have prescribed Dr. Alabone's remedies for chest diseases, having been converted to do so by the marvellous recovery of a patient whom I had given up to die. Since then I have attended other cases of advanced tubercular disease, and have watched them gradually restored to health. The numerous cases which have come under my observation show that a large percentage of sufferers can now look forward to recovery." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

following table the monthly return for the past five years will be seen:—

——	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903	1904.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	5,242	10,697	15,955	16,245	19,359
February	6,233	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673
March	6,286	14,289	16,391	19,626	17,756
April	5,456	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862
May	6,554	14,469	19,698	22,137	19,424
June	6,165	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402
July	5,738	15 651	15,226	23,571	—
August	10,138	14,734	15,747	19,187	—
September	10,749	13,958	15,164	18,741	—
October	10,545	14,503	16,849	17,978	—
November	9,351	16,487	15 923	15 714	—
December	9,373	16,174	16,210	18,750	—
Total	91,850	172,060	194,268	231,872	113,476

Individual returns which have come to hand during the past three months are given in the following table:—

Mine.	April.		May.		June.	
	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd
	Tons.	Oz.	Tons.	Oz.	Tons.	Oz.
Antenior (Matabele)	tlgs.	200	1,392	1,114	—	—
Ayrshire	—	—	3,725	1,025	6,950	2 150
Dumbleton	584	477	566	508	568	468
Eagle-Vulture	1,000	613	760	586	—	—
Empress	610	690	682	1,240	855	1,505
Gatling Hill	503	218	—	—	—	—
Globe and Phœnix	6,295	3,411	6,312	3 393	5,640	3,020
Golden Valley	451	324	442	314	496	259
Imani	1,337	392	—	—	—	—
Matabele Sheba	1,200	441	1,400	383	1.071	200
Morven	1,332	701	1,076	712	1,093	706
Penhalonga	5,750	†945	6,900	†957	7,040	†1,047
Revue (Manical'd)	1,063	286	922	221	1,059	278
Rezende	2 000	†881	2 850	†963	2,850	†1,186
Selukwe	5,186	3 116	5,146	2 504	5,036	1,099
Surprise	2,652	1,020	2,940	1,021	3 070	1,005
Wanderer	12,462	2 080	12,276	1,645	10,778	1,431
Wareleigh	650	496	805	605	1,045	730

† Fine gold.

My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	7/8	1
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2	1	1
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1 3/8	1 1/4
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	3/8	3/8
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1 1/8	5/8	5/8
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	3/4	3/4
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p	2 7/8	3/4	7/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 1/2	3/8	3/8
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	7/8	7/8
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/16	1 1/8
Lomagunda Dev	250.000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/2	1 1/4	1 1/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/8	1/2	1/2
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/2	3/8	3/8
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	2 1/16	2 1/8
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1 1/4	3/4	3/4
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600.000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/4	1/4
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	2 1/2	3	2 1/2
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1/16	1/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2 1/2	—
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/8	3/8
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/16	3/8
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80.000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	3 1/16	3 1/16
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/2	3/8
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	3/8	3/8
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	3/4	2/6	3/16
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	5/-	5/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 1/16	1 3/8	1 3/8

WEST AFRICANS SLUMP BADLY — ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS WEAKEST—WHOLE MARKET DEMORALISED—SANSU AND BIBIANI REPORTS UNSATISFACTORY—ATTEMPT TO REVIVE MUMMIES—GOLDFIELDS OF MYSORE REPORT—COPPER AND SILVER SHARES FIRM—ETRUSCANS WEAK.

West African mines have been a feature during the week by reason of the slump which occurred in Ashanti Goldfields as a result of the report showing a reduction in the average output to 11 dwts. per ton as against 15 dwts. The shares dropped sharply to 1 11-16, the market becoming nervous, but finally they recovered to 2, which represents a loss of 5/8 on the week. The Sansu crushing was also bad, and shows clearly that the mine is producing gold at an actual loss, and the shares naturally receded. The Bibiani's June output, on the other hand, showed an increased production as compared with May, but the average yield per ton was lower, and the market did not feel inclined to regard it as satisfactory. Under these adverse influences, the whole section keeps flat. When it is remembered that only a few weeks back there were many individuals promiscuously airing their views on the subject of West Africa as the coming Eldorado, the state of affairs, as revealed by the monthly gold returns, seems to be all the more distressing. Those optimistic individuals, however, should remember that before they can safely count upon any public support for the market the mines which are operating must show progress, and not move backwards from bad to worse. From my table which follows may be seen movements on the week:—

—	Capital.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, July 9, 1904.	Closing Price. July 16, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.				
	£		£			
Ashanti Gld'flds (4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	2 1/8 2 1/4	1 7/8 2 1/4
Axim Mines	100 000	62,393	1	f.p.	1/4 1/2	1/4 1/2
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410.000	1	2/- p.	7/8 7/8dis	1/8 7/8dis
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	3/8 1/8	3/8 1/8
Attesi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1/8 3/8	3/8 3/8
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 1/4 1 1/2	1 1/4 1 1/2
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1/4 3/8	3/8 1/2
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1/8 1/8	3/8 1/2
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	2 2 1/4	2 2 1/4
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	4/6 5/6	3/8 3/8
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	3/8 1/4	3/8 3/8
London and W. A. G Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	3/8 3/8	3/8 3/8
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	1/4 1/4	1/4 1
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1/4 1/4	1/4 3/8
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1/2 3/8	1/2 3/8
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	7/8 1/8	7/8 1/8
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	240,800	1	f.p.	1 1/8 1 1/8	1 1/4 1 1/8

Among Miscellaneous mines there have been no prominent features. At the first there was an attempted revival in Egyptians, but the movement fizzled out more quickly than it had originated, leaving no impression behind. Indian mines were generally steady to firm with the exception of Ooregums, which weakened on the dividend at the rate of 3d. per share on the Ordinary, as compared with 9d. a year ago. The report of the Goldfields of Mysore and General Exploration Company, Ltd., issued during the week, shows a good profit for the past year, arising chiefly out of the sale of land to the Champion Reef Company for £20,000 in cash and 10,000 fully-paid 10s. shares in that Company, representing a net profit of £87,852. The Company holds an option over the Maharajah Block upon which prospecting has begun, and has also acquired an interest in the Tasmania Gold Mining Company, in addition to floating the Sudan Gold Field, Limited, about both of which properties the Directors are very sanguine. Silver shares have been rather cheerful as a result of the steadiness of the price of the metal, and although Broken Hill Props were at one time inclined to droop they recovered sharply, and are being bid for from the North. Rio Tintos have been helped by the position of copper, which brought good support from Paris, and show a fair appreciation on the week. Tharsis and Mason and Barry are also firm, and among other Copper shares Mount Lyells hardened on the cable from the mine stating that arrangements had been completed for the manufacture of superphosphates for the purpose of utilising low-grade ore, which would otherwise be unprofitable. Etruscans are on offer. Among New Zealanders Waihis remain featureless, but Waihi Grand Junctions are disposed to be dull, while in the Charters

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

Towers group the only feature is the continued weakness of Brilliant and St. George.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11.	Closing Price, July 16.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/8	3 3/8	3 3/4	3 3/4
Balaghat Gold	1 3/8	14/-	16/-	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1 3/8	1 1/4	39/-	38/6
Cape Copper	5	2	3 1/4	3 1/4 xd
Champion Reef	7	5 3/4	33/-	32/6
Le Roi	4 3/8	3/8	1/8	1/4
Mason and Barry	4 1/2	2 1/4	3	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/2	2	13/-	13/6
Mysore Gold	7 3/4	5 1/2	6 3/8	6 3/8 xd
Namaqua Copper	4 1/2	2 1/8	2 1/16	2 1/8
North Mount Lyell	1 3/8	3/8	—	—
Nundydroog	2 9/16	1 3/8	1 9/16	1 3/8
Ooregum	2 3/4	21/9	1	1/8
Rio Tinto	53 3/4	38 3/4	53 1/4	53 1/4
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 3/4	3 3/8	4 3/8	4 1/2
Waihi Gold	6 1/2	4 1/16	5 1/2	5 1/2

THE BRITISH INVESTORS' UNDERWRITING SWINDLE.

Last week I pointed out in detail the methods employed by the man Cruikshank, his abettor, and his tools, for palming off upon foolish English people the shares of that extremely rotten venture the Texas Oil Securities Company, and how successful they were in the business. I also pointed out that when its object had been accomplished the British Investors' Underwriting Corporation went into liquidation, and I stated that the Texas Oil Securities undertaking, such as it was, had been sold to the Indian Territory Oil Fields, Ltd., the object being to bleed still further the fools who had been taken in over the earlier swindle. I have before me a demand by Mr. A. F. Dickin, of the eminent firm of Cole, Dickin, and Co., 9 and 10, Pancras-lane, E.C., for the balance of money payable in respect of shares purchased. This money was due on shares part payment of which was to be made from dividends as they became due—a fact of which Mr. Dickin may possibly have been unaware; and I am pleased to know that in more than one instance the demand was ignored, and that the power of enforcement, if there were any such power, was not carried out. In May I find the estimable Mr. Alberga on the track, following up the notification of transfer of the Texas Oil Securities to the new concern. Writing to one individual who had not paid up in full in order to obtain certificates for the transfer of shares to the Securities Corporation of New York—that concern having, as I stated before, made an offer which it never intended to execute—Mr. Alberga points out that a sum of £16 odd is due, and he has made arrangements whereby on payment of this balance he will be able to receive and hand over the full number of Indian Territory Oil Fields shares. As the par value of the shares was £1, and as two shares were to be given for one Texas Oil share, Mr. Alberga "need hardly point out to you how necessary it is for your own interest that you should put yourself in position to get all that is due to you." The holder not caring to pay over the £16 odd, Alberga a few days later offered to accept the dividend obligation and the modest sum of £5 2s. 4d. in cash, in return for which the happy individual would become the proud owner of forty shares of both Common and Preferred in the Indian Territory Oil Fields. On this occasion, the date being June 3, he adds this:—

> As soon as my trusteeship has been closed, I understand that it is the intention of the Company to have a London office for the convenience of British shareholders, and that in all probability application will be made for a special settlement on the Stock Exchange. The property in which the Company is interested is mainly in the oil fields round Bartellsville, Indian Territory, U.S.A., but as the Company has only been in existence since March of this year, there has been no balance-sheet issued. Personally, it makes no difference to me whether you secure these other forty shares or not, and I am only suggesting it to you as a wise and advantageous move on your part, and one by which you would receive some value for the money you have already paid on account of these forty shares.

The holder of the forty shares being by no means so sure as Mr. Alberga of the wisdom and advantage of throwing £5 2s. 6d. of good money after a lot of bad, a further communication was sent out at the beginning of July. It was addressed to "Dear Sir or Madam," and was evidently, therefore, sent around to all the laggards. It ran thus:—

> I beg to advise you that I have received the following letter from Mr. W. H. Stuart, field manager of the Indian Territory Oil Fields, Limited. I take pleasure in informing you that our second well in the Bartellsville Territory has come in, and the third one is under way. The present daily output is 150 barrels, which is selling for 93 cents per barrel at the wells. The Standard Oil Company are putting in pipe lines to the well, and expect to have them in within the next fortnight. When the pipe is completed 7 cents more per barrel will be received for the oil, as the price quoted above is net, less transportation charges, of which there will be none when the pipe line is completed. I am also advised that it will be the policy of the Company to issue quarterly reports, so that you will at all times be in possession of full knowledge of the operations of your Company.—Yours faithfully,
> F. O. ALBERGA, Trustee.

This week a further communication has been received in which Mr. Alberga offers the shares in return for the receipt for money already paid in. He has come to the conclusion that it is only fair that the individual should have the shares. This is a considerable change from his earlier attitude, but I suggest to the shareholder that the receipt should be retained—it may be of more value than the scrip of the Indian Territory Oil Fields, Limited. It is clear that the people behind the B.I.U.C. will not relax their efforts on the pockets of the Texas Oil Securities shareholders so long as they can squeeze cash out of them—or so long as the police refrain from stepping in to put an end to the business. It is a great pity that one of the victims does not institute criminal proceedings.

The people connected with the B.I.U.C. are the people who were behind the Foreign Syndicate which about three years ago contrived to work off upon the gullible English public a large number of the shares of the Liquid Air Power and Automobile Company. I mention the fact now because the Foreign Syndicate has recently been busy again with the same shares. I have not the space to deal with the latest developments this week, but it may be well to warn readers of TRUTH who may have been so foolish as to subscribe for shares before against throwing any more of their money away.

AMERICAN EXPLORATION COMPANY.

I have been favoured with a letter from the London manager of the American Exploration Company in connection with some recent remarks of mine advising readers of TRUTH to leave the concern alone. This gentleman asks for an opportunity of replying "by a personal interview or otherwise" to these remarks. I do not see that any good purpose can be served by a personal interview, but the columns of TRUTH—within reasonable length—are always open to those who have been the subject of comment by me. Meantime, I have received the following letter, to which the London manager will perhaps pay some attention in the course of his justification of the Exploration Company and its works:—

> DEAR SIR,—Having read your article in last week's TRUTH re the "American Exploration" Company, I venture to submit that some of the features put forward by this company require special consideration. It is the parent company, and professes to make *no* profit until the subsidiary companies are successful. This fact, taking into consideration collateral circumstances, we beg leave to doubt. We understand that the paid-up capital of the American Exploration Company is about 10,000 dollars, say £2,000, and it maintains a suite of seven rooms at the Cecil-chambers, 86, Strand, rents there running into £100 per room. It has also offices at New York, San Francisco, Birmingham, Liverpool, etc. It has a manager and secretary at Cecil-chambers, a staff of clerks, typewriters, etc., the total expenses certainly far exceeding the paid-up capital of the parent company. So that, unless some of the subsidiary companies' shareholders are finding the money, we fail to see how it exists.
>
> With all this lavish expenditure why cannot a report be obtained from a good firm of mining engineers who possess the confidence of Englishmen? Why is no English gentleman appointed to represent the interests of *this country*? Why is no balance-sheet of the subsidiary companies ever published that those who have invested may see that *promises* are being carried out and that the entire subscriptions are being used for working the mine and not devoted to the maintenance of palatial offices and a highly-paid staff? No reports for many months have been

issued to the shareholders. Surely a paid engineer could find time for one in a fortnight or even one a month?

Again, we are told that these Preference shares are a first charge on the assets. Is this so? Or have the directors in California a right to allocate the assets elsewhere or create a charge in front of the Preference shares? If they have that right, if the American Exploration Company is being maintained at the expense of the subsidiary companies, and if the officials are deducting anything from the absolute working capital for the coffers of this parent company, then they are obtaining subscriptions from the British public under false pretences, and the sooner some interested shareholders should raise these questions the better.—Yours, etc., INQUIRERS.

July 12.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Portrush.—In addition to the Irish Land stock, I should recommend London County and Local Loans stocks. *D. S.*—Russia is not likely to default, but you could do much better than buy its bonds. Nor do I recommend Japanese Fours. The new Japanese Sixes are attractive enough, since they are secured on the Customs duties. The premium is 2½. *Helston.*—The risk on Chinese Fives (1896) is small, and the yield is rather over 5 per cent. You might select that stock and Egyptian State Domains, which give just over 4 per cent. *G. G.*—India Three and a Half per Cent. stock will bring in 3 3-16 per cent. at the current figure. Hold the Consols, which are good for a further appreciation with the return of easy money conditions. *Curious.*—Bank of England stock touched 331½ last year, 336 in 1902, 342 in 1901, 349 in 1900, 361½ in 1899, and 367 (high water mark) in 1898. *Charlie.*—Chilians 1886 and B.A. Water stocks may be recommended. The first brings in £5 6s. per cent. and the second £5 3s. per cent. *T. R. R.*—Your best plan would be to exchange the Japanese Fours into the new Sixes. *Downs.*—Venezuela is arranging a scheme of unification. If you wait a little, you may be able to get out on better terms than at present. But do not hang on too long. *Wigg.*—I think you can do better by buying a Government stock of the sort that gives a better return than a home Corporation issue and is equally safe. I suggest Egyptian State Domain, which would bring in rather over 4 per cent. 2. It is necessary to employ a broker.

RAILWAYS.

Marc.—Atchison Adjustment bonds and Northern Pacific General Lien bonds would suit you. On the first the yield is £4 6s. per cent. and on the second just 4 per cent. Conditions in America make for higher prices for the best class of railroad bond issues. *J. A., Dudley.*—For investment among Home Railway Ordinary stocks, you cannot improve upon North Westerns, Great Westerns, and North Easterns, which at current prices yield as much as most of the second-rate stocks—from 3¾ to 3⅞ per cent. I look for an early improvement in North Westerns. *Hurlingham.*—Take your profit on Dover "A." Great Northern Deferred is attractive as a speculation; also Brighton "A." *Frimley.*—Rosarios and B.A. Pacifics are both promising. *H. W. J.*—Nitrate Railways at the present price give about 6⅞ per cent., but I do not see much prospect of any substantial improvement in the price of the shares. *Mardi.*—Pacific Second Preference and Argentine Great Western Preference stocks are reasonably good investments. The return in each case is about 5⅞ per cent.

MINES.

Winchester.—The quantity of ore available is not known with anything like definiteness. These Queensland mining shares you buy very largely in the dark, and when the Queenslanders sell you are right in inferring that all is not well. *Hand-in-Hand.*—The revival in Kaffirs is coming slowly. The rising of Parliament and improved returns consequent upon the increased supply of labour should bring about activity. Hold the Gold Trusts and Ginsbergs. *R. H. A.*—I do not think well of a purchase of Le Rois or Le Roi No. 2. Tyees are better, but the reserves opened out are not large, and the outlook is a little doubtful. *Mac.*—Do not sell the Oroyas. Kalgurlis and Horseshoes are both good speculative purchases. *T. M.*—I should sell Sansus. *E. Scott.*—Hold Robinson Central Deeps for dividends. Potchefstrooms and Alexandra Estates are not very hopeful, and you might sell on a little better market. Bibianis ought to go better eventually, but at present the Jungle is in a very distressed condition. *F. D.*—The shares of the Victoria Standard Gold Mines are highly speculative. *Breuti.*—Dunravens are a very poor purchase. The Company is doing nothing, the supply of ore having been practically exhausted on the original mine, while development work on another property on which an option was obtained proved unsatisfactory. South African Territories and United African Lands are unattractive. *Uncertain, Newark.*—Murchison Proprietary (Transvaal) shares are a gamble in which the odds are much against you. Try West Rand Mines. *Delta.*—Do not buy any more Chartered shares. The outlook is unsatisfactory, though there is the chance of some recovery between now and the issue of the report in September. *A. C. Vale.*—Your four Kaffir holdings are among the most attractive speculations in the market, and will give you a decent profit on a more active market—say, at the latest, when the effects of Chinese labour are manifested in the increased gold output. Your disgust over the situation is natural, but have a little more patience. *Disappointed.*—1. Do not join the reconstruction. 2. Sell the Gold Coast Investments. *Scot, Blackheath.*—Northern Territories, as you are probably aware, are highly speculative, but fairly promising. You take no undue risks in holding for a recovery. *C. P.*—North Bonsors are quoted at about 2s. 6d., Prospectors of Matabeleland at 2s., North Charterland Explorations at 1s., and New Lydenburg Minerals fully paid at 2s. 6d. A very scratch lot, of which you might relieve yourself with advantage. *Anxious.*—You should be able to sell Knight's Central and Transvaal Gold Mining Estates at a profit if you can wait for better conditions in the Kaffir market. *Dry Press.*—Smelting and Refining shares are very speculative, and you had better sell, especially as you want nothing speculative. The Ordinary shares stand at 3s. 9d. and the Preference at 7s. 6d. *Old Reader, Amsterdam.*—Rio Tintos make a good purchase on any slight fall. I do not look for a drop to 51. The position of copper is in their favour. *E. H. F.*—The debentures are safe enough, and they may recover partially within another few months. *A. M., Belfast.*—You are liable, but conditions of payment must be made between yourself and the broker. *Kismet.*—Do not join the reconstruction. The concern is hopeless. *Dubitans.*—1. I discuss the general situation this week. 2. So far as it is possible to judge at present, the Chinese are a distinct success. 3. The present is a good time to buy Kaffirs—I suggest Western Rand Estates, Barneys, Johnnies, Simmer and Jacks, Gold Trusts, and Randfonteins. 4. Prospects of both are indifferent. 5. On Johnnies, yes; on Goldfields, doubtful. *Sanglier.*—Hold on for better times. *W. H. B.*—1. You might average. 2. If I have space, I will take the matter in hand within a week or two. *Cranford.*—If you regard the prospects as "extremely promising" you are entitled to your opinion, but please excuse me if I do not agree with you, and if I decline to give the shares a lift. *Safety.*—Camp Birds are worth keeping. The mine is a good one, and the dividends are satisfactory.

MISCELLANEOUS

House Purchase.—The first-named is all right so far as I am aware, but I cannot recommend the other two. *F. A. W.*—I do not recommend dealings with Stephens and Henderson. *Truro.*—My thanks for the circular. *Investor, Waterford.*—1. Open to members only, through whom the public must deal. 2. I know nothing against the concern, but I do not recommend any dealings with outside brokers. *H. Page.*—The information, if given some weeks ago, would have been worth something, but now the stock has about reached its highest. The concern is a common bucket-shop; leave it alone. *P. H. Mayer.*—I have dealt with the Storey Cotton Company before, and do not recommend transactions with it. *Regular Reader, Newbury.*—Thanks for circular: a well-known bucket-shop. *Den.*—The concern is safe enough, although it only pays small dividends. *W. C. W., Exeter.*—The shares are desirable, and I recommend you to hold them. *L., Dulwich.*—Your conclusions are correct, but, strange to say, there are many people who actually believe that the statements are above suspicion until they have been relieved of their cash. *R. S. A., Gib.*—I know nothing against the first firm mentioned, but it would be advisable to leave all three concerns severely alone. The second building society is the most desirable. *J. G.*—It would not be wise to put your money into the concern mentioned, the high rate of interest they allow not being compatible with the security of your principal. *J. R., Glasgow.*—He has not the right to detain the documents so long without concluding the arrangements, and I think you might put the matter into the hands of your solicitor. *P. S., Hove.*—See reply to J. G., and put your funds into the custody of one of the better-class banks. *Ignorant, Devonport.*—You can sell the Panama Bonds through Messrs. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., who will tell you what the current price is. *A. E. W. W.*—You would be well advised to leave the concern alone. *H. B., Morecambe.*—Harrod's Stores, Lyons Ordinary, and John Barker Ordinary make a fair industrial trio. The first gives 5¼ per cent., the second about 8 per cent., and the third over 5½ per cent. *Beta.*—The question is one upon which you ought to obtain a solicitor's advice. *P. R.*—Showell's Brewery are quite unattractive. Try Camden Brewery Preference shares, which give 5⅞ per cent., and Ind, Coope "B" Preference, which give 6⅞ per cent. *Smithfield.*—Hudson's Bays are a very desirable speculative investment. *A. and T.*—On Imperial Bank of Persia shares, which are fully paid, the yield is slightly over 6 per cent. Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank shares give rather more than 5⅛ per cent.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Ciconia.—Cape Town Four per Cent. Stock, Canadian Pacific Preference, and Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Three and a Half per Cent. bonds are investments which may be kept permanently. *Yeoman.*—1. Apparently the jobber lost. 2. Exchange on a better market into Western Rand Estates or Transvaal "Devels." 3. The Geduld seems assured of success eventually, and British Transvaal Mines are a promising speculation. 4. Puerto Cabello and Valencia Railway shares are worth attention. Bolivar Railway Preferred might be left alone. *Heather.*—Egyptian State Domains stock would suit you; yield rather more than 4 per cent. 2. The distribution is radically unfair, if you have got the facts right, which is doubtful. *Barton.*—1. Do not join the reconstruction. Write to the liquidator claiming your proportion of the assets. 2. I should not buy Beyer, Peacock Ordinary shares. *Unfortunate.*—You might keep Associated and South Kalgurlis for some improvement. Barnum and Baileys are a fair speculative holding and worth keeping for a return to the figure at which you bought. Chartered may improve a little between now and the date of the general meeting. The other two are quite unattractive. *XX.*—1. Canadian Pacifics are attractive at the current price provided you can pay for them outright and hold them for present dividends and a good ultimate appreciation. 2. New York Central Extension bonds and Pennsylvania Railroad Four per Cent. Equipment bonds would suit, the first yielding nearly 4 per cent. and the second 3¾ per cent. 3. I should not sell the Ind, Coope "B" Preference shares. *Wyvern, Leicester.*—1. Argentine Great Western Preference stock is worth buying. The Company is well managed, and the stock participates on everything paid on the Ordinary above 5 per cent. The yield at the present price is 5¼ per cent. 2. Lloyds and Parr's Bank shares are both excellent in their class, but you understand, I hope, that they both have a considerable liability. 3. I do not know enough about the three Leicester concerns to give an opinion. *Fearful.*—Of those suggested I prefer Weldon's Preference, Portland Cement Preference, Aux Classes Laborieuses Preference, and Pearkes' Preference, *T. W. R. S., Gloucester.*—1. Have no dealings with Stephens and Henderson. 2. Sell and invest the proceeds in Brighton A and South-Western Deferred. 3. Better sell, as there is no prospect of an early recovery. Try Canadian Pacifics or B.A. Rosarios. 4. I think you might keep the shares. *Excelsior.*—Metropolitan Electricity Supply and Westminster Electricity Supply, Brunner, Monds, and Fine Cotton Spinners Preference. These will return you an average of rather more than 4½ per cent. *Lichfold.*—The four banks are desirable so long as you do not mind the liability. Tarapaca Waterworks are reasonably good in their way, and I should not object to holding them. *Cingalee.*—1. Lyons in June and December, Weldons in January and July. 2. The life of the Geldenhuis Estate is estimated by Mr. Mabson at six to seven years and the life of the Jubilee at seven and a half years. You can obtain better investments in the Kaffir market. *Credo.*—1. Northampton Brewery Preference shares are an excellent industrial, giving a return of about 5 3-16 at the present price of 13. 2. Bournemouth Gas £10 Preference shares stand at a good premium, being quoted at about 15½. 3. Duke United Mine shares are highly speculative, but not without promise.

INDUSTRIALS IRREGULAR—WATER BOARD STOCK EASIER—DOCKS QUIET—TELEPHONES HARDER—ELECTRIC SUPPLY SHARES—IRON AND STEEL SHARES FIRM—BREWERIES IMPROVE—MEAT SHARES AND THE CHICAGO STRIKE—"BUNSHOPS"—GORDON HOTELS—TEXTILES STEADY—IMPERIAL TOBACCOS.

The Miscellaneous market has not been very well off for business during the past week, but, although irregular in tone on the whole, has kept tolerably good. Water securities generally are quietly firm, though the Water Board stock fell back to 92⅞. Dock stocks, too, keep mostly steady, despite the final announcement of the abandonment of the Port of London Bill, but India Dock Deferred, after moving within narrow limits, finish lower. In the Telegraph group there has not been any particular feature except an easier tendency in Anglo-American Deferred caused by the announcement of a dividend at the rate of 25s. per cent. for the quarter on the Preferred and 12s. 6d. per cent. on the Ordinary, which, though the same rates of distribution as for the preceding quarter, compare with 30s. per cent. received by the Preferred and 15s. per cent. by the Ordinary for the corresponding period of 1903. The Company places £6,000 to the renewals account and carries £25,000 forward. Apart from this particular stock no other shares of the class have been lower, and there seems to be no nervousness as to the future effect of wireless telegraphy upon the earnings of the cable companies, a fact which I mention because the prospectus of the De Forrest Wireless Telegraphy Co. is due some time this week. National Telephone issues strengthened on the report, which shows an income of £984,600 for the half-year, being an increase of £90,017 in comparison with the corresponding period of 1903. Working expenses have also swollen, but the net result for the half-year is an increase of £23,668, and the Directors recommend a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. on the Deferred. As a group Electric Supply shares have been firm without much doing. The report of the Edmondson Electric Supply Co., which was published this week, is very satisfactory, and for the year to March there is a net profit of £52,700 as against £46,900, and in spite of the large amount of capital ranking for dividend the 7 per cent. rate on the Ordinary is maintained. Another good feature is the growth of income from trading, which has risen from £26,200 to £39,600. Electric Supply shares as a group are quite desirable holdings, which give a good return with little risk, and in case any of my readers should be contemplating a purchase of such shares I append the following table for their guidance:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Bournemouth & Poole, Ltd.	12	£6 13 3
Brompton and Kensington	11	4 11 0
Charing Cross and Strand	7⅞	5 3 0
Do. Do. Cum. Pref.	5½	4 7 3
Chelsea	6½	4 4 0
City of London	11¼	4 11 0
Do. Cum. Pref.	13½	4 10 0
County of London and Brush	8	5 0 0
Do. do. Cum. Pref.	11½	5 5 9
Edmundson's	5⅞	5 19 3
Do. Cum. Pref.	5⅞	5 5 8
Kensington and Knightsbridge	12½	4 16 0
Metropolitan	20	4 7 6
Notting Hill	13½	4 9 0
St. James' and Pall Mall	15	4 16 9
Westminster	13	5 3 9

Iron and Steel shares have been tolerably steady, Pease and Partners recovering from their recent fit of weakness, while Vickers-Maxims have been in some request owing to the expectation of a good report, which is due shortly. Thorneycrofts improved also, the new issue of Debentures being a decided success, applicants only receiving about 35 per cent. of what they asked for, and the stock is quoted at 1 premium. Practically the only weak spot in this group is Thames Ironworks issues on some free offering of the Debentures. Brewery descriptions experienced some revival of interest after their recent rest, the better prospects of the Licensing Bill encouraging more buying of the better class of Ordinary, Debenture, and Preferred stocks; while among the more speculative things Allsopps have spurted upwards and finish at an improvement of 5 on the week. The strike amongst the packers in Chicago led to the belief that higher prices would prevail and the various Companies interested in the importation of meat from Argentina would benefit accordingly, so the market was induced to put Nelsons, River Plate Meats, and others better. "Bun shop" descriptions have been inactive and dull for choice, and Lyons eased off, notwithstanding that the Company is understood to be doing well, while British Tea Tables were weak. Beyond a continuance of the weakness in Spiers and Ponds, Hotel shares are tolerably steady. Gordon Hotels improved on the dividend announcement at the rate of 6 per cent., which was understood to be for the half-year, and with the interim distribution of 8 per cent. per annum, would make 7 per cent. for the year. An amended statement, however, elucidated matters, and as it was shown that £11,250 had to be appropriated from the reserve to pay 6 per cent. for the year the shares promptly fell back again. Textiles are quietly steady, with some inquiry for Coats, and English Sewing Cottons display a better tone on the report. Out of the trading profits the Company is enabled to pay off eighteen months' arrears of interest on the Preference shares, leaving one year's interest still owing, and as the outlook for the cotton trade seems to be brightening there is a chance that the concern under the new management may get over some of the sins of its earlier years. Imperial Tobacco Preference shares hardened slightly, the dividend announcement for the half-year encouraging some buying. The market found some satisfaction in the statement that after payment of the Preference interest the "half-year's trading shows a substantial increase in profits over the corresponding period of last year." Hudson's Bays are

quoted at 38½ ex dividend, and have been in some request by investors. Gamages fell away on the announcement of the new issue, but the successful flotation of this brought about a recovery. Linotypes have been weak, and William Griffiths are again on offer. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A GOLF MATCH.

MY friend Grogsnap is one of those amiable and officious individuals who are convinced that they know everybody else's business better than the latter do themselves, and are never satisfied but they must be obtruding their unsought advice and assistance in this or that direction.

I cannot, indeed, at this minute, call to mind any subject whatsoever upon which Grogsnap does not consider himself an expert. He would, without hesitation, if you gave him the chance, lecture Paderewski on pianoforte playing, W. G. Grace on the art of cricket, Dawson on billiards, Vardon on golf, Colnaghi on pictures, Sotheby on books, Wertheimer on old china, Chamberlain on electioneering, Togo on naval strategy, Boyd-Carpenter on pulpit oratory, or Bridge on church music. Were it not for lack of space, I could extend the list indefinitely.

Yet, despite this little weakness, Grogsnap is by no means unpopular, for he is a capital fellow, has £20,000 a year, and entertains on the most lavish scale; and people are not easily moved to resentment by a man who compensates for his officiousness by such sterling characteristics.

For instance, when I go to dine with Grogsnap, I know that he will lecture me by the yard about my own profession—architecture—and prove to me conclusively how much better he understands it than I do. But then I also know that the wine he will give me to drink and the cigars to smoke will be of the very best. I am further aware that if I should be temporarily embarrassed for want of £100, and should happen to mention the fact to Grogsnap, he would sit down and write me a cheque for that amount upon the spot.

I confess, therefore, that I prefer this officious and liberal friend to others of my acquaintance who are at once less meddlesome and less open-handed.

But if Grogsnap's officiousness did not much interfere with the happiness of other people, it more than once threatened seriously to imperil his own, as, for example, in the case of Mrs. Lovemy-Linker.

Mrs. Lovemy-Linker was a widow twice removed—twice removed, that is to say, from spinsterhood. And it was generally supposed that she would have no objection to qualify for a third removal. Under her first husband's will, she came into some £8,000; under her second husband's, into about £6,000 more. She had, therefore, a capital of £14,000, upon the modest income of which she lived in a modest way, in a modest flat in modest West Kensington, which, as we all know, is but a euphemistic alias for a certain district of Hammersmith.

Mrs. Lovemy-Linker's monetary affairs were in the hands of a respectable firm of solicitors—Munday, Sons, and Topkin, of Bedford-row. I have no reason to believe that they did not look after them faithfully; but Mrs. Lovemy-Linker thought, or affected to think, otherwise, and she took it into her head to consult Grogsnap (with whom she was slightly acquainted) upon the matter.

Now, between ourselves, I am pretty sure that this was a carefully calculated step on the part of Mrs. L.-L., who, being aware of Grogsnap's inveterate officiousness, foresaw that he would insist upon taking the management of her affairs into his own hands, if only to show how much better he could conduct them than Munday, Sons, and Topkin.

At any rate, whether it were by design or not, this is the result that did follow—Grogsnap assumed the entire control of Mrs. Lovemy-Linker's finances. Thus a confidential relationship, with the necessity of frequent interviews and correspondence, was established; and when that relationship is established between a mere, simple bachelor man, with £20,000 a year, and a twice-removed widow, endued with all the tactical and strategic experience of such a seasoned veteran—well, the bachelor man is in extremely parlous condition, and his chance of retaining his bachelorhood becomes daily more remote. So it was with Grogsnap; but he never saw his peril.

I saw it, however, and I determined, at any cost, to get him away from the widow, who, judging by the life she had led the late Lovemy-Linker, might be safely warranted, as a wife, to worry Grogsnap into his grave in the course of a year or two. Moreover (for I will not pretend that my motives were purely disinterested), I knew well that, with this lady ruling the roast in Grogsnap's household, all those jolly, free-and-easy bachelor dinners, those timely little loans, those many kindly services, would cease to be; and that we, his old friends, should have the run of his house, his cellar, his cigar-chest, and his cheque-book no more. For my own part, particularly, I detested Mrs. L.-L., and I was well aware that she reciprocated the sentiment with usurious interest. So, if the fatal marriage came off, I should certainly be the first of his old pals to suffer.

With these facts clear before me, I determined (as I have said) to get Grogsnap away from the widow, and the first step was to get him away from London.

Now that was not easy. Grogsnap was a Cockney of the Cockneys, and loved the pavements of his native Metropolis. The thing required management, and I managed it with some dexterity.

Dining with him one evening, I turned the conversation, in a casual sort of way, upon the subject of golf, and the proper method of playing various kinds of strokes.

Grogsnap at once began to hold forth, in an authoritative manner, showing me how this or that shot should be played, and demonstrating to me that my way of negotiating it was entirely wrong.

"Ah, well! You always play at Mitcham, don't you, Grogsnap?" said I. "Mitcham is a good enough course, no doubt——"

"You won't find a better within twenty miles of London," he interrupted, rather warmly.

"No, not within twenty miles of London; that is quite true. Mitcham Common has certain natural advantages, and I will not deny that the most has been made of them. All the same, a man who has only played on one of these flat, inland courses hardly knows what golf is when played under proper conditions."

"Proper conditions!" exclaimed Grogsnap, firing up (for he held—and justly—a high opinion of the Mitcham course). "What the deuce do you mean by 'proper conditions'?"

"Proper conditions, in my opinion," I replied, "imply, first, proximity to the sea; second, plenty of ups and downs, steep declivities, deep gorges, and all that sort of thing. These are what really prove the golfer, and tax his resourcefulness. At one moment, he is called upon to approach up a young mountain, at an angle of forty-five; at another, to carry an eighty-yard gorge, where a topped ball involves the *facilis descensus Averni*, from whence the *revocare gradum* very much resembles the labour of a Sisyphus——"

"Do you mean to imply that I cannot approach up a young mountain, or carry an eighty-yard gorge?" demanded Grogsnap, flushing.

"Well, you see, Grogsnap," said I, "there is no denying that you are very much addicted to the low, running shot, which, while it pays very well on the flat Mitcham course, would be absolutely fatal on a sporting seaside links."

"Nonsense!" he rejoined, irritably; "I flatter myself that I have sufficient resource to adapt my style of play to the circumstances."

"Umph!" said I, intentionally incredulous; "I confess I should like to see how you would shape on the Shingleton-by-the-Sea Links—to take a specific instance

—on which I was playing last week, and which is the most sporting course I have ever seen. You generally down me at Mitcham; but I rather think I should turn the tables on you at Shingleton, Grogsnap."

"Pooh!" retorted he, with a superior air. "I'd back myself to down you three times out of four on any course you would like to name—Shingleton or any other."

"You would?"

"I would."

"What will you lay?"

"Ten pounds to five, and think I had soft terms."

"Done with you, Grogsnap," said I, producing my pocket-book and making a note of the wager.

"When is it to be?" was my next inquiry.

"Whenever you like."

"I am going down to Shingleton next Saturday. Will you accompany me?"

"Ahem! Next Saturday," answered Grogsnap, "I have half promised to take—ahem!—a friend on the river."

I guessed who the friend was, and resolved that his half-promise to the lady should not be fulfilled.

To that end, smiling a provoking smile, I said:

"Ah! When it comes to the point, Grogsnap, you evidently think discretion the better part of valour."

"What the devil do you mean by that insinuation?" he demanded, hotly.

"Oh! nothing—only that you don't seem so very keen upon making this match, after all, Grogsnap."

"You imply that I funk the encounter. It is an unfounded calumny," he cried. "I'll prove it to you, too. Yes, I will. I'll put my friend off for Saturday ——"

"Please don't do that on my account," I murmured.

"But I will, I tell you. I'll nail you down to your challenge. I'll come with you to Shingleton on Saturday; and if I don't make an example of you there, may I be a foozler for the erst of my days!" he cried, excitedly.

"By all means—if you can."

"By the Royal and Ancient Game, I will," exclaimed the fierce, determined Grogsnap.

So that was all right, thanks to my dexterous management.

We went down to Shingleton together on Saturday afternoon. As we did not arrive until after six o'clock, golf had to be deferred until the following morning. It was about 10.30 a.m., and the church bells were ringing, when Grogsnap and I drove off from the first tee.

Nothing particular happened during the first half of the round, except that Grogsnap fluked a long putt on the seventh green through striking a flint, which turned his ball at right angles into the hole (he assured me that the deviation had been taken into account in making the shot), thereby taking the lead of me.

But at the tenth hole, something unusual and quite out of the ordinary way of golf befell us.

We came across a girl, a lady-like, attractive-looking girl, apparently of about twenty summers, who was seated on a hillock, with her bag of clubs beside her. Her attitude was dejected and melancholy, her expression betokened great distress, and her pretty face bore the traces of recent tears.

"Poor girl! I wonder what is the matter with her?" I whispered to Grogsnap. "Ought we to offer assistance, or do you think she would take it amiss?"

"Ahem!" said he. "She is evidently in trouble, poor young thing—alone and unprotected—very pretty, too! It—it—seems rather heartless to go on and leave her like this—especially on Sunday, when we ought to be feeling extra Christian. Do you know, Pilcher, I think we ought to take some notice; upon my soul, I do."

"You act as spokesman, then."

"Very well."

And approaching the woe-begone damsel, and raising his cap deferentially, he remarked:

"I beg your pardon. Something is the matter. Can I be of any assistance?"

She coloured, and shook her head, sadly:

"You are very kind, sir. But my trouble is of a character which neither your nor any one else's assistance can remove. I must bear it as best I can. I—I—wish I had never been born!"

And here she buried her face in her handkerchief and burst into a violent fit of sobbing.

The kind-hearted Grogsnap was much distressed.

"God bless my soul!" he ejaculated. "Pray, my dear young lady, do confide your trouble to me. You may rely upon my discretion—you may, indeed. And if I can possibly do anything to help you ——"

"Help me?" she interposed, in passionate despair. "You cannot help me. No one can help me. I am long past aid. I—I—wish I might die."

"Tut-tut. Don't say that. At your age and with all your life before you, my dear young lady."

"My life before me? Yes. But what a life!" she sobbed. "You, sir, if you are a true golfer, as I am, will understand what I mean when I tell you that I have contracted a f-fatal h-habit of slicing my d-drives ——"

But here her feelings were too much for her, and her sentence ended in a fit of hysterical sobs.

"Oh, come!" said Grogsnap, smiling. "If that is all ——"

"All?" she broke in, passionately. "And is not that enough. It means that m-my game is ruined for ever, and that I shall never again be able to do a decent round as long as I live."

"Tut-tut. It can't be so bad as that, my dear," said Grogsnap, consolingly; "you will soon cure yourself of the unfortunate habit ——"

"I never shall—I never shall," she wailed, despairingly. "It has been going on now for weeks, and I get worse every day. I have tried all the best professionals, but none of them can do me any good. On the contrary, I get steadily w-worse; and just now the c-climax was reached when, in driving off from this tee, m-my ball curled round like a b-boomerang and—and—actually ran into a whin at the b-back of me. Oh, it's too cruel!"

And her sobs broke forth afresh.

"Come now, my dear," said Grogsnap, patting her shoulder with a fatherly touch. "Put yourself in my hands, now. I have made a study of driving as a science—as a science, you know; and I shall be much surprised if I cannot eradicate this distressing fault of yours in two or three lessons."

She shook her head gloomily.

"The best professionals have given me up as hopeless," she said. "Are *you* likely to succeed better than they?"

"Well, yes, I think so," answered Grogsnap, with the sublime complacency characteristic of him. "You see, the best professionals may be very good instructors up to a certain point—up to a certain point, my dear. But they don't understand the theory of dynamics as I do. You see, it's all a matter of dynamics."

And he proceeded to hold forth in a learned, professional manner about the "scientific application of force," "the angle of contact," and all the rest of it, with an evident conviction of being in the right that was entirely calculated to inspire confidence—that is, in one who did not know Grogsnap as well as I did.

The young lady left off sobbing and listened to him—clearly somewhat impressed by his authoritative manner.

"It can do no harm letting me try if I can cure you, any way," said Grogsnap, when he had concluded his lecture on dynamics.

"No. It can do no harm, certainly," admitted the damsel, lugubriously. "And, I fear, no good, either."

"Ah, that remains to be seen," answered Grogsnap, with a complacent smile. "There is a conveniently clear space out there to the right where we shall not be in the way of players. Supposing we go there, my dear young lady, and let me put you up to a few practical wrinkles?"

"It is very kind of you, sir; but I shall be spoiling your round."

"Oh, no, not at all. Nothing of the sort, I assure you, my dear young lady. Merely an agreeable little interlude," said Grogsnap, smiling a paternal smile upon the damsel.

"But your friend," murmured she, glancing in my direction.

"Oh! Pilcher won't mind—will you, Pilcher?" said Grogsnap, addressing himself to me.

Of course, I had to say that I was charmed. It was distressing for a conscientious man to have to tell such a lie, especially on a Sunday morning; but Grogsnap forced me into it.

"And, oh! I say," he added, coolly, "you might do the Good Samaritan, Pilcher, by standing over there and giving us a line to drive on, and fielding our balls for us—eh?"

Rather fine, wasn't it? Grogsnap was to have all the fat in instructing this extremely pretty girl at close quarters, while I, a hundred yards or more away, racing about after sliced balls, was to have all the skin and gristle!

But I could not very well refuse, so, somewhat sulkily, I strolled off in the direction indicated.

The lesson lasted nearly an hour. Grogsnap apparently discovered that the damsel was holding her club all wrong; at least, I saw him, time after time, placing her hands in the right position on the handle. Not an unpleasant job, either, and a capital excuse for manual contact with a pretty girl—almost as good as the hand-holding dodge of the spiritualists. Sly old Grogsnap!

Nevertheless, from some cause or other—faith, perhaps, derived from Grogsnap's complacent and confident self-assurance—the damsel did improve visibly under his tuition, until, by the end of the hour, she was driving tolerably straight.

The effect upon her spirits of this improvement was remarkable. No traces of tears remained. The despairing melancholy had entirely faded from her countenance, giving place to the brightening flush of renewed hope.

She held out her hand to Grogsnap with a grateful smile.

"Oh, thank you so much. The good you have done me is quite wonderful. I now feel that there is something to live for, after all."

"Ah! but you must let me complete the cure; you must, indeed," said Grogsnap, retaining her hand longer than was at all necessary, and smiling into her bright eyes. "Otherwise you will have a relapse, and——"

"Oh, sir," she murmured, while her eyes fell, and a becoming blush suffused her cheeks, "I must not trespass further upon the kindness of a stranger——"

"Nay, do not say stranger," interposed Grogsnap. "There is, you know, a sort of freemasonry between all true golfers, which welds them, as it were, together by the bond of a common acquaintanceship."

"Well, if—if you will first let me introduce you to mamma," she faltered, with befitting propriety.

"By all means. Only too delighted," said Grogsnap. "May I venture to ask your name, and where you are staying?"

"My name is Tankerville," said she, "and we are staying at the Albion."

"Very well," answered Grogsnap, "I will call this afternoon."

He appeared to have forgotten that he was engaged to play golf with me all the afternoon. However, there was some excuse for him. The captivating beauty of this charming damsel was sufficient to drive all other recollections out of an older head than Grogsnap's.

The golf lecture was resumed on Monday, continued on Tuesday, and culminated on Wednesday in an offer of marriage, made and accepted.

By effecting this result (and I think you will admit the dexterity with which I managed it), I ensured to myself three things:—

(i.) The eternal gratitude of *my old friends*,* Mrs. Tankerville and her daughter Ethel.

(ii.) The enjoyment, in perpetuity, of Grogsnap's hospitality and friendship.

(iii.) The undying hatred of Mrs. Lovemy-Linker.

* From what is here implied, Miss Ethel would appear to have played the part of a designing minx, when she appealed so artfully to Mr. Grogsnap's officious good-nature. I understand, however, that the marriage thus skilfully engineered has turned out happily—far more so, indeed, than many which are supposed to have had a spontaneous origin.—[Ed. Truth.]

ART NOTES.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF "BUSKING."

PACING for the thousand-and-first time the *via dolorosa* of a popular watering-place whose name not even wild yak (broken to single or double harness by Mr. Leopold de Rothschild at Tring) shall tear from my retentive chest, I became aware, with a short, sharp thrill of expectancy, of a new effort to afford amusement to me and my peripatetic fellow-victims. On an exiguous plot of arid asphalt, literally jammed in between a belated party of "knock-about comedians" and a troupe of the most depressing performing dogs ever trained, a large roll of canvas, not less than eight feet square, such as artists use, had been fixed up, and on this a masked figure, half-way up a studio step-ladder, was engaged in dabbing a sort of distemper with a brush well nigh as big as a mop from a receptacle not much smaller than a stable pail. It is not surprising that a large crowd had collected in front of an apparition so unexpected, for, as a casual glance revealed, the masked figure was actually engaged with considerable technical skill and with a rapid series of broad, telling brush strokes, in producing a picture *coram populo*. Quickly as his fingers moved, his tongue wagged the while even more rapidly, and the fact that the voice was evidently that of a man of education added to the interest with which an incident so curious was naturally invested. At the moment I stopped in front of the strained canvas the masked figure, with some daring sweeps of one of his broadest brushes, was washing in a vaguely effective background to a group which told its own tale. Had there been any possible doubt as to the identity of the proudly-posed boy in the foreground, grasping a back-woodsman axe of abnormal size, the litter of boughs on the ground, covered with mellow Jargonelle pears, would have dissipated it. Nay, the proud light glancing from the eye of the gentleman with the goatee and the grip-sack, standing to my right in the crowd, told the same story, and it needed not his remark, in a hard-boiled New England accent, to his wife, "My sakes! honey, I guess our Mas'r George never looked pearter than that, anyhow," to confirm the obvious inference induced by the artist's efforts.

It was, moreover, clear that what I may call an "Amurrican" leaven permeated the crowd, for repeated applause with a Transatlantic savour broke out sporadically as the masked artist, adding finishing touches the while, addressed the animated crowd. "Ladies and gentlemen," said he, "on this memorable day (it was the day of the Democratic Convention at St. Louis), when his Honour Judge Parker has refused so gallantly to sit upon the fence, my hurried sketch of the youthful hatchet-swinger who couldn't pull a long-bow—(cheers)—cannot but excite your admiration. (Movement.) But, ladies and gentlemen, I have not forgotten that this is likewise the day when five-hundred of the Good Templars of Upper Tooting are sojourning temporarily in this popular watering-place, and it is but reasonable that my Art should also minister to their special delight. Ladies and gentlemen, with your permission I will now show you with what facility Art can be turned into the handmaid of Temperance." So saying, he seized a brush of large proportions, and, with a startling series of sweeps, alternated with the bold, dashing use of a sharpened crayon, proceeded to work an almost magical change on the canvas before him. Never shall I forget how the pear-tree in the middle distance was, by a few daring smears, transformed into a mighty mass of flinty rock; nor the comprehensive manner in which by a few vigorous strokes of a whisk-like brush the youthful Master Washington was provided with a patriarchal beard, which clothed

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him like an ulster and made the added gaberdine with which his pantaletted legs were further concealed a virtually supererogatory garment. Marvellous, too, was it to watch the facility with which what had erstwhile been "Mas'r George's" stern paternal parent was transformed into a high priest of the tribe of Levi of the hairiest description; nor could one but admire the calculated ingenuity with which the residential mansion of the Washingtons, with its smoking chimney stacks, was changed into Mount Sinai in a state of violent eruption. To alter Master George's hatchet into a first-class caduceus-like rod was a fairly simple task, whilst it needed comparatively little brushwork to metamorphose the truth-teller's family circle into a typical lot of the Children of Israel. And when, as a culmination to his efforts, the masked artist with one bold sweep of his widest brush, brought a broad stream of water gushing from the transformed pear-tree the feelings of the Upper Tooting Good Templars found vent in prolonged hand-clapping.

"Ladies and gentlemen," exclaimed the artist, almost breathless with his endeavours, "I am not surprised that the scene appeals so forcibly to many of you. Art has many noble inspirations, but what more elevating theme can inspire it than that of the Jewish Lawgiver, turning the granite rock into a reservoir of pure water!" A not too reverent cry of "Good old Moses!" from a ribald youth behind me was instantly drowned in the cheers of the Tooting Teetotallers, cheers which developed into enthusiastic shouts as the artist, with a happy impulse, began to stipple into the background of his picture what the ignorant imagined to be a fall of snow, but what the better-informed of us guessed at once to be the children of Israel's morning ration of manna!

But this was not all. Ceasing not from his labours for a moment, the masked painter, developing here and deleting there, now amplifying and anon curtailing, and talking as he worked, continued his running commentary. "Ladies and gentlemen," said he, "life is short, but art has virtually no finality. It is ever in a condition of flux, and now that George Washington has hacked his papa's pear-tree, and Moses has tapped the water-giving rock, other scenes, possibly of wider interest still, lie latent in this canvas. If you will lend me your eyes (as Shakespeare might have said), I will show you a scene which shall appeal to you all, as sojourners in, if not citizens of, this mighty Empire!" Even as he spoke he had commenced operations on Mount Sinai, which quickly began to assume a shape reminiscent of the mysterious white marble palace of the Chief Llama of Lhassa. One swirl of a mighty brush, and Moses' beard had wholly disappeared; a second, his gaberdine had been shortened into a kilt; a third, and his rod had blossomed, so to speak, into a claymore; whilst the exclamation of a Scotch visitor standing near me, "Hey, mon! but its Macdonald's self, the braw laddie!" put everyone within earshot *en rapport* with the masked painter's latest *coup*. How easy it was for the artist to develop the Rock of Horeb into a plausible suggestion of the fort at Gyangste can be imagined; but no one who did not witness the transformation can understand with what facility and striking effect the Children of Israel, huddled to the right of the canvas, were invested by the lightning brush-strokes of the painter with all the outward characteristics of a mixed detachment of the British Expeditionary Force on its way to the capital of Thibet. It was at this point that I was induced by patriotic excitement to shout out "Bravo!" and by the quick start that the masked artist gave as my voice reached his ear, it was clear that he recognised it, or, at any rate, imagined he did so. Simultaneously his gestures touched a responsive chord in *my* bosom, and I murmured to myself, "*Aut Polkinghorn aut diabolus!*"

It was *not* the devil, and ten minutes later I was conversing with Polkinghorn—*the* Polkinghorn, you know, Polkinghorn of the Royal Society of British Artists in Suffolk-street—behind his now rolled-up canvas. "Whatever does it mean?" I asked, pointing to the mask he had now removed. "Mean?" he returned, "why, it means that picture painters, to save themselves from going to the dogs, have now taken to the sands. Two years ago you suggested in Truth that we should follow the example of the members of the musical profession and take to 'busking.' Well, I *have* taken to it, and, as you have just seen for yourself, not without success. My average daily takings for the last three weeks along this coast work out at about £2 5s. per diem. Not bad, eh, old man, for an artist who has not sold a picture these three years?"

I congratulated my friend warmly. "Well done!" I exclaimed. "I'm glad you have had the courage to be so daringly unconventional, Polk. But what about the dignity of Art, old fellow?" "Oh," rejoined Polkinghorn, curtly, "I put that in my pocket, with the diurnal £2 5s. All the same," he went on, "you needn't give a fellow away; I should never hear the last of it at 'the Hogarth.'" I readily pledged myself to secrecy, so that Polkinghorne, I need scarcely add, is *not* really the name of my "busking" friend. But nevertheless I publish his experience for the benefit of others. To any artists who may feel tempted to follow his example let me commend his urgent assurance that it is in the topical character of his painted metamorphoses that the secret of success mainly lies. The difficulty of thinking out the daily programme of apt transformations is not small, but it must be boldly faced and determinedly carried through. Whether it will be thus faced time must show, but it is quite on the cards that before the present holiday season is over the "busking" picture painter may be numbered amongst the Common Objects of the Sea Shore. Polkinghorn, in fact, may live to be hailed as the pioneer of artistic "busking," and the "masked artist" may occupy the places so long filled on our coasts by the "mysterious musician" and the "veiled vocalist."

MUSIC.

THE PAST CONCERT SEASON.

SOMETIMES the summer produces a crop of new pianists, and sometimes of vocalists, but the concert season which is now practically over has been the Paradise of the juvenile "prodigies." Most prodigies, of course, are boys, or at any rate are dressed as lads, for the "prodigy" is essentially the pet of the British matron, and that much-esteemed lady always has a soft corner in her heart for little boys. Abroad it is much the same, as the plot of the German piece which the late Sir A. Harris adapted for the London stage, under the title of "The Little Genius," testified. Some of this year's prodigies, it is true, have avowedly been girls, among them the two Misses Harrison, who, while still under tuition, have been allowed to come out, the one as a violinist and the other as a child 'cellist. We have had one or two prodigy pianists, though they do not seem to have done very much; while on Friday a damsel of eight, as a high soprano vocalist, sought in vain to emulate Sister Mary Jane's top note. Two prodigies, namely, Von Vecsey and Von Reuter, have by their prematurely-developed ability succeeded better than the rest, and, partly thanks to their generous patronage by the Queen, they this season became the fashion. Happily, with one or two exceptions (among them Kubelik, who arrived rather later than usual), there were no adult "stars," so that those members of the musical profession who rely for a goodly portion of their income upon fees paid them for appearing at private concerts have, despite the rivalry of the prodigies, done rather better than usual. It is true that they (though fortunately during only a month of the season) had

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powerful competitors in the various artists who came over with the three companies which simultaneously gave us French plays. The French actors and actresses were night after night engaged at the houses of the plutocracy, while even some of the subordinate artists did good business by afternoon reciting and "proverb" playing in the drawing-rooms of the middle classes. It is puzzling to determine how they became the rage, for it was evident that a fair proportion of those who listened to the French players in Suburbia knew very little of what was being talked about.

French actresses and the operatic vocalists also overflowed into the concert-room, and by flooding many a charitable concert with vocal and histrionic "stars" they did a good deal of harm to more legitimate enterprises. For when Mesdames Calvé, Sarah Bernhardt, Susanne Adams, and Réjane, Messrs. Coquelin, Caruso, and Plançon were announced in one programme (it is true that two of these artists did not after all turn up), what could be the chance of an ordinary concert-giver? In mid-season a movement was announced on the part of certain Duchesses and other leaders of Society, who refused to lend their houses even for charity unless the performers received fees. But the scheme was never carried out. If it had been, there would have been nothing at all left for charity, and the concert-promoters might indeed have been faced by a heavy deficit.

We have this summer heard an enormous number of new-comers, British and foreign, pianists, violinists, and singers, but none have made any special hit. As to the really great concert artists, it has for some years past been noticed that they are deserting the London season, and prefer to visit us in the winter. Among the pianists neither Paderewski nor Rosenthal came here at all (though one is usually expected when the other is absent), while M. de Pachmann finished his recitals practically before the fashionable season began. Señor Sarasate shirked the summer, and intends to come here in November, when genuine music lovers pay for concerts, instead of expecting free tickets, and when, moreover, a provincial tour may mean a large profit. M. Ysaye came only for a single concert, which passed almost unnoticed. Joachim, d'Albert, and most of the others terminated their visit in the late spring. Indeed, there is a tendency towards making the winter the true musical season, as on the Continent, leaving the fashionable months more or less to the stars and the freaks. But the pity of it is that even in the winter, concerts will clash. It never seems to strike managers that October and January would be more profitable and less crowded months for recitals than November, December, or May.

There will be a very short recess this year, for the Queen's Hall promenade concerts commence on Saturday fortnight, and they will last till October 21. Mr. Henry Wood has drawn up a portentous list of novelties, about forty in all, half of them by British composers. To present important new works—symphonies, "tone poems" (usually incoherent orchestral pieces), concertos for one and two pianos, one or two violins, 'cello, flute and organ, overtures, excerpts from the operas of Tschaikowsky, and sundry other things at the rate of four or more a week—means plenty of hard work for conductor and orchestra, and plenty of interest for the audiences. But the worst of it is that so few of these novelties are deemed worthy of a second hearing.

The Drury Lane season closes on Saturday, the management prudently being satisfied with nine out of the thirteen weeks originally arranged for. From the outset it was obviously a forlorn hope to compete with Covent Garden in mid season, unless the manager was willing and ready to strike out an entirely new line. Mapleson occasionally did it, but it was by engaging new stars and by producing new works. When he introduced Nilsson, Marimon, Kellogg, Campanini, Fancelli, Trebelli, and Gerster, when he produced for the first time on the London stage "Carmen," "Faust," "Mefistofele," and "Der Ring des Nibelungen," he may have gained some temporary advantage. But Covent Garden always beat him in the long run, so far as the summer was concerned. In the autumn, both in London and the provinces, he had it practically his own way. I believe there is a chance of an autumn season at Covent Garden this year, on a more elaborate scale than the enterprise now coming to an end at Drury Lane. Mr. Manners and his provincial troupe would certainly have been more welcome here in late August than in the summer, but, unfortunately, autumnal opera in London interferes with provincial touring, which is a profitable speculation.

The season ends at Covent Garden on Monday, when I understand Melba and Caruso will both appear to give the enterprise a brilliant finish. Although neither of the novelties produced this summer is likely to remain in the repertory (prima donna selected novelties rarely do), yet the season has been a highly satisfactory one, not only from a money point of view (and even a syndicate of millionaires could scarcely be expected to carry on an opera season at a loss), but also thanks to the manner in which the management have contrived to appeal to the tastes of all classes. Mme. Calvé, Mme. Destinn, and Frl. Kurz (who has been the most successful of the season's debutantes) have remained till almost the end. So, too, has Herr Herold, the most promising German-speaking tenor we have had for some time. Unfortunately, after half the season was over, he was attacked by that prosaic but painful malady muscular rheumatism, and although last week he was again announced, he was unable to appear. He will, however, it is understood, be retained for next year. The general results of the season I propose to sum up next week.

Mme. Calvé, who made her final appearance at Covent Garden as Carmen on Monday, will not this year return to America, as she has, I learn, accepted an engagement with Herr Schürmann, at a fee which must be considered large for the Continent, for twenty representations of "Carmen," "Cavalleria," and other operas in Germany and Austro-Hungary on various dates in October, November, and December. Afterwards it is expected she will again sing in Paris, and she will doubtless be once more in London in June. It is hoped that her repertory will then be both larger and better. Between now and October the great prima donna will be at Aveyron nursing sick nuns, and superintending her poultry farm, where new-laid eggs, she reckons, cost her a shilling each.

Mme. Melba will go to America for a few operatic performances and a concert tour, but she will, of course, be back for the fashionable season, when we may expect her to sing for the first time the part of the tragic heroine in "La Tosca." She will distribute the prizes to the Royal Academy students (and will probably sing them a song) on Friday; but the next few weeks after the opera season I fancy she will spend at Marlow. Thames fishing may not be very profitable. It would, in fact, be wonderful if the amateur could always provide fish for breakfast. But the gentle pastime is restful to the voice. For a prima donna, whose notes are golden, is not as a rule a lady addicted to fruitless talk.

The protests against the appointment of Herr Weingartner as conductor of the Sheffield Musical Festival on the ground that he is a foreigner are ridiculous, especially as the number of eminent native conductors can be counted on the great toes. It is much more to the point that Weingartner has enjoyed no special experience and has no exceptional repute in the conducting of choral works, which, after all, are the chief features of the great Yorkshire Feast. To have limited him to the orchestral items might have been a brilliant act of management on the part of the committee, but his appointment as general conductor of the entire festival only makes continuous the vastly absurd plan of retaining a chorus master to train the choir, and engaging some outsider "with a name" to direct the few final rehearsals and the performance. Dr. Coward has at Sheffield shown himself to be one of the finest choir trainers we ever had, and the Yorkshire choir are infinitely safer under his baton

than under that of any foreigner brought in at the last minute and quite inexperienced in British musical festival work. Sir Arthur Sullivan's ability as a choir conductor enabled Leeds to capture the festival pre-eminence from Birmingham. Indeed, when Dr. Richter first came to Birmingham it was said that the eminent Wagnerian conductor had never even heard "The Messiah."

The Musicians' Company paid a graceful compliment last week to Mr. Ernest Palmer, of Reading, by conferring upon him the honorary freedom. It was, it may be recollected, Mr. Palmer who recently gave £20,000 to provide a fund to afford young English composers a hearing.

The career of Miss Giulia Warwick, who died at the age of forty-seven on Wednesday, was unfortunately not the brilliant life that the readers of her obituary in the daily papers might imagine. From the very first it was a struggle, gallantly faced, and scarcely given up, even on her death-bed. Her mother, a native of St. Albans, died in child-birth when Julia Ehrenberg was four, whereupon her two aunts, both now aged ladies, devoted themselves to her and her two sisters. Her father was a Pole, in bad health, and, though industrious, always poor. Julia played as a girl of twelve at the Hanover-square rooms as a pianist, and very shortly afterwards sang with her elder sister in the choir of the Berkeley-street Synagogue, also giving music lessons. The Jews wisely hesitate to pauperise by giving money, but they are always ready to help to train the young to gain a living. The two sisters found powerful friends in the late Countess d'Avigdor and Baroness Lionel de Rothschild, who paid for their musical education under Mme. Sainton Dolby and the centenarian Manuel Garcia. Meanwhile they had to maintain themselves, and it was a hard struggle for young girls. Giulia Warwick was nineteen when she left the Synagogue and secured an engagement at £4 a week from Carl Rosa, making her début on September 30, 1876, at the Alexandra Palace as Zerlina in "Don Giovanni." In November, 1877, she was chosen by Doyly Carte to create the part of the charity girl, Constance, in the "Sorcerer," the first of the series of what are now called "Savoy operas." Mr. Gilbert took her in hand to train her. In the following year Rosa offered her a better engagement, and she rejoined the Carl Rosa Company, remaining till 1882, when, as she was getting from Rosa only £7 a week on tour, she accepted Henderson's offer of £12 a week—for a short time increased while touring to £20 weekly—her name being thenceforward chiefly associated with light opera, with Planquette's "Nell Gwynne," with "Nadgy," with "Falka" (which she sang on tour for nearly two years), the "Black Rover," and other works. Then in 1891 she engaged a company of her own to produce in the provinces Vasseur's "Madame Cartouche," which was a failure. Nevertheless, with the true theatrical, if rather Quixotic spirit, she carried on the tour to the end, spent all her savings, paid all her company, and found herself penniless. During about two years she was out of engagement; but for the past dozen years she has devoted herself to teaching, first at the Guildhall School and afterwards at her own vocal academy.

A week or so before Miss Warwick's death occurred the demise of her old chief at the Berkeley-street Synagogue, Dr. Verrinder. This eminent organist was a Christian, for I believe it is contrary to the Hebrew faith to allow a Jew even to play the organ on the Sabbath. It was Dr. Verrinder who during forty years at the West London Synagogue organised the musical services now in use by the reformed Jews. Seven volumes of this music have been published. As his duties at the Synagogue were, of course, on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons, he was able to take also a Protestant church, and he was for a long time organist at Sir Arthur Sullivan's old church, St. Michael's, Chester-square. Hence it came about that the organist at a leading Synagogue received the honorary degree of Doctor of Music from the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Miss Dolores' concert to-day will probably be not only the final important concert of the season, but also the last concert ever given at St. James's Hall. At any rate, they are not booking any more dates, although the fate of our leading concert-room has, I believe, not yet been finally settled. The concerts of the week have been comparatively few. Herr Claus and Herr Zagury have given recitals, and on Saturday we had the last concert this season by Florizel von Reuter, whose programme included the Tschaikowsky and Paganini concertos, and some smaller pieces. On Friday a girl prodigy vocalist made her début at Æolian Hall under the name of "Carmen Sylva," a title which, by the way, it is well known is that adopted for literary purposes by the Queen of Roumania. The child is said to be only eight, and she has a high soprano voice, bright and clear, with some ringing head notes, though she is a cold and unsympathetic singer. How far the forcing for public appearances will hereafter affect the voice of so young a vocalist is another matter. The audience was small, and I fancy the public prefer their prime donne to be a little older than eight. On Thursday and Friday the Royal Academy students occupy Queen's Hall, which will afterwards be decorated (and I hope adequately ventilated) for the Promenade Concerts. The musical "vacation" will therefore last exactly a fortnight.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The French Noblesse of the Eighteenth Century" (1), translated by Mrs. Colquhoun Grant from "Les Souvenirs de la Marquise de Créquy," has been thoroughly discredited as genuine by Croker, Quérard, and Sainte-Beuve; yet, though not genuine, it is authentic, since it certainly describes real scenes and personages of the eighteenth century in France. The true description of this most interesting book is to be found, not on its title-page, but in its preface:—

> They represent a mass of almost contemporary tradition, reminiscence, and anecdote, gathered round the name of a leader of society renowned for her charm and wit. These exhaustive memoirs are full of interesting details that could only have been collected by one who was writing from personal information, and close to the period described.

Of course, the "Terror" exercises its usual frightful fascination, and there are one or two scenes from it in the volume which have helped me to realise its horrors more vividly than anything in all the numberless books upon the time that I have read. Here is one:—

> One day they brought in a small pale woman, who curtseyed to us all round, and never said one word during the two or three nights she passed in our room. She would not go to bed, but sat on a straw chair and never opened her mouth, except to eat a dry crust or drink some milk or red wine and water which we offered her. She never took her eyes off a casket which she placed on a chair in front of her, and spent the time fanning herself, which, considering the temperature, was quite unnecessary. Good heavens! How I suffered from the cold! One morning on returning from the yard we found the little woman gone, and only the casket remaining. A jailor came in about an hour after to fetch it. Madame Buffaut boldly asked him whether the owner would return. His only answer was to pass his hand across the back of his neck. Then he proceeded to break open the casket. It contained a man's bloody shirt without a collar, which was always cut off before an execution, also a handful of silky black hair, and a piece of paper on which was written, "For my mother." Our

(1) "The French Noblesse of the Eighteenth Century." Translated by Mrs. Colquhoun Grant from "Les Souvenirs de la Marquise de Créquy." 1854. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

(2) "Fort Amity." By A. T. Quiller-Couch. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(3) "The Queen's Quair: or The Six Years' Tragedy." By Maurice Hewlett. London: Macmillan & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Malincourt Keep." By Adeline Sergeant. (London: John Long. 6s.).

(5) "The Poet and his Guardian Angel." By Sarah Tytler. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(6) "Harry Furniss at Home." Written and illustrated by himself. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 16s. net.)

(7) "The Challoners." By E. F. Benson. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(8) "The Wrong Side Out." By W. Clarke Russell. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(9) "Sir Mortimer." By Mary Johnston. With Illustrations by F. C. Yohn. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co. 6s.)

(10) "The Amblers." By B. L. Farjeon. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

jailor would never tell us the name of this unhappy woman, nor did we ever discover who and what her son was.

Here is another of the Marquise's fellow-prisoners, whose husband merits immortality for the ground on which he rested the immortality of religion:—

The good countrywoman, the other inmate of our room was Martine Levacher, and came from la Vendée. Her husband had been shot on the sandy shore near Avranches. She told us her experiences with admirable simplicity. "We are taking down your belfry," said one of the members of the Convention to the husband of this woman, "in order that you may have nothing by which to remember your former superstitions." "You must leave us the stars, anyway," replied the peasant, "and they are older than any belfry."

Where would you place Mr. Quiller-Couch's "Fort Amity" (2) if you divide novels definitely into stories of character and stories of incident? In the novel of incident the personages are like the jockeys on a race-course, and the incidents like the horses, in which your interest is exclusively centred. In a novel of character the personages are like the knights in a tournament, and the incidents like the chargers they bestride, which serve only to show the skill and menage of the riders and to help them to victory. In "Fort Amity," however, it is hard to say whether your psychological interest in all the complex and conflicting movements and emotions of the hero's mind and heart, or your schoolboy interest in his varied and thrilling adventures, is the keener. There is, besides, to reckon with, your patriotic interest in the struggle for Canada between England and France, and all three together make "Fort Amity" a fascinating novel. Your interest culminates in the assault of Fort Amity, where the English hero, emerging from the confused welter of British, French, Indians, and Canadians, rescues the French heroine. Mr. Maurice Hewlett has greatly dared, and, I think, succeeded greatly in "The Queen's Quair" (3) or "The Six Years' Tragedy."

A quair (he writes in his prologue) is a cahier, a quire, a little book. In one such a certain king wrote fairly the tale of his love-business; and here, in this other, I pretend to show you all the tragic error, known only to her that moved in it, of that child of his children's children, Mary of Scotland. What others have guessed at, building surmise upon surmise, she knew; for what they did she suffered. . . . The whole of it lay in her heart, and to know her is to hold the key of that. Suppose her hand had been at this pen; suppose mine had turned that key; there might have resulted "The Queen's Quair." Well! Suppose one or the other till the book is done—and then judge me.

In a word, Mr. Hewlett has undertaken to show you all the wiles and windings, all the baffling intricacies of a woman's heart—and that woman Mary of Scotland. To do this effectively he has to make you realise—and he does make you realise vividly—her environment, which, perhaps, he blackens unduly to lighten what is darkest in his heroine. At any rate, he does all that can be asked of a romancist—realises himself and makes you realise vividly the scenes and characters of this tale. And this in spite of the far-fetched affectations of his style which do all they can to deaden the sense of reality. "Upon such a crisis, intending for the best, Mary Beaton superinduced a stout, easily-flushed, gamesome lady, her aunt, Lady Forbes of Reres," is surely a foppish way of expressing a simple incident. And what is to be said for such pompous phraseology as, "he did not answer for a while, but looked far over-sea with those hawk-eyes of his, which seemed able to rend the garniture of Heaven, and descry the veiled secrets of God"? The heroine of "Malincourt Keep" (4) marries into the most uncomfortable family, I should say, in recent fiction:—

"When the day comes that you are unfaithful to me, Audrey," her husband says to her shortly after their marriage, "I will not kill you, but I will lock you up as a madwoman in some lonely place and tell the world that you are dead. We have done this, not once or twice in our history, but many times."

The last time was fortunately the very last, since the uncomfortable family came to an end with this gentleman, who, having slain the would-be seducer of his mother, and fired her grave-like prison, dies mad, thereby setting both his wife and his mother free to marry their old lovers. This old lover of his mother—who must not be confounded with her would-be seducer, for whom she cared nothing—saved her from the flames, to hear from her own lips her meek and mild justification at once of herself, as unjustly suspected, and of her husband and son for having unjustly suspected her. Indeed, this gentle justification suggests that her long and solitary imprisonment and the shock of the fire had together weakened her mind. I cannot but think that Miss Sarah Tytler was ill-inspired in dragging Cowper, Mary Unwin, and Lady Hesketh into "The Poet and His Guardian Angel" (5). She can hardly be blamed for failing to give you a more vivid idea of the Olney household than that you have at first hand already; but why then introduce this poor and pale reflection of it? Their introduction certainly does not make the tame story of the fortunes of the Thorne family either more probable or more interesting. "Harry Furniss at Home" (6) reminds you a little of Miss Snevellicci's scrap-book which was made up, you remember, of all the favourable notices of her acting that had appeared in provincial journals. The two things you chiefly learn from the volume is what Harry Furniss thinks of himself, and what his admirers think of him. Nor are his enemies left out. There are passages about Mr. Plowden and others in this "At Home," which also recall Miss Snevellicci's scrap-book extracts, "giving a circumstantial and melancholy account of the train of events which led to Miss Snevellicci's spraining her ankle by slipping on a piece of orange-peel flung by a monster in human form upon the stage of Winchester." Indeed, the key-note of the book is struck by the paragraph with which it opens, where you have, side by side, a compliment to Mr. Furniss and a cut at his complimenter:—

I was standing in the hall of the Garrick Club one afternoon towards the close of last year (1903), when a member came up to me and said:—"By the way, I have just been to the dentist, and, while waiting to be operated upon, I was looking over the back numbers of *Punch;* and I must tell you how much I enjoyed your work. I laughed heartily over your Parliamentary designs—some of the very best things that ever appeared in *Punch.*" I thanked my fellow-member for his flattering remarks, and felt it necessary to take a little walk to hide my blushes and restore my habitual sense of modesty. As soon as I recovered I burst out laughing. At that moment a friend stopped me. "You seem highly amused at something. What is it? The latest joke?" "No; the latest compliment; serious, I assure you." And then I repeated what had been said to me, and gave him three guesses to find the name of my flatterer. He failed to hit upon the right one, so I told him. "Well, I never!" he ejaculated with a laugh. "That is too funny for words." The same thing happened when I told other acquaintances. No one guessed rightly; so I imagine none of my readers will either. I shall therefore give the name in full: Sir Frank Cowley Charles Mary Burnand, Editor of *Punch.*

We shall have to wait for Mr. Furniss's next volume to find out why this compliment paid by an editor to a contributor should be "too funny for words"; since Mr. Furniss promises, when he takes the public again into his confidence, "to give Mr. Burnand away." Anyway, it was most certainly not the extravagance of the compliment that, in Mr. Furniss's opinion, made it "too funny for words." Nor was the compliment extravagant, for that matter. If any pictures could make a man laugh in a dentist's ante-room they would be Mr. Furniss's Parliamentary designs, unquestionably "some of the very best things that ever appeared in *Punch.*" At the same time, I think Mr. Furniss must have forgotten some of these designs when he contrasts the good nature of his own political caricatures with the savagery of those of German artists:—

Mr. Gladstone's collar was merely a creation dealing with an eccentricity of dress—it became a trade-mark; but the three hairs—the trade-mark of the Bismarck portrait in a caricature—were a libel on the great Chancellor's hirsute adornment, and drew attention to a failing of Nature—very different from a mere eccentricity of the shirt-maker.

Bismarck with but three hairs was an inoffensive and even flattering caricature compared with some of Mr. Furniss's representations of—*e.g.*, Mr. Swift MacNeil. No such fault can be found with any of the caricatures in this "At Home," which are as genial as they are

admirable. It is odd, by the way, that Mr. Furniss's sense of humour should seem to desert him when he exchanges the pencil for the pen. To me, at least, some of the stories, which appear to him exquisite, seem somewhat pointless. Even "the funniest incident he ever came across" fails to convulse me. As, however, the fault may lie with me, I shall submit it to your judgment:—

The funniest incident I ever came across was the following story of the Prince Consort yachting on the Scotch coast. The Prince was taking a turn upon the Royal yacht, and on approaching the caboose or cook-house, the olfactory nerves of his Royal Highness were sensibly affected by the sweetsmelling savour emerging from the boiling cauldron. "What is in the pote?" the Royal Consort asked the cook. "Eh, surr, do ye no ken? It's the noodge poodge," was the reply of the sturdy Caledonian. "De noodge poodge?" exclaimed the Prince. "What is him made with?" "Why, mon," said the chef de cuisine, ignorant of the rank of his interrogator, "Aw'll be tellin' ye now; there's toorneps intilt, and there's carrots intilt, and there's barley intilt, and there's mooten intilt, and there's water intilt, and there's——" "Yah! yah!" interrupted the Prince, "Bote what is 'Entelt?'" "Am aw no tellin' ye a' the time?" said the gastronomic artist. toorneps intilt, and there's carrots intilt, and there's——". "Yah! yah!" interrupted the Prince, "Bote what is 'Eentelt?'" "Am aw no tellin' ye a' the time?" said the gastronomic artist. "There's toorneps intilt," and again repeating the category of ingredients, he was the second time stopped by the Prince, who was perplexed to know the meaning of "intilt." The Scot, losing all patience, exclaimed, "Ye daft gowk! if ye canna understan' me, maybe ye'd like to put your nose intilt?" The Prince, somewhat disconcerted, lighted his meerschaum, walked aft, descended into the saloon cabin, and requested his secretary to refer to the latest edition of the Scottish dictionary what was "intilt."

That is funny, certainly; but hardly, you would think, "the funniest incident a contributor to *Punch* ever came across." In "The Challoners" (7) the author of "Dodo" gives you a singularly powerful and sympathetic study of a Calvinist clergyman, whose grim creed is in wearing conflict not only with his half-Italian wife's sunny temperament, and with the artistic tastes and capabilities of his son, and with his daughter's "worldly" leanings and longings, but also, and above all, with his own loving and love-craving heart. The wife dies of the polar sternness, chilliness, and loneliness of his company, not long after she had given birth to the two children—twins. The children, inheriting much of their mother's southern and artistic temperament, inherit with it also the dreary lot of a joyless and suppressed existence. However, they break these bonds asunder and go off with a natural and almost inevitable reaction in the opposite direction from that which their puritan father had prescribed to them. The girl gets engaged to an atheist; the boy becomes not only a famous musician, but also—horror of horrors!—a Catholic! Yet their gloomy father's heart yearns all through—with a yearning that is most powerfully and pathetically described by Mr. Benson—towards the prodigals, and the novel closes with the death-scene of the boy and with the reunion through that dread reconciler of father and daughter. In his charming picture of his heroine, Helen, Mr. Benson has made ample amends to the sex for his repellent "Dodo." Here is the preposterous plot of Mr. Clark Russell's "Wrong Side Out" (8). The hero loses his memory through the shock of one shipwreck, and recovers much of it through the shock of another. While he has forgotten everything about himself, except his descent from Charles II. through Nell Gwynn, he marries an Australian widow; his own widow, as she supposed herself, meanwhile marries an old suitor, a Spanish music-teacher. The four meet in mid-ocean at the moment in which the hero, through his second shipwreck, recovers at least remembrance of all that had happened before his first shipwreck, but forgets all that occurred—including his marriage to the Australian widow—in the interval between the two. Then there is an amazing half-shuffle, through which the music-teacher, now released from the hero's wife by his reappearance, marries the derelict Australian widow! And the hero, you say, is reunited to his real, original wife? Not at all. Her repellent Radicalism forbids such a reunion. "Will the reader," asks Mr. Clark Russell in the closing sentence of the novel, "be very greatly surprised to hear that, down to his death, the hero was utterly at a loss to account for the reason why his wife declined to live with him, or to have anything to do with him?" But the reader's own surprise at the lady's motiveless rejection of her morally guiltless husband leaves him no room to speculate upon that gentleman's bewilderment. "Sir Mortimer" (9), a stirring story of the days of great Elizabeth, turns upon an absolutely new pivot—that of the hero's persuasion that under torture, and, while unconscious, he betrayed his comrades. He confesses this betrayal to them, and is shunned and driven reckless by the scorn of his fellows. Towards the close, however, he is rehabilitated and the curtain of a very dramatic tale falls upon his reunion with his lady-love. There is too much of the stage about "The Amblers" (10), where all the misunderstandings are so improbable that you lose patience with both hero and heroine; but the book was written under great disadvantages. After the death of Mr. Farjeon, his daughter had to complete the tale under circumstances which compel the reader's allowance and sympathy.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The Botanic Gardens hav[e] outlived their ill-luck in the matter of [w]eather, and some of the most brilliant and successful fêtes [of the] season have been held there. Thursday's was no[t an] exception. It consisted of a Grand National Fair [in aid] of the Home of Recovery, in which the Queen take[s] a kindly interest. The Countess of Lytton has d[one] great part of the work in organising the Fair, and [the] earl is chairman. The idea is to collect £30,000 [for the] endowment of the projected Home for patients di[s]charged from the hospitals, cured, but still suffering from weakness and other sequelæ of severe illness. This sum would give an income of £1,200 a year. The Home would contain twenty-one free beds, in addition to a few for paying patients who might be glad to secure privacy and quiet in this way.

The Fair had unusual attractions. The stalls represented different countries. France sold fruit, Russia baskets, England articles of home art, Japan porcelain, Turkey cigarettes, and many of the stallholders and their assistants wore fancy costumes. The Countess of Lytton had the flower stall, and she herself looked a picture. Lady Granby sold photographs and prints, and a very tempting array of strawberries, raspberries, and cream was presided over by Mrs. Alfred Mond and Mrs. Arthur Lever.

The entertainments included a miniature shooting range where we had the opportunity of admiring Mr. Walter Winans' very clever revolver shooting. Children's dances, arranged by Mrs. D'Egville, were very graceful and pretty. In the evening there was a second entertainment, with the addition of the Maori chieftain, Rauginia, whose voice was as melodious as his appearance was picturesque. The gardens were illuminated, and a very amusing auction was held at the close, when cigars and fruit were sold off.

It was a capital idea to have Japanese umbrellas over the stalls. They looked extremely effective.

Quite the prettiest wedding of the season was that of Lady Marjorie Gordon, only daughter of the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen, with Captain Sinclair, M.P., at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington. The bride is very tall, with large dark eyes and dark hair, a perfect complexion, a particularly pleasant expression, and a fine figure. She looks very intellectual, which is not surprising, as her tastes have been literary from childhood.

REDFERN'S Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit-street Showrooms.

As a small girl she edited a magazine for children called "Wee Willie Winkie," and, if any further testimony of a highly-cultivated mind were needed, it would be found in the quantities of books given her as wedding presents. The bridegroom was Lord Aberdeen's aide-de-camp when he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and was the Earl's Secretary when he was Governor-General of Canada. He is now member for Forfarshire.

The church was beautifully decorated with white flowers and palms, ivy and broom, the badges of the bride's and bridegroom's families, being intermingled with the greenery. There was a great concourse of friends, who were shown to their places by Lord Tweedmouth and Lord Balfour of Burleigh, uncles of the bride, her three brothers, the Marquis of Graham, and the Hon. Jasper Ridley, her cousin. Entering by the west door, the bride looked extremely nice in her ivory corded silk trimmed with fine old Brussels point (worn by the Countess at her own wedding) and embroidered in white ribbon and silver sequins in sprays of ivy and broom. This lovely embroidery was partly worked by Lady Aberdeen's embroidresses at Methlick, Aberdeenshire, and partly by the Irish School of Art Needlework, Dublin, to which the Countess has always been most kindly helpful. The chiffon sash was embroidered to match the gown. A very becoming wreath of orange-blossom was arranged in the abundant, dark hair under a veil of finest Brussels point. diamond ornaments, including a necklace of brilliants, gleamed through the meshes of the veil.

The tiny cousins of the bride were train-bearers and followed by six older bridesmaids. All wore white silk made in Early Victorian fashion, and trimmed frills of silk muslin edged with Valenciennes, matching their scarves of the same period. They wore wreaths of Malmaison carnations and ivy, had bunches of Malmaisons tucked into their bodices, and carried bouquets of broom and ivy. Their blue enamel pendants set with sapphires were, with the bouquets, the bridegroom's gift.

It was a beautiful procession, led up the aisle by the clergy (Bishop of Peterborough, Rev. T. G. Gardiner, and the Vicar of Kensington) and choristers to the chancel, where the Archbishop of Canterbury awaited them. The hymn, "Now thank we all our God," was sung meanwhile. The music throughout was of great beauty, especially a hymn beginning "A holy air is breathing round," which was sung very softly while the congregation knelt.

Favours of broom and ivy were handed to the guests on their arrival at the church. The bride's mother wore royal blue taffetas trimmed with Irish lace presented by the workers at Kinsale. She wore a toque of Malmaison pink wreathed round with blue flowers, and an aigrette of carnations matching the cluster of carnations in her bodice. The Duchess of Buccleuch, in heliotrope, was accompanied by her daughter, Lady Constance Scott. The Dowager Duchess of Roxburghe also had a daughter with her. The Duchess of Montrose was in pale grey, and her daughter, Lady Helen Graham, was in white with pale blue hat and scarf to match.

The reception was held at Brook House, lent by the bride's uncle, Lord Tweedmouth. The wedding-cake was much admired. It stood five feet high, and was decorated with broom and ivy. The presents were all laid out at the Earl's house in Grosvenor-street. Lady Marjorie is one of the best-liked girls in society, and consequently her presents were very numerous and were gifts of friendship, not of convention. She is also much beloved by her father's tenantry and dependants. No less than eighteen presentations from public bodies were made to the bride. The Haddo House tenantry gave her an opal and diamond necklace. The bridegroom's gifts included a diamond and opal tiara, a beautiful pearl ornament for the bodice in a design of rose, thistle, and shamrock, with necklace and pendant to match, and among many other jewels a ring copied from one in Captain Sinclair's possession that had belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, a yellow diamond between two white ones. The Earl and Countess gave their daughter a pearl and diamond tiara, and the beautiful diamond necklace worn on the wedding day was the gift of the Dowager Lady Tweedmouth.

The bride gave the bridegroom a set of crystal and enamel buttons, a diamond pin, and a sovereign purse. The books include a "Pilgrim's Progress" from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Randall Davidson, Matthew Arnold's Poems, Marcus Aurelius, Ruskin, Browning, Carlyle, Thackeray, and Barrie.

I was so glad to see a notice put up for omnibus drivers that strict punctuality would not be expected during the great heat, and that any one over-driving his horses would be dismissed. The heat is terribly trying for the poor gee-gees.

Lunching the other day at a friend's house, where everything is done to perfection, we had a very delicious dish, of which I must tell you. Solid strawberry ice pudding formed the centre and all round it were large red strawberries blushing through a veil of frozen, pinky cream. The flavour was simply superb, so much so that I could not help asking how it had been achieved. "Escoffier's Sauce Melba," was the answer. This delicious preparation is made from fresh raspberries, and the flavour of the two fruits combine most excellently. We always put a tablespoonful of sauce Melba in our fruit salads, and everybody likes them. We had a great success the other day with a salad of strawberries, raspberries, oranges, peaches (tinned), stoned cherries, and bananas. We had the syrup of the peaches boiled up with a little sugar, and, with two tablespoonfuls of sauce Melba, poured it over the salad while it was hot. This makes it permeate every ingredient. As to the Escoffier Sauce Diable, it is almost too delicious, for, being applicable to both hot and cold meat, poultry, etc., and appealing to every one's gustatory nerves, it goes extremely quickly.

Have you ever heard of Red Pimientos in your rural solitudes? I shall have something to tell you about them very shortly. They are an indispensable ingredient in a very famous dish, specially invented by the chef of the Carlton for the rather important occasion of the Coronation of our King, and called Poularde Edouard VII.

Eva is eloquent about some stuff she has lately discovered for cleaning electro-plated articles and those made of bronze, copper, brass, and zinc. She showed me some dessert knives and forks that had gone almost black, and which, with a generous application of Platol, were speedily made presentable. You must get a bottle. The preparations are varied to suit special purposes, so, when you order it, it as well to say for what particular articles it is required.

You will thank me for this tip.

And while I am on the subject, I may as well give you a message, entrusted to me for you by a mutual friend who knows about your invalid aunt. This friend had some time ago the care of an aged invalid, and was much worried by the difficulty of finding a food that could be safely given last thing at night; the patient complained of feeling weak and hungry just before dawn, and yet could not digest a late meal. The difficulty was solved when they at last tried Benger's Food. It is sold in tins, and is a self-digesting food for infants and invalids. In the notes about feeding infants the directions state that for a hand-fed baby one month old a meal of from three to four tablespoonfuls should be given every two hours. This, of course, means three to four tablespoonfuls of the food *after* it has been prepared and twenty times its bulk of milk and water added to it.

"LA SAMOTHRACE."—Every corset of the LONDON CORSET CO., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

By the way, Benger's Food makes delicious batter puddings.

Westminster Abbey was the scene of a very pretty wedding this afternoon (Tuesday), that of fair-haired Miss Rube and Mr. Leopold Canning, only son of Lord and Lady Garvagh. The bridegroom strongly resembles his beautiful mother. The small train bearers were Miss Angela Beit and Master Alec Wernher. There were seven bridesmaids. The bride had a lovely gown, ivory satin embroidered in a design of roses and shamrocks in raised silk and silver. A deep flounce of finest Brussels trimmed the skirt, and the pointed bodice had a yoke of similar lace. The Court train was specially woven for the bride in a design of rose wreaths and broad satin stripes embroidered in silver. It was lined with a billowy foam of softest chiffon. The bridal veil was fine old Brussels point. All the lovely lace was the gift of the bride's mother.

The bridesmaids wore soft white mousseline taffetas, with Directoire coats and broad sashes of blue and silver broché ribbon, fastened with large blue velvet-embroidered buttons. Their white chip hats were trimmed with silver-embroidered blue velvet, blue tulle falling in long ends and plumes of splendid white ostrich feathers. Their bouquets were white roses, and they wore diamond and ruby pendants, all gifts of the bridegroom. The bride's bouquet was very lovely. I hear that her trousseau is fit for a Royal princess and in exquisite taste.

At the ceremony Mrs. Rube wore Parma violet crêpe-de-chine trimmed with silk Cluny lace, of which the loose hanging sleeves were also composed.

The bride's going-away dress was lovely, all ivory crêpe-de-chine, the vandyked frills edged with lace and appliqué, with real Valenciennes. The pretty bodice was gathered into a deep, pointed corselet belt fastened with cameo buttons on a pale blue ground.

Mr. Benson's new novel, "The Challoners," is very interesting and *so* amusing. A woman in it describes her hat as "covey of birds that have been out all night in a storm, sitting on a tomato salad." The book is published by Heinemann.

If you like a very funny book, read "Joshua Newing's; or, the Love Bacillus" (Smith, Elder). It is very droll. Joshua reminds me a little of Joseph Sedley in *Vanity Fair*. And would you like a problem novel for a change? If so, read "Motherhood," in which the author, L. Parry Truscott, shows a young woman who is so set on working out her own salvation in her own way that she makes a practically public confession of her fault, though, by doing so, she ruins her husband and blasts the social prospects of her little child and of her young sisters. Two of these are the most delightfully amusing girls ever met with in fiction. But I should like to know what you think of the central motif of the very powerful and arresting story. To my thinking Pauline's action is the outcome of an abnormal egoism, but you may regard her as a heroine. Get this book. It is published by Fisher Unwin.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—In the "fifties" of the year of grace 800, the saintly Bishop Swithin filled, with much glory to God and edification to man, the See of Winchester. Many a saint who, since then, filled many a See, has been forgotten, but no such oblivion has fallen to St. Swithin's lot. There were few who did not have him in their minds last week in these climes. Popular traditions and superstitions are, in many instances, strange and wonderful in their origin, but stranger still in the fact that they live so long. No matter how incessantly experience teaches us—with clear and practical object-lessons, too—that the weather of the future is in no way affected by that of St. Swithin's Day, the feast never comes unnoticed by the inhabitants of these isles. The calendars, which pass over far more important saints, make special note of him; we all, more or less, make weather observations on the fateful day, are moved to a certain amount of misgiving and depression if it be bad and feel much more comfortable in having a fine "St. Swithin." And only think that the Saint, for all we know, never knew nor cared whether the weather were foul or fair, and in his lifetime, these thousand and odd years ago, had nothing whatsoever to do with influencing the rainfall for forty or any other number of days. His chief record, besides that of saintliness, is the unconscious one according to those who aspire to be political economists over here of building many churches. The tradition according to which he gives us a sample of the weather which forecasts what it will be for an exact period of forty days is doubtful in its origin, and even then only claims to originate over a hundred years after the holy Bishop's death. Yet here we have it still, fresh and green, after all these years and all our experiences!

Our sample weather on St. Swithin's Day was doleful; the Saint was in a decidedly unamiable mood. Rain in varieties of light and heavy, wind squalls, and very occasional intervals when for a few moments the sun peeped from amongst the heavy clouds, only to disappear again even before we were given time to hope. What a forecast for forty days! No saint would surely be so spiteful as to carry it out. It was bad enough for one day, interrupting rudely the summer life into the enjoyment of which we had so heartily entered after the deprivation of many years. And to think that you had no rain on St. Swithin! What a difference there is between us on our respective sides of the Channel, even in the matter of weather. We might draw from the fact the lesson that we should agree to differ. We are never either so hot or so cold as you are, possibly because, with out greater sea surrounding, we are damper. The heat of your great capital is causing a return to Ireland of the many who take a "season" holiday with you—persons of fashion, of culture, country cousins who want to be brought up to date, frivolous ones who want theatres and amusements, including shopping. Are you to be envied who live in the heart of the Empire, or is it better to be only a visitor there to live at high pressure, or take it occasionally, when the tonic value is great? There are pros and cons in everything; no lot is too exalted for them, and none too low.

The Viceregal family yet remains in occupation of the Viceregal Lodge. Lord Dudley was absent all last week, but soon returns to fulfil a variety of engagements, of which there is always a large number to occupy even the more leisurely hours of the Lord Lieutenant. Sir Antony MacDonnell, with his family, has been passing the summer at his residence in the Phœnix Park, where he exercises much hospitality. This week the Archbishop of Westminster, who accompanies Cardinal Vanutelli from London to Ireland, will, it is said, pay Sir Antony a visit before going to Armagh for the great Catholic ceremonial next Sunday, the consecration of the Catholic Cathedral. The gathering of ecclesiastic dignitaries of the Catholic Church, not only Irish, but from many parts of the world, is unique, quite a historical event in Ireland, where no such gathering has taken place since the spacious times of Queen Elizabeth, or ever before took place, possibly. The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk will head the representatives of the English Catholic laity on the occasion. They will not stay at Armagh, but at Rostrevor, one of the most picturesque spots in the County Down, on the shores of Carlingford Lough, little more than an hour distant by train from Armagh. Rostrevor House, where the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk stay as the guests of Sir John and Lady Ross of Bladensburg, is a charming and imposing building, overlooking the Lough and standing amidst beautiful mountain and wooded scenery. Sir John, who has always taken an active part in the world's affairs, is also devoted to literary and botanical pursuits. Lady Ross, the sister of Lord Massereene, has a charming personality, and musical and artistic proclivities. The neighbourhood of Rostrevor is interesting, also, through having given two very distinguished Irishmen, not only to Ireland, but to the kingdom—Lord O'Hagan and Lord Russell of Killowen. Both may be said, in a way, to have broken their "birth's invidious bar." Lord O'Hagan became the first Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland since what is historically known as the Reformation, and Lord Russell the first Catholic Lord Chief Justice of England. A good record for Ulster—the County Down being in that province—and not of the kind usually associated with it.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

This is the weather for cold entrées. You will find this mayonnaise of sweetbread an excellent one:—

Cut a nicely braised sweetbread into scallops, trim them and dip each one in thick mayonnaise sauce. Arrange them on a

border of aspic with half a round piece of red tongue, cut in points to represent a cockscomb between each. Have small, picked, curly lettuce leaves, mixed with mayonnaise in the centre, garnish with chopped aspic and groups of small salad.

You will find this "Parfait d'Abricots" refreshing:—

Soak overnight half a pound of "Cape" dried apricots, then stew them with a glass of sherry and the water they were soaked in, adding 1 oz. of loaf sugar. Rub them through a hair sieve. Put the purée into an egg bowl with a gill of cream, half a gill of dissolved lemon jelly, and whisk it on ice and salt until partly frozen; then put it into jelly glasses and set them in the ice cave, or a stewpan well surrounded with ice and salt for two hours. Put a spoonful of whipped cream on each, sprinkle them with chopped pistachios, and serve them with vanilla wafers handed separately.

Here is a little hint. The next time you make a fruit salad put in some Melba sauce. This makes it perfect.

Here is a nice summer salad:—

Cut two small cucumbers into pieces 2 in. long, take out the seeds with an apple corer, and then parboil them. Fill the cavities with quenelle of chicken and braise them half an hour in a sautépan. When they are cold, arrange them on a circle of worked butter on a dish, put a ring of hard-boiled white of egg on each and a disc of truffle in the centre of each piece of egg. Fill the centre of the dish with the salad and make a border of slices of tomato, garnished with crescent-shaped pieces of truffle. To make the salad:—Cut the breast of a boiled chicken into pieces an inch long, then pull them lightly into shreds, add shredded tongue, two or three shredded gherkins, and two or three hearts of crisp lettuce. Mix it with thick mayonnaise sauce, and sprinkle it with shredded truffles.

If you like savoury dishes of macaroni you will enjoy this dish. Tomatoes farcies à l'Indienne:—

Take six or seven round, smooth, sound tomatoes, not over ripe, cut away the stalk end and remove the seeds. Boil 4 oz. of macaroni and cut it into rings about half an inch long. Mix two tablespoonfuls of the cut macaroni with the same quantity of chopped ham and a gill of good curry sauce, add the yolks of two eggs, and with it fill the tomatoes; turn them out on round pieces of fried bread and bake them in a moderate oven. Dish the tomatoes in a circle; warm the remainder of the macaroni with two spoonfuls of shredded cooked ham in a little butter, pile it in the centre of the tomatoes, and pour curry sauce round it.

To make a good curry sauce:—Fry two large minced onions with 2 oz. of butter in a stewpan until brown, add three sharp apples cut in quarters, cover them closely, and cook them in the steam. Then mix in a dessertspoonful of curry powder, one of curry paste, one of chutney, and a spoonful of flour; add a little grated cocoanut with the milk. It is an improvement to moisten it with a pint of good stock. Simmer it gently for an hour, rub it through a hair sieve. Add cream and a little lemon juice at the time of serving.

Crème mousse au citron is delightful:—

Dissolve half an ounce of gelatine with the juice and the grated peel of two lemons, 6 oz. of loaf sugar, and about a gill of water. When it boils, strain it through a cloth into a basin; when it is cool enough, add the white of an egg, and whisk it till it is cold. Mix it quickly with a gill of whipped cream, and pour it at once into a mould.

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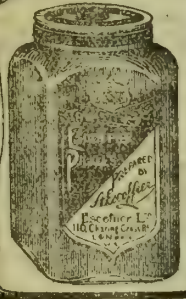

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· TRUTH ·

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen will pay a visit to Osborne on Friday, August 5, when staying at Cowes, and the grounds are to be closed to visitors on that day. On the same day their Majesties will drive to Carisbrooke Castle, where there is to be a military tattoo in the grounds, which will be also attended by Princess Henry of Battenberg and other members of the Royal Family.

Apartments have been engaged for the King at the Hotel Weimar, Marienbad, for the last three weeks of August. His Majesty will leave England for the Continent after Cowes regatta week, and will probably be conveyed in the Royal yacht from the Solent to Calais. The Emperor Francis Joseph is to arrive at Marienbad on Tuesday, August 30, for a stay of two days. The King is to return to England in time for Doncaster races, which will begin on September 6, after which he will go to Scotland for about a month. His Majesty is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey, Notts, from Monday, September 5, until Saturday, the 10th.

Some of the papers are constantly arranging interviews between the King and foreign potentates. The last flim-flam of this description is the announcement that his Majesty is to have a meeting with the King of Roumania and with Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria at Marienbad. This is a pure invention. King Charles is going from Bucharest to the baths of Gastein, thence to Lucerne, and will not be nearer to Marienbad than Vienna. Prince Ferdinand is now taking the waters at Marienbad, and will have left that place a week before the King arrives there.

The King will probably pay a visit in September to Lord and Lady Burton at Loch Quoich Lodge, Inverness-shire. His Majesty will then have a few days' deer shooting in Glenquoich Forest, which belongs to Mrs. Ellice, of Invergarry, and comprises 60,000 acres, extending from the top of Glen Garry to the sea at Loch Hourn. This forest is heavily stocked with red deer, and it is easily worked, bridle paths being cut in all directions. The scenery is very fine. Lord Burton has been the tenant of Glenquoich for more than thirty years, and since his lease expired he has taken on the place from season to season. It is reported that Lord Burton's tenancy will terminate in November next.

The Queen will probably go to Scotland for a fortnight after the Cowes Regatta week, after which her Majesty will proceed to Denmark, embarking on board the Royal yacht at Aberdeen. It is likely that the Queen will spend a few days at Duff House, Banffshire, with the Duke and Duchess of Fife before going to Balmoral. Duff, which is the Duke of Fife's family seat, is close to the town of Banff, and near the sea. The house, which was built during the reign of George II., was intended to be a facsimile of the Villa Borghese, but it is unfinished. It contains a fine gallery of pictures, a good library, and valuable collections of arms and old armour. The grounds, which are well wooded and intersected by the Deveron, are very pretty, and contain a Gothic mausoleum. The rocks at Alvah Bridge are the great sight of the demesne. The King (then Prince of Wales) was the guest of the Duke of Fife at Duff for several days about eighteen years ago, when a ball was given in honour of his visit. As a rule the Duke and Duchess of Fife reside at Duff for only three weeks during the

year, their visit taking place towards the end of July, when they leave town, and before they go to Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire, for the shooting season.

The Prince of Wales will probably be the guest of Lord Ripon at Studley Royal, during the week after next for the first two days of grouse-shooting over the celebrated Dallowgill moors, on which Lord de Grey usually makes one of the heaviest single-gun bags of the season.

The Duchess of Connaught left London on Friday evening for Paris, whence she proceeded on Saturday to the baths of Bagnolles de l'Orne, in Normandy, for a stay of three weeks. The Duchess is accompanied by her daughters, the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia, and by Princess Ena of Battenberg.

The Duke of Sparta has come to England from Germany on a short visit to the King and Queen. The Duchess is staying at Friedrichshof, near Kronberg, with Prince and Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse. The Duke and Duchess of Sparta are to visit the Emperor William and the Empress next month at Wilhelmshöhe, near Cassel, after which they will go to Denmark.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein are to leave Southampton for Capetown on Saturday, August 20, in the Walmer Castle, and they will be accompanied to South Africa by Lord and Lady Edward Spencer Churchill and Miss Loch. Princess Christian and Princess Victoria are to return to England early in November, when they will join Prince Christian at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* announced the other day that Cambridge Cottage, Kew, "has been offered to and declined by the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg and the Duchess of Albany." This is incorrect. Cambridge Cottage has not been offered to either Duchess by the King. The Duchess Marie has no wish for a residence in England, and the Duchess of Albany already has Claremont, and could have no use for another place within a few miles of that domain.

Lord Dudley's visits to England during his tenure of Viceregal office in Ireland have been few and far between, his record, in that respect, being in great contrast to his predecessor's. He returned to the Viceregal Lodge last week, and was present at the Kingstown Regatta, taking part in one of the sailing matches. Lady Dudley, owing to the condition of her health, has not been able to make any public appearances, but has remained at the Viceregal Lodge since the King and Queen were guests there.

Last week two speeches, each interesting in its own way, were made on Irish subjects by Cardinal Logue and Lord Cadogan respectively. Cardinal Logue spoke in answer to a public address, and Lord Cadogan on receiving a somewhat belated presentation from some of his Irish friends to commemorate his late Viceregal rule in Ireland. Cardinal Logue gave the excellent advice to his people to give up the disastrous dream of separation, and to accept the inevitable, the British Empire. Lord Cadogan counselled the cessation of religious dissensions in Ireland, which must necessarily mean that all religions should be on an equality in the country. The Irish question might at last see finality, or the way to it at least, if the Irish gracefully accepted the fact that they are fellow-subjects with the English, Scotch, and Colonials of the British Empire, and if the British Empire on its side accepted the equally indisputable facts that the people of Ireland are Irish and mainly Catholic. Furthermore, that under the free flag of the British Empire every one is entitled to hold whatever religious belief seems best to him.

The ceremony of consecrating the Catholic Cathedral at Armagh, the Irish Primatial See, took place on Sunday, the northern town being crowded on the occasion with all classes. Cardinal Vannutelli, the Papal legate, with a suite, arrived at Kingstown at the end of the week, and, having spent a night with the Archbishop of Dublin, went northward to be the guest of Cardinal Logue. The ceremonial was interesting and imposing, and without precedent in the history of Ireland for many a century. Besides the great number of ecclesiastical dignitaries present, light and leading in the Catholic world were well represented amongst the laity.

Lord Strathmore, who has been appointed Lord Lieutenant of Forfarshire in the place of his late father, is well known and very popular in the county, with which the Lyon family has been connected since 1371, when Sir John de Lyon obtained the Thanage of Glamis through the interest of his wife, who was a daughter of Robert II. The late Lord Strathmore was Lord-Lieutenant of Forfarshire for thirty years. His predecessor was the well-known Lord Panmure (afterwards Earl of Dalhousie), appointed by Lord John Russell in 1849, in the place of the sixth Earl of Airlie, who had presided over the Court since 1827, when he succeeded Baron Douglas of Douglas.

The sudden death of Mr. Hamlyn, of Clovelly Court, is deeply regretted in North Devon, as he was a great favourite among all classes. Mr. Hamlyn was a most popular landlord, and an open-handed, charitable gentleman. He was a staunch Churchman, and in politics a Tory of the old school. He had been requested to contest the Barnstaple district, but had no wish to enter public life. Mr. Hamlyn was the second son of the late Mr. Gosling, a partner in the well-known

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 253.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 252.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 251.
For EDUCATIONAL, see page 251.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 257.

banking firm of that name, and he assumed the name of Hamlyn on his marriage. Mrs. Hamlyn inherited the large family estate in Devonshire from her mother, Mrs. Hamlyn Fane, who was the daughter and heiress of Sir J. Hamlyn Williams. Her only brother died young, and her sisters are Lady Manners and Lady Stuckey. Clovelly Court is one of the most beautiful places in the West of England, and the famous "Hobby" Drive is included in the demesne.

Mr. C. S. Parker, who prepared the correspondence of Sir Robert Peel for publication, is now engaged in editing a large collection of the letters of Sir James Graham. Sir James was a member of the House of Commons for more than forty years, and a prominent figure in public life from 1830 until 1859. He held high office under Lord Grey from 1830 until 1834, when he followed Lord Stanley (the late Lord Derby) over to the Tories, and he was Home Secretary under Sir Robert Peel, and became one of that Minister's most intimate and trusted friends. Sir James was First Lord of the Admiralty in Lord Aberdeen's Government. In 1847 Sir James refused to be Governor-General of India, and a few months later he declined Lord John Russell's offer of the Admiralty, which had become vacant by the sudden death of Lord Auckland. Mr. Gladstone more than once remarked that of all the public men of his time there was not one whose letters on public affairs would be more interesting than those of Sir James Graham.

No speech delivered in Parliament by Sir James Graham created a greater impression than his eloquent and forcible denunciation of Protection on a motion of Mr. Disraeli, in February, 1851, and one or two of his observations on this subject have a special interest to-day:—

> You may convulse the country, you man endanger property, you may shake our institutions to the foundation, but I am satisfied there is no person in England who can permanently enhance by force of law the price of bread.

He appealed in fine language to the last declaration of "the champion of the present policy," Sir Robert Peel:—

> He has ceased from his labours; he is at rest, and takes no longer a share in these angry strifes and contentions. But although he is dead he still speaks, and from his tomb, as it were, I hear the echo of his voice in this House. Well do I remember the memorable words—and do not you forget them—when he closed the peroration by that magnificent speech to which I have before referred. His words were these: "I still adhere to my opinion and belief, and earnestly hope that I may never live to see the day when the House of Commons will retrace its steps on this question."

A week or two back I received, not for the first time, an invitation to join the Junior Conservative Club in Albemarle-street. I did not accept it, for many reasons. Among others, my political views hardly coincide with those which the Club professes to favour (though this does not seem to be any serious obstacle to membership); and, what weighed more with me, the invitation looked suspiciously like a circular sent out broadcast, and I have an old-fashioned conservative prejudice against clubs recruited on this principle. I have since heard a little more about the domestic affairs of the club which makes me glad that I decided not to join.

It appears that certain members recently desired that a general meeting, which was formerly held annually, should be called to discuss certain new rules proposed by the secretary, which were considered to be in the interests of the proprietor rather than the members. The secretary replied that the annual meeting had been abolished, and that such a meeting would not be sanctioned by the proprietor—the proprietor appears to be a lady, and without misrepresenting the situation one might speak of her as the landlady. The dissentient members protested through one of their number against the abolition of the general meeting, the non-representation of the members on the wine committee, and a rule recently issued with reference to the admission of ladies to the Club. The secretary's reply was a simple "non possumus," coupled with a strong hint that the correspondence should cease.

Although the secretary acts and writes in the name of the committee, it appears that this committee is really appointed by him, and I suppose he is virtually appointed by the landlady. In fact, if, as the secretary states, no general meetings are to be held in future, it is obvious that the members have no practical voice or influence in the management of their affairs, and when the proprietary principle is carried to this length to call the thing a "club" seems rather a misnomer. The landlady simply keeps the establishment for the accommodation of such gentlemen as she chooses to invite to use it. While thanking her for selecting me for this honour, I must say that I should have appreciated the compliment more if the circumstances did not suggest that her choice is exercised somewhat indiscriminately. It looks to me as if the house she keeps is really an open one.

Did Balaam's donkey speak? In regard to this remarkable interference with the usual course of things we have only the evidence of Balaam, who was admittedly a false prophet. But there would be nothing improbable in the conversation between him and his jackass, if we are to accept the story of Mr. Rider Haggard and his dog. According to that gentleman, he one night began to groan and moan in his sleep, greatly to the distress of Mrs. Haggard. The spirit of his dog, he explained, had visited him, seemingly in considerable distress, because the natural dog was drowning. A few days later it was discovered that the dog had probably been killed earlier in this same night by a train passing over him, and either the train or some one had projected his carcase into a pond. Why the dog spirit paid Mr. Haggard this

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visit he does not seem quite to know, nor, indeed, whether it did so whilst the dog was alive or after its death. That no dog spirit appeared to him, and that he was suffering from nightmare, seems to be an explanation so simple, that it has not occurred to him.

Of course, on Mr. Haggard publishing this experience, which throws in the shade those of his "She," numerous persons have communicated like experiences to the newspapers. It would seem, indeed, that it is the commonest thing to receive a visit from spirit dogs and cats, and spirits of other animals. I feel quite "left out in the cold," as no such spirit has ever condescended to visit me. I have, it is true, before now, suffered from nightmare, and perhaps this was not due to indigestion, as I had imagined, but to a spirit mare looking in upon me. Seriously, however, what a crew of credulous dolts all these neurotic occultists, telepathists, and spiritualists are! There is positively nothing that they are not prepared to swallow, provided that it tallies with the illusions under which they suffer.

PAINLESS HAIRDRESSING.

A Chicago hairdresser has secured an enormous increase of patronage by advertising that all his assistants are deaf and dumb!—*Daily Paper.*

Oh, what is the name of the bold innovator
Who thus, as the cable avers,
For his customers' comfort determined to cater,
Such a boon on his patrons confers?
Who is this acute, this far-seeing hairdresser
Whose praises I gladly would strum—
This latest, this quite "up-to-datest" Professor,
Whose assistants are all deaf and dumb?

For think what this means! It implies that the wretches
No longer can spitefully drop
Those hints—and you know how such calumny "fetches"!—
Suggesting we're "thin on the top"!
It implies that they can't by their rude revelations
Coerce us rare unguents to buy,
Or coax us to risk those be-puffed preparations
Which are *not*, they assure us, a dye!

It also will silence that *coiffeur* loquacious
Who, rather than silent remain,
Will ask, when it's fine, in a manner vivacious,
"If we do not believe it will rain?"
Who, careless what grunts and what frowns may await him,
When once we are trussed in his chair,
Will go through the news of the day *seriatim*,
Till he drives us to sullen despair!

So, London hairdressers, at once I implore you
Along this new path to proceed,
And, with hustling Chicago's example before you,
To follow so splendid a lead!
For there's gold, bear in mind, in this latest suggestion;
Rapid fortune will certainly come
To such firms as can state that, without any question,
Their staff—to a shaver—is dumb!

The appointment of Mr. Walter Raleigh to the newly established chair of English Literature at Oxford has met with general approval in the University. Mr. Raleigh's excellent literary work speaks for itself, and he has proved himself to be a most able and efficient teacher. Mr. Raleigh, who is a Cambridge man (King's College), has been for some years Professor of English Language and Literature in the University of Glasgow.

The Lord Chancellor has presented the Rev. A. B. Littlewood, vicar of St. Paul's, Haggerston, to the vicarage of East Farleigh, near Maidstone, vacant by the preferment of the Rev. Mowbray Trotter to a residentiary stall in Gloucester Cathedral. East Farleigh was formerly one of the most valuable livings in Kent, the stipend being about £1,000 a year, with an excellent house, and the income of the benefice is still good as times go.

The Dean and Canons of Durham Cathedral held a Chapter meeting on Wednesday last, when they decided to present the Rev. H. E. Bilbrough, who has been for seven years Vicar of St. John's, Darlington, to the important vicarage of South Shields, vacant by the preferment of Canon Savage to the Crown living of Halifax. This benefice is worth about £600 a year, with residence. Mr. Bilbrough, who studied theology at Auckland Castle under Bishops Lightfoot and Westcott, is an excellent preacher, and warmly interested in educational matters. He has been very popular at Darlington, where he has worked a large parish with remarkable success, and he is also well-known at South Shields, as he was for seven years curate of one of the churches there. He was then a great favourite among the working classes, and once distinguished himself by jumping into the river to save a child from drowning.

Dr. Leishman, minister at Linton, who died last week at Edinburgh, was a highly distinguished Presbyterian divine, and he served the office of Moderator of the General Assembly in 1898. Dr. Leishman was an accomplished scholar, and he took large views of ecclesiastical affairs. He was regarded as a great authority on historical and liturgical questions.

In a small town in Madras recently an English missionary was asked to conduct the funeral of an English infant, the child of a subordinate official of the Government. The missionary replied that he was only there to minister to his native congregation, and, there being no other English clergyman in the place, the burial service had to be read by a layman. It is not surprising to learn that the incident caused much pain and indignation, more especially as it had always been customary for the missionary stationed in the town to perform such offices for European residents, and to conduct the regular services for them at the English church. This reverend gentleman—a newcomer—had himself done so on several occasions, and the only apparent reason for his refusal to officiate at the funeral was the fact that he was fatigued by a journey from which he had just returned. No doubt he is employed primarily to con-

vert the natives, but it is incredible that the society which maintains him would approve of his lack of Christian charity and consideration for this bereaved English family.

With reference to the dispute between the Evangelical Alliance and its late secretary, Messrs. Andrew, Wood, Purves, and Sutton write again, asking that, as I found myself unable last week to publish "the very lengthy judgment of Mr. Justice Buckley," I will publish certain extracts to which they desire to call special attention; I really cannot see any good ground for this request, seeing that the judgment was reported very fully in nearly all the leading dailies the day after the TRUTH article appeared, that is to say, thirteen days ago. I gather that what the solicitors to the Evangelical Alliance desire is to give publicity to the somewhat severe observations of Mr. Justice Buckley on the methods by which Mr. Field has carried on his campaign against his late employers. When one has thus stated the effect of these observations, it seems to me that all that is necessary has been done. However, as the appearance of the TRUTH article simultaneously with the delivery of the judgment was somewhat hard on the Alliance, and I certainly should not have published it had I known that the judgment was pending, I strain a point to the extent of giving the most significant part of Messrs. Andrew and Co.'s extracts. Referring to the affidavit by Mr. Wood, one of the Alliance's solicitors, his lordship said:—

Mr. John Wood says in paragraph 13 of his affidavit: "The defendant has also since April, 1904, carried on an agitation amongst the members of the said Alliance with reference to matters connected with the said Alliance or the Council. Letters criticising the said Alliance have recently appeared in a large number of newspapers, and I am informed and believe that such letters were written and sent by the defendant. They are calculated to inflict great injury on the said Alliance. I have read some of the said letters, including one which appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post* on May 20, 1904, and some of the statements therein are wholly and scandalously untrue, whilst others are inaccurate and grossly misleading." I should say during this discussion Mr. Field has raised every objection, technical and otherwise, and says among other things that this deponent says only: "I am informed and believe," and does not give the source of his information. I do not think it is necessary to answer that.

With reference to a circular issued to the members of the Alliance by Mr. Field prior to the recent meeting, he said:—

Now, I need not comment upon that circular. It is to my mind a notification by a person with an imaginary grievance; that, in point of fact, he is a person who has been injured, whilst in reality he is the person who is fomenting the litigation. The Council are doing nothing of the sort. The Council are perfectly ready to live at peace with him if only he will observe the order of August 17. It was contrary to what he had agreed in several respects. I can only hope that a gentleman who is moved by a wish as I hope to live peaceably with all men and to do his duty, will be persuaded when the judge has looked into this case and pronounced a view upon it, that he is not really justified in pursuing a course such as he has been pursuing.

These extracts are, I think, quite sufficient to show that the language, as well as the effect of the judgment, was entirely adverse to the late Secretary on those points which it dealt with. More than that, it is impossible to say while further litigation is pending.

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The theory I discussed last week, that church bells were originally rung to drive away the devils from the scene of divine worship, is controverted by one of my readers. The practice, he says, originated in the East, where it still prevails almost universally among all sects and creeds, and the object in view is to call the attention of the Deity to the fact that prayers are about to be addressed to Him. This sounds very heathenish, and it is humiliating that Christian ritual should owe so much to Paganism, as it undoubtedly does. At the same time, I must point out that this theory is not at all inconsistent with the other. The same bell might serve both purposes.

Another of my readers gives a different origin for church bells, on the indisputable authority of the Encyclopædia Britannica (this is *not* an advertisement). I regret to say that the source is again Pagan. Bells summoned the Romans to baths, according to this authority, and passed thence into the service of the Church. Paulinus, Bishop of Nola in Campania, first applied them to churches about A.D. 400. Originally, therefore, a summons to "go to Church" was the same thing as a hint to "go to Bath." I suppose Paulinus was the originator of the idea that cleanliness is next to godliness, the Latin heathens having evidently given it the first place.

Surprise is also expressed by some of my critics that I take no account of the æsthetic side of this question. One lady asks me if there is anything more beautiful than the chime of bells "echoing across the vale through the calm of the summer evening." Another correspondent is of opinion that "a man who objects to church bells must be of a very unpoetical turn." He recognises that they may be "rather trying to those in the immediate vicinity," but dismisses them on the plea that "the minority must give way to the majority." This is a sound doctrine, and I am all for the greatest happiness of the greatest number. But that is just the point. In these days the greatest number—far and away the greatest—live in towns. Their opportunities of listening to the peals echoing across the vale through the calm of the Sabbath evening are extremely limited. What they hear is generally a deafening clang coming at them point-blank over the chimney-pots in the next street. A man might be as full of poetry as Mr. Alfred Austin himself, but I doubt if he would ever put any language on to paper under such conditions that would be fit for publication. Of course, if the law laid down that all bells should be rung so that you could only hear the echo across a good wide dale, that would probably satisfy everybody. But, as things now are, to talk of the minority in the immediate vicinity giving way to the majority who are further off involves a transparent fallacy, because in a town the further off you are from one bell or peal the nearer you will be to the next. Besides, if it is to be a question of majorities, the only way is to take a poll. When it comes to voting, poetry and prose meet on equal terms.

I have been asked to call attention to the appeal of the Bishop of London, Mr. Scott Lidgett, and others on behalf of the Women's Holiday Fund; and this Fund certainly deserves to be remembered when so much attention is being directed to children's holiday funds. It is no doubt most desirable that children should get away from town during the summer, but in too many cases the unfortunate parents want a little rest and change quite as much—some people may think a good deal more. The Women's Holiday Fund assists hard-working women who are in this plight to get a week or two's holiday in the country or by the sea, which they could not otherwise obtain, and which many of them have not had for years. Nearly 800 women were helped in this way last year, each paying something herself; but the number who could be helped if money were forthcoming is immeasurably greater. Contributions to the Fund may be sent to Messrs. Coutts, or to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. S. Daniell, Fairchildes, Warlingham, Surrey.

There is another Fund of a similar nature with strong claims upon the public, or at any rate the Anglican community. I refer to the Holiday Fund of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, by means of which many ill-paid clergymen who work, year in year out, amid the most trying and depressing conditions are enabled to get the brief rest which they so greatly need. Contributions to this Fund may be sent to the Secretary of the P.C.R.C., 38, Tavistock-place, W.C.

A warning has just been issued by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade against the "sham firemen" and others who go about London collecting money either for bogus volunteer fire brigades or for charities alleged to be designed for the benefit of firemen. Similar warnings have been frequently given in TRUTH, and they cannot be too often repeated, for a great deal of swindling is done in this way. Those who desire to make donations for the benefit of London firemen cannot do better than contribute to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade Widows and Orphans and General Benefit Fund. It does not collect money from the public in a general way, but I have no doubt that Captain Hamilton, the Commander-in-Chief of the London fire service, will be very glad to take charge of contributions from any quarter.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor Children:—B. G., 6s. 6d.; E. C. M., £5; A. V., £1 1s.; T. L. B., £2 2s.; H. W., £1; T. P., £2; Canteen, H.M.S. *Donegal*, £10.

During the last two years an extensive camp has been established in Roxburghshire by the War Office on land purchased from the Duke of Buccleuch and other proprietors. Negotiations have been in progress for the purchase of a considerable additional area of land in order that the Stobs exercise ground might be extended, but any further outlay has been sternly vetoed by the Treasury, where the *mot d'ordre* is now for severe retrenchment.

An officer who served with the 1st Gold Coast Regiment in 1902 and 1903, and is now home on sick leave, relates an experience which again exemplifies the high-handed way in which men are liable to be dealt with in that part of the world. In March, 1903, while on detachment, he was requested by the regimental paymaster at Kumasi to remit a sum of £12 in discharge of an amount drawn by him for company purposes during his period of company command; but if he preferred, the amount could be deducted from his pay for April. He denied owing the money, and therefore did not remit it. He seems to have heard nothing more about the £12, and in April he signed the usual voucher for his month's pay, assuming that it had been paid, according to the usual course, to his account with the Bank of British West Africa. In May he left for England, and before his departure signed a voucher for his pay to date, on the same assumption.

After his return to England, the officer received his balance-sheet from the bank, and then discovered for the first time that his pay for April, £25, had never been paid in. He called attention to the omission through the Crown Agents in London, and the answer was that his voucher for April had been duly signed. Further correspondence followed, but with no result beyond this. Now, the man certainly has not had his pay for April; his bank account clearly proves this. Nor is the voucher any proof to the contrary, because it is notorious that vouchers are presented to and signed by officers before the money is received, and in this case it was bound to be so, as the man had no means of knowing at the time he signed the voucher whether or not the money had been paid into the bank in a distant part of West Africa. Even assuming that he was indebted to the Government to the amount of £12—which he denies, apparently with good reason—he has been done out of the balance of £13; and it is inexcusably sharp practice on the part of the authorities to evade payment of this sum on the ground that he has signed a voucher, when it is quite certain that the money has never been paid to him. Apart from the personal grievance, it appears on the face of this story that a voucher for £25 has been presented to the Government in connection with the regimental accounts, which sum has not been paid, at any rate in full; and

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—With respect to this very much debated subject, "L., M.R.C.S., Eng." testifies as follows:—"It having been my good fortune to meet several patients of Dr. Alabone, I feel bound to add my testimony as to the success of his treatment, having proved it by personal observation of the changes effected in their appearance, and their gratifying statements made by their own free will. I have seen cases pronounced utterly incurable by the highest chest specialists quite recover. I therefore feel it a duty to write, expressing my gratification and surprise at their recovery." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

the question what has become of this money, or at least £13 out of it, is a matter calling for official inquiry.

With regard to the White Cross League and the Army, an officer suggests to me that the propaganda is at some disadvantage, owing to so many of its officials and the exponents of its principles being married men. It is hardly a point to be discussed in detail, but the drift of the argument may be readily apprehended by those interested in the subject. At any rate, I can easily believe the statement that a White Cross exhortation from a newly-married Galahad has been known to provoke nothing but unseemly mirth; and the possibility of this result is worth the consideration of those who direct this movement.

It has recently been decided to establish a school of musketry at Bloemfontein for the benefit of the South African garrison. The school is not yet open, though it is understood that the first course is to begin in August; but the staff, comprising commandant, chief instructor, staff instructor, sergeant-major, acting quartermaster-sergeant, orderly-room sergeant, and pioneer-sergeant, were appointed at the beginning of May, and have been drawing their pay since that date. It would be interesting to know how much they cost among them—I suppose it is not much under £5 a day—and why it was necessary to appoint them all three or four months before the school started business. The appointments themselves have been a good deal criticised, and apparently with some reason.

The curious story told in last week's TRUTH about an unoccupied house at Woolwich for which certain junior officers of the R.A.M.C. have been paying rent on the theory that it is really their quarters is fully confirmed by the father of an officer who has been victimised in this way. His account of the matter is this. The house is situated near the Herbert Hospital. Quarters are allotted in it to four officers, who are not permitted to draw lodging allowance; but the house has been condemned as insanitary, and no one is allowed to live in it. This state of things has prevailed since January, 1903, during which time the Government, or somebody in the name of the Government, has been actually swindling these young officers to the aggregate amount of 9s. per diem. My correspondent's son paid £15 in this way, and all attempts to recover the money have been futile. The officers affected seem to change pretty frequently, as officers are transferred from Woolwich to all parts of the Empire, and it is presumably owing to this that the game has gone on so long without interference. The thing is a gross scandal, and in these days when so much solicitude is professed for the pockets of junior officers, it demands immediate attention at Headquarters.

Apropos of a complaint that I noticed last week, a correspondent states that paragraph 66 of the Standing Orders of the R.A.M.C. provides for the systematic training of N.C.O.s as compounders of medicines. He adds, however, that although he has served in no less than twenty different stations in this corps, he has never heard of anything that could be called an efficient training being provided. Here and there an officer has been deputed to give instruction in compounding, but more often than not he really knows nothing about it himself, and the so-called training is an undisguised farce. To all intents and purposes, therefore, the regulation is a dead letter. Still, its existence is an acknowledgment that men desirous to qualify as compounders ought to be given facilities for doing so, and having regard to the importance of the duty, it is to be hoped that the authorities will see that the order is carried out in the spirit as well as in the letter.

I have had several letters dissenting from what I said last week about the injustice of refusing pensions to certain warrant-officers, R.A.M.C., to re-engage to complete twenty-five years in order to make the maximum pension. The dissentients, as might be expected, are junior men, who object to older men being allowed to "block promotion," and they all tell sad tales about the slowness of promotion in the R.A.M.C., and draw alarming inferences as to its probable effect on recruiting. If the facts are as I am informed and stated, this view of the case is not worth much. To begin with, the refusal to allow the men to re-engage is attributed to an intention of reducing the establishment, and if that is the intention no vacancies will arise and promotion will not be stimulated. On the other hand, if promotion were stimulated, it would be, as I said, a hardship on men who have made their way up slowly in the course of twenty-one years' service, to be got rid of for the benefit of juniors, many of whom jumped up three or four steps during the two or three years of the war. Next, that men who have gained each step of promotion at the earliest moment should not be allowed to earn the maximum pension held out to them is a hardship which every one will feel in his turn, whatever his present rank, and the offering of a pension in theory which is not allowed to be earned in practice is as likely as anything else to deter men from joining, though I do not suppose that anything of this sort ever does. My answer, therefore, is, following a more exalted precedent, that what I have said I have said.

It would be a joyful day for me if the Army Council would make an end of the present educational qualification for warrant rank, for the grievances to which it gives rise bring me incessant correspondence, and I must say that the grievances are often very genuine. In the 2nd Dorset Regiment and in the depot there are four colour-sergeants qualified for promotion. In addition, they served all through the war. But on a vacancy for sergeant-major arising, a man who has not a first-class education certificate, and who came home about two years before the war was finished, is struck off duty

and sent to Aldershot for a six months' course in order to give him a chance of qualifying for the appointment. Presumably the C.O. considers this man better fitted for the post than any of the others, and it is not for me to express an opinion on the point. But what is the sense of laying down an official qualification for promotion if it is not to be rigidly adhered to, or if men who possess it are to be put aside on the off-chance of another man, who has not got it, obtaining it in six months' time? This state of things can do nothing but harm.

As I have often said, I am averse to airing in TRUTH grievances about promotion in the non-commissioned ranks, because this matter is essentially one for a commanding officer's discretion, and it is generally impossible for an outsider to judge whether that discretion has or has not been wisely exercised. But cases occur occasionally where it is difficult to conceive how a promotion can be justified. In the 1st South Wales Borderers a corporal was about nine months ago promoted to sergeant and colour-sergeant in one day, in order to fill a vacancy in the latter rank. There were forty sergeants and lance-sergeants qualified for promotion when this step was taken. A few months more elapse, the sergeant-major is transferred to the depot, and the same man is selected by the C.O. to fill his place, in preference to two quartermaster-sergeants and seven other colour-sergeants, five of these holding the highest certificates available, while three of them were colour-sergeants at the time when the sergeant-major elect enlisted.

The proposed appointment has not yet, I believe, been sanctioned, and I should hope it will not be, unless the Adjutant-General receives very conclusive evidence that the man in question is such a professional phœnix as to justify his promotion from corporal to sergeant-major in nine months. Even then it seems to be doubtful whether the advantages to a regiment of possessing such a phenomenon as sergeant-major would not be outweighed by the obvious evil results of jumping a young man over the heads of so many qualified seniors in this way. The truth is that there must be limits in practice to the promotion of the fittest. Very possibly in the 1st South Wales Borderers there is a subaltern quite as fit to command the battalion as the present C.O. But no sensible man would advise his being promoted to field rank at the first opportunity, and given the command at the next. Moreover, if I were an Adjutant-General, and found a commanding officer desirous of making a sergeant-major of a man who was a corporal less than a year ago, I should want to know how it came to pass that among all the senior N.C.O.s of the battalion there was not one fully competent to fill the post, for, if such is really the state of the case, it seems to point to something seriously wrong.

A non-commissioned officer writes:—

Apropos of the most welcome announcement regarding the education of soldiers' children at their parents' expense at schools other than military, would it be too much to ask that one's wife should be allowed to be treated in her quarters at her own expense by a doctor of her own choice, especially in cases of maternity? It seems to be an unwritten law on some stations that the wives of soldiers must be admitted to the hospital for women and children in such cases.

And would it be too much to expect a little more consideration and discretion to be shown in the too-frequent inspection of married quarters by single officers, not to mention warrant or non-commissioned officers? They are of little value from a sanitary point of view as carried out at present; and all damage is brought to notice and charged for—at least adequately—on handing quarters over. The many and varied inspections of quarters are a great annoyance to soldiers' families.

These are matters on which I have often heard complaints before, and they deserve consideration. The doctoring of Mrs. Atkins in particular is a point on which the fullest liberty might be allowed. Setting aside any question as to the qualifications of the R.A.M.C. in midwifery, surely a woman might be allowed to choose her own doctor on these occasions, if she is prepared to pay him.

The following has been sent to me apropos of recent remarks in TRUTH on the wearing of mufti by officers. It is stated to be an extract from a report made to the Quartermaster-General, War Office, by a certain Lieutenant-General, and dated from the Hotel d'Europe, Fiume. Although the date was in 1901, the question the report raises is as interesting to-day as then:—

On March 14 I found ——— and ——— dining in khaki in the principal restaurant here. I ordered them out to get into mufti. I afterwards learned that they had been about in public that day, and that the former officer was said to have travelled from London in that garb.

Of course, the wearing of uniform by an officer in a foreign country is a very different matter from the wearing of it at home. For obvious reasons it is not a practice to be encouraged, any more than would be the appearance of foreign officers in their uniforms when travelling in England. At the same time, is there any regulation which forbids an officer to travel or appear in uniform in any part of the world? The General's report in the above case seems to imply that there is, but where is the regulation to be found?

Mr. Arnold-Forster is going to abolish the Royal Garrison Regiment, and, judging from all I have heard during the time it has been in existence, the regiment itself will be the last to regret this step. Its life has been short, but not merry, if its own account is to be trusted. The battalion that recently landed in South Africa is sending 100 men to Harrismith, and their view of the reason is that, owing to the dearth of unskilled labour, they are going to be put to Kaffirs' work, at 8d. a day. Among the N.C.O.s at Pietermaritzburg there is much repining at an order requiring them to be on duty with their companies from 9.30 to 10.15 p.m.. This means that the married men—and most of the N.C.O.s are married—have to eat their supper and get to bed in the dark, as no lights are permitted in the married quarters after 10.15 p.m. This order is attributed to the excessive amount of drunkenness in the battalion; but my correspondent says that the evil would be best met by allowing the

men to have beer with their meals, instead of forcing them to drink between times, which is the case at present; and this sounds reasonable enough.

Reference was made in Truth the other day to the employment of men of the 4th Worcestershire Regiment at road-making. Apparently such grievances are rife in the battalion, for it is now reported that a general holiday having been granted on the occasion of the Queen's birthday, a party of men at Newcastle (Jamaica) were ordered to turn out and cut the grass round the barracks. It has been said that change of occupation is the best form of recreation, and perhaps this is the philosophical view of the officer, whatever his grade may have been, who utilised the holiday in this way. But soldiers are not always philosophers, and I can understand a soldier employed as a gardener for a "holiday" not finding much fun in it—especially in the tropics.

Here is another example of a soldier's holiday which seems rather a matter of name than of fact. A company of Royal Engineers at Bermuda were given a half holiday by the officer commanding in recognition of the excellent way they had done their annual course of submarine mining. To add to its value, the half-holiday was to be taken on Thursday morning, the afternoon being a half-holiday in the usual course. A man takes advantage of this favour, and starts off in the morning for a walk. Before he has got many yards on his way he is stopped by a garrison policeman, who tells him he has no business out of barracks before 2 p.m., and orders him back. I do not suppose the officer who gave the half-holiday contemplated its being spent in a barrack-room; but these are the thoughtful and intelligent ways in which different authorities co-operate to make the Service popular.

A reservist who received the South African medal in October last, shortly after a reference to his case in Truth, was informed at the same time that the clasps were "being struck," and that his clasp would follow in due course, the medal being sent at once "to avoid delay." As he had then been waiting for it about a year and a half, it seems doubtful whether the desired end was attained. Nine months having expired without the arrival of the clasp, the man is beginning to wonder how long the process of "being struck" lasts, and so do I. Isn't it about time that some Army reformer took in hand the departments that have to do with the issue of war medals? It will be noted that in this case there is no question about the medal rolls not having been received, or any of those stock excuses. It is purely a question of dilatoriness or negligence.

A British taxpayer in China writes to me protesting against the use of his Majesty's ships for the conveyance of guests to and from functions given by naval officers. This is a very old story, and taxpayers at home may well ask why so notorious an abuse still flourishes unchecked. In this instance a dinner was given on June 3, on board one of the ships of the squadron then lying at Nanking. The destroyer *Fame* was sent to fetch certain guests from Chinkiang, and the *Whiting*, another destroyer, brought them back. The distance is about seventy miles, and the coal expenditure on the journey, therefore, represents a substantial sum of money. Moreover, some of the privileged individuals were civilians without any status which could possibly entitle them to such accommodation at the public expense—though, from my point of view, the status of the parties really does not affect the principle of the thing. I suppose there are some naval regulations on this subject, but they seem to be more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

The Admiralty might with advantage look into certain regulations that have lately been issued affecting the Naval Store Department at Portsmouth. Not long since a minute was issued extending the ordinary office hours from eight to eight and a half per diem. The whole staff addressed a protest against this order to the Admiral Superintendent, but after it was actually lodged in the Admiral's office it was withdrawn, by whose authority is not known, but certainly without the sanction or knowledge of the majority of the signatories. After this incident a second minute has been issued, the effect of which is to place a great part of the staff on continuous overtime, and bringing their total hours of attendance up to eleven hours per diem, out of which half-an-hour is allowed for dinner.

It is understood in the department that this last step has been taken without the assent of the Admiral Superintendent, which would be contrary to the dockyard regulations. But however this may be, it ought not to be within the province of local authorities to increase the ordinary hours worked in a dockyard department to this extent; and if the Admiralty approve of these steps, the matter requires the attention of the Labour Members of Parliament. Some of the men to whom the last-mentioned minute applies are only in receipt of 24s. a week, which at the time now worked represents less than 4½d. an hour—the wage against which the London dockers struck, once and for good, in 1889.

Apropos of errors in the transmission of telegrams to bookmakers, I have been asked to advise on the following case. A bookmaker's rules laid down that bets by telegram handed in at a post-office thirty minutes before the starting-time of the race should be "on," but not otherwise, and that the bookmaker was not responsible for telegraphic errors or delays. A backer's telegram, as delivered, purported to be handed in thirteen minutes before the time of the race, but, as proved afterwards by production of a certified copy, it was really handed in thirty-five minutes before the race, and the time mis-

stated in transmission. The bet not having been booked, the dispute was referred to a gentleman, who decided in favour of the bookie. Although the case is not without difficulties, as the judges say, I am of opinion that this decision was right.

This case shows again, what I remarked the other day, the uselessness of a certified copy of the telegram as handed in where a dispute arises through an error in transmission. The Post Office ought to supply copies of the telegram both as despatched and as delivered, so that the parties concerned may see exactly where the mistake lies if there has been one. Otherwise the certified copy merely serves to convince the sender that he is right and that the other party is lying, and therefore to aggravate the dispute. I had a letter on this subject the other day from a Post Office official, who draws the moral that such mistakes are due to the rush and pressure of work with an inadequate staff. Every mistake, it is said, is made the subject of a searching official inquiry, ending in the punishment of the delinquent on a more or less drastic scale; and it is not fair, therefore, to impute them to mere carelessness. I dare say there is a good deal in this, and that the "sweating system" of the Department is as much to blame as the individuals. But in a service of this magnitude mistakes are bound to arise, and neither multiplying the staff nor harrying them with penalties for negligence, will eliminate them. The important question for the public is why, when they are made, the parties who suffer should not be compensated by the Department which is responsible for them.

The following matter may be commended to the notice of railway managers, along with the question of the interchangeability of bicycle tickets which I mentioned last week. A naval officer arrives at Waterloo, and deposits all his luggage, to the number of eleven packages, in the cloakroom, being uncertain whether or not he will be able to continue his journey beyond London the same day. On finding that he has to stop the night in town, he goes to the cloakroom for one bag containing his kit for the night. He then finds that, in order to obtain the one article, he must withdraw the other ten and re-book and pay for them again. This is absurd as well as iniquitous, because the traveller can get round it by depositing each article separately, and taking a ticket for each one of them, which will give the Company ten times the trouble without any extra payment. Such a contingency as that described above is of common occurrence, and the difficulty is not in any way peculiar to Waterloo, so far as I know. The Companies' rules might well, therefore, be made elastic enough to meet it.

A resident of Nottingham forwards a copy of some communications that he has addressed to the county education authorities regarding the employment of school children on Stoke Farm, a sewage farm belonging to the Nottingham Corporation. He states that between thirty and forty boys from eight to ten years of age are employed on the farm from six to eight o'clock on five evenings each week and all day on Saturdays. The boys attend a school at Carlton, but, as will be readily understood, after their evening's work and the walk from their homes to the fields and back, a distance in some cases of three or four miles, they are too fatigued next day to get much benefit from the instruction they receive. Nor are they pleasant school-mates for the other children, their clothes and persons being frequently redolent of the odours of the sewage farm.

Although the authorities have not up to the present taken any action upon the information supplied to them, I should think that, if the facts are correctly stated, the employment of these lads on the sewage farm is distinctly illegal. It is true that it does not take place during school hours, but it is also obvious that it must interfere with the efficient education of the children. Quite apart from any question of its legality, however, the working of these little fellows on a sewage farm is a scandalous proceeding, and all the more scandalous inasmuch as the employers are themselves an education authority.

Most people who read the report of the trial at the Surrey Assizes were probably inclined to endorse the opinion of the jury regarding the "gross mis-management" of Horton Asylum. It certainly seems an extraordinary and inexcusable thing that such wholesale and systematic thefts from the stores should have been carried on for a considerable period without detection by any of the fellow-officers of the culprits; and the further inquiry that the Asylums Committee of the London County Council is now making was undoubtedly necessary. So far as the Committee itself is concerned, however, I think that it is decidedly unjust to include it in the censure that has been passed on the administration of the asylum.

A good deal has been said about the bookkeeping. The system of bookkeeping, however, is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board. The same system is generally adopted in similar institutions, and it is important to remember that the falsifications disclosed at the trial all occurred in accounts for the current financial year. It may fairly be assumed that they would have been discovered when the time came for the audit. Of course, it is easy to be wise after the event, and in the light of the revelations that have been made it is possible that improvements in the system of bookkeeping and of checking the consumption of stores can be devised. But, as the Asylums Committee point out, no matter how perfect a system may be, it is most difficult to provide for the contingency of trusted officials acting in a dishonest manner. The

Council can be depended upon to take every conceivable precaution against a repetition of this scandal, and I have no doubt that they will also deal severely with any of the staff at Horton whose lack of reasonable vigilance helped the thieves.

Some one has sent me a copy of a pamphlet by the Rev. J. Priestley Foster, a Gloucestershire J.P., concerning the administration of the Hardwicke Reformatory in that county. Mr. Foster makes a number of criticisms upon the financial and general management of the institution, and gives extracts from the reports of the Government Inspector, commenting adversely upon the condition of the building and the education and training of the inmates. In the last of these reports, dated at the end of 1902, it is stated that "alterations in the building are under the consideration of the managers," but it would appear from the pamphlet that the alterations have not yet been carried out. I do not know how far this is correct, nor can I express any opinion upon the justice of the other complaints that are made by Mr. Foster. But the reformatory is a public institution, though not completely under public control, and the statements that have been published certainly call for some reply from the managers or action on the part of the county authorities.

No one can appreciate more keenly than I do the importance of punishing perjury, and I have again and again protested against the impunity which this pernicious crime is allowed to enjoy. But it seems to me that Mr. Marsham was quite right in dismissing the charge against Mr. Sievier, and his observations on the case were perfectly justified. The raking up of a charge of perjury so stale as this, and based solely on bankruptcy proceedings, has rather a malicious look about it; and that is just what perjury proceedings ought not to have. In my opinion the business of prosecuting perjury ought to rest exclusively with the Crown, and such proceedings should be undertaken whenever the proceedings in a public court, or subsequent information which may be laid before the Public Prosecutor, raise a presumption that false evidence has been given.

At the same time, the defect in the law which limits the crime to false evidence "material to the issue" should be amended. A man on his oath should be bound, under well-understood penalties, to answer truly all questions that the Judge or magistrate considers may properly be put to him. The administration of justice is stultified when a witness is given to understand that he is free to tell any lie he pleases in the witness-box with impunity, provided it is not "material to the issue;" and when he knows that, even if the lie be material, his punishment will depend upon the readiness of somebody on the other side to spend money in bringing him to justice.

With reference to the case of Mary Jane Kennedy, who was indicted for bigamy at the late Cumberland Assizes and acquitted, I have received a long letter from Mr. Philip Morrison, the prisoner's step-son, justifying his part in the prosecution. I am really not concerned with Mr. Morrison's share in the business, nor is the public, the only matter of public interest in the case being the attitude taken up by the Nelson Tea Company, the virtual prosecutors. Mr. Morrison, however, takes exception to the statement in my remarks on the case that he quarrelled with his stepmother after his father's death. I cheerfully give publicity to his denial that this was so; but the evidence, as reported in the paper I had before me, certainly seemed to point to this conclusion, and but for his express denial of any quarrel I should have inferred from the tone of his letter that his present attitude towards the lady is somewhat the reverse of friendly.

There is to be an appeal, I understand, in the case of Worsley *v.* Hulton, the trial of which at Manchester resulted in a verdict for £2,500 damages for libels in the *Manchester Daily Dispatch* and the *Manchester Evening Chronicle*. Observations on the merits of the case are, therefore, I suppose, precluded. But the importance of the case to the Press can hardly be exaggerated. Mr. Worsley came before the public as co-respondent in a divorce case, in the course of which conduct of an exceptionally bad kind was imputed to him. The jury found for the petitioner, and thereby declared the imputations proved. The defendants' journals commented upon the case, in very strong language no doubt, but no stronger than the facts would have warranted had the charges been true, as the verdict found that they were. Proceedings for perjury followed, however, Mr. Worsley's character was completely cleared, the perjured witnesses were convicted, and subsequently the judgment in the divorce case was set aside, and the damages ordered to be repaid.

Everybody must sympathise with Mr. Worsley, or any other man, who suffers under false charges and an unjust verdict. It is also the plain duty of anybody who in any way endorses charges made and ratified in this way, to make suitable apology and reparation when their falsity is proved. The defendants, under some pressure, had published an apology in this case. It may have been tardy or insufficient, and the jury who tried the libel case last week evidently thought that it was. But if the verdict of a jury after a long trial is not a justification for the assumption, for the time being, that the facts have been proved, it is obvious that every newspaper which comments on the result of a trial is placed in a position of great difficulty and danger. The question whether the damages in this case are or are not excessive is a subordinate one, on which I express no opinion. The serious matter for the Press is that an action for libel should lie at all under such circumstances, there being no suggestion of malice, and the comment on the assumption that the facts are as found by the jury, being fair comment.

The cases from Douglas in my Legal Pillory this week show that the Manx magistrates look upon the practice of wife-beating with the same inexplicable indulgence as our own Great Unpaid. Both the defendants were guilty of extremely cruel and savage assaults, and both had been previously prosecuted for similar offences, but nevertheless they were let off with ridiculously inadequate pecuniary penalties, instead of being given the six months' imprisonment which they richly deserved. In view of these decisions it is not surprising to learn from the *Isle of Man Times* that "brutality to women seems to be on the increase in Douglas." Previous convictions appear to be generally ignored in cases of assault. There is a particularly noteworthy instance of this from Nottingham, where the magistrates contented themselves with inflicting a fine upon a drunken ruffian for a violent and unprovoked assault. Their worships observed that as the defendant had a very bad record, "it was a question whether he ought not to be sent to prison"; but there would have been no hesitation in sending him to prison if, instead of being convicted of an offence against the person, he had committed some trumpery theft, or the grievous crime of sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence:—

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. H. R. H. Southam, P. S. Hughes, J. E. Jones, W. Toye, and H. Done. Alfred Downes, charged with assaulting Charles Page. Without the least provocation defendant ran at the complainant, knocked him down, and kicked him. His only excuse was that "he had had a lot of beer," and the Bench observed that drunkenness aggravated the offence. Fined 10s.

Halifax Borough Police-court. Before Mr. T. S. Scarborough and other magistrates. Wm. Pavor, convicted of cruelty to a dog. He threw a dog into a furnace fire, where it was burnt to death. Fined 20s. and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. John Noon, charged with assaulting Charlotte Croxford. He knocked her down, struck her violently on the head and face, blackening both her eyes, and also kicked her. She had to be removed to the infirmary. Defendant had previously been imprisoned for assaults upon women. Fined 40s. and costs.

Nottingham Borough Police-court. Charles Moore, charged with being drunk and disorderly, with assaulting a tram-car conductor, and with refusing to pay his fare. Defendant caused a great deal of annoyance to the other passengers in the car, and upon being asked for his fare he became very violent, striking the conductor in the face and kicking him. The magistrates said the defendant had a very bad record, and it was a question whether he ought not to be sent to prison. Fined 10s. for the first offence and 20s. for the assault.

Youghal Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. A. E. Horne, R. Carey, W. Broderick, S. J. Merrick, J. G. F. Linahan, C. M'Gillycuddy, and Sir D. J. Hegarty. Bridget M'Carthy and her son, charged with maliciously damaging a house. They removed some old woodwork of trivial value from the house, which was unoccupied, and in such a state that one of the magistrates said it ought to be pulled down. Sir D. J. Hegarty, Mr. Carey, and Mr. Merrick thought a small fine would meet the case. They were outvoted, however, and the woman and her son (the latter a first-offender) were sent to gaol for one month.

Romsey Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. W. George and J. Tuck. John Austin Betteridge, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Wednesbury Police-court. Sarah Foster and Sarah Parkes, charged with stealing two pairs of boots from a shop. Parkes six weeks, Foster two months.

Somerton Petty Sessions. Before Colonel F. W. Pinney, Messrs. E. W. Valentine, F. Meade, A. Dickinson, and C. L. Eastlake. Arthur Taylor, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 and costs.

Poole Police-court. Before Messrs. George Curtis and J. J. Norton. Fanny Childs, charged with sleeping in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Swansea Police-court. Mary Davies, charged with stealing a jacket from a clothes line. One month.

Southampton County Police-court. Before Admiral C. J. Rowley and other magistrates. Henry Knight, charged with assaulting John Emery. Complainant was twice knocked down, and so badly injured that he had to be medically attended. Fined 20s., including costs.

Barnsley Police-court. Wm. Loftus, convicted of assaulting Thomas Wilkinson by knocking him down and kicking him. Fined 20s. and costs.

Reepham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. A. Kendrew and Major St. John White. Gordon Flowers, convicted of assaulting John Curson. He struck complainant several times in the face, knocked him down, and then struck him again. It was an unprovoked assault, and there were two previous convictions against the defendant. Fined £2 and costs.

Bridgend Police-court. Reuben Furlong, charged with poaching. Fined £4; in default, twenty-one days.

Walsall Police-court. Alfred Jones, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Twenty-one days.

Wadebridge Polce-court. Before Mr. R. Truscott. Van de G. Bassett, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Stony Stratford Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. B. Grounds, H. Grant Thorold, M. R. Hall, J. M. Knapp, G. M. Fitzsimmons, Rev. J. T. Athawes, and Major Duncan. Alfred Tapp, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of five rabbits and a gun. Fined £2, the rabbits and the gun being forfeited.

Douglas Police-court. Before the High Bailiff and Mr. J. T. Cowell. Robert Yates, charged with assaulting his wife. She was knocked about so brutally that she had to be taken to the hospital, and she now appeared in court with her head bandaged and her arm in a sling. A few months ago Yates was charged with assaulting his wife, who was then near her confinement, and on that occasion he was dismissed with a caution. This time the Bench gave him a scolding, at which he seemed to be amused, and imposed a fine of 40s.

Douglas Police-court. Before Messrs. J. T. Cowell and W. A. Hutchinson. John Paterson, charged with assaulting his wife. He blackened her eyes, beat her with a stick, knocked her down, and kicked her severely whilst she was on the ground. In May he was fined for breaking the woman's jaw. Fined £2 2s., and ordered to find sureties for his good behaviour; in default, three months.

The extraordinary case of Mr. Adolf Beck, who has just been released from Brixton Prison, is a striking proof of the worthlessness of much of the evidence as to the identity of alleged criminals that is given in law courts. Mr. Beck was sentenced to five years' penal servitude in 1895 for obtaining property from various ladies by fraud. One of the victims saw and identified him by accident. After he had been arrested on her evidence several other women came forward and identified him. The police also identified him with a well-known swindler. After his release he seems to have been collecting evidence to prove his innocence, when he was again arrested, tried, and convicted on a similar charge, though sentence has been deferred, apparently in view of the inquiries that were being made. As he has now been released, it must be taken that the authorities are satisfied that a mistake has been made—in the second case, at all events.—If it be true that another man now in custody is suspected of being the party for whom Beck has been taken, it will be interesting to know how much personal resemblance there is between them. At present the Pressmen seem to differ on the point. In the meantime it seems desirable to impress upon judges and jurymen, and also on police officers, that such resemblance, although half a dozen witnesses may be deceived by it, can never be by itself conclusive proof of identity.

There have been up to the present time eight appeals to Quarter Sessions against convictions under the Motor Car Act. In no fewer than six cases out of the

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

eight the appeal was allowed and the conviction quashed; but in only two of these cases was the successful appellant given his costs against the Petty Sessional Bench which had wrongly convicted and fined him. The *Automobile Club Journal* remarks that the result is that "four unfortunate automobilists have had to pay sums varying from £60 to £150 to disprove charges of which they were ultimately found to be innocent." But the injustice is really worse than this. They ought not to have been convicted at all, and they have been put to this heavy expenditure solely in consequence of the blundering of muddy-minded and prejudiced Shallows. The failure of Quarter Sessions to saddle these Shallows with the costs of the appeals is almost an encouragement to them and their kind to continue dealing with automobilists in the same fashion. It is certainly likely to deter the latter from appealing, however flagrant the wrong that has been done, and perhaps this is the object that Quarter Sessions has in view.

"As you are always ready to show up the hardships of Grimsby fishing apprentices," writes a correspondent, "you will no doubt be delighted to record something on the other side." It seems that an apprentice has been presented by his employers with a gold watch in recognition of his faithful services during his apprenticeship of five and a half years. The presentation was made by the Mayor at the Police-court, and it is assuredly better that his worship should be occupied in this way than in sentencing apprentices to terms of imprisonment for refusing to go to sea or other acts of disobedience. I am glad to record so pleasant a departure from the ordinary procedure in the case of apprentices. But this incident does not in the least degree affect the justice of the criticisms that were formerly passed upon the general treatment of these youths at Grimsby, and though it pleases my correspondent to be facetious upon the subject, I have no doubt that any improvement that has taken place is largely due to the attention the scandal received in TRUTH a few years ago. The apprentices got a good deal of ill-usage from skippers and mates, and a good deal of merciless punishment from the magistrates; and very likely some of those who degenerated into gaol-birds would have shown themselves equally capable of faithful service and deserving of gold watches if they had been handled with more kindness and prudence.

The Guernsey S.P.C.A. must have a very difficult and disheartening task, if a recent decision of the Royal Court is a fair example of the attitude of the jurats towards animal torturers. Charges of cruelty were heard against the owner and driver of a wretched, emaciated, worn-out horse which had been worked in a landau for public hire. There was evidence showing that the horse was utterly unfit for work, that, whilst on a journey it fell down and severely injured itself, and that, in spite of the protests of spectators, it was driven back to the town. The owner had been convicted a few weeks previously of ill-treating the same animal, and upon the institution of the present proceedings he had the poor brute destroyed. A clearer and a grosser case of cruelty could scarcely have been put before any court, but nevertheless a majority of three to one of the jurats "did not feel justified in condemning the accused," who were accordingly discharged. The jurats responsible for this miscarriage of justice must be either destitute of judgment or else indifferent to the sufferings of dumb animals.

Equally surprising and regrettable was the course pursued at the Berks Petty Sessions, Windsor, a few days ago, when several persons were charged with cruelty to horses during the races at Ascot. Many conveyances are brought into the district to ply for hire during the race week, and the miserable condition of scores of the horses working them, as well as the brutality of some of the drivers, is a matter of common knowledge. The R.S.P.C.A. very properly puts a staff of inspectors on duty along the roads to the racecourse, and in the worst cases proceedings are taken against the offenders. On this occasion there were nine summonses before the Berks J.P.s for cruelty to horses by working them in an unfit state or by excessively beating them. In every instance the officers of the R.S.P.C.A. were corroborated by policemen or other witnesses, and, judging from the report in the *Windsor and Eton Express*, the evidence against most of the defendants was conclusive. To everybody's amazement, however, summons after summons was dismissed until the prosecution, in view of the apparent impossibility of producing any testimony that would satisfy the Bench, obtained permission to withdraw the three remaining charges.

It is, of course, the duty of magistrates to be perfectly satisfied as to a defendant's guilt before convicting him, and I do not for a moment suggest that the fact of a prosecution having been instituted by the R.S.P.C.A. should be regarded as a proof that an offence has been committed. On the other hand, the society always considers the facts very carefully before applying for a summons, and, though it may make a mistake now and then, it is most improbable that it would err in a whole series of cases. To my mind, convictions would have been abundantly warranted by the evidence in almost all these cases, and the action of the magistrates is quite incomprehensible.

The following sequel to the recent prosecution of the man Todd and his agent at Knutsford is instructive. After the agent had been convicted, and the charge against Todd dismissed, the solicitor who has been acting for the latter—a Mr. Watson, of Hanley—wrote to the two servant girls, named Turner, on whose cases the charge had been founded, demanding, under threat of proceedings, the return of the Bibles that had been sold to them, or the payment of 43s., being the nominal price of the books, less 2s., which each girl had paid. The girls returned the books, requesting at the same

time the return of their money. Mr. Watson replied that one of the Bibles was damaged in transit, and that he was informing his client of the fact. Nothing further being heard from him, a solicitor was instructed to write and ask for the return of the girls' money. Todd replies:—

Re A. and F. Turner.

Sir,—In reply to your letters as to these two cases we certainly shall neither send you the sums named or the charges stated for your letters, as the amounts paid by these girls were expunged by their getting Williams convicted of fraud, and which we are not liable to repay, never having received them.

We have a right of action against the Turners for loss and annoyance suffered through their proceedings.—Yours truly,

pp. Leicester and Co.,
M. B.

Todd's ideas of law are evidently on a par with his ideas of grammar. But it is highly characteristic of the individual that when his employee has swindled another person in the ordinary course of Todd's business, and been convicted of the fraud, Todd should consider that the money paid is thereby "expunged," although his own right to the return of the goods is unaffected. The threat at the end of the letter apparently portends an attempt to extort money on account of the prosecution of Todd himself, similar to the one which I described last week. Needless to say, the parties concerned are awaiting the development of this effort with much interest.

TOO POOR TO DIE.

A Holloway widow, after a four years' struggle for her children and herself with poverty, earned twopence one day by scrubbing a floor—which was all her strength permitted her to do—and spent the said sum on poison. The quantity proved insufficient to kill her, and she has now been arrested for attempting suicide.—*Morning Paper.*

Hosts, a bare "living wage" to gain,
Have toiled with failing breath;
But this poor widow strove in vain
To earn the "wage of Death."

Her life with woe was so o'ercast,
So black her future's sky,
That she—God help her!—had at last
But one hope left—to die!

And even this, put to the test,
A false one proved to be;
Even with all that she possessed
She could not pay Death's fee.

The paradox is passing sad;
But those her tale who 've read
Know that if she more strength had had,
She 'd now be lying dead!

In sooth, her fate would seem to give
Experience the lie:
Millions have been too poor to live,
She—was too poor to die!

The conviction of two men named Rottman and Stevenson for conspiracy to defraud at Chester Assizes last week should put a much-needed check upon the free-portrait swindle. Under the title of "The United Artistic Association" the prisoners carried out the fraud at Crewe in the usual way. A lady canvasser was sent round to obtain photographs from people on the mendacious pretence that an enlargement would be supplied free of cost as a sort of advertisement for the association; and then the delivery of the enlargement, or even the return of the photograph, was refused unless 17s. 6d. was paid for a frame. In sentencing the accused to four months' imprisonment Mr. Justice Wills remarked that they had been guilty of a gross deception upon poor people. The same gross deception is being practised on an extensive scale in London and the provinces by various parties who, in view of the result of this prosecution in Cheshire, should receive the immediate attention of the police.

There is now advertising itself in this country an American dollar-making machine called the Commercial Correspondence Schools, of Rochester, N.Y. Its "President," which seems to be American for proprietor, is one Charles S. Clark, and this fact, to say nothing of the address, and the general style of the school's circulars and "follow-up" letters, is quite sufficient to classify the concern with Clark's "New York Institute of Science," with which all readers of Truth are familiar. I suppose the hypnotic business is about played out, either because the supply of flats is exhausted, or because Clark has achieved his benevolent ideal of making everybody successful in life, at the expense of everybody else, for an outlay of two or three dollars per head. The second alternative, however, can hardly be the true one, or Clark would not now be reduced to offering office hands the means of getting a small rise in salary.

The great feature of Clark's Commercial Correspondence Schools, apart from their paid-up capital of $100,000, seems to be the "Department of Rapid Calculation." What this does for you may be best indicated in Clark's own words, or those of his "Vice-President and General Manager," R. J. Shoemaker:—

Dear Mr. W——,—The calculations on the enclosed bill were made mentally by a student of our Rapid Calculation Course after three weeks' study of one half-hour each day. He used neither paper nor pencil, nor any of the ordinary methods of multiplication, which require the writing of a lot of unnecessary figures and the making of useless additions; he simply wrote the results in the proper column, and thus did in the space of one or two minutes what it would take the average office man five or ten minutes to accomplish.

One hour each evening at home will enable you to do the same thing. We guarantee it. If you are already doing office work, you can by the mastery of our methods in Rapid Calculation shorten your hours of labour and increase your usefulness; you can make yourself a better man in the place you hold; you can make your work easier and give yourself the necessary time to qualify for the promotion you so much desire. If you are not an office man, the mastery of our course will enable you to see results in figures; to calculate rapidly, accurately, and easily; it will teach you more about the selection of numbers than you can ever learn from any other course of study, text book, or arithmetic published. . . .

We would like you to get one of these complete courses at the reduced price of $5.00. We have made this price for the purpose of introducing it quickly and extensively. We shall undoubtedly withdraw it and exact a tuition fee of ten dollars. . . . If you do not return your enrollment at once we cannot guarantee to enroll you under this offer. . . .

Among those who are "not office men" to whom the Clark system should be acceptable are the Tariff Reformers. Any method of dispensing with "the ordinary methods of multiplication" must be useful when figures are used, not as arguments, but as illustrations of an argument. I may say that I have a system of Rapid Calculation of my own. By means of it

I find that any one who accepts Clark's offer will lose exactly five dollars. He need not lose so much, however, if he takes the course, for one of the peculiarities of Clark's courses is that although the price is always going to be raised, in practice it is always reduced step by step as long as the party on the other side remains coy. My system of Rapid Calculation shows that if you hold out for five months, the price will come down to one dollar, and that is only one dollar too much.

A correspondent sends me a batch of circulars relating to illegal guessing competitions that he has received from an individual hiding his identity under the title of "The Sporting Advantage," and dating from Goes, Holland. The competitions are upon the results of races and cricket matches, and the entrance fees run from one shilling upwards, according to the number of coupons that are filled up. I suspect that the only person who gets any "sporting advantage" out of this business is the promoter. He gives what purport to be the names and addresses of alleged prize-winners, but the addresses are so vague as to be useless. There is obviously no guarantee whatever that the so-called "competitions" are honestly and fairly conducted, and people who engage in this kind of gambling with an unknown individual in Holland must be extremely simple-minded.

Half a guinea a copy is the modest price asked for a tipster's sheet called *Stable Secrets*. The prospectus states that the paper is "under the control of Captain George Somerville," and the address given is an office at Birmingham. If I were a betting man I would lay long odds that *Stable Secrets* is the last venture, and "Captain George Somerville" the newest alias, of that notorious and unprincipled rascal, E. W. Beston, of the *Midland Referee*, the *Winning Guide*, the *Secret Special*, etc.

Another tipster's publication that has been brought under my notice is the *Turf Tribune*, a diminutive sheet emanating from an office in Fleet-street, and sold at 3s. a copy. Last week one of my readers was favoured with a specimen copy, which purported to have been printed on Monday night, but which was not posted till 8 p.m. on Wednesday. It contained selections for the week's racing. Four out of the eight tips for races on Tuesday and Wednesday (which had already taken place when the paper was posted) were correct; but on the three following days the prophet showed a sad falling off, there being only one winner among the eleven horses which he mentioned. It is easier to name winners after than before the races are run.

A solicitor calls my attention to a trick perpetrated by people calling themselves Allen and Co., of 524, High-road, Chiswick. This trick has already been referred to in TRUTH, but it is worth describing again as a warning to those who are tempted to send cash for cheap goods in response to newspaper advertisements. Allen and Co. advertise a "solid gold watch on receipt of 2s. 6d. deposit, and the balance of £2 12s. 6d., payable by weekly instalments of 2s. or more to suit your convenience." They add: "No references asked; no inquiries made." When the victim has sent his 2s. 6d., he discovers that Allen and Co. have no intention of delivering the watch until he has paid the balance of £2 12s. 6d. If he then demands his money back, he is met with a reply that he has committed himself to a contract, and that Allen and Co. intend to hold him to it. No doubt a good many people drop the negotiation at that point, and leave Allen and Co. in possession of the half-crown. There is no occasion for this, however. Mr. Kipling Common, the solicitor above mentioned, tells me that on his writing under these circumstances to demand the repayment of the 2s. 6d., the money was returned without any further delay or trouble. It is always the way. In dealing with gentry of this character, the question is whether you are going to be the bluffer or the bluffee.

Two or three Tory landowners and employers in East Dorset are still very wroth over the Liberal victory at the by-election a few months ago. A correspondent gives some instances of the way in which they show their resentment towards poor men suspected of the sin of Radicalism. It is no new thing in any rural district for a labourer to be thrown out of work or ejected from his cottage for this reason, though it may be discreetly veiled. But on one estate in East Dorset a quite novel punishment has been devised for the Radical workman. It has been the custom on the estate when there are some pigs for sale to offer the workmen the chance of becoming purchasers, but this valuable privilege has now been limited to those who profess and declare themselves Tories and (I presume) "whole-hoggers." On another estate two cottages were recently to let. To a man who wished to take one of them the landowner replied that "he had quite as many Radicals from —— about him at present as he cared to have," and that he could not accept the applicant as a tenant "unless he could give references with regard to his politics"!

These and similar devices for the repression of Radicalism seem to be very silly and contemptible, but, on the other hand, the disfavour of the squire or the squire's agents is a serious matter for a rural labourer. Personally, however, I am inclined to think that in the long run Radicalism gains rather than suffers from such attempts at intimidation. When working men see a neighbour oppressed or penalised in any way on account of his political opinions their sympathies are

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

sure to go out to him, and though they may not care to take his side openly they can vote against their Tory masters in the secrecy of the ballot.

The Colonial Office is attempting to carry out an amazing game of grab in connection with the Ceylon Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund. The Ceylon Government deducts 4 per cent. from the salaries of all its employees for the purpose of this fund, established to make provision for their widows and orphans, and pays 6 per cent. for the use of the money so contributed and left undistributed. Hitherto very small pensions have been paid, with the result that the fund has accumulated a reserve of 3½ million rupees. Last year the income was Rs. 400,000, and the expenditure only Rs. 94,000. There have naturally been frequent demands for an addition to the pittance doled out to the widows and orphans, and a few months ago new rates were sanctioned by the Colonial Secretary. These rates would have increased some (not all) of the pensions by 6 per cent., but the Colonial Secretary directed that as a condition of this concession the Ceylon Government should pass an ordinance (1) cancelling the accumulated debt of the Government to the fund, and (2) transferring to the general revenue of the colony the whole of the reserve fund of 3½ million rupees.

In return for this appropriation of the assets of the fund the Colonial Secretary proposed that the Ceylon Government should guarantee all pensions on the basis of the revised tables, and, furthermore, that the surplus shown to exist at the date of the coming into operation of these revised tables should be used to augment existing and prospective pensions within certain time limits. At first sight this seemed a fair arrangement. Everything depended, however, upon the manner in which the tables were fixed and the valuation made, and the directors of the fund came to the conclusion that the subscribers and pensioners would be heavy losers if the recommendations of the actuaries employed by the Government were adopted. They accordingly objected to the scheme, and asked that the opinion of independent actuaries should be obtained; but the Colonial Secretary refused to accede to this, and unless public opinion is aroused is appears highly probable that the Ordinance, which has already been read a first time, will be passed.

Give Mr. Chamberlain an inch, and that exceedingly astute "boss" will at once take an ell. At the Albert Hall meeting he informed Mr. Balfour that he was not at present satisfied with "unabated sympathy," but that if he consented to "stand and wait" he should require something more. Mr. Austen Chamberlain explained what that something more would be in an address to the faithful at Highbury last Saturday. His father, he said, was the pioneer who went in advance of the Unionist host, and now he thought that they might well say that, if the enemy concentrated its attacks on the pioneer, there were plenty of men in the ranks of the army who would come to his succour. Only the day before, Lord Lansdowne had said that "we as a Government are opposed to the taxation of food." But this is the aim of the "pioneer." Mr. Austen Chamberlain would have the rank-and-file desert the Government of which he is a member, and give aid and succour to the pioneer in his endeavours to carry food taxation. When he talks of "an army" and of the pioneer going in front of the army, he should remember that, if a general commanding one of the divisions of an army were to give such advice to the rank-and-file, he would at once be handed over to a court-martial, whilst the pioneer himself would be treated as an enemy. Filial affection is in itself laudable, and Mr. Austen has no doubt some difficulty in reconciling his duties as a son with his duties as a member of a Cabinet that is pledged to resist his father. But he should have thought of this before he took the Balfour shilling. He is in an impossible position, and he would do well, as he cannot well throw over his father, to resign his present post. It would be, of course, useless to suggest to Mr. Balfour that he ought to ask for this resignation, for he is not his own master, and he is shrewdly suspected of being himself the secret ally of Mr. Chamberlain.

By a strange irony of fate, the freedom of Parliamentary debate exists under the Balfour régime alone in the House of Lords. Had the Duke of Devonshire been a Member of the House of Commons, he would not have been allowed to move his resolution of Friday last. He moved it in a straightforward and manly fashion, and addressed a series of plain questions to Lord Lansdowne as to the attitude of the Government towards the fiscal issue. Lord Lansdowne shirked them in a somewhat bungling fashion, and seemed ashamed of the dirty work that he had been set to do. All that could be gathered from his speech was that the Government adhered to their declarations that they were against taxation of food, but were prepared to tax it, if Mr. Chamberlain could secure them a majority. In the meantime, it would seem that they regard it as legitimate to say that they are opposed to food taxation, and to do all in their power to aid Mr. Chamberlain in his efforts to obtain it.

Mr. Gladstone came in for a good deal of abuse from the Conservatives. But what would they have said, had he declared himself in favour of Home Rule, blessed Mr. Chamberlain when he left the Cabinet to crusade against it, and allowed two of his colleagues

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to join an association of anti-Home Rulers? They would have denounced him as the vilest of hypocrites. Yet, *mutatis mutandis*, this is precisely the action of Mr. Balfour in regard to fiscal reform. Nothing would surprise me on the part of Mr. Balfour. His desire to retain office has become a positive mania, and to remain Premier he is ready to suffer any humiliation, and to condescend to any trick. But I am surprised that he finds men like Lord Lansdowne, of whom better things might have been expected, to aid and abet him in so despicable a game.

I have never concealed my opinion that Lord Milner is a pernicious prig, without tact or knowledge of men, puffed up with self-conceit, and yet ready to do any dirty work. I had, however, been under the impression that he does know something of finance. But, after Sir Robert Reid's exposure of Transvaal finance under the Milner régime, I am afraid that I must renounce this belief, for to regard him as a capable financier would only be possible at the expense of his honesty. Sir Robert showed that Lord Milner had cooked his balance-sheets to suit the exigencies of the moment and to hoodwink public opinion at home. The facts revealed by these balance-sheets show that he has wasted and squandered the greater portion of the thirty-five millions which his assurance of the wealth of the Transvaal induced us to guarantee that colony, and in many cases he has expended money from this source to swell the revenue. Some of the instances of this hanky-panky cited by Sir Robert would have been thought incredible, had he not given chapter and verse from the balance-sheets.

The debate during which this exposure of Lord Milner's finance took place included a discussion on Chinese labour. Mr. Lyttelton defended it on the ground that the Liberal Government had agreed to the importation of coolies into the West Indies. The conditions were entirely different; but I confess that I take but little interest in this pot and kettling between the two Front Benches. His second line of defence was that the only way to make the Transvaal pay is to import cheap Chinese labour for its mines. This was greatly cheered by the Unionists, who seem to have forgotten that slavery in the United States was defended on the same doctrine of expediency. In the United States at present, many mines of low-grade ore are not worked because servile labour, whether of negroes or of Chinese, is not allowed in them. As a matter also of fact, many coal seams in England, at present neglected, might be worked at a profit were servile Chinese labour permitted in England.

Mr. Chamberlain, too, contributed his defence of the Chinese ordinance. He declared that the Transvaal mines do not pay, taking them collectively, and that it is essential that they should be made to pay. Considering the bogus capitals of many of the richer ones, and the worthlessness of many of the poorer ones, the collective return on capital is a very large one. If, however, Mr. Chamberlain be correct in regard to shareholders, he is hardly correct in regard to promoters, for their mines have been the pockets of investors at home. Mr. Chamberlain further explained that Englishmen ought not to engage in manual labour in the Transvaal, for this lowers the prestige and the dignity of the whites in the eyes of the Kaffirs. I would suggest to him to add this to his programme for the next General Election. Our working men will no doubt be more likely to vote for that programme when they learn, not only that their bread is to be taxed, but that they must give up all idea of the dignity of labour, and recognise that those who work are the social inferiors of those who do not.

The Lytteltons, the Milners, and the Chamberlains must be brought to understand that the English people are not prepared to sacrifice their noblest traditions to the sordid greed of a few. In every country in which we are responsible for the government, no man should be allowed to sell himself into slavery, whether he be black, yellow, or white. The country will not consent to its Government making treaties with China or any other country permitting poor starving wretches to be crimped and imported as chattels into our territories. I should have thought that the by-elections would have already brought this fact home to Mr. Lyttelton. It seems, however, that they have not.

Mr. Lyttelton announced in his speech that representative Government is to be established next year in the Transvaal, and he asked whether, if that country elects men in favour of Chinese chatteldom, any one at home will be bold enough to question its right to do so. As, however, he later on in his speech told us that the Transvaal already enjoys self-government, I suspect that this new representative Government will be a fraud. In the Transvaal there are fourteen Boers to every ten Englishmen, and the Boers have already unanimously declared themselves against Chinese labour. Amongst the English probably there are as many against it as for it. Under a fair electoral law, therefore, it is clear that the verdict would go against Chinese chattel labour. The probabilities are that this promised representative Government will be some gerrymandering trick to throw all power into the hands of the monied magnates.

Poor Chinese chattels! Two of them were killed in the New Comet mine on the Rand through an explosion

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caused by drilling in an old borehole. The next shift declined to go down, and, according to the telegram, "revolted." The police were sent for, and order was restored, seventeen of the ringleaders being arrested. The rest of the shift were "persuaded" to go down. The mining magnates, having secured their chattels, are evidently determined to stand no nonsense with them that may interfere with dividend-getting. I wonder if there is one single mine outside the Rand where miners who decline to go down, after two of their number have just been killed by an explosion caused by reckless drilling, are hounded down by the police. In their own country the Chinese workmen have associations to protect themselves. I recommend those in the Transvaal at once to start such an association, which would be in the nature of a trade-union. There should be a universal strike in the event of their taskmasters not treating them fairly. In this way alone, as has been amply proved in this country, working men get their rights.

Far be it from me to venture to suggest to any American how he should vote at the next Presidential election. But were I an American, I am inclined to think that I should vote for Judge Parker. Taking it all round, I regard the American Constitution as the best that has ever been adopted by any nation. But it seems to me that it is essential to the fulfilment of its aims that the President should not be a man inclined to impose his will on the nation so soon as he has been elected. This President Roosevelt has already shown that he is disposed to do. Judge Parker strikes me as far more fitted to be a President of the United States. He is a level-headed man, who will co-ordinate his own views with those of the people, as represented by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

A few weeks ago it looked as though it were a certainty that President Roosevelt would be re-elected. The Democrats in council assembled selected Judge Parker as their candidate, but they attempted to win over Mr. Bryan and the advocates of bimetallism by passing a shilly-shally resolution neither approving nor disapproving of it. Judge Parker was determined that no one should vote for him without knowing his views. He therefore replied to the notification of his selection as candidate in a telegram, in which he declared himself for a gold standard, and begged the Democrats to choose some other man if they disapproved of the declaration. Far from that, they reaffirmed his selection, and the Judge by his honesty has rallied thousands on thousands of the electors to him. This speaks well for the United States, and it contrasts favourably with our Premier's tight-rope dancing on the fiscal issue raised by Mr. Chamberlain. Honesty is the best policy in politics, as Mr. Balfour will, I think, discover at the next General Election.

THE EXCLUSIVE FROG.

A Frog, a rare conceited Fellow,
Splendid with Coat of mottled Yellow,
Took up his Quarters (so 'tis said)
In a prolific Strawberry Bed.
The luscious Berries, Truth to tell,
Dan Frog he loved 'em passing well;
Nay, Faith, to tell you I'd be puzzled
How many he *per diem* guzzled.
Now, Truth is Truth, and I must write
That Froggie was a selfish Wight;
And though of Berries ripe and sweet
Were Ten Times more than he could eat,
Yet, as a Miser hoards his Pelf,
He kept them, churlish, to himself,
And Others all would fierce restrain
From taking Fruit in his Domain.
But once a Toad, in search of Lunch,
Comes, sees the Fruit, and starts to munch.
Dan Frog, enraged, a Kick bestowed
Upon that Trespasser, the Toad,
Exclaiming, "Wretch, how dare you do 't,
And pinch my own exclusive Fruit?"
The Toad, phlegmatic and unheeding,
Pursued, with scarce a Pause, his feeding.
"D'ye hear," cried Froggie, "what I say?"
"I hear," said Toad, "but shan't obey.
The Gods who made these Berries sweet
Gave them to all alike to eat.
To say they're yours is quite untrue;
They're meant for me as much as you."
Frog stood aghast; his Ears he doubted,
For never had he thus been flouted.
But when he knew he'd caught a Clown
With whom mere Bounce would not go down,
Sudden he sang another Song,
And croaked, "Dear Friend, you do me Wrong.
No selfish Greed, as you imply,
Urged me these Berries to deny.
'Tis for *your* Welfare, yours alone,
Such *seeming* Churlishness I've shown.
The Berries, though myself they suit,
Are to *all others* poisoned Fruit,
Yea!" (Here he spoke with bated Breath)
"To *Toads especially* they're DEATH!"
Blinking, the Toad Dan Froggy eyed,
And thus, ironical, replied:—
"When baffled Bullies sudden turn
From Kicks and Blows to fond Concern,
And, leaving Force to Blarney sink
—Well, don't-cher-know, it makes one think.
Your friendly Warning might have tricked me,
If just before you hadn't kicked me."

Moral.

While Tories could, they shut the Door
'Gainst Education for the Poor;
Declaring, with unblushing Faces,
They'd keep such Rabble in their Places.
But, able now no more by Force
To hamper Education's Course,
With new Concern therein they find
Rank Poison for the vulgar Mind;
So, Monitors unselfish turning,
Would save the Poor from dang'rous Learning.

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SCRUTATOR.

RUSSIA AND NEUTRAL SHIPPING.

JINGOISM is scotched, but is not killed. No sooner was it reported that a Russian cruiser had seized a British vessel in the Red Sea on the ground of carrying contraband of war to a belligerent, than our Jingo Press at once flared up, and its columns were filled with telegrams in the main mendacious. The correspondents lied like the telegrams, and the leading articles sought to create an outburst of patriotic indignation that, if the country had been what it was three or four years ago, would have brought us into the vortex of the war now raging between Russia and Japan, before we knew where we were. Fortunately, however, the nation has had an expensive experience of these newspapers; they have no more influence than the ravings of lunatics, and the attempt failed.

Now, what are the real facts, so far as they are known? The *Malacca*, an English vessel, was bound to a Japanese port. A Russian cruiser stopped her whilst in the Red Sea. On overhauling her cargo it was found that she contained a large amount of explosives. The vessel was seized by the cruiser, and a prize crew was put on board, with orders to take her to a Russian port, where a court would have decided whether she was a good prize. Concerning these facts, all was in accordance with the rules of international law. A neutral vessel may be searched by the cruiser of a belligerent. If this vessel is bound to a belligerent's port, and contains contraband of war, the presumption is that the contraband is intended for the belligerent, and she may be sent to the port of the captor in order that the question of the destination of the contraband may be inquired into by a Prize Court. If the decision of the court is against the neutral vessel it is conclusive upon the question of property in the thing captured as between owner and captor. If, on the other hand, the Court finds in favour of the vessel, it is released, and usually the owner receives compensation for having been put to loss. Should, however, the State to which the neutral vessel belongs deem that injustice has been done by the finding of the Court, it is open to it to submit this view to the belligerent State, and demand that the vessel and cargo be returned to the owner, with full compensation. All this may be right or wrong in the abstract, but there is no question of its being the recognised law of the high seas. In the nature of things, neutrals must find their sea commerce troubled whenever two countries are at war, and the object of international law is to lay down, so far as is possible, admitted rules, which define how far, and under what limitations, the fact of belligerency gives rights not existent in peace times in regard to neutral vessels navigating the high seas, which are the joint property of all.

The contraband of war on board the *Malacca* appears to have been explosives shipped by our Government, which were to be landed at Hong-Kong. It is stated that the ship's papers contained no clear and authoritative official statement in regard to the ownership of this contraband. If so, it would have been better if there had been such a statement, clearly showing that it belonged to our Government and that its destination was not Japan. Mere assertion on the part of the captain was not conclusive, for it must be remembered that a good deal of contraband does reach Japan on neutral vessels, and as every one has a perfect right to engage in this trade at his risk and peril, he would naturally endeavour to avoid capture *in transitu* by concealment.

Another point has been raised. It is denied that the Russian cruiser had a right to exercise belligerent rights against neutrals, because it had passed through the Dardanelles, flying the merchant flag, and had when on the high seas divested itself of its merchant character and become a commissioned vessel of war. Such action is not at variance with international law. A ship can be commissioned as a vessel of war on the high seas. The text writers only make one exception to this general rule. It is that a neutral ship seized cannot become a vessel of war until it has been carried into a port of the captor, and condemned there as good prize by a prize court. This right would not be extinguished by a treaty having been violated by the ship, between the time of its departure from the port of its country and its entering the high seas, although the State that permitted the violation might perhaps be held responsible for any loss accruing to a third State, owing to the violation.

The question whether there was a violation of an international treaty on the part either of Russia or of Turkey is interesting. In past times all the shores of the Black Sea belonged to Turkey, which, owing to the narrowness of the Straits connecting it with the Mediterranean, was a Turkish *mare clausum*, from which Turkey might, if she so pleased, have excluded all foreign vessels. Up to 1535 no foreign merchant vessel was allowed to pass through the Dardanelles, and to trade with Constantinople. In that year, Turkey concluded a treaty with France, by which French vessels were allowed to trade with that capital, and a year or two later a similar treaty was made with Venice. In 1579 the same right was granted by a firman to English vessels, but this was not incorporated into a treaty before 1675. In the early part of the seventeenth century Russia had acquired considerable territories on the shores of the Black Sea, and in 1739 a treaty was entered into between her and Turkey, by which each Power conceded full rights of trading within her dominions to the subjects of the other, with this proviso, "But with regard to the commerce of the Rusians in the Black Sea, it shall be done on vessels belonging to the Turks." This proviso was abrogated in a treaty between

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the two Powers in 1774, by which free navigation in the Black Sea was secured to Russian merchant ships. In 1799 Turkey granted this right to English vessels, and subsequently the right was extended to all other Powers, with the exception of Spain and Sardinia, which States only obtained it in 1827. In none of these treaties, however, was the ancient rule of the Ottoman Empire forbidding any foreign vessel of war from passing the Dardanelles or the Bosphorus relaxed. In 1840 this "ancient rule" was for the first time incorporated in a convention entered into between Great Britain, Austria, Prussia, Russia, and Turkey. When the Crimean war broke out, the state of things in the Black Sea was this: Russia and Turkey had vessels of war in the Black Sea, but those of the former could not pass out of it, and no vessels of war of any other Power could enter that sea, except as the allies and with the consent of Turkey.

In 1856 the Crimean war was brought to a close by the Treaty of Paris. This treaty neutralised the Black Sea, and its waters and its ports were thrown open to the mercantile marine of every nation. Neither Russia, nor Turkey, nor any other Power was allowed to have vessels of war in it with the exception of a certain fixed number of small Russian and Turkish vessels for police purposes. In 1871 this settlement was altered by the Treaty of London. The ancient rule of the Ottoman Empire in regard to the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles was maintained, except that the Sultan reserved to himself the right to open the Straits in time of peace to vessels of war of friendly and allied Powers in case he should judge this necessary in order to secure the execution of the stipulations of the treaty of 1856, whilst Russia and Turkey were allowed to have as many vessels of war in the Black Sea as either pleased. Since 1871 Russia has had not only an Imperial war navy in the Black Sea, but also a "Volunteer Fleet." The latter consists of hybrid vessels, in part merchantmen and in part vessels of war. They were built by a public subscription, but they are maintained by the Russian Government. They are equipped as vessels of war, and they have always a certain number of guns on board, and a crew capable of defending them if attacked. These hybrids have for years been granted Turkish firmans to pass through the Straits into the high seas, provided they fly a merchant flag whilst passing through, although their character has been always known to the Turkish Government. It is believed that some time between 1890 and 1901 Russia concluded a convention with Turkey, by which it was agreed that any of these vessels that hoisted the war flag after passing through the Straits was not to be allowed to return into the Black Sea; but this is not quite certain. In any case, however, no protest was made by any of the signatories of the London Treaty against these ships being granted Turkish firmans to pass through the Straits. Lord Salisbury, indeed, seems to have been of opinion that the closure of exit from the Black Sea to Russian warships is of small importance to us, and that the entire question should be left to the Sultan, for in a proctocol of the Berlin Conference in 1878, he made the following statement: "I declare on the part of England that the obligations of her Britannic Majesty concerning the closure of the Straits are limited to an engagement towards the Sultan to respect the determination of his Imperial Majesty, conformably with the spirit of existing treaties."

Russia has now announced that she fully accepts the assurance of H.M. Government that the contraband of war on the *Malacca* was Government property, and was not intended for Japan. She has waived her right to bring the vessel to a Russian port to be adjudicated upon by a Prize Court. I think that she has been well advised in so doing, whatever her technical right might have been. It is a graceful concession as well as a wise one. Our Jingo Press is evidently seeking to embroil us with some foreign Power in order to make this quarrel a ground for the country supporting the present Government. Their past record and their present condition hardly, however, bear out the view, that Mr. Balfour would be a safe helmsman under such a state of things.

The most able members of the Salisbury Cabinet have resigned in disgust. The present Cabinet consists of men who individually do not inspire exceptional confidence. A Minister of War has been recently appointed, because the Army was in such a state of muddle that the former War Minister had to be thrown overboard like Jonah. The new man's stock-in-trade is an overwhelming opinion of his own merits, although as yet he has done nothing to justify this estimate beyond explaining that he thinks the scheme of Army reform which he has propounded a poor one, and complaining that his colleagues will not allow him to have his own way in proposing a better one. The Government only retains office by a policy of equivocation, and either by concealing its opinions on important issues, or pretending to agree now with one section of its supporters and now with another, whilst it does not dare strengthen its position by an appeal to the counry, as it admits that the country will eject it from office whenever it is given the opportunity. If really times are likely to be critical this seems to me a reason why this Ministry of weak, vacillating, and tricky barnacles should give place to better men.

Whether the Russians are right or wrong in their contention that their Black Sea Volunteer Fleet can pass through the Straits flying a commercial flag under a Turkish firman, and then, on reaching the high seas, run up a war flag, and become Russian ships of war, they committed a blunder in acting on this view just now. The advantage gained could only be very small, for, if it was deemed necessary to have cruisers in the Mediterranean or the Red Sea to overhaul neutrals suspected of carrying contraband, one or two cruisers might have been sent from the Baltic. When a country is engaged in a life and death struggle with another, it is sound policy to allow international questions, in regard to

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which there may be a difference of opinion amongst neutrals, to lie dormant. Russia has now announced that she will not act on any assumption that she may use her Volunteer Fleet as ships of war, whilst she does not give up the right to do so. Our aim just now should be to do nothing—unless forced by honour or by interest—which, directly or indirectly, might convert the local war now raging in the Far East between Russia and Japan into a world-struggle in which we might be involved. One thing at least has been gained by the recent episode. The country has shown that it will not be hustled into another great war. The London Press may beat the war drum, but the plain good sense of the nation has reasserted itself, and it declines either to believe its *ex parte* statements or to join in its howls for war. Considering that this Press consists of about a dozen gentlemen, who are engaged in the trade of producing newspapers as a financial speculation, and are neither wiser nor better instructed than any other dozen Englishmen, we may congratulate ourselves on the nation having taken their measure.

A SEQUEL TO "PEARSON'S XMAS XTRA."

A few months ago public attention was directed to a strange inconsistency on the part of a prominent tariff reformer. Messrs. C. Arthur Pearson, Limited, a company named after and presided over by the chairman of the Tariff Reform League, produced a Christmas number with the title of "Pearson's Xmas Xtra," containing among other things an "inset" of eight pages of coloured pictures, and bound in a coloured wrapper. The *Morning Leader* happened to discover unmistakable evidence that these portions of the publication had been printed in Holland; that they had originally borne an imprint certifying that fact, in accordance with the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887; and that this imprint had been cut off before the publication was put on sale, contrary to the provisions of the said Act. Certain copies of "Pearson's Xmas Xtra" got into circulation with portions of the words "Printed in Holland" still visible at the foot of the pages of the wrapper and the coloured "inset." Their position clearly showed that the page had been cut at this point for the purpose of removing the words, and that, owing to the adjustment of the knife and the paper not having been perfectly accurate, the operation had in these cases not been completely performed. The inference was unavoidable that the same operation had been performed on all the sheets published, but that in all but a few cases the knife had done its work as intended, and removed the tell-tale imprint. Under ordinary circumstances, the matter would not have attracted much notice, because it would have been nobody's business to call attention to it, whatever might be privately thought of the action of a large firm which could resort to such a means of defeating an Act of Parliament, and concealing the fact that its wares were produced abroad. But when the head of the firm which took this course was also the head of an organisation for agitating against the free admission of foreign-made articles to this country, on the ground that their importation is ruinous to British trade and British prosperity, the matter naturally attracted the attention of those who are resisting this organisation and its agitation.

After the *Morning Leader* had published the facts, the question arose whether this peculiarly flagrant evasion of the Merchandise Marks Act was to go unpunished. It is the duty of the Board of Trade to prosecute in such cases on complaint duly made, and by way of stirring up that body to an appreciation of the facts, I took the liberty of questioning the President on the subject in Parliament. Mr. Gerald Balfour replied in the usual form that the attention of the Board of Trade had not been officially called to the matter. I then inquired of him whether, if the facts were officially laid before him, he would prosecute, and I was duly informed that any complaint laid in accordance with the official rules under the Merchandise Marks Act would receive attention. As nobody else seemed to be moving in the matter, I thought I would take it up myself. So, having ascertained the course of procedure, and obtained from the editor of the *Morning Leader* the copies of the "Xmas Xtra" which bore the mutilated mark, "Printed in Holland," I duly lodged my complaint, accompanied by the evidence in support of it. This evidence comprised one of the ordinary copies of the "Xmas Xtra," with the statement of the witness who had purchased it, and two other copies furnished to me by the editor of the *Morning Leader* with the half-obliterated words "Printed in Holland" on the cover and the inset. This evidence is obviously conclusive of the facts. All the copies are obviously printed by the same printer from the same blocks on the same paper. The fragment of the inscription "Printed in Holland" on two of them raises an irresistible presumption that all the sheets so printed originally bore this mark. The removal of a portion of the inscription in these cases tells its own tale, and affords the strongest possible evidence that on the third copy—which is, of course, similar to the majority sold to the public—the same words were originally printed, but subsequently cut off. However, after taking several months to consider the matter, the Board of Trade last week informed me that they "have been advised that it is doubtful whether any contravention of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, has been committed, and that on the evidence submitted there would be no reasonable prospect of a conviction being obtained. In these circumstances, the Board have come to the conclusion that the case is not one in which they should take proceedings."

Whoever may have given the Board the advice here referred to, it is transparent rubbish, and I will not do the officials of the Board the injustice of supposing that they really believe in it. If the alleged breach of the Act has not been committed, what follows? Either a part of the issue was printed in England, and another part in Holland (of which only two numbers have come to light), or, the whole issue having been printed in England, the English printer, apparently in a fit of temporary insanity, added the words, "Printed in Holland," at the foot of certain pages, and then cut

them off again. The second alternative is absurd on the face of it. The first will not be credible to any rational man. It is *a priori* improbable; it is negatived by the close correspondence in all respects between the copies which bear the mark and those which do not, the exact similarity of the printing—which any expert would pronounce to be foreign—and the identity of the paper. To say that, in face of this evidence, there would be no reasonable prospect of a conviction is to insult the intelligence of any and every magistrate in London before whom the charge would have been likely to come. It also seems to me to involve an insult to Messrs. Pearson, for it implies that they, or some one on their behalf, would have denied the alleged facts, which I decline to believe. However indiscreet the firm may have been in having its printing done in Holland and attempting to conceal the fact, I do not think so badly of them as to suppose that any member of the firm, or any of its employees, would have gone into the witness-box to testify to an untruth. Every one can judge for himself that Messrs. Pearson are unable to deny the facts, and have no intention of doing so. Mr. Pearson, through one or other of his companies, owns or controls numerous newspapers and other publications. It is inconceivable that, if any plausible answer could be given to these allegations respecting the "Xmas Xtra" when they first appeared in the *Morning Leader* and other papers, the answer would not have been given through one of these channels or in some other way. What the result of a prosecution, or any other legal proceeding, will be in any given case can never be predicted with absolute certainty, but in a case like this, where the evidence tells its own tale, and where the inference from it has been drawn publicly in twenty newspapers, and passed over in absolute silence by the parties attacked, to say that there is "no reasonable prospect" of a magistrate finding the facts proved is palpably disingenuous.

Why, then, does the Board of Trade take refuge in this flimsy subterfuge? No one can doubt that the motive is political. It would not suit one of the brothers Balfour under existing circumstances to prosecute one of Mr. Chamberlain's leading henchmen—acclaimed by him as the greatest "hustler" of the Tariff Reform movement—for an offence against one of the few Protectionist laws now on the statute book. It would make the true inwardness of the movement a trifle too conspicuous to have a Tariff Reform champion convicted of smuggling foreign goods into the country for the sake of a trade advantage, and disposing of them as his own productions in defiance of the law. I regard this incident, therefore, as one more, and not the least striking, proof of the extent to which the sympathies of Ministers are with the Protectionist crusade, and their slavish subserviency to the Chamberlain interest. I did not myself expect any other result when I took the matter up, and I am, therefore, not in the least disappointed with Mr. Balfour's tardy refusal to prosecute. For one reason, I am glad of the result, for I have no personal feeling against Mr. Pearson, and I am not sorry that he should be relieved of the inconvenience and annoyance of a prosecution. Certainly I do not blame him or anybody else for having his printing done in Germany or Holland, if he finds it to his advantage to do so; and though I regret, of course, that he (or those with whom he is associated in business) should endeavour to evade an Act of Parliament, I cannot affect to regard this proceeding with great indignation in the case of an Act which strikes me as one of the most foolish and futile ever passed. I have merely called attention to the "Xmas Xtra" because it shows, in the most edifying way, that while certain gentlemen, believe, or pretend to believe, that the policy of free trade or free imports is ruinous to the country, and would move heaven and earth to revise it by legislation, they are perfectly ready when it suits their own pockets to buy abroad, and flood the home market with these obnoxious free imports—the product of foreign labour; and some of them apparently will even go the length of evading an Act of Parliament in order that they may get the full benefit of this course without attracting remark, which might possibly be detrimental to their business and profits. As no one is compelled to buy abroad for the sake of increased profit what he can buy without difficulty or loss in England, the position of a man who engages in a dumping operation of this kind, while denouncing the supposed evil results of it, seems to me decidedly illogical. Nor can he complain if he is even suspected of insincerity.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—III.

In the previous articles of this series I have endeavoured to introduce the holiday-maker to a few of the less-known districts of the South and South-West of England. Let us now set our faces in the opposite direction, premising, as before, that we are catering either for parties who do not want to incur a railway bill which will swallow up half the amount they are going to devote to their holidays, or people who have not yet discovered the opportunities for enjoyable holidays that lie close to their own doors, though they have possibly exhausted the best that France, Germany, and Switzerland have to offer. The latter class in particular, will find some revelations in the direction in which we are now looking—the Eastern Counties and the Fen Country. And let me answer at once the objector to whom the mention of the Eastern Counties suggests nothing but Yarmouth or Clacton-on-Sea, or who jumps at once to the conclusion that the whole of this part of the world is swarming during the holiday season with excursionists from the East End of London. Both ideas are absurdly fallacious. The greater part of Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Lincolnshire is quite off the beat of the ordinary holiday-maker. Few Londoners ever visit any part of it except a few towns on the coast and the Norfolk Broads. In all directions there are rural districts as "far from the madding crowd as any part of England." Yet the greater part of the country has a charm and beauty which are quite unique, which may be enjoyed either by settling down in one of the innumerable villages, or

by making a tour through it by road or rail, and stopping only at towns where there is good hotel accommodation. I say, by road as well as rail, because this is *par excellence* the country for the cyclist and the motorist. Devonshire, which we were looking at last week, cannot truthfully be described as a cyclist's country, but the country from the Thames to the Wash or Humber contains quite the easiest cycling roads in the kingdom.

But let us begin with the coast. It is not a bold or picturesque coast, of course; the very antithesis of the coast of Cornwall. But its health-giving virtues are beyond question, and you seem to be on closer and more intimate terms with the sea here than anywhere else in England, just as you are on the coast of Holland, which many parts of our side of the North Sea so much resemble. Many people get an idea that the seaside does not agree with them, often because they have only tried it at the south-coast watering-places, which are all of them apt to be relaxing in hot weather. The North Sea keeps its northerly character more constantly, and its breezes are always fresh and bracing. This is what has caused the run upon places like Felixstowe, Aldeburgh, Southwold, and Hunstanton in the last few years, and brought Cromer to the front rank of fashionable watering-places. Except the last-mentioned, all these are quiet, unpretentious spots enough, hardly to be recommended to people who cannot get along without fashionable promenades and London amusements; but well worth the attention of anybody for whom the sea—whether for bathing, boating, or fishing, or all combined—offers sufficient materials for holiday-making. A friend of mine once gave enthusiastic accounts of the enjoyment he derived from an amphibious fortnight spent at Mersea Island, which lies on the Essex coast, by the mouth of the Colne, and is the scene of Mr. Baring-Gould's "Mahalah." Anybody desirous of making a similar experiment may find many opportunities by consulting the list of country and farmhouse lodgings issued by the Great Eastern Railway Company. It should not be forgotten that the estuaries of the Essex coast, from the Crouch to the Orwell, are all favourite haunts of yachtsmen, and a man who fixes his holiday quarters anywhere within reach of Brightlingsea or Harwich can have as much sailing as the weather will allow him. As regards bathing, I think the best on this section of the East Coast is to be had at Felixstowe, though it is also good at most places on the north coast of Norfolk. Felixstowe is also blessed now with golf links, but the golfer will find plentiful accommodation all along the coast. There are links at Frinton—a rising place near old-fashioned Walton-on-the-Naze, at Aldeburgh and Southwold, at Lowestoft and Yarmouth, at Cromer and its near neighbours Mundesley and West Runton, and at Wells and Hunstanton, further on towards the Wash. Do you know this northern region of Norfolk? If not, it is a region to become better acquainted with. You are no longer in a flat country here, but one of plentiful hills and woods, swept by the North Sea breezes, and containing in all directions the quaintest and most antiquated of East Anglian villages and country towns. You see something of it around Cromer, but not enough. King's Lynn is still almost a mediæval town, in spite of its having sent Mr. T. G. Bowles to Parliament. Walsingham is one of the most picturesque little towns in England. Holkham Hall and Park are alone worth a visit to this corner of the country; but wherever you go in this region there is something worth seeing. Of Cromer itself it is not my present business to speak, for most people know something of its attractions, and Mr. Clement Scott made all the neighbourhood famous; but I would remind those who are shy of fashionable watering-places that the coast on each side of Cromer from Sheringham to Mundesley and further, is dotted with rising towns and villages which are all bidding for the favour of holiday-makers. It is also to be remembered that no part of the kingdom is better served than this by its railway. The Great Eastern Company's trains are plentiful, punctual, and well-found in all conveniences for travellers, and there are abundant facilities for getting about the country in the shape of cheap tourist and excursion tickets. Moreover, all this region is now as accessible from the North and the Midlands as from London; and it is worth while to remember that if you have the time and the money at your disposal nothing is easier than to combine a holiday in East Anglia with one in the neighbouring country of Holland, to which it is so closely related. A short night on a first-class steamboat takes you from Harwich to the Hook, and you may be at Amsterdam or Scheveningen in time for breakfast. The voyage to Antwerp is scarcely longer.

I do not think it is necessary to speak here at any length on the charms of the Norfolk Broads, because it is only a few months since I devoted a long article to them, and they are probably as well known to-day as any part of England. No one, at any rate, who loves fresh-water boating needs to be reminded that in this respect Norfolk offers almost the finest playground we possess. All I will say about it here is that the peculiar charm of life on the Broads—and it is an uncommonly healthy life, too, owing largely to the propinquity of the sea—can never be felt more thoroughly than in a fairly genial and good-tempered summer such as we have lately been enjoying—though in saying that I must not be taken as implying that its continuance in that humour is to be expected. It may not be universally known, however, that the Norfolk "wherry" is a craft which can be found in sizes big enough to accommodate a large party, and families who adopt this life for a week or two in place of the conventional seaside lodgings are not likely to regret it. One of the most delightful holidays conceivable may be had by starting from Lowestoft or Yarmouth, circumnavigating the Broads, pushing up the Yare to Norwich, and from that point making a circular tour, by road or rail, through the northern part of the county referred to above. There are so many books published dealing with the Broads and the best way of seeing them that it is superfluous to offer information on this point; but anybody who does not know where to find it cannot do better than apply to the Great Eastern Railway Company, who

supply, among other things, a book on "Holidays in the Eastern Counties," which tells everything worth knowing.

Before leaving this part of the world, let us look a little further east. Have you ever heard of a place called Cambridge? Believe me that, considered as a mere town, it is one of the places in the world really worth seeing, though I suppose that thousands of Englishmen go down to their graves every year without ever seeing it, notwithstanding that it lies almost within fifty miles of London. I might add that the same thing is equally true of the sister University town of Oxford, which many people come from the uttermost parts of the earth to visit, though few Englishmen ever go ten miles out of their way for the purpose. People think nothing of spending two or three weeks, and no end of money, poking about in Italian or German towns. With the exception of perhaps Rome and Venice, are there any two towns on the Continent so rich in antiquarian, architectural, historical, and at the same time up-to-date interest as the two English University towns? You cannot see either of them adequately under a week, and there is enough in and around either of them to provide occupation for twice or thrice that time; yet I suppose if I were to suggest that a summer holiday might be well spent in "doing" the two of them in the same conscientious way that tourists do Paris, or Florence, or far less interesting places, the idea would be received as something altogether novel and surprising, if not eccentric. However, I offer the suggestion for what it is worth, and I will throw in a few additional attractions which may help to make it more acceptable. For the moment we are at Cambridge. Suppose you begin by exhausting that town, and then move on into the surrounding country. You can find some quite unknown regions well worth seeing all about the country. From Cambridge itself it is only a short run to Ely, with one of the most beautiful and interesting of English cathedrals. An excursion or two from Ely will give you an insight into the much-talked-of but little-known Fen country, which has quite unique charms, and is more comfortably studied in summer than in winter. Across the Fens you come to Peterborough, with another splendid cathedral; or you may go in the opposite direction to Norwich—cathedral again! (they are as plentiful here as in any part of the Continent)—and here you have the Norfolk districts already described at once open to you. A tour can be made up in this way, combining as much of interest, both in town and country, as in any district of the same extent that I know, whether at home or abroad; and all of it within 100 miles of London.

Again, there is one of the most delightful of holidays to be had at Oxford—one of the quietest and most secluded towns in England during August and September, with almost unlimited accommodation in the shape of hotels and lodgings of every variety. Apart from the intrinsic interest of the town itself, Oxford is the most convenient centre for exploring the most beautiful part of the Thames Valley as well as the comparatively unknown but not less delightful reaches that lie above Oxford. The facilities for rowing, punting, and sailing are unique, and there are steamboats up and down between Oxford and Kingston every day. The mention of Henley reminds me that some of the most beautiful scenery in the Midlands lies among the Oxfordshire hills to the north of that pretty little town, especially in the neighbourhood of Nettlebed, a point high enough to be visible—according to the telescope man—from the Devil's Dyke at Brighton. From Oxford, Stratford-on-Avon is also easily accessible. The best way, however, of doing Shakespeare's country from London is now by the Great Central route. And here one ought to call attention to the fact that the Great Central has opened up, between London and Rugby, many beautiful districts of Bucks and Warwickshire previously quite unknown. Any holiday-maker desirous of breaking new ground inland cannot do better than select a field of operations in this direction, and the Company's guide books will give him every information for the purpose. So much for the Midlands. Next week we will take a survey of the country further north.

THE THEATRES.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier has closed his theatre for a short time at the invitation of the clerk of the weather, and in the short speech which he made at the conclusion of his last night of this season he congratulated himself upon having produced works by a good many authors, of whom the list is before me. The names he quotes are mostly well known in literature or in the drama, though the value of their contributions to the drama of the country at the Garrick is not for the most part considerable. The chief exception to this statement is Eugène Brieux, whose "Robe Rouge" in its English clothing, "The Arm of the Law," showed the power and dramatic insight of Monsieur Brieux, and afforded to Mr. Arthur Bourchier (as the unjust judge) an opportunity for giving us of his best, and that best is likely to obtain for him a permanent place among the great actors of our time. The works of the other authors named in his speech as having been produced by him at the Garrick Theatre, though perhaps pleasant enough as after-dinner pastimes, will follow the way of the leaves of autumn. I do not believe that an exception can be made for Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Fairy's Dilemma," of which I have already spoken here at some length. Personally, I was considerably more amused and interested by the production at a charitable matinée last week of Mr. Gilbert's parody upon Hamlet. Mr. Gilbert himself played the King, whose five-act tragedy is revived by Hamlet for that monarch's confounding, and he played it with a fine seriousness which brought out the value of his own witty, caustic spirit, not only in his own part, but also in those of Rozencranz and Guildenstern and of Hamlet. Captain Robert Marshall, Mr. Leo Trevor, and Mr. Paul Rubens played these parts respectively, and Lady Colin Campbell queened it majestically. Beneath their mediæval disguises it was difficult to discover for certain the personalities of the numerous dramatic authors whose names figured on the programme, but some were obviously present—others apparently

rather in spirit than in fact. Sir Francis Burnand as the First Player corrected his Prince's mistaken notions of the actor's calling with a fine truculence, and indeed all the time one was occupied in watching to see some personality known to one emerge from the incognito of his part. Altogether a charming afternoon, for which the Bushey Heath Cottage Hospital should be thankful, and thanked.

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That deservedly successful play, "The Duke of Killiecrankie," is to migrate at the end of August from the Criterion to Wyndham's Theatre. The interesting cause of this migration is the forthcoming production on September 1, at the former theatre, of a play by Mr. Malcolm Watson, entitled "Winnie Brook's Widow," in which Miss Ada Reeve will make her first appearance in London in comedy. This brilliant little star of musical comedy, this sprite of burlesque, has already shown us in the intermittent glimpses permitted to the slave of an orchestra, that she possesses remarkable gifts of true comedy, and I should not be at all surprised if by this time next year she were standing chin-high in new-won laurel wreaths.

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Mr. Louis Bradfield supported by twenty-four assentient and exquisite ladies is now singing at the Empire a parody upon that song of "Sammy" which is not altogether unknown to the barrel-organ of fame. "Sally," this new avatar of "Sammy," is accompanied with telling gestures of invitation to a lady in the stalls, and when a certain person responds to them by invading the stage, the result is not altogether as agreeable to the lover as to the audience, who seems much amused and pleased with the song on the evening of its first performance.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE POPE AND THE BISHOPS.

I IMAGINE that the fresh quarrel between the Papacy and the French Government *s'arrangera comme une comédie de Chapus*. The field of battle might have been more judiciously chosen. Rampollo would have never suffered a bishop to be drawn across the coals for writing love letters to a Carmelite nun, and thus provoking her Superior to hand over to his enemies one she had herself received, expressing heart-breakings, and indeed despair, at her refusal to receive his visits. The Carmelites of Laval being "secularised" for the purpose of baffling Combes and his laws, one-half of them are free to wear the clothes of lay-women and to go about the town. The dress, however, is to be disfiguring, and the bonnet ridiculous—something, I suppose, like those of Salvation Army ladies. This gave opportunities, they say in Rome, for Monsignor le Geay to forget the sacredness of his episcopal character. He received a direct summons from Monsignor Merry del Val to justify himself before the Holy Office. This summons the Bishop of Laval communicated to M. Combes, who is Minister both of Cults and of the Interior. To do this is held at the Vatican an act of disobedience and disrespect. At the Place Beauvau it is thought to show a proper respect for French law. According to the reading of no matter what lay jurist, the Bishop was legally right in sending on the citation to the Minister above him. Bishops are ordained *in eternum*. The Government according to the Concordate designates its candidate to an episcopal see. The Pope gives him the episcopal licence, and he is then enthroned. Once he is enthroned, the Pope must not address him as Bishop under any circumstances whatsoever, except through the Nuncio, the French Foreign Minister, and the Minister of Cults. The answer passes through the same hands in inverse order. This complexity makes for discretion, peace, and the independence of the Episcopate.

The Bishop of Laval has been also charged with having at his palace fair cousins who had not reached the age when a woman can lawfully be engaged in the household of a cleric. Priests' nieces acting as housekeepers must have attained this age, and are generally plain to a frightful degree. The cousins of Monsignor le Geay were pretty enough to console him for the severity of the Lady Superior, who had not, it appears, been always frowning.

The view the Government takes is this. Traps were laid for the Bishop, into which he may or may not have fallen. He probably fell. But that does not affect his legal position, and it would not much matter in Rome if he had not otherwise transgressed. Thus he refused to allow "secularised" members of religious orders to preach in his cathedral or the parish churches of his diocese. The aristocracy of Maine, one of the most reactionist Departments of France, had been, before the Combes law passed, in the habit of going to mass at the chapel of St. Edmé Collegiate School. This educational establishment had then 500 pupils furnished by the first families of Maine. Hot and strong sermons against the Waldeck-Rousseau Cabinet delighted the parents, for whom room was made. The Bishop received a remonstrance from the Prefect, who pointed out that the chapel had been only licensed for the schoolboys, and that the spirit of the licence had been violated. Monsignor le Geay thought so, too, and closed the chapel against all outsiders. This led to organised attacks, some in the local Press, some in the streets, some at public meetings.

M. le Nordez, Bishop of Dijon, who is also cited before the Holy Office, and refuses to go without the sanction of the French Government, has been attacked with still greater violence on the charge of Freemasonry. The divinity students of the Theological Seminary refused to receive ordination from his hands, and hooted him in his cathedral. His Archdeacon publicly joined with them, and declined to assist the Bishop at the confirmation service, which on that account had to be postponed. The true doctrine is that obedience is due under all circumstances to a Bishop acting as such; and though he were the most

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

sinful of men, the rites he performs are valid. The riots have afforded the Holy Office an excuse for stepping in. It cites through the Papal Secretary of State the two Bishops, under pain of excommunication, to put a stop to the scandals in their respective Sees. The Papacy ought, if it wished to appear consistent in the eyes of *le bloc*, to have begun by citing the head of the Chartreux to explain the correspondence read before the Tribunal of Grenoble between him and a Chartrusienne Superior. To have one rule for the regular and another for the secular clergy is impolitic.

Mgr. le Geay made a name by preaching eulogistic sermons on Joan of Arc and writing her up in the Catholic papers. Not a word was breathed against him until he closed the chapel of St. Edmé School. I have not a copy by me of the letter to the Carmelite Superior, but have read it in the papers. It struck me as susceptible of another interpretation than that given by his enemies. Fénelon might have written in similar terms to Mme. de Guyon had she exiled him from her presence. He may have just found in the Superior an affinity, and a delicious and by no means reprehensible stimulant in her conversation. Cowper's connection with Mrs. Unwin affords a parallel to the spiritual wifehood the Bishop's letter indicates. A relation of this kind may be dangerous, but it may, too, be quite innocent.

The correspondence between the Bishop of Laval and the Vatican began last May in a letter from Cardinal Vannutelli, who alludes to a demand formerly (*autrefois*) addressed to him to resign his episcopal functions. As Mgr. le Geay did not comply, the Cardinal renews it, and "formally requires resignation within a month from the date on which the letter ought to be delivered." The severest rigour "will be resorted to in case of disobedience." "Que Dieu vous en préserve et vous sauve!" the Cardinal piously ejaculates. He knows how to silver a bitter pill. Merry del Val's first letter is dated July 2, 1904, and more diluted in tone, though he gives the Bishop, who has not complied, only fifteen days to come to Rome and answer before the Holy Office the charges made against him. If he does not obey he will, *ipso facto*, be deprived of all episcopal power and diocesan jurisdiction. The Papal Secretary of State sent a reminder on July 10, when the Bishop could inform him the Minister of Cults had forbidden him to leave his diocese—a power he distinctly holds under the Concordate. The severest penalties are threatened should the Bishop of Laval appeal to the secular arm to prevent the sentence of the Church taking effect.

M. Delcassé's intended visit to St. Petersburg should be connected with the Russo-Japanese war and what the German Emperor speaks of as the world-situation. It is not the less important for being a return call on Count Lamsdorff, who came to Paris last year. Of course, he will see the Czar, who will ask him to lunch at Peterhof and converse with him for some time after. The accords between France and Great Britain and Italy have considerably changed the French situation since M. Delcassé last went to St. Petersburg. A Russian screw is no longer wanted to put upon the former Power, and the German Empire is less redoubtable since France has no longer cause to fear an invasion on her Alpine frontier. American amity for Japan has been taking clearer form. It would be simply impossible for France to brave it. M. Delcassé will feel his way to peace proposals in his interviews with the Czar and Count Lamsdorff. The Count, when a subordinate of Count Mouravieff, feared the consequences of a boa-constrictor feed on Manchuria. Had he been consulted last winter, he would have advised his Imperial master to withdraw his patronage from certain syndicates that had obtained forest and mining concessions in Korea, and to give a free hand to Japan in that country.

A serious stumbling-block in his way as an advocate of a peace policy has been the fine hopes of the Court of Russia in the eternity of the French Alliance, such as it seemed when Nicholas and Alexandra first visited France. They both looked with young eyes at the demonstrations of welcome, and imagined the delirium could last. They took the glitter of Parisian fêtes for pure gold, and, it seems now, feel disappointment because it was not. Combes' determination to sacrifice no vital interest to the alliance, much as he personally and *le bloc* prized it, also disappointed. The French had so given themselves away in the early years of the Alliance that the Russians could not conceive them doing without their friendship. Even the small reduction of protective duties which France asked for in favour of Bordeaux and Champagne wines Russia refused, the great rivals of these vintages being products of the Emperor's personal domain. What the Gironde and the Haute Marne might have gained had Russia been as liberal as she proved the contrary would be as the drop in the ocean compared to the cost France would incur if she plunged into the quarrel with Japan.

Japan has been giving proof of higher qualities than the Powers divined when they forced on her the treaty of Shimonoseki. Certain weak spots in the Russian armour, only then perceptible to Japanese eyes, are now patent to the world. They can be remedied in time, as were those which the Crimean war brought into sight. After the honourable defence of Sebastopol Alexander II. thought it no dishonour to yield in the matter of the Black Sea fleet and on other points. Nor could his grandson lose prestige in following his example, and further proving his right to be called the Tsar of Peace. These and other considerations were discussed at the last Ministerial Council, held before M. Combes ran to Pons for a few days. Morocco will give the War, Marine, and Foreign Departments as much tough work as they can attend to, and M. Combes will have a hard task in preparing for the abolition of the Concordate.

If the Empress Eugénie leaves, according to her arrangement with the late Princess Mathilde, two-thirds of her fortune to Prince Victor Napoleon, he would be no despicable match for the youngest daughter of the King of the Belgians. The other third is to go to Spanish relatives, convents, old servants, and some old friends. Bonapartists who see Prince Victor whenever they

visit Brussels, speak of the match as desirable, and desired by Prince and Princess, but opposed by King Leopold, who does not want to turn the French Government round against him in the diplomatic controversy now going on about Congo affairs. He, however, finds another excuse for opposition. Victor, in his opinion, is not a man to render a wife, entitled to delicately respectful treatment, happy, and he has formed ties which it would be hard to break.

The Princess must have often heard of similar ties in her Austrian and German connection being lightly discarded. Victor is of stay-at-home habits, looks the married man, lives quietly in the Avenue Louise in a house arranged as a Napoleonic museum, sees but little company, and receives in almost solemn silence Appel-au-peuple Pilgrims. He would, I dare say, had he a chance of reigning, make as good an emperor as need be—be prosaic enough to win the rich bourgeois. It is given out by some of his adherents that he would not object to head a Constitutional Monarchy framed on the Italian Monarchy which his grandfather created. This may well be. M. Paul de Cassagnac loses few opportunities to attack him. He said to the late Lord Lytton, "Le Prince Victor est avare, menteur, gourmand, poltron, et c'est moi qui l'a inventé." De Cassagnac wanted him to come out some day in France on a black horse, brandishing a sword, and getting in debt to pay conspirators. As to being *menteur*, what Pretender tells the truth? The German Emperor accepts everything Frederick the Great wrote in justification of Machiavelli. It is the fashion of telling lies, and not the lie in itself, which reflects discreditably on prince, statesman, or diplomat, who finds an arm in *le mensonge*.

The Princess Clémentine is said to be tired of the companionless life she leads. It is too public and stuck-up for homely happiness, and too bourgeois for the excitement a Royal status should frequently involve. The German Press, which keeps a close eye on Brussels, agrees with the French Press in speaking of King Leopold and his favourite daughter as being of different minds on the subject of Prince Victor Napoleon. *Le Temps*, however, last Friday received a telephone from Brussels, begging it to contradict all the reports on this matter.

The Princess Clémentine used to be Leopold's companion in his visits to Beaulieu, near Nice, but for some past winters has given up going there, and he, as if out of conceit with his creation there, has been turning it into a sanatorium for invalided Congo officials.

The Princess is now thirty-two. I used to think her, about ten years ago, wondrously *distinguée*. She appeared to most advantage on horseback. The sudden scare of the fire in the Laeken Palace and the burning of her governess had turned her thoughts towards a religious life, but father and mother opposed what seemed to her a vocation. The lives her two sisters led with their husbands frightened her from marriage. The portraits given of her in the papers here in connection with her rumoured engagement mark changes in her appearance, and while her resemblance to King Leopold remains, she scarcely reminds one now of the late Grand Duchess Alice of Hesse-Darmstadt. The eyes of the late Grand Duchess expressed *la nostalgie du ciel*, which Mme. de Staël thought a German peculiarity. The Princess Clémentine takes her eyes through King Leopold from King Louis Philippe.

It would not suit the purposes of Prince Victor were the Princess to signify her intention of marrying him through *actes respectueux* served on King Leopold. We may, therefore, discard the much bruited assertion that she had determined to follow this disrespectful procedure. To marry against his wish would be to go to the marital home a penniless bride. The King gave each of his elder daughters an annuity of 50,000 fr., with a clause in the deed that has enabled him to stop payment to the Countess de Lonyay. He could give great wealth to the remaining Princess without missing it.

Leopold's Civil List allowance must be the least part of his income. The unearned increment of the State Domain, in which he has a life-interest, has been enormous since 1832. The Ardennes included in it used to be a poor district. Hardly less than Switzerland, it is now a tourist's and a tripper's country, and one of iron and steel works where smokeless charcoal does the work of coal. The sand-hills round Ostend are now covered with marine villas and the finest seaside hotels in Europe. The matchless drive and tile-paved walk on the esplanade attract the wealthiest floating population that is to be found anywhere. The sale of Domain timber brought in last year 725,000 fr.; rents from graziers, innkeepers, and other persons, 830,000fr.; and rents paid by railways for ground near stations, 900,000 fr. There has been, owing to the anti-gambling law, a fall in Domain property near the great casinos, but it is likely to recover. The income from the capitalised fund of the Domain is set down at 550,000 fr. The dividends of the Congo Free State in 1903 amounted to 34,000,000 fr., and those of the Congo railway to 1,000,000. The Civil List allowance of the late King was 1,250,000 fr. His son, I presume, does not draw less.

Carcassonne, where Combes spoke on Sunday, is famous for its mediæval ramparts, the exploits of its Albigensian inhabitants in the time of St. Louis, and its love of good cheer. Its hams, its poulardes, its turkeys, its melons, its aubergines have pre-eminence in culinary treatises, and the local dish of *cassoulet*, or beans baked with chopped ham, tomatoes, and a moistening quantity merely of *bouillon* is a delicacy for which the Carcassonnois longs in Paris, but longs in vain. I only know of one restaurant where he can find it, and on but one day in the week. The wines of the Aude which are drunk at Carcassonne are said to be tonic and gladdening. They improve with old age. In his last visit but one to the South of France, Mr. Gladstone walked round the ramparts of Carcassonne, received an address from the town council (Radical), discoursed on the heroism of the Albigenses, and lunched on *cassoulet* and other local dishes, drinking with them old Aude wines.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A CLUB is an enclosed restaurant, dear Lady Betty; a restaurant, an unenclosed club. Many of the oldest clubs in London were originally either taverns or coffee-houses at which more or less the same men assembled daily, and therefore some proprietors consented to close these establishments to the public. To be a member of a prominent club in those days added to the importance of a man, for men were generally elected because they were eminent, fashionable, or clever. The club system which we have inherited was organised in the Ages of Repose; ours is the Age of Motion. In former days men travelled little; news filtered through the clubs to the newspapers; the opinion of a clever man was repeated from mouth to mouth; and witty men were sought after, for their conversation helped to kill time. Most of the prominent and popular men of the moment have few minutes to spare, and do not care to dine at a club, away from the bustle of life. Moreover, as the proprietors of restaurants can now afford to pay three times as much to a cook as a committee of a club could offer him, the cooking at the former is necessarily much better than at the latter.

In other words, two hundred years ago—more or less—the requirements of the times transformed the restaurants into clubs, and to-day the new conditions are producing another revolution: the change is in the following direction. The clubs of the future will not be enclosed taverns or coffee-houses, but enclosed restaurants. They will be very large, will be furnished with the utmost luxury, and both men and women will be eligible for election, for cleverness, interesting conversation, and wit are not important elements in the life of our times. There are evidences of this change already. At most of the fashionable restaurants in London there are groups of well-known men and women who have their luncheons and dinners there almost regularly; at some of them a "supper Club" has been established; and at one of them a portion of the building has been reserved for a small body that has resolved itself into a club.

The club of the future may be described in advance. For the sake of convenience, this one which the imagination draws shall be called "The Mayfair." It is an enormous building with a large dining-room, and with smaller rooms for the same purpose for the use of those who object to crowds. There will be a ball-room, a concert-room, card-rooms, sitting-rooms, smoking-rooms, and a library. There will be from three to five thousand members, most of whom have been elected because they have either rank, influence, popularity, beauty, or wealth. The club will be a self-contained "society," and entertaining outside the club will become rare. The entrance fee will probably be fixed at £50, and the annual subscription at £30; from the latter source alone the income would be £90,000 a year! The best cooks will be employed, the best material will be used, the best wines and cigars will be provided, and the prices will be moderate. The co-operative system, which the old clubs were supposed to take advantage of, will be developed carefully. It is interesting to watch the change in its early stages.

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We see that the prominent and popular men are seldom at their clubs, and the result of this is that at these establishments now are generally to be found the uninteresting, the unsuccessful, and the unpopular. That does not attract desirable members. On the other hand, conversation is no longer appreciated as it was; the news is mostly provided by the papers; individual opinions are less valuable than they were; abstract questions are seldom discussed in conversation, because men have little time to spare, and their brains are tired by business; wit, contrasted with the serious money-making transactions which occupy our thoughts, is regarded as almost culpable frivolity; and when men take recreation they now prefer to be with women, for in talking to the latter it is not necessary to strain the mind. The change is curious, but unavoidable. Whether the world will be the loser by the accumulation of money and the decay of conversation is a matter that cannot be decided at the stage which we have reached. It is singular, however, that since the new circumstances have had influence we have not produced great orators, preachers, authors, poets, artists, or musicians. Our prominent men are of the stamp of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Lord Cromer, and Lord Kitchener, who have business qualities; or millionaires.

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Two actors, Mr. Wilson Barrett and Mr. Herbert Campbell, have died during the past week, and long obituaries of both have been published in most of the newspapers. A once well-known music-hall singer, Mr. Arthur Lloyd, has also died this week, but, for no apparent reason, the journalists have written little about him, though his name is associated with comic songs, which, in their day, were enormously popular—to wit, with "Ka-Foozle-Um," "Not for Joseph," "Angelina was Always Fond of Soldiers," "La-Di-Da," and "It's Naughty, but It's Nice." The matter is only mentioned here to direct attention to the fact that no comic songs are now written which seem to have the power of catching the country, though a really popular song should bring to the composer or singer a large sum of money in these days. But this is true of other things besides comic songs. Instead of "creators" we have critics! The plague of critics seems—with other circumstances—to be exterminating those who have the creative qualities. The modern critic first establishes himself by demolishing others, and, when he has obtained a connection and a name, offers the world a creation of his own, hoping that his friends will praise it to please him, and his enemies will not attack it, for fear of further annoying him! The first critic was the serpent; the first public, Adam and Eve, and, with characteristic fatuity, the former assured the latter that the only bad thing in Paradise was the best!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

BREEDERS are now languishing under a season of the rains, and the adverse fates had it all their own way at the Newmarket sales during the July meetings. The fact is that buyers are disgusted by the exorbitant reserves which many breeders place on their yearlings, and when an animal is run up it is exasperating to find that the biddings so briskly forthcoming have really been made on behalf of the owner. I have often expressed the opinion that breeders would fare very much better in the long run if they sold without any reserve whatever, but, of course, if this rational course is adopted, there must be no hocus-pocus in the form of a bidder secretly instructed on behalf of the vendor.

It is generally thought that the members of the Bibury Club will have to enrich their programme considerably if they intend again to ask the Jockey Club for a three days' meeting over the Salisbury course. This year the fixture was a mere orgie of plating, the class of sport being in dismal contrast to the old Stockbridge days. The Bibury Club, which originated in Gloucestershire, took for many years the first of the three days over which the Stockbridge meeting extended, and its apparent success was really due to the circumstance of its connection with the Hampshire fixture. The Bibury Club, like similar societies at Heaton, Gorhambury, and Petworth, was established to promote

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amateur horsemanship, but the meeting has often passed without a single race being won by a gentleman rider. It seems to me that the Club programme, as it now appears, does not justify a separate meeting in the present crammed and jammed condition of the list of fixtures. The money given would scarcely provide one day's decent sport, and the best plan would be to give the regular Salisbury meeting a third day, and let it be set apart for the Club races.

The entries for the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) and Prix de Diane (French Oaks) have just closed for 1906. Only 177 yearlings have been engaged in the Prix du Jockey Club, as against 196 entries for next year, and 205 for the present season. M. E. Blanc has twelve entries, including an own brother to Ajax (winner of this year's Prix du Jockey Club and Grand Prix, and, by the way, this colt is to undergo a special preparation for the St. Leger). M. Blanc has six other yearlings, sired by Flying Fox, including Leuksor, a colt out of Airs and Graces (winner of the Oaks in 1898) and Karnak II., a half-brother to Lucie. Baron de Rothschild has eight entries, four of them being sired by Le Roi Soleil, and two by Galeazzo, one of the latter being an own brother to Eryx. M. Veil Picard has eight entries, Mr. Vanderbilt has seven, and M. Aumont has six. Baron de Scheckler's lot of five, nominated by his son-in-law, Comte de Pourtales, includes a colt by Le Roi Soleil out of Semendria. Vicomte de Harcourt also has five entries, four of them being yearlings sired by Gulliver, a son of St. Simon and Distant Shore, who was bred and raced by Mr. Rose. Baroness de Forest has three entries, one being a colt named Chamant. It is fatuous and absurd to repeat this name so soon. It is only twenty-seven years since Chamant cantered away with the Two Thousand at Newmarket, and he would assuredly have carried off the Derby and St. Leger if he had kept all right. As matters turned out, both these races fell to Silvis, and in the opinion of that horse's owner, the late Lord Falmouth, he was a stone inferior to Chamant.

There is also a decline in the number of entries for the Prix de Diane for 1906, only 167 fillies having been engaged, as compared with 182 for 1905 and 214 for this year. M. E. Blanc is again the largest subscriber, having no fewer than fifteen entries, nine of his fillies being daughters of Flying Fox, including a sister to French Fox and a half-sister to Omnium II. Another of his lot is a half-sister, by Masqué, to Caius. Baron de Rothschild and M. Veil Picard have seven entries each, and M. Michel Ephrussi has five, and nine owners have four each.

The statement, which has recently appeared, that Rock Sand's next race would be the Doncaster Cup is incorrect, for he has not even been entered. He will not be again seen in public until the Jockey Club Stakes, when he will meet St. Amant with 7 lb. the best of the weights. He will probably be started both for the Champion Stakes at the Second October meeting and for the Jockey Club Cup on the last day of the Houghton meeting.

Eighteen horses have been entered for the Doncaster Cup, which appears likely to be a most interesting race. The list includes Mr. Alexander's Throwaway, Mr. Bass's Sceptre, Buchanan's Hands Down, Lord Carnarvon's Robert le Diable, Mr. Cunliffe's Ypsilanti, Lord Howard de Walden's Zinfandel, Mr. Joel's Bachelor's Button, and Major Loder's Hammerkop. I shall confidently predict the victory of Zinfandel if this horse comes fit and well to the post.

The final forfeit for the Champagne Stakes has just been declared, and forty-one horses are left in out of the original entry of 104. I have more than once animadverted upon the huckstering parsimony of the management in grabbing the minor forfeits (£315 this year) for the fund, an act of meanness which is the more reprehensible inasmuch as not a farthing is even nominally added to the St. Leger. The engagements of the King's horses are most carelessly overlooked, and the slovenly oversight of the managers of the Royal stud must cost his Majesty a large sum every year. There are five two-year-olds left in, including one animal which has already been weeded out of the King's stud, and the others that have started are very moderate. There is £75 apparently thrown away. The best public form is represented by the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Mr. Faber's Queen of the Earth, Mr. James' Atlas, Duke of Portland's Pamflete, Mr. Raphael's Graceful, Lord Hamilton Dalzell's Brother Bill (nominated by Mr. Sievier), and Sir John Thursby's Standen. Several animals in the list have obviously been left in by mistake. Mr. L. de Rothschild has accepted with Monarda, half-sister to St. Amant by Florizel II., whose début was not encouraging. Major Loder has L'Etoile, filly by Isinglass out of Astrology. All Mr. Baird's lot of four have gone, and Mr. H. Barnato's Gull, about whom there has been much laudatory trumpeting, has disappeared from the list. Lord Cadogan, who had three entries, is not now represented, and Mr. Houldsworth's three have been withdrawn. Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly, has gone out, and so has the Duke of Westminster's Wetaria, own sister to Flying Fox. Mr. Perkins, who had five entries, has accepted only with Tarquinius Superbus. There are neither penalties nor allowances in the Champagne Stakes, so that it is not a likely event to be selected for the début of a dark two-year-old that has been highly tried. I expect that Full Cry will prove the best of the public lot.

John Kent, who died last week at the age of eighty-six, was for some years trainer to Lord George Bentinck and to the fifth Duke of Richmond. In 1846, when Lord George decided to devote himself to politics, and, therefore, sold his stud to Lord Clifden, Kent continued to train the horses for their new owner, and he prepared Surplice for the Derby of 1848. Lord Clifden made new arrangements for his stud during the summer of 1848, and Kent would have been re-engaged by Lord George Bentinck, who was meditating a return to the Turf at the time of his sudden death. Kent then gave up training, and he became a tenant farmer in West Sussex, and took a prominent part in local politics, and was a frequent speaker at agricultural meetings. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the late Lord Henry Lennox at Chichester. He finally settled at Felpham, near Bognor, his farming operations having proved a disastrous failure, and I understand that for many years past he had received a pension from the Duke of Portland.

About twelve years ago Kent supplied information to the late Mr. Francis Lawley concerning Lord George's Turf career which resulted in the appearance of a work entitled "The Racing Life of Lord George Bentinck." There was nothing new of any interest in this book, and the materials were insufficient, so it was flagrantly padded in a variety of ways, sixty pages being filled with a dissertation on the racing career of Sir William Gregory, who had no more connection with either Lord George Bentinck or John Kent than had Dr. Johnson or Mr. Wilberforce.

A brief but very interesting criticism of Lord George Bentinck's career on the Turf is to be found in the sixth volume of Mr. Charles Greville's journal, and nobody was better qualified to supply accurate information on the subject. Lord George and Mr. Greville were first cousins, and for some years intimate friends and racing confederates. Lord George betted on a gigantic scale, and it was natural for him to be a gambler, as he was a grandson of General Scott, who won half-a-million at hazard. Mr. Greville gave full details in his journal of many of Lord George Bentinck's racing transactions, with an account of the tricks and stratagems to which he resorted in order to achieve his great coups. Mr. Henry Reeve, who "edited" the journal, did not print these revelations, considering that they had lost their interest. Somebody, however, may yet unearth Mr. Greville's narrative, as the full manuscript of his journal is preserved in the British Museum. Lord George's immense correspondence, on racing, political, and private affairs, was burnt after his death by his father,

the Duke of Portland, and his brother, Lord Henry Bentinck.

The sporting papers nearly always describe the present Duke of Portland as "a descendant of the noble owner of Crucifix and Miss Ellis." Lord George left no descendants, and the present Duke's father was, I believe, his cousin. Lord Howard de Walden, who is Lord George Bentinck's grandnephew now represents his branch of the family on the Turf, and he also descends from General Scott.

Mr. Musker's yearlings are to be sold at Doncaster on the Tuesday without reserve. His wise decision to have an open sale will no doubt tend to stimulate competition for the animals.

The two most successful sires in the United States this year are English-bred horses—Meddler, by St. Gatien out of Busybody, who represents one of the late Lord Falmouth's most successful strains of blood; and Ben Strome, who was bred by the late Duke of Westminster.

Mr. Larnach has no intention of retiring from the Turf, and it is probable that his colours will be seen out again next season. Mr. Larnach has engaged a number of yearlings in the stakes which have just closed for next year and 1906.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Eclipse Stakes of 1907 for now foals and yearlings. The conditions of the Sandown Park £10,000 race are very much more sensible than are those of the corresponding event at Newmarket. There are neither breeding nor maiden allowances, the extreme penalty is only 10 lb., and the deductions for second and third horses are £600, instead of the preposterous sum (£2,700) of which the winner is unfairly deprived at Newmarket. Entries also close for the National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000, for mares now in foal, to be run in July, 1907. This event enjoys the distinction of being the richest two-year-old stake of the season, and I cannot conceive why races on similar lines have not been long ago started at other meetings, notably at Goodwood and Newmarket.

John o' Gaunt could not have lost the St. George's Stakes at Liverpool, which is one of the richest of the summer three-year-old races, but he was withdrawn in consequence of the hard ground, as it was thought that if he pulled up sore his St. Leger chance might be prejudiced. John o' Gaunt's Leger prospect does not seem to me to be very hopeful, while Ajax and Pretty Polly are on their legs, but it will not at all surprise me if he defeats St. Amant over the Doncaster course, which will not suit Mr. de Rothschild's colt so well as the Epsom track. John o' Gaunt certainly ought to win the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood on Friday, and he has promising engagements next month at Kempton Park and at Hurst Park. If the colt misses these races in order that he may be kept for the St. Leger, his owner will probably discover at Doncaster that he has thrown away the substance of valuable money stakes in order to grab at the shadow of the great Doncaster event.

Thirty-five horses have been entered for the Great Ebor Handicap of £1,000, which is run at York on August 24. There are very few three-year-olds, and the best of these are Mr. Buchanan's Hands Down, and Mr. Perkins' Inverkeithing. The list of the older horses includes Mr. Faber's Fermoyle and Loveite, Mr. King's Whistling Crow and Prince Florizel, Lord Ellesmere's Firmilian, Mr. Baird Hay's Palmy Days, Mr. Goodchild's Scullion, Mr. Clarke's Mark Time, Sir J. Miller's Rondeau, Sir E. Cassel's Exchequer, and Major Loder's Hammerkop. The Great Ebor has lost all its old importance. At one time the weights appeared at Goodwood on the Cup day, and heavy betting on the race at once commenced, and continued briskly until the day of running, nearly four weeks afterwards.

Entries close next Tuesday for the principal handicaps at the Doncaster September meeting, including the Great Yorkshire Plate of £1,300, the Cleveland Plate of £500, the Portland Plate of £300, and the Alexandra Plate of £500. There is also the Prince of Wales' Nursery of £1,000, distance one mile. It would be a good thing to abolish mile races for two-year-olds, and to forbid any animal of that age to run in public over a greater distance than six furlongs.

There were fifty entries for the Tattersall Sale Stakes at Doncaster when the race closed in November last. The minor forfeit has just been declared, and twenty two-year-olds are left in. I am surprised there are so many acceptances, as the race appears to be a mere question of health for Cyanean. There is a much larger acceptance for the Rous Plate, fifty two-year-olds being left in, out of an original entry of eighty-one.

Cicero is now recovering from his recent mishap, but at one time there were grave fears that tetanus would supervene. It may be hoped that Lord Rosebery's colt will be none the worse for this accident, but I am informed that he certainly will not run again this season.

At Goodwood to-morrow the King ought to win the Cup with Chatsworth, who has the best of the weights with William Rufus and Darley Dale, apart from the consideration that Mr. Musker's horse is not likely to stay the course if there is anything of a pace. The Prince of Wales' Sweepstakes, which is one of the richest two-year-old races of the season, being worth £2,800, will be won by the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins, who has so far been singularly unfortunate in her races. Full Cry's next engagement, after this week, is the Gimcrack Stakes at York, for which race there are 165 entries, including Vedas, Galantine, Llangibby, Thrush, Brother Bill, and Standen.

For a few years the Leicester July meeting was one of the most important of the summer fixtures, but this meeting has entirely lost its old place, and the sport now seen there is of no general interest whatever.

There were poor fields at Liverpool, and it is real buffoonery for the authorities to allow this meeting to be dragged over three days. Grandiflora and the dark filly, Cherry Lass, were favourites for the Great Lancashire Breeders' Produce Stakes, for which race Shah Jehan was a great tip from Newmarket, but Galantine won cleverly from Brilliancy, to whom she was giving 15 lb. The two-year-olds appear to be an exceedingly moderate lot. Cherry Lass compensated her friends for this disappointment by cleverly winning the Mersey Stakes on Wednesday, and Petit Bleu was defeated by Lady Honore for the Southport Stakes. Delauny was made favourite for the Molyneux Stakes in spite of his having 9 st. to carry, and he won easily from Sweet Katie, to whom he was giving 27 lb., while third came His Lordship, to whom the winner gave two years and 1 st. Delauny must be one of the fastest horses now in training, and it is a pity that he had not been reserved for the Stewards' Cup. The ring fielded very strongly against Andover for the Knowsley Dinner Stakes, but Mr. Alexander's colt gave 17 lb. and a hollow beating to Sertorius.

The Liverpool Cup has excited very little attention this year, but the handicap was a good one, as was proved by the fact that 5 to 1 was offered on the field until the flag fell, although there were only ten starters. Court Scandal and Flamma were the best favourites for money, but the winner turned up in Bachelor's Button, who was also heavily backed, although the Newmarket people declared that he could not give the weight to the two favourites. Flamma ran dreadfully, and must surely have met with some accident in the race, and she dropped out very suddenly when apparently going well. Bachelor's Button won cleverly at the finish from Foundling, who was supposed to have been not beaten in a trial with Cades, but here he finished far in front of Jarvis's colt.

The Prix du Président de la République, a new weight-for-age stake, with £4,000 added, for three-year-olds and upwards, was run last week for the first time at Maison's Laffitte, and Gouvernant won easily. M. E. Blanc's colt had shown by his prominent running in the Grand Prix that his miserable collapse at Epsom

was all wrong, and as the distance at Maison Laffitte was a mile and a half, it is clear that the idea that Gouvernant cannot stay beyond a mile is all nonsense and rubbish. Gouvernant showed temper at the post, and he got off very badly, having been left several lengths when the flag fell. Gouvernant has valuable engagements during the next month at Vichy and at Baden-Baden, which he is sure to fulfil, as Ajax is in reserve for the St. Leger. It is quite on the cards that M. E. Blanc will send over both colts to Doncaster, as if Gouvernant has a mission to make strong running, a fast pace will be insured from start to finish, which would be much in favour of Ajax, who is a really good stayer.

Several races at the Newmarket October meetings close next Tuesday, including the Cesarewitch and the Cambridgeshire. In each of these handicaps there is a minor forfeit of £5, which is taken from the fund as an entrance, and the £1,000 which is nominally given to these races as added money is thereby recovered. The weights for these handicaps are to be published on September 1, being the Thursday before Doncaster. caster.

The Old Cambridgeshire Handicap has disappeared in consequence of racing over the Ancaster Mile having been discontinued, and there is to be a new race (the Queensberry Handicap of £500), run over the R.M., on Friday in the Houghton week; weights to be published after the Cesarewitch.

Lord Durham has challenged for the Newmarket whip with Osbech. The whip has been held by Sir E. Cassel since October, 1900. Lord Durham held the whip for a few months in 1891, when he named Circassian as his representative, and the late Duke of Beaufort surrendered it, but Lord Durham did not accept the late Mr. John Gretton's challenge with Gonsalvo.

There will be racing next week at Hurst Park, Birmingham, Ripon, Brighton, Irvine (Eglinton Hunt meeting), Haydock Park, and Lewes. The best sport will be at the Sussex meetings, where there are sure to be large fields, but the racing is not likely to be of high class. At one time there was excellent all-round racing at Brighton and Lewes, but both meetings have considerably degenerated of late years so far as regards the class of the sport. The Brighton Cup brought out some of the best horses in training in the sixties and seventies, when it was a long-distance race, but the race has lost all its old importance, and the Lewes Handicap now excites no general interest whatever.

ANGLO-AMERICAN ATHLETICS.

The Yale and Harvard University athlete no longer wears long hair parted down the middle. Relieved of this artistic burden, he easily beats the men of Cambridge and Oxford. I heartily congratulate the men of Yale and Harvard on their victory in the sports at the Queen's Club. There was no element of luck about it. They thoroughly deserved their win, just as much as the Oxford and Cambridge men deserved defeat. I make absolutely no excuse for their defeat. In any comments that I may make on the performances it must not be considered that I wish in any sense to derogate from the merits of the Americans' success. The Americans were beautifully trained and capable of getting the last ounce out of themselves in each event, even in those in which they were outclassed. The Englishmen, on the other hand, just lacked that finish, and, as I anticipated, suffered from want of sufficient racing experience. Indeed, in the long distance running our men were distinctly disappointing; apparently they had tried to do in a month what ought to have taken a couple of months. They had only trained for a month. One looked for exceptionally fine times in the half, the mile, and two miles, but they were not forthcoming. Cornwallis, I understand, was unwell early in June, and obviously he was not up to his spring form. Only for a few yards did he show that fine, free stride, and that was when the Americans tried to press him at the end of the first quarter. Holding ran splendidly, and caught Cornwallis in the last few yards and won. In the two miles Churchill was obviously unfit. He was easily beaten by Godby (Oxford) in 9 min. 50 secs., a most disappointing time, but just as much as the winner can do. In the mile, one hoped that Gregson would do well under 4 min. 20secs. But he did not. He ran as beautifully as ever, but he clearly needed the racing practice that he had had in the Lent term before the University sports.

In these events the visitors were quite outclassed, and their representatives in the half-mile seemed over-trained. There was no life in their work. In both the sprint races the Americans were successful. It would be unfair to criticise Barclay's running. On his form on Saturday he is certainly the best sprinter either at a hundred or a quarter in England. Shick, of Harvard, did the hundred in 9 4-5ths secs., and the race afforded a sufficient answer to those who ask if this time can be beaten. I see no reason why it should not be, for Barclay got the best away, and Shick did not pass for nearly fifty yards. The man who can get off as well as Barclay and finish as fast as Shick will knock another 1-5th off the time. I do not for one moment think that Barclay could ever beat Shick, but I am perfectly certain of this, that Barclay, with more experience in actual racing, would do 49 for the quarter. He was leading until the last five yards, but he had swerved so far from the inside berth coming down the straight that he let up Dives, who won a brilliant race on the tape by barely a couple of feet. That swerve lost him the race. No doubt he was watching Long, who was at his left shoulder. But if he had done some hard racing in handicaps he would, I feel sure, have won by a couple of yards. Both the Americans ran grandly, and a yard covered them all at the finish. They well deserved their win. In the hurdles our men were outclassed. Clapp (Yale) and Bird (Harvard) were only separated by inches in a fifth of a second under even in the hurdles. The disadvantage of the loose hurdle was shown by this race, for the winner brought one hurdle over, and the Harvard man did not touch one. The man who knocks a hurdle should suffer the penalty. In the high jump I congratulate Vietor, of Yale, in clearing 6 ft. He had not done so well in public before. Doorley, the Cambridge second string, has improved in his jumping. Leader has not. He jumps at a greater angle than he did in the spring. The other two men went straight at the bar. If Leader would follow the advice of Howard-Smith, the late Cambridge President, he would practise going straight at the bar. Shelvin (Yale) won the hammer with a throw of over 152 ft. He took more interest in the event than any one else, and he paid great attention to the actual measurement of the distance. His enthusiasm was not shared by the public. The long jump was a poor display. The winner, Sheffield, jumped more backwards than forwards. He tumbled back at every jump, and he was lucky to win. I do not think a jump should be measured even from the man's hand when he saves himself by gripping the board at the side. Ayres (Harvard) jumped fairly. He fell forward on his knees, and he had hard luck in not winning. Undoubtedly the best style was shown by Le Blanc-Smith, who, with proper coaching, should be capable of doing 22 ft. Leach was quite out of form. He had badly strained his leg. And so the sports ended, as I had anticipated, in an easy win for the visitors by six events to three. I hope that if they come again those who rule the roost at Oxford and Cambridge will see that the men take a little more time over their training, and will also impress upon them that racing is the best practice, even when Yale and Harvard are being met.

In consequence of several letters that I have received, I think that I ought to try to explain briefly how it came about that Third Trinity did not put on an eight

for the Grand. At first they certainly meant to do so, but from one cause and another, illness and business, they found themselves stranded with seven men or less to row. Their membership is very small. They practically had to give up any idea of going for the Grand. Leander was very hard up for men, and so it was suggested that as Winnipeg were coming they should row for Leander. Then when the Canadian eight was found not to be coming over, it was surely utterly impossible for Third to say that they could get together a crew that could beat anything Leander was likely to get together. There is not the slightest doubt that Winnipeg would have expected to meet Leander, and of course Third, if they could have got a crew together. The Winnipeg four left for home after winning in the Metropolitan regatta, and they extended a most pressing invitation to Leander to visit them next year. They want to row them in Canada, and they promise the visitors a really good time with plenty of shooting and other sport if they go over. It is an invitation not to be lightly refused.

In glorious weather Molesey regatta was a huge success, and the old Oxford stroke, C. W. Kent, the honorary secretary, and his committee are to be congratulated most heartily on the admirable way in which the programme was carried out. There was a huge crowd of people, who, if they so desired, might have seen some excellent racing. No club made a clean sweep. The trophies were well distributed. London and Kensington headed the list with a couple, while Thames, Staines, Molesey, Broxbourne, and Twickenham took one each. Thames had the honour of winning the senior eights.

In the race for the Wingfield sculls the unexpected happened. Cloutte's arm gave out and St. George Ashe sculled home an easy winner in a style which he has certainly not shown before. It is a long lane that knows no turning, and as the result of long work he is at last amateur champion of the Thames. It was a veterans' race. Both men are over thirty. Kelly, the holder, was not competing.

Essex are not likely to forget their Northern tour. Their match with Derby will be long noted in cricket history. For them Perrin made the record score of the season. They made nearly six hundred. Derby followed with over five hundred, including a two hundred by Ollivierre, and in the end won easily, Essex all being out for under a century in their second innings. Then, against Lancashire, they failed in their first innings, and so they were easily beaten. No one seems able to stop the coming champions, but then the Red Rose, being the nursery of Free Trade, imports cricketers. Staunch Yorkshiremen stand by their own county, and do not go to the Colonies or other counties, for either bats or bowlers.

How brilliantly Hayward is playing for Surrey! Last week he made his two thousand runs. He scored a couple of centuries against Sussex, and played two good innings against Yorkshire. He is the mainstay of the batting, which has certainly been strengthened by the inclusion of Raphael. I am glad to see that Davis, whose batting against Lancashire favourably impressed me, has also come off. He should be played regularly. So delighted was the Oval crowd with Nice's success as a bowler against Yorkshire in their first innings that a goodly sum was subscribed. A caustic critic, realising the vagaries of the Surrey Selection Committee, suggested that some provision should be made for Lees, who only took one wicket. Lord Dalmeny is at present captaining the team. Kent are still going strongly. They beat Somerset very easily. Mason scored a century, and Humphreys and Seymour batted very well. These young professionals set about the bowling from the start. A bowler gets knocked about unless he finds his length at once. By the way, what a tremendous crowd would have been present if Yorkshire and Lancashire could have played at Lord's or the Oval. Undoubtedly this is the match of the season.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Weak—Case of the "Malacca"—International Complication Fears—Tired "Bulls" of Consols Frightened Out—Some Forced Selling—Pity the Poor Underwriters—Where Are the Investing Classes?

FEARS of international complications arising out of the seizure of the P. and O. liner *Malacca* by one of the vessels of the Russian Volunteer fleet have been the predominant element in the Stock Markets during the past week, and the effect upon prices has been unusually marked owing to the condition of the account, especially in Consols, which are peculiarly susceptible to political considerations. That the *Malacca* incident had in it the makings of a nice quarrel, the end of which was not to be foreseen, was undeniable, but on the other hand it was not to be supposed that Russia, with one big job already on hand, would deliberately court war with Great Britain, and the release of the steamer on the announcement that she contained no contraband was a foregone conclusion. After all, I do not know that all our "lines" of steamers are above carrying contraband, classed under some such fanciful head as "pianos," and anyway, the bellicose attitude of the leading London and provincial journals was more than a little disgraceful. The only dubious point was the status of the Volunteer fleet. This appears now to be in a fair way to a satisfactory settlement, and, Russia having been becomingly impressed by the determination—*vide* the leading articles of the daily Press, especially the halfpenny daily Press—of the English nation to uphold the honour of the old flag, it is probable that we shall be spared any more of these disquieting occurrences. But the effect upon prices, from the Funds downwards, was quite out of proportion to the real significance of the scare. The fact is, that towards the end of the half-year very heavy "Bull" commitments were entered into in Consols under the impression that July would witness a glut of money, with a resultant advance in all gilt-edged stocks, Goschens, of course, leading. Now, there has been no glut of money; on the contrary, the supply of it in the open market has been short, and frequent applications have had to be made to the Bank of England. Tired and disappointed "Bulls" quickly became alarmed when visions of an Armageddon arose before their scared eyes, and they rushed to get out on any terms. Underwriters who had gaily made themselves responsible for more or less considerable blocks of the new gilt-edged issues, for which the public displayed not the least eagerness, have been compelled to sell Consols in order to meet calls on these various issues, and one large firm was at one time in serious difficulties owing to this cause. The troubles of a house in the Russian grain trade increased the forced liquidation, and what with all this and the banging tactics of "Bears," it is not surprising that Consols should have dropped 1½ in less than a week. They are now having some recovery, and though still a trifle heavy owing to the political uncertainties, other markets are going better in sympathy with them. In Home Railways there is still weakness, due to the refusal of the investing, and even the speculating, public to relieve the dealers of stock laid in on their behalf, and to the consequent necessity which the dealers are under of reducing their load on the best terms obtainable. The Kaffir market suffers mainly from lack of support at the instance of the public or the market leaders, or both, and the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Standard* sent over a message that the Chinese on the Rand were hardly giving satisfaction, an assertion which the people most concerned—those who are employing them, in fact—have been the first to repudiate, and with emphasis. The immediate outlook for business is not so satisfactory as it might be. That there is money for good investment has been abundantly

proved, but there is little of that surplus supply that usually goes into speculation, and while investment stocks are at a level which ought to tempt buyers, the political unrest interferes with the restoration of that full confidence which is essential for active speculation.

Money Tight—And the Reason Why—The Glut of High-class Loans—Bank of England in Control—Discount Rates Harden—Bank's Reserve.

The smallness of the supply of money in the open market, to which allusion has been made above, is due almost entirely to the surfeit of high-class issues since the beginning of April. These have called for such a steady stream of instalments that seldom has Lombard Street been really easy in its mind for more than a week at a time. Last week, for instance, there were quite a number of heavy calls on new issues, and on Friday the market had to find £2,500,000 to pay for the new Treasury Bills, which, by the way, went at the high rate of £2 18s. per cent. It is only in times of super-abundance, such as prevailed before the outbreak of the Boer War, that such drains as these can be met without driving the market to the Bank. Once again, Lombard Street has found itself unable to move without the help of the Old Lady. Rates for call loans have ranged round about 2½ per cent. with an advance to 3¼ per cent. on days of pressure. Discount rates have been firm. The position of money strengthens them, and with the political outlook dubious, they move upwards in spite of the recovery in the Continental charges and the reduced demand for gold from abroad. At 2⅞ per cent. the rate for fine three months' drafts is fully ½ per cent. higher on the week. The transfer of the last 25 per cent. of the Japanese loan to the Bank of England at the beginning of this current week reduces the floating supply of cash very appreciably, and we have also the customary pre-Bank Holiday drain of gold into the country. On the other hand, the Bank of England is now securing the bulk of the gold arriving from abroad. Its reserve is increased to £24,331,331 by the receipt of £334,000 in gold from the country and abroad, and a reduction of £140,000 in the note circulation, and the ratio to liabilities is higher.

Consols Depressed—The Influence of Politics—Forced Selling—The Poor Underwriters—Foreigners Tolerably Steady—Portuguese Harden—Russians Firm—Brazilians.

Consols have been severely depressed during the week, and the *Malacca* incident was made the pretext for putting prices considerably lower. When the political situation appeared extremely serious they fell below 88¼ for the account, but with the improved outlook recovered some of the ground lost. Although the state of politics was undoubtedly responsible for the weakness which prevailed, it would be erroneous to attribute all of it to that cause. For some time it has been evident that there was an overloaded "Bull" account, and it needed only a little scare to cause selling on a heavy scale. In addition, there has been some forced realisation from one especially large quarter, while there has also been a lot of miscellaneous selling by underwriters, who found themselves obliged to get rid of their Consols and other gilt-edged things in order to provide "calls" on the numerous issues of high-class stocks which within the past four months have failed to attract the investing public. There is not the slightest doubt about the sorry position of this fraternity in general, and coming on top of the other fiascoes, in the shape of abortive issues, is the Chinese Railway loan, with which they have been saddled with almost 60 per cent. by an indifferent and callous public. The rest of the gilt-edged market followed the lead of Consols, but without developing the same degree of weakness. Prior to the *Malacca* incident the Foreign market was in a fairly cheerful mood, but with the whisperings of complications arising therefrom, and from the Dardanelles question, this section began to develop some nervousness. They soon recovered, however, the attitude adopted by Paris giving some encouragement, while some support from that quarter caused prices to harden, and prices now stand at about the same level as a week ago. Portuguese are noticeably firm, apparently in connection with the preparations for a new loan. Japanese stocks have been tolerably steady, with the exception of the Fours, which are slightly easier. Russians keep strong, despite the war developments, as a result of the usual inspired support, which must be becoming rather onerous by this time. Chinese Railway bonds were momentarily affected by the result of the new issue alluded to, the price of which dropped to 3 discount at one time on some anxious selling, but improved subsequently. Spanish have moved only within small limits, and Greeks are better on the continued expansion showed in the revenues. Argentines have not been very firm, but there is some inquiry for Brazilian descriptions, and for the benefit of those who care for these, I append the following table showing the return they give:—

—	Per Cent.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
			£ s. d.
Brazilian, 1883	4½	80 — 3	5 11 0
Do. Gold Loan, 1879	4½	81 — 3	5 11 0
Do. 1888	4½	82 — 4	5 9 9
Do. 1889	4	77 — 8	5 4 6
Do. West of Minas Railway	5	89 —90	5 14 0
Do. Funding	5	102 — 3	4 19 9
Do. Rescission	4	78½— 9½	5 4 0

Americans Active—The "Bull" Movement—Crop and Iron Trade Reports—Union Pacifics and Northern Securities—The Outlook—The Half-year's Earnings.

Thanks to the support of the "Bull" interests in New York, the American Market has been tolerably strong throughout the week. On this side there is no support, and on the other side the public interest appears to be in the neighbourhood of nil, the commission houses reporting business to be on "a very small scale." The "Bulls," however, refuse to be discouraged, and they are working energetically in order to secure their aim—which is the encouragement of a public demand in order that they may unload. The *Malacca* incident was not without effect, even on Wall Street, but the "Bulls" being in the ascendant, the influence was slight and quite temporary. The crop reports have strengthened Grangers, and in this connection it is asserted that much wheat which has hitherto been thought to be hopelessly damaged will after all be saved. An improvement in iron trade conditions—which are the index to the general state of trade in the country—has been talked about, and the Steel Trust will (so says the Market) help to a general improvement by distributing the full rate of dividend for the quarter on its Preferred stock. It is rather a disappointment to the Market that the *Iron Age* should remark that the improvement is more manifest in the Stock Exchange than in the iron trade itself, and that things will be easier still next month; but a little matter of this kind does not count for much in the present humour of the Market. It is a satisfactory feature that railroad earnings are on a better scale, though the old complaint of excessive expenditure still holds good. Grangers, coalers, and other stocks have all had their turn, in connection, for the most part, with manipulation designed to cover selling movements in another direction; but Unions and Southern Pacifics have been most prominent, the former being carried at one time above par on a "Bear" squeeze to the accompaniment of a rumour that a way will be found to enable the Northern Securities Company to pay the dividend which by an order of the Court it is restrained from doing. The Union, being a large holder of Northern Pacifics, would naturally benefit if such a way out could be found. Another pretext for marking Unions higher was found in the announcement that the Southern Pacific stockholders had authorised the issue of a Pre-

ferred stock to the amount of $100,000,000. Here is my table:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, July 2, 1904.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.	Closing Price, July 23, 1904.
Atchison	92½	56⅛	75	77⅞	88⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	96½xd	97½	99½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	12	85⅞	87½
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	31⅜	35⅝	35
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	21½	23⅜	22¼
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	70½xd	74	74
Erie	43⅞	23¼	24¼	26⅜	26⅜
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	60¼	63½	64½
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	112½	119	120
Milwaukee	187½	137½	147	151⅛	152½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	17	19⅛	18⅝
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	89⅛	90	90⅛
Do. Common	78½	55⅞	57¼	62⅜	63⅝
New York Central	158	116⅜	119½	122½	122½
Ontario	36	19¼	27⅜	31¼	31⅛
Pennsylvania	80⅛	57½	59½	61½	62⅛
Reading	35½	20	24	26⅜	27⅜
Do. First Pref.	45⅛	36⅜	42	43½	42½
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	21⅞	25⅜	24⅞
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	87½	91	91
Southern Pacific	69⅝	39¾	48½	96½	52⅜
Union Pacific	107⅛	69⅛	91	93½	99¼
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	95½	96½	96½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	35	37	37½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	58	61	61
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	10	12½	12½
Do. Pref.	—	—	57½	62¼	64⅜

Preliminary figures are published by the New York *Chronicle* dealing with the gross earnings of the principal railways of the country during the first half of the year, and they indicate a falling-off of $12,038,643 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The following table permits of comparison with several preceding years:—

—	Mileage. Year given.	Mileage. Year Preceding.	Gross Earnings. Year Given.	Gross Earnings. Year Preceding.	Increase or Decrease.
Jan. 1 to June 30	Miles.	Miles.	$	$	$
1894 (194 roads)	143,889	142,263	365,975,599	440,755,831	−74,780,232
1895 (180 ,,)	141,733	141,594	370 844,181	360.370,309	+10,473.872
1896 (198 ,,)	148 613	148,003	396.341,584	376.651,597	+19,689.987
1897 (195 ,,)	153,745	153,106	401,262,090	403,769,205	− 2,506.115
1898 (192 ,,)	152,976	151,986	465.558.731	409.866 403	+55,692.328
1899 (181 ,,)	156.988	155.569	483.944,526	457,998,101	+25.946 425
1900 (183 ,,)	160 054	156,434	556.721,159	487,270,824	+69,450,335
1901 (167 ,,)	169.026	164,040	616,767,274	560,567,846	+56,199.428
1902 (152 ,,)	173.074	171.392	657,295.289	614.932,813	+42,362,976
1903 (137 ,,)	165,805	161,308	707 878,028	623,606,576	+84,271,452
1904 (129 ,,)	173,970	170,004	716,096,159	728,134,802	−12,038,643

Note.—Neither the earnings of the Mexican roads nor the mining operations of the anthracite coal roads are included in this table.

These results cover 173,970 miles of line out of an aggregate mileage for the whole country of over 200,000 miles. For all the lines the decrease is probably $15,000,000 or $20,000,000. Considering the conditions which have prevailed, the New York paper regards the record as a "marvellous" one. General trade and business were not active. Indeed, a very quiet state of things existed, with the volume of transactions not up to that of last year. The iron and steel industry was greatly depressed, both production and consumption being heavily reduced as compared with the extraordinary output and demand of the first six months of last year. As a concomitant of this situation, the demand for and shipments of coal were materially diminished. The weather, of course, was a serious adverse influence. The winter was intensely cold, making railroad operations difficult and costly, while in northern latitudes snow blockades were a further serious obstacle. One consequence of the backwardness of the season was a delay in the opening of navigation. On the great lakes navigation last year was open in April, the present year not until May. The effect was that the shipments of iron ore and of coal, to and from the lake ports, were delayed and reduced. Not only that, but when navigation did open the strike of the masters and pilots on vessels engaged in lake transportation proved a further drawback. This strike lasted for about six weeks up to the middle of June, and during that period completely paralysed transportation on these inland bodies of water. Ordinarily there are large shipments of iron ore from the upper lake ports to the lower lake ports, and, *vice versâ* large shipments of coal from the lower ports to the upper ports. Both classes of tonnage were for the time being cut off, and the railroads running to the lower ports, as also those to the upper ports, saw their traffic and revenues greatly reduced as a consequence. In addition to all this there was a decided contraction in the grain movement both in the East and in the West, and also a large loss in the cotton movement in the South. At the seaboard the receipts of grain for the period from January 1 to July 2 amounted to only 75,742,099 bushels, against 143,715,645 bushels in 1903, 88,480,560 bushels in 1902, and 201,715,740 bushels in 1901.

Home Railways Weaker—Sympathy with Consols—Public Unconcern—Unhappy Dealers—Dover "A" Relapse—Dividend Season Commences—Southern Railway Results—Great Easterns—"Heavy Dividends"—Undergrounds and Tubes—Present Earnings.

There is little support for Home Railway stocks on the part of the investing and speculating publics, and the professionals who so gaily loaded themselves up with stock just prior to the dividend declarations have found it advisable to reduce their commitments. Hence a general decline, which has been emphasised by the weakness of Consols following upon the *Malacca* incident; and not unnaturally the decline has been most severe in the stocks—notably those of the Southern lines—which had been particularly affected by the professional "Bull." It is very aggravating, of course, that the public should decline to relieve the jobbers of stock laid in for its especial benefit, but whatever the explanation, the fact itself is indisputable. Everything is substantially lower on the week, and, so far from fulfilling the expectations—or, rather, the hopes—of those who talked it airily up to 75, Dover A has not even held its ground, but is 2½ lower on the week. Apart from realisations by disappointed "Bulls," the market has had no feature beyond the dividend declarations. These have generally been up to the estimates, and but for the political developments and the inexplicable apathy of the public they might have been expected to have a good effect upon prices. The first of the series to be made known was that of the Great Eastern, which will pay at the same rate as last year—*i.e.*, 1¾ per cent. per annum—carrying forward £16,000 also, the same as last time. The market had looked for about 3¼ per cent. per annum on Brighton Ordinary, as against 3 per cent., and it gets 3½ per cent. instead, while £7,500 has been allocated to form the nucleus of a fund for wagon and carriage repairs, and £23,339 has been carried forward as compared with £18,084. The report shows that the gross revenue increased by £38,426, and expenditure by £5,965. Rates and taxes went up by £4,000, and traffic charges by £7,226, but there were savings in maintenance of way and locomotive power. The report of the South-Eastern and Chatham Joint Committee states that the gross receipts were £2,188,698, an increase of £48,433, and the expenditure £1,482,348, an increase of £22,843, leaving a net improvement of £25,590. The increased passenger receipt of £22,311 includes £14,441, being the additional amount attributable to the past half-year under the revised terms recently arranged with the Postmaster-General for conveyance of mails. On the expenditure side of the account there is an increase of £14,358 in the maintenance of way, etc., more than half of which was incurred in strengthening the road on the Reading and Guildford line to meet the demand for a fast train service between this system and other railways connected with it by means of the Reading line. The traffic expenses show

an increase of £7,844, mainly due to an increased payment in wages and to the expenses entailed in handling the additional goods and parcels traffic. The locomotive expenses decreased £4,372, notwithstanding the fact that nearly 260,000 more train miles were run. After providing for interest charges, the result is a balance of net revenue of £638,154, of which £376,511 goes to the South-Eastern, and £261,643 to the Chatham. The South-Eastern, as was expected, repeats last year's modest ½ per cent. per annum on the Ordinary, the Preferred Ordinary taking 1 per cent. per annum, and £10,592 is left to go forward, in comparison with £17,000. The directors of the Chatham recommend a dividend of £1 6s. 6d. per cent. (actual) as against £1 5s. per cent. for the half-year on the Arbitration Preference stock, making, with the £2 5s. per cent. distributed for the six months ended December 31, 1903, £3 11s. 6d. per cent. for the year, as compared with £3 10s. The North-Eastern reported a slight decrease in gross earnings, and has also additional capital charges to provide for; but it has managed to repeat last year's rate of 5 per cent., though the carry forward is reduced to £40,875 as compared with £45,287. The Metropolitan had a very good half year, and it is enabled to distribute 3 per cent. per annum (which was up to the most sanguine estimate) as against 2½ per cent., and as it places £11,500 to reserve, as against nothing, the reduction in the carry-forward to £21,000 from £26,255 is without significance. The Central London pays at the rate of 4 per cent. on the Ordinary and Peferred Ordinary, and a sum equal to a similar rate has been set aside for the Deferred, which takes its dividend only once a year. The balance carried forward is £48,737, in which is included £37,000 from the previous half-year. The City and South London, on the other hand, has been compelled to reduce its rate to 2½ per cent. per annum with £701 forward as compared with 2¾ per cent. and £1,500 forward for the corresponding period of 1903. The little Tilbury's rate is 4 per cent. per annum, the same as a year ago, and the carry-forward is £5,223, as against £8,093—a result somewhat disappointing, allowing for the extra capital ranking, since the gross increase was £16,000. The Midland's declaration is at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum on the old undivided Ordinary, giving 2 per cent. to the Deferred, with £24,707 carried to the new account. A year ago 2¼ per cent. was distributed, and £22,256 carried forward. The Lancashire and Yorkshire pays at the rate of 3 per cent., as against 3¼ per cent.—which is satisfactory, since the market had expected only about 2½ per cent. by reason of the large decrease in gross earnings. My table showing movements on the week is appended:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, July 16.	Price, July 23.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80½	75½	75	75	—
Do. Def.	37½	29	29½	28½	- ½
City and S. London	64	48	48	48	—
Central London	104	91	91	90	-1
Great Central '94 Pref.	49½	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	28½	25½	25	25	—
Do. "A"	16	14½	14½	14½	- ½
Great Eastern	96	91½	91⅞	90½	-1½
Great Northern Pref.	104½	101½	102	101	-1
Do. Def	44	40⅞	41⅜	39½	-2½
Great Western	141	143	144	142½	-1½
Hull and Barnsley	44½	38	38	37	-1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	105	94	95	94	-1
London and Brighton "A"	124	121½	123½	122½	-1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15½	16⅜	16⅞	15⅝	- ⅝
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	101	102	102	100	-3
Do. 2nd Pref.	68	68½	70	65½	-4½
London and North-Western	163½	153	153	152	-1
London and South-Western Def.	58	56	56	53½	-2½
Metropolitan Consolidated	98	96½	96⅞	95½	-1½
Metropolitan District	37½	38½	38	36½	-1½
Midland Pref.	70½	68½	68	67½	- ½
Do. Def.	69	67⅜	68½	66	-2½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79½	78	78	77½	- ½
Do. Def.	47⅜	44½	44½	44	- ½
North-Eastern Consolidated	146	141½	142½	140	-2½
South-Eastern "A"	66	63½	63½	61	-2½

It will be seen from my customary table that earnings are for the most part stationary, the North-Eastern and the Scotch lines being the only conspicuous exceptions:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,318	- 523	+ 5,532
Caledonian	+ 1,102	+ 1,160	- 33,053
Great Central	- 171	+ 4,802	+ 1,022
Great Eastern	+ 600	+ 3,000	- 700
Great Northern	- 1,845	+ 2,122	- 29,759
Great Western	- 7,700	+ 7,700	- 6,300
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 1,233	- 2,092	+ 466
London and North-Western	-13,000	+12,000	- 15,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,300	+ 200	+ 3,500
Midland	-11,466	+ 1,022	- 26,176
North British	+ 3,328	+ 199	+ 254
North-Eastern	+ 2,469	+ 3,913	+ 7,733
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 1.585	+ 723	+ 1,372

The Railways of Great Britain. Their importance to the community and their future prosperity. See the special supplement in Saturday's (July 23) *Statist.*

Canadian Pacifics—New Year Outlook—Grand Trunk Position—Revenue Prospects—Argentine Rails—Rosario Earnings.

Canadian Pacifics are a firm market, without very much attention at the hands of the English investing classes, though Wall-street interest in them is not in the least degree diminished. The strength of the position in them prevents "Bears" from taking liberties, and, thanks to the American buying, the tendency is towards higher values. The Company's new year is starting very well, the increase for the second week of July being $155,000, making $253,000 for the two weeks. In this connection it must be remembered that the mileage in operation has increased by 690 miles, but the figures, following as they do upon large totals a year ago, afford unmistakable proof of the expansion of Canada and the development of transportation business. The rumour that an issue of $20,000,000 of new capital is intended in the near future has been revived, and possibly there is something in it, but the amount is relatively small, and it will be employed on works which will be immediately productive. In Grand Trunks the position is much as it was. There can be no inducement for the public to interest itself in the Company's stocks until the results for the first half of the year are made known and some more definite indication is obtainable of the outlook for the current half of the year. The earnings are only so-so. This week there is a decrease of £11,700, as against an expected increase of £1,000 or £2,000; but as it goes on top of an increase of £32,770 it would be well not to make too much of it. For the next two months comparison will be with weekly increases ranging from £20,000 to £36,000, and although the Company ought to do more than mark time, it is scarcely likely to report much advance in gross during this period. For the last three months of the year the figures should be distinctly better, and in connection with the half-year's prospects it will not be forgotten that the Company is able to effect great economies which will leave it in a strong position, even though gross earnings do not look particularly striking. Here follows my usual table:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	125⅜	127½	127⅝
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	19⅛	14⅝	14⅝
,, 4 per cent. Guaranteed	103	96½	96½
,, 1st Preference	112½	103	102½
,, 2nd ,,	93⅞	88½	88½
,, 3rd ,,	50½	39½	39⅝
Bengal and North-West	126	137½	137½
Bombay Baroda	158	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	128	129	126½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101	101½	101½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97½	111½	111½
,, ,, 1st Preference	101	103	102½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	88½	91½	98
,, Great Southern	134	132½	132½
,, Western	125½	124	124
Entre Rios Railway Preference	55½	58½	58½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	82½	91½	91½
Costa Rica Railway	2	1⅝	1⅝
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	90	90½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89½	76	77
Mexican Railway	19½	18½	18
,, 1st Preference	72½	85½	83
,, 2nd ,,	28	31	29½
Nitrate Rails	5⅝	7½	7½

Argentine Railway issues have not escaped the influence of the Russian aggression in the Red Sea, and though some more support has come along from Buenos Ayres, it has not been on a scale large enough to neutralise the political factor, and the "Bears" have made the most of the reported appearance of the locust in the Province of Cordoba. The Rosario's earnings keep on a big scale, this week telling of an increase of £11,329, the gross total amounting to £77,679, which brings the aggregate gain since January to £300,595. The "Bull" position in Rosarios is rather considerable, and the stock is peculiarly susceptible to surrounding influences; but the lifting of the large line bought the other day for Buenos Ayres will give some relief. Bearing in mind that comparisons are with large figures a year ago, present earnings are to be regarded as satisfactory, and the maize is now moving pretty freely, although too much need not be made of this, because last year's crop was also a very large one. The dividend declaration season is not very remote, and as stocks carry a half-year's interest they ought to possess attractions. Mexican Railways have suffered, like other departments, from an excess of professional speculation for the rise, and the absence of a public demand to relieve the jobbers of their burden; and, as traffics are somewhat indifferent, prices have eased off.

KAFFIRS IDLE AND DEPRESSED—SYMPATHY WITH THE FUNDS—FORCED SALES—TIRED HOLDERS GET OUT—THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE COOLIE—MARKET OPTIMISM—WHAT THE CHINESE COST—GOLDFIELDS POSITION.

There is no improvement to record in the volume of business done in Kaffirs, and the tone of the market has been depressed. The statement in Parliament that the Transvaal is to have representative government next year might have had a good effect with more normal surroundings; but, with all sections of the House agitated over the *Malacca* incident, it passed almost without notice. Kaffirs are intimately susceptible to the influences of Consols, especially in these dull times, when speculators are so scarce, and a big drop in that stock sends them lower all along the line. Nor have other adverse factors been absent. At one time there was a good deal of forced selling, Rand Mines in particular being pressed for sale from the Continent, while there was more than a little liquidation on London and provincial account. A number of tired and disgusted holders decided to get out, and the "Bears" were not inactive, while the "Magnates" could not or would not stop the "rot." Further, some remarks by the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Standard* threw doubt—recklessly, I fear—on the subject of the efficiency of coolie labour on the Rand. This gentleman sent over a message that the Chinese were refractory, impatient under discipline, and anxious to evade work, and he arrived at the conclusion that the present batch were "hardly a success." The East Rand Proprietary Mines, Limited, who are at present employing over 1,000 Chinese on one of their subsidiaries, the New Comet Gold Mining Company, Limited, sent a cablegram to the European Committee to the following effect:—"You are authorised to officially contradict statement of the *Standard* regarding Chinese, as their work is giving evidence of turning out great success, their efficiency is increasing, and behaviour and general health quite satisfactory. We are quite prepared to take immediately such further number as required to complete our labour complement." Mr. Hellmann, the manager of the East Rand, reports that the relative Chinese average of drilling shows an increase of from 15 to 18 inches a shift, and he adds that the results of the first week in July confirm the opinion that the experiment will prove a success. There is practically no room, in fact, to doubt that the yellow men will be a decided acquisition to the gold mines. The scarcity of blacks is attributed to the excellent harvest, which will render these gentry still more independent, and make it still more imperative that a good supplementary supply of labour should be obtained. There is some disappointment in the market over the non-fulfilment of anticipations as to a steady flow of Chinese, but it does not appear to me that recruiting is lagging. About 15,000 will be on the way by the end of next month, and further shipments will be arranged later. The Kaffir market makes the mistake of expecting too much. It looked to see 20,000 or more transported from the Flowery Land to the Gold Reef City in something less than a twinkling by the aid of a magic carpet. Had that miracle happened, it would probably have found complaint if the output of gold did not double in a single day. The mutiny causes it the most dreadful alarm. An underground explosion occurred, and two Chinese were killed, and the others refused to go below. The result, much throwing of stones and fierce jabbering of a strange tongue, with finally submission on the part of the coolies. Does any one know an English coal or other mine down which the workers will go on the day when an explosion has killed two of their number? Because the mere Chinaman objects, scores of good people rush immediately to the conclusion that he is recalcitrant and a danger to the whole community. The Ecksteins, it appears, are so well satisfied with the Chinese working for them, that they would willingly take the full complement, and, as Mr. Schumacher points out, the fact that the importation of a thousand coolies involves a capital expenditure of £25,000 is a sufficient proof of belief in the success of the experiment. My table is appended:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 25, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	7	7	6⅞
Anglo-French	7⅝	5 13/16	3⅜	3½	3½	3½
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1 15/16	1½	1½
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	7/16	¾	11/16	11/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2⅛	1⅜	1 7/16	1⅛	1 7/16
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅝	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¾	5½	6½	6 7/16	6½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅝	10½	4 15/16	6½	5⅝	5⅝
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1 7/16	1½	1½
Crown Reef	12⅞	18½	10½	14½	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20 1/16	18⅛	18⅝	18⅝	18⅛
Do. Def.	—	20⅛	18⅛	19	18⅞	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5	5	5
Durban-Roodepoort	8 15/16	6½	5½	4 13/16	4⅞	4⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2	1⅜	1½
East Rands	12	10⅜	6⅜	7 9/16	7⅜	7⅜
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅞	3/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Ferreira	22	26	18	20½	21	20½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 3/16	1 1/16	1 7/16	1 1/16
Geduld	—	9 13/16	5	6 3/16	5 13/16	6 1/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4½	3	3½	3½	■
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2½	3 3/16	3	3
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7¾	5½	5½	5⅜	5⅜
" Main Reef	1 13/16	⅜	¼	7/16	¼	5/16
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1½	1½	1 15/16	1½
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 5/16	2⅜	2 5/16	2 7/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16		1½	1⅜	1½
Henry Nourse	8 7/16	10½	7⅜	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8½	3¾	2⅞	2⅜	2⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27⅜	27⅞	27⅞
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2½	2 11/16	2 13/16	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 5/16	1 7/16	1⅜
" Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	11/16	¾
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 5/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅜	2	1⅞	1⅞
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	5½	5⅜	5⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅞	⅝	¾	11/16	11/16
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 7/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2 7/16	2	2
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2⅜	1 5/16	1⅜	1 7/16	1½
May Consolidated	4⅜	5 7/16	2⅜	3 5/16	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14 5/16	7 11/16	8 7/16	8½	8½
Mozambique	3 7/16	2¾	1½	1⅝	1 7/16	1 7/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	13/-	11/3	11/-
Nigel	8⅞	4	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
" Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1 5/16	1 5/16
New Comet	4⅜	2	1	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2½	2 1/16	2⅛
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅛	1 1/16	1½	1 7/16	1 3/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	⅛	¼	1/16	1/16
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 3/16	5/16	¼	1/16	¼
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	15/16	1 1/16	¾	15/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 7/16	10 3/16	9⅜	9⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	2 15/16	2⅜	2⅜
Randfontein Porges	3⅜	3½	1 1/16	1⅜	1 7/16	1 7/16
" Robinson	2 7/16	2 7/16	1	1¼	1⅜	1⅜
" North	—	2 1/16	1⅜	1 11/16	1 13/16	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 1/16	1	1
" Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up July 11, 1904.	Make-up July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 25, 1904.
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2½	3⅞	3⅝	3⅝
S. A. Gold Mines	—	11½	6½	7¼	6⅝	6⅝
S. A. Gold Trust	12¼	9⅝	4⅝	4⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Sheba	2½	1⅝	11/3	2/3	2/6	2/6
Simmer and Jack	*8¼	2⅜	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/6	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/3	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅝	6⅜	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Transvaal Development	2½	2⅞	21/-	1½	1½	1½
Transvaal Exping.	—	⅝	½	6/3	6/-	6/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	6	6⅜	4½	3½	3⅜	3⅜
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	2½	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅝	7½	6⅞	6⅝	6⅝
Violet	—	3⅜	2	2	2⅜	2⅜
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅛	6½	6¾	6⅛	6
Wemmer	13½	15	9⅜	11½	10⅜	10⅛
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	—	⅛	⅛
" (New)	—	2¾	⅛	2	1⅝	1⅝
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3¾	3½	3½
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½

* £5 shares.

Movements on balance, it will be seen, are against holders. The arrangement of the account this week reveals a considerable reduction in the "Bull" position, and an increase in the "Bear" position. Goldfields are an especially weak spot, being attacked by the "Bears" in connection with the forthcoming report and the heavy depreciation in the value of the Company's holdings. Rand Mines, too, have been depressed by the French selling aforesaid, and Eastern Rand descriptions have gone off rather more than the average, these being more speculative. Diamonds have eased off with the rest, but De Beers have received support from Paris. Deep Levels are quiet with movements tending downwards. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 25, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅜	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅛	1	½	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	12¾
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅜	2	2½	2⅞	2½
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8½	5	5½	5⅝	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4	3⅝	3⅝
Geldenhuis Deep	10¾	12½	8¾	11¼	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5½	6⅝	3½	4½	4	4
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3¼	3	2⅛	2⅞
Knight's Central Deep	3⅛	4⅞	2½	2½	2	2
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2½	2½	2⅛
Do. West	2⅞	3	1½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2½	3	2⅛	2⅛
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6¾	3½	4	4	3¾
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4¼	2⅜	2⅛	2½	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5⅝	5½	5½
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅝	4⅜	4⅛	4½
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¼	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2	1⅜	1⅜
South Geld. Deep	2¼	4⅜	2⅜	2½	2½	2½
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4½	3½	2	1⅞	1⅞
Simmer and Jack West	4¾	5⅛	2¾	3	2⅜	2⅜
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1½	⅜	⅛	⅛
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅛	4⅛	2⅛	3⅛	3½	3½

WEST AFRICANS DEPRESSED—ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS—MR. DAW'S ASSURANCE—A SLIGHT RECOVERY—INDIAN MINES REACT—CAMP BIRD REPORTS—THREE EGYPTIAN PROPERTIES—COPPER SHARES—ETRUSCANS.

The Jungle has been more depressed than usual during the week under the lead of Ashanti Goldfields, which fell at one time as low as 1⅝. As I pointed out in my last issue, this weakness is attributable to the unsatisfactory report published a fortnight ago, and the full significance of the loss will be better appreciated when it is remembered that at the last settlement the shares stood at 2⅝, or exactly £1 above the figure to which they dropped. Fortunately for holders, there was a recovery subsequently to 1⅞ on Mr. Daw's report, in which he states that there were 300,454 tons of ore in reserve on May 1 of an estimated value of 22 dwt., and expresses his confidence in the ability of the mine to show progress month by month under the new organisation. The Wassau report shows some improvement, but the shares could not withstand the surrounding influences, and, accompanied by practically everything else in the market, lost ground. There is no public interest evinced in the market, and from the manner in which the few professionals who endeavour to make a living in the section promptly lower values all along the line it is manifest they are becoming more and more discouraged in the Jungle. My West African table follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, July 16, 1904.	Closing Price, July 22, 1904.
	£		£			
Ashanti Gldfields(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅞ 2⅛	1⅝ 1⅝
Axim Mines	100 000	62,993	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	2/- p.	⅜ ½ dis	⅜ ½ dis
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅝ ¾	⅝ ¾
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅝	⅜ ⅝
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1¼ 1½	1¼ 1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 2¼	1⅞ 2¼
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	⅛ ⅜	⅛ ⅜
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	¼ ½
London and W. A. G. Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅝	⅜ ⅝
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	¼ 1	⅜ ⅝
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅝	¼ ⅝
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅜	¼ ⅜
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅝ ⅞	⅝ ⅞
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¼ 1⅜	1¼ 1⅜

The volume of business transacted in the Miscellaneous market has not been on a large scale. Indian mines were inclined to be dull and Mysores had a smart drop, but there was a recovery later on. Among British Columbian there have been few movements, and Camp Birds were quietly steady on the report, which shows a profit for the year to April 30 of £228,076, which, with £54,323 brought in, makes a total of £282,399. Deducting the amount of the distribution of 4s. per share and Directors' fees, there remains £116,118 to be carried forward. The development of the mine, says the report, was satisfactory, and at the end of April the reserve totalled 230,390 tons of dry ore, estimated to yield a profit of about £963,115. Egyptians have remained tolerably steady, and United African Explorations are marked higher on the report, which, apart from the interference of working on the Um Garaiart mine by a sudden increase in the water burden—a difficulty which has been now overcome—shows satisfactory progress. Gold to the value of £35,428 has been realised, and in addition to a "considerable quantity of rich ore at grass and in sight in the mine, there is also bullion to the value of £1,000. Since the last meeting the Company has brought out the Nile Cold Storage Company, Limited, with a capital of £49,750 in Ordinary shares of £1 each, and 5,000 Deferred shares of 1s. each. The Deferred shares are entitled to 50 per cent. of the net profits after a dividend of 8 per cent. has been paid on the Ordinary shares. 30,000 Ordinary shares and 5,000 Deferred shares have been issued. For the promotion the Company received £1,500 in cash, and applied for and was allotted the 5,000 Deferred shares. The Directors have every confidence that the Nile Cold Storage Company will prove a profitable undertaking, the more so as two-fifths of the Ordinary shares are held in Egypt. Sales of Nile Cold Storage Company's shares have taken place lately at a premium. Financial arrangements have been made to continue the Klip Colliery (Elandslaagte), Limited, of South Africa. A seam of coal 34 in. wide has been struck, but for the present development work has been suspended." A dividend of 2s. per share is recommended. Another Egyptian dividend is foreshadowed in the circular to those interested in the Egyptian and Sudan Syndicate, stating that at the annual meeting the Directors contemplate a distribution of a portion of the Sudan Goldfields fully-paid shares to be received by the Syndicate in connection with the purchase consideration. An Egyptian item of interest is the announcement of the Um Rus Company, which was floated in February last inviting subscriptions for the 14,028 reserve shares

on the strength of developments reported. Copper shares have kept tolerably steady, although Rio Tinto were inclined to be weaker when the political situation looked rather serious. Etruscans relapsed on the figures of the first crushing, which were received with a very chastened sort of enthusiasm. My table follows:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25,	Closing Price, July 25.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3 7/8	—	3 1/4
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1 7/8	1 1/4	39/3	40/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	3 1/4
Champion Reef	7	5 3/4	3 1/4	1 1/16
Le Roi	4 3/8	3/8	1/16	1/16
Mason and Barry	4 1/2	3 1/2	—	2 3/4
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/4	2	13/-	13/6
Mysore Gold	7 1/8	5 1/8	6 1/4	6 1/16
Namaqua Copper	4 3/8	2 1/2	2 15/16	2 7/8
North Mount Lyell	1 13/16	7/8	—	—
Nundydroog	2 15/16	1 3/8	32/-	1 3/4
Ooregum	2 3/4	21/9	17/6	3/4
Rio Tinto	53 3/16	38 1/4	—	53 1/4
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 3/8	3 3/8	—	4 1/2
Waihi Gold	6 1/4	4 11/16	6 1/2	6 3/8

RHODESIANS CONTINUE DULL—NEGLECT OF THE PUBLIC—PROFESSIONAL DEALINGS SMALL—GROWING DISTRUST—CHARTERED WEAKER—COPPER SHARES EASIER—TANGANYIKAS.

There are no indications of a return of confidence in Rhodesians, and the dulness which has been the characteristic of the section for some time past, has again been the predominant tone during the week. The allurements of the market are not sufficiently attractive for the public, while professional operations have been on a limited scale. There is, in fact, a growing distrust of the market on all sides, and the postponement of the Chartered Company's report, together with the significance of the deputation of colonists who are coming here to place their grievances before the Government, are not calculated to mend matters. Chartered have been on offer again, and weakened considerably, though they picked up later on, and show but a small loss on the week. Sympathetically the remainder of the better-class things in the market were inclined to fall away, including Globe and Phœnix, and Selukwe, while the Copper shares displayed a dropping tendency, notwithstanding the recent reports concerning the bright future of the country in this direction. Tanganyikas and Zambesias were also depressed, the former more particularly, being at one time as low as 2 3/4, although they displayed a firmer tone later on, and recovered most of the ground lost. For the rest, the market, as I said at the outset, has continued weak, without one bright spot, and showing no further feature worthy of comment. My usual table, showing movements on the week, is appended:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 25, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	5/16	1/4
Bechuanaland Ex.	400.000	400,000	1	f.p	2 1/8	1/8	1/8
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1 3/8	1 3/8
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f p.	2 1/4	1/4	1/2
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1/8	3/8	1/8
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	1/8	1/8
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	1/4	1/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/4	1/4
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	2 1/4	1/4	1/4
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/2	1 7/8
Lomagunda Dev	250.000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/8	1 3/8	1 5/8
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f p.	3 1/16	1/8	1/16
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1/16	1/4
N'rth'n Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 3/8	2 1/8	2 1/8
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1 1/4	3/8	1/8
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600.000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/8	1/4
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9 1/4	2 1/8	2 3/8
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	1/8	1/4
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	1 1/8	1 1/8
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/16	1/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/8	1/8
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	2 3/8	2 3/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/4	1/4
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/4	1/4
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	3/4	3/-	1/16
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/4	4/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 1/16	1 1/8	1 1/8

WESTRALIANS WEAK—ABSENCE OF BUSINESS—ASSOCIATED AND FINGALLS LOWEST—KALGURLIS AND SONS OF GWALIA HARDEN—LITTLE KANGAROOS DULL AND IDLE.

As a group, Westralians showed signs of weakness during the week, and although this was not very marked it was perhaps the more noticeable because this section has contrived to put on a firm front recently. There was some inquiry for Associated, Boulders, and Oroyas from the Continent, and the shares hardened in consequence, but later on Associated, together with Fingalls, developed marked weakness, and in their wake most of the other leading shares in the market eased off. Although no reason can be assigned for this fit of depression, it is not improbable that the absence of business was to some extent responsible. A better disposition became apparent subsequently, however, and there was an improvement all round. Kalgurlis were firm on a cable from the mine stating that the assay value of the ore at the 840 ft. level had improved. From 125 ft. to 139 ft. the value was 17 dwt. for a width of 15 ft., and from 139 ft. to 150 ft. the cable just to hand gives the value as 22 dwts. for a width of 16 ft., which is naturally considered as satisfactory. Sons of Gwalia also strengthened on a cable from the property which gives the average value as 1 oz. for a width of 9 ft. at the thirteenth level. Among the cheaper shares in the market there are no signs of any renewed activity. On the contrary, they have been dull, and the unsatisfactory developments on the Boulder Deep Property resulted in the shares falling back to 10s. 6d. South Kalgurlis, Northern Territories, Paringas and the majority of the other smaller shares found lower levels. With regard to Paringas, the managers publish a report of the progress made to June 16, in which, after stating that the No. 1 west cross-cut has been extended to a total length of 60 ft., giving various values, they express the opinion that the "average value of the lode is 6 dwt. per ton, which is encouraging, as the lode is of good size and appearance." Beyond this, there are no other interesting developments. My table of prices is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 25, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7 5/8	3 3/8	1	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/4
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3 3/4	4 1/4	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8
Brownhill Ext.	3 1/4	1 1/2	9/16	1 1/8	1/2	1/4
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/9	9/9	9/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11 3/4	7	7 1/4	7	7 1/8
Golden Link	3 1/4	15/3	6/-	5/-	4/6	4/6
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	24/-	23/9	23/9
Do. Main Reef	2 1/4	1 1/2	8/6	5/-	4/6	5/-
Do. Perseverance	13 1/4	1 11/16	1 1/8	11/-	11/-	11/-
Do. South	8 1/4	1 3/8	3/16	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 1/16	9 1/8	5 1/8	8 5/16	7 3/8	7 1/8
Hainault	1 3/4	3/8	1/4	23/32	23/32	11/16
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	7/-	6/6	6/6
Ivanhoe (25)	15 1/4	10	6 3/8	7 11/16	7 3/8	7 3/8
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4 3/8	1 1/8	9/16	7/8	23/32	23/32
Kalgurli	9 3/8	4 1/2	2 3/16	5 3/16	5 3/8	5 3/8
Lake View Consols	5 3/8	6 3/4	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 7/8	1 7/8
L. & W. A. Exploration						
North Kalgurli	1 11/16	1 3/8	1/4	7/16	3/8	3/8
Oroya Brownhill	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	7/-	6/9	7/-
Peak Hill	—	4 1/8	2	3 1/4	3 3/8	3 3/8
Sons of Gwalia	5 3/8	2 7/16	5/8	3/8	3/8	3/8
South Kalgurli	6 3/16	2 9/16	1	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 3/8
Westralia Mt. Morgans	6 1/2	2 7/16	1/4	1 3/16	1 1/8	1 1/8
	—	1 1/16	7/8	7/16	1/2	1

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in

the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

H. Bull.—The Irish Land stock is virtually as safe as Consols and gives you a higher return. *Weston.*—The new Chinese Railway loan has not been taken up well by the investing public, which has had rather too many good things offered to it during the past few months. You need not be concerned on that score. The security is good, and the profit-sharing notes ought to have considerable value eventually. *E. S.*—I believe the price is 62½, but in the peculiar circumstances of the case you might write to Messrs. Baring Bros., 8, Bishopsgate-street Within, E.C., who arranged the conversion of the Portuguese debt.

Railways.

County Surveyor.—The dividend on the Preferred Ordinary is not in present danger, but the line is not doing well, and more capital will shortly be required. Sell and buy Brighton Preferred, which gives 3⅞ per cent. *St. Maw's.*—South-Eastern Deferred is quite high enough on merits. Brighton A gives you a respectable return on your money—about 3¾ per cent., in fact. *E. H., Liscard.*—Rosarios should be good, on actual results and prospects, for a higher price. The stock is worth par. *D. L. R.*—For investment I should select Milwaukee Terminal Mortgage bonds, giving a return of 3⅞ per cent.; Baltimore and Ohio First Mortgage bonds, yielding 3¾ per cent.; Illinois Central gold bonds, yielding 3¾ per cent.; and Norfolk and Western General, giving 4⅛ per cent. Prices of these descriptions of American Railroad stocks are rising owing to investment buying induced by the slackness of trade and the accumulation of idle capital. *Derry.*—Midland Preferred will give 3⅝ per cent. I should prefer Great Western Ordinary, as quite good, returning 3¾ per cent. on the basis of the last dividends, which are likely to be improved upon. *A. B.*—1. Dover A is quite high enough. 2. Metropolitans are promising in view of the coming electrification.

Mines.

Fugue.—South Kalgurlis are worth buying to hold for developments—which will take another year or two to prove to full advantage. *E. C. R.*—Boulder Perseverance are too doubtful a proposition to suit you. Try Oroyas or Kalgurlis, or (if you would have a cheaper share) Sons of Gwalia. *R. M.*—Keep the Barneys and Geduld. *Cingalee.*—Langlaagte Estates and Henry Nourse would suit. *Seer.*—East Rands last year touched 8 15-16 and Rand Mines 11¾. *A. Wilson.*—The shares are suffering with other South Africans. In view of the holding of Premier Diamond shares, you might buy a few more to average. *H. W. A.*—Oroyas are all right to hold. Kalgurlis are a good speculative purchase. *Electrician.*—On the Ivanhoe South Extended boreholes have intersected the Ivanhoe middle lode at 1,200 ft. to 1,400 ft., and show rich ore. The shaft is now down 800 ft., but it will require about two years to prove the real value of the property. The Boulder No. 1 North expects to get the extension of the Ivanhoe east lode already proved by systematic boring in the Great Boulder ground to within about 100 ft. of the boundary. In the case of this property, too, a couple of years will be required to confirm anticipations. *Black Berks.*—I suggest May Consolidated, Meyer and Charlton, Village Main Reef, and Langlaagte Estates. *Redland.*—It is doubtful if the Goldfields Company will pay a dividend. The shares have suffered unduly from "Bear" attacks, accompanied by estimates of depreciation in subsidiary holdings. The shares should go soon to the price at which you bought on a really active and confident market, but, while a return of these conditions seems assured, the date is in some doubt. If you decide to exchange go into East Rands and Johnnies. *Curiosus.*—I have not a good opinion of the business, and should not pay the assessment. It would, I fear, be throwing good money after bad. *Ignis Fatuus.*—I have no information, and as the concern is now American it is probable that very little, if any, is obtainable. But I will make inquiries, and advise you next week if there is anything to say. My thanks for your previous letter on the subject of the guinea pig and the quack medicine. *Withington.*—The Randfontein group will receive some of the second lot of Chinese who are now about due. Randfonteins and Johnnies are both good speculative holdings. *Allegro.*—I should not buy Ashanti Sansus. Nor do Wassaus strike me as promising for an early rise. *Southport.*—Do not join the reconstruction and get out of the concern. *Inquirer.*—Camp Birds are a promising speculation. *W. V.*—Chuquitambo Gold shares are not dealt in much. The price is about 5s. Colombian Hydraulics stand at the same figure. *Chepstow.*—1. Stratton's Independence is about played out. It has been decided to let the mine on tribute. 2. Bostons are worth holding.

Mixed Investments.

Lichfold.—1. Parker's Burslem, Stretton's Derby, and Threlfall's Ordinary shares are among the best of their class. 2. B.A. Westerns and B.A. Great Southerns are good investments. 3. I should not buy Tyee Coppers. The Company paid a fair dividend for last year, but by the confession of the report the ore in sight is not large. *Bad Shot.*—Hold on to Oroyas and Associated. Nundydroogs might be sold. Keep Leopoldinas for the dividend, and an ultimate improvement. *H. Bell.*—1. Lyons should be kept. 2. Bovril Ordinary are quite fair, but I do not fancy the Deferred much. 3. Mexican Centrals are likely to have a decent appreciation before long. 4. There is no good reason why Canadian Pacifics should be sold. The Company is prosperous, and the trade of the country is growing rapidly. *Lynton.*—1. British Electric Traction debentures are quite safe. 2. I should not buy Nundydroogs. *W. B. V.*—1. Bodegas are not a very hopeful purchase, I fear. 2. Argentine Great Western Preference and B.A. Pacific Second Preference are attractive, each giving about 5⅞ per cent. *Alderley Edge.*—1. Alabama N. O. and Texas B debentures are a reasonably safe holding. 2. Northern Pacific General Lien bonds, yielding 4 per cent., and Louisville and Nashville First Mortgage Trust bonds, yielding 4⅛ per cent., are both desirable. 3. Marine Insurance shares are all right, and there is not much prospect of a large call. *Spec., Birkdale.*—1. On Liverpool or Manchester Corporation stock you can obtain about 3½ per cent. 2. Sell the Crisp Preference shares. 3. Keep Bakus for the present. *H. F. K.*—1. The charges are quite regular. 2. The newspaper quotations are usually reliable, but they are not at all infallible. 3. Mexican Railways are good to buy on a fall with a view to a sale at a profit. The future of the Company looks better, especially with the Government taking an interest in the country's railways, but there is considerable uncertainty about it. 4. I do not regard Hampton Plains as a good speculation. 5. Great Western or North Eastern Railway stock. *Welshman.*—1. The price of Central Chili Copper shares is about 7s. 6d., and of Consolidated Copper about 6d. 2. There is every prospect of Grand Trunk First Preference stock receiving the full interest for the year. Do not buy Thirds until the report is out and the prospects are clearer.

Miscellaneous.

Inquirer.—Your money will be reasonably safe. *F. G. C.*—Send me an addressed envelope and the name of the Paris solicitor who has acted on behalf of numerous readers of Truth as against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. will be posted to you. *M. S. L.*—Monte Video and San Paulo Gas shares would meet your requirements. On the first there is a return of 7 per cent.; on the second 6 1-16 per cent. *Sterling Coin.*—1. Keep the Ilford Preference shares. The outlook is fair, especially as the Kodak amalgamation scheme is among the things that have been. 2. There is no need to worry about the Urban Electric Supply shares. The dividend of 5 per cent. is guaranteed by the Edmundson's Electricity Corporation. *F. F. A.*—The concern is well reputed, and your money is safe in its hands. *R. C. R., Cardiff.*—Communicate with the Public Prosecutor. *C. D.*—Put your money into the savings bank and leave the old-age pension scheme alone. *H. F., Ipswich.*—To my regret I am unable to learn anything about the British Canadian Wheat Raising Company, which was a sorrowful venture. *Premium.*—Have no dealings with Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., of Paris. I am constantly advising readers of Truth to have no dealings with the firm on the ground that their charges are grossly excessive. *F. N., Hampton.*—City of London Electric Preference and Edmundson's Electricity Preference shares are the most promising of those suggested. The first gives 4½ per cent., and the second 5½ per cent. *London Wall.*—Bovril Ordinary are a fair Industrial holding. At the present price there is a yield of 7 per cent. *Lighthouse.*—1. Get rid of the bond, but the concern will give you a surrender value for it. 2. It is probably not worked in a straightforward manner. 3. I should say it is not correct. 4. The gentleman is not of unblemished character. *A. H.*—J. W. Benson's Preference shares are quite a good Industrial. *Ernest.*—The intention is admirable, and the scheme is sound, and, provided it be properly carried out, the concern should meet a want. *W. Peters.*—I recommend you to have no dealings with Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool, or any other firm of "cotton futures" philanthropists. *Wesleyan Minister.*—See preceding reply. *D. M. H.*—1. Hudson's Bays are a good purchase. 2. Natal Bank £10 shares, £5 paid, and Imperial Bank of Persia £6 10s., all paid, would suit. The yield is 6⅝ and 6-16 per cent. respectively. *St. James's.*—Australian Pastoral Preference shares are not attractive. *L. D. G., Towcester.*—Ask for an explanation, and if it is unsatisfactory write to me again, and I will put you into the way of ascertaining if the bond has been drawn. *Undecided.*—Deal with the Scotch office. It is doubtful if the American will be able to continue showing good results. *Monty.*—Aux Classes Laborieuses shares are a fair Industrial. *T. T. M., Blackheath.*—I am obliged. I take it that you are having no dealings with the people, against whom I have warned my readers more than once. *F. Fielder.*—It seems to me that the liability takes its place with the others. *Medico.*—Paquin Ordinary shares are not among the best Industrials, but the yield is high and the dividend record is good. I should not be disposed to sell. *A. A. L.*—Tuscan Gas debentures can be bought to yield a little over 5 per cent.

Industrials Idle—Gas Light and Coke Dividends—Dock Stocks and the Deferred Dividend—Telephones Easier — Good Omnibus Results — Breweries — Watney, Combe, Reid's Unsatisfactory Dividend—Refreshment Shares Dull—Sewing Cotton—Newspaper Shares.

Although not too well off for business in any direction, the Miscellaneous market has presented two or three

bright spots during the past week. There is some inquiry for Gas Light and Coke stock on the statutory dividend of £4 8s. per cent. for the half-year, and the price has hardened somewhat. The most interesting point is the increased carry-forward of £273,975, as against £116,530. As a result of this good showing, other shares in the Gas group hardened, including South Metropolitan. Dock issues have been well maintained, and there was some buying of London and India Deferred in "knowing" quarters in anticipation of the statement for the half-year, which shows that the amount carried forward, after deducting the dividends on the Preferred, Ordinary, etc., is £85,780, as compared with £52,070 last year and 82,905 in 1902. As the trade of the Port is good, and the Company's revenue likely to be maintained, there is every probability of the Deferred getting the same rate as for 1902, when the carry-forward was slightly less than for the past half-year, and at the present price the return on the investment should equal about 5½ per cent. Some dissatisfaction was expressed in one or two quarters at the amount of the carry-forward, which they had anticipated would total about £100,000, but the market generally recognise that the results are extremely satisfactory and leave little room for complaint. Water issues were without any interesting feature, and the Water Board stock, after moving within very narrow limits, shows little change. Except for a slight improvement in Easterns and a loss in Westerns, Telegraph descriptions are featureless. Notwithstanding the satisfactory statements concerning the negotiations for the the Government acquisition of the undertaking, National Telephone Deferred eased back to a small extent. The satisfactory returns published by several of the Companies has led to some interest in Omnibus stocks. Amongst these the London Road Car Company announces a distribution at the rate of 7½ per cent., which is 1 per cent. more than a year ago, while £1,500 more is transferred to the general reserve. The London General Omnibus Company pays at the rate of 8 per cent., as compared with 7 per cent. per annum last year, and transfers £20,000 to the revenue, or practically double the amount of a year ago, while the carry-forward is equally satisfactory, being £10,000, as against £5,784. London United Tramway Debentures have also come into some favour.

Among Breweries, Allsopps have been in some request, and the Ordinary hardened appreciably, but Watney Combe Reids, on the other hand, are depressed on the poor results for last year, the Deferred Ordinary receiving only 2 per cent., the same as for the three preceding years, while the profits show a shrinkage of nearly £14,000, notwithstanding that a substantial sum was brought in. The disposable balance is reduced by £8,876; the allocation to the investment reserve is only £6,000, as against £9,500; and the carry forward is £13,550, or a decrease of £5,376. Moreover, the auditors' certificate is given "subject to further depreciation in the value of the investments in stocks and shares held by the Company." Despite this unsatisfactory showing, the better-class breweries hold their own tolerably well, and Threlfall's Ordinary improved to 3⅝ on the dividend report. City of Londons are weak on the reduced interim dividend. Beyond Gordons, which were pressed for sale at the beginning of the week on the report, hotel shares are without any important change, but in the "bun shop" class the shares of two or three of the Companies, including Aerated Breads, British Tea Tables, and Harrods, are rather dullish. John Barker Debentures and Gorringes are likewise lower. Among textiles, English Sewing Cottons are firm on the figures of the year's trading, which are satisfactory. Although the cotton trade generally has had a rather trying year, the Company's business seems to have improved all round. An interesting feature is the report of the committee which had been negotiating with the vendors on the subject of the purchase price paid by the Company. Although these negotiations are not yet concluded, the Board are inclined to be sanguine that "all further bickerings on the question of the original purchase prices will now cease on all sides, and that the directors may be enabled to devote the whole of their energies to the improvement and development of the business." Iron and Steel descriptions are quietly steady, with few changes, beyond a drop in Pease and Partners on the dividend of 3 per cent. for the year as against 8 per cent.; but among Coal shares, United Collieries Debentures are flat on the revelations contained in the Investigaion Committee's report. The good return published by Geo. Newnes, Ltd., has drawn attention to newspaper shares. In spite of the general depression in trade, both Newnes and C. Arthur Pearson have done very well during the year.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A GOOD DAY AT GOODWOOD.

NOWHERE in all clubland could you have found a more ridiculous old-young fop than the Rt. Hon. the Viscount Chipstead. Verging on seventy, and unusually senile at that, he affected the airs, the dress, the manners, tastes, and pursuits of a young fellow of thirty; while, in particular, he valued himself upon his irresistible fascinations as a lady-killer, supposing that one smile from him was death to the peace of mind of any female upon whom it was bestowed.

Now that this worn-out old Lothario could have inspired tender sentiments in any bosom whatsoever was quite unthinkable. Nevertheless, there were many women, aye, and young girls, too, who, pretending to be deeply smitten with him, encouraged him in his fond delusion.

You can guess, perhaps, why. If you looked his lordship up in the Peerage, you would find against his name, in italics, this magic little letter, *(w)*. Therein lay half the secret. The other half was to be sought in the fact that his lordship's London property brought him in £50,000 a year. A viscount, a widower, and with such an income—my dear girls, does it not make your mouth water?

"You libel us shamefully. You are a horrid, cynical, low-minded wretch!" I think I hear some fair one retorting.

Nay, my dear young lady, I protest that you are entirely mistaken. I mean nothing uncomplimentary—rather the reverse. You, too, like us men, have your way to make in the world; and to say that you realise this and act accordingly is only to pay a tribute to your good sense. If in me, a man, it is held a laudable and honourable ambition that I should aspire to rise high in my profession, why should it be considered libellous and cynical to impute to you girls the desire to rise high in *your* profession? If I, a candidate for forensic honours, may without blame resolve to achieve the Woolsack, surely you, a candidate for matrimonial honours, may, equally without blame, aspire to a viscountess' coronet and fifty thousand a year.

However, enough of moralising. Let us return to Viscount Chipstead. And first let me venture to analyse, for your enlightenment, his physical personality. This may be divided into two parts—the Real and the Artificial.

(i.) The Real: *item:* A trunk, with the usual appurtenances; *item:* a pair of arms and hands; *item:* a pair of legs and feet; *item:* a head and face, nose, ears, mouth, and one eye. With these the real man ended.

(ii.) The Artificial: *item:* One glass eye; *item:* a complete set of upper and lower *dentures*: *item:* a black and glossy wig; *item:* a pair of stays; *item:* any quantity of padding and stuffing.

I am betraying no secret in telling you this. It was the common knowledge of the town. Yet his lordship cherished the fond delusion that his valet alone was in possession of the secret, and that all his acquaintances

supposed that every inch of him was Nature's handiwork.

Now the Viscount, I must tell you, had a heart, such as it was; rather a wicked, battered, used-up organ, but, still, a heart. And he had recently lost it (so far as it was capable of that process) to Miss Amelia Halfstride.

Miss Halfstride came of a good family, being daughter of the Hon. Alfred Halfstride, a younger son of the Earl of Worpleton, and a Commissioner of Woods and Forests; while her mother's father was Sir Thomas Willowsey, of Willowsey, Salop, a Jacobean baronet, and a master of foxhounds. But there was little money in either family. Hence, when Viscount Chipstead and his £50,000 a year proposed to Amelia and found acceptance, there were great rejoicings on the part of that lucky girl's relatives.

Only one of them was not pleased—namely, Jack Wilmington, her cousin, a handsome young clerk in the Colonial Office, who had always been very fond of Amelia. Indeed, there had actually been a sort of boy and girl understanding between them, until her parents had discovered it and knocked it promptly on the head. Amelia had nothing; Jack had only his salary of £350 a year, and Mrs. Halfstride had made it abundantly plain to her daughter that for a girl of her personal advantages to understand a young man with only £350 a year was a wicked waste of feminine intelligence.

So the dutiful Amelia understood Jack Wilmington no more. And, within a few weeks, her engagement to Lord Chipstead was announced.

It was then the end of the season—the last week in July, to be precise—and it was arranged that Amelia should make her first public appearance as the Viscount's fiancée in that gentleman's company at Goodwood.

That the girl might be equal to so illustrious an occasion, the dressmaker was called in and ordered to produce a Goodwood outfit, regardless of expense. The dressmaker was very civil and obliging. She considerately omitted to refer to that long-standing little account of hers, about which she had recently been rather disagreeable, and accepted this fresh order, on credit, with the utmost alacrity. The same agreeable change of tone was observable also in all the other tradespeople of whom Amelia had occasion to order goods. They no longer requested cash, but received her orders and booked them with obsequious deference. Nay, they even pressed her to take all sorts of articles for which she had not asked.

"May I venture, madam, to show you this line we are doing—latest novelty, only just out?"

"This sort of thing is very much worn just now. May we have the pleasure of sending you home a selection to choose from?" etc., etc.

It was really rather pleasant (Amelia could not help feeling it) to be engaged to so handsome a property. To be sure, the Viscount himself was a bit of a make-weight. But there, you could not have everything. You must take the rough with the smooth, the thorns with the rose, the pips with the orange, and the wig, the glass eye, and the false teeth, with the £50,000 a year.

It had been arranged that Lord Chipstead should call for Amelia on the Tuesday morning at 9.30 a.m., and take her down with him to Goodwood.

"You would rather be alone with Amelia—for the first day, at any rate," said Mrs. Halfstride to the Viscount, with an arch look. "On Cup day I shall take the liberty of accompanying you. But on the Tuesday you shall have her all to yourself

Lord Chipstead, leering languishingly with his one eye, expressed himself well content with this arrangement. Whether Amelia was equally content history relateth not. She was not asked. Her contentment was taken for granted.

This conversation took place on the previous Saturday. But on the Monday morning an event occurred which threatened to put an effectual stopper on the whole arrangement. And in order that you may understand exactly what this event was, I will ask you to accompany me to his Lordship's rooms at the Carlton Hotel, where he was residing while his town house was under repairs, and where a terrible scene was being enacted.

The *real* Viscount, attired in pyjamas and a dressing-gown, wearing a black patch over one eye, showing a skull perfectly bald save for a few wisps of grey hair, his mouth shapeless, and his speech mumbling and indistinct for lack of teeth, was raging about his apartlike a bull of Bashan.

Thieves had evidently been at work in the night in my lord's rooms, for now this morning were missing not merely the glass eye, the wig, and the upper and lower dentures *that were in use*, from their places on the toilet table and wash-hand stand respectively, but also the leathern box wherein (in case of accidents) the *alternative duplicates* were kept.

Here was a pretty state affairs for our elderly Adonis! Between rage and dismay, his lordship's face was almost livid; his language was blood-curdling. He vented his rage upon his unfortunate valet in the wildest manner.

"I'm sure I'm very sorry, my lord," said the man. "It's not my fault, my lord. It must have been done in the night, when I was off duty. What steps would your lordship wish me to take? Had I not better fetch the hotel-manager at once?"

"A thousand devils, no!" roared the Viscount. "Do you imagine I could possibly see him in this condition, confound you!"

"Well, he should be informed of your loss, any way, my lord," said the valet, with a placid gravity that did infinite credit to his servant-like powers of self-restraint.

"Nothing of the sort! Nothing of the sort, curse you!" shrieked Viscount Chipstead. "Do you think I'm going to have it bruited all over the hotel that I wear a wig, and a glass eye, and false teeth? I'd rather die than have it known. It would be the talk of the Clubs before noon to-day."

"But if your lordship will not have the matter mentioned, what chance is there of your recovering the stolen articles?" remonstrated his valet. "And you must recover them, else you will not be able to go to Goodwood to-morrow. A new wig and a new eye might be procured at short notice, but a new set of teeth takes time to manufacture, my lord."

"I know that, hang you. And I must recover them; I must, I tell you; before to-morrow, too. If I fail to keep my appointment with Miss Halfstride, I shall have—have—her round here making inquiries, and the truth will leak out," cried his lordship, desperately. "Saunders! I must get those things back—to-day—do you hear?"

"Yes, my lord. But how is it to be done?" asked Saunders, scratching his head in perplexity.

"I don't know how. But done it must be. I can't think why the devil the thieves took what they did, instead of my watch and jewellery. They can be worth nothing to them now they've got 'em; unless, indeed, it is some senseless practical joke. But no. It can hardly be that; for no one, except you, knew of the existence of the things. And I presume you have not betrayed my secret, Saunders?" demanded his lordship, fixing the valet suspiciously with his one eye.

"Indeed no, my lord," answered Saunders, emphatically. "I know my duty as a nobleman's confidential servant too well for that. I'm sure it's not a practical joke, my lord; it's real thieves, I'll be bound. And I wouldn't mind betting that they've pinched your lordship's wig and teeth for the same reason as dog-stealers pinch ladies' lap-dogs—not because they're of any value in themselves, but because they know that the owners will pay anything to get 'em back and ask no questions. Yes, my lord. I'll swear that's it. This thing has been done with an eye to the reward," added Saunders, with conviction.

"Ah! You think that?"

"Yes, my lord, I do. And a much safer game than pinching watches or jewellery, too. For they know that you wouldn't prosecute, and have it all come out about

your lordship's wig and eye and teeth. Which makes 'em safe from all risk and leaves 'em free to make their own terms with your lordship."

"Curse the scoundrels," growled Lord Chipstead, grinding his gums in impotent fury.

Just then a knock came at the door. Lord Chipstead made hasty tracks for his bedroom.

"See who it is, Saunders," he cried, over his shoulder, as he thus scuttled to covert. "But don't let any one in, on any consideration."

Saunders went to the door. There he found one of the hotel messengers with a note for Viscount Chipstead on a salver.

He dismissed the boy, took the note, and brought it in to his lordship.

The Viscount opened and read it. It was in an unknown hand-writing, and ran as follows:—

If Lord Chipstead wishes to recover the wigs, teeth, and glass eyes abstracted from his rooms at the Carlton last night, he can do so by paying £100, and asking no questions. Should his lordship entertain this proposal, he should write at once signifying the same to Mr. John Jones, c/o X.'s Library, Chancery-lane. Failing a reply in the course of the day, the articles mentioned will be sent to *a certain young lady* in whom his lordship is understood to be interested.

Such were the precise contents of the missive, which bore neither date nor signature.

"D—n the infernal blackmailer!" muttered Viscount Chipstead.

Then he handed the note to his valet.

"So you were right," said he. "The theft is a trick to extort money. The impudent swindler means to have it, too. He knows that he has me on toast, and that I can't refuse his terms, curse him! You observe that threat at the end of the letter, Saunders? He means that if I don't pay up, he shall expose me to Miss Halfstride. Ten thousand devils! I shall have to pay. I shall have to enrich this calculating monster, Saunders. Bring me my writing case at once. The infernal extortioner!"

"Well, if I were you, my lord, I wouldn't pay. I'd set the police on him to arrest him when he calls for his letter at the Library——"

"But I can't, Saunders. I can't face a police-court exposure. And he knows I can't. That is the worst of it," fumed his lordship, stamping about the room. "I must pay, and he knows I must. Bring me my writing-case, as I tell you, at once."

Saunders obeyed, and Lord Chipstead wrote a letter to Mr. John Jones, c/o. X.'s Library, Chancery-lane, accepting that gentleman's terms, which was despatched forthwith.

In about three hours, the reply came:

Mr. Jones has duly received Lord Chipstead's letter. Mr. Jones' representative will be at the base of the Nelson Column at four this afternoon. He will be carrying a brown paper parcel under his left arm containing Lord Chipstead's missing property. If his lordship will be there in person, or will send an authorised representative, the goods will be handed over to him in exchange for £100 in *cash*.

Of course, his lordship could not go in person—for obvious reasons. So he sent Saunders with the money, who returned at about 4.30 p.m. with the missing possessions.

Lord Chipstead was thus enabled to keep his appointment with Miss Amelia Halfstride, after all.

They had an enjoyable day at Goodwood—at any rate, Lord Chipstead thought so; for Amelia, who was looking quite her prettiest, was particularly sweet and nice to him.

Only one thing happened to cause him the slightest annoyance—namely, that on the Lawn, in the course of the afternoon, they ran up against young Mr. John Wilminton, of the Colonial Office. The Viscount had heard of that boy and girl affair, and young Wilmington's presence here rendered him, for the moment, resentful and suspicious.

"What's that idle young dog doing, wasting his time here, when he ought to be at his desk, with his nose on his blotting pad?" inquired Lord Chipstead of Amelia, when, after a formal exchange of greetings with Wilmington, they had passed on.

"I think he is taking his annual holiday," replied Amelia, carelessly. "He would be just as well away from Goodwood, though. He is too fond of race-meetings, where I am afraid he bets a good deal and gets into bad company. I overheard some one say, just now, that he had been plunging most recklessly."

"Serve him right if he goes broke," growled the Viscount. And then he turned the conversation into more agreeable channels.

Lord Chipstead escorted Amelia back to London that evening, where he dined with his fiancée and her parents.

Before he left to go to his hotel, he arranged to call for her again next morning at ten o'clock.

But when he arrived at that hour, duly curled, oiled, scented, groomed, and expectant, he found the Halfstride household in a terrible state of consternation.

Amelia had flown—no one knew whither!

* * * * *

But while Mrs. Halfstride, nearly beside herself, was breaking to Lord Chipstead this appalling intelligence, the Continental mail was just steaming out of Charing Cross Station, bearing, among other passengers, Mr. John Wilmington, of the Colonial Office, and his hour-old bride, Amelia.

"Yes, darling," said the exultant bridegroom, "I put that old fool's £100 on to a good thing which I had been tipped yesterday—a 10 to 1 chance—and brought it off, too. So that not only have I the £100 still intact, to defray our honeymoon expenses in Paris with, but, when settling day comes next week I shall be the richer by £1,000."

"Oh, Jack! How splendid!"

"Yes; not bad, is it? I'm jolly glad now I risked the coup. For, after sending £100, as promised, to that admirable man, Saunders, and after repaying his lordship, in the character of Jones, that £100 which circumstances compelled me to borrow from him, I shall still have a clear £800 for furnishing house and other incidentals."

"It is magnificent, but it *was* frightfully risky. Only think if you had lost the £100, Jack, instead of winning £1,000 with it."

"Oh! don't let us worry about what might have been. Let us rather accept, with thankfulness, the good things the gods have sent us."

"The gods, Jack! Where do the gods come in?" inquired Amelia, slyly.

"What! have you never heard the saying that 'Heaven helps those who help themselves'?"

"Ah! You mean 'help themselves' to other people's property, such as glass eyes and false teeth, to say nothing of wigs, eh, Jack? Umph! Very true. In that sense, your quotation is distinctly apposite," said his Amelia, demurely.

MUSIC.

THE PAST OPERA SEASON.

THE opera season may not have been brilliant from the point of novelty, although if modern composers can write us nothing better than the works which the Covent Garden Syndicate have during the past few years tried, with a view to discover whether there was anything on the Continent or elsewhere worthy of being added to the repertory, the production of new opera seems very like trouble and money wasted. So the management can hardly be blamed for harking back to some of the operas of the past, for, as Moritz Rosenthal, the pianist, epigrammatically puts it, "Many dead composers live, and many live composers are dead." But the season which terminated on Monday has been brilliant from a fashionable point of view; the financial results are, I hear, quite satisfactory, and although the stalls, like the gallery, have shown a decided preference for the old over the modern melody operas, yet the frequenters of Covent Garden have witnessed representa-

tions with casts which from their very costliness would be quite impossible at most of the subsidised opera houses of Europe.

We have heard at Covent Garden twenty-one operas during a season of twelve weeks. Two of these were absolutely new to London, namely, Saint-Saëns' "Hélène," and Massenet's "Salomé," both prima-donna chosen operas, and neither likely to escape the fate of such things. Next year we may hope to hear more effective music in Mascagni's new opera "Amica," in which Mme. Calvé, M. Renaud, and M. Alvarez will create the chief parts at Monte Carlo in the early spring; while Mme. Melba will assume the dramatic part of the persecuted heroine in "La Tosca," which, so far as the London operatic stage is concerned, has hitherto been almost the property of Frl. Ternina. Among the other Covent Garden productions during this summer, Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera," was familiar enough to experienced opera-goers, though as it had not been given in London since the early days as a tenor of M. Jean de Reske, it was a real novelty to many of the younger amateurs. The ordinary repertory was likewise drawn upon for "Aïda," of which Signor Caruso and Frau Destinn gave a magnificent performance on Friday before the Queen and a brilliant house, with Verdi's "Rigoletto" (in which the new Austrian prima donna, Frl. Kurz, on the occasion of her début won an instantaneous success), "La Traviata" (for Melba), "Faust," "Roméo," "Philémon et Baucis," "Carmen," "Cavalleria Rusticana," "La Navarraise," "La Bohême," "Pagliacci," and the mad scene of "Lucia." Besides these we had the model, and — so far as the chorus and ensemble rather than the principal vocalists were concerned — practically unique representations under Richter, of Wagner's "Tannhäuser," "Lohengrin," "Tristan," and "Die Meistersinger," with also certain performances of "Figaro" and "Don Giovanni," which perhaps as singers are not trained as Mozartian vocalists, are nowadays not so popular as they at one time were. We might have heard two more operas, namely, "La Tosca," and the long-expected revival of "Fidelio," but both had to be dropped owing to the continued indisposition of Frau Ternina, which, when it once declared itself, lasted until the end of her engagement. The postponement of Beethoven's only opera was of course a disappointment, but the work will probably not again become generally popular until the German dialogue is abandoned, even though we have instead to adopt Alfred Mellon's recitatives, prepared for the appearance of Titiens as Leonora in the fifties.

The Covent Garden Syndicate have been rather fortunate in their new singers, and, at any rate, they have not had any very decided failure among them, while two of the new artists, namely, Frl. Kurz and Herr Herold, are likely to take high rank. The Danish tenor looks rather younger than he really is, and at any rate Queen Alexandra thanked him for twelve years' faithful service as Court singer to her father, the King of Denmark. But he is one of the most artistic and agreeable of Wagnerian vocalists that we have heard since the best days of M. Jean de Reszke, while he is no less excellent in the general repertory. Unfortunately, halfway through the season muscular rheumatism crippled him, and he was unable again to appear. But he will be here once more next year. Frl. Kurz won an instantaneous success as Gilda, did scarcely so well as Elizabeth, but was better than ever as the page Oscar in Verdi's "Un Ballo." This lady was scarcely known outside the walls of the Imperial Opera House, Vienna, before she came here, but, on her London success, I believe she has already received an offer from America. I trust we shall soon hear her in more worthy parts, and although the idea that she could sing Brünnhilde may to some appear mere idealism, yet I believe her voice to be quite strong enough for the music. Frau Destinn, of Berlin, appeared to be a rather unequal singer with some fine and other moments. In "Don Giovanni" she certainly was by no means at her best; but shortly afterwards she gave a powerful and, to a certain extent, an original reading of the rôle of Nedda. Then she tried Santuzza, but with less success, although it is only fair to say that British amateurs may be prejudiced by recollections of the splendid Santuzza of Mme. Calvé, who seems just now to be shirking the character in London, although she is about to revive it on tour in Germany. Last of all, Frau Destinn on Friday tried Aïda, being particularly dramatic and forcible in the third act, and almost throughout the opera shaking herself free of the tremolo. M. Dalmores, in French, and Signor Dani, in the Italian, operas, proved themselves certainly not stars, but most useful artists, while, although they possessed the artistic temperament, the voices of Miss Parkina, Mlle. Sylvia, and M. Dufriche, jun., were rather too small for so large a theatre as Covent Garden. The stars of the season, of course, were Mesdames Melba, Calvé, and Ternina, and Signor Caruso.

It is curious that in the midst of the season, a notification by the Court newsman intimated to the public that M. Jean de Reszke had arrived and had been received by their Majesties. Ten years ago such an announcement might have created quite a stir, but now it is getting to be well known that it is highly improbable the Polish tenor will ever sing again in London. I believe, as a matter of fact, that he comes here nearly every summer, but only to see his friends, and not to sing. His brother Edouard, who accompanied him to London, and, I think, sang at some private parties, will in the winter go on a tour of sixty concerts through the United States.

As to the Drury Lane season, in the face of some apparently almost insurmountable difficulties Mr. Manners has mounted thirteen operas, most of them, of course, items of his provincial repertory, but all well done for the money, the chorus once more being exceptionally good. Two operas came off last week, namely, "Maritana," the solitary performance of which was probably given in order to silence the reproach that one representation of the "Bohemian Girl" was, down to date, the single example of native art in the entire season's repertory of the so-called "National English Opera;" and "The Lily of Killarney," in which, perhaps partly because they here avoided damaging comparisons with Covent Garden in mid-season, the company were at their best. Mr. Ludwig, who during Carl Rosa's days was Santley's successor as Danny Mann, resumed his old part; and Mme. Moody was the Eiley. There were some charmingly provincial touches about the enterprise, such as Mr. Manners' quite superfluous speeches, the half-hour lecture (on "Maritana," for example), before the performance, and the delightfully naïf announcement that the management made "a special feature" of "cut bread and butter" in the saloon.

After the final performance at Drury Lane on Saturday, Mr. Manners good-humouredly chaffed himself, declaring that he did not intend to go into figures, as he had been criticised for doing so earlier in the season. But he read a passage from his accountants' report by which it appeared that, even though the services of himself and his wife, Mme. Moody, had been gratuitous, yet the receipts did not balance expenses. I think also it is a fact that Mme. Moody was not the only member of the company who made pecuniary sacrifices in order to keep the London enterprise afloat, and altogether it has this year once more been proved that the summer is not the best period for cheap opera. For one thing, in the early spring or the autumn Covent Garden would, it is understood, not have the monopoly of Wagner's advanced works nor of "Carmen," "Cavalleria," "Pagliacci," and other popular modern operas.

The song-birds are taking their flight, for many of the foreigners found the continued appearance of the sun in a British sky more trying that the wet weather of last year. Mme. Melba is acclimatised, and takes her holiday at Marlow. Mme. Calvé, I regret to learn, is in Paris, ill; but, when convalescent, she will go to her

native Aveyron. Mme. Nordica is in the Black Forest; Herr Kraus has gone to Bayreuth; Mme. Blauvelt is in the Maine Woods; and Frau Schumann-Heink is also spending her holidays in America. Mr. Watkin Mills is summering in Australia. Mme. Eames is off to Italy, and M. van Dyck to his cure at a Bad. Mme. Kirkby Lunn, I think, goes to Berlin for rehearsals of Kundry, while Signor Caruso and other artists go to Salzomaggiore, where the baths and inhalations are so good for singers. Madame Patti a little time ago was reported to have gone on the Continent, but I fancy her steps will wander towards the native Sweden of her husband, Baron Cederström, where, indeed, the great prima-donna is accustomed to spend a few weeks every year. Godowsky and Carreño, the pianists, have taken some of their best pupils for holiday study in the Tyrol, while Eugene d'Albert has been taking holiday and making music at Lago Maggiore. He is going to America in the winter, and so are Ysaye, Kreisler, Ella Russell, Alice Estey, Melba, Josef Hoffmann, Vecsey, and numerous others. M. de Pachmann is already there, and it is possible that M. Paderewski may return viâ the United States from China. M. Ysaye and Mr. Max Hambourg have anticipated some of their American performances by a joint concert at Ostend. Little von Reuter has returned to the Continent, but will be back in October for a tour in the British provinces.

The death-roll of the past week, besides Arthur Lloyd (composer and singer in the last generation of "It's Naughty, but it's Nice," "Not for Joe," and "Take it, Bob, Better than Tea"), and Herbert Campbell, who were comic vocalists rather than singers, includes Frank Moir, the composer of "One Summer Night," "Only Once More," and a hundred other pretty drawing-room songs, and Dan Emmett, the veteran composer of "Dixie." Few will now recollect this once famous Confederate war song; which was answered from the Federal side by "John Brown's Soul Comes Marching Along," though many will recall its London paraphrase, "I Wish I Was With Nancy," in which the comic vocalist of the early sixties sang of the joys of "the second floor for evermore," and of the daintiness of "the pork-pie hat with a pretty white feather, and knickerbocker boots for the dirty weather," adding, "I shall never repent my going out west, for of all the wives you get the best in the Strand." The original idea of "Dixie," however, was purely American. The Mason and Dixon line was the dividing point for the "busking" showmen north and south, and when the cold came on, the song "I Wish I Was in Dixie" was doubtless natural enough. The melody was originally danced by Emmett and Bryant's Nigger Minstrels, but it eventually marched the Confederate soldiers to Grant's guns; and in its various English forms it was whistled by the street boys of forty years ago, and even was burlesqued by Sothern in "Lord Dundreary."

The Bayreuth Festival began on Friday with "Tannhäuser," in which (I fancy for the first time) a French soprano, Mme. Grandjean, played Venus. On Monday the first cycle of "Der Ring des Nibelungen" started. Reports by telegram are not always reliable, so we must wait for details of the representations, which have however been prepared under the general superintendence of Dr. Richter. The seats this year are, I learn, largely in the hands of the German Wagnerites, as, although the sale of tickets in England is about the same as usual, the demand from America has greatly fallen off, a result which perhaps is partly due to the fact that the "Ring" and "Parsifal" were performed under Mr. Conreid last winter in New York with much stronger casts than Bayreuth can hope to afford.

Frau Bettaque has, according to the German papers, stated that she has been engaged to sing the part of Brünnhilde at next year's cycles of the "Ring" under Richter at Covent Garden. I believe the announcement of an engagement is rather premature, but it is certain that the "Ring" will be given, and no doubt preliminary negotiations are on foot with leading German vocalists.

After the production at Covent Garden of "Hélène," Dr. Saint-Saëns disappeared. This is his usual custom, for he prefers to spend the summer in composing, and he goes away, leaving no address. This year, however, he has been identified, and a telegram on Saturday announced his arrival at Buenos Ayres.

As the Copyright Bill is not at all likely to pass this session, the music publishers are very justifiably trying to protect their property in the provinces. In the Isle of Man they have fought the question whether, under the Newspaper Acts, it is lawful to publish music without the name and address of the printer. After a trial extending over some days, the Manx Courts have solemnly given their decision that "Sammy" and "Lily, I am longing, love, for you," are not newspapers.

Although to-night (Wednesday) a belated concert is announced for the début of Miss Doris Cloud, a South Australian violinist who has studied in London, the musical season is now over. The final concert at St. James's Hall took place on Wednesday, when Miss Dolores gave an extra vocal recital. The immediate destiny of our leading concert hall, which is so closely associated with the names of the most prominent concert vocalists, pianists, and other performers of the past forty years, is at present a matter of doubt, for, although the new proprietors have resolved to book no more concert dates, they have not yet settled whether, or, at any rate, when, the hall shall be pulled down. The usual school concerts also took place last week, and Mme. Melba on Friday distributed at Queen's Hall the prizes to the successful Royal Academy students. She announced a generous donation from herself of two prizes of £25 each, tenable for five years, by soprano and contralto ballad singers, but I rather fancy the majority of the students would have been better pleased if the gifted vocalist had been induced to sing. In the rendering of florid music, Mme. Melba could have afforded the students a much more valuable lesson than any of the professors are likely to be able to give them.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—There is a genuine Church of England flavour about Canon Tetley's "Old Times and New" (1), so scholarly is it and gentlemanly, so conventional and discreet. The stories the Canon tells are mild for the most part, and told with a caution and consideration which occasionally blunts somewhat their original point. Certainly the Canon walks warily, omitting all mention of the living and referring even to the dead with a charitable discretion. It would, however, be unfair to say that the book was possessed with the demon which Charles Kingsley, in one of his stories, highly held in hate:—

> Kingsley had been listening to a sermon one Sunday, as to which he made this comment to my mother—an unfortunate one, by the way, for the stammer which hampered him sometimes in conversation. "Dear Mr. ——— told us a great deal about demons, but one demon he overlooked, the d—demon of dulness."

Here is testimony of Kingsley's to his wife's altruism

(1) "Old Times and New." By J. George Tetley, D.D. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 7s. 6d. net.)

(2) "The Ragged Messenger." By W. B. Maxwell. (London: Grant Richards. 6s.)

(3) "The Sword in the Air: Being the Story of Adrienne de Portalis." By Archibald Clavering Gunter. Illustrated. (London: Ward, Lock & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

(4) "Motherhood." By L. Parry Truscott. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.,

(5) "The Brass Ring. The Extraordinary Adventures of a City Clerk." By Edmund Downey ("F. M. Allen"). (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co. 1s.)

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which recalls the legend of Buddha offering himself as a meal to a hungry tiger:—

Hardly had Charles Kingsley settled into his quarters in Livermead House when Mrs. Kingsley learned that in another part of the house a lonely lady had been taken alarmingly ill. She could not rest until something had been done for her relief, and Kingsley started accordingly for my father's house. He stated his errand of mercy, and then wound up his apology for coming with the following statement:—"You see, Mrs. Tetley, my wife is such a kind-hearted woman, that if she was going to be executed her first anxiety would be that any who desired to see it might get a good place!"

Here are two characteristic election stories of the old times:—

Palmerston had a custom of asking his elderly constituents in a confidential tone, "Well, how's the old complaint?" The effect either way was admirable. Either the person addressed was in good health, and delighted to disown an infirmity, or (and this was of course the more frequent sequel) the gratification at a supposed friendly recollection was unbounded. "Only to think that your lordship remembered that!"

Denman had been advertised to address the Tiverton electors on a certain Monday morning, and to keep his appointment he had to catch the 9.15 a.m. express from Paddington. He had therefore ordered his cab overnight, and was waiting for it when he observed two or three suspicious loafers hanging about his house. A cab approached, and was at once hailed and taken by one of the loafers. Another hove in sight, only to be similarly intercepted. Denman, suspecting the trick that was being played him, gave hurried orders for his luggage to be sent after him, and, buttoning his coat started in a bee-line from Lower Eaton-place to Paddington. He dashed unbooked through the booking-office on to the platform, only in time to catch the tail-end of the moving train. On his arrival in Tiverton he found his committee distracted with anxiety, because the town had been placarded with notices warning the Liberal electors that their candidate would not keep his appointment!

Here is, I think, a new story of Sydney Smith:—

Dining in company with a portentous bore—whose one subject was entomology—at the table of Archbishop Vernon Harcourt, Sydney was sick of insects long before dinner was over. When the ladies left the room, the entomologist seized a vacant chair by the side of the Archbishop and began, or rather continued, "Your Grace is doubtless aware that the common house-fly has the largest ocular construction in proportion to its size of any other creature." "I beg your pardon," cried Sydney Smith, coming to the rescue, "you are quite wrong there." "Wrong, sir!" And the bore began to quote all sorts of dry-as-dust authorities for his statement. "You seem to have forgotten, among your authorities, sir, the beautiful lines of our English poet," interrupted Sydney,

"'Who saw him die?'
'I,' said the fly,
'With my *little* eye.'"

Perhaps, however, the aptest and wittiest sallies and retorts in the book are Latin. The following rejoinder is very happy, when you recall the opening lines of Horace's Satire I. IX.

"Ibam forte viâ sacrâ sicut meus est mos,
Nescio quid meditans nugarum."

Robinson, the refined and scholarly Master of the Temple, one day walking in the gardens, was accosted by a Bencher, to whom he apologised for absence of mind, on the ground that he was "nescio quid meditans." To which, with exquisite readiness and perfect accuracy, the reply was made, "Certainly, Master, but all your meditations are in the viâ sacrâ."

A layman who had deserted a Bangor clergyman in his crusade against the old-fashioned pews with doors and other exclusive properties, was thus rebuked by the parson at their next meeting, "*Proh pudor!*" Sir Robert Phillimore, the Dean of Arches, having been summoned to an early meeting by Archbishop Tait, found his Grace at breakfast. "Welcome, Sir Robert!" exclaimed his Grace, who was eating an egg, "now we can begin *ab ovo*." "Certainly," replied the Dean, "but let us hope that we shall not proceed *usque ad mala*."

"The Ragged Messenger" (2) is as interesting as it is original, which is to say a good deal. Its hero is a sort of Pigott, but a Pigott who not only believes himself the Messiah, but has at least this justification for his delusion that he sacrifices to it all that he has and is. He becomes by inheritance a multi-millionaire, and spends every penny of this vast fortune on his charities. This fortune, however, indirectly leads to his suicide through its bringing about his marriage to an odious woman without heart or mind, conscience or character. The story of his fall into such a sewer through keeping his eyes upon the stars, is told with a power which grips you from the first and holds you to the last. But, besides your interest in the story, you have to fascinate you a remarkable physiological and psychological study of the effect of such an illusion and all its consequences on the mind and body of the Ragged Messenger. If you are, as you must be, depressed by the sad ending of "The Ragged Messenger," take up forthwith "The Sword in the Air" (3), whose hero, having performed off the stage a rôle as heroic as any he had represented upon it, has the curtain fall upon him and his "bound-girl" in a blaze of triumph. He is at once a famous Italian tenor and revolutionary leader, and makes his last bow to an audience which includes Garibaldi and the King and Queen of a liberated Italy:—

His chief, the patriot Garibaldi, cries from a *loge*: "I command thee, Carlo." He is borne on the shoulders of a frenzied crowd to the stage, where he sings the song of the Garibaldians. Being called into the Imperial box, from it, after a moment, the warrior-tenor turns, wearing the Cross of the Legion of Honour, given to him by the Emperor of the French, the gold medal of valour pinned upon his breast by the King of Italy, while the Queen commands him to introduce to her his wife, the heroine.

That is the appropriate close of a very exciting story of plots and counter-plots, spies, detectives, and all the perils and triumphs of a successful revolution. "Motherhood" (4) is chiefly but profoundly interesting for its picture of a protracted and agonising moral struggle in the soul, first of the mother and then of the father, of an illegitimate child—conscience urging them to confess their sin at the cost of their worldly disgrace and ruin. How this desperate fight ended I shall leave you to discover for yourself. "The Brass Ring" (5) recalls to me occasionally an old favourite of my boyhood, "Valentine Vox," and occasionally one of Mr. Anstey's delightful magic fantasies. It is a story of a modern ring of Gyges, which makes its wearer, a city clerk, invisible for twenty-four hours. The adventures encountered and the mistakes and mystifications caused through this invisibility, which does not involve intangibility, are certainly most amusing reading.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The London season of 1904 is now a thing of the past, and nothing more unanimous was ever known than the scramble to get away from this dear, delightsome city. Every time we go out we meet whole processions of railway omnibuses, some of them with children inside, their faces radiant with anticipation of seaside or country joys. They are good to look at, and revive the zest of life, which has been fainting in some of us after the long, hot, dusty days.

London dust has peculiarly aggravating qualities. Country dust rages along the road annoyingly enough, but it seems to be of one mind, and comes in battalions against which one may take due precautions. But in London, probably owing to the great number of street corners, the dust seems to act in independent viciousness, and at the most unexpected moments hurls a handful in one's face, scarcely allowing the eyes time to close their shutters against it. London's dust is almost as trying as London's noise, which grows more and more desperately wearing with every year. The multiplication of railways, and consequently of goods stations, is partly responsible for the increase, and we have far too many cabs and horses. The Smith-Joneses are looking for a flat or half-house, and they told us yesterday that out of about sixty they had "viewed," to use the house-agent's word, at least forty had mews at the back.

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Colonel Smith-Jones would not live within sniffing distance of a mews. He thinks horses communicate some of their ailments to mankind. But then he is so very fussy. I always pity poor Mrs. S.-J. when they are house- or flat-hunting. She has all the initial part to do, getting orders to view and inspecting all the places that are at all likely to suit. After having weeded out all the impossible ones, she then takes her faddy colonel to look at the rest. He has a talent for getting indignant, which is most inconvenient to any one accompanying him through the world and its ways. He went one day to look at a flat which the agent had described as being on the entrance floor of some mansions. It is a way they have, when the rooms are really in the basement. It was so in this case, and Colonel S.-J. harangued the porter on the iniquity of the agent. So irrelevant! But he is one of a rather numerous class who, when annoyed, must express that annoyance to somebody. Self-control is an ingredient of that courtesy that does so much to make the wheels of life go smoothly.

The Union Jack Club has an admirable site not two minutes' walk from the Waterloo-road entrance to the S.W.R. station. The Prince of Wales laid the foundation stone on Friday afternoon, and the brimming population of the neighbourhood thickly lined the roadways to see the Prince and Princess pass. The ceremony took place in a large marquee, and a brilliance was lent to the assembly by the uniforms, No. 3 dress being worn by naval officers, and full-dress by soldier-men. Staff officers wore blue and cocked hats. The Prince was in naval uniform, and the Princess wore white, and looked extremely well. A number of small houses commanded the open side of the tent, and all were decorated with flowers and flags. On the other side the canopy was pegged down, and in the midst of the proceedings a child's shrill voice, close to the Royal party, cried:—"'Ere, come 'ere! I can see 'er! Come quick!" The Princess smiled, much amused, and bowed to the opening in the canvas, through which the youngsters had a peep.

The speeches ended, the presentation of purses began. One little boy saluted in excellent style, but forgot to come forward and give up his purse. The Princess laughingly advanced, and relieved him of it. She afterwards talked awhile to Lord Roberts.

We enjoyed the music and the thought of the boon that the U.J. Club will be to soldiers and sailors passing through town. We wondered why Miss McCaul, the originator of the idea, was not present, nor even referred to in any way.

"Our indiscretions are the salt of life." This terrible sentiment is uttered most delightfully by Mr. Cyril Maude in "Lady Flirt," at the Haymarket. It is the view that the French lady-killer takes of existence and its pleasures. I must tell you about some of the pretty gowns worn by Miss Ellis Jeffreys. Her agreeably simple travelling gown is in cream linen, edged round the skirt, which just touches all round, with a band of broderie Anglaise. Similar broderie trims the bodice, which has a little white vest ornamented with tiny brown velvet bows with diamond centres. The sleeves are full, and have more little bows on the puffs above the wrists. Her first gown is a dream of pink taffetas, the skirt outlined into medallions with ruchings of taffetas, and diamond-centred bows. The swathed bodice crosses over a white lace vest, and is edged with ruchings. The large sleeves are finished at the elbows with a ruche. A pretty brown hat goes with this, trimmed with brown tulle and pink roses, and with a long brown tulle string which is fastened in front with a diamond brooch, and then floats airily downwards over the skirt.

We saw a delicious hat the other day, so quaint and out-of-the-way, among the thirty-shilling marvels at 30, New Bond-street. It was of white broderie Anglaise, mushroom-shaped, over pale blue straw. Round the top of the crown was a line of blue forget-me-nots, at the bottom was a circle of shaded velvet sweet-peas, and under the brim was a bandeau of pale mauve silk ribbon. It looked so cool and pretty.

In Westminster Abbey, at Miss Rube's wedding, the reporters for the press were put into seats where they could just glimpse the proceedings provided that they were fairly tall. But just as the ceremony began the officials let down some rope barriers, and a crowd of sightseers rushed through, pushing and crowding to the front, and utterly preventing the unfortunate reporters from seeing anything.

Another grievance, dear. On coming out we were crossing to Parliament-street, when a hansom came along on the wrong side of the road and very nearly knocked Bee over. It contained a member of Parliament, and a policeman told us that all rules of traffic have to give way for the representatives of the nation, as their time is so precious! This amused us immensely, especially as the policeman seemed actually to believe it. He had never been in the House. We had, and could have told a tale about the waste of precious time and the talk-murdered hours.

We had a lovely time on Saturday at Molesey Regatta, where we enjoyed the hospitality of a friend who possesses a too-covetable creeper-clad country cottage. It is the cottage of one's dreams—the quaintest place, where you actually go up a flight of steps to get out in the garden. Our hostess sent us all on the river in three boats, each manned by a single oarsman. Ours, with a brain crammed full of erudition, had devoted an appreciable share of his intelligence to the management of a boat. He was "slim" as a Boer General in getting to the point he wanted. The weather was perfect. The sun had considerately retired behind the clouds, and sky and river had a thousand shades of grey, from glowing silver to the deep soft gloom of some rain-clouds that now and then sent us a few refreshing drops.

Such an afternoon is a boon to the jaded Londoner, and we got back with a delicious sense of fatigue after copious oxygenation; such a different thing from fatigue in airless, dusty London.

I am writing the latter part of this letter from the beautiful home of a friend in lovely Sussex, where we are enjoying the unspeakable bliss of quiet, after the wild rush and noise of London. It is no mere negation, this exquisite silence, but something positive, to be heard and felt, a tangible boon. We have tea on the lawn, under the shade of two spreading walnut trees, and the murmur of their branches is as the voice of the sea. The perfumed air is a banquet to the sense of smell. A little brook talks in baby whispers as it ripples through the gardens, and spreads out in a sheet of water in which the fleecy clouds can see themselves as they pass. Steep banks and bushes in a hundred shades of green are encamped about it, and a detachment of ancient apple trees, all bending towards it, have the air of pacing down the slope to have a drink this thirsty weather. On one side of us is the weald, on the other are the downs, and the varied green of the distant fields is one of the charms of the lovely view:—

> "Here, through the strong, unhampered days,
> The tinkling silence thrills."

When the sun is low and throws the shadows of the great, placid, stately trees across the lawn in lines of deep, cool green, contrasting with the golden haze of the sunlight on the grass between, we feel the sense of beauty with a keen enjoyment that longs to express itself, but knows it never can. And it is in the best part of this exquisite summer-time, the playtime of the year, that we are all tethered to town by the business or pleasure of the London season. It is unpardonable.

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The nights are as perfect as the days. A cool breeze saunters whispering to the trees after sundown, and the stars come out in the mysterious blue dimness above, though the sky in the west is still citron-gold, with a dash of silver in its light.

And up at the home farm there are foals and calves and young ducks and chickens of every age, each family in a little wooden house of its own. They keep separate, too, even when out on housekeeping and catering expeditions, carrying their little larders about with them! As the "missus" and I passed behind one of the little houses a small feathered creature, snow-white, and measuring not more than four inches from beak to last tail feather, dashed round its own gable, and, seeing human bipeds and mistrusting them, turned like lightning and dashed back again. That we should have inspired fear in so very small a thing made us sorry.

The son of the house is making himself a Robinson Crusoe raft whereon to navigate the lake. He tried it on the dog this morning. It declined to float. He hammered at it again for a hard-worked hour, then tried it himself. It entirely refused to support him, and he slid to the sticky mud below, spoiling his boots and a new and becoming tie. If you know how to make a proper raft do send me word.

And I also want instructions for making an Æolian harp for a particular window. Find out about it for me. I know it is not difficult.

If you want a very delicious, cool sweet for this hot weather get the recipe for Mrs. A. B. Marshall's "Bavaroise à la Princesse de Galles." The flavouring is quite perfect, with just that suggestion of orange and lemon that quenches thirst so admirably; and it is an extremely pretty dish as well.

Your germicidal designs will be best accomplished with a solution of Izal. Ten gallons can be made from a shilling bottle, so that the disinfection of the fever-haunted cottage about which you write can be carried out at a small cost. I am sending you a pamphlet by Dr. Andrew Wilson, "The Izal Rules of Health," which will show you what should be done and convince you of the efficacy of the process. The experiments of eminent bacteriologists have proved that the hardiest of disease-producing micro-organisms—the bacilli of typhoid fever, diphtheria, and pneumonia, and the streptococcus of scarlatina among the rest—succumb to this powerful disinfectant, which nevertheless has the great merit of being non-poisonous. You will see, too, from the pamphlet that Izal, made up in the form of antiseptic soaps, toilet creams, etc., has valuable personal and household uses.

I know you are always interested in any undertaking which has for its object the provision of employment for gentlewomen who are forced to fall back upon their own hands and brains to earn a living, so I need not apologise for mentioning the Gentlewomen's Working Association, of 37, New Bond-street, to you. The Association undertakes dressmaking in all its branches, and specialises in blouses, trousseaux and layettes. The enterprise makes no appeal as a charity, though in intention the venture is no doubt mainly philanthropic. It is upon business lines that the Association hopes to succeed, and by providing good work at moderate prices trusts to be mutually beneficial to both customers and workers.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Hot weather of the kind which broils us in the full sunshine and simmers us in the shade, is rare in these climes; small blame to us therefore when we are disconcerted by its arrival in our midst. The unexpected situation takes us unawares; we do not quite know what to do, and going on as usual, suffer accordingly. The lessons of personal experience, however, are so impressive and immediate, they teach so sharply, that we soon learn a surrender at discretion to the weather is the only wise course. On some days last week the sun gave very strong object lessons in what he could do if he liked. How uncomfortable he could be to us in his brilliancy, how overwhelming to his most ardent worshippers! Well was it for those with whom it was holiday time; who could sit in the shade of leafy trees, and do the only wise thing, the only one worth doing: that is, do nothing. Amongst the many and varied ways of doing nothing idle reading is perhaps the most satisfactory. Hot weather books are a class in themselves. They are of the kind "to be read, but not curiously." Nothing to torment the mind, nothing to work it. No problems, whether real or fictitious, no modern philosophy of the startling kind; above all, no pessimism, which is a child of darkness, not to be endured in the light. Something airy and cool, pleasant and lightly touched; no tears and no loud laughter; gentle pathos and quiet humour, nothing more. Things into which we can half weave our own dreams bright with the "glory that never was on sea or land," and which have no mission higher than that of being the idle pastime of an idle hour.

Do not you think there might very well be a "line" of hot weather, as of Christmas, literature? The scenes laid amongst the roses and lilies instead of the holly and ivy, or in leafy woods by rippling streams, on breezy mountain sides, or by the sea. The cool suggestions would be so soothing, we should not be too critical or requiring about the human interest. Only it should be in the lighter vein; such as that beloved of Anthony Hope and of the author of "My Friend Prospero." As it is, our stock of hot weather literature is too soon exhausted, and does not supply the demand during a long continuance of hot weather.

Of course we had an interval in our sunshine during the week, to keep up the character for fickleness of our climes. The two days on which the Kingstown Regatta was held were very bad, very irritating for those who wished to enjoy the festivity and the hospitality of the St. George's Yacht Club. To the majority the regatta part of a regatta matters very little; few know anything about the yachts or what they are doing. Everyone goes to the club to meet everyone else, to enjoy the sea breezes on the open terraces, to have tea and military music. Under the circumstances rain and wind are very disconcerting, especially when previous hot weather has lured one into full summer dress in all its light and airy glory. How transformed are diaphanous flounces, laces, and frills, and flowery headgear by darkened skies and driving rain. Splendour is changed into bedraggled tawdriness, and cheerful suggestion turned into doleful. What woman's spirit can keep up under the consciousness of being in an absolutely unsuitable dress. Many a more serious evil might be better borne. Lord Dudley returned to Dublin on the morning of Thursday, and was not only present at the regatta but sailed his little yacht, the Fodla, in one of the races. You must not ask whether or not he won, for I have confessed that we concerned ourselves little with the yachts, except to rejoice, when the wind blew fresh, that we were not in any of them. Lord Dudley has rejoined Lady Dudley at the Viceregal Lodge, where the Duchess of Bedford also arrived during the week. The arrivals are many in Ireland, now that your "season" has come to its natural end in Goodwood week. By the way, is there any such charming race meeting in the kingdom as Goodwood? One can take the racing so easily, in fact the horse need not come into the matter at all; the breezy downs, the park, the lawns are so perfect on a fine summer's day. And nowhere does the dress of our sex show to more advantage. The Duke and Duchess of Manchester have gone to their delightful place Kylemore, in the wild west, the country of mountains, lakes, and moorlands, the mere thought of which brings refreshing coolness. The ducal movements in connection with our country, which seem to have the greatest interest for the greatest number, to judge by the amount of "paragraphs" which they have inspired, are those of the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, who arrived in Ireland on last Friday, to take part in the great Catholic ceremonial on the following Sunday in Armagh. The Duke and Duchess will stay for a few days at Rosstrevor House, and make excursions to see the beauties of mountain, sea, and lake in the Mourne country. They will visit Lord and Lady Annesley at Castlewellan, which lies north of the Mourne Mountains. Sir Anthony MacDonnell is amongst the house-party staying with Sir John and Lady Ross of Bladensburg. Apropos of dukes, the Duke of Leinster's Leinster estate has been sold to the tenants and passed from the possession of the

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Fitzgeralds. The severance of a long historic connection between Ireland and the Geraldine family. It is not a case with the tenants of "new men and old acres;" in many instances all over Ireland the purchasers of the "acres" are the descendants of the old owners who forfeited them through being "mere Irish." Great indeed are the ups and downs of life, and we have had more than our share of downs over here.—Yours ever, CLARE.

You ask me what to drink during this heat. We have tried many things, and find that iced mulled claret is the best. As it is more than half water it is safe to have a long drink of it. Here is the recipe:—

Put a quart of water in a clean lined stewpan with 6 oz. of loaf sugar, half a stick of cinnamon, and twelve cloves. Let it come to the boil and then simmer with the lid on for at least twenty minutes. Pour in the contents of a bottle of claret and a gill of Cambridge lemon syrup (Chivers', which I so strongly recommended to you some weeks ago). Stir the whole round and round, take it off the fire, allow it to settle, then pour it into claret bottles. When cold, this delicious drink is ready for table, and should be served very cold, the bottles well iced before the wine is poured into glass jugs for serving.

I am certain that you will approve of these moussettes d'homard:—

Chop the meat from a medium-sized lobster very finely, pound, and rub it through a wire sieve. Whisk the passed spawn of the lobster with a couple spoonfuls of white sauce in an egg-bowl over a saucepan of boiling water, then add three or four sheets of soaked gelatine and a gill and a half of aspic jelly, and whisk it till it is cold, add the purée of lobster, and continue whisking; then mix in very lightly a gill of whipped cream, pour it at once into small dariole moulds, that have been previously set with aspic and decorated with truffle. When serving the moussettes, turn the moulds out on a dish, garnish the centre with picked shrimps, a little of the lobster, a chopped gherkin, and the chopped white of a hard-boiled egg, all mixed with mayonnaise sauce. Sprinkle all with passed coral, and put chopped jelly round the dish.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—Ella writes: "Hurry back to town and go to Hancock and James' sale in Grafton-street. They are selling their lovely French hats at a few shillings each. Do not lose such a glorious chance. Sale closes at 6 p.m. Thursday. I bought a beauty for 5s. 9d."

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen are expected to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Monday evening from Cowes. The King will leave London on Wednesday night for Marienbad, and the Queen and Princess Victoria will probably go to Scotland. His Majesty is to be conveyed from Port Victoria to Flushing in the *Victoria and Albert*, which will proceed on Tuesday from Portsmouth and Sheerness. The Prince of Wales will come to town from Cowes with their Majesties, and is to stay for two days at Marlborough House before proceeding to Yorkshire and Scotland.

His Majesty is to hold a Council at Buckingham Palace next Wednesday at noon, when the proposed speech from the Throne at the prorogation of Parliament will be formally sanctioned by the King. As Parliament cannot be prorogued until about a week after the Council, it may be hoped that no untoward event will render it necessary to recast the King's Speech, which would be highly inconvenient under the circumstances.

The King will probably pay a visit early in October, when he leaves Balmoral for the south, to Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart at Cluny Castle, Aberdeenshire. Cluny is a very fine place in Strathdon, and the estate, which is heavily wooded, affords first-rate low ground shooting.

Abergeldie Castle has been again lent by the King to the Prince and Princess of Wales, whose children arrived there last Thursday from London. A weekly contemporary remarks on the pleasure of the Royal children at their being in the close vicinity of their cousins, the daughters of the Duke and Duchess of Fife, who are expected at the end of next week at Mar Lodge from Duff House. This journal is obviously unaware of the fact that Mar Lodge is a hard drive of about sixteen miles from Abergeldie. The Prince of Wales is to arrive at Abergeldie about September 3, after paying some visits in the north, and the Princess will join him there a few days afterwards, when she returns to England from the Continent.

His Majesty has granted Henry the Third's Tower, Windsor Castle, to Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck, who will take up their residence there when they leave Aldershot, where they at present occupy the Royal Pavilion. Henry the Third's Tower was for many years the residence of the late Lady Biddulph, widow of Sir Thomas Biddulph, who was Keeper of the Privy Purse to Queen Victoria before Sir Henry Ponsonby. Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck will probably go abroad this month for a few weeks with the Duchess of Albany to pay some visits in Holland and Germany. Prince Alexander is now officially returned as "attached to the Staff of G.O. Commanding 1st Army Corps."

The King has lent Birkhall House to Sir Dighton Probyn, who is expected there shortly for a stay of about two months. Princess Victoria has been staying lately at Birkhall. The King has also lent Craig Gowan House, one of the Royal residences within the Balmoral Castle demesne, to Lord and Lady Knollys, who will arrive there shortly to stay until his Majesty leaves Deeside for the season during the first week of October.

The Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and her daughter, Princess Beatrice, have left England for Germany, after a stay of six weeks in London. They were the guests after their arrival of the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace and at Windsor Castle, and after-

wards of Princess Henry of Battenberg at Kensington Palace. The Duchess is now at Schloss Rosenau, her beautiful place in the Thuringian Forest, where she has been joined by her daughters, the Grand Duchess of Hesse and the Hereditary Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenberg, and by her nephew, the Grand Duke Cyril Vladimirovitch. The Duchess Marie will reside at Rosenau until the middle of September, and is then going to her villa at Tegern See, in Bavaria, for a few weeks.

Lord Dudley left the Viceregal Lodge last week for the West of Ireland. The Viceregal motors are well known in many parts of Ireland, and in Connaught and the West especially. The picturesque roads of Connemara are favourable for motoring, running in many instances smooth and level between ranges of mountains. Lord Dudley is devoted to sailing and motoring, and frequently, when residing at the Viceregal Lodge, combines the two pastimes. He motors from the Phœnix Park to Kingstown, where he spends many hours sailing his yacht in Dublin and Killiney Bays.

Those in high place in the Churches set an excellent example to Ireland and the kingdom in general, last week, when Cardinals Logue and Vannutelli paid a visit to the Protestant Primate, Dr. Alexander, at his residence in Armagh, and were cordially received by him. Dr. Alexander's genuine piety and benevolence and his wide-minded liberality have made him universally esteemed, by all who esteem such qualities, in Ireland. Cardinal Logue, accompanied by Cardinal Vannutelli, has gracefully shown his appreciation of these qualities in the Protestant Primate and Archbishop of Armagh. To how many, both British and Irish, might it not well be said, "Catholics and Protestants, please copy"!

The death of Lord Sandys is profoundly regretted in the neighbourhood of Ombersley Court, his seat in Worcestershire. He was a most generous and considerate landlord, and his private charities were most munificent. He was untiring in his kindly ministrations to his poorer neighbours. Lord Sandys preserved game extensively, and entertained numerous shooting parties during the season. It was his excellent practice to give away every head that was killed. The Manor of Ombersley was purchased during the reign of Queen Elizabeth by Dr. Sandys, Bishop of Worcester, and the present manor house was built during the reign of George II. by the first Lord Sandys. George IV., when Prince of Wales, stayed at Ombersley for a week in 1807, as the guest of the Marchioness of Downshire, the heiress of the Sandys family, who was the grandmother of the last peer.

The Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch and Countess Torby, who have been residing at Keele Hall during the last seven weeks, will pay some visits in Scotland during August and September. The King's intended visit to Keele Hall has been postponed until the autumn.

I had a letter last week from a resident at Kingston-on-Thames, lamenting over the erection of huge stacks of "yellow deals" and other unsightly works in connection with a new wharf opened by an enterprising timber merchant on the Hampton Wick side of the river. The writer contrasts this with the public spirit shown of late for the preservation of Richmond Hill in its ancient glory. I sympathise with his sentiments, but I do not see that it is any good firing off sarcasms at the timber merchant, for which reason I do not publish the letter. If I were a timber merchant at Kingston or any riverside town, and wanted a wharf or a yard, I am afraid I should establish them wherever I could most economically, and if other people objected that they would spoil the æsthetic charms of the neighbourhood, my answer would be: "Why should I sacrifice my interests for your advantage? Make it worth my while, and you can have the yard and the wharf anywhere you like."

All these questions arise inevitably out of the growth of big towns. Two points have to be borne in mind whenever they arise. One is that the individual property-owner is entitled to utilise his property for commercial purposes as he pleases, and must therefore be compensated by the public if the public desires him to forego his rights. The other is that the extent to which the disfigurement of the country by the growth of towns can be restrained by buying out private owners who want to use their land in an obnoxious way is necessarily very limited. As long as towns grow, gasometers, factory chimneys, lunatic asylums, and other accessories of civilisation which do not harmonise with the charms of nature—including among the rest wharves on the banks of rivers—must grow too. Whether you are a Cobdenite or a Chamberlainite, if you desire "national prosperity" as at present understood, that is to say, more wealth and more people, you desire the disfigurement of nature by wharves, factory chimneys, gasometers, lunatic asylums, and all the rest of it. Who wishes the end wishes the means—and the inevitable incidents.

Those who grieve over the disappearance of nature may also find comfort in the reflection that it is no worse that the thing should happen to-day than that it should have happened in the past. I suppose that when houses began to spring up along the Strand between London and Westminster the æsthetic-minded Cockneys of the period were as much exercised over the mutilation of the view from Ludgate Hill as their descendants over the fate of the view from Richmond Hill. There may have been an earlier day when ancient Britons of Ruskinite tendencies viewed the first wharf constructed beside the Pool with as much disgust as any modern Briton can feel over a wharf at Hampton Wick. A hundred years hence the contemporary generation may

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 312.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 313.
For Amusements, see page 309.
For Appeals, see page 318.
For Educational, see page 318.
For Our Puzzles, see page 317.

be in the same state of perturbation about the destruction of the view from Hindhead or the construction of wharves at Cookham or Mapledurham. If the conservative element had always had its way, and bought up the threatened sites, there would never have been any towns at all.

It may be said, of course, that it would have been better so, and that such a place as London is nothing but a blot upon an otherwise picturesque planet. I am not going to argue this proposition now, but I would point out that it applies in some degree to the existence of mankind altogether. Even a Kaffir kraal, though picturesque to a casual observer, can hardly be considered, on close and intimate acquaintance, an improvement to the site it occupies. The truth is that there is a great deal about man which is repugnant to his own æsthetic sense, or to his hazy perception of better things. But here we are, and there seems to be a general agreement that here we must remain as long as possible, although we are defiling the face of the earth all the time.

Mr. Goldwin Smith has completed a monograph on Mr. Gladstone, which will be published shortly by Mr. Fisher Unwin. Mr. Goldwin Smith saw a great deal of Mr. Gladstone at various times, socially and otherwise, and he was a zealous supporter of the Liberal leader at Oxford, and was in full sympathy with his public views until the Home Rule split of 1886. It is understood that a considerable part of Mr. Goldwin Smith's monograph is devoted to personal recollections and to a criticism of Mr. Gladstone's literary work, a subject which Mr. John Morley noticed very briefly. The book will be entitled "My Memory of Gladstone," and the writer's estimate of the great statesman's career is written in a cool and judicial tone.

A good many guesses have been made as to who were Mr. Morley's four righteous men, always prepared to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and the names of various political personages, alive and dead, have been suggested. I doubt whether Mr. Morley had in his mind anyone actively connected with politics, for the exigencies of his position do not always admit of his taking the world entirely into his confidence on all occasions. I should think that they are rather to be found in the writers with whom he has been brought in contact. If I had to name them, I should be inclined to name Stuart Mill, Henry Sedgwick, Darwin, and Leslie Stephen.

"O ye gods!" writes somebody from Lyme Regis. "You call Lyme 'a fishing village!' Don't you know that we are a borough of ancient renown; that we have a Mayor; and that he wears robes, a chain, and a cocked hat?" Yes, I do, now that I am reminded of it, for I remember once seeing the Worshipful in all his glory, though it is so long ago that I had forgotten it. I apologise to his Worship and the Corporation at large.

JOSEPH'S LATEST DREAM *

By R*dy*rd K*pl*ng.

And Joseph dreamed another dream, and he told it to his brethren—and they voted against him yet the more.

All, as a rule, require a clue
  Who tackle my most cryptic strings;
But those who read this "Poem" through
  Shall find, 'midst all its flouts and flings,
That it one fact before them brings—
  One fact 'tis well that they should know
(For it will ease their wonderings)—
  Once on a time there was a Joe!

He single-handed thought himself
  A match for Premiers, Dukes, and Kings.
He put discretion on the shelf,
  And, aided by his underlings,
He fed the flames, he fouled the springs,
  He "clubbed" the ranks—in short, you know,
He played the very deuce with things—
  Once on a time there was a Joe!

Peace and prosperity both flew
  Before his ribald questionings,
He broke the Oracles in two,
  He tried to pull a hundred strings;
He ran amok-like wanderings,
  Aiming his blows at friend and foe;
In sooth, he did most reckless things—
  Once on a time there was a Joe!

Ambition blurs his sight once true;
  Age no due sense of caution brings;
Exploded fads he would renew,
  Heedless how Time still onward swings;
To worn-out fallacies he clings,
  Prepared the Empire to o'erthrow,
If only Clio some day sings—
  Once on a time there was a Joe!

But now it gets a clearer view;
  A wakened People, raging, springs
At him who madly would renew
  Protection's gruesome harvestings;
And, heedless of the flouts and flings
  That he at History would throw,
Resolves, when Time the Election brings,
  There shall no longer be a Joe!

In vain have I disclaimed any intention of opening a court of appeal for the people who failed to secure £5 a week for life through the great railway station competition in *Pearson's Weekly*. The appeals continue to be showered in upon me, and some of the litigants have taken so much trouble in stating their cases that I am loth to close the door upon them. But really everything that I can say on this subject was said a month ago. If a competition of this class is to be sufficiently simple on the face of it to tempt hundreds of thousands of people to buy the paper and set to work solving the puzzles, and if at the same time the promoter undertakes not to divide the prize, it follows necessarily that something else than merit must be regarded in arriving at a decision. When the promoter further stipulates that his decision shall be final, the people who go in for it must really be taken to go in with their eyes open. The competition is simply a disguised lottery, and if you do not win a prize you must accept the decision of fate—or Pearson, Limited. When one looks into the details of this particular

* Vide *Times*, August 1.

competition the bad faith of the whole thing—considered as a test of skill and industry—is pretty clear. For instance, a picture of a hog is given to represent one of the railway stations. The official solution of this particular puzzle is "Swine." Now the word swine is invariably used as a plural word, though I believe etymologists pronounce it to be either singular or plural. To represent it by a picture of a single animal is, therefore, nothing but a trap. Again, one of the rules lays down that the longest name extracted from the objects in the picture will be considered the best solution. A picture is given of what is apparently a religious edifice, and it is certainly white. Any number of competitors consequently gave "Whitechapel" as the answer. The editor, in defiance of his own rule, gives "Chapel" as the correct official answer. Many similar examples might be given. I am also told that it was announced that in the event of a "tie" for the first prize a fresh competition would be set to decide it. I have not verified this statement, but if it is correct there is clearly no excuse for resorting to these arbitrary decisions in order to avoid dividing the prize. People should take warning by these facts when the next monster "competition" is announced for the purpose of selling a magazine or newspaper; but, as I have said before, it seems to me that without discussing the merits of this particular decision, any one can see for himself that such a competition cannot really be what it pretends to be—a bona-fide test of skill or industry.

Preparations are being made at Cambridge for the meeting of the British Association, at which it is expected that there will be an unprecedentedly large attendance. Mr. Balfour will take up the office of President on Wednesday, the 17th, when he is to deliver his inaugural address. There are to be six Vice-presidents—the Duke of Devonshire (Chancellor of the University), Lord Rayleigh, Lord Kelvin, the Bishop of Ely, Lord Walsingham, and Mr. Alexander Peckover, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire. A very interesting programme has been arranged, and one most attractive item is a visit to Sandringham, by invitation of the King.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has presented the Rev. C. H. Simpkinson to the pleasant country living of Eynesford, Kent. Mr. Simpkinson, who was for some years rector of Farnham, is the biographer of Bishop Thorold, and the author of an excellent monograph on Archbishop Laud. He left Farnham on being presented to the important living of Stoke-on-Trent, which is one of the richest benefices in England, but his health failed, and he resigned this charge. He is now fairly well again, and equal to light duty, so the Primate has induced him to accept the vicarage of Eynesford.

An announcement appeared in the *Standard* last Wednesday to the effect that "Monsignor Benedict Count Donkin, D.D., Bishop of Santa Croce, in Antiochia, has been appointed Vicar Apostolic of the Independent Roman Catholic Church in Southern Switzerland by the Patriarch of Antioch." Some particulars followed of Monsignor Count Donkin's genealogy. I suppose that this is one of those announcements which are practically paid advertisements, and that the *Standard* is not editorially responsible for the statements. But I confess I should like to know more of the community of which Mr. Donkin has become Vicar-Apostolic, and of the Patriarch of Antioch, who has raised him to that dignity; for this is the first time I ever heard of an "Independent Roman Catholic Church" in Switzerland or anywhere else.

The Duke of Sutherland has presented the Rev. P. G. Kynaston, senior curate of Stanhope, near Darlington (the parish of which the Bishop-Suffragan of Richmond is the rector), to the Rectory of Kinnersley, Shropshire, which has become vacant by the preferment of the late incumbent to the important living of Handsworth, near Birmingham, in the presentation of the Bishop of Lichfield. Kinnersley is worth about £400 a year, with residence.

An incident which occurred a few days ago in close vicinity to St. Thomas's Hospital, shows once more how necessary is the organisation of some plan for the supply of an efficient ambulance service for the metropolis. A woman met with an accident at the foot of Westminster Bridge, and the policeman who took charge of the case, being single-handed, asked a Volunteer in uniform to go to the hospital for the ambulance. The Volunteer, on arrival at the hospital, was informed by the porter that the ambulance could not go out unless a policeman came for it. I can only conceive that the porter must have been acting upon a mistaken impression of his instructions in refusing to allow the ambulance to go out under such circumstances; but at the same time it makes very clear the desirability of having ambulances placed, not only where they are instantly available in case of emergency, but in charge of persons who are prepared to take them instantly to the spot where they are required.

A correspondent, in view of the recent spell of hot weather, very pertinently inquires what has become of the horse-troughs and drinking fountains which used to be in the Strand before the recent improvements were taken in hand. I have been making inquiries into the matter, and I find that their disappearance is due to the whim or prejudice of the grave and mighty councillors and aldermen of the new city of Westminster. Under the statute the L.C.C., who carried out the Strand improvement, handed over the roads to the Westminster Council, who have refused to re-erect the fountains. Yet the use made of them may be gauged from a day census made in 1902, when it was shown that 1,925 men, women, and children patronised one of the fountains, and 1,964 horses drank at one of the troughs. I can sympathise with the alderman or councillor who himself refuses to drink at the public expense, but a general crusade against "free drinks" on these lines is quite another matter.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund:—Miss Edith Schiff, £3; "Off for a Holiday," £3 3s.; Elm Lodge Billiard Room, £1; General Sir Alfred Turner, £1 1s.

There have been several references in the Indian Press to the detention of the 101st Grenadiers in Somaliland since this matter was referred to in Truth a few weeks ago, and it seems to be generally agreed that the regiment is only kept in the country in consequence of official favour shown to others. I now hear that in the last few weeks one British officer of the regiment has died of enteric, and five men of scurvy, which helps to show what an undesirable country Somaliland is for a prolonged residence, and why those regiments which have the requisite influence at their command are anxious to get out of it. It is therefore not unreasonable that the regiment which has been longest in the country should complain at being the last to leave.

Some little time ago—I do not know the exact date—a sum of £30 was stolen from a box in the possession of the president of the Sergeants' Mess Committee of the 2nd Leinster Regiment, the money being the property of the mess. The incident occurred in a camp in the Transvaal, which explains the fact that the N.C.O. had this amount of money in his possession. The man was tried by court-martial and acquitted, and I understand that the proceedings were subsequently quashed by the General, on the ground of irregularity. Subsequently to this, however, the man was brought before the second in command of his battalion, and asked if he was willing to pay the money. He at first objected, on the ground that it would be virtually an admission of his guilt; but on its being pointed out that he was personally responsible for the money in his possession, he agreed to repay it at the rate of £2 a month, which he is now doing.

I may say that I have only heard this story indirectly, and there may be some details unknown to me which would put a different complexion upon it. But the main facts seem to be clear, and they raise a somewhat important question. It being established by the result of the court-martial that the N.C.O. is innocent of the theft, it seems a very large order to force him to refund a large sum of money stolen under such circumstances. I understand that the man had unsuccessfully applied to one or two officers to take charge of the cash of the mess, and, if this is so, the money was in his possession against his wish, and owing to circumstances beyond his control. It seems to me entirely wrong, therefore, that the regimental authorities should use any sort of pressure to compel him to make good the loss.

Mr. Arnold-Forster, judging from his recent remarks, is keenly alive to the importance of securing employment to discharged soldiers. I would therefore commend to the consideration of him and his colleagues a question asked by a discharged N.C.O., who seems to have every qualification for civil employment, but has hitherto been quite unable to obtain it. What he asks is, why a man who leaves the Army with an "exemplary" character after twenty-one years' service, two war medals and the good conduct medal, a first class education certificate and other certificates pointing to considerable technical acquirements, should not be as eligible for the Civil Service as a second division clerk or a Customs officer. This is a question which has often occurred to me, and ought, I think, to occur to the members of the Government in their collective capacity.

We hear a great deal about the duty of every man to go through a course of military training. We also hear a great deal about the duty of civilian employers to find work for discharged soldiers, or to give their employees facilities for qualifying as efficient volunteers. At the same time, we hear incessantly from the Government of the difficulty of obtaining the recruits required for the Army. Now, I am not in favour of compulsory service, nor do I hold with the doctrines of the National Service League; but I cannot for the life of me understand why the Government itself should not make a period of military service an indispensable qualification for the service of the State in any civil capacity.

The Government is far and away the largest employer of labour in the country. How many men it employs I do not know, but, taking all branches and offices into account, it is obviously in the position to require military service from an enormous number of men. There is not the slightest reason, that I can see, why the Post Office should not be entirely manned with discharged soldiers. The work of sorting and delivering letters can be learned and performed by a man at almost any age, and certainly every man who has served for seven or eight years with the colours is young enough to start upon it. In the same way there is not the slightest reason why all the labourers in the arsenals and dockyards should not be ex-soldiers or ex-sailors. If we are going to adopt Mr. Arnold-Forster's project of two years' colour service in the Home Army we facilitate the adoption of such a system as I suggest. A man who leaves the colours at twenty or twenty-one is fit to take up any branch of unskilled work that Government has to offer.

Going back to the question asked by my non-commissioned friend, the same principle may be equally applied to clerical and office work of every kind. Not only are there plenty of men forthcoming from the Army at thirty or forty years of age, with as good educational qualifications as men who pass the lower grade Civil Service examinations, but if you made it a rule to require service in the Army as a qualification for the Civil Service you would at once attract to the Army a much more educated class of men. I do not myself see why the same principle should not be applied to the higher grades of the Civil Service. Why should not all Government clerks be required to serve in the Volunteers or the Militia? Why should you not offer Civil Service employment to a certain number of Army and Militia officers? In these days of early retirement

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

the employment question affects officers as well as the rank and file. I cannot see any objection in principle to my plan, and I do not believe that there are any practical objections which could not easily be got over.

A "Tommy" in a certain infantry regiment, married without leave, having been refused permission, notwithstanding ten years' service and two good-conduct badges—in fact, the Major before whom he paraded in the first instance would not even let him see the C.O. Time went on, and Mrs. Atkins, being very ill, travelled a long journey in order to be near her husband, who was then stationed at Colchester. Thomas now applied for a sleeping-out pass, and this application also was refused. Whereupon he took French leave, and of course got into trouble. This little drama, based on the eternal conflict between love and duty, seems worth the consideration of the rulers of our Army. When the sleeping-out pass was refused in the above case, the applicant was told that if it were granted to him it must be granted to others. Why should not it be granted in such a case to every man of a certain age, service, and character? I can see no reason myself—though I certainly thought it was going too far when soldiers, whether married or single, boys or grown men, well-behaved or ill-behaved, were indiscriminately given *carte blanche* to stop out to all hours of the night.

Moreover, I am told that in this very battalion several men with only a year or two's service are allowed to live out of barracks, simply because they are officers' servants. This is no good ground for granting special privileges, which ought to be used as premiums for good conduct and professional proficiency, and nothing else. But if the privilege is allowed on any ground, the authorities are estopped from saying that any harm can be done by allowing it. It seems to me that a general rule that married men of, say, eight years' service, should always be allowed to sleep out of barracks unless they did anything to forfeit the privilege, would tend to encourage good behaviour, prevent many men leaving the colours, and save the taxpayer something on the barrack bill.

With reference to the story in last week's TRUTH of a late officer of the 1st Gold Coast Regiment, who gave a receipt for a month's pay, on the mistaken assumption that it had been paid into his bank, and was afterwards unable to obtain the money, I now learn that the matter had been put right subsequently to my hearing of the case, and before it was referred to in TRUTH. Correspondence, it seems, was still going on, and the regimental authorities have now admitted through the Crown Agents that there was a balance of pay due to the officer. My observations on the case must therefore be cancelled, although I still fail altogether to understand why it should have taken the various authorities concerned something like fourteen months to arrive at a correct conclusion.

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

The committee appointed by the Admiralty to ascertain the most humane and practicable methods of slaughtering animals for human food have made a series of recommendations which ought to be universally carried out. A great deal of revolting cruelty undoubtedly takes place in slaughter-houses, more especially in small country establishments. Here and there, perhaps, it is due to downright, intentional brutality on the part of individuals, but in the main the needless suffering that is inflicted on the animals is the result of want of thought and want of skill rather than of deliberate cruelty on the part of the butchers. The committee recognise that abuses are bound to occur until all slaughtering is done under official supervision in public abattoirs. Pending the attainment of this ideal, however, they propose that regulations should be adopted providing that all animals must be stunned or rendered unconscious before blood is drawn; that animals awaiting slaughter should be so placed that they cannot see into the slaughter-house; that the drainage should be so arranged that blood or other refuse cannot flow out within sight or smell of animals awaiting slaughter; that animals should not be slaughtered within view of each other; and that none but licensed men should be employed in or about slaughter-houses.

In some towns the principal recommendations of the committee are already embodied in by-laws and strictly enforced. But there are also many towns in which this is not the case, while in rural districts scarcely any steps whatever have been taken for the regulation and supervision of slaughter-houses. It is to be feared that the substitution of public abattoirs for private slaughter-houses can only be brought about very slowly. But, as the committee point out, much good might be done in the meantime if the local urban and rural authorities would take fuller advantage of the powers entrusted to them under the existing law; and in view of this report it is to be hoped that the Local Government Board will endeavour to arouse them to a sense of their duty in the matter. It is indeed a strange circumstance that the Board should have left the investigation of this question to the Admiralty, which is only indirectly interested in it.

Very general sympathy will be felt with those concerned in a correspondence that has lately passed between the British and Foreign Blind Association and the Postmaster-General with reference to the reduction of postal rates on embossed printed matter for the blind. The Association asked for two concessions—(1) the admission of embossed periodicals published at intervals of not less than a month to the category of registered newspapers; and (2) the reduction of the present rate on embossed books to ½d. per lb., with a minimum tariff of 1d. for the first pound. Of course, the main grounds for such a concession must be benevolent. But there is much force in the argument used, that the blind are for the most part excluded from the benefits that the Post Office confers on the rest of the community, and this applies with special force to the newspapers, which are useless to them. The ordinary reader can, and does,

get newspapers by post for a halfpenny weighing upwards of a pound, while the postage of the principal periodical for the blind, published at 6d., costs 2½d. A large proportion of the blind are poor people, and the postal rates are a heavy tax on them, and seriously restrict their limited opportunities of reading. It is no doubt for these reasons that the United States Post Office carries embossed books distributed for the use of the blind free of charge, and the refusal of our Postmaster-General to receive a deputation on the subject or make any concessions seems decidedly harsh. But I suppose the party to be got at before anything can be gained in this direction is the Treasury, though the total revenue made out of the blind through the Post Office is estimated at only a few hundreds per annum.

There is a point mentioned in this correspondence which might well be pressed on the consideration of municipal authorities. It is said that "few public libraries have embossed books," although the blind have to pay their share of the rate to maintain these institutions. Surely of all people the blind poor, for whom books are so few and expensive, have a stronger claim to public assistance in reading than the ordinary reader, who in these days can possess himself of a library of masterpieces and any amount of current literature at sixpence a volume. And it seems a mockery indeed to make a blind ratepayer contribute to the support of a library for the exclusive benefit of those who are so much better off than himself.

In my reference last week to the employment of boys from eight to ten years of age by the Nottingham Corporation on their sewage farm I find that I have understated the case. Not only are the lads from the Carlton school employed in this unsavoury business, but the services of juveniles from other schools in the vicinity are also requisitioned from six to eight o'clock five evenings a week and all day on Saturday. Their hours for the full day's work are from 6 a.m. to 5.30 p.m., with an hour and a half off for meals—ten hours' clear work, with a walk of three miles morning and evening in addition. I shall be exceedingly interested in seeing how the Nottingham Corporation proposes to justify this employment of child labour, for to me it seems that it is a form of municipal enterprise which even the most pachydermatous alderman would blush to defend.

The paper read at the Glasgow Sanitary Congress by Mr. Graham, Inspector of Schools to the West Riding County Council, dealt with a question which, though of considerable importance to the health of the rising generation, has hitherto received very little public attention. As Mr. Graham pointed out, a large percentage of scholars have a tendency towards eye and spinal troubles and consumption, and they must of necessity be adversely affected by being compelled to accommodate themselves to a fixed seat and desk, while even the healthy child can hardly be benefited by the same process. He accordingly has been experimenting in the production of articles of school furniture which shall reverse the usual order of things and accommodate themselves to the bodies, backs, legs, and eyes of the users, and he was able to exhibit specimens of "hygienic" desks which obviously are a vast advance upon the usual desk used in the schoolroom. The matter is certainly well worth the attention of school authorities throughout the country.

Another congress of sanitarians at which many questions of public interest were debated, was the meeting last week at Folkestone of the Royal Institute of Public Health. As I had suggested might be possible, the John James Jones' so-called "Homes," for consumption at Sandgate were freely referred to in the course of a debate upon a paper dealing with the whole question of sanatoria for the treatment of consumption; and the evils produced by this form of speculation in disease created such an impression that a special resolution recording the opinion of the congress that all such homes should be isolated from the general population, and be placed under the absolute control of fully-qualified medical practitioners, was carried by a large majority.

Incidentally I am glad to see that Dr. Perry, the medical officer of health for Sandgate, is at one with the *Lancet* and myself as to the undesirability of the Jones enterprise. In his speech on the question he even went so far as to declare that he thought it wrong to run such homes for private gain. I do not know that I would go so far as that myself, for, given efficient inspection, I see no reason why private enterprise should not be engaged in the relief of disease. Some system of licensing, such as is now applied to homes for inebriates, would probably be quite sufficient to prevent the occurrence of such scandals.

A correspondent, who has come to the not unlikely conclusion that the majority of people resent high poor rates, sends me the report of a case heard at Malling Petty Sessions, and asks what he pays a poor rate for. After reading the report in question I think I am in a position to give him an answer. A man earning £1 5s. 10d. per week was summoned for arrears on a maintenance order in favour of his mother, who is chargeable to the parish. The order was for 2s. 6d. a week, and the arrears amounted to £2 11s. 6d. He pleaded that with an ailing wife and a child to keep it was impossible for him to pay, but the Bench ordered him to do so within a month, or in default to go to prison for fourteen days. Unless the child and the ailing wife are a myth, I do not see how he can pay without injustice to them. If, as most likely will be the case, he does

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not comply with the order, and goes to prison, his wife, child, and possibly himself will eventually come upon the rates as well as his mother, and my correspondent can easily see why his poor rate is so high. It is unfortunate that a little sum in simple addition like this should be beyond the capacity of Bumble and Shallow alike.

Some useful light was thrown on the Messrs. Abraham and their "Merchants' Legal Aid Society" in an interpleader issue tried in the City of London Court last week. A judgment had been recovered against this concern for £23 10s.—the report does not state on what ground, but presumably the plaintiff was one of the many who have been duped into taking shares in the M. L. A. S., Limited. The amount not being paid, execution was levied at the M. L. A. S. office in Queen Victoria-street, whereupon the Secretary, John C. Abraham, claimed the office effects as his property. When the issue came to be tried, Abraham swore that he let the office to the Company at a rent of £400 a year, of which £160 was then in arrears, and that the furniture in the office had belonged to him twelve months before the Company was floated. He is, he said, a stockbroker—one of the "outside" variety, I take it—and the Company had the use of his clerks as well as his office and furniture.

There is nothing inherently improbable in these statements. In fact, I should be quite ready to accept them, for they show, what I have repeatedly said, that the Merchants' Legal Aid Society is nothing better than a *nom-de-guerre* of the Abraham family, or an instrument for enabling these worthies to plant their worthless shares on unsuspecting people by the means that have been described in Truth. This apparently was the view of Judge Rentoul. After Abraham had been cross-examined on the Truth articles and other matters, his Honour pronounced that all the evidence "pointed in one direction, and that was as clear as the noonday sun"; so he disallowed Abraham's claim, and ordered him to pay the costs. I congratulate the judgment creditor, and now that it has been established that the Abrahams' office furniture is good for the company's debts, it may be worth the while of some more of the victims of this concern to assert their legal rights.

Irish papers would do well to note the above case, for I hear that the Merchants' Legal Aid Society ("per pro J. C. Abraham, Secretary") has lately been angling on the other side of St. George's Channel. "The Society" (I quote one of Abraham's letters) "is about to appoint a local District Manager at Dublin." The District Manager is to have £208 per annum in salary, and 10 per cent. commission on the amount he collects from Irish merchants who think that they would be the better for the "legal aid" of Abraham's solicitors. By a little sum in addition and subtraction, on the lines of others of which I have given samples, Abraham shows the prospective agent that his monthly earnings under these two heads should amount to precisely £199 15s. An unscrupulous man might have made it a round £200, while he was about it; but, like the sportsman who shot the ninety-nine ducks, Abraham would not tell a lie for a paltry five shillings. Of course, the point of all this is that the District Manager is required to invest £100 in the 6 per cent. Preference shares of the Merchants' Legal Aid Society, paying £50 on application, and the balance within a month of appointment. The trick looks a little thin, but it has served to take in a good many people in England, and it may in Ireland. Hence these remarks.

The man Shuckburgh showed characteristic effrontery in again applying to Judge Austin, at Bristol on Friday, for his discharge from bankruptcy. Shuckburgh's disgraceful record as a usurer, trading under the alias of the Clerical and Medical Bank, is well known to my readers, and in December last I gave an account, on the authority of the Official Receiver, of the dodges by which he divested himself of his property before his bankruptcy in 1900, and so evaded payment of his debts, including the heavy damages which one of his victims had been awarded for an illegal seizure of his goods. When Shuckburgh became a bankrupt in 1900 it was discovered that he had never obtained his discharge from a previous bankruptcy. The fact that this discharge has since been granted was put forward on Friday in support of his further application in respect of his last failure.

Judge Austin did not mince his words in speaking of Shuckburgh, though he remarked that "he was not going to describe him in the picturesque language of a London writer." This was obviously an allusion to some of the strong things that have been said about Shuckburgh in Truth. But if more restrained, his Honour's observations were not lacking in severity, for he called Shuckburgh "an exceedingly oppressive and rapacious moneylender, so far as he was enabled to be oppressive and rapacious," and alluded to the "juggles" that he had effected with his property for the purpose of defeating claims against him. "There was," said the Judge, "no finding Shuckburgh, so to speak, under all the different aliases that he assumed and the different entities with which he sought to clothe himself—sometimes Edward Shuckburgh, sometimes the Clerical and Medical Bank, sometimes the Prudential Advance Bank, and sometimes the General Investment Company." Concluding with the remark that he would not take upon himself the responsibility of turning Shuckburgh loose upon the world again as a free man, the Judge refused the application for his discharge. To withhold a bankrupt's discharge absolutely is, no doubt, an extreme measure, but in Shuckburgh's case it is fully justified, and the only matter for regret is that his misdeeds have not been visited with a heavier penalty.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st, W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

The first place in my Pillory is undoubtedly earned this week by the Sparkhill Shallows, who consider that an enthusiastic gardener is a much greater source of danger to the community than the enthusiastic wife-beater whom they let off so lightly. The Lincoln justices once again afford an example of how difficult it is to bring home to the denser type of intelligence that the protection of property is not quite so important as the protection of the person. But the most singular exhibition of magisterial incompetence is afforded by the Dundrum Bench, who, after solemnly asserting that a father who had brutally assaulted his children was a disgrace to humanity, just as solemnly stultified themselves by letting the offender off with a paltry fine. In the still more atrocious case at Morpeth the magistrates did, it is true, inflict a term of imprisonment, but no one could contend that two months' imprisonment was in any way an adequate penalty for the terrible cruelty disclosed. It was one of those cases which, if on the charge before them they could not see their way to inflict a heavier punishment, they would have been justified in amending the charge sheet in order that the scoundrel should be sent before a judge to get his deserts:—

Sparkhill Police-court. Before Messrs. W. G. Madeley, J. Hughes, F. S. Jenks, G. Muscot, and H. Brown. John Hastings, charged with assaulting his wife. A long series of acts of cruelty culminated in an assault, when he struck her several times and threw a can at her. Bound over to keep the peace.

Lincoln City Police-court. James William Broom, charged with assaulting Lilian Gertrude Yeates and her father, the landlord of an inn. He threw a heavy iron match stand at the girl, cutting her elbow, and struck the father a severe blow on the jaw and another on the eye. Fined 30s.

Dundrum (Co. Dublin) Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Vere, Ward-Brown, and J. O. R. Carolin. Daniel M'Grane, charged with assaulting his daughter by beating her in bed with a cane, and his son by chaining him in a stable and beating him with a cane. Both were very badly beaten, and the chairman, declaring the case was a disgrace to humanity, fined M'Grane £1 and costs in each case, and bound him over to keep the peace.

Morpeth Petty Sessions. John Curry, charged with assaulting his daughter, aged fourteen. The child has no mother, and was thrashed with a belt which had a buckle at one end. Her body was one mass of bruised blood and flesh. Allegations of further misconduct of the father towards the daughter were made, and confirmed by the child. Two months' hard labour.

Sparkhill Police-court. Before the same bench of magistrates. John Thomas White, charged with using in his garden water supplied by the Birmingham Corporation for domestic purposes. Knowing he was an enthusiastic gardener, two inspectors watched him bring out a hose at nine o'clock one evening, and then pounced on him. Fined £1 and costs.

Lincoln City Police-court. Samuel Smith, charged with stealing a razor. Ten days.

Blackpool Police-court. William Tinsley, charged with playing pitch-and-toss. Fourteen days.

James Whittaker, for begging on Sunday afternoon. Fourteen days.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Thompson, C. N. Hunn, and W. Porter. James Ridley, charged with stealing a brush, value 3s., and with being drunk and disorderly on the same date. Twenty-one days' hard labour for the first offence, and seven days for the second.

Woodbridge Police-court. Before Mr. Jno. Loder. James Stebbings, charged with destroying his clothes in the workhouse. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before E. Knight and other magistrates. Henry Marples and William Parkes, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in possession of rabbits and nets. Fined £5 each and costs, or two months' hard labour.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Whitehead, Crosse, and Brown. Albert Silcock, charged with stealing 3½ lb. of potatoes from a field. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Mr. J. Cusworth, and Mr. B. Hall. Francis Holden, farmer, and Wm. Bradley, labourer, charged with cruelty to a horse by working it while in an unfit state. It was lame on both fore feet, and ought to have been destroyed. Fined 5s. each and costs.

Preston Borough Police-court. Edward Lee, charged with assaulting Mary Elliot, who remonstrated with him for threatening his mother. He struck her in the face and threw her to the ground, causing her head to bleed. Fined 10s. and costs.

Worksop Police-court. George Beeston, charged with assaulting James Shakespeare. He struck him with an iron pump-handle, breaking a finger and inflicting other injuries. Fined £2 and costs.

Sunderland Police-court. Henry Kirby, Thomas Barrass, and John Barrass, three youths, charged with ill-treating a cat. Thomas Barrass pulled it out of a garden by its tail, and swinging it round and round, threw it on the ground. The cat died soon afterwards. Thomas Barrass fined 2s. 6d.; Kirby fined 1s.; and John Barrass discharged.

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Evan Jones and R. S. Hughes. Geo. Taylor, charged with cruelty to a calf. He struck the animal five or six times on the head with a stick. Its right eye was bloodshot and discharging, and it held its head on one side. Fined 8s., including costs.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before the same bench. John Drewery, labourer, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having two rabbits in his possession. Fined 20s. and costs, or twenty-one days' hard labour in default.

Grimsby Police-court. James Ford, charged with wandering abroad without visible means. Twenty-eight days.

Larnack Eden, charged with stealing a chicken. Six weeks' hard labour.

Robert Irwin, charged with begging. Six weeks' hard labour.

Samford Petty Sessions. Before Capt. A. H. Morse and other magistrates. Charles Campbell, Joseph March, and James Pilgrim, charged with sleeping out. Marsh and Pilgrim twenty-one days' hard labour; Campbell seven days.

Brentwood Petty Sessions. Before the Hon. F. Petre, Messrs. J. Biggs, and J. W. Cooke. Frank Perry, twenty, a private in the 2nd Gloucestershire Regiment, charged with stealing a live tame pigeon, value £1. One month's hard labour.

Linton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. Frost, Nichols, and Stanley. John O'Reilly, charged with stealing a live fowl, value 2s. One month.

Highgate Police-court. Before Messrs. Fraser Black and A. Pye-Smith. Frederick Crisp, a boy of sixteen, charged with behaving in a manner whereby a breach of the peace might be created. He was at Crouch End Station asking people to allow him to carry their bags. He was out of work and had not previously been convicted. Seven days' imprisonment.

As the result of an action in the Lancashire Chancery Court, a "loan company" at Accrington has been restrained from issuing cards and posters containing "reflections" upon Saul Cohen, and Rose, his wife, who carry on business under the aliases of "The British Finance Company" and "Charles Russell." The report of the action does not set forth the "reflections" of which complaint was made. It is to be hoped, however, that these proceedings will not lead the public to imagine that the Cohens are above reproach. On the contrary, as I showed some months ago, they are blood-suckers of the worst kind, running a number of usury shops in Lancashire towns by means of essentially fraudulent advertisements, and bleeding their dupes in the most remorseless and unscrupulous manner.

Some recent proceedings at Bishop's Castle furnish a good example of the injustice which is constantly perpetrated in the administration of the Game Laws. John Bussey, assistant master in an elementary school, was summoned for trespassing in search of conies on certain lands at Colebatch, near Bishop's Castle, on May 30. The only witness in support of the charge was one Radford, a gamekeeper in the service of the land-

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

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owner. Radford swore that on May 27 about 6.45 p.m. he saw the defendant enter a field and lay a snare, and that early on the morning of May 30 he again saw the defendant go to the same spot, take up the snare and relay it. On the latter occasion Radford spoke to the defendant and searched him, but found no other wires or poaching implements of any kind in his possession. In evidence on his own behalf the defendant admitted that he was in the field on May 30. He was in the habit, he explained, of taking a walk through the fields before breakfast, and on this particular morning he came across the snare and was examining it when Radford came up to him; but he absolutely denied that he had set it, or that he knew anything whatever about it. It was shown that the defendant bore an excellent character. The Bench said that they considered it was "a bad case," and fined him £1 8s. 6d.

The only date specified in the summons was May 30, and at the hearing Bussey, being taken by surprise, could not for the moment remember where he was on the evening of May 27. He subsequently recollected that at the time he was said to have been laying the snare he was really in the town of Bishop's Castle; and a summons charging Radford with perjury was thereupon obtained. Witnesses were called who proved beyond a shadow of doubt that Bussey was in the town from 5 o'clock until 7.30 p.m. on May 27, and that he could not possibly have set the snare as Radford had alleged. The Bench, however, dismissed the summons for perjury with these curious remarks:—

We do not think a jury will convict. Therefore, on that ground we dismiss the application to send this case for trial. We do so, because we are advised that the plaintiff, in spite of our dismissal, has the power to prosecute at the Assizes, independently of us.

There seems to have been an uneasy feeling among the magistrates that their decision was likely to provoke hostile criticism. But they would certainly have done better not to attempt to meet it in advance, for the singular statement that they were dismissing the summons for perjury "because" Bussey could still prosecute "independently of us," simply suggests that the magistrates themselves were conscious that they were shirking their plain duty. On the facts, I do not think any impartial person can question either that Bussey was wrongly convicted or that Radford ought to have been committed for trial. But in Bishop's Castle, as in many country places, it is impossible to look upon the magistrates as impartial judges in poaching cases. With a single exception, those usually adjudicating at Bishop's Castle are landowners and game-preservers, and it was on the estate of one of their number that Bussey was said to have set the snare. The only member of the Bench who is not a game-preserver is the Mayor, a tradesman in the town, whose shop is patronised by his fellow-magistrates. I dare say that all these gentlemen conscientiously endeavour to hold the scales of justice evenly. All the same, their minds may be unconsciously biassed, and a system which entrusts game-preserving magistrates with the enforcement of the laws that have been made in their special interest can never be anything but unsatisfactory.

Lancashire towns have gained an unenviable notoriety of late years for corruption amongst their police forces, and now Barrow is to be added to the list. At the town council meeting last week the Watch Committee reported as the result of an inquiry that a large number of members of the force had been in the habit of dropping in for a drink at a local brewery when on night duty, and one councillor went so far as to say that this constituted the blackest case of corruption on record. But, though a good deal of discussion took place as to the punishments inflicted upon constables who had succumbed to the temptation, no suggestion that any action should be taken against the principal offender was made. A mere publican who is caught supplying a constable with drink when on duty rarely escapes an appearance before the magistrates, but I presume the Barrow Council imagines a brewer much too mighty a personage to be called to account in this fashion.

A letter recently written by the "Dr. M'Laughlin" gang to a party who had been nibbling, but had not taken the bait, contains this instructive paragraph:—

You can have our latest improved and best No. 8, "The Giant" Electro-Vigour, the regular price of which is £15, for £5, or our No. 7 for £3.

So that if he stands out long enough a customer can get the article for which £15 was at first asked for one-third of that price. This being the usual course of business, what clearer evidence could be desired of its swindling character? Let it be further remembered that the German police have lately warned the public of that country that the M'Laughlin belts, having been scientifically tested, are found to be useless for producing any medical results, and it will be seen that even the £5 asked for the £15 article is £5 too much. Yet there are plenty of English newspapers and magazines still ready to assist, at their own price, in finding fresh dupes for these Yankee quacks.

Another Transatlantic gang of the same type, the name of which will be familiar to my readers, is the "Diabetic Institute," otherwise the "Diabetes Flour Co.," of St. Dunstan's Hill, E.C. (with which is incorporated the "United Press Association," otherwise the "Christy Institute" for teaching journalism by post). A leaflet issued by this concern, which I have not previously seen, contains this passage, by way of preface, to several pages of alleged marvellous cures:—

We have a large and constantly increasing number of patients in all parts of the world, and to such the following may prove a source of hopeful encouragement, that they will in turn derive the same marvellous benefit that the subject of the history to be given derived from our truly life-giving preparation.

DIABENE is now universally admitted to be the most efficient specific for the cure of DIABETES MELLITES, and is prescribed by a large number of doctors in the various countries of the world. This is all the more remarkable when the rigid conservatism of the medical profession towards new preparations is taken into account.

It seems to me that if the law recognises such an offence as obtaining money by false pretences, gentry who advertise their nostrums in this style ought to be within reach of it, and it is a pity that some of those who are directly interested do not test the question.

A correspondent who was unwise enough to be tempted by Bevan, Son, and Thompson's circulars into entrusting these swindlers with cash for investment in one of their betting system operations, has forwarded me particulars of the result. He first of all, misled by the statement in the circular that small investors desirous of making a trial of the system could open an account with a 10s. deposit, forwarded £1. He received a reply stating that £2 10s. was the minimum, so he forwarded the balance. The system he selected was the "Outsider system," in regard to which Bevan, Son, and Thompson undertake to give a "guarantee trial free," for two weeks, the guarantee free trial being explained as meaning that the capital sent will be utilised in obtaining all the profits of the system without a possibility of loss, while the capital itself remains to the sender's credit, and will be returned the moment it is asked for. At the end of the first week Bevan, Son, and Thompson sent my correspondent a statement showing 50 per cent. winnings on £100 of capital invested. Being by this time a little doubtful as to the security of his money he wrote for its return. No notice was taken of the request, but at the end of the week he received a second statement showing winnings to the extent of 300 per cent. At this time his capital became actively utilised, and, as might have been expected, at the end of the week he received a statement showing the capital to be lost.

The whole transaction is so clearly an impudent fraud that I feel it necessary once again to call the attention of Messrs. Parr's Bank, the London and County Banking Co., Lloyd's Bank, and the Union of London and Smith's Bank, to the fact that "intending investors" are referred to certain of their branches in Bevan, Son, and Thompson's circulars. At the same time this gang of swindlers give as their registered telegraphic addresses, "Excitement, London," "Miracle, Manchester," and "Bevanson, Delft." Whether they are really making use of the Post Office or not to assist them in their nefarious enterprises I have no means of knowing, but if they are it is high time the postal authorities ceased to afford them such facilities.

I am asked to mention that there is no connection of any kind between Clark's College, of 1, 2, and 3, Chancery-lane, London, and the American concern described in last week's TRUTH under the name of the Commercial Correspondence Schools, Rochester, N.Y., and carried on by Charles S. Clark, of hypnotic notoriety.

Inquiries have reached me respecting appeals to buy needlework (enclosed "on appro."), issued by one Catherine Denis, recently in lodgings at Twickenham. The lady describes herself as a widow, "supporting herself by the sale of her work," but, owing to an accident, only able to use her right hand. She gives the names of Lords Buchan, Kenyon, Ingestre, and others as having patronised her by buying her work. From inquiries I have made, I have no doubt that this woman is identical with one "Kate Denis," who was referred to in TRUTH some years ago—the last time, so far as I can discover, was in January, 1896. There is no occasion to discuss her record now. When I last dealt with her she had been getting a precarious livelihood in this way for many years, and apparently she has been doing the same ever since. She belongs to precisely the same order as the women who beg in the streets under pretence of selling matches, pencils, or bootlaces, but the trade probably pays better when carried on by post, with references to a few titled customers. I do not think myself that it is a mode of living to be encouraged, but that is a matter for individual judgment.

I have received the following from a Liberal correspondent in the neighbourhood of Wareham, and cheerfully publish it, as I have no wish to generalise too widely, to the prejudice of the Dorsetshire Tories, from the particular instances of misconduct mentioned last week:—

> I am sorry to see you fall foul of the landowners of East Dorset, for I can assure you that, in this corner of the county, at least, they behaved with most exemplary fairness at the time of the election, and one—a stalwart Tory—lent waggons to bring up his men, although he knew quite well that they meant to vote for Mr. Lyell. I was in the middle of the fray, and I have been a Liberal all my life, but I can assure you that I have never heard in these parts of such silly conduct as that described in this week's issue of your paper. . . .

There is a little grievance affecting the coloured population of Mauritius which wants putting right. Prior to 1888 the Notaries Public at Port Louis, who have special rights of practice over the whole island, were all white men, and in that year their number was increased by three, avowedly to throw open the notariat to all classes and colours. For awhile the plan of filling vacancies in these three offices by qualified members of the coloured population was adopted, but a vacancy which occurred in 1891, and another in 1900, were filled by white candidates in spite of the fact that coloured gentlemen were available. Thus there is now only one coloured notary left in Port Louis, and it seems as if the notariat will soon again become the monopoly of the white man as it was before 1888. Now, as a good sportsman, the Colonial Secretary must see that this is not playing the game.

I never yet knew of a war between two nations in which neutrals did not complain of the action of one or other of them. In our own case we have when at war generally been in hot water with neutrals, because we have acted upon interpretations of international laws which were not recognised by others. Twice armed neutral leagues have been formed against us. In 1812 we claimed the right to search American warships, and to press into our naval service all sailors who we asserted were Englishmen, with the result that the United States declared war against us. We should not

forget all this, and we should be exceedingly careful in taking offence before we know the facts of Russian action in regard to which we consider that we have cause of complaint, and also whether Russia is prepared to meet our complaints defiantly. War between two foreign Powers must interfere with our sea commerce more than that of any other neutral, because we have so far larger a commercial marine than any other nation. This naturally causes irritation, and it is to be regretted that this irritation should be fanned by our Jingo Press, for nothing is more easy than to bluster, and nothing more enticing to that Press than to pose as patriots "who still stand no nonsense." If we really have been wronged, we are bound not to take it "lying down." All I plead for is that we should act with caution and deliberation, and not take it for granted, either that we have been wronged, or, if wronged by some unauthorised and improper act of a Russian sea captain, that we shall not be righted by the Russian Government.

I am told on what I believe to be good authority that the reason why the *Malacca* was seized in the Red Sea was this. She put into Antwerp on her voyage out. There several German firms put themselves into communication with the captain, and offered to pay very high freights on contraband intended for Japan. These proposals were very rightly declined. But the Russian agents at Antwerp got wind of the proposals, and, believing them to have been accepted, cabled to the Russian agents in the Red Sea that the *Malacca* was carrying contraband of war. In the meanwhile the contraband was placed on a German vessel, which probably is now on its way to Japan, having got through the Red Sea without being visited.

I seldom pay attention to *ex parte* statements, and never until I have heard what the other side has to say. The *Allanton*, for all that I know to the contrary, may have been unjustly condemned by the Vladivostok Prize Court. But I must hear the evidence submitted at that Prize Court, and wait to learn whether its decision is confirmed by the Russian Court of Appeal, before I feel myself competent even to form an opinion.

In regard to the British ship sunk by the Vladivostok squadron because it contained, or was believed to contain, contraband destined for Japan, it certainly appears to me that this act was contrary to recognised international law. All text-writers lay down that a neutral vessel carrying contraband cannot be destroyed by a belligerent unless there be some overt act of resistance against search or capture. It may be that in this case such act did take place, but on the face of it this looks improbable. A belligerent may destroy the merchant vessel of a belligerent, but even this is regarded as a harsh act, only morally permissible when it is impossible to send the ship as a prize into a port of the captor's country. But here, too, I want facts before forming a definite opinion as to the rights or wrongs of the matter.

Nothing would be more desirable than that an international conference should decide as to the rights of belligerents against neutral vessels on the high seas. It was decided by the Treaty of Paris that "free ships make free goods." But there are many points on which there is no clear consensus of opinion, and this difference of opinion amongst nations bristles with dangers to peace. The differences would, I think, vanish were the questions threshed out at a conference, for it is not in the interest of any nation that they should continue.

I certainly am not amongst those who question the right of revolution in any State, in which the Government is confided to an irresponsible individual uncontrolled in its exercise. But I do not believe that, even in such countries, the assassination either of the autocrat or his instruments is justifiable. Once admit the legitimacy of political assassination, and no public man is safe, for there are persons in every State who would take upon themselves the right to decide under what circumstances, and against whom, it should be exercised. In recent years, a King of Italy, a President of the French Republic, and two Presidents of the United States have been killed, not from motives of private revenge, but because certain persons thought it was in the interests of their political views that the head of the State should be slain. Yet none of these were despots; the Constitutions of the States over which they ruled were based on the self-government of their peoples, and the victims themselves respected the conditions under which they occupied their posts.

M. de Plehve was the Minister of an autocrat. Faced with what he deemed attacks upon the autocracy, he met them with harsh and drastic methods of repression, as they have been met generally in Russia. The system, however, was rather in fault than the man. Against that system a revolt would have been justifiable, but not the murder of the instruments who enforce the system. Because an individual puts others in prison or otherwise punishes them, acting as the instrument of a despot, it does not follow that any one acquires the right to slay him without trial. Judging by what always has been the result of such assassinations, they are followed by still more repressive measures, whilst the act itself alienates many who otherwise would side with those who desire to effect a radical change in the scheme of government.

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THE FISCAL PIRATE.

A Nautical-Fiscal Ballad.

The sky was clear and the breeze blew fresh,
And the waves were a-dashing free,
When a ship bowled up on the starboard tack—
'Twas a pretty sight for to see!
The Government flag from her masthead flew,
And an innocent craft seemed she,
And her skipper he loafed on the upper deck,
And he winked at his crew, did he.

"Yo Ho, my boys!" this was what he said;
"Keep your 'dead-lights' fixed on me!"—
"There 's a number o' vessels," observed the mate,
"All a-clustering on our lee.
They 're a-flying the 'Free Trade flag,'" he said.
Snapped the Boss, "Ay, much *too* 'free';
But that 's no matter, we 'll capture the lot
If you do what you 're told," said he.

With the same he sailed close up to them,
And, as mild as milk, said he:
"Free Traders, ahoy!"—"Aye, aye!" said they.
"Well, and so," said he, "are we!
Just look at our flag!" and he pointed up
To her merchantman burgee.
And all those Traders cried, "Yo! Heave Ho!"—
It 's a way that they have at sea.

Then that wily captain he winked again
At his men, and he says, says he:
"The time has come for to play our trumps;
Take example, my lads, from me!"
And helter-skelter away they buzzed
(So to speak, like the busy bee),
Till skipper and crew, in a brace o' shakes,
They were all armed *cap-à-pie*.

With a belt begirdled, each sailor man
On a gun and a sword seized he,
And a heavy "Protection" boarding-pike,
And a Brummagem snickersee!
The piles of Blue Books that masked the guns
They sent tumbling in the sea,
And "Tariff Maxims" away they banged
At the vessels upon their lee.

Where water-casks had been "dumped" before
Carronades you now could see;
And a brass "Long Joe" from the upper deck
Kept on firing fast and free;
Whilst down came the peaceful merchant flag,
That of no more use could be,
And "The Jolly Roger," up it went
To the truck, with a one, two, three!

It was short, sharp work, for the merchantmen,
Deceived to a gross degree,
Were beaten before they could show their teeth,
As the pirate he did foresee.
And as they surrendered right and left,
These "Traders," no longer "Free,"
They swore at that hanky-panky trick,
And that skipper's treacherie.

* * * * *

When, later, "Preventive Cruisers" came,
Of the "Pirate" no signs they see,
But only an innocent merchantman,
Just as mild as mild can be.
For as soon as she 'd captured all the ships
That had clustered upon her lee
She had hauled her "Jolly Roger" down
And hoisted the false burgee!

But the country, noting the scurvy tricks
That of late we are forced to see,
Demands that this pseudo-merchantman
To her colours true shall be;
And that, whatever her pretext is,
Whatever her specious plea,
She shall *always* the "Jolly Roger" fly
So long as she sails the sea!

The fiscal "hogs" have been greatly depressed since the result of the Oswestry election has been known. It was regarded as a safe Conservative seat, no matter what might happen elsewhere. Mr. Chamberlain and his "hogs," therefore, insisted upon a "hog" being the Unionist candidate, and bitter is the disappointment at the animal having been so badly beaten. It would not surprise me if this defeat were to lead a good many of the "hogs" to reconsider their position. They did not enter the Birmingham sty with any desire to emulate the fate of the swine of the Gadarene hills. They thought that their chance of survival would be better than if they declared themselves against food taxation, and now that they have discovered that they are not likely to find salvation in the Birmingham sty they will explain that they took refuge in it under a misapprehension. I really feel a sort of unreasoning pity for these poor Unionists. The Balfour raft and the Birmingham sty have proved themselves equally untrustworthy.

Canada and Australia, our two most important Colonies, should state whether they really are so sordid as Mr. Chamberlain would have us believe. "The loyalty of Canada," said Sir Wilfrid Laurier, a short time ago, "is not to be bought." Mr. Chamberlain assures us that Canadians will look to the United States and not to us as their future ally unless we pay them the price which they calculate their loyalty to be worth. Is this so? Our Colonies have, he tells us, submitted to us the amount which they expect, and if we refuse it the offer will not be renewed. What is the offer, when was it made, and what action will the Colonies take if we do not close with it? Is he rightly stating the position taken up by those whom he has described as his clients? I decline to believe on his word that our Colonists are such mean and contemptible hucksters as he would have us believe, until his statements are confirmed by them. Silence, I would respectfully point out to them, is often taken to give consent, and in a matter that so closely concerns their honour they should speak out.

"I never have called myself a Protectionist," said Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in the debate on the third reading of the Finance Bill during an excursus that he was making in defence of his father's fiscal proposals. What he is pleased to call himself, or not to call himself, is a matter that concerns himself alone. We have only to do with what he really is. Protection means the imposition of duties on foreign imports for other than revenue purposes. His father is in favour of this, and so apparently is he. A black man might as well say, "I never have called myself a black man, and therefore I am not one," or a bottle of laudanum might as well be regarded as a bottle of milk because it is so labelled by a purchaser of poison. It is precisely this sort of verbal trickery which—whatever may be thought of the

respective merits of Protection and Free Trade—has convinced the country that Ministers are, in addition to their other shortcomings, arrant hypocrites.

The debate was remarkable for three things—the speech of Mr. Shaw, that of Mr. Brodrick, and that of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Brodrick thoroughly enjoyed himself, for he sneered at Mr. Arnold-Forster, and went so far as to give a very creditable imitation of his pompous and egotistical manner, and up to now we have not been accustomed to one member of a Cabinet adopting this attitude towards another. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made the worst speech that probably ever has been made by any Minister of Finance. It was an object-lesson against entrusting the finance of an Empire to a gentleman because he is the son of his father. Mr. Shaw's speech was so clear and crushing an exposure of Unionist finance that it ought to be circulated throughout the length and breadth of the land. He showed that our annual expenditure has increased by nearly 50 millions in the last ten years, with the result that the head for every family in the United Kingdom pays £6 per annum more in taxes than he did. In ten years the cost of the Army has increased 11½ millions and that of the Navy 19 millions. In regard, however, to the Navy, the real increase is not shown in the estimates, for under the Naval Works Act there is an automatic increase, which in a few years will bring up the cost to 54 millions per annum. For every £5 on armaments that we spend, our colonies spend 1s. Whilst on education we spend 11 millions, on the fighting services we spend 66 millions.

Although taxes have increased, 159 millions have been added to the National Debt, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been obliged to use unclaimed dividends for revenue purposes. The war contribution that Mr. Chamberlain assured us was to be paid by the Transvaal has not been forthcoming, and our expenditure has been swollen by the huge garrison that we keep up in South Africa. After pointing to the fact that the Government apparently believes that we can get 15 millions from the foreigner by a 10 per cent. duty on imported foreign manufactured goods. Mr. Shaw wound up by declaring that "there is no national danger greater than that the Government charged with the revenue and expenditure should fail in the first and highest duty of honest statesmanship—namely, to be true to its own financial faith." This seems to be obvious. Either the Government does not believe in the possibility of throwing 15 millions of our annual expenditure on the foreigner and thus relieving the present taxpayers of this amount, or, if it does, it is guilty of the gravest dereliction of duty in not at once asking the country to adopt this convenient scheme of finance.

Ten years ago we had already augmented largely our expenditure on military reserves. We were told that we had an efficient Army and Navy. If this was the opinion then, what has since occurred to justify an annual increase of expenditure of above 30 millions on these two services? Other Powers have added nothing to the cost of their armies. They have increased their navies, but this increase has been due to our increasing ours, and entering into a struggle with the entire world to outbuild it in ships. Mr. Chamberlain announced that we are a conquering race, and that our Empire must perish if it did not for ever expand. Naturally other nations took fright at this buccaneering profession of faith. So would the most peaceable citizen were a neighbour to arm his house like a fortress and to announce that he intended to expand his property. People may approve or disapprove of the advice tendered to us to "think imperially." One thing at least is certain, thinking imperially costs us an additional 30 millions per annum, and acting imperially has not only added 159 millions to our national debt, but has had a most unfortunate effect on our trade and commerce.

According to the *Times*, the Unionist M.P.s were implored by the Government to vote against the resolution of want of confidence, moved on Monday by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, because any reduction in the Government Parliamentary majority would weaken Mr. Balfour's hands in his negotiations with Russia respecting our complaints that they have exceeded belligerent rights in their action towards neutrals. Does the Government really suppose that Russia is not perfectly aware that our Ministers do not dare to appeal to the country, because they know that the country is against them? Or does it suppose that a Parliamentary majority which is repudiated by the country at every election, is likely to influence Russia's action in regard to a moot point of international law? The Government must be weak so long as it remains in office against the will of the nation, for it has not the nation behind it. There is no reason to believe that a Liberal Government would not protect our rights as neutrals as efficiently as the present scratch crew of Barnacles. The General Election was won on the cry, "every vote given for a Liberal is a vote given to the Boers," and they seem to hope to retain office by raising the cry, "Any vote given against us is a vote given to Russia."

The Croydon Unionists have refused to adopt Mr. Ritchie as their candidate at the next General Election, because he declines to follow their example, and to change from a Free Trader to a Protectionist. In this he has shown himself an honourable and honest man, and he is to be congratulated upon putting principle above personal interest—unlike so many Unionist M.P.s, who are prepared to change their coats no matter how often, in the hopes of being re-elected. Mr. Ritchie was Chancellor of the Exchequer. A duty had been placed on all imported corn, and it had been stated by his predecessor that this was a temporary loan to meet war expenditure. Mr. Chamberlain determined that it ought to be made perpetual, as he saw in this tax a method to grant a fiscal preference to the Colonies. Mr. Ritchie stood at first alone in his opposition, but the

Cabinet could not well break with him. Vainly, therefore, Mr. Chamberlain stormed and bullied. The duty was taken off.

But Mr. Chamberlain does not tolerate opposition to his behests, and when Mr. Ritchie and other Members of the Cabinet showed that they were not prepared to turn Protectionists at his bidding, his henchman, Mr. Balfour, concealed from them the resignation of the Colonial Secretary until he had their own resignations in his pocket. Never was there a dirtier trick played by a Premier on his colleagues, and it was a foolish trick also, for he had only to wait in order to clear out the Free Trade section of the Cabinet, all of whom would have joined the Duke of Devonshire in his resignation, so soon as they had convinced themselves that the Premier was playing into the hands of Mr. Chamberlain. In these days, when so many men seem ready to eat dirt for the sake of a seat in the House of Commons, Mr. Ritchie's sacrifice, not only of a seat in that assembly, but of the post of Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to his honour. I doubt if there are many men who act like him.

THE IMPULSIVE HEN RAVEN.

'Twixt Hawk and Crow, in Days of Yore,
Arose a State of open War;
And each his Level Best must try
To do his Rival in the Eye.
The Raven—'twas in Nature so—
Was predisposed to back the Crow—
That is, with *Sympathy*, you know;
For, prudent, had he no Desire
To singe his Plumage in the Fire,
Nor cared to earn vicarious Laurels
By fighting other People's Quarrels.
One Day his Hen, whose Head was less
Well balanced than her Mate's, I guess,
But rather of the Feather Sort
That Female Ravens mostly sport,
Came fussing in with furious Clatter.
"My Pet," says Cock, "why, what's the Matter?"
"The Matter?" shrill and wild she caws.
"That Hawk, he's broken Avine Laws!
Go you at once, and give him Claws."
"But what's he done? Be more precise."
"Done?" the indignant Hen replies;
"Our Cousin Rook he's, bold, waylaid,
And, for no Reason, Pris'ner made."
"No Reason?" "None; I give my Word;
A Pretext merely—most absurd;
Pretended he had Cause to know
Rook was *en route* to aid the Crow."
"But was he?" "By Elijah, no!"
"Didn't the Rook protest?" "Of course;
But had to yield to major Force.
And Hawk, he swears he'll hold him tight
And straight before the Owl indict.
Such Conduct can't be borne!" shrieks she.
"Off, I insist, and set him free!
What! You would hesitate, you Craven?
I vow you are not Half a Raven!"
"Impulsive Pet," rejoined her Mate,
"If Things are really as you state—
That is, if Cousin Rook can show
He'd no Design to aid the Crow—
Methinks that he can well afford
To wait th' impartial Owl's Award."
"But if he can't?" "Why, then, my Dear,
How can I justly interfere?"

Moral.

The *Moral*—and I think it true is—
You'll find a little South of Suez.

SCRUTATOR.

A SESSION OF HANKY-PANKY.

THE Session is now practically over, and the peculiar methods of Mr. Balfour and his supporters have proved so far successful that the disunited Unionists remain in undisputed possession of their Downing-street laagers until Parliament is called together next year for the transaction of business. Clearly some radical reform is needed if the House of Commons is to reflect the public opinions of the country, and if the freedom of debate on the issues before it is not to disappear.

In 1900 we were at war with the Transvaal. The Jingo Press had so misrepresented what had transpired at the seat of war that the country was under the impression that our military operations had been conducted with intelligence. In that year a General Election took place. Ministers announced that the war was over, and asked the electorate to return to Parliament men who—irrespective of all differences of opinion upon domestic issues—would support them on what was then called the khaki issue. The war, however, was not over, and a Commission later on disclosed the fact that it had been conducted in defiance of commonsense, owing to the perpetual interference of Ministers at home and civilians in South Africa with our commanders in the field. Had all this been known the result of that election would probably have been very different. But, be this as it may, one thing is absolutely certain. A large number of electors believed the assurances of Ministers that the Parliament that was to be elected would not legislate on controversial domestic issues. These assurances have not been kept. Ministers have taken advantage of the khaki majority thus secured to legislate on domestic issues in a fashion that is entirely contrary to the views of the Liberals who gave them their support. The only excuse put forward for this is that, if Liberals are so foolish as to trust to Unionist pledges, they deserve their fate. In this there is a certain measure of truth; but it does not exonerate the Government from having been false to their pledges. A fool may deserve little pity who is cheated out of his money by the confidence trick, but this does not prevent a magistrate sending the man to prison who has swindled him.

It is now a little more than a year ago since Mr. Chamberlain launched his fiscal scheme. It was followed by the resignation of himself and of several of the leading members of the then Cabinet who complained that their resignations were due to the bad faith of the Premier. They were replaced by men most of whose names were politically almost unknown. Under this condition of things Parliament met last February. During the Session now closing the object of the Cabinet has been to stave off all discussion on fiscal matters. Ministers declare that collectively they are opposed to food taxation, which is the corner-stone of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal reform. Their own fiscal policy is nothing beyond a modest suggestion that we have the right to retaliate if any foreign State treats us with exceptional fiscal injustice; but even in such a

case, retaliation is not to go the length of imposing a duty on foreign imports of food or of raw material used in our manufactures. But their collective creed is entirely different from their individual opinions. Under these circumstances Mr. Chamberlain has devoted his efforts to capturing the Unionist Party, and in this he seems to have succeeded, having been greatly aided by most of the Unionist Free Fooders declining to give any vote that might turn out the Government. The "whole-hoggers," as they call themselves, have acted with more backbone—they have notified the Government that their support is contingent on no attempt being made to pledge the Party to the limited fiscal programme of the Cabinet. In the meantime, therefore, to this ultimatum Mr. Balfour and his colleagues have succumbed.

The Session has not alone been remarkable for this despicable attitude of the Cabinet in regard to fiscal issues. The rules of the House of Commons have been so stretched, that it has been impossible to criticise the action of the Cabinet on many other matters. What ought to be the Great Council of the nation has only been able to debate what Ministers permit, and then frequently under restrictions that have reduced discussion to a farce. The chief legislative exploit of the Government has been to carry a Licensing Bill at the bidding of the brewers, which, with cynical impudence, its members assert will benefit the cause of temperance, by converting annual licences to sell spirituous liquors into perpetual licences, which can only be withdrawn by compensating their owners for the monopoly with which they have been presented. Their other achievement has been to legalise the introduction of Chinese chattels into the Transvaal under conditions which are very little removed from slavery.

During the past twelve months there have been numerous bye-elections. In most of them the Ministerial candidates have been defeated, and where this has not been the result the Ministerial majority has been reduced. Ministers admit that, if there were a General Election, it would go against them, and plead this as their reason for not dissolving Parlament, thus making themselves the masters instead of the servants of the nation. In the House of Commons their majority has fallen to one-half what it was a year ago, in part because of the bye-elections, but mainly because so many of the Unionist M.P.s have refused any longer to support them.

No one can say that this is a state of things conducive to good government or in accordance with the interests of the country. The Ministry has lost its most important members. It always was to a large extent a clique of cousins and aristocratic political amateurs. It has become more and more so. It maintains itself in office at present by the votes of a subservient majority elected four years ago on a special issue, ready to vote black or white at the bidding of their Whips, and anxious to prolong the existence of the present Parliament because they fear to face their constituents. The Premier and his colleagues are as clay in the hands of the Birmingham potter, who issues to them as though they were his lacqueys orders which are obeyed with the cringing servility of slaves. No one has confidence in the Premier, for he seems to have a positive delight in equivocation and shifty trickery. The country is longing to get rid of the entire crew, bag and baggage. Even those in favour of Protection perceive that uncertainty in regard to our fiscal future is harmful to trade and commerce, and would have the issue between Free Trade and Protection submitted to the verdict of the country at once. The present Parliament has fallen into contempt and ridicule, and, with the exception of the members of the Administration, their Parliamentary chattels, and their Press hacks, the demand for a dissolution is universal.

During the recess Ministers will be freed from even the nominal control of Parliament. If they be so minded, they will be able to involve us in some foolish little war abroad, such as the Somali or the Tibet expedition, or to make us participants in the Russo-Japanese war, in order to get out of the impossible position in which they now find themselves. They have announced that they mean during the recess to grant some limited self-government to the Transvaal without Parliamentary sanction. As they have already shown that they not only regard the war taxes as permanent imposts, but consider that additional taxes should be added to them, they will spend money to their hearts' content, if not to that of the taxpayers. Mr. Arnold-Forster has vaguely outlined a scheme of Army reorganisation. The details will be filled in as soon as Parliament is no longer sitting, provided Ministers can agree among themselves what they are to be. In the meanwhile, they will aid Mr. Chamberlain in his fiscal crusade, and still vow that collectively they stand to their own fiscal programme. Mr. Chamberlain will make speeches in which he will boldly assert what he knows to be absolutely untrue; and the Tariff Reform League will organise Protectionist meetings with the ample funds that are provided by manufacturers and Rand magnates.

The only way to end this sorry farce is a dissolution and an appeal to the electorate. That any Ministry should refuse such an appeal because they know that it would go against them, and defiantly retain office because four years ago they secured a Parliamentary majority by deliberate misstatements, is a depth of meanness to which we are unaccustomed. A Liberal Ministry could not do it even if it would, for the House of Lords would force a General Election. But when the Conservatives are in office the House of Lords is non-existent as a controlling force against this abuse. All that the country can at present do is to seize every opportunity to protest, as it has done at the Oswestry and other bye-elections. Passive resistance to the payment of taxes, and other revolutionary action would become a duty, were it not that time will effect its own cure, and that in one, or two, or at the most three years, an opportunity will be afforded to give such a lesson to Ministers who violate the spirit of the Constitution for their own ends, that the most unscrupulous of future Ministers will hesitate before treading this path.

DAKHYL *V.* LABOUCHERE.

The action brought by Dr. Dakhyl for an alleged libel in TRUTH being still *sub judice*, I am precluded from making any observations upon it. But I give below a *verbatim* report of the judgment which the Court of Appeal delivered on Thursday last, ordering a new trial. The reports in the daily press were necessarily somewhat abbreviated, and the full text of the judgment should be read if its effect is to be properly understood. I have omitted from this report only the prefatory remarks of the Master of the Rolls, which contain no material observations:—

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS: The appeal is brought to us on the ground that there has been a miscarriage here, or at all events that there may have been a miscarriage here, because it is said that the verdict which passed for the plaintiff was delivered after the summing-up, in which the law had either been misstated, or had been stated in such a way as not to allow adequate clearness to make it thoroughly intelligible to the jury. The action is one of libel, and the main defence is that the libel raises a question of public interest, also that the comments upon it contained in the libel are fair comments upon a matter of public interest; and there was also a plea of justification—both of them, if proved, answers to the plaintiff's case. The point mainly pressed at the trial was the first of those two, namely, that this article, which was the subject of the action, was a fair comment upon a matter of public interest.

There are certain known facts in the case which underlie the discussion. The plaintiff is a gentleman who has a degree from Paris, a degree of M.D. It stated in the case of the circulars, which must have had his assent, if he assented to either of them, that he has certain other claims. He is described as a Doctor of Science, and, I think, a person who has got a degree in arts. I inquired as to whether those statements were true in fact or not, but I have not been able to find any evidence of any degree, except the Paris degree of M.D. That unquestionably does not constitute him what is called a fully-qualified practitioner under our law at all. He is not debarred by law from pursuing the practice of his profession in this country, but with the limitations of his doing it which are invariable in our own law. This gentleman was undoubtedly connected for about a year with an institution called the Drouet Institute, which became notorious, and was the subject of a series of articles in TRUTH, the last of which was published about nine months before the libel which is the subject matter of this case. The system carried on by that Institution was one which consisted in spreading advertisements far and wide, pointing out the dangers and the possibilities of deafness in individuals, and suggesting application by letter to the Drouet Institute, in return for which a series of questions would be sent out to them drawn upon a form, to which they were invited to send an answer specifically dealing with each question, and upon that would follow a diagnosis and advice. The form of advice—(we have had some samples of it)—usually, was that certain drugs were to be purchased at certain prices from the Drouet Institute. In this way a very wide-spread net was cast over a large portion of the public. Large numbers of persons applied to the Drouet Institute, and were advised, and for the year in question the plaintiff was unquestionably the Chief Medical Superintendent—I am not sure that I am using the right word, but he was the chief physician or the physician of that Institution. As I have said, there was a series of articles in TRUTH which exposed the methods and the working of this Institution in the strongest possible language, and it turned out that the plaintiff himself, partly in consequence of the imputations made in TRUTH upon a gentleman who was then, as far as we know, and as far as appears in this case, the real manager of the Institution. In consequence of aspersions made upon him, the plaintiff in this case seems to have severed his connection with the Drouet Institute, and to have set up a practice for himself. He left the Institution about July, 1902, and the libel in question was published in April, 1903. The libel is not long, and as it is some time since it has been read, I think perhaps I had better read it. As I have said, it is the last of a series of articles published in TRUTH with reference to the Drouet Institute, and those articles—(the other articles)—were put in and commented upon at the trial, and properly put in, because I do not think it is possible to realise the position of the parties with reference to the plaintiff and the defence in this case, without having in view the articles which had preceded the ones in question. This is the article in question:—"Sundry inquiries have reached me during the last week or two respecting one Dr. H. N. Dakhyl, of 178, Holland-road, Kensington"—that is, the plaintiff—"who appends to his name the symbols 'B.Sc., B.A., M.D., Paris, etc.,' and describes himself as a 'specialist for the treatment of deafness, ear, nose, and throat diseases.' Possibly this gentleman may possess all the talents which his alleged foreign degrees denote; but of course, he is not a qualified medical practitioner, and he happens to be the late 'physician' to the notorious Drouet Institute for the Deaf. In other words, he is a quack of the rankest species. I presume that he has left 'the Drouet gang' in order to carry on a 'practice' of the same class on his own account; and probably he is well qualified to succeed in that peculiar line." It is in respect of that article that the plaintiff brings his action.

It is no part of our duty, and we are not here, to try the case at all. We are not here to pronounce any opinion upon the rights or wrongs or the merits of this case, but we are here to see whether the case has been conducted in strict accordance with the law, and whether the jury have received from the judge that full and accurate direction upon the law to which they are entitled, or whether, even if the summing-up contained passages here and there which did correctly state the law, they were qualified by the context and were so diluted that the jury may have addressed themselves to decide this case without an adequate appreciation of the real issues which they had to determine. As I have said, the summing-up is a very long, careful, and elaborate summing-up, but it is challenged, and challenged in two important respects by the appellants in this case. They say, first of all, that being an action for libel, the first and most essential principle of law in reference to libel is that the interpretation of a suggested libel, a question whether it is or is not, under the circumstances, a libel at all, is for the jury, and it is said here that the learned judge, partly, no doubt, through over anxiety to found himself upon precedents, has in fact taken upon himself, though he did not intend to do it, the province of the jury in the first respect of determining whether this paragraph is a libel, and what the meaning of it is. The question of the meaning of it unquestionably would be one for the jury, as also would the question be whether it was, in point of fact, a libel at all or not. I will deal with the first of those objections, because it is the one put into the forefront by Mr. Hansell, who has addressed us in his very able, and by no means too long, reply.

I find that the learned Lord Chief Justice more than once in this case says the gist of this libel is the imputation to the plaintiff that he is a "quack," and he himself lays down what the true meaning of "quack" is. I take a passage from page 17 in my copy, which is the last one in which he deals with the question before the jury. It is the last of a series of observations which all seem to me to point in the same direction. He says, first, as to the degrees, "I do not know anything about the various degrees myself except upon the evidence," and then he goes on to say that the Paris degree means considerable medical attainments. "We have a great respect for the M.D. of Paris, and they have a considerable degree of proficiency as to throat, nose, and ear diseases." That he takes from the evidence of one of the witnesses called for the defence. "Therefore, the question of the man being a fully qualified man, able to deal with the treatment of such diseases, when he is an M.D. of Paris is put beyond all question in this case. Therefore it is not because he is not a properly qualified man, and, as I pointed out in the early part of this case, this libel does not say that he had no degree, or that he was advertising himself. The issue here is, Aye or No, is he a quack? Now I ought at once to say to you that, although you may think it ungentlemanly (and perhaps I may be allowed to say I do think it very ungentlemanly and unprofessional) to advertise, it is not against the law. One has sympathy with men who are struggling to make their way in any business, and possibly Dr. Dakhyl would be better advised if he abstained from advertising; but I am entitled to tell you that the defendant is not entitled to call the plaintiff a quack because he advertises, and Mr. Shee very properly corrected himself when I pointed out that he had gone too far. Mr. Shee at first said quite unintentionally that a man was a quack if he advertised. I should have been bound to tell you that that is not the law. Mr. Shee very properly withdrew the expression, and said if a man advertises it is some evidence of his being a quack. The fact of the plaintiff having advertised, and making up his prescriptions, and sending them by post, has nothing to do with this case. The question for you is simply this: Aye or No, is this man, an M.D. of Paris, a quack or not?" That seems to me to be calculated to suggest to the jury that if a man had an adequate qualification he cannot be a quack, and if that is the direction, and I think it is involved in the passage I have just read, and is made still clearer by other passages that precede it when they are read together—if that is laid down and was so understood by the jury—in my opinion that was a misdirection. It is not for the learned Judge to lay down to the jury what constitutes a quack, and to my mind it is perfectly conceivable that a man of the very highest attainments can bring himself under an imputation of being a quack if he carried on his profession by quack methods and lent himself to a class of practice which might fairly be described as the practice of a quack. It would be for the jury, and not for the Judge; and, therefore, if the jury approached this case under the impression that they could not find this man a quack unless they were satisfied that his qualification was not real, they approached it under a misconception. That is the passage on page 17. I have read it, first, because it sums up the position, but it comes after one or two other passages which I think I must read also. On page 15 he says this:—"You have to consider, as was put before you by both the learned Counsel, that you are dealing here with a doctor, and after referring to a fact regarding him, they themselves put their construction upon what they meant to say—that 'he was a quack of the rankest species.' All I can say is this, I am bound to tell you that, unless you come to the conclusion that that is true on that part of the case, it has been ruled, over and over again,

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as I have already told you, and it ought to be ruled that, to call a medical man a quack of the rankest species, means that he is not only incompetent, but that he is puffing his incompetence before the public, or, in other words, he is pretending to medical skill which he does not possess. That is why I was obliged to interrupt Mr. Shee for a moment, and to tell him that it would be for you to consider. He said: We know that is not a question of skill, and I do not mean to say that he is not a clever and competent man, but it will not do to say that here, and then he goes on to put the question, as read by Mr. Hansell. That seems to me again to be a confirmation on the part of the learned Judge that a man cannot be a quack unless he is not only incompetent, but is puffing his incompetence. At all events, that he cannot be a quack unless he is incompetent. That is preceded again by an earlier statement on the same point. He says this:—"If you in writing (or verbally, for that matter, but we need not consider slander) attack a professional man and say he is unfit to carry on his business or say that he carries on his business in an improper manner, that is a libel, and it is a libel for which you must pay damages (I am not on the question of damages), unless you can prove it to be true. Now, it has been for a great many years decided in the Courts without any change or difference of opinion that to call a medical man a quack is libellous, and it ought to be so, because, of course, although it is entirely for you, the understood meaning of a quack is speaking of him from the point of view of the medical profession—and I adopt the language which has been used by others, which is now embodied in what I may call the text books of reference—'a boastful pretender to medical skill which he does not possess.' If the plaintiff has been charged with that, the defendant has to justify that, and no question of fair comment will arise." Of course the two things run into each other in this case. The question of the definition of quack, and the question of fair comment; but following the argument of Mr. Hansell, I feel it best to deal with them separately, and I have pointed out that it seems to me I cannot be sure that those repeated statements by the learned Lord Chief Justice, where he emphasises the definition of "quack," which he says is accepted, and ought to be accepted, and where he emphasises as the cardinal essential factor in the meaning of "quack" that he is incompetent. I cannot be sure that the jury were not led in this case to suppose if they were of opinion that this gentleman was fully qualified, then, however much they might object to the practices of the Drouet Institute, and however much they might think he was identified with them, they were, nevertheless, bound, giving due effect to the express direction of the Lord Chief Justice, to find that the plaintiff was entitled to damages in that he was a skilled person, and it had not been proved that he was not, and therefore it had not been justified that he was a quack.

Now I come to the other branch of the case, and that is, aye or no, was the question of fair comment in this case a question for the jury, and, if so, was it adequately left to them? In my opinion, the question of whether this was a matter of public interest—that I think is rather for the judge than for the jury, that has been decided by the judge in favour of the defendant's view, for the judge does lay down in more than one passage in which I entirely agree with him—one was a passage which was referred to by Mr. Hansell—he does undoubtedly lay down the law that comment upon the plaintiff's connection with the Drouet Institute would be comment on a matter of public interest.

Then we have got to see whether, having laid that down, he gives the defendant the benefit of it in this case, and one of the points taken, and, in fact, I think the chief one relied upon by the defendant here, is that the learned judge has withdrawn from the defendant the protection of that right of fair comment upon that matter of public interest. But what the learned Lord Chief Justice has done in this case is that, while admitting that comment upon the plaintiff's connection with the Drouet Institute would be protected, as comment upon a matter of public interest, if it were fair, he withdraws that protection from that part of the libel which deals personally with the plaintiff. I will refer to one or two passages to show that he has divided the case, as it were, into two compartments, first, a general animadversion upon the Drouet Institute, and, secondly, comments upon the plaintiff's personal position in the matter, and that while he has held the one to be a subject matter of fair comment, he has excluded the other on the ground that the personal attack takes the writer quite outside any possible excuse or privilege by reason of it being comment upon a public matter. He puts the issue thus: "Has the defendant libelled the plaintiff? If he has libelled the plaintiff, is the libel true?" Perhaps it is not a very serious criticism, but it does entirely up to this part ignore the other possibility—namely, that a question of fair comment may arise. That criticism would not be just, but for the fact that the learned Lord Chief Justice has himself at once laid down at the outset of the case that it is clear that there is a libel. If that is the libel upon which he is summing up the case, then the question of fair comment should have been named as one of the issues which would have to be decided in dealing with the case, and it ought not to be confined merely to the question, "Has he libelled, and if so, is the libel true?" No doubt in one sense that is right, because if the alleged libel is only fair comment, which is not a libel, and, therefore, it would be covered sufficiently by that statement; but, taking the rest of the case together, it seems to me that it points to this, and confirms the view that the learned Lord Chief Justice had not sufficiently the bearing of this right of comment upon a matter of public interest in his mind in respect to this case. Then he goes on, "You were told yesterday, and you were told again this morning, by Mr. Shee that the real question here was—was this fair comment, and that if it is fair comment, the fact that the defendant has used strong or exaggerated language, if honestly used, would not prevent it from being fair comment. Upon one part of the case that is a perfectly just observation—namely, upon that part of the case which involves the question of the kind of practice that the plaintiff has carried on; but I am bound to tell you (and I ought to tell you plainly and forcibly, as I indicated to Mr. Shee when he was addressing you, and when he rather invited my observation, and took it, as he always does, very fairly) that that has nothing to do with the personal attack upon the plaintiff as a man in his profession. If you find that the defendant has libelled the plaintiff in his profession as a medical man, the fact that the defendant wanted to comment upon a system which he did not approve of, would be no justification at all. That is why I say you must keep clear in your minds throughout the whole of this case the distinction between commenting upon a system of which the defendant does not approve, and as to which he has a right to express an opinion, and an attack upon a professional man carrying on his business. You have heard a great deal very eloquently put to you about the freedom of the Press, and of the public benefit, and as to protecting the poor, and a great number of other high sounding phrases have been used on behalf of the defendant, who has not gone into the box to justify his position. It is my duty to tell you that you have nothing to do with that view of the case at all. I will direct you in a moment as to what your duty is; but with regard to any suggestion as to the freedom of the Press or public benefit, you have nothing to do with any of those considerations.

With the greatest possible respect to the learned Lord Chief Justice, who has given so much time and attention to this case, I cannot agree with that as being an adequate statement of the law in reference to an adverse comment made upon an Institution which could not go on without the work of individuals to carry it out. An adverse comment made upon an Institution necessarily involves a comment upon the persons who are carrying it out, and it seems to me that the protection of fair comment applies just as much to individuals and to criticism of the individuals who are carrying on an Institution as it does to the Institution itself. If the subject matter of the connection between the two is a matter of public interest, as the learned Lord Chief Justice himself lays it down, then it seems to me that the right of the writer to criticise the conduct of individuals is just as large as the right to criticise the Institution itself, and so long as he remains within the bounds of fair comment, if he does not go beyond what in the opinion of the jury would be fair, and does not use it merely as a pretext for prying into the private affairs of the individual he is referring to, and imputing motives to him—so long as he keeps within the bounds of fair comment, he is entitled to comment upon the conduct of individuals in relation to an Institution. It may be that the nature of the reputation of the Institution is such that it cannot be dissevered from the individuals who work it, therefore it seems to me that if in the opinion of the jury the summing-up in this article of the proper epithet, the proper characteristic, to be bestowed upon the plaintiff in view of his connection with the system which they are commenting upon—if in the opinion of the jury it would be a correct summing-up, or, at all events, a possible summing-up, and one honestly within the province of a public writer, to call a person so connected with it a quack, if that was the opinion of the jury, it would entitle the defendant to a verdict in this case. It seems to me that the learned judge has really, by the passage that I have read, excluded the defendant from that protection. That passage would lead the jury to suppose that, as long as the Institution was commented upon, then if it was reasonable, the defendant was safe, but if he passed from the Institution to the individual who was working it, and commented not upon his motives, because that is not in question here, but upon his methods, and said his methods were quackery, and that a person who practised the methods of quackery was a quack, it seems to me that that would be within the protection of what is called fair comment upon a matter of public interest, and the defendant would be entitled to that protection. It seems to me that that passage of the learned Lord Chief Justice's summing-up may have withdrawn from the defendant that protection which he was entitled to by the law. The jury may have been misled as to the attitude they should properly take up in dealing with this question upon that particular matter, and if that be so, unless it is corrected and qualified by other parts of the summing-up, that in itself would be sufficient ground to lead one to a real and serious doubt as to whether the jury had the proper materials for their judgment before them when addressing themselves to the decision of the case.

I do not think I need refer again to the numerous other passages in the summing-up, which really are almost in the same terms, and certainly delivered from the same standpoint by the learned Lord Chief Justice. He has drawn a line which no doubt can be drawn, and should be drawn upon an occasion which justified public comment being turned into an occasion for private abuse, but I think that in drawing that line he has not drawn it so clearly as to leave us any sort of certainty that the jury were not misled by the way in which he put it. On the contrary, it seems to me that *prima facie* it would lead the jury to a misconception as to what the real boundary line was. I will not go into the matter further, because on these grounds it seems to me as a result of this summingup, careful and elaborate as it was, I cannot be wholly clear that the matter has been properly before the jury. I think they may have been led to think that unless it could be proved in truth and in fact

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that this man was not incompetent, they could not find him a quack, and I think they have been led to think also that there was no protection for the defendant in the circumstances unless he justified, that is proved the absolute truth of what he said. In my opinion there was a question for the jury whether this article, taken not alone but in connection with those preceding it, was not simply a comment upon a matter of public interest, and that it became a question for the jury whether or not that comment was fair under proper directions. As I have said, we have nothing to do with the final decision of this case or with the rights and wrongs between the parties; we are merely here to see whether the technical conditions on which the trial ought to have been conducted have been properly fulfilled, or whether there has been reason to suppose there may have been a miscarriage in this case. I think the appellants have succeeded in making out that possibility, and on those grounds I think this case must go down for a new trial.

Lord Justice Stirling: I am of the same opinion, and for the same reasons. I should be pleased to stop there and simply acquiesce in what has been said, but that I feel that the importance of the case, the fact that we differ from the learned Lord Chief Justice, who devoted great attention to the case, and the respect due to the very able argument we have heard, both from Mr. Rawlinson and Mr. Hansell, require that I should add a few words to explain why I have arrived at the same conclusion as my Lord. In this case a new trial is asked for on the ground of misdirection, and two matters are objected to in the summing-up. One is that the question of the meaning of the libel was not brought before the jury in such a way as to leave them free to consider one aspect of the case which the defendants desired to submit, and, secondly, that the question of fair comment was really withdrawn from the jury altogether. Throughout the trial and throughout the summing-up the sting of the libel is treated as being these words applied to the plaintiff, that he is "a quack of the rankest species." And in directing the jury, the Lord Chief Justice saw fit to point out and to define the meaning of quack. He says early in the summing-up:—"I adopt the language which has been used by others which is now embodied in what I may call the text-book of reference—'a boastful pretender to medical skill which he does not possess.'" He repeats that, and refers to it in several passages in the course of the summing-up to which my Lord has already referred, and which I will not repeat. Then just at the very end, before he hands over the matter to the jury, he concludes thus: "It seems to me that the first question you have to consider is: Has the defendant established before you that this man was a quack of the rankest description? That is the sting of the libel. I am not going over it again. I have told you what that means, and you will consider it from that point of view." That refers back to the old definition which he had given. That definition implies as an essential element in a quack that he should not possess the medical skill which he claimed; in other words, that he should not be competent. If that be the true meaning of the libel, then no doubt the verdict of the jury is perfectly justified, because one result of the trial was clearly to establish the competence of the plaintiff in the present case. But the defendant desired to submit this view to the jury: he says of the plaintiff in the libel that he is not a qualified medical practitioner, that is, that he is not a person who is fully qualified to practise in this country in the sense that his name is not on a register of physicians. "He is not a qualified medical practitioner, and he happens to be the late 'physician' to the notorious Drouet Institute for the Deaf. In other words, he is a quack of the rankest species." They say the Drouet Institute is a well-known Institute, which had in point of fact been attacked in the columns of the paper Truth on many previous occasions, and attacked in the strongest terms. About a year or nine months before this appeared, in the year 1902, there was an article which was so strong that even the plaintiff himself in his examination in the box admitted that he advised the then manager of the Drouet Institute that he ought to bring an action to vindicate his own character and that of the Institution, but no such action was brought. In those articles the Institution was charged with quackery of the grossest description, and the question which the defendant seeks to raise, and which he says was not properly brought before the jury by the summing-up of the Lord Chief Justice, is this: Whether the plaintiff, though competent, did not use methods such as would be used by pretenders to knowledge which they did not possess; that is to say, quacks in the ordinary sense, and whether the plaintiff, being in such a position, is not properly to be called a quack. That seems to me to be a possible view of the libel, and having read the summing-up of the Lord Chief Justice through, more than once, I confessed that I am not satisfied that it was brought fairly to the minds of the jury that that was a question upon which they ought to pronounce an opinion—a question which they might consider, and whether they might not possibly (I do not say that it would be so; I desire to abstain from expressing an opinion as to what the proper view is) take that view in favour of the plaintiff.

The second question is very closely connected with the first, namely, whether this libel may not be vindicated on the ground of fair comment. The Drouet Institute, of which I have already spoken, was an institute which appealed to the public. It was largely advertised, its proceedings formed the object of comment, as I have already stated in this newspaper and in others. The plaintiff was for the period of a year, from the end of June, 1901, to June, 1902, physician of that Institute, and in his capacity as physician took an active part in the management. The nature of the proceedings alleged against the Drouet Institute by the newspaper itself I have already indicated. It was admitted in the passage to which attention was called during the argument by the Lord Chief Justice that the fact of the connection between the Institute and the plaintiff was one on which comment might be made, and, I think, rightly. He said, "It has been truly said by Mr. Shee that if a gentleman, however qualified, becomes connected with an Institute which has laid itself open to criticism, he cannot complain of his conduct in that respect being criticised, and I tell you the defendant is perfectly entitled to comment upon the fact that the gentleman of whom he was speaking, if inquiries had been made about him, had been connected with the Drouet Institute." That being so, it would seem that there was a question to be considered by the jury, whether the defendant having, in the first place, stated in the way I have already pointed out, that he is not a qualified medical practitioner, and that he happened to be the late physician to the notorious Drouet Institute for the Deaf, and going on to make the remark, 'in other words, he is a quack of the rankest species," was not making a fair comment upon an action which subsisted between the plaintiff and an Institute against which it was alleged that it had pursued methods which were improper on the part of a medical man. Again, I desire to abstain from expressing any opinion as to what the result of a true consideration by the jury of that point, if it had been brought before them, might have been, but it seems to me, reading the whole of the summing up, as I have endeavoured to do, with the greatest care, that that was not a point which was fairly left to their consideration, and, it appears to me, it was one upon which the defendant was entitled to have the benefit of their judgment. For these reasons I think that the result of the trial was unsatisfactory, and that there ought to be a new trial.

Lord Justice Mathews: I am of the same opinion, and I have arrived at this conclusion not without considerable hesitation, because in the summing-up there are passages which appear to me clearly and fairly to state the law, but, unfortunately, those statements are so compromised and altered by other portions of the summing-up which advise the jury as to how the case should be dealt with, that I am not satisfied that the case was properly presented to the jury, and whether they properly understood what it may be the Lord Chief Justice meant to convey to them. I do not propose to repeat what has been already said by my Lord and my learned brother, but it seems to me extremely important to bear in mind what the nature of this statement in the newspaper in question really was. It was a warning to the public to be careful in accepting the advice and treatment of the plaintiff because he had been associated with a disgraceful Institution, namely, the Drouet Institution. A feeble attempt has been made to defend the Drouet Institution. The evidence submitted to the jury upon that point, and submitted to us, establishes, it seems to me, that it was a disgraceful Institution carried on for unworthy objects by discreditable means. The process was, as my Lord has stated, to disseminate among humble people the notion that if they answered certain enquiries it would be possible to diagnose their cases and to treat them without a personal interview. No intelligent man would listen to such a suggestion for a moment. It is palpably absurd that any proper advice could be given under such circumstances. That was the system of the Drouet Institution. The Drouet Institute had been advised by a physician who lost his diploma because of his connection with it. It is a singular thing that at that critical moment the plaintiff gave up his practice in Paris, came to London, saw an advertisement, placed himself in communication with the manager of this Institution, and was immediately employed as their medical adviser. An attempt has been made to praise him from the fact that he gave the Institution up, and if he had done so within twenty-four hours after he had been there, or I should give him a week, everybody would offer him commendation and praise him for what he had done; but he remained there for nearly twelve months, and, during the whole of that time, he a competent and able medical man, knew of the deceit which was being practised on the humble people who came to this Institution for advice. How can he possibly hope to escape being challenged upon any action when it is necessary to refer to his past about his connection with the Institution? It has been attacked in this newspaper; the evidence before us was abundant to show that the attacks were justified. No one connected with the Institute ever made any complaint in a Court of law of the language that had been used about the Institute. The plaintiff tells us that he was so shocked when Carré was called a rascal that he left the Institution, but he did not go for several weeks after the article appeared, and then he did go. Now is it necessarily a libel upon him when he left and set up in business for himself, for the public to be warned?—"This is a man who was associated with the Drouet Institute, and carried on their business by means which have been condemned, and which they have not made any effort to defend themselves from. This is the man who is now setting up for himself," and is it very wrong to say, "It is only too likely he will carry on the business for himself that he carried on previously for others"? That is the whole meaning of that article. It seems to me, with the greatest deference for the Lord Chief Justice, the jury ought clearly to have had every matter put before them. It was a matter in their province, and not in the province of the Lord Chief Justice, under the circumstances, and, with reference to this man, has he been

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libelled because attention had been called to his past career? Most of the observations addressed to the jury by the learned Lord Chief Justice give the go-by to the past completely. The jury appear to have supposed that the only question was, whether the plaintiff, who was carrying on, it was said, a perfectly respectable business, long after he had left the Dronet Institution, ought to be called a quack. That is not the purport of this article. He was not being denounced for the way in which he carried on his business then, but attention was being called to his past, and it was said, "It may be he is carrying on this business in the same way." An attempt is again made on the part of the plaintiff to show that he had not been carrying on his business in that way to any extent, that he had in a great measure given it up. Why had he given it up? I do not suggest any answer. He was still carrying it on, and, although an attempt was made to show that that was so small a matter that it ought not to be taken into account in dealing with these articles and these comments upon him, he had his own pamphlet published, in which he states that, although he would prefer to see the patients, he is still prepared to advise by correspondence.

That being the state of things, it appears to me the learned Lord Chief Justice, in sympathy that really it is hard to resist with the plaintiff in the case, did not lay down to the jury clearly and accurately with reference to that comment upon the plaintiff, that it was for them and nobody else. It was not for him to say what it meant, it was for them to say what it meant, and they ought to have had an opportunity of saying whether, with reference to such a person with such antecedents, it was a fair comment to make in the public interest. I do not go through the rest of the case which has been dealt with so fully by my Lord and my brother Stirling, but it seems to me that this was a simple matter in one respect; it is the province of the jury to decide what the law intends they should do. This was for the jury, and the question is one which the jury should have answered. Do not let it be said or supposed that I am laying down what the jury ought to do. There is much to be said for the plaintiff upon this point, and I by no means intend to intimate any opinion upon the subject, but the question is for them, and it is of the last importance, it appears to me, in order that the public right should be protected, that we should direct in a particular case that the law should be clearly and carefully laid down, in order that the jury may consider the case.

Mr. Shee: The appeal is allowed, I suppose, with costs?

The Master of the Rolls: Yes.

Mr. Rawlinson: I should ask that the order should be made that the costs should be costs in the cause in an application for a new trial.

The Master of the Rolls: Yes; they abide the result of the new trial.

Mr. Shee: I thought the practice was that we had the costs of the appeal, and that the costs of the action abided the event. I thought that was the practice.

The Master of the Rolls: I do not think so.

Mr. Shee: I am told by my learned friend, Mr. Bankes, that that is the practice.

Mr. Rawlinson: There is no practice one way or the other.

The Master of the Rolls: The usual practice is that they abide the event.

Mr. Shee: May we have the money that has been paid into Court paid out?

The Master of the Rolls: Yes.

THE MOKAU ROMANCE—*FINIS*.

Readers of Truth will doubtless have seen in the daily papers reports of the trial before Mr. Justice Bigham of the action for slander of title brought by Mr. Joshua Jones against Mr. Wickham Flower, Mr. Charles Cæsar Hopkinson, and others concerned in the various transactions by which he has been kept out of his property in New Zealand for upwards of eleven years. After four days' hearing, at the end of which the case had not advanced beyond the conclusion of Mr. Jones's evidence in chief and in cross-examination, a settlement was arrived at on terms which, if they do not represent a full measure of justice, are so far satisfactory that they secure to Mr. Jones the restoration of the property for which he had been fighting so long. Mr. Jones is given the right to buy out Mr. Flower and Mr. Hopkinson within two years, on payment of £17,000, and they undertake to get rid of the tenants whom they have installed on the property. At the end of the two years, if the money is not paid, the debt becomes a simple mortgage on the property. Any questions that may arise in the course of the settlement are to be decided by Mr. Justice Bigham.

Thus ends one of the most extraordinary stories that are to be found in all the records of the Law Courts. I congratulate Mr. Jones on the attainment of the result for which he has laboured and suffered so long. I respectfully congratulate Mr. Justice Bigham on having worked out a satisfactory solution of an entanglement which has occupied at different times nearly half the judges on the Bench, and which at times has seemed almost too complicated to be ever unravelled. I congratulate his counsel, of whom Mr. Lawson Walton in particular has shown the keenest personal interest in the case, and has twice fought Mr. Jones's battle successfully before the Court. And, lastly, I congratulate myself on having contributed in some small way to the result. Mr. Joshua Jones is good enough to tell me that if it had not been for Truth he would never have won the battle. As a mere man, I am bound to tell him that he has a great many other good and able friends who have given him quite as much help as I have. As a journalist, I feel equally bound to record that Truth has at any rate done something, for journalists are unhappily compelled for business reasons to blow their trumpets on their own account occasionally. It was early in the year 1898 that Mr. Jones first walked into this office with an introduction from one of his many good friends. His position then looked unpromising enough. Five years before that (in January, 1893) he had come to London to dispose of the great estate on the Mokau River, which he had acquired as the reward of his services in reconciling the Maori Chiefs to the New Zealand Government. Four months later had occurred the transaction which resulted in the passing of the property into the possession of his solicitor, Mr. Wickham Flower. Having bought the property, nominally for the protection of his client, when it was put up for sale in the Colony at the instance of one of the mortgagees, this gentleman immediately afterwards turned round and claimed to have bought it for the joint benefit of himself and Mr. C. C. Hopkinson, who had found a portion of the money. The five years intervening between that date and Mr. Jones's first appearance at Truth office had been occupied in fruitless efforts on his part to eject his late solicitor from the position thus taken up. Offers to buy back the property had been made by friends of Mr. Jones and refused. Mr. Jones had been made bankrupt by a gentleman who had advanced him some small sums, and who subsequently declared that he would never have taken this course had he not been misled as to the true position by the parties in possession. Two Chancery actions had been brought for the redemption of the property. The second had been compromised in Mr. Jones's favour on the eve of trial, but at the last moment he had been prevented from carrying out the terms by means which formed one of the grounds for the action tried last week. He had made a complaint to the Incorporated Law Society against Mr. Flower and been refused a hearing, although the then Attorney-General—the present Lord Chief Justice of England—had himself conveyed to the Law Society his opinion

that the case called for investigation. In a fit of desperation the unfortunate man had then attempted to draw attention to his wrongs by communicating to the police a furious libel on all the parties who had had anything to do with the Mokau estate. He had been prosecuted for libel at the Old Bailey, and the jury, much against their inclination, had been induced to find him guilty on the assurance of the Common Serjeant that the punishment would be only nominal; with the result that he was bound over in his own recognisances. He had then broken down in health, and been for some time in a hospital.

That was the history of Mr. Jones's first five years in London, and when he came to TRUTH Office the prospect of his eventual reinstatement in the ownership of the 50,000 acres on the Mokau certainly looked cloudy. I felt myself rather like a straw at which a drowning man was clutching. However, the straw served its purpose, and Mr. Jones's head has never since quite gone under water. I told the whole story of the Mokau Estate up to that point in TRUTH in June, 1898, and distinctly charged Mr. Wickham Flower with having obtained and held this property by a breach of his professional duty as a solicitor. The immediate result was sufficiently dramatic. There was a run upon Messrs. Hopkinson and Sons' bank in Regent-street, resulting, at the end of only two or three days, in the putting up of the shutters, and the disappearance of the firm into the Bankruptcy Court. Mr. Flower himself, from whom I was quite prepared for a writ for libel which would have enabled the issue raised by the TRUTH article to be properly disposed of, contented himself with intimating that he had applied to the Incorporated Law Society to hold an inquiry into the charge I had made against him. The Law Society, as was to be expected, replied that they had no jurisdiction to do anything of the kind, whereupon Mr. Flower relapsed into his policy of "passive resistance." The bankruptcy, however, of Mr. Hopkinson, whose interest in the property was based on a declaration of trust executed by Mr. Flower after the purchase, brought the Mokau question directly under the jurisdiction of the Court, and a great many protracted proceedings followed, details of which would only weary the reader. The most interesting of them to me arose out of an attempt to sell the property at the Mart under an order of the Court by the trustee in Hopkinson's bankruptcy and Mr. Flower jointly. The week before the date of the sale I published an article under the title "Caveat Emptor," warning all whom it might concern of the doubtful nature of the vendors' rights. An application was made for an injunction to stop the sale of that issue of TRUTH, and was refused by the late Mr. Justice Byrne, whereupon the property was withdrawn from sale. This application was the first step in an action for slander of title commenced by the vendors against me. This action lingered on for nearly two years. I obtained an order for its removal into the King's Bench Division, in order that the issue might be tried by a jury, but when it was ripe, and over-ripe, for trial the plaintiffs abandoned it, paying my costs. Nothing could possibly show more clearly than this, Mr. Flower's consciousness of the untenability of his position. Another action grew out of the bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Justice Wright, who did his best for Mr. Jones, as all the Judges have done, ordered that proceedings should be taken in Chancery to set aside the foreclosure which had been obtained after the futile compromise in 1896. The action was commenced, but Mr. Jones, who all these years has been earning his bread by the sweat of his brow, had no money to prosecute it, and eventually it was dismissed by Mr. Justice Cozens-Hardy.

But in the meantime action had been taken in another direction. Sir Richard Webster, as he then was, had become Master of the Rolls, and had used his authority in that office to compel the Incorporated Law Society to hold the inquiry into Mr. Wickham Flower's conduct which they had refused several years previously. The result was in accordance with the proverb about leading a horse to the water. After a long and exhaustive inquiry, the Law Society's Discipline Committee exonerated Mr. Flower; and I may remark in passing that nothing that has been heard against that egregious body in recent years reflects more discredit upon it than this decision. On the application, however, of Mr. Jones, backed up by TRUTH, the report of the Discipline Committee was referred to the Court, and then for the first time a result of practical utility to Mr. Jones was arrived at. Justices Channell and Phillimore found that in the purchase of the estate and the subsequent claim to hold it for his own benefit Mr. Flower had been guilty of professional misconduct, and ordered him to pay all the costs of the proceedings. The lightness of the punishment—though it was heavier than it looks, the costs amounting to something like £2,000—is explained by the fact that the inquiry was limited solely to the time during which the relation of solicitor and client existed, and as this relation ended a few weeks after the sale, Mr. Flower's conduct during the long years that followed was not before the Court at all. The decision was affirmed, with emphasis, by the Court of Appeal. It might have been supposed that after this Mr. Flower would have endeavoured, if only for his own sake, to put himself right by an effort at reparation, however belated. He thought otherwise. I made an offer to act as mediator with a view to a settlement, and Mr. Sneath, the trustee in Hopkinson's bankruptcy, came to me. But the terms asked were such as Mr. Jones would not accept, and such I could not advise him to accept, and it was evident to me in this negotiation that the obstacle to a settlement was still Mr. Flower. With the finding of the Court to strengthen his title in New Zealand—and it must be remembered throughout the whole of these proceedings that the English Courts have no jurisdiction over the title to property in New Zealand, although it was material to Mr. Jones's purpose to make his title good here if he could—Mr. Jones succeeded in finding parties who were prepared to negotiate for the purchase of the property, but the claims of the men in

SUMMER HOLIDAYS.—WEYMOUTH, the charming Dorsetshire seaside resort. Delightful scenery. Steamboat and char-à-banc excursions. Send six ld. stamps to Town Clerk for illus. guide.

possession always remained in the way. The last instance of this occurred about a year ago, when, after Mr. Jones had all but concluded an agreement for a sale of his rights, Messrs. Flower and Sneath suddenly advertised the property a second time for sale at the Mart. The sale was abortive, no bid being made; but this advertisement of the claims of the other parties had the effect—as has happened again and again during the story—of frightening off Mr. Jones's purchasers. So matters went on until a few months ago, when Mr. Jones found legal advisers skilful enough to devise a new method of bringing the question before a jury, and the means at the same time of fighting the action. And so this eleven years' fight came to an end.

I do not wish, after peace has been declared, to descend again into the battlefield to do a little sparring on my own account. But every reader can see for himself that a great wrong has been done to Mr. Jones for which he gets no compensation. For eleven years he has been deprived of the enjoyment of a property the annual value of which, when its great mineral and other resources are developed, must certainly be measured in thousands of pounds. (He had refused an offer of £160,000 for the coal on the property alone before he first came to London.) He has lost, not merely eleven years of this income, but eleven years of life, eleven most precious years, for when he came to London he was a man over fifty years of age. He has spent those eleven years in the most pitiable circumstances, exiled from his own country, separated from his wife and children, often in acute poverty, subjected often to cruel indignity, suffering incessantly the torture of hope deferred, fighting single-handed against all the resources of wealth and social influence, with old age ever drawing nearer, and health and strength failing. The machinery of the law has ground many a younger man to death or driven him to insanity in less time. No pecuniary compensation could adequately repay him for all that he has lost and suffered. He gets—nothing. On the other hand, the eminent City solicitor whose conduct—adjudged by the Court of which he is the servant to have amounted to professional misconduct—has involved his former client in this cruel and protracted wrong, emerges in the end scarcely a penny the worse. The amount invested by Messrs. Flower and Hopkinson in the acquisition of the property was under £9,000, being the amount due upon the pre-existing mortgages. The £8,000 odd added to that sum in the settlement arrived at last week represents not only comfortable interest on that investment for the space of eleven years, but a handsome allowance for costs incurred in the meantime, which on no moral ground—I am not speaking now of law—can possibly be chargeable against Mr. Jones or his estate. If incidentally either of these gentlemen has suffered beyond the amount now awarded to them, they have no one but themselves to thank, and at the utmost it is an inconsiderable loss when weighed against the long years of suffering on the other side that have grown out of the original wrong of 1893, and its perpetuation from time to time in innumerable subsequent transactions. For this reason I said at the outset of this article that the settlement now arrived at is no adequate measure of justice, although it may be the best that any court of law, tied by its own conditions and formulas, could do for Mr. Jones, even under the direction of the most sympathetic judge. It would have been a pleasanter task for me, as one who has been closely involved in this fight, if, in writing the last chapter of its history, I could have recorded that the gentleman whose attitude throughout has exposed him to so many unfavourable reflections, had now in some degree changed his attitude, and done something to entitle him to a kindlier verdict. But he has evidently no such desire, and the verdict must stand—a verdict which, though first arrived at in a newspaper office, has been endorsed by the tribunal having legal jurisdiction in such matters, equally endorsed, as I think I may say, by every one of the Judges of the High Court before whom this case has come, and endorsed, I am confident, by all that section of the public who have any knowledge of the facts. And there I take leave of the Mokau Estate, in the hope that the last chapter of the romance attaching to it has now been written, and that nothing remains for its lawful owner and his heirs and successors but to live happily ever afterwards.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—IV.

I have now introduced the Englishman who has not previously made the acquaintance of England to the principal districts worth knowing south of the Trent and west of the Severn. The region which lies to the north is every bit as rich in natural beauty and historical interest. In some respects it is more so, and if I do not treat it as minutely it is chiefly for lack of space, and partly because one of the objects with which I started on this survey of our native country was to show Londoners some of the opportunities for holiday-making at their own doors. If I attempted to perform the same task for the inhabitants of Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, and all the great towns of the North these articles would run on till next Christmas. Besides which my impression is that the Northerners are much better acquainted with their own country, and far less given to scouring the Continent in search of new holiday resorts than we Cockneys.

Let us take up the map, then, again at the point where we stopped last week. The next district in a northerly direction which at once commends itself to the holiday maker is Derbyshire. The Peak district evoked enthusiastic eulogies from no less critical a judge than John Ruskin—who is said to have dubbed it "the Switzerland of England." Many parts of it are certainly difficult to surpass in any part of the United Kingdom, while every nook and corner is pleasing to the eye. There is more water here than in Devonshire, and running water, according to the authority just mentioned, is one of the essential elements in a fine landscape. The hills are high enough to exercise the legs of any reasonable man, and the air is the finest inland air in England. If health is one of the objects of holiday-making, you cannot make more certain of it than here. Buxton and Matlock are, of course, famous health resorts. I find, however, among some of my acquaint-

ances an idea that Buxton is only a place for a rheumatism "cure," and that Matlock is only worth visiting for the sake of its waters. If you have any such notion dismiss it at once. Buxton is a delightful place for a summer holiday. It claims to occupy the highest site of any town in England. It is surrounded by hills and valleys of inexhaustible beauty. It is a well-found town in itself, developed by the same ducal enterprise that created Eastbourne, with excellent hotels, and plenty of local amusements. Matlock is much the same, on a less ambitious scale. Bakewell, which you pass on the Midland line on your way to Buxton, is charmingly situated on the upper waters of the Wye, in the heart of the finest part of North Derbyshire, for seeing which it forms an excellent centre. From it you can easily reach Chatsworth and see almost the finest gardens in the world. Haddon Hall, one of the most famous old houses in England, is also within easy reach. I recommend any one who really wishes to master the charms of this district to make a regular tour of all these towns, for which the circular tickets of the Midland Company offer ready facilities; and a point not to be overlooked is that the district is easily accessible, through the Midland and its connections, from London and all parts of England, by some of the best trains we can boast of. I may also mention that none of the railway companies issues a more useful and attractive set of guide books than the Midland, and they should be consulted by anybody visiting the various districts served by this line.

From Derbyshire I will take you northwards to another region not half enough known—the moors and dales of Yorkshire. I am not, of course, addressing myself to the sportsmen who will be flitting in this direction on "the Twelfth," but to the ordinary migratory townsman. I do not think the average Englishman—at any rate, the southern Englishman—has the slightest conception of the beauties of the West and North Ridings and the adjoining districts of Lancashire, Westmoreland, and Durham. Few Londoners, except the sportsmen, know more of Yorkshire than is contained in Harrogate, Scarborough, or Whitby, and their immediate surroundings. Yet it may be said without exaggeration that Yorkshire presents a field, not for one holiday, but for half-a-dozen, every hour of which may be spent among scenery of ever-varying beauty, and towns, churches, castles, and ruins more plentiful and interesting than any other district of England has to show. A glance at the configuration of the country will indicate its resources in a moment. The various streams which give their names to the dales, all take their rise in the northern regions of the Pennine Range, which becomes steeper and ruggeder as it approaches Westmoreland. Thence they make they way through richly-wooded hills and vales down to the broad course of the Ouse, the castles and the abbeys, and, finally, the old fortified towns springing up on their banks as the lower waters are reached. In their course, therefore, they present a matchless panorama of mountain, moorland, waterfall, and riverside woodland. I do not lay claim to personal knowledge of all the beauties of this country, but I can tell you plenty of directions in which to approach it without fear of being disappointed.

The best-known district, of course, is Wharfedale, where Ilkley and Ben Rhydding are the spots to which the holiday-making pilgrim generally wends his way. I am told that Ilkley itself has been cockneyfied and defaced since I saw it last, but this can only apply to a very limited area, and there are advantages in good hotels and "hydros," which appeal, after all, to the majority of modern pilgrims. There are decent quarters to be found, however, in other parts of the district. The Midland, Great Northern, and North-Eastern Companies all have this corner of Yorkshire under their wings, and their guide-books and lodging lists will help the pilgrim to a resting-place in many of the villages adjoining the railway. The Midland has lately run a line to Grassington, from which the head waters of the Wharfe may be explored, and here you get into a rugged region quite off the track of the ordinary tourist. By the way, do not forget when you are in Wharfedale that you are within easy reach of the Brontë country by the branch line from Keighley. If you care for "Wuthering Heights," you will appreciate it the more after a visit to Haworth. For the holiday-maker who does not want to forsake the comforts of civilisation, the best way of doing Wharfedale is from Harrogate, whence all the most famous parts of the district, at any rate up to Bolton Abbey, are easily accessible. And there is a good deal to be said for this mode of operation. I suppose it is unnecessary to tell the ordinary reader of Truth that Harrogate itself is one of the most attractive of British health resorts, and I may mention that to its other attractions have lately been added one of the finest hotels in England. Your doctor will tell you all the healing virtues of the air and of the native mineral waters in their infinite variety. All I will say on this point is that if health is to be found in any ill-flavoured or evil-smelling spring, Harrogate ought to do the trick as successfully as any spot on the Continent. My object here is rather to point out the advantages of the town as a headquarters from which to discover the attractions of the surrounding country, east, west, north, and south. Close at hand there is Knaresborough, a most picturesque spot, rich in archæological and legendary interest. A few miles to the north is Ripon, with its quaint and ancient minster, and, close by it, Fountains Abbey, one of the finest monastic ruins in this part of the world. A short railway journey takes you to York, and one of the grandest churches in Christendom, and no end of other "objects of interest" for travelling sightseers. If you do not know anything of the industrial life of Yorkshire, it is time you saw something of Leeds and Bradford, which lie within easy reach, not to mention any of the other great manufacturing towns hard by them.

And now back to the moors and dales. Wharfedale we have already looked at. Nidderdale, in which Harrogate itself stands, is full of beauty, though not to be compared with some of its neighbours. Farther to the north, approached from the North-Eastern main

line at Northallerton, lies Wensleydale. For the benefit of the stranger, I may explain that it is really the upper valley of the Ure, and takes its name from the picturesque village of Wensley, which lies about the middle of the dale. Its most famous beauty spot is, of course, Aysgarth Falls, which I should have described as the finest "exhibit" of this particular kind to be found south of the Tweed, did not higher authorities declare that it is surpassed by the falls of the Tees. But the whole of Wensleydale is rich in natural beauty, and artificial also, of the ruinous order, for here are the remains of Jervaulx Abbey, and Middleham and Bolton Castles—the former once the seat of "King-maker" Warwick. All Wensleydale is easily accessible to the railway tripper, for a branch of the North-Eastern traverses its entire length up to Hawes, where one is among the highest hills of this part of the world—the respectable peaks which lie on the borders of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Westmoreland. One of the most convenient central spots in the dale is Leyburn, where country accommodation is plentiful and good. Although I do not pretend to have done it, I imagine that a splendid tour of this district could be made by ascending the upper valley of the Wharfe from Grassington, striking across to Hawes, and descending Wensleydale. I drop this hint primarily for pedestrians, for I am not sure whether it is altogether a kindly country for cyclists and motorists, though they may find it worth the experiment; and moreover the pedestrian can so arrange his course as to negotiate one or two little obstacles like Ingleboro' and Whernside en route. Or he may ascend Wensleydale and work his way back by Swaledale. The Swale offers some of the most charming riverside scenery imaginable and Richmond, with its grand castle, is not to be missed by any one who is "doing" this part of the world thoroughly. Finally, there is Teesdale, which I am told is equal to the others, and superior in the matter of waterfalls, though I can only speak from hearsay. The railway traveller approaches Teesdale by the North-Eastern line from Darlington through Barnard Castle, which follows the river nearly up to its source amid the Westmoreland Fells. But the roadster, whether on his legs or on wheels, can combine Teesdale with one of the other dales, by cutting across from the upper waters of the Swale or Ure to Kirkby Stephen, and then (if he wants a lift) taking the same railway down to Barnard Castle. It may be mentioned here, and should be remembered in connection with all holiday-making in Yorkshire, Durham, and Northumberland, that the North-Eastern Company issues circular tickets at reduced rates for any routes of not less than two hundred miles which the tourist may select for himself, the reduction increasing with the distance; and a convenient and ingenious specialty of this company is a "Thousand Mile Ticket" (first class), issued for £5 5s. (or about 1¼d. per mile), made up in one-mile coupons, so that it can be used for any distance. Another useful feature in the North-Eastern arrangements is the "holiday contract ticket," available for any number of journeys between given points during a week or a fortnight; and you can also have for £4 a "holiday contract ticket" available over the whole of the North-Eastern system for a week, or at £7 10s. for a month. I think I have now shown you how to get not only a good holiday in Yorkshire, but an uncommonly cheap one, though we have not looked at much more than half "the shire of broad acres," as the cricket reporters call it.

We have now traversed the whole central district of England from the Trent to the Tees. But there remains a promising tract of country to the east of this strip, which must be surveyed if these hints are to be at all comprehensive, though the survey must be a hasty one. Let us get back to the point in the Midlands where this article started, and take a run east from Derby. I want to call your attention briefly to a bit of the finest woodland and forest scenery in England, with the exception of the New Forest—namely Sherwood Forest and "the Dukeries"—the territories of their graces of Newcastle, Portland, and Rutland, which everybody talks about, but few travelling Englishmen have ever seen. If you are coming from London to this region, you will make for Nottingham, which, though many people look upon it as a mere manufacturing town, is a place with innumerable points of interest in and around it. Though the average reader may be surprised to hear it, there is a field for a very pleasant holiday, especially for wheelmen, in this eastern midland district—roughly within the triangle, formed by Nottingham, Peterborough (of which I have spoken in a former article) and Lincoln—not only the magnificent woods of the Dukeries, but castles and splendid mansions innumerable, ruined abbeys, at least three fine cathedrals, ancient towns, and picturesque villages, and the sea within easy reach on the Norfolk or Lincolnshire coast. Moving northward and eastward, we come to Lincolnshire—a *terra incognita* to the average holiday-maker, but well worth his attention if he is in search of a quiet life. We are now in the territory of the Great Northern Company, and their lodging list offers an inexhaustible choice of country quarters in all parts of the county. The Great Northern has lately been tempting the public to the Lincolnshire coast, and doing much for its development, with the result that Skegness, Sutton-on-Sea, Mablethorpe, and Cleethorpes are beginning to rival the more famous watering-places further south. The nearest I have ever been to the Lincolnshire coast myself is Boston—an historical town well worth a visit, with some quaint country about it; but, judging by report, the seaside here is of much the same character as on the Norfolk and Suffolk coast, though the bathing is said to be better. We come here again to a promising land for the golfer. Skegness boasts of an eighteen-hole course of the true seaside type, and the club either has or soon will have a residential clubhouse. I am told that the links at Sutton are also very good.

The Yorkshire coast hardly falls within the scope of these articles, for it contains some of the best-known holiday ground in England. Scarborough—which I should place next to Eastbourne in attractiveness among the crack English seaside resorts—is known by even

comparatively unenterprising London holiday-makers; Whitby hardly less so. And if southerners are not so familar with places like Filey, Bridlington, and Redcar, it is otherwise with the natives of Leeds, Sheffield, and the industrial districts of the North. But I shall have neglected my duty to the holiday-maker looking for new ground, if I say nothing of the East Riding, which we have not looked at in our previous survey of the beauty spots of Yorkshire. East of the main line from Doncaster to Durham there lies a broad tract of the most delightful country, of much the same general character as the western dales. You may settle yourself down in it at a dozen places, and be alone with nature for a few weeks, or explore it most comfortably from Scarborough, or any of the adjoining coast towns, by making use of the facilities above-mentioned provided by the North-Eastern Company. Ryedale contains, I think, the most beautiful parts of this region. The central spot in it is Helmsley, one of the most picturesque towns in Yorkshire, and as delightful a headquarters for a holiday as any man could wish for. Close by it is Rievaulx Abbey, another of the show places of the county, surrounded by the most glorious woods. The valley of the Derwent, again, is everywhere charming; you will find some of the best parts of it round Malton and Kirkham Abbey, which lie midway between York and Scarborough. Eskdale, which opens out to the sea at Whitby, is well worth exploring throughout its entire length. I should like to take you further north and introduce you to some of the charms of Durham and Northumberland. But the inexorable limits of space have run out, and I must refer the explorer at this point to the railway handbooks or other sources of information, merely telling him that in the direction of the Tyne Valley and the Cheviots he will find a field for holiday-making well worth any trouble he may take in getting to it.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A "CONCOURS DU CONSERVATOIRE."

I NEVER attend a reception at the Academy, or an examination at the Conservatoire, without wondering at the French idealism of the French. These artistic events so interest (the Academy much less than formerly, but still vastly)—so absorb spectators as to shut out the rest of the world from their sight. Every one is aware what an important element the French drama or the French novel, or anything written by a favourite author, is in the social life of Paris. A critique of Sarcey was read on Sunday evening or Monday morning with the pleasure a gourmet might find in eating an ortolan cooked as Brillat-Savarin recommended. The reader was sure before the week was half over to hunger for a similar literary feast from the same pen; and this went on for forty years without a single break. George Sand's popularity as a stylist began with "Indiana" and only ended with her life. Whenever Victor Hugo wrote nonsense nobody minded. Readers found pearls of rare price among the inflated sentences and phrases, and shut the rest out of their minds. They even defended the nonsense because nobody else could have written it, and it gave the impression at the first blush of something grandly original. It was the same with Renan. He committed two literary solecisms, "Caliban" and "L'Abbesse de Jouarre." Who thought of them as such? Very few. Dumas *fils* interested vastly by his plays *à thèse*. The subjects were most unpromising; only a Frenchman could have made anything of them. He resembled Thalberg in finding inspiration in the most unpromising theme for some grand fantasia that woke the keyboard of the piano from end to end. The French have by their very genuine admiration for their authors suggestionised the rest of the world into admiring and imitating them. I notice that a kind of Huysmanist religion or religiousness has sprung up among writers of one-column reviews in the English newspapers. Loisy already has disciples and imitators in London. The fame of the Academy and Conservatoire have spread to the farthest ends of the globe.

A far-distant reader must be excused should he or she imagine that the solemn functions of these two institutions must be held in noble halls, replete—as some auctioneers might say—with every modern elegancy and comfort. Not a bit; a modern second-class town in England or even in some scarcely-risen State west of the Rockies, would be ashamed to show distinguished company into such dark, dingy, comfortless, and stuffy places as the room under the cupola in the Palace of the Institute where Academicians are received, and the theatre of the Conservatoire, the dingiest, most ill-ventilated, and in all respects uncomfortable hole to be found anywhere. It was there, nevertheless, that the Imperial Rachel, the Brohans, the inimitable and exquisite Mme Bartet, Sarah Bernhardt, Sophie Croizette, and endless stars of tragedy and comedy learned how to compel admiration in the most varied parts. This contrast between the bald simplicity of the surroundings and the intellectual and artistic richness of the performance takes one back to Elizabethan times. Last week at the Conservatoire, as I was squeezed by neighbours—and I might have been in an old-fashioned omnibus—and oppressed by the heat, it occurred to me that those who attended the "first night" of "Hamlet" or "The Tempest" more than three hundred years ago would have experienced similar physical sensations.

A day at the Conservatoire is the most severe ordeal I know of. You are cooped up in a small auditorium from nine in the morning to seven in the evening. There is no time for lunch. A caterer comes round at noon with buns and sandwiches. The mental strain of listening to some forty candidates and comparing their merits, and fixing them on the memory, is infinitely more trying than the physical discomfort. It leads from over-excitement to very painful tedium, just as does journalism after a long sequence of sensational events. The air is charged with the electricity given out by intensely-irritated human nerves. Some there are trembling with apprehension for their sons or daughters. The awful pressure of life and worry and friction with high intellects have utterly killed the philosophical spirit in them. They know the jury to

be fickle, to be influenced by persons with whom they dine, or by ministers and deputies of whom they themselves want favours. These and other things they can put up with, though the effects may crush their fondest and most ardent hopes. But what drives them into the fury almost of lunacy is when talent is sent to a back seat in order to give a front seat to a pretty face. This happened three times the day I went to the Conservatoire.

By half-past nine the auditorium is filled to overflowing. Ensconced in a box, and nervously manipulating a fan, I recognised Mme. Baretta-Worms, of the Theatre Français, who came to see her son Jean pass his examination. On the floor of the house were leading actresses and professional beauties, the whole company, or nearly so, of the Français, and theatrical managers, not from Paris only, but Brussels. They are an informal court of appeal against thedecisions of the jury; for if a manager discern the hidden merit of a candidate rejected by the jury it will pay him to secure the young actor or actress for his company.

The earlier candidates who came on the stage received their meed of applause. But as the hands of the clock went round and the air became closer people began to nod. How some members of the jury kept their critical faculties to the end is to me a mystery. Some did not. They followed the example of Auber in falling asleep early in the day and remaining so until they had to vote. The French have many charming points. As each candidate came forward on the stage his or her professor would peep out of an adjoining box and follow the pupil's performance with more than fatherly pride and interest. Sylvain, visibly excited, moved his lips as if he were a prompter. Leloir cast loving glances at his fledglings. Feraudy looked wrapped up in a quiet assurance that he had done his best and could do no more; and Paul Mounet satisfied that, whatever happened, his class would secure a good share of laurels.

As the prize list was read a mother shrieked and fainted. Her son had failed to secure a first prize, and so will have to serve two years in the Army. Scenes of this kind take place every year. A doctor is always in attendance in the next room. Another lady had a fit of hysterics. She turned out to be a successful candidate, who broke down on learning she had obtained a first prize.

Ten hours of tragedy and comedy in scraps before a house as closely packed and hot as the Black Hole of Calcutta, in stifling weather, and without any stage illusion, is an ordeal that cannot be often repeated with impunity. Happily for those who attend regularly *les Concours du Conservatoire*, this ordeal need only be endured once in a twelvemonth. It has a rare fascination for some people who feel they are taking a peep into the future. No sort of glory is so fleeting as that of the stage. Who will talk of Sarah Bernhardt or Coquelin thirty years hence? Who will take the places of the present stage idols? Out of the forty candidates who went through their paces on the doll's house stage of the Conservatoire between nine in the forenoon and seven in the evening, not half-a-dozen will rise high in their profession. The majority will drop off altogether. Some of the most successful commercial travellers have begun life as prize-winners at the Conservatoire, and, luck not favouring, gave up the stage. The tragedy competition revealed a budding bird of passage, the name borrowed from Donnay for the Russian studentess in Paris. She is a Mlle. Sergine, a pupil of Le Bargy, and has the gift of beauty. Her features have all that stage illusion requires. They are well cut and proportioned, and the countenance mobile and expressive, and she understands the verses she recites. Her style is sincere, and from deliberate purpose subdued, and she eschews trickery. If ever she becomes the tragédienne of France, she will in everything be the antipodes of Sarah Bernhardt. The jury unanimously awarded her a first prize. It also was unanimous in giving a second prize to Mlle. Ventura, though she suffered from a sore throat. She is slim, refined, restless as the late Empress of Austria, a bundle of nerves, who might be a little unaccountable and changeful in her moods, and is very "modern style." She is a pupil of Sylvain. A Mlle. Saint Phar, whose Bourbonian type reminded me that Louis Philippe had a half-brother, the Abbé Saint Phar, competed for a comedy prize, and failed. She had a nervous fit and her screams in the doctor's room were heard all over the house. She won a second prize last year, and is soon to come out at the Odéon. I came away, run down and reflecting that Juggernaut is the master of our planet.

The quarrel between the French Government and the Vatican still holds the play-bill. It is said to be watched with close interest by the German Emperor and his fair Venetian friend; by the Tsar despite his many cruel anxieties; and of course the eyes of the Catholic world go in the same direction. It is a big event, were its only effect to make people see that there is no such thing as holy ground on the surface of the earth, not even that on which the Carmelite convents stand. Is there a spot anywhere which does not require the purification of a burning bush in communication with Divinity? Convents become prisons when vocations become dull. All prisons, and indeed all places where human beings congregate, need light and air.

The Bishopric of Laval dates from 1855. The episcopal palace is a grand château in a wide park of varied prospects, with hills, vales, springs, brawling brooks, and those woods so maliciously called by the Bishop's enemies "groves of Paphos." The whole place has a Trianon aspect, and might have been, in the time of Louis XV., a place for *un voyage au Cythère à la Watteau*. One could imagine, not the flock of St. Peter, but be-ribboned sheep white as snow browsing in the glades, and smart shepherdesses with gilded crooks herding them. Early novels of George Sand would have been, as they came out in the thirties and the forties, appropriate reading in this park. A malediction seems to have hung over this romantic place ever since it became an episcopal residence. Five out of the half-dozen bishops who have reigned there died hated by their flocks. Mgr. Wicart, the first of the six, had to fly from his diocese. He wanted to resign, but the late Pope secretly com-

manded him not to do so, and the Empress Eugénie stood up for him. Laval then was at once Legitimist, and (as were the Kings of France from St. Louis downwards) Gallican. Mgr. Wicart came among them as a Bonapartist, an Immaculate Conceptionist, and an Ultramontanist inclined to accept the Papal claim to infallibility. His successor, Mgr. du Marais, had no great success. The flock charged him with having, to their grievous scandal, turned his park and palace into a Mahomet's paradise. The Maine aristocracy in his time knew nothing about society as it had grown up under the Empire, and led the lives of thrifty country gentlemen living in their narrow family and county circles and saving what money they could. They never imagined that there were men in Wall Street and other parts of the United States engaged in a strenuous race for wealth to enrich the heraldic families of France. Whether they had or had not cause for attacking Bishop Marais' private life, I can have no idea. It was long before my time, and the traces of the struggle are only to be found in Vatican and Ministry of Cults archives, and in the files of religious papers musty and dusty from age. The riot made about his alleged sins killed him. Meanwhile the collegiate schools of the religious orders, the Franco-German war, the victory of the Royalists at the elections that immediately followed it, produced a reaction against Gallicanism in the châteaux. A fairly liberal Bishop, Mgr. Maréchal, named by M. Jules Simon, met with a rough reception at Laval. One of the very ugly weapons used against him was a cheap engraving borrowed from a photo of Prince Bismarck with a lady seated on his knees. The black-and-white artist who adapted it placed the Bishop's head on Bismarck and a robe on the figure. The lady in her corset and neatly made petticoat had thrown on a chair her nun's costume and coiffure. Mgr. Maréchal had intended to issue a mildly Liberal pastoral. However, on the day of enthronement he left the Cathedral ill from annoyance, took to his bed, where he lay for forty days, to die on the fortieth. A few hours before his death he spoke of that period of confinement as his "passion" or martyrdom. In its course he kept on mentally performing the stations of the Cross, had the penitential psalms read to him, and offered up prayers for his persecutors.

Bishop Bougault, who succeeded the unfortunate Mgr. Maréchal, had, as a theologian, an illustrious name. At the time of his induction this did not recommend him to the squirarchy of Maine or Maine et Loire. The old generation of Gallicans had passed away, and a generation educated in collegiate schools of Eudist, Edméist, Jesuit, and other fathers of regular orders had sprung up. Bishops Wicart and Du Marais met with a bad reception at Laval, because Ultramontanist. Mgr. Bougault's flock, largely composed of graziers, dairy farmers, rich landlords, and members of the heraldic syndicate for the pursuit of pleasure and of American heiresses, received him with a Dutch concert. Basile lay in wait to calumniate him. The clerical Press looked with a magnifying glass at the motes in his eyes. Its "revelations" killed him, and it used his coffin as a pillory, so much so that his nephew, Captain Bougault of the artillery, called at the office of the *Univers* to slap the editor's face, and thus provoke a duel in which he might "run him through or lodge a ball in his body." However, the editor gave him no chance, professing a conscientious objection, as a religious man, to duelling.

The French Government thought to secure peace in nominating Mgr. Cleret, a weak, well-meaning cleric, inoffensive and neither Gallican nor Ultramontane, but "profoundly obedient to the Pope," and "concordataire as his Holiness," and mindful of his orders to rally to the Republic. This ill suited the old boys of the collegiate schools. However, if cold, they received the new Bishop decently. He afforded them on the morrow of the Legislative elections an opportunity to declare war, his offence being to send a congratulatory card to the successful Republican candidate for the Laval Division of the Maine. This act of courtesy made the vestry look askance at the Bishop. When the time came round for the renewal of sittings at the Cathedral, the society people and the tradespeople having their custom refused to renew them, and went to the chapel of the St. Edmé Collegiate School. The chatelains and their wives cut the Bishop. A Duke, now a Royalist and ultra-Catholic, son of a Chamberlain of the late Emperor, and a grandson of the Protestant sugar manufacturer, Constant Say, to whom he owes his wealth, is chief among the grandees of the diocese of Laval. He did not see how ungentlemanly it would be to invite the Bishop to dinner at his château and give him there a lesson. When the maître d'hotel, according to the protocol of high-bred politeness, announced that "Monsignor est servi," the other guests and the hostess (daughter of a hunting Boulangist Duchess) remained seated. The Duke, advancing with chamberlain-like attitude, begged leave to show Monsignor into the dining-room, and stood near him to direct the service. Monsignor could not but feel the *gaminerie* of his host's irony, but instead of despising it he fell ill at table, went home suffering from cerebral congestion, and was sent to the springs of Bagnioles for relief. There he died. His secretary during his illness opened piles of insulting letters, ribald for the most part. The aristocrats of the diocese wanted not a bishop but a valet for electoral work, and to make believe that the regular clergy alone are worthy of the confidence of decent Catholics.

Mgr. Cleret had gone so far in the path of conciliation as to provoke the displeasure of M. Waldeck-Rousseau. The latter summoned him to the Place Beauvau to express to him his disapproval of the part played by the parochial clergy in the local and legislative elections of the diocese of Laval. Every Reactionist committee included a priest, and each parish had its committee. The parish priest sometimes, not to flout the Government, put forward his vicar "Missionaries," not belonging to the secular clergy, who filled the pulpits, and violently attacked the Republic. The Minister read a passage from a sermon in which the preacher held out the hope of France being redeemed, as in the time of Joan of Arc, by the advent of the Most Christian King and his coronation at Rheims.

M. Mouthon, of the *Matin*, has been to see the Chaplain of the Carmelite Convent. This reverend personage had for safe keeping received and not sealed up the letters addressed to the Abbess by Mgr. Géay. They numbered 122, and the correspondence extended over four years, almost from the date of enthronement. I say they numbered, for they were burned after M. Mouthon read them. He takes the view I expressed last week, namely, that they are rather high-flown expressions of ideal love and possibly a morbid state, but perfectly consistent with innocence. Did not St. Francis de Sales correspond in a similar strain with St. Jeanne de Chantal, his spiritual daughter, who might well have ranked as his spiritual wife?

When Minister of Public Worship, M. Waldeck-Rousseau received a visit from the Nuncio, who came to indict Mgr. Géay, who had issued a pastoral forbidding his clergy to let themselves be involved in political agitation or acts, by word of mouth or otherwise, of hostility to the Republic. The Minister listened to what he had to say, coldly but attentively. At last he observed: "I understand that you have only copies of documents in the *dossier* you have done me the honour to set before me. When you bring the originals we can go over it." He thus closed the lips of Mgr. Géay's accusers.

The Duc de Guiche is engaged to Mlle. de Greffuhle. This nobleman is son of the Duc and Duchesse de Gramont and grandson of the Duc of the same title, who, as Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Ollivier Cabinet, committed the French Empire to the war of 1870; with him the Henri IV. profile disappeared from the Gramont family. It dated from the birth of the eldest son of Corisande de Gramont, *belle amie du Vert Galant*. Old Dumas gives a place in "Joseph Balsamo," to a Duchesse de Gramont, sister of the Duc de Choiseul, who aspired to rule Louis XV., but had to step aside to make way for Mme. du Barry. The engaged Duc is short, fair, not yet stout, looks *bon garçon* and unaffected, is fond of staghounds and hunting. He takes his pack to the forest of Chantilly, a part of which has been leased to him. The *fiancée* is of a Dutch family, not quite a century old. The original French Greffuhle made an enormous fortune in lending at interest, and in speculations in building ground round the Madeleine, which must have returned cent. per cent. on his investments. His daughter Rachel married Marshal Castellane, and one of his sons sat in the Versailles Assembly. He had a curious brick-coloured complexion, and sky-blue eyes. One might have thought the colours baked in. This peculiarity reappears in the present generation of the Greffuhles and Castellanes. I never saw the future Duchesse de Guiche, but hear that she has inherited the musical talents of the Comtesse de Greffuhle, her mother, *née* De Chimay. The late M. Félix Faure struck up, when President of the Republic, a warm friendship, and all but a political alliance, with the Comte and Comtesse de Greffuhle, and often went to shoot at their place at Bois Boudrain, in the Seine et Marne.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Lord Bulkeley of a hundred years ago, dear Lady Betty—on the morning after his wedding—despatched this short note to the then Duke of Dorset:—

"Dear Dorset,—I am the happiest dog alive.—Yours,
"Bulkeley."

To that the Duke answered:—

"Dear Bulkeley,—Every dog has his day.—Yours,
"Dorset."

The writer—who has left London—admits that the first letter describes his present attitude of mind exactly; the second, should be addressed to him by the regular readers of Truth.

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Mr. Rider Haggard has dreamt that his dog was drowning; the dream has been fulfilled, and Mr. Haggard and the dog have monopolised three-quarters of a column of the *Times*, and hundreds of columns of the other newspapers. It was a very unfortunate dream—for the dog.

Lady Davies, the wife of Sir John Davies—a distinguished lawyer of the seventeenth century—contracted a habit of predicting deaths and disasters. Whilst sitting at dinner with Sir John, she suddenly burst into tears. "Husband," said the lady, "these are your funeral tears." "Check them, now," he cheerfully answered, "and you may laugh when I am dead." He, however, died prematurely. Lady Davies, then predicted the death of Archbishop Laud, incorrectly, and also "spoke something unlucky of the Duke of Buckingham." For these and other offences in the same direction, "she was prosecuted in the High Commission Court, was fined £3,000, and closely imprisoned in the Gate-house, Westminster." The disagreeable experiences of that Lady Davies are mentioned here for the benefit of Mr. Haggard.

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But are these stories of omens correct? "Vandyke having drawn King Charles I. in three different faces, a profile, three-quarters, and a full-face, the picture was sent to Rome for Bernini to make a bust from it. Bernini was unaccountably dilatory in the work; and, upon this being complained of, he said that he had set about it several times, but there was something so unfortunate in the features of the face, that he was shocked every time that he examined it, and forced to leave off work, observing that, if any stress was to be laid on physiognomy, he was sure the person whom the picture represented was destined to a violent end. The bust was, at last, finished, and sent to England. As soon as the ship that brought it arrived in the Thames, the King, who was very impatient to see the bust, ordered it to be taken immediately to Chelsea. It was accordingly carried thither, and placed upon a table in the garden, whither the King went, with a train of nobility, to inspect the work. As they were viewing it a hawk flew over their heads, with a partridge in his claws, which he had wounded to death. Some of the partridge's blood fell upon the neck of the bust, where it remained without being wiped off. This bust was placed over the door of the King's closet at Whitehall, and remained there till the palace was destroyed by fire."

"When George III. was crowned, a large emerald fell from his crown: America was lost in his reign. When Charles X. was crowned at Rheims, he accidentally dropped his hat: the Duc d'Orléans (Louis Philippe) picked it up and presented it to him. On the Saturday preceding the promulgation of the celebrated *ordonnances* by Charles X.'s ministers, the white flag being hoisted on the column in the Place Vendome, and always hoisted when the Royal Family was in Paris, was observed to be torn in three places: the tricolor waved in its stead the following week. On the morning of the rejection, by the House of Lords, of the first Reform Bill, 'the dawn' was, indeed, overcast with storm. At the period of Napoleon's dissolution,

on the 4th of the month in which he expired, the island of St. Helena was swept by a tremendous storm, which tore up almost all the trees about Longwood by the roots. The 5th was another day of tempest, and at about six in the evening, Napoleon muttered 'Tête d'armée' and expired."

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Charles I. refused to wear at his Coronation the robes of Edward the Confessor which all his predecessors had worn, but was dressed in white velvet. Lord Pembroke entreated him not to use that costume, for the misfortunes of "the White King" had been long predicted! A sudden storm tore the Royal Standard on the Tower of London at the outset of the Stuart dynasty.

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Of James II. there is this omen, amongst many others:—

"The Crown, being too little for the King's head, was often in a tottering condition, and like to fall off." "The same day, the King's Arms, pompously painted in the great altar window of a London church, suddenly fell down without apparent cause, and broke to pieces, whilst the rest of the window remained fixed"!—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

I HAVE excellent authority for contradicting the report, which has been widely circulated, that the Prince of Wales has decided to start a racing stud. The circumstantial tale as to the horses presented to the Prince by his Majesty, and as to others privately purchased for him at Newmarket, are all the very purest of fictions. All these rigmarole romances appear to be based upon the fact that the Prince of Wales inspected some of the teams of yearlings which were sent up for sale at Newmarket during the July meetings. One crack-brained writer actually announced that the Prince was "going in" for owning racehorses "following on a successful Ascot"!

"It has often been observed," so I read last week in a newspaper, "that Goodwood racecourse is the most profitable farm on the Duke of Richmond's Sussex estate." Any one who seriously believes and repeats such balderdash must be deeply sunk in the most asinine ignorance. The expenses of maintaining such a meeting as Goodwood are manifold and enormous. It would be interesting to look over the annual balance-sheets of the Epsom and Ascot meetings, and then to compare them with that of Goodwood. I have been informed that, so far from the races being a source of profit, it is a fact that the late Duke of Richmond was usually out of pocket by the meeting after all the expense for the entertaining at "the House" had been defrayed. I do not see how the present Duke is to get back the large sum which he has expended in building the new stand, which is well arranged and commodious, but by no means picturesque. Goodwood laboured under no disadvantages during the first sixty years of its existence as a race meeting, but now the distance of the course from the railway is a serious drawback. The Stewards' Cup retains its position as the most popular T.Y.O. handicap of the season, but the Goodwood Stakes has fallen through, and the Cup no longer attracts the best horses in training, although the value of the race has been greatly increased. Entries ought to be regularly canvassed for at Goodwood, and it was only through the personal efforts of the present Duke (then Lord March) that the Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes was established, and the race was kept going in its earlier years through owners putting down their names as subscribers long before the time fixed for the closing of the stake.

Lord Dunraven, who is retiring from the Turf, intends to keep on his stud farm at Adare Manor, near Limerick, and his yearlings will be sold every season at Doncaster. Lord Dunraven owns a highly-promising young sire in Desmond.

Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith is also giving up his racing stud, and his horses in training will be sold at Newmarket in the autumn. Sir Richard hopes to succeed Lord Dalkeith as member for Roxburghshire. I do not suppose that he will permanently sever his connection with the Turf, as he has entered three yearling fillies for the Oaks of 1906.

There are 293 entries for the Derby of 1906, as compared with 260 for the present year and 297 for 1905. The King heads the list with three colts—Nulli Secundus, by St. Simon out of Nunsuch; Cheverel, by Persimmon out of Cheveroney; and Mores, by Ladas out of Medora, dam of Zinfandel. Mores was bred by the late Colonel M'Calmont, and was bought as a foal with his dam for the Sandringham Stud. Sir Tatton Sykes is the largest subscriber with nine entries, these being the Sledmere yearlings, which will be sold at Doncaster next month. His lot includes colts by St. Simon out of Bonnie Morn, Ornis, and Cymbeline respectively; a colt by Royal Hampton out of Altesse, and fillies by St. Simon out of Tragedy and by Persimmon out of Wedlock. It will be noted that neither La Flèche nor Plaisanterie is this year represented on the Sledmere list. Lord Rosebery has six entries, including colts by Ladas out of Orle and out of Seabreeze, by Velasquez out of Gas (dam of Cicero), and by Persimmon out of Chelandry. Mr. L. de Rothschild also has six entries, including St. Amadour, own brother to St. Amant; Cosmetic, by Sir Visto out of Gelatine; and St. Duthac, by St. Frusquin out of St. Bride. Sir E. Cassel, Mr. Croker, Mr. J. Robinson, and the Duke of Devonshire have five entries each. The Duke's lot include colts by Marco out of Lady Villikins (dam of Full Cry), by Persimmon out of Claque, and by Galeazzo out of Sweet Lavender. Mr. Platt, whose yearlings will be sold at Doncaster, has four entries, including colts by Persimmon out of Mary Seaton and by Ladas out of Surprise-Me-Not. The Duke of Portland also has four entries, including a colt by Carbine out of Modwena, Greendale, own brother to Darby Dale, and Wombwell, by Isinglass out of Mrs. Butterwick (winner of the Oaks). Mr. W. Bass, Mr. Houldsworth, Mr. A. James, Mr. J. B. Joel, and Mr. Larnach have four entries each, and so has Major Loder, whose list includes Admirable Crichton, half-brother, by Isinglass to Pretty Polly, and Zadkiel, by Gallinule out of Astrology. M. E. Blanc's lot of four consists of Karnac II., by Flying Fox out of Levie II. (dam of Lucie), Louksor, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces (winner of the Oaks); Marc Antoine, by Flying Fox out of Cannobie Lea; and Rhamses II., by Masqué out of Jocasta. It will be observed that there is no relative to either Ajax or Gouvernant among M. E. Blanc's lot. Mr. Buchanan, Mr. David Cooper, Mr. J. S. Curtis, Lord Ellesmere, Mr. Firie, Major Fife, Mr. C. Hannan, Lord Howard de Walden, Mr. S. B. Joel, Mr. G. Lambton, Sir J. Miller, M. de Monbel, Mr. J. C. Murphy, Mr. J. A. de Rothschild, Mr. Stedall, Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt, Mr. W. Hall Walker, Lord Wolverton, and Mr. Reid Walker have three entries each, the most interesting items being colts by Donovan out of Inquisitive, by Isinglass out of Thimble, and out of Galline, an own brother to Volodyovski, a half-brother, by Ladas, to Rock Sand, a colt by Sainfoin out of Aida, and a colt by Count Schomberg out of Merry Gal. All Mr. Hannan's lot are sired by St. Gris, and all Mr. Reid Walker's by Dinna Forget. Mr. F. Baird has entered nothing, and the names of Lord Dunraven, Sir R. Waldie Griffith, Sir S. Scott, and Lord Farquhar are also missing. Mr. Brassey has two yearlings engaged. Sir D. Cooper's only entry is Flair, a colt by St. Frusquin out of Glare. One of Lord Derby's pair is a filly by Isinglass out of Canterbury Pilgrim (dam of Chaucer). Lord Durham, Lord Carnarvon, Lord Clonmell, Sir G. Farrer, Lord Harewood, Mr. Dugdale, M. M. Ephrussi, Mr. Singer, Mr. Russel, Mr. Oswald, Baron and Edouard de Rothschild have two entries each. Lord Falmouth is represented by Benedict, half-brother, by

Florizel II., to Fiancée. Mr. Musker's pair are colts by Melton out of School-book (dam of Princess Melton), and out of La Petite Duchesse. Mr. Neumann has entered colts by Gallinule out of Siris and by Eager out of Clarehaven. The Duke of Westminster's pair are Vipistrello, own brother to Flying Fox; and Troutbeck, by Ladas out of Rydal Mount. It is curious that there should be so few entries of sons and daughters of Cyllene, considering that he is the sire of a couple of the best two-year-olds of the season—Cicero and Cyanean.

At the last meeting of the Jockey Club four new members were elected, and it is probably an unprecedented circumstance for such a large addition to the Club to be made at one time. Everyone knows that the Jockey Club has been lately in a condition of serious and increasing debility, and that new members were urgently needed. The fact is, however, that the Club now requires men who will take an active part in the business, and who are likely to be constant habitués of Newmarket. Mr. Alexander may be a useful member, and he is the son of a man who was very prominent in Jockey Club affairs for many years, and who never missed a Newmarket meeting. The Duke of Westminster, who may be described as an hereditary member of the Club, keeps a breeding stud and a racing stud, but he does not appear to take much interest in Turf matters, and is scarcely ever seen at any meetings except Chester and Ascot. Sir Samuel Scott owes his election to the fact that he is a son-in-law of Lord Cadogan. He has never raced on a large scale, and he has just sold the few horses which he had in training. Sir Samuel will apparently be another of the merely ornamental members, of whom there are already far too many. Sir Simon Macdonald Lockhart has owned a small stud for several years past, but his colours have never yet been seen on an important winner, and he has not been a regular visitor to Newmarket.

Some sporting writers are constantly discoursing on the fact that Mr. James Merry was never admitted to the Jockey Club, although he was one of the most prominent owners on the Turf during a period of twenty years. It appears to be supposed that Mr. Merry was blackballed because he was "in trade," the fact being that he was a great ironmaster. Mr. Merry's name never came up for ballot. He was to have been proposed for the Jockey Club at the Houghton meeting of 1863, but his row on Newmarket Heath with Colonel Ouseley Higgins, after Lioness had won the Cesarewitch, created such a bad impression that his name was quietly withdrawn. Admiral Rous, who always had a keen eye to the interest of the Turf, and who took large views of affairs, was much opposed to the blackballing of important owners, and if he suspected the existence of a hostile feeling against such a candidate he arranged privately that the name should not come up for ballot, which was the most judicious course to adopt. In those days, the names of candidates for the Jockey Club were announced in the Calendar published during the week preceding the ballot, so that when a man was blackballed every one was aware of the unpleasant fact. For many years past there has been a new arrangement, and now there is no public notification. Notice of candidature is forwarded by the Keeper of the Match Book to all members by circular not less than a fortnight previous to the day on which the ballot is to take place. Election has been made more difficult, for now two blackballs exclude in all cases, whereas formerly three were necessary to extinguish a candidate if eighteen members voted. A man must be either a marvel of amiability, or singularly prudent, or very much in the background in racing affairs if he does not succeed in making at least two enemies by the time that he has been for a few years on the Turf.

A much needed new rule has been carried by the Stewards of the Jockey Club which will stop the fatuous practice of naming horses after bygone celebrities. Mr. Alexander, one of the new members, was a flagrant offender when he gave the name of Andover to his colt by Rightaway out of Sister Lumley, for it is only about half a century since the original Andover won the Derby. There have been two Buccaneers in thirty years, and many other names have been stupidly repeated. Nobody can desire to see a miserable plater bearing the name of a great horse, and such practices would, in course of time, reduce the Stud Book to a condition of hopeless chaos.

I cannot imagine why the Stewards do not stop the running of unnamed animals. This would be a really sensible reform, which has, over and over again, been recommended in Truth, and it is impossible to understand why it has not long ago been carried, unless it is that some members of the Jockey Club are among the most determined offenders in this matter. No horse should be eligible for entry in any race whatever until it has received a name, and once the animal has been named, no change should be permitted, except in the case of a yearling. For example, it was certainly reasonable enough for Mr. James Merry to object to the name "All Heart and no Peel," which Sir Tatton Sykes bestowed in 1871 upon the colt by Stockwell out of Marigold that was afterwards known to fame as Doncaster.

The post betting on the Stewards' Cup was very heavy, several of the starters being strongly fancied, but the race resulted in a crash for backers. Out of Sight was the animal most generally liked, but sheer weight of money finally caused Nabot to pass him in the quotations, and Sir Ernest Cassel's horse was distinctly favourite when the flag fell. Nabot did not get off well, and he appeared to be considerably hampered in running, and so also did Out of Sight. Melayr, who was not backed for a penny piece, got off in front, made all the running, and won in a canter. It was St. Amant in the Derby over again. Melayr was regarded by his clever stable as being practically a certainty for the Royal Hunt Cup, but on the Wednesday morning at Ascot he was found to be coughing, and he never showed in the race. It was supposed that he had not yet recovered his form, and the stable must execrate the oversight committed in not galloping the horse before he was sent to Goodwood. It was a tragical blunder, as the result of starting Melayr untried is that a respectable fortune has been clean thrown away. Melayr was lucky in being drawn in the very best position. The winner was very nicely handicapped on his best form. Killeevan, who was said to have been beaten on her trial, was only languidly supported. She was second to Melayr from start to finish. Santry ran well, and so also did Dumbarton Castle, considering that he was badly placed, added to which he began slowly. Nabot was a great Newmarket tip, as he had been going uncommonly well in his gallops, and was evidently suited by the hard ground. Montem, who had won a trial with the Gold Crest filly, is said to have been much interfered with. The Stewards' Cup field of nineteen was too large for the paddock, which will have to be extended before another meeting takes place. There has been a lot of laudatory trumpeting about the alteration at the starting-post, but the change is really much for the worse. The horses have now to get over a sharp bend as best they can when they have gone for about two hundred yards.

Polymelus retrieved his reputation by winning the Richmond Stakes, for which race Ormazd was a great tip. Lord Crewe's colt finished like a non-stayer, and would probably have been beaten if there had been another fifty yards to go. The Duke of Portland evidently has a very useful filly in Pamflete, who won the Ham Stakes in a canter, and if she was really tried (as has so often been stated) to be much inferior to Polymelus, it is clear that either she has "come on" considerably, or there must have been egregious blundering in the gallops. Monarder, half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant, will never prove a flyer. Odds were freely betted on Brother Bill for the Lavant Stakes, but he was beaten, after a splendid finish, by Golden Gleam, who showed good form earlier in the season. The favourite did not jump off so quickly as the winner, who obtained an advantage at the start which he made

the most of. Tom Boyce, the colt by Melton out of Memoir, is not likely to be any more of a success on the Turf than the rest of the produce of that once famous mare. Full Cry was able to beat Amitié for the rich Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes, a result which was in accordance with my prediction. This was a good performance, as Sir James Miller's filly is really smart, and Full Cry was giving her 6 lb., the distance being six furlongs. I expect that the Duke of Devonshire will now keep his filly for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, a race in which there are neither penalties nor allowances. She is engaged in the Gimcrack Stakes at York, with a penalty of 9 lb. to carry. The Duke might possibly decide to start her for this popular race, as he could so easily go over from Bolton Abbey to see her run. Graceful, who has been running well, finished third to Full Cry and Amitié, and the beaten lot included Tankard, own brother to Duke of Westminster, who appears to be capable of much improvement,, and he will do better in the autumn, but his owner's Wetaria, sister to Flying Fox, is understood to be a failure. There were fifty-one acceptances for the Rous Memorial Stakes, but the race was reduced to a match, Comedian frightening awav all except Keharlan, who presumably ran for the second money (£100), and he never had a chance with Mr. King's colt, on whom odds of 6 to 1 were betted.

Hammerkop was a general tip for the Goodwood Plate, and she finally started favourite, but had nothing to do with the finish, Sandboy winning cleverly from Haresfield, but the honours of the race rested with Bachelor's Button, who ran prominently with 9 st. 10 lb. on his back. It is now clear that the Ascot Vase running was all right. Hammerkop has been a costly animal to her friends during the last few weeks; she will probably run better in the autumn.

After his excellent performance at Liverpool, the colt by Ayrshire out of Pace-egger was regarded as a really good thing for the Sussex Stakes, and he was recklessly plunged on, but he was beaten a long way from home, and Mousqueton won cleverly from Burgundy, a result which many cool-headed people had expected, as Mr. Baird's colt is of decidedly better class than the favourite, and the Aintree form was really very poor. The folly and absurdity of the cackling about Darley Dale being a likely Leger outsider, which was heard after his victory in the Eclipse Stakes, was demonstrated by his hollow defeat in the Gratwicke Stakes by Almscliffe, who is no flyer. Galapas would have won the Goodwood Cup if Mr. Brassey had accepted with him. Chatsworth, who had been in reserve for this race since Ascot, was favourite, but he ran a perfect wretch, and I should imagine that he will soon be weeded out of the Royal stud. William Rufus was badly kicked, which probably settled his chance, and Saltpetre won in a canter. This horse was nominated by Mr. Brassey, and his sale at the Second July meeting to Mr. David Faber for 1,500 gs. was certainly a most unseasonable transaction.

There will be racing next week at Nottingham, Kempton Park, Paisley, Redcar, and Windsor, each meeting having two days. There is not likely to be much sport anywhere of general interest until York.

Comedian will win the £800 Two-Year-Old Stake at Kempton Park if he starts, and he will probably be seen at the post, as he has only two more engagements this season. There are forty-four acceptances for the City of London Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,500, and John o' Gaunt will win if he runs.

Redcar is the first of the series of so-called Yorkshire meetings, and the large party usually entertained by Mr. James Lowther at Wilton Castle will be much missed. Cyanean has been withdrawn from the principal two-year-old stake. Thirty-six three-year-olds are left in for the £500 Three-Year-Old Stake, and they are a dreadfully bad lot. It would be nonsensical to attempt any predictions on such events.

The annual statistics of the London County Council are interesting reading. The magnitude of the figures to some extent helps one to realise the magnitude of the undertakings that the Council has in hand. To those who are interested in sports the statistics of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee are of value. How often do we hear that with the development of professional football and professional cricket these games are not encouraged? People now pay to see the games played and do not play themselves. I have always held a contrary view. I have always been of opinion that professionalism increases the popularity of the game, especially is Association football. I have formed this opinion by noting the increase in small league matches and competitions in the South since professional football was inaugurated. The figures of the L.C.C. amply bear out this view. But these figures also indicate that in all open-air sports there is a growing body of players drawn from a class who, except at Regent's Park and one or two other places, had no chance of enjoying themselves until the London County Council took matters in hand. For the thousands who avail themselves of the reserved pitches there are thousands whose wants remain unsatisfied. Besides these pitches, there are unreserved plots for overflow games. But these are all too few for the cricketers and footballers. There are 383 cricket pitches, of which 311 are for men and 72 for boys. On these pitches during the last wet summer 13,787 games were played. On every Saturday these pitches give recreation to over 8,000 men and boys. Of football grounds there are 181, of which only 10 are reserved for boys. On these grounds 14,791 matches were played last season. There are over 500 lawn-tennis courts, 50 bowling greens, and there is provision for croquet, hockey, lacrosse, and quoits. In all there are 1,190 pitches for different games, and the total number of games played was 80,951. These are indeed stupendous figures, and are merely indicative of the simple fact that London wants more. At the same time such statistics show that the L.C.C. has certainly done all that it can with the material at its disposal to bring healthy sport and recreation within the reach of its inhabitants. I must confess that I look forward to the time when Hyde Park and St. James's Park and the Green Park will be administered in the same spirit. Bowling greens and lawn tennis courts would be appreciated by many who are engaged in the humble vocations of life if those parks were available. Of course, I do not suggest that the whole parks should be given up to sports. There is room and to spare for those who do and those who do not want such recreation. But the work has not stopped with sport. Waterfowl and other birds are attended to, and deer have been introduced into Battersea, Clissold, and Victoria Parks. In three of the parks—Victoria, Battersea, and Ravenscourt, botanic gardens have been formed. Arrangements have been made to supply the schools of the London School Board with surplus cuttings and specimens. The advantage of this system to the new educational authority will be great. Certainly, the County Council deserves to be commended for developing to the utmost the parks and open spaces within its control. Those who know only Hyde Park would be surprised at the beauty of the flowers displayed in parks which are the only country that tens of thousands of London children, and adults too, only know. And yet the cry goes up for more. And who will grudge the Council doing all it can to secure such spaces while the builder takes over acres of open fields year by year?

I am very glad to see that Brentford and Reading way smart punishment has been inflicted for hooliganism on the Thames. Even the Conservancy has been moved to take action and to discuss the situation. So far as launches are concerned, they desire power to license skippers. Well, the sooner they have it the

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better. I do not see why a skipper of a launch should be in a better position than a motor-car driver. By all means let them be licensed, and at the same time that Parliamentary power is obtained for this purpose let there be no doubt that the skipper shall have power to land and leave behind any passenger whom he may honestly consider to be disorderly; and that is a very different thing in the eyes of the law from a disorderly passenger.

I wonder if the motor-boat trials on Southampton Water portend a revival of the Thames, through London, as a popular resort. One hot Sunday recently, says a correspondent, I helped a friend sail his boat from Putney to Westminster. Had the wind not been so light, we had hoped to make Erith and to come back by train. What a relief was the coolness of the river to the heat of the pavement, and the Thames is not so ugly, after all. There may not be the buildings of Venice. But any folk who did not despise their own would not disregard the merits of London's Thames as Londoners do at the present time. Perhaps with the motor-boat we shall see the Thames used again as our forefathers used it. It no longer smells as it used to do a few years back. People only want to be encouraged to use it. Will the Thames Conservancy assist, or will pier dues kill any such revival? I do not know the details that stand in the way of progress, and the holidays are too near to induce one to find out. However, the County Council is coming with steamers.

It should not be forgotten that at the Bank Holiday match at the Oval between Notts and Surrey the hat will be taken round for Abel. He well deserves this whip-up. Against Somerset he was the backbone of the batting. In the second innings, on a nasty wicket, he played particularly well, and the applause the Somerset men gave him when he got out was an indication of his play and popularity. Somerset veterans do not have to go away to play in holiday matches in order to find a place in the county team. That is not the way they get rid of "old crocks" down West. And this "old crock" brought off a splendid catch at point. McDonell has been captaining Surrey. I would suggest that at the end of the season a team of Surrey captains should play the rest of the county. It would also add a little more variety if two captains at least were chosen for each match.

"Scotticos odi" is the motto of the Rugby boys, for one Scott, of Marlborough, scored 155 against them, and took a few of their wickets. In the end Rugby were easily beaten by nine wickets. For the losers the bowling of Tripp, who took five wickets for 71, and the batting of Burton in both innings was good; while Sloman and Chadwick all made runs. For the winners, in addition to Scott, Butterwirth and Ireland, with 78 and 67, were the only scorers in the first innings, while Milton made 49 out of 54 from the bat in the second innings. Undoubtedly the match was won on the first-wicket score.

On Bank Holiday one of the best of sportsmen amongst cricketers gets his benefit at the Headingley Ground, Leeds. George Hirst is typical of the best class of paid cricketer that even Yorkshire can produce. The match is against Lancashire. Accommodation is being made for 50,000 folk. It is not too much to say that the match is worthy of the man, and the man of the match.

I thank a member of Leander, who like myself regrets that Third did not go for the Grand, for his letter. I did not forget Third had nine men at Henley. But Goldie never meant to row except in the pairs. Powell was under doctor's orders not to row when the captain was looking for a Third crew. Having once joined with Leander they would not go back.

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MAMMON.

Hope Deferred in the City—Political Complications—Holiday Influences—Monetary Stringency—Forced Liquidation—The New Gilt-edged Issues—Little Public Absorbing Power—War Influences—The Wastage of Capital—The Outlook.

The stock markets have again been adversely affected by politics, monetary stringency, and forced liquidation. At one time, when Mr. Balfour made an oracular statement, in which he "feared" that the sinking of the *Knight Commander* constituted a breach of international law, there was something very like demoralisation throughout the "House." It was not only what he said that seemed significant, but the way in which he said it, and fearful were the visions of complications conjured up by the designing "Bears." No doubt the position was serious enough to warrant anxiety, especially as the Russian administration appears to be at loggerheads, but it did not seem reasonable that the country should deliberately add a war with England to the one which it already has on hand, and people were not greatly surprised—although they were distinctly pleased—when the Premier was enabled to say next day that so far at the *Malacca* and the Volunteer fleet were concerned, the critical stage had passed. The case of the *Knight Commander* remains to be settled, but it need not cause anxiety. The effect of the political developments upon prices was quite disproportionate to the real danger. The spasm of dear money and the rush of disgusted "Bulls" to realise were the principal factors. As I explained last week there was a lot of speculative buying of Consols shortly before the end of the half-year in the expectation that in July money would be superabundant, and that the gilt-edged market, with Consols to the front, would have a recovery compared with which the rise of about five points as from April would be a poor thing. What upset this calculation was the rush of new issues of the past four months. There was no ground for anticipating a glut of cash, but Lombard Street would have been in quite a comfortable condition had it not been for the necessity of providing for calls upon these issues as they have fallen due. There is plenty of money about, but it is not well distributed, and it is undeniable that the class which gives a fillip to speculation is frankly hard up. The people who have funds have not been tempted by the yield of 3 to 3½ per cent. offered, the result being that the underwriters (who were among the most misguided of men in their anticipations of easy money and an obliging public) have been saddled with a large proportion of the various loans and have been compelled to realise other good holdings to provide for the calls. There is not much absorbing power in the market—there are plenty of sellers about, but few buyers; hence the sharp relapse in prices when it becomes necessary to sell. The recklessness of the underwriters is virtually at the bottom of the whole position, and one good outcome at least is the abandonment of a score or two of additional loans projected. Behind it all, of course, is the wastage of capital, due to the Boer War, the increase of taxation connected with it, and the reduction of the gold output. As though these were not enough, we have the war in the Far East to cast a shadow over business enterprise, and to dislocate trade and the world's money markets; and more recently the fear of international complications has been impressed upon the public mind by the high-handed action of Russia. The outlook is undoubtedly clouded, but there are two good points which stand out prominently—the new issues of gilt-edged capital have been pretty effectually scotched, and the gold output is increasing rapidly enough to justify the belief of that excellent authority, Mr. Felix Schuster, who, at the meeting this past week of the Union of London and Smith's Bank, said that "gradually but surely the increased shipments from South Africa and the increased production of gold all over the world, cannot fail to make themselves felt in our Money

markets, and through them in the business world generally."

Money Tight — Month-end Requirements — "Window Dressing"—In the Hands of the Bank—Discounts Easier—Gold Arrivals—Bank's Position.

Calls on new issues have for a change been on quite a moderate scale during the past week, but money has been in very active request throughout, owing to the Stock Exchange settlement, the end of the month requirements, and the calling in of loans by the joint-stock banks for balance-sheet purposes. It has been found necessary to borrow a further large sum from the Bank of England, which has materially strengthened its hold upon the market—a not undesirable thing in view of the present state of the reserve and the desirability of improving the position for the autumn drain of gold to Egypt and South America. Now that the month end has turned, conditions are easier again, but the market is not too well supplied; cash is returning slowly from the provinces, and there are some important calls due shortly, including another instalment on the Japanese loan. Again, the large amount borrowed from the Bank has to be paid off. Discounts meantime are kept fairly easy by the Continental buying of bills, by the rise in the foreign exchanges, and by the expectation that practically all the gold now on the way to this country from South Africa and elsewhere will find its home in the Bank, while there is a possibility also of gold shipments from the United States. The last return of the Bank of England shows a reduction of £227,000 in the reserve, this being explained by the withdrawals for the provinces for the Bank Holiday. The current week's return will show a further contraction, but the return of cash from circulation will probably mean a recovery from the present figure of £24,104,000 to £26,000,000 by the end of this month. The ratio of reserve to liabilities has fallen to 47¼ per cent. from 50¾ per cent.

Consols Weak on Political Fears—The Premier's Reassurances—Outlook Uncertain—Foreigners and the Bourses—Japanese Strong—Berlin Buying.

Most of the week the gilt-edged market has been flat. The political situation looked rather black until Mr. Balfour made his reassuring statement, and in addition there were realisations of Consols at the instance of underwriters and of people in distress. Naturally, too, the "Bears" were active, and we were treated to the spectacle of our premier security—the world's premier security—dropping ½ in a single day. There was a time when a move of 1-16 in Consols caused a stir and when a move of ⅛ was regarded almost as a portent. That was when the security was respectable and staid—before it became a favourite vehicle of speculation with borrowed resources. With Consols the rest of the market moved sympathetically, though not to the same pronounced extent; and when they hardened on the relaxing of the political tension the others also improved, though they had not the same leeway to make up. With an uncertain immediate outlook it is impossible to speak with confidence about the course of prices. The only thing to be said is that gilt-edged descriptions are about as cheap as they are likely to be during the coming months. In the Foreign section the outstanding feature is the strength of Japanese. Not that investors are rushing to buy, because this is just what they are not doing. But the speculative commitments are considerable, and a smart rise in quotations was induced by "Bear" covering on the possibility of the fall of Port Arthur during the holidays. Foreigners as a group have been rather depressed. They are dependent for the most part upon the support of the Continental houses, and these have been dull by reason of the fear of trouble between Great Britain and Russia. Towards the end, however, matters have mended appreciably, and Paris specialties have had quite a respectable recovery. Chinese stocks have been bought for Berlin, and from the same quarter support has been received for Argentine and Brazilian bonds.

Home Railways and the Funds—"Leeds," Great Northern, and Great Central Dividends—Great Central Preference Stocks—Political Factors—No Public and Forced Liquidation—Some "Bear" Covering—Indifferent Earnings—Underground Electrification—Welsh Railway Reports—Competition of Electric Tramways.

But that general conditions were hopelessly adverse, the dividends published during the past week might have been expected to have a good effect upon the Home Railway market. While the South-Western declaration is reasonably satisfactory—the same as last year with much the same carry-forward—the Lancashire and Yorkshire, the Great Northern, and the Great Central have all three done better than was expected of them. The first-named was badly hit by the cotton trade depression, and, the traffics reported showing a decrease of £86,500, the market did not anticipate more than 2½ per cent. or, at the utmost, 2¾ per cent. as compared with 3¼ per cent. Instead, the dividend has been reduced by only ¼ to 3 per cent., and though the amount carried forward is much less than last year, it is still about the normal, the figure of a year ago being large, by reason of the accident on the Southport line. The Great Central was expected to pay the full interest on the Preference stocks down to and including that of 1876. It has gone one better, for it is able to meet the charges on the 1879 stock as well, and it seems probable, by the present showing, that the 1881 stock, which received 1½ per cent. for 1903, will this time receive its full 5 per cent., and there may be something left for the 1889 stock. In view of the rapid return of the various stocks to the dividend list, the 1889, 1891, and 1894 issues are worth buying to lock up for a year or two, while the senior stocks are deserving of attention, for the yield they give, which is well in excess of what can be commanded on other Home Railway Preference stocks of equal excellence. Here is a table showing the return:—

Name.	Per Cent	Present Amount.	Price	Yield per Cent.
		£		£ s. d.
Great Central Perpetual Preference	5	1,008,000	136	3 14 3
Do. Preference	4	1,100,000	109	3 14 6
Do. Convertible Pref. 1872	5	1,000,000	134	3 16 0
Do. do. 1874	5	1,080,000	133	3 16 6
Do. do. 1876	5	1,500,000	131	3 17 6
Do. do. 1879	5 yr.	1,000,000	129	3 18 9
Do. do. (5 p c) 1881	1½ yr.	1,380,000	111	1 7 0
Do. Preference, 1889	4	1,500,000	76	—
Do. do. 1891	4	2,230,000	56	—
Do. do. 1894	5	3,100,000	47	—

The Great Northern will pay at the rate of 3 per cent. on the old Ordinary stock, which means that the Preferred Ordinary will receive at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, and the "B" stock at the rate of 6 per cent., and there is an amount of £42,000 to be carried forward as compared with £22,880. The prospects of the Deferred stock are quite bright. The sum carried forward is practically ½ per cent. for the year on that issue. Last year the Deferred received 1 per cent., and a sum of £40,000 was set aside for the permanent way suspense account. The present dividend implies that the Great Northern is now earning 1¾ per cent. on the Deferred. As I have said above, these results would no doubt have been a good influence upon the Railway market as a whole but for the extraordinary factors in operation. The whole House developed fright over the *Knight Commander* case; the "Bears" were emboldened to bang prices, the dealers who had loaded themselves up with stock found it expedient to let go when they saw that the public kept away, and there was a good deal of forced liquidation. In the circumstances, a sharp relapse was inevitable. The drop was most severe in Southern stocks, which had previously

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been most affected by the "Bulls," and though there has been some recovery since owing to "Bear" covering, values are still much lower on the week. Great Northern Deferred has been something of a feature owing to the dividend outlook. There is not much disposition, however, to buy this or any other stock with the public shy and earnings indifferent where they are not actually bad. Among the "heavies," Great Westerns are dull, and Midland Deferred has suffered from another bad traffic, which leaves it with a larger loss to date than any other Company. The position of the leading Companies to date is shown in my usual table below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,345	- 907	+ 6,880
Caledonian	- 1,122	+ 2,030	- 34,175
Great Central	+ 338	+ 1,738	+ 1,436
Great Eastern	+ 400	+ 400	- 300
Great Northern	- 1 694	+ 1,389	- 31,453
Great Western	+ 500	- 2,800	- 5,800
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 3 923	- 1,689	+ 4 389
London and North-Western	-10,000	- 2,000	- 25,000
London and South-Western	- 900	+ 1,800	+ 2,600
Midland	-14 601	+ 9,564	- 40,777
North British	+ 1 707	+ 1,015	+ 1,981
North-Eastern	+ 4,350	+ 200	+ 12,083
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 2.559	+ 1,140	+ 3,931

The most interesting features of the report of the District Railway are the reference to the progress, which is described as "rapid and successful," made with the work of electrificaton, and the statement that the litigation which has been going on for several years between the Company and the Metropolitan Railway Company with reference to the division of traffic and the user of the western joint lines has been brought to an end, an arrangement having been made which is believed to be mutually satisfactory. The working agreement between the two Companies has been extended until such time as the railways are worked electrically, and the Company will receive 57 per cent. instead of 50 per cent. of the pooled receipts, in addition to a payment for arrears. The power station at Lots-road, Chelsea, is virtually completed, and the machinery is being installed. The substations on the Company's lines are nearing completion. Four hundred and twenty new corridor cars, providing sixty trains, have been ordered, and are being constructed. Many miles of cables have been drawn into the ducts. Satisfactory progress is being made with the widening of the railway between West Kensington and Hammersmith. The Central London report states that during the half-year there was a decrease of 209,741 (or less than 1 per cent.) in the number of passengers carried. This decrease is not confined to any particular station, but is spread over the whole line. The Company is about to utilise a source of revenue which it has hitherto neglected. Agreements have been completed for letting, for building purposes, the areas over the station buildings at Chancery-lane, Tottenham Court-road, Marble Arch, and Queen's-road. Negotiations are proceding for the utilisation of the British Museum station site, leaving only Lancaster Gate, Notting Hill Gate, and Holland Park station sites for disposal. The North Staffordshire reports a decrease of £9,300 in earnings (instead of the £15,000 originally reported), and as working expenses have been reduced by £7,400, the net shrinkage is no more than £1,900. But as the whole of the new issue of Ordinary stock now ranks for dividend, the Company is unable to maintain the rate, and pays 3¾ per cent. per annum, as against 4 per cent. last year. The leading Welsh railways send out satisfactory reports. The Taff Vale's gross receipts show an increase of over £21,400, but expenses have only risen about £6,600, the percentage to gross revenue being 55.9 per cent., as against 57.07 per cent. Nearly £3,000 more is brought into the accounts, and as a result the net revenue is £223,900, as against £206,100 for the first six months of 1903. The dividend is at the rate of 4 per cent., with £11,545 forward, as against 3½ per cent. and £6,315 forward. The Barry Railway also had a prosperous half-year. The net results, after providing for the interest on the Preference stocks, is nearly £99,700, or £16,000 more than for the first half of 1903, and the dividend forecast of 10 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary stock—an increase of 1 per cent. on the rate paid for the corresponding period of 1903 has been fulfilled. Movements on the week will be seen from my usual table which follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, July 23.	Price, July 29.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80	75	75	75	—
Do. Def.	30⅜	28½	28½	28½	- ¼
City and S. London	64	48	48	48	—
Central London	104½	90	90	90	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48½	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	27¼	24½	25	24	-1
Do. "A"	15⅞	14	14½	14	- ½
Great Eastern	91	89⅞	90½	87½xd	—
Great Northern Pref.	104½	101	101	101¼	+ ¼
Do. Def	42¼	39½	39½	39½	- ¼
Great Western	141	142½	142½	142½	—
Hull and Barnsley	44	37½	37	36	-1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	104	95	94	95	+1
London and Brighton "A"	122	122½	122½	120½	-2
London, Chatham, and Dover	15½	15⅝	15⅝	15⅛	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	99	101	100	100	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	66	66	65½	64	-1½
London and North-Western	162½	152	152	151½	- ½
London and South-Western Def.	57	54	53½	53	- ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	87	95¼	95½	95	- ½
Metropolitan District	36	36½	36½	36	- ½
Midland Pref.	70½	67½	67½	67½	—
Do. Def.	69½	65½	66	64	-2
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	77½	77½	77½	—
Do. Def.	47	43¾	44	43⅜	- ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	146	140	140	139	-1
South-Eastern "A"	69½	61	61	59	-2

At the half-yearly meeting of the Brighton Railway the Chairman was able to announce that a through service of trains has been organised between Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, and other important centres of industry and Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Worthing, and other of the Company's seaside resorts. This is development on the right lines, and other Companies ought to follow the example. At the South Eastern and Great Eastern meetings much complaint was made of the effect upon earnings of the electric tramway developments in the London suburbs.

Americans Fairly Cheerful—Dealings Entirely Professional—Steel Trust Earnings—State of Trade—"A Period of Hopefulness"—What Good Crops Mean—Position of Gold Bonds.

In Americans the situation shows little change. Fear of trouble between this country and Russia had its effect upon the market here and in New York, but now that the critical period has passed a relative degree of cheerfulness reigns once again. It is due entirely to professional activity, the public on both sides remaining consistently away, and its continuance depends upon the measure of success which attends the effort to create a real outside interest. The cable tells us of "manipulation with a view to facilitating professional liquidation," and the phrase just about hits off the situation. Without public co-operation a respectable rally is out of the question, and for my part I see little reason why the English public, at all events, should co-operate. The political outlook has improved, and gross earnings are somewhat better, while there are signs of improvement also in net revenue, showing that expenses are being reduced. The U.S. Steel Corporation is able to pay the full quarter's dividend on its Preferred stock, but the quantity of work in hand is not large for such an undertaking, and shows a reduction since March. The *Iron Age*, which is not in the habit of belittling American trade, says that "there is really no good buying movement in any branch of the iron industry;" and reports on the bituminous and anthracite coal trades, are "distinctly gloomy." The Reading Company has decided to shut its coal mines for ten days in order to keep production down, and there is still uncertainty as to whether the profits will permit of the maintenance of the dividend on Erie First Preference. General opinion in the United States as to the outlook is more hopeful. The New York *Journal of Commerce*, after pointing out that the next two months will inevitably be a period of waiting and of more or less uncertainty in the business world, goes on to say:

"It bids fair to be a period of hopefulness, and unless there should be some untoward change in the prospects it will be one of growing confidence and anticipation of the future. This attitude is in itself a potent influence in overcoming depression and inciting to renewed activity, but if the experience of the last two years is taken to heart, there will be a wholesome leaven of conservatism and caution. It seems at present safe to assume that the political campaign will not be a disturbing factor, though, so far as it absorbs public attention, it will contribute to the disposition to await the course of events, and will act as a brake upon the energetic revival. But at all events there is likely to be no menace in the political situation, no ground for apprehension for the future, whatever may be the result of the election in November." The chief elements of uncertainty lie in the crop prospects, and these will be subject to vicissitudes in the next two months which cannot be foreseen or confidently calculated upon. There seems to be a more general realisation than ever before of the extent to which the country's industrial and commercial prosperity depends upon its natural resources, and especially upon the annual output of agricultural products. For this reason there is more than the usual solicitous watching of the crop reports and of the various indications of promise or of menace for the year's harvests. Two years of comparative shortage in cotton, which, on account of the dependence of foreign countries upon the American supply, has been profitable to the planters and has increased the value of exports, has had a disastrous effect upon American manufacturing interests, and through high prices has seriously affected consumers of the finished goods. There is promise of relief from this situation, and if it be fulfilled, another run of at least moderate prosperity will follow. If American stocks are bought now, it should be with a view to holding for realisation of present hopes. Should anything untoward happen to the crops there is likely to be a fall in prices, and the buyer must be prepared to face this contingency. Speculation in Yankees, especially with borrowed resources, is just now to be deprecated in view of the artificial conditions ruling and the necessity which you are under of playing in the dark. Here follows my usual table:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price. July 16, 1904.	Closing Price, July 23, 1904.	Closing Price. July 29, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	77⅞	78⅛	79½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	97½	99½	98¾
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	85⅞	87¼	86¼
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28½	35⅝	35	34¼
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	23⅛	22¼	22⅝
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	74	74	73¼
Erie	43 9/16	23½	26⅜	26⅜	25¼
Do. First Pref.....	75⅛	64⅛	63¼	64½	62¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	119	120	117xd
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	151½	152½	151
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅞	16 7/16	19⅛	18⅝	18¼
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	90	90½	90½
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	62⅝	63⅝	62
New York Central	158	116⅜	122½	122¼	121½
Ontario	36	19⅜	31¼	31⅜	31¼
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	61¼	62⅛	61¼
Reading.....	35½	20	26⅜	27⅝	26⅝
Do. First Pref.....	45⅝	36⅞	43⅛	42½	42¼
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅞	25⅜	24⅝	24
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	91	91	90½
Southern Pacific	69⅝	39¼	96½	52¾	50½xts
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	98⅜	99¾	98½
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	96½	96½	95¼
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	37	37½	35½
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	61	61	60⅝
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12¼	12½	12
Do. Pref.	—	—	62¼	64⅜	62

The firmness of Gold bonds is the outstanding feature of the American market. It has been pointed out by me before that the ease of the Money Market, coupled with the expected further accumulation of funds in the banks, would naturally create a demand for safe income-yielding securities, and that under existing circumstances Gold bonds would furnish the most attractive method of affording employment for money which would otherwise remain idle or have to be put out at exceptionally low rates of interest. From all appearances the banking syndicates which took the bond issues created some months ago by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and its allied corporations, by the New York Central, the Burlington and other concerns of corresponding standing and credit, had the prospect of such a state of affairs in mind. The actual results have certainly justified such views. There has been, and continues to be, a steady, well-sustained buying demand both for the new bonds of the grade referred to and for the short-term notes which were so popular with railroad companies during the early months of the year, as a means of raising the capital required for the improvement work they had undertaken. So far as bonds of railroad companies whose securities may be considered safe and stable by the investing public are concerned, there has ceased to be any congestion.

CANADIAN PACIFIC'S HALF-YEAR — DIVIDEND PROSPECTS — CANADIAN HARVEST—WEAK TRUNKS—"SHORTAGE OF GRAIN"—POOR EARNINGS—CANADIAN PRIOR CHARGE STOCKS—ARGENTINE RAILS—STOCKS WORTH BUYING.

The Canadian Pacific is in the enjoyment of traffics which are all the more excellent since they follow upon very large figures last year. The past week's increase is $105,000, which makes the Company $358,000 to the good for the first three weeks of its new year. An increase of 690 in the mileage has to be kept in mind, but all the same the evidence of improvement in the transportation business of the country is unmistakable. Further, the harvest prospects are quite encouraging. The Dominion Government, says a cable from Winnipeg, has collected reports generally throughout the West. The returns indicate a harvest varying from fairly good in some districts to excellent in others. In Manitoba the yield will probably be uneven, varying between excellent and medium. The crop in Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, and North Alberta is good and the cry for rain has been appeased, the heavy fall having proved rather too much for the crops sown in valleys. The Canadian Pacific is benefiting indirectly as well as directly from the growing immigration movement, because more settlers mean the sale of more lands, for which the Company is receiving good prices. But, although conditions are satisfactory and the prospects more than fair, the price of the Company's shares is lower on the week. The explanation, however, is simple—the political factors have left their mark on "Canadas" as on everything else. With the Stock Market outlook very clouded, it is too much to say that Canadian Pacifics will advance again immediately, but their relative steadiness when almost everything around has been falling sharply shows that so far as they are concerned, the inherent investment position is strong. The "Bears" prefer not to take too many liberties, and even the rumours of an impending issue of capital—which, by the way, are not confirmed—have little effect, for the reason perhaps that the amount is not large, and that a good and immediately profitable use can be found for it if raised. Grand Trunks, on the other hand, are frankly weak. The earnings are falling off, the last traffic telling of an decrease of £11,795, making an adverse total for three weeks of £20,494 as compared with an improvement of £87,365 for the corresponding period of last year. An office note attributes the decline to shortage of grain and the strike at the packing houses; and concerning the first of these causes the market would be glad of a little explicit information, and would especially like to know if it means that the elevators are empty, and that nothing is to be expected until this year's crops begin to move. In this event, it will be necessary to look out for a continuance of indifferent traffics, because last year they were on a very heavy scale, a gross increase of £123,943 for the whole of July being increased to £302,925 by the end of September, and to £426,885 by the end of

December. Speculation on the subject of the current half-year's results is therefore not very hopeful, even making allowance for the Company's capacity for economising; and there is nothing in the situation at present which can be called encouraging for an early rise. When the results for the first half of the year are made known next week, it may be possible to see more clearly ahead, but nothing is likely to be lost by waiting until then. The weakness of the Company's stocks caused by unfavourable developments and dubious prospects has been aggravated by a run of forced liquidation; some reckless speculators in the provinces having been caught badly. For investment, I have selected a few Canadian Railway Prior Charge stocks, which give a moderate return:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Atlantic and North-West	120	£4 1 0
Calgary and Edmonton Debs.	107	3 15 9
Canadian Pacific Preference	103	3 19 0
,, ,, First Debentures, 1915	112	4 0 0
Grand Trunk 4 p.c. Guaranteed	96¼	4 3 6
Nakusp and Slocan Bonds	98	4 3 0

Mexican Railways have weakened from a variety of causes, the principal being the size of the speculative account, which has grown since the last dividend declaration, and the refusal of the outside public to help out the professionals. Argentine Railway issues have not escaped the prevailing influences, but they have held their ground tolerably well, and it was noticeable that on the eve of the last settlement there was less profit-taking than usual on such occasions, owing to the difficulty of carrying over stocks. Rosarios are helped by a traffic increase of £9,098 as well as by a substantial reduction in the "Bull" account. The recent lifting of a lot of the stock for Buenos Ayres has also cleared the air somewhat. B.A. Westerns are rather dull, the earnings not being very satisfactory—with this week's £5,365, the decrease for three weeks to date amounts to £14,954. The Pacific's increase of £2,104 is satisfactory, but the stock is intimately affected by the political and other influences ruling. The dividend announcement is due before very long, and the market is going for 8 or 10 per cent. for the twelve months. If the actual rate be the lower of the two, the yield will be 7 per cent. The Second Preference may be recommended to the investor who asks for 5¼ per cent. Another is the Cumulative Participating Preference stock of the Argentine Great Western, which also brings in 5¼ per cent. On Rosario Preference stock you will command about 4¼ per cent., and on Great Southerns Preference and Westerns Preference rather less than 4 per cent. My table of Colonial and Foreign Railway stocks shows the measure of movements during the week:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	126¾	127½	127½
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	18⅛	13⅜	13⅜
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102¾	96½	96½
,, 1st Preference	112½	102	101
,, 2nd ,,	98¾	86½	85¾
,, 3rd ,,	50¼	37⅞	36⅞
Bengal and North-West	126½	137½	137
Bombay Baroda	159½	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	127½	127	126½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	100	101½	101½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97½	114½	113¼
,, ,, 1st Preference	100	103	101xd
,, ,, 2nd ,,	88	92½	92¼
,, Great Southern	134¼	132½	131½
,, Western	126	123½	123½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	54½	58½	58
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	83¼	92	92¼
Costa Rica Railway	2⅛	1⅝	1⅝
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	90	89½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75¼
Mexican Railway	18⅜	18	17½
,, 1st Preference	71½	82½	81½
,, 2nd ,,	27	29½	28¾
Nitrate Rails	6	7⅛	7⅛

It is officially announced that the agreement entered into between the B.A. and Pacific and the Bahia Blanca and North-Western, and approved by the shareholders and debenture-holders of both Companies on June 10, has been confirmed by the Argentine Government.

Havana Cigars.—"The 'Bolivar' is the finest Cigar I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the good old crops of back years."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

West Africans Depressed—Two More Unsatisfactory Reports—Everything Weak—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Le Roi No. 2—The Future of Broken Hill Props—Queen Cross Reefs.

The Jungle is still in a sad state of depression; and it would seem that the recent efforts of the full-blooded optimists to cultivate a better and more confident feeling in regard to the future possibilities of the country are futile. Ashanti Goldfields displayed an inclination to go higher at one time, but this was only momentary, for on the publication of the Sansu report they became distinctly flat in company with the rest of the market. At the outset I may mention that the Directors of the Sansu mine "regret that the payment of dividends has had to be suspended, but they are assured by their engineers "that this result is due to want of proper management." The accounts show sundry creditors £21,641, sundry debtors £1,437, and cash £976; but perhaps the most significant item in the report is the utterance of the mine Manager to the effect that "owing to reasons that existed before his connection with the property, he found that the system of working the property had been to extract the richer portions of the vein, leaving the lower grade ore in place. Also, instead of keeping the developments ahead of the extraction, the former had apparently been abandoned at every place where the ore pinched out, and the natural consequence was that the available higher grade ore reserves had dwindled to a very small figure. It is true that considerable quantities of low grade ore still existed in the workings, but they were of too low grade to work to any great advantage in the present light sectionalised mill." In face of all this, however, the Directors hope that "in a few months the mine will return to its former values." The other unsatisfactory report published during the week was that of the West African Gold Trust, from which it appears that at the end of 1903 the Company had only £255 cash, whereas sundry creditors figured in the balance-sheet for £36,439, of which £35,000 included loans against securities. The Directors admit that the market values of the Company's investments (included in the balance-sheet as £187,207) have depreciated, but it would be interesting to learn how much further they have depreciated since the date of the balance-sheet. These two unsatisfactory reports following so closely upon others equally unsatisfactory caused the whole market to develop weakness, and hardly a single share in which there is pretence of life at all has escaped. My table follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price. July 23, 1904.	Closing Price. July 29, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	165,000	4/-	f.p.	1 13/16 1 5/8	1 5/8 1 3/4
Axim Mines	100 000	62,393	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	7/16 1/16dis	3/8 1/16dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	3/8 ½	¼ ⅝
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	7/16 ⅜	7/16 ⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1½ 1⅝	1 1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1⅞ 2⅛	1⅞ 2
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	⅛ ¼	⅛ ¼
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
London and W. A. G Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅝	⅜ ⅝
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜ ⅝	⅜ ⅝
Preston Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	¼ ½	⅜ ½
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f p.	7/16 ⅝	½ ⅝
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅝ ¾	⅝ ¾
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¼ 1⅜	1⅜ 1¼

In Miscellaneous mines there has not been much activity, and for the most part prices have been quietly firm. Indian mining shares have moved within very narrow limits, but, in the British Columbian market, Le Roi No. 2 are weaker on the report by mail, which states that it is considered safest to curtail the monthly shipments of ore by 20 to 25 per cent., this meaning a reduction from 2,000 to 1,500 or 1,600 tons. Camp Birds also lost ground on statements made at the meeting

concerning the vendor's participation in the future profits, terms for the commutation of his interest being still unsettled. Among Silver shares, Broken Hill Props. were harder in consequence of the manager's utterances to the effect that silver and lead would have to take a back seat in future. Owing to the mine's salt-cake and other new processes, "zinc had now come forward, and was going to be an important product, and processes were being perfected which would enable the mineral to be successfully treated. When that time arrived things would again be as prosperous as they were when the mines were shovelling silver out of the open cut." The extensive manufacture of superphosphates, of which at present a large quantity is imported into Australia, was also foreshadowed. In the Charters Towers group, Brilliant and St. George eased off, but subsequently regained the loss, and Queen's Cross Reefs improved on the half-yearly report, to hand by mail. The total receipts for the Company's mining operations amounted to £177,388, giving the average value per ton of ore mined at £11 5s. 6d., as against £158,803, equal to £11 12s. 2d. for the previous half-year. Among New Zealanders, Waihis, together with Waihi Grand Junctions are slightly better on the week:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25.	Closing Price, July 29.
Anaconda Copper	7 7/16	3 3/8	3⅞	3⅞
Balaghat Gold	1 15/16	1/4/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅝	1¼	59/3	59/-
Cape Copper	5	2	3¼	3 1/16
Champion Reef	7	5⅛	3⅛	1⅛
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	1/-	⅝
Mason and Barry	4½	3½	2 15/16	2⅞
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	13/-	13/-
Mysore Gold	7⅛	5 1/16	6¼	6 1/16
Namaqua Copper	4¼	2⅛	2 3/16	2⅛
North Mount Lyell	1 15/16	⅝	—	—
Nundydroog	2 1/16	1⅜	32/-	1¼ xd
Ooregum	2¾	21/9	17/6	⅞
Rio Tinto	53 3/16	38⅞	53	53½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4¼
Waihi Gold	6⅛	4 15/16	5½	5 1/16

KAFFIRS INACTIVE—POLITICS AND CONSOLS—MARKET LACKS BUOYANCY—PUBLIC TIRED—INSIDE SUPPORT—CONDITIONS IMPROVING—COOLIE LABOUR SUPPLY—KAFFIRS WORTH BUYING—GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE—DEEP LEVELS.

There is not much change in the condition of the Kaffir market. Buyers are few, and the "Bear" contingent has been busy depressing prices, being helped by the state of politics and the weakness of Consols, with which South Africans possess a most intimate sympathy, incongruous though that may seem. Values are above the lowest, but that is about the best that can be said for them. The market is badly lacking in buoyancy, from want of a public to give support and from the unwillingness or inability of the "magnates" to help matters in a lively style. Concerning this last there is not much to be said; presumably the Kaffir leaders know their own business best, and for my own part, I do not see that they are called upon under inauspicious circumstances to give a smart fillip to prices in order that speculators may come by a quick profit. It will not have escaped notice that a further amount has been called up by the syndicate which was formed last year to help the market in times of stress, and it is a fair inference therefrom that the leaders are not leaving the market entirely alone, even though they are not showing their hand. Concerning the other point—the absence of public support—there is little to add to what I have already said. The people who are the real mainstay of the market are already well loaded up with stock which they have held for months—in not a few cases for a year or two—and apart altogether from their ability to buy more, they see no reason why they should go on increasing their commitments when the leaders accord only the most passive support. In this way, matters are at a deadlock, and relief can only be obtained gradually—by a restoration of confidence following the return of prosperous conditions on the Rand. It is consoling in the circumstances that conditions are making this way. The great desideratum is a proper supply of labour for the mines, and this is being furnished at a more rapid rate than is generally supposed. The niggers are a broken reed, and not to be relied upon; but the aliens are there, or, at all events, many of them are on the way there. The *Ikbal* has arrived during the past week with nearly 2,000 Chinese, and not a single case of beri-beri, which may be accepted as evidence of the health of the north of China, the quarter of the empire which furnished that contingent. Within the next few days 4,000 more will be leaving the Flowery Land on two steamers, and four more vessels with 2,000 each are due to sail before the end of the month. Recruiting has been carried on actively, and there is every reason to conclude that as many coolies as the Transvaal needs will be furnished within a reasonable space of time. Nothing more than an adequate supply of labour is required to bring prosperity to the mining industry, and the reduction of working expenses which will follow must inevitably mean increased profits, and generally satisfactory conditions. For those who are prepared to hold shares for a return of normal conditions I reprint my table of moderate-priced Kaffirs which are assured of an appreciation of 25 per cent. or more with a return of better times:—

—	Record Price.	Highest, 1902.	Price, July 29.
Anglo French	7⅜	5 13/16	3 5/16
Barnato Consolidated	5 1/16	4⅛	2 1/16
Comet	4¾	4	2 1/16
Ginsberg	4¾	4¾	3
Goerz & Co.	4 3/16	4 3/16	2 5/16
Glencairn	4⅞	2⅞	1⅞
Johannesburg Cons. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2⅛
Langlaagte Estates	7⅛	5 1/16	3 9/16
May Consol	6 1/16	5 1/16	3 1/16
New Goch	4⅝	4⅝	3
New Primrose	8 5/16	5 1/16	3 9/16
Oceana	2⅞	2⅞	1
Randfontein	4⅜	4⅛	2 3/32
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1½
,, Robinson	2 1/16	2 3/16	1 9/16
Rietfontein	6¾	3½	2¼
Roodepoort United	8¼	4⅞	3⅝
Simmer and Jack	*24½	2⅝	1⅛
Transvaal Est and Devel.	2 5/16	2 5/16	1 3/16
,, G. Mining Estates	8⅜	3 1/16	1 1/16
,, Goldfields	6⅜	3¼	2⅛
Treasury	6⅜	6⅜	3⅜
Vogelstruis	6⅝	2¾	1½

* Reconstructed in 1895.

In the next table are shown the movements on balance during the past week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	7	7	7
Anglo-French	7⅛	5 5/16	3⅜	3½	3½	3 5/16
Aurora West	3¾	2	1/16	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	1/16	¼	1/16	1/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2⅛	1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅝	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7½	5¼	6½	6⅝	6¼
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 15/16	6¼	5⅜	5⅛
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1 5/16	1¼	1¼
Crown Reef	12⅞	18¼	10½	14¼	14¼	14⅜
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18⅝	18⅝	18 5/16
Do. Def.	—	20½	18¼	19	18¾	18 5/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	5	5	4 15/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 1/16	6½	5¼	4 13/16	4⅜	4⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	1⅝	1 9/16
East Rands	12	10 7/16	6⅝	7 1/16	7 1/16	7 1/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¼	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Ferreira	22	26	18	20¾	21	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Geduld	—	9 3/16	5	6 3/16	5 3/16	5 3/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	3¼	3¼	3
Goch (New)	3¾	4½	2¼	3 1/16	3	3
Geldenhuis Estate	7¼	7¾	5¾	5¾	5¾	5¾
,, Main Reef	1⅛	¾	¼	1/16	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅛	2⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Henderson	5¾	2 1/16		1⅛	1⅛	1
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8¾	8¾	8¾
Heriot	12½	8¼	3¾	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/8	21	21 9/16	21½	21⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜		¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7¼	4½	4⅝	4⅝	4⅝
Jumpers	8¾	5¾	2¾	2⅜	2½	2⅜

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up July 11, 1904.	Make-up July 25 1904.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Kimberley Rood	4 1/2	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6 3/4	2 1/8	1 1/8	2	1 3/4	1 7/8
Knight's	11 1/2	9 7/8	4 3/8	5 1/4	5 3/8	5 1/2
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/4	1 1/2	3/8	1/2	1/2	1/2
Langlaagte Estate	7 1/4	5 1/4	3 7/16	3 5/8	3 5/8	3 7/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4 1/4	3 1/2	2 7/8	2	2
Luipaard's Vlei New)	2 1/4	2 1/2	1 5/8	1 3/8	1 1/2	1 1/4
May Consolidated	4 1/4	5 7/8	2 3/8	3 5/16	3	3 5/16
Meyer and Charlton	8 1/2	6 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/2	5 1/2
Modderfontein(£4)	17 3/8	14 7/8	7 1/2	8 5/8	8 1/2	8 3/4
Mozambique	3 7/8	2 3/4	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 7/8	1 13/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	13/-	11/3	11/-
Nigel	8 1/8	4	2 3/8	2 1/2	2 1/2	2 3/8
„ Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/8	1 1/2	1 3/4	1 7/8	1 15/16
New Comet	4 3/4	4	2	2 3/4	2 15/16	2 15/16
New Rietfontein	6 1/2	3 1/4	1 3/8	2 1/2	2 5/8	2 1/2
Oceana Cons.	1 1/8	2 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 7/8	1 7/8
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/4	1/2	1/2	1/2	7/8
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/8	1/2	3/4	3/4	3/4
Primrose (New)	8 1/4	5 7/8	3 3/8	3 3/8	3 3/8	3 5/16
Princess Estate	4 1/2	2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Rand Mines (5/-)	11 1/2	13 3/4	8 7/8	10 1/4	9 3/8	9 5/8
Randfontein	4 3/8	4 1/2	2 1/2	2 15/16	2 3/4	2 13/16
Randfontein Porges	3 1/2	3 1/2	1 7/8	1 1/2	1 5/8	1 1/2
„ Robinson	2 7/8	2 3/8	1	1 3/4	1 5/8	1 5/16
„ North	—	2 1/8	1 1/4	1 1/4	1 1/8	1 5/8
Randfontein Block "A"	—	1	1/2	1 1/8	1	1
„ Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11 1/2	12	9 1/4	9 3/4	9 3/4	9 1/4
Roodepoort United	8 1/2	4 3/4	2 1/4	3 3/4	3 5/8	3 5/8
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14 3/4	6 1/2	7 1/4	6 5/8	6 1/2
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/8	9 1/4	4 5/8	4 15/16	4 1/16	4 1/4
Sheba	2 3/4	1 15/16	11/3	3/3	2/6	2/9
Simmer and Jack	*8 1/2	2 5/8	1 1/4	1 1/2*	1 5/8	1 1/2
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/6	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/3	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4 1/8	6 1/4	3 1/8	3 15/16	3 1/16	3 3/8
Transvaal Development	2 1/8	2 3/8	24/-	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 5/8
Transvaal Exploig.	—	1/2	1/2	6/3	6/-	6/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/8	2 1/2	2 1/8	2 1/4
Treasury	5	6 1/2	4 1/2	3 3/4	3 3/4	3 7/8
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 1/4	2 1/2	3 1/2	3 1/2	3 5/16
Village Main Reef	9 1/2	9 3/4	7 1/8	6 1/8	6 3/8	6 1/4xd
Violet	—	3 1/4	2	3	2 3/4	2 15/16
Vogelstruis	6 1/8	2 3/4	1 1/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Welgedacht	—	8 3/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/16	5 3/4
Wemmer	13 1/8	15	9 1/4	11 1/2	10 3/4	10 1/4
W. Rand Central	—	1 1/4	1/2	—	1/2	1/16
„ (New)	—	2 3/4	1 1/16	2	1 15/16	1 3/8
Wolhuter	12	6 1/2	3	3 3/4	3 1/4	3 1/2
Worcester	6 1/2	3 3/4	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/4

* £5 shares.

Diamond shares have been dull in common with the rest of the market, but there have been some buying orders for De Beers from Paris, so that they are now above the lowest. Deep Levels are quiet and without material change. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.
Bonanza	4 1/2	6 7/8	3 3/4	1 1/2	1 5/8	1 5/16
Cent. Nigel Deep	15/16	1	1/2	5/16	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1 3/8	2 1/2	2 3/4	2 3/4
Crown Deep	13 1/4	18 1/4	12	13	13	12 3/4
Durb. Rood. Deep	4 1/2	4 3/16	2	2 1/2	2 7/8	2 1/2
Ferreira Deep	6 3/4	8 1/2	5	5 1/2	5 3/8	5 3/8
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3 1/2	4	3 7/8	3 7/8
Geldenhuis Deep	10 3/4	12 1/4	8 3/4	11 1/4	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5 3/8	6 3/4	3 1/2	4 1/2	4	4
Knight's Deep	4 1/2	5 1/2	3 3/4	3	2 15/16	2 7/8
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/4	4 7/8	2 1/4	2 1/2	2	1 15/16
Lancaster	3 3/8	3 7/8	2	2 1/4	2 1/4	2
Do. West	2 3/4	3	1 3/8	2 3/8	2 3/8	2 1/4
New Steyn Estates	2 11/16	5 1/16	2 1/4	3	2 15/16	2 15/16
Nourse Deep	5 3/4	6 3/8	3 1/2	4	3 7/8	3 3/4
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	3/16	1/2	3/8	3/8
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4 1/4	2 3/8	2 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/4
Robinson Deep	5 1/4	6 3/16	4 1/2	5 3/8	5 1/4	5 1/2
Do Cent Deep	4 1/2	5 5/16	2 3/8	4 3/8	4 3/16	4 1/16
Rose Deep	10	10 3/4	6 3/4	8 3/4	8 1/2	8 1/2
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2 3/4	3 1/4	1 3/8	1 11/16	1 15/16	1 3/8
South Rose Deep	3 3/8	4 1/2	2	2	1 3/4	1 3/4
South Geld. Deep	3 3/4	4 3/4	2 5/16	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 3/8
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/2	4 1/16	3 1/4	2	1 7/8	1 15/16
Simmer and Jack West	4 3/4	5 7/16	2 3/4	3	2 15/16	2 3/4
Vogelstruis Deep	1 3/8	2 3/4	1 3/4	3/4	11/16	3/4
Witwatersrand Deep	2 11/16	4 1/2	2 5/16	3 1/16	3 1/2	3 3/4

The General Mining and Finance Corporation issues a voluminous report dealing with the operations of itself and of its affiliated Companies during last year. Operations on most of the properties were either very partial or suspended altogether owing to the shortage of labour; but the Corporation is eloquent of the results which will follow the provision of a full supply, and in the meantime it is able to announce that 1,500 of the coolies which have arrived on the Ikbal are to be allocated to two of its properties—1,200 to the Van Ryn and 300 to the Aurora West.

Rhodesians Idle—Neglected by the Public—Tone Mostly Dull—Chartered Lower—Copper Shares Tolerably Steady—Tanganyikas and Zambesias.

There are no indications of any changed attitude on the part of the public in regard to Rhodesians. They still ignore the market, and, as a consequence of this neglect and the disinclination of the professionals to increase their commitments, the section has been dull and idle during the past week. There is a lack of confidence in the market, accentuated by the two or three adverse factors to which I have called attention before, and under these influences prices are mostly down on the week. Chartered developed some weakness at one time in sympathy with Kaffirs, but they picked up later. Charter Trust were quietly firm, and at one time were disposed to harden, accompanied by some of the other active shares, such as Explorations, Selukwe, Globe and Phœnix, Lomagundas, and Rice Hamiltons, all of which are firmer, though without much appreciable change in quotations. Among the Copper shares the feeling has not been cheerful, but on the whole they have been tolerably steady, and displayed a firmer tone towards the end in sympathy with the rest of the market. Tanganyikas and Zambesias have been mostly inactive without movement one way or the other beyond a gain of 1-16 in the price of the former on some bidding towards the end of the week. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up. July 25, 1904.	Closing Price. July 29, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	7/8	1
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2 3/8	1 1/8	1 1/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/2	1 3/8	1 1/2
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	1/2	1/2
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 023	1	f.p.	1 1/8	3/4	7/8
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	7/8	7/8
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	1/2	5/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/2	1/2
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/2	3/4
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/4	1 1/2
Lomagunda Dev	250 000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/2	1 3/8	1 3/8
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/8	1/2	1/2
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4 1/2	3/4	3/4
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	2 7/8	2 1/2
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1 1/2	3/8	1/2
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	7/8	7/8
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	2 1/2	2 1/4	2 1/2
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	7/8	5/8
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	5/16	5/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/2	3/4
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p	2 1/2	2 3/8	2 1/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/2	1/2
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/2	1/2
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	1/2	3/-	5/8
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/2	5/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/8	1 3/8	1 1/8

Westralians Irregular — Business Poor — No Public — Better Feeling at the Close—Little Kangaroos Weak and Idle.

Some irregularity has characterised the West Australian market during the week, though for the most part the tone has been dullish. Business is on a limited scale and almost entirely of a professional nature, the public evidently fighting shy of the section on account of the recent recrudescence of that blackguardism which has come to be euphemistically termed Westralianism. In short, there is a lack of confidence in the market, but towards the end of the week a rather better feeling was manifested by some of the leading shares, and Fingalls scored a slight improvement, followed closely by Kalgoorlies and Oroyas. Allowing for the deduction of the dividend, Ivanhoes kept tolerably steady, but Great Boulder on the other hand receded in consequence of some "Bear" manœuvres and are lower on the week. There was some bidding at one time for Lake Views, but without any appreciable effect upon the price, while Associated have been pretty consistently weak, though with the rest of the market they contrived to harden later on. Dealings in the "Little Kangaroos" have been also on a very small scale. Hannan's stars have

been without feature, but Boulder Deeps were unmistakably weak throughout. In connection with these latter it seems as though the mine was salted at the time that the boomlet carried the price of the shares to such a fancy figure. Beyond these few features the market has nothing of importance to show, and movements on the week will be seen from my usual table, which follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	8¾	1	2½	2¼	2⅛xd
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3¾	4½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	17	⅝	1¼	½	½
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36 3	12/-	9/9	9/9	9/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11 7	7	7¼	7	7⅛
Golden Link	3½	13 3	6/-	5/-	4/6	4/6
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17 9	24/-	23 9	23/3
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1¼	8/6	5/-	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1½	1⅛	11/-	11/-	11/-
Do. South	3½	13	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6½	9⅜	5⅛	8⅛	7¾	7½
Hainault	1¾	¾	¼	⅔	⅔	⅝
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	7/-	6/6	6/-
Ivanhoe (25)	15½	10	6¾	7½	7⅛	7⅛xd
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	⅜	¾	⅝	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅛	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5¾	6¾	1⅜	1½	1⅝	1⅝
L. & W. A. Exploration	1½	1⅜	½	⅞	⅝	⅝
North Kalgurli	1⅛	10/-	4/-	7/-	6 9	6/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¾	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅜
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅝	1	1⅜	1½	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	¾	1⅝	1⅜	1⅝
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅛	⅜	⅝	½	½

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, p'ainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Railways.

Jack.—Brighton "A" is a promising holding, and I look for a further improvement. But the theory you have got hold of is scarcely sound. The decline in the second half of last year is due to extraordinary influences, including much forced realisation. *Strand.*—Grand Trunk Thirds should only be bought now, if bought at all, to hold into next year, when, given a fair winter, earnings will be comparing with the skeleton figures of the first half of this year. *Plumstead.*—I suggest Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary stock, which will yield 5¼ per cent. *Veritas, Liverpool.*—There is every reason to believe that the Grand Trunk First Preference stock will receive its full 5 per cent. for the current year, though it may be necessary to wait for it, until the end of the year. *Lex, Brecon.*—Your best plan would be to await events, probably the Government will exercise its powers.

Mixed Investments.

Rose.—The selection is a very good one and can hardly be improved upon for the yield required. *Primativa.*—1. Nelsons are too speculative for you. 2. Gordon Hotels are not attractive in view of the year's report. 3. Costa Rica Railway Prior Debentures are a reasonably safe purchase. *H. B. W.*—1. The matter is one upon which I cannot offer advice; see a solicitor. (2) The Colonial stocks ought to be kept. When money becomes really cheap there is likely to be some appreciation. *Druid.*—(1) West Africans are not in a good way, but probably Akrokerris will give you a profit if you care to wait for further developments. (2) Sweetmeat Automatics are not very promising, but in expectation of a good summer it might be the lesser of the two evils to wait for the end of the company's year. *Lichfold.*—1. Ohlssons Cape Brewery shares are a good industrial. Dividends have been high, but you should realise that the £5 shares are at a very high premium. 2. No doubt there is some speculative risk in Rosarios, but you must remember that conditions have undergone a very great improvement since 1900. I think they are cheap at the present price. *Sailor.*—The shares which you might hold are British Insulated Cables, Ocean Marine, Amalgamated Press Preference, Hunters the Teamen Preference, Pear's Ordinary, Bradford Dyer's Preference, Brunner Mond Ordinary, Salt Union, and United Alkali Debentures. The others should be sold *An Inquirer, Limerick.*—1. Cape Electric Trams make a good purchase. A dividend of 16 per cent. was paid for last year, and on this basis the yield at the current price is about 7½ per cent. The electrical manufacturers shares are moderately attractive. 2. The stock is redeemable next year, and the authorities will issue a notifier to that effect. *Hyde Park.*—1. The Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock ought to be kept. 2 The Irish Land stock is an excellent investment—one of the best in the gilt-edged list. 3. I should be inclined to get rid of the F. Leyland Preference shares. 4. San Paulo Gas shares are all right.

Mines.

Eblana.—I should choose Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 8; the others might be left alone. Other South Africans of promise are Barnato Consolidated and Henderson's Transvaal Estates, provided, as you say, you are in no hurry to realise. *M. A. M.*—You might buy more Ivanhoe S. Extended. *Shares.*—Conditions make for greater activity in the Kaffir market after the summer, and I regard Johnnies as a good speculative purchase. On a brisk market Eastern Rand shares are likely to receive much attention. *Knock.*—If you can hold your Goldfields for better conditions you will probably get out at much less loss than if you were to realise now. But I do not look for the shares to go up to 10 again at present, and the forthcoming report is not likely to be a satisfactory one. It is for yourself to decide in these circumstances whether to realise now or to wait. *Donegal.*—I do not recommend the shares as a "spec." *Florida.*—You had better hold the Kaffirs for better conditions in the market, but I am not very hopeful of a substantial recovery in Chartered. *Maltese.*—About the American Exploration Company I have, as you know, had occasion to speak on numerous occasions in the columns of Truth. If an English mining engineer of repute were to make an examination of the La Fiesta and other concerns whose shares have been planted freely in this country and elsewhere, and were to report favourably, the case would be altered considerably. As it is, I stick to my belief that the good Californians know better than to let anything of promise go out of the State. *Trichy.*—The Directors were apparently acting within their rights as defined by the articles, but partial allotment will require a lot of justification. In the end, the mine ought to do well. *Nagasaki.*—1. I hold to my opinion on the subject of your Kaffirs. 2. Transvaal Consolidated Lands should move briskly on an active market, and the increase of capital will probably not militate much against an improvement. 3. I cannot give you any information as to the probability of diamond discoveries. *Bonaccord.*—The concern is not worth following further. Its prospects are exceedingly hazy. *A. P. P.*—General Mining and Finance shares are a very hopeful speculation at the present price. *H. H.*—With the exception of Bibianis and Sansus, there is no market in your West African shares, and the Jungle is in such a demoralised condition that I cannot undertake to say when activity will return—certainly I see no reason to anticipate it this year. Bibianis should give you a profit in the end if you care to hold the shares. Sansus are peculiarly risky, but in view of the hopeful things uttered in the report issued the other day, you might hold for a recovery—unless you elect to cut the whole business and put the proceeds into a moderate-priced Kaffir or Westralian. *X. Y. Z.*—Hold the Barneys and Gedulds. *Bona Vista.*—Kalgurlis are one of the most promising Westralians. You might buy more.

Miscellaneous.

Northumberland Fusilier.—Like yourself, I, too, have admired the truly philanthropic endeavours of Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool, to place a handsome income within the reach of British officers and others, when they could place themselves beyond the necessity of working for their livelihood. *Vérité-sans-peur.*—The bank is a small one, but progressive, and I think you take little risk in having the shares transferred to your name. *W. E. Baxter.*—1. Forster Porter Ordinary shares are a reasonably good purchase. 2. I should choose the Waring and Gillow Preference shares, on which the dividend is paid quarterly. *C. R. B.*—It would be best not to take advantage of Major Bell's offer of Armstrong-Whitworth shares, especially as his price is well below that of the market. *H. R.*—I am obliged for your letter, but Major Bell's offer is one which a sensible man will shy at. *J. W. F.*—It looks like an attempt to revive a very crude and played-out swindle. *F. A. W., Netley.*—You have been taken in by one of the old Continental Lottery crowd, and I hope the little experience will teach you to leave them severely alone for the future. *A. B. W.*—The questions are entirely outside my scope. *W. F. Guy.*—I do not think highly of the concern. Its ratio of expenses is a great deal too high, and I do not believe in the people at the head. *T. T. M.*—My thanks for the circular. It is apparent that Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool, are still busy on the search for flats in the Isle of Wight, as elsewhere. *Dolphin.*—I should suggest Gas Light and Coke Ordinary stock, Westminster Electric Supply shares, Argentine Great Western Preference stock, and B.A. and Pacific Second Preference stock. These will average you close upon 5 per cent. *H. B. B.*—I hope to draw attention to the matter next week. *Carben.*—Both shares are worth holding for dividends. *W. Walsh.*—As "a regular reader of Truth" you should have profited by my frequent warnings against the Continental lotteries. They are a delusion and a snare. *Bosco.*—Hold the debentures, which are redeemable in 1910 at 110. *Villette.*—Ingersoll-Sergeant Drill shares are reasonably good. *R. M., Gloucester.*—Of the two, Union Discounts are to be preferred. These give a return of rather more than 5 per cent. *C. P.*—

United States Steel Common stock is highly unattractive, and for my part I should not buy the Preferred. The Company has managed to pay the dividend on this last for the June quarter, but business is falling off, and I regard the position and prospects as unsatisfactory. *Safety, Dumfries.*—You cannot obtain 10 per cent., or anything like it, with safety. The best that I can suggest are Lyons, which give 7¾ per cent., River Plate Gas, which return 6½ per cent., and Weldons, which give 8 per cent. These are quite fair industrials, but if you must have a high yield, you must be prepared to take a certain risk. *Daon.*—I do not recommend dealings with the Provident Association of London. Try the Scottish Temperance. *H. Phillips.*—I suggest Northampton Brewery Preference shares, which bring in nearly 5½ per cent., and Parker's, Burslem, Preference, which yield 5⅝ per cent. If you want a third, try Newcastle Preference, which return nearly 5¼ per cent. *Thomas Pearce, Liverpool.*—Your friend would do best to apply direct to the Canadian Government's agent in your city. I believe the office is in James-street. *Perplexed.*—A reform in the management is, I fear, out of the question, and you will not be justified, if you have a conscience, in continuing to act as an agent for the concern. *M. C.*—I advise you to leave Stephens and Henderson alone. *Ballylegan.*—Anglo-Argentine Trams shares make a sound and promising industrial investment. I have a very good opinion also of Metropolitan Amalgamated Railway Carriage and Waggon shares.

INDUSTRIALS GENERALLY INACTIVE—DOCK STOCKS—LONDON AND INDIA REPORT — WATERWORKS IDLE — ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPHS EASIER—IRON AND STEEL SHARES DULLISH — BRITISH ELECTRIC TRACTION — OMNIBUS SHARES FIRM—GAS LIGHT AND COKE—MEAT SHARES—BREWERIES DULL—HUDSON'S BAYS ACTIVE.

On the whole the Industrial market has been inactive, and has revealed no feature of exceptional interest. Dock stocks are without much change, having moved only within very narrow limits. The report for the half-year to June 30 of the London and India Company is interesting, as it shows that the concern is progressing, the tonnage of shipping entering the docks being 2,604,360, an increase of 175,952 tons, compared with the corresponding period of last year. Against this, however, there was a decrease of 38,590 tons in coastwise traffic; but, on the other hand, the weight of goods handled shows an increase of 63,257 tons, and the stocks of goods in warehouse on June 30 show an increase of 21,002 tons. Altogether the return is very satisfactory. In Waterworks issues very few dealings were recorded, but the Water Board stock is slightly down on the week. Except for Anglo-American descriptions, which are inclined to be easier, the Deferred going back to 6⅝ and the Preferred to 90½ x.d., Telegraph stocks are without much change, but Telephones have been slightly better, the Deferred recovering a portion of the dividend deducted. In the Iron and Steel group the tone has been mostly dull, and Pease and Partners were on offer, not only because of the reduced earnings shown, but on account of the proposal to increase the capital. They recovered a little later, but are still dullish, and among others, Willans and Robinson Debentures, Robert Stephenson, Measures, South Durham, and Babcock and Willcox Ordinary, as well as Bell Brothers Preference and one or two others, are lower on the week. British Electric Traction descriptions are in rather better favour, and the Preference at 11 and the Ordinary at 8¾ have both been inquired for. Other Traction shares are without much change, but are firm on the whole. General Omnibus and London Road Car issues have been bought rather freely on the satisfactory showings recently published. The latter Company's half-yearly statement, which is out, shows that the receipts were £216,594, as against £216,017, and the expenditure £192,890, as compared with £194,915, leaving a profit for the six months of £23,703. Gas stocks, generally, have been in some request. The Gas Light and Coke report makes very satisfactory reading, the amount placed to the credit of the current half-year, after payment of the dividend on the Ordinary stock at the statutory rate of £4 8s. per cent. per annum, being £273,975, which compares with £116,530 carried forward last year. I regard many of these Gas and Light stocks as fairly desirable industrial holdings, and for the benefit of those of my readers who fancy them I append the following little table showing the yield obtainable:—

Name.	Prices.	Yield per Cent. allowed for Redemption.
European	19¼	£5 13 0
Do. (£7 10s. paid)	14½	5 14 0
Gas Light and Coke	94	4 13 9
Do. 3½ per cent. Max.	91	3 17 0
Imp. Cont.	205	4 16 9
Do. 3½ per cent. Debentures	99	3 11 6
Lea Bridge	118	5 1 9
Malta Mediterranean	4¾	5 5 3
Monte Video	10	7 0 0
Oriental	143	5 12 0
Primitiva	4¼	6 3 6
Do. Pref.	4¼	5 11 3
River Plate G.	11¼	6 4 6
San Paulo	11½	6 1 9
South African	15½	7 2 0
South Metropolitan	127	4 4 0
Southampton	110	4 11 0
Tuscan	8¼	8 0 0
Wandsworth	155	4 17 6
Do. "B"	125	4 16 9
Do. "C"	103	4 18 3
Do. Deb.	85	3 11 6
West Ham	102	4 18 0

Meat shares have been rather prominent, as a result of many speculative dealings prompted by the Chicago packers' strike, but both Nelsons and Eastmans are easier, while Imperial Cold Storage shares have gone off with them. Apart from Aerated Breads and Lyons, which have shown some weakness, refreshment shares have kept tolerably firm. Hotel descriptions have been dullish, and Spiers and Pond's Debentures have weakened further. Brewery descriptions, too, have not been very firm, though Guinness Deferred and Phipps Debenture have been inquired for. The weakest spot has been Allsopp's, which have fallen back further, the Ordinary being now no better than 31, while the Preferred are 56. Among Textiles, English Sewing Cottons have gone back after their recent jump, as a result of some profit taking, and other shares in this group eased off in sympathy, but they all showed a better disposition towards the end of the week. Oil shares have been dull, but Nitrate descriptions have displayed a better tendency, while among the Miscellaneous things in this market, Hudson's Bays have been dealt in rather freely, and are up on balance. British Oil Cakes have been inquired for on the announcement of a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. for the year, and Bryant and Mays improved to a slight extent on the dividend and report.

VIGILANT.

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

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QUEER STORY.

A TRIP TO TROUVILLE.

SIR JOHN ARDING, Baronet, was in a great state of perplexity and annoyance. The beginning of August had come, and still found him detained in town, although he was burning to be off on his annual summer jaunt to one or other of the fashionable Continental spas. What was worse, the prospect of his getting away from London at all that year seemed exceedingly remote.

And why? Parliamentary duties? The ties of business? Professional engagements? Nothing of the kind. Sir John was not in Parliament. He was connected with no business. He had no profession. No; the cause of his detention was far more exasperating than any of these. The real fact was this: Sir John Arding was desperately hard up.

The Baronet, you must know, did not enjoy any fixed income. Long ago, he had dissipated his ancestral property, and he now depended on the benevolence of friends and his own wits. The latter were exercised sometimes in a little gamble in the City, or on the Turf, but more often at the bridge or billiard table, which he frequently quitted the winner of large sums.

But, of recent months, Fortune had been unkind to him. His little ventures on the Stock Exchange and the racecourse had all gone wrong, and pigeons to pluck at

bridge or billiards had been scarce and shy, perhaps because Sir John's reputation as an invariable winner was becoming rather too well known, even among the freshest of the gilded young greenhorns who season by season appear in town—to be marked down by the various game-stalkers on the look-out for such quarry. But, however this may be, the fact remains that, for some months past, Sir John Arding had found no opportunity for recruiting his shattered finances, with the result that he was now in a really desperate position—without cash, without credit, to say nothing of being overdrawn at his bankers', who were worrying him every week to adjust his account.

How could a man in this position possibly run to a Continental holiday? Sir John asked this question, with an ill-used and martyr-like air, of his only daughter Dorcas.

Now the name Dorcas seems to imply something demure, simple, artless; something grave, modest, puritanic—does it not? But the girl Dorcas, in this instance, had no such characteristics. At twenty-two—which was her present age—she knew as much as pretty well any woman in London. Moreover, she was quite capable of turning her knowledge to practical account.

"It is unfortunate, Pater," said she, "that we should be so stony-broke, just at the time of year when we require ready more than usual. Nevertheless, broke or not, we must get away for our annual trip somehow. It is quite out of the question that we should remain in Town through August and September."

"There I am with you—in theory, my pet. But in practice—well, one cannot do impossibilities," answered Sir John. "Railway companies have a pernicious habit of requiring cash down; even hotel keepers demand weekly settlements, and if one has not the cash——"

"One must procure it," interposed Dorcas, quietly.

"But if one cannot procure it?"

"Then, Pater, one must do the next best thing—procure its equivalent."

"Its equivalent, what do you mean, Dorcas?" inquired her father, who perceived from her tone and manner that she was speaking *avec intention*, as our neighbours across the Channel phrase it.

"I mean," rejoined Dorcas, calmly, "that if one cannot pay for one's holiday oneself, one must find some one else to pay for it. The thing is easily done, with a little engineering."

"You speak as if you had a definite some one else in your mind's eye, pet," said her father, inviting more specific information.

"So I have, Dad."

"Who is it, Dorcas?"

"Mr. Robert Brownjohn," was her placid rejoinder.

"What? You would have me try to borrow money from him? But would that be wise, my dear, considering the position of affairs? I mean, if he is seriously *épris* with you (as I am convinced he is), would it be worth while to risk putting him off for the sake of a hundred or two in hand, when you are playing, if I may use the metaphor, for several hundred thousand in the bush."

"I am not a fool, Pater," replied Dorcas. "And I do not suggest that you should make a crude and brutal attempt to borrow money from Mr. Robert Brownjohn. We are not daubers, you and I; we are artists. And this thing must be done in the most finished style—on the *Ars celare artem* principle. Do you take me?"

"As a matter of general principle—yes. But as to details—no. Kindly furnish me with precise particulars, my pet."

"I will. In the first place, Mr. Robert Brownjohn asked me only yesterday whether we had made our plans for going abroad yet. I said that we had not actually decided, but that we thought of Trouville. His manner suggested that his inquiry was prompted by something more than idle curiosity. You follow me, Dad?"

"Yes, yes! Your inference is that, whatever place we fix upon for our holidays, Mr. Brownjohn will not improbably fix upon the same for his holiday?"

"Exactly."

"Well, given that, what is the next step, Dorcas? Do you suggest that I should seize the opportunity to take him on at bridge or billiards——"

"Certainly not," she interposed, emphatically. "Such a thing would be quite fatal. Mr. Brownjohn would see through the ruse; he would suspect me of having been a decoy; and everything would at once be over between us. No, Dad!" (and her eyes flashed with righteous indignation) "you are on no account to touch a card or handle a cue with Mr. Brownjohn. He shall not be fleeced in this brutal and obvious manner. Let that be quite clearly understood."

"All right, my pet. Don't get huffy. I had no intention of doing it. I merely asked a question. You certainly implied that we were to take money off Mr. Brownjohn *somehow*——"

"Undoubtedly. But it must be done in such a manner that there must be no hint of design on our part. On the contrary, the initiative must appear to come from him. I mean, things must be so arranged that he must ask you, nay, beg you as a favour, to accept a loan from him, and you must only do so with the utmost hesitation and reluctance."

"Ah! But how can things be so arranged, Dorcas?"

"If you give me your careful attention, I will tell you."

She unfolded her scheme at length, to which Sir John listened with an appreciative and ever-expanding smile.

While Sir John and Dorcas Arding were thus conversing, Mr. Robert Brownjohn, ignorant of the designs that were being hatched for him, was eating his dinner peacefully at the Bachelors' Club. He was still a young man, well set-up, good-looking, and undeniably rich. He lived, and paid his way, in a style that denoted at least £5,000 a year, while his liberal subscriptions to hospitals and other charities, as borne witness to by the advertisement columns of the daily papers, must have run into several thousands more.

But on the subject of his personal affairs he was reticent, and, although it was now more than two years since he had come out as a man about town, people knew very little indeed of his antecedents. Some said that he was interested in a large West End drapery concern; others that his fortune was derived from a gin distillery; others, again, that he was more or less intimately connected with one of the largest money-lending syndicates in the country. But these were merely conjectures, resting on no basis of substantial evidence. The one certain fact was that he was a rich man. And on the strength of this he found social acceptance.

Let me return from this digression to Sir John Arding and his daughter, Dorcas.

Trouville was definitely determined upon; ten pounds were somehow scraped together; and, with this modest sum, the baronet and Dorcas departed to that fashionable seaside resort; having taken steps that the announcement of their departure and destination should be duly announced in the *Morning Post* and other London papers. It read as though it were intended for the information of the general public. But the intelligence was particularly designed, of course, for the eye of Mr. Robert Brownjohn.

The paragraph found its intended billet. Witness the arrival of Mr. Brownjohn at Trouville before Sir John and Dorcas had been there three days. By an apparent coincidence, he came to the same hotel. So all the preliminaries were very nicely in train.

Mr. Brownjohn was truly delighted to meet Dorcas and her father; while they, on their side, discovered equal pleasure in the unexpected *rencontre*. From the moment of his arrival, he became, as it were, one of the family. Breakfast, luncheon, dinner, saw him partaking of his meals at the same table with them. The intermediate hours found him walking, motoring, cycling, golfing, swimming, or sitting out in the moonlight with them—or rather, not infrequently, with Dorcas alone.

Dorcas was a lovely girl. It was hard to say under what conditions she looked the more charming: on a cycle or motor, or in a bathing-dress, or swinging a goli-

club, or sitting in the moonlight. She was so natural, too, so innocent, so unaffected; that is to say, she produced the effect of all these qualities. But her favourite maxim of *Ars celare artem* was really at the bottom of it.

It was at breakfast on the third day after Mr. Robert Brownjohn's arrival that the opening scene of a certain little drama was enacted.

Sir John Arding was perusing his correspondence. Suddenly an expression of agitation, of dismay, escaped his lips, and the open letter which he held fell from his fingers on to his plate of fried sole.

"Oh, Dad dear! What is the matter?" cried Dorcas, in hasty solicitude. "Are you not well——"

"Yes! yes, pet! I'm all right," answered Sir John, hurriedly; "only some rather disagreeable news. That is all. There, there, my dear! Don't look so alarmed," he added, with a palpably forced smile. "It's nothing very bad. Merely a little matter of business. We won't let it interfere with our making a good breakfast. Brownjohn, let me give you some more of this sole."

Then, changing the subject, he proceeded to talk fast on general topics; but it was evident, from his manner, which was *distrait* and nervous, that the contents of that letter had seriously perturbed him.

When breakfast was over, he said to Dorcas:

"I should like to have just a few words with you, my pet, if you can spare me five minutes."

"Of course. Let us go into the drawing-room. It is sure to be empty at this early hour."

Then, turning to Brownjohn, she said:

"I shall be ready to start with you to the golf links, as we had arranged, in half an hour. Will you meet me then in the lobby?"

He bowed assent. A look of concern had overspread his handsome features. He was naturally anxious to know what it was that was the matter, and, if need were, to proffer assistance. But, of course, he was too well-mannered to betray any curiosity on what was evidently some private family affair.

In half an hour Dorcas joined him in the lobby, and they set out on foot for the golf links. The girl's face was pale, and there were traces of tears upon her cheeks, which did not escape Mr. Brownjohn's notice.

"I am afraid," she said, presently, in answer to a remark of his about a projected excursion for the morrow, "that we shall not be able to accompany you after all, Mr. Brownjohn. Papa finds it necessary to bring our pleasant visit here to an abrupt termination. We start for London to-night."

Mr. Brownjohn uttered an exclamation of surprise and unfeigned disappointment.

"Is that really so? I am sorry. But must you go? Is it absolutely necessary?"

"Absolutely," said Dorcas, in a low voice.

After this they walked on for a moment or two in silence, which Mr. Brownjohn was the first to break.

"I say," he blurted out; "I don't want to be inquisitive, Miss Arding, but I can't help seeing that something is the matter, and I'd feel it no end of a privilege if you'd take me into your confidence, and let me be of service to you if I possibly can."

"It is awfully kind of you," murmured Dorcas; "but I am afraid that there is nothing for us to do but to grin and bear it. The truth is—I don't mind telling you, though I would not mention it to anyone else for worlds—that my father has had news this morning of a heavy loss."

"A money loss?" inquired Mr. Brownjohn, eagerly. "If that is all——"

"But it's not all," she interposed. "There's something worse than that about it. Oh! Mr. Brownjohn—I oughtn't to tell you, because I promised Father I wouldn't; but somehow I don't feel as if I *could* keep secrets from you. Some one has—has—forged Father's name to a cheque for £300."

"Oh! I say! And has the bank paid the cheque?" cried Mr. Brownjohn.

Dorcas nodded.

"Yes," she replied. "And so Father, instead of having about £280 in the bank, is—is—overdrawn, do they call it?—nearly £20. The bank wrote about it this morning. That is the first intimation he had of anything being wrong. He thought at first that they must have made a mistake in their figures. But they have sent his pass-book and his paid cheques, among which he finds one for £300 that he never drew."

"Ah! Well, if that's the case, and the bank has paid a forged cheque, your father, after all, need not worry," said Brownjohn, in reassuring tones. "The bank is liable. It is they who will have to stand the loss, not Sir John."

"Ah!" murmured Dorcas, shaking her pretty head, gloomily. "Father knows that. He told me that if he repudiates the cheque, the bank will have to make the money good to him. But, but— I tell you this in the strictest confidence, Mr. Brownjohn—there are reasons why papa feels that he cannot repudiate the cheque. It is a painful story," she went on in low, hurried tones, while the colour mounted to her cheeks. "The fact is, my father has reason to suspect, only too strongly, who the forger is. He is—is—my father's own brother, and Dad feels that he must sit down by the loss of his money, rather than take steps which would result in the bank prosecuting his brother and getting him sent into penal servitude."

"Ah! I see," replied Mr. Brownjohn, sympathetically. "And the line which your father is taking in the matter does him honour, I'm sure. At the same time, it is extremely rough on him that he should have to lose £300 ——"

"Ah! well! The loss has to be faced, and there is no use in worrying any more about it," said Dorcas, trying to smile bravely, as she spoke. "My worst regret is that the poor Pater, who needs recuperating so much, should have to forego his holiday like this, and be penned up in stifling London through August and September. But there! It can't be helped. No other course is open to us, as we cannot remain abroad without money, and Father will not have any more coming in until October."

"Oh! But dash it all, Miss Arding!" cried Mr. Brownjohn, in eager tones; "why shouldn't Sir John let me act as his banker. I'd be only too delighted——"

"Thank you. You are most good," she replied, gratefully, yet with an air of quiet dignity that constituted, in itself, a polite refusal. "But it is quite impossible that we should borrow money from you. Neither Father nor I could hear of it; though I much appreciate your kindness in making the offer."

"But as an intimate friend," he insisted, "surely I may exercise the privilege——"

"Pray, do not press the matter any further," she answered, with a distressed look. "My father and I are too independent to place ourselves under such an obligation to any one. Come, now! Let us dismiss the subject from our thoughts, Mr. Brownjohn, and give our minds entirely to the enjoyment of our golf match—the last that we shall have together for some time."

In view of her tone and manner, no less than of her words, Mr. Brownjohn perceived that there was no more to be said—at the moment. He silently resolved, however, not to let Sir John and Dorcas depart from Trouville without making another attempt to retain their company.

This effort he made after luncheon, boldly attacking Sir John himself, whom he inveigled into taking a *tête-à-tête* stroll with him for that very purpose.

I need not describe the interview in detail. You, O intelligent reader, will have no difficulty in picturing to yourself how Sir John was at first astonished and a little indignant to learn that Dorcas had confided the circumstances of his loss to Mr. Brownjohn; how next he expressed himself touched by the latter's kindly offer of a loan, but would not hear of accepting it; how after that, upon being pressed and entreated, he began to waver a bit; how he wavered more and more, until after much persuading and coaxing on the part of Mr. Brownjohn, he was, at length, induced, with the greatest reluctance, to accept a trifling loan of £300.

"It is only for Dorcas' sake that I can bring myself to take advantage of your kindness," he said. "I hate

borrowing money, and have never done such a thing before in my life. But I confess I am loth to curtail the dear child's holiday and take her back to London just now. She is very much run down, you know; and her health really requires rest and change—poor darling," added Sir John, with evident emotion.

Were they not an unselfish pair? Dorcas thinking only of her papa, and her papa thinking only of Dorcas! Truly a pretty exhibition of filial altruism, which must have impressed Mr. Brownjohn (as it was certainly intended to do) with a conviction of the sweet and amiable disposition of Miss Dorcas Arding.

So the baronet and his daughter were able to remain on at Trouville—to the evident satisfaction of Mr. Robert Brownjohn.

Dorcas talked gleefully to her papa about the success of their little ruse for raising the sinews of war for their annual holiday.

"Yes, my dear," he said, "so far, we have been most successful. But I do hope that no unpleasantness will follow, and result in an estrangement between you and young Brownjohn—just when things are going so swimmingly with you, too. It is really advisable, my pet, that you should bring him to the point as soon as possible. There is no saying what may happen. He may hear something about me from one or other of my enemies, which might serve to throw an unwelcome light upon my character as a borrower, and perhaps even lead him to suspect that my pretext for getting this loan of £300 from him——"

"Oh, as to that, Dad," she interposed, confidently, "there is really no occasion to alarm yourself. None of your enemies are here in Trouville, nor, I am sure, would Mr. Brownjohn listen to them if they were. *Au contraire*, the fact of our having confided in him, and having allowed him to help us, has only drawn him and me closer together. It is now morally certain that he will propose before many days are over. I can see it in his manner."

"Well—do you know—it may be my fancy—but I have thought his manner for the last day or two a little constrained and odd," replied her father, thoughtfully.

"I, too, have noticed that, but with entire satisfaction. It is the manner characteristic of a man making up his mind to take the final plunge," laughed Dorcas, confidently.

"Well, you ought to know, my pet. You have had your share of offers; and I hope, with all my heart, that your opinion is well founded," answered Sir John Arding.

A fortnight elapsed without any proposal from Mr. Robert Brownjohn. Then one evening, while he was strolling in the moonlight with Dorcas, he remarked suddenly:

"There is something, Miss Arding, that I particularly wish to say to you."

"Hooray! Now for it," thought Dorcas. Aloud she replied, with pretty confusion:

"Now, I wonder what you can have to say so particularly to me, Mr. Brownjohn."

"I used to think," he answered, "that you—you—really cared for me a little. But I am now disillusioned, Miss Arding. And perhaps it is as well. It would have been a sad thing for both of us if I had not discovered the truth until too late."

A sharp thrill of dismayed apprehension shot through the girl at these words. But she retained her outward self-possession, saying, with a little laugh:

"I hardly understand you. You are very enigmatical to-night, Mr. Brownjohn."

"I do not mean to be so," he answered, gravely. "It is my intention to speak in perfectly plain terms. If you had cared a rap for me, Miss Arding, you would never have conspired with your father——"

"Mr. Brownjohn!" cried Dorcas, assuming to perfection the airs of injured innocence and honest indignation. "I am altogether at a loss to comprehend what you mean by addressing me in such insulting terms. The most charitable view is that you must have temporarily taken leave of your senses."

"Nay," retorted he, "I *had* taken leave of them; but, thanks to a certain process of enlightenment (in which I admit I have encouraged you, to see how far you would go), they are now restored to me. When you, in collusion with Sir John, concocted that fairy tale about the forged cheque——"

"'Concocted'—'fairy tale'—what do you mean? How dare you accuse me of such things?" ejaculated the injured damsel, tragically.

"It is well acted," he replied, in calm, incisive tones. "But I am not deceived. I know too much. You wonder, perhaps, how I have found out. Ah! When you concocted that fairy tale for my benefit, you were unaware that the victim of your hoax was one who has long been perfectly well acquainted with the state of your father's finances; and who knew for a fact that Sir John Arding had no balance at all at the bank when he was supposed to have £280, and who was in a position to ascertain that the £300 cheque, said to have been forged and paid, was all a myth."

"What? You have been making inquiries at the bank? Spy!" cried Dorcas, furiously, now losing all control of herself.

"Well, and if I have," was the unmoved rejoinder. "Have I not every right to look into the accounts of my own customers?"

"Your own customers?" she gasped.

"Yes," said he. "The bank where your father keeps his account trades as Watkins and Co. But there is no Watkins now left in the business, in which the chief interest is held by a man named—Robert Brownjohn!"

MUSIC.

THE PROMENADE CONCERTS.

THE Promenade Concerts will commence at Queen's Hall on Saturday, so that the musical recess will be of very short duration; indeed, of little more than a week. This is as it used to be in the Gatti days at Covent Garden, although, as the conditions have now entirely changed, Mr. Robert Newman's early start must be considered in the light of an experiment. The result will greatly depend on the weather, for if it is cool the concerts will doubtless benefit by the practical monopoly which they will enjoy of serious music in London; while, on the other hand, if the thermometer registers 80 in the shade, it is possible that only enthusiasts may venture into this by no means too well-ventilated building.

In the old Covent Garden times it was only on special nights—for example, when Sir Arthur Sullivan conducted Beethoven's symphonies—that people cared very much for the music, and the "Proms" were accepted as a cheap and agreeable lounge, with a certain amount of freedom in the promenade, and middle-class respectability in the dress-circle and private boxes. Apart from the "classical" nights, light music, with plenty of songs, to say nothing of solos by Levy or Howard Reynolds on the Cornet-á-pistons, was preferred, and Kèla Béla, Lanner, Hervé, and other dance composers were brought from the Continent to direct the all-important "second part." Now the conducting of the second part is as a rule relegated to some member of the band, as if it is of comparatively little account. But, as to the first part, it is either relentlessly classical or severely modern, and an army of earnest music-lovers in straw hats wait patiently hour after hour in front of the orchestra to listen to it. A fair proportion of the present-day Promenade audience is essentially that of young Musical England, and Mr. Wood wisely delights them by the wholesale production of novelties, among which the music of the modern British school prominently figures. It matters nothing that most of these compositions essay to start where Tschiakowsky, or Wagner, or Richard Strauss left off; that they are usually decadent, or at least pessimistic, in tone; and that, once heard, they are consigned to the pigeon-hole. For there appears to be a certain public to listen to these new works once, and Mr. Robert Newman, the manager, caters for that public. Out of a long list of

well-nigh forty symphonies, concertos, symphonic poems, and other ambitious novelties announced this season, about half are by the Young England school. The classics will, however, certainly not be forgotten, and we are this autumn likely to have some exceptionally fine performances when the band gets into their stride, for the Syndicate have secured the entire services of the orchestra, and the temporary demoralisation of the band, annually caused by the pick of the members running away to the various provincial musical festivals, will be avoided.

The Bayreuth Festival has started with performances of "Tannhäuser," under Siegfried Wagner, "Parsifal," under Dr. Muck, and "Der Ring des Nibelungen," under Richter. Mme. Christine Nilsson, now an enthusiastic Wagnerite, was among the earliest visitors; together with M. Messager, fresh from Covent Garden; Mr. Conried, who last winter destroyed the Bayreuth monopoly by producing "Parsifal" in New York with a much stronger cast than Bayreuth can afford; Herr Angelo Neumann, whose troupe first gave "Der Ring des Nibelungen" in London at the old Her Majesty's in 1882; and numbers of German Royalties, counts, and barons. British and French were fewer than usual, and the Americans seem for the most part to have kept away, to the sore dismay of the hotel-keepers and tradesmen, who prefer dollars to marks, and perhaps British sovereigns to either. The audiences are this year largely German, and the cause, of course, is that Wagner's music is no longer a sealed book to those who do not make a pilgrimage to the Bavarian mountain theatre. All Wagner's operas (including "Parsifal" in America) are done, and are better done, elsewhere, particularly at Covent Garden since Dr. Richter took up the bâton there. At Bayreuth in "Tannhäuser" Miss Isadora Duncan, who has made a study of Greek dancing, appeared in the Venusberg scene, but the public, I learn, did not quite understand the innovation. Frau Edel, who comes from Hamburg, was the Elisabeth; Mme. Grandjean, of Paris, was a fine Venus; Mr. Whitehill, an American baritone, who some years ago appeared at the Paris Opéra Comique, was the Wolfram; Herr Desider Matray, of Breslau, who has a good voice, but is considered inexperienced, was the Tannhäuser; and Herr Knüpfer, who has sung at Covent Garden, the Landgrave. In "Parsifal" Herr Alfred von Bary, formerly a medical practitioner, is said to have been a not very interesting representative of the hero; Herr Kauss was Gurnernanz, and Frau Wittisch was Kundry. The chorus by all accounts was very good, and the lighting of the stage excellent. In the latter respect the Covent Garden stage managers might take a hint from Bayreuth. Last season the stage was often so dark that facial expression could not be observed.

At the meeting of the Philharmonic Society the gratifying announcement was made that, notwithstanding heavy competition during the past season, the receipts had covered expenses, so that there was no need to call upon the guarantors. The Philharmonic exists for art rather than for profit, but it is always advisable that the balance should be on the right side. The new committee was elected at this meeting, and Dr. Cowen, who has done such excellent work as conductor, was re-elected to the post.

The following naif advertisement in the *Times* speaks for itself:—

> £300.—Is there any person sporting enough to trust two British musical students with the above sum for a few years? That person will not be done, as this is no joke.—Address, etc.

This seems to be "confidence" *in excelsis*. Nor is it easy to understand what these two musical students want with sportsmen with £300, save for reasons which might commend themselves to any one to whom so comfortable a sum would be welcome. For if they really are gifted students, there are plenty of scholarships providing for free tuition at our subsidised colleges.

The courts and alleys concerts, which have, I believe, been very successful in Birmingham, have just again been tried by a couple of earnest amateurs in some of the squalid streets off the Gray's Inn-road, but, as I learn with no better success than when the experiment was first made in London two or three years ago. A lady sang, and a gentleman accompanied her on a small piano which was wheeled about on a truck; but the people, I am told, did not understand it, and the children gathered round open-mouthed, while the adults jeered. It is possible they laboured under the impression that their betters were trying to make a little money out of them, even as some of the amateur "waits" do for charity at Christmas, although so far as the present scheme was concerned no money contributions are of course asked for or accepted. It is just possible that the songs were not wisely chosen, for even a labourer living up a court might be forgiven if he failed to appreciate some of the drawing-room ballads of the present day. It, at any rate, appears to be a mistake to try to bring music home to the masses, while on the other hand that music does appeal to them may be seen by the crowds of all classes who are drawn to the County Council and other performances given during the summer in the parks and open spaces of London.

Mr. Eugene d'Albert announces this winter his "farewell tour" of America. Does this mean that the Scottish pianist proposes to retire at the age of forty? Or does it imply that, taking the advice offered to a prima donna, Mr. d'Albert prefers to begin his farewells early? He has, however, long been credited with the idea to devote himself wholly to conducting and composition.

Mrs. Holbrook's paper on "The Influence of Music on the Human Hair" is a subject that opens up immense possibilities if we could only believe that there is anything at all in it. It might perhaps be a little rough on Mr. George R. Sims, who is understood to have his own special nostrum; but if the theory could only be established that any particular style of music causes the hair to grow, as Mrs. Holbrook believes it does, there would be a run upon it. The Adonis of forty intent to woo the widow, would spend hours allowing a gramophone to play on his thinning thatch, while ladies would diligently attend concerts instead of buying "transformations." But unfortunately Mrs. Holbrook does not seem to be quite certain about her facts. She recommends Wagner as a hair restorer, but apparently has forgotten Dr. Richter, the greatest exponent of the *meister*, but who has much more hair on his chin than on his head. The trombone and cornet are said to be hair-killing, while the harp promotes the growth of the hair, which, if true, makes it rather unfair that ladies have practically assumed the monopoly of this instrument in the modern orchestra.

Personally, however, I should say that the piano was par excellence the hirsute instrument. We have, of course, had bald pianists—Sir Charles Hallé and M. de Pachmann are familiar examples—but the majority are either leonine like Rubinstein, or of the aureole pattern, such as M. Paderewski, whose secretary is wickedly alleged to have distributed among hysterical girls enough locks to stuff a cushion. Many violinists, too, are hairy men, from the silver-locked Sarasate to the lion-like head of Ysaye. Dr. Joachim, too, is one of those men who have never yet had to call in the wigmaker, and in fact he himself tells the familiar story of the Yorkshire barber who earnestly begged him to get his hair cut lest people should "mistake him for a musician." On the other hand, Handel's head was like a billiard-ball; Dr. Cowen, the apostle of melody, is not so thickly thatched as he was thirty years ago; Sir A. C. Mackenzie is decidedly bald; while, although Liszt's hair would have done credit to a woman, the head of his pupil and champion, Walter Bache, might almost have served as a block on which to hang wigs. On the other hand Sir August Manns, who has conducted everything, from Bach to "Smiff in the Highlands," has hair that would be the despair of Messrs. Truefitts' assistants. So I am afraid that in Mrs. Holbrook's theory there is just nothing at all.

From certain figures which were issued by the Covent Garden authorities after the close of the season, it appears that the Queen attended no fewer than thirty-seven out of the seventy-one representations. This, I should imagine, constitutes a record, for it means that her Majesty was present at the opera-house something like three times a week. The Queen's views were also eclectic, for she indiscriminately patronised all the best performances, whether of Wagner or of the old or new forms of Italian opera. On two consecutive days she went to concerts in the afternoon and the opera in the evening, until it began humorously to be whispered that the most gracious lady in the land was qualifying for a post of musical critic.

How far the objections of the American bishops and their congregations will affect the Pope's views upon Church music remains, of course, to be seen. The Americans appear to believe that if the Roman Catholic Church is deprived of the best Mass music, theatrical though it may to some appear to be, it may result in a falling off in the congregations. Now, however, the Pope has been accorded an unexpected supporter in Richard Wagner, who wrote very strongly on the subject many years ago. Wagner's idea was that service music should be entirely separated from sacred concert music, and he insisted that in Church the singing should be absolutely without instrumental accompaniment, he being apparently as fierce an opponent of the kist o' whistles as the sternest covenanter. "Palestrina," Wagner says, "and the works of his school, and of the centuries just before and after, embrace the flower and highest development of Catholic Church music, because they are written to be rendered by the human voice alone. The first step in the deterioration of Catholic Church music was the introduction of orchestral instruments." These views might also be signed by the present Pope.

When a Welsh musician attacks that most cherished of Welsh institutions, the Eisteddfod, declaring it to "mean artistic degradation and even moral destruction," the mere dweller in "the City of Lud in Britain," can only rub his eyes and look on. It is Mr. Ffrangcon Davies, the popular baritone, who makes this sweeping assertion, the reason he assigns being that "the whole system of Eisteddfodic choral competition is commercial to the core, and we know from history that art and commerce do not live in the same house." It would really be interesting to learn whence Mr. Davies derives his "history." Art, in truth, rarely or never has flourished except in commercial cities, for elsewhere the wealth necessary to foster art is lacking. This talk about "Art" is, however, nonsense. Mr. Ffrangcon Davies' pursuit of art, for example, is based strictly upon commercialism. Save for charity or some other good reason, he would not be willing to sing without his fee, and people would think him foolish if he did so. The money prizes (few of them very large) distributed at Eisteddfodau, and at the great band competitions in Lancashire and Yorkshire, indisputably are a direct incentive to the study of music by a number of working men who would certainly not devote the necessary time to the task unless there was a modest something to be gained by it. That Eisteddfod awards arouse angry passions on the part of the losers may be very true. It is much the same in politics, though the fact would scarcely be cited as an argument for the abolition of parliaments.

A couple of ladies resolved to try their luck in the recess, and gave concerts last week:—Mme. Emma Agar, a pianist, at Brinsmead's rooms, and Miss Doris Cloud, the South Australian violinist, at Steinway Hall. Indeed, these two are, I fancy, the only concert halls at the present moment available, for Queen's Hall is being tidied up for the Promenade Concerts, St. James's Hall is closed, and there are extensive alterations in hand at Bechstein Hall. Miss Cloud is a débutante who, it is said, studied under some unnamed Austrian at her native Waggarroo, then at Adelaide University, and finally under Mr. Johannes Wolff, whose refined drawing-room style she seems to have adopted. She is decidedly promising, but she is still young, and it is hoped will continue her studies. We are not now likely to have many more recitals till far into next month.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Regardless of threatening weather on the Wednesday, and misty rain on the Friday, we had a most enjoyable time at Goodwood. Goodwood, however, as one remembers it, is a thing of the past, and with a new Duke of Richmond we have a new Goodwood. The Royal stand is new, the grand stand is new, and the arrangements are nearly all new, though the lawn is the same, the trees under which one lunches are the same, and the glorious view is the same. There has been so little time to carry out all the alterations that it would be hardly fair to criticise them too seriously; still, I should like to give a hint or two, which may, I think, prove deserving of consideration. First and foremost, something should be done to improve the Royal stand. It is at present a most insignificant erection, badly placed, cramped, unsuitable, and, I should say, most uncomfortable. Then the space between the grand stand and the trees on the lawn should be either turfed or asphalted,and the cloak room arrangements should be put into competent hands. I would also have suggested that considerable alterations must be made with regard to the vehicular traffic—especially when picking up after the races, as on Tuesday it was chaos gone mad; but the police seem to have recognised how bad it was, for they greatly improved it on the following days, though there is considerable room for further improvement. But having given these few hints, I must congratulate most heartily all concerned on the excellence of the arrangements in connection with the catering. They were practically all that could be desired, and M. Benoist, to whom the larger portion of the catering was entrusted, quite eclipsed himself. Mr. Mutton, of Brighton, also catered very successfully. At the same time they retained in its entirety the picnic aspect for which Goodwood has at all times been famous, and prettily decorated tables with awnings over them were crowded together as closely as they conveniently could be under the trees, whilst larger tents were also comfortably fitted up for luncheon and tea parties, and seemed each day to be doing a roaring trade and giving general satisfaction.

The Royal party was, of course, the cynosure of every eye. The Queen wore white silk, spotted with black, and made in the simple fashion that her Majesty affects. Palest gold galon formed a neckband and belt, and there was a vest of white lace, on which some pale mauve pansies were fastened. The toque was made of shaded velvet pansies.

The King, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Sparta all had white "toppers," and the two younger men wore grey Park suits. We particularly noticed their garb, as we remembered that at Ascot the King had worn a pink shirt, pink tie, and pink button-hole. Goodwood was evidently regarded as a more ceremonious occasion, which seems a little odd, since it was at Goodwood a few years since that his Majesty wore a low hat, and mankind rejoiced, thinking itself delivered from the bondage of the "topper" at race-meetings.

Princess Victoria looked very well in pale blue—quite a green-grey colour—with hat of the same tone, but I liked her best on Friday in a sweet little toque of another shade of blue (Royal blue, of course), with a pervenche satin rosette on the left side.

The gowns were really lovely. White was the prevailing colour, cream next, and after that all pale shades of colour, then brown. Painted muslins were well to the fore, many of them made picture fashion, and worn with large picturesque hats with floating tulle strings.

"LA SAMOTHRACE."—Every corset of the LONDON CORSET CO., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

most deliciously becoming. Skirts were trimmed straight round, in 1830 style, and many just cleared the ground all round. I have some reason to think that the smart skirt will be even shorter than this next year.

The Duchess of Devonshire wore quite simple little voile gowns on the first two days, but on Thursday her mauve taffeta was very smart, with three bands on the skirt, trimmed with silver braid. Short handkerchief sleeves showed soft chiffon frills underneath, and she wore a mauve toque of shaded tulle.

Mrs. Willie James wore soft clinging silk muslins, with much lace appliqué. The blue one on Thursday was similar to her dress of cream colour worn on Tuesday, and she each day wore a small toque.

Lady Essex was in white, and, as usual, wore a narrow torpedo toque. Lady de Trafford was in black and white check voile one day, surmounted by a neck ruffle of pervenche feathers, and her pretty little toque was of the same rather trying colour. Is this feather necklet without the long ends a new departure or only an economy, for the long ostrich-feather boas, still much *en évidence* with the Royal party, are very expensive?

The prettiest hat was worn by Mrs. Langtry. It was much the same shape as the tall crown picture hat that is so much worn this season, only this hat of deep violet straw had a white brim, and bands of violet velvet were crossed around the crown. Mrs. Langtry did not look her best, however, in white on Friday.

Mrs. George Keppel's bright blue silk struck an emphatic note of colour amidst the blacks, whites, and greys of the Royal party. Three of the smartest women present wore brown. One gown was glacé, another was chiffon, and a third a very pretty figured gauze, with ivory stripes dotted over with brown. Quantities of creamy lace trimmed the brown glacé, and a deep fichu of cream-tinted Irish lace was an adjunct of the brown chiffon. If you want to look really smart and distinguished (they *can* be combined!) get a brown gown, and see that the shade is not too deep, but bright and warm, just verging on *café-au-lait*. It suits the pink and white English complexion splendidly.

Lady de Trafford wore a mauve hat with her brown gown, and Lady Kinnoull also had a mauve hat and scarf with a brown muslin gown. I am not sure that this mixture does not jar a little bit. At the very least the shades have to be most carefully chosen.

On Thursday the Queen wore pale grey with a mauve toque, and there were many lace gowns. A pink satin of a deep shade was remarkable, and materials of the most diaphanous character were the vogue. One gown was made of finest embroidered Brussels net in a shade of cream colour. Another fine net was painted with garlands of shaded roses, and a beige gauze was embroidered beautifully in a design of white flowers and leaves. Almost all the lace and chiffon gowns had waistbands made of satin in some pale shade of colour—blue, green, pink, sulphur or mauve. All were shaped and boned, but though some were narrow, the greater number were deep.

There never was anything prettier than the picture hats, tilted at all kinds of angles above pretty faces. There have never been so many beautiful women in English Society as there are at present.

Lady Lurgan—always so neat—wore a deep-blue voile spotted with white, the skirt quite round and short, with a deep rose-tinted straw hat of the new shape, slightly turned up on each side and an elongated dented-in crown. This was wreathed with many roses, shading from pale pink to deep red and petunia. Mrs. George Keppel wore one of her Ascot gowns on Thursday, and was certainly a beautiful picture in pale pink, grey, and grey blue. Lady Milbank wore white linon and Irish embroidery, with a large picture bonnet of leghorn, simply trimmed with shaded chiffon and blue and brown striped ribbon strings—quite an old-fashioned, quaint, headgear, which suited her splendidly. There was a lovely point de gaze dress, with bands of dull green velvet showing through the flounce of the skirt, and a funny little cape-like collar hung suspended from the shoulders. This very handsome woman wore a flat black hat with two long ostrich feathers draped on each side. Another lovely lace gown was made almost entirely of Irish lace, with large raised sunflowers round the skirt, with one just centreing the bodice. Mrs. Avery wore white, but I am not sure that the really artistically-made floral trimming of fuchsias and leaves that wreathed the shoulders and trimmed the skirt was quite a success, though it was certainly quite a dress by itself. Had a poor little woman I saw tried to copy Mrs. Avery's pretty idea, I wonder?—for she had on a nice clean muslin, and around the skirt great bunches of cheap artificial roses, and similar roses tossed about on a huge straw hat, with wide satin strings.

Country clothes! Some women look well in them, and all men. Don't you think so? Richard has found a new man (new to him, at least) who can actually make knicker breeches to please him. This is a thing in which no man has ever before succeeded. It is rather amusing to walk with Richard and hear his remarks on men and women. They are usually not loud, but deep. We met a girl in the Park with a waist rather larger than half-a-crown. "Depraved fool," whispered Richard. Next came a man in a Norfolk jacket that sank in at the chest. My good man pushed out his own and sighed, "Tailor's fault." A rosy little person in a frock-coat and straw hat is regarded as a being inhabiting another sphere, the inhabitants of which may dress as they please without exciting remark; but bulging pockets and baggy knees on any of his friends annoy him. I think he would have made as enthusiastic a professional person as *Punch's* barber who, on being asked by his vicar what he thought of last Sunday's sermon, said: "To tell you the truth, your reverence, there was a gentleman sitting in front of me with his 'air parted that crooked that I could attend to nothing else."

R.'s new discovery in tailors is Evans, of 77, Great Portland-street.

Did you see an account of a Court dressmaker being prosecuted under the Factory Act for keeping her work-girls sewing on a gown till 11.30 p.m.? Did you notice that the breach of law was caused by the woman by whom the gown was ordered failing to keep her appointment to have it tried on, and in that way driving everything off to the last minute? What punishment does she deserve? And unfortunately to be irresponsible appears to be part of the rôle of the smart woman. Never to consider any one's convenience but one's own is probably regarded as "good form" in certain sets. Why should an interesting talk over the luncheon table or the teacups be interrupted just because one has an appointment with one's dressmaker? Why, indeed?

In "Warp and Woof" Mrs. Lyttelton bore very hardly on the dressmakers, and in some parts of her play represented scenes that are absolutely impossible in present circumstances. If you think of it, the dressmaker's position is not a happy one. She has unpunctual, unpaying, and impatient customers on the one hand; and on the other a Factory Acts inspector, who is usually so ardently bent on succeeding that she regards each workshop as a possible "case" to be reported. Fair-minded she may be, but we all know what a bias it gives the mind to approach any subject with a preconceived idea.

I asked a well-known Court dressmaker about the play, and she called down one of the girls from the workroom who had seen it to give her opinion of it. "Laughably absurd," was the girl's verdict. "The scenes were all very good and true, but the events were impossible. Why, when the girl faints," said my informant, "her employer, instead of looking after her, plucks her by the arm and says, 'You would not like any one else to finish your tucks, would you, dear?'

Redfern's Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit-street Showrooms.

Ridiculous! If a girl fainted, the whole workroom would be upset and trying to help."

"And what about overtime?"

"We're allowed to stop overtime twice a week; instead of leaving off at eight we stay till ten, and for that we're paid half as much again as for the whole day's work, and we're given a good supper with half-an-hour off for it while the workroom is aired. Some of us like staying overtime, I can tell you."

It seems a pity that a play with so human and benevolent a motive should have been written without a strict attention to facts. It has caused considerable irritation and, to judge from what I hear, has done harm instead of good.

In an article on gardening I read that "great tact is necessary in dealing with insect pests in greenhouses." Tact! The very summary methods adopted by gardeners have no affinity whatever with the delicate dealings one associates with the word tact. Take the aphis, for instance. Suppose this little atom of creation to have any appreciation of the quality of tact so as to be able to institute comparisons with the usage that it meets and what it might have expected from the word. And the worm, too. There is nothing in the very smallest degree tactful in the measures of coercion dealt out to it. If there is tact in smearing the green fly off the face of the earth and tomahawking larger insects and small reptiles the sooner humanity leaves off trying to exercise it, the better.

Nobody has such pretty lace fronts and neckwear as Miss Dickens, in Sloane-street (No. 190A). Americans like going to her because she is a granddaughter of the great novelist, who is really better appreciated in the States than in his own country—and Americans love neat neckwear. What a curious conjunction of motives!

What to do with the butter in this tropical weather is a problem that I tried to solve by a visit to Goode's, in South Audley-street. There I found glass dishes with a well for ice below the butter tray and a lid with aperture for the butter knife. This is admirable. And for larder-keeping of the butter supply we have been using one of Marshall's ice caves, kept in the darkest corner of the cellar. Another thing I saw at Goode's was a glass jug with a deep pocket for ice, just the thing for champagne or cup. The atrocity of putting ice into the wine itself is but too prevalent. It ruins the wine, and may do worse than that, for where does the ice come from? Who can tell? And it is a fallacy to suppose that freezing destroys germs. It does nothing of the kind.

I also noticed a set of toilet ware of remarkably pretty shape and design, and on remarking upon their beauty was told that they were designed by Lady Castlereagh.

The jardinères designed by the Princess of Wales have had a great success. They are pail-shaped, and have various flowers for decoration. A lovely one is painted with shaded tulips, and another has a design of pale blue bows and pink rosebuds, too sweet.

In writing to you last week I mentioned that Miss McCaul, to whom is due the idea of the Union Jack Club, was not present at the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone. I now hear that she has been away in Japan for some months, but is on her way home, and expected shortly to arrive.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Bank Holidays over here, in our more leisurely country, are not so acute as with you. To begin with, though the majority accept what has been given—the Lubbock holidays that were never holydays—many of our workers do not take them, which, no doubt, makes it all the better for those who do. They are things to be wondered at all the same, and to excite the compassionate sympathy of those who are not taking part in them. A fine day in August is sure to be very fine; its fineness is certain to be very hot. August Bank Holiday has to dread as well as to sigh for the sunshine. The delights of fresh country air are great; of sands and sea, of shaded parks, of breezy heaths and downs. But the getting to these delights and the returning from them! The crowd, the crush and rush in railway stations, the stifling heat in overcrowded trains! When the price paid for these enjoyments is high—in temperature—we can only hope they are enhanced in value for those who pay for it. Moralists tell of the thorns which must be with the roses, poets sing of the pleasure that is pain; Bank Holidays, as they take their tumultuous way through the land, give strong object-lessons in prose to illustrate the truth of the moralist's and poet's utterances. But, after all, every one gets thorns with their roses and pain with pleasure, though they may not make such a striking show. They are there, however, and that is the chief matter.

Talking of roses, how glorious they have been this season! Blooming with all their might and main, and growing in as great profusion as the strawberries grew! Nature has seemingly tried to compensate for the famine of last year by the feast of this, and to show how exquisite she can be in her beauty, lest we forget.

No one stays in Dublin now but the tourists, who make the most of the fine weather in viewing the many features of interest in the town and its neighbourhood. The hotels are busy, but the shutters are up in the houses in the chief squares and streets; Society is scattered, its members only paying flying visits to Dublin on their way to and from the country or to seaside and holiday resorts. I wonder if you like sea bathing? It has its undoubted advantages when through it we learn to swim. But otherwise, is it wholesome? Does it conduce to health to get the severe shock of immersion in the cold water in the open air, be made clammy, and to have the fingers and toes turn blue? And as for "dipping," it is hard to believe in the healthfulness of so much gasping and spluttering and swallowing of what may be called indiscriminate sea water. However, it is a case of every one to his taste and to his own special hygienic creed.

Lord Dudley has been in various parts of the country since his return to Ireland. He went back to the Viceregal Lodge, where at the end of the week the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk paid a short visit to him and Lady Dudley. The great Catholic ceremonial at Armagh, for which the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk came to Ireland, was very impressive, and passed off most successfully. On leaving Rostrevor House the Duke and Duchess paid a visit to Sir Henry Bellingham at his residence in the county of Louth, which lies south of Rostrevor and the county of Down, Carlingford Lough lying between the two counties. Cardinal Logue has a country residence at Carlingford, a picturesque and historic town on the south side of the lough, where he finds a holiday pastime in yachting. He and his guest, Cardinal Vannutelli, had a day of comparative rest after the fatigues of the Armagh Sunday in visiting Carlingford, and sailing, or rather steaming, on the lough, amidst its beautiful scenery. Sir John Ross of Bladensburg, with the Duke of Norfolk and others of his party, joined them at Rostrevor.

Lord Grenfell, who has his headquarters at the Curragh, has been busily engaged in his military inspections and duties of various kinds throughout Ireland. The soldiers are having an active time in various camps in different parts of the country just now. Lord Grenfell paid a short visit to General Sir Reginald Pole-Carew and Lady Beatrice at Shanbally Castle, which was visited by the King and Queen this year when down south. Lady Beatrice is Lord Ormonde's daughter. A good fairy must have presided at her birth, she has so many of the gifts which fairies are credited with bestowing—beauty, charm of manner, and last, not least, in modern eyes for certain, riches. The tide of progress, as you know, has not altogether swept fairies from our island any more than from the mountains and glens of Wales. By the way, how very worldly the fairies of all climes and ages were. Rank and wealth were their invariable gifts to their favourites. If sometimes they gave a little adversity, it was only as a contrast, to set off still further the outburst of prosperity which was sure to follow.

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. Glenton Keer, Secretary.

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Lady Holmpatrick and her daughters, Lord and Lady Oranmore, Lord Crofton, and many others returned to Ireland last week after the "season." Lord and Lady Ardilaun have lent their beautiful gardens and grounds for a Horticultural Society fête next week at St. Anne's, Clontarf. Lady Ardilaun's garden, her own special one, wherein her taste reigns supreme, is lovely for the uninitiated to look at and enjoy, for "those who know" to study. The rose-grown pergola is a dream of beauty. Lord and Lady Iveagh are expected at Farmleigh during the month. The Horse Show takes place in the week before the end of August, and the usual crowds are expected in Dublin and the neighbourhood at that time. Whatever else may wane in public favour or lose its fashion, the horse never seems to lose his popularity in Society.—Yours ever, CLARE.

For a nice little luncheon dish I can recommend croustades de jambon:—

Line a number of small bouchée moulds with paste, made with the yolk of an egg, a little salt, and cold water. Fill them with fine tapioca that is mixed with lard, and bake them a golden colour. Free them from the filling, brush the edges with glaze, and allow them to cool. Whisk a gill of cream with a spoonful of lemon juice, a little salt, and a pinch of cayenne pepper. Mix in 2 oz. of finely chopped ham. Fill the cases with the ham cream, sprinkle them with chopped truffle, dish them in two straight rows, and garnish them with small cress and cube-shaped pieces of tomato.

Try these croûtes à la Royale:—

Pound 2 oz. of good Cheddar cheese with 2 oz. of butter, a spoonful of capers, and the yolks of two hard-boiled eggs. Season all with a pinch of cayenne pepper, and mix it with a little thick, sour cream. Rub the cheese through a hair sieve, and press it through a fancy pipe upon round pieces of bread and butter, that have been previously spread with French mustard. Make a fine border on each croûte with finely chopped red tongue, and dish them garnished with mustard and cress.

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• TRUTH •

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ENTRE NOUS.

It was announced in Truth several weeks ago that the Prince of Wales would be the guest of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, at Bolton Abbey, and of Lord and Lady Ripon, at Studley Royal, during the first week of the grouse-shooting season. H.R.H., who has arrived at Marlborough House from Cowes, leaves town to-morrow for Bolton Abbey, and he will have four days' shooting over the Duke of Devonshire's famous moors in Upper Wharfedale. The Prince is to leave Bolton Abbey next Wednesday, when he will drive by motor-car to Studley Royal, and he is to shoot over the Dallowgill moors with Lord Ripon and Lord de Grey on the 18th and 20th. H.R.H. is to stay at Studley Royal until the night of Sunday, the 21st, when he will proceed to Scotland.

This is not the first visit of the Prince of Wales to Studley Royal, as he stayed there for a few days in August, 1902, and the King and Queen have been twice guests there when Prince and Princess of Wales. Studley Royal is a picturesque, well-arranged house, which contains some good pictures and a valuable library. The famous gardens, which fill the valley of the Skell, were laid out in the Dutch fashion by Mr. Aislabie early in the eighteenth century, and they are the best examples of that style in England. The walks through the woods command beautiful views, and the scenery of the park is very attractive. A great number of the trees in the Studley demesne are remarkable for age and size, notably the Norway firs and hemlock spruces. The ruins of Fountains Abbey, which have been carefully protected by successive owners of Studley Royal, occupy a charming site on the borders of the park.

The Manor of Studley came into the possession of Mr. Aislabie (who was Chancellor of the Exchequer early in the reign of George I.) by his marriage with the heiress of the Mallory family. The estates passed by descent to Mrs. Lawrence, who died in 1845, and she left the property to the late Earl de Grey (grandfather of Lord Cowper and Mr. Vyner), from whom it passed by settlement in 1859 to Lord Ripon. The grounds and woods of Studley Royal have ranked among the most popular sights in Yorkshire for more than a century, and they are always open to the public.

Some of the papers are always printing the most preposterous nonsense about the plans of the Royal Family. An evening journal announced the other evening that the Prince and Princess of Wales are going to "take up residence at Ballater." Most people who concern themselves with such matters are aware that the Prince and Princess of Wales "take up residence" at Abergeldie Castle when they go to Deeside. Ballater, which is seven miles from Abergeldie, is the nearest town and railway station. "The Court will remain in Scotland until the close of the Braemar gathering." The Braemar gathering takes place early in September, directly after the arrival of the King at Balmoral, the date having been postponed in order that his Majesty may be present. This function has no connection whatever with the departure of the Court from Balmoral, which will not take place until about three weeks later.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife, who arrived at Duff House on Saturday, July 30, from London, will leave that place this week for Mar Lodge, where they intend to reside until the end of October. The King and the Prince of Wales will probably be guests at Mar Lodge, when the annual deer drives in Mar Forest take place towards the end of September.

There are practically no grouse at Balmoral or Abergeldie, and only a few birds are killed by the Royal

keepers during the first two or three days of the season. The King, who is fond of grouse-driving, has usually been the guest of Sir Allan Mackenzie at Braikley, near Ballater, or of the tenant of Invercauld, or of Mr. Govett at Gairnshiel. This year, however, his Majesty has rented the well-stocked moor of Micras from Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld. Micras is situated a few miles to the north-east of Balmoral, near Glen Gairn. This moor has been let for many years to Mr. Govett, along with Gairnshill, but he gave up these shootings at the end of last season, and the King arranged to become the tenant of Micras.

Princess Henry of Battenberg is to be the guest of Mrs. Eliot Yorke next week at Hamble Cliff, her beautiful place near Netley. Princess Henry is to pay a public visit to Southampton on Thursday, the 18th, for the purpose of opening the new Women's Lodging House.

Lord Knollys is going to Scotland to spend about seven weeks at Balmoral. Captain Ponsonby, one of the Equerries-in-Waiting, is to act as Private Secretary to the King while his Majesty is abroad. When the King returns to England at the beginning of September Captain Ponsonby will be relieved by Colonel Davidson, another of the equerries. Lord Knollys is to resume his duties when the King goes to Balmoral Castle.

Lord Dudley was at the Viceregal Lodge, where Lady Dudley still remains, at the beginning of last week. The Duchess of Bedford and the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk were the guests of Lord and Lady Dudley. Some dinner parties were given, at one of which Cardinal Vannutelli and his suite in attendance were entertained. Lord Dudley went to the West, for fishing, in the middle of the week. On Wednesday he carried out his engagement to attend the Galway races, notwithstanding the wild weather from the Atlantic, which came in with heavy rain. No man in Ireland knows the country more thoroughly than Lord Dudley, as he has been in his motor through the length and breadth of the land. He has visited schools and public institutions in all parts of the country, stayed at the hotels, played on the golf links, attended race meetings, and talked freely with all classes.

Lord Mayo, who is to get one of the vacant ribands of the Order of St. Patrick, has interested himself actively for many years in promoting industrial projects in Ireland. He was the leading figure in what may be called the pioneer movements in these directions. He lives usually at his family residence, Palmerstown, Naas, not very distant from Dublin, where he is well known. As a boy he lived at the Chief Secretary's Lodge in the Phœnix Park, when his father, afterwards Viceroy of India, ruled the Irish Office in Dublin Castle, or, rather, tried to rule it, in a reasonable and generous spirit, which did not prove acceptable to the Conservative Government under which he served. Another riband of St. Patrick is still at the disposal of the King, two deaths, those of Lord Cork and Lord Powerscourt, having occurred in the Order.

The deeply and widely lamented death of Lady Tweedmouth is the extinction of great social light. A true *grande dame*, she was an absolutely perfect hostess both in town and country, and at the same time she was an active and practical housewife. Lady Tweedmouth had been the recognised head of social Liberalism since the illness of the late Lady Spencer, and Brook House was for many years an important political centre. Her entertainments were always very largely attended, but she never allowed party animosities to interfere in any way with her social life. A strong Tory by birth and bringing up, Lady Tweedmouth adopted her husband's Liberal opinions directly after her marriage, and she rendered him valuable assistance when he was in office, and also during his elections when he sat for Berwickshire. It was the social side of Liberalism which principally engaged her attention. She was a clever and highly intelligent woman, with much practical common sense, and her conversation was always crisp and interesting. She was never capricious or uncertain, and neither over fastidious or over exclusive, but always attentive, affable, and obliging to all her guests. Her manner was sometimes rather brusque, but she was really most kind and genial, and she was always straightforward, sincere, and true. It is lamentable that her useful and prosperous career should have been suddenly cut short at the early age of fifty-one.

The King was to have paid a visit to Lord and Lady Tweedmouth next month at Guisachan, their place in the Strath-Affric district of Inverness-shire, where the Prince and Princess of Wales (then Duke and Duchess of York) spent a pleasant week some years ago. Guisachan is a fine and beautiful domain, with lovely scenery all round. The deer forests of Guisachan and North Ceannacroc afford first-rate sport. Lady Tweedmouth, who was greatly beloved in the district, delighted in Guisachan, and it was by her own earnest wish that she was removed there from London when her recovery had ceased to be hoped for. She was a capital shot, and had brought down many a stag by fair stalking, and she was also an expert angler.

The unexpected death of Colonel Henry Thomas Fraser, uncle of Lord Lovat, is profoundly regretted throughout the Beauly district of Inverness-shire, as he had made himself a great favourite among all classes during his residence at the North Lodge, near Beaufort Castle. Colonel Fraser served for thirty years in the 42nd Highlanders, and he took part in the Egyptian

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For Foreign Hotels, see page 372.
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War of 1882, and was present at Tel-el-Kebir. He was a fine shot and an expert angler, and had acquired a remarkable knowledge of the habits of game birds and animals. Colonel Fraser was an expert in the game of shinty.

Mr. Herbert Jenner-Fust, who died on Monday, the 1st, in his ninety-ninth year, was for many years a renowned cricketer. Since the death (in 1892) of Bishop Charles Wordsworth, he had been the sole survivor of the elevens which played at Lord's in June, 1827, in the first match between Oxford and Cambridge. He played cricket for the last time in a local match when he was over seventy-four, and he then got ten wickets, besides running out two. Mr. Jenner-Fust was the son of Sir Herbert Jenner, for many years Judge of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (in those days a post of very large emoluments), who assumed the name of Fust in 1841, when he succeeded his kinsman, Sir John Fust, in the family estates of Hill Court, in West Gloucestershire. Mr. Jenner-Fust practised successfully at Doctors' Commons for many years, and then left London, and took up his residence at Hill Court, a beautiful old place near the Forest of Dean. He was a just and generous landlord, and was a great favourite among all classes of his neighbours. He carried a gun until about eight years ago, and at the age of eighty-one he brought down a couple of wild duck right and left. His wines were port and brown sherry, and he drank a couple of glasses of either the one or the other after his seven o'clock dinner. He was educated at Eton under Dr. Keate.

A correspondent writes:—

Your notice of Lord Sandys might have included a reference to the fact that his grandfather was the original compounder of the famous Worcester Sauce. Lord Sandys is said to have one day mentioned his invention in a casual way to a citizen of Worcester, who begged for a copy of the recipe. This was given to him, and he founded the well-known firm, Lea and Perrins, and several fortunes have been made out of the sauce, which is still described on the labels as being made "from the recipe of a nobleman in the county."

I have received the following from Sir Charles Dilke, and my idea of what a forest should be is the same as his. Forest scenery means big trees. In Scotland, however, a forest is a large expanse without trees, and most of our existing forests in England have large expanses enclosed in them, which are either bare of trees, or have enclosures of small trees planted in straight lines. The last arrangement may be economically sound, but it is alien to the ideas of Nature and natural scenery:—

The writer of your pleasant trips through English scenery states that the Nottinghamshire district, which holds the remains of Sherwood and a portion of the Dukeries, yields the finest forest scenery in England except the New Forest. There are, indeed, some beautiful little bits of wood in what was Sherwood Forest and what is the New Forest. But there is no large extent of forest scenery in either of those districts, nor, I think, anywhere in the United Kingdom, except in and round Dean Forest. If one ascends an eminence in the New Forest and looks over a large extent of land, the woods are hardly to be seen (beautiful as they are when approached or traversed) in the great expanse of waste. In Dean Forest alone there is a great area of oak timber. In about 23,000 acres of which Dean Forest still consists there are 19,000 acres of oak timber. In the middle of the forest there is a tract indistinguishable from it, known as Abbot's Wood, which was alienated by the Crown to the monks of Flaxley Abbey in the reign of Henry I., and has now been bought back and thrown under the same management. Adjoining Dean Forest are 5,000 acres of the finest woods of tall oak timber in the United Kingdom, also the property of the Crown, and under the same management as the forest; and we find, therefore, in or immediately adjoining the Forest of Dean, 26,000 acres of oak timber; while the recent purchase by the Crown of the Beaufort estates upon the Wye adds a large amount of forest scenery in the neighbourhood of the Crown domain.

As regards its beauty, if some find that in the most extensive prospects of the forest the existence in some cases of as many as four or five coal pits in the view detracts from the loveliness of the scene, then outside the circle of the little coalfield, in the portion of the Crown forests and other woods which surround it, there are unbroken views of oak forest, unmarred by any trace of industry. The forest views in the neighbourhood of the Wye, as, for example, that from the Buckstone, are famous; but to those who will quit railways and main roads there are many wholly different views at least as beautiful. Charles W. Dilke.

It is announced that a *sweet spirit*, suitable for the driving of motors, has been placed upon the market.—*Daily Paper.*

"I am a stern materialist,
But, frankly, I declare
That as the motors rattle by,
Devoutly I'm prepared to cry—
'Sweet Spirit! hear my prayer!
Hear me, and, with your perfumed breath,
Consign the Petrol-fiend to death!
And, in its place, whate'er you are,
Sweet Spirit, permeate each car!'"

A gentleman who has been staying at Bognor with his family, which included a sick child, complains of the annoyance caused recently by a mission van, bearing the inscription "National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches." "Owing," he says, "to the dreadful shouting of one of the preachers my children could not sleep;" but on his remonstrating with the itinerant Boanerges, and explaining that one of his children was ill, he was told that the evangelists also had to consider a dying woman who required their prayers. No one would wish to stand between a dying woman and spiritual consolation; but I take it that the woman was not dying in the street, and I should think it would be better for her, as well as her neighbours, that whatever prayers she required should be offered at her bedside instead of being shouted in an adjoining thoroughfare. A person dying in a proper frame of mind would not wish to create a public nuisance in her last moments, and even if she did, her foible ought not to be indulged. The National Council of Evangelical Free Churches will no doubt recognise this, and they ought to give instructions to their missionary accordingly. The matter is really one, however, for the local authorities, who ought to keep a much tighter hand than they do upon itinerant evangelists, especially at seaside towns in the holiday season.

Another seaside-town nuisance is mentioned by a correspondent at St. Leonards, who states that one of the Viavi Company's travelling touts has been staying at a boarding-house in Warrior Square, and annoying or frightening the other lady visitors by insisting on discussing their ailments, real or alleged, and their need of the Viavi remedies. This is obviously a matter for the proprietors of the boarding-house, who, presumably must object as much to the agent of a medical quack worrying the guests for an order as to any ordinary commercial traveller using the house for the

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same purpose. It seems that the female in question is also "lecturing" in Hastings and St. Leonards. It is a great pity that people who own or control public halls should allow them to be used for advertising such pernicious quackery.

The Silly Season is now upon us, and this no doubt explains two letters addressed to me for publication this week. One of them propounds a series of posers for the vegetarian section of the community. The writer is alarmed at the danger to a number of trades that will follow from the spread of vegetarian doctrines. "Furs, feathers, woollens, leather goods," he says, "will no longer be manufactured. Fisheries will become extinct, and we shall have no more cod liver oil, and no more whalebone." He apparently supposes that the people who do not eat meat will not wear boots, that wool is only obtained from butchers' shops, and that in order to get at a whale's bones it is necessary to eat his flesh. This is not precisely the case; but if it were, I should recommend my correspondent to apply to Mr. Chamberlain, who is prepared to set any threatened industry on its legs in a moment. The great man will be speaking again in the course of the Silly Season, and I already see him, in my mind's eye, proposing a tax on vegetarians to an audience of butchers.

The other letter opens up an even more promising subject—the limits of the obedience due from a wife to her husband. The writer, who is a lady, was present at a discussion where the opinion prevailed that "on every subject relating to wife, children, or household the husband's will should be law, and that his wife was bound to obey without question or reasoning." This view, she thinks, is "almost Oriental," and she is curious to know what is the general opinion. Evidently she has come to the wrong shop. There is only one place for the discussion of a problem of this character in the month of August, and that is the columns of the *Daily Telegraph*. There is honour among journalists, though my correspondent does not seem to think so; and no consideration would induce me to deprive an esteemed contemporary of (probably) many miles of entertaining, and gratuitous, copy.

Without inviting discussion of this thorny question, I may say that my own opinion is—supposing anybody wants it—that a husband's rights are what he can get. My view of a wife's rights is the same. Whether it is wise for either party to get all that he (or she) can is a question of expediency, to be decided according to circumstances and individual inclination. The governing principle of the situation is that when two people ride the same horse, one must ride behind. If both desire to ride in front, either one must give way or they must fight it out. In this fight one or other may be so knocked about as to have no heart left for the enjoyment of the front seat. Or the weaker vessel, while resigning himself to the back seat, may yet make the front one so uncomfortable that the occupier's life is a misery to him.

The question, therefore, whenever a conflict of rights arises, is whether the front seat is worth fighting about, and if so, how long and how hard. Some people prefer the back seat. Many, who would take the front for choice, would rather give it up than have a row about it. They don't always lose so much as you might think. Mr. Weller the elder, when his wife broke his pipe, stepped out and bought another; and a great man was of opinion that this, if not philosophy, was "a very good substitute for it." In the present day we should call it "passive resistance;" and a great deal may be done by passive resistance, even from the back seat.

COOLNESS *VERSUS* CUSTOM.

Well, now we *have* got it, an old-fashioned Summer,
And see the glass rising with ardour unchecked,
The welcome we give to this longed-for late comer
Is not quite the one it might fairly expect.
We affect, it is true, to be hugely delighted
That "Sol" should at length his caloric outpour,
But, clinging too close to conventions benighted,
We find, as a fact, the great heat is a bore!

For what is the course we adopt? Do we meet it
Arrayed in a garb that is airy and free?
No, no; with but grudging concessions we greet it,
Such obstinate creatures of habit are we.
A few daring souls suit their ways to the weather,
And thus are enabled in comfort to live;
But most of us crassly ignore altogether
The hint that our rising thermometers give.

Our Soldiers, be-strapped and be-buckled, still welter
In tunics intended to keep out the cold;
Our Bishops in Sees that are tropical swelter,
Be-gaitered, be-aproned, be-sleeved as of old;
And those of our Judges who, still in their places
Like cucumbers grown in a greenhouse are found,
Sit bravely and stew over brain-searing cases
(With noble exceptions) be-wigged and be-gowned!

And what of ourselves? Do we not in hot raiment,
To custom still fettered, go gasping about,
And daily for lunch make the same good old payment,
For the same heavy steak and the same pint of stout?
And whilst beads of moisture from off us are falling,
Do we not a sad lack of decorum impute
To the hero who daringly follows his calling
In a Panama hat and a white flannel suit?

Ah! if our good King would but lend his assistance,
A *modus vivendi* might soon be arranged,
And quickly a torrid, perspiring existence
Might into a life of enjoyment be changed!
If our King would but strike against Fashion's restrictions,
And a "go-as-you-please" summer costume decree,
Relieved from the Season's prefervid inflictions,
How cool and how happy his subjects might be!

I have received a good many letters from correspondents anent a paragraph in Truth two or three weeks ago, respecting the cottages connected with Shakespeare's birthplace, and urging that steps should be taken to ensure that they will not be allowed to be pulled down owing to the local jealousies of a clique at Stratford-on-Avon. This is, I believe, the exact position of the matter. In 1891 an Act was passed incorporating the Trustees and Guardians of Shakespeare's Birthplace, and vesting in them certain lands and other property in Stratford-on-Avon, including the birthplace. By the Act certain *ex officio* trustees and life trustees were appointed. In the event of any one of the latter

dying or resigning, the remaining trustees were empowered to elect a trustee to fill the vacancy. The trustees were to appoint a committee of not less than eight of their number, and to delegate to such committee all powers, but the proceedings of the committee had to be submitted to the trustees in general meeting for confirmation or rejection. The *ex officio* trustees consisted of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county, the Vicar of the parish, the Head Master of the Grammar School, the Town Clerk of Stratford, and the Aldermen and Justices of the borough. The life trustees were men known in literature and in the drama, with the exception of Mr. Flower, who was a townsman of Stratford. The present aldermen and Justices include one publican, one brewer, two doctors, two builders, an auctioneer, a jeweller, and a chemist; and, with all respect to them, they hardly seem to be gentlemen quite fitted to be dominant factors in a trust of this character. They, or most of them, usually say ditto to their townsman, Mr. Flower, who is a life trustee and a gentleman of considerable local importance.

On a line with Shakespeare's birthplace are two cottages, which existed in the lifetime of Shakespeare, and belonged to a member of his family. In 1903, the trustees decided to pull them down, and either to rebuild modern ones in their place, or to convert their site into a garden. Certain persons objecting to this obtained the fiat of the Attorney-General to commence an action to restrain them. The action was commenced, but was discontinued, on these persons learning that the intention to demolish the cottages had been given up. Almost immediately after this, Mr. Sidney Lee was elected Chairman of the Executive Committee, and the Committee decided to preserve these cottages. This decision formed part of a general report submitted to the full body of the trustees in May of this year for confirmation. An amendment was moved to exclude that portion of the report dealing with the cottages, and Mr. Sidney Lee, fancying that this might be carried, moved that the motion for confirmation of the report stand over until October.

It is, therefore, essential that the public should bestir themselves, or otherwise the local Councillors and Magistrates will get their way. Mr. Sidney Lee's opinion that the cottages ought to remain carries most unquestionably more weight than that of the Town Council of Stratford, whose members seem, so far as I can perceive, determined to have them destroyed, in order to show that their views, however foolish, ought not to be interfered with from without. Personally, I have no wild craze for preserving memorials of the past, but I have inspected the cottages, and I cannot understand why these gentlemen should want to pull them down. They are in harmony with the birthplace, and nothing is gained by removing them. They interfere with no public improvements, and it is mere "cussedness" to insist on pulling them down, whilst it is distasteful to many persons who are interested in Shakespearean memorials, and especially to those who, like Mr. Sidney Lee, have devoted much literary labour to the matter. He was elected, I presume, Chairman of the Executive Committee because it was thought that he was well fitted to occupy that post. The Committee is itself in agreement with him, and it is really ridiculous if their decision is set aside owing to the determination of a lot of persons—very respectable no doubt as local citizens, but no more fitted to decide upon such an issue than the cows that graze on the meadows around Stratford.

Some remarks were made in Truth not long ago on the sale of unofficial catalogues in the Tate Gallery, the fact being that the very man employed to sell the official catalogue was also selling another issued by a firm of publishers. As the firm gave him a commission on his sales, the result was hardly likely to be advantageous to the official publication. The sale of the unofficial publication has now been stopped, no doubt in consequence of my calling attention to the matter. I would, however, respectfully point out to the authorities that this is not altogether satisfactory. One at least of the unofficial publications is a better book than its official competitor, and visitors to the gallery lose something by its not being accessible. If the official catalogue is to have a monopoly, it ought to be the best possible catalogue. Either it should be raised to that standard, or it should be withdrawn in favour of the book which is now excluded.

I should have supposed that a picture is good or bad on its merits, no matter by whom it may have been painted. But this test is not recognised either by critics or by purchasers of pictures. A picture, I see, has been found in Yorkshire, which, on the frame being removed, was discovered to have "Vandyck, 1617," on it. If it be a genuine Vandyck, it is said that it will be most valuable; if not, valueless. But how can a name on its frame alter the real value of the picture, if the latter is to be judged entirely on its artistic merits?

The decision of Bishop Ridding to resign the See of Southwell, now that there is a prospect of his being unable to discharge his episcopal duties regularly and efficiently, is highly commendable, and if some of his aged and infirm brethren would follow his good example it would be for the benefit of the Anglican Church. Dr. Ridding was a brilliantly efficient headmaster of Winchester, and he has been equally successful as the ruler of a large diocese. His great powers of organisation and administration, his intellectual force, his strong common sense, his rugged independence, his sympathy, and his munificent generosity have combined to make him an almost model prelate. His retirement will be greatly and universally regretted in the diocese by both clergy and laity. The Bishop has received invaluable help in all his work from his wife, Lady Laura Ridding, who is a daughter of Lord Chancellor Selborne, and whom he married in 1876. His first wife was a daughter of Dr. Moberly, his predecessor as head master of Winchester, and afterwards Bishop of Salisbury, and she died in 1859, only a year after her marriage. It is in accordance with Bishop Ridding's

open-handed liberality that he intends to decline the pension, of about £1,500 a year, to which he is entitled on retiring.

The See of Southwell is worth £3,500 a year, and the Bishop has to find his own residence. Bishop Ridding has lived at Thurgarton Priory, a picturesque old country seat near Southwell, but it is expected that his successor will endeavour to find a house under the shadow of his cathedral. The retirement of Bishop Ridding will give a seat in the House of Lords to the Bishop of Wakefield, and the next vacancy on the Episcopal Bench will be filled by the Bishop of Bangor.

Chancellor Newbolt has succeeded Archdeacon Sinclair as the canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral; and at Westminster Abbey Archdeacon Wilberforce has been replaced by Canon Henson.

It is the arrogance and the obstinacy of the leaders of the so-called United Free Church which have brought that sect to such dire grief. The managers of the original Free Church would have agreed to a compromise on terms highly advantageous to their opponents, but these overtures were rejected with disdain. It is understood at Edinburgh that many years ago the Free Church leaders were advised by some of the most eminent members of the Scotch Bar (including the present Lord President of the Court of Session) that a union with the United Presbyterians would be *ultra vires*. A reasonable settlement will doubtless be arranged, in which case Ministerial assistance will be given in order to obtain the sanction of Parliament. Hard-headed people do not understand why there should now be more than one Presbyterian Church in Scotland. The Disruption of 1843 was caused by the popular dislike to patronage, but as that system has been abolished, the Free Church has now no real *raison d'être*. As to the United Presbyterians, there is an amusing reference to this sect in "Lothair," and Lord Beaconsfield's jeers were much appreciated in Scotland when that novel was published in 1870.

I am glad to see that the Rev. T. E. Hill, Rector of Little Canfield, has received a severe dressing down from the Bishop of St. Albans on account of the burial scandal which was noticed in TRUTH some time ago. It may be remembered that the Rector declined to read the Prayer-book service at the funeral of a deceased female parishioner on the ground that she had not been a communicant. The Bishop pointed out that this was a violation of "the whole spirit of Canon 68," and called upon the Rector to express his regret to the relatives of the deceased, and to promise to conform to the rubric in future. The Rector was both impenitent and impertinent; seeking to justify his conduct by what the Bishop characterises as a mere technicality, and appealing to his lordship for "protection" against the attacks that were being made upon him in connection with the case. The Bishop sharply replied that he was at a loss to understand how any clergyman could take up such an attitude, that he gravely disapproved of the Rector's conduct, and that if any protection was needed in this sad case it was by the relatives of the deceased.

The technicality to which the Bishop referred discloses a serious defect in the law. It appears that the Bishop was advised that "in all probability" the Court, before passing a sentence of suspension, would require evidence that the clergyman "explicitly refused to bury on a particular day a body brought out that day to the churchyard for burial after due notice." In this instance the Rector informed the relatives of his decision two or three days beforehand, and they thereupon arranged for a Nonconformist minister to conduct the funeral, the result being that the ingenious parson raised the purely technical point that he did not refuse to bury a body actually brought to him at the churchyard for burial. If, therefore, the Bishop is correctly advised, it is necessary for the relatives of a deceased person to submit to a painful ordeal in the churchyard before the clergyman becomes liable to punishment for his violation of "the whole spirit" of Canon 68. Such a state of things is at once an absurdity and a monstrous hardship upon the bereaved family.

A correspondent sends me the report of a conversation which appeared in the *Howdenshire Chronicle* recently, between the Rev. W. Rose, the Vicar of St. Stephen's, Scalby, Newport, and one of his assistant-teachers, which would seem to show that the reverend gentleman is scarcely a suitable person to occupy the position of manager to the Gilberdyke Council School. Because the teacher in question had attended a Bible-class held by a Wesleyan the Vicar is reported to have told her that if she continued her attendance, there would be "a condemnation come" upon her, and, further, that either she would have to leave the Methodists or go to another parish. I hope the Vicar has been misreported, otherwise I am afraid that instead of a condemnation coming upon the assistant-teacher it is much more likely to fall upon the Vicar, for this short way with dissenters is not likely to commend itself to any but the veriest bigot.

Touching on this question of bigotry, I am wondering whether the Edmonton Guardians are desirous of reintroducing the Test Acts, for I find in a printed form of application for the post of Superintendent Relieving Officer, sent me by a correspondent, that the candidate is required to give his religious persuasion. What can his religious belief have to do with the qualifications of a relieving officer? Business capacity, a broad humanitarianism, and a sympathetic view of poverty, all of which would be eminently valuable qualities in a candidate for the appointment, are not the distinguishing marks of any particular creed, so I fail to see whether the fact that the candidate is a Catholic, a Protestant, or a Buddhist can matter to the Guardians.

I have received £1 from "Bombay" towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor Children.

We live in an iconoclastic age; but I have not the ourage to attack the British "Hip-hip Hurrah!" I ish it to be understood, therefore, that I do not hold yself responsible for the suggestion made in the fol- wing letter. Still, the Japanese are officially our lies, and privately the objects of our sincere admira- on, and "Banzai!" makes as serviceable a yell as some the cries we hear when American Universities are on e warpath at Queen's Club or on the towpath at enley:—

Our progress in army reform has always taken the direction learning from our allies or our enemies, especially in the matter head-dress—as though we could absorb brain-power by rrowing a hat. Our Lancers, for instance, wear the shapkas the Pole, our light cavalry the busby of "the Hussar," the oat, and the Pandour," our household troops the bearskin of apoleon's Imperial Guard. The infantry of the line have smiled us under an adaptation of the German pickelhaube; for years e have been twisting the képi into shapes which render it almost recognisable; and our latest idea has been to borrow the slouch at of the slim and agile Boer.

I desire to propose another innovation in the same direction. shouting "Hurrah" we are (in these days unconsciously) peating the victorious cry of the Cossack Tartars in pursuit their enemies—a cognate word to the "Maro" of our Indian valry as they encourage each other to strike. Both words simply ean "Kill!" I suggest that we now adopt for this purpose e popular and victorious cry of "Banzai!" which means simple success" or "good fortune." Not only will this be a compliment our Japanese allies, but it will supply a more suitable cry r civil occasions. Surely it would be better to greet, say, a ord Mayor, or Royalty, or Mr. Chamberlain, with "Banzai!" han with a Cossack howl for their blood.

At intervals during the present year remarks have been made in TRUTH on the evidence that exists of ridespread dishonesty and corruption in the Indian Supply and Transport Corps. The matter first came nder notice through the prosecution at Karachi of a ontractor who had libelled an agent of the Corps, y name Ahmed Khan, the magistrate who tried the ase finding that corrupt and dishonest practices had nquestionably existed in connection with the pur- hase of supplies, and pronouncing Ahmed Khan to e "utterly unfit for his post and unworthy of confi- lence." Notwithstanding this censure, Ahmed Khan was retained in his position. About the same time an fficer made a scathing report on the prevailing cor- uption to the Director-General of Supply and Trans- ort in the Bombay Command, but without any ractical result, except that he himself was transferred o another command. On referring to the matter in TRUTH, I received from India a great many communi- ations endorsing the allegations made in this report nd in Ahmed Khan's case, and I urged the Govern- ment to take some steps to deal with the scandal effectually.

So far as I am aware nothing has come of this. I therefore publish for the further enlightenment of the Indian Government the following letter from an Englishman in the Supply and Transport Corps, which speaks eloquently enough as to the present condition of things among the native staff, and I trust that the matter will catch the attention of Lord Kitchener, who is hardly the man to allow such a state of things to continue in any branch of the service for which he is responsible. Although the writer limits his state- ments to the Punjab, it is pretty clear from what has been mentioned above that the Bombay Command is also affected, and the whole corps is evidently in need of a thorough overhaul—with the possible exception of Madras, where I understand that the native Agents do not exist:—

You recently expressed surprise that the agent convicted of fraud at Karachi remained in the Department. If you had been a member of the Supply and Transport Corps you would have been much more surprised had he been dismissed. The plain truth is that the Agent, and the departmental babus in his pay, are the only real power in the Corps. An Agent detected in any fraud has only to bribe two or three influential babus in the head offices, and I defy the Inspector-General himself to get him really dismissed. His dismissal may be ordered but it will not be carried out. He may suffer the temporary inconvenience of a transfer, but his complete disappearance would be a thing unprecedented in my experience.

The absurd system on which the department is managed naturally results in the abuses to which you call attention. For example, the Agent on my station is paid at the rate of Rs. 50 a month. He has to employ six men whose combined pay at least equals his own. This staff is paid by the Agent, not the Government. Unless, therefore, the Government expects him to work for nothing, what else can it expect except that he shall make what he can for himself by dishonest means? The consequence of this arrangement is a system of fraud, started by the Agent, connived at by the office babus, and pervading the whole department. Men of all ranks are implicated in it. I do not say that we have no honest men. There are plenty; but their hands are tied. If they refuse to be active parties to any fraud, they must at least shut their eyes to it, or have a combination of Agents and babus arrayed against them, which will mean speedy ruin.

I am speaking from personal experience. If I were bold enough to object to any of the perquisites that are made in my lines, I should immediately be transferred to another station. If I did not take the hint, I should next be returned to duty as "unsuitable for departmental employ." As that would mean reverting to a rank that I held many years ago, on less than one-third of my present pay, I submit to the force of circumstances, as I see everybody else do.

If one of my establishment commits a crime, I know that it is useless to report him. When I first joined, if I caught a native officer or N.C.O. selling Government property, I was foolish enough to make him a prisoner and have him tried. I know better now. The case might be proved, and his dismissal from the service might even be sanctioned, though more probably he would evade trial by enlisting the head clerk's sympathy in the usual way. But the end was always the same. He served on regardless of any official orders that might be issued respecting him. I have a man serving in my lines at this moment, who has twice been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, and once, at least, dismissed the service. None of those punishments has ever been recorded against him, and he will leave the service in due time covered with honour, and in receipt of a pension.

The British officer is greatly to blame for all this. I know he thinks that his subordinates are, but the subordinate is powerless unless he is backed up by his superior, and he is not backed up; quite the reverse. The officer is too often a mere signing machine. Nine-tenths of them have next to no detailed knowledge of the work, and depend entirely on their head clerk, who represents matters just as he is paid to do. They can answer no question without his assistance; and the consequence is that most of them are entirely under the thumb of the obsequious, pleasant-spoken, coloured gentleman, a master of intrigue by birth, who does all the work, and is far too clever to let his immense power be suspected by his puppet. The head clerk's power is unlimited. I have even known an Inspecting Officer ask a native head clerk to report on a British subordinate. How then can the latter be expected to act as any check upon the malpractices of the native officials? I have been asked for information by an officer, who promised me that no harm should befall me if it were given. But I was unable to comply with his request, for I knew—though he did not—that with the best intentions in the world he was powerless to protect me against his own head clerk.

These remarks only apply to the Punjab. In the benighted presidencies, I believe, British officers and subordinates have more power than the natives.

A good example of the way the cost of our Army is inflated is furnished by the present state of things in regard to officers' quarters in the infantry barracks at Halifax, N.S. In the first place, two married officers have for some time past been allowed to occupy more quarters than they are entitled to by regulations. One of them, entitled to one quarter and half a kitchen, occupies four quarters and two kitchens; the other (who is only a subaltern) has four quarters and one

kitchen. Here, therefore, are six quarters and two kitchens improperly allotted, with the result that a corresponding number of unmarried officers have to live out of barracks at some inconvenience to themselves and considerable expense to the public. It is easy to understand a C.O. doing a good turn in this way to a married officer, and if the higher authorities do not object, one can hardly blame him. But it is impossible to understand how these "higher authorities"—including the department at home which ought to check the payments and know the reason for them—can sanction all the expenditure that must thus be incurred for lodging allowances, when it is perfectly well known that the barracks provide sufficient accommodation for the officers drawing the money.

Again, in these same barracks, papering, painting, and other repairs have lately been going on. The C.O., a married man, has consequently to turn out of his quarters. He accordingly appropriates temporarily the quarters of certain subalterns, and orders them to remove for the time to a neighbouring hotel. The officers are the sufferers here, because their lodging allowance will not cover the cost of their quarters at the hotel, and it is not probable that the C.O. or anybody else will reimburse them. The public will be losers, too, if the united lodging allowances of the evicted officers are more than the amount the C.O. would have been entitled to had he migrated to the hotel himself; but on this point I am not able to speak, as I do not know how many officers have been evicted. I desire to add, as remarks in the Press on a matter of this kind may create unpleasantness in the barracks referred to, that I have had no communication from anybody at Halifax on this subject, and I do not even know the names of any of the officers concerned.

The management of the South African Garrison Institutes seems to have fallen off in many respects since peace was concluded, if one may judge from the opinions expressed by customers. A sergeant writing on this subject complains that, wanting "certain articles of sporting outfit"—he does not give further particulars—he found that the best-known make was not stocked, and had to be content with others of an unknown brand and the vilest quality, the price being far above that of the best goods in England. The same thing may be said, he adds, of many classes of goods, the articles specified in the price lists not being stocked, and the prices charged being often in excess of those in the list. This is only a sample of many complaints sent to me from time to time about the S.A.G. Institutes.

Since referring a few weeks ago to the hard case of the Army schoolmaster in South Africa I have had another communication on the same subject from a different quarter, telling much the same tale. A point in it worth noting is that Army schoolmistresses now receive colonial allowance. If this is considered necessary for the schoolmistress, why on earth should it be withheld from the schoolmaster? Surely this is a case where the sauce for the goose should be the sauce for the gander. The cost of living in the South African colonies falls as heavily on the one as the other—more so if the male bird has a goose of his own to keep; and the schoolmasters in South Africa are denied many privileges that they enjoy at home. I am told that some of them are actually living in barrack rooms.

"Is a battery sergeant-major entitled to be addressed as "Sir," whether on or off parade?" This momentous question, which, in one shape or another, has at all times so deeply exercised the Army, is propounded now from a mountain battery in India. The propounder goes on to argue that a battery sergeant-major occupies the same "relative rank" as a colour-sergeant of infantry, who is not entitled to be "sirred" either by regulations or custom. It may be so, but my advice to military men of all grades is that if a superior is gratified by being "sirred," it may be wise to accord him a courtesy which pleases him and can hurt nobody. Had fortune cast my lot in a mountain battery, R.G.A., I think I should have "sirred" the battery sergeant-major at every convenient opportunity, though I might have kept my tongue in my cheek at the same time. There is nothing, I take it, in the regulations against keeping your tongue in your cheek—though I would not let the battery sergeant-major see the cheek.

The classification of soldiers for "service pay" under the new arrangements is beginning to add to Mr. Atkins' troubles, and consequently to mine. It is rather difficult to act as a court of appeal from a commanding officer who decides that this man or that man is only worth 4d. a day, while the other man is worth 6d. But one point which is causing dissatisfaction seems worth consideration by those in authority. In a gallant regiment in Burma the Commanding Officer has ruled that in order to qualify for Class I., under the heading of "Good Character," a man must have been two years clear of a regimental entry. The result is that a man who holds a first-class certificate of education, and has been a marksman for ten years in succession, becomes a fourpenny man, although he has only had three regimental entries in upwards of eleven years' service, the last dating six months back.

Now, but for this last accident, this man would have become a sixpenny man even though he had been a second-class shot and had nothing better than a third-class education certificate. Moreover, he might have had any number of minor offences on his defaulter sheet, had he been clear of a regimental entry for the prescribed time. For instance, there are sixpenny men in the same battalion with long strings of "drunks" against them. Assuming that the object of the new system is to secure the best pay to the best all-round soldier, it seems to me that the desired result is not attained in this particular instance. Character must count for something, I suppose, although, as I said the

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other day, the assessment of character in the Army is a very arbitrary and conventional process; but if you want to reward the best man, high merit in one direction ought to be set off to some extent against shortcomings in another. On the whole, I think that a marksman with a first-class education certificate is a more useful sort of soldier and more deserving of encouragement than a second-class shot with a third-class education certificate who happens to have escaped a regimental entry for two years.

I was asked the other day to invite the attention of the military authorities to the number of billets about the Royal Infirmary and other medical establishments at Dublin which might be filled by old R.A.M.C. men, but are not. They include such jobs as boiler attendants, storemen, etc., the pay running up to 5s. 6d. a day. The contention that berths of this kind should be reserved for the corps to which they are attached seems to be reasonable enough. But what specially strikes me in looking at the list of them is that two are filled by civilians. Even if not reserved for ex-R.A.M.C. men, these berths might at least be restricted to discharged soldiers, and the fact that civilians occupy them is a good illustration of what I said last week as to the neglect of the Government, including the War Office, to use all the opportunities it has of employing ex-Army men.

Either the men of the Royal Garrison Regiment are "grousers" above the ordinary run of Tommies, or they must be marked out by the authorities for specially inconsiderate treatment. The last growl from this quarter rather points towards the latter alternative. When the 2nd R.G.R. were sent to South Africa, about 180 men refused to extend for service in that country, and were sent home. One detachment has found its way to Tidworth, where they complain that they have been employed continuously at unloading commissariat waggons and other labourers' work without being allowed any working pay, and also that the furloughs pending discharge which they should receive in the ordinary course have been refused. They infer that they are being punished in this way for objecting to go to South Africa. I should think so, too, but for the fact that the men of the same battalion who elected to go to South Africa were also complaining of their treatment as soon as they got there. Under the very latest scheme of Army reorganisation the Royal Garrison Regiment is to be extinguished, and it must, therefore, be assumed that the regiment is not regarded with favour by the present rulers of the Army. But it is decidedly hard on the men that they should have to suffer because another Pharaoh has arisen who knows not the Joseph who created this regiment.

Rear-Admiral Wharton was retired from the Service last week, when he vacated the important post of Hydrographer to the Navy, which he had held for twenty years. He is to be succeeded by Captain Field, who has had more than twenty-five years' experience in this department. Captain Field has been employed in surveying work in all parts of the world, and has always carried out his missions with conspicuous ability and thoroughness. The appointment is an excellent one, and meets with universal approval. Captain Field, who is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical and Royal Astronomical Societies, has contributed several valuable articles to the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

Writers in the Navy are complaining, with some justice, of a hardship created by the importation a few years ago of a number of pensioned writers to meet a shortage in the staff. Ostensibly a step of this kind would only be taken to tide over a temporary difficulty, and I believe the pensioners thus introduced were only offered a year or two's service. But they have been allowed to stop on for something like five years, and at the present time they are filling a number of posts in the harbour ships and establishments. The result is that writers returning to their depots, and nominally to their homes, from foreign service, find themselves drafted to distant parts of the kingdom, and, if they have homes, compelled to remove them; and it is a serious business for a man of small income to have to shift his family and household effects, say, from Portsmouth to Hull or Queensferry. The grievance is chiefly felt at Portsmouth, but I understand that similar circumstances have arisen at Devonport and Chatham, and the matter calls for attention.

Apropos of what was said in Truth a fortnight ago as to the unauthorised extension of hours in the Naval Store Department at Portsmouth, I am told that inquiry will show that the unpaid overtime worked within the last year amounts to upwards of 2,500 hours. This represents a pretty substantial gain to the Admiralty as the employers of these men. No one is more in favour of economy in naval and military administration than I am. But I hate sweating even more than extravagance, and economy is simply odious and hateful when it is practised by well-paid public servants at the expense of those who are earning a bare living wage. As already indicated, I believe that the Admiralty are unaware of the sweating measures that have been taken in this particular department; and they would do well to make some inquiry as to the way in which the place has lately been managed, for if only half that I hear on the subject is true, the sweating of the staff is only one example of a system of tyranny which ought not to be allowed in the public service in these days.

The signalling staff of the Navy is at present much below its proper strength, and I heard the other day that during the present mobilisation of the torpedo flotilla off the Irish coast the gunboat carrying the senior officer of the flotilla had only one leading signalman on board and three boys, the latter being mere apprentices at the work, and quite untrustworthy, so that the signalman dared not leave the bridge for a moment, and was doing

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ıe work of four or five men. A very similar state of ıings prevailed throughout the flotilla, the destroyers nd torpedo boats having only very young signalmen nd boys on board. Every naval man knows, and every ındsman can pretty easily judge, that the efficiency of ıe signalling branch is an essential condition of promptess in giving and executing orders and carrying out volutions, and the consequences of mistakes in signaling, whether from clumsiness or overwork, are apt to e disastrous. The above state of things, therefore, n board a torpedo flotilla at peace manœuvres does ot promise well for the efficiency of the Navy in time f war.

I understand that this matter has been under the ıotice of "my Lords," and that some steps have been aken to induce seamen to qualify for acting ratings n signalling. But this is only a half-measure. A nan who knows this branch of the service well tells ne that for a long time past the terms offered have ıot been such as to tempt the right stamp of educated ınd intelligent youths and boys to specialise in sigıalling, and the result points obviously to this view ɔf the matter. Better inducements to enter this branch ɔf the Service will have to be provided, and the sooner :he better. Signalling is not a business that can be learnt in a day, or a month, and the present state of things is clearly a danger to the Navy.

On the occasion of the Prince of Wales's recent visit to the training ship *Worcester*, a cadet named Graves covered himself with glory. He had taken eleven first prizes and one third, and established a record by gaining 97.6 per cent. of the possible total marks; and he was specially complimented by the Prince of Wales at the distribution of the prizes. An interesting sequel to these honours is now recorded by a Worcester paper. Mr. Graves has been rejected on his medical examination for the Navy "owing to some trifling defect in the little toe." He has consequently gone into the merchant service, where apparently they think more of brains and less of little toes. I gave last year some interesting particulars of the working of the new system of admission to the Navy, but nothing quite so ludicrous as Mr. Graves's little toe. It would be interesting to hear from some one in authority the exact way in which a defect of the little toe disqualifies a man for naval service. Would it prevent him from marching long distances, or dancing a hornpipe accurately, or what? Perhaps the doctors thought the boy might be going into the Horse Marines, and that his little toe might spoil his riding.

The overcrowding of railway trains is such a perennial source of grumbling that one is disposed to accord a hearty welcome to an association formed to protect the interests of travellers. Anyhow, such an association was formed the other day at a meeting held at De Keyser's Hotel in view of proposed legislative action to be taken in the next Session of Parliament. It has always been a mystery to me why cruelty to animals caused by the overcrowding of omnibuses and trams should be punished, while cruelty to human beings by the reckless overcrowding of railway carriages should be permitted to go on unchecked. Perhaps the solution to the problem is to be found in the statement made by the Hon. Claude Hay, M.P., at the meeting in question, that the Board of Trade officials had declared it to be the duty of railway companies to enforce their own bye-laws against overcrowding. One would scarcely expect to see a serious board of railway directors engaged in the Gilbertian farce of taking proceedings against themselves for their own delinquencies, so that if the new Association succeeds only in delegating this power to some responsible official body it will do a great deal towards stopping a very real grievance.

TEETOTAL "EYE-OPENERS."

The latest drink cure, we hear from Chicago, is the wearing of a particular kind of *pince-nez* by the dipsomaniac.—*Daily Chronicle.*

Few men who drink too much can see
Their fault, though long it has existed;
To make their vision clearer, then,
'Tis right their sight should be assisted.
So there 's much reason in the plan,
Suggested by teetotal teachers,
That special glasses should be worn
By these inebriated creatures;
For all the victims thus indicted
Have proved most woefully short-sighted!

A number of worthy gentlemen who own property in Watford have combined, quite in the vulgar trades union manner, to defend their own interests by the formation of a Watford Property Owners' Association. One of the principal objects of the newly-formed association is stated to be the improvement of the letting of property in the town by publishing statements to counteract other injurious statements which have appeared in London papers concerning Watford. There is an elementary simplicity about this frank avowal which I fear will tend to defeat the object in view. Nor do I quite understand how the other objects of the association will tend to bring about the desired state of things. These include the keeping of a black list of tenants who are in arrears with their rent and the provision of legal assistance for members in questions between landlord and tenant. Personally, I should have imagined that neither of these proposals is exactly calculated to exercise a favourable impression upon the minds of intending residents in the town.

An interesting attempt has been made recently at Portsmouth Prison to influence the women incarcerated there by a course of lectures on domestic subjects, such as the care of children, elementary hygiene, and nursing, and I have been asked to notice the idea in the hope that at other local prisons similar efforts to effect practical

LYNDHURST, New Forest. The Hampshire Motor Repair Works. DAIMLER Cars, from 7 h.p. to 22 h.p. for Sale or Hire. Telegrams: "Reliable." Manager, A. Slater.

SCRUBB & Co., Ltd. caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of SCRUBB & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

reformation in women sentenced to short sentences for minor offences may take shape. What strikes me as remarkable in this connection is that it should be left to private enterprise to undertake such a work. Ignorance is still a most potent factor in the filling of our prisons, and yet the Home Office authorities make not the slightest attempt to take any steps for securing the reformation of such prisoners. Isolated experiments such as that at Portsmouth are valuable as affording guidance as to the lines upon which prison reform should proceed, but what is really wanted is a thorough alteration of the whole prison system.

An unexampled piece of meanness has just been perpetrated by the Burnley Bumbles. An old man of eighty-two, a Crimean veteran possessing medals for Inkerman, Balaclava, Alma, and Sevastopol, has been in receipt of parish relief. Recently, through the efforts of a number of gentlemen who have interested themselves in his case, the War Office have been induced to grant him a pension of ninepence a day, and straightway the Burnley Board of Guardians have cut down the old man's relief by a shilling a week. I do not suppose the Burnley ratepayers would have grudged the old man the few shillings which he is likely to receive during the remaining years of his life, and I trust they will express to their representatives their opinion, frankly and fully, regarding such despicable parsimony.

The following amazing story of the administration of justice has been sent me from Cornwall. Last Whitsuntide the house of a Mr. H. Stribley at Padstow was broken into during the tenant's absence from home, and a purse containing £2 stolen therefrom. Having his own opinion as to the identity of the thief, Mr. Stribley made inquiries, and becoming convinced that the offender was a young man who had previously lodged in the house for a short time, Mr. Stribley wrote to him and said that if he would return the money no proceedings would be taken. The accused man, however, strenuously denied the theft, and the matter was placed in the hands of the police. Ultimately a summons was issued against him, and on the day before the summons was returnable the suspect wrote to Mr. Stribley, enclosing £2 5s. 6d., being the stolen £2, plus the cost of the summons. He did not appear at the police-court, and the case was adjourned for a few days to enforce his appearance. When he appeared before the Bench, he pleaded guilty, and was fined 10s. and costs.

So far there is nothing remarkable about the case. But it happened that the letter containing the £2 5s. 6d., together with the postal orders representing that amount, had been handed over to the police to be used as evidence. Naturally, Mr. Stribley imagined that at the end of the case his stolen £2 would be returned to him, but he was astonished by being told that it was to be put towards the payment of costs, which the thief had been ordered to pay. However, he made further application, with the result that a few days ago he was informed that the matter had been brought before the Bench, who had decided that they could not order the return of the money as the postal orders were not the actual property stolen from him. I cannot think this astounding decision can be allowed to stand, for it simply makes a mockery of the administration of justice. Indeed, the whole story reminds me irresistibly of the harlequinade with which the Christmas pantomime used to conclude, where the clown, after stealing the string of sausages, hands them over to the policeman, who promptly hypothecates them for his own use, while the pantaloon grins acquiescence. There should be no room for pantaloons on the Bench.

With reference to my remarks last week upon the wholesale corruption of the police at Bootle, a correspondent sends me a report of a discussion at the Manchester City Council upon the punishment awarded a constable for a peculiarly mean and petty fraud, and asks me if I can wonder at corruption being rife in the Lancashire police force if such is the usual treatment accorded to such offenders. I cannot. The constable went to the house of a woman where a chimney had been on fire, saying he had brought a summons, and managed to get a tip to settle the matter. The man had been in the force ten years, and his weekly pay was 31s. He had previously been three times drunk on duty, had been three times reported for neglect, and once reported for entering a public-house. Yet all the Watch Committee proposed to do was to reduce the constable's pay by 2s. a week, and their action was endorsed by a majority of the Council. I should be the last to approve of undue severity towards an employee who had committed some trivial offence, but leniency in such a case as this is surely misplaced. Not only is an untrustworthy constable himself a source of danger to the public, but the knowledge that such offences will only receive light punishment is bound to destroy the *moral* of the whole force.

I have seen numerous complaints from magistrates in many parts of the country that they have been unable to take advantage of the Inebriates Act of 1898 owing to lack of accommodation at certified inebriate reformatories, but in Lancashire the magistrates have been so loth to exercise their powers, although ample accommodation is available, that the Home Office has thought fit to address a remonstrance to the various benches on the subject. The Lancashire County Council opened in April last a reformatory for women, yet only six women have been sent there in the two months succeeding the date of opening, though in one month of the time sixty-one women who had qualified for reformatory treatment were committed to prison. I know how difficult it is to make the average magistrate see that the reformation of an offender is much more important than mere punishment, and Mr. Akers-Douglas has my sympathy in his effort to bring the fact home to the minds of the Lancashire magistrates.

Developing (any size) Rollable Film, 12 expos. 1s. Printing price list free. Cameras bought for cash or exchanged. Wanted Kodaks.—Martin, Chemist, Southampton.

As might have been expected, the recent spell of hot weather has led to an enormous increase of sleeping-out cases throughout the country, and so many have been brought under my notice that I can only find room to record those where the magistrates before whom the offenders have been brought have passed sentences of exceptional severity upon the unfortunate wretches who prefer the open air to the stuffy lodging house or casual ward for a sleeping place. But though magistrates seem to see in the hot weather an additional aggravation of this heinous crime they apparently must consider it a mitigating circumstance in cruelty and assault cases, for I can conceive no other reason for the wholly inadequate sentence inflicted in the gross case adjudicated on by the Towcester bench under the chairmanship of his Grace the Duke of Grafton, nor in that equally amazing penalty for driving two horses until they dropped dead, inflicted by the East Kerrier bench. There are also a number of sentences of imprisonment passed upon juvenile offenders which show that there are still in existence magistrates who badly need educating in their duties; thus the Grimsby case was clearly one for reformatory treatment, the Colchester lads would have been amply punished by a small fine, and as for the Eastbourne case it seems to me that the magistrates ought to be made to change places with the afflicted youth whom, in spite of having been discharged from a reformatory as unfit for detention, was sent to prison for six weeks.

Towcester Divisional Petty Sessions. Before the Duke of Grafton, K.G., Messrs. Grant, Grant-Ives, Conant, and Macdonald. John Johnson, charged with an aggravated assault upon a woman with whom he lived. She left him in consequence of a dispute, and went to his mother's house for protection. He followed and brought her back to his house, striking her with his fists all the way. Her eye and cheeks were very badly bruised. Fined £2 and costs.

East Kerrier Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. B. Beauchamp, W. W. Ward, and J. Cole. Josiah Gay, charged with cruelty to two mares by overdriving them. He borrowed three horses from his father and drove eighteen or twenty young men in a Jersey car to Penzance and back, a distance of fifty miles. On the return the animals were so weak that others were obtained, and the original ones were tied to the back of the vehicle. One dropped dead on the road, and a second died shortly after arrival at home. Fined 10s. and costs.

Loughborough Police-court. William Wilson, a hawker, charged with assaulting his mother. Because she refused to sell him her van he knocked her down and took a running kick at her, rendering her unconscious. Later he went to the van, and after kicking her again, set fire to the vehicle. Fined 40s.

Dorchester County Petty Sessions. Annie Thorne and Frances Elsie Thorne, charged with sleeping out. Six weeks hard labour.

Brentwood Petty Sessions. Before the Hon. Fred Petre and Messrs. Biggs, Horton, and Ind. Alfred Angel and William Williams, pauper labourers, charged with refusing to fork land at the Dunton labour colony of the Poplar Board of Guardians. Twenty-one days' hard labour each.

Lewes Petty Sessions. John Balcombe and Alfred Balcombe, charged with using a net to take salmon without a licence. Each fined £4.

Grimsby County Police-court. Before Messrs. Parkinson, Caton-Haigh, Bannister, Brooks, and Wright. Joseph King (14), and Thomas King (12), charged with stealing 4d. from a shop. The boys' father is an habitual thief, and now in prison. Joseph fourteen days' hard labour, Thomas four strokes with the birch.

Eastbourne Borough Police-court. Leonard Maskell, a lad of fifteen, charged with stealing a loaf of bread from a baker's barrow. He had been discharged previously from a reformatory as physically and mentally unfit to be detained. Six weeks' imprisonment.

Handsworth Police-court. Before Messrs. W. S. Harding, E. H. Stringer, W. A. Ellis, and J. Quirke. John Bettany, charged with assaulting his wife. Because she remonstrated with him for bringing in a barrel of beer for consumption by himself and friends on bank holiday, he struck her in the face with his fist, blackening her eye. Fined 5s. and costs.

Exeter Police-court. Before Mr. H. B. Varwell and other magistrates. George Toms, charged with assaulting Louisa Pike. Because the woman refused to continue to do certain work for him he chased her and knocked her down in the street. She was taken home unconscious, with her face terribly disfigured with blood and bruises. Fined £1 and costs.

Oakham Police-court. Before Sir A. J. Fludyer and Messrs. Heathcote, Davenport-Handley, and Molesworth. William Burton, charged with cruelty to a horse by beating and overdriving it. When stopped the horse could hardly stand. Fined 9s., inclusive.

East Grinstead Petty Sessions. William Vickery and John Cook, charged with an unprovoked assault upon Thomas Stevens. Stevens was knocked down, lost two teeth, and swallowed his false ones. Fined £1 5s. 9d., inclusive.

Lochgelly Police-court. Before Bailey Garry. Daniel Brown, charged with assaulting two women. He begged for a glass of whiskey, and being refused knocked one of the women down and kicked both of them. Fined 15s., or, in default, seven days.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Francis Farquhar, charged with cruelty to a horse by flogging it on the head and body, and driving it while unfit. He had purchased it on the previous day for 10s., and after he had taken it out it was unable to walk. Fined 10s.

Rotherham Borough Police-court. H. C. Goodison and F. Brookes, labourers, charged with stealing three fowls, value 9s. Three months' hard labour each.

Grantham Police-court. Jos. Kettle, 74, charged with sleeping in an outhouse without visible means of subsistence. Six weeks' hard labour.

Colchester Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. John Palmer, a lad (age not stated), charged with damaging a door on July 17. Ernest Thompson (17), A. Brooks (14), W. Bell (18), Jas. Moles (18), charged with damaging the same property on the 19th ult. Sentenced to a month's hard labour each.

Oakham Police-court. Before the same bench. Arthur Needham, Harry Needham, Cecil Rawlings, John Neal, and Charles Hilsdon, small boys, charged with stealing apples from an orchard adjoining the recreation ground. Fined 10s. each.

Lancaster Police-court. Two men, found sleeping in railway waggons on the quay, were sent to gaol for one month in one case and fourteen days in the other.

Cupar Police-court. John Martin, charged with stealing a pewter measure full of beer from a hotel bar. Fourteen days' imprisonment.

Cupar Sheriff Court. John Steele and James Bennet, charged with game trespass. Bennet fined £2 and £1 10s. costs, or three weeks' imprisonment; Steele 10s. and £1 10s. costs, or ten days.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. John Porteous and James Charles, charged with poaching on a farm. Fined £1 and £1 7s. 6d. costs each, or, in default, fifteen days' imprisonment.

The Indian mail which came in last week brought me some twenty odd circulars of the man Tanquerey, posted to officers and others in that country. Evidently Tanquerey has undertaken the invasion of India on a large scale. I am glad to find that in most cases Anglo-Indians seem to understand the drift of the "free portrait" trick; but there are apparently some individuals in that country who have never seen a copy of TRUTH, and who take more or less seriously the impudent concoction in the shape of a pretended testimonial from this office with which Tanquerey adorns one of his circulars. I therefore mention once again that the said swindle was first exposed in these columns about fourteen years ago, and that I have been warning my readers against Tanquerey and all his works about once a month during the intervening period. This should enable those who peruse Tanquerey's circulars to judge that the writer of this bogus testimonial from the proprietor of TRUTH is not only a swindler, but a swindler of exceptional audacity and unscrupulousness.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

The swindling character of the home employment business carried on by the Home Industrial Art Supply Company, Great James-street, W.C., is again illustrated by the experience of a young lady at Hastings who had answered one of this party's advertisements. In the usual course she paid 7s. 6d. for the necessary "outfit," which would be dear at a third of that price, and set to work and coloured some prints for approval. As usual, the H. I. A. S. Company did not approve, but were quite sure that she would be able to do the work satisfactorily with a little practice, for which they suggested a stock of their prints at 2s. the dozen. She took another dozen prints, but the result was no more satisfactory than before. She then returned the "outfit" and suggested the return of her money. The things were sent back with the remark, "we have done our part, and we must therefore ask you to do the same." What this means I do not know; but "our part" simply consists in offering employment to ladies and gentlemen in their spare hours, promising them an outfit "free," charging them 7s. 6d. for it, and giving them nothing more.

A firm at Bury received a call a few months ago from an individual representing himself to be Dr. Seymour, editor and proprietor of *The Age, or Seymour's Journal*. His object was to obtain an order for copies of the said journal containing an article on the firm's business which Seymour proposed to write, and he succeeded in his object to the tune of £1 10s., which was paid to him for fifty copies of the paper, and for which he gave his receipt. Having heard nothing more of *The Age, or Seymour's Journal*, and having received no answer to communications addressed to the "Head Office" of this mysterious publication (Selden House, Anerley Road, S.E.), the firm write to inquire if I know anything about Dr. Hamilton Seymour. It is my sad duty to inform them that they have fallen victims to one of the oldest-established swindles on my list. It must be getting on for ten years since Seymour and his journal were first referred to in Truth, though it is so long since I heard of him that I am rather surprised to hear that he is still carrying on the same old trick from the same address. This would not, I think, be the case if those who are caught made a point of communicating their experiences to Scotland Yard, and I suggest to the Bury firm that they should take this course.

The letter printed below affords a good example of the brazen impudence and unscrupulous mendacity of the lower order of advertising bookmakers. The gentleman to whom it is addressed tells me that he had his own reasons for not paying to Gilbert Brothers the debt referred to in the letter, and, judging from this document, I should say that his reasons were well-founded. That, however, is immaterial. The point is that for the purpose of recovering a debt, which may or may not have been owing, these parties have recourse to a series of insolent blackmailing threats founded on the wildest lies. Not only is their first statement devoid of any tittle of foundation, but so far as I can ascertain at the moment, I have never even heard of Gilbert Brothers before this letter was forwarded to me; and in telling their client that "we shall have you published in Truth," they must know that they are talking nonsense which could not impose on any but the rankest dolt. The parties who are "published in Truth" are parties of the Gilbert Brothers order, not their unfortunate dupes or victims; and it will afford me sincere pleasure in future to "publish" Gilbert Brothers on every occasion when they may require it. I take this opportunity of entreating anybody to whom threats of this character are addressed to communicate with this office at once, no matter what his own position may be in regard to the would-be blackmailer. No threat that any man can use is more certain to defeat its own purpose, if only the party threatened will take the right course. But I am powerless to prevent any scoundrel taking my name in vain unless what he is doing is brought to my notice. By the way, Gilbert Brothers' telegraphic address seems to be a peculiarly happy inspiration:—

MEMORANDUM.

Bankers: Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank.
Telegraphic Address: "Civility, Blackpool."

From
GILBERT BROS.,
Century House, Blackpool.

To ———,

Aug. 2, 190 .

Sir,—We have placed all your correspondence before the Editor of Truth, and we are, on his advice, making a final application to you. *Do you intend to pay us? ? ?* We do not intend to be "welshed" by you without giving full publicity to the whole matter. A more dishonourable and mean, dirty trickster we never had business with, and you can rely that unless we receive cheque for £4 19s. 0d. within three days we shall have you published in Truth warning other Commission Agents against you. The Editor will insert the notice if this letter is ignored. We give you three days, and shall not waste further time or trouble on you, but shall adopt the suggestion of a certain London commercial, who knows you, and to whom we are obliged *for some information concerning you* that will put you in "Queer Street." We are certain that from what we have learned that we will not be "twisted" by you without getting you well known at both business and private address. We ask you, finally, pay us or take the consequences.

Gilbert Bros.

It seems desirable that the attention of the Directors of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Bank should be specially directed to the appearance of the bank's name at the head of this delectable document. It is a conspicuous example of an abuse of the relation of banker and client, which is now only too common. In these days when so much disreputable and swindling business is carried on by post, it seems to me that bankers ought to take steps to restrict the use made of their names by customers, for though the mere print of the name of a bank on a bill-head or memorandum form does not really mean much, it is intended in many cases to serve as a sort of voucher for character and respectability, and is often so accepted. A banker is not, of course, in any degree responsible for the way a customer makes his money. "Non olet" is the principle he may apply to all the cash placed in his custody. But every banker makes it his business to know who and what his customer is; and if he knows him to be engaged in any business of a shady character, he is perfectly entitled, and perfectly able, to stipulate that the bank's name shall not be used in connection with the business. When it comes to the publication of the bank's name at the head of a document like the above, it seems to me that the bank's own interest suggests this course.

By the way, the Secretary of the Union of London and Smith's Bank writes to me in regard to my paragraph

calling attention to the fact that the name of the bank was being used as a reference in Messrs. Bevan, Son, and Thompson's swindling circulars, to state that this firm has no account at any of the bank's branches, and that the statement giving the bank's name as a reference is entirely unwarranted. I suspected that this was the case, for I could not understand any reputable bank allowing its name to be associated with that of a gang of notorious swindlers. I shall be pleased to receive a similar assurance from Messrs. Parr's, The London and County, and Lloyds Banks, who are similarly given as references in the circulars issued by Bevan, Son, and Thompson.

Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus. Somebody in authority at the *Times* Office must certainly be nodding when a laudatory notice of Mr. Alfred Sargant's Homes for the Aged Poor can find its way into the columns of that paper, as happened on a recent occasion. Sargant, it appears, had been holding an "annual festival," combined with a "sale of work," at his premises in Kennington-road, and the *Times* gravely chronicled the event, improving the occasion with statistics of the work of the institution, and a hint that "the homes are entirely dependent upon voluntary contributions for their support." This is no doubt true; but so, I fancy, is Mr. Sargant himself. At any rate, he is one of those philanthropists who do not make it clear to what extent they themselves participate in the charity they dispense, and had the *Times* referred to the Charity Organisation Society before giving him this advertisement, I am quite sure it would never have appeared.

Sargant's latest notion for raising the wind is a card, inquiring, "Have you tried our Special Tea Blend called 'The Old Folks' Delight,' price 2s. 2d. per lb.?" If you have not, you are to send the price of a pound, plus the postage, and thereby help the Aged Poor. When Sargant next thinks it desirable to issue a balance-sheet, it will be interesting to see how much aid the aged poor have received from this source. At the price, the profits on the tea business should be considerable.

May I suggest that the writer of "Asterisks" in the *Pall Mall Gazette* should be provided with some books of reference? He tells his readers that "Lord Midleton, who presided at the annual meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society," is the same person as the president of the Surrey Archæological Society. Lord Middleton, of the Royal Agricultural Society is a Yorkshire, Notts, and Ross-shire territorial magnate, and a well-known M.F.H., whose name is Willoughby. Lord Midleton, of the Surrey Archæological Society, is the Lord Lieutenant of that county, and the head of the Brodrick family.

It was said that Mr. Pitt practically carried the British aristocracy "in his breeches pockets" for about twenty years, and at a later period they danced hither and thither at the bidding of the Duke of Wellington, who was correctly described by Lord Beaconsfield as "the Dictator" of the House of Lords. Mr. Chamberlain now appears to be the idol and ruler of a large section of the Peerage. On arriving at Worksop Station last week he was received obsequiously at the station by the Duke of Portland and Sir Frederick Milner, and was driven through decorated streets to Welbeck Abbey in a carriage and four. When the Protectionist leader (shade of Lord George Bentinck!) entered the Riding School the Duke of Portland himself led the cheering.

JOSEPH'S 4½d. DREAM.

"Come, come in your thousands, good peasants,
And help me my plans to pursue!
Come, mark the Protectionist presents
That I am preparing for you!
Enlist 'neath my banner, I crave you,
And make a few practical notes
Of what every week I *may* save you,
Provided you give me your votes ——

A farthing a pound on your sugar
May pay you for trusting in me;
A mite on each packet of cocoa,
A penny three farthings on tea!
Why, what with tobacco and coffee,
You have a grand chance, let me say,
Of saving—prepare for a startler!—
Five-eighths of a penny a day!

"Only think, my Dicks, Harries, and Tommies!
Consider this fact, I implore!
For who, pray, has made you a promise
So truly imperial before?
The Radicals talk very grandly
Of all the reforms they shall make;
Improvements, they intimate blandly,
Shall follow when office they take——

But that farthing a pound on your sugar,
That penny three farthings on tea,
And that mite on each packet of cocoa—
Where, where will these savings all be?
Have the Rads on tobacco and coffee
Made fractional pledges? Not they!
They never have promised to save you
Five-eighths of a penny a day!

"I admit, if you heed what I utter,
The rest of your food will cost more;
I shall send up the price of your butter,
Your loaf will be more than before;
And your mutton is bound to be dearer
(Mr. Seddon will see that is so)
But nothing than this can be clearer,
Though "up" most provisions will go——

Yet a farthing a pound on your sugar,
And a penny three farthings on tea,
And a mite (very likely) on treacle
You'll save if you listen to me.
Aye, though every week extra shillings
You'll have for your food bill to pay,
Yet keep a good heart, I shall save you
Five-eighths of a penny a day!

"It is true that before these deductions
Amassed in your purses are found,
We shall have with our neighbours fine ructions,
And probably fight them all round;
It is possible, too, I may shatter
The Empire so long kept intact,
But that's a contemptible matter,
Compared with the soul-rousing fact——

That a farthing a pound on your sugar
You'll save by combining with me!
And a mite on each bottle of pickles,
And a penny three-farthings on tea!

It may cost you some hundreds of millions
To give me, unhindered, my way,
But who'll care for *that*, whilst I save you
Five-eighths of a penny a day?

"Surely, here is a cause that will capture
Your sympathies, Sons of the Soil!
Here is something to rouse you to rapture—
A splendid incentive to toil!
Ye gods, what a prize to unite you!
How lofty a guerdon to seek!—
By Jingo! What man wouldn't fight for
A clear fourpence-ha'penny a week?

For that is the sum I *may* save you
On treacle and sugar and tea,
Whatever the high tariff prices
Of bread and of mutton may be.
Yes, that is the sum—though, in order
You no false impression may get,
I should add that the saving in question
Won't be fourpence ha'penny *net!*"

A good many of the small hours of the morning were passed last week in discussing the sense to be put on a reply of the Premier to a question put to him by Mr. Bowles. The question asked about a fortnight before the Whitsuntide holidays was whether Mr. Balfour would give a day for the Cunard agreement to be discussed. The answer was: "I cannot give a day before Whitsuntide." The Opposition insisted that this was practically a promise to give a day after Whitsuntide, and Mr. Balfour denied that such a construction could fairly be put on it. My impression, however, is that most men would put this construction on it. Suppose that Mr. Balfour stopped some morning in his motor-car at a wayside inn, said that he intended to remain the rest of the day there, and ordered lunch. If the landlord had replied, "We are so busy just now that I am afraid that I cannot promise you lunch before three o'clock," assuredly the Premier would have had a right to complain if, on asking for his lunch after three o'clock, the landlord had replied that he had only said that he could not have it before that hour, but that this implied no certainty that he would get it later.

The Nonconformists have themselves to thank, to a considerable extent, for the successful raid of the Church of England on behalf of its schools, not only in Wales, where it is an alien Church, but in England, where it genuinely represents, if not the views of the majority of the community, those of a large number of them. Nonconformists should have insisted on the Liberal Party acting on the view that all connection between Church and State is, in the words of Mr. John Bright, an incestuous union, and that in the matter of education the State should be limited to secular teaching. Instead of this, they have themselves insisted that Christianity should be recognised as a portion of the scheme of education in the Board schools. Thus they have broken down the hard and fast line of demarcation between secular and religious teaching by the State, and the Church of England has profited by a Conservative majority in Parliament, gained on a very different issue, to secure the teaching of the particular tenets of that Church in a vast number of schools supported by public funds.

The Welsh M.P.s were well advised to decline to take any part in the discussion on the Welsh Coercion Bill under conditions that rendered all serious discussion impossible. My own opinion is that the Liberal Party would have been better advised if it had taken this course in regard to the Licensing Bill. Action such as this brings home to the electorate the monstrous régime with which we are at present cursed. The Committee stage of the Welsh Bill was deliberately put off until the last days of the Session. The only real ground for the refusal of fair discussion was that Mr. Balfour was determined to end the Session almost immediately; for, had he consented to sit one day later than at present advised, there would have been time for discussion. This suits, however, neither him nor his supporters, so all constitutional usage was butchered to afford him and them an additional holiday. That this will commend itself to the country I greatly doubt.

What the merits of the "Anderson case" really are I confess that I do not quite know, although I diligently listened to Mr. Wyndham and other speakers whilst they lengthily explained it. Anderson, I gathered, is a constable. He was engaged to a young lady. A parish priest of the name of O'Hara informed the authorities that this amorous policeman carried his courting somewhat far. It appears, however, to have been conclusively proved that he did not go beyond those endearments which Mr. Wyndham stated are usual on such occasions, by which, presumably, he meant that the policeman has kissed his fiancée. He is at present her happy husband. On Father O'Hara making his complaint, there were three investigations or trials. On the first Anderson was declared innocent, on the second he was declared guilty, and on the third, which was conducted by Mr. Wyndham, he was declared innocent. After the second trial he was turned out of the force; after the third, he was reinstated.

The man was a Protestant, and the girl was a Roman Catholic, and it is suggested that Father O'Hara, in making his charges, was influenced by his Church disapproving of marriages between Protestants and Roman Catholics. It was further asserted that the permanent Irish Under-Secretary, being a Protestant, sided with the man, and that the Inspector-General, being a Catholic, took the opposite side, and it was also asserted that the Father, having influence with the Catholic Inspector, used it privately to the disadvantage of the man. Be all this as it may, I could not help thinking that it would be hard to turn a policeman out of his place because he had been somewhat demonstrative in his affection towards his fiancée; indeed, I should not have thought worse of him had he kissed her.

The Nationalists and the Ulster members both demanded that there should be a full and open inquiry, but when it came to voting, the latter evaded it by talking the debate out. I am a Home Ruler, and my sympathies are usually entirely with the Nationalists; but I do not think that I should have disturbed the connubial bliss of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson by an inves-

tigation into their pre-nuptial kisses. Whether they were many or few is a matter that concerns them, rather than others. Irishmen are generally more demonstrative than Englishmen, but I would point out to the anti-kissers that in London policemen are frequently invited to partake of refreshments by the family cook, and I suppose that they not infrequently pay for this hospitality by a little flirtation with the lady. Few householders object to cooks feeding policemen, for this is likely to lead him to keep a watchful eye over the house. He pays in this way for his food, and if he kisses the cook in his gratitude for what she gives him, this pleases her, and it does no particular harm to any one else.

The Government seems, on the whole, to be treating the international issues in regard to the position of our neutral merchant vessels towards a belligerent in a reasonable manner, and certainly in a different one from that which our Jingo Press would have him assume. What I have urged is that neither any official action should be taken nor hard words be used by us until we know the facts as stated by captors and captured, and even then that we should not wax indignant, if we are of opinion that all our vessels have not received fair treatment, until we learn that the Russian Government is not prepared to admit this, and to pay damages.

When the Russian Government announced that certain articles would be regarded as contraband of war, and that vessels carrying these, if captured, would be burnt, should it be impossible to take them into a Russian port for adjudication before a prize court, we ought to have stated that we did not admit that some of these articles were contraband of war, nor that a captured vessel could be burnt if its captor could not take it into a port of the capturer. This would have made our views in regard to such matters clear, and probably have avoided subsequent troubles.

I confess that I have very little sympathy with the sorrows of a merchant or a ship-owner who forwards contraband of war to a belligerent. It is a speculation that he has a perfect right to engage in. If he succeeds, his profits are large; if he fails, he is in the position of any other person who goes into an unprofitable speculation. We are bound, some newspapers are frequently asserting, to see that our ally receives fair treatment. Our alliance with Japan is of very limited scope, and we are only bound to assist her under certain specified contingencies. The alliance in no way alters our international obligation to show neither partiality to Russia nor to Japan in matters affected by international law. If we do interfere it can only be because our rights as a neutral are not fairly recognised by one or other of the belligerents, and we are thereby damnified. So long as the laws of the sea are not a matter of universal agreement there must arise cases in the event of a war between two nations which are likely to cause trouble to neutrals. They should be closely investigated by the complaining neutral, and every effort should be made to arrive at a friendly understanding, for the main interest of the neutral is to keep out of the war.

If any one will study how the greatest captains have won victories, he will find that it has been in almost all cases by altering the existing methods of carrying on war. So it was with Frederick the Great and with Napoleon. This the Japanese seem to have realised. They began by carefully studying the European art of war, but they have improved on it. They have, too, acted upon the principle, that the only men really fitted to organise armies are those who have been brought up to the trade, and have acquired practical experience in it. We see the results in the campaign between them and the Russians. The Russian armies are excellent material, and their generals are probably not inferior to those of the other European Powers; but they assumed that war would be waged by their opponents in the approved European methods, and probably they console themselves under defeat by saying, that the Japanese are not playing the game *secundum artem*, just as the Austrians, when defeated by Napoleon in his first Italian campaign, found consolation in complaining that he was violating all the time-honoured rules of strategy.

I do not believe in a Council of Defence formed mainly of civilians, nor in civilian reorganisations, nor, indeed, in civilian criticisms in the House of Commons. No private individual would dream of conducting a business in such a fashion; indeed, limited liability companies that attempt to do so generally go to the wall. A Ministry, or a Minister of War, should make it clear to his military advisers what amount can be spent on the Army and Navy, and under what general conditions relating to enlistment and such-like matters, the article needed must be brought into existence. All else should be left to them. I can conceive nothing more absurd than selecting a gentleman as Minister of War whose stock-in-trade consists of having criticised all his predecessors, and being convinced that he is a Heaven-born organiser of armies. Hannibal himself smiled when he listened to a learned professor explaining to him how to win battles, and I doubt whether he would have made the name he did in history had he allowed the civilians of Carthage to organise the army that he led into Italy.

For many a year have I listened to learned disquisitions from Parliamentary Army organisers or from civilian Ministers. Usually they all disagree with each other, and each has his own nostrum. And what has been the outcome? We have uselessly squandered millions on millions, and our entire military organisation is rotten. Of course, we should run a risk in leaving everything to military experts, for we might select men wanting in intelligence. But this risk is far less dangerous than experience has proved civilian rule to be.

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

THE LADY AND THE LOCOMOTIVE.

An Engine at a Railway Station
Stood snorting like a Bull of Bashan.
In truth, so loud its hissing Noise is
That Passengers can't hear their Voices;
And one, a nervous Dame, who said
The Din was going through her Head,
Calling the Driver, wants to know
What made the Engine whistle so,
And would he please to shut it down;
If so, she'd give him Half-a-Crown.
"Lord love yer, lidy," he replies,
"'Tis in the Noise its Safety lies.
For, sure, its every Hiss and Scream
Is just a lettin' orf of Steam.
Why, if I made the Injin dumb,
Both you and me would travel, Mum,
By quick Express to Kingdom Come."

Moral.

The *Moral* finds its Application
In the down-trodden Russian Nation,
Where Bureaucrats, by sitting tight
On all the Safety-valves, unite
In simply courting—Dynamite.

SCRUTATOR.

DUMPING IN THE DUKERIES.

WHEN the House separates, the country will no longer be able even to pretend to be ignorant of the real attitude of the Government towards the Birmingham fiscal proposals. In the vote of censure debate of last week Mr. Chamberlain announced that the difference of opinion that led him to leave the Cabinet was solely that he had desired an immediate dissolution, whilst Mr. Balfour wished, for tactical reasons, to put it off, and that this is still the only difference that divides them. It would appear, therefore, that the Duke of Devonshire and the other Free Traders who have left the Cabinet were right in acting on the conclusion that Mr. Balfour's scheme of retaliation as the policy of the Government was merely a trick, and that the declarations of his colleagues that colonial preference and taxation of food formed no part of that policy, were not in accordance with fact. In his speech during the debate Mr. Balfour did not contradict Mr. Chamberlain by explanation of the difference between them, but said he had consistently professed certain views on fiscal matters for twenty-five years, as any one might have known who had made a study of his speeches and pamphlets during that period. I care neither what he thought twenty-five years ago, nor indeed what he thinks now, but this claim to consistency is hardly in accordance with his declaration last year, that on fiscal matters he has no settled convictions. The country desired to know what his attitude is now towards Mr. Chamberlain's Protectionist proposals; and it has learnt without great surprise that he and Mr. Chamberlain are, and always have been, in harmony. Naturally, therefore, he can hardly have been expected to protest against his colleagues declaring themselves to be Chamberlainites, or against two of them having become office-bearers in the army of the "grand missioner" of Protection, as I see he is now called in several of his hack newspapers.

Mr. Chamberlain's latest suggestion is that a conference should take place, at which our self-governing Colonies should be represented by their Premiers, and we—presumably—by our Colonial Secretary, to consider whether the fiscal relations between them and us can be altered in the sense of his proposals to the mutual advantage of both. The Colonies have declared themselves against this suggestion, and, so far as we are concerned, it is obvious that such a conference would be worse than useless, unless our representative has a mandate from the United Kingdom to formulate the basis of the agreement to which we are prepared to assent. The proposal for a conference under present circumstances is not a practical one either as regards us or the Colonies. It is a last desperate effort to create an impression that the principle for which the "missioner" is contending is admitted by us, subject to agreement as to details. It is now, I gather, withdrawn. If Mr. Chamberlain be so minded there is nothing to hinder him from sending a circular to all the Colonial Premiers asking them what is the nature of the preference they are prepared to give to our manufactured goods; whether they will guarantee a maximum import duty upon them which under no circumstances will be increased; and what is the *quid pro quo* that they require from us. He has already taken upon himself to appoint a Tariff Commission in this country. He can hardly, therefore, plead that his modesty stands in the way of his making such a communication to the Colonial Premiers. He has already boasted that the Colonies have made a firm offer to us, and he has indicated that if we do not speedily accept this offer, not only will it never be renewed, but the Colonies will separate from us. No one has ever yet been able to discover when this offer was officially made, and still less that the Colonies have declared that on its acceptance depends their condescending to remain within the Empire. He might, therefore, add to the above questions another asking whether he was authorised by them to threaten us, under any circumstances, with the disruption of the Empire.

Some of the Free Trade Unionists would have the fiscal issue the only one submitted to the country at the next General Election. To this Radicals can hardly agree; they cannot vote for men who are unprepared to vote with them on all issues that differentiate Liberals from Unionists. Moreover, the Liberal Party is made up of Whigs and Radicals, and the latter largely preponderate. Within the Party the Radicals intend to be masters in future. It would consequently be folly were they to add to the Whig strength by aiding in returning men to Parliament who are unconverted Conservatives, and who would at most strengthen the Whig element in the Party. If the result of the fiscal dispute were really in doubt, it might be worth the while of Radicals to rally all Free Fooders to the defence of Free Trade. But this is not so. We are certain to defeat Protection. What we Radicals

have had in the past to struggle against has been Whig intrigues and Whig impudence. For years the Whigs have been the dominant factor in our Party, or, rather, in the Parliamentary representation of our Party. There are some able men amongst them, but there are others who have no more claim to form part of a Liberal Administration than the present Lord Salisbury has to be a Unionist Minister, or some noble whipper-snapper to be a Unionist Under-Secretary. When any broad, drastic Radical measure has been proposed, those in the Administration and those out of it have united to whittle it down to nothing. Under such circumstances the advanced Radicals should also unite, and make it clear to the Ministry that unless their views are carried out by any Liberal Ministry it will not receive Radical support. They have grumbled, they have shown their teeth, but they have refrained from using them. The consequence has been that a Liberal Administration has regarded them as a negligible quantity. I trust that in the next Parliament the Radicals will assert themselves, and no longer be at the beck and call of the Party whips like Chinese chattels. Our "leaders" will have to be taught that they are the servants, not the masters, of the Party, and that the Radicals will only follow them so long as they advance along the path that leads to the Radical goal. The advanced Radical creed may or may not be the true political creed—this is a matter of opinion; but I think that all those who believe in its superiority to all others will agree that it has never yet had a fair field in the House of Commons, and that it never will, until Radical M.P.s assert themselves, not only when the Liberals are out of office, but when they are in office.

There is a district in England called the "Dukeries" because so many dukes are domiciled there. In this ducal preserve dwelt, a few years ago, a Duke of Portland. He was a half-cracked nobleman, who took delight in grubbing underground like a mole, and he built himself stables beneath his park. In these stables Mr. Chamberlain last Thursday unfolded his mission to a number of dukes, duchesses, noblemen of inferior degree, captured M.P.s, and agricultural labourers. The latter had been collected from different parts and dumped in the Dukeries by the Tariff Reform League. The enthusiasm was not great, explains the *Times*, because sound travels more slowly than light, and the stable saloon is so large that the words of the missioner reached the ears of most of the hearers after the appropriate gesture had reached their eyes, much to the confusion of the bucolic mind. This is a little far-fetched, but I can well understand that the agricultural labourers preferred the solid material provender, which, of course, was an item in their free outing, to a lengthy disquisition on political economy. The political economy to which they were treated was well up to the Chamberlain standard. In times past their ancestors were happy and wealthy under Protection. Since that bulwark of their prosperity has been removed, they have been hardly better off than Chinese chattels. In order to revert to the old millennium in which their forefathers lived a duty must be placed on all foreign imported agricultural produce. On flour the duty must be considerably higher than on corn to protect our millers. As a *quid pro quo* there should be a small reduction in the additional duties that have been put on sugar, tea, and tobacco. This scheme of finance will alike benefit our dukes, our farmers and our colonial producers. We shall revert to the prosperity that we all enjoyed under Protection, and the colonials will be bribed into condescending to remain within our Empire. Even if the cost of existence amongst agricultural labourers is raised, this will be met by the farmers paying them higher wages; and, if not, they will enjoy the inestimable privilege of knowing that they are "thinking Imperially" with empty stomachs. Never before, said the missioner, did a man promise so much has he did. But nothing is more easy than to make promises, and Mr. Chamberlain is a past master in this line. Unfortunately for him, however, never have any man's promises been so utterly unfulfilled. I can well conceive that all this transparent nonsense, accompanied by gestures appropriate to the words, must have confused the agricultural labourers. They, however, consoled themselves, in all probability, by the thought that their free outing was a bird in the hand, and that they need not trouble themselves with the bird in the bush. The Chamberlain scheme would probably benefit our land-owners and colonial agriculturists, but this would be at the expense of our farmers, agricultural labourers, and the rest of the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. Our farmers and our agricultural labourers are not quite such simple fools as the missioner seems to imagine.

NELSON'S PENSION TEA.

A New Brew.

The movement to reform the pension tea business came to a head last Thursday, when an important meeting of shareholders in Nelson's Share Syndicate was held, and a complete victory scored by the reformers. Prior to the meeting a great point had been gained, Mr. Alderman Barker, the late chairman, and his son, Mr. T. W. Barker, having at last been prevailed upon to resign their directorships. The remaining directors had elected Major Fleming, chairman of the Shareholders' Committee appointed on May 13, to the vacant directorship and the chairmanship of the board. The nomination of the fifth director was left to the shareholders' meeting. The Committee also recommended for adoption at this meeting a resolution providing for the alteration of the Articles of Association so that the amount of profit apportioned to the widows' pension fund should be increased from 75 to 85 per cent. This resolution was adopted on Thursday. At the same time Mr. J. M. Catton was nominated to fill the vacant directorship, and this also was carried. It is not disputed that Mr. Catton, holding so large an interest in the company as he does, is entitled to be represented on the board; and the opinion of the other directors was that it is better that he should be on the board himself than pull the strings from the back-

ground as he has hitherto done—a view for which there is much to be said. Accordingly the appointment of Mr. Catton was moved by Mr. W. E. Thomson, the one member of the old board who has occupied an independent position. The board, therefore, as reconstituted will consist of two independent members, namely, Major Fleming and Mr. Thomson; Mr. R. W. Jeffrey, representing Mr. Emerson Bainbridge; and Mr. Catton and his nominee, Mr. Walton Lee. The Catton element, though it remains stronger than any well-wisher of the business would desire, is thus reduced to a minority. For this result, as well as the decision to increase the customers' share in the profits, the chief credit is due to Mr. Emerson Bainbridge. The Shareholders' Committee was appointed on his initiative, and it may now be taken for granted that Mr. Bainbridge's influence on the board will always be exerted on the side of those who desire to place the business on a sound and honest basis. It was intimated to the shareholders on Thursday that measures in this direction will be taken at once, and that as a preliminary the board would obtain the best actuarial advice as to the position and prospects of the pension scheme.

While rejoicing at what has been thus accomplished, I am bound to say that it can only be regarded as a first step towards the end that is to be desired. Nothing that has been said in Truth during the last twelve months as to the financial unsoundness of the widow's pension scheme is materially affected by what has so far taken place. In fact, the present position and the future outlook seem to be worse even than I myself should have expected, and it is very doubtful whether the reforming movement has not come too late. The most that was held out at last week's meeting as the probable result of the transfer of an additional 10 per cent. of the profits from the shareholders to the pension fund was that the money thus obtained would enable the pensions to be paid without further drafts on the reserve *up to the end of the present year*. That is to say, the step now taken will arrest the shrinkage of the reserve fund for some four or five months. More than that the Board do not pretend to hope for. It was further stated that at the present moment the liability of the company for pensions already accrued due is at the rate of *£300,000 a year!* The mere mention of this figure is sufficient to show the gravity of the situation. Remember, the company has only been at work about three years, and the lives that have fallen in during that time cannot be more than a small fraction of the total number in respect of which the company is under a contingent liability of 5s. or 10s. a week. What, then, will be the position a year or two hence? To form an opinion on that point it is sufficient to look at the recent rate of increase in the pension payments. It is, I think, less than a year and a half since the company stated that it was paying £60,000 a year in pensions. A calculation made last autumn—and I do not think it can have been over the mark—gave the amount at that time as £120,000. To-day it is officially stated to be £300,000. The pension charge has, therefore, doubled or trebled itself in about a year, and from the nature of the case the rate of increase must be constantly accelerated. Even had the amount of business done remained stationary, the lives insured would fall in more rapidly as time goes on. But the business itself has also this time been advancing by leaps and bounds, and every new customer means an increase in the ultimate liability. Only a week or two before the shareholders' meeting in May I had it, on the best possible authority, that the number of women buying the company's tea every week was 500,000. To-day, the number is officially given as 600,000—an increase of 100,000, or 20 per cent. in four months. At the same rate there will be another 120,000 added to the possible claimants for pensions by next Christmas, the date at which the directors consider it possible that they may again have to begin drawing upon the reserve fund. And this reserve fund itself is a mere drop in the ocean when measured against the liabilities. I am told, on authority which I accept, that the statement made in Truth a few weeks ago, that the reserve had then been reduced below £20,000, was an exaggeration. But £20,000 or £40,000 more or less is a trifle of no consequence when we are dealing with liabilities measured at the rate of £25,000, or more, a month. If the reserve fund stood intact at its maximum of £60,000—and I shall be surprised if it is to-day half that amount—it would represent little more than two months' pensions for the widows now on the fund. The reserve fund is, therefore, not a matter that enters seriously into the calculation. And when the directors tell us that even after the reduction of the shareholders' portion of the profits, they are not confident that the balance will suffice to pay the pensions beyond the end of this year, it is evident that the future of the business is quite as precarious as has ever been suggested in the pages of Truth.

Granting then, that the majority of the new board are actuated by the best intentions, they have a most difficult task before them, and I confess I do not see how they are going to steer this crazy ship into port. It is quite true that a business with 600,000 weekly customers on its books is *primâ facie* a concern with some possibilities in it. The profits, of course, are for the time being huge. Other articles besides tea are now being sold, one at least of them at a very handsome profit, and the addition of the profits on this subsidiary trade to the tea pension fund will help, like the surrender of a portion of the shareholders' profits, to stave off the evil day when the available funds fail to meet the weekly pension bill. But for how long? When this weekly bill has increased in a few months from £10,000 to £25,000, and is certain to increase at a more alarming rate in future, the postponement of the inevitable default can only be a question of a few weeks more or less. And on the first day that the weekly cheques fail to go out to the women who are expecting them, everybody knows the whole business will fall to the ground like a house of cards. Of the whole 600,000 customers, not one will pay her money for another week when she knows that the company is unable to pay the pensions already due.

In the case of any ordinary business one would hesitate to say this frankly in public, because any impu-

tation on the ultimate ability of the firm to fufil its obligations may tend to hasten the collapse, and so do harm without any possibility of doing good. But in the case of an insurance business, which this really is, the position is altogether different. The ultimate insolvency being not only certain, but within measurable distance, the question arises, what right has the company to go on taking payments week after week for something which it knows it can never give? The question applies with still more force when new contracts are every day being made, which it is certain can never be fulfilled. The position is this: that in order to defer a breach of faith with one section of customers, and to enable shareholders to obtain dividends for a few months longer, money is being day by day taken from another set of customers on utterly fictitious representations. The impropriety of this course is aggravated by the fact that the number of those who are paying for what they can never get is so great, while the number of those who benefit by their payments is so very small. What the number of the existing pensioners may be is uncertain because the amount of the pensions varies; but at £300,000 a year it is apparently something between 11,500 and 23,000—probably about half-way between. This is the number which benefits by prolonging the life of the scheme for a few weeks or months, while the rest of the 600,000 customers are paying their money fruitlessly for that purpose. There can be no question, therefore, that to continue carrying on this business, when once those who are carrying it on know that they cannot do what they profess to do, is a gross wrong to hundreds of thousands of women, and a continuing wrong, aggravated every week that it is persisted in. It is because this is so clear, that I have never hesitated to point out the inherent impracticability of this scheme, and the duty of those who are making a profit out of it to give it up at once. The present board may say that they hope to do something which will put the thing on an honest footing, and avoid, or at any rate reduce, the loss that would result from immediately winding the company up. I cannot say that such a thing is absolutely impossible; but I am utterly at a loss to imagine how it is going to be done.

At any rate, it is the obvious duty of the board to lose no time in devising their remedy and putting it into force. They must call in their actuary at once; they must obtain from him a scientific valuation of the liabilities already incurred; and they must formulate some practical plan for meeting these liabilities. Unless such a plan can be devised and put into force at once, the only honest course is to face the situation by informing the customers that the 10s. a week can only be continued up to a certain time, and that after that time the payments will probably have to be reduced to such an amount as the profits will run to, leaving them to continue their payments or drop them as they think fit, when they understand the situation. When once the board know that it will be impossible to continue paying the full 10s. a week beyond a certain date, it becomes nothing but dishonesty to obtain money on any representation which implies that that amount is likely to be paid. The conditions of the contract may save the company from any legal liability for such misrepresentation, but the morality of the proceeding is not open to argument. It seems necessary to insist strongly on this in view of the "New Conditions" which the company has recently issued to its customers. Although in these new conditions the wording of the contract has been re-cast, with an evident intention of bringing the limitations of the company's liability more clearly under the notice of each customer than has hitherto been done, the 10s. a week pension is still placed in the forefront of the bargain. Here is the first clause:—

> NELSON AND CO., LTD., hereinafter called the Company, hereby agree with the purchaser that subject to the terms and conditions printed below they will, from the date of death of her husband, pay to her a sum of 10s. a week if she shall have purchased not less than ½lb. or of 5s. a week if she shall have purchased ¼ lb. of their Pension Tea during each of the 52 consecutive weeks immediately preceding such death, and such sum of 10s. or 5s. a week as the case may be shall be continued so long as the purchaser remains a widow, and continues to purchase each week of the Company ½ lb. of their Pension Tea if in receipt of a pension of 10s., or ¼ lb. if in receipt of a pension of 5s.

Then follow the "terms and conditions," which among other things make the payment of the 10s. or 5s. a week conditional upon the profits sufficing for that purpose. There is here, then, a clear and definite undertaking to pay a weekly pension of the specified amount to each customer so long as she remains a widow. If the company giving this undertaking knows well that it never will be able to pay that amount for that time, no subsequent clause relieving it of liability in that event can make this explicit undertaking other than a snare and a delusion. Either the company must make such arrangements as will give it some reasonable prospect of being able to pay the specified amount to every woman "so long as she remains a widow," or this delusive promise of a specific sum per week for that time must be withdrawn. There is no middle course compatible with fair business dealing or common honesty.

I desire to repeat, what has already been said in Truth, that this criticism of the pension tea business as at present carried on by no means implies any condemnation of the principle of combining life insurance, or any other form of insurance, with retail trading. My attention was called the other day to a resolution passed by the council of a trade society—the Metropolitan Grocers', Provision Dealers', and Oilmen's Association—"deprecating the introduction of adventitious aids in the shape of proposals for life insurance into the tea trade," and recommending members of the Association not to adopt any such system. A letter protesting against the resolution was subsequently sent to the Press by White's Assurance Trading Company, Limited—a firm, the business of which is based entirely on the principle of combining retail trading and insurance, and which carries out this system on ordinary and sound actuarial principles. There is not the slightest reason against the combination of the two kinds of business, and one very good reason in its favour. Industrial insurance is greatly handicapped by the cost of collecting premiums from large numbers of people in small weekly instalments, and as this cost must be paid by the insured, the benefits of the insurance must be to that

extent reduced. It is obvious that if the agent of a retail trader, delivering goods and collecting the money, can by one and the same transaction collect an insurance premium, the insurance business may be relieved altogether of this heavy expense, with proportionate benefit to the insured. This arrangement is, therefore, a sound and useful one, and I see no reason for discouraging it. It is practically what is done by many newspapers and periodicals which offer their readers some kind of insurance policy with each issue. I have never myself felt the necessity of adopting any such "adventitious aid" to the circulation of TRUTH; but if I thought it worth my while to do so, I should resent any attempt on the part of an association of newsvendors to interfere with my right to make any bargain I liked with my readers. It is not the combination of tea-dealing with life insurance which is open to objection in the case of Nelson's Pension Tea, but the unsoundness of the pension business, and the delusive nature of the representations and promises on which the whole business is founded. Let these defects be remedied, and the business will become a legitimate and useful one, and its extension a matter for congratulation to all concerned.

MRS. MORGAN'S CATTERY.

In consequence of a brief reference in TRUTH to the position of the London Institution and Home for Lost or Stray Cats, I received, two or three weeks back, a letter from Mrs. Morgan, the "Hon. Manageress," enclosing a copy of the Report for 1903, which has recently been issued. In her letter Mrs. Morgan referred me specially to a report, incorporated with the general report, from the firm of chartered accountants who have prepared the accounts for the year, and she also invited me to apply to the firm if I desired further information. She trusted (I use her own words) that when I had perused the Accounts and Report, I should be convinced that the institution does not deserve the cruel attacks made upon it by me, and that I should withdraw the same by recommending this charity to my readers.

I regret to disappoint this good lady, but it is quite out of my power to withdraw, on the strength of this report, anything that has been said in TRUTH. This, I think, will be readily understood when the reader has perused the following extracts from the report of the accountants, Messrs. Blakemore and Co., of 6, Old Jewry:—

The books kept and audited respectively by the late book-keeper and auditor were in such a condition that we deemed it desirable that they should be re-written for the period under investigation. This has now been completed by the present book-keeper under our supervision from the original documents procured from the various tradespeople and also from the counterfoil receipts-books, etc. We have also compared the outstanding accounts with the statements received from various creditors, and send you herewith the following statements:—

(*a*) Balance Sheet at 21st January, 1903;
(*b*) Income and Expenditure account from the 21st January to the 31st December, 1903;
(*c*) Balance Sheet at the 31st December, 1903.

You will observe that Statement A differs materially from the accounts prepared by the previous accountants, and, whilst we have not attempted to reconcile the two documents, we would point out that we have prepared the Statement submitted herewith from the information contained in the books, and have verified our figures by reference to the original documents. We have also applied the same test to the outstandings at the 31st December, 1903. The amounts expended on freehold and leasehold properties, building and extensions, represent the cost so far as we have been able to ascertain it, and the question of depreciation will be dealt with in the current year's accounts, in consequence of there having been a valuation made of the properties. . . .

We may state that we have gone very carefully into the question of the system of accounts of your Institution, and have applied several independent tests to the same. In our opinion a great deal of confusion has arisen owing to the want of method on the part of your late book-keeper and the manner in which the accounts have been presented in the past, and although we cannot speak as to the period prior to our investigation, we feel bound to state that every information has been supplied to us by you and your staff, and all suggestions made by us have been readily carried out.

We have ascertained that the title deeds of the freehold and leasehold properties are in the hands of the mortgagees, and are subject to the charges stated on the accounts we present, and in conclusion we would impress upon you the importance of adhering to the system of accounts now in vogue, in order that your periodical statements may be prepared and satisfactorily verified.

After reading this report, I thought it well to act on Mrs. Morgan's suggestion that I should see Mr. Blakemore, the auditor. It is owing to that gentleman not having been able to give me an appointment for this purpose immediately, and the subsequent advent of the holiday season, that I have been prevented from replying sooner to Mrs. Morgan's request that I will now withdraw what has been said in TRUTH about her institution. In view of the auditors' observations, this request seems almost to amount to an impertinence; and so far from withdrawing anything I have said, this report would rather induce me to repeat it with emphasis. In my original article on this institution, which appeared just twelve months ago, I dealt with the published accounts for the year 1900, and an account for the year 1901, which had been shown to me by Mrs. Morgan, but not published, although it was a year and a half overdue. The 1902 accounts had not at that time even been made up. I pointed out that the two accounts before me were unsatisfactory in many particulars, that there were discrepancies between them, that the huge total of debts shown on the balance-sheet was not explained, and I gave my reasons for doubting whether they represented the true state of affairs. The unsatisfactory nature of the accounts was aggravated by the fact that Mrs. Morgan was in sole and uncontrolled charge of the receipts and expenditure, that her own private accounts had been during the period in question mixed up with those of the home, so much so that even when she had two banking accounts she drew cheques for her own private purposes on the account which purported to be that of the home, and that finally she had thrown her private funds and those of the home into one banking account. Twelve months have since elapsed during which the lady has evidently made desperate efforts to set her house in order. She has called in a firm of chartered accountants to compile accounts for publication, and what is the result? They state that they found the books in such a condition that they could do nothing with them. They have had, at enormous cost and labour, to re-write the whole of the books for the period they were dealing with, from the bills, receipts, and other original records of expenditure and income. They condemn the accounts previously issued to the subscribers and the public as forcibly as they condemn the books. They have, still going behind the books to the original sources of information, compiled balance-sheets for the

beginning and the end of the period they had to deal with. They state that those balance-sheets do not agree with those issued by Mrs. Morgan for the previous periods, and that they cannot reconcile the discrepancies; but they are satisfied that their balance-sheets represent the true position of the home, from which it follows that the others did not. Finally, they think it necessary to impress upon the committee, to whom their report is addressed, that the system of bookkeeping they have introduced must be adhered to if satisfactory accounts are to be issued in future. It would hardly be possible for them to confirm more emphatically the condemnation which I pronounced upon the way the finances of the institution have been administered. It is not the business of the auditors to express opinions on the management outside the mere questions of bookkeeping with which they had to deal. It is not for them to discuss the irregularity of Mrs. Morgan's position in relation to the funds of the institution. Their duty is confined to the books and the arithmetical deductions from them. Their business is to state facts and leave others to draw inferences. The inferences which I draw are precisely those which I drew a year ago. And I shall be surprised if anybody who concurred in my conclusions then sees any reason to dissent from them after what has been said by the auditors.

Pressure of other matters prevents my saying anything more at the moment respecting the affairs of this institution. There are, however, one or two points arising out of the accounts now published, and other portions of the report, which call for some notice, and I will return to the subject at the earliest opportunity.

HOLIDAYS IN ENGLAND.—V.

In a previous article I glanced at many of the rich and varied attractions that the West of England offers to the holiday-maker, but a good deal of country was necessarily left unexplored. Somerset, for instance, had to be passed over except for a brief glimpse of Minehead; yet the county in itself contains an ample choice of pleasant and interesting holiday quarters. It would be foreign to my purpose to say much about such a place as Weston-super-Mare, which is as well-known to a multitude of people in the West of England and South Wales as Southend-on-Sea is to Cockneys; but a dozen or so miles lower down the Bristol Channel is the little town of Burnham, which has grown of late in public favour, and would grow faster if it possessed better bathing. Burnham boasts of golf links which would be a revelation to any player acquainted only with the ordinary inland course. A friend of mine declares, indeed, that the eighteen holes of the links at Burnham have enough natural sand-bunkers for eighteen courses; but, then, I fear that he is only a foozler. Above Weston is Clevedon, where Arthur Hallam was laid to rest, "by the pleasant shore and in the hearing of the wave." Perhaps, however, you would rather rusticate out of the hearing of the wave. In that case you will be able to get an enjoyable and at the same time economical holiday at almost any of the villages and farmhouses nestling under the Mendips or "down along" (as they say in Somerset) the Quantocks. Cheddar, as famous for its cliffs and caverns as for its caves, is an excellent locality for such a holiday. Or the whole of this beautiful country might be done by a good pedestrian or cyclist from Glastonbury, or from Wells, a typical old English country town with a great deal of interest in it and around it, besides its over-restored cathedral. I do not think, however, that I can conscientiously recommend Wells in very hot weather; and the same remark applies to Bath, which, thanks to civic as well as private enterprise, has done much in recent years to win back its ancient glories. There is no more beautiful city in England and few richer in antiquarian interest and literary associations. Bath wisely cherishes its Roman remains and keeps green its memories of famous men. But it also recognises that it cannot live upon the past or even upon the curative properties of its mineral springs, and the ancient city has been brought up to date in the matters of hotel accommodation and entertainments.

Crossing into Gloucestershire, you pass into one of the English counties that deserve to be far better known than they are. A friend of mine once migrated, year after year, to the neighbourhood of Minchinhampton—now becoming famous for the golf links on its great common—and he used to rave—I believe justly—about the hills and woods of that part of the world. There are plenty of villages and country towns along the Cotswolds open to anybody who has the enterprise to follow his example. In another column I publish a letter from Sir Charles Dilke on the woodland glories of the Forest of Dean. He is of opinion that this is the finest bit of forest now left in England, and it might be worth the while of a few holiday-makers to go and verify his opinion. If the Cotswolds do not satisfy you, not far away, across the Worcestershire boundary, lie the more impressive Malvern Hills. Although the complaint is sometimes made that the powers that be do not show sufficient enterprise in the provision of amusements, Malvern is in many respects an ideal holiday resort, and an improved train service has brought it within a ride of about two and a half hours from Paddington. It is a long way up to the summit of the Worcestershire Beacon, but there are easy paths (not to mention ponies and donkeys) for those who are scant of breath, and the ascent is rewarded with views of unrivalled beauty. While the glorious hills and the bracing air would alone suffice to draw people to Malvern, the country around has innumerable charms and interests for the visitor. There is a good golf course at the foot of the hills, and a long programme of delightful drives and excursions can be arranged. If you like boating, a quarter of an hour's railway journey will bring you to the Severn at Worcester; but whether you want the river or not, the city is well worth a visit. In the opposite direction from Malvern, it is but a short distance to Hereford, another interesting old city where you get a sight of the Wye. Ross is probably as convenient a centre as can be chosen for seeing the most beautiful portions of the beautiful Valley of the Wye. The view at Tintern—whose praises Wordsworth sang—is perhaps the fairest of all, but the scenery of the

whole valley is as lovely as any in England, and the district is rich, too, in such objects of interest as the remains of ancient castles and abbeys. Moving a stage further west, I would recommend to your notice Abergavenny, a charming little town, surrounded by heather-covered hills—an admirable place for a holiday and a good centre for making excursions. There is good fishing to be had in the neighbourhood—not to mention the inevitable golf—and days can be spent in cycling or driving to Usk, Monmouth, Raglan Castle, Llanthony Abbey, Brecon, and other places. Further to the north I am told that Shropshire is a county full of natural beauty from end to end, and from the glimpses one catches in passing through it by rail, I should think it would well repay the explorer. Ludlow, a town most charmingly situated, would be a promising centre for his operations, but beyond that I cannot guide him over this ground.

We have now surveyed the best part of the West Country right up to the confines of Wales. It is not my intention to offer myself as a guide on the other side of the Welsh frontier, partly because my own knowledge is limited, and partly because I find England quite a big enough subject to deal with. But while enumerating some of the beauty spots of their own country, which holiday-making Britons so often overlook, it seems impossible to be altogether silent about Wales. How foolish is a man to go to the Alps for mountain exercise before he has walked over Snowdon or Cader Idris! I say foolish, because when a man has once seen a snow peak—I say nothing about climbing it—he will, unless he be a degree above the common herd, always be disposed to turn up his nose at a British mountain; and the best of the British mountains, whether in Wales, Cumberland, or Scotland, are not things to turn up your nose at. They have a character and beauty of their own, and the man who is incapable of seeing this, loses a very cheap and readily accessible pleasure. One of these individual characteristics in Wales is the scent and view of the sea. If anybody doubts it, let him make for Snowdon at the earliest opportunity. I would also venture to add that for the man of reasonable views, and no burning desire to break his neck, there is as much hard work and healthy enjoyment to be got in the neighbourhood of Snowdon or Cader Idris as in Switzerland itself. Certainly the man who cannot afford Switzerland may get a very fair dose of mountaineering hereabouts, and some of the Welsh valleys are as beautiful as those of any mountain country in Europe. Do not suppose—as many Saxons do—that you have exhausted the country when you have seen Bettws-y-Coed. Then, again, the man who swears by the Continent for the sake of the "change of environment" may easily find parts of the Principality in which the change would be quite as complete as any that is obtained by the average English tourist on the Continent. I do not mean to say, of course, that it is to be got in full at the better-known resorts on the Welsh coast—at Tenby, or Aberystwyth, Barmouth or Llandudno, or even at the smaller seaside towns. But most of them possess a freshness of interest that ought to appeal to the Londoner tired of southern watering places, and inland there are vast districts in which he would find himself amid entirely novel surroundings. The counties of Cardigan, Brecon, Montgomery, Radnor, and Carmarthen present endless possibilities for the man whose idea of enjoyment is to get far away from the madding crowd and wander in solitude day after day through a wilderness of picturesque mountains and valleys. Llanwrtyd Wells, famous for its sulphur spring, is a good starting point for an excursion of this kind. A more popular resort is Llandrindod Wells, which has a great reputation for the medicinal virtues of its mineral springs, the fineness of its air, and the beauty of the scenery in the neighbourhood. North Wales, I suppose I need not say, is within the jurisdiction of the London and North-Western Company, which is equivalent to saying that it enjoys one of the best train services in the Kingdom. Those who are "doing" the country as it ought to be done, or those who prefer to settle down for a short stay in any of the more attractive seaside or inland districts, will have no difficulty in finding convenient quarters through the North-Western Company's lodging and boarding-house list, and by means of the admirably arranged railway and coaching tours it is possible to visit every part of the country—and practically every part is worth visiting. In South Wales, of course, you are in the equally capable hands of the Great Western Company. By the way, do not forget, when you are going to or from North Wales, to give a day to Chester, and more if you can, for in all England there is not a more picturesque and interesting town.

If the attentive reader of this and the preceding articles will now turn again to his map, he will see that we have completed a bird's-eye view of all this island south of the Tweed, with one exception, the corner which lies north of the Mersey and west of the Pennine range. In one respect it is the most notable region of all, for it contains, in Cumberland, the finest scenery of which it is our national privilege to boast. It contains, too, some charming coast scenery, especially in the north of Lancashire and in Westmoreland, and if time and space permitted, I should like to enlighten the man in search of a new seaside holiday ground to the possibilities of Morecambe Bay, and one or two spots on the Cumberland coast. Of the Lake District, itself, it is not within my present purpose to speak. The poets and the artists, and all the worshippers of natural beauty have made it to Englishmen the best known part of our country, and it would be as absurd for any writer to pretend to discover any part of it to-day, as to discover the Matterhorn or the Colisseum. For the purpose of these articles it must be assumed that the reader knew the Lake District before we started. If he did not, then I must tell him, I hope not too late, that it is his duty to visit the Lakes before any other region that I have here recommended to his notice. We set out on this tour—which has already extended to greater length than I originally contemplated—with the idea of showing that England has vastly greater resources as a field for holiday-making than the average holiday-maker has any idea of, whether it be his habit to betake himself abroad

at this time of year, or to one or other of the popular holiday resorts on his side of the water. The mere space that has been occupied in what is little more than a bald enumeration of the attractive districts in England, should satisfy any one that the resources of the country in this respect are wellnigh inexhausible. North, south, east, and west, there is hardly a direction in which one can travel without finding whole districts rich in natural beauty, in historical associations, or the artificial attractions which appeal to so many town-bred folk. We live, indeed, in a country as well worth knowing as any in the world, and we ought to know it better than we do.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE REPUBLIC AND THE POPE.

THE French Embassy to the Vatican is dead, and there will be no resurrection. M. Ribot himself could not, and would not, though he belonged to another Méline Cabinet, ask the Chamber to vote the necessary funds for its revival. However, the last link will not be severed until the lease falls in for the apartments in the Santa Croce Palace to which M. Nisard moved before his marriage last year. It is unlikely that the Concordat will survive the present storm. It has lived a hundred years because French Governments have been generally unsupported by the nation, and pusillanimous or double dealing. The story of life will support this view.

As to the Nunciature, it was devised at the close of Louis XVIII.'s reign. Louis had been drawn over the coals at the Congress of Verona as too liberal, and obliged to do penance by sending an army into Spain to put down the Constitutionals and to enter into closer diplomatic relations with the Vatican. He sent there Châteaubriand, an unfortunate choice for the Holy See. The Ambassador found materials for some startling chapters in his memoirs and speeches in the Chamber of Peers. His literary conscience overbore his Catholic prejudices and his official obligations, and what he said and wrote became a text-book in after years for the *risorgimento* party that finally brought all Italy under the house of Savoy.

In the last year of Louis XVIII.'s life the Court of Rome and the Ultramontanists in France, then known as "le Congrégation," lost no opportunity to call out a combative spirit and to blunder. They made the kind of mistakes we have been witnessing since the National Assembly sat at Versailles. Because with the help of the Court they secured the election of a Chamber of Deputies that contained but nineteen Liberals, they lost all prudence and displayed all their trump cards. At the end of six years from Louis XVIII.'s death the throne had fallen and the people of Paris had sacked the Archiepiscopal palace. A graver consequence: they made, unwittingly, Napoleon popular. Louis Philippe, a fox with eight children to marry off, profited by the Bonapartist wave to create a Court with Napoleonic marshals, ducs, comtes, and barons, and just a sprinkling of Liberal marquises, whose fathers he remembered at the Palais Royal. His wife, a niece of Marie Antoinette and aunt of Marie Louise, gained, as a protectress of the Congregation and of what passed for religion, the goodwill of Metternich and the Emperor Francis, her nephew. To please her Louis Philippe kept on the Embassy to the Vatican. He placed at his head Comte St. Aulaire, a very grand seigneur, for whom Talleyrand squeezed out of Germany at the Congress of Vienna 15,000,000 frs. as compensation for the principality of the Comtesse, *née* Nassau-Saarbruck. This fortune and the Comte's accomplishments gave them a magnificent European standing, and threw lustre on their Embassy. French people visiting Rome felt proud of them and it. The union of Queen, Congregation, and Nuncio gave body to Ultramontanist intrigues. The Ultramontanes, as usual, grew puffed up, impatient for results, and all but pushed Protestant Guizot, who tried as well as he could to satisfy the Queen, into a war with the Liberal cantons of Switzerland for the Sonderbund founded by the Jesuits at Lucerne. Without these hidden influences there would have probably been no revolution in 1848.

Marie Aurélie seemed to have reached the extreme limits of old age. After Louis Philippe's death the crown would pass to a child of ten under the tutelage of a Lutheran mother. This prospect explains the impatience of the Congregation towards 1848 to bring about the restoration of the Comte de Chambord. He thought in that year he could lay his hand on the crown, but Louis Napoleon, getting hold of the army, and outbidding him at the Nunciature, cut in before him. He kept, in 1853, his promise to nullify by decree the laws against religious orders, and gave over entirely elementary schools to them. Still, he had in some degree to shape his course according to the revolutionary origin of his uncle, and to hold the candle to Voltairians round him. Among them stood Prince Napoleon, Thouvenel, Fould, Rouland, Mocquart, and later, Duruy, the historian. This ill-suited the Ultramontanists. The Congregation had become legion, and showed seriously its teeth at the Emperor. It again raised the *nobis nominavit* question, the object being to thrust out the Gallican clergy and replace them by disguised regulars. The Concordat enacts that nominations to bishropics "will be made by the First Consul, and that the priest he nominates shall use diligence in supplying his Holiness through the bishop or archbishop of his diocese with canonical informations touching his theological doctrines and morals." In short, a *congé d'élire* was to be sent to the Pope, whose right the Concordat limits to examination with the two objects just mentioned. When the Pope refused the canonical institution without stating his objection to the satisfaction of the French Minister of Cults, the latter inducted the candidate as bishop, sent him to his diocese, and provided him with a suffragan until the Pope came round to a more Concordataire view.

In 1868, M. Rouland being Minister of Cults, a quarrel began between the Tuileries and Vatican on the *nobis nominavit* question. The Emperor had done penance for helping Victor Emmanuel II., by sending an army corps to Mexico to recover for the clericals the

confiscated Church and monastic estates. He had protected, to the point of going to war, the Catholic missions in China, and opened a fresh field for missionary enterprise in Cochin China, to say nothing of his intervention for the Maronites against the Druses in 1861. He had gone on defending Pius IX. against Italy, and he winked at persecuting zeal against the Lutherans of Alsace. All this counted as nothing. Antonelli knew him to be a man of weak will, and pressed hard by hostile parties. It availed him nothing in 1868 to have placed a zealous clerical, M. Pinard, at the head of the Ministry of the Interior. The Duc de Gramont, as Ambassador to the Vatican, promised an alteration in the foreign policy of France, based on an alliance with Austria, which he himself would soon go to Vienna to conclude. The Duchess, a Scotchwoman, *née* McKinnon, embraced the Catholic religion before she and the Duc went there. All these concessions and promises were treated as idle, and the *nobis nominavit* clause was insisted upon.

Rouland, the Minister of Cults, advised the translation of Mgr. Gérin from the diocese of Grenoble to Agen, and the Emperor agreed. Agen was a more desirable See, and had the advantage of a fine climate. Mgr. Gérin had not been on pleasant terms with the Chartreux, who charged him with levity in his visits to a Carthusian convent. He had taken up the cudgels for La Salette against Lourdes, which Cardinal Antonelli foresaw had a greater future, and in this way given offence. The canonical investiture was refused to the translated bishop, who remained until 1870 without spiritual authority in his diocese. In that year M. Crémieux, in return for the board and lodging the Archbishop of Tours gave to him and his family, yielded where the Empire had resisted. Bishop Gérin fell between two Sees, and ended his days in poverty.

Jules Favre, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Jules Simon, as Minister of Cults, also yielded on the *nobis nominavit* point. A skeleton lurked in the cupboard of the former, and he feared it might be let loose by the terrible *Univers*. His colleague wanted to secure the Orleanist vote in the Academy, and to make friends with the majority, at that time Royalist, in the Versailles Assembly. He hit on the compromise, which amounted to a surrender, known as *l'entente préalable*. This understanding originally meant: "The French Government will intimate to the Nuncio" (who had no concordataire function) "its intention to appoint M. Such-a-one to the vacant See of X. His Eminence will then advise the Bishop or Archbishop of the candidate to use diligence in forwarding canonical informations about him to the Holy See."

According to the *entente préalable* compromise the Pope might or might not grant or refuse the canonical institution. If he granted it, all difficulties would be ended; if he refused, there might be a deadlock, as in the case of Mgr. Gérin.

Marshal MacMahon and the Harcourts, who formed round him at the Elysée a nice family party, pushed the *entente préalable* as far as the clericals could wish. The Harcourts wanted Papal support for a vast financial enterprise they were about to float, L'Union Générale, which collapsed in 1882, engulfing five millions of francs of the Comte de Chambord and a respectable number of millions risked in that bank by the late Pope.

All MacMahon's bishops distinguished themselves as enemies of the Republic. All those named by Grévy became so, whatever their professions might have been before their nominations. They knew that if they incurred the hatred of the reactionists of their diocese Rome would be with the latter, and the French Government would allow it. The first Minister of Cults to protect a Republican bishop was M. Waldeck-Rousseau in 1900. He named Mgr. Géay, and without asking the Pope's consent, save as a matter of polite form; and he stood by him when he learned that Cardinal Vannutelli had secretly called on him to resign his bishopric.

The Nuncio's departure has disturbed Society. The wide public scarcely give it a thought. Smart persons did not like him personally. They would have more greatly prized an aristocrat. Czacky, in his early days a Polish cavalry officer and a brilliant Boulevardier, suited the drawing-rooms better. Cardinal Chigi has an imposing name and belonged to a Papal family, and Mgr. de Rende came of one of those feudal houses that still flourish in Sicily. Mgr. Lorenzelli, a professor in a theological college, and chosen for his fluency and capacity to draw fine distinctions, had not the air of a Prince of the Church.

It may seem surprising to hear that parties in France taking their cues from the Vatican, have constantly blundered and drawn down thunderbolts. The explanation is that the Curia, composed of shrewd diplomatic Italians, deft in negotiation, is composed of Churchmen old and badly informed in worldly affairs. They understand art, theology, Roman society, or society in capitals where they have been Nuncios, and little else. They are extremely aristocratic, and they cannot understand popular drifts and movements. They are Coriolanus and other Patricians of ancient days transformed into ecclesiastics.

Mgr. Géay is little, rubicund, rather corpulent, of cheery manners, and his letters to Rome, coupled with his appeal to the French Government, show him to be *un peu farceur*. He is more Rabelaisian than spiritually minded. I dare say the Carmelite ladies found him delightful company. He came to Paris to confer with M. Dumay, the Permanent Secretary at the Cults Department and with M. Edgar Combes, and went back to his diocese, buoyant and hopeful, to lie by at his villa near Sable. The society people at Laval, I dare say, would have renewed hostilities had he gone there. They must be in a terribly bad humour at the fresh victory of M. Combes at the elections for the county councils. They secure him a large majority in the Senate for at least the next three years. He has again come in by a greatly increased electorate as county councillor for the Pons Division, where he is also doctor, mayor, and senator. As a physician he goes his rounds on a cycle. He will stand by Géay because he cannot admit that the episcopal friends of the Government are

to be alone singled out for Holy Office reprobation. It will not be his fault if he has to show sixty dossiers of other bishops in committee-rooms of the Senate and Chamber. Mgr. Merry del Val would be wise in not forcing him to send them to the papers.

He washes his hands of Mgr. Nordez, who has submitted to the Holy Office. Mgr. Nordez, before he went to Dijon, had the rank of bishop *in partibus*. As such he was forced by Cardinal Rampollo on Mgr. Pagis, Bishop of Verdun, as coadjutor. The latter has since had to retire on a canonry of St. Denis, the Chiltern Hundreds of the French episcopate. His instructions in going to Verdun obliged him to edge out Mgr. Pagis and head the Joan of Arc movement which had been allowed to languish. Nordez is a sanguine, robust, and somewhat eccentric person, with the kind of abilities that would bring fortune to a commercial traveller. He went all over France to preach up Joan, collect funds for the memorial cathedral at Domrémy, and obtain subscriptions for works of art and edifying books connected with her expected canonisation. Mgr. Pagis now makes a charge that bears on the financial side of this mission. The bishop's enemies at Dijon ask what he has done with the 50,000 frs. which Burgundy subscribed to set up a monument in front of the Cathedral. The foundation stone is not yet laid, though the money was received more than four years ago by the bishop. He is, pending the decision of the Holy Office, with the French Trappists in Rome. It seems to be agreed that he is not to go back to his diocese, but to bear an episcopal title, as before he went to Dijon, but without any episcopal function.

The late M. Renouvier, in unveiling drawing-room influence as the ally of religion in politics, all but disables it. It now counts for more in Fifth-avenue and at Newport than in France. Comte de Mull's manifesto has fallen flat. Aristocratic hauteur is detected in the diplomatic letters of Mgr. Merry del Val, who ill understands present-day France. Little Emile Combes, the general medical practitioner at Pons, and one of the most courageous and hard working Frenchmen of his time, is more highly prized than any nobleman in Mgr. Merry del Val's circle, whether in Spain, London, Brussels, or the Faubourg St. Germain. If M. Combes pooh-poohs the levities of Mgr. Géay, do you know how he spends his evenings and what few moments he can steal from business? In cheering up his wife, who divined in him thirty-seven years ago all the qualities which now give him the leading place in France. He then wore a threadbare cassock and taught as a private tutor in a family of her connection. She had a dowry of 50,000 fr., and she, in marrying him, gave it over to him, he having first promised to win a degree of M.D. in seven years. He kept the promise. She is now a confirmed invalid, and her painful disease has become chronic. M. Combes is not taller than the late Louis Blanc. When he gets into a throng on a railway platform one cannot see his head. His shoulders droop, and his back is slightly bent. One sees the steadfast strength in the strongly-marked face and a serious simplicity that is not devoid of poetic feeling, but could not be the dupe of any illusion or be taken in by any sophistry, however specious.

The French Government has consented to the withdrawal by Russia of those troops near her western frontier which she undertook in her military conventions with France to keep there.

Would it astonish you to hear that the first inception of the Anglo-Japanese alliance may be traced to Paris? It did not, however, proceed from any member of the last or present Cabinet, but from a man of political and journalistic standing who had the ear of both, and also of some members of the Salisbury Cabinet. The adoption of his idea north of the Channel relieved his friends here from cruel perplexity. Not that they felt sure the wrangling relations between Russia and Japan would come to blows, but they had misgivings. France is, however, disposed to act the part of friend and ally of Russia in a future Congress of the Powers. A coming difficulty about a Congress is the ambition that begins to peep out of China. She will claim admission, and Japan will probably endorse her demand.

The taking over of the Russo-Chinese Bank by Japan will hit the Emperor of China, Prince Oukhtomsky, the friend of the Emperor Nicholas, his Imperial Majesty, and, I dare say, King Leopold, who patronised so actively the Manchurian Exploration Society. This bank is said by the *Temps* to have advanced shortly before the war 40,000,000 roubles on Manchurian enterprises. The Japanese, if victory continue to favour them, will not probably think themselves bound to make good this sum.

Kuropatkin and the late General Keller revolved round Skobeleff in the eighties, when he so often came here. Keller, a man of rare amiability, and handsome as an Apollo, belonged to an Alsatian family settled in France in the time of Louis XIV., and obliged to emigrate for religious reasons. Some of them went to Prussia, and others went on to Courland. He belonged to the Prussianised branch which found a patroness in the first Empress Alexandra, wife of Nicholas I., and before her marriage Princess Charlotte of Prussia. The late general had a far-out cousin here who sat in the Corps Législatif of the Second Empire as an Ultramontanist. A speech in which he attacked "pamphleteers" and talked at M. Edmond About drew from the latter a brochure in his smartest style. It sparkled with wit, and had the temporary effect of giving celebrity to the personage at whom the author hit back. Alexeieff may also be classed as an old Boulevardier. He passed nine years in Paris as naval attaché at the Russian Embassy. He owed much of his official success to his anecdotic chit-chat about life in Paris on different occasions when he had the honour of conversing with the Tsarevitch Nicholas, now Emperor.

The railings around the gardens of the Imperial palace of Strasburg are, by the Emperor's orders, to have a lining of sheet iron all the way up. This will screen him from the public gaze the next time he reviews troops

there. Had he been thus shut in when he went with the Empress and "the little princess" last May to Strasburg I could not have sent you anything like so full an account as the one that appeared in TRUTH.

The German Emperor seemed impatiently desirous not long ago to come out as protector of the Christian Churches in the East, including the Catholic, but his mood has altered, and those who approach him say that he only intends to protect Germans. This he has been doing for some years, though German convents and monasteries are under French protection, while the inmates are not. I believe that each nation will have to protect her own people. The Catholic protectorate that France exercises in the East costs her 46,000,000 frs. a year. M. Rouvier would be glad to use this money to meet some more pressing call.

The stuffed thoroughbred, ridden, as it is alleged, by Napoleon at Waterloo, is now at the museum of the War Department. Its place would have been some provincial Musée Grévin. The new Director of the Louvre found it in an attic there, in which rubbish is stowed away. The horse is dappled, with brown spots on a white ground, and unequally distributed. To a near-sighted person, or at a distance, the animal would have appeared piebald. I never knew of a French general or any officer riding at the head of troops on a horse with such a coat. Napoleon often rode a white, or a bay, or a chestnut horse, but preferred a white. White horses are quiet, and bays and blacks distinctive. He would probably have thought a dappled or a piebald horse more suitable for a circus hero. A M. Castanie, who has written erudite magazine articles on Napoleon's saddle horses, sums up in favour of the one found in the Louvre attic, giving as his reason "the Imperial crown and the letter N branded on the haunch." Not only, I am assured, all the horses in the Imperial stables, but those of the cavalry of the Guard, bore this brand. Had the horse in question been wanted for exhibition at Astley's in some Napoleonic battle-piece, the manager would have ordered it, to produce realistic effect, to be branded thus. "This relic," an administrative entry of the Fine Arts Department states, "was sent to Napoleon III. on June 29, 1868, by the Society of Natural History of Manchester, which, not being able to pay its expenses, had made over the greater part of its collection to the Owens College, and reserved the First Emperor's charger as a present for his Imperial Majesty Napoleon III."

The stuffed horse came into the hands of the Manchester Society of Natural History in 1843, and a Dr. Moore moved a vote of thanks to a Mr. J. Greaves "for his magnificent present of the skin of the Arab horse of the Emperor Napoleon." Some weeks later a Dr. Fleming, in the name of Mr. Greaves, presented the society with a picture of Napoleon on the spotty horse, which the doctor called his war-horse. The French papers have been reproducing a letter to the *Manchester Guardian* from somebody who saw that horse at the museum of the said society, and declares it to be identical with that reproduced in the historical pictures of Napoleon at Waterloo.

What proof is this of authenticity? There are endless pictures by different artists of Napoleon at Waterloo, which no artist, French, Belgian, Dutch, British, or of any other nationality, witnessed, so far as we can know. Snapshotting had yet to be invented. I recollect "Napoleon at Waterloo" as being generally on a white horse. Charlet, who must have lived among Waterloo veterans, and Raaffet, an artist of the same period, gave him a white horse. The water-colour study by Horace Vernet in Prince Napoleon's study at the Palais Royal also represented the hero on a white horse. A black or bay charger, mettlesome and easily excited by the trumpet call, would have been the right charger for a Murat, who was something of the circus rider, or for an unreflecting Ney, *le plus brave des braves*—an epithet that implies a *soupçon* of irony. The tranquil white horse was as a throne, and had something marmorean in its appearance. Soldiers, forgetting that their Emperor kept out of range, would have seen in the white horse, in which no French painter save Gros ever saw an impetuous charger, a proof of courage. Gros's horse charges up the pass of the Saint Bernard. The enemy are out of sight, they being encamped on the plain of Lombardy. The truth is that the ascent was made on a mule. But, this animal not coming up to the theatrical standard of Napoleon when he made himself Emperor, Gros substituted the prancing white horse. Another reason: the mules that drew the Pope's carriage at the Imperial coronation had been terribly laughed at by the Parisians.

The fact that some painter, whose name has not come down to us, depicted Napoleon at Waterloo on a dappled horse proves little, if anything. English artists must have been in hot haste to catch the market opened to them by Wellington's victory. What would have been easier than to brand a horse with an Imperial crown surmounted by the letter N? Any number of cavalry horses, officers' and troopers', that had lost their riders at Waterloo must have run wild there during the battle, and for days after. Brussels would have become a Tattersall's for such horses, and those bearing the Imperial brand and letter would have been eagerly purchased by the relic hunters, mostly British, who flocked there. It is likely enough that some artist bought a horse belonging to the Guard as the authentic one ridden by Napoleon at Waterloo.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE middle class, dear Lady Betty, is the back-bone of this country"; the back-bone has recently shifted to the front! That is the most important circumstance of our times. The narrow-minded think that it is unnatural and unwholesome; the wise perceive that the alteration is necessary. Were Mr. Joseph Chamberlain to become Prime Minister he would be the first altogether Provincial Premier there has been in this country; the West End is now filled with rich financiers, manufacturers, merchants, tradesmen, newspaper proprietors, and speculators; the best-known men and women in the community are actors and actresses, jockeys, cricketers, play-writers, and novelists, and the courtiers and the well-connected are attending to the wants of these with the utmost assiduity!

"There is no class-war," it is said; but there is. Every succeeding list of Honours is discussed in the clubs with an accompaniment of sneers—"It is ridiculous to give a peerage to Jones;" "Who would take a baronetcy now that Smith has his title?" "Brown has sold himself for his knighthood." Walk through the West End with a "family made" man, and he will point out this, that, and the other house contemptuously, and say: "That represents South Africa"; "This has been built from wooden nutmegs"; "This, again, is the result of company promoting."

The middle-class men and women are not more attached to their West End friends: "You are woman-made, our wits have made us," they almost blurt out. "You marry a rich wife, and she establishes you in comfortable circumstances. We have acquired our fortunes by the exercise of intelligence, industry, and enterprise; it would be a wretched living that you would obtain were you to be compelled to earn it yourselves." "We know you," they all say. "You will have luncheon with us, dine with us, dance with us, live with us, ask our advice, borrow our money, make love to our wives and daughters, but were ruin to overtake us to-morrow there is not one of you who would pity us or visit us." Is there no class war?

If the back-bone has shifted to the front, is it suffering from the change of position? A middle class that was steady, provident, honest, and industrious was, though not the most prominent, the most important portion of the community. A middle class that is extravagant, that imitates in every direction the follies of the West End, and that is unprincipled, only adds to the viciousness there is in the country, and, in time, will lose its good qualities and its influence.

There is one circumstance in this development which is especially interesting; that is the alliance of the well connected with the least scrupulous members of the middle class. The peers and peeresses, and the popular men and women, do not gather round the great judge and his family, or the prominent counsel, or the steady tradesman who is making his many thousands a year, nor do most of the titled men act as directors of first-class railway, insurance, or industrial companies. It is the speculator, the gold-mine owner, and the company promoter, whose fortunes have been made rapidly and strangely, that have the most friends, and it is as directors of doubtful companies that most of the titled men of our times are earning money! When the celebrated doctor gives a ball, is the whole world of fashion present? When the distinguished artist opens his house, do all the clubs and West End drawing-rooms empty themselves? But when an Anglo-German financier, whose past is wrapped in mist, gives an entertainment, there is a rush of "society" across his doorstep!

That alliance between an impoverished well-connected class and the unscrupulous members of the financial world is especially dangerous; it is like a combination of interests between the thief and the detective, the prisoner and the judge. The unscrupulous financier designs the operations and carries them through; his well-connected allies provide him with opportunities, and enable him to avoid capture or punishment. It is this circumstance more than any other that has in recent years kept the public from dealing with the City, for speculators, and even investors, feel that is as foolish to do business under such conditions as it would be to play cards with "sharpers."

It is a curious situation that has developed in this country; an upper-class which has been demoralised by poverty, and a middle-class that has been demoralised by wealth! Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

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SPORTING NOTES.

A PARAGRAPH is going round the papers which states that the King is to pay another visit to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth during the pheasant-shooting season. I am informed that his Majesty's visit will probably take place in November, in which case he is to stay at Chatsworth during Derby races, which begin on Wednesday, November 16. The King as Prince of Wales has twice been present at this meeting, and on each occasion he was the guest of the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. Whatever the King may finally arrange as to Derby, I understand that, all being well, his Majesty will certainly attend the Doncaster races, and that he will be at Newmarket during the Second October and Houghton meetings. The King is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey during the Doncaster week.

The poor running of Monarda in the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood was a great disappointment to the Rothschild stable, as she had won a fair trial before leaving Newmarket, and was quite expected to win this engagement. Monarda, who is a half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant, will now be reserved for the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park on October 7, in which race she would meet Pamflete, Full Cry, Queen of the Earth, Vedas, and Polymelus (winner of the Richmond Stakes) with a considerable advantage in the weights. Cicero is engaged, but it is understood that Lord Rosebery's colt will not run again this season. If Monarda cannot win the Kempton Park race with all the best of the weights it may be taken for granted that she is a very moderate filly.

Bass Rock, who has been amiss during the summer, has resumed light work at Newmarket, and he will probably win a T.Y.C. handicap in the course of the autumn if all goes well with him.

Sir James Miller's colt Cinquefoil is another animal that may be expected to win a T.Y.C. handicap during October or November. It is a mistake to suppose that this horse is endowed with stamina, his best distance being really six furlongs.

Killeevan must be noted carefully as a filly certain to win a race before long, and she may possibly go for the Portland Plate at Doncaster. In any case, she should be followed whenever she starts again for a T.Y.C. handicap.

Lord Wolverton's filly Montem has been one of the disappointments of the season. During the spring she was regarded as being quite likely to win the One Thousand or Oaks if anything should happen to Pretty Polly, but she appears to have quite trained off, and I should fancy that she will next season be relegated to the stud.

A great deal of most asinine trash has been printed lately about Goodwood. It is stated, for example, that there will be a second meeting next season, and that the Duke of Richmond and Gordon has let the stand at a rental of £10,000 a year. There is no foundation for these tales, which are fictions of the most fantastical description. One reads, moreover, melancholy croakings about the absence from the meeting of "the best horses," and lamentations over the fact that most of the fields were made up of "second-raters," instead of their including, as formerly, some of "the greatest horses in training." Where in England are now to be found these animals of superlative merit? Leger horses cannot be reasonably expected to run at the end of July after all the work which they have already gone through, and with their autumn engagements in prospect. As to the older horses, the only "cracks" in training that I know of are Zinfandel, Sceptre, Rock Sand, and Throwaway. With the exception of the mare, I do not fancy that any sound judge would pretend to estimate these animals very highly. In any case, not one of them was entered for the Goodwood Cup; and even if they had been engaged, it is improbable that

they would have started, as they have all been taking things easily of late. Horses cannot go on being raced week after week, and especially when the ground becomes hard.

In the old days there were no valuable races for three-year-olds and upwards between Ascot and Goodwood, but now we have the Princess of Wales's Stakes, the Eclipse Stakes, a £3,000 race at Lingfield, a £2,000 race at Liverpool, and other events which are well worth winning. It is a flagrant blunder, moreover, to assume that a rich stake will assuredly bring out a large field of high-class horses. The Princess of Wales's Stakes, the Eclipse Stakes, and the Lingfield race have all been most abject failures this year. The fact is that we have a wretchedly bad lot of horses now in training in England, and in this respect things appear to be going from bad to worse. Putting aside Pretty Polly, it is certain that the three-year-olds are miserably moderate, and in many former seasons the best of the two-year-olds would have gone down ignominiously before the flyers of that period.

It seems to me to be a great mistake that the Goodwood Cup should close nearly three years before running. The entries for this season's race were made on September 17, 1901! I have been looking down the entry for next year's race, which originally numbered seventy-seven. The list is filled with utter rubbish, the only animal with any pretensions at all to high class being Rock Sand. The entry of now three-year-olds includes John o' Gaunt, Henry the First, Mousqueton, Rydal Head, and Galapas. The practical remedy is to defer the date of closing until, say, the Tuesday after the Newmarket Houghton meeting of the previous year. The forfeits might be declared on the first Tuesday in January and on the last Tuesday in March, with a "subscription" of £25 or £30 for every animal left in after the latter date.

There are only thirty-four entries for next year's July Stakes, and the recent decline in the number of subscribers to this and similar events at Newmarket ought to convince the Jockey Club of the necessity for altering the conditions of many of their races. The July Stakes is a sweepstakes of £50 each, £30 forfeit, with no added money. His Majesty, the Duke of Devonshire, Sir J. Miller, Mr. Neumann, Lord Rosebery, and the Duke of Portland have two entries each. One of the King's pair is Vanitas, filly by Ladas out of Vane, own sister to Flying Fox. One of Sir J. Miller's is a colt by Ladas out of Roquebrune, dam of Rock Sand. Lord Rosebery's pair are Hortensius (half-brother, by Velasquez, to Cicero) and a colt by Ladas out of Seabreeze. The Duke of Portland's pair are Wombwell (colt by Isinglass out of Mrs. Butterwick) and Greendale (own brother to Darley Dale). The Chesterfield Stakes, of £30 each, £20 forfeit, which is the fellow race to the July, has only thirty-two entries, and only two owners are doubly represented—the King and Sir James Miller.

One of the runners for the Nassau Stakes was King's Favour, a filly by Persimmon out of Phantassie. She made her début at Goodwood, but had no chance with Pretty Polly, who was giving her 17 lb. King's Favour was purchased at Doncaster as a yearling by the Duke of Westminster for 5,600 gs.! Her intrinsic value for racing is about as many shillings. Of course, she may prove successful as a brood mare, but her price was preposterous and ridiculous. After the doleful failure of nearly all the high-priced yearlings of the last few seasons it is by no means wonderful that we should hear mandrake-like wailings over the bad times which breeders are stated to be now experiencing. Those who sell at Doncaster will do well to beware of exorbitant reserves, unless they wish their animals to be sent back again. The wise men will be those who sell without any reserves whatever.

St. Amant has been looking very well indeed lately, and he has improved considerably in appearance since the Derby. He has been doing only easy galloping so far, and he is a colt that requires only a light course of training. St. Amant won the Derby in a canter, because he got off well in front, and was never caught. He is not likely to be so fortunate at Doncaster, and the course will not suit him so well, nor do I believe that he will fancy the extra distance. If he is fairly tackled in the race for the St. Leger, it is highly probable that he will "cut it," as he did in the Newmarket Stakes. There seems to be a screw loose with John o' Gaunt, which is to be regretted, as many good judges have considered Sir John Thursby's colt to be the most promising of the English lot for the Doncaster race. John o' Gaunt has been very unfortunate, as he certainly ought to have won the Newmarket Stakes. Gentlemen riders are out of place in big races, and if John o' Gaunt is considered to have a good chance of winning the St. Leger on the day of the race, Mr. Thursby will be well advised if he gives way to a professional. Henry the First, who is perhaps the greatest disappointment of the season, has gone all to pieces since his race in the Eclipse Stakes, and he is not at all likely to run at Doncaster. Pretty Polly looked well at Goodwood, and the only doubt respecting Major Loder's filly is whether she will stay the Leger course. She has found no difficulty in achieving the R.M., the Oaks course at Epsom, the O.M. at Ascot, and the mile and a half at Goodwood; but every one knows that the Leger course is a real test of stamina, which has decisively settled animals which had done well at Newmarket and at Epsom. So far as the English lot are concerned the Leger appears now to be a match between St. Amant and Pretty Polly, and my own opinion is that Ajax will outstay both and win the race. There is no doubt as to the stamina of M. E. Blanc's colt. I mentioned a fortnight ago that Gouvernant will probably be sent also to England in order that he may make the running for Ajax, who will need a strong-run race. Last year there was not a particle of interest about the Leger, which was justifiably regarded as a good thing for Rock Sand, but this season there is the prospect of a really exciting race, and with the field including the winners of the Derby, Oaks, and Grand Prix there is likely to be a record crowd at Doncaster on September 7.

Rydal Head, Darley Dale, Santry, Peroration, Challenger, Airlie, the 5,000 gs. Bobrinski, and Admiral Breeze all appear to be hopeless outsiders, Challenger being probably the best of the lot. Fiancée has trained off badly, and Mousqueton cannot stay beyond a mile. I see it stated that Chatsworth will carry the Royal colours as the best of the King's entry of six. The odds are about 10,000 to 1 against Chatsworth after his deplorable displays at Goodwood and at Ascot. If judiciously placed the colt might win a welter race over a long course. Andover may run creditably at Doncaster, but Mr. Alexander's colt will be seen out before the St. Leger. Almscliff will also be running during the next fortnight. Lord Harewood's colt stays well, and he is coming on fast. If Almscliff wins a race at Stockton or York he will no doubt become a popular fancy for a place in the Leger.

Gallinule heads the list of winning sires with a total of about £17,300, towards which sum Pretty Polly has contributed over £12,250. Gallinule's best two-year-old, so far, is Galantine, who has won £2,500. St. Simon comes second with nearly £15,900, being indebted for this high place, not to the excellence of his representatives, but to his good luck in being the sire of Darley Dale, winner of the Eclipse Stakes. St. Simon has a good two-year-old in Pamflete. St. Frusquin is third with about £15,500, towards which amount St. Amant has contributed £11,750, and Rydal Head is the only other of his stock with winnings which run into four figures. St. Frusquin has no good two-year-old up to the present time. Sainfoin, who is fourth with £14,171, is best served by Rock Sand, who has won £12,284. Cyllene, who is fifth with about £12,350, has two of the very best two-year-olds of the season in Cicero and Cyanean, and another creditable representative in Polymelus. Cyllene is by far the most promising of the younger sires. Rightaway comes

next with about £10,200, won principally by Andover and Throwaway, and this horse can claim the credit of being the sire of the Ascot Cup winner. Ayrshire has nearly £9,400 to his credit, his best winner being Robert le Diable. Then there is a heavy fall to Florizel II., with under £7,000; Melton, with about £5,600; and St. Serf, with under £5,000. Persimmon, Isinglass, and Ladas have all done badly, and Orme occupies a direfully low place on the list. Misselthrush (by Orme out of Throstle) appears likely to prove a successful sire, as he has three winning two-year-olds, one of which (Thrush) is a very smart colt.

There are fifty-six entries for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot, as against fifty-five for next year, and fifty-six for the past meeting. The King has engaged two fillies, and so also has M. E. Blanc, this being a race which has not often been patronised by French owners. His Majesty's pair are Persicot, by Persimmon out of La Carolina, and Vanitas, by Ladas out of Vane, own sister to Flying Fox. M. Blanc has entered Blue Fly, by Flying Fox out of Bluette, and Belle Fleur II., by Flying Fox out of Bess. The Dukes of Portland and Westminster, Lords Derby and Howard de Walden, and Mr. Arthur James have three entries each. The most notable items are an own sister to Sceptre, an own sister to Duke of Westminster, fillies by Cyllene out of Elizabeth Hardwick, by Orme out of Memoir, and by Orme out of Andromeda. This race has done wonderfully well, considering that the winner runs only for the sweepstakes of £100 each, half forfeit, the added money (£300) being divided between second and third.

The St. James's Palace Stakes, which has the same pecuniary conditions, has obtained only thirty-five entries, although this race is open to both colts and fillies. There were thirty-nine entries for this year's race, and there are fifty for 1905. The Duke of Portland is the largest subscriber with three, and His Majesty, the Duke of Devonshire, Sir J. Miller, Lord Rosebery, the Duke of Westminster, Lord Wolverton, Mr. W. Hall Walker, and Mr. W. Bass have two each. There are no French entries for this race.

The entry for the Middle Park Plate (ninety-one two-year-olds are engaged) does not include either Cicero, Vedas, or Cyanean. There is no reason to regard the best of the public performers in the list (Full Cry, Queen of the Earth, Atlas, Polymelus, Pamflete, Llangibby, Brother Bill, Standen, and Graceful) as being a real flyer, so there will be a capital chance for a dark animal. M. E. Blanc, who won the Middle Park Plate of 1890 with Gouverneur, will probably have a dangerous candidate for this year's race in either Jardy, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces, or Val d'Or, by Flying Fox out of Wandora. Even if these animals should earn penalties by victories on the Continent during the next two mnoths, 7 lb. extra would not stop M. E. Blanc's candidate if it was really smart.

The Eclipse Stakes for 1907 has failed to fill, and this is not the first time that this race has thus collapsed. It is to be re-opened. Owners are becoming weary of these heavy subscription stakes, which are terribly expensive. Forfeits run into thousands in a very short time indeed if a man is cursed with a large stud of bad horses.

It is stated in one of the sporting papers that Major Loder's dark two-year-old Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly, will make her début in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, a race which was carried off last season by the St. Leger favourite. The fabricator of this piece of news has not taken the trouble to verify his references. Adula was originally engaged in the Champagne Stakes, but she was withdrawn from this race when the minor forfeit was declared on July 5, and Major Loder's only representative is L'Etoile, filly by Isinglass out of Astrology. If Adula runs as a two-year-old she will be started for either the Middle Park Plate or the Dewhurst Plate, but it is quite on the cards that she will not be seen out until next season.

Sceptre is now doing well, and she is being prepared to run for the Doncaster Cup, but I shall be vastly surprised if she is able to beat Zinfandel over this distance if Lord Howard de Walden's horse is well and in form. The mare will have 3 lb. the worst of the weights.

We are not likely to hear any more of the anserous cackling which was rife after the Derby about Gouvernant being an impostor and a rogue, and so on and so forth. His performance at Maisons Laffitte on Sunday se'nnight was a most excellent one, and especially when it is remembered that the horse has been in active training all the season, and has taken part in several severe races. Gouvernant won the Prix Monarque by a head from Turenne, who ran so well in the Grand Prix, and M. E. Blanc's colt had 12 lb. the worst of the weights. Turenne was made a hot favourite, as on public form it appeared impossible that Gouvernant could defeat him at the weights. The most satisfactory feature in the performance was the gameness with which the winner finished, and only a mooncalf would now denounce him as a rogue.

John Reiff's riding licence has been restored to him by the French Jockey Club, so I presume that he will soon be seen in the saddle at English meetings.

Foundling was made a great favourite for the Brighton Stakes, but he had no chance with Maisie II., who won in a canter. This mare had not been seen out since she fell at Manchester four months ago when running for the Lancashire Steeplechase. There was a shocking crash for plungers in the Rottingdean Plate, as Désirée, with long odds betted on her, was most unexpectedly beaten by the filly by Royal Hampton out of Claque, an animal lately weeded out of the Duke of Devonshire's stud. The favourite appeared unable to come down the hill, and the winner slipped her. A very poor lot of horses contested the Brighton Cup, which was justifiably regarded as being a good thing for Housewife, who was amiss for several weeks after she had run at Newmarket during the Second Spring meeting. There was very strong fielding against Sir James Miller's filly, but she won cleverly from Catgut. Housewife was bred at Worksop Manor by Mr. John Robinson, and there was no bid for her when she was sent up for sale at Doncaster in September, 1902. Mr. Robinson made a present of the filly to Blackwell, who sold her to Sir James Miller last year at Epsom. There was a tremendous plunge on Housewife for the Juvenile Plate, the race before the Derby, when she was entered to be sold for £100. The filly was beaten by Martina, to whom she could really have given a stone, and the race was one of the greatest flukes of the season. The issue, however, would have been still more disastrous if Housewife had been claimed for £300, and Sir James Miller had a lucky escape of thus losing his filly.

Sundridge gave 17 lb. and a beating to Fariman in the De Warrenne Handicap at Lewes, which race at one time was a minor Stewards' Cup. Carita, who ran well last month both at Newmarket and at Liverpool, was a boiling favourite for the Astley Stakes, and she won very easily from a field of exceedingly moderate class.

There will be racing next week at Wolverhampton, Stockton, Folkestone, and Hurst Park. The Stockton meeting will suffer severely by the absence of the usual large party from Wynyard Park, as Lord and Lady Londonderry will not attend the races owing to family mourning.

Mr. Perkins may win the Wynyard Plate of £600 with Tarquinius Superbus if he starts this colt next week. There are 105 entries for the Hardwicke Stakes

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—The letter appended proves beyond all doubt that Consumption is curable by Dr. Alabone's method of treatment:—"SIR,—I was under the professional treatment of Dr. Alabone, and during that time received the greatest benefit from it. I was placed on the retired list as unfit for further service, owing to phthisis. Thanks to Dr. Alabone's treatment, I have been able to resume the practice of my profession, and now have been actively engaged in practice for six months in good health.—Yours faithfully, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. London. "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

of £500, and Cyanean will win if she starts. Fifty-two three-year-olds are left in for the Great Northern Leger of £500, and Andover should be able to win in spite of his 14 lb. penalty. Twenty-nine three-year-olds have accepted for the Durham County Produce Plate of £1,000, and Lord Harewood should win with Almscliff, who will no doubt be kept for this race, instead of his tackling Andover in the Great Northern Leger.

The principal event at Hurst Park will be the Lennox Plate of £1,500, which should be a good thing for John o' Gaunt if he is all right.

George Hirst took his cricket benefit in the Yorkshire and Lancashire match last week. The proceeds amounted to over £3,500, and the sum is a record for cricketers. He thoroughly deserves his good fortune for he is one of the best of professional cricketers in every sense of the word. He is above all things a trier. If his leg goes he does not lay up for weeks, and declare that he is unable to bowl. He takes a shorter run and still takes wickets at a less dangerous pace. In his benefit match he was in fine form with bat and ball. How Lancashire had to struggle to avoid defeat. MacLaren was in for an hour for five, and young Hornby played the game of his life, and by long-drawn patience practically saved the game. No wonder Yorkshire can get good professionals when the youngsters see what benefits men like Hirst and J. T. Brown have had. The generosity of the Tyke is intensified by the fact that the players are Yorkshiremen bred and born. They do not wander from the fold. The executive knows how to treat and keep the services of its professionals. It would be idle to impute this capacity to some executives. While Hirst was reaping his reward in the best match of the season, Abel was having the hat taken round for him at the Oval, as though he were some poor pensioner. Considering what that man has done for Surrey, surely, if his benefit was not enough, the county might give him another, instead of scraping coppers together. Because he failed at the beginning of the season his services were dispensed with. He scores in a holiday match. He returns and makes runs ever afterwards. Baker, a youngster, has been unsuccessful in a couple of matches. He has been dropped like a hot potato. Young and old, the Surrey executive treat all their players, whether amateur or professional, in the same manner. The first failure and the player is fired out. One trial, without success, and a man is done for. Under such circumstances it is impossible to develop a really strong class of player or a team that has that cohesion so necessary for success in any sport. If the members of the Surrey Club and Ground will only go down to the Oval and sweep the selection committee away neck, crop, and block out the windows in the pavilion whence these wiseacres witness the game, then, and not till then, will Surrey cricket revive. It requires only an elementary knowledge to realise how rotten must be the state of affairs when the difficulty in finding any amateur to captain the team is considered. Naturally those who have undertaken the job as good sportsmen deem it their duty to keep their mouths shut. They would be conferring the greatest benefit on Surrey cricket if they would tell their tale at the general meeting. It would be the revivalist meeting of Surrey cricket. By the way, let me congratulate Hayward on his brilliant 188 not out against Kent. He did his best to save the match for Surrey. He had not made a century just lately, so he has no doubt preserved his place in the team. Crawford, a young amateur, is most promising with bat and ball. I wonder how soon he will be turned out.

What a brilliant cricket week the Kent team had at Canterbury! Both matches were won. Essex, as usual, played an admirable first innings only to fizzle out afterwards. The young professionals, Seymour and Humphreys, batted brilliantly and ably supported the youth veterans Day, Mason, and Blaker. The crowd was enthusiastic over the team's success. The Kent folk believe in Kent men. I should like to see this feeling developed in Essex. Why is there not a Chelmsford cricket week? The Great Eastern Railway is infinitely superior to the lines that run to Canterbury. Brilliant bowling by Dennett gave Gloucester an easy win over Middlesex. They also beat Sussex.

There was an exciting finish in the competition for the Calcutta Cup over the new course of St. Andrew's. Both the competitors are very nearly scratch golfers. Mr. Armour had an advantage of two strokes on the handicap. He was dormy two, but his opponent, Mr. MacAllan halved the match, and so another round was played, which MacAllan won by a hole.

Another Cowes week has passed. As a mere excuse for leaving the heat of London it justified its existence. Until the last day there was very little wind. The German Emperor's Cup was won by *Creole*. It is a ridiculous sort of race. All sorts of craft compete, representing all styles of yacht building during the last forty years. From an antiquarian or artistic standpoint the race was interesting. To yachtsmen it meant nothing. *Ingomar* had a good week, while the German Emperor's *Meteor* failed.

The enthusiasm of oarsmen for their sport is, I think, keener even than that of the golfer. They never can help talking "shop." The other day a young oarsman told me of his engagement to be married, and also of the engagement of another well-known oarsman. I endeavoured to find words suitable to the occasion, but I was stopped, as he proudly interjected: "You know, mine's 11 stone 3, and X.'s is only 9 stone 1." The ruling passion was strong in love.

Marlow, having a river and a cricket ground, has a "week." It begins with a flower show, a lawn tennis tournament, and cricket, and winds up with a regatta which used to be held on the Saturday after Henley—but that is an old story. However, Marlow is determined to be well ahead of the times. The bridge was decked with fairy lights, and leaving just after six as the last race was over, I saw men lighting up. These lamps would burn for three hours, so there seemed no reason to anticipate that the starlight effect over the church and weir would be spoiled.

The course was admirably kept by the Thames Conservancy officials, whose patience must be sorely tried. As an instance: The pistol for the last race had fired; well in the course of the racing boats near the finish of the course was a skiff with a man and a boy. The officials yelled to the skiff to get out of the way, but the oarsman barely pulled a stroke; he almost left the wind to blow him along. The boats were nearly round the corner as he drifted under the bridge. There had been a foul, and the race had been given to Maidenhead, for the London cox had precipitately taken his opponent's water and so lost a certain victory in the senior eights. Now, I could not make out whether the middle-aged and spectacled sculler had seen the foul and was enjoying a quiet joke, or whether he was deaf and could not hear, or whether he was a foreigner and did not understand. I fancy he did not understand, and that he was rather deaf. That heavy moustache and those impassive cheeks must have known German pipe and German beer. Of course, what made the whole thing so aggravating was that the race was at an end and he was in the right, and nobody knew it, not even the sculler himself.

As the crews came in I could not help feeling very sorry for the coxswain. He looked the picture of misery. The coxswain has to endure so many cursings that I trust it makes those that are deserved more easy to bear. No doubt my sympathy was misplaced. The other racing was close, if not stylish. Reading just got home in the Town Challenge Cup by a third of a length from Henley.

GREY HAIR.—SPENCER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it. 2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Irregular—Consols Set a Bad Example—Forced Liquidations—American Rails Firm—South Africans in Better Humour—Market Prospects.

CONSOLS have set the rest of the markets a very bad example during the past week. The monthly settlement in the stock showed that the "Bull" account was still of considerable dimensions, notwithstanding the heavy liquidation of the previous week or two, and the carry-over rate for those who preferred to take their chances was as much as 3⅞ per cent. Even at this figure—and no doubt the state of the Money Market was adverse—there were not many "takers in," and much stock was thrown out quickly, with the result that the quotation suffered a very sharp drop. The unsatisfactory position was aggravated by forced realisations in connection with the account of an operator holding a leading position with one of the most prominent London financial houses. This gentleman is credited with having open a line in Consols estimated at anything from one to three millions, and with having tempted fortune in Mincing Lane as well, and his liabilities—for which his firm may or may not be responsible—are said to be well over a quarter of a million. With the Funds seriously depressed by a circumstance of this sort there was not much chance for other departments to make headway, especially as the investing and speculating public, from necessity or choice, elected to leave the Stock Exchange severely alone; and Home Railways in particular suffered a sharp relapse. Towards the end the knowledge of the worst, and the closing of the account which had occasioned all the trouble, brought about a sharp rebound, which was helped in the case of railways by the unexpectedly good dividend declared by the North Western Railway. The only markets which showed themselves superior to the depressing influences affecting Consols were American Railways and South African mines. The first have been pretty consistently supported from New York on the strength mainly of good cotton crop reports, and the rising prices have proved irresistible to a few outside speculators on this side, though it has to be allowed that the public support has not been up to the expectations or the desires of the Wall Street "bosses." In Kaffirs the situation seems to be much healthier. After the disappointments of the past couple of years it would be too much to assert positively that prices have touched bottom, but at least the prospects are satisfactory; labour is coming along in plenty; in another month or two the Chinese coolies should make an impression on the gold production; and the various "shops" consider the position good enough to warrant steady support. With the rising of Parliament and the dispelling of fears of an immediate general election it is probable that we shall witness much more activity in South Africans. There seems little likelihood of "booming" conditions anywhere because of the scarcity of cash among the smaller men and of the want of confidence, but in Kaffirs and some other markets there is room for a gradual improvement, which would be much better in the long run.

Money Tight—The Bank in Control—New Exchequer Bonds—Foreign Money in London—Calls on New Issues—The Bank's Reserve.

The Money Market continues in the power of the Bank of England. It was unable to repay the whole of the sum borrowed during the past week, and considerable disturbance has been occasioned by the payment for Exchequer Bonds to the amount of £6,500,000, notwithstanding that an equal total matured on the same day. But Lombard-street succeeded in reducing the obligation, and the employment of a large amount of foreign money on our market as well as considerable disbursements by the Government have kept rates within quite moderate bounds at 2½ to 3 per cent. Moreover, cash is returning from circulation, while the Bank is securing nearly the whole of the gold which arrives each week from South Africa and elsewhere. On the other hand, there are calls due this week on Transvaal Threes as well as on Sierra Leone Fours and Nova Scotia Three and a Halfs, while on Monday next the last instalment on the Japanese loan is payable, in addition to an instalment of 25 per cent. on Cape of Good Hope stock. There is therefore not room for much ease in the financial situation; and it will not be forgotten that the autumn drain for Egypt and South America is not far off. At the same time, rates will be kept moderately low by the abundance of French money which is available for investment here because even our moderate rates are considerably higher than those obtainable in Paris. Discounts have kept firm in sympathy with money rates, and on foreign buying of bills and the promise of further issues of Exchequer Bonds for several millions between this time and the end of the financial year, and fine three months' bills command 2 15-16—3 per cent. By reason of the withdrawals of cash for the country for Bank Holiday purposes, the Bank of England's reserve shows a reduction of £822,052, bringing the total down to £23,282,258, but owing to a reduction in deposits the proportion to liabilities is 1.3 higher, at 48.6 per cent.

Consols Weak—Forced Selling—Another Regrettable Incident—Exchequer Bonds Effect—Foreigners Dull—Japanese to the Front—South Americans—Uruguays Relapse.

In addition to the factor referred to above—the forced closing of a large account carried by one of the managers of a big financial house—Consols have been helped downwards by realisations on the part of "Bulls" disappointed over the course of money since the turn of the half-year, by "Bear" sales, and also by the official announcement pointing to the issue of more Exchequer Bonds. The Government requires £9,250,000 on capital account before the end of March, and of this only about £3,000,000 can be obtained on terminable annuities from the National Debt Commissioners, leaving about £6,250,000 to be raised in the shape of fresh Exchequer Bonds, in addition, possibly, to £2,000,000 more in connection with the Cunard agreement. The whole sum will not be raised in one operation, however, and with gold coming from abroad, and the issue of other high-class stocks checked by the chilly reception accorded them, the disturbance need not be very material, though it may be allowed that the issue is not what the market would call timely. The rest of the Gilt-edged market did not escape the influences which left their mark so severely upon Consols, but the effect was not so material, and there has since, in company with our "premier security," been a moderate recovery. In consequence of some apprehension on the Continent concerning the outcome of recent war developments, the Foreign section has been rather inclined to be dullish, though Japanese issues for the same reason hardened considerably. The Foreign bourses saw fit to be cautious, and when some rumours were put in circulation pointing to stupendous losses in the vicinity of Port Arthur and elsewhere, Japanese bonds began to ease back again to their former level. Russians are practically unchanged, attributable no doubt to the usual inspired support, while most Paris favourites, such as Spanish, Turks, Portuguese, and Tintos, after being easier, recovered the better part of the ground lost. South Americans as a whole have been steady, especially Argentines and Brazilians and Chilians. Uruguays were particularly weak for some time by reason of the effect of the revolution upon the country's finances, but at the last moment more favourable reports were forthcoming, with the natural result that the bonds recovered sharply, though they still remain lower than a week ago. Among the "rubbish" in this section there has been some bidding for Colombians for some reason which is very difficult to ascertain, but on the other hand Venezuelans are dull, some fears being enter-

tained that the conference in Paris dealing with the proposed arrangement of the country's monetary difficulties will not be productive of any satisfactory results.

Home Railways Forlorn—Lower with Consols—Above the Worst—Good North-Western Dividend—Great Westerns—A Batch of Reports—Leeds, York and Great Central Results—Some Preference Stocks—Scotch Dividend Prospects.

The Home Railway Market is in a forlorn condition, and movements during the week have, almost without exception, been downward, though a late rally along with the Funds leaves them well above the worst. There is practically no public buying of stocks. Whether the explanation be found in the general lack of money or in some other cause, there is no disputing the fact itself, and consequently the dealers who laid in stock in order to be prepared for the outside demand which they fondly foresaw, have been displaying some anxiety to reduce their commitments. The relapse was facilitated by indifferent traffics. The dividend declarations announced this week are quite up to expectations, and the reports make satisfactory reading, but so far from encouraging buying they have induced realisations, the market, in the absence of the public, having nothing more to go for—to use its own phrase. The Great Western will pay at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, as against 3¾ per cent. last year, carrying forward £25,600 as against £24,255. The actual yield on a purchase now is almost 4 per cent., so that the stock is cheap and worth putting away for better general conditions. The immediate effect of the announcement upon the price was adverse, those who had a profit thinking it advisable in the circumstances to take it, and those who saw a loss finding it desirable to get out for fear worse might befall them. The North-Western announcement at the rate of 5 per cent., the same as last year, in face of a big decrease in earnings, was quite unexpectedly good, but here again there have been realisations. The measure of fall on the week is indicated in my usual table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, July 29.	Price, Aug. 6.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	80	75	75	74½	– ½
Do. Def.	35½	28½	28¼	28⅝	+ ⅜
City and S. London	49½	48	48	45½	– 2½
Central London	104½	90	90	90	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48½	—	45½	45½	—
Do. "B"	26⅞	24¼	24	23⅞	– ⅛
Do. "A"	15	14	14	13¾	– ¼
Great Eastern	92	89⅞	87xd	87½	– ½
Great Northern Pref.	104½	101	101½	102	+ ½
Do. Def	42	39½	39½	39½	—
Great Western	138	142⅜	142½	142	– ½
Hull and Barnsley	42½	37½	36	35	– 1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	104	95	95	95	—
London and Brighton "A"	118	122¼	120¼	120	– ¼
London, Chatham, and Dover	15¼	15⅞	15⅝	15⅝	– 1/16
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	97	101	100	98½	– 1½
Do. 2nd Pref.	66	66	64	63	– 1
London and North-Western	159½	152	151½	152	+ ½
London and South-Western Def.	55	54	53	51½	– 1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	86	95½	95	94¼	– ¾
Metropolitan District	35½	36⅜	36	35⅞	– ⅛
Midland Pref.	70½	67⅜	67½	67⅜	—
Do. Def.	68	65⅛	64	63¼	– ¾
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	70	77½	77	77¼	—
Do. Def.	46	43⅞	43⅝	43¾	+ ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	145	140	139	138½	– ½
South-Eastern "A"	56⅜	61	59	58¼	– ¾

In the report of the North-Eastern Railway the most noticeable item is an increase of £24,415 in rates and taxes, which completely neutralised savings in the locomotive and other departments. The total sum paid by the Company in rates for the last twelve months was £451,000, which is equal to 1½ per cent. upon its Ordinary stock. The London and South-Western has an increase of £55,700 in gross revenue, or about double the figure given in the published returns, but this was accompanied by a rise of £37,200 in expenditure, chiefly in maintenance of way, locomotive power, and traffic charges and steamboat working expenses, so that the actual gain in net receipts is only £18,000. Of this the heavier Debenture and other prior charges absorb nearly £14,000, and as the sum brought into the accounts was much the same as a year ago, the amount available for dividend is only increased by £5,400. The dividend on the Ordinary stock at the rate of 4 per cent. is the same as last year, but owing to the larger amount of stock ranking it absorbs nearly £5,000 additional. Thus the whole of the increased revenue is practically accounted for, the carry forward of £25,977 being only a few hundreds more than last year. The Waterloo and City, affiliated to the South-Western, reports a balance available for dividend, after providing for interest on Debenture stock, of £8,522, and a dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum on the ordinary stock will absorb £8,100, leaving £422 to be carried forward. Last year 3¼ per cent. was paid. Working expenses for the past six months were at the rate of 47½ per cent. as against 46 per cent. The Lancashire and Yorkshire reports that instead of over £80,000 the actual gross decrease was £45,139, and, as expenses were reduced by £17,082, the reduction in net revenue works out at no more than £28,057. The amount brought in was £10,710 more than in 1903; but, on the other hand, prior charges have increased by nearly £23,000, so that the amount available for ordinary dividend is over £40,000 less than a year ago. The chief savings were in wages, locomotive power, and traffic expenses, the first being reduced by £22,535, the second by £13,365, and the third by £11,580. As might have been expected, there is an increase amounting to £5,175 in rates and taxes. The Great Northern report shows that gross earnings rose by £27,407, and working expenses by £12,276, leaving a net increase of £15,131. With an increase in the sum brought into the accounts the amount available for ordinary dividend is higher by £18,924, and, the distribution being at the same rate as last year, £41,806 is carried forward for the benefit of the Deferred stock, this being equal to about ½ per cent. On the expenditure side the rather heavy increase of £18,000 is shown under the head of materials. A reduction of over £212,000 is shown in capital expenditure—a welcome feature of a generally satisfactory report. The Great Central's gross receipts advanced by £44,639, of which £26,824 occurred under minerals, while expenditure rose by £25,894, practically every head contributing, though the only material additions are £7,625 in carriage repairs and £5,880 in locomotive power. Adding the Company's proportion of joint line receipts, there is a disposable total of £676,025, an increase of £22,948. But Debenture and other charges are £15,471 higher, and the sum left for the Preference stocks is £296,304, as against £280,833. This is sufficient, as already stated in these columns, to meet the dividends on all the stocks down to that of 1879 inclusive. The Directors complain that while the development of the Company's business continues to be of a satisfactory nature, progress has been considerably retarded by the depression which still prevails in the iron and steel industries, and also in the Lancashire cotton trade. The Furness Railway lost nearly £35,000 in receipts during the half-year, and nearly the whole of this occurs in mineral and goods traffic. There was a saving of over £13,000 in expenses, but net receipts declined by £21,856, which necessitates the reduction in the Ordinary dividend from 2¼ to ½ per cent. per annum. My table of Traffics is given below:—

—	1904.	Aggregate to Date.	1903.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 111	– 1,685	+ 6,901
Caledonian	+ 6,430	+ 2,924	– 27,74[illegible]
Great Central	– 644	+ 4,213	+ 792
Great Eastern	+ 1,100	– 4,[illegible]	– [illegible]
Great Northern	– 5,[illegible]	+ 3,750	– 37,[illegible]
Great Western	+ 1,[illegible]	+ 9,[illegible]	– 4,2[illegible]
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 312	– 81	+ 4,701
London and North-Western	– 10,000	+ 4,[illegible]	– 35,6[illegible]
London and South-Western	+ 3,800	+ 1,[illegible]	+ 6,[illegible]
Midland	– 18,587	+ 8,[illegible]	+ 59,3[illegible]
North British	+ 5,198	+ 1,[illegible]	+ 7,1[illegible]
North-Eastern	– 4,395	+ 4,388	+ 7,688
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 430	– 4,445	+ 4,361

Prior charge stocks have not escaped the fate of Ordinary descriptions, the week having witnessed a

considerable number of declines though of a moderate character. I suggest that they are attractive for investment because the monetary stringency is only temporary, and they are safe for a recovery, while giving a good yield in the meantime.

The declaration of the North-Western Railway completes the half-yearly record of the principal companies, and, taken as a whole, the outcome has been rather above expectations. The only representative companies to reduce their dividends are the Midland and the Lancashire and Yorkshire, and it has to be said that this last did much better than had been anticipated, having regard to the state of the cotton trade and the considerable reduction reported in earnings. The other Companies, excepting the City and South London, have held their ground, while five have managed to increase their distribution. The results will be seen at a glance from the following table:—

Company.	Div. 1st half 1904.	Amount carried forward.	Div. 1st half 1903.	Amount carried forward.	Inc. or dec. in gross revenues.
	p.c. p.a.	£	p.c. p.a.	£	£
Brighton*	3½	23,300	3	18,000	+ 38,426
Central London	4	48,737	4	45,000	— 2,275
City & S. London	2½	701	2¾	1,506	— 1,567
Chatham Pref.‡	£2 13s.	1,424	2½	140	+ 10,817
Great Central	§	3,300	§	12,800	+ 44,639
Great Eastern	1¾	16,000	1¾	16,000	+ 26,830
Great Northern	3	41,806	3	22,880	+ 27,407
Great Western	4	25,600	3¾	24,000	+175,646
Hull & Barnsley	‖	18,016	‖	19,338	+ 3,173
London & Tilbury	4	5,223	4	8,092	+ 14,433
Lancs & Yorks	3	19,300	3½	37,000	— 45,139
Metropolitan†	3	21,000	2½	26,000	+ 18,992
Met. Dis. 4 p.c. Guar.	2	253	2	342	+ 10,253
Midland Deferred	2	24,707	2¼	22,256	+ 88,077
North-Eastern	5	40,875	5	45,287	+ 32,533
North-Western	5	74,000	5	80,790	—
South-Eastern	½	10,500	½	17,000	+ 12,761
South-Western	4	25,977	4	25,546	+ 55,762

* £7,500 placed to special reserve in 1904.
† £11,500 placed to reserve in 1904.
‡ £12,500 was transferred from special reserve in 1903.
§ For first half of 1904, full Preference interest, down to and including Five per Cent. issue of 1879, as compared with full interest on Five per Cent. Issue of 1876 in 1903.
‖ Interest on the Three and a Half per Cent. Preference Stock paid.

Americans Active—More Outside Buying—The Influence of Crop Reports—Erie Preference Dividend—Signs of a Reaction—An American View.

The American market has been one of the most active in all the House. The Southern crop reports are good, the indications pointing to a larger cotton yield than for some years past; and, naturally, Southerns, Louisvilles, and other lines which will benefit thereby, have seen a smart improvement in prices. Eries have been prominent, and have hardened on the declaration of the dividend on the First Preference stock—a matter concerning which there was some doubt when I wrote last week. The upward course of Grangers has been arrested by the knowledge that the wheat crop in the North-West is in an unsatisfactory condition, and that it has suffered serious damage. The wise man does not accept as true all the stories circulated at this season of the year on the subject of American crops, since a majority of them are sent out with a purpose, but there is no doubt that from the present indications cotton will be good and spring wheat at least indifferent. The interest in the market as regards this country has been mainly professional, as usual, but rising prices have caused a little public buying. It is doubtful, however, if really active support will come from this side. There is not much money available, and it is recognised that the early course of trade depends to an unusual degree upon the growing crops, and concerning these it is too early to say much that is unqualifiedly encouraging. There are signs of a reaction. The Western group is attempting to liquidate; the large Wall Street interests are said to want dulness and small markets until there is more certainty as to the crop yields. Further, money rates are hardening, and it is expected that the outward movement of currency will commence almost immediately. Railroad earnings are moderately satisfactory, and some impression is being made upon heavy bills for expenditure. The political factor does not count for very much, but it will curtail trade, already slack. My table follows:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price. July 23, 1904.	Closing Price. July 29, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug. 6, 1904.
Atchison	92⅞	56⅛	78⅛	79⅛	80⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	99⅛	98⅜	98
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73⅛	87¼	86¼	86⅛
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	35	34¼	35
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	22¼	22⅜	22⅝
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	74	73¼	73½
Erie	43 9/16	23¼	26⅜	25¼	25½
Do. First Pref.	75⅛	64⅛	64½	62¼	64½
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	120	117xd	120xd
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	152½	151	151
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	18⅜	18¼	19⅛
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	90½	90½	89⅛
Do. Common	78½	55⅞	63⅜	62	63⅛
New York Central	158	116⅞	122¼	121½	121½
Ontario	36	19¾	31⅜	31¼	31⅜
Pennsylvania	80⅛	57½	62⅛	61⅜	61½
Reading	35½	20	27⅜	26⅜	26⅝
Do. First Pref.	45⅛	36¾	42½	42¼	42¼
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	24⅝	24	26⅛
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	91	90½	92½
Southern Pacific	69¾	39¾	52⅜	50¼rts	51¼xrts
Union Pacific	107 1/16	69 1/16	99¾	98⅛	98⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	96½	95½	95¼
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	37½	35½	37
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	61	60½	60½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12½	12	12¼
Do. Pref.	—	—	64⅜	62	62¼

Mr. Henry Clews attributes the recent strength of the market to the strong support of big insiders, whose operations were undoubtedly influenced by good crop reports, easy money and the consequent better feeling in business circles. But the active stocks have all risen 10 to 15 points above the low prices of this year, and some have scored considerably larger advances. Not a few stocks are at the highest point of the year; and if the comparisons be made with the low prices of 1903, the advances are still more striking. This brings one to the question: Has the rise yet reached the danger mark? So far as legitimate influences are concerned, Mr. Clews says, it seems as if the advance had been almost sufficient. Good crops and better business have been for the present fairly discounted, especially as both are still in the realm of expectation, and realisation remains a matter of two or three months. The New York authority adds:—

> All indications point to an active market. The advance appears to be all that is justified by natural conditions; but manipulation is a factor that must always be considered in stock market movements, and the recent rise has had the help of very powerful interests, who may, if they choose, easily carry prices to a still higher level, or complete long-delayed deals that must have an important effect upon values. As the market rises profit-taking grows, and the consequent changes of position create a more even balance of opinion that conduces to activity. There has already been a considerable expansion of the short interest ready to take quick advantage of any unfavourable developments. Very soon crop demands will assert themselves and Western banks will commence to draw against their balances here, the effect being the cutting down of local bank reserves; and this fact should not be overlooked.

However, the business outlook is reported to be satisfactory, but no wild boom is in sight. The country needs a slow and substantial recovery, and this is all it is likely to get, even should all the crops turn out well. Any attempt to create a spirit of unreasonable hopefulness in Wall Street is sure to end in disappointment and delay.

Canadian Railways—Grand Trunks await the Report—Canadian Pacific's Position—Argentines almost at a Standstill — "Rosie's" Bought — Mexican Rails React.

The half-yearly report being about due, there has been little disposition to deal in Grand Trunk stocks, the more so as the position is so very uncertain. There

was some "Bear" selling in anticipation of the traffic for the last ten days of July, and there was something like a mild rush to buy back when the figures were less unsatisfactory than had been anticipated. Seeing that the corresponding period of last year had witnessed the big increase of £36,578, and that for the two preceding weeks there had been decreases of over £11,000, the market had reconciled itself to a falling off of £28,000 or £30,000. It had in mind also the shortage of grain and the effect of the strike at the packing houses, which were held by the officials to account for the poor showing of the third week. The actual decrease of no more than £16,382 came, therefore, as a welcome surprise, and the fact that there was one working day less than in 1903, was an additional comfort. Prices had a good recovery but the market has now relapsed into quietness again, pending the issue of the report. It is worth while pointing out that for the month the company is £36,876 to the bad, this comparing with an increase of £123,943 for July last year. No good purpose could be served by a discussion of the prospects until the results for the June half of the year are before one. Canadian-Pacifics have kept tolerably firm, being helped by the dividend, by good traffics, and by expectations of continued prosperity resulting from a satisfactory harvest and the steady opening up of the land. The dividend announcement for the second half of the year is 3 per cent., actually making 6 per cent. for the year, and is in accordance with my anticipations. In connection with a purchase for investment it must not be forgotten that the price contains the dividend. My table is appended:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	124	127½	128½
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	18	13⅞	13⅞
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102⅞	96½	96¼
,, 1st Preference	112½	102	100
,, 2nd ,,	98½	86½	84¾
,, 3rd ,,	49	37⅝	37⅛
Bengal and North-West	126½	137½	137½
Bombay Baroda	160	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	128½	127	125½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	99	101½	101½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97	114½	113¾
,, ,, 1st Preference	98	103	101xd
,, ,, 2nd ,,	87½	92½	92½
,, Great Southern	134	132½	131½
,, Western	124½	123½	123¼
Entre Rios Railway Preference	54½	58½	58
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	83	92	92¼
Costa Rica Railway	2⅛	1⅝	1¾
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	90	89½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75½
Mexican Railway	19	18	17½
,, 1st Preference	72	82½	82
,, 2nd ,,	27	29½	28
Nitrate Rails	6	7⅛	7⅛

In the Argentine Railway Market business is at a standstill save for a little buying of Rosarios on Buenos Ayres account. With the exception of the B.A. Western, which reports another rather considerable fall, earnings are satisfactory, the Rosario having an increase of £8,744, the B.A. Great Southern £5,613, the B.A. and Pacific £1,798, and the Argentine Great Western £485. In connection with the Pacific's return, it must be remembered that it now includes the Bahia Blanca's earnings, and, with an increase in the mileage from 791 to 1,030 miles, the showing is not strikingly good. But the totals are high, for last year's figures were of a record character almost week by week. In Mexican Railway stocks there is little business. Nearly the whole of the buying following upon the dividend was professional, and the result is that when a seller comes along prices are put down smartly. A seller or two has been about this week, and as a consequence there has been a drop, though at the end there has been some vigorous bidding, causing a good recovery.

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Kaffirs More Active—Some Outside Buying—"Shop" Support and "Bear" Covering—The Two Million Syndicate—Measure of the Recovery—Effect of Coolie Labour—Moderate-Priced Shares—Speculators' Opportunity—Premier Diamonds.

The Kaffir market shows a decided improvement, both in the tone and in the volume of business carried through. Not that there has been much revival of public interest in the section, though even in this respect a slight and welcome improvement has to be recorded. It has been very noticeable, too, that, by way of a decided change, South Africans have ignored the wild gyrations and weaknesses of Consols, a stock with which they possess a somewhat incongruous sympathy, especially when trading is slack and there is a dearth of influences working in their favour. This week Kaffirs have felt these particular influences, and have been firm throughout. The other day a call was made by the syndicate which was formed some time ago with a capital of £2,000,000 for the express purpose of helping the market until the return of normal conditions. Probably the Syndicate has been at work. At all events, good buying has been reported from the Cape as well as from the Continent, and the various "shops" in London have given their aid, the result being a very substantial recovery on the week, especially among the market favourites, though the less active descriptions have not been left alone. Modders are up nearly a point, Rand Mines, Goldfields, East Rands, and some others ½ to ¾, and Welgedachts have gained 7-16. These movements afford a fair idea of the pace at which shares are likely to move on the better markets which seem to be on the point of arriving. There has been especial activity in the shares of the Companies which have received or are receiving allotments of Chinese, and with barely an exception these have scored a relatively material advance. Comets, for example, have recovered to over 3. The mine quite recently resumed crushing with forty stamps, and now it is stated that an additional ten stamps have already been put into operation. The main reason for the change in sentiment is found in the improved prospects of the mines now that labour in good quantities is arriving at or on the way to the Rand. The *Ikbal's* complement has been distributed over the Van Ryn, Geduld, and Aurora West; the *Swanley* has arrived at Durban with another couple of thousand; and with the 2,200 which left Tientsin last week on the *Courtfield*, a total of over 7,000 coolies is assured to date. With the exception of the first batch, they are from the north of China, and are described as men of fine physique; further, the vessels have arrived with clean bills of health, and our friend beri-beri is unmentioned. Those on the goldfields are giving every satisfaction, and have already proved themselves, as every one expected they would, to be far more useful than the blacks. There will be no trouble in securing all the men that are needed to bring the mines to their full productive capacity, as well as to develop the many properties which are not yet actually turning out gold. Even the Viceroy of Canton has changed his attitude, and from being an obstructionist has come to be a friend to recruiting—from which it is a fair inference that terms have been arranged between the gentleman and the local agents of the mineowners. The number of coolies on the mines is not large enough to do more than off-set the wastage of niggers, but in another couple of months or so the impress of their industrious habits ought to be visible in the figures of production, and that will be a "Bull" point of unequivocal significance. It is probable that the rising of Parliament will be followed by a further improvement in prices, following upon the improvement in conditions and the outlook. There is no prospect of a "boom," and those who bought at "peace" prices are still, I fear, some way from a profit. But for a purchase now Kaffirs are singularly promising. And while the leading descriptions seem good for a substantial recovery, the moderate-priced shares are especially attractive, because

they move more rapidly, proportionately, than the "heavyweights." The sort of share which I have in mind are Barneys, General Mining and Finance, Johnnies, Henderson's Transvaal Estates and Development, Randfonteins, and Simmer and Jack. Eastern and Western Rand descriptions, are also very promising. They are more speculative, but developments in these parts leave a little to the imagination, and that is an important factor. Western Rand Estates, West Rand Mines, Geduld, British Transvaal Mines, East Rand Mining Estates, Welgedachts, not to extend the list unduly, are all highly promising purchases at current values. My table below gives the measure of movements on the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 6, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	7	7	7 1/16
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3½	3½	3 15/16
Aurora West	3⅞	2	1/16	1 3/16	1⅛	1 1/16
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	7/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 5/16	2 7/16	2 9/16	2 5/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¼	5½	6½	6 5/16	6
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 15/16	6½	5⅞	6⅜
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1 9/16	1⅛	1 1/16
Crown Reef	12⅞	18½	10½	14⅜	14½	14⅛
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18 5/16	18⅜	18 1/16
Do. Def.	—	26¼	18¾	19	18¼	18 1/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	5	5	5 1/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 15/16	6⅞	5¼	4 13/16	4⅜	4⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2	1⅞	2
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	7 9/16	7 5/16	8 1/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¼	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16
Ferreira	22	26	18	20⅜	21	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Geduld	—	9 3/16	5	6 3/16	5 15/16	6 1/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4½	3	3½	3½	3
Goch (New)	3¾	4⅜	2½	3 1/16	3	3⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7¾	5¾	5½	5⅜	5 7/16
,, Main Reef	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅞	1½	1½	1 7/16	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	2⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16		1⅜	1⅜	1½
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8⅛	8⅜	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8¼	3¾	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27⅜	27⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2¼	2 15/16	2 13/16	2⅞
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	⅞	15/16	15/16
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅞	4⅝	4⅝
Jumpers	8⅞	5⅞	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6½	2 1/16	1⅜	2	1⅞	2
Knight's	11½	9 1/16	4⅜	5½	5⅜	5 1/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 3/16	1⅞	⅝	¾	11/16	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3 1/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4½	3⅜	2 7/16	2	2⅛
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2¾	1 5/16	1⅞	1 7/16	1⅜
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 7/16	2⅜	3 5/16	4	4 1/16
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5½	5⅝
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14 9/16	7 11/16	8 7/16	8½	8 3/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅝	1½	1⅝	1 5/16	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	13/-	11/3	12/-
Nigel	8 1/16	⅞	2⅜	2¼	2¼	2 7/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	1⅞	1 9/16	1 13/16
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2 7/16	2 13/16	3 1/16
New Rietfontein	6¾	3¼	1⅜	2¼	2 3/16	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅝	2⅜	1 5/16	1½	1 7/16	1 5/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	⅜	⅝	11/16	11/16
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	11/16	11/16	11/16	11/16
Primrose (New)	8 5/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅞	15/16	⅞	15/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10 3/16	9⅜	10 5/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅝	2 15/16	2¾	3 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1⅝	1 5/16	1 7/16
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	1⅜	1⅜	1 1/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1⅜	1 11/16	1 11/16	1⅝
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 1/16	1	1
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9⅜	9⅜	9⅛
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2¼	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	7½	6⅜	6⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9⅜	4⅜	4 15/16	4 1/16	4 1/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 15/16	11/3	3/3	2/6	3/-
Simmer and Jack	*8¼	2⅝	1¼	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/6	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/3	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅝	6⅜	3⅜	3 15/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Transvaal Development	2⅛	2 7/16	24/-	1½	1 1/16	1 1/16
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅝	¼	6/3	6/-	6/3
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3½	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2½
Treasury	5	6⅝	4½	3⅞	3⅞	3⅝
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	3¼	3¼	3⅜
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅞	7½	6 1/16	6⅜	6¼xd
Violet	—	3⅞	2	3	2⅝	2 7/16
Vogelstruis	6⅝	2⅞	1¼	1½	1⅞	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅞	6½	6⅞	6 1/16	6¼
Wemmer	13⅛	15	9½	11¼	10⅜	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	—	1/16	1/16
,, (New)	—	2⅞	1/16	2	1 15/16	2
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅝	3½	3½
Worcester	6½	3⅝	1⅛	1½	1½	1½

* £5 shares.

Among Diamond Shares the feature has been Premiers, which I recommended two or three weeks ago to the attention of speculators. The price has advanced 2 points. The mine's yield for July was 83,538 carats, which constitutes a fresh record. The number of loads washed was 98,190, whereas in June 107,847 loads were treated for 67,007 carats, and in May, 111,210 loads for 75,891 carats. The results are so excellent that people are wondering—somewhat unnecessarily—if they can be kept up. There has been a fair inquiry for Deep Levels along with other South Africans, and my table below shows that moderate gains have been registered by a majority of the mines—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 6, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1½	1 15/16	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅝	1	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1¾	2½	2⅜	2½
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	12¾
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 1/16	2	2½	2 7/16	2½
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	5½	5⅜	5½
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3½	4	3⅞	3⅞
Geldenhuis Deep	10½	12½	8¾	11½	11	11½
Jumpers Deep	6½	6¾	3½	4½	■	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3¾	3	2 15/16	2⅞
Knight's Central Deep	3 1/16	4 7/16	2⅜	2½	2	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3 7/16	2	2½	2½	2
Do. West	2¾	3	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2½
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½	3	2 15/16	3
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6¾	3½	4	■	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Rand Victoria	3 1/16	4¼	2⅜	2 5/16	2½	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6 7/16	4½	5⅜	5½	5⅜
Do. Cent. Deep	4¼	5 1/16	2¾	4 15/16	4 7/16	4½
Rose Deep	10	10½	6¾	8½	8¾	8¾
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅞	1 11/16	1 11/16	1 11/16
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	■	1⅞	1⅞
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4¾	2 1/16	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	3½	2	1⅞	2 7/16
Simmer and Jack West	4¾	5 7/16	2⅜	3	2 15/16	3 1/16
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	¾	11/16	¾
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 1/8	2 5/16	3 11/16	3½	3¾

West Africans Still Idle—Wassau Crushing: A Record—Call on Ashanti Consols—The Position of this Concern—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Indians Steady—An Etruscan Report—New Zealanders Firm.

The West African market remains in its usual condition of inactivity and weakness. Its allurements, if it happens to possess any, still fail to attract the public, while the professional element who remain in it are transacting the very minimum of business. Except for a slight improvement in Wassaus consequent upon the July return, which in its way is a record, and an infinitesimal advance in Sansus as a result of a statement made at the meeting, which seems to indicate that the position is not quite so bad as the report made out, movements have been scarce. The Wassau return for July gives a total of 2,159 oz., an improvement of 300 oz. on the June figures, which, it will be remembered, however, caused a great deal of disappointment. The average yield, moreover, is slightly below that of June, being 18.04, as against 18.09. The Ashanti Consols report, which was published last week, does not make very inspiriting reading. There are some optimistic remarks concerning the future of the Obenemasi Concession, which has been prospected over a period of eleven months, and seems to show that a portion of the property is a good 1 oz. proposition. Ten concessions in the Tarkwa district have been abandoned as unprofitable, but the most noteworthy portion of the report is that in which the "directors consider it would be unwise to go into any new ventures, and consequently so large an uncalled capital as now exists is not required. It has been decided very largely to reduce it, and a request has been made to the Colonial Office to cancel the deed of charge on the uncalled capital of this Company, under which 2s. 6d. per share has to remain uncalled as a collateral guarantee on that of Ashanti Goldfields Corporation, Limited, in respect to the working of the Gold Coast Government Railway." The Company owes to its bankers the sum of £26,765; being unable at present to realise any of the investments, and in order to pay this advance as well as the amount outstanding for calls

or investments, it is necessary to make a call of 1s. 6d. per share, but to make the payments as easy as possible, the Company's bankers have agreed that the call may be paid in three instalments of 6d. each, extending over a period of four and a half months. My usual West African table follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug. 6, 1904.
	£		£			
Ashanti Goldfields(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅝ 1⅝	1⅞ 1⅞
Axim Mines	100,000	62,393	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅛ ⅛dis	⅛ 1/16s
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
Attasi Mines	250,000	240,000	1	f.p.	⅛ ⅛	⅛ ⅛
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 1¼	1⅛ 1⅛
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅛ ¼	⅛ ¼
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1¾ 2	1⅞ 2
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	⅛ ¼	⅛ ¼
Hinuan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼ ½	¼ ½
London and W. A. G. Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Obuasai Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜ ½	⅜ ½
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	1/16 ⅛	1/16 ⅛
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	⅛ ¼	⅛ ¼
Taquah & Ooosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1/16 ⅛	⅛ ¼
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅛ 1¼	1⅛ 1⅛

Dealings in Miscellaneous Mining shares have not been active, nor has this section presented any feature of exceptional interest. Among Indians the tendency has been tolerably steady, but in the Copper group Tintos were on offer from Paris, and receded somewhat, though they regained the ground lost later on. The Namaqua report for June reveals nothing of importance, but Etruscans had a slight advance, attributable to remarks in the fortnightly statement issued during the week, in which the tonnage of ore treated is given as "3,058 tons, including mineral-bearing flux." The yield is stated at 63¼ tons of copper and 2,300 oz. of silver, comparing with 51 tons of copper and 2,100 oz. of silver in the preceding fortnight; but it is more than a little interesting to learn that the secretary is instructed to state that the results obtained are sufficient to cover all expenditure and leave a satisfactory margin of profit. Among New Zealanders, Waihis and Grand Junctions have been in some favour, apparently for the reason that mutually advantageous terms have been arrived at with regard to the pumping at the mines. Broken Hill Props, among the Silver shares, have been quietly firm, while in the Charters Towers group Brilliant and St. George, after being somewhat active, show a slight gain. British Columbian mines have been quiet, and, apart from a small upward movement in Camp Birds, show no feature of interest.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25,	Closing Price, Aug. 6.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	2⅜	3⅞	3⅞
Balaghat Gold	1⅝	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅝	1¼	39/3	40/-
Cape Copper	5	2	3⅛	3⅜
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	3⅜	1⅝
Le Roi	4⅜	3	1⅝	1⅝
Mason and Barry	4½	2¼	2⅛	2⅛
Mount Lyell Mining	8/-	2	13/-	13/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5/6	6¼	6⅜
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
North Mount Lyell	1⅝	⅜	⅝	—
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	32/-	1⅞xd
Ooregum	24/-	21/9	17/6	18/-
Rio Tinto	58⅞	38/7	53	58/7
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅛	3⅜	4⅜	4½
Waihi Gold	6¼	4⅛	5¼	5⅜

RHODESIANS BETTER—BUSINESS STILL RESTRICTED—THE DELEGATION—CHARTERED AND OTHER LEADING THINGS HIGHER—CORRECTED SELUKWE OUTPUT—COPPER SHARES HIGHER.

The volume of business transacted in Rhodesians remains on a very limited scale, the public still fighting shy of the market and the professionals dealing cautiously, but with the better feeling manifested among Kaffirs during the week, the Rhodesian section, as a whole, contrived to throw off some of the dulness which has characterised it recently, and show a firmer front. It might not perhaps be strictly correct to assert that the market was cheerful, although the tone seemed fairly buoyant in comparison to what we have grown accustomed to. At one time the opinion was expressed that something favourable would result from the conference between the delegation of Colonists and the Chartered Company in regard to the grievances of the former, but whether this be true or not it is difficult to say. Anyway, coupled with the feeling imparted by a bright Kaffir market, this influence was not without some slight effect upon the shares in the section, which show small advances almost all along the line. Chartered moved rather actively, and on balance are about 3-16 higher, while the other leading shares show up better, including Globe and Phœnix, Rhodesia Exploration, Lomagundas, and Rice Hamiltons. The Selukwe's amended crushing return for June also had a good effect, as it showed that the cable was in error to the extent of 800 oz., the total being 1899 oz. instead of the 1,099 oz., as announced at first. Sympathetically the copper shares showed a better tendency, and Rhodesia Copper, Copper Trusts, and Northern Copper are all higher, while Zambesias and Tanganyikas are also better. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up. July 25, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug. 6, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅞	½
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	1	⅞
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 628	1	f.p.	1⅝	⅞	⅞
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅝	⅝
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	¼	¼
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	½
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	¼	⅜
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅛	1⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3/16	⅛	⅛
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	⅝	⅛	—
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	100,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9¼	2⅛	2⅛
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	⅛
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8⅜	1⅜	2
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	⅛	⅜
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26⅜	2⅜	3⅛
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅝	⅜	⅛
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,000	1	f.p.	1	¼	⅛
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	3/-	—
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	½	5/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅛	1⅜	1⅜

WESTRALIANS AGAIN WEAK—ASSOCIATED WEAK ON "SHOP" SELLING—A HALF-HEARTED RECOVERY AT THE CLOSE—THE "LITTLE KANGAROOS" STILL LIFELESS.

Once again the West Australian market has been a rather weak spot consequent upon the neglect of the public as well as the professional element and the noticeable activity of the "Bears." The feature has been Associated, which developed an acute fit of depression on Colonial realisations and the inevitable "Bear" manœuvring, and at one time they slumped as low as 1 13-16. In their wake the remainder of the leading shares, including Great Boulders and Fingalls in particular, manifested a tendency to fall away to lower levels, not even Horseshoes escaping the contagion, despite the announcement that the whole of the 150 stamps were in operation. Amongst the shares which rose superior to the prevailing influences were Kalgurlis, Lake Views, and Sons of Gwalia, which kept tolerably steady, the latter being helped by the figures of the July output. Towards the close, some "Bear" covering brought about a slight recovery in Associated, and the majority of the other leading descriptions accompanied them on their upward movement. During the week the cheaper shares in this market remained inactive and lifeless, and have shown no feature whatever again.

from a slight advance in Boulder Deep. Movements will be seen from my usual table, which follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, July 11, 1904.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 6, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7/8	3/8	1	2/3	2/1	2 1/8 xd
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3/8	4/1	1 3/16	1 3/16	1 3/16	1 3/16
Brownhill Ext.	3/4	1/4	9/16	1/4	9/16	1/2
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/9	9/9	9/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/8	7	7/1	7	6 1/8
Golden Link	3/1	15/3	6/-	5/-	4/6	4/6
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	24/-	23/9	22/3
Do. Main Reef	2/4	1/4	8/6	5/-	4/6	3/6
Do. Perseverance	13/4	1 11/16	1/2	11/-	11/-	11/3
Do. South	3/8	1/8	3/16	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 1/8	9 1/8	5 1/16	8 1/8	7/3	7/6
Hainault	1/3	3/8	1/4	3/16	3/16	3/16
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	7/-	6/6	6/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15/1	10/1	6/3	7/1	7/6	7/3 xd
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4/3	1/3	3/16	3/16	3/16	3/16
Kalgurli	9/8	4/1	2 1/8	5/16	5/1	5/3
Lake View Consols	5/8	6/1	1/3	1/1	1/16	1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/8	1 1/8	1/1	7/16	3/8	1/2
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	7/-	6/9	6/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4/1	2	3/1	3/3	3/3
Peak Hill	5/8	2/1	3/8	3/16	3/16	3/16
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/8	2 1/8	1	1 3/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
South Kalgurli	6/1	2 7/16	1/1	1 3/16	1 1/8	1 1/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 1/16	7/8	15/16	1/2	1/2

House Purchase and Life Assurance.—I.

There is at present over the whole country a great wave of interest in house purchase on the instalment system. Companies good, bad, and indifferent, are loudly trumpeting the virtues of their respective schemes, and my daily letter-bag is heavy with requests for advice whether to go in and still more urgent appeals for guidance how to get out. When a man becomes his own landlord on equitable terms it is usually a gain both to himself and to the State. Even although the property, when bought on a system of long-deferred and gradual payment, should cost something more than its intrinsic value, the purchase may still be a wise one, as the powerful inducement to methodical saving serves to direct into this wholesome channel many separate financial dribblets which would otherwise go to waste. The system in itself deserves to be encouraged, but it is vitally important that the working of it be in safe hands. Man has a natural desire to sit under his own vine and fig-tree, and when he is beset on every side by people offering to help him in this, on what look like miraculous terms, he is only too ready to accept the help without analysing the conditions.

Before this new movement began, the man with a small sum saved, who wished to buy a house and pay for it by degrees, went to an ordinary building society in his own town. If house and borrower were both satisfactory, he could get well on to three-fourths of the price at about 5 per cent., with the privilege of repayment by small periodical instalments, after a series of which the place was his own. The financial position of the Society was open to his inspection should he so desire; he knew exactly what he was getting, and what he had to pay for it, and his head was not swelled by any nonsense about getting his house for next to nothing. Now this plain transaction, dressed up a little and misrepresented, with some defects put in and some virtues left out, is what all the stir and excitement are about to-day, and it may be well that I again refer to the matter.

To start with, the case is not frankly stated. People are told with greater or less precision that a house can be bought by a yearly payment not exceeding its own rent, a statement which as regards ordinary experience is simply untrue. The Provincial Homes, for instance, makes this general claim, and backs it up by an attractive example of a house worth £250 being rented at £19, on which figures it is shown that the tenant can become the owner by paying for twenty years 38s. per annum less than what he used to pay as rent. This absurdly beautiful picture will not bear to be looked at, and it can attract only people whose dulness or lack of business training makes them incapable of judging. When the rent of a house is out of proportion to the cost of the building, either it is of so flimsy construction that it will scarcely hold together for twenty years; or it is so far advanced in a leasehold period that its market value is rapidly lessening every year; or there is some other serious drawback unfitting it to serve as a type. Further, in the plausible budget no provision is made for ground rent or for the landlord's share of rates and taxes, which on such a rental would take a comparatively large sum every year, varying with the locality. Once more, the inevitable cost of repair is kept out of sight, and no mention is made of fire insurance, both of which have to be met by the owner; and the former of these would in twenty years absorb a large amount. Finally, the point is astutely glossed over that in addition to the quarterly repayments spoken of in the example, there is absorbed during the period a sum of £32 10s.—already at credit of the borrower when the purchase was made. When these facts are taken into account, and any man of ordinary intelligence can verify them for himself in his own district, it will be seen that the average tenant cannot become his own landlord without a substantial addition to his yearly outlay, except in cases where the property is not worth buying at all. The over-statement is so glaring that no company has a right to seek business on the strength of it, and the British Homes, the Provincial Homes, the Provident Association of London, the Mutual Property Investment, and all the rest of the clan should re-cast their prospectuses if they wish them to be respected by the intelligent instead of being swallowed whole by the unwary.

In most of these appeals to the ignorant another neat little fallacy is introduced in the shape of a claim that interest is really charged at a lower rate than appears. For example, the British Homes having mentioned the fact that interest at 5 per cent. has to be paid on the balances due from year to year, goes on to make the following extraordinary statement:—

> "Under this unique and equitable system the average annual rate of interest for the whole period is in effect under Four per cent!"

The Provincial Homes and the Mutual Property go one better still. Their actual charge also is 5 per cent., but they both eagerly grasp at the fine qualifying phrase and say that the interest charge is "in effect" under Three per cent. on the whole amount advanced! It would be interesting to know how these different results were arrived at from identical figures, but the great wonder is that any company claiming to be respectable should make such a statement. If a man borrow £100 at 5 per cent., repaying one half in a year and the remaining £50 at end of the second year, he will have paid in interest at that rate exactly £7 10s.; but if the lender, to secure more business of the kind, should proclaim that "in effect" the borrower paid only 3¾ per cent., his "smartness" would be more in evidence than his desire for accuracy. The customers of these concerns are, as a rule, not very expert at calculating interest, and it is an outrage that they should be led astray by an intentionally misleading way of stating the commonplace fact that as the debt lessens so does the charge for interest. Small straws of the kind show how the wind blows, and I would advise no investment with any company whose published papers contain such an objectionable absurdity.

Some excellent companies do business in "gradual house purchase" transactions, but some are questionable, and there are others whose unfitness is beyond all doubt. Two of the worst have already collapsed, and investigation has revealed a degree of unscrupulous ignorance which has seldom been equalled. It is therefore of great moment that the position and the progress of all companies doing this sort of business should be in full view, and those which persistently keep their figures out of sight should not be trusted with a single penny of any person's money. They may be very strong financially, and they may be managed with surprising economy, but if they refuse to show what they are doing the wise man buttons up his pocket and puts the pro-

spectus in the fire. Apart from the life assurance which should always, if possible, be included in the arrangement, the house-purchase scheme as one too often sees it, is after this general design:—

People are got to lend money to a company at 2 or 2½ per cent. interest, the payment being made in the shape of regular "premiums" for what are called "certificates"—and this money is then lent to themselves or to others at 5 per cent. on the security of house property. Certificate holders have to pay for five years before they are qualified for a loan, and if it should happen that they do not want one, they may go on paying until the end of the fixed period (fifteen to thirty years) when they get back their money with interest and a possible share in the general profits of the concern. During the whole of this time the instalments must be regularly met under penalty that on three months' failure all the money which has been paid is forfeited to the society. Although the prospectuses are not communicative on the point, I rather think that should a man who has bought his house fail in regularity of re-payment a similar forfeiture of his original subscriptions could be enforced under the rule. Surrender values are unknown, subscriptions cannot be withdrawn, and the only way for a member to get back his money is to die or else to get somebody "approved by the directors" to buy his certificate. In certain cases, such as illness or loss of employment, the directors may allow the premiums to be for a time in arrear at 5 per cent.; or they may possibly extend the period originally fixed, but the cash is not returned nor any part of it whatever be the emergency. It is worth noting, also, that the funds belonging to the certificate holders are liable to make good all losses of the company after the capital is exhausted. I extract these particulars from the prospectus of the British Homes, and the terms are so harshly unfair to the unfortunate lenders that I cannot understand how so many sane people should have put themselves into such an awkward position. A bank also exists for the purpose of borrowing from some and lending the money to others, but it would be a queer bank that bound its depositor to put a certain amount to his credit every month, refused to give any of the money back for a lifetime and stuck to the whole thing should the poor man become tired of this one-sided bargain. This is not far from a parallel case to the system of the British Homes as I understand it, but the regulations themselves are not nearly so clear as this exposition of them. It is only fair to state that the margin between the rates of interest and the gain from these oppressive forfeitures and fines should produce a good deal of profit. This, after meeting expenses, is divided between the shareholders and those who hold certificates, but the prospect of gain from this source does not make up for the risk of loss run by the individual certificate holder.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Medico, Swansea.—The sporadic and hitherto inexplicable weakness of Consuls during recent months was apparently due to in large measure to the operations of the individual referred to in my introductory paragraph this week. I see no reason to modify my view that with the return of normal conditions in the money market the stock will recover to close upon par. But normal conditions are still some way off. The gold output of Africa and other countries is increasing rapidly, but the nation has not recovered from the wasting effects of the Boer War, and the issue of large blocks of gilt-edged stocks. *A. H., Londonderry.*—I should prefer the new Japanese Six per Cent. stock as a present purchase. It returns more than the Four per Cent. Loan, and though it may not have the same rise on the termination of the war, it is a better investment, since it is a specific charge on the Customs revenue of the country. The borrowings for the war will operate against the return of Fours to the highest figure of last year. *Goggles.*—Cuban bonds are a good holding, and should be kept. *Croydon.*—India Sterling stocks will give a return of 3¼ to 3½ per cent., this last being the yield of the 3½ per cent. issue. On Rupee Paper you command 3½ per cent., and as the rupee is maintained by the Government at 1s. 4d., the investment would be quite a good one. *R. A. M. C.*—You can hardly improve upon Irish Land and Local Loans stocks. *L. T., Westgate.*—Argentine, Brazilian, and Chilian bonds give you from 5 to about 5½ per cent., but as you will have "no South Americans," and still want about 5 per cent., the area is restricted. Chinese Fives (1896) will give you 5⅛ per cent. at the current figure, and Mexicans 4 15-16 per cent.

Railways.

Retired Pay.—Hold the Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debentures. They are a good investment, and have a good appreciation since you bought, which appreciation is likely to be well maintained. *Heath.*—Great Northern Deferred is a good speculative purchase. It is earning 1⅞ per cent., and at about 39 the stock is very cheap. The management is good and progressive. Great Westerns are highly promising among the leading stocks. *D. M. H.*—Probably the Caledonian will have to reduce its dividend for the half-year to July 31, but the North British ought to raise its rate. Assuming that it pays 2½ per cent. for the year, the return will be as much as 5 per cent., which is strikingly high for a home railway of such standing. *Purley.*—Buenos Ayres and Valparaiso Transandine A Debenture stock is all right, but the B Debentures and the Seven per Cent. Preference shares are risky, though as the prospects of the railway will be good with the completion of the work of construction, the first is an attractive sportive purchase. As from October next the line is to be worked by the Argentine Great Western, which will retain as working expenses the gross receipts up to £25,000 a year, 60 per cent. of all amounts in excess of that figure to be appropriated by the Great Western and 40 per cent. by the Transandine. *Kent.*—Canadian Pacifics are a good investment stock and worth keeping for dividends and a recovery ultimately to your figure. You will see that the dividend for last half-year was at the rate of 6 per cent. As to Grand Trunk Thirds, your best plan would be to await the report, and you can judge from that and the earnings for the current half-year whether the stock is worth holding for a dividend for the current year. If you elect to realise try Rosarios or B.A. and Pacific Ordinary.

Mines.

W. G. M.—1. Do not join the reconstruction. 2. Of your other holdings you might keep Sub Nigels and "Bullocks," in the hope of a recovery on a better Kaffir market, which looks like coming at last. The others named are quite unpromising—a poor lot altogether. *V. G. R.*—Kalgurlis are one of the most helpful Westralians. *Lichfold.*—1. The concern is no longer known to the usual works of reference, and I am unable to trace it. 2. The shares can be dealt in pretty freely, and possess attractions. But, at the same time, they are quite high enough, and you must remember that the prices paid for the various houses were "boom" prices. *R. B.*—Sansus are a very risky purchase, but the mine is now being developed on good lines, and the engineer speaks quite hopefully of the future prospects. *Thistle.*—Montanas are not promising. *W. H. R., Oswestry.*—I suggest New Primrose and Vogelstruis of the shares suggested. Hold the Johnnies. *Riviera.*—H. E. Props are a good deal of an enigma so far as real merits are concerned, but there is no doubt that as a gambling counter they are lively enough. Personally, I should choose something a little less exciting—something which promises a more gradual (and more sure) appreciation. *Suburbs.*—I do not regard St. John del Reys as a promising speculation, and I should be inclined to leave W. A. Goldfields alone. *H. H.*—The life of the Heriot mine is estimated at fourteen years, but the fact that the richer reef at depth is deteriorating into "stringers" may considerably affect the computation. *Amateur, Gosport.*—Promising South Africans are General Mining and Finance, Johnnies, Gold Trusts, and Simmer and Jack—four out of the seven suggested by you. *Griff.*—1. Leave the bucket-shop and its tips severely alone. 2. Hendersons, Transvaal, Exploring, and Oceanas are promising speculations. 3. Vereenigings and Transvaal Estates and Developments. *Brer Rabbit.*—1. The property is played out. The last dividend was paid in 1898. 2. Transvaal Exploring Land and Mineral shares are speculatively promising. The Company has numerous holdings in South African undertakings, and its shares being of the nominal values of 5s., and being quoted now at 6s., they look fairly cheap. 3. Claude's Ashanti are quoted at 6d., and apparently not very cheap at that. Do not buy any of the shares. *Old Reader, Amsterdam.*—Average the shares and sell at 53, unless you can

Special Notice.—A 10s. 6d. Dinner is now served daily at Princes', Piccadilly, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

afford to hold on for a better price. *H. B.*—Of the Victorian deep leads I should select Loddon Valleys and Hepburns. You realise, I hope, that, while you stand to do very well provided the properties turn out well, the holdings are highly speculative. *Urban.*—1. As your Johnnies, Oceanas, Randfonteins, Boksburgs, and Hendersons are all paid for and taken up, your sensible plan would be to wait for good conditions in the Kaffir market. 2. Boksburgs are worth buying at the present price. *Fidelis.*—Village Deeps and Transvaal Coal Trusts are highly promising speculative purchases. New Eras are fairly good. *J. P. Cranbourne.*—The Company has holdings in the mines you name, but probably they are small, and personally I have no faith in the concern which has been peddling out the shares in this country.

Miscellaneous.

Dick, Bandon.—I have frequently had occasion to warn readers of Truth against having any dealings whatever with Stephens and Henderson. *E. W. R.*—The concern mentioned is semi-private, and I can obtain no knowledge of its financial position. *Reader of Truth.* My thanks for the circular: you are right in your supposition. *Union Club.*—Major Bell's offer of Armstrong Whitworth's shares is one which any discreet individual would not think of accepting. *Mrs. Fitz.*—The Company is not mentioned in any of the works of reference. *Caput.*—I hope to be able to deal with the documents next week. *Eastcliffe.*—I think you had better hold Pease and Partners for the present. *A. Middleton.*—Mr. Farrow has done good work in the past in the matter of moneylenders and their exhorbitant rates of interest, but whether the new idea will be a success or not it is difficult to say. *M. C., Ross.*—The Company does not seem to be in a flourishing condition, and I think it would be best to get out. *Widow, C. C.*—I cannot recommend the first-named institution, as the high rates of interest allowed are not compatible with the security of your principle. The Indian bank is quite a desirable depository for the sum you have. *Verax, Maidstone.*—Better sell out in view of the latest showing, and put the proceeds into Lyons or Slaters. *P. O.*—Ind Coope "B" Preference yield about £7 4s. 0d. per cent. at their present price. *Egyptian, Bombay.*—The Company is progressive and doing very well, and unless you are obliged to sell I would not recommend you to get rid of the shares. A sound institution, I believe. *B L., Hants.*—I have not a high opinion of the concern, and rather doubt its ability to continue payments of the old age pensions for long. *F. G. G.*—Trade has improved perhaps, but they have to face a lot of competition, and as the shares are highly speculative, I would be inclined to sell. *G. W. W.*—Try the Ocean Accident Guarantee Corporation, Moorgate Street, E.C. *F. C., Haslingden.*—I understand that the concern deals fairly by you. *Clergyman.*—The delusive literature of the concern in question is sent out broadcast in the hope of catching the eyes of simple folk. *Charlesworth.*—The pension trust is a new idea, and whether it will prove successful or not depends largely upon the manner in which the scheme is carried out, consequently there is some big risk attached to membership, which, for my part, I would not care to take. *Sweden.*—Guest Keen £1 Ordinary are quoted at about 2⅛, at which figure they yield almost 4½ per cent. The Preferred give a return of a little over 4 per cent. at their present price. *Cockney.*—Leave Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. alone.

Mixed Investments.

Greyhound.—1. Heriots are likely to go again to your price on a better market. 2. Atchisons and Norfolks. 3. Johnnies, Ginsbergs, and Glencairns are a good trio of speculative Kaffirs. *Holly Mount.*—1. Canadian Pacifics are quite a good purchase. You will have noticed that the dividend just declared is at the rate of 6 per cent., in spite of decreased net earnings, and I think the shares may now be regarded as well established on this basis. 2. You cannot go far wrong in Local Loans and India Three and a Half per Cent. stocks. 3. Louisvilles and Atchisons would suit, but the outlook for Americans is still more than a little unsettled. *Omega.*—1. The chief objection to bank shares as an investment is the uncalled liability on them. On the other hand, there is not much prospect of any considerable call being made, and you can, if you look at it properly, regard the possibility as an aid to thrift. The yield is quite fair, London City and Midland shares yield over 4½ per cent., Union of London over 4¾ per cent., and London Joint Stock 4⅞ per cent. 2. Promising South Africans are Barneys, Randfonteins, and General Mining and Finance. *T. H. B.*—1. Poor trading is probably the explanation, and as the selling comes from inside, you might realise. 2. Lagunas Syndicates are very risky, and only to be recommended to those who are prepared to take their chances. On the basis of the last two dividends the yield is over 13 per cent. 3. Langlaagte Buildings are a good purchase at the present price. *Magog.*—1. I cannot say, and any way I do not recommend outside brokers. 2. Gorringe and Holborn and Frascati. Keep the B. A. Pacific Debentures. *A. B. C.*—1. Nitrate shares give a high yield, but they are risky. I suggest Lantaros and London Nitrates, if you must go into the market. The first bring in 8⅛ per cent. and the second 8⅜ per cent. 2. Argentine Great Western Railway Preference stock is desirable. It participates—has for some years past participated—equally with the Ordinary after the latter has received 5 per cent. 3. On Imperial Bank of Persia shares you command 6⅜ per cent.

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues post free.—South Audley-street, London.

Miscellaneous Market Idle—Water Board Stock Weaker—Dock Stocks Buoyant—Millwall Results—Demand for Omnibus Shares—Iron and Steel Descriptions Firmer—Guest Keen and Consett Reports—Gas Stocks Cheerful—South Metropolitan Achievement—Meat Shares Dull—Nitrates a Bright Spot.

Like the rest of the House, the Industrial market does not find itself overwhelmed with business of any sort, and during the past week it developed few incidents of particular importance. The Water Board stock has displayed a further sagging tendency, and is slightly lower on the week, but in spite of the announcement of the dropping of the Port of London Bill, Dock issues have kept steady. Of course, this eventuality was pretty generously discounted in advance, and there has been some buying of London and India Deferred on the ground that the good results for the half-year ought to permit of a 4 per cent. distribution. Millwall Docks have been steady on the report, which shows that the Company has done very well out of the largely increased business of the port during the past half-year. There was an increase of 128,000 tons in the tonnage using the dock, and an expansion in gross revenue from £99,100 to £118,700, and the carry-forward is £15,300 as compared with £3,300. The Directors recommend the distribution of the moneys standing to the credit of the Perpetual Five per Cent. Preference and the Four and a Half per Cent. Preference stockholders, which is equivalent to a payment of 2½ per cent. on the former and of about £1 1s. 3d. per cent. on the latter. Telegraph and Telephone descriptions have been quite featureless apart from a slight advance in Direct U.S. Cables. The good results achieved during the first half of this year are still attracting attention to Omnibus stocks, there being purchasers of General Omnibus at 122½ and Road Car shares at 6; while among other Traction shares British Electrics have remained firm. Among Iron and Steel shares, Pease and Partners, Armstrongs, and Vickers have recovered, and Babcock and Wilcox are higher. The report of Guest, Keen, and Nettlefolds is very satisfactory, and is in marked contrast with the results achieved by some other combines which might be named. Although the conditions ruling during the twelve months to June 30 were not too favourable, the earnings are very good, the net profit being £404,022, as against £410,181, while the carry-forward is almost £1,000 greater at £138,070 and the appropriation to reserve is the same as last year. The results of the Consett Iron Co. for the year are not particularly brilliant, the profits amounting to £250,066, out of which it is proposed to pay 18¾ per cent. dividend as against 25 per cent. From this it is a clear inference that the Company has felt the pinch of depression more acutely than Guest, Keen, and Co. The sum of £15,700 is carried forward as undivided surplus, which brings that fund up to £167,000, and £6,900 special expenditure is written out of earnings. Gas stocks continue a bright spot, chiefly on the figures given in the South Metropolitan report for the half-year. This Company shows a gross profit of £223,389 for the six months, and it is proposed to carry forward £65,374 as against £55,401, and all this in spite of the reduction in the price of gas from 2s. 3d. to 2s. 1d. per 1,000. The Directors seem confident that a further reduction in the price will bring better business, so they announce their intention of fixing it at 2s. per 1,000. This good achievement was not due to one cause alone, but to several, the price of coal, for instance, costing 8d. per ton less (a saving of something like £19,000), while coke and residuals brought higher figures. Meat shares have been mostly dull, a particularly weak spot being Nelson Brothers, which were pressed for sale on the interim dividend announcement, which is considered disappointing. River Plate Meats, accompanied by James Nelsons, have also shown a downward tendency. Among Refreshment shares there was some inquiry for Lyons. Aerated Breads developed some weakness, and continue dull, and Mazawattee Teas went flat on the passing of the interim dividend, but most of the

other shares in this group keep fairly steady. Among Textiles there has not been any feature of consequence. Coats were inquired for, and hardened slightly, but Sewing Cottons and one or two others have displayed a weaker tendency. Nitrate shares have been rather a bright spot during the week as the result of some inquiries, and among some of the more active shares were Santiago, Lagunas, and Salar del Carmen. Among the miscellaneous things in this section Hudson Bays have received steady support, and finish slightly better. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A MILLIONAIRE AND HIS MOOR.

NOW, mind you, I am not saying that Mollie Chickweed had behaved particularly well to Otto Buchschnapps, the recently "arrived" cosmopolitan financier. After going so far with him as she had done, after accepting all manner of costly presents from him, after encouraging him in the belief that he occupied premier place in her affections and getting herself talked about with him in all the papers, it was rather provoking of her to turn round, all of a sudden, and throw him over.

But, there! Mollie was notoriously an irresponsible creature, an amatory butterfly, who spent her time in flitting about from flower to flower as fickle fancy urged her. And it had been foolish of Buchschnapps ever to take her *au grand sérieux*. He must have known how she had behaved to a hundred other men. And why should he suppose that he should be more favoured than any of the rest?

Because of his money? Well, if he had known her to be mercenary, and had deliberately traded on that sordid weakness for winning her, it just served him right to get bowled out.

Because of his looks? Oh, no! He could never have imagined that—with his podgy figure, pendulous cheeks, sunken eyes, and unspeakable nose.

Because of his virtues? But Otto Buchschnapps had no virtues—only vices innumerable, which in a poor Englishman would have involved social ostracism, and which, even in a cosmopolitan financier, were regarded as open to some objection.

In a word, there was no reason why this financier should suppose himself exempt from the lot of others in the matter of Mollie Chickweed. The sole wonder was that she had stood him so long. That is what Buchschnapps' friends said. His enemies—as was only in the nature of things—were less venomous.

Now, Mollie had this good point about her: she bore no malice to the men whom she had fooled, and it never entered her head that they should bear malice to her. After throwing them over as lovers she met them all, in the most cordial spirit, as friends, treating them *en bon camarade* just as though nothing had happened. Now and then, indeed, this or that discarded suitor would be inclined to sulk and indulge in offended dudgeon. But it was seldom that Mollie's frank and ingenuous friendliness failed to restore him to a better frame of mind; and it was odds that, ere many weeks were out, he would be chaffing her good-humouredly about her latest victim, with sly Horatian allusions to the suspension of his own *uvida vestimenta* in the temple of Neptune.

But Otto Buchschnapps was one of those vindictive individuals in whom to forgive and forget is a thing constitutionally impossible, and his vindictiveness was the more dangerous because it was carefully concealed until the opportunity arrived for gratifying it. He never discounted his revenge by threats beforehand, nor put his intended victim on his guard by a display of hostile feeling. On the contrary, he kept his sense of injury *altâ mente repostum*—hidden beneath a bland face and affable manners until the opportunity for "getting his own back" turned up. Then he struck without remorse.

Of this Mollie Chickweed was unaware. Deceived by his outward amiability into supposing that, like her other past lovers, he was accepting with resignation, if not with contentment, the status of a "pal," she was as frank, friendly, and unguarded with him as with all the rest, until at last she unsuspectingly delivered herself into his hand.

It happened thus. Mollie's finances had reached one of those acute crises which were periodic with them, and one day, while entertaining Buchschnapps to a *tête-à-tête* luncheon at the Savoy, she frankly confessed the state of affairs to him and invited his good offices.

"I do wish you would put me on to something useful in the City," she said. "I shall go broke if I can't make a bit in the next fortnight or so."

Otto Buchschnapps smiled, while a thrill of vindictive joy permeated his inner man.

The desired opportunity had arrived.

"Well," he said, in his friendliest tones, "if my knowledge of the money market can help you at all, I can assure you that it is quite at your service."

"Thanks, awfully, old boy. What do you advise me to buy?"

Buchschnapps reflected a moment. Then he said:

"Silver Streaklets are going cheap at the moment. The £1 shares are to be had for 4s."

"Are they likely to rise, though?"

"Depends on me," he answered. "This is *entre nous*, of course. But I control that market, and if I choose they'll be at 10s. by the time the account closes next Saturday."

"By Jove! You don't say so. Then I shall more than double my money in three days. That is something like."

"Yes, it 's pretty useful as things go. But not a word of it, please, to any one else. I've been keeping it snug now for some weeks. Would you like to invest in a parcel? If so, I can get 'em for you."

"Rather! Shouldn't I, though? I have £300 at the bank. I guess I'll lay out the whole lot on Silver Streaklets. If I send you a cheque, will you buy them for me?"

"With the greatest possible pleasure, Mollie."

And—in a Satanic sense—he meant it, too.

"It's awfully good of you. I'll post you the cheque this afternoon."

"Very well. I'll buy you the shares at once, and they shall be duly delivered on Saturday."

"A thousand thanks, old man! This is a good turn I shan't forget."

"Oh, don't mention it! Always pleased to oblige you," said Buchschnapps, generously. And shortly afterwards he took his departure into the City.

The Silver Streaklets—1,500 £1 shares at 4s.—reached Mollie Chickweed in the course of Saturday, on which day, however, they were still quoted in the papers at the same price. On the Monday they had fallen to 3s., and by the end of the week they were actually down to 1s. 6d. In the end Mollie Chickweed had to sell out at 1s. 3d., thereby incurring a loss of 2s. 9d. per share, or some £200 on the whole deal. It had not occurred to her, you see, that if Buchschnapps could put the price of Silver Streaklets up he could also knock it down, and she only realised, when too late, what a shabby, vindicative trick he had played upon her.

Full of indignation, she went to see him at his office, and to give him a piece of her mind. Buchschnapps listened to her wrathful complaints in silence. Then, when she had talked herself out of breath, he said, quietly:

"Really, Miss Chickweed, I must decline to discuss the matter with you while you are in your present unreasonable frame of mind. I never guaranteed you a profit on your shares, as you absurdly assert——"

"You did. You told me they would go up to 10s."

"Pardon me. I told you that I could send them up to 10s. *if I chose*. But I never said that I should choose——"

"You implied it, anyway."

"If you elected to read implications where none were intended that is *your* look out," answered Buchschnapps, coolly. "All that I undertook was to deliver you the shares at a certain price. I delivered them. And there's an end of it."

Mollie Chickweed fairly gasped with indignant astonishment at his impudence.

"You—you—blackguard!" she cried. Then she burst into tears and rushed out of the office.

Buchschnapps smiled to himself with malicious glee.

"We're quits now, my lady," he muttered to himself. "This will teach you to be careful in future how you play tricks with Otto Buchschnapps."

Then he went on quietly with his business as though nothing had occurred. While he was thus engaged his clerk entered, and announced the Earl of Blackpool.

A few minutes later the Earl entered, a tall, distinguished-looking man in young middle life. He bowed politely to the financier, who begged him to be seated.

"I've come to see you about that grouse moor of mine in Westmoreland," said the Earl. "I think my agents wrote to you on the subject the other day. It occurred to me that, as I am leaving London next Monday for a week or two, a good deal of time and correspondence might be saved if I had a personal interview with you on the matter. In fact, so far as I can see, there is no reason why you and I shouldn't fix it up, in a friendly way, at once."

"By all means, my lord. I have seen the moor, and I think it will suit me. I asked your agents the rent, and they said they would refer to you."

"They have done so. Hence my call this morning. I thought it would save time and trouble. I want £4,000 for the season, Mr. Buchschnapps."

"Umph! Four thousand is a tallish rent for six months," answered Buchschnapps, who, wealthy as he was, was always a keen hand at driving a bargain.

"It is not out of the way, considering. The Red Fell moors are some of the best in the country."

"Yes, I understand that they are pretty useful."

"The prospects are as fine as any in Westmoreland."

"I dare say, my lord. But I shouldn't take your moor for the prospects. What I look at is the birds."

"Naturally. Well, my keeper informs me that birds were never more plentiful. He estimates them at something like five thousand head."

"That sounds all right. Still, even so, £4,000 is a stiffish rent. Not that money matters to me. But when I'm doing a business deal I like to get my value ——"

"I don't blame you. We most of us do," murmured the Earl, smiling.

"And I must say I think £3,500 is enough," continued Buchschnapps.

"Well, suppose we split the difference and make it £3,750," suggested his lordship, genially.

"All right; I have no objection to that," answered the financier. "I'll take Red Fell at £3,750. Will you instruct your agents to prepare a formal agreement on those terms?"

"Certainly."

"Very well. When these formalities are completed I'll send them on a cheque."

"Thank you. That will do nicely."

And, after chatting amicably with the financier for a short time longer, his lordship withdrew.

The arrangements *re* Red Fell moors were duly completed by the beginning of August. (The idea of taking a moor had only occurred to Buchschnapps a few weeks previously; in fact, it had been suggested to him by one of his social sponsors as the best and likeliest method of inducing the right people to join his house party). On the 9th of that month the financier went down thither to the commodious shooting-box on the moors with his wife and family. His guests arrived on the 11th. They were a distinguished lot, and comprised a German prince, two peers of the realm, several younger sons, and one baronet. It was rumoured of the German prince and one of the peers that their visit to Red Fell to shoot Buchschnapps' grouse and drink his champagne had been a matter of financial arrangement, and that even on the others, who condescended to come gratis, the financier's social sponsor (above referred to) had pocketed substantial fees.

This may have been true, or it may have been only malicious gossip. I cannot say. The fact remains that the party was a very select one, and that Buchschnapps was not a little elated. That he, Otto Buchschnapps, who had begun life in a back street in Hamburg, should now be in occupation of one of the most celebrated sporting estates in England, entertaining princes, peers, honourables, and baronets, was, in truth, a somewhat inflating idea; and after dinner, when the champagne had circulated, the financier, losing his head a bit, waxed indiscreetly boastful, talking big of himself and all his belongings, but especially of the sport he was going to show them on the morrow.

"I'll be very disappointed if to-morrow's bag is inside twelve hundred brace," he announced.

"Twelve hundred brace is a biggish bag to eight guns," remarked one of the peers. "For my part, I'd be quite satisfied with a thousand."

"Ah! But birds are unusually plentiful this year, and you know what a reputation Red Fell moors have."

"Yes, there are not many better, and Blackpool has always kept up a good head of game. By the way, I hear that he's in the neighbourhood, staying with Sir John Lawton at Lawton Lodge, the next place to this. No doubt he will be out with Sir John's party over the Lawton moors to-morrow."

"Ah! Is that so? Well, I hope they'll have as good sport at Lawton as I hope to be able to show you at Red Fell," said Otto Buchschnapps.

"Doubt it," observed some one else. "The Lawton moors have been frightfully neglected until last year, when Sir John married the Yankee heiress, dont-cher-know; and you can't build up a big stock of grouse in no time. Not like pheasants that you can rear by the thousand in coops. Eh? What?"

"If any one can do it, it's John Lawton, though," struck in a third speaker. "There's no one in the three kingdoms knows more about grouse than he does. Writes about 'em in the sporting papers. I dare say some of you have seen his articles. They're devilish good. That one in the *Field* last week about driving was as full of 'cute tips as any I've ever read."

"Oh! Yah! This Sir John—I haf met him in the grouse drive—he is—vat you say—an old fist, an ancient. He know a damlot—oh, yah!—a dam-damlot," remarked the German prince, emphatically. "But scruple—Ach! Nein! He vipe mine eye shameful—yah, shameful! I reprove. He take no notice. I swear. He laugh. He clevarr shot, goddam, but sportsman—nein! I call him —vat you say—blooming poacher-r-r."

It speaks volumes for the good-breeding of Otto Buchschnapp's guests that they listened to this curious royal tirade with undisturbed gravity.

Next morning the sportsmen were all up betimes, and a start was made by ten o'clock. The weather was gloriously fine, hot, and hazy after the best August pattern. Hardly a breath of air stirred the heather. Everything was in favour of good shooting and a big bag.

The guns were duly marshalled in line. Keepers, loaders, and beaters took up their positions, and the march began—tramp, tramp, tramp—through the knee-deep heather.

So they advanced for a mile and more, during which they flushed precisely three grouse. Every one looked blank, hot, and cross. The host was nearly beside himself with wrath and mortification.

"Damnation, Spencely!" he cried at last, turning to the head keeper. "Where the deuce have all the birds gone to?"

"I really can't think, sir. There was hundreds about yesterday when I walked over this beat. It's most amazing what's become of 'em, sir. Seems a'most as if they'd been sperrited away. But p'r'aps we shall come across 'em all the thicker farther on, sir."

The march was resumed, but with little better luck.

When luncheon time arrived, after three solid hours' tramping, the bag amounted to no more than twelve brace. Several of the sportsmen were openly grumbling. The German prince had gone so far as to throw his gun at his loader's head and order him to take the damthing home, as there seemed no prospect of his having to use it. As for Otto Buchschnapps, he was in the last stages of fury and despair. But there was worse to come.

The spot where luncheon was prepared was under the shade of some trees against the boundary line of Red Fell estate, which was here fenced off from the Lawton property by a five-foot stone wall. Now, who should be leaning over this wall but the Earl of Blackpool, who, smiling amiably on the crestfallen group, asked them how they had fared. Buchschnapps looked up and met the Earl's eye, in which he detected, or thought he detected, a twinkle of malicious glee. It exasperated him beyond all bounds.

"D——n you!" he roared, in a mad fury. "How dare you sell me like this, you infernal swindler? You guaranteed me 5,000 head of grouse when I took Red Fell from you, and I don't believe there are fifty birds on the whole moor."

"Really, Mr. Buchschnapps," replied his lordship, coolly, "I must decline to discuss the matter with you while you are in your present unreasonable frame of mind. I never guaranteed you 5,000 head of grouse, as you absurdly assert ——"

"That's a lie. You did!" screamee the furious Buchschnapps.

"Pardon me. I told you the number of birds on the moor when you took it. I never guaranteed that they would be here three weeks afterwards. In fact, I never guaranteed you any grouse at all. I merely undertook to let you the *moor* at a certain rent. I have let you the moor at that rent. And there's an end of it."

"You—you lying thief!" gasped the infuriated Buchschnapps.

"You may remember," continued the Earl, calmly, disregarding this abuse, "that you controlled the shares in a certain mining concern—with certain results. Well, I have taken a leaf out of your book and controlled the grouse on a certain moor—with certain results. You knocked the shares down. I have driven off the grouse.* . . . Ah! I see you take the allusion. Well, then, it may interest you to know that I am engaged to be married to Miss Chickweed. I hope I have your congratulations. Good morning!"

And the Earl strolled coolly away. Otto Buchschnapps was speechless. His face was nearly livid. He looked round at his guests. He saw by their glances that they had heard the story of Silver Streaklets and were now enjoying his confusion.

It wanted but this to fill the cup of his discomfiture to the brim. And if ever a cosmopolitan financier longed for a grouse moor to open and swallow him, Otto Buchschnapps was the cosmopolitan financier at that moment.

MUSIC.

BUSKERS AND CONTRACTORS.

COMPLAINTS have reached me that in the highly laudable endeavour on the part of municipal authorities to improve the entertainments at certain seaside resorts, the time-honoured holiday profession of "busking" has been made to suffer. Sometimes the local authorities have contracted with entrepreneurs to provide—by the week or at a lump sum for the season—attractions either in pier pavilions or on the beach. The contractors, who, of course, risk a certain amount of money in the matter, and who, so far as outdoor music is concerned, depend a good deal upon the chance contributions of the crowd, naturally object to the competition of the perambulating entertainer, who accordingly has either been warned off the front, or has been relegated to positions from which his passing round of the hat has ceased to be profitable. Even if the municipality provides its own music, it naturally prefers to retain as much as possible of monopoly, and the busker is accordingly looked upon by all parties as an interloper. The authorities are scarcely to blame. At some seaside places considerable expense has this autumn been gone to. At one popular holiday resort the season was started a week or two ago by the special engagement of no less eminent and costly a singer than Mme. Melba. At another Mr. Newlandsmith and a concert orchestra have been engaged both for indoor and outdoor music; at another Mr. Dan Godfrey has a symphony band; at another Mr. Speelman and a band of thirty-five, mostly from the Halle Manchester orchestra, give two open-air concerts daily; elsewhere Mr. Glover has held a sort of minor musical festival; while at another popular watering-place Mr. Hugo Görlitz and Mr. Algernon Clarke have been vigorously disputing in print concerning the respective merits of their competitive bands. At some holiday places the busker is still as free as ever, but elsewhere beach musicians are licensed and help to provide a fund for entertainment purposes. Thus it is inevitable that the mere busker should not always be an altogether welcome guest.

Yet for various reasons buskers are perhaps more numerous this season than ever, and there are many who would regret if the race were to disappear. Some of our most popular entertainers have at an early period of their careers devoted a healthy and enjoyable autumn holiday to busking, or otherwise to open-air or other entertaining at some seaside resort, with voluntary contributions as reward. Herbert Campbell at one period of his life certainly went a-busking. So did Ben Webster, John Coleman, and many old favourites of the past, while it would be invidious to mention the names of living singers and others who have in the autumn vacation sought to gain health and to add to their incomes in this fashion. But now that at so many towns the open-air music is farmed out, or has become a matter of municipal trading, the busker's calling is jeopardised. If warned off the front and other choice "pitches," he seems almost reduced to appeal to the boarding houses and hotels, where, curiously enough, the average Briton on holiday will willingly fork out his penny or sixpence for a surprise entertainment, to immediately silence which at home he would wrathfully call upon the police. In regard to the general run of seaside music there can, however, be no doubt of the immense improvement which has been made of late. It is, of course, still capable of even greater improvement, and part-singing, which—where it is practised on the beach by moonlight—is very charming, seems especially to be neglected. But, at any rate in most progressive places, we now have something very much better than the masked minstrels and the organ-grinders, the German bands, and the niggers, which were supposed to satisfy the last generation.

That the threatened live long seems again proved by the case of St. James's Hall. We bade adieu to the time-honoured room at Mlle. Dolores' final recital, less than a month ago; but the owners have again changed their minds, and officially announce that the hall may be hired for concerts till the beginning of December. This will, it is true, not help us much, for serial concerts cannot be arranged if the season is to be lopped off before Christmas. But it will, at any rate, relieve Queen's Hall, where the Promenade Concerts hold rule till October 21, and it may even allow the serious concert season to commence at an earlier period of the year than was at one time anticipated.

The new Queen's Hall orchestra, under Mr. Wood, made a successful début at the opening of the Promenade Concerts on Saturday. When the old band broke up because Mr. Newman determined to put

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* I have since been informed that this was done, systematically, during the small hours on the morning of the Twelfth, under the superintendence of Sir John Lawton, assisted by a whole army of his retainers.—[Ed. TRUTH.]

a stop to the ridiculous "deputy" system, certain wiseacres prophesied the extinction of the permanent orchestra. But the new band which Mr. Henry Wood has selected and trained is emphatically a first-rate one, superior as to the strings in sonority and body of tone to the old orchestra (unless, indeed, the number of players has been increased), while it will doubtless still further improve in refinement and finish as the season progresses, and the players become more accustomed to each other. The new organ concerto in A minor by Signor Bossi, director of the Conservatorium at Bologna, which formed the novelty of the opening programme, is certainly not an inspired work, although it was skilfully played by Mr. Tonking, a gentleman who seems equally at home in the orchestra and in the organ loft. Considering how rich the repertory is in organ compositions, it seems a pity some better music was not chosen, and the experiment might well be tried of introducing into these programmes some of Handel's organ concertos, which at the Handel Festivals are very popular. There was a tremendous first-night audience, and, in fact, the pay box had to be shut half an hour after the concert commenced; so that unless we have a return of the very hot weather, for which the primitive system of ventilation at Queen's Hall is not suited, the season will be found to have begun none too early. As before, Mondays are to be devoted mainly to Wagner, Wednesdays to Tschaikowsky, and Fridays to Beethoven, the other programmes being of a more miscellaneous, though always of a high-class, character.

The ridiculous diploma dispensing enterprise (it now seems to have again changed its name to "The Ries School of Music"), to which I directed attention in a series of articles some months ago, appears to have smouldered into fresh activity. I have heard of it from one or two sources, and a well-known musician, who has for more than a quarter of a century been a member of the Hallé Orchestra, has sent me one of their letters, in which "J. E. Roscoe," of Oak-street, Chester, informs him that "your election as a 'R.S.M.' is complete," and suggests the sending of a guinea for the "diploma" and "expenses." The musician, being a wise man, will, of course, do nothing of the sort, and it is obvious that the proper place for such a communication would be the waste-paper basket.

Music is in the silly season credited with many wonderful attributes. Last week I spoke of a theory, gravely put forward by a lady lecturer, that Wagnerian and certain other music made the hair to grow. Now we have an extraordinary story about music stopping the flow of blood from a wound. It is declared by "an Army doctor" (not, I hope, a British Army doctor) that when a wounded soldier was brought within easy hearing of music, hemorrhage was greatly reduced or ceased. Fortunately for us, though perhaps unluckily for the credit of the Army doctor, this is an experiment within the reach of most people. Next time a man accidentally cuts his finger, let him set the young lady of the house vigorously to pound on the piano. If that does not stop the hemorrhage, he had better revert to court-plaster, and ask the young lady to pound the piano all the more, while he expresses his opinion of the Army doctor's theory.

I am told that at his operatic school in Paris M. Jean de Reszke has fixed the fee for lessons at the average sum of £8 an hour, so that, if the figures be accurate, I should imagine the price to be quite a record one. It is, however, made up in classes of four, so that each pupil pays only £2 a lesson, this giving him the right to individual and ensemble instruction for an hour. The average fee to a first-rate vocal professor in England would, I fancy, be a guinea a lesson, though a few get more. The average fee in Germany and Italy would be ten shillings, while in the United States, I understand, a first-rate teacher commands about eight dollars, or, roughly, thirty-two shillings a lesson. Some of these days a great teacher will perhaps revert to the good old plan of demanding a percentage on the earnings of the pupil during the first few years. The plan worked well, for not only had the teacher earned the percentage, but it afforded him a powerful incentive to find a lucrative opening for his pupil at the earliest possible moment.

I have unearthed (from Mr. Elson's new "History of American Music") a very early example of the "Imperial Idea," which may interest and amuse both the Wholehoggers and the Little Piggers. It is on the frontispiece of a scrubby little volume published in 1770, under the title of the "Fuguing Psalm Singer." It was compiled by Mr. William Billings, whom some consider one of the earliest of the American hymn composers, and the motto he placed in the forefront of the book runs thus:—

O, praise the Lord with one consent,
And in this great design
Let Britain and the Colonies
Unanimously join.

Mr. Billings was an amateur of Massachusetts, and was by trade a tanner, so that his leather was probably better than his rhyme. He died in 1800 at Boston, but two of his hymn tunes, "Aurora" and "Majesty," are, I believe, still in use in American churches.

The Wagner Festival at Munich will commence on Friday of this week with "Tristan" under Weingartner; Frl. Ternina, who is said to be quite well again, being the Isolde. On Sunday, Mottl will conduct "The Flying Dutchman," Van Rooy being the Dutchman; and on the following night Nikisch will direct "Die Meistersinger," with Van Rooy and Gadski, the "Ring," under Mottl, following. The casts are stronger than at Bayreuth.

Mr. Hermann Klein has now finished his training of the German and American artists who will sing at the production of "Parsifal" in English under the management of Mr. Savage in New York and on tour in the United States this winter, and he returns to America by the *Crown Prince William* from Southampton to-day. As several of the German singers had little or no knowledge of Miss Glyn's English text, the task set to Mr. Klein was certainly not an easy one; but by dint of working nine hours a day for a month at Berlin (this by the way, was the eminent voice-trainer's "holiday") everything was made ready. On the morrow after the studies ended, most of the cast went off to Bayreuth, more or less on the sly; for if their object in introducing "Parsifal" in English to America had been known, they would probably have stood very little chance of being admitted to Mme. Wagner's theatre. Mr. Savage has provided a double cast, the leading singers being Mmes. Kirkby Lunn and Hannah Mara (a Hungarian) as Kundry; with, as Parsifal, Herr Pennarini, who sang two years ago at Covent Garden, and Herr de Voss, of Amsterdam; as Amfortas, Herr Bischoff, of Cologne, and Mr. Egeneiss, a pupil of Maurel and Lili Lehmann; and, as Gurnemanz, Mr. Putnam Griswold, who, I fancy, has sung at Covent Garden, and Mr. Cranston.

Mme. Calvé's illness proved to be a threatened attack of appendicitis, or at any rate an attack which was cured without operation by Prof. Championnaire, of Paris. Since she left London, until last week, the eminent prima donna had been in the French capital, spending most of the time in bed; but now she is well enough to be removed to her home in Aveyron, where she will remain until her German tour begins at Berlin, in October. By the way, during her tour Mme. Calvé will complete the "Cavalleria" bill by a concert, including the mad scene from "Hamlet," and airs from "Norma," "Mysoli," and others. It might be worth while to try the experiment here, although Mme. Calvé is essentially an operatic rather than a concert vocalist.

The Sarah Bernhardt Memoirs in the *Strand Magazine* are now beginning to be interesting to musical men, if only because they start the association of the eminent actress with Henry Jarrett, who, thirty to forty years ago, was a tremendous power in the operatic world. Jarrett was originally a horn player in the orchestra at Her Majesty's. In his youth he led a hard life, and before imprisonment for debt was abolished he had

learnt all the methods of "keeping house." At the darkest period of his career his furniture was bought in (to save it from creditors) by Davison, of the *Times*, and in gratitude Jarrett, when he became rich, offered the critic for many years lodgment in Tavistock Place, in his own house, where when the cook came to the street door to take in the milk, Davison knew that it was time to go to bed. Jarrett taught himself languages and became J. H. Mapleson's acting manager, his most arduous duties, he said, being to raise the money for the railway fares from one town on tour to another, and to persuade Arditi that if "Faust" was (rehearsals or no rehearsals) not produced by a certain date in June, 1863, the chances of "treasury" would dwindle to vanishing point. After he left Mapleson, in 1869, Jarrett became business agent for Christine Nilsson, Faure, Zaré Thalberg, and Joseph Maas, and these were practically the only singers about whom he troubled himself. For Nilsson, when St. Petersburg was snow-bound, he bought up all the flowers in the Russian capital, at a period when bouquets played a far more important part in the business of a prima donna than they do now.

Jarrett was a man of imperturbable countenance (the portrait in the *Strand Magazine*, like all others which did not take him full face, does him scant justice), with a happy smile and calm, innocent eyes. The charm of his manner may be imagined from his encounter with the lunatic who gained Christine Nilsson's rooms in New York, and, producing a revolver, declared that as the prima donna would not marry him he proposed to shoot her. "But," placidly replied Jarrett, "why are you here? Mlle. Nilsson has gone on to the church, and if you keep her waiting she will not like it." So off went the lunatic, on the arm of Jarrett, who was greatly relieved when a policeman took over the prisoner. When Nilsson married her first husband, M. Rouzeaud, that gentleman, a stockbroker, imagined himself competent to transact her business, to the huge amusement of Jarrett, who was soon telegraphed for to go to New York at a heavy fee to settle the meaning of the contract which Rouzeaud had entered into with the Brothers Strakosch. For to Mme. Nilsson the figures indicated pounds sterling, while Max Strakosch thought they implied dollars, and Maurice Strakosch—the "mein ole fren'" of the story—was sure they meant francs. It was Jarrett, who, when one of his prime donne refused to sing, alleging that she might catch cold on a winter night going down the hotel lift, had a cab brought up the lift, and it was he who by skilful management had Sarah Bernhardt singled out from all the actresses of the Comédie Française when the troupe visited London for the second time since the Commune, and made her a star. He died in her service. He called on his friends as he was leaving for Mexico, and solemnly bade farewell. He knew he would never come back, but he liked travelling. He would inevitably die of asthma if he wintered in London, so that he might just as well add to his adopted daughter's fortune by the very liberal terms which Madame Bernhardt offered him.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"A little boy," says Mr. Bodley in an introduction to a translation of M. Emile Boutmy's "The English People" (1) which doubles the value of that philosophic work, "A little boy to whom I am related, whose travels abroad have been more extensive than those of most children of his age, was asked during a visit to England, by a patronising elder, what books he used for his lessons in geography. 'I use no books,' he rejoined proudly; 'I go to the places.' The boy," comments Mr. Bodley, "showed himself, in spite of his birth and residence abroad, an Englishman by inborn instinct, opposed to the methods of the French among whom he had passed his childhood." But this little boy's method of studying geography by "going to the places" has its disadvantages in the loss of that sense, which maps and books impart, of perspective and proportion, of the relative value of parts to each other and to the whole, and of an adequate idea of the whole itself. A Cockney who crosses London daily to his office may have personal and practical knowledge of half-a-dozen London boroughs, but how is his mind philosophically enlarged by the knowledge? The government of London, for which he and other Cockneys like him are responsible, is the answer. London, in fact, is not a city, nor even a collection of cities, but a collection of little country villages, each Bumble-governed with an exclusive eye to its petty self. "Every Englishman," says a thoughtful Frenchman, "is an island"; or, as M. Boutmy put it:—"The Englishman is less social than men of any other nationality—less conscious of the ties that bind humanity together. His moral formation owes little to his relations with other men; he scarcely troubles himself about what they think, and, if he considers the matter at all, it makes no difference in his sentiments and actions. In short, the Englishman is to a large extent a recluse—more aloof from the world in which he lives, and the neighbours whom he elbows, than men of any other nationality. . . . In short, the Englishman is far more of an individual than the Frenchman or the Italian, for example; and it is in this sense that we must understand the individualism which is rightly said to be one of the attributes of British genius." This intense individualism of the Englishman has its political no less than its social effects, since it is to his self-absorption and to his indifference to the feelings, opinions, and susceptibilities of others that his political failures are due. Take, *e.g.*, M. Boutmy's summary of Anglo-Irish history:—

> The Englishman established himself in Ireland by force, and, significant fact, governs that country by force. He began by driving the Irish back beyond the pale, and a little later became master of the whole island. He cemented his dominion under Elizabeth and Cromwell by conscientious massacres. On the field of battle he made no prisoners: he hunted the fugitives like wild beasts, and transported the inhabitants of an entire district to Barbadoes as slaves. It was a war of extermination. It rested with England to conciliate by good treatment all the survivors of the vanquished race, making of them a new people more susceptible to the attraction of a superior civilisation than to the remembrance of an ancient enmity. This the Englishman did not attempt, and would not have succeeded in doing. He could never bring himself to imitate the familiarity and easy good nature of the Irishman; he has always considered the conquered nation as an inferior and contemptible race, who could only be maintained in subjection by a code of barbarous laws, which, to a certain extent, place it outside the pale of common equity.

I should greatly like to quote for you M. Boutmy's character sketch of Mr. Chamberlain, but space allows me to give you only his view, which will be the view of history, of that statesman's responsibility for the South African War:—

> Mr. Chamberlain was in all probability the instigator of the Jameson Raid, though when the case came on he feebly denied it, or, to be more correct, he contemptuously admitted the part he had taken in it. . . . . In the negotiations with Kruger it is impossible to follow Mr. Chamberlain. At the Bloemfontein conferences the list of conditions on which he had apparently decided to make peace was reported, but, when Kruger, after some demur, agreed to them, it was Mr. Chamberlain who found them inadequate and wanted more. Settlement by arbitration had been accepted at the Hague on the initiative of England, but in vain the two Republics offered to have recourse to it. The suzerainty of England came to an end in 1884; not only was no mention made of it in the last treaty, but in the negotiations it was simply touched upon for the pupose of declaring that it was null and void. Mr. Chamberlain

(1) "The English People." A Study of their Political Psychology. By Emile Boutmy. Translated from the French by E. English. With an Introduction by John Edward Courtenay Bodley. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 16s.)

(2) "The Crossing." By Winston Churchill. With Illustrations by Sydney Adamson and Lilian Bayliss. (London: Macmillan & Co. 6s.)

(3) "The Slaking of the Sword." By Mrs. Hugh Fraser. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Provenzano the Proud." By Evelyn Gifford. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 6s.)

(5) "Accused and Accuser." By Adeline Sergeant. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

irsisted to the end on suzerainty, because he knew it was repugnant to the Boers and that they would never ratify it.

In his fine historical novel, where the novel is to the history as a tributary stream to the deep and wide river which engulfs it, "The Crossing" (2), Mr. Winston Churchill forgets the Horatian precept, "Nec gemino bellum Trojanum orditur ab ovo." The truth is, Mr. Winston Churchill's Muse is rather Clio than Calliope, and because he is an historian writing with the pen of a romancist he has to begin at the very beginning and go steadily and scrupulously on to the very end. As history is necessarily more discursive than romance, "The Crossing" has also—for a novel—the disadvantage of incoherence. But, if you are carried incoherently from scene to scene, these scenes, taken separately, are extremely interesting and vividly and vigorously described. What Mr. Winston Churchill has essayed to do he has done admirably—"to give a true history of Clark's campaign as seen by an eye-witness, trammelled as little as possible by romance"; but while you admit this and are thankful for it, you are also, to say the truth, thankful that he has not, as he had hoped when he planned the series, "brought the novel down to the stirring period which ended by a chance when a steamboat brought supplies to Jackson's army in New Orleans—the beginning of the era of steam commerce on our western waters." Japan is to the front to-day, but their opportuneness is the least of the recommendations of the Japanese tales in Mrs. Hugh Fraser's "The Slaking of the Sword" (3). I hardly know which of these Japanese tales is the more fascinating, but perhaps "Hime" is the most delightful, and "The Slaking of the Sword" the most powerful. You are in Japan and a Japanese as you read "The Slaking of the Sword," and you are an English lover in Japan as you envy Barrington the exquisitely charming Hime. Mrs. Hugh Fraser's sketches are as dainty and delightful as Japanese art itself. Miss Evelyn Gifford's "Provenzano the Proud" (4) is rather pictorial than dramatic—a succession of very gracefully drawn pictures of Siena in the days of Provenzano the Proud rather than the successive acts of a play. Neither the story nor its personages, with the exception, perhaps, of the boy Nino, grip you. You hardly know why Provenzano the Proud humbled himself to beggary and insult, or why the heroine, his niece, Paola, loved the ragged minstrel, Folco of Foggia. The tale unwinds itself languidly and discursively as a sinuous river seen at a distance and through a mist. In Miss Adeline Sergeant's "Accused and Accuser" (5) two girls who had been schoolfellows are brought in after life into singular relations with each other. The richer of the two, to whom the poorer became companion, gets engaged to her guardian's assistant, and her companion eventually to the guardian himself. But the guardian's assistant, who runs away with his ward, prejudices the poorer girl against the guardian by charging him with a manslaughter which this worthless young doctor had himself committed, and to this calumny her old schoolfellow friend becomes an accessory after the fact! Indeed, the faults of the story are the inadequacy of the motives for such monstrous villainies and the flimsiness of the necessary misunderstandings, which a breath might have blown away. However, with the exception of the death of the silly girl who eloped with the assistant, all goes as the romantic reader would have it, unless, indeed, she is vindictive enough to wish that a sterner poetic justice had overtaken the slanderous young doctor than that of his ill-starred second marriage.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

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GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have spent the last day or two in packing for our little holiday in France, and in buying those little things that are always indispensably necessary at the last moment. This is no weather for new shoes. Yet one has not only to buy but to wear them after the fatigues that the poor other ones have had during the season in pavement and park work. By the way, I wish some one would induce the Park authorities before next season to use some sort of gravel that less resembles sea-beach than the stuff they had on the walks this year. It was very horrid to walk upon, even for individuals who wear shoes that fit their feet. As for those who like them a size too small, that gravel must have been an excruciating experience.

But good-bye to the Park for a while, and let us wing our flight to France. Wing our flight? I only wish we could! However perfect and superior a Channel steamer may be, it is still a steamer, smelling of oil and quivering with machine-made emotion.

We have discovered that the time to buy things at the summer sales is when the sales are over. This sounds very Irish, I know, but it is true. We have found some marvellous cheaperies since August opened, and the sales are all supposed to give way to a sweet decorum when July expires. Besides, the rush is over; the poor girls in the shops do not look so tired; and there is time to be deliberate in choice. In the height of the sales it is impossible to enjoy any feeling of leisure, for even if one be in no hurry oneself, the feeling of rush and haste communicates itself from others.

In the same way one often rushes through one's breakfast because some one at the table has to catch a train. There are few things more infectious than the turmoil of frantic haste.

Lena is having her house done up while she is away, and has chosen the loveliest carpets at Norman and Stacey's, very uncommon in both design and colouring. One is in a shade of pale moss-green with a curious border in white. It will make her Louis XV. furniture look more beautiful than ever. Another is in a tone of rather pale terra-cotta, and Lena is having her walls worked up to it in terra-cotta and cream colour. The white wood overmantel is to be enamelled in the very palest tone of apple-green, and the window hangings are apple-green to match in a soft Japanese brocade. The outside blinds are pale green and cream colour, and have looked deliciously cool all through the hot weather.

Have I ever told you about Lena's way of arranging her windows? Fastened upon the top sash she has a full blind of cream-coloured silk with a deep band of Irish crochet in a still deeper tone of cream—the shade that is now known as Paris. This crochet border is a quarter of a yard deep and is arranged in vandykes. A similar blind is hung on the lower sash with a thin brass rod and rings, and that is all. You have never seen prettier windows, especially when the sunblinds are drawn down outside.

But I must not forget to tell you of one of her devices for circumventing the heat. Outside every window that faces south or west she has a dark-green linen blind fixed on a roller, and before the sun comes on any window this is drawn down and gently sprayed over with water from a watering-pot with a large rose. As the blind is held outwards by rods nearly half a yard beyond the window on a level with the sill, the water does not wet the panes. The shower-bath is renewed once every hour, and, as most of the heat in our rooms is caused by the sun heating the glass, this method answers very well.

Their house is so delightfully large that they can have bedrooms facing north in summer and south in winter. They go into the north rooms in June and return to the south ones after the autumn trip.

When Lena went to a certain establishment to buy a

bathing costume, the demoiselle asked her whether she wanted it to bathe in or merely to *flâner*. This very sensible question decided Lena to have two, one for use, the other for show. She is going to Trouville, and knows how agreeably a morning can be spent on the planks and sands in a fetching costume which has no intention of getting wet. Her useful bathing dress cost two guineas, her smart one more than double that sum. It is dark-blue poplin and is embroidered all round the outlines with scarlet braid. A scarlet silk bathing cap goes with it, the most coquettish imaginable headgear, and to it is carefully matched a scarlet sunshade. Lena read in a Paris paper that the bath-peignoir should match the bathing cap, so she is going to have one, I believe, in scarlet Harris linen trimmed with cream-coloured washing lace.

"What will Harry say when he sees me in this?" she asked. "I would give something to see his face," I answered. Harry is one of those very proper men who see nastiness in everything, and his wife's bathing suit will be anathema to him.

"Oh, do you think he will be disagreeable about it, then, Madge?" asked Lena.

I feel perfectly sure that he will, but it is not for me to emulate Cassandra, so I merely remarked: "He cannot help seeing how handsome you will look in it."

Now that the invitation season has begun, is there any use in entering a protest against the rudeness of sending indefinite answers? Take the case of the châteleine of a shooting box, with ten bedrooms in the house; or of a cottage on the River with perhaps fourteen. She makes her plans according to the amount of her accommodation and the number of friends she wishes to invite, and sends out her invitations accordingly, mentioning the proposed date of arrival and departure in each case.

But the thoughtless ones circumvent her well-laid plans. One writes: "Will you let me leave it open? I am not sure whether I can go to you on the 18th as you suggest, or a week later." The week later is already filled up, as any one might have guessed.

Another writes accepting conditionally, always a mistake. Why not either accept or decline? The hostess would be spared much annoyance if the replies to her invitations were either "Yea, yea," or "Nay, nay."

When the Rowlocks took a house by the sea a year or two since, they invited old Lady Dee to come and spend a week. She accepted for a certain date. When it arrived she wrote saying she found that she could not leave home for another week, and taking it for granted that they would receive her then. They good-naturedly agreed, but at the end of that week Lady Dee wrote again, saying she could not pay her visit to them for another ten days. This was too much, and Rhoda Rowlock wrote and said she hoped Lady Dee could after all manage to come at once, as the house was filled for the remaining weeks of their stay. She went at once. But how selfish it is of persons invited to consult their own convenience instead of considering that of their hostess!

Down by the River, a hospitable woman likes to have her friends for week-ends, but some of them make things very difficult for her by not answering her invitation till the last moment. To say nothing of the crudeness of such persons in apparently imagining that if they do not accept, no others will be invited, there are the difficulties of catering, and these are by no means small, especially in torrid weather. "Out on your bad manners!" one is tempted to say on getting a reply at midday on some broiling Saturday:—"We waited to see what the weather was going to be like. It is brilliant here in town, so we accept your kind invitation with many thanks. Both the girls can go with us, and Tom thinks he can run down after his cricket match in time for dinner to-night."

Bad form, Amy, isn't it?

In reply to your question about furnishing, I cannot do better than refer you to the splendid volume entitled "Examples of Furniture and Decoration," just issued by Messrs. Gillow, of Oxford-street. To speak of it by so base a term as "catalogue" would be almost profane, for in real truth it is a work of art, a collection of admirably executed pictures of everything that can contribute to the beautification of a house. You will find in it examples of all that there is of the most tempting in the shape of furniture, from Sheraton bookcases and Elizabethan billiard tables, down to electric-light fittings and door knockers. The only fear I have in recommending the book is lest some of the designs for halls, dining-rooms, drawing-rooms, and even bathrooms, should fill your soul with impossible longings, or malicious envy of the fortunate people who have all these beautiful things at their command. But at least the book will impress you with the progress of all the decorative arts in the hands of some of the present day.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—For the greater part of last week we certainly had a better time over here as regards temperature in our cooler, if smaller, country than had you on your more important side of the water. If, as Rochefoucauld so unamiably writes, "in the adversity of our best friends we often find something which does not displease us," still more are we liable to a suspicion of self-satisfaction when we escape the minor ills to which our superiors fall victims. Is excessive heat rightly looked on as a minor ill? Perhaps not if gone through in a busy capital, where hurry, crush, and rush are the ordinary incidents of an ordinary day of work. Great heat demands an universal holiday; work in the sweat of the brow is one thing, but to have the latter even before the former is begun is indeed a double curse. Whether or not it may have any small leaven of unamiable feeling, we are not without real sympathy for those who have to work in the glare, whilst we may rest in the shade. No doubt last week saw a great exodus from London, but how painfully hot, under the circumstances, the process of making such an exodus can be! Which of us has not had the experience of penitential railway journeys when enjoying a holiday abroad in the summer? How the sun can glare into a railway carriage!—and every defence against it keeps out the precious air. And notwithstanding all the advertised and vaunted improvements in railway carriages, how frequently we come upon the ordinary old ones, with no modern ventilation, and so on! One fancies that the new ones must be locked up, as the good rooms in so many hotels are, whilst luckless and innocent travellers are stowed into the worst. Have we not all suffered from that trick of hotel-keepers—not confined to any one special country—who try to fill the "poky" rooms first to make victims of those whom they judge to be most "victimisable," and reserve the best rooms for the more exacting? Cousin Jane always has a fine, airy room wherever she goes; whilst a friend of ours, who takes life in a long-suffering and meek spirit, is always sure to be in a broiling attic, or overlooking a courtyard, or in some kind of stuffy little room in any odd nook or corner of an hotel.

Though we had neither your great heat nor thunderstorms, we did not altogether escape the violences of the weather in our climes. A wild wind, more suitable to November than early August, swept over the land, most painful to the lovers of gardens in its destructiveness of flowers and fruits. Tennyson writes of the wind tumbling "the mellowing pears"; the storm last week, just simply in the rudest and roughest of ways, without "by your leave" or "with your leave," made a premature sweep of most of the harvest of apples and pears in our gardens.

In a fortnight Dublin will have the Horse Show week, when unusual crowds are expected, should the weather remain summer-like. Miss Austen's inimitable Mr. Wodehouse liked his gruel "thin, but not too thin"; so would we have the weather "hot, but not too hot." However, our fears are normally more in the direction of bad than of over-good weather. Lord Dudley will, of course, attend the show in State, but whether or not he will have a party—owing to Lady Dudley's state of health—has not yet been announced. He is sure in any case to have some of the ladies of his family, if available, for what is a State appearance or a procession without our sex to give the necessary ornamental touches, and then so many of us want object lessons in the dress of the day, which is so wonderful in its many new fashions. Even the men have

REDFERN'S Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit street Showrooms.

indulged in more variety of late. One reads of a pink shirt worn by the King, and one wonders! Will men ever return to their former dressiness of pink, blue, and white embroidered suits? How well they look at fancy balls! They would hardly suit, however, the strenuous ways of modern life. Even an all-night Parliamentary sitting of Members in light satins would be very trying, both for the Members and the suits.

Lord Dudley was fishing in Connemara last week; Sir Horace Plunkett was motoring there. The Duke and Duchess of Manchester have been staying at Kylemore; civilisation is fast invading the former solitudes of the wild and beautiful country amidst the mountains of which the O'Flaherties and Lynches carried on their wars of old. The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, although it was their first visit to Ireland, did no touring there, but returned to England after their visit to the Viceregal Lodge. The Duke lunched at Maynooth College on the occasion of Cardinal Vannutelli being entertained there. The Cardinal, after the North, has now gone to the South of Ireland, where, combining pleasure with business, he is seeing many beautiful places. No doubt, like most of us, he enjoys intervals of rest from the "Irish Question," which is always, one may say, on "stock" for visitors to Ireland, from the highest to the lowest, with enough and to spare for all comers.

Lord Grenfell has been in the North, staying at Buncrana, near Londonderry, to inspect the defence works constructed, or being constructed, on Lough Swilly. He goes to England this week, but will, no doubt, be back for the Horse Show, at which the Commander of the Forces generally, like the Lord Lieutenant, has a party.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Before the strawberries are quite over let me recommend you to try this tourte de fraises:—

Make a short crust with 6 oz. of flour, 4 oz. of butter, 2 oz. of sugar, the yolk of an egg and a teaspoonful of water. Line a round French tart tin with the paste, brush it over with beaten egg, prick it well with a fork, and bake it a delicate colour; leave it to cool in the tin. Pick a pound of ripe strawberries into a basin, sprinkle them with pounded sugar, and moisten them with a tablespoonful of maraschino, whip a gill and a half of cream with a spoonful of sugar, mix in the strawberries and pile them in the baked crust. Garnish the tourte with a few picked strawberries and dish it on a fancy paper.

In real hot weather you will find Gêlée Mousseuse aux fraises wonderfully refreshing:—

Pour a little clear jelly all over a plain mould and decorate the bottom with halves of ripe strawberries and set them with a little more jelly. Place a large bottle, filled with cold water, in the centre, and then pour jelly that has been whisked to a froth round the sides of the bottle, to fill the mould. When it is set, pour out the water, remove the bottle and fill the cavity with picked, ripe strawberries, mixed with clear jelly. Place the mould in a stewpan and surround it with well-mixed ice and salt for two hours and serve it with an iced compôte of strawberries round the dish.

If you wish a new luncheon dish, try this soufflé of chicken:—

Mince, and chop very finely, 8 oz. of cooked chicken and 2 oz. of tongue, or ham; mix it in a stewpan with a gill and a half of white sauce and 2 oz. of passed floury potato, season it with salt and pepper, and stir it till it is hot on the stove. Then stir in the yolks of three eggs and mix in very lightly the stiffly whipped whites. Bake it about twenty minutes, and serve it quickly.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

AFTER the King had landed from the *Victoria and Albert* at Flushing on Wednesday night the Royal yacht went back to Portsmouth. She is under orders to embark his Majesty at Flushing on his return to England on September 3 or 4. The *Victoria and Albert* will also convey the Queen to Copenhagen, but her Majesty may possibly defer her departure from England until after the King's return from Marienbad.

The Queen, who has been spending a few days at Sandringham, will make a short stay at Balmoral before going to Denmark for the autumn. Her Majesty would have paid a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, at their seat in Upper Austria, near Gmunden, but for their having arranged to spend about six weeks in Denmark, so they will meet her Majesty at Fredensborg next month.

The *Daily Mail* printed a strange farrago of blunders last Wednesday about the plans of the Royal Family. It is quite untrue that "the first house party at Sandringham has been invited for November 5." The invitation for their Majesties' first house party at Sandringham will not be sent out by the Master of the Household until the last week in October. The Queen and Princess Victoria are *not* going "to stay with the Duke and Duchess of Fife at Mar Lodge," but they are stopping at Balmoral Castle during their short visit to Deeside. It is also untrue that Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark "will also come to Mar Lodge," for, according to present arrangements, they will not go to Scotland at all this year, but they are to proceed to Appleton, their residence near Sandringham, when they return to England from Denmark.

A portrait of the Queen, in her Coronation robes, by Mr. Edward Hughes, has been hung in the White Drawing-room at Buckingham Palace. A replica of the picture has been painted for her Majesty, who will take it to Denmark as a present to King Christian, and it is to be placed in the gallery of the Residential Palace at Copenhagen, next to the last portrait of Queen Louise.

It is rumoured at Windsor that Frogmore Cottage is to become an occasional residence of Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, while some people about the Castle maintain that the King has offered the place to Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg. Frogmore Cottage is a very comfortable house, and it is delightfully situated, forming a charming reserve residence during the last ten years of Queen Victoria's reign. Frogmore Cottage was occupied by her late Majesty's Munshi and his spouse, and her attendant. It has now fallen to the King by the removal of Sir Arthur Ellis to the Royal Lodge, Windsor Great Park, where he succeeds the late Lord Bridport.

The King has appointed Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson, one of his Majesty's extra equerries, to the office of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, in succession to the late Sir Michael Biddulph. This is one of the few remaining places in the personal gift of the Sovereign.

Several of the papers have announced that the Prince of Wales is to pay a visit this month to Sir Edward and Lady Colebrooke at Abington House, Lanarkshire, and that during his stay there he will shoot over Lord Linlithgow's Leadhills moors. This is all quite untrue. Sir Edward and Lady Colebrooke have just gone to Switzerland, and will be abroad until the end of September, and they have lent Abington House during their absence to Consuelo, Duchess of Manchester. The Prince of Wales will conclude his visit to Lord Ripon at Studley Royal on the night of Sunday next, when

H.R.H. is to travel direct from Ripon to Advie station, near Grantown, whence he will proceed to Tulchan Lodge on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon.

The Prince will stay at Tulchan Lodge for a week. There will be no shooting over the Tulchan and Advie moors until Tuesday next. It is understood, however, that the Prince will shoot one day over Lady Seafield's Castle Grant moors. The King is to pay a short visit to Tulchan Lodge either next month or at the beginning of October, when he will have a day's grouse driving over the extensive range of moors rented by Mr. Sassoon from Lady Seafield. His Majesty intends to drive in his motor-car from Balmoral to Tulchan.

It is probable that when the Prince of Wales leaves Tulchan on Monday, the 29th, he will pay visits to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, at Gordon Castle, and to Colonel and Mrs. Ralph Vivian at Delfur Lodge, near Fochabers, before going to Abergeldie Castle, where he is expected to arrive on September 2 or 3, and on the same day the Princess will arrive there from the Continent.

TO THE CZAR.

Inspired by a Recent Happy Event.

"The clouds are darkest when 'tis nearest day"—
Is this of morning, then, the earliest ray?
And is this infant herald of the light—
A star of hope in Russia's blackest night?

Thus would we hail the gift the gods have sent,
As a fair omen that the storm is spent—
As a great treasure, yet more priceless made,
Since its possession was so long delayed.

So the congratulations that we bear,
We with the Czar and those he rules would share,
For the rejoicing 'neath Imperial domes
Should find its echo in glad peasant-homes.

P'rhaps never yet was royal infant born
At once so fenced with guards yet so forlorn.
Never was son and heir of King or Czar
Brought into life 'neath such a baleful star.

And never surely did a ruler stand
With meet Occasion thus at his right hand;
Never has monarch, anxious to atone,
Found Fate so ready to his faults condone.

For it is easy, in Affection's name,
To grant concessions threats could never claim;
'Tis simple work, for a belov'd one's sake,
To snap the fetters force could never break.

Let, then, the Czar invest his infant son
With power to do what Mercy should have done;
Power to send back to homes, where mothers weep,
Those sons of theirs unrighteous laws still keep.

Let him, for that son's sake, cause war to cease,
Bringing again the halcyon days of Peace;
And, in his name, from banishment life-long,
Recall the victims guiltless of all wrong.

Then will the looming shadows pass away,
And blackest night yield place to brightest day,
Whilst the new-comer, born to strife and stress,
Will from the Fates inherit happiness!

Aye, even yet 'tis possible with hope
To cast this hapless infant's horoscope,
If his fond parent, aided from above,
As birthday gift can bring him Russia's love!

A weekly contemporary announces that Duke Charles Edward of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha has just taken full possession of his dominion, his minority having expired when he celebrated his twentieth birthday. This is all wrong. The Duke's minority will not terminate until he is twenty-one, so that the Duchies will remain under the regency of the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg (a son-in-law of the Duchess Marie and the late Duke Alfred) for nearly a year longer. Duke Charles Edward has finished his studies at the University of Bonn, and he is to complete his military education at Potsdam and at Berlin during the next nine months. The Duke is to spend his autumn leave at the picturesque chateau of Reinhardsbrunn, in the Thuringian Forest, where the Duchess of Albany and Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck are to arrive shortly from England, and on their way to Germany they will pay a visit to the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands at Soesdijk, her country seat near Utrecht, which is famous for its beautiful gardens and beech forests.

The Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans, who have been yachting for several weeks among the Norwegian fiords, will entertain a series of shooting parties during the autumn at Wood Norton, and among the guests will be the Archduke Joseph and the Archduchess Clotilde, the Comtesse de Paris, Duc and Duchesse de Chartres, Duc d'Alençon, Duc and Duchesse de Guise, Prince and Princess Albert of Belgium, the Duc and Duchesse de Vendôme, the Comte d'Eu, the Princes Pedro and Louis d'Orléans, and the Duc de Montpensier. The Duchesse d'Orléans has arrived at Wood Norton from the Continent, and will be joined shortly by the Duc. Wood Norton, which occupies a charming situation on the Avon, a few miles from Evesham, was the English seat of the late Duc d'Aumale, who several times entertained the King (then Prince of Wales) there for partridge shooting. The house, which stands in pretty grounds, has been enlarged, and the shooting has been much improved of late years, the greater part of the estate having been converted into a game preserve.

An "apartment" in St. James' Palace, adjoining the former residence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, has been granted by the King to Colonel Douglas Dawson, Master of the Ceremonies, as an office for the business of his department. Hitherto the work has been scrambled through somehow, in a room at the Lord Chamberlain's office. The Master of the Ceremonies presents the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission whenever they go to Court, and has charge of the Corps Diplomatique at Court entertainments and State Ceremonies, so he has plenty of work during the London season.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 428.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 429.
For Amusements, see page 425.
For Educational, see page 427.
For Our Puzzles, see page 433.

Lord Dudley spent the greater part of last week fishing at Tower Lodge in the West of Ireland. The Viceregal motors are familiar objects of modernity on the wild roads of Connemara, amongst the mountains and lakes. Lord Dudley has found out and been fascinated by the charms of the Wild West, as Queen Victoria was by those of Scotland. He paid a visit to Kylemore, where the Duke and Duchess of Manchester have been living also in the remote regions of the West,—that is, if any regions are remote in an age of motors. Next week Lord Dudley will be in Dublin for the Horse Show, where Lady Dudley still remains at the Viceregal Lodge.

The hotels in Dublin and its neighbourhood are filling this week, and as usual, many yachts are expected in Kingstown Harbour. Of late years the possessors of big yachts, frequently with large "house parties," do the Horse Show from Kingstown, which is little over a quarter-of-an-hour's distance from Ball's Bridge. The Channel Squadron, under the command of Lord Charles Beresford, will be in the Kingstown "roads" for the greater part of the Horse Show week. Fine weather is all that the Dublin "week" requires to give it the fullest measure of success.

Colonel Cooper, late in command of the Irish Guards, has taken up the duties of the appointment of Private Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in the place of Lord Plunket, who vacated the post on being selected for the Governorship of New Zealand. Colonel Cooper had earned a good place by his valuable services in connection with the Irish Guards.

Mr. Balfour, who goes to Cambridge to-day for the meeting of the British Association, is expected at North Berwick next week, and he will stay there for about a fortnight, and is then going to Whittingehame, his place in Haddingtonshire. Mr. Balfour is to spend a week at Balmoral with the King during the latter part of September.

There is a great deal of grumbling at Cambridge among the tradespeople of the town in consequence of what they consider to be sharp practice on the part of the University authorities in connection with the visit of the British Association. The tradespeople subscribed generously towards the fund which has been raised locally to defray the expenses of the gathering, and they expected to recoup themselves by the custom of the visitors. It appears, however, that it has been arranged for the Colleges to receive members of the Association as "paying guests" at prices which put the hotel and lodging-house keepers quite out of court. The Colleges, indeed, are to be degraded into boarding-houses, the paying guests being catered for by the butteries. It is really going too far to permit these boarders to invite friends to dine in hall on payment of a certain charge. This is an innovation sufficiently startling to arouse the shades of Macaulay and Whewell. The privilege of inviting men to dine in hall has hitherto been strictly confined to Fellows of Colleges.

Lord Rosebery has gone for a cruise among the Hebrides in his steam yacht *Zaza*, after which he will take up his residence for the autumn at Dalmeny Park, his seat near Edinburgh. Lord Rosebery is to address a political meeting at Lincoln on Tuesday, September 20, when he will be the guest of Lord Monson at Burton Hall.

Mr. Johnstone, of Archbank, near Moffat, who died last week, was widely known as being one of the most successful breeders of Cheviot sheep in Great Britain. He passed his whole life on the large farm of Archbank, and for half a century he had been celebrated in agricultural circles for his brilliant and continued successes at the leading exhibitions of stock. As a judge of Cheviot sheep Mr. Johnstone was without a rival. He was a practical man, and devoted himself exclusively to his own proper business. He gained great fame as a curler, and was regarded for many years as one of the best skips in Scotland. Mr. Johnstone owned the estate of Snar, in South Lanarkshire, until a few months ago, when he sold this property to Lord Linlithgow.

Sir Robert Wright was not only an able and successful lawyer, but a man of distinguished character in many ways. He combined large and progressive views with scholarly and exact knowledge, studious industry with broad sympathies; and he retained amid the devoted pursuit of the most crabbed of the professions original views of life and an unconventional habit of mind. I used to see a good deal of him when he was at the Bar; on the Bench I only knew him by reputation, and he was one of the few occupants of the Bench who never sat in judgment upon me. But speaking of him by reputation, I should say he was a judge of the most useful type, uniting sound and wide knowledge of law to a keen sense of justice, and embodying in his own person the fusion of Law and Equity. While at the Bar he rendered useful service to the Labour movement, and had he succeeded in obtaining a seat in Parliament he would probably have made a conspicuous mark there, as a thoroughly Radical lawyer always does. He had a brilliant University career, and if "brilliant" is hardly the word for his later life, it has been always honourable, successful, and useful; and his death at a comparatively early age deserves to be universally regretted.

The celebrated museum at Hawkestone, Lord Hill's well-known seat near Shrewsbury, was to have been offered for sale by auction, but it has been withdrawn, and will be purchased by the County of Salop. The museum contains one of the largest and finest collections of birds in England. The Hawkstone gardens have long been famous, and the well-wooded and much diversified deer park comprises 1,200 acres, and contains a lake two miles long.

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A Scotch correspondent writes:—

Some of the papers print the most insane nonsense about Scotch shootings.

The *Daily Express* of Friday states that Micras Moor "is the best stocked shooting in the north." Micras, which was *not* "rented last season from Mr. Farquharson" by the King, affords two or three days' good sport during the season, but it is not even "the best stocked shooting" on Deeside, and the writer of such trash can know nothing whatever about the matter.

"Excellent sport will be obtained on Lord Burton's moors when the King goes to Glenquoich." Lord Burton has no "moors," Glenquoich being all deer forest, and stag-shooting is the object of the King's visit. His Majesty is certainly *not* "expected to motor over" to Balmacaan while he is staying at Glenquoich. He is just as likely to "motor over" to Pekin.

Mr. Albert Brassey has *not* "a big party at Dunalastair." Mr. Brassey has rented the extensive shootings on this well-known estate, but his tenancy does not include Dunalastair House, and he is residing at Lochgarry Lodge, which is quite a small place. Another journal describes Mr. Brassey as having let "all his Perthshire shootings." He does not own an acre in the county.

The *Daily Mail*, however, beats its rival in foolish absurdity with a crazy statement that "as the King, after his return from the Continent is to enjoy some weeks of deer-stalking, the coming season is invested with more than ordinary interest." Surely the force of snobbery could no further go, and has not the King engaged in deer-stalking regularly every autumn for more than forty years past?

By far the heaviest bags of grouse obtained during the first two days of the season were those of the Duke of Devonshire's party, at Bolton Abbey, Yorkshire. On Friday the Prince of Wales and six other guns killed 392 brace of grouse in six drives on the famous Hazlewood Moor, on the east side of Wharfedale. On Saturday the same party of seven guns shot over Barden Moor, on the west bank of the Wharfe, and over 250 brace were killed.

The vacancies in the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, created by the death of the late Lord Salisbury and Mr. Lecky, have been admirably filled by the appointment of Mr. John Morley and Mr. C. H. Firth, the new Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford. It would have been impossible to make better selections, and they will command hearty and universal approval.

If the *Times* is correctly informed as to the recommendations of the Lords' Committee on the Chantrey Trust, the agitation on this subject is justified by the results. The Committee practically endorse all the chief criticisms that have been directed against the administration of the Trust, and the finding that acquits the Academic Trustees of any corrupt or interested motive is more or less superfluous, because no such imputation has been seriously made. If it has been said that the fund has been diverted from the founder's intentions for the benefit of individual R.A.s and the advantage of the Burlington House Exhibitions, what was meant was, not that the Trustees deliberately misapplied the fund for the benefit of their own body, but that this result has followed from the narrow-minded view that they have taken of their duties and responsibilities. The proposals now made for transferring the administration to a committee of three, of whom two will be elective, and for bringing before the committee all works having claims upon their consideration, ought, at any rate, to have the effect of lifting the administration of the fund out of the rut into which it has worked itself. Many other of the recommendations are sensible and practical, but as yet they are only recommendations, and it remains to be seen how far, if at all, they will ever be carried into effect.

A notable addition has just been made to the National Gallery in Titian's celebrated portrait of Ariosto, which was long at Cobham Hall, and which has recently been sold by Lord Darnley to Sir George Donaldson for £30,000. The picture has been passed on by the purchaser at the same price. It was long ago praised by a distinguished expert as "one of Titian's finest portraits," and combining "simplicity, dignity, and grandeur."

The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, have presented the Rev. H. Hedley to the important living of Masham, in the diocese of Ripon, vacant by the death of the Rev. G. M. Gorham, whose father's battle with Bishop Phillpotts concerning "Baptismal Regeneration" threatened to rend the Church of England in twain. The vicarage of Masham is worth about £400 a year, with house, and the incumbent has the patronage of seven benefices in the neighbourhood, one of which is Mickley, so that it has fallen to Mr. Hedley to appoint his successor in that parish.

Canon Savage, late Vicar of South Shields, has been inducted into the Crown living of Halifax on the presentation of Mr. Balfour, and he preached his first sermon in the parish church on Sunday. In the absence of the Bishop of Wakefield (who is in Switzerland), the ceremony was performed by the Archdeacon (Brooke) of Halifax, the late Vicar. The living is worth about £2,000 a year, with an excellent residence, and the Vicar is patron of thirty-one benefices in the neighbourhood. Two ex-Vicars of Halifax are living—the Dean of Bristol (1875-88), and Archdeacon Brooke (1888-1904).

The following announcement was published a few days ago:—

The Rev. A. B. Littlewood, the newly-appointed Vicar of East Farleigh, is to shortly marry Miss Giffard, a niece of the Lord Chancellor. He will take up his residence at the Vicarage in October.

The best comment that I can offer on this piece of intelligence is contained in the following extract from Kelly's *Clergy List*:—

Farleigh East, S. Mary. *Post town and railway station.* Maidstone, East Farleigh. *Dioc. and Rur. Dy.* Cant: 16. *Gross and net value. g.* £734. *n.* £496. *Patron.* Lord Chancellor.

Under the present régime, it will be seen, a Lord Chancellor's living is much the same thing as a family living.

The Chaplain-General to the Forces (Bishop Taylor Smith) has returned to England after an official visit to South Africa. Bishop Taylor Smith's appointment to this important post has proved a complete success, and he has done well in throwing cold water upon

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ritualistic and sacerdotal developments among Army chaplains, which were beginning to excite much unfavourable criticism in the Service.

It would be well if the resignation of the Bishop of Southwell, to which I referred last week, were followed by a few other episcopal retirements, already overdue either by reason of age and infirmity or continued ill-health. The *Guardian* expresses the opinion, in which I heartily concur, that "if bishops generally" (referring to those who are advanced in years) "were to observe a time limit, such as Bishop Ridding has imposed on himself, it would be an advantage to the Church."

The Bishop of Bath and Wells has collated the Rev. Henry Vaughan, Rector of Wraxall, near Bristol, to a prebendal stall in Wells Cathedral. Wraxall is now the richest living in Somersetshire, and one of the most valuable benefices in England. A few years ago the late Mr. Richard Vaughan, the well-known Bristol brewer, left £50,000 to increase the endowment of the rectory of Wraxall, his family having been long connected with the parish, and they are the patrons of the living. At the same time Mr. Vaughan left about £25,000 to endow the chapelry of Falland, in the parish of Wraxall.

Among other letters that continue to reach me on the subject of church bells, I had one the other day from the Rev. H. Drake, of Verwood, Wimborne, who writes as one having authority. What he says as to the avoidance of any annoyance from bell-ringing is worth quoting. Annoyance arises, he says, from "three easily-remedied causes":—

(*a*) The surroundings of the bells. Instead of the sound being driven down, it should be driven up. A brick wall should be built round the bells inside the tower. I have got this done with great success in several places, but the difficulty has usually been that those who suffer from the annoyance will not contribute even to so inexpensive a remedy.

(*b*) Bad ringing. Even when the sound has been thus softened and blended, "round ringing" practice (which is mere scale playing) should never be allowed except when the bells are silenced. Nor should incompetent ringers be allowed to make a clashing noise on town bells. And, most of all, a single bell should never be rung for more than a few strokes together, nor more than three minutes at once.

(*c*) Bells get out of tune. As during the last few years it has been discovered that bells can be accurately tuned, no bell out of tune should ever be allowed to be sounded, either for religious or secular purposes. . . .

I do not quite see on what principle when A creates a nuisance to the detriment of B, B should be expected to contribute to the cost of abating it. But, apart from that incidental criticism, Mr. Drake's observations are well worth attention. I like particularly the idea of practising with "silenced" bells—dumb-bell practice is good for everybody and hurts nobody—and I would impress on all the concluding condemnation of the single bell. After all, it is the single bell, clanging for long periods at intervals all through the day, that creates the substantial nuisance. It can give pleasure to nobody, while the peal undoubtedly pleases many, and from the nature of the case a peal can rarely be rung more than two or three times a week.

Much surprise and indignation were caused among the Wesleyans of Chorley, a village near Nantwich, on finding that the pulpit in their chapel was occupied on the evening of August 7 by the late Vicar of Weston, Mr. H. E. Smith. The circumstances under which this gentleman was deprived of his living, after using it for many years as a base of operations in begging-letter writing, will be in the recollection of many readers of Truth, and they are notorious throughout the surrounding district, so that there is no excuse for the Wesleyan authorities who invited him to minister on the above occasion. Mr. Smith's Nonconformist neighbours were the keenest in condemning his shady practices, and it places them in a somewhat equivocal position when a Nonconformist chapel offers hospitality to the sinner who has been ejected from the Established Church.

A correspondent writes: "When Truth referred to the Rev. C. H. Simpkinson's tenure of Stoke-on-Trent, as 'one of the richest benefices in England,' I wish that space could have been found to add that the rector has to employ a staff of eight curates." I have no objection to find space for this addition now, but I must point out that the relation of the eight curates to the value of the benefice obviously depends on whether the incumbent has to pay them all himself, or, failing that, on the amount he actually contributes to their stipends. For an incumbent to pay eight curates out of his own stipend would be a thing unprecedented in my experience.

I have been asked to publish the following letter on behalf of the Charity Voting Reform Association, of 36, West-street, Charing Cross-road, and I gladly comply, for I entirely sympathise with the objects of the Association. Not only is the system of selecting the beneficiaries of any public charity by the votes of the subscribers open to scandalous abuses, but the principle seems to me to be radically wrong. A public charity ought to grant its relief, whatever the nature of it may be, to those who need it most. The voting system disregards this principle, and apportions the benefits to those who can bring most influence to bear on the subscribers, the subscribers on their side giving their votes without any knowledge of the respective merits of the candidates, but purely on personal considerations. In some cases attempts have been made to check the abuse to which such a system lends itself by forbidding canvassing for votes, but the result of this is that the elector must give his votes absolutely in the dark, unless he makes personal inquiries into all the cases submitted to his suffrage, which in practice nobody is ever likely to do. The sole *raison d'être* of the system, so far as I can see, is to obtain subscriptions by offering votes in return for them, which is repugnant to the first

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principles of charity, and converts what should be alms-giving into the means of purchasing benefits for a protégé, or conferring favours by voting for the protégés of others. The sooner such a vicious system is abolished, the better:—

Sir,—A number of the general public are unaware that the voting system is a modern invention, not known out of England, hardly out of London. The system ensures benefits rather to those who have influence and friends, than to the friendless whom charity is meant to benefit. The reasons alleged in defence of this bad system are, first, that it brings in subcriptions to the charity—this even could it be proved, would be no excuse for causing suffering to the unfortunate, and withholding aid from the friendless, in favour of those who have the most influence; and secondly, that when the selection is left to a small body, favouritism is more likely to influence those on whom the choice depends — this argument is a confession of weakness and unfairness which one would be sorry to attribute to any of those who direct our public charities. The cause of charity-voting reform would appear to have been advanced and strengthened from the facts that in the Clergy Orphan Corporation Schools the voting system has been abolished, a step taken with the approval of all the Bishops, whilst in the Railway Benevolent Institution the system has been in abeyance for some years. In the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution modifications appear to have been made, and in the Royal Institution for the Instruction of Deaf and Dumb Children, although the laws of the Institution provide for the election of inmates by the votes of the governors, that system of admission has not been resorted to for at least fifteen years. An increasing number of subscribers also place their votes at the disposal of Committees, as at the National Orphan Home, where the Committee deal with the cases of applicants on their merits.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. H. Sturges, Secretary,
Charity Voting Reform Association.

Lady Jeune writes to me as follows. There are no doubt many of my readers who will be glad to help her with the money she requires, and I shall be glad to receive and forward, as before, any contributions that may be sent for this purpose. Lady Jeune's work is not carried out on so large a scale as that of some of the more ambitious holiday funds, but in some respects it is, I think, done more thoroughly, as the children sent away are selected as being specially in need of change, and they get a long enough time in the country to set them up thoroughly:—

May I venture to appeal once more to your readers on behalf of my Holiday Fund? The weather is still lovely in the country, but very hot and trying in London for the children, and one needs only to walk along the streets, and see how they are suffering from its effects. If this is so in our wide, well ventilated parts, what it is in the narrow, stuffy alleys, and courts, needs no words of mine to describe. Their pale faces and weary walk meet us at every turn, and for their sakes I beg of your kind readers to send me a little more help. All the money I have had is exhausted, and there are about 150 more children, and grown-up people besides, who are sorely in need of a change and rest. We cannot expect this weather to last much longer, in another month the chance will be gone, and the holiday these poor people need must be given up for this year. I cannot think that this will have to be done, for I do not require much money to enable me to send all those away for whom I can find homes. Will you think of them and of their needs and send me a little help towards making the summer of 1904 a record year as regards the happiness and good you have done to those who benefit by your kind help and sympathy?

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor Children:—L. S., 10s.; Mrs. Johnston, £2 2s.; P. S. C., 10s.; Bengali, 10s.; Anonymous, £2; Mrs. R. H., £3 3s.

The Cure of Consumption.—The following is an extract from a letter recently appearing in the *Christian World*:—"I have had the privilege of watching the progress of many cases of phthisis under Dr. Alabone's care, and from what I have seen I have no hesitation in saying that his method of treatment is most successful. I have had very many opportunities for years past of testing these cases in regard to their improvement, from time to time, and can confidently declare that the improvement in their condition has exceeded my most sanguine expectations. A.R.C., M.D., J.P., M.R.C.S. (Eng.)." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

Mr. Arnold-Forster laboured for upwards of an hour last week to remove misapprehensions which he thinks have arisen with respect to his scheme of Army reform; but I doubt if anybody was much wiser when he sat down. His chief topic was the Auxiliary Forces and the proposed Home Army, but as he was as far as ever from having any definite plan for dealing with the Militia, and as the Militia is the *crux* of this portion of his scheme, he necessarily did not get much beyond the point which he had reached on the previous occasion. However, the public learned that he has been much impressed by a letter from Mr. Yerburgh, who says "make your Militia an organised territorial army, to defend you against raids, and supply reserves for the Regular Army in case of emergency." The Secretary of State "would like" to go to the Militia battalions and invite them to become the territorial regiments of their counties, giving their officers the option of passing into the Line, or remaining permanently with their territorial regiments. One gathers vaguely that his promised conferences with Militia officers during the autumn will tend in this direction.

Now, until the Militia question is disposed of one way or the other the whole scheme is more or less in the air. The division of the land forces into a home service army and a general service army is the basis of Mr. Arnold-Forster's proposed reorganisation and of his promised economies—such as they are. The home service army as sketched last month simply will not do, and the author of the scheme admits that in this respect his scheme is incomplete. Until, therefore, he can show his plans for a home service army he is in the position of an architect planning a building who produces designs for one of two wings, but does not quite see how to plan the other wing with the ground and money at his disposal. The fragment of a design is, therefore, of no use for any practical purpose.

The idea of converting the Militia battalions, or those of them that are fit to use, into a territorial home army is very pretty as an abstract idea, but what does it mean when put into concrete shape? Is this hazy suggestion a substitute for or a supplement to the scheme of a two years' service home army of regulars and reserve, solemnly propounded last month? If a substitute, it means, first, that the latest scheme of Army reform is to be fundamentally altered before it has even been put completely on paper, and, secondly, that the Militia is really to be converted into a regular army, in other words, abolished in all but the name. If a supplement, then we are to have a home army of regulars and reservists, side by side with a Militia which will be the territorial army for certain counties only, which seems a cumbrous and purposeless arrangement. The question at the root of the whole matter is, can or cannot the Militia be organised into a respectable force for home defence, meaning by "respectable" a force which a Continental enemy designing an invasion of this country would respect, so that he must land a large force of all arms in order to deal with it?

If it can, let the thing be done. If it cannot, then let us have a respectable home army of regulars, whether or not reinforceable on an emergency with auxiliaries. But do not let us fall between the two stools.

As Mr. Arnold-Forster's ideas seem to be still in a perfectly fluid condition, I venture to repeat now a suggestion that has already been made in TRUTH. Instead of enlisting men into the Militia, and then reducing that force to a phantom, by tempting all the best of them to go into the Line, why should you not enlist men for service in the Line first and the Militia afterwards? Instead of abolishing the Militia, why not abolish the Army Reserve, and make the conditions of service such that the Militia would act at once as a reserve and as a home service army? In point of fact, we have got a good way towards this end already, The Norfolk Commission recommended that the militiaman should start with a term of six months' continuous training, followed by six weeks in each of the three subsequent years. Mr. Arnold-Forster proposes to enlist men for two years' colour service in the home army, and then pass them to the reserve, calling them up periodically for training. The difference between those two proposals is one of degree only—that is to say, the amount of time proposed for training. Whether you call the men in either case regulars or militiamen is immaterial. The essential thing is that they start with a complete recruit's course, for which purpose, if the course is to be really complete, it will often be necessary to keep them for over a year, because the course must wind up with a period of field training, which is only practicable in the summer. All that my proposal adds to this is that at the end of this preliminary period the man may either remain a militiaman for good, and come up for annual training as at present, or he may go into the Line for his seven years, or whatever it may be, and then come back to the Militia, if he chooses, with a modified liability to annual training.

This system would yield a Militia of trained and efficient men, largely leavened with seasoned soldiers. I would give a shilling pension for twenty-one years' Militia service on those terms, with a slight increase for time served in the Line, by way of tempting men, on completion of their colour service, to serve on for pension in the Militia. No one can say in advance whether the men required will or will not be forthcoming on these or any terms, but my impression is that by an arrangement of this kind a Militia could be created far stronger than the present establishments of Militia and Army Reserve combined, and far more effective for the purpose of reinforcing the foreign service army, as well as for the purpose of home defence.

An incident reported from Dalhousie illustrates a soldiers' grievance of old standing, which ought to be dealt with. A private of the 1st South Wales Borderers was walking out, a few weeks back, when a perfect stranger, in civilian dress, accosted him, and asked why he had not saluted him. The man replied that he did not know the other was an officer or he would certainly have saluted him. He was told to report himself to his sergeant-major, and he did so, with the result that he was placed under arrest, and on the following morning sentenced to seven days' C.B. by one of the majors of his battalion. It appears that the individual who vented his outraged dignity on the unlucky Tommy was a general officer who had arrived on the station only a few days before, and was probably not known by sight to half-a-dozen privates in the garrison. I suppose under these circumstances one cannot blame the major, who has to consider which side his bread is buttered, for taking the course he did; but it seems to me that a superior officer, who falls foul of a private soldier in this way, shows himself utterly unfit for his position, knowing, as he must, unless his understanding is clouded by his conceit, that the man has no possible means of knowing who he is, even if he were actuated by a desire to insult a general at the first opportunity.

However, I suppose we must take it, as long as human nature is what it is, that there will always be a certain number of officers in every rank possessed with an overweening sense of their own importance, and ready to imagine a deliberate intention to insult them whenever a soldier of lower rank fails to recognise them. The best way to prevent the injustice that is done by such men, and the feeling of irritation and disgust with military service which a good soldier naturally feels when he falls a victim to their silly vanity, is to relieve soldiers altogether from the necessity of saluting officers in mufti. In principle, I believe, it is the uniform that is saluted, as the insignia of the King's commission, not the man who wears it; and this principle should be recognised by laying it down that only uniforms shall be saluted.

If that is considered too strong a measure, it might be qualified to the extent of only requiring a soldier to salute his own regimental officers when they are in mufti. The salute in this case is a matter of courtesy, arising out of the personal relationship. It stands on the same footing as a bow to an acquaintance in the street, or a servant touching his hat to his employer. At any rate, if soldiers were only required to salute officers of their own units, except when in uniform, there would be no more trouble about their being punished for failing to recognise individuals whom they have never seen before, though, I am bound to say, I have heard of a man getting into trouble for failing to see one of his own officers in a crowd or after dark.

In view of the following letter, I am glad that I did not give any countenance to the suggestion of a previous correspondent that the Japanese "Banzai" might be suitably substituted for the British "Hurrah!"

"Banzai" does not mean "success" or "good fortune," but, roughly, "long life," or, more correctly, "a hundred thousand years." Whether you would wish to greet Mr. Chamberlain or the others you mention with this pious wish, I cannot say; but I mention this much in the interests of accuracy,

No. I am not a worshipper of Mr. Chamberlain as a politician, but as a man I bear him no ill will; and I would not wish to him—nor, indeed, to my worst

enemy—any fate so horrible as living for a hundred thousand years.

As the question of the depot service of non-commissioned officers has lately been receiving the attention of the Army Council, the following facts may be worth notice. At a depot in the Eastern Counties there is a colour-sergeant who has for years acted as officers' mess sergeant. He is struck off all duty, and is assisted by three men. Recently he and his staff have had two officers to wait upon; frequently, I am told, there is only one. Considering what a colour-sergeant costs, in pay and pension, it seems rather a waste of powder to employ him on a job of this sort, and when he has been employed on it for a considerable number of years, it would seem rather a delusion to reckon him as an efficient soldier.

Rear-Admiral Lambton is to replace Rear-Admiral Sir Baldwin Walker in the command of the cruiser division in the Mediterranean fleet, and Rear-Admiral Poë will succeed Rear-Admiral Sir Wilmot Fawkes in command of the cruiser squadron. Both officers are exceedingly fortunate. Rear-Admiral Lambton is the youngest flag-officer (except the Prince of Wales), and only a few weeks have elapsed since he vacated the coveted berth of second in command of the Channel Fleet. Rear-Admiral Poë, who was promoted to flag rank in September, 1901, was last employed as second in command of the Home Fleet, a berth which he vacated three months ago. Some highly-deserving Rear-Admirals who are senior to these favoured officers have not yet hoisted their flags.

Rear-Admiral Grenfell is to succeed Rear-Admiral Custance as second in command of the Mediterranean fleet on November 15. He is now employed as umpire-in-chief of the torpedo craft manœuvres. Rear-Admiral Grenfell, who attained flag rank in March, 1900, was last employed as second in command of the China Squadron, which post he vacated just a year ago.

During the discussion on the Post Office vote last week reference was made to the case of the ex-sorter Careless, the facts of which were set forth in Truth on July 14. It will be remembered that he was suspected of stealing two postal orders and dismissed in consequence, although the evidence against him was so flimsy and unreliable that the authorities did not venture to institute the criminal prosecution which he courted. All the facts pointed to the conclusion that in the first instance Careless was a victim of mistaken identity, and that afterwards the officials concerned in the investigation persisted in treating him as guilty rather than admit that they had grossly wronged an innocent man. Lord Stanley has now promised to have the case "thoroughly investigated by two gentlemen in the Post Office who were not in any way connected with the former decision, though, of course, they have seen the papers." In view of the history of the affair, I think it would have been more satisfactory if the Postmaster-General had asked some qualified person outside the Department to undertake the investigation, so that there should not be the slightest danger of any official bias being imported into it. At the same time, the step taken by Lord Stanley is satisfactory as far as it goes, and it certainly presents a welcome contrast to the attitude of his predecessors at the Post Office, Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Lord Londonderry, who absolutely refused to allow the case to be reopened.

In the course of his remarks the Postmaster-General said that "probably it would have been better at the moment to have prosecuted the man, and have given him a chance to clear himself if he could." I hope that this is not indicative of the spirit in which questions of the kind are generally considered in the Post Office. Before an employee is punished with dismissal for an alleged theft, it is surely the duty of the authorities to substantiate the charge against him in a criminal court. To talk about a prosecution merely as a means to enable the accused "to clear himself if he could" suggests the existence in the Department of an utter misconception of one of the elementary principles of English justice. It was not for the man to "clear himself" (though he appealed in vain to be allowed an opportunity of doing so), but for the authorities to prove his guilt, to the satisfaction of a jury. It may be taken for granted that he would have been prosecuted in the ordinary way if there had been any likelihood whatever of a conviction being secured, and the most sinister feature of the whole affair is this amazing assumption all through that the Department is entitled to brand an employee as a thief without attempting to establish the charge. Against any private employer Careless could undoubtedly have obtained heavy damages for wrongful dismissal and libel.

One of the most disgraceful examples of the ways of Bumbledom that I have come across for a long time has just occurred in the Walsingham Union. The victim is Anna Bond, aged twelve years, an inmate of the workhouse. On several occasions the master of the workhouse has reported this child to the Board of Guardians for insubordination, and on July 27 he requested that she should be sent before a magistrate for punishment. The Guardians very properly declined to agree to this, and directed that the child should have a fortnight's trial, the master to report again at the end of that period. One of the Guardians, the Rev. A. Downes-Shaw, then wrote to Dr. Barnardo asking him to take the child into one of his homes. Dr. Barnardo consented, and on August 3 the master of the workhouse was given a form to fill up regarding Anna Bond's history. He duly filled up the form, and from it he must have learned that it was intended to remove the child from his tender mercies. In spite of this, and in spite also of the order of the Guardians, the master, on August 6, called in a policeman, and Anna Bond was haled before a magistrate on a charge of refractory conduct. It was alleged that she refused to obey the master, and was impertinent to him and troublesome to others. Nothing was said about the decision of the Guardians on July 27, or the offer of Dr. Barnardo, and after hearing the master and other witnesses, the magistrate (the Rev. J. Lee Warner) committed the child to Norwich Prison for fourteen days.

I am told that at the meeting of the Board of Guardians last Wednesday much indignation at these proceedings was expressed, but that no resolution censuring the master was passed, inasmuch as it was found that the regulations entitled him to take the child before the magistrate on his own authority. This may be so. Even, however, if the master acted legally, the fact remains that he was guilty of an impudent disregard of the instructions of the Guardians, and in submitting without a protest to such treatment at the hands of an official the Board showed a surprising lack of spirit. The paupers themselves could scarcely have been meeker. Nor does the fact that the master had power to prosecute make the prosecution itself any the less scandalous. If the worst that was said about the unruliness of this little girl is assumed to be true, the conduct of the master in rushing her off to the police-court while arrangements were being made for her removal from his custody still bears a very ugly appearance. It looks, indeed, like a purely vindictive prosecution, and I should say myself that in any event a workhouse master who cannot control a child of twelve without invoking the assistance of a magistrate is unfit for his situation. I should say, too, that the magistrate who passes a sentence of fourteen days' imprisonment upon such a child on a charge of this sort is likewise unfit for *his* office.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed nineteen new magistrates for the City of Birmingham. One of them is the Coroner, who was formerly an active Liberal-Unionist, but now takes no public part in political life. Of the remaining eighteen, eight are Tories and eight Liberal-Unionists. Almost without exception they are prominently identified with their respective Tory or Liberal-Unionist organisations, and the equal division of appointments between the two wings of the party is extremely instructive. Lord Halsbury doubtless realised that it would be more than his place was worth to show any favour to his own section—in Birmingham, at any rate. The list of nineteen is completed by the inclusion of two Liberals, but this little leavening is quite insufficient to disguise the party complexion of the lump of the appointments. To do the Lord High Jobber justice, indeed, he makes no pretence at impartiality in the selection of J.P.s. Under his régime, the magisterial office is openly treated as a reward for political services. There is—as Lord Melbourne said of the Garter—no question of merit about it. Men are put upon the Bench, not because they are the best fitted to administer justice, but because they have in some way or other—not always the most creditable way, either—served the interests of the Unionist Party.

A surveyor writes to me in an aggrieved tone regarding a remark which is reported to have fallen from Mr. Justice Channell during the trial of an "ancient lights" action at Leeds Assizes. Counsel asked if the case would depend on the evidence of surveyors. The judge is said to have replied that it did not depend on the evidence of surveyors with him because he paid not the slightest attention to them. I can understand the mortification of the surveyors in court at this remark—assuming that it is correctly reported—but I do not think they should take it seriously to heart. They were present to give evidence, some on one side and some on the other, regarding the question at issue. Instead of depending upon their evidence, however, the Judge probably preferred to form his own opinion from the personal inspection of the premises which he made, and I have not the least doubt that in such a case this was the best course in the interests of a just decision. Personally, I think that what is called "expert" evidence should be dispensed with as far as is possible. I believe that it is, in fact, disregarded more often than not in such matters as obstructions of ancient lights, for when one set of eminent experts express one opinion and another set, equally eminent, contradict them the only feasible course for judge and jury is to take no notice of either.

A much more serious aspect has been given to the case of Mr. Adolf Beck by the exhaustive account of the facts which Mr. George R. Sims has contributed to the *Daily Mail*. Hitherto this unfortunate man has been looked upon as the victim of a mistake in identity—a gross mistake, but nothing more. Mr. Sims shows, citing chapter and verse for his statements, that from first to last Mr. Beck has been really the victim of what is "nothing short of a conspiracy to procure the conviction of a prisoner by suppressing facts which would have ensured his triumphant acquittal." The story of the proceedings against him in 1896—(when, after the police had professed to identify him with the John Smith who was convicted of a similar crime in 1877, the question of the falsity of this allegation, which was the foundation of the whole case against him, was withdrawn from the consideration of the jury)—would be incredible if it were not substantiated by the depositions taken at the police-court and the official report of the subsequent trial in the Central Criminal Court Sessions Paper. As Mr. Sims says, unless the whole system of the identification of criminals at Scotland Yard is a monstrous farce, the police must have known perfectly well that Adolf Beck could not be the person convicted as John Smith. It was a physical impossibility. Yet, knowing this, the prosecution nevertheless suppressed the fact, and secured Mr. Beck's conviction on a charge of which he was innocent. It is only by chance that he is not now in penal servitude for the second time—he was actually convicted again—on a similar unfounded charge.

There has been some discussion in the papers respecting the amount of compensation that the Treasury will award to Mr. Beck for the atrocious wrong that he has suffered. It ought to be a very large sum, though no payment whatever can be an adequate compensation. But the case must not be allowed to end with the award of compensation to the victim of this miscarriage of justice. In view of the facts put forward by Mr. Sims it is clearly necessary in the public interest that there should be a searching investigation in order that the responsibility for what occurred may be brought home to the proper parties.

A brace of Scotch Sheriffs this week easily qualify for the premier place in my "Pillory" by decisions which would put to the blush many of the English magistrates who have been accustomed to figure therein by reason of their misplaced lenity towards perpetrators of assaults and equally misplaced severity towards poachers. The Clay Cross Justices evidently also imagine that an assault upon a little girl is a far less heinous offence than the theft of a blanket, and the Handsworth magistrates have an equally wrong-headed view of the comparative criminality of cruelty to animals and petty larceny. For the rest, my "Pillory" affords some interesting comparisons. An outrageous assault on a wife is punished by a fine of £3, while a fern gatherer goes to prison for six months. The mere crime of poverty, of being found in the street homeless and destitute, entails at Derby a sentence of fourteen days' hard labour, while at Chichester cruelty to animals is considered almost too trivial an offence to merit punishment at all. Finally, it would seem that the butcher who is caught preparing a cow which had died from milk fever for the public consumption is deserving of less than half the punishment of the man who dares to take a trout from a stream.

Dundee Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Campbell Smith. David Gibson, a mason, charged with indecently assaulting three little girls whose ages ranged from five to seven years. The offences were committed on the beach at Carnoustie. Ordered to find caution for his good behaviour to the extent of £3.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. G. Turbott, F. Kenning, C. W. Hayes, and A. Mason. Job Ashton, a soldier, charged with indecently assaulting a girl aged eleven years. Fined £1 and costs.

Handsworth Police-court. Before Messrs. J. I. Parkes, A. Poynting, and W. A. Ellis. Charles Rose, charged with cruelty to a horse. The animal was badly knocked about the body with a whip which had a nail at the end. Fined 20s. and £2 2s. costs.

Torquay Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. Rockhey, Smale, Lord, and Dr. Last Smith. George Rice, charged with causing grievous bodily harm to his wife. She suffered from bruises over both eyes, face, lips, left breast, and ribs, and though she had been under medical care for a fortnight, she gave her evidence seated. Charge reduced to one of common assault and prisoner fined £3 or a month.

Wragby Police-court. Before Messrs. N. L. Calcraft, F. W. Parker, J. St. V. Fox, and Rev. H. Fuller. Wm. Weightman, butcher, charged with being in possession of a carcass of beef intended for the food of man, which was unsound. The cow had died from milk fever supervening on calving. Fined £2 and 7s. costs.

Edinburgh Sheriff-court. Before Acting Sheriff-Substitute Pitman. Thomas Aberdeen, charged with poaching. The Sheriff-Substitute first passed a sentence of six months on the ground that the man had received a similar sentence in 1898 for the same offence, but finding later that he was mistaken, he reduced the sentence to four months' imprisonment.

Clay Cross Petty Sessions. Before the same bench. Charles White, collier, charged with stealing three blankets, value 15s., from a tent in a garden. Twenty-one days' hard labour.

Handsworth Police-court. Before the same bench. William Webster, an old man of no fixed abode, charged with stealing a pair of boots, value 4s. 11d., from outside a shop. Two months' imprisonment.

Chester Police-court. Richard Littler, charged with stealing ferns, the property of the Duke of Westminster, from near the Netherleigh Lodge. Six months' hard labour.

Hanley Police-court. Henry Edge (17), charged with stealing a canary from a cage outside a stand at Hanley Wakes Fair. One month's hard labour.

Lancaster Police-court. Abu Southward, summoned for trout poaching in the river Keer at Carnforth. Fined £5 and costs or a month.

Middlewich Police-court. William Baker and A. Brierley, charged with game trespass. They were caught digging beside a hedge with a small spade they had picked up on the railway. Brierley fined £2, Baker £1.

Preston Police-court. Joseph Carter, charged with assaulting his mother. He knocked her down, giving her two black eyes and inflicting a serious wound on her temple. Fined 10s. and costs.

Eastbourne Borough Bench. John Porter, charged with assaulting his mother. Because she expostulated with him for striking her grandchild he struck her three times in the face and knocked her down. Her age was given as 83 years. Fined 20s. and 12s. costs.

Whitminster Police-court. Before Sir Lionel Darell, Bart., Messrs. H. F. Clifford, H. Millett, H. O. Lloyd Baker, and Captain Darrell. Thomas Harris and Benjamin Herbert, charged with assaulting Marjorie Simmons and Henry Haugh. Haugh was knocked down and kicked and the woman also brutally assaulted. Each fined £1 9s. 6d. in one case, and 10s. in the other.

Chichester County Petty Sessions. Ernest Woodward, charged with cruelty to a horse. He was driving a brake drawn by two horses to Goodwood. Attached to the brake was another horse which was terribly lame from a laceration extending from the hock to the fetlock joint, and from which blood was running. Fined 10s. and 8s. costs.

William Bogdy charged with thrashing two horses unmercifully for two hundred yards with a steel-lined whip. Fined 20s. and 7s. costs.

Birkdale Police-court. W. Ryan, Thomas King, John Keighley, and John Townsend, charged with sleeping in sewer pipes at Altcar rifle range, without visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Norwich County Sessions. Before Messrs. Gilbert Stracey, J. H. Walter, F. W. Magnay, T. B. Lennard, and Colonels Dawson, Harvey, and Blake-Humfrey. George Simmons, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being in possession of a rabbit. Fined £2.

Nailsworth Petty Sessions. Percy Mills, aged 13, charged with stealing apples value 2d. Fined 10s. or seven days.

Matlock Petty Sessions. Before Mr. A. Clay and other magistrates. W. Elliott, labourer, charged with stealing a notice board value 6d. from a cricket club. Seven days' hard labour.

Teignmouth Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Lewis Brown and other magistrates. William Brown, charged with furiously driving a wheel-barrow. He was sitting on the handle and going ten miles an hour. Fined 10s. and 6s. costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. T. Ann, R. Hilliard, and T. Mawbey, C. G. Amos, charged with vagrancy. He was wandering about homeless and destitute on the London-road. Fourteen days' hard labour.

Hyde County Petty Sessions. Joseph Haughton, charged with neglecting his six children. Since Christmas he had not given his wife a penny. He only worked two weeks, and one of these weeks he lost his wages in betting. But for the neighbours the children would have starved. Fined 20s. and costs or a month.

No mercy was permitted to temper the justice meted out to a young fellow named Morgan at Llanelly Police Court the other day. Morgan is the son of a local soap manufacturer, and he was charged with stealing two boxes of soap, valued at £2 4s., from his father's works. It seemed that the defendant, who was employed in the business, sold the soap and pocketed the proceeds without the knowledge or consent of his father. The latter was anxious not to press the charge, but the police, who had investigated the robbery, took up the prosecution, and in spite of the fact that the defendant was a first offender the magistrates, Mr. J. S. Tregoning, jun., and Mr. W. Y. Nevill, committed him to prison for one month. The monstrous harshness of this decision has aroused great indignation in the town, and I trust that ere this the Home Secretary has acceded to the petition that has been forwarded to him for a remission of the sentence. If ever there was a case in which the accused should have been given the benefit of the First Offenders Act this was one, and Messrs. Tregoning and Nevill must have indeed been destitute of compassion to inflict a month's imprisonment in such circumstances.

It is satisfactory to find that the imitators of Tanquerey, who have lately sprung up in all directions, are getting, both in the criminal and the civil courts, the treatment which he would have long since received if he had not prudently located himself beyond the reach of English law. A few weeks ago I recorded the con-

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

viction of a couple of free portrait swindlers, trading as the "United Artistic Association," at Chester Assizes. Now my attention has been directed to a case at Liverpool County Court, in which a woman sued a concern called "The British Artists' Association," to recover 15s. which she had paid on account for the frames of two "enlargements" of photographs. A canvasser told her that the "enlargements" would be made free of charge if she would pay £2 5s. for frames, and the 15s. was handed over towards this sum. Her claim for the return of the money was based on the ground that the "enlargements" were badly done, and the Judge, pronouncing them "atrocious," gave judgment in her favour. If more of their dupes would appeal to the law, the parties engaged in this free portrait trick would soon find the game not worth the candle.

It was mentioned a fortnight ago that the "Merchants' Legal Aid" gang had been doing a little fishing in Ireland. I am not surprised to hear that they have also tried Scotland. Within the last week or two Mr. Abraham has been offering to appoint a "local district manager" at Glasgow, on the usual terms. It is very interesting to note that the ingenuous Abraham's estimate of the business and emoluments of his Glasgow branch tallies to a sixpence with his estimate for Dublin—although Glasgow is popularly regarded as a somewhat more active business centre. The Glasgow manager, therefore, like the Dublin manager, has to qualify for his appointment by taking 6 per cent. preference shares to the tune of £100 in the Messrs. Abraham's swindle, and he must pay £50 down before the board meets to instal him in his office. The board was to meet for this purpose on August 6, and I am curious to know how many canny Scots had remitted £50 to the Messrs. Abraham before that date.

I have not had to wait long for further information concerning Gilbert Brothers, the circularising bookmakers of Century House, Blackpool, whose impudent and mendacious blackmailing letter to a client, threatening to "have him published in Truth" I noticed last week. The information comes from a backer, who, at the solicitation of Gilbert Brothers, was misguided enough to make a few bets with them. For the first week his account showed a winning balance of £2 odd, but instead of remitting the money Gilbert Brothers wrote opposite the amount, "at your disposal." Thinking that he might as well allow the £2 odd to remain to his credit, he continued betting, and in the second week the amount due to him was increased to over £5. Again he got an account intimating that this sum was "at his disposal," and he thereupon telegraphed for it. But neither his wire nor a subsequent letter elicited any sort of answer—let alone a remittance—and the backer now frankly recognises that he was "a mug" to do business with Gilbert Brothers. For my own part I am not at all surprised to find that these rascals are welshers as well as would-be blackmailers.

Three cases that have lately been reported in the Liverpool papers throw a lurid light upon the rapacity of the bloodsuckers whose victims are found among people of the working class. First of all, a woman named Spring and her son were prosecuted for being in possession of the identity certificates of a number of Army and Navy pensioners. This couple have for years been preying upon pensioners desirous of anticipating pension day, charging them interest at the enormous rate of 1,300 per cent. on small advances and taking the identity certificates as security. As the lenders were well aware, the acceptance of the certificates as security was illegal, and, considering the grossness of the offence, the Liverpool Stipendiary was not a bit too severe in imposing penalties to the tune of £66.

In another case it transpired that an individual described as "a moneylender amongst workpeople" had charged 2s. per week as interest on a loan of £1. It was added that he did not resort to the ordinary process of law for recovering money, but "got it by threats and the use of his fists, having at his call a body of retainers in the neighbourhood." The third case was disclosed at an inquest on the body of a dock labourer's wife. It was thought at first that she had died through eating some bad fish, and it came out that the fish was obtained from a woman named Stanley, who combines fish-dealing with moneylending. It seemed that this "human vampire," as the coroner called her, is in the habit of lending small sums to poor people, on the condition that for each shilling she advances in cash the borrower shall also purchase on credit a shilling's worth—or what she calls a shilling's worth—of fish, the indebtedness of the borrower being thus at once doubled. This is, of course, only an adaptation to humble life of the old trick of those West End usurers who make a purchase of jewellery or wine or cigars at exorbitant prices one of the conditions of a loan. Bad as the West End Shylocks are, however, I think that those who batten upon the needs of the poorer classes are very much worse.

A gentleman who recently advertised a dog for sale in the *Field*, received a postcard from one C. Bemrose, of Romsey, requesting him to forward the animal "on appro," and promising cheque "if all right." The postcard bore the printed heading "Charles Bemrose and Co., Phœnix Works, Banning-street, Romsey, Hants. Furnishing Ironmongers, Gas and Hot Water Engineers." The advertiser was wise enough not to send the dog, but he wrote Bemrose, enclosing a letter from the purchaser of one of the same brood. Hearing nothing more of C. Bemrose, he wrote again, requesting the return of this letter. His own letter then came back through the Dead Letter Office, and he communicated with the Romsey police, with the result that the superintendent reported that the man Bemrose had only resided in Romsey a week, that his present whereabouts were unknown, that the "Phœnix Works" had no existence, and that the man had received several dogs by rail while at Romsey, and not paid for them. Evidently, therefore, Mr. Bemrose has been engaged in an elaborate swindle, and if anybody can give any information about him it might be useful.

An incident happened in this office the other day which conveys a warning in regard to the abuses to which the telephone is liable. An individual rang up

the advertising department of Truth, and asked for certain information relating to business with a firm of advertisement agents, on behalf of whom he pretended to be speaking. The clerk who replied had sufficient sense to decline to give the information on the telephone, and said he would forward it by post. He accordingly posted it to the firm, who were thus enlightened as to what had been done—or attempted.

The firm in question now write to me, apropos of this incident, suggesting that for the protection of subscribers against the improper use of the telephone the Post Office and the National Telephone Company ought to introduce some "new system by which all calls can be traced." I would cheerfully advocate this if I knew of any system by which this could be done, provided also that it could be done without seriously restricting the usefulness of the telephone. But I do not. I am not aware whether there are any statutory penalties against the fraudulent use of the telephone, as there are against the fraudulent use of the telegraph; but if there are not, there certainly ought to be. So long, however, as anybody can step into a public call office and send a message, no penalty can be a complete safeguard against his making a bogus communication in this way for some nefarious purpose; and the only way I can see of preventing this abuse would be to abolish public call offices altogether, which seems a precaution quite out of proportion to the danger.

After all, is the danger very serious? That seems to me to depend entirely on the degree of sense and caution possessed by the party on whom the attempt is made. I can always recognise by his voice on the telephone any man whom I know. If the man addressing me were a stranger I should no more think of saying or doing anything in response to his communication than I should if he delivered it in person instead of on the telephone. Neither, I imagine, would anybody else who has reached years of discretion and knows the world he lives in. There is a certain risk in houses of business of a clerk or servant saying something indiscreet on the telephone, without being sure whom he is addressing. But may he not do just the same thing to any stranger who walks into the office? I know a firm the members of which use a private pass-word to satisfy themselves of their mutual identity when conversing by telephone, but this precaution only seems necessary where people have any difficulty in recognising voices.

There is one possibility attaching to the telephone which seems much more likely to come off than the fraudulent use of it—that is the accidental switching of the caller on to the wrong subscriber. A case of this happened in my experience. An eminent counsel rang up a firm of solicitors who were in the habit of briefing him, but who, in this case, happened to be acting against him. The result was that his advice to one party in the action went direct to the other. This was probably a mistake of one of his clerks in calling for the wrong number; but it might conceivably happen at the Exchange. The chances, however, of the party thus rung up by mistake having any interest in the communication are hardly one in ten thousand. And similar accidents may, and do, happen in other ways than on the telephone—*e.g.*, by putting a letter into the wrong envelope.

The ratepayers of Torquay have just been given a melancholy illustration of the unreliability of municipal estimates of expenditure. It was estimated that the cost of securing a Parliamentary Bill to provide for the construction of a new reservoir would be £500. The actual costs came to no less than £3,205! In connection with the reservoir, it was also estimated that certain land could be acquired for £350. The amount that actually had to be paid was £1,887! It is not astounding to learn from a local journal that these miscalculations are weakening the confidence of the public in the business acumen of the Torquay Town Council.

For the first time in my life have I wished to be a peer. Instead of hurrying through the Welsh Coercion Bill I would have put down every amendment set down in the House of Commons, spoken lengthily on them, and divided on each, had I found a teller. Passing Bills without proper discussion is justified in the House of Commons because that House asserts that it has so much to do that there is no time adequately to discuss them. This, however, cannot be pleaded in the House of Lords, and when men take upon themselves legislative functions they should not shirk them.

What has come over Mr. Chamberlain all of a sudden? A correspondent has inquired of him how his fiscal policy would benefit the musical profession. The reply is that Mr. Chamberlain "cannot see how his policy could possibly, under any circumstances, be of any disadvantage to the musical profession"; while, as "the greatest of luxuries," music will come into increased demand with "any improvement in the general conditions of the population." Is that all? We all knew before that Mr. Chamberlain cannot see how his policy—whatever it may be at the moment—could possibly be of disadvantage to anybody. And since the Welbeck speech we can all see for ourselves that the agricultural labourer, with his extra 4½d. a week, will be in a position to acquire a piano—or at least a harmonium or a mouth-organ—on the hire-purchase system at an early date, and to employ professors to make himself and his family proficient performers on one, or all, of these instruments. The resulting advantages, not only to the musical profession, but to all the allied trades, are obvious. But again I ask, is that all?

Surely Mr. Chamberlain must be aware that no native industry or vocation has suffered from free imports and dumping like the musical profession. Time was—needless to say before the black day of Cobden—when England boasted of a flourishing native school of music, not great perhaps, but rich in promise for the future. Where is it now? Nipped in the bud, crushed to the wall, under the weight of foreign competition—first that of the Italians, later that of the Germans. Again and again has the question been asked why we—undoubtedly,

a musical nation—produce no Bach, Beethoven, or Wagner. Every tariff reformer can see the reason why. Free imports. Has not the English musician had the bread taken out of his mouth for fifty years past by Frenchmen, Italians, and Germans? Do not the foreigners, of every nationality—singers, pianists, fiddlers, teachers, conductors, composers—swarm over here in their hundreds every season, and go back with their pockets full of British sovereigns, or settle down here to undersell and ruin our own people? Look at the dumping of German operas and Continental artists at Covent Garden every year. Look at Richter, the De Reszkes, Caruso, Calvé, Ternina, Paderewski, Kubelik, and the rest of this legion of untaxed aliens, and think of the money they take out of the country. Yes; and while you are about it, don't forget the German bands and the Italian organ-griders who absorb the hard-earned coppers of the man in the street—thanks to Cobden and the Cobden worshippers. There is one of them outside my window now, and I ask myself—Are we going to take this sort of thing lying down?

On all points I am not, as I have endeavoured to indicate on previous occasions, entirely in agreement with Mr. Chamberlain's proposals. But here, I thought, there was an opening for him to do some good without hurting anybody but the accursed foreigner. I saw in my mind's eye a ten per cent. duty, or as much more as might be necessary, placed on all German operas and artists, and all the stalls and boxes at the opera on Wagner nights. I saw "Tristan und Isolde," "Lohengrin," and "Tannhäuser," and every cacophonous opera made in Germany, retiring at last before the "Bohemian Girl" and "Maritana." I saw the German "Götterdämmerung" followed by the apotheosis of Dr. Elgar, and I had visions of a National English Opera blooming at last in Covent Garden, under the gardenership of Mr. Charles Manners, while the Chancellor of the Exchequer reaped a few millions per annum from the foreigners who would be shut out of the Covent Garden market by scientific taxation. I thought of the thousands of native composers, artists, and teachers who would at last have a fair field, earn magnificent incomes, and pay taxes which would counterbalance the increased cost of their bread and meat. I even worked out sums showing how this could be done, merely using the figures, of course, to illustrate the argument. Nor was I forgetful of the unemployed. I armed them with trombones, ophicleides, and piano-organs, to replace the pauper aliens taxed out of our streets, and saw them earning at last an honest living, instead of ending their days in the workhouse under the blighting influence of Cobdenism.

In this way I had almost become a tariff reformer. Then comes this letter to a musician at Leicester, and what is left of my dream? Nothing but poor old Hodge devoting a portion of his extra 4½d. a week to the patronage of music as "one of the greatest luxuries." Why, if it runs to a copper for the native artist with his home-made piano-organ, it's as much as it will. I say at once this won't do at all. If the object of tariff reform is to protect our vanishing or threatened industries, why should the musician, the greatest sufferer by free imports and foreign dumping, be left out in the cold? Is it because, unlike the pauperised brewer and the insolvent ironmaster, he is unable to contribute handsomely to the funds of the Tariff Reform League? Is it because, unlike the employees in our staple industries, he does not represent any considerable voting strength? This is playing the game too low down, even for a tariff reformer. In the name of Art, and there are painters, sculptors, and many others concerned besides musicians, I protest. Also in the name of Logic.

Writing last week on the debate on the Anderson case, I made the observation that it was "asserted that the permanent Irish Under-Secretary, being a Protestant, sided with the man, and that the Inspector-General, being a Catholic, took the opposite side." This was an exact inversion of the true state of the case, owing to one of those involuntary mental operations to which most of us are liable, the Under-Secretary being the Roman Catholic, and the Inspector-General the Protestant. I am very much obliged to the numerous readers who have written to point out the error, and I am gratified to learn that Truth is perused so attentively.

"Are you a Christian, and, even if you are not, why should you object to Christianity being taught to children, for you cannot deny that the world has no system of ethics so noble?" writes a correspondent anent a paragraph that appeared last week in Truth. What my religion may happen to be I certainly am not going to parade in a newspaper, and, for all that concerns the paragraph in question, I may be a Christian, a Jew, or a Mohammedan. I did not object to children being taught Christianity. What I did protest against was that they should be taught it at the public expense, and in public schools to which their parents are forced by law to send them. Such teaching concerns only their parents, or their pastors. The point that I was raising was that the State is only concerned with matters temporal, and if once it be admitted that any religion is to be taught by it, this opens the door to the quarrels between rival sects of Christians. The proof of this is that, had it been laid down as a principle that there is to be no religious teaching with public funds, the Church of England and the Nonconformists would not now be quarrelling on account of an Act having been passed by the present Parliament endowing Church schools, depriving those whose money endows them of the management of the schools, and establishing amongst schoolmasters maintained by the State a religious test for employment.

I have never understood the desire of Nonconformists that an ethical Christianity should be taught in Board schools. This is not Christianity, which is a creed supernaturally revealed to mankind. Its ethics form a portion of its dogmas, outside which there is no salvation. A master in a State school

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must not inculcate any religious dogma in it. If he does so—as he probably often does—he exceeds his duty. Such teaching, as it seems to me, is calculated to weaken amongst children any belief in Christianity as a divine revelation, rather than to inculcate it or to strengthen it. Moreover, the parents of the children having, as they consider, transferred the duty of the religious teaching of the children to the State, do not deem it their duty to undertake it themselves, or to see that it be undertaken by some one else. Talking over the question with a friend the other day, and putting this point to him, he replied that many parents care themselves so little for religion that, if it were not taught in public schools, their children would grow up as heathens. But is not this the case very often now? Of course it is, for these irreligious parents were themselves children once, and were then taught all that their children are being taught to-day.

The *Times* and other organs of Jingoism are shaking their heads over what they suggest is the weakness of the Government over the interference of Russia with our trade to Japan, and urge that our commerce will suffer by it. But what would they have the Government do? Act in a way that might lead to war between us and Russia? In this case, our commerce would suffer infinitely more. In almost every great naval war between two or more nations, troubles have arisen in regard to the rights of neutrals, and this will always be the case until civilised nations agree upon some code in regard to contraband of war, and the rights of belligerents towards neutral vessels.

Take the case of the *Knight Commander*. There is no general agreement whether a vessel carrying contraband to the port of one belligerent may be destroyed at sea by the other belligerent, if the latter, owing to circumstances over which it has no control, is unable to send it to be condemned by a Prize Court. In former times we held that it might be destroyed, and it was not before the judgment of Lord Stowell that we altered our doctrine. But it might be urged that we then possessed the command of the seas, and we consequently were always able to send a prize to one of our ports for adjudication. On the merits of the case there is a good deal to be said on the other side. A belligerent cruiser may not have coal enough to send a capture to a port for adjudication. The captured vessel itself may be short of coal, the cruiser may not have sufficient men to put a prize crew on the vessel, the neighbouring sea may be so full of hostile ships of war that it would be pretty certain to be recaptured before reaching the port at which the Prize Court of the capturer is sitting. Take, then, an extreme case. Suppose that a vessel full of contraband, and sailing under a neutral flag, is captured almost within sight of its destination. What is the capturer to do? Is he, having assured himself of the nature of the cargo and its destination, to apologise to the captain and bid him continue his voyage? This seems absurd, if a neutral vessel is violating international law by carrying contraband to a belligerent's port.

So soon as this war is over a conference between all nations concerned should take place, at which the law, both in regard to contraband of war and the liability of neutral vessels to capture should be agreed to. This would be in the interests of all, for any one of the States in conference might some day find itself in the position either of a neutral or a belligerent. As a rule, if two States are fighting with each other, the main object of all other States is to keep clear of the quarrel. This sensible desire would be greatly aided were a general agreement as to what is international law on the sea come to, and better still would it be if all the parties to the settlement of the laws agree that if there are disputes as to the construction of the law, or as to facts, the matter should be settled by independent arbitration.

Our position in regard to rights of neutrals during war is that we are somewhat desirous of two things in themselves antagonistic. In our war against the first Napoleon, often with all Europe at his back, we had an overwhelming naval force, and our flag reigned supreme on the high seas. We used this supremacy to prevent any neutral vessel trading with our enemies, and so harshly did we exercise our belligerent rights that we in the end found ourselves at war with the United States.

At present we have a Navy which could sweep the flag of one or more belligerents from the sea, and which we imagine could enable our commerce to pursue its dealings with neutrals as though we were not at war. This latter is, however, doubtful. We should, I think, have to depend largely on neutrals for our supply of food and raw material. We cannot have it both ways, and our interest rather is to strengthen the rights of neutrals than those of belligerents. The doctrine that free ships make free goods, except, of course, contraband of war, which was laid down in the Treaty of Paris, is in accordance with our interests far more than with those of other Great Powers, for we are an island, and they are not. They could obtain their supplies through neutrals using the ports of a neighbour, and forwarding goods to the belligerent State by railroad. We could not do this.

I do not believe myself that the country will for long assent to the ever-increasing outlay on our Navy, nor do I think that in the long run we can maintain "the two-Power standard," particularly if foreign Powers pursue their policy of continually increasing their navies. We should not need to do this, were we sure under all reasonable probabilities of neutrals providing us with our food supplies. It is sometimes said that we could not depend on this because our enemies might refuse—no matter what international law may be—to allow neutrals to do this. Possibly they might if the neutrals would take this lying down. But this is not probable, and were our enemies to ignore the accepted law in regard to neutrals, they would be met by an "armed neutrality," as we have already twice been met by Europe when acting in this high-handed fashion. The

mistake that we are making is to deal with remote possibilities rather than with reasonable probabilities—a mistaken policy against which Sir Robert Peel again and again protested. In the womb of the future there are no absolute certainties, and it is quite possible for a State, like a house of business, to over-insure against contingencies that are not likely ever to occur.

The American Democrats have found a man in Judge Parker, and I sincerely trust that he will be elected President of the United States. He knows his own mind, is no self-seeker, and aspires alone to be what the greatest of American Presidents have been in the past—a citizen elected to the highest office of the State to give effect to the self-government of a nation. President Roosevelt is an honest man, but very self-opinionated, and his present term of office has shown that he is under the impression that his mission is to impose his will on others, instead of carrying out their will. Not only in the United States, but in the rest of the world, is he desirous of playing a great part—and the part that he has aspired to play has been entirely at variance with the spirit of American institutions. What especially pleases me in Judge Parker's pronouncements is the denunciation of the spread-eagleism that has been President Roosevelt's trump card up till now, and which is more befitting some military ruler of a nation than the head of a peace-loving and commercial community of sensible men.

THE DISSATISFIED WHELK.

A Whelk, who lay upon the Strand,
Half-stifled by the sun-baked Sand
(The Sea was out), impatient cries:
"Oh, that the blessèd Tide would rise!"
Rises the Tide, and soon it laves
The Whelk beneath its longed-for Waves;
Eke, with its buoyant Forces lifting,
Now here, now there, keeps Whelkie shifting;
Till, weary of the constant Motion,
This fickle Whelk recants his Notion,
And cries, with discontented Frown,
"Why can't the cursed Tide go down?"

Moral.

The Summer's hot. We Rain entreat.
Rain comes. At once, we shriek for Heat.

HOW ARTHURIUS KEPT THE BENCH.

(A Fragment of "Lays of Modern Babylon.")

Then out spake sly Arthurius,
That Premier up-to-date,
"Upon my word, 'tis parlous black
Our outlook 's been of late.
At recent by-elections
We've lost seat after seat,
And if we are not artful
Our wreck must be complete.

"Gone are the seasoned comrades
In whom I trusted most;
No leader surely ever had
So mutinous a host!
Why, even as the battle
Is ready to commence,
Scores of my stoutest fighters
Are wobbling on the fence!

"Never, in sooth, was party
Less fit to meet attack,
For while a few cry 'Forward!'
Full many chorus 'Back!'
And if *finesse* can't save us
From Office we must go!
Leaving the loaves and fishes
As booty for our foe.

"Some men thus served by Fortune
Would at the prospect blench,
But shall *we* thus surrender
Our places on this Bench?
No, no! Methinks some chances
Of pulling through I see.
Come! who will stand at my right hand,
And keep the Bench with me?"

Then out spake bold Josephus,
Of Brummagem was he,
"Lo! I will stand at thy right hand
And keep the Bench with thee!"
"In fact," he added, chuckling,
Though in an under-tone,
"If folks weren't quite so fussy,
I 'd keep it all alone!"

Out, too, spake sundry others,
Proud thus addressed to be,
"We will abide at thy left side,
And keep the Bench with thee."
"And *me!*" "And *me!*" cried dozens,
Of grammar careless, quite,
"Give us a post, Arthurius,
And see how we will fight!"

"I want," quoth he, "mere ciphers,
To share with me my task;
Tact, *nous*, skill, daring, brilliance,
I do not even ask.
For commonplace hack-workers
Alone I make my plea—
Come, then, young Austentatius,
And hold the Bench with me!

"And thou, Arnoldis Forsterus,
Possessed of no great skill,
Art just the sort of plodder
I need a gap to fill.
Alfrèdus, you 're another.
Don't try to clever be,
Be dull, and dense, and doggéd,
And I'll make room for thee!"

Thus, all was done for Party,
And nothing for the State.
Self-help was the incentive
That moved both small and great;
Ministers had one motto
That served their acts to sway—
To get a post and keep it,
No matter in what way!

* * * *

And now the Bench no longer
Unseemly gaps revealed,
The Premier to his colleagues
With emphasis appealed:
"Your pay," quoth he, "remember,
Will soon be falling due;
Aye, there are golden reasons
Why I depend on you!"

Anon he looked behind him,
Where, massed in serried rows,
His nominal adherents
Sat glaring at their foes.
Then, turning to Cee-Bee-ius,
He sniffed with proud disdain,
Forgetting Fiscal schism
Had cleft his host in twain.

"Come on!" he cried. "Attack us!
We're ready for the fray!"
When, from the seats behind him,
There came a chorussed "Nay!"
For, scarce a spear-length distant
From where Arthurius raved,
Black Michael's stout "Free-Fooders"
A Free-Trade banner waved.

Forthwith, as at a signal
The waiting foes among,
To arms the Opposition flew,
And lethal Votes-of-Censure drew,
As taunts they freely flung;
Or, raising shouts defiant,
In their heroic glee,
Pressed boldly on with measured tread,
To where, along its cushions spread,
Lolled, limply, A. J. B.

Straightway the Cambrienses
Charged home upon the right,
Their leader, one Lloyd Georgius,
Performing deeds of might.
Whilst, waving blank Demand-Notes
For School Board rates unpaid,
A phalanx of Dissenters
A passive feint essayed.

On came Cee-Bee-ius, holding
The Free Trade ensign high;
On came the "Anti" Tribesmen,
Prepared to do or die!
The bondslaves of the Cistern
('Tis "*Aqua!*" that they shout),
The Celtic Fringe from Erseland,
Grand fighters past all doubt.

Arthurius, quickly noting
The danger that was rife,
Called loudly to his henchmen
To aid him in the strife.
"Come, Unionists," he shouted,
"You *will* not run away?
A Premier's pay, a Premier's place,
Are in your charge to-day.

"Close up your ranks, I pray you,
With all the speed you can;
Think of the loaves and fishes,
And boldly play the man!"
Then, as their ranks still wavered,
To frenzy well-nigh stung,
He cried: "One hope is left me—
One chance of triumph—Bung!

"Oh, Bung, my more than brother!
To thee I make my plea!
Come to the rescue quickly,
And hold this Bench for me!
The Unionists are broken,
The Bishops are dispersed;
Hasten, oh, Bung! or, truly,
We must expect the worst."

Then, till Bung's re-inforcements
Could mass and onwards press,
Arthurius changed his tactics
And revelled in finesse.
To try direct resistance
No longer did he dare,
And so he dodged and doubled
Like an ingenious hare.

Meanwhile, Cee-Bee-ius, seeking
Allies on every hand,
Called up the crafty Mongols
To aid him, from the Rand;
And scores of pigtails streaming
Behind them on the gale,
Made an alarming picture
Which turned Alfrédus pale.

But vain was their assistance;
Just as the rising tide
Seemed bound to overwhelm him,
Arthurius—stepped aside.
Breaking by "slim" devices
The Opposition's ranks,
Till Bung his legions bringing
Charged home upon its flanks.

* * * *

Never, I ween, did Premier
Deserve to triumph less;
Never, I'm sure, has Premier
Shown such supreme finesse;
And, though assiduous foemen
Have sought the prize to wrench,
Still, now the fight has ended,
He holds the Treasury Bench.

True, that much moral damage
He has, meanwhile, sustained;
True, at a price most men would grudge,
He has his triumph gained;
But this is past all question,
Condemn him as you will,
He, by consummate dodging,
The Premiership holds still.

And in the days not distant,
When "Joseph's dreams" are cheap,
And when, from Tweed to Tamar,
Free Trade the polls will sweep;
When, in the peasant's cottage,
They cut the big loaf still,
And grim Protection's bogeys
No more can cause a thrill;

When Progress, long obstructed,
Is brought about at last,
When the Publicans and Bishops
Find the age of doles is past;
Then, with somewhat bitter laughter,
Shall the strange tale be told,
Of how Arthurius kept the Bench
In the bad days of old!

SCRUTATOR.

THE TWO KINGS OF BRENTFORD.

A POLITICAL party does its best to present to the public a united front. But in all parties there are elements of discord, sometimes smouldering, and sometimes breaking into flames. There are personal differences, differences of principle, and differences of opinion in regard to tactics. In the Unionist Party all these differences exist. With all respect to Mr. Balfour, he would never have been Prime Minister were he not the nephew of his uncle. He has a subtle intellect—a good deal more fitted to dialectic literature than to the practical business of politics, and he is the incarnation of universal agnosticism. Believing absolutely in nothing, and utterly without settled convictions on anything, when he adopts any course, it

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

is not because its wisdom commends itself to him, but because he regards it as possibly one shade less absurd than its opposite. To be Prime Minister is a pleasure to him, for he has a considerable share of ambition, and likes to pose as a man who, with the cares of Empire, not only bears the load with ease, but can find ample time for other occupations. His chief stock-in-trade is a dialectic skill of fence, and so skilful is he in verbal contests that he is able to adduce more or less specious arguments for or against any course suggested. Having become Premier by the accident of birth, he is desirous to remain Premier as long as he possibly can without being over-scrupulous as to the means. There is not the making of a great statesmen in him, nor is he an exceptionally adroit politician. The great issues that crop up seldom really interest him, beyond giving him an opportunity to defend or attack them, and when they are in any way complicated he does not take the trouble to try to understand them, or to realise their effect. Politics are his playthings, and they amuse him, whether the matter of the moment be a scheme of education, a licensing Bill, a fiscal issue, or the organisation of an army, and he seeks to bend them to serve his personal interests.

When Mr. Chamberlain discussed with him the fiscal changes that he contemplated, the Premier was up to a point taken with their charms. He had, as he has stated, made a speech some five-and-twenty years ago in the House of Commons in which he had suggested that possibly it would be more to our interest to make fiscal reciprocity treaties with foreign States, than to act on the fixed principle that, no matter what might be the fiscal system of other States, we ought to allow free entry into the United Kingdom of their products. I well remember his speeches of that date. They were philosophical essays, so involved, so apparently detached from all practical considerations, that very few knew precisely what he was advocating, and still fewer cared. Mr. Chamberlain probably went further than Mr. Balfour had anticipated, when the Birmingham fiscal bombshell was launched. But the Premier had so accustomed himself to lean on his then Colonial Secretary, and he knew himself so very little of fiscal questions in their practical aspect, that he imagined that he could toy with the idea. He was more surprised than any one else when he found the opposition that it encountered in his Cabinet and in the ranks of his Parliamentary supporters. But he had already gone too far in his approval of it to entirely throw it over, even if he had dared to throw down the gauntlet to Mr. Chamberlain. He, therefore, fell back on a scheme which he hoped would satisfy both Free Traders and Protectionists. This was to declare that the sitting House of Commons had no mandate to deal with the issue, and that at the next General Election the constituencies should be asked to give their assent to the abstract proposition that, whenever we find a State acting in fiscal matters unjustly towards us, we have the right to retaliate, and that this becomes our duty if retaliatory action can be shown to be our advantage. This right and duty have, however, always existed. None has ever regarded Free Trade as a supernatural revelation binding upon us under all circumtances. We adopted it from no love towards our neighbours, but because we were convinced that its advantages to us outweighed all its disadvantages. If it can be shown that in some exceptional cases we should gain more than we lost by levying, or threatening to levy, import duties on the products of some foreign State, there is not a sane human being in the United Kingdom who would not be in favour of such a course, the entire question being not one of ethics, or abstract economics, but of practical expediency.

Mr. Chamberlain is very much the opposite of Mr. Balfour. He is no theorist, and although not a statesman he is a practical politician. Exceedingly ambitious, he seldom looks before he leaps, nor does he go closely into the details of any nostrum that he fancies will suit the personal exigencies of the moment. Whether he be a Radical or a Conservative, a Free Trader or a Protectionist, depends upon what he regards as the surest path to his personal goal. Not only is he impulsive in the selection of his course of action, but he usually soon convinces himself that whatever he suggests must be sound. His mind cannot balance pros and cons. He can see only one side. When a Radical he demanded that the rich should pay ransom for being allowed to retain their wealth, and told them that they should remember the fate of Foulon in the first French Revolution, who suggested that the starving people should eat hay, and was hanged on a lamp-post with a handful of that provender in his mouth. When a "Little Englander" he deprecated even reasonable expenditure on armaments. Having become a "Big Englander," he announced that we had a mission from on high to expand our territory eternally, and urged vast military outlay to enable us to carry out this mission. According to him, some years ago, when still defending Free Trade as the perfection of wisdom, he had begun to doubt whether it is anything but a pernicious prejudice. I have some difficulty in believing this; but, if true, it throws a singular light upon his good faith.

His conversion to Protection was, I take it, a sudden one. He had taken himself to South Africa, where he was received as a hero by the gold magnates and their friends. On his return to England, he discovered that the Imperialism that had stood him in good stead during the Boer War had spent itself, and that both he and the Government of which he was a member were no longer popular. Without knowing much about finance, he jumped to the conclusion that the advocacy of colonial preference would make him once more the central political figure, and that it might be defended, both on the score of its financial advantages to us and on its Imperial aspect in regard to our Colonies. A duty of one shilling per quarter had been put on all corn from beyond the seas as a war tax. This Mr. Ritchie insisted on taking off, whereas Mr. Chamberlain wished to use it in order to make it the first step towards a preference in regard to our Colonies. Mr. Ritchie had his way in the Cabinet. On this Mr.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

Chamberlain at once launched his fiscal scheme, without perhaps perceiving how far it would carry him, and started a crusade in favour of it. The crusader, however, did not understand his own subject. In his speeches he dealt in bold assertion rather than argument. Again and again he contradicted himself. His figures were soon found to be erroneous, until at length he was reduced to call on the country to change its whole fiscal system, on the strength of his bald assertion that we should be ruined, and the Empire would be broken up, if we declined to believe him. These prophecies did not produce conviction. As a political "boss" he is a past master, and he fell back on intrigue. He announced that his first object would be to make his scheme an integral part of the Unionist creed. Large amounts of money were collected; meetings at which the stage management was perfect were held; the local Unionist associations were nobbled; Parliamentary candidates were forced to accept the creed; the central Liberal-Unionist Association was captured, and the central Conservative Association appears likely to meet the same fate. All this was done with consummate ability. There was no actual break with Mr. Balfour. He was allowed still to declare that the programme of the Government was fiscal retaliation under exceptional circumstances, and did not include taxation of food. But when he wished to submit a resolution to this effect to the House of Commons, he was obliged to withdraw it under the threat of being turned out of office by Mr. Chamberlain and his friends, if he persevered in this intention. In a letter to the *Times*, Lord Hugh Cecil explained the present position of Mr. Chamberlain and of Mr. Balfour thus: Mr. Chamberlain asks his party: "Are you in favour of a system of duties upon imports (including food) for the purpose of giving a preference to colonial produce and protection to British industries?" To this question the tariff reformers are ready to answer "Yes," and the free traders are ready to answer "No." What are the Government ready to answer? "While I am leader," said Mr. Balfour, "I will lead." Easier said than done, it seems, and Lord Hugh cleverly remarks, in conclusion, "We must emend Milton's line, and read: 'Those also lead who only stand and wait.'"

Looking at all that has recently occurred, it would seem that Mr. Balfour has thrown up the sponge, and that he has come to the heel of his friend Joseph. But I am by no means certain that this is entirely so. He still "stands and waits," and he counts on time to come to his succour. If Mr. Chamberlain is able to carry practically the entire Unionist Party with him, the Premier will not hold out against him, for he has always left himself an opening to remain as a shepherd of the fold, come what may. But it may be that the opportunists amongst the Unionists will fall away from Protection when they discover the artificial character of the campaign in favour of it, and the certainty that the country will never accept it. There have always been Protectionists—and not a few—in the Conservative ranks. They are of course delighted to see Protection brought within the area of practical politics, and these, coupled with Mr. Chamberlain's personal following, and backed up by the captured associations, are a band with whom the Party has to reckon. The result of the struggle between the two Kings of the Unionist Brentford is therefore not absolutely certain.

I do not believe myself that we shall ever revert to Protection. But I fail to see that Mr. Chamberlain could have adopted any other course than that which he has done since he recklessly hoisted the Protectionist flag and discovered that his own Party hesitated to fight under it. He evidently calculates on practically uniting the Party on it at the next General Election. He counts, too, on losing that election, and his entire plan is based upon the expectation that the Liberal Administration which will then be formed will be short-lived, owing to Liberal dissensions, in which case the Unionists, after a short sojourn in the desert, will once again secure a majority with Protection in their baggage. This was the only course open to him with any chance of success, although its success, he must be well aware, is doubtful. Mr. Balfour, on the other hand, cannot look with favour on a scheme which makes Mr. Chamberlain the recognised head of the Unionist Party, and seriously threatens his own leadership of it. He is more cunning than Mr. Chamberlain; he has not as yet absolutely tied himself to Protection, and therefore to temporise is his best chance. Mr. Chamberlain in his last speech in the House of Commons desired a dissolution. This I can well understand. Delay will not tell in his favour, whereas it may in that of Mr. Balfour. There evidently was some understanding between them that the dissolution was not to take place until the Session was over. It is doubtful, however, whether this understanding has extended beyond the Session. If Mr. Balfour can so order it, the present Parliament will sit for the next two years. If Mr. Chamberlain has his way, the dissolution will take place at latest before the next Session is over. The two may still believe that they love each other; but, if so, the love is already a very qualified one, and neither carries it so far as to be willing to sacrifice himself for the other. The underground struggle between them will be watched with interest. I may very possibly be wrong, but I think that Mr. Chamberlain is likely to be the winner. Within the walls of the House of Commons Mr. Balfour is the more adroit intriguer. Outside them Mr. Chamberlain is, and the struggle will now be outside. Both are ambitious, and both are unscrupulous. If either of them really has at heart the interests of the country, self interest is the more potent factor. This rivalry may prove harmful to the community; indeed, it can hardly be otherwise, for trade must suffer from the continuance of the uncertainty that hangs over the conditions under which it is henceforward to be conducted. But this does not alter the fact that it depends enirely upon which of them succeeds in dishing the other. To so unsatisfactory a state of things has the present Ministry and its khaki Parliamentary majority reduced us.

The Carlton Restaurant, Pall Mall, London, S.W.—*The* Restaurant of London. Telephone 1600 Gerrard. Telegrams, "Carlton Hotel, London." C. Ritz, General Manager.

PENSION TEA INSURANCE.

A reference was made in Truth a few weeks ago to the default of a pension tea company which had been trading under the idiotic name of the "Guaran-Tea Company, Ltd." This company has been selling pensions to widows with its tea more or less on the lines of Nelson and Co., though it has only done business in a very small way. On June 1 it issued a circular to the widow pensioners informing them that "the amount of our pension fund in the hands of the New Era Assurance Corporation, Ltd. (who are acting as trustees for the administration of such fund), not being sufficient to pay the full 10s. or 5s. per pensioner, we are reluctantly compelled to instruct them to distribute the sum in their hands *pro ratâ*." In remarking on this incident, I pointed out that the name of the New Era Assurance Corporation had been used in connection with the Guaran-Tea Company's pension business, and that it was somewhat strange that the Corporation should allow its name to be used in that way if its only share in the insurance business was to act as trustee for the distribution of any funds that the Guaran-Tea Company might place in its hands for that purpose. I am disposed to repeat this observation with emphasis in view of what I have since learned as to the representations which were made in connection with the Guaran-Tea business. This company has only been in existence a few years, having been formed in March, 1901, to take over the pension tea business of Messrs. Francis, Newton, and Co., of 94, Southwark-street, which included at that date nine pensioners and a pension fund of £330. The shares were virtually all held by members of the firm of Francis, Newton, and Co. Within a few months of the formation of the company a circular was issued to agents containing the following statements and remarks:—

> We beg to inform you we have concluded an agreement with the New Era Assurance Corporation by which that Company undertakes henceforth to pay all pensions, both those at present given, and also those accruing in future to the customers of the Guaran-Tea Co., Ltd.
>
> This important announcement answers all questions in regard to the legality of our system of pensions to widows, as the New Era Assurance Corporation have deposited the necessary Twenty Thousand Pounds (£20,000). This sum is at the present moment in the hands of the Board of Trade Department of the British Government.
>
> Under these favourable circumstances we trust you will do your utmost to extend this great and interesting movement in commercial insurance, which is bound to bring a very large accession of trade to your present business.

It will be seen from this that the Guaran-Tea Company represents to its agents, and therefore to its customers, that it had made arrangements with the New Era Assurance Corporation for the payment of the pensions by that company. The wording of the announcement clearly implies that the risk has been reinsured with the New Era people, who are henceforth responsible for the payment of the pensions. The New Era Corporation's deposit with the Board of Trade is held out as a security for the solvency of the Guaran-Tea Company's pension fund, and this security is represented as putting an end to all questions as to the legality of the pension business. The meaning of the last observation will be understood from the fact that about this time a question had arisen as to the legality of the pension tea business unless the company carrying it on formally accepted the position of an assurance company, and deposited security with the Board of Trade; and it was just at this juncture that Nelson and Co. were called upon by the Board of Trade to make a deposit of £20,000. The construction, therefore, which any one would place upon the above circular was that in place of making a deposit with the Board of Trade themselves, the Guaran-Tea Company had made an arrangement to transfer their pension business entirely to the New Era Corporation. It now appears that this representation was absolutely false. The Guaran-Tea Company find themselves unable to keep up their pensions, and instead of the New Era Corporation discharging the liabilities in their place, and instead of the pensioners getting any benefit from the New Era deposit "with the Board of Trade Department of the British Government," the unfortunate dupes who have been paying the Guaran-Tea people for pensions are coolly informed that the New Era are merely trustees for the administration of the pensions of the Guaran-Tea Company in their hands. It seems to me that the grossest deception has been practised upon the Guaran-Tea Company's customers, and that they have very drastic remedies in their hands, if they choose to use them. I hope they will.

It also seems to me that some explanation is due from the New Era Assurance Corporation as to their relation with this and other pension tea companies, for the Corporation appears to have made a specialty of this line of business. There is a firm called Oliver, Oliver, and Co., of 231, Southgate-road, London, who are selling "Oliver's Widows' Pension Tea," also on practically identical lines with Nelson and Co. They state in their advertisements that "Oliver, Oliver, and Co. have entered into a contract with the New Era Assurance Corporation, Ltd., 68, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C., by which every woman who may become a widow shall be paid a pension of 10s. or 5s. per week, provided that," etc., etc. The advertisement concludes with the statement that "the New Era Assurance Corporation, Ltd., has deposited with the Court of Chancery the sum of £20,000 in accordance with the Life Insurance Companies Act, 1872, and *they are paying a large number of weekly pensions under their tea pension scheme*." Here we have an explicit statement that the New Era Corporation is responsible for Oliver's Widows' Pensions, and that it is actually paying pensions already. The words "under their tea pension scheme" imply that the New Era Corporation has a branch of its business specially for the insurance of tea companies' widows' pensions. The New Era office does not, of course, make this statement itself; it is made by Oliver and Co. But it would hardly be made without the New Era's knowledge, and it must be presumed that there is some basis of truth in it. I hope, therefore, that the day will not arrive when the pensioners of Oliver and Co. will be informed that the New Era Corporation are merely trustees for the distribution of certain funds of Oliver and Co. in their hands, and that the fund no longer sufficing for the payment of pensions in full, Oliver and Co. have instructed them

(the New Era) only to pay pensions *pro rata*. Judging, however, from what has occurred in the Guaran-Tea case, there is no reason why this should not happen.

In addition to the Guaran-Tea Company and Oliver and Co., the New Era Corporation has also been used in much the same way by a concern called the "British Empire Tea Company," and another called the "Neacol Assurance Tea Company," though I have not seen any of the circulars in which these companies refer to the connection of the New Era with their pension schemes. It will be seen, therefore, that the New Era Corporation is very considerably mixed up with the pension tea business, and in view of this fact I have been looking into the financial status of the New Era Corporation, as disclosed in its return to the Board of Trade. The last Board of Trade blue-book gives the return for the year ending December 31, 1902. The following is the summarised valuation of the New Era's assurance and annuity liabilities and assets at that date:—

Net liability under assurance and annuity transactions (as per summary statement provided in schedule 5)	£5,230 16 0	Life assurance and annuity funds (as per balance-sheet under schedule 2)†	Nil.
		Deficiency	£5,230 16 0
	£5,230 16 0		£5,230 16 0

† Note.—There is no specific assurance fund; but by the Life Assurance Companies Act, 1872, the sum of £20 000 deposited by the Corporation with the Court of Chancery is deemed to form part of the assurance fund and is available to meet the liabilities under the Corporation's policies.

The assurance and annuity liabilities are, of course, a first charge on the £20,000 deposited, and these liabilities, when capitalised, may be regarded as fully secured. Except, however, as regards this, the position of the New Era Corporation is hardly one to inspire confidence among those who are doing business with it. The balance-sheet for 1902 shows liabilities on capital account and sundry debts to the total amount of £60,846 11s. 8d. The principal asset is the £20,000 deposited with the Board of Trade. Cash in hand (£2,703 6s. 6d.), mortgages on house property, office furniture, agents' balances, and a few smaller items in the shape of tangible assets, make up roughly another £4,741. But the two sides of the account are only made to balance by the inclusion of the two following items:—

	£ s. d.
Expenses in connection with the formation and registration of the company and further issue of capital	4,407 9 3
Establishment and extension expenses — including superintendents' and agents' salaries, rents, rates, travelling expenses, directors' fees, advertisements, printing, stationery	31,697 19 8

What these items are worth as assets every one can see for himself. None of them, of course, would be available as assets in the event of liquidation, and the sum total of them represents roughly the deficiency between the liquid or liquidatable assets and the liabilities on the other side of the account. I may add that this balance-sheet, as given in the Board of Trade Return, does not bear the signature of any auditor, but is signed by Sir Henry Seton Karr, the chairman, and other directors and officers of the Company. Without going into it further, enough has been said to show that, even if any of the tea companies above mentioned had reinsured their pension liabilities in the New Era office, the operation could hardly be described as "making assurance double sure."

It stands to reason, of course, that no sound and honestly-conducted insurance company would undertake the risk of any of these pension tea concerns on any terms which it would be worth their while to pay. What has been already said in Truth as to the weekly payment that would be necessary in order to place the Nelson pension business on a sound actuarial basis is quite enough to show this. In point of fact, if the whole weekly payment for the tea were treated as an insurance premium, it would be an insufficient premium to cover the risk. If the New Era Corporation has really undertaken to pay any pensions for such companies, the state of its balance-sheet at the end of 1902 is not surprising, and it may be taken for granted that the balance-sheet for 1903 was of a still more unsatisfactory nature. It is difficult, however, to believe that any board of directors in their senses would undertake this business. In that case the use that is being made of the name of the New Era Corporation is grossly misleading, if not absolutely fraudulent, and it behoves Sir Henry Seton Karr and his brother-directors to put a stop to it. As I have said before, the pension tea business is tainted with trickery and dishonesty from beginning to end. One of the most conspicuous concerns now in the trade, next to Nelson and Co., is the "British Widows Tea Company." This company advertises extensively in the provinces, and one of its advertisements recently brought under my notice, after reciting all the benefits offered to agents and customers, concludes with the words: "Company financially sound. Actuarily strong." This Company actually promises its benefits after twenty-six weeks' continuous purchase of its tea. I am even told that, in order to take customers away from Nelson and Co., it has lately been promising to take women into immediate benefit from the date of the commencement of their purchases. However that may be, that any company can be either "financially sound" or "actuarily strong" which undertakes to pay a woman a pension of 10s. a week during widowhood in consideration of six months' payment of about 6d. a week above the ordinary trade price of her tea, is absolutely impossible. This advertisement, therefore, bears dishonesty written large upon the face of it. It strikes me that this fact is likely to be brought home sooner or later in a very unpleasant way to a good many of the parties engaged in this class of business.

HOLIDAYS IN IRELAND.—I.

Ireland is, for various reasons, less known to tourists than any other portion of the kingdom. For one thing, it lies on the outskirts of Europe, and must be visited for itself alone, except by Americans, who take it incidentally as the beginning or end of a European tour. The novelty and variety, which a visit to Ireland offers to so many, are the best possible mental tonics. Let those who need them, who want a thorough change within the limits of the British Isles, try if they cannot find that change on the other side of the Irish Channel, amongst a different race and in a less strenuous life. Many tastes can find something to satisfy them. Wild mountains, wilder cliffs and Atlantic waves, smiling lakes, wooded glens, and pleasant rivers, for those who

love scenery; ruins innumerable for the antiquarian and historian—ruins of churches, bee-hive cells, and dwellings from the earliest days of Christianity, and from Pagan times, of monasteries and abbeys of later date, of castles, towers, and strongholds, on which the curse of Cromwell and of many before him has rested. The dreamer can find dreamlands into which the sound of the hum of humanity's mighty workings has never penetrated; the artist, subjects for brush and pencil; the angler, waters for rod and net; the golfer, "links" in infinite variety. Then for every one there are sea and mountain breezes, with the perennial Irish Question to introduce a human interest for those who need it.

The tourist who arrives in Dublin finds many excellent hotels, from the comforts of which many beautiful day excursions can be made. The Irish capital is too well-known to need description. The twentieth century finds it up-to-date; no longer the "cardrivingest" city of Thackeray, but one that boasts a splendid electric "tram" service, though the "side car" still retains popularity enough to give local colouring to the streets. No town in the kingdom has more beautiful environs, situated, as it is, at the head of Dublin Bay, with the range of Dublin mountains to the South, and to the North the historic plain of Clontarf, the Hill of Howth, backed by Ireland's Eye and the more distant island of Lambay. Charming scenery abounds on all sides, within easy reach by train, tram, car, cycle, or even by the old-fashioned mode of progression, walking. Howth can be reached by the Great Northern train in little over half-an-hour. The picturesque village clambers up the hill at the north side, the fine old ruined abbey overlooking the harbour, on the eastern pier of which George IV., of unpleasant memory, not only landed, but left the imprint of his Royal foot. The spirit of legend and history, modern as well as ancient, rests on the Hill of Howth. The views from its heathery summits are splendid, where mountain and sea breezes blow with untiring energy. Ancient history clings round Howth Castle. The villa of Lord Justice FitzGibbon has seen assembled under its hospitable roof many leading figures of modern history, including the Prime Minister, Mr. John Morley, Lords Roberts and Wolseley, Randolph Churchill, Morris, Ashbourne, and Rathmore. A tram leads round the Hill of Howth, and there is a good hotel. Another day can be spent on the Kingstown side of Dublin Bay, beginning with train to Dalkey, from whence Killiney Hill, overlooking the bay, can be ascended. The views are glorious in their extent, sometimes including a distant view of the Welsh coast. From Killiney a lovely drive leads through the valley of Shanganagh, either to Bray, or by the side of the winding Dargle to Enniskerry, then back through the Scalp, by breezy Carrickmines and Foxrock—renowned for golf links—and the slopes of the Dublin Hills to Dublin. An excursion by tram to Poulaphouca Waterfall and Blessington lies through the country of the Dublin Mountains. On their heather and furze-covered slopes walkers and cyclists can enjoy fresh air; more adventurous ones would find splendid camping-out grounds. An historic day can be spent in the Boyne Valley, going by the northern line to Drogheda, and then by coach to the Boyne battle-field, a battle which has caused, and still causes, so many battles in Ireland, to the beautiful ruins of Monasterboice and Mellifont Abbey. From Bray and Greystones, seaside resorts with excellent hotels and sea-bathing, touring in the county of Wicklow can be done, and also from Newrath Bridge, Glendalough, Rathdrum, and Wooden Bridge, inland places with good hotels and all with picturesque surroundings. Nine miles or so to the north of Dublin, Malahide, with its fine hotel, is a popular resort, especially dear to golfers, in the very heart of what may be called a "links" country. Much historic interest, as well as antiquarian, attaches to Malahide Castle and to Swords, which is only two miles distant. Pleasant days can be passed at Malahide, where the northern sea breeze is always invigorating.

Further north, by the Northern Railway, is Greenore, at the mouth of Carlingford Lough. Its attractions are a good hotel, splendid golf links, and air on all sides, very strongly in evidence sometimes, from sea and mountain. On the north side, but at the head of the same lough, are Warrenpoint and Rostrevor. The latter is most picturesquely situated, at the Lough side, with the ranges of the Mourne Mountains rising at the back, the slopes of which at Rostrevor, descend to the water, thickly wooded. The walks and drives are beautiful, with every variety of scenery, gentle and wild, woods and waters, rural fields and mountains. Ruined castles, fortresses, and monasteries bear witness to the stormy past; legends of Fin-Ma-Coul and other giant heroes haunt the mountains. The neighbourhood boasts of having given Lord O'Hagan and Lord Russell of Killowen to modern history—the first Catholic Lord Chancellor of Ireland since the Reformation, and the first Catholic Lord Chief Justice of England respectively. And Rostrevor is in the County of Down, which is a province of Ulster—Ulster of the Red Hand and Orange renown. History is full of strange contrasts and contradictions, and not least the history of Ireland. Rostrevor is reached by the Great Northern Railway, a branch line leading to Warrenpoint, and thence by tram and car. The drive round the coast to Newcastle is exquisite, by the sea and at the base of the Mourne Mountains, at the foot of the highest of which, Slieve Donard, lies this favourite seaside resort. A splendid hotel, renowned golf links, mountain climbing, and sea-bathing are to be found at Newcastle. It can be reached by rail from Belfast.

The northern capital, like Dublin, needs no description; its idiosyncrasies on special occasions connected with historic anniversaries are not amiable. It is situated on the Lagan, which flows into the picturesque Belfast Lough. Larne, some twenty-four miles distant, is a favourite bathing place of much scenic beauty. Lough Larne is more like an inland lake than an inlet of the sea, the entrance from the sea being so narrow. Here in ancient days Edward Bruce landed in war; now travellers pass peacefully between Larne and Stranraer, in the enjoyment, or sometimes perhaps

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

otherwise, of the shortest sea route between Great Britain and Ireland.

From Larne, by drive along the lovely coast road, or from Belfast by train, the Giant's Causeway and Portrush are reached. They are only half an hour distant from each other, an electric tramway, the first of the kind constructed in the kingdom, running between them. Portrush, the leading seaside place of the north, has large accommodation for tourists; its golf links and sea-bathing are famous. There is no doubt about the Atlantic waves that beat on its coast and the bracing breezes which blow fresh from the ocean. The enthusiast for fresh air can have it here to his heart's content, with perhaps even a little to spare occasionally. Between Larne and Portrush, on the coast road, there are quiet places with beautiful scenery, bold cliffs, and sea, where tourists might pass enjoyable days; at the hotel, a former seat of Lord Londonderry, on Garron Point; at Glenarm, a little village of prosperous aspect in a valley that opens on the Bay of Glenarm, and where the sea-bathing is excellent. On the other side of Portrush, between it and Derry, is the prettily-situated Coleraine, at the mouth of the Bann, a river which provides much Parliamentary occupation for Ulster members. From Coleraine to Derry the railway runs by the side of Lough Foyle, the great inlet of the sea on which the historic northern town is situated. The celebrated Siege of Derry is hardly second in importance in Irish history to the Battle of the Boyne, and still supplies to Ulster extremists the "no surrender" war cry. The walls of Derry still remain in good preservation; the flavour of Jacobean and Orange history clings strongly to the town.

In hot weather Buncrana, on Lough Swilly, about fourteen miles from Derry, is a good headquarters from which to visit the town and interesting neighbourhood. Buncrana is a much frequented health resort, with many villas and a fine hotel, and—it goes without saying almost anywhere in Ireland now—adequate golf links. No industry has developed more rapidly in the country than the golf one, practically started in Mr. A. Balfour's Chief Secretarial time. To the north of Buncrana a wild country of bleak mountains, promontories, cliffs, and mountain passes leads to Malin Head, the most northern point in Ireland. The view of the Atlantic is magnificent, especially when "the mighty wind arises, roaring northward," and in the distance the coasts of Islay and the mountains of Jura.

West and south-west of Buncrana are the Donegal Highlands, in all the glory of the wild scenery of the Black North. Portsalon, with its excellent hotel, lies on the opposite side of Lough Swilly—the lake of the shadows—further north, and is reached by steamer across the lough to Rathmullen, and then by car to Portsalon. Rosapenna, another favourite tourist resort, further west, stands on a peninsula between two bays. The views of the great Donegal mountains, the Atlantic and Horn Head are wild and beautiful. Days and weeks might be spent here in undeniable mountain and sea air. The solitary might find solitude. Let him camp out in these highlands, within sound of the Atlantic, or on the mountain sides, or in the glens, and he may have somebre loneliness and wildness, almost equal to that of Arctic or Antarctic Circles; only he must settle it with the weather as best he may. Once the North was not bleak and treeless; it is not the wild north blast from the Atlantic, but the hand of man, that levelled the trees which might otherwise have given shelter to the "Irishry." Rosapenna can be reached from Lough Swilly, but more directly by motor-car service from Strabane, on the Great Northern line. A coach to Creeslough from Rosapenna enables tourists to go from there to Gweedore by rail through a wild, mountainous country. Gweedore has a good hotel, with good fishing in two rivers and the lakes in the district. The highest mountain in Donegal, Mount Errigal, can be ascended from here; the walks are wild and beautiful in the neighbourhood, through dark passes and over wide moorlands, with mountains and hills on all sides. At Dunglow, attainable by car, good fishing may be had in the Rouses lakes. The drive from Dunglow to Glenties is wild and beautiful. The steep "Corkscrew Road" descends into the Valley of the Gweebarra, and causes the nervous tourist some stimulating anxiety, in lesser degree than he may feel in descending the Val Tremolo from Switzerland into Italy. Those who like wild coast scenery might enjoy quiet days at Ardara, where fishing is also to be had. The drive thence to Killybegs goes through mountain passes and fine scenery, combining ocean seas, mountains, lakes, and rivers. At Killybegs, twentieth-century methods are resumed; a railway leads to Donegal. Bundoran, within reach of car from Donegal, is one of the most popular bathing, fishing, and golfing resorts in Ireland. It stands on Donegal Bay, in the full enjoyment of Atlantic sea breezes and the bracing "salt water" in which the natives have such belief, in inward as well as outward application. Breeziness is characteristic of the place.

The North of Ireland is richer in seaside than in inland holiday resorts. Quiet enjoyment, however, may be had in visiting the Lough Erne inland district. The Upper and Lower Loughs have scenic beauty of a quieter sort than that of Donegal. Enniskillen stands between the two loughs, and can be reached by train from Bundoran. Another quiet resort, where fishing in several rivers is to be had, is Newtownstewart, between Enniskillen and Strabane. It is in the Abercorn country, the ducal residence, Baron's Court, being close by. The house in which James II. slept on his way to Derry is shown as an object of historic interest in Newtownstewart. No monarch ever had such a "sleepy" record as James in Ireland; he must have spent most of his time in sleeping, to judge by the prodigious number of places noted as those in which the monarch slept. A tour round them might be suggested to modern Jacobite enthusiasts. The claim of the North of Ireland to give light and leading to the country may not be universally conceded, but none can dispute that of the Black North to wild and glorious scenery, or to fresh, bracing air, and a great deal of it. Ireland should have a good chance with the tourist in an age when fresh air is not only a fashion, but a passion.

So much for the neighbourhood of Dublin and for the North of Ireland. Before turning to the attractions of the South and the West it may be well to say a word as to means of access for the Saxon tourist. Several centuries have passed since Burton wrote "Our life is an Irish sea, wherein there is nought to be expected but tempestuous storms and troublesome waves." The ancient, exaggerated terrors of the Irish Sea have passed, too; the voyager of to-day crosses and re-crosses it without so much as a thought cast to them. Two routes, which may well be called Royal, take him from England to Ireland within three hours or thereabouts—the Irish mail from Holyhead to Kingstown, and the London and North-Western service between Holyhead and Dublin. The London and North-Western is, of course, the natural route between London and Dublin, and this company offers a comprehensive choice of circular tours in all the best-known districts of Ireland, north, south, east and west. Special facilities for doing the North of Ireland are also offered now by the Midland Company, which recently bought up the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway, which is connected with its English system *via* Barrow and *via* Heysham on Morecambe Bay. The Midland is about to open a fine new harbour and docks at Heysham which have been some years under construction, and promises shortly a service of twenty-knot turbine steamers between that port and Belfast. Meantime, the company offers a choice of circular tours in Antrim, Donegal, and the North of Ireland generally by the existing routes at prices within the reach of even the most modest English excursionist.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU.

I USED very often to dine in the company of the late M. Waldeck-Rousseau at the house of the late Mr. John Bowes, who thrice won the Derby, and generally sat opposite to him. The second wife of Mr. Bowes, a highly accomplished French lady with infinite *esprit*, and a high culture that did not rob her of her natural manner, had known M. Waldeck-Rousseau at Rennes. She gathered round her the most distinguished statesmen, authors, artists of the day, and culled the statesmen from the Republican sides of the Chamber and Senate. I also used to meet M. Waldeck-Rousseau at the soirées at the Pavillon Flore when M. Hérold resided there as Prefect of the Seine; at those of M. and Mme. Andrieux; and at the déjeuners at the Petit Bourbon when Gambetta filled the place of President of the Chamber. He used frequently to be the guest, with other celebrities, actual and coming, of a lady belonging to a great Bourse dynasty who successfully braved the unwritten law of French society in reserving one of her salons for baccarat. My first impression of him dates from the time when he sat in the Chamber of Deputies at Versailles which MacMahon dissolved almost before it had had time to settle down to work. He would have been then about thirty-two or three, had a gentlemanly, not to say patrician air, distant manners, not much small talk, and yet was the reverse of a heavy party. Whatever he said told. It came like the *trait de lumière*, though not perhaps to dazzle, but to light up softly, like the electric lamps then coming into use. He had simplicity, conciseness, went to the point with the directness of a telegram, and gave the relief of a lapidary style to the sentences in which he stated propositions and summed up arguments. Only a deep thinker and a man of high and delicate culture could have spoken as he did. A voice low, with round, full tones, and yet not at all a bass voice, was audible at a distance, though not at all loud. He might have been a highly-educated young officer. The closely-clipped hair, the moustache, a *veston* resembling that of an English officer in mufti, an air of drill in the already slightly stooped and slender figure, all had a military look. The conversation might have been that of a professor who had gone brilliantly through the Ecole Normale des Hautes Etudes. And yet he seemed to stand on another footing. He had the interest of an enigma.

After he left I asked Gambetta to explain the puzzle. This he did by telling me that the departed guest had served in the war of 1870-71 with distinction as a captain of mobiles, or militia. The war over, he so organised the Republicans at Nantes as to form *un bloc* (the first time, so far as I know, that the word *bloc* had a political application). It had been latent, diffused, split up, and the paletot hostile to the blouse. At the age of twenty-five Waldeck-Rousseau, by the power of the word and the fineness of his character and principles, had organised and given organic life to this nebula. "One might almost," said Gambetta with a hearty laugh, "accept what the first chapter of St. John's Gospel said of the creation, when one knew what Waldeck effected by the word." He began his legal career at St. Nazaire, the Havre on the mouth of the Loire, went to Rennes to be away from clerical influences in his family, and there made a great name as an advocate. He acquired the kind of influence he had won at Nantes, and used it to organise a local Republican party. Rennes at the first general elections for the Chamber of Deputies had sent him there.

Gambetta asked whether I did not think Waldeck-Rousseau resembled a Roman patrician—a Coriolanus, for instance. I did not. Sir William Harcourt, whom I heard at a public meeting and in the House some years later, came much nearer to the Coriolanus that I evolved out of my imagination. Gambetta's young follower, it seemed to me, had not the copiousness, the power to warm up a crowd, and the apparent impulsiveness of those patricians who disposed as they pleased of armies of clients at the Forum. His hauteur rather reminded me of those intellectual patrician Frenchmen of the time of Descartes, who combined the characters of Captain Pen and Captain Sword. Gambetta thought Waldeck-Rousseau handsome, and a man to make his way in an Athenian Republic. He had a regular and clean-cut profile and a finely-formed head, truly a dome of thought, but more remarkable for perfect proportions than for volume. The front face expressed reserve. He had lived from the age of six to twenty-four at

Nantes, which the Prefects of the Second Empire permanently terrorised. His family were the objects of especial watchfulness. After September 4 the voluminous reports about them, in which he had himself been included, came to light at the Prefecture. In the pigeon holes of the Public Instruction Department lay other reports of almost prophetic perspicacity, speaking of René Waldeck-Rousseau *fils* as, at bottom, a zealous, and "almost a fanatical Republican, but too reserved and secretive to commit himself. He had many natural gifts." A school report spoke of him as "brooding over the lives of the Gracchi." "He learned by heart at home the speeches of Jules Favre, and repeated passages from them to his comrades in the playground." A young Breton who felt himself the object of close espionage could not help becoming reserved, if not for his own sake, for the sakes of his people and friends. The more earnestly Republican they were, the greater the need of aloofness. Waldeck-Rousseau met the familiar advances of secret agents of the Empire with freezing reserve. This attitude became a habit. His father, as president of the National Assembly, had, in 1848, administered the oath of fidelity to the Constitution to Louis Napoleon after he had been elected President of the Republic. Waldeck-Rousseau *père* had closely watched the career of Louis Napoleon between that election and the Coup d'Etat, and was on the morning of December 2 sent to the Mazas prison, with many other deputies. Being a man of talent, he had been marked for transportation to the silos of Lambessa. Private influence, however, prevailed in his favour, and the Emperor let him out, but he remained for the following eighteen years under police surveillance.

The son's severe self-restraint and distant manner arose not from misanthropy. Not that contempt for the millions who prostrated themselves before the Empire had no influence on his habitual manner. His full, violet blue and somewhat goggle eyes, gave no suggestion of what passed in the mind behind them, unless when his sensibilities—extremely delicate—were touched. A lambent soul-flame lighted them up if he suddenly met an old friend or saw something that appealed to the artist which lurked behind the calm thinker.

Of Waldeck-Rousseau's devotion to the Republic I never doubted. He differed from most Opportunists in wanting to make the accession of the new social strata a reality. Gambetta had made a hit by declaring *l'avenement des nouvelles couches sociales*. His cool-headed disciple asked for something more than oratorical froth. I think he was the first to see that a great gulf lay between the Republicans *lettrés*, or those educated in the classical tradition, and the Republicans who worked with their hands, and knew nothing of Greek or Latin, save what they heard at mass. He did not see why this should be in a country so permeated with ancient civilisations as France. For his part, he preferred the lucid and original intellect of the workman to the, too often, sophisticated mind of the bourgeois. The Republicans could not form a block to resist the well-organised enemies of the Republic until the bourgeois could, without any repugnance, shake hands with the decent operative. A workman who, by manual labour, had been leading a free and independent life had as good a right to general respect and particular deference, and the bourgeois Waldeck-Rousseau, as Prime Minister, in after years thought and acted according to this idea of bridging over the chasm between the two great classes. He held in contempt the Opportunism that only meant to pay its debts to the people in fine words, but approved that which seriously proposed to do one thing at a time and to overlook what might be hard to stomach in means to ends that called for quick accomplishment. In this spirit he, on the morrow of Gambetta's death, took office under Ferry, who had been much more the foe than the rival of the former. He justified this step, which many thought a treason to the memory of his dead chief and friend, by carrying the statute to authorise the syndical associations of workmen, or trades unions, which may be regarded as the great charter of their class.

The author of this measure had an independent fortune, and could afford to follow his bent in courting no man, or group of men, nor party, nor class. He grew very sick of the tricks, the bargaining and pacts, the intrigues, counter intrigues, and got-up agitations of Parliamentary life, and had no vulgar ambition to sweeten "la cuisine." The higher ambition of his youth never died out in the thirteen years he spent at the Paris bar. He had at once risen to fortune and the highest professional eminence. That manner of his that repelled familiarity served him there. Every one knew that he left politics in disgust, but nobody could tell whether he had a preference for any party. The Republicans hoped to keep him and Reactionists to gain him. A Republican oligarchy of Moderates and Radicals that had drifted from their brethren to the former flattered themselves that he belonged to them. Some ladies, who avowed their preference for a Corinthian Republic, saw in him a prize bachelor, especially after the passing of the divorce law. A man who made 500,000 frs. a year, indolently, but by the sheer force of talent, was a man to be captured as a gallant satellite, if not as a husband for a niece or daughter. For years he dined out every evening at great houses, talked little, looked frequently pale and out of sorts from neuralgia, slipped off to the smoking-room the moment he left the dining-room, smoked a few cigars, and then went away. As an inveterate smoker he could have out-matched Louis Napoleon. Waldeck-Rousseau smoked in the corridors of the Chamber and Senate, in the Galleries of the Palais de Justice, in walking, in driving in carriage, or motor-car, when fishing, when receiving clients and callers at his home or at the Ministry of the Interior, at the front of theatres, between the acts. He owned to smoking from sixty to seventy-five cigars a day. But they were Havanas, and furnished to him by a Cuban planter whom he successfully defended in a great lawsuit. Could this abuse of the cigar have kept him out of Parliamentary broils? He was never known to quarrel with a colleague. No tempest in the Chamber or Senate could force him out of his impassive, professorial attitude in

the tribune. If the tempest, in growing loud, rendered him inaudible, he waited quietly until it had spent itself, and then took up his statement or argument where he had left off. It would have been impossible when he examined the details of a proposed measure to make him lose the guiding thread or to confuse him in a summing up.

Waldeck-Rousseau at once liked and disliked the theatre. Clever authorship of plays and clever acting pleased and interested him. But the *cabotinage* of the stage disgusted him almost as much as the praise of the Press. The *cabotinage* of smart people in society he held in greater aversion, and he admired the Providence that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb when somebody, well-informed on the subject, told him that a great Sovereign who had paid him in Norway flattering attentions thought it a duty to keep always before the footlights, and enjoyed being there. Whenever Waldeck-Rousseau visited Italy he called on the man whom, in his whole circle of acquaintances, he most admired—Zanardelli. I think he envied the life and attainments of that illustrious Italian. Now that I think of it, seen in profile, they resembled each other, but the front faces were dissimilar, and the eyes very much so. Zanardelli might have struck a painter as apostle and legislator—the apostle of the new penal code to which he devoted his life, a code of justice, mercy, good sense, and high philosophy. I think I can see his influence in a change that took place in Waldeck-Rousseau after his visit to Rome about seven years ago. Zanardelli, brought *le bloc* into Italian politics, shook hands cordially with Socialistic workmen, and, at the beginning of the present reign, refused to adopt a preventive penal law against anarchists. Zanardelli reminded Waldeck-Rousseau of his own conception in dwelling on the wisdom of keeping in check evil heredity by education and better environment, and holding down by human arrangement those forces of nature engaged in the struggle for existence. Not long previous to his visit to Rome, Waldeck-Rousseau had attacked the Socialists and the Radicals. Zanardelli admitted himself a Socialist and Radical, and in favour of human arrangements in preference to the unbridled laws of Nature as laid down by Darwin.

Waldeck-Rousseau's course from the day he became Prime Minister to his spontaneous resignation was on the same lines as Zanardelli's. He asked M. Jaurès for his alliance, took a Socialist leader into his Cabinet, gave a sincerer tone to government than it ever had before, and helped with becoming dignity to receive the Emperor and Empress of Russia at Compiègne. He wished to avoid being caught up by the German Emperor in the Norwegian fiords, and the captain of M. Menier's yacht tacked about to get out of the fiord before the *Hohenzollern* came to close quarters. He responded, we may assume, with high courtesy to the flattering attentions with which the Emperor honoured him and, for his sake, the rest of the party on board the yacht.

M. Waldeck-Rousseau married late in life the widow of Dr. Liouville, a Deputy, and son of a pre-eminent advocate, whose only daughter married Ernest Picard, a member of the National Defence Government. She is step-daughter of the famous Dr. Charcot, half-sister of Dr. Jean Charcot *fils*, the husband of Jeanne Hugo, and now engaged on a voyage of exploration in the Polar region. The natural peerage of France, or its highest members, used to meet in her drawing-room. As her husband hated a crowd, she hardly ever had "at homes." Before her second marriage she had the name of the most *mondaine* woman in Paris, and dressed to bring into relief her natural resemblance to Sarah Bernhardt. When she became Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau she changed her habits and appearance, and laid herself out entirely to satisfy her illustrious husband's tastes and to infuse charm into his life. He seemed to thaw and to bask in sunshine until his health utterly broke down. His first great illness had been preceded by her long sojourn in a convent hospital, where he could stay with her. She entered it to undergo a surgical operation, which placed her life in jeopardy. All he suffered from painful apprehension would have helped to anger the latent malady which declared itself soon after and obliged him to submit to the scalpel. The society of the nuns had the effect of reviving in Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau the religious ideas of earlier life. By her wish alone a close friend of the family summoned a priest on the day of the second operation to the side of M. Waldeck-Rousseau, as he lay in a comatose state and all but lifeless. She is blamed by his Republican friends. She took counsel of her feelings, asked herself what the mother of the statesman in her place would have done, and found an answer in the sight of an image of the Virgin which the elder Mme. Waldeck-Rousseau gave him on the day of his first Communion.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WE go to London to make money, dear Lady Betty; to Paris, to spend it; to the south of France, for the sun; and to Germany, for the stomach. That short account of the life of the ordinary rich Englishmen of to-day helps to explain why money has recently become scarce in this country. Did our wealthy men now generally make their fortunes, or increase them, by manufacturing commodities which the foreigner purchases, that programme would not seriously affect the prosperity of the nation. Unfortunately, most of the fortunes of the moment in England have been made by speculating, and much of the money obtained by gambling on the Stock Exchange is extracted from the pockets of our fellow-countrymen. It is not merely, therefore, foreign gold that is being distributed by our wealthy men and women in France and Germany, but mostly British sovereigns.

Cannot London be made pleasant? The climate of Paris is not much more agreeable than that of London, but the smoke and fogs coat the buildings in the latter city with black. Were London more clean it would be less depressing; surely the authorities could do much to diminish the amount of smoke?

"The cooking is generally very good in Paris, very bad in London." It is, but cooking is not an unacquirable accomplishment. Every nation has the cooking which it deserves. So long as cold missionary on the side-board satisfies the cannibal, the native cooks will not prepare salmis of Sunday school children. There is

no national secret in French cooking, which is guarded as strictly as are the fortifications in France. Were the British as interested in their food as are the French, English cooks would soon become more experienced in preparing pleasant dishes. Give a man a bad digestion and hang him; two-thirds of the digestions of the English have been destroyed by the cooking of the country; the other third by the climate!

It is one of the most curious circumstances of our times that though French cooks receive enormous wages in this country, and the English will pay extravagant prices for foreign-cooked food at the restaurants, English cooks do not appear to improve.

The "intellectual drama" in London is certainly inferior to that of Paris, but otherwise—except in the direction of immorality—the plays produced in the former city are more expensively "dressed," and have, generally, more money spent on the scenery than those in the latter. For every pretty woman who acts in Paris there are twenty on the London stage. Is it possible that the moral English man and woman go to Paris for the immorality there is there? The most important factor in the religion of many of our fellow-countrymen and women is the fear of their neighbour; but the foreigner is not our neighbour!

"We like the change of surroundings and customs." That is natural, but so do foreigners. Most of them, however, go to Paris for amusement, and few come to London for this purpose, which is a sign that the former city is more attractive than the latter. Let us have without delay a Metropolitan Board of Amusements to develop our resources in this important direction. London, the richest city in Europe, could easily be made almost as pleasant as Paris. Our streets could be kept more clean than they are, could be better lit, and the authorities could be induced to exercise more taste in the discharge of their duties. The lamp-posts of London are a national disgrace. Our monuments could be washed more frequently, the miles of railings and the many posts could be coated with something more cheerful than tar, and obvious improvements could be introduced into our parks. Our railway stations might occasionally be redecorated, and our omnibuses might be revarnished at intervals. Has dirt ever before in the history of a civilised community accumulated with so little interference as it has at the stations on our underground railways? Cleaner omnibuses and stations would attract more customers.

Nevertheless, we claim cleanliness as a national asset!—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

NINETY-EIGHT horses have been entered for the Cesarewitch (run October 12), as against ninety-four last year. Mr. Bass has engaged Sceptre, and I see it is predicted that she will be top-weight, while one wiseacre asserts that she would certainly have won last year's Cesarewitch if she had started. She would have had no earthly chance for that race, considering that she would have carried a penalty of 10 lb. for her victory in the Jockey Club Stakes, and this addition to her original weight would have most effectually extinguished her chance. I do not believe that she would have stood any chance for the Cesarewitch even if she had not been stopped by her weight-for-age engagements. The ground was heavy, and we have yet to learn that she can stay the Cesarewitch course. A lot of rigmarole twaddle has been written about Sceptre's Cesarewitch prospects, and I daresay the speculative public will be gulled by the rubbish they read in some of the papers, and back the mare for that race. Most practical men who observed Sceptre closely at Ascot are of the opinion that she is not at all likely to recover her form, and even if a trial proves that this view is wrong, it may be hoped that she will not be knocked about in the Cesarewitch, but that she will be reserved for the Doncaster Cup and the Champion Stakes. Animals of high class which have been winners of great races ought not to be knocked about in handicaps with crushing weights on their backs. It was a deplorable mistake to have started Sceptre for the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot after her ignominious exhibition in the race for the Gold Cup on the previous day. Mr. Alexander has entered Throwaway, winner of the Ascot Cup, but this horse is certain to be heavily weighted, and I have always felt convinced that his victory in the Gold Cup was an arrant fluke, and that Zinfandel would have won that race easily if he had been sensibly ridden, or rather if his jockey had received orders to "come through" with him. Saltpetre, winner of the Goodwood Cup, has been entered by his new owner, Mr. David Faber. Sir James Miller has not entered Rock Sand, and he has acted most wisely, for that horse will have quite enough to do in fulfilling his principal weight-for-age engagements without his being messed about in handicaps. The Jockey Club Stakes appears likely to be a good thing for Rock Sand, considering that he is blessed with a 9 lb. breeding allowance, and there is every reason for not over-doing it with this horse, as next season he is entered for both the Newmarket £10,000 races, and in each of them he has a breeding allowance of 9 lb. In the Princess of Wales's Stakes, Rock Sand's only formidable opponents will be St. Amant and John o' Gaunt, and he would meet the Derby winner with a considerable advantage in the weights, and if Sir John Thursby's colt does not in the meantime win a stake of the value of £1,000, the pair would meet at an advantage of 2 lb. in favour of John o' Gaunt. The entry for the Jockey Club Stakes again includes St. Amant and John o' Gaunt, and also Ajax and Gouvernant, besides a large number of now two-year-olds. Sir James Miller is represented in the Cesarewitch by Rondeau and Santa Claus, and they are two very useful animals. The absence of Zinfandel's name from the list has caused much surprise. Lord Howard de Walden's unlucky and much mismanaged horse was most unfortunate in not winning this handicap last year, and he would have done so but for the fact that the course was like a swamp, and it was asking too much to expect him to give the weight to Grey Tick. Bedford Cottage, indeed, is not represented by a single entry, and the horses now trained in that stable appear to be an exceedingly moderate lot.

Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, who has gone to the Engandine for a month, is the largest subscriber to the Cesarewitch, with eight entries, but not a single promising candidate is included in his lot. Mr. Henning has three entries, and Galapas and Foundling are both fairly smart, besides being well endowed with stamina. It is probable that Galapas would have been handicapped at a weight which would have made the Cesarewitch a certainty for him, but for his unexpected victory in the Zetland Plate at Newmarket last month. This horse would have been a good thing for the Goodwood Cup if he had been left in for that race. Four horses have been entered from the Egerton House stable, but they are a bad lot, if judged by their public form. Mr Gilpin's team consists of Roe O'Neill, L'Aiglon, and Hammerkop, and Major Loder's mare is quite likely to become a prominent favourite if she is leniently treated by the handicapper. I understand that Hammerkop was considerably amiss when she ran at Goodwood. The Duke of Devonshire has entered Cheers, who can be trusted to stay the distance, but it is doubtful whether this horse will stand another preparation. Mr. F. Taylor's Union Jack and Mr. Ellam's Switchcap are also good stayers. Major Gordon's Karakoul might reasonably be expected to show to more advantage over the Cesarewitch course than most of the Newmarket-trained horses which have been entered. Lord Westbury's Cerisier and Mr. King's Whistling Crow are not likely to be fancied for this handicap by sensible people. The Duke of Westminster is not likely to be dangerous with the

three-year-olds Rydal Head and King's Favour. Mr. Faber has a pair of average handicap horses in Fermoyle and Loveite. Mr. W. H. Walker's Sandboy stays well, but he is a thoroughly exposed horse, and the same may be said of Mr. S. B. Joel's Bachelor's Button. Mr. Musker, whose colours have been dreadfully unlucky of late, has engaged McYardley and Admiral Breeze; and Mr. C. Perkins has Cliftonhall and William Hill. Mr. Baird Hay has entered Palmy Days, and Lord Harewood has engaged Almscliff. Mr. J. C. Sullivan has four entries, one of which is quite likely to figure prominently in the race. Mr. S. B. Joel's St. Denis has been in retirement since the Derby, and his forward running in that race was probably a mere chance. There is a strong impression among sensible people that the Derby was altogether a false-run race, and this view has been much strengthened by the recent excellent performances of Gouvernant. Some ingenuous writers have expressed surprise that Mark Time should have been withdrawn from the Great Ebor Handicap. Mr. Clarke's horse is a strong public fancy for the Cesarewitch, but it is seldom indeed that summer favourites for the autumn handicaps are in at the finish, and the vain hope excited by these early tips of good things result as a rule only in vainer regrets and much useless execration. M. E. Blanc has engaged Ajax, and he is the only Leger favourite in the list. There are six other entries from France, one of them being M. de Bremond's Maximum II., the winner of last year's Ascot Cup. According to the advertisement in the *Calendar*, £500 is added by the Jockey Club to the Cesarewitch. Inasmuch, however, as there is an entrance fee of £5 the amount really given to the race from the Newmarket fund is £10!

There is a decline in the number of entries for the Cambridgeshire, only 107 horses having been engaged, as against 117 last year. The class is better in this handicap, but it is odd that a larger number of horses have not been entered, as the course is a more popular one. Indeed, it is a flagrant fact that not one-third of the horses engaged in the Cesarewitch have any pretensions whatever to stay the distance. A great number of the horses entered for the long race have as usual been engaged in the shorter one. In the Duke of Westminster's entry Grey Plume is substituted for King's Favour, who is presumably expected to distinguish herself in a long-distance race. The Duke of Portland has entered Darley Dale, whose performance at Goodwood is now maintained to be a satisfactory one, as he had so much the worst of the weights with Almscliff, and it is asserted that at one time in the race he looked like defeating Lord Harewood's colt. This is the sort of calf-headed drivel one so often hears. The only question of any real moment in considering such a race as that for the Gratwicke Stakes is how far the runners were separated when the winner passed the judge. Even if Darley Dale had beaten Almscliff at Goodwood, the performance would not have impressed good judges of racing as being a satisfactory Leger trial. Mr. Faber has engaged Duke of Westminster, who has proved a sorry bargain to his present owner, whose regrets must be much increased by the reflection that when he purchased this horse in the autumn of 1901 he could have obtained Sceptre for less money. It would surprise me to find Duke of Westminster capable of staying the Cambridgeshire course. I am sorry to hear, by the way, that Mr. George Faber is in bad health, and he therefore intends to retire from the representation of York when Parliament is dissolved. Mr. Alexander has engaged Andover, who has come on considerably, and he is a smart colt over his own distance. Mr. Hill's Barbette is an animal that was expected to achieve great things as a three-year-old. Sceptre has been entered for the Cambridgeshire also. Sir E. Cassel has three entries, one being Nabot, who had been powerfully "doped" when he ran so well with Ballantrae for the Cambridgeshire of 1902. It was not until Sir Blundell Maple had owned Nabot for some months that the horse fully recovered from the effects of the drug which had been administered. He was a truly lamentable object when he made his first appearance in the colours of his new owner at Manchester a month after the Cambridgeshire. M. E. Blanc's only entry is the four-year-old Caius, but a French three-year-old in the list which has a considerable private reputation is M. Ephrussi's Ob. There are seven other French horses. Mr. Buchanan has entered Lancashire, the American colt for whom he gave 3,000 gs. at Newmarket last December. Mr. Stedall's Marsden is talked of as likely to win a good handicap during the autumn. Mr. Pulley's Fariman cannot stay the course, and the same may be observed of Mr. Creet's Killeevan, and of Mr. Keswick's Csardas. Lord Rosebery, who has nothing in the Cesarewitch, has entered the four-year-old Ladurlad for the Cambridgeshire. Mr. Low's Littleton fell lame in the spring when he was being prepared to run for the Kempton Park Jubilee Handicap. He is now believed to be all right again, and I hear that he is a popular fancy for the Cambridgeshire. Littleton is not expected to stand a preparation on hard ground, and he is more likely to win a race during the "back end" than at Newmarket. Mr. Sullivan has the same lot of four in the Cambridgeshire as in the other handicap. Mr. Prentice's General Cronje and Dumbarton Castle are a pair that ought to win handicaps before the close of the season, and plenty of people are anxiously waiting to be "on" at the right time. Mr. Croker has engaged Clonmell, who, in the spring, was announced by some mooncalves to be the most promising outsider in the Derby. Captain Forester's entry of three includes Queen's Holiday and Hackler's Pride, who won this handicap so easily last year. Lord Carnarvon has five entries, including Robert le Diable (winner of the City and Suburban), St. Emilion, and Santry. "Mr. Jersey's" Vergia is not likely to stay the course. Mr. Gilpin has entered Delaunay. It is generally supposed that this animal (the colt by Fortunio out of Pet) cannot stay beyond six furlongs, but it would not surprise many sensible observers if he turned out capable of getting the course over which this race is run. Major Loder has entered Pretty Polly, but I do hope that he does not entertain any idea of starting this mare for a handicap. It is a piece of bad luck that Pretty Polly was not entered for any of the "£10,000" races, and her only engagement as a four-year-old is the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot. The Duke of Devonshire has entered Simony, who has been for a long time regarded as likely to win a good handicap.

It is difficult to understand why £600 should be added to the Cambridgeshire (£500 for the winner and £100 for the second), while only £500 is given to the Cesarewitch, and no less a sum than £300 is deducted from the stake for second and third. These conditions are grossly unfair, and it is the more remarkable that such a douche of cold water should be turned upon the Cesarewitch, considering the avowed zeal of the Jockey Club for long-distance races, which has elicited so much braying in the way of applause from some of the sporting papers. The Cambridgeshire is not a costly event to the Newmarket fund, for although £600 is advertised to be added to this handicap, so much of the amount is recovered by means of the device of a £5 entrance, that the sum really given in cash is only £65.

It is a significant sign of the times that the Duke of York Handicap of £2,000 at the Kempton Park October meeting should have failed to fill. The managers stipulated for fifty entries, and they would have acted wisely in accepting forty, as it would seriously damage the meeting if one of its principal events were allowed to fall into abeyance. The handicap is to be re-opened.

It will be curious to see if the Prince Edward Handicap of £2,000 at Manchester (run September 24) meets with a similar fate. Here, again, fifty entries are required. This race closes this week, as also does the Lancaster Nursery of £1,000, to run on September 23, and fifty entries are demanded. A larger number might reasonably be looked for, as nursery handicaps of £1,000

are not plentiful, and the race is run over the popular distance of five furlongs.

The *Sportsman* announced on Saturday that M. E. Blanc "has not yet irrevocably made up his mind what shall represent him at Doncaster in the St. Leger." A man having two horses engaged in a great race does not "irrevocably" make up his mind until the last moment, as accidents may take place, necessitating a change in his original intentions. As to the St. Leger, however, Ajax is a certain starter if he is all right. He is undergoing a special preparation for the Doncaster race, and he has missed some French engagements in order that he may have every chance afforded him. M. Blanc has not yet decided whether or not he will start Gouvernant also for the St. Leger, but there is not a particle of foundation for the idea (which any one would draw from the *Sportsman's* bungling statement) that he is in doubt which of the pair he will run. Gouvernant's performance last week in winning the Grand Prix of £4,000 at Vichy was the best of his career, as he had very much the worst of the weights, and the race was run at a very fast pace. Gouvernant appears to be suited by plenty of work, as he has been now in active training for about five months, and has taken part in several severe races, but the oftener he is called upon the better he seems to like it, as he has come on wonderfully during the summer, and has improved vastly. It is now clear (as was maintained in TRUTH after Epsom) that Gouvernant's running in the Derby was all wrong, and it is also certain that he is a thoroughly game colt, and that he can stay well. Ajax and Gouvernant have so far won stakes to the value of over £40,000, so these two colts have already more than got back the sum (37,000 gs.) which M. E. Blanc paid for Flying Fox in March, 1900.

Comedian, winner of the Chesterfield Stakes at Newmarket and of the Rous Memorial at Goodwood, was made a great favourite for the International Breeders' Stakes at Kempton Park, but most of the clever people backed the colt by Ladas out of St. Ia, who had 17 lb. the better of the weights, and he was evidently much fancied by his stable. The betting was confined to the pair, and the St. Ia colt won easily.

John o' Gaunt could not have lost the City of London Breeders' Foal Plate, but this unlucky colt met with an accident which prevented him from starting. Grey Plume was plunged on recklessly, but the Duke of Westminster's colt cannot really get a yard beyond a mile, and he was dead beat quite a furlong from home, and was cleverly defeated by Lancashire, who palpably outstayed him. The minor three-year-old races of this season have been contested by miserably bad horses.

The only event of any interest at Redcar (where Mr. Lowther's usual large party from Wilton Castle was much missed) was the hollow victory of St. Florentin in the Redcar Stakes. This animal, who is by St. Simon out of Wise Flower, was sent up for sale at Newmarket by Lord Londonderry, about thirteen months ago, but his reserve (2,000 gs.) was not reached, so his breeder decided to race the colt himself. St. Florentin was much more fit last week than when he ran behind Grandiflora at Newmarket. There was no party from Wynyard at Redcar, but Lord Zetland and Lord Ronaldshay (who have been staying at Marske-by-the-Sea before going to Scotland) were both present at the races.

There will be racing next week at York, Gatwick, and Hamilton Park, and there is sure to be some interesting sport on the Knavesmire, the August meeting over that historic course being the only really important fixture between Goodwood and Doncaster.

There are seventeen acceptances for the Great Ebor Handicap out of an original entry of thirty-five. This is now a post-betting race, and there will be no speculation worthy of notice until the day of running arrives. Firmilian and Imari appear to be well in.

Cicero will not start for the Prince of Wales's Plate of £1,000, for which race fifty-nine two-year-olds accepted when the minor forfeit was declared. Galantine and Graceful are the best representatives of public form, but both of these animals will have much the worst of the weights with Shah Jehan. There are ten entries for the Convivial Produce Stakes, with £500 added, and Llangibby ought to win if he starts, as his 7 lb. penalty is reduced to 2 lb. by a breeding allowance. There are 165 entries for the Gimcrack Stakes, with £1,000 added, and I shall plump for Vedas. Full Cry will probably be reserved for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster.

The Yorkshire Oaks would look well for Fiancée if Lord Falmouth's mare is in any sort of form. A dreadfully bad lot of animals are engaged in this race. The Duke of York Stakes may be left to Andover. The Great Yorkshire Stakes has lost all its old importance, and the entry does not include a single probable starter for the St. Leger. Galapas ought to be able to win this race.

The schoolboy and the pedant both know the name of Rowland Hill. The latter regards him as the ruthless destroyer of correct correspondence owing to his introduction of the penny postage stamp. The former knows him as the honorary secretary of the Rugby Football Union. Two years after the death of the postal reformer—that is, in 1881—Mr. Rowland Hill assumed those secretarial duties which were eventually to be rewarded by a cartoon in *Vanity Fair* and a place in the heart of every footballer who loves the game for its own sake. After twenty-three years' service he has had to retire owing to the increase of his official duties. For, like the other Hill, he is associated with a place that has to do with stamps. He is in the Civil Service at Somerset House. Only those who have been acquainted with the working of any athletic organisation can realise the tremendous amount of work that is demanded of an honorary secretary of such a body as the Rugby Union. In its own sphere the work is of considerable importance. On the secretary devolves the true running of the whole machine. It is no doubt true that no man is indispensable. But the number of men who work for nothing is becoming fewer every year. It will probably be necessary for the post to be filled by a salaried secretary. But a salaried secretary would certainly have weakened the position of the Union in the past. In the great struggle between amateurism and professionalism, which began soon after Mr. Rowland Hill took office, and continued until the early nineties, the fact that the burden of the amateur's position was borne by a man who practised what he preached, became an invaluable asset in the struggle. The best speaker and the best organiser of those who believed in the game being played as a pastime and not as a business, and who held the view that the reins of government should be in the hands of amateurs, was himself giving freely all his spare time and holidays to the task. He was too old to play the game, but he did far more—he carried the true spirit of the game on in his life. He made its work his hobby. He retires with the knowledge that amateurism is the inviolable principle of the Rugby Union. There is infinitely less doubt about it than about the Monroe doctrine. It is a well-defined position, the limitations of which are clearly understood. Hardship it may cause in some cases, ridicule it may evoke in some instances. For ridicule Mr. Rowland Hill never cared a rap. He is too good and honest a fighter to be disturbed in that way. For hardship he had a tender heart. But then he quite realised that it would be extremely dangerous to admit exceptions to broad principles. He was too strong an official to be afraid of good law making bad justice. In his retirement from office he will have the good wishes of many generations of Rugby footballers, more especially of those who helped in the fight against the veiled professionalism that was rampant in the North before the Northern Union was founded.

During the week that marks the retirement of Mr. Rowland Hill from his office, a special meeting of the Football Association was held to consider the payment of professional footballers. A more striking contrast between the two codes of football could not be found.

The Rugby Union regrets the loss of its honorary secretary; the Football Association, run by professionals for professionals, is discussing the wage limit rule. When that rule limiting salaries to £4 a week was passed, I prophesied for it a short life. I pointed out that it could be evaded with ease. And now at a general meeting one finds 88 to 65 in favour of repeal. The requisite majority was not forthcoming. The situation is interesting. A rule that can be evaded is not approved by the majority, who are in considerable force; what penalty is likely to be incurred by those who disregard the rule? The chances of detection for its infringement are enormously diminished. Such a rule under such circumstances will be more observed by being broken than by being obeyed. It is a rule characteristic of the class of men who control Association football. If these men had been players they would have formed a workers' union. As it is they create an employers' trust, which, like all trusts, is bound to go under. And for this reason: the greed of the individual is greater than that of even a corporate body.

The South African cricketers have my heartiest sympathy. Neither Lancashire nor Notts put their full strength in the field to meet them. In fact, both teams were well under strength. They simply trampled on Notts. They have proved themselves well worthy of having the best teams possible put in the field against them. Their averages are included in the first class averages. In every respect they have shown themselves first-class players. To serve up to them second-rate teams is as discourteous as it is unsportsmanlike. There is also the commercial side of the question. These tours cost money, and if counties treat the visitors in this contemptuous manner, the public will not come to see the game. I understand that the South Africans feel rather hurt about this treatment. They have every justification for their annoyance.

The last club that any decent team will want to play will be the M.C.C. A more wretched team than that which the M.C.C. put into the field against the South Africans it would be difficult to conceive. I know that after the way the visitors had defeated England it was hoped by many members of the M.C.C. that every effort would be made to whip up a strong team against the South Africans. But the strain of county cricket has told its tale. Nowadays neither professional nor amateur can be let off from the county matches, and any days off that may come along are welcomed as days of rest. Visitors are crowded out from the trade programme. It is a pity.

The Surrey team have another captain. Mr. J. E. Raphael has been appointed. I wish him every success, and I hope he will insist on being captain, and not submit to the vagaries of the Surrey Selection Committee. If Dr. Grace were a youngster, people would say he was a coming bowler after his performance against Derby County. As it is, they forget how old he is, and his success passes almost without comment. He gets together better teams than the M.C.C. Lancashire has had to be content with drawn games. Huge scoring has been the rule in both their matches last week. For Sussex, Ranjitsinhji played two superb innings. He played the bowling, instead of playing with it, as he seems so often to do, which was a compliment to Lancashire. Spooner, for Lancashire, has quite recovered his best form. If he had been playing for Surrey he would have been kicked out of the team for his recent failures. He scored over 200 against Essex, and the Essex men replied with a huge total and a draw. Yorkshire rose to the occasion against Middlesex, and, by some brilliant batting, forced a draw. They tried to get out of the corner against Warwick, but they failed by six runs. Heartiest congratulations to Warwick on their success in what was the most sensational finish this season. Kent had to struggle hard to play a draw with Gloucestershire, but they succeeded, and followed up the match with a fine win over Somerset. Middlesex, after having put Yorkshire in a hole, beat Notts with the greatest ease in their next match. Bosanquet excelled himself in these two matches. In the first match he scored a century, and in the two games he took twenty-two wickets. J. Douglas and Warner made a first wicket county record against Notts, while J. Gunn bowled admirably for the losers.

A letter by "Tideway Veteran" in the *Field* on Henley in the fifties and early sixties makes one regret that in the many books on rowing Mr. W. H. Eyre, of the Thames, has not been induced to write his rowing reminiscences and experiences. Whatever may be said about his style, there is no doubt he is one of the very few men who can express in print the keen enthusiasm that an oarsman feels about a race. The battles of the veterans are fought again when he writes about them Perhaps some enterprising editor of a book on rowing will get hold of him.

The cyclist who lives in London finds his exits and his entrances sufficiently dangerous without tram lines. These rails are now being laid on all the main roads from London. The chances of side-slip are considerably increased, especially when the roads are watered. It is to be hoped that the centre line in which is the slot will not be widened in the London County Council system. The possibilities of injury to cyclists will be enormously increased if the slot is made wider. Even the County Council must remember that high roads are not ready-made permanent ways for tram-cars. This is an elementary fact which tramcar authorities, whether they be municipal corporations or private companies, are apt to forget.

MAMMON.

STOCK MARKETS STAGNANT—HOLIDAY ATMOSPHERE—POLITICAL "COMPLICATIONS"—EASIER MONEY AND "BEAR" COVERING—FOREIGN BOURSES MORE CHEERFUL—AMERICANS ACTIVE—ARGENTINE RAILS.

ACTIVITY in the stock markets during a nineteen-day account in the dog days is too much to expect, and the current year furnishes no exception to that rule. There is, in fact, next to no business in any section, and something like 50 per cent. of the members of the House have decided that, in the circumstances, it is much better to be idle on the sea beach or active on the moors, than to stagnate in the sultry atmosphere of Throgmorton-street with nothing whatever to do. The week, as may be imagined, has produced nothing of much interest. A few alarmists—"Bears" to wit—professed to be very much concerned over the action of the Japanese in cutting out a Russian destroyer, which had sought shelter in Chifu, and their fear of "complications"—a blessed word to them—seemed to be increased by the fact that some other Russian warships, in their anxiety to get away from the Japanese fleet, had taken refuge in a German-Chinese port. But nobody took much notice of them, and, apart from some "Bear" sales of that once respectable and staid stock Consols, the effect was inappreciable. Towards the end, an improvement in the general tone has been induced by easier conditions in the Money Market, by the announcement that a considerable sum in gold has been shipped from India for London, and by the birth of a son and heir to the Russian throne, this fact making Paris quite cheerful, and causing it to forget for the moment that Port Arthur is in a parlous condition, and that General Kuropatkin is hard pressed on at least three sides. Consequent upon the first influence, the Gilt-edged market shows some recovery, and consequent upon the second, Foreign stocks have been in favour. Among the other sections of the House there is nothing to note beyond the strenuous efforts of the Wall Street leaders to infuse activity into Americans; the flatness of Grand Trunks on the dividend which was no worse

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

than had been expected; the strength of Canadian Pacifics on the good dividend and the crop and other prospects; and the buying of Rosarios on Buenos Ayres account. The South African Mining market, one of the most attractive in all the House, has been influenced for the good by the improved labour outlook, though it still suffers from lack of a public, in which it is no worse off than the rest of the House.

Money Tight—Easier Towards the End—Government Disbursements—Railway Dividends—Japanese Loan Instalment—More Confident Feeling—Gold from India—Discounts Easier—Bank's Position.

The week started with money in short supply, and rates as a consequence high. The market was unable to repay the whole of the money due at the Bank, though by reason of special disbursements, it was not compelled to renew the whole of its indebtedness. Towards the end conditions have eased appreciably. The Government has released a considerable sum; some of the Japanese Loan money has been lent freely in anticipation of the final call this week; and the railway dividends, while they have disturbed the market more than a little, have on the whole made for ease. During this current week the chief influence is the Japanese Loan instalment, and against this we have a slackened inquiry for accommodation, and a further return of cash from the provinces. Altogether, the feeling is much more confident than was the case a week or two ago, and it must be remembered that the Bank is receiving nearly the whole of the gold that arrives weekly from South Africa and elsewhere. In the discount market dealings are restricted, because the supply of bills is small, but the tendency of rates is downwards, in sympathy with money, the movement being helped by the announcement that gold to the amount of half a million—with a similar amount to follow—has just left India for London. Three months fine bills, which earlier in the week commanded close upon 3 per cent., are now taken at 2 13-16 per cent., and the quotation is not very strong at that figure. The Bank's position has strengthened materially during the past week. The reserve is higher by £1,124,000, due to an increase of £845,000 in the stock of coin and bullion (of which £652,000 was received from abroad), and the return of notes from circulation to the amount of £279,000. The reduction of £1,469,000 in Government securities indicates that the Government has failed to renew its former holding of Exchequer bonds. The total of the reserve is now £24,406,359, and the ratio to liabilities is 2.63 higher at 51.29 per cent.

Consols Irregular—Easier Money *v.* Politics—Small Investment Enquiry and Large "Bull" Account—Undigested Gilt-edged Securities—Foreigners Quiet—Paris in Better Humour—Russians and the Csarevitch—Argentine Bonds.

Investment buying of Consols is not on any appreciable scale, and the "Bears" have taken advantage of every political wind that has blown to knock the price down. On the week there is not much change, the beneficial influence of easier money being neutralised almost completely by the war in the East, and the fear—a trifle remote, it seems to me—of complications arising out of the action of the Japanese war vessels at Chifu. The present trouble of Consols is that there is little investment inquiry for the stock, while the speculative account for the rise is still large, and the return of normal conditions in the Money Market is slow by reason of the over-supply of Gilt-edged stocks and the slowness of the advance in Rand gold production resulting from the scarcity of labour. In the long run, Consols, should be good for a recovery to the neighbourhood of par, but the mass of undigested high-class stocks on the market militates against anything recovering at the present time. In the Foreign market, as in others, dealings have been poor. These descriptions depend largely for their activity upon the Continental bourses; and they, although they are able to command much capital, have not done much because of the uncertainties of the war position in Manchuria. The birth of an heir to the Russian throne has put Paris into a better humour, but that bourse is still a little nervous—which is to be regretted because, from the abundance of idle capital there, it is safe to assume that, but for the war, the good Frenchman would quickly induce a 5 or 10 per cent. rise in all the securities affected by him. But in the existing circumstances, even a moderate improvement in values is welcome. Japanese stocks have improved, though they are not at the best, Russians are a fraction up, and Chinese, Turkish Unified, Egyptian Unified, and some others have gained ground. Among South Americans there is not much of interest, but Argentine bonds keep firm on unification prospects.

Home Rails Idle—Public Apathy and Professional Liquidation—Poor Trade Returns—"Leeds"—Home Rails *v.* Gilt-edged Stocks—North-Western and Great Western Reports—South Wales Railways.

Business in the Home Railway section is poor, and the course of prices during the week has been downwards. The "Bull" account is still considerable, despite recent liquidations, and in the absence of investment support and under stress of a number of adverse influences, there is a rather keen desire to reduce commitments, with an effect upon values out of all proportion to the volume of dealings as gauged by nominal standards. The trade returns are bad, and earnings are for the most part poor, the only exceptions being shown by the Southern lines. The affinity with the Funds has not been a strengthening element, though towards the end the prospects of easier money have been of some help. One of the weakest stocks has been Great Easterns, in which there is a large account open for the rise; but the "Heavies" have lost ground, and Southern issues have weakened. Dover "A," which was gaily talked up to 75 only the other day, is back to 58; and Brighton "A," a far more attractive stock, which gives a good yield, has failed to stand against the current, and has fallen below 120. Lancashire and Yorkshire has kept tolerably firm, and there are buyers about on the strength of the improved outlook for the cotton trade. At existing levels, the better class of Home Railway stocks give quite a high return upon an investment—North Western 3⅞ per cent.; Great Western 3¾ per cent.; Midland Deferred 4 per cent.; North Eastern 4 per cent.; Great Northern Preferred Ordinary 4 per cent.; Brighton Ordinary 4½ per cent.; South Western Ordinary 3¾ per cent.; Great Central Four per Cent. Preference 3¾ per cent.; and so forth; and were monetary conditions in a more normal state such yields would not be obtainable. But there is such a plethora of gilt-edged descriptions on offer which give the same rate that Home Railways have not a fair chance. An early revival in speculation is scarcely to be expected, but investment buying would prove profitable in the end, although as against any large purchase now is to be placed the probability of a further reduction in values should easy money be much longer

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deferred and should trade grow more depressed. My table is appended:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Aug. 6.	Price, Aug. 13.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79¼	74½	74½	74½	—
Do. Def.	36½	28⅞	28⅝	28⅜	− ¼
City and S. London	59	45	45½	42 xd	−1½
Central London	102	90	90	88 xd	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48½	—	45½	44½	−1
Do. "B"	27	23½	23¼	23¼	− ¼
Do. "A"	15	13½	13½	13¼	—
Great Eastern	92¼	86	87½	86⅝	−1¼
Great Northern Pref.	101¼	102	102	100 xd	− ½
Do. Def	43¾	39	39½	38⅝	− ⅜
Great Western	139½	141	142	139 xd	−1
Hull and Barnsley	43	34	35	33½	−1½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	104	96½	95	95	+1½
London and Brighton "A"	118⅞	119½	120	119½	− ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15½	15¼	15⅜	15⅛	− ¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	96	98¼	98½	97½xd	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	66	63	63	63	—
London and North-Western	161½	151	152	151	−1
London and South-Western Def.	56	51½	51¼	51¼	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	84½	94½	94½	93 xd	—
Metropolitan District	34½	36	35½	35½	—
Midland Pref.	69	67½	67⅝	66 xd	− ½
Do. Def.	69	63	63¼	61¼xd	−1
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	77½	77½	77½	—
Do. Def.	46½	43⅝	43¾	43⅜	− ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	145	137¾	138¼	135 xd	−1
South-Eastern "A"	67½	58	58½	57¾	− ½

All the important English railways have now made known their results for the first half of the year. And as I observed last week in commenting upon the dividends the record is not bad—is, in fact, somewhat better than one had been led to expect. The Great Western report shows an increase of £175,646 in gross earnings, accompanied by an increase of £107,992 in expenses, so that the net increase is £67,654. Passenger traffic improved by £91,774, minerals by £56,804, and merchandise and live stock by £26,288. On the expenditure side the chief advances are £56,400 in traffic and general charges, £26,800 in maintenance, and £14,764 in rates and taxes. The report states that the various works for the improvement of the access to the terminus at Paddington are proceeding and that steps are being taken for enlarging the station itself, so as to afford additional platform accommodation on the arrival side. The directors are continuing to extend the use of motor-cars on the railway, and are satisfied with the results that have attended the experiments already made. The North-Western tells of an actual decrease in earnings of £31,321 instead of the £90,000 reported, and as there was also a reduction of £45,972 in the working expenses there is a net increase of £14,651. The amount available for dividend, after taking count of miscellaneous receipts and the sum brought in, is £1,954,076, an increase of £6,077. There was a reduction of 727,905 in the number of passengers carried, and of £23,799 in the receipts therefrom. Merchandise and mineral traffic fell off by £8,783, the tonnage showing a decrease of 284,070. Passenger mileage increased by 176,320 miles, but in goods and mineral trains a decrease of 506,826 miles is recorded. The South Wales lines are doing well, and their prospects are reported to be satisfactory. It will be seen from my customary traffic table below that, except for the Brighton and South-Eastern and Chatham companies, the leading lines report decreases for August upon considerable increases last year:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 3,051	+ 2,173	+ 10,042
Caledonian	− 3,960	− 3,264	− 3,960
Great Central	− 783	+ 2,243	+ [illegible]9
Great Eastern	− 2,300	+ 4,400	− 1,500
Great Northern	− 2,096	+ 5,057	− 39,188
Great Western	− 6,500	+20,400	− 10,700
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 658	− 306	+ 5,350
London and North-Western	−16,000	+10,000	− 51,000
London and South-Western	800	+ 400	+ 5,600
Midland	− 3,009	− 2,010	− 62,323
North British	− 7,508	+ 322	− 7,508
North-Eastern	− 1,464	− 5,999	+ 6,224
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 4,008	+ 9,099	+ 8,369

HAVANA CIGARS.—"The 'BOLIVAR' is the FINEST CIGAR I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the GOOD OLD CROPS of BACK YEARS."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

CANADIAN PACIFIC DIVIDEND—A GOOD INVESTMENT—NEW CAPITAL FEARS—GRAND TRUNK'S HALF-YEAR—PREFERENCE STOCKS' CHANCE—ROSARIOS BOUGHT FOR BUENOS AYRES—DIVIDEND PROSPECTS.

The Canadian Pacific dividend of 3 per cent., making 6 per cent. for the twelve months to June, as compared with 5 per cent. for 1902-3, has had a good effect upon the price of the Company's shares, which have been advanced to above 130—a figure which gives a yield of 4¾ per cent. plus $3 of accrued interest. The gross earnings, as I have pointed out before, show a considerable increase, but by reason of heavy disbursements for betterments, and of extraordinary expenditure entailed by the severities of last winter, the net earnings show a considerable decrease—$14,213,105, as compared with $15,836,845. Income from other sources increased by $404,456, and amounted to $1,691,269, so that the available sum is $15,904,374, as compared with $17,123,658. After paying the 6 per cent. for the year on the Ordinary shares, there is a surplus of $1,666,204, as against $3,973,960. The only thing to be said about the carry forward is that it is less handsome than was the case a year ago, but that it is still handsome enough. There is not so much interest in "Canadas" on this side of the Atlantic as there ought to be, considering the excellence of the investment; and there is still some apprehension in the market in regard to the Company's intentions as to fresh capital, it being believed that on the first favourable opportunity the Directors will plant a large amount of Preference or Ordinary capital on the market. The Canadian Pacific is a progressive and enterprising line, and such companies need to increase their capital from time to time. Additions are only unwise when they are made without reasonable prospect of a remunerative return, and no one will charge the Directors of this particular Company with being injudicious. I am arguing in the dark, because I do not know that it is intended to increase the capital at all for the present; but I see no reason why holders of its shares should become alarmed. Earnings are on a highly satisfactory scale, a big harvest is assured this year, and the shares may be regarded as well established on the 6 per cent. basis. The following table shows what can be obtained on the Canadian Pacific's various stocks:—

—	—	Price.	Yield per Cent.
			£ s. d.
Canadian Pacific	$100	Sh.845,300	182½ 4 14 6
Do. Non-Cum. Preference	Stk.	6,678,082	103 3 17 9
Do. Ster. 1 Mt. Bds., July, 1915	...	7,191,500	110 p.c. 3 16 9
Do. 50-yr. Ld. Bds. guar. to 1938	...	2,023,500	102 p.c. 3 8 0
Do. do. Inscribed	Stk.	1,070,200	101 3 9 6
Do. Consolidated Debenture	Stk.	16,922,305	109½ 3 13 3
Do. Algoma Br., 1st Mt. 1937	...	750,000	115 p.c. 4 0 0

Dealings in Grand Trunks have been on a small scale, the public being out of the market because of the uncertain outlook and the indifferent traffics, and the professionals disposed to await the report for the June half-year before doing much. Just prior to the announcement, however, there was some activity, the First Preference stock being especially in request on the belief that something would be paid on the stock for the half-year. The May revenue statement showed that the Company was then considerably short of the sum required for the Guaranteed interest, but there was never any doubt that this would be obtained by economies, "sweepings," and what you will. The Company is, in fact, just in a position to meet the guaranteed charges and to carry forward £4,300. On the subject of the outlook I hope to speak next week. Argentine Railways have been quiet, the only stock that makes any pretence at activity being Rosarios, which are still bought for Buenos Ayres. With the exception of the Argentine Great Western's and Buenos Ayres Western's takes, the earnings are quite encouraging, the Rosario having

£11,090, the Great Southern £11,878, and the Pacific £3,075 increase. The Western's decrease is £1,114, and it is apparently referable to the holding back of the maize. The dividend session will commence about the middle of next month with the Rosario interim declaration. This may be at the rate of 5 per cent., but there is little doubt that 6 per cent. will be paid for the whole year, and "Rosies" at 93 with this prospect are quite reasonably cheap. It is probable that in another few days the long deferred sanction of the Argentine Government will be given to the amalgamation. My table of Colonial and Foreign railway stocks is appended:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	128⅝	128½	130½
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	18⅝	13	13 7/8
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102¾	96	9 4
,, 1st Preference	112½	99½	98½
,, 2nd ,,	99¼	84¼	83¾
,, 3rd ,,	50¼	36⅜	36¼
Bengal and North-West	127	137	138
Bombay Baroda	16 ⅛	154	164½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	130	126	126
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	97½	101½	101¼
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97	113½	116
,, ,, 1st Preference	98	102	102¼
,, ,, 2nd ,,	87	93	92½
,, Great Southern	133	131½	132
,, Western	124¾	123½	124½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	54	58½	58
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	83¾	92¼	94½
Costa Rica Railway	2⅜	1¼	1⅞
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	89	89½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75½
Mexican Railway	19	17¾	17½
,, 1st Preference	72½	82¾	82¾
,, 2nd ,,	27	28¾	28½
Nitrate Rails	6	7⅜	7⅝

AMERICANS BUOYANT—INTEREST ENTIRELY PROFESSIONAL—LACK OF CONFIDENCE—GAME OF BLIND CHANCE PLAYED IN THE DARK—CROP INFLUENCES—UNION PACIFIC'S YEAR—OTHER RESULTS.

So far as London is concerned, dealings in the American market are left to a few professionals, who prefer not to indulge in particular risks. But some support is reported from the Continent, and there is decided activity in Wall Street. From what one can gather, the American public is no more anxious than the English to take a hand in the game, and this restraint in the face of rising values is striking proof that the general situation is regarded with suspicion. The Wall Street interests are doing their best to encourage the outsiders, and they talk of a summer boom. A boom without a public is not the sort of thing the "bosses" desire, and it remains to be seen whether their strenuous efforts will meet with a becoming reward. The Englishman with money to risk will certainly find excitement in the Yankee market, and with luck may make a decent profit. But he should recognise that he is playing a deep game of blind chance in the dark. The crops are the dominating influence, and, therefore, the stocks of the grain-carrying lines are likely to keep most prominent, though everything in the market that has not already been pushed up will probably have its turn. Even poor forlorn Missouris have not been neglected—they were at one time quite the feature. Southern Pacifics and Union Pacifics have been most to the front, and the latter have been helped by the announcement that earnings for the year to June increased by $5,162,000 in gross, and by $2,707,000 in net. Some of the other companies whose results are made known have not done so well. The Rock Island reports a gross increase of $593,000 and a net decrease of $3,241,000; the Illinois has a gross increase of $1,645,000 and a net decrease of $1,393,000; and the St. Louis and San Francisco has a net increase of $434,000 out of a gross increase of $3,547,000. On the whole, there is not much that is encouraging about these figures, and it is a fact that while more moderate than during the earlier months of the year, expenses are still on a high scale. Nor are gross earnings on a particularly good scale, trade being indifferent. Here is my table:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, July 29, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 6, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	79⅛	80⅜	81⅛
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	98⅜	98	98½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73⅛	86¼	86½	86¼xd
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28½	34¼	35	37⅜
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	22⅝	22⅝	23¼
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	73½	73½	73½
Erie	43 1/16	23½	25⅛	25½	25⅛
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	62½	64½	63¼xd
Louisville	134⅜	98⅜	117xd	120xd	121
Milwaukee	187½	137½	151	151	152½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅞	16 7/16	18¼	19⅛	21
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	90½	89½	88½xd
Do. Common	78⅜	55¾	62	63⅛	63⅛
New York Central	158	116⅜	121½	121½	122½
Ontario	36	19⅜	31¼	31⅜	32
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	61⅛	61½	62
Reading	35½	20	26⅜	26⅞	27⅜
Do. First Pref.	45½	36¾	42¼	42¼	42⅜
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	24	26⅛	26⅞
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	90½	92½	93
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	50½rts	51½xrts	56
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 1/16	98⅜	98⅜	99⅞
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	95½	95¼	95½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	35½	37	37½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	60½	60½	62½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12	12½	12¼
Do. Pref.	—	—	62	62¼	60 xd

KAFFIRS IDLE—A NINETEEN-DAY "DOG-DAY" ACCOUNT—POLITICAL FACTORS—PUBLIC ABSENT—LABOUR AND GOLD OUTPUT FIGURES—CHINESE LABOUR—WHAT IT WILL SAVE—REVOLUTIONISING EXISTING IDEAS—THE STAMPS IN OPERATION—A BATCH OF DIVIDENDS.

In common with the other departments of the Stock Exchange, the Kaffir section is not well off for business—is, in fact, very slack indeed. The new nineteen-day "Dog Day" account upon which the markets have embarked is likely to prove the most unproductive, and many members have seized the opportunity to take their holidays, the week-end witnessing quite a considerable exodus of tired jobbers and brokers. Having no strong influence of its own to sway it one way or the other, the market has been to some extent the prey of political factors, moving in the wake of Consols. The support accorded by the Cape and the Continent has been reduced almost to nothing, and here at home the public has shown little disposition to take a hand. The increase in the "Bull" account disclosed at the last settlement is due in the main to House speculators. The outsider, whose co-operation is essential to active conditions, is either too poor to indulge in the luxury of a speculation, or he wants to see a profit on the shares which he already holds, or he is at the seaside or on the moors, and has ceased for the present to worry about stocks and shares. The undertone of the market is quite good. The labour and output figures for July were not very exhilarating. There was a net loss of 1,563 in the number of natives employed under the auspices of the Native Labour Association, thus reducing the aggregate to 67,294, and although there were 1,384 Chinese to offset this wastage in part, these latter had not been on the ground sufficiently long to make an impression on the production of gold. It is not surprising, therefore, that although there was one working day more than in June the output should show a slight reduction, the total being 307,840 fine ounces, a decrease of 379 ounces. Comparison

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with previous results will be facilitated by the following table:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Bullion. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	404,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,502
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	308,242
April	439,111	—	119,588	227,871	305,946
May	444,933	7,478	138,602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219
July	456,474	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,340
August	459,709	28,474	162,750	271,918	—
September	411,762	31,936	170,802	276,197	—
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	—
November	55,941	39,075	187,375	279,813	—
December	68,525	52,897	196,023	286,061	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	2,123,053

Values are shown in my next table:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846,489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345 782	834,739	1,229,726
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329
April	1,639,340	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576
May	1,658,268	31 271	588,746	994 505	1,335,826
June	1,665,715	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231
July	1,711,447	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621
August	1,720,907	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	—
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	—
October	1,028,057	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	—
November		165,986	795.922	1,188,571	—
December		224,092	832,652	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	9,018,155

The undertone of the market, as I have said, is quite good, despite the slackness of business, and with the termination of the holiday season, the rising of Parliament and the increase in gold production, which will inevitably follow the better supply of labour, I regard the outlook as quite satisfactory, though at the same time one needs to exercise a little patience before one's expectations come to be realised. The immediate future of the goldmining industry and of the Kaffir market is dependent upon the supply of coolies. There are now about 3,000 of these in South Africa, and there are about 2,000 on the way. An additional 2,000 are due to leave at any moment on the *Ascot*, and by the end of the year it is pretty safe to assume that 30,000 will have left the Flowery Land to make money for themselves on the Rand. Recruiting is somewhat slow, but it is satisfactory, none the less; indeed, there is some advantage to be derived from a moderate pace, since it gives an opportunity of rectifying anything that may be amiss in the way of food, compound conditions, methods of pay, and numerous other details. Even though the native supply should be further reduced, the total labour supply ought, by the end of the year, to be brought back numerically to the ante-bellum strength, but it will in reality be stronger than at that time, because the Chinese are better workers, and because their period of indenture will ensure continuity of service such as has never been obtainable with black labour. The consulting engineer of the Van Ryn speaks most enthusiastically of the 1,150 coolies now on that mine, and goes so far as to predict that, as compared with Kaffirs, they will "revolutionise existing ideas as to the efficiency of unskilled labour." That, man for man, they will do better than the Kaffirs is quite beyond question. The mine managers are all agreed that the situation, so far as the industry goes, is improving every day, and that the results achieved by the Chinese is exceeding all expectations; and a point to which I have drawn attention before, but which has not yet been fully appreciated, is that they will be doing their quota for three consecutive years, instead of for six months, as has hitherto been the case with the Kaffirs. Experts go so far as to say that the advantage to be gained from this change will be equal to several shillings in the pound, and a saving of this amount, or anything approaching it will be of the utmost importance to many mines. The number of stamps in operation has naturally not shown any rapid increase during the present year, there being now 4,910 in operation as compared with 4,360 at the end of December, but the slowness of the pace is due to the fact that only quite recently has the labour difficulty been solved. It was manifestly impossible that rapid progress should be made when the mines were unable to command a sufficiency of labour. Now that the trouble is being remedied, we are likely to witness activity again. I referred last week to the case of the New Comet. This week we have the announcement that in about two months' time the Van Ryn will be milling to its fullest capacity—that is, with 160 stamps as compared with seventy-five last month. The example will be followed by other mines which are crushing only partially, as the various contingents of Chinese arrive on the scene. Having regard to all the drawbacks, it is very satisfactory to be reminded by the dividends paid that many mines are contriving to make a return to their shareholders. Last week dividends were deducted from fifteen shares, the amount represented running to close upon a million and a half. Here are the details:—

Company.	Dividend.	Amount.
		£
Angelo	7/-	96,250
Bonanza	8/-	80,000
Crown Deep	6/-	90,000
Driefontein	5/-	68,750
Ferreira	22/6	106,875
Geldenhuis Deep	7/-	105,000
Geldenhuis Estate	5/-	50,000
Henry Nourse	8/-	50,000
Langlaagte Estate	2/-	47,000
May Consol.	3/-	46,800
Meyer and Charlton	5/-	25,000
Rand Mines (5s. shares)	5/-	449,000
Robinson (£5 shares)	6/-	165,000
Roodepoort United	2/-	29,500
Rose Deep	3/-	63,750

Kaffir prospects, mainly by virtue of the improved labour supply, seem to me to be quite bright, but in the holiday season no material recovery need be looked for, and therefore a purchase made now ought to be paid for outright. At the same time, the tendency of values promises to be in an upward direction, pending an outburst of real activity in the autumn. Prices are quite moderate, and, as compared with the level on Peace Day, they represent a fall of, in many instances, 50 per cent. or more. Movements during the week will be seen from my table, which is appended:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902–1903. Highest.	1902–1903. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	7	7⅛	6¾xd
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅛	3⅜	3½	3⅞	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅞	1½	1⅝	1⅛
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅞	⅞	⅞	⅞
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	⅞	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5½	6⅜	6	5¾
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4⅜	5⅜	6⅛	6
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1⅛	1⅜	1⅛
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16⅛	14½	13	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜	18⅛
Do. Def.	—	26⅜	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6⅛	4⅜	5	5⅛	4¾xd
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6½	5½	4⅜	4⅜	4½
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	1⅜	2	1⅜
East Rands	12	10⅝	6⅜	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	21½	20½xd
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1⅜
Geduld	—	9⅛	5	5⅜	6½	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜	3	3	3⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	7⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜xd
,, Main Reef	1⅛	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2⅛		1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10⅛	7⅜	8⅜	8⅛	8⅛xd
Heriot	12½	8½	3⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	2¼	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅛	2½	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4½	4½
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅛	1⅜	1⅛
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	1½	2	2
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜xd
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4⅜	2⅜	2	2⅜	2⅜

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up July 25, 1904.	Make-up Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 18, 1904.
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅞	1 5/16	1 5/16	1⅛	1 3/16
May Consolidated	4 7/16	5 7/16	2½	4	4	3 15/16xd
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¼	5½	5½	5 3/16xd
Modderfontein(£4).....	17⅞	14 5/16	7 7/16	8¼	8 1/16	8 5/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1⅛	1 1/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	11/3	12/-	11/6
Nigel.....	8 5/16	4	2⅜	2½	2½	2⅜
„ Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	1 7/16	1 3/16	1⅜
New Comet	4½	4	2	2 15/16	3	3 1/16
New Rietfontein	6 3/16	3½	1⅜	2 1/16	2⅜	2 1/16
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	7/16	7/16	7/16	7/16
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	7/16	11/16	11/16	11/16
Primrose New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 1/16	3⅜	3½	3½
Princess Estate.....	4½	2	13/16	7/8	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	18 1/16	8 5/16	9⅜	10 1/16	9 15/16xd
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	2 7/16	2 15/16	2 7/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅜
„ Robinson.....	2 7/16	2 7/16	1	1⅜	1 1/16	1⅜
„ North	—	2 3/16	1⅜	1 1/16	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"...	—	2	⅜	1	1⅜	1 1/16
„ Mynpacht ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11⅛	12	9⅛	9 3/16	9 1/16	9⅛xd
Roodepoort United	8½	4 7/16	2½	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16xd
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14½	6⅛	6 9/16	6 7/16	6⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9 1/16	4 5/16	4 1/16	5	4 1/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 15/16	11/3	2/6	3/6	3/6
Simmer and Jack.....	*8½	2 5/16	1⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/6	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4 5/16	6 5/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Transvaal Development..	2 1/16	2 1/16	24/-	1 13/16	1 15/16	1 13/16
Transvaal Exploring.....	—	9/16	1/4	6/-	6/3	6/3
Transvaal Goldfield.....	8⅜	3 1/16	2⅜	2 1/16	2 7/16	2 1/16
Treasury.....	5	6⅜	4 1/16	3 1/16	3 15/16	3 1/16
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9 1/16	7 1/16	6 15/16	6 15/16	6 1/16
Violet	—	3 1/16	2	2 1/16	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Welgedacht	—	8 1/16	6 1/16	6 7/16	6 1/16	6 1/16
Wemmer.....	13½	15	9 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16
W. Rand Central	—	1 1/16	9/16	13/16	13/16	13/16
„ (New)	—	2 1/16	13/16	1 13/16	2	1 15/16
Wolhuter	12	6 1/16	3	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Worcester	6½	3 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16

* £5 shares.

In the Diamond class there are no particular movements to record, and Deep Levels have been uninteresting, though improving towards the end. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.
Bonanza	4 1/16	6 1/16	3 1/16	1 7/16	1½	1½xd
Cent. Nigel Deep	15/16	1	⅜	9/16	9/16	9/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	12½xd
Durb. Rood. Deep.....	4 1/16	4 5/16	⅝	2 7/16	2½	2½
Ferreira Deep	6 1/16	8 1/16	5	5 1/16	5 1/16	5 1/16
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	4 5/16	4 1/16
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8 1/16	11	11½	11xd
Jumpers Deep	5½	6 1/16	3½	⅝	4 1/16	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3 1/16	2 1/16	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3 5/16	4 7/16	2½	2	2½	2 5/16
Lancaster	3 1/16	3 5/16	2	2½	2 5/16	2½
Do. West	2½	3	1½	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 5/16	2½	2 1/16	3	2 1/16
Nourse Deep	5 1/16	6½	3½	4	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅜	9/16	13/16	13/16
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	2½	2 5/16	2 5/16
Robinson Deep	5⅜	6 5/16	4½	5½	5 1/16	5 1/16
Do. Cent. Deep.....	4½	5 5/16	2 1/16	4 3/16	4½	4½
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6½	8½	8 1/16	8 1/16xd
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1 1/16	1 15/16	1 1/16	1½
South Rose Deep	3 1/16	4½	2	1 13/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
South Geld. Deep.....	3⅜	4 1/16	2 1/16	2½	2½	2½
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	3½	1 1/16	2 1/16	2
Simmer and Jack West	4½	5 5/16	2 1/16	2 15/16	3 1/16	3
Vogelstruis Deep	1 1/16	2½	1½	11/16	½	½
Witwatersrand Deep ..	2 1/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	3 1/16	3½	3 1/16

Rhodesians Idle—The Chartered Company and the Deputation—Pessimism and Optimism—Movements Mostly Downwards.

The past week has not witnessed any important change in the Rhodesian market, where movements have for the most part followed the lead of Kaffirs. It would perhaps be altogether too much to expect this section to exhibit any signs of activity during the holiday season, but there have been one or two developments which have served to add a little more interest to dealings. I refer to the conferences between the Chartered Company and the delegates from Rhodesia on the subject of certain grievances which the latter have. From some recent statements in the House of Commons it is clear that the Government do not wish to transform Rhodesia into a commonplace Crown Colony, in spite of the fact that a certain amount of public opinion in that country is said to be convinced that no true progress can be made so long as the British South Africa Company is in full control. It would seem that the conferences between the Company and the delegates have not resulted in any satisfactory settlement of the grievances, consequently the latter are as badly off as ever. When one has mentally digested all that the foregoing implies, it is more than a little interesting to listen to Earl Grey, who, at the meeting of the Rhodesia Railways, alluded to the "enlightened policy of the Chartered Company," and who said that "Rhodesia had made progress of a solid character, both in mining and agriculture," and "he was not exaggerating in stating that the potentialities of both these industries were never so encouraging." The tone of his speech, indeed, was optimistic throughout, but on what ground he bases all his assertions it is difficult to discover. Anyway, the market did not see fit to accept his statement as altogether correct, and though movements were confined within narrow limits, they are mostly down on the week, Chartered and the rest of the leading shares being from 1-16 to 3-16 lower. Tanganyikas and Zambesias, together with the copper shares in the market, were inactive and dull, and show small depreciations. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	5/16	¼
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1	1 1/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	1 1/16	1 1/16
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	6/-	5/-
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1 1/16	¼	¼
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/16	5/16	5/16
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1/16	1/16
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	6 7/16	1⅝	1 7/16
Lomagunda Dev	250 000	250,000	1	f.p	6½	1⅜	1⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	⅜	⅜
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4½	⅝	⅝
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1½	⅜	⅜
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	½	10/6
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9½	2 1/16	2 1/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	7/16	7/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8⅛	2	2
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/16	1/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	⅛	1/16
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3½	3 1/16
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	½	½
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	6/-	5/-
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	½	3/-	4/-
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅛	¼
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/16	1½	1 7/16

Westralians Dull—The Public Still Shy—Associated Recover—"Bears" and Oroyas—Little Kangaroos Once Again Lively—Central and West Boulder—Hannan's Stars and Boulder Deeps.

The Westralian market continues inactive and rather dull, and it would seem that the perpetual recurrence of the scandals which have come to be regarded as inseparable from the market is still responsible for the lack of public interest. It is not at all improbable that a time will arrive when the public will again manifest some sort of interest in this section, despite the gloomy past, but it is rather unfortunate that the good things which the market possesses should suffer. Horseshoes, Ivanhoes, Kalgurlis, and one or two others are really excellent mining speculations, but, as I have said, the tone has been dull all round owing chiefly to neglect, and, accompanied by the other leading shares, these have not escaped. Associated continued a rather weak spot, but they improved towards the end on an encouraging cable and some "shop" support. At one time some "bear" attention was paid to Oroyas, and as a consequence they developed weakness, though a recovery was brought about by inside support. Among the cheaper things in the market more interest than usual has been manifested. Central and West Boulder had a little jump on the circular stating that a working agreement in respect of the Company's six-acre block has been entered into with the Associated, and as a

result of Colonial buying Hannan's Stars and Boulder Deeps advanced. In regard to the former, a cable from the property giving the July returns also contributed to help the upward movement, though, personally, I cannot see any reason for exultation in the figures. My usual table follows:—

—	1903. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 15, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅝	3¾	1	2⅛	1⅜	2⅛
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝	1½
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¼	⅝	⅝	⅝	½
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/9	9/3	7/6
Golden Horseshoe	16	11⅞	7	7	6⅜	6¾
Golden Link	3½	15 3	6/-	4/6	4/6	4/3
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	23/9	22/3	22/3
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1¼	8/6	4/6	3/9	5/6
Do. Perseverance	12½	1⅜	1½	11/-	11/-	11/6
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅝	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6½	9½	5⅛	7¾	7⅛	7⅜
Hainault	1¾	¾	½	⅝	⅝	½
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/6	6/-	6/6
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10⅜	6¾	7⅛	7⅜	7⅛
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅝	1⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1¼	1⅜	½	⅝	⅝	⅝
North Kalgurli	1¼	10/-	4/-	6/9	6/3	6/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅝	3⅜	3⅜
Peak Hill	5¾	2¾	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅜	1	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅛	½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1¼	⅜	½	½	½

West Africans Develop Some Weakness—Three Returns—Ashanti Goldfields Slump—Quiet Realisation—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Broken Hill Prop. Report—Le Roi Position.

The customary dulness of the Jungle shows no indication of giving place to a better feeling, but on the contrary seems to be becoming more marked day by day, and during the past week it has been rather accentuated by three returns. In the first place, the Ashanti Goldfields output for July, announced as 4,780 oz., comparing with 4,290 oz. for the previous month, and showing a slight average improvement, was not regarded as satisfactory, and as a consequence the shares slumped heavily, eventually standing no better than 1 5-16, which represents a loss of ½ on the week. The Sansu also contrived to increase its output for July, the total being 680 oz., as against 590 oz. for June, with a rather better average yield of 7.81 dwt., but the Company's shares remained quite unaffected. On the other hand, the Bibiani return of 1,011 oz. was about 60 oz. lower than for the previous month, and as a result the shares developed some weakness, and finished with a loss of ⅛. Gold Coast Amalgamated kept tolerably firm, but Wassau under the prevailing influences dropped to a small extent. No doubt some of the weakness which has been noticeable in West Africans recently is traceable to more than one cause, and it would not be at all extravagant to conclude that some realisation of the shares of recently-deceased holders is quietly going on. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price. Aug. 6, 1904.		Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.	
	£		£					
Ashanti Gld'flds (4/-)	250,000	165,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅜	1⅝	1¼	1⅜
Axim Mines	100,000	62,393	1	f.p.	½	½	—	—
Ashanti Consols	600,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅜	½ dis	⅜	½ dis
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜	⅝	⅜	⅝
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅜	⅛	⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	1⅜	⅞	1⅛
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜	½	⅜	½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅜	½	⅜	½
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1¾	2	1¾	2
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	½	¾	½	¾
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	½	½	½	½
London and W. A. G. Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	⅜	⅝	—	—
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜	⅝	⅜	⅝
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	½	¾	½	¾
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	½	¾	½	¾
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅝	¾	⅝	¾
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅛	1⅜	1¼	1⅜

Movements in the Miscellaneous Mining market have not been very active, and features are consequently few. Indian gold-mining descriptions keep tolerably steady, and among silver shares Broken Hill Props have strengthened. The half-yearly report of this Company, which is to hand by cable, shows that the profit for six months ending May 31 amounted to £107,698. The profit and loss account shows a credit balance of £565,534, after allowing for £18,646 expended in construction. Owing to the satisfactory results of experiments with sulphuric acid plant at Broken Hill, it has been decided to duplicate this in order to supply outside companies' requirements, and the Board have also decided to erect plant at Port Pirie for the extensive manufacture of this acid at an estimated cost of £15,000. Concerning the mine itself, the report says that exploratory work in the lower levels has proved satisfactory, and that the quality of the ore is maintained. The effect of the agreement concluded between the Waihi and Waihi Grand Junction relating to pumping is still reflected in the shares of these two Companies, the quotations for both being inclined upwards. In the British Columbian section Camp Birds have been steady, and Le Roi have been firm on the Managing Director's report dealing with the position on the property. It was found that a great deal of low-grade ore had been shipped from the mine to the smelter, which could not be treated owing to difficulty of obtaining a proper amount of fluxing ores, but an expedient has been adopted by which it is thought some profit will accrue to the Company from this source. In regard to the mine, the Managing Director reports the condition good although ore varies, but it is believed that much of it can be profitably treated by concentration, and, in order to test the accuracy of this belief, a small mill near the mine has been rented for experimental purposes. Proposals for amalgamation with other companies in the country have, it seems, been put forward by the latter, and the report says that provided a proper basis of agreement can be arrived at, there is much to be said in favour of the idea. In the Charters Tower group there has not been much activity, but Brilliant and St. George keep steady. My table of movements follows:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9.	Closing Price, Aug. 15.
Anaconda Copper	7⅛	3⅞	3⅝	3⅞
Balaghat Gold	1⅝	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1¾	1¼	39/6	41/-
Cape Copper	5	2	3½	3⅝
Champion Reef	7	5¾	32/3	1⅝
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	½	½
Mason and Barry	4¼	3¼	2⅛	2⅛
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	13/3	13/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5½	6⅛	6½
Namaqua Copper	4¼	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
North Mount Lyell	1⅛	⅝	—	—
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	30/-	1⅝
Ooregum	3⅜	21/9	17/9	17 6xd
Rio Tinto	58⅛	38⅜	52½	53½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅝	4½	4¾
Waihi Gold	6½	4⅛	5⅛	5⅛

House Purchase and Life Assurance.—II.

Returning to the general system and with no reference to any particular company, it will be seen that those who subscribe the capital may have much to gain and little to lose. A small group of persons may form a company and subscribe a trifling amount of capital. They can appoint themselves directors and officials, with generous fees and salaries, and they can then proceed to issue a prospectus and rake in people's money to be employed as the Board in its wisdom or ignorance may think fit. The Artisans Free Homes, for example, had the effrontery to invite business when the subscribed capital was only £1,000. Later on, when the capital subscribed (of a sort) was about £17,000, and the sum paid up was £2,217, much of which was already spent in preliminary expenses, they had business on the books to the extent of £184,000, partly secured by the statement on the front page of prospectus that the capital was £50,000. On the same lines the Perseverance Home, with a capital of £6,500, got hold of a vast

amount of poor folks' savings, wasted the money in the scandalous folly recently revealed in court, and then collapsed to the serious loss of multitudes who can ill afford it. The only safeguard against disaster of this sort is to insist that full information as to the financial basis of all house-purchase companies should be open to persons who are canvassed for membership. A mere balance-sheet is not enough. A revenue or profit and loss account is essential to show how the expenditure runs and how the profit is made and applied, but such information is hard to get. When, for instance, an inquirer asks the Mutual Property Investment for a prospectus and copy of the accounts, he gets a bunch of different coloured documents, on one of which appears the meaningless, but deceptive, legend: "Registered Capital, £100,000." When it is pointed out that the accounts are still lacking, a balance-sheet is sent, showing that the entire subscribed capital was £9,070, that only £5,277 of this had been paid up, and that close upon £4,000 of it had been spent in starting the company, and in buying up a little Glasgow concern for the insurance of keys, etc., which was the foundation of the whole affair. The inquirer again returned to the charge, asking specially to see a revenue account, but he was informed by the manager that

> "the Board for various reasons which will no doubt be obvious to you do not publish their revenue account."

The reasons are, indeed, obvious; so very obvious that the most stupid investor, however strongly he might believe in the respectability of the company, would hardly care to finance it by lending money at 2½ per cent. on a fixed deposit which could not be withdrawn for many years, however urgent might be his necessity.

Another correspondent informs me that on recent application to the Provincial Homes for a copy of their accounts, he also got from their head office a packet of miscellaneous stationery but nothing more, and that as yet he has got no reply to a renewed request for figures. Turning to the Insurance Blue Book for 1903-4, I find that the subscribed capital was only £17,892, while the new business of a single year was £1,600,000, a startling disproportion which stimulates the desire for fuller details of the company's operations. The Provident Free Homes, the pioneer in this line, has a similar reticence about what it is doing in the bond department, and until this is overcome investors should let it alone. The British Homes does not work so much in the dark, but it seems to be managed at a tremendous expense, which cannot be reconciled with the nature of the premiums; and as I previously pointed out, the rules as to forfeiture are such as no person should accept. The only other company of the kind which occurs to me at the moment is the Irish Provident, with a subscribed capital in March last of £8,642, against which it had spent £9,231 in establishing the concern; and with a premium income of £48,680, of which the working expenses of the year took £36,144. In the words of the Glasgow sage, "for various reasons which will be quite obvious," this company is not at present a suitable one to receive money on fixed loan for a long period of years in connection with house-purchase business.

It will be seen that I do not greatly care for any of these concerns, and I have fully stated my reasons for objection. Some withhold needful particulars and others make statements which are incorrect. Funds are in several cases too small to warrant patronage, and in others the conditions are unjust and oppressive. In many cases no doubt the transaction will work out favourably enough to the borrowing member, the chief risk being to the lenders, but it is not always easy to become a borrower, even when all the conditions have been fulfilled, the margin provided, and the property selected. Loans are made only "when there are available funds," and this period does not always coincide with the desire of the member. The directors of a small company with comparatively few subscribers cannot meet every demand, and in many cases their bulwark against a claim for the promised advance is a refusal to pay the market price for the building on the plea that it is far above their own surveyor's valuation, and the deluded certificate holder has perforce to continue paying in for the benefit of others, when he had hoped to have drawn out for his own. After full consideration I am inclined to think that the man of small means who wishes to become his own landlord, should not enter any of the "bond-certificate" type of company under present conditions, but that he should attain his object in either of the following ways: First, put his surplus in the Savings Bank until he has a reasonable proportion of the price, and then arrange with a respectable building society of the ordinary kind; or, second, let him combine the transaction with life assurance, which is the best of all methods if done with a strong company. Of these there are several which make a feature of house-purchase assurance, and I may mention the Scottish Temperance Assurance Company, Glasgow, and the Century Insurance Company, Edinburgh. Both are of high character, financially sound, and safe to do exactly what they undertake. Those who wish to become their own landlords may with advantage send for the terms of these two offices and select the one they like best. They will find the transaction a very beneficial one, but they will not find that a house can be bought with less than its own rent.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

A. W. B.—I suggest Chinese Fives (1896), Mexican Fives, and the New Japanese Sixes. These will average more than 5 per cent. Chilians make a reasonable investment, the 1886 issue yielding 5⅔ per cent. *Four Crosses.*—Put the money into the Irish Land and National War Loan stocks, which will bring in a little over 3 per cent. *Bulger.*—The new Johannesburg Fours seem to me to be quite cheap at 1¼ premium. *B. B. B.*—Argentine bonds are attractive as South Americans go, and a further appreciation in the value of your Four and a Half per Cent. Sterling and Four per Cent. Rescission bonds is probable when the unification scheme becomes prominent again. *Southsea.*—You must remember that the recovery in gilt-edged stocks has been greatly retarded by the abnormal condition of the Money Market and the recent flood of new issues, added to reckless speculations on the part of some big operators who have burned their fingers. *W. H. J., Bolton.*—You cannot command 5 per cent. with "absolute security" in Government or other stocks; but I regard Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Argentines, and Chilians as quite safe holdings, and they return you 5 per cent., and in some instances more. I include Japanese in spite of the uncertainties of war, because there is virtually no likelihood of the country defaulting on its foreign debt, and on the termination of the war its stocks are tolerably sure of a substantial rise, especially if the outcome be favourable to the country. *Jap.*—My only objection to Osaka City Harbour bonds is that the security is inadequate. *H. R.*—I should not buy Colombians myself; they are a sorrowful speculation. *F. N.*—Spanish Fours are a fair holding, but there is no prospect of a big rise in them. They had their appreciation after the war with America, and are good now for an advance of only a few points, say, on the termination of hostilities in the Far East, when Paris may be expected to support them as well as its other specialties. *Montague.*—Argentines are likely to have a further appreciation in view of the forthcoming unification proposals; and after the war there should be room for a good recovery in Japanese. The new Chinese Railway loan is fairly desirable. *M. C., Manchester.*—If you are content with 3¼ per cent. buy National War Loan stock. If you want 4 per cent., I suggest that you put the money into Egyptian State Domains. *Quaker.*—The new Johannesburg Fours are a good investment, and there ought to be an appreciation in the near future *Spa.*—Likely to continue steady. *Sark.*—Uruguay will probably

continue to meet its obligations, but its bonds are risky. I think you might exchange into Argentines, Chilians, or Mexican Fives. *Novice.*—I recommend the new Johannesburg Four per Cent. stock, or Chinese Fives of 1896.

Railways.

F. S. B.—It is unfortunate for Home Railways that they have to face the new position of gilt-edged stocks giving nearly as high a yield. But the removal of this anomaly, with the return of normal conditions in the money market, will be the sign for a general appreciation. Therefore your most sensible plan will be to hold the North Western, Brighton Preferred, and Great Western stocks, which makes a very fair return upon your investment. You have a profit on all three already, but I see no reason to realise at present. *Kent.*—The Grand Trunk position as disclosed in the half-yearly results is not particularly encouraging to holders of the Third Preference Stock. Although it is probable that firsts and seconds will receive their full dividend for the twelve months, it is difficult to see from present indications that there will be anything for the Third. The Company is not likely to have much, if any, increase in gross earnings for the current half year, and if it does not it must effect savings even more considerable than in the June half if it is to be in a position to pay anything on the Thirds. The outlook being dubious I suggest that you realise your holding and buy Rosarios or Rosario Deferred, or B. A. Pacifics. *Montrose.*—They are exceedingly risky. *X. X. X.*—Canadian Pacifics are a very good investment. The shares are established on the 6 per cent. basis and the yield is 4¾ per cent.

Mines.

Beta. — Stratton's Independence Mine has practically no prospects, and your best plan would be to sell. *R. N.*—St. John del Rey shares seem to me indifferent speculation, and you might realise the West Africans before they decline further. *B. E., Canterbury.*—Of the mines suggested by you I recommend Broken Hills Props., Kalgurlis, and Oroya Brownhills. *Violet.*—Now that the South African mines are assured of an adequate supply of labour, there is every probability that the early autumn will see much more activity than we have had for a long time past. Your shares are among the most promising in the market, and as you came in at a fairly low level, you ought to see a good profit by holding on for, say, another couple of months. Of course, I cannot promise a boom, which would not be particularly desirable any way, but everything makes for better markets, and it is a pity that speculators, as a group, prefer to wait until prices are near the top before realising their opportunities. *Cosmo.*—The eleven Kaffirs named would make an excellent speculative trust. If you should prefer a selection of half a dozen of these, I recommend Gold Trusts, Knights, East Rand Mining Estates, Barnato Consols, Hendersons and General Mining and Finance. I understand that the firm you name deals quite fairly by its clients. *Quærens.*—Leave the thing alone, as it would be only throwing good money after bad. *Clerk.*—I cannot find out that the Millionaire Gold Mining Company is doing anything—perhaps it is waiting for more active times. There is now next to no market in its shares. *Sierra.*—I should be disposed to sell Ashanti Consols and Fanti Consols. *N. H. P.*—Modders are a very promising speculative purchase; Premier Diamonds are talked up another 10 points or more—the mine is certainly doing remarkably well. *Parsons.*—Nile Valleys are likely to go better when further progress is reported, and when Mining market conditions are more active and bright than at present. *Godiva.*—I should be inclined to sell White's Consolidated. *Scottie.*—You should hold Charter Trusts, Hendersons, Oceanas, Glencairns, and Cosmopolitans; the rest you might sell on a little better market. *West End.*—Hannan's Stars and Boulder Deeps are highly speculative, but some support has been forthcoming recently, and probably there is reason for this. *N. C., Weymouth.*—Geduldes, Transvaal Estates, and Weldedachts would suit you. *Hunter.*—I should not buy the shares.

Miscellaneous.

Afon.—Westminster Electricity Supply shares will give you 5¼ per cent., Metropolitan Electrics 4 3-16 per cent., and Bromley Electricity 5 per cent. *A. F., Southsea.*—Liptons do not strike me as especially attractive. I should choose Lyons, Slaters, or Harrods. *Bond.*—I advise you to leave the concern alone. It is new, is not well financed or "backed," and its scheme is more than a little risky. *Onslow.*—I do not recommend a purchase of the shares. *A. H. R., Withington.*—Gordon Hotels are scarcely attractive. I should keep the Healey's Telegraph and Telegraph Construction shares, as both are reasonably safe Industrials. *W. Y., Dorchester.*—1. I am glad to notice that you appraise Stephens and Henderson's "philanthropy" at its real value. 2. I do not look for much improvement in Little Chathams. Better get out as they give you a profit. 3. I do not look for much if any improvement in Monastery Diamond shares. *T. T. M.*—I see that our philanthropic friends, Stephens and Henderson, are persevering in their efforts to rope you in. *H. M. S.*—Vinolia Preference shares are good to hold. Mazawattee Teas are risky. *New Brighton.*—Colchester Brewing shares give you 6⅜ per cent., and Ind Coope's "B" Preference over 7¼ per cent. Both are fairly desirable. *T. W. L.*—I am obliged for the circular. The efforts of Stafford Ward and Co. to unload Wm. Jameson shares are very persistent, and worthy of a better cause. *C. H. J. E.* The lottery is genuine enough, but a poor catch at the best, and the agents are unreliable. *P. S.*—The office is all right. *H. R. H.*—Dick Kerr and Co. Ordinary shares are a promising purchase. At the present price and on the basis of last year's dividend they return 6¼ per cent. *B. B.*—The North British and Mercantile is a very good office. *H. L. G.*—Evidently a bad "try on," and I am glad to see that you escaped being caught. *S. D.*—You will be quite safe in ignoring the letter from De Pury, Son, and Co. *S. S.*—County of London Electric Preference and British Electric Traction Preference make good Industrial investments. *X. X.*—You can find a more attractive investment than City of London Brewery Ordinary stock. I suggest Cannon Brewery Preference, which returns 5¼ per cent., and Marston Thompson Preference, which gives the same yield. *W. D.*—I think you might safely ignore the offer of the Financial Investigation Bureau, reconciling yourself to the loss of the money sunk in the Texas Oil securities. *J. Stevens.*—Personally I should have nothing to do with the concern. It has no particular repute, and cannot possess any special facilities for the successful flotation of a company. *Blue E.*—I believe the firm is all right, but I am not in a position to guarantee their respectability. *E. W. R.*—Dunderland Iron Ore Preference shares are a promising purchase if you can afford to await the completion of the railway and the commencement of operations on a commercial scale. *Alpha.*—You can obtain Foreign Lottery bonds through Messrs. M. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street. *W. T. Dunwell.*—An answer was given to your question last week. As you appear to have missed it I repeat that the Trust is a very doubtful one, although intentions are no doubt of the best.

Mixed Investments.

Uneasy.—1. Sierra Leone Bonds, Natal Four and a Half per Cent. stock, and Cape Treasury Bills are quite desirable and safe holdings. 2. Barry Railway Preferred Ordinary stock is safe. 3. I should hold on to Moss Empire Preference shares as being fairly well secured. *Cestrian (A. on M.).*—1. Canadian Pacifics are worth keeping for dividends, and (if you must make a change) for an appreciation of, say, 5 points more. 2. I do not look for a recovery in Aerated Breads to the figure at which you bought. 3. Jeremiah Rotherham and Raphael Tuck Ordinary shares would suit you, the first yielding 5¼ and the second over 6 per cent. *H. W., Sheffield.*—1. Marston Thompson Preference and Camden Brewery Preference would suit you. On the first the return is 5¼ per cent., and on the other 6¼ per cent. 2. Grand Trunk Second Preference stock is good to hold, as it is probable that for the year the company will be able to pay the whole of the dividend due on the stock. 3. I should be inclined to sell the J. R. Roberts shares. 4. Argentine Great Western Preference and Buenos Ayres Pacific Second Preference are desirable, and they bring in 5⅜ per cent. each. *Venchen.*—Ben Evans (Swansea) shares are a moderately good industrial. Of the others you might hold National Telephones, Debenture Corporations, Moss Empires, India Rubber, etc., Telegraph Works, and Middlesbrough Empires. About Drybrough and Co. I am not able to advise you. Your other holdings might be realised on the first favourable opportunity, if not at once. *Perplexed, Leigh.*—Hold Vicker's Maxims, Metropolitan Electric Tramways Preference, Pears, Sweetmeats, Weldons, R. and J. Hill and *Illustrated London News* shares. Sell the rest. *Gancho.*—1. The new Johannesburg Fours are a good investment. 2. The Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock is safe enough for the ordinary man. 3. Rosarios seem to me to be worth par. 4. Russian bonds are not much affected in this country.

Industrials Neglected—Allsopp's Discouraging Report—All the Company's Issues Flat—Dock Stocks and the Bill—Iron Shares Steady—Cable Construction Companies—Textiles Firm Except Calico Printers—Refreshment Shares More Cheerful.

It is very evident from the neglect of the Industrial market that the small investor who used to be regarded as the mainstay of the section is still more than a little disgusted with the consistently downward course of values which has been manifested for some considerable time past, but it may not, perhaps, be too much to hope that when trade conditions change that individual will once more show himself. The most striking feature during the past week has been the big slump in Allsopp issues, consequent upon the publication of the report, which shows a loss on the year's working. The gross trading profit amounted to £335,514, or £25,260 lower than last year, and the net £121,725, which is more than swallowed up by debenture and other interest and the usual provisions. The policy of realising unprofitable investments has been continued with a view to reinvesting the proceeds in properties productive of trade and the amount of this utilised during the year was £70,000. But the Directors do not consider the present time opportune for the extension of this policy; consequently they propose to ask the consent of the stockholders for increased borrowing powers, the amount stipulated being a maximum of £100,000. Naturally, when the market had looked for a tolerably fair showing

the publication of these figures caused some disgust, which found vent in a prompt drop of 4 points in both the Ordinary and the Preference stocks, while the Non-Cumulative Income Certificates lost 5 points. Holders have lost all confidence in the concern, and are desirous of getting out of their holdings; but in this they are prevented by the entire absence of buyers. Watney, Combe, Reid issues have also been a dull market on the recently-published report, but other Breweries have kept fairly steady. Very little business was transacted in Dock stocks, though London and India issues were put lower on the statement in the House of Commons that it would not be advisable to carry over the Port of London Bill to next session, and Surrey Commercial, as well as Millwall stocks accompanied them downwards. But the falls seem to me to largely be of a sentimental kind, because the stocks still possess their original merits, and with regard to India Deferred in particular it seems to be assured of 4 per cent. for the year on the recent half-yearly showing. The Water Board stock is slightly lower at $91\frac{3}{4}$, and a number of Water Works issues have displayed an easier tendency. The Shipping group remains quite featureless. In Iron and Steel stocks the tone has been steady, and slight improvements have been registered by Pease and Partners, Cammell Preference, Rhymney Iron, Bolckow Vaughan, and one or two others, but most interest has been centred round the armament shares in this group, both Armstrongs and Vickers Maxims being in request on the expectation of good results. Telegraphs and Telephones have been quietly firm, but without much interest apart from some investment inquiry for Easterns. Cable construction companies are evidently enjoying good trade, and many of the shares are tending upwards.

Tramway descriptions have been firm without any particular feature, though London General and the Road Car Company issues are still in request, and Anglo-Argentine Trams keep in favour. In the textile group movements have been a trifle irregular, but Coats maintain their strength, and Fine Spinners and Sewing Cottons are steady, while the announcement of a 7 per cent. interim distribution on Bradford Dyers kept these shares fairly cheerful. Calico Printers, on the other hand, developed some weakness on the results for the year, which show that after allowing £214,516 for depreciation, repairs, renewals, etc., £128,000 for debenture interest, and £50,000 for capital reserve, there is a net profit of £95,000, which contrasts rather sharply with the £160,000 of a year ago. As yet no dividend has been declared, it being a custom with this concern to decide upon that question at the general meeting, and that date is awaited with some anxiety, in view of the fact that there has been a considerable decrease in business. Refreshment shares have shown a better tendency, Lyons and Slaters being fractionally harder, while Aerated Breads have recovered from their recent fit of depression, and Apollinaris have been in some request. In the meat class very little interest has been manifested, and for the most part the shares are dull.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A GOOD STRATEGIST.

GENERAL SIR SAMPSON DOOM, K.C.B., and Commander-in-Chief of that crown of all our over-sea possessions, the Luxuriant Isles, leant back in his chair and bit the top of his thumb in doubt. On principle and by long habit an early riser, he prided himself on stealing a march on each busy, well-filled day by a good hour's work at his office table before breakfast. It broke, he was accustomed to observe to such youngsters as he favoured with advice, the back of his necessarily large correspondence, and was part of the system he had mapped out for himself, and which had both ruled and served him so well through the course of his not altogether unsuccessful career. But this morning, for once, his appetite for work had failed him. The sight of the various neatly-sorted packets of official documents and private letters which stared him in the face and lay within touch of his fingers filled him with ill-concealed aversion. He sighed impatiently, hesitated, pushed back his chair and sighed again, and, finally, finding himself no nearer to the solution of the vexed question that bothered him, took a header through the study window, which opened on to the garden, and sought refuge in flight.

As Sir Sampson's long legs strode up and down the terrace walk at the rate of a yard a stride, his mind was as active as his limbs, but, like them, worked backwards and forwards over the same ground again and again and got no "forrader." It was in vain that he marshalled the different factors in the problem he was considering before his mental vision, and essayed to arrange them with his usual acumen and military precision into distinct and separate companies of pros. and cons. They proved to be a hopelessly disorderly crew, and openly rebellious—as few mortals had ever been—to his rigid, iron will, refusing to stand in the places assigned to them, running in and out of their ranks, tumbling over each other, and altogether behaving in a manner that, under other and more concrete circumstances, would have called for the reading of the Riot Act. It was bewildering and upsetting, putting the commanding officer in a wholly untenable position, and one in which no text-book on drill or discipline would afford the smallest possible assistance. The unfortunate Sir Sampson was thankful when the sound of the breakfast-gong—punctual in his well-ordered household to the half of a minute—brought him a temporary relief from his perplexities.

Outwardly Sir Sampson Doom was a large-framed man, with broad shoulders, a commanding presence, a Wellingtonian nose, and blue eyes of extraordinary vividness of colour that seemed to have caught and retained the brightness of the tropical skies under which he had so often marched, fought, and bivouacked. But for a certain roughness of appearance, which gave him the look of having been considerably knocked about and damaged in the battle of life, he could well have taken rank in the company of aristocratic, good-looking veterans, who, on ornate occasions—national processions, public dinners, and the like—represent the mellow fruit of the British Army, and of whom no country has a larger share than our own. Notwithstanding his age and seniority in the Service, he was young in the character of a Benedick, and, as is not infrequent in such cases, the lady of his choice was more than a little his junior.

In the morning room his pretty wife awaited him, a dainty piece of goods with no suggestion of damage or wear about her. She might, not inaptly, be compared with one of those intricate, airy-fairy bonnet arrangements as it emerges fresh from the hands of a clever modiste, where art is veiled by simplicity, and which betrays no sign of the mortal fingers which formed it—so complete, so absolutely beyond cavil was the perfection of her style.

With ready-recurring admiration the General took in at a glance her graceful poise of head and shoulders, her faultless shell-pink complexion, and the exquisite garment—he could no more have named it than he could have flown—of muslin and lace that enfolded her. It still thrilled him afresh to think that this beautiful, peerless creature, so young and tender, so blooming, should be his, and his alone. Though he seemed to know every turn of the slender throat, every curve of the finely-modelled lips, every shade of the violet eyes, there was no satiety in the knowledge. It was all a pure and perennial joy, almost amounting in its greatness to a hallowed mystery. "Put off thy shoes, for the place where thou standest is holy ground;" were words that expressed his attitude of mind towards her.

What the fond, adoring glance did not see was a crease—it could hardly be called a frown—that marred the white smoothness of her forehead as she heard his step, and the quick, furtive movement that hid the letter she had been reading. Like the momentary

ripple of a zephyr on the surface of a lake they swept by, leaving no sign to mark the place where they had been.

The letter could hardly have been called a very short one, but every word was indelibly printed on Lady Doom's memory, and to her, who could interpret its meaning by the light of other days, it was forcible and to the point. The bold, familiar writing with its strong black lines, large capitals, and thick upward crossed "t's" gave her, as in a crystal, a vision of herself as she was before her marriage—a pretty penniless girl with a heart full of vanity and a head full of ambition, courted, flattered, sought after, with a train of admirers, but none wealthy or important enough to satisfy her mercenary aspirations until the Commander-in-Chief himself fell a victim to her youthful charms. To a girl of her character and bred in a garrison town the bait was irresistible. She jettisoned her fragments of heart, and became Lady Doom.

The wording of the letter ran thus:—

Dearest Connie,—The last time, I suppose, I shall call you so. After this I shall have a wife who will probably know more about my doings than the Chief does of yours. I mean no reproach. You know your sex and their little ways—charming and otherwise—better than I do. You will have heard that I have taken your advice and am about to follow your example. Under the circumstances and the adverse star which ruled our fate, we have both probably done the best possible for ourselves; though sometimes, even at this eleventh hour, I could find it in my heart to wish it different. But regrets are useless. What is—is. Let the dead past bury its dead. I, for one, won't dig it up. But for our old friendship's sake, when the Belsetta command falls vacant, which it may do any day now, remember me. I know you can manage it if you will. I leave the details of the management to you with perfect confidence.

One word more and I have done. I shall never write to you in this strain again, so would like to recall to your remembrance that the breaking off of our engagement was your doing, not mine. If ever you regret it do not blame me. With you I could (or think I could) have faced poverty and shelving. Without you I don't mean to put up with either if I can help it.—Yours, as in the past, Max Melton.

By one of the unwritten and incomprehensible mandates of fashion that live for a season and vanish into space, the pocket of Lady Doom's ethereal confection was on the left side, and her disengaged hand clutched the letter that lay in it as she poured out her husband's tea. The paper crinkled and crackled ominously; she almost feared to look down lest she should see the thick, tell-tale writing showing through the semi-transparent muslin. But her gentle languid movements were as composed, her sweet, musical voice as low and delicately modulated as ever as she asked:—

"Have you thought over what we were talking about last night, Sam?"

The commonplace syllable fell from Lady Doom's lips almost like a caress. It was not often that she used the abbreviation of her husband's name—in her heart she thought it vulgar and banal—but to-day she did so with an effect of bewitching familiarity. Sir Sampson coloured under his tan with the pleasure it afforded him. His mother, whom he had worshipped above all women excepting Connie, had always called him so.

"I have thought of little else, darling," he answered uneasily. "You know how much I would do to please you, and what a pleasure it would be for me to do it, but you see, dear, this is—er—an official matter. If I have to say No to you it will be from a sense of duty. You see how I am placed."

With great care and deliberation Lady Doom selected a lump of sugar and held it aloft in the tongs. Her elbow rested on the table shaming the cloth by its whiteness, and the lace sleeve falling back displayed her perfectly-formed wrist with its net-work of blue veins on the warm surface. From finger-tip to shoulder the arm was perfect, and she knew it.

"One or two?" she asked smilingly. "I can never remember."

"Oh! either, thanks; it doesn't matter," answered the General, absently. The effort he was making to say what was on his mind was great, and he felt inclined to rush it and get it over. He resumed, speaking rapidly.

"As I was saying, dear, you won't mind, will you, if I have to go against your wish? It is the first time, I know, that you have ever asked for anything" (this was hardly accurate, but even a Commander-in-Chief is sometimes inaccurate when flustered," and, of course, if it were possible, I should like—I mean—I hope you won't think——"

He hesitated, not finding it easy to clothe his thought in suitable words—plain speaking being at times difficult, even in the inviolable secrecy of the domestic hearth. As he halted a sweet, pathetic half-smile of sympathy crept over his wife's features. When it reached the eyes the downcast lids with their dark lashes lifted, and the speaking orbs threw a tender glance at the rugged, honest face opposite.

"I shall think you are doing absolutely right, dear, whatever course you adopt," she replied. "I am sorry, though, that you don't like Colonel Max Melton," she added musingly. "He has always been a great friend of mine, and in long ago days when I was a girl I prided myself on having none but nice friends. You were one of them, you know!"

Sir Sampson beamed.

"You little flatterer," he said. "But you mustn't think I have anything against Max Melton personally. He is a smart officer, and, as far as I know, a good fellow. A trifle ambitious, perhaps, but that is a fault on the right side, after all. But——"

A wave of Connie's slender fingers swept through his explanation and an expression of almost austere virtue gathered on her brow and straightened her red lips. She shook her head incredulously.

"You are very kind, dear, but I know you too well to believe for a moment that you would say a word against an officer without good reason, even to me. Of course, I do not ask what it is, though I have heard rumours which I have never hitherto believed. But now I see that there is—something."

"Rumours!" ejaculated Sir Sampson, aghast. "What rumours? I have heard nothing."

"Oh! I couldn't tell you. If you haven't heard it wouldn't be fair. Of course, everyone will believe them now; but that is nothing. I would always go by your opinion blindfold. Of course, I shall let Colonel Max Melton see that he has forfeited my friendship. He may resent my attitude, but I can't help that. I could never be civil to a man you don't think well of."

Sir Sampson fidgeted uncomfortably. His wife's sentiments were admirable, and in his somewhat old-fashioned opinion epitomised a proper wifely spirit, but somehow he felt on the horns of a dilemma. His sense of justice forced him to say:

"But I don't disapprove of Max Melton, my love. He has very many good points. He has seen a lot of service, and has always done most creditably. They say the way he handled his men in that last Indian Border business was excellent. Women, of course, can't be expected to understand such matters" (Sir Sampson was undoubtedly not quite up-to-date), "but you may take my word for it, Connie, that there are worse officers wearing the King's uniform than Max Melton."

Lady Doom's air of puritanical severity did not relax.

"I quite follow your meaning, Sampson," she said. "You wish me to understand that although you consider Colonel Max Melton a good soldier, still as a man——"

Sir Sampson almost sprang off his chair. He was a testy old gentleman at best, and to-day for the first time he found the lovely Connie just a little dense. He had never noticed this characteristic before.

"I mean nothing of the kind, nothing of the kind," he vociferated hotly. "I don't say he is a saint, no men are, but I know nothing against him personally. As to the d——d rumours, I don't believe a word of them, nor is he unsuited to the command. On the contrary, he is a very capable officer, and very well fitted for it. Only——"

"Then, my dearest Sam," beamed Lady Doom, rising and thus ending the discussion, "there is nothing more to be said, except that I am a very foolish, stupid girl, and have been frightening myself at a bogey that doesn't exist. But, do forgive me, darling, I was so

distressed to think you didn't like any one of my friends, and Colonel Max Melton is a very old one. He was father's friend, and for that reason I have always liked him. Have you heard he is to be married very soon? I should like to send him a wire telling him he will be gazetted to a command. He would be so pleased."

Again Sir Sampson bit his long thumb in obvious hesitation.

"Very well, my dear," he said after a moment's deliberation. "You are a little witch, and always get your own way. But don't mention names. It wouldn't look well if it got about, you know."

"Oh, thank you. I'll be most careful. You leave it to me, Sam. I'll be a model of discretion."

But the wording of the telegram Lady Doom sent would have evoked more than one opinion on that point. It ran:

"Your desire granted. Our wedding present to you."

The telegram once despatched, Lady Doom metaphorically drew a long sigh of relief and began to enumerate all the possible advantages to herself of her victory. The Belsetta command being in her husband's division, it followed of necessity that her path and that of the newly-appointed commandant must intersect each other at frequently recurring intervals. The thought was not wholly displeasing. Though much too long-headed and cold-hearted to contemplate any indiscretion that might affect her position in society, Lady Doom could not hide from herself that such meetings would be green and pleasant oases in the somewhat monotonous though prosperous existence which had been hers since her marriage. Sir Sampson was kind and indulgent, but life with him already lacked the excitement for which she craved. Max Melton, with his eloquent eyes, his handsome, clear-cut features, his audacious epigrams, would supply the piquancy for which she sighed. In his presence she could wear her most fascinating costumes with the certainty that they would be appreciated, and his wife's outshone.

Some people, doubtless, would consider it a dangerous game to play. But Lady Doom knew better. The danger, if any, would not be hers. The tools might be edged, but she would not cut herself. She smiled gently as she recalled the horror she had always had of wounds, especially self-inflicted ones, and she had never been rash. Besides, as she reminded herself, she was really fond of Sir Sampson. He was an old dear, and so kind, though, where she was concerned, just a little blind. "I really," thought the lovely Connie to herself, as she concluded her reflections, "am a better strategist than he is, Commander-in-Chief though he be." And I am not sure that most of her friends and acquaintances would not have endorsed her opinion.

"Would you like to see the *Gazette*, my love?" remarked Sir Sampson some ten days later. "There is an announcement in it which may interest you."

Lady Doom took the paper with languid grace, and commenced turning over its pages with a fine assumption of indifference. Suddenly the lines of her figure grew tense, her expression puzzled, disappointed, alarmed.

"What does this mean?" she inquired more hastily than was habitual to her. "I don't understand. Surely there is a mistake here. How can Colonel Max Melton go home to take up a command when he is to have Belsetta? You promised, you know."

"So I did, my dear. But if you remember, I did not specify which command. I knew this would please you even better than Belsetta; besides getting me out of the difficulty of passing over others. Just before our talk on the subject I had had a telegram telling me of the vacancy, and asking me to recommend a good man to fill it. Then I suddenly thought of Max Melton, and proposed him. That wire of yours was quite vague, I hope?"

There was an indescribable something in the General's tone that checked Lady Doom's querulous complaint. She looked up and caught his eye, and without any obvious reason fell to wondering—for the first time in her married life—whether, after all, her husband was not a better strategist than herself.

MUSIC.

ROSCOE'S GUINEA DIPLOMAS.

LAST winter I devoted some space to the proceedings of one J. E. Roscoe, of Chester, who, in a letter to me, described himself as having "graduated at a chartered university with eight colleges attached to it," but whose name is entirely unknown to the officials of any university in these isles. Mr. Roscoe (who, by the way, in another of his letters described himself as "Mus.D., Chicago Univ.," although the Chancellor of Chicago wrote that no degrees *in absentiâ* were ever granted by his university) was then connected with various bogus Colleges which (often without previous consultation with the ladies and gentlemen thus honoured) elected to a "fellowship" certain teachers, music-shop keepers, and others, promptly in most cases writing for the "fee." The Truth articles certainly did some good. Two at least of the enterprises which had impudently assumed the title of "Royal" were stopped, and for some months I have not heard of Mr. Roscoe or his diplomas. But he seems to have broken out again, and a letter addressed by him from the "Ries School of Music" to Mr. Speelman a respected violinist of Manchester, was forwarded to mo on the 8th inst. It runs as follows:—

20 Oak Street, Ellesmere Port, Chester

Dear Sir—Your election as a "R.S.M." is complete. If you wish to have your Diploma we will forward same this week. If you remit fee 1 guinea for expenses. It will be as well if you have a diploma to shew that you are a "R,S,M," If you will remit at once We will forward the same this week. Awaiting yours Yours truly, J. E. Roscoe.

Mr. Roscoe is, I fancy, still "awaiting yours." It is scarcely necessary to say that any musician forwarding a guinea for so worthless a document would simply be twenty-one shillings out of pocket, for the "Ries School of Music" has no more power to confer diplomas than Mr. Speelman himself has. No examinations have ever been held in the case of Mr. Speelman or of any of the gentlemen whose names I have already cited as having been "elected" for these bogus honours; and the modest premises at Ellesmere Port and elsewhere in Chester, are carried on mainly by offering (for a consideration) worthless certificates, which it is pretended confer the right to add capital letters to the name. A "Professor Ries" is now stated on the prospectus to be a "member" of the affair, but there is good reason to doubt whether any such person exists. At any rate, when the name was first used, Mr. Roscoe did not even know how to spell it, and in a circular he stated "*Reis* was a pupil of Beethoven." On December 17 last year I pointed out that "Ferdinand Ries" (and not Reis) certainly was a pupil of Beethoven, but that he could not possibly have had anything to do with Roscoe's bogus "Fellowship" emporium, for he died as far back as 1838. Accordingly Mr. Roscoe seems to have taken the hint. We hear no more of the "Pupil of Beethoven," and "Reis" blossoms forth as "The Ries School of Music, Great Britain, Germany, etc."

As the genesis of this precious "School" seems, as in so many similar cases, to have been forgotten, and as Roscoe is once more guinea hunting, a rapid summary of the articles published last year may not be out of place. "Dr. E. Roscoe, L.Mus., London" (London University, by the way, has no such degree, and Mr. Roscoe has no connection whatever with the University), was then announced as "Principal" of the "British School of Music" held at 20, Oak-street, Ellesmere Port, the same address it will be seen as that of the "Ries'" affair. At that modest home also was carried on the "Royal Guild of Musicians," an enterprise the artistic value of which may be gathered from the fact that when the errand-boy of *Musical News*, acting on instructions, wrote from his private address for a prospectus, the lad was astonished to find himself forthwith appointed "local secretary" at a commission. The "Royal Guild," together with the "Royal Institute of Tuners" came to a summary end (I believe, on the

interposition of the Home Office), after the flagrant misuse of the word "Royal" had been pointed out in TRUTH. Mr. Roscoe next turned up as the "German School of Composers, Critics, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists," with addresses at Oak-street, Chester, at 11, Parker's-buildings, Chester, and at 1, Burges-street, Hoole, Chester, the last, it was explained, being his private address. From Parker's-buildings (see TRUTH November 12, 1903) the "secretary" forwarded to Mr. Thomas Simpson, a well-known music seller and pianoforte dealer at Burnley, a cheaply-printed "diploma," which Mr. Simpson promptly sent on to me. The covering letter stated that the "directors" are "conferring upon you the hon. fellowship diploma, F.G.S." It may, of course, be only a coincidence, but the initials "F.G.S." of this "German School" might easily be mistaken for the well-known "F.G.S." of the Geological Society of London, even as the "Ries" initials "R.S.M." now offered to Mr. Speelman might readily be confounded with those of the Royal Society of Musicians.

The diploma "F.G.S." of the "German School" was supposed to be signed by "Emil Ernst," whom the accompanying circular described as "Dr. Emil Ernst, the great orchestrater," while a letter also in my possession, written to a well-known firm of advertising agents, offering them an order (which the firm honourably refused) for advertisements of "The Royal Institute of Tuners, founded 1897," was signed "Ernst Reszke," whose address was also given at 1, Burges-street, Hoole, Chester. As all three signatures were obviously in the same handwriting, and as "Dr. Ernst" and "Dr. Reszke" were never produced in the flesh, I ventured to suggest that they and Mr. Roscoe all wore the same hat. From the prospectus of "Ries School of Music, Great Britain, Germany, etc.," the names of Dr. Reszke and Dr. Ernst have, in fact, now wholly disappeared, and instead we have "Prof. Ries," who, if he really were the "pupil of Beethoven," would now be a patriarch of the venerable age of 149. Those interested in the matter of the Roscoe diplomas may see fuller details, and reprints of documents, in TRUTH of October 29, November 12 and 19, December 10 and 17, 1903. On the last-mentioned date I printed a letter from Mr. Roscoe, in which he said (spelling is not his strong point), "If I here or see any more of your sarcasim I shall lay it before our officers." What the "officers" advised I can only imagine, but at any rate the chief step taken seems to have been a revision of the spelling (though not perhaps of the grammar) of the prospectus. No doubt there is a craze for cheap titles, and "R.S.M." may to the ignorant look imposing. But it certainly does not say much for the character for common sense of the musical profession, that Roscoe supposes they can be deluded by such transparent nonsense.

An exhibition of musical instruments is this week being held at the Agricultural Hall, and, although the general public are I believe not admitted, the affair being for trade use only, yet it contains something like 500 pianos, about half of them of foreign make. There is comparatively little of novelty about these instruments, which are, I suppose, less intended for show than as business samples for ordinary sale. But there is an interesting display of gramophones and of piano-players, including examples of the new player, for which, as I mentioned some months ago, patents had been taken out in America, a player which does away with the cabinet usually placed in front, the mechanism being inside an ordinary piano. The roll is placed in a receptacle, either where the music desk ordinarily is, or in the centre panel of the top door. Most piano-players have, however, within the past few months been greatly improved, and they are certainly becoming a popular adjunct to the piano.

A correspondent sends me the following remarkable advertisement from the *East Anglian Daily Times*:—

> Organist wanted for country parish. Salary, £6.—Apply, VICAR, etc.

I should say that an organ-grinder, rather than an organist, was needed, though even a peripatetic Italian (with or without a monkey) would, I fancy, consider twice before he accepted half-a-crown a week for his church services.

The Committee of the Cardiff School Board have found out, to their immense surprise, that nearly a thousand of their pupils have been induced to buy guinea violins on the hire system, the teachers being allowed by the makers between 10 and 20 per cent. for "collection" of instalments. The matter would doubtless have gone on, had not one of the caretakers written to the Board to inquire what he was to get out of it, when the full extent of the traffic was revealed. I went into the whole matter some months ago, and there is no necessity now to do more than summarise. It need not even be suggested that the violin is not worth the guinea asked for it. The point in fact is whether it is right that these young people should be induced (partly, it is feared, by the teachers, who get commissions) to waste upon a hopeless task their own time and the money of their parents, who in most cases are very poor people. It may be true that in some board schools a certain degree of excellence in ensemble playing has been attained. But it is nevertheless obviously impossible for these school board children to properly learn one of the most difficult of instruments by threepenny-class lessons. Indeed, it can hardly be doubted that the real reason of this violin craze is to sell the instruments. The Cardiff School Board were, however, placed in a difficulty. They did not wish the luckless pupils (or their parents) to lose the instalments already paid, which they would do if the instruments were returned at once. But they recommend that no more classes shall be formed, and that the teachers who have undertaken to teach at threepence a week shall be compelled to continue their work while there are any children who want lessons. Towards the end of the time I fear those teachers will not find it a lucrative job.

Dr. Hanslick, who died last week at Bade, near Vienna, at the age of eighty, was one of the grand old men of music. He was well acquainted with Adalbert Gyrowetz, who appeared in London as a violinist as far back as 1785, and who was afterwards, till about fifty years ago, Imperial Chapel Master at Vienna. As Hanslick also knew most of the leading German musicians of his day, he was a perfect mine of anecdote and information. He was a bitter opponent of Wagner and Liszt, and a warm supporter of Schumann and Brahms. The veteran Mr. Wilhelm Kuhe was a fellow pupil of his.

Although the pianoforte advertisement swindle (it usually takes the form of a "gentleman going abroad," or a "widow giving up housekeeping") is so old, it still proves a trap for the foolish seeker after bargains. It is therefore pleasant when one of its professors is laid by the heels. In London, a confiding police believe far too literally in the caveat emptor principle, and let the swindlers go undisturbed. But the police of Liverpool are more energetic, and they have just succeeded in bringing to justice a so-called dealer, who will, therefore, for the next two months, do more hard labour than is necessary in piano swindling. The victim was a woman (these frauds are usually practised on people too poor to afford loss), from whom Adam Clarke obtained £16 for a piano by "Rubenstein, London and Berlin," and he added to the offence by producing a receipt, dated a short time before, for £45, from "Harkner and Harkner," of Dale-street, Liverpool. When, however, the receipt was handed over to the woman purchaser, it was observed that the signature "Harkner and Harkner" was almost torn off, a defect which Clarke explained by saying that his children had been playing with it. The excuse lost much of its force at the trial at Liverpool Assizes last week, when a detective proved that in Clarke's house he had found several receipts, all of them with a portion of the signature torn off. Furthermore, evidence was adduced that there was no such manufacturing firm as "Rubenstein," either in London or Berlin, and

that there never was such a firm as Harkner and Harkner, who were supposed to have signed the receipt. Lastly, the real maker of the piano, whose name was (not very fairly) suppressed, had to admit for the defence that he sold the piano to the prisoner for £12, ingenuously adding, according to the report in the local *Courier*, that "a customer could have any fictitious name he liked put on a piano." Personally, I should advise this very accommodating manufacturer to be careful how he puts false markings on the instruments he sells, especially those consigned to Liverpool, where the police seem to be wide awake.

Herr Angelo Neumann, I am told, intends to come to London shortly in the hope of arranging a winter opera season at cheap prices, a scheme which I happen to know he has had in contemplation for some years. It was Herr Neumann's troupe which first produced "Der Ring des Niebelungen" at Her Majesty's in 1882, with a wonderful cast, and the Bayreuth scenery, which Wagner had sold him in order to pay the deficit on the first production of the "Ring" twenty-eight years ago. He also brought to London Anton Seidl, who afterwards became a leading Wagnerian conductor in New York. Herr Neumann is at present directing an opera house at Prague.

At the Promenade Concerts Mr. Robert Newman has had little cause to regret the early opening of the season, and on some evenings the attendance has been large. The Tschaikowsky programme drew an especially good house, for it included such favourite works as the "Nut Cracker" suite and the "Symphonie Pathétique." The first of the novelties was a violin concerto (alla fantasia) in G minor by Mr. Charles Stewart Macpherson, formerly conductor of the Westminster Orchestral Society, and now a professor at the Royal Academy of Music. The composer perhaps made a mistake in constructing his concerto in three linked movements without break, for long before the end a sense of monotony was induced. But the music is musicianly and melodious, and the solo part was well played by Mr. Spencer Dyke. On Saturday there were two novelties, neither of them, I fear, epoch-making works. A "Poème Epique," by the Slavonic composer Wassilenko, might, however, have been better understood if the composer had disclosed his "programme." For until the musician explains what he is driving at, music of this character must be more or less unintelligible. The two leading subjects are interesting, and the orchestration often shows real dramatic, if rather barbaric, force. The violoncello concerto in D minor, by the late M. van Goens, introduced by M. Renard, is on the other hand a work which will be better beloved by soloists than by audiences. Mr. Wood is doubtless selecting the best novelties available, but there does not seem to be much force in the cry that true genius is neglected.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Though we have often said that English people should spend at least some of their holidays in their own country for its good, we are yet fain to admit that there are times when one may, perhaps, find more rest in a little run abroad and the absolute change it makes in the routine of the day. To start with, a café complet is in itself so completely unEnglish that a contrasting note is struck at once, and it is only the most intensely British of Britishers who insist on eggs, fish, bacon, or kidneys at the morning meal, with a substantial lunch before them at midday. There is something in the Continental air that puts an edge on the appetite, and yet makes a smaller quantity of food suffice than we are accustomed to in England. We have always noticed this. Can physiologists account for it?

Perhaps it is not so with everybody. There are English people here who eat well and who fill up the long interval between déjeuner and seven o'clock dinner with a substantial tea à l'anglaise, buttered scones, bread and butter, and jam and cake. Most of us eat too much, do we not?

This Picardy is a very lovely country. The walks and drives about here are very pretty, and the far ranges of hills in every tone of misty blue and pale violet remind me of my dear Donegal. We are but three miles from Boulogne, but grudge the time for necessary visits there, on shopping cares intent. Boulogne is a sort of French Margate, very noisy and malodorous, and overrun with English cheap trippers who play practical jokes in the streets and also in other ways advertise their status. "What ho!" is a phrase that resounds in the streets, and we are not always proud of our countrymen and their ladies whom we see and hear in Boulogne.

In our quiet retreat we can enjoy that delightful sense of leisure that is so rarely felt in London. We have actually time to read a book right through in a couple of days. You cannot think what a pleasure this is in itself. At home we have about a quarter of an hour a day for reading, and by the time we have finished a volume the beginning of it has assumed a hazy aspect.

Sometimes we go and sit on the *digue* and look on at the *monde qui s'amuse*. All classes are represented, from the grande dame, with her slightly scornful air, to the fishwife, who is waiting for the tram to Wimereux. We have seen some wonderful gowns, the wearers sitting on the canvas-shaded benches on which there is just comfortable room for two. The sands are covered with these canopied seats. In one a bride—unmistakably a bride—sat reading *Le Journal* to her husband. She wore a sweet white frock, a sort of cotton house-flannel. This seems a contradiction in terms, but it is the nearest I can get to explaining my meaning. It was made with a rather tight-fitting skirt, on which a deep, pleated flounce was sewn, rising rather high at the back—in fact, just the shaped flounce of a few seasons since. The bodice fitted exquisitely, and two narrow stoles in front were embroidered à l'anglaise in a design of narrow straps through which black velvet was run. Similar straps and velvet trimmed the back of the sleeves. The hat was a coarse fancy white straw, twisted about in irregular curves, and trimmed with a white and pale pink check silk drapery.

Further on we found a handsome girl in a gown of bright cerise and cream-coloured muslin, made very full indeed, and gathered round the waist and again above the deep flounce. The bodice, very full like the skirt, was gathered into a square yoke of the muslin itself. It was cut away at the neck and a wide black velvet ribbon was fastened round the throat with a mother-o'-pearl buckle. The very full sleeves were held above the elbows with bands of wide black velvet fastened with mother-o'-pearl buckles.

The babies over here are most delightful. They have such pretty little ways, and are so quaintly dressed that they are quite irresistible. They have much smaller heads than English children. There is little Henriette, for instance, just twenty-one months old, and with quite a lot of character already in her wide, grey eyes. In her dear little pierced ears are wee earrings of filigree gold set with a diminutive pearl each. Her way of attracting attention is to rush out from her doorway and clasp the leg of the passer-by whom she has honoured with her notice. Her little head is covered with silkiest fair curls. We know another bébé, further up the street. She is even younger, her head tinier. We thought the kind-faced woman of the house was her mother, but she told us that she took the little one from the parish. She is a foundling, but has found kind friends indeed. She pretends to cry, to pout, to scowl, to laugh, when asked; and the scowl is the sweetest, funniest thing you ever saw, for the coming laugh casts its sunshine before, and it is such a small scowl, on such a small face.

At the pretty cottage opposite there is an eighteen-month-old boy who is great chums with the curé. The

"La Samothrace."—Every corset of the London Corset Co., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

curé is very tall and thin, and the baby is very short and round, so the priest has to telescope himself before he can get anywhere within range of the baby's conversation. Their partings take place at the garden-gate, and are lengthy and reluctant; and when the curé finally straightens himself and strides away, his voluminous black skirts flapping about him, he is followed by a lamentation from behind the open-work gate—"O—é—é—é!" Little Claudine is a year older, and talks English very prettily. Her thirst for information is quite surprising. "Whatt is thatt? A bottel of a-ink? Ta-ake outt the co-ark." Indeed, the babies are quite a separate interest over here.

We went over to Le Touquet yesterday and found a great transformation. The castle in the woods—sounds like the beginning of a fairy story, doesn't it?—was rather lonely when we saw it last, and the forest came right up to it and looked in at the windows. But now a great space has been cleared, and meadows have been turned into turfy lawns with borders of bright flower-beds and seats under the shade of the trees. Close by is the Hotel l'Hermitage, only opened three weeks ago, but full as it can hold, even the long row of bedrooms where once was a sheepwalk. We saw some well-known faces on the terrace at luncheon, and English and French were spoken in about equal quantities. There is a large indoor dining-room for use in cold, wet weather, but yesterday every one was glad to be outside and enjoy the velvet air of the pinewoods, corrected by a delicious breath of the sea. The château itself is reserved for those who enjoy quiet. Subscribers can lunch or dine there if they prefer it to the gay and crowded terrace of the Hermitage. There are very large drawing and dining rooms, a pretty room for ladies, and a Turkish room which is quite perfect, having been carried out consistently in Turkish style as a smoking room. This was the sitting room occupied by Mr. Balfour and his party during their visit. A terrace runs the whole length of the Château du Touquet, both downstairs and on the first floor, and the bedrooms open upon the latter. The whole of the castle is carried out with quiet, perfect taste, and pale green appears and re-appears in carpets, draperies, and wall-papers. An ideal place for a brain-resting holiday, luxurious, quiet, yet within reach of a merry crowd. Some one said that the chef is a genius.

Behind the Hermitage is stabling and garage and a long room, or, rather, hall, one end of which is a chapel, the other a theatre, with a fencing school in the middle. The entertainments do not take place simultaneously.

There is a Casino close by, and a racecourse, cricket ground, and the best golf links in France.

After tea in the cool shades opposite the windows of the château, we drove to Paris-Plage, and found that it had been growing, growing, growing, since our last visit there. Sixty-two new chalets have been built this year, and a hundred others are ordered for next. At the very end of the long High Street, between the Château du Touquet and the sea, an enormous hotel has been built. It was opened a week ago, and has already a great number of guests. It is well named L'Atlantique, for as one looks out of the windows across the sea there is nothing between the gazer and America. It is a plain building, but very pretty inside, floors, walls, and furniture being all biscuit colour and the carpets bright crimson, with a border in a deeper shade. It is just the place for a stay in hot weather, for the sands are just in front of it, and a splendid sunset was going on when we drove away. Here again we heard as much English as French, and so we did in the tram ride back to Etaples through the heart of the lovely greenwood.

Our rusty French will scarcely get polished up in these surroundings, and it needs it very badly.

We saw some gay gowns at l'Hermitage. One was a cream-coloured batiste, made with three flounces, each bordered with a narrow white fringe. The pointed yoke of the bodice was edged with the same sort of fringe. Sleeves are all much puffed above the elbows, and some are not continued below it, but are met by long gloves of softest suède or glossy French kid. But the majority have closely-fitting long cuffs, from elbow to wrist.

In Paris-Plage High Street we met a girl swinging along in most manly fashion in a divided skirt. She took such long steps that the division showed distinctly each time. It looked very easy and comfortable, but very ungraceful, and, what was worse, attracted a great deal of smiling attention.

The most picturesque costume of the day was that of an *ouvrière*, a long gown of a deep warm crimson, over which fell a long black apron. The gown fitted closely to figure and arms, and the free gait of the wearer seemed somehow to match her uncovered head of thick black hair, closely braided.

More sophisticated was a little blonde lady in a three-tier gown of white linen, worked with broderie anglaise very full round the border of the flounce, and gradually slighter as it rose in spirals above it. The bodice was embroidered in front and on the tops of the sleeves. The hat was a white crinoline, with carnations (pink and red) under the brim, and a silk drapery in the two shades folded round the crown. This was very becoming to the dark-haired wearer.

The afternoon was chilly; so a black serge, also a three-tier, a form that is in high favour over here, looked very comfortable. The flounces clung close to the figure at the top, but were full at the edge which was sewn with silver braid of the soft, flat kind that is in fashion this season. The coat-bodice was in simulated tabs, the simulation being carried out by means of rows of the braid carried round the loose part of the long, narrow tabs, and continued upon the flat part. The high collar was sewn with the braid in three or four rows.

Green seems rather a favourite dress colour here. A rifle-green cloth is trimmed with gold and green braid, and has a very military look, especially when the skirt is raised to show a scarlet petticoat. There is also a line of scarlet cloth at neck and wrists. Another green gown is in réséda cloth, with facings of old rose, and the prettiest enamelled buttons in the two colours. The vest is old rose soft silk, drawn up from the waist in full folds, which are laced across with a pale réséda silk cord. The sleeves open a little way up at the back of the cuffs to show a similar arrangement of old rose silk and réséda cloth.

How well the Frenchwomen hold themselves! And they are so beautifully neat. We are for ever admiring them.

Miss Gertrude Tuckwell, Hon. Secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, has written taking exception to a recent statement that in "Warp and Woof" Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton represented some scenes that are "absolutely impossible in present circumstances." I admit that as it stood this was too sweeping a statement. There are undoubted official proofs in the reports of the factory inspectors and elsewhere of the existence of the evils depicted in the play, including a case just published of "employment in a dressmaking workshop for twenty-four consecutive hours, with under two hours for meals." Among dressmakers, as among every other class of employers, sweaters are unfortunately to be found. But on the other hand, I know of not a few who are considerate and generous even beyond the requirements of the law, and it is decidedly unjust that they should all be classed—as some persons are disposed to class them—with the black sheep of the business.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—How few understand the art of taking a holiday, one that will really re-create; that is, repair the wear and tear caused in us by the round of ordinary, every-day life. Common-sense might suggest that the active would find recreation in rest, and the restful in activity. But, then, who would dream

Redfern's Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit-street Showrooms.

of hearkening to or heeding, anything so antiquated and commonplace as common-sense, which is logically defined "an exercise of the judgment unaided by any art or system of rules." Imagine anyone with any pretensions to being "in the movement," pausing for an exercise of judgment. We are all in such a hurry now; though some of us may occasionally wonder in a vague way what the twentieth century world is in such a hurry about. Still, we hurry on just the same, without knowing why or where we are hurrying. Fashionable life, which sets the example all down the line, is done on a system of "rushes," with "rushes" of extra "rushingness" within the "rushes." The metaphorical cup of life is metaphorically gulped down without any time being given for tasting it, much less for thinking about it at all. We are always going on to the next, tumbling over our own heels, as it were, in the hurry of the race. Who as a general rule, bring their own special circumstances and requirements into the matter of taking a holiday? To be sure, we do not always know what we want, which is an initial difficulty in the way of making our holiday suit our needs. How much easier it is to know what others need and what they ought to do. And how useless that same knowledge is, too, for, somehow or other the things which we so clearly see ought to be done by others are never the things that they do. Have we not all amongst the circle of our friends unhappy ones, who, after the exhaustion and rush of the season, are taking a holiday of rushing abroad? Entering on it with much groaning of spirit, weariness of mind and body, and even the outward manifestation of grumbling, but still going through with it. "They have always done it; they have made their plans; everyone is off, too." And so they go on their way, but not rejoicing.

Suppose we were, one and all, by way of a change, to think out the situation for ourselves, one wonders if the long hours of grilling in foreign railway carriages, the stuffy sojourns in overcrowded hotels, and weeks of dulness at "cure" or other resorts which make up such a large part of an average summer holiday would still survive amongst our modern methods of finding recreation for ourselves. Without doubt, as at present constituted, there is much difficulty, whatever our dispositions may chance to be, in "lazing" in this strenuous world. The reproach of "stagnation," of doing nothing, falls on those who rest and are thankful, who have the courage to take a holiday in this way. Even in our island of comparative leisure we must be up and doing. It does not very much matter what. Indeed, the fashionable world shows us that the busiest of all in a busy world are those who are busy doing nothing.

This week in Dublin the lull before the storm prevails socially. Tourists and excursionists are most prominent in the streets, making late acquaintance with the capital whose stronghold is the now renowned Dublin Castle. Outside on its gate stands the figure of justice, with emblematic scales; inside justice is administered in the varied ways of varied governments, according to taste. The building has not the claims to picturesqueness of Edinburgh Castle, neither in itself nor in its surroundings, but, as a tourist lately dicovered, "There is an awful lot of history about it, and it's going on still, too," which last is rather unique with old castles. The Lord Lieutenant lives in Dublin Castle, the Privy Council meets there; the office of Mr. Wyndham and of Sir Antony MacDonnell is within its precincts, and various other offices. On the whole, a place of many and various interests.

Next week Dublin will be crowded. Society will muster there again from all parts of the country for the greatest of the horse weeks, the Horse Show week. The great festival begins on the 23rd and lasts for most of the week. A familiar and popular figure, Lord Powerscourt, will be missed on the occasion. He was a strong promoter of the interests of the Royal Dublin Society, and was president of it for many years. Lord Dudley will, of course, be in Dublin for the "week," and the new Commander of the Forces, Lord Grenfell. The Chief Secretary will probably also appear on the occasion and entertain visitors. Lady Grosvenor has been in Ireland for some time, having gone to stay with her daughter, Lady Shaftesbury, at Belfast Castle, where Lord Shaftesbury has been for some time laid up with fever. He is better now, and going further north for change of air. Of late fresh air has been very much at everyone's disposal in Ireland. August has had many breezes—some very impressive in their strong breeziness—to temper the heat of the weather. Crowds of people have lately been returning to Ireland. The Duke and Duchess of Abercorn and their family are at Baronscourt, Lord Meath is at Kilruddery, near Bray. Princess of Pless has been visiting in Ireland, the country of her forbears on the mother's side. Her cousin, Miss Brooke, was lately married at Castleknock, near Dublin. The bride's mother is a sister of Mrs. Cornwallis West. She married when a widow a brother of the Chief Secretary, Mr. G. Wyndham.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Just one recipe. Poussins à la Muscovite are delicate:—

Take four boned poussins, fill them with quenelle of chicken, in which insert a spoonful of chopped red tongue, also a piece of foie gras in the centre of each bird, and truss them into shape. Pack them closely in a sautépan with vegetables and stock, cover them with buttered paper, and bruise them for an hour in a moderate oven. When serving them cut the birds in halves lengthways, glaze the upper side, and arrange them on a border of forcemeat. Fill the centre of the dish with cooked asparagus points and pour tomato sauce round them.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

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• TRUTH •

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE time has arrived for me to enlist the active sympathies of my lady readers on behalf of some thousands of absolutely naked dolls, as well as on behalf of their prospective owners. The whole of these dolls have to be decently clothed before they can appear in public, less than four months hence, at the next Truth Toy Show. Who will be good enough to help in this work of charity and necessity? I shall be glad to receive responses at once, and to forward the dolls accordingly. I may add that the number of small dolls is virtually limitless, but of the larger kind only a limited supply can be obtained, and it is, therefore, necessary to make specially early application for them.

The King is to leave Marienbad next Wednesday on his return to England, and it is possible that his Majesty may pay brief visits in the course of his journey to Flushing to the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland at their seat near Gmunden, and to the Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, at Schloss Rosenau. The *Victoria and Albert* leaves Portsmouth next Thursday for Flushing, where she will embark his Majesty for conveyance to Port Victoria.

On Monday, September 5, the King is to arrive at Rufford Abbey on a visit to Lord and Lady Savile, who have invited a large house party for Doncaster races. The King is to proceed from Rufford to Scotland, and he will arrive at Balmoral on either Saturday, September 10, or Monday, the 12th. His Majesty is to be present at the Braemar gathering, which will be held, according to present arrangements, in a "grass park" at Clunie, near Invercauld, on Thursday, the 15th.

The King is to leave Balmoral either on Sunday night, the 18th, or on Monday morning, the 19th, on his visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Loch Quoich Lodge, Inverness-shire. It is not yet settled whether his Majesty will travel by way of Inverness, proceeding thence down the Caledonian Canal to Invergarry, or if he will make the whole journey by train, which will involve an immense détour, the route being by Perth, Dunblane, Callander, and Spean Bridge to Invergarry, whence there is a drive of about fourteen miles to the Lodge. It is expected that the King will be the guest of Lord and Lady Burton until Friday, the 23rd, or Saturday, the 24th. Loch Quoich Lodge is a fairly large house, containing about twenty rooms, in addition to the servants' accommodation and offices. There will be some deer drives in Glen Quoich Forest during the King's stay, and he will probably drive to Loch Hoarn, which is an arm of the sea, surrounded by some of the wildest scenery in Scotland. The surroundings of Loch Quoich Lodge are very beautiful, and, as bridle paths have been cut in all directions, the deer forest is very easy to work.

Extensive and costly alterations and improvements have been carried out at Sandringham during the last few months, and the work will not be entirely completed until the beginning of October. The redecoration of the Queen's own apartments is not yet finished, and during her recent stay at the Hall her Majesty occupied a suite of rooms on the north side of the house which is usually appropriated to the use of the Royal guests. A new wing has been added to York Cottage, the accommodation afforded by the original house having become inadequate, and the Prince and Princess of Wales are expected to arrive there for the season from Scotland during the second week in October. Appleton House, the residence of Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, on the Sandringham estate, has been enlarged, and several improvements have been introduced.

The Queen and Princess Victoria are to proceed from Copenhagen during the latter part of next month on a visit to the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin at Ludwigslust, in North Germany, where there will be a large family party for a week, including the King of the Hellenes, the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, Prince and Princess Christian of Denmark, Prince and Princess Max of Baden, Prince and Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, Prince and Princess Frederick of Schaumburg-Lippe, Prince Nicholas of Greece and the Grand Duchess Helena Vladimirovna, and Prince and Princess Charles of Sweden and Norway. Ludwigslust, which is fourteen miles from Hamburg, is a small town, close to which is the principal country seat of the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Schloss is a large, handsome house containing many fine rooms, with a choice gallery of Dutch pictures, and an interesting collection of antiquities. The gardens are well laid out, and there is a large and well-wooded park. The Grand Duke's celebrated stud farm is at Ludwigslust, and the building and stables are very extensive and admirably arranged.

It has been stated in a telegram from Copenhagen that the King will arrive in Denmark "towards the end of the Queen's visit," in order that they may return to England together. The Queen, however, is not going to Denmark until after the King has returned from the Continent, and her Majesty will stay with King Christian until towards the end of October. The King spent three weeks in Denmark during the spring, and there has never been any idea of his Majesty paying another visit to that country during the present year.

The Queen and Princess Victoria arrived at Mar Lodge on Saturday on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Fife, and will probably remain there until her Majesty's departure for Denmark. In recording this fact I must tender my apologies to a writer in the *Daily Mail*, who recently announced that this visit was to take place, and who was contradicted, somewhat unceremoniously, in last week's Truth.

The Princess of Wales left Neu Strelitz last Wednesday, after a stay of nearly three weeks, for Dresden, where she has since been staying at the Savoy Hotel. The Grand Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz travelled with the Princess of Wales from Neu Strelitz to Dresden, and she has taken up her residence at Kepp Schloss, her pleasant villa near that city. The Princess of Wales has made an excursion through Saxon Switzerland, and has visited Prague, and she has been entertained by the King of Saxony and his daughters, the Archduchess Otto and Princess Mathilde, at Pillnitz, the Royal domain on the banks of the Elbe, which is one of the most attractive country seats in Germany. The Princess, who is attended by Mr. and Lady Eva Dugdale, is to arrive at Marlborough House on Thursday, September 1, from the Continent, and on the evening of Friday, the 2nd, H.R.H. will leave town to join the Prince and her children at Abergeldie Castle, Aberdeenshire.

The fact that the Prince of Wales is to pay a visit to Lord Durham at Lambton Castle during the shooting season was announced in Truth several months ago. It is probable that the visit will take place early in November, the Prince arriving at Lambton from Sandringham either on Monday, October 31, or on Monday, November 14. H.R.H. will be the guest of Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton for four days, three of which are to be devoted to shooting over the Lambton Park, Penshaw, Herrington, and Langley preserves (which are now among the best in the North of England), and on the other day the Prince will fulfil a public engagement at Sunderland. The King (then Prince of Wales) was the guest of Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton for several days a few years ago, when he obtained abundant sport, and the shooting was so good that one of his Majesty's present lot of two-year-olds is named Penshaw in memory of the battue in that preserve. Lord Durham is now in Scotland, as he has rented the celebrated deer forest of Glenfiddich, in Banffshire, from the Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

The Prince of Wales had remarkably good sport during his visit to Yorkshire. There were four days' grouse driving on the Duke of Devonshire's moors in Upper Wharfedale, and seven guns killed 2,324 birds. During the Prince's visit to Lord Ripon, at Studley Royal, there were two days' grouse driving over the celebrated Dallowgill moors, in Nidderdale, and six guns killed 1,740 birds. The Prince, who is now the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon, at Tulchan Lodge, is expected to arrive at Abergeldie Castle on Saturday.

As I have often said, I wonder that monarchs cannot officially meet without each arraying himself in the uniform of the other. To humbler mortals this seems rather a foolish habit. If I were to call on a Turk I should not put on a fez and expect him to cover his head with a hat. Why, indeed, monarchs should wear uniforms except when taking part at reviews I do not know. They are the heads of states which are composed of civilians who pay a certain number of persons to be soldiers, or who oblige all to serve as soldiers for a fixed period. The normal status of a citizen is that of a civilian. The civilian dress should be held in as much honour as that of the soldier. Why, too, an English citizen who is asked to attend the Levee of his Sovereign—supposing that he has no uniform, as is the case with many—should be called upon to array himself in the dress of a bygone age of velvet and frills, with a sword by his side, is also a thing that

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For Foreign Hotels, see page 493.
For Amusements, see page 489.
For Our Puzzles, see page 497.

surpasses my understanding. The poor man manages to look as ridiculous as some stout civilian deputy-lieutenant strapped up in the uniform of a colonel.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughters have left the baths of Bagnoles de l'Orne, in Normandy, and have gone to the Tyrol. They intend to stay for about ten days at Igls, near Innsbrück, and will return to England in time for the great manœuvres in Essex, during which the Duke (who is to be umpire-in-chief) will have his headquarters at Frinton-on-Sea.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who left Southampton on Saturday for South Africa, propose to return to Windsor on October 29. Prince Christian has gone to Germany, and will be absent from England until the third week in October. Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein is on a visit to Mr. and Lady Florentia Hughes at Kinmel Park, Denbighshire.

Lord Dudley returned to the Viceregal Lodge last week, having paid a short visit to England on leaving Connemara. His engagements are numerous this week in Dublin. Attendance at the Horse Show has long been as important an Irish Viceregal duty as attendance at the national race meeting at Punchestown. It is customary for the Lord Lieutenant to pay two state visits to the Show, driving in procession, with a Viceregal party and suite, to the Viceregal box on the grand stand in the enclosure, from which the jumping competitions are witnessed. Besides the Horse Show on four days, other attractions of the week include races at Leopardstown on Monday, and at the Phœnix Park Club grounds on Friday and Saturday. Whatever conflict of opinion may arise amongst the incessant critics of Ireland and its affairs, all must be unanimous on one point—that they "do" the horse uncommonly well in the country.

Additional interest is given to the Horse Show week by the arrival in Kingstown, for a stay of four days, of the Channel Squadron, under command of Lord Charles Beresford. Kingstown Harbour cannot accommodate his Majesty's ships, which lie in the "roads" outside. Lord Charles is the most hospitable of admirals, but the distance of the ships from the land is sufficient to be an embarrassment to visitors, in breezy weather, especially when invited to the enjoyment of naval hospitality on board.

Mr. John Morley has gone to Scotland on a visit to Mr. Carnegie at Skibo Castle, Sutherland. Mr. Morley is to accompany Mr. Carnegie to the United States early in October, and he will pay a visit to Mr. Roosevelt at Washington.

Count George Hoyos, who died last week at Beckett, Lord Barrington's seat near Shrivenham, which is let to Mr. Robert Whitehead, the Count's father-in-law, was an officer in the Austrian Navy in early life, but he retired from the service on his marriage in 1869. Count Hoyos had been for more than thirty years an active partner in the well-known firm of Whitehead and Co., torpedo manufacturers, of Fiume and Weymouth. Count Hoyos, who belongs to an old and highly distinguished family, was father of Princess Bismarck, wife of Prince Herbert Bismarck, and of Countess Plessen, wife of the Prussian Minister at Stuttgart. His eldest son, Count Edgar Hoyos, is in the Austro-Hungarian diplomatic service, and in 1901 he married the Countess Ilora Kinsky.

The news of the sad death of Dr. Gurney, the well-known and very successful Principal of the Durham College of Science, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been received in the North with the deepest sorrow. He was highly esteemed by all classes and parties, and he had been for some years an able and energetic leader in educational movements. He was a great authority on all educational questions, and a man of manifold activities, and remarkable and varied learning. Dr. Gurney had been prominent for nearly thirty years as a mathematician, a mineralogist, an expert in natural science, and a very able Army coach. He was for many years the working partner in the celebrated "cramming" establishment of Wren and Gurney, and he was several times examiner at Cambridge for the Natural Science Tripos.

Elizabeth Duchess of Wellington had lived in complete retirement since her husband's death just twenty-one years ago. She was a great figure in the highest English society both as Lady Douro and as Duchess of Wellington, and was an immense favourite at Court during a period of more than forty years. She was always *très grande dame*, but at all times truly kind and hospitable, and she was clever and well-informed, and talked remarkably well. She was regarded as one of the most attractive and brilliant women in society. The Duchess held the office of Mistress of the Robes for many years, and she was one of Queen Victoria's most intimate and trusted friends. She devoted a great deal of time to charity.

The heroic death of Lady Hilda M'Neill has caused the most profound sorrow in several circles of society, and in many parts of the country where she was well known. She had made a great name for herself in the hunting field, and was a bold but judicious rider, who thoroughly understood the practical business of hunting. Since her husband's mastership of the North Cotswold Foxhounds commenced, the pack has been several times most efficiently handled by Lady Hilda. She was also fond of golf and lawn tennis. Lady Hilda was exceedingly charitable and generous, and she regularly and frequently visited the sick and poor in her neighbourhood, and never went to them empty-handed. She will be greatly missed and deeply mourned for a very long time to come.

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An English official on his way to Egypt, who stopped for a week or two at Dieppe, had a pleasant experience after leaving that town. Having missed his train on from Paris he had to stop there for the night, and on the following morning he was arrested, in company with a friend who was travelling with him. After being taken to the police office he was released at the expiration of about half-an-hour, with profuse apologies, but not a word of explanation. His friend was detained for several hours. They eventually discovered that somebody at the Dieppe hotel where they had stayed (the Hôtel Métropole et des Bains) had missed some money, and that the manager suspected the two Englishmen on the alleged ground that they had left hurriedly —one of them, at least, had given three days' notice— and on the strength of this had wired a description of them to the Paris police. They had consequently been shadowed from the time of their arrival in Paris, and their luggage had been searched while they were at dinner. Their release was apparently due to the fact that the missing money had been discovered—which gives the finishing touch to this farce. But for this fact, it is evident that they would have suffered serious inconvenience. One of the victims had "had words" with the hotel manager at Dieppe, which may or may not have contributed to the sequel. The whole incident shows how easy it is for an innocent traveller to fall into the hands of the police in France, and the desirability of being prepared with evidence as to your identity in case of such an emergency.

In another column I have spoken of the advantages of Montreux. The following observations on the other side of the account may be worth the attention of the local authorities of that charming spot:—

> You would do a good turn to many of your readers if you would point out that the numerous enlargements and building operations now going on at Montreux are a source of considerable annoyance and some danger to visitors. Personally, I know of two accidents that have happened and that might easily have been very serious. It is quite a common thing to see everybody walking in the roadway, often much cut up and very muddy, because a pair of horses with a heavy load of building materials occupy the whole of the pavement. They do things in a free-and-easy way in some enlightened and independent republics!

The *Daily Express* has been extracting a good deal of copy out of the invitations to join a co-operative yachting cruise which were sent out in the name of the Earl of Tankerville; but I hardly think the matter would have attracted so much attention at any other season of the year than the present. I understand that there is a dispute as to the facts. Lord Tankerville has notified the world that his name was used on the invitations without his knowledge or authority; Dr. Lunn, the real organiser of the cruise, maintains the contrary. There is probably a misunderstanding somewhere, for Dr. Lunn is much too experienced a man of business to use the name of a peer or anybody else in this way unless he believed that he had authority to do so; while, on the other hand, no peer of the realm—whatever may be the case with commoners—would do a thing and then deny that he had done it, unless under a misconception of fact.

What I do not understand is the opinion, expressed or implied, that if Lord Tankerville really had invited persons of suitable social position—as attested by their addresses, or their ability to pay the price—to join one of Dr. Lunn's pleasant excursions, this proceeding would have been in some way discreditable to any of the parties. So far as Dr. Lunn is concerned, it seems to me an uncommonly clever piece of business to enlist the services of a peer in this way. If I could persuade a peer or two to use their great social influence in enlisting subscribers to Truth, I know I should jump at the chance.

And as for the peer, what rational objection is there to his share in the transaction? Have we not got peer-brewers, peer-coal-merchants, and even peer-newspaper-proprietors? Is it not now recognised among the chief of the privileges of a peer to be a company director, and to invite subscriptions from the public in the character of a "front-page man"? If it is a question of dignity, what is there in organising a bonâ-fide yachting cruise less dignified than promoting a bogus company? If it is a question of respectability, would that half the businesses with which peers get mixed up in the City were half as respectable! This I say on the assumption that the case was one of *do ut des*. But it is conceivable that the peer would not be going to get anything for himself out of the cruise—anything, that is to say, beyond the pleasure he might derive from participating in it himself, the joys of a life on the ocean wave, and of presiding day by day over a feast of reason and a flow of soul on board. I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. Lunn's excursions, and a peer might justly feel that he was doing a good work in helping to get up one of them. Seeing how limited are a peer's opportunities for doing any good in this world, it is really a matter for regret that Lord Tankerville was not playing the part attributed to him on this occasion.

It was mentioned in my last week's article on holidays in Ireland that the Midland Railway Company have been promising a new service of steamers on the Irish Channel in connection with the fine harbour they have constructed at Heysham. They now tell me that the new service between Heysham and Belfast will commence on September 1. One of the finest cross-channel lines of steamers has been provided for this and the Heysham-Dublin route. There will be daily sailings on both these routes, and two sailings weekly between Heysham and Londonderry. I mention this primarily for the benefit of tourists to the North of Ireland; but, as a matter of fact, the harbour at Heysham is quite as much designed for cargo as for passenger traffic. It is equipped with every modern convenience, and the port is likely to develop a very big trade.

Lucerne, Switzerland.—Hotel Schweizerhof. Loveliest situation on lake. All modern comforts. Private Bath. Pension arrangements. Open all the year.—Hauser Brothers.

Brockenhurst, New Forest (2 hours London).—Balmer, Lawn Hotel, refurnished, finest position. Central meets, fox-deer hounds, golf, stabling, garage. High-class cuisine. Manager.

The other day I had several pages of Truth forwarded to me by a correspondent, and on glancing at them I at first concluded that they had come from Russia, four and a half columns having been "blacked out" of existence, in the best style of the Russian Press censorship. On looking, however, at the accompanying letter I found that this was the work of the censorship, not of St. Petersburg, but of the public library of the free and enlightened city of Belfast. The citizens of that town are not allowed by their rulers to read anything relating to racing intelligence in the public newspapers, and the "Sporting Notes" in Truth are obliterated accordingly before the paper is placed in the library. This, I suppose, is called a "free library."

There is, of course, an intelligible reason—it may or may not be a valid one—for obliterating the sporting intelligence from the daily papers in a public library. That is that crowds of "undesirables" swarm to the library in search of such news, and monopolise the papers to the exclusion of ordinary readers. This reason, however, can have no application to a weekly paper, which does not profess to publish the betting or any other "latest intelligence," such as it is the business of a daily paper to supply. The only possible motive, therefore, for obliterating this portion of Truth is that the civic grandmothers of Belfast disapprove of horse-racing, and object to their fellow-citizens reading any matter having relation to this accursed pastime, even down to a discussion of the entries for the Derby of 1906, and observations on recent doings of the Jockey Club, and the previous week's racing at Goodwood, which formed the staple of the matter "blacked out" of the particular number of Truth which I have before me.

The absurd results of this proceeding are shown by the experience of the gentleman who brought this matter under my notice. He buys Truth, among other papers, when they are removed from the Belfast public library. He is himself a great lover of horses and a breeder of high-class stock, though he does not race, and says that he never made a bet in his life. He values the "Sporting Notes" in Truth for the sake of the observations on breeding, to which my contributor always gives a good deal of space. Consequently, having purchased the paper for a year when put up to auction at the public library, he finds it useless for the purpose for which he has bought it, simply because the municipal authorities in their wisdom have decreed that no citizen of Belfast ought to know anything about horses which take part in races. He complains to the librarian—as he is entitled to do, for he has really been defrauded—and he does not even receive an acknowledgment of his letter, which is adding insult to injury.

Of course this matter does not in any way concern me personally. It is to my interest that people who want to read Truth should pay their sixpences for the paper, instead of reading it in public libraries, or buying it second-hand from those institutions. But it certainly concerns the ratepayers of Belfast, who must be a very pusillanimous race if they submit to be dictated to by the municipal authorities as to what they shall or shall not read in the library for which they pay. If these same authorities desire to establish a censorship of morals in the public library, there are a good many matters in the newspapers, daily and weekly, which call for their attention before the sporting intelligence. But logic is not generally a strong point with moralists of this type.

Many letters have reached me during the last fortnight endorsing my opinion upon the proposed destruction of the old cottages at Stratford-on-Avon, adjoining Shakespeare's birthplace. There seems to be only one opinion on this project outside the gang of official ignoramuses who contemplate this act of gratuitous vandalism; and I trust that others will join with me in publicly protesting against it. The following letter from a Warwickshire gentleman is very much to the point, and will confirm the doubt felt in many minds as to whether the majority of the Birthplace Trustees possess the slightest qualification for their position:—

> After all that has transpired in connection with this matter and the assurance by the trustees last year that the cottages would be preserved and utilised in the interests of the birthplace, it is simply scandalous that one or two trustees should raise further agitation for their demolition. At their meeting last May one trustee said he was prepared to propose at their next meeting that the cottages should be razed to the ground, but Mr. Sidney Lee said the only question referred to the October meeting was "whether they could adapt the cottages as they stood or practically rebuild them;" thereupon another trustee said "we must have a free hand," and for the sake of unanimity Mr. Lee waived his objection. Now Mr. Lee evidently understood that the retention of the cottages had been finally settled at the meeting of the trustees on October 7, 1903, and this is the opinion of other trustees as well as of the public generally. It seems, therefore, perfectly ridiculous to raise the question again either on economic or other grounds, especially in face of the views of Mr. Lee, who seems to have examined the whole matter fairly, and it is to be hoped that as Chairman he will be able to place before the trustees at their approaching meeting the aspects of the case as it affects not only Stratford-on-Avon but the entire British nation, in a way so lucid and convincing as will lead to the unanimous decision to retain and adapt the property for the purposes of the Trust.
>
> Another little matter indicates the lack of due appreciation of their office on the part of the trustees. At their meeting on the 5th May of this year, the Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon "suggested that as a compliment to the memory of Sir Arthur Hodgson, his son, the Rev. F. H. Hodgson, who had come to live at Clopton, should be elected a trustee in place of Canon Evans," and he said he should be pleased to move that at their next meeting. With all respect for the Vicar, I beg to ask if this compliment-qualification is enough to render a man eligible for so responsible an office. The Rev. F. H. Hodgson is a worthy son of Sir Arthur, whose friendship I valued highly, but I am not aware that he claims any personal qualification for the duties devolving upon members of the Birthplace Trust, and the most dignified thing he can do will be to decline the doubtful compliment.

Mr. Balfour's address to the British Association must have been as comforting to the assembled scientists as it is useful to the cause of philosophy generally. He apologised for having sacrificed perspicuity to brevity, and I may be one of those to whom he failed, whether for this or other reasons, to make himself intelligible. But what he did appears to have been this: He first sketched with an imposing show of learning the progress of physical science in the last hundred years, and contrasted the theories, or conjectures, entertained to-day respecting the nature and primary basis of matter with those held in 1804. He then formulated a theory of his own, which, if it means anything, means that our knowledge of the material universe is necessarily based on

illusory observations and fallacious reasoning, and that we are not warranted in supposing that the theories of to-day are any nearer the truth than were those of a century ago, or that those which will be entertained a century hence will be any nearer. In short, the advance of knowledge is more or less an illusion, and one scientific theory is probably, at bottom, just as good as another.

There is, of course, an element of truth in this doctrine—just enough to give it plausibility; especially to a mind of the Balfourian order. But the truth is no better than truism—the stalest platitude dressed up in scientific verbiage. That human observations are apt to be illusory, and human reasoning always fallible, must have been discovered very soon after men first began to observe and reason for themselves. The discovery does not acquire any additional force when Mr. Balfour appears on the scene and informs us that "the blind forces of natural selection . . . could never, except by accident, have endowed mankind while in the making with a physiological or mental outfit adapted to the higher physical investigations." Indeed this statement, and the inference drawn from it as to the fallibility of science, afford conspicuous illustrations of the defects of the human "mental outfit." The argument itself is on the face of it a deduction from the doctrines of evolution and natural selection, and these certainly come within the scope of "the higher physical investigations." The effect of the argument, therefore, is to sap the foundation on which it is itself based; and Mr. Balfour's intellectual feat is akin to that of the man who sat on the branch of the tree in order the more conveniently to saw it off close to the trunk. He informed the British Association that "this line of thought has long interested him, though it never seems to have interested any one else." It seems to be a very similar line of thought to those with which the Schoolmen used to amuse themselves. It is altogether to our credit that modern philosophers have long since given up such puzzle-headed diversions, and Mr. Balfour would do well to follow their example. There is a great deal more sense in golf.

I do not know what scientific men may think of the passage from which I have quoted a few words, but it seems to me that Mr. Balfour's science is bad science, just as the argument based on it is barren sophistry. What scientific authority is there for this conception of the "blind forces of natural selection," which "possess no power of prevision," which "could never, except by accident," endow mankind with a suitable equipment for the higher physical investigations, which work solely for the improvement of man as a fighting, eating, and breeding machine, and only present him with other faculties as "by-products"? Science may possibly teach this, as Mr. Balfour alleges, but it seems to me nothing better than a series of arbitrary and unscientific assumptions leading to nonsensical conclusions. It is much as if you were to lay down that the business of a railway company is merely to earn dividends, and that all the results of rapid locomotion and improved communications are accidental by-products of that business; and to argue from this that these by-products must necessarily be unsuited for the uses mankind makes of them. According to the Balfourian interpretation of Nature, an umbrella, a pair of boots, or an electric tram are products within the legitimate scope of the business of the concern, and, therefore, efficient for the purposes they serve; while the binomial theorem or the Newtonian theory of gravitation, the "Paradise Lost" or the Venus de Milo, are accidental by-products, and therefore fundamentally defective. You may repose perfect confidence in a 'bus driver or a British general, but you should regard with suspicion the mental operations of a Galileo, a Darwin, or a Kelvin. Such is the outcome of "philosophic doubt" in its latest manifestation.

These dialectic absurdities are chiefly interesting for the light they throw on the "mental outfit" of a British Prime Minister. Mr. Balfour has distinguished himself as the Premier who confesses to having "no settled convictions" on a burning political question of the day, involving a fundamental principle of national policy. He has shown himself at Cambridge in the same mental condition in regard to all modern achievements of science in the direction of "higher physical investigation," and he has ingenuously laid bare to the world the mental processes by which this intellectual condition is arrived at. A man who is in doubt about the foundations of all human knowledge can necessarily have no settled convictions on any subject. If he professes definite opinions it can only be for personal ends, and they can only be selected on opportunist principles. It is obviously to this state of mind that we owe the Education Act, the Licensing Bill, three years' abortive and inconsistent attempts at Army reform, and the disingenuous manœuvres over the fiscal question which have destroyed Mr. Balfour's reputation as a straightforward politician.

The author of the following verses explains that he has been inspired by Mr. Balfour's philosophic doubts at Cambridge, and particularly by the remark that the student is "'for ever confronted with the difficulty of harmonising the pedigree of his beliefs with their title to authority.'" He, therefore, pictures the Premier wrestling with this difficulty when he approaches the practical business of life!—

BALFOURISM ON THE LINKS.

Scene, *The Golf Links at North Berwick.* The Prime Minister *is discovered playing with a* Friend *and attended by his* Caddie, *who is teeing a "Kempshall" for the first hole.*

The Prime Minister, *to his* Caddie, *who, having tee'd the ball, offers the* Right Honourable Gentleman *his wooden driver.*

Nay, nay, my lad! I will not use that club.
Most golfers *do;* but why? There comes the rub.
True, the belief in it is international,
But all belief I've proved to be irrational.
True, 'tis the club used by a vast majority,
But *that* does not invest it with authority—
(For if a vast majority had force
I shouldn't be Prime Minister, of course).

Nay, nay, my lad! What's that I hear you mutter?
Silence, I say! Come, hand me, please, my putter!

The Caddie, *with a look of blank amazement, performs his master's bidding.* The Premier *proceeds to drive.*

The P.M. *(having "sliced" the ball into a proximate hedge):*

Tut, tut! I wonder how that came about?
Clearly my point requires more thinking out.

The P.M.'s Friend *(cheerily):*

Your "lie" might be a worse one after all.
Your heaviest iron will cut through to the ball.

The P.M. *(scrutinising the tangle of twigs amongst which his "Kempshall" is reposing):*

Past golf experience may the iron suggest,
But of experience I the worth contest.
Experience? Pish! My train of thought rejects
A blind belief in causes and effects.
A heavy iron best, you say, will serve
To force the ball out, if half-swung with nerve.
How do we know that?

The P.M.'s Friend: All experience shows it.

The P.M.: That's quite enough to cause me to oppose it.

At fallacies I will be no conniver,
No, no! boy, give me, please, my wooden driver!

The Caddie, *having handed the driver to* The Premier, *turns to a club-carrying mate and pantomimically expresses his opinion that the labours of an exacting Session must have softened his poor master's brain.*

The P.M. *(having, with set face, "whacked" at the hedge with all his might, fails to touch the embedded ball, but sends the head of his favourite wooden driver flying, untwining many yards of waxed thread as it goes.)*

How very strange! Can I have overstepped
The bounds, within whose lines I should have kept?
Experience, as a rule, no doubt is wrong,
But in this instance proof *is* somewhat strong
That on our Golf Links some things right may be,
Though one *can't* "harmonise their pedigree"
With what Philosophy, in language brief,
Would designate their "title to belief!"

The P.M.'s Friend *(handing to him the decapitated head of his wooden driver):*

You'll pardon me, I know, if I remind you
That a long queue of players waits behind you.
Of course, I see your philosophic aim,
But don't you think we 'd better play the game?

The P.M.: I could have wished to give yet further tests
To other subtle points that Golf suggests.
But, as you say, to keep these players waiting
Whilst Golf's first causes we're investigating,
And proving that the Golfer's usual "stance"
Is but, at best, the "usufruct of chance"—
To do this now might churlish be esteemed,
So I'll postpone the programme I had schemed,
And not, thus risking spasms of hysteria,
Dissect, at length, Golf's "ultimate criteria."
No, on some future day, with more avidity,
Each one I'll take and challenge its validity.
Meanwhile, the hole is yours, and my attempt
To prove the paradox of which I'd dreamt
Leaves me (with my beheaded club as pledge)
Hopelessly "bunkered" in a quickset hedge!

As the scene closes Mr. Balfour *is seen, with a somewhat puzzled expression on his intellectual face, proceeding slowly to the next "teeing" ground.*

Scrubb & Co., Ltd. caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

Reference was made last week to the grumbling at Cambridge in consequence of the conversion of the Colleges into hotels for the accommodation of members of the British Association. In the case of Girton the transformation of the College into an hotel was fully completed by the granting of an occasional licence to the Junior Bursar for the sale of "wines, spirits, ale and tobacco at Girton College from August 16th to August 25th, inclusive, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m." Apparently the arrangements of the other colleges enabled them to dispense with a licence, but the magistrates were informed that Girton would have no means of supplying its guests with liquor unless a room was set apart and licensed for the purpose. Seemingly the guests at Girton—"ladies and married couples"—were required to resort to this room if they wished to regale themselves with beer and 'baccy.

The Cambridge University Calendar for 1904 gives the total number of members of the University as 13,391. There are 7,093 members of the Senate, 3,398 are graduates under the standing of M.A., and 2,900 are undergraduates. The gifts and benefactions to the University during last year were exceptionally numerous and important, including the Acton Library, the Gibb collection of Oriental books, Mr. Buckley's presentations to the Museum of Zoology, and Mr. Quicke's bequest of £70,000 for the furtherance of study and research in vegetable and animal biology.

I remarked last week that "for an incumbent to pay eight curates out of his own stipend would be a thing unprecedented in my experience." But apparently it is not absolutely unprecedented, for one of my clerical readers tells me that there are eight assistant curates at Kettering whose stipends are paid by the Rector, and he believes that no grant for the purpose is made by any society. If this belief is correct—and in any case the grants probably would not go far towards paying the eight salaries—the fact deserves to be recorded to the credit of the rector. Kettering is returned as being worth £1,650 a year, besides a house, but eight curates would make a pretty big hole in that income.

The Bishop of Ipswich (acting for the Archdeacon of Norwich) has inducted the Rev. Arthur John Spencer into the rectory of Drayton-cum-Hellesdon, Norfolk, on the presentation of the Bishop of Norwich. This benefice, which was held for many years by the late Canon Hinds Howell, was formerly worth about £900 a year, with house, but the stipend is now considerably reduced.

Bishop Welldon, who has replaced Canon Henson as the Canon-in-Residence at Westminster Abbey, will be on duty for only a fortnight, as he is to be relieved on September 1 by Sub-Dean Duckworth. At St. Paul's Cathedral, Canon Scott Holland is to be in residence during September (replacing Chancellor Newbolt), and he will preach on Sunday afternoons. Canon Scott Holland missed his last two turns of residence owing to ill-health, but he is now quite well again.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, who left Liverpool on Friday for New York, will spend about seven weeks in the United States and Canada, and he hopes to return to England on October 19. The diocese is left in charge of the Suffragan Bishops of Dover and Croydon and the Archdeacon of Maidstone, and there will be no interruption of routine business.

Mr. Drake, of Shardeloes, has presented the Rev. Charles E. Briggs, who is one of Lord William Cecil's curates at Hatfield, to the rectory of Amersham, vacant by the death of the Rev. Edward Tyrwhitt Drake, after an incumbency of forty-one years. This living, which has usually been held by a member of the Drake family, is of the net value of over £1,000 a year, with an excellent residence. Mr. Briggs was ordained by the present Archbishop of Canterbury (when Bishop of Winchester) in 1897, and he was one of the present Bishop of Stepney's curates at Portsea for some years.

The following calculations in the *Armagh Guardian*, with reference to a recent religious riot, strike me as rather funny. There is something truly Irish in this estimate of the price at which each gentleman got his pleasure, and great must be the satisfaction of the Catholics at having done the thing so much more economically than their opponents:—

It may be stated that the number of defendants was 29, 15 being Protestants and 14 Catholics. The amount of the fines and costs imposed amounted to £56 11s. 6d., £31 14s. of which came out of the pockets of the Protestants and £24 17s. 6d. out of the pockets of the Catholics. This works out at £2 2s. 3d. per head for the Protestants, and £1 15s. 6½d. per head for the Catholics; so that a Catholic was able to enjoy the disturbance riot at 6s. 8½d. less than one of the opposite party.

I have been asked to bring to the notice of charitable people the needs of the Rob Roy Holiday Homes for Cripples at Margate. This is one of seven holiday homes in connection with the Ragged School Union, and the children sent to it are selected from a register of crippled ragged school children. It is rather a sad fact that there are about 6,000 names now on this register, while the Rob Roy Home has only accommodation for about thirty. Miss Maude Ashby, who has done much for the keep-up of this home, tells me that she is very anxious to obtain annual subscribers as well as donations, with a view to extending its usefulness, and judging from the account she gives of the benefits which many of the children receive from only a week or two's residence in the home under the influence of Margate air and good food, I feel sure that anybody who will assist in this direction will be spending money well. Miss Ashby's address is La Casa Sarina, Northdown-road, Margate.

The following donations have reached me for Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor Children:—X., £5; J. Y. Pearson, £5; Sir Thomas Bazley, Bart., £1; G. L. W., £1 1s.; M. McR., 10s.; "C," £3; E. G. B. L., £1 1s.; John Dillwyn Sims, Ipswich, £5; Sibyl, £1; Lady Winifred, £5 5s.; Myfanwy and Vera, 10s.

There are some truly startling revelations in the recently issued report of the Public Accounts Committee. It appears that during the South African War a sum of £1,250,000 was paid to the Imperial Yeomanry Committee, of which £460,000 cannot be in any way accounted for, either by details or vouchers. The Rhodesian Field Force expended £1,728,000, of which sum £72,000 is unaccounted for. The loss in supplies at Durban through fraud or mismanagement amounted to £32,000. There is also a deficiency of 34,168 horses and 5,682 mules, which is wholly unaccounted for. Things, indeed, appear to be every bit as bad in the department of military expenditure as in the days of Queen Anne, or during the Peninsular War.

As I said the other day, the new system of "service pay" has given rise to an extraordinary amount of heart-burning and dissatisfaction, and I continue to hear a great number of complaints on the subject. In some of them the educational qualification figures largely. I suppose that military experts know what they are about when they lay down that a man must possess a third class certificate of education in order to be rated as a thoroughly efficient soldier. But one cannot help sympathising with a man of long service—I have one case before me of a soldier of fifteen years' standing—who is thoroughly efficient in every qualification except "the three Rs"; and now that efficiency for war is to be the governing principle of Army reform, as the Secretary of State assures us, I cannot help wondering what reading, writing, and arithmetic can have to do with the usefulness of a soldier on the battlefield. I understand the necessity of some educational qualifications for the higher non-commissioned and warrant ranks, but I cannot quite see what they have to do with the private soldier's efficiency.

However, setting that question aside, there seems to have been some trickery—of the kind that is only too common—in regard to the introduction of service pay in India. I am told that in some regiments men have been induced to extend their service—the first step towards qualifying for the new pay—before the other conditions were explained to them. The result is that old soldiers have let themselves in for an extra year's service only to find afterwards that in order to gain what they expected they have to go to school again—of course, without any certainty that they will not fail after all. What chance has a man of thirty who can barely write his own name of ever acquiring a third-class certificate of education? The conditions ought to have been clearly explained to the men before they extended their service, and if any have extended without understanding the conditions, the bargain ought to be cancelled if they desire it.

I was interested to read in one of the papers the other day that Lord Kitchener has ordered the revision and condensation of the Indian Army Regulations. I should imagine that this step is in itself an "Army reform" of no small value. The Indian Army Regula-

tions fill something like ten or a dozen bulky volumes—I forget the exact number. It stands to reason that few officers can be familiar with this Brobdingnagian code, or that any who are can know very little else about the duties of their profession; and an Army governed by such a portentous set of rules must be shackled and paralysed by red tape at every turn.

The following edifying story was told in some of the papers last week. A quartermaster-sergeant of the Royal Scots, a man of 18 years' service and exemplary character, obtained a pass with permission to wear plain clothes for the purpose of visiting Newbury on the last Bank Holiday. His military duties prevented him from getting away, and he visited some sports at Aldershot instead, returning to barracks in plain clothes. He was at once arrested, charged with obtaining a pass by false pretences, and with returning to barracks in plain clothes, in breach of the idiotic rule which requires men under such circumstances to change their clothes outside barracks. On these charges he was court-martialled. The first of them seems to have been dropped, but on the second he was found guilty, and for this purely technical offence he was sentenced to reduction to the rank of colour-sergeant, though recommended to mercy on the ground of his eighteen years' exemplary service. Happily, two officers gifted with some measure of common sense appeared on the scene at this point. On the recommendation of Brigadier-General Alderson, Major-General Paget quashed the whole proceedings, and ordered the man to be reinstated.

I cite this case as a conspicuous illustration of what has been said in Truth recently respecting the manufacture of fictitious "crimes" in the Army, and the consequent illusory nature of the characters furnished to soldiers on their return to civil life. As long as a man is liable, by a mere breach of some trumpery, and probably foolish, regulation, to forfeit the character earned by long years of faithful and irreproachable service, so long military service will be rightly regarded with repugnance by every man who has sufficient intelligence to consider before he enlists what is going to happen to him after discharge. The fate which the quartermaster-sergeant so narrowly escaped in the above instance is the fate of scores of men of all ranks every year, and their experience when they leave the Army, with blemished characters, which handicap them in after life, is a constant warning to younger men of their own class against entering the Army. This matter lies at the root of the difficulty which confronts successive generations of army reformers—the difficulty of getting the men required for the Army.

A humorous letter is written by a "Tommy" in Burma on gardening as an occupation for soldiers. He says that it is the only trade, according to his experience, at which soldiers are systematically employed, and they are employed at it regardless of all other considerations. For instance, a football match being announced in Regimental Orders to commence at 4.15 p.m., one half-company were ordered to go and pick grass round the sergeants' mess precisely at that hour, and they remained picking grass till the match was over. The man says that, although not fond of gardening, he would gladly adopt this profession for want of a better. He expresses, therefore, his regret that horticultural training in the Army is limited to the mere groundwork, so to speak, of the art—that is to say, to grass plots and gravel paths. If he were even taught to grow grass, he says, he should feel he was making some progress, but he has been working at the trade for several years, and has not yet got beyond cutting grass when it grows where it is wanted, and destroying it when it grows where it is not. Applying the popular Army expression, he says that he is "fed up" with grass—like a military Nebuchadnezzar. This is a matter worth the consideration of Mr. Arnold-Forster and all who are anxious to prevent the Army going to grass.

Apropos of what has been said lately as to the failure of the War Office to utilise its own opportunities of finding employment for discharged soldiers, a correspondent mentions that at the depot at Exeter two civilian clerks have been employed for some years, one in the orderly-room, the other in the station pay-office. Both men were taken on during the war, but appear to have become fixtures, and to such an extent are they favoured, that, on the reduction of the establishment, ex-soldiers have been got rid of in preference to them. It is alleged, and believed, locally that political influence has been exerted in favour of the two men, who are on the Parliamentary voters' list. If that is so, it makes the matter so much the worse.

The following communication from the headquarters of Mr. J. G. Graves points to the continued existence of a system which would have died a natural death by this time if military authorities of every grade discouraged it as they ought to do:—

J. G. Graves,
Universal Direct Supply Warehouse,
Sheffield, August 12, 1904.

Orderly Room Sergeant,
——— Regiment.

Dear Sir,—We shall esteem it a favour if you will inform us if No. —, Private J. ———, "E" Coy., ——— Regt. is still serving at ——— Bks., Dublin, as we are anxious to communicate with him.

Stamped envelope enclosed herewith for reply, for which we beg your acceptance of our thanks in anticipation.—Yours faithfully, J. G. Graves.

The orderly-room sergeant, it will be seen, sends this communication to Truth instead of earning Mr. Graves's thanks by supplying the desired information. It would be well if such communications were always treated in this way, unless the recipient prefers to put them into the waste-paper basket. A tradesman has no business to encourage a soldier to get into debt, relying on subsequently getting at him through his superior officers, and the superior officers should lose no opportunity of bringing this home to him.

A recent issue of the *China Times* contains an article commenting on the fact that men of the Sherwood Foresters at Peking and Tientsin were parading for a service in memory of their

comrades who fell in the South African war without the war medal, two years having been insufficient time for the completion of the business of issuing medals to this regiment. The writer incidentally remarks that "if this had been done to the 'five bob a day Yeomen,' a storm of indignation would have been raised in the Press at home." Here, however, he does not quite do justice to the dilatoriness of the medal department, or to the excitability of the British Press, which has never troubled itself much about this protracted scandal. So far as I know, all branches of the South African Army have been treated impartially in this matter, Regulars and Auxiliaries, British troops, and Colonials, having all alike been kept waiting. And there seems to be no part of the world in which the department has not taken pains to advertise its shortcomings.

Sir Algernon West has undertaken to write a memoir of the late Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Keppel, and he ought to be able to produce a very interesting book. Sir Henry's life was full of incident from first to last.

In view of what was said in Truth only a fortnight ago respecting the condition of the signalling branch of the Navy, I shall be curious to see the result of the inquiry into the loss of a destroyer during the naval manœuvres. Newspaper accounts of such incidents are not always very trustworthy, but so far as can be judged from what has appeared respecting this incident, one of these craft rammed another in a manner only attributable to a misunderstanding, and a misunderstanding in this instance strongly suggests a mistake in signalling. The information furnished to me—and I am perfectly satisfied of its accuracy—was that in one flotilla the destroyers and torpedo boats had none but very young signalmen and boys on board, the senior officer's gunboat carrying only one signalman and three boys, the latter, of course, quite incompetent to take the signalman's place if he left the bridge. Had the accident occurred in that flotilla, this statement would certainly have gained a very ugly significance.

The Admiralty appear to have been so charmed with the system adopted by the War Office during the Boer War of enlisting Colonials on a higher scale of pay than Englishmen, Scotsmen, and Irishmen, that they are now introducing it into the Navy. I do not profess to know the exact figures, but apparently the colonial recruits—who are under instruction in two cruisers of the Australian squadron told off for training purposes—start on 1s. 6d. a day, and on the completion of a period of probation, receive a further 2s. 6d., making a total of 4s., so long as they serve. I understand that men sign on as A.B.s and stokers on these terms. Even the qualified men who are acting as instructors to these favoured recruits, to say nothing of the ordinary British seaman and stoker, are only in receipt of pay varying from 1s. 8d. to 3s. a day. It stands to reason that an invidious distinction of this kind must create jealousy and ill-feeling in the service. The same system certainly did so in the South African war. The War Office, however, only had recourse to it in a serious emergency and as a temporary expedient. The Admiralty have apparently adopted it as a matter of principle and as a permanent arrangement.

It is decidedly interesting to compare the results of the new system for the admission of naval cadets with those of the old system, which is for the present working side by side with it. On the completion of their first year at Osborne no less than eight boys—*i.e.*, 10 per cent. of the total admitted—have been summarily dismissed, while of the second-term boys ten have been "warned," which means that they are in danger of the same fate at the end of next term. On the other hand, not one boy failed to "pass off" at the end of last term on the *Britannia*, while in March only one failed, and he was a boy admitted by a Service nomination, and was actually fifty-five places below the last successful candidate at his entrance examination. If the two systems of admission by competitive examination and admission by Admiralty nomination, followed by a qualifying examination, are to be judged by their results, these facts seem to be pretty conclusive.

I was in the company the other day of one of our "infant Nelsons," now in process of preparation for a cadetship under the new system. Heaven forbid that I should give any clue to his identity! We discoursed together concerning the system and its bearing on his prospects. Knowing that he was a smart boy intellectually, and physically the very ideal of a midshipman, I comforted him by suggesting that he was bound to get a nomination. But I found him pessimistic. "It's all luck," he said. "Three of our best chaps were knocked out last year." I represented that the Board must probably have had their reasons. "Rather!" he said, with something approaching a wink. "They look at your name, and they find out who your father is, and then they decide whether you are to have a nomination." So that is what Eleven Years Old thinks of the new system. I might add, not Eleven Years Old only. I really cannot believe that this system can ever stand the test of experience.

An incident has just occurred at Chatham which throws a side-light on the recent statements in Truth and elsewhere as to the prevalence of systematic corruption in the lower ranks of the Navy. A victualling corporal was arrested on a charge arising out of alleged frauds in regard to the victualling of men in certain ship's police messes. On the night of his arrest the prisoner decamped in company with the prison corporal, who had presumably released him. This occurred about 10 p.m., and it is reported that the two men departed in a cab waiting outside the gates, which would imply collusion on the part of some, if not all, of the ship's police then on duty. Indeed, in any case, the collusion of other men is to be presumed. Warrants have been issued, of course, for the two missing men, but upwards of a week has elapsed without their being caught. In the meantime, of course, the investigation into the alleged robberies which would have resulted from the trial of the prisoner is frustrated. It seems desirable

that some other method of investigation should be adopted, if possible, before any more of the parties concerned call cabs and drive off.

Jobbery was rampant in the Colonial Office during Mr. Chamberlain's administration, and it would seem that his pernicious influence is still sometimes felt in the Department. This, at any rate, is the inference that members of the Service have drawn from the recent amazing appointment of Mr. Robert Bromley as Administrator of St. Kitts, West Indies, a post worth £700 a year. Mr. Bromley's connection with the Colonial Office only dates back to 1901, when he was brought in by Mr. Chamberlain as an assistant private secretary. Prior to this Mr. Bromley was for two or three years an honorary attaché to the Embassy at Washington. There are any number of men in the Colonial service with better claims to the appointment at St. Kitts than Mr. Bromley, and the pitchforking of a comparative outsider into this billet has naturally aroused widespread resentment. It is, by the way, not the first time that Mr. Lyttelton has favoured protégés of his predecessor to the detriment of experienced members of the service.

The Myntris of the Ruling Twelve Clans of the Cherra State, Assam, have favoured me with some further communications on the subject of the curious succession dispute which was noticed in Truth last January. By immemorial usage the election of the Siem or chief of this State is vested in the Myntris or representatives of the Twelve Clans, and the present trouble has arisen through the Government of India having (contrary to the advice of the Chief Commissioner of Assam) set aside the vote of the majority at the durbar in support of the recognised heir-apparent, Chandra Sing, and caused one Roba Sing, the candidate of the minority, to be elevated to the Siemship. The aggrieved majority declare that the people still refuse to accept Roba Sing as their chief, looking upon him as "a foreign substance" in the State, and I am asked "to do the needful" by pegging away at the matter until "the queer decision of the Government of India" is revoked. Flattering as the request is, I fear that I cannot undertake to comply with it, for the Government appears to be obdurate. But the course adopted was an undoubted mistake, and the irritation it produced has been intensified by the recent acceptance of the vote of the majority of the Myntris in the similar case of the Siemship of the neighbouring Khyrim State.

The recent observations in Truth on the confiscation of the Annandale recreation ground at Simla have brought me a good many communications from residents in that town, from which it is to be inferred that in matters of local government there is considerable room for improvement. Among other things I am told of builders and contractors sitting on the council of the Corporation with which they do business, and actually voting on their own contracts; of a water-rate of 12 per cent. on the rent being imposed on tenants on the understanding that the water was to be immediately laid on, and the householders paying this rate for six years, and still receiving no water; of the theatre in the town hall being monopolised by a select company of "society" amateurs, to the exclusion of professional companies, so that residents who do not appreciate their talents, or cannot afford their fancy prices, are deprived of any benefit from a public building; and so forth.

An interesting item of a different character is that natives are restricted to the use of the by-streets, police being stationed at the corners to keep them out of the Mall and other main thoroughfares. We have all heard of the niggers being forbidden to use the side walks in the streets of Johannesburg, but it will be news to most Englishmen that a similar rule is applied to natives in the seat of British Government in India, and even carried a degree further. This policy seems to be as indiscreet as it is indecent. It is said that at Simla, though the Corporation is nominally elected by the ratepayers, the Government has enough votes at its command to control the elections in each ward, and that every municipal councillor is practically a Government nominee. This is probably the explanation of most of the grievances of British residents mentioned above.

Reference was made in my former remarks to the special grievance of the Simla tradesmen in connection with the commandeering of public land by the Annandale Club, the tradesmen having contributed largely to the fund raised for the work that has been carried out and then been excluded from the benefit of it. One of my correspondents remarks that this serves the tradesmen right, and goes on to add the following observations for their benefit:—

> These tradesmen are, I regret to say, only one degree better than the "swells" whose proceedings they condemn. They themselves have quite entered into the spirit of Simla snobbishness by seeking to obtain an enclosure for themselves at Annandale from which all the rest of the middle-class population of the town would have been excluded; and if they had succeeded in this nothing would have been heard of their grievances against the club. It is this cliquey exclusiveness amongst the middle classes of Simla that enables "Society," with its undivided front, to ride roughshod over the general interests of the community, as it does.

The British community at Shanghai have been much exercised over a recent case in which Sir Hiram S. Wilkinson, the Chief Justice, combined the parts of policeman, prosecutor, and magistrate. Sir Hiram was being driven along the Bund when his carriage upset a rickshaw containing an English resident. The latter, losing his temper, jumped into the carriage and hit Sir Hiram's Chinese driver on the back of the head, whereupon Sir Hiram took the intruder into custody, conveyed him to the police-court, and fined him eight dollars for the assault. Of course, it was wrong of the defendant to strike the coachman. It is doubtful, however, whether it was exactly judicious or dignified of the Chief Justice to deal with the matter in this off-hand way, and it is doubtful, too, whether so serious a view would have been taken of the offence if some one else's Chinese servant had been so assaulted.

"Subaltern" sends me from India some choice samples of the objectionable and disgusting advertisements with which Europeans in that country are continually pestered by certain disreputable firms at Calcutta. I should be sorry to think that there is any exceptional avidity for filthy books and indecent photographs among my fellow-countrymen in India, but the extent and variety of the supply put forward by the dealers certainly suggests that they find a large demand for their wares. That does not, however, render it any the more excusable that the Indian Post Office should make itself the distributing agency of this trade. Such circulars as those before me, let alone the goods to which they refer, ought not to be allowed to pass through the post, and it is discreditable in the extreme that a Government Department should be so indifferent to the interests of public morality, as well as to the annoyance which these advertisements cause to clean-minded people.

The same correspondent also draws attention to the circulation through the Indian Post Office of books of tickets for a St. Leger sweep in connection with a concern called "The Sodality Educational League for Poor and Destitute Children," Calcutta. At the moment I forget whether lotteries are illegal or not in India, nor do I remember whether I have heard before of this League or its "Director," the Rev. Father W. Weinandy. His Reverence appeals to "those who delight to lay out their charitable offerings to the greatest advantage" to take tickets in his sweepstakes. It appears, however, that 80 per cent. of the subscriptions will be divided in prizes, and that the expenses of promoting the lottery—and as thousands of books of tickets are being issued the bill for printing and postage must be very heavy—will be paid out of the remaining 20 per cent., the charity only getting any surplus that may then be left. Far from laying out their charitable offerings to the greatest advantage, those who buy tickets will, therefore, be putting all but a fraction of their money into a huge gamble. Apart from this consideration, I may add that on Father Weinandy's own showing the League is a very small and purely local affair, which, if it deserves support, ought to have no difficulty in obtaining sufficient funds without cadging from the public outside Calcutta.

Apropos of a recent paragraph, I have had a letter from Mr. H. N. Travers, Chairman of the Bognor District Council, stating that he inquired into the complaint I noticed as to the annoyance that was caused to a visitor's family by the services in connection with a mission van belonging to the National Council of the Evangelical Free Churches. It seems that the matter was referred to the police, and a summons would have been taken out if they could have obtained evidence to support a charge of "brawling" or "nuisance," but the requisite witnesses were not forthcoming. Mr. Travers goes on to say that he quite agrees with me that, no matter how good and earnest the effort and intention may be, no religious body ought to disturb the peace of others by its services; and that he, moreover, holds that the public thoroughfares of towns are not proper places in which to make mission vans the centres for meetings. I am glad to find that the local authorities of Bognor are alive to the necessity of protecting visitors from any annoyances of the kind.

The Local Government Board has adopted an extraordinary course in regard to a Poor Law scandal that has lately arisen at Andover. The Guardians there were informed of certain alleged irregularities on the part of the workhouse master in his transactions with local tradesmen, and an informal and private inquiry was held, whereupon the master tendered his resignation. The master's resignation was then forwarded to the Local Government Board with an account of the accusations against him. To the surprise and indignation of the Guardians and the ratepayers at large the Board first replied accepting the resignation and then in answer to an application for an inquiry refused to hold one because the master was no longer in office.

Some statements which merit the attention of the Postmaster General were made at an inquest at Congleton last week on the body of a postman named Cookson, who had committed suicide. It was asserted that for two years past he had been considerably worried about his work, complaints being made that he took too long to do his "walk." He appealed from the postmaster to headquarters, and an inspector then inquired into the question, with the result, it is said, that the time allowed for the "walk" was found to be insufficient. Instead, however, of being allowed more time, the deceased was removed to another "walk," which was the heaviest in the district, and subsequently he was deprived of two of his stripes, thereby losing 2s. a week in wages. Although the jury refrained from any formal expression of opinion, the evidence seems to have convinced them that the deceased had not received fair treatment at the office, and the matter ought not to be permitted to drop without an investigation by the postal authorities. The allegation that after the inspector's inquiry the deceased was really worse off than before is a particularly ugly one, suggesting, as it does, that he was punished for having successfully exercised his right of appeal against unreasonable orders.

From every point of view this is an extremely unsatisfactory proceeding. On the one hand the master and tradesmen concerned ought to have been given an opportunity of refuting the charges. On the other hand, an investigation was clearly called for in the interests of the public, more especially as a question might arise with regard to the payment of the master's pension. This is by no means the first occasion on which the Local Government Board have accepted without inquiry the resignation of workhouse officials at a time when allegations were pending against them, and the practice is one that must have an exceedingly bad effect. It is evidently an incentive to "irregularities" if such officials know that they can avoid an inquiry and save their pensions by resigning on the first hint of a disclosure.

The Enniskillen Guardians were recently called upon to appoint a midwife for the Florencecourt Dispensary District. One would expect that character, training, skill, and experience in the discharge of her delicate and important duties would be the principal considerations in the selection of a midwife, but this was not the idea of the rabid Protestants of the district. On their behalf Lord Corry and four other gentlemen sent round a whip exhorting every Protestant Guardian to attend the meeting and vote for a certain candidate, solely on the ground that she was a Protestant; the question of her qualifications as an accoucheuse being entirely ignored. I should be tempted to say that this was a crowning example of religious bigotry, but I suppose that in some parts of Ireland even a street scavenger is not engaged without a sectarian struggle.

The *Western Morning News* reports a meeting of the Helston Guardians, at which an application for relief was granted in the case of a widow who had bought an annuity from a pension tea company, now in liquidation, and consequently found herself destitute. I suppose the company was the "Guaran-Tea Company" referred to in last week's TRUTH, but the name is not mentioned. There have been several similar cases before Boards of Guardians lately, in different parts of the country, and this result from one insignificant company's failure gives some idea of the widespread distress which will result when some of the bigger schemes collapse, as they are all bound to sooner or later.

The following advertisement was published last week in the *Dumfries and Galloway Courier and Herald*:—

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
That CAPTAIN HOPE of St. Mary's Isle
WILL TAKE
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS
In the COURT of SESSION against any Person or Persons found TRESPASSING on the Foreshore of St. Mary's Isle Estate.
JOHN WILKINSON,
Factor for Captain Hope, R.N.
St. Mary's Isle Estate Office, 28th July, 1904.

This threatening notice is peculiarly interesting in the light of some litigation that came to an end only a few weeks ago. In November last Captain Hope, as proprietor of the lands of St. Mary's Isle, in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, applied to the Kirkcudbright Sheriff Court to interdict one Bennewith (1) from being on the foreshore, and (2) from shooting over it. Mr. Bennewith, who lives at Workington, Cumberland, is the owner of a sailing vessel, and in the habit of visiting Kirkcudbright Bay. He admitted that for many years he had landed upon the foreshore of St. Mary's Isle and shot wild fowl there, and he contended that in doing so he had simply exercised what had been indefeasible rights of the public generally from time immemorial. The Sheriff-Substitute gave judgment in favour of the defendant, dismissing the action with costs against Captain Hope. Against this decision Captain Hope appealed to the Court of Session, but he was again beaten, the Lord Justice Clerk and Lord Trayner holding (Lord Young dissented) that he was not entitled to interdict any member of the public from being on the foreshore or from shooting wild-fowl there. The appeal was accordingly dismissed with additional costs against Captain Hope.

In the face of this adverse judgment of the Court of Session, delivered so recently as July 16, Captain Hope now has the temerity to threaten legal proceedings against any person found on the foreshore! His claim to exclude the public has been found to be invalid in law, so he is now seeking to keep them off by means of a piece of bluff. I should scarcely think myself that this plan is likely to succeed. On the contrary, if the public in this part of the world have any spirit, it will probably lead to many more persons than hitherto asserting those rights which the Court of Session so clearly laid down.

A resident of Derby tells me that on a recent occasion he saw a gang of a dozen prisoners, not only handcuffed, but chained together, being marched through one of the principal streets from the railway station to the gaol. The men came from Burton-on-Trent, and some of them were only going to gaol while remanded. Similar spectacles are said to be not at all uncommon in Derby, for though the borough authorities very properly keep a prison van for the conveyance of borough prisoners, no such provision is made by the county authorities for those arriving by train from outlying towns and districts. It is abominable that the humiliation of being paraded in public in a chained gang should be inflicted upon any prisoners, and doubly so when they are unconvicted, and therefore entitled to be regarded as innocent. If the county authorities are too parsimonious to maintain a Black Maria of their own they could doubtless arrange to share the use of the borough vehicle, and I hope that the Home Secretary will insist upon one course or the other being adopted.

The additional light that has been thrown on the case of Mr. Adolf Beck during the past week only deepens the gravity of the scandal. Mr. George R. Sims has brought out fact after fact pointing either to a display of stupidity on the part of the police so crass as to be almost incredible, or else to what was virtually a conspiracy to procure the conviction of an innocent man by the deliberate suppression of facts which would have established his innocence. That there has been such a suppression of facts time after time in the course of the case is not, indeed, open to doubt. It must have been practised so recently as June last in order to hoodwink Mr. Justice Grantham, who, after Beck's second wrongful conviction, postponed sentence for the purpose of making "special inquiries." As the result his lordship wrote a letter stating that he had no doubt whatever of the correctness of the verdict. It is impossible to believe that Mr. Justice Grantham would have formed this opinion if his inquiries had produced a full and frank disclosure by the police of the information they possessed regarding the trials of 1877 and 1896, and the physical impossibility of Beck being the

man who in the former year was convicted in the name of John Smith.

The conduct of the Home Office in connection with the affair is almost as much in need of investigation as the conduct of the police officers concerned in the two prosecutions of Beck. It will be remembered that at the trial in 1896 the then Common Serjeant ruled that the question of Beck's identity with the John Smith who had been convicted of similar frauds in 1877 was inadmissible, though the case against Beck at the preliminary hearing in the police-court had been practically based upon the allegation that he and Smith were one and the same person. Beck had absolutely convincing evidence that he was in Peru during the time when Smith was undergoing his sentence in England. In spite, however, of the exclusion of this question from the consideration of the jury, Beck, as soon as a verdict against him was returned, was treated as if his identity with Smith had been established, and in prison he had to wear on his dress a mark indicating that he had been convicted in 1877.

A year or so after he was sent into penal servitude Beck accidentally discovered that his "double," Smith, was a Jew. In compliance with his petition the Home Office ordered that he should be examined by the prison doctor, and the examination proved beyond the shadow of a doubt the impossibility of Beck and Smith being the same person. The Home Office acknowledged this by directing that Beck should no longer wear the 1877 conviction badge, but nevertheless he was left to serve out his sentence of seven years' penal servitude as though nothing had happened. An impartial reconsideration of the whole case in the face of this fact as to his non-identity with Smith ought to have convinced any intelligent person that Beck had been wrongly convicted. Even, however, if he was still deemed guilty of the 1896 frauds, it was obvious that his sentence should have been shortened. He was given seven years on the assumption that, as John Smith, he had previously been convicted of similar frauds, and when this was admitted to be an error justice required that the punishment should be reduced.

There is a universal demand for an inquiry into the case, and I think everybody will agree with Sir George Lewis that in the circumstances no mere departmental inquiry by the Home Office will answer the purpose. It must be a thoroughly full, open, and independent inquiry by some person unconnected with the Home Office or the police—preferably a Judge or an ex-Judge—whose decision can be accepted with perfect confidence. Nothing less will be satisfactory, and the sooner Mr. Akers Douglas recognises the fact the better. The scandal has seriously undermined the faith of the public in the administration of the criminal law, and the mischief can only be repaired by a thorough investigation, which will show precisely how this wrong came to be done and who is responsible for it. In the meantime it is to be hoped that the Treasury will recognise the inadequacy of their offer of £2,000 as compensation to Mr. Beck and the unreasonableness of the conditions which were attached to its acceptance.

In connection with this case I trust that attention will be given to the necessity for the abolition of the antiquated practice of granting a "free pardon" to persons found to be innocent of the crimes of which they have been convicted. Parliament ought to have long since abolished this mockery and provided means for the absolute cancellation of convictions and sentences in such cases. The Home Secretary lately stated that the "free pardon" has the effect of wiping out the conviction in respect of which it is granted. Morally it may do so, but I believe that legally the effect remains— in fact, in a case that occurred a short time since in the country, a man who had been wrongfully convicted and given a free pardon was held to be nevertheless debarred by the conviction from holding a public-house licence.

Here are a couple of cases which show that English Shallows are not the only magistrates whose harshness makes a dead letter of the First Offenders Act. At Guernsey the other day Arthur Robin, a young man of good character, was convicted of the heinous crime of purloining a handful of flowers from a garden. One of the jurats wished to deal with him under the First Offenders Act, but the Lieutenant-Bailiff and the other jurats would not listen to this merciful suggestion. They twaddled solemnly about the necessity of protecting private property, just as though the whole institution of private property were seriously menaced by the picking and stealing of a few flowers, and the unfortunate Robin was committed to gaol for a week's hard labour.

The second case occurred at Lurgan Petty Sessions, where a young man named Hull was charged with stealing a melon. He took the melon from a basket at a shop door and was eating it in the street, a short distance away, when a constable arrested him. The woman who keeps the shop would not accuse Hull of theft, saying that he was a customer of hers, and that she believed he only took the melon for a "lark." The police, however, proceeded with the prosecution, and in spite of the good character that the defendant bore the Bench sentenced him to a week's imprisonment. It was pointed out that imprisonment would blight the youth's reputation for life, but their worships declined to let him off under the First Offenders Act, or even to substitute a fine, nor would they increase the sentence to a month's hard labour in order to give him a right of appeal. By reason of the triviality of the offences, and the character of the offenders, these two cases belonged to the very class which the First Offenders Act was designed to meet, and it is shameful that the accused should have been denied the benefit of it.

Glasgow. St. Enoch Hotel (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at Ayr and Dumfries are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

My Legal Pillory this week is headed by a particularly striking contrast between two sentences at the Glasgow Sheriff Criminal Court, a prisoner convicted of grievously assaulting a man and fracturing his skull being let off with just half the punishment that was inflicted upon another prisoner for simply robbing a man of a handkerchief and a muffler. The same topsy-turvy view of the relative heinousness of offences against the person and offences against property is illustrated by a number of other cases. The Torquay Bench have distinguished themselves by the absurd inadequacy of the penalty that they imposed for an outrage upon a little girl, and ruffians charged with brutal assaults upon women have been treated with amazing indulgence at Grantham, Nottingham, and Kirkcaldy. It is instructive to compare the paltry fines that were collected from these defendants and the animal torturers at Buckley and Liskeard with the sharp sentences of imprisonment for poaching, sleeping out, and petty theft that are recorded in the opposite column. In some respects the most monstrous exhibition of Justices' justice in the whole list is the sentence of a month's imprisonment which the Bedford Borough J.P.s passed upon three boys for playing cards in the Cattle Market—a sentence which ought to be at once remitted by the Home Secretary:—

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal Court. Archibald Macfarlane, charged with assaulting a man and fracturing his skull. Three months.

Rotherham West Riding Police-court. Harry Hill, charged with assaulting Joseph George Tingle. It was a brutal and unprovoked assault, complainant being knocked down and rendered unconscious. Fined 40s. and costs.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. Peter Flockhart, charged with assaulting Mary Adamson, his landlady, by seizing her by the neck, throwing her to the ground, kneeling on her, and beating her all over the body; also with assaulting Catherine Adamson by striking her several blows on the chest and knocking her down. Fined 30s.

Liskeard Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Wm. Henry James, labourer, charged with cruelty to a horse. The horse was lame, and a veterinary surgeon had directed that it should not be used. In the absence of the owner, however, defendant put the horse in a trap and drove it to Looe and back. He beat the animal unmercifully, and it fell down four times during the journey. It was stated that defendant had frequently been in trouble. Fined 20s. and costs.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Allen and E. N. Elborne. James Peach, convicted of assaulting Sarah Wardle. He struck her on the head with a large stone, knocked her down, and kicked her. Fined 10s.

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal Court. Robert Robertson, charged with stealing a handkerchief and a muffler from a man. Six months.

Bradford West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. G. S. Pollard, J. W. Wade, S. Jagger, and F. Holder. Ezra North, aged seventy, charged with stealing some small pieces of wood, valued at sixpence. One month.

Glasgow Sheriff Summary Court. Before Sheriff Scott Moncrieff. Patrick Friel, charged with poaching. Sixty days, and a further sixty days in default of finding sureties that he would not so offend again for one year.

Preston Intermediate Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. H. Worsley-Taylor. Wm. Lister pleaded guilty to stealing a shirt. Six months.

Bedford Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Bell and E. P. Rose and Dr. Carter. James Smith, Edward Smith, and Wm. Curtis, lads, charged with playing cards in the Cattle Market on a Saturday. One month each.

Loughborough Police-court. Henry White Robinson, John Smith, John Squires, Joseph Burton, and Arthur Worrall, charged with poaching. One month each, and another month in default of finding sureties that they would not so offend again for a year.

Stony Stratford Petty Sessions. Before the Duke of Grafton, Messrs. T. B. Grounds, A. Grant-Thorold, G. M. Fitzsimons, and the Rev. J. T. Athawes. John Riley, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Six weeks.

Hayward's Heath Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Campion and other magistrates. Charles Robert Green, convicted of assaulting Robert James Prescott, whose jaw was broken in two places. Fined 25s.

Torquay Police-court. Before Dr. Last Smith and Mr. J. F. Rockhey. Joseph Sargarson, naval petty officer, charged with indecently assaulting a girl, twelve years of age. Prisoner, who had been drinking, enticed the girl to some grounds, where he committed the offence. The magistrates reduced the charge to one of common assault, and imposed a fine of £1.

Buckley (Flintshire) Petty Sessions. Garnett Hughes, waggonette proprietor, charged with causing a horse to be worked in an unfit condition. The animal was one of a couple attached to a waggonette. It was in a shocking condition, a witness stating that every bone in the horse's body could be traced, that there was "exposed flesh" which had been irritated by the harness, and that the mouth was almost full of blood, caused by the laceration of the tongue. Fined 40s. and costs.

Grantham Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. J. Hawkins, and W. Schofield. Frederick Thomas Mellard, charged with assaulting his wife. Because the dinner she had provided did not suit him defendant struck his wife a savage blow in the face, cutting her eye. She had been previously ill-treated. Bound over to keep the peace for six months.

Nuneaton Police-court. Arthur Bailey, charged with stealing three apples from a garden. Fined £2; in default, one month.

Salford Police-court. Patrick Tracey and Lawrence M'Garry, charged with sleeping out. One month each.

Belfast Police-court. Before Messrs. Garrett Nagle and W. J. Jackson. Wm. M'Mahon, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Two months.

Retford County Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Denison, Major Whitaker, and Mr. H. Peake. Joseph Elliott, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 1s. 6d.

Coventry County Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Woollcombe-Adams, the Earl of Craven, and Messrs. T. G. Beamish and T. Taylor. George Edwards, charged with poaching. Three months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties that he would not so offend again for six months.

Chesterfield County Police-court. George Pressley, charged with aiding and abetting Ralph Pressley in an offence against the Poaching Prevention Act in May last. Fined £5.

The Lord Chief Justice's recent admonitions to the magistracy on the administration of the conscientious objection clause of the Vaccination Act of 1898 have evidently made no impression upon the Cornish J.P.s sitting at Trigg Petty Sessions, or the Cheshire J.P.s sitting at Altrincham Petty Sessions. In reply to an application at the former Court last week, the Chairman (Sir Warwick Morshead) said the Bench could not see their way to grant a certificate of exemption until a medical certificate was produced, showing that vaccination would be injurious to the child's health. In the case at Altrincham also a medical certificate was demanded in support of the applicant's conscientious objection, although exemptions had actually been issued to him in respect of two previous children. As the Lord Chief Justice pointed out, this request for a medical certificate is utterly unwarrantable, and, indeed, absolutely contrary to the plain meaning of the Act. It is no part of the business of the magistrates to consider whether vaccination is likely to prove injurious; the only question they have to decide is whether the applicant "conscientiously believes" that it will be prejudicial to the child's health, and as any intelligent person must see, such a belief may be entertained independently or even in defiance of medical evidence. I do not know whether these Cornish and Cheshire J.P.s are too wooden-headed to understand the law or too perverse to give effect to it, but in either case they are unfit for the office they hold.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

DEVELOPING (any size) ROLLABLE FILM, 12 expos. 1s. Printing price list free. Cameras bought for cash or exchanged. Wanted Kodaks.—MARTIN, Chemist, Southampton.

One sometimes hears a doubt expressed whether in these days anybody can be so guileless as to be taken in by the venerable and transparent Spanish Prisoner swindle. Not only is it on the face of it a cock-and-bull story that the "Prisoner" tells, but for years past the fraud has been the subject of constant exposures in the Press and warnings from Scotland Yard. On the other hand, it is quite obvious that the gangs engaged in working the swindle at Barcelona, Valencia, and elsewhere would not send out many thousands of letters every year for the mere fun of the thing. The quest for victims is not by any means restricted to the United Kingdom, but is diligently carried on in almost every civilised country, though I rather suspect that it is here that it proves most successful. In postages alone —to say nothing of the cost of the stationery that is used or of the fabricated documents that are forwarded to parties who rise to the bait—the expenditure must be extremely heavy, and it is absurd to suppose that money would be spent so freely unless it were got back with a good profit.

The truth is, of course, that the Spanish Prisoner reaps a rich harvest from his appeals to the credulity and cupidity of mankind. As a rule, however, his dupes are too much ashamed of themselves to confess their folly, and it is only in rare instances that the facts are disclosed. Such an instance has just come under my notice. A worthy citizen of Leeds, whose aversion to the publication of his name will be easily understood, received one of the familiar letters from the "Castle Fort of Barcelona," and was so much impressed that he cabled as requested to the Prisoner. The usual correspondence followed, and in the result the simple-minded citizen forwarded £140 to Barcelona for the release from the custody of the authorities of the usual portmanteau "confiscated as a guarantee for the payment of the costs of my process," and containing, in a secret drawer, the security for the sum of £37,000 which the Prisoner had deposited in a London bank. The citizen was, also as usual, to have a fourth of this fortune in return for his kindness in accepting the guardianship of the dying Prisoner's only daughter.

So far as I recollect, the Prisoner does not generally trouble to write again to any one whom he has plundered. On this occasion, however, he seems to have been in a merry mood, and he amused himself by addressing the following letter to the confiding citizen of Leeds. I print it as it was written:—

Barcelona. July 30, '04.

Mr. —— ——.

My Dear Sir,—Before all I will thank you sincerely for your protection and help. I cannot not more than be grateful for your kindness and I must say you are a perfect gentleman.

Now, I must confess you are a victim of a deceit. I am neightr Lafuente, nor the Reverend Chaplain; there are neightr such a fortune nor a child nor the imaginary address of the guile; all is fancy and I hope you will be thankful to me for having undeceived you sincerely.

My words will perhaps drive you in despair but after having reflected you will be with my mind. What would you obtain by raising a scandale? Nothing. The Press by commenting the happened will dedicate you some sharp satires and that is suitable for your dignity and reputation. Resign then and may this example serve you as guid in your life.

If you inform the authorities themselves will laugh at you, knowing that nothing is possible against such a mysterious fellow. I am an unhappy, the fate has brought in such a vile way, you are the victim which suffer the present consequences. The best counsel is resignation for, as I tell you all is imaginary, nothing is true.

When this letter will reach you I shall be far from Barcelona, you must have compassion with me. The fate is always the fate.

Some day I will write you plainly, and then you will convince yourself that I was merely a secondary implement in this history and the propaganders are in your country.—Yours faithfully,

Mateo Rios.
A. Lafuente.

Although the disillusioned dupe may think that this effusion adds insult to injury, it contains some sound advice. The fate is always the fate. Innocents will ever be preyed upon by rogues and when, as in the case of these Spanish rogues, it is utterly futile to attempt to bring them to book, "the best counsel is the resignation."

By a slip of the pen "Bootle" was written for "Barrow" in a paragraph in Truth on August 11th, which made a passing allusion to some previous comments on the corruption of the police at Barrow. My apologies to the police at Bootle for this regrettable mistake.

The "gold brick" swindler grows more and more extravagant in his description of the El Dorado which forms the background of his familiar story. In the latest specimen of his letters that I have seen (it was addressed to a deceased gentleman in Wandsworth, and fell, as intended, into the hands of his son), his account of the unparalleled richness of the gold quartz veins that the mythical "Thomas" has discovered in the Cripple Creek mining district is wound up with the audacious statement that "we have often knocked out from 40 to 50 ounces of gold in a day with an ordinary hand hammer"! But the Yankee practitioners of this confidence trick are clever rogues, and I daresay they find that no tale can be too steep for the egregious simpletons on whom they prey.

Large numbers of people appear to have been favoured during the last few days with communications from one Frederick Hilton, of 67, Goodrich Road, East Dulwich. Hilton, like many scores of impecunious advertisers before him, has "been fortunate enough, as the results of many years of very hard and unceasing work and experiments, to evolve a system of roulette playing, which has proved sound under the most severe tests possible to apply." He begs the favour of an interview in order to demonstrate the truth of this statement, and in the meantime he wishes you to understand that the *least* he will ask you to invest in the working of his system will be £80, on which he anticipates, but does not guarantee, a profit at the rate of 200 per cent. per annum. In the matter of profits, Hilton is a trifle more modest than the average infallible schemer desirous of punting with other people's money. I dare say he will find some flat ready to give him £80 to lose at Monte Carlo; and all one can hope is that the money will ultimately find its way into the pocket of somebody more fit to take care of it than the present owner.

The swindle that has generally been described in Truth as the "railway clearance sale trick," has lately been worked in Hastings and St. Leonards, but with the omission of the usual reference to the railway companies as the parties instructing the sale. A gang purporting to represent "Pascall and Co., Salesmen, etc., London, Leeds, Manchester, etc., has been going round delivering from house to house circulars with samples of silk goods attached, for which absurdly cheap prices are quoted. In due course the circular is followed by a traveller with a cart, who offers more samples, and also has some cloth dress material for sale. He books orders for the seductive samples, and sells the cloth for cash. The goods ordered are never delivered, and the ladies who have given the orders wonder why—not being readers of Truth. The explanation, of course, is that the goods for which cash is paid are very dear at the price—generally, in fact, the lowest class of shoddy—and that the seductive samples of other goods shown at the same time are merely baits to the trap.

It has several times been remarked in Truth that the representations generally made in connection with this trick are fraudulent, and that the parties could be prosecuted; and I suppose that view of the matter has commended itself to the gang who have been working at Hastings, who have, therefore, dropped all false pretences, except the vague statement that they are "salesmen," of "London, Leeds, and Manchester." Such, however, is the gullibility of women to whom a tempting bargain is offered, that the trick works just as well in its amended form. At the same time, I take it that men going round selling goods in this way are really hawkers, and ought to have licences, and that, not having them, they can be dealt with by the police.

"Several members of the mess here," writes an Army officer, "have received the enclosed circular. You will see that it differs from the ordinary run of such things, and on the face of it looks sound, as the man cannot make anything out of you unless you win, and then only what you like to give him." The circular which has created this favourable impression emanates from F. Bateman, 20, Little Welbeck-street, W. He modestly describes himself as "a man of position who is well in with the racing world, and who has made racing pay for a considerable number of years." You can observe for yourself that he is a man of a singularly benevolent and confiding nature, for, though you are a perfect stranger, he offers to send you tips without any payment in advance, or even any promise of payment. All that you are asked to do is to supply him with a stamped and addressed telegram form. He will then wire you "when he knows anything worth your having a big bet about," and the question of his remuneration will be left "entirely to you to decide in proportion to your gains through his advice."

At first sight this "looks sound," but things are not always what they seem. Let us suppose that there are ten probable starters for a race, and that the tipster has a hundred clients on his list. By the simple device of naming each horse in ten different telegrams he can make sure of giving the winner to ten backers, and they may be relied upon to reward him generously, in the hope of getting more good tips. It is true that the remaining ninety will be disappointed, but that does not matter to the ingenious tipster, and backers being sanguine folk, the majority will probably give him another trial or two. Whether this is the precise *modus operandi* of F. Bateman I cannot say. But it is one of the tricks of the trade to which he belongs, and should be borne in mind by officers and others who are allured by his circular.

One of the platforms of the railway station at Newport, Mon., is adorned with an advertisement board setting forth that "Fieldings, Limited" have "money to lend in sums from £100 to £10,000." "Fieldings, Limited" is the *nom de guerre* of a notorious firm of Hebrew bloodsuckers, and in directing my attention to the matter a correspondent suggests that it is scarcely worthy of the Great Western Railway Company to advertise such a pernicious business. I feel sure that the management of the Company will be of the same opinion. It is probably through an oversight that this advertisement has slipped in among the multitude displayed at the Company's stations, and no doubt it will be removed at the earliest opportunity.

Since the Court of Appeal delivered its judgment in the Dakhyl case I have been looking out in the newspapers for further advertisements of the Drouet Institute for the Deaf. Up to the present time I have not seen any of them, and I am beginning to hope that the observations of the Court on this swindle have at last touched the consciences of those journals which have hitherto backed up Mr. Carré and his associates. Of course, it may be that in view of the observations of the Judges, Carré himself thinks it more prudent not to draw any undue attention towards his enterprise just at present; but it will certainly be a scandal if any respectable paper condescends to take this gentleman's money again after what the Court of Appeal has said about the business. For the same reason, it seems to me about time that the Drouet Institute advertisements were removed from the vehicles of the London General Omnibus Company. There is no difference, so far as I know, between the moral obligations of a newspaper proprietor and anybody else who has an advertising space to let.

Reference has been made in Truth to the publication of Drouet Institute advertisements in South Africa. The consequences of such publication are illustrated in a letter that I have had from a man at Delagoa Bay, evidently a man of the uneducated class for whom these traps are chiefly set. He had the usual communications with the Drouet shop, resulting in the information that he was suffering from our old friends "Otitis Media

Chronica," "Post Otorrhœa," "Tinnitus," etc., and that "the physician" hoped for a cure if he would purchase our other old friends the "papier anti-catarrhal," "prises désobstructives," etc., to the tune of £3 1s. This was in August, 1903. He had previously forwarded £1. On the receipt of this letter he sent the balance of £2 1s. The stuff has never been sent, and since that date (November, 1903) he has heard nothing from the Drouet people. I suppose this is an accident, for, to give Carré his due, he generally plays the game according to his own rules, and there is no reason why he should not forward his rubbish when the money has been paid for it. The patient himself is probably no worse off than if he had the drugs; but it is a pitiable thing to think of an uneducated working man in the Colonies being done out of £3 in this way.

One of my readers forwards a copy of a letter he has written in response to one of the familiar communications of Mr. "Ernest Day," of 439, Old Kent-road, offering a valuable portrait of the usual character, which has come into his possession through the death of a relative. It appears from this letter that Day—who I fancy is really a female—has been favouring the same gentleman with these intimations at intervals over a period of fifteen years, but I am sorry to say that this has not awakened my correspondent's sympathy as it ought to have done, seeing the number of family bereavements which "Ernest Day" seems to have suffered during that time. Seriously, it is an extraordinary thing that a swindle based on such a transparent trick should have continued to flourish for such a time, and in the face of continued warning to the public; but I am quite sure that nothing I can say will stop the mortality among Day's relatives, and the consequent flooding of the market with these worthless prints, or prevent silly people paying their guineas for this rubbish in order to relieve Day's "straightened circumstances."

Firms who are interested in the fountain pen business, which seems to have a peculiar facility for lending itself to abuses of one kind or another, have lately been considerably exercised over the conduct of the proprietors of the *Daily Illustrated Mirror* in selling one of these articles, and in the fulness of time my opinion on the questions at issue has been invited. It appears that there are two of these questions. In the first place, certain aggrieved firms wrote to the proprietors of the paper severely criticising the advertisement of the pen as "a 7s. 6d. Fountain Pen for 2s. 6d.," and pointing out that "many such articles are being sold at 1s. 6d. each." The communication was not acknowledged, but a practical answer was made to it by an alteration of the advertisement in the above particular, and in another to which exception was also taken. The original showcards, however, with the description of the article as a seven-and-sixpenny fountain pen remained on Messrs. Smith and Son's bookstalls. In the same letter reference was also made, though in somewhat dubious terms, to the action of the proprietors of a newspaper in embarking on the sale of an article in competition with some of their own advertisers. This point was taken up a few weeks later by the Advertisers' Protection Society, who also addressed a protest to the proprietors of the *Mirror*. This communication, like the first, was not favoured with an acknowledgment, from which it is to be inferred that the proprietors of the *Mirror* regarded them both as impertinent.

I do not wish to be considered impertinent in my turn, but the matter is of some interest to a considerable section of the community, the Press included. There can be no excuse, of course, for selling eighteen-pennyworth of goods for half-a-crown and representing it as seven-and-sixpennyworth. As this seems to have been tacitly admitted, it is not necessary to dwell on the point. I do not quite see, however, on what ground the proprietor of a newspaper is to be precluded from selling goods and advertising them in his own paper. The thing has been done for a long time without protest. To take a classic example, suppose I discover an infallible agent for making hair grow on bald heads. Is the bald-headed public to be deprived of this boon, merely because I have the misfortune to be connected with the Press? Or, if, regardless of professional etiquette, I decide to put the thing on the market, are the readers of Truth, alone among newspaper readers, to be kept in the dark about its miraculous virtues, while every other journal is singing its praises? I can only see one answer to these questions.

The Advertisers' Protection Society, however, take another point, and here they seem to be on firmer ground. "Competition on the part of a paper," they say, "with legitimate traders in commodities is inadvisable from many points of view, and likely eventually to do more harm than good to the publishers of such competing advertisements." I object to the phrase "legitimate traders," which seems to imply that a newspaper proprietor is an illegitimate trader, or that he has not the same right as anybody else to carry on two or three trades at the same time. But the rest of the argument I quite understand. If I were to start a sort of general shop at this office, selling soap, pills, hair restorers, bicycles, fountain pens, and other goods which are chiefly sold by means of newspaper advertisements, I should not be surprised if other vendors of these goods refused to advertise in Truth, and it might possibly happen that I should lose more by ceasing to advertise their soap and pills and fountain pens, than I should by selling my own.

Of course, the force of this argument depends entirely on the number of advertisements a newspaper has before the proprietor starts in the other business on his own

account. But there is also another consideration—namely, that a newspaper proprietor, or editor, or manager, may not be much of a hand at selling anything but newspapers. In this very case of the *Daily Mirror* one sees that the proprietors at first supposed themselves to be selling a seven-and-sixpenny pen for half-a-crown. No man of sound commercial instincts or education would regard this as good business—though it might have satisfied the old woman who made a loss on every pound of apples, but converted it into a profit by selling such a large quantity. Not only, however, did the proprietors deliberately set themselves to sell pens at a dead loss of 13s. 4d. in the pound, but it eventually turned out that those pens were really worth only 1s. 6d. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that the *Daily Mirror* people had been, if I may use a vulgar expression, "done in the eye," when they bought these pens. Moses Primrose, landed with his gross of green spectacles, was not a more helpless baby in the hands of the dealer than the *Daily Mirror* buyer when he went into the fountain pen market.

From this we see how great are the risks when the mere man of letters pits himself against the wily man of commerce. There are tricks in all trades of which the guileless journalist can have no conception—unless, like myself, he happens to have made a special study of them. But of all trades, I would beseech any esteemed contemporary who fancies himself as a business man, to beware of fountain pens. Fountains of iniquity, I call them. The files of Truth contain a black record of the frauds perpetrated in their name, and the proprietors of the *Daily Mirror* are but the latest of a long line of victims.

Here is rather a good example of what postal advertising is coming to. The writer might have graduated in one of the American Colleges of Advertising, judging from the easy familiarity of his style. Time was when this sort of thing from a tradesman would have been resented, but it evidently pays now, and I suppose we should rejoice in the fact as evidence of democratic progress:—

Dear Sir,—Your splendid indifference to our previous offers makes us think, rightly or wrongly, that we have been unfortunate every time in having chosen exactly the wines you do not want.

This, of course, may or may not be so; but, if you will kindly allow us, we should like to express our admiration of your loyalty to your wine merchant.

We know what the loyalty of our own customers means to us, but we hardly know what our customers would do if our friends in the trade offered them exceptional wines like those on the enclosed leaflet—particularly the ——— champagne.

After testing this champagne we think you would agree that it is a wine which even more money and every careful buying would not discover in the ordinary way.

That is why we respectfully commend it to your attention.—Yours faithfully, etc.,

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"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

A GOOD BEDSIDE DRESS.

The *British Medical Journal* has put forward a suggestion that doctors should adopt a distinctive professional costume.

Full long have we known that a doctor who 'd be
Of good fortune the ultimate planner,
Must rejoice in the lucky possession of what
Is described as "a good bedside manner."
With that to his credit, approval he wins
'Mongst the folks his deportment impresses,
And he soon can a lucrative practice obtain,
Whatever degree he possesses.

But a "good bedside manner" no longer 'twould seem
Gives the doctor's desire full expression;
Now, a wish for a good bedside costume, as well,
Is perturbing their learned profession;
And an organ that speaks for the medical man
Is imparting the novel suggestion,
That the kind of apparel in which he should dress
Is a pressing and practical question.

We are not, it is true, told on what sort of garb
The profession intends to determine;
Or whether its choice is a kind of court dress,
Or a loose-flowing robe, trimmed with ermine.
We do not get a hint whether showy designs
Will be deemed by our doctors delectable,
Or whether henceforward 'tis merely their aim
To look more intensely respectable.

But of this we've no doubt, ere they bring to an end
The discussion that now is before them,
They, of course, will bestow on their patients a thought,
For it scarcely would pay to ignore them;
Since 'tis easy to see how a bright crimson cloak
Or a robe of chromatic resplendence,
Might get on the nerves of the rich West-end folk,
Who might summon a doctor's attendance.

But in fact the discussion seems worthy at best
Of the happily distant dark ages,
When doctors were too often quacks, and as such
Lived in Molière's cynical pages.
And for medical men in these up-to-date days
On so trivial a topic to chatter,
In effect is for them time and skill to expend
On a petty and pitiful matter.

Besides, if we grant that "a good bedside dress"
P'rhaps might tickle the taste of "the classes,"
What about those devoted and capable men
Who toil amongst London's dense "masses"?
Can we fancy a hospital surgeon concerned
In devising sartorial shackles,
Which cannot but hamper and hinder him too
In the task he diurnally tackles?

No, no! for the doctors whose honour it is
To be found where the strain and the stress is,
Not what they shall don, but what they shall doff,
Is the practical question that presses.
And the sole sort of dress that finds favour with them
Is the one that best aids their exertion
In fighting 'gainst ignorance, sorrow, and pain,
And attempting Disease's subversion!

Among the anomalies and iniquities of income-tax administration the following deserves a conspicuous place. The Bank of England refuses to give certificates of the deduction of income tax on payment of Consol dividends to holders of coupons to bearer. The Board of Inland Revenue refuse to refund income tax to parties entitled to abatement without production of certificates

showing that the tax has been deducted. Consequently holders of Consol certificates in the above shape whose incomes are under £700 a year are unable to obtain the rebate to which the law pretends to entitle them. I have this information from Mr. Chapman of the Income Tax Repayment Agency; and he cites fifteen cases in which parties find themselves in this position. They are all foreigners, and I suppose that Consol coupons to bearer are chiefly held abroad; but they need not necessarily be, and there is nothing in the Acts which makes any distinction between British and foreign subjects in regard to exemption from the tax. Besides, British subjects resident abroad may find it convenient to hold their Consols in this shape.

The point seems to be that the Acts have omitted to make it compulsory on the part of a banker to give a certificate of deduction of income tax on paying a dividend, and the Board of Inland Revenue and the Bank of England between them have taken advantage of this omission to prevent holders of Consol coupons to bearer obtaining the repayment of income-tax to which they are entitled, for it is difficult to believe that the Bank of England would refuse to grant the requisite certificates, except in collusion with the Inland Revenue authorities. If this is the true state of the case, it can only be described as a dirty trick—extremely dirty, indeed, for it is an evasion of the intention of the Income Tax Acts on the part of the Government itself, and a breach of faith with people who invest in Consols on the understanding that if their incomes are below £700 a year, they will be entitled to a refund either of the whole or part of the tax deducted on payment of dividends. From one point of view, it is worse that foreign investors should suffer by such a breach of faith than British subjects.

The other day Mr. J. Brown, F.R.S., in an article entitled "Herring or Gull," published in the *Manchester Guardian*, asked the question, "Can we as a nation afford to pay for them?"—the gulls, not the herring—and straightway proceeded to answer his own query in the negative. The arguments by which Mr. Brown arrives at his conclusion are characterised by a naïveté truly remarkable in a Fellow of the Royal Society. Gulls are particularly fond of herrings, especially of the small fry. Assuming, therefore, that for two months in the year every day is a fry-day, and that each gull consumes two hundred fry per day, the destruction of herring per gull works out at 12,000 per season. Then, further, assuming that each of these baby herring would at maturity be worth £1 per thousand on the pier, and that there are five hundred gulls per mile of sea coast engaged in the work of destruction, Mr. Brown works out the net loss to the nation at £24,000,000 per annum.

Now, here is another little calculation which I would earnestly commend to Mr. Brown's attention, since it will afford him the basis for another argument as to whether we as a nation can afford to allow any bird of any kind to remain alive on the British Isles. Birds, I am credibly assured, are accustomed to eat worms. The area of the British Isles is 121,607 square miles, of which at least 120,000 must be worm-producing. Over this area there must average at least two hundred birds per square mile, and, allowing each bird a dozen worms per day, the consumption of worms in round figures would be about 4,000 per bird per annum. Now, the commercial value of worms for fishing purposes is 2s. per thousand, so that each bird costs the country for this article of diet alone 8s. per annum, involving a net loss to the community of £9,600,000 per annum. In face of these figures who will venture to contend that we are not paying too dearly for the purely æsthetic delight which bird life affords us, though I have no doubt there will still be some unconvinced persons who will come to the conclusion that the only gulls worthy of destruction are the unfeathered ones who will swallow "statistics" of this kind.

About this time of year I am generally consulted by some of my Conservative readers respecting circulars received from Mr. H. J. Blight, who calls himself Secretary of the Middlesex and General Conservative and Unionist Association, 9, Victoria-street, S.W. The purport of Mr. Blight's circulars is always the same, namely, that the said Association is supported entirely by voluntary contributions, and that Blight hopes to be favoured with a donation for registration work "which is now very much needed." It has been mentioned in Truth before that Mr. Blight and his Association are not recognised by the official agencies of the Party. If I were actuated solely by political considerations I should not attempt to deliver Middlesex Conservatism from this Blight; but when readers of Truth ask for my opinion I feel bound to tell them that from what I have heard I think they might spend their money with more advantage to the Party than by sending it to No. 9, Victoria-street.

THE DAMSEL AND HER SUITORS.

Winsome SHE was and fair to see;
While HE—th' inevitable "He"—
Was handsome as a Youth could be.
Prim was her Air; demure her Eye;
Her Manner, it was coy and shy.
The handsome "He," 'twixt me and you,
Was just a little bashful, too.
He wooed her not with bold Insistence,
But worshipped humbly at a Distance,
Thinking his Goddess best to please
By meek Adoring on his Knees.
At length, becoming rather bolder,
He ventured by the Hand to hold her;
Then humbly asked the Maid's Permission
To print her sacred Lips one Kiss on.
"Sir," was her feigning, shocked Reply,
"Let a Man kiss? I'd rather die!"
The Youth, when he this Answer heard,
Took her, too simple, at her Word,
And begged, with Abjectness intense,
Her Pardon for his rude Offence.
Ere long another "He" comes by,
A dashing Blade, with fearless Eye;
The Damsel sees, admires, then clips
Her Waist, and kisses, bold, her Lips.

"How dare you, Wretch?" she cried. Yet (strange!)
Left her chaste Mouth within his Range.
That dashing Blade, he merely laughed,
And thrice again the Nectar quaffed.
"Without my Leave, Sir, how d'ye dare?"
Protests, in Wrath, the outraged Fair.
Still laughing, he replies, "My Treasure,
I guess I've ta'en your Sex's Measure.
Who asks for Leave before he kisses
Is not the Lad to win you Misses;
But rather he who prints a Kiss on
Your coy Lips first; *then* asks Permission."

Moral.

Dame Fortune, full of coy Excuses,
Those who her Favours ask refuses.
The only Way your own to make 'em
Is not to ask for 'em, but take 'em.

SCRUTATOR.

THE COMING ELECTION—AND AFTER?

NEITHER the most ardent of whole hoggers, nor the weakest-kneed of Unionist Free Traders doubts that the Government will be beaten at the next General Election. This would probably have happened without the assistance of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal vagaries, which have made the result of the election an absolute certainty. What then afterwards? What is to be the policy of the Liberal Party when in office? On the fiscal issue the Party is unanimous, but there are many Conservatives equally opposed to Protection. In regard to other matters it has limited itself to assurances that the legislation of the present Parliament upon diverse important questions must be abrogated. The Radicals, however, who constitute almost the entire bulk of the Party, and to whose votes its Leaders will owe office, will hardly be satisfied with such a policy. They would have the war carried into the enemies' camp, and a drastic Radical policy adopted. They have these views and aspirations, and there will be small confidence felt by them in Leaders who decline to give practical effect to them.

The Unionists have had a lengthy spell of office, notwithstanding that their political views upon domestic issues never have been those of the majority of the electorate. And why? Because they have shown the wisdom of the serpent in retaining it. They have studied past history and acted on its teaching. Whenever democracy is making progress in a nation, those who fear democracy almost invariably seek to divert attention from home matters, by the red herring of a "spirited foreign policy," for there are always many who are led astray by this red herring. This is due to the rivalry that always exists between nations, and the pleasure that the citizens of one find in a display of their power to play a great part on the world's stage. Our Conservatives have increased our armaments, they have assumed a defiant attitude to the rest of the world, and they have had their war. According to them, our Empire was on its last legs, and we were sinking into the position of a third-rate Power. Their mission was to strengthen, consolidate, and augment it. In comparison with so glorious an idea, what did it signify whether we were Democrats or Conservatives in home matters? To assert this was to prefer the narrow quarrels of a parish to the noblest aspirations of a patriot. To "think Imperially" was our duty; and we have not only thought Imperially at their bidding, but we have allowed them to act Imperially, and we have paid Imperially. It has dawned upon us that the cost of this nonsense is excessive. We are beginning to ask ourselves whether we have gained anything by our outlay. The deserts and jungles that we have annexed in Africa have only benefited company mongers. The South African War has almost ruined South Africa, and resulted in the introduction of Chinese chattels into the Transvaal in order that mine-owners may make money by servile labour. Is our credit better? It has depreciated more than 20 per cent. Are our trade and our commerce better? We know that they are worse. Do we pay less taxes? We pay more. Does the additional money thus raked in better the lot of our workers? It is all spent in an increase of our armaments.

This orgie of folly has been possible because many leading Liberals favoured it. Perceiving that Imperialism was popular, and believing that its adoption was the only way to bring the Liberal Party into power, these gentlemen declared themselves converted to Imperialism, and they lost no opportunity to join in denouncing Mr. Gladstone and those who adhered to his policy as contemptible Little Englanders, whose small and petty minds could not soar to Imperialism. Now that it has become clear that this Brummagem Imperialism was but a passing phase of neuroticism, these patriots have begun again to prate of peace and economy, and to draw distinctions between themselves and the Unionist patriots. Their conversion, however, does not seem to me to be as yet more than skin deep. They generally refuse to vote for any reduction in Army expenditure, and if they do vote for any small and insignificant reduction they usually go out of their way to explain that the Navy must not only be maintained at its present level, but that it must be further strengthened. We Radicals shall require of our "Leaders" a good deal more than this, if they are to count, when in enjoyment of the loaves and fishes of office, upon Radical support. The present expenditure on armaments must be reduced by at least 20 millions.

But Radicals must also insist on the democratisation of our governmental machine. It is an excellent machine if its object be to retain power in the hands of the classes, and to render it impossible for a Liberal Administration to do more than mark time. Owing to the cost of elections, poor men are either kept out of the House of Commons, or are returned by their election expenses being paid by a Party chest, in which case—if Liberals—they are generally mere Party Janissaries. The House of Commons itself is elected by a franchise which gives rich men double or treble votes, and disfranchises poor men owing to the laws regulating registration. If, notwithstanding all this, a Liberal majority is returned at a General Election, the Conservatives are able to fall back on their permanent majority in

the House of Lords, and either to veto or whittle down all Liberal Bills sent up to it, with the result that a Liberal Administration—if it be really Radically inclined—is reduced to ridicule and contempt, as Mr. Gladstone pointed out in his last speech in the House. Any Liberal Administration that comes into office must so alter, amend, and end the two Houses of Parliament that both of the two great Parties in the State have henceforward fair and equal play. We must no longer have hereditary Peers and Bishops interfering with the will of the nation as expressed by its elected representatives, and these latter must not be elected on a partial franchise.

In order that we may revert to the prosperity that was so wondrous a feature of the Gladstone policy, we must revert to that policy in everything relating to our relations with foreign nations and with our Colonies. There must be a substantial reduction in our expenditure on armaments. But we must be prepared to pay what is required for the betterment of the lot of our workers. "Never," said Mr. Chamberlain, "would I have advocated taxation of food, were it not that I coupled with it old age pensions." I need not say that he has entirely dropped old age pensions out of his fiscal proposals. We must not drop them out of ours. They have been promised, we are pledged to them, and the pledge must be fulfilled. I am no enemy to high taxation, provided that its burden be put on the right shoulders, and that the money can be shown to be spent for the collective benefit of the community. For my part, I would rather see the standard of life raised amongst our own workers, and some provision made for the veterans of labour, than learn that the Empire has been expanded, or that we have ships not only sufficient for defence if we are attacked, but for maintaining an attitude of blustering defiance against the entire world. As for our Colonies, I welcome their presence within the Empire, and I believe that they regard this as an advantage, but I am not prepared to tax the necessaries of our own poor in order to bribe them to remain with us, if they prefer to leave us. They, on their side, wisely decline under any pretext to enter that vortex of militarism against which Sir Wilfrid Laurier—speaking for them—has solemnly protested.

But my present contention is that we cannot have Radical legislation, so long as the Legislature is carefully constructed to prevent this, any more than a silk purse can be made out of a sow's ear. This is why I have always been against any attempt so absurd, and why I am convinced that any Liberal Administration that strives to legislate democratically before altering and amending the legislative machine is doomed to failure. We have many Whigs, or moderate Liberals, or whatever else they may call themselves, who differ in very little from Conservatives. Let them, by all means, remain with us if they please; let them be fed with loaves and fishes if they want them; but it must be distinctly understood that we Radicals will not accept the temporising and opportunist policy that they favour. If they get places, and hope to retain these places by our votes, they will have to realise that we shall insist on calling the tune, and that they must dance to it. Neither are we prepared to make the next General Election turn solely upon the fiscal issue. There is no need for this. The verdict of the country upon it has already been clearly given. Nor are we prepared to limit the duties of any Liberal Administration that may be formed to abrogating the Tory Legislation of the last few years. Our aim is the triumph of Democracy, and we know that it can only become a reality when every artificial privilege—social, religious, and political—has been swept away.

HOMBURG REVISITED.

Homburg has a good deal changed since it was the "gambling centre" of Europe. It may have become more respectable, but it has not become more amusing. I cannot say that I have ever been one of those who regarded gambling with such horror as some. A fool and his money soon part. If money passes from the pocket of one person to that of another it does not disappear. Its incidence alone is altered. As Dr. Johnson, that stern moralist, explained long ago, the worst that can be said of card-playing is that it is a waste of time, and there are exceedingly few persons who do not every day waste a certain amount of time. The whole thing appears to me a question of proportion. If a person gambles according to his means, and as a slight but mildly exciting amusement, why not? If he ruins himself he is a fool, and if he did not gamble he would do this in some other way. When there were public gambling-tables all over Europe, the play at least was conducted with ready money, and this in itself necessarily limited its amount. What is the difference between "Bulling" and "Bearing" on the Stock Exchange and risking money on the turn of a card? None, so far as I can see, except that the former can be done on credit, and the amount won or lost is generally greater. At public gambling-tables there is always a percentage in favour of their owners. This percentage makes it absolutely certain that in the long run the tables must win. But the percentage is, comparatively speaking, so small on the stake of each player that, provided he plays for a short time, it does not tell very much against his chance of winning.

About the middle of the last century, when the German Bund sat at Frankfort, I was an attaché to our Legation there, and as Homburg was close by I spent a good deal of my time in that cheerful spot. The gambling establishment was open the entire year. In winter the company was curious. It consisted almost entirely of persons of small means. They all played for an hour or so each day, and they may have lost or won every day a pound or two. This amused them, and I should fancy that they may have got their winter's amusement at the cost of £20 or £30. Occasionally a heavy gambler came and plunged. Sometimes he won, and sometimes he lost, but whether he did the one or the other signified very little to any one beyond himself. The idea that losers committed suicide was not borne out by fact, nor

do I believe that any one deliberately robbed a till in order to come to Homburg and make a fortune. The most curious thing that I saw was this. A church in an Alsatian village was damaged by fire. The village blacksmith dreamt that he made a machine which, when wound up, threw out a counter with a number on it every five minutes. He went in his dream to Homburg with the machine, played on the number, and won enough to restore the church. When he related his dream to his fellow-villagers, money was subscribed, the machine was made, and he was sent to Homburg with a small capital. Every day for a week the machine was placed in the gambling-room under his supervision, two peasants stood at the roulette-table to play, and the village priest walked up and down the room praying. At the end of the week the requisite amount was won. The priest assured me that this was the result of a miracle. He may have been right, or he may have been wrong. Anyhow, the money was won, and the village church restored.

The season at Homburg for foreigners was, as now, the late summer, and the foreigners who visited it were somewhat mixed. They mainly consisted of English. What is now called the "smart set" did not exist, nor had the reign of the millionaire seeking to force his way into society by lavish expenditure begun. The English were largely composed of people of social standing in London. Some gambled, some did not. There were a good many of the *grandes cocottes de l'Empire*, and there were a good many Russians and Austrians. The correct thing was economy. All the ladies—sheep and goats—dressed with studied simplicity. There was no dressing for dinner either by men or women. Almost every one took rooms in some villa, and the rooms were absurdly cheap. All dined at the table-d'hôtes at five, and the dearest table d'hôte did not cost more than 1s. 8d. People took the waters under a vague notion that they might possibly benefit them, but they were nothing then but a pretext for coming. The Kursaal and the garden before it were full in the afternoon and the evening. Golf, tennis, croquet, and such-like amusements were unknown. We were all a happy family—the good, the bad, and the indifferent. There were no Mrs. Grundys. Each one did what best pleased him or her, and, provided that a person's manners were not offensive, or he or she was not a bore, no one complained.

Now all is changed. When the gambling was abolished, in 1872, the probabilities were that Homburg would disappear as a watering place. But fortunately for it the Prince of Wales, as he was then, was recommended to take its waters. This led many of his future faithful subjects to follow in his steps, and Homburg became the most popular resort for the summer only amongst English people. The Prince, now King, has for the last two or three years betaken himelf to Marienbad, and Homburg has somewhat suffered by his absence. It is a sort of English oasis in Germany, and whilst this attracts English, it seems to have driven away other foreigners. The present season, I am told, is not a full one. If not, however, a good season must be an overcrowded one. There are comparatively few of the people whose doings are recorded in fashionable newspapers, but there is an enormous collection of pretty looking English girls. The men are mostly old or middle aged. Why English young men are absent I do not know. But so it is. Tennis, croquet, and golf reign supreme. Each has a club and an enclosure. Those who do not play take tea and look on. What I regret is that the simplicity of former days has disappeared. Dinner is at eight. There are many dinner parties and not a few balls. Were I to venture to criticise the ladies, I should say that they over dress. There is too much the air of a suburban garden party, at which each woman puts on her best things to cut out her dear friends, and there is too much etiquette and formality. We are all, however, highly respectable—not indeed because we are better than those who came here in former years, but because it seems to be the correct thing. Prices have gone up very much. Everything costs three or four times what it used to. This, however, is the case in most places. Not only has the standard of comfort amongst the well-to-do gone up everywhere, but everywhere there is a vein of ostentation, which must be no advantage to the vast number of persons who find it somewhat difficult to make two ends meet. On the Continent at present there are far more persons who travel. But the French stick to France, the Italians seldom get beyond Switzerland, the Austrians frequent their own watering places, the Americans are, I think, rather more inclined to France than to Germany, the English themselves are far more stay-at-home than they used to be. Where the Russians go when they are not fighting the Japanese I do not exactly know. Altogether, I can recommend Homburg for a month or so. The air is excellent. According to the doctors, the waters have become far more potent than they used to be in various maladies, and, certainly, if they do no particular good, they do no particular harm. There are games for those who like games, and balls for those who like balls. The gardens are large and beautifully laid out. There are many pretty drives through the surrounding woods. The cuisine of many of the hotels and restaurants is good, and to those who want to rest and potter it is an ideal spot.

BRITISH *v.* CONTINENTAL HOTEL TARIFFS.

Apropos of the recent articles in Truth on "Holidays in England," one of my readers sends an interesting letter, pointing out, what is no doubt a fact, that many people who would gladly make holiday tours in their own country choose the Continent instead on account of the cheapness of hotel accommodation. He says that he and his wife have been for several years in succession in the autumn and winter to Montreux and Territet, and have been boarded and lodged there as well as they could desire for seven or eight francs a day, and he asks where in England he could be equally comfortable at anything like that price. There is, no doubt, much force in this, and it is not only true of the winter season. There are plenty of places in Switzerland where comfortable accommodation is to be had at eight francs a day or

thereabouts, even in August, and the same thing may be said of other parts of the Continent—*e.g.*, the Black Forest, Brittany, and many of the less fashionable places on the French coast, especially the west side. My correspondent wants to know why hotels cannot be run equally cheaply in England, and is confident that there is a fortune awaiting anybody who will make the experiment.

I have often thought the same thing myself, but there are certain obvious difficulties in the way. In the first place, the cheap Continental hotel does things in a very different style from what is customary in England. I have in my mind a mountain hotel in Switzerland, where I have been "done" at seven francs a day, and I suppose one may take it as fairly typical of such establishments. It is built almost entirely of wood, and in the cheapest possible style—mostly by the local carpenters, I should imagine. The furniture throughout is of the simplest description, and decorations practically non-existent. Only one public room, the "salon," boasts of a carpet, couches, and easy chairs. I should say that £15 would buy all the furniture in the "speise saal," accommodating, perhaps, fifty people. About 30s. would do the same for the bedstead, washstand, rickety chest of drawers, two chairs, and strip of carpet in my bedroom at 7 fr. the night. Two or three portable zinc "sitz-bads," at about 5s. each, furnish the bath accommodation of each floor, and so on through all the furniture. The staff comprises a couple of waiters; host, hostess, and their family, who work like niggers, day and night; a resident female cook, and, for the rest, women and girls of the village, who mostly come in for the day as chambermaids and waitresses. Another most important point to remember is that this establishment is only open for about three months in the year, during the greater part of which it is packed as full as it will hold from the ground to the roof. The proprietor, in the particular case under notice, and in many others, is really a small landowner or farmer, and he raises his own irreproachable dairy and poultry produce, as well as the less irreproachable beef and veal, and the so-called "mutton" consumed in his hostelry. There is a family of them really, owning three or four hotels up and down the valley. You can easily understand, if you also take into consideration what such items as rent, rates, taxes, and wages stand at, that they are making a fine thing out of it, even taking visitors *en pension* at 7 to 9 francs a day (according to bedroom), and without selling much champagne at 12s. a bottle. Of course, this is an extreme case, but one wants an extreme case to bring home the argument. The average hotels in the towns and on the lakes may be a trifle more expensively built, furnished, and staffed, and they generally charge a few francs a day more; but their capital and their working expenditure are on a much lower scale than that of the average English hotel. The question is how far it is practicable to run an establishment on more or less similar lines in England. Obviously it is out of the question if you are going to spend at least ten times the amount on building and decorations, and perhaps twenty times the amount on furniture and carpets; if you are going to keep the hotel open all the year round, running it for six or eight months of that time at a dead loss; if you have to meet heavy charges for rent, rates, taxes, water, and lighting; if it is to be run by a company employing one or two highly-salaried managers, perhaps looking out for perquisites, and an extravagant staff of clerks, book-keepers, waiters and other resident servants, male and female; and if you are going to give your boarders three heavy British meals a day, serving the best British meat at each of them, and a dinner of five or six courses, which does not yield much profit at 5s. a head. These are the items that make the difference between the cost of running the British and the Swiss hotel, and make the higher charges necessary without yielding any proportionate profit to the proprietors.

Supposing it were possible to open cheaply constructed and cheaply furnished season hotels on the above lines, in remote country districts, where rent and rates become negligible quantities, the question still remains whether the same class of people will patronise them that go to Switzerland. I doubt it for several reasons. It is characteristic of the Englishman that he will put up with a great deal abroad that he will not put with at home. Another characteristic of him is that he is ashamed to do things on the cheap at home as he does them abroad. He would not like it to be known that he was staying at an English hotel that boarded visitors at, say, 7s. 6d. a day—especially if there was another close by, frequented by his acquaintances in the City or the West End, which would not look at you under 15s. Abroad these scruples do not seem to trouble him. Finally, there is the great difficulty that hotels on this scale in England would be patronised by a class of cheap excursionists who do not penetrate to the by-ways of the Continent. In my Swiss hotel the English company is largely composed of barristers, parsons, University dons, public school masters, and all that there is of the most fastidious in middle class society of moderate means. The same hotel in Scotland, Wales, or Devonshire would attract the classes that fill the lodging-houses of Margate, Blackpool, or Ilfracombe, and the other class would fly from it in horror. That might not hurt the proprietor, but it means that the hotel would not keep anybody away from Switzerland. And I rather think that this difficulty—that cheap accommodation means distasteful company—has far more to do with sending people abroad for their holidays than the lack of cheap accommodation at home.

MRS. MORGAN'S FINANCES.

I pointed out a fortnight ago that the observations in Truth upon the management of the London Institution for Lost and Starving Cats were to a great extent justified by the report of the firm of chartered accountants who have audited the books of the institution for the last year. The auditors report that the books had been kept in such a manner as to be quite useless for audit purposes, and that before accurate accounts could be prepared it was necessary to have the books rewritten for the whole year from

such original materials as could be obtained. Coupling this statement with what has been previously mentioned in TRUTH as to the manner in which Mrs. Morgan, the treasurer and sole manageress, herself dealt with the funds in the hands of the bankers, no one can be surprised that the accounts previously issued should have been unsatisfactory in themselves, and have pointed to a long course of waste and mismanagement, if to nothing worse. The accounts, however, that have now been prepared by Messrs. Blakemore and Co. bear out my opinions of this charity in other ways than this. The most important point to notice is the cost of conducting the institution. The business of this institution is to kill "unwanted" cats and dispose of their carcases. Although called a "home," it is so only such in the sense that the cats may be housed there for a day or two prior to their destruction—a temporary home on their way to their long home—the number of animals permanently kept in the institution being quite insignificant by comparison with the number collected and killed. At the time I dealt with the concern the last accounts which had been made up—Mrs. Morgan having got very much behindhand in this matter—covered the year 1901. In that year Mrs. Morgan had, according to her own statement, despatched 15,700 pussies. To do this had cost, according to Mrs. Morgan's own account, about £3,700, so that the cost of killing each cat amounted to no less than 4s. 8d. When this expenditure was described as preposterous Mrs. Morgan protested. On turning, however, to the report for 1903, and the accounts prepared by Messrs. Blakemore and Co., what do we find? In that year the number of cats received is stated to have been 14,002. The number killed, therefore, would not have been very far short of 14,000. The upkeep of the home during the same year under all heads cost £1,484 10s. 2d., which gives an expenditure of a little over 2s. 1d. per cat. In other words, the expenditure has somehow been reduced by considerably more than one-half.

It may be said by Mrs. Morgan and her friends: "This, at any rate, is a practical proof that the management has been reformed. Take credit to yourself, if you like, for having reformed it, but you are bound to admit that the management is now on a satisfactory footing." I regret to say that I cannot accept this interpretation of the figures. Assuming that the institution was conducted in the old style up to the date of the TRUTH articles in August last, and that Mrs. Morgan thereupon set herself to work to effect radical reforms and economies, it is a mathematical impossibility that during the three months of the year which then remained a saving of upwards of 50 per cent. could have been effected upon the pre-existing rate of expenditure. To reduce the expenditure of an institution by more than one-half in the course of a whole year would be a very surprising achievement, and would point to the most gross maladministration in the previous period, but no reforms could by any possibility effect such a saving for the whole year after three fourths of the year had already expired. We must therefore look to other causes than administrative reforms for the explanation of the sudden reduction of Mrs. Morgan's expenditure. Nor is it, in my judgment, necessary to look far. Messrs. Blakemore and Co., after describing the process by which they rewrote the books for 1903, and prepared from them the accounts now issued, frankly admit that the accounts they have made out do not agree with those issued in previous years. They cannot explain the discrepancies, but they are satisfied that their accounts represent the truth for the period they cover. The inference from this is that the accounts previously issued did not represent the truth. When, therefore, one finds from Messrs. Blakemore's accounts that the annual cost of killing each cat in 1903 was 2s. 3d., and when one finds that Mrs. Morgan's accounts represented the cost of killing each cat in 1901 as 4s. 8d., and when one sees at the same time that no corresponding reduction of expenditure could possibly have been effected in the time available, the conclusion is unavoidable that Mrs. Morgan's accounts for 1901 grossly overstated the real expenditure. The words "grossly overstated" are not too strong. The expenditure for 1903 was £1,484 odd, that for 1901 was £3,700 odd. In 1903, 14,000 cats were dealt with; in 1901, 15,700. Assuming, as must be assumed, that for the greater part of 1903 the institution was being managed on the same lines as in 1901, the expenditure for the former year should not have exceeded £1,662, and even that figure assumes that the cost per cat is uniform, no matter how many are received, whereas everybody can see for himself that the increase in the number of cats does not involve a proportionate increase of expenditure, a great part of the annual charges being permanent charges, bearing no relation to the number of animals dealt with. We are therefore faced with a discrepancy of upwards of £2,000 between the cost of conducting this institution in 1901 and 1903 respectively, and of this discrepancy there is no explanation, except that the accounts for 1903 have been prepared by an independent firm of accountants from the original materials, while those for 1901 were prepared by Mrs. Morgan and her staff from books now found to be worthless for the purpose of audit.

The significance of this conclusion is the more evident when one compares it with the income for the corresponding years and the position as disclosed by the balance-sheet. In 1901 the income from subscriptions and other sources amounted to about £2,885. In 1903 the income from corresponding sources, including legacies to the amount of £108, had fallen to about £1,535. In the former year Mrs. Morgan's home-made accounts showed that not only had the £2,885 subscribed been expended on the home, but that further expenditure to the amount of nearly £900 had been incurred, and that the concern was consequently getting heavily into debt. In the latter year the researches of a com-

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petent firm of accountants show that even the income of £1,535 was not entirely expended, and that there was an excess of income over expenditure for the year to the amount of £85 8s. 6½d. In other words, when the institution prepares its own accounts an income of £2,885 is shown to be utterly insufficient for its needs; when an independent firm prepare the accounts, an income of £1,535 is shown to have more than sufficed for that purpose. The balance-sheet tells a similar tale. I published in TRUTH the curious balance-sheet prepared for 1901, and signed by a Mr. Harry G. Powell, of Hillside, Highgate-road. It represented an excess of liabilities over assets to the amount of no less than £2,443 18s. 7d., a statement admirably calculated to open the pockets or cheque-books of all sympathisers with Mrs. Morgan's noble work. Messrs. Blakemore and Co. have now prepared new balance-sheets for the beginning and the end of the period covered. The second of these shows at December 31 a surplus of assets over liabilities to the amount of £412 13s. 6d. Notwithstanding, therefore, a reduction of income from £2,885 to £1,535, the home has no liabilities which are not amply secured. In a word, every statement put forward as to the expenditure, debts, and general financial position of the institution at the time when I criticised it last year is now shown by an independent audit to have been utterly fictitious and misleading.

Before leaving the figures I cannot refrain from calling attention to a fact which is indicated by Messrs. Blakemore's accounts, although they themselves have made no observations upon it. Although in drawing up the income and expenditure account for last year Messrs. Blakemore enter the above-mentioned balance of income over expenditure, £85 8s. 6½d., they do not describe it, according to the usual practice, as "cash in hand." Turning to the balance-sheet, we find that all the "cash in hand" on December 31 was £3 4s. 8d. If this was all the surplus income visible, it follows that there was a deficiency of cash to the amount of £82 odd, a deficiency for which it is to be presumed the hon. manageress and treasurer is herself responsible. The balance-sheet indicates that the alleged advances of Mrs. Morgan herself to the charity still continue, and there is a debit entry of "Loans account, Manageress, £49 16s. 5d." If, while her loans account showed that Mrs. Morgan owed the institution £49, the auditors' calculations show that she was liable for cash of the institution to the amount of £82, it seems to follow that her loans account is of a somewhat fictitious nature, which is what I rather thought when dealing with the accounts last year.

As already mentioned, Mrs. Morgan has called on me to withdraw my observations upon her charity in view of the report now issued. So far from doing that, I am of the opinion that the glaring discrepancies between her present auditors' accounts and those which she has personally issued call for some explanation on her part, if she is to be further trusted with the administration of the finances of this or any other institution. I had a letter the other day from one of Mrs. Morgan's supporters who advances the absurd contention that the lady has merely got into a muddle through her ignorance of finance, has made mistakes which anybody might have made, and ought not to be judged harshly now that she has taken steps to put the management on a proper basis. This argument is utterly absurd, because no one has any right to collect thousands of pounds from the public for a charitable purpose and keep the administration of the funds exclusively in his or her own hands, and there can be no shadow of excuse for any person doing this who is ignorant of the most elementary principles of account keeping, not to say of the elementary rules of arithmetic. No excuse for Mrs. Morgan, therefore, based upon her ignorance of money matters has the slightest validity. But as a matter of fact what we now see is not explained by mere ignorance of money matters or formal errors in book-keeping and accountancy. If the amounts alleged to have been expended in previous years were not really expended—and all the evidence suggests that they were not—the money received in those years has not been accounted for, and one is entitled to ask what has become of it.

In asking this question it is impossible to lose sight of the incomprehensible mystery attached to Mrs. Morgan's private position. As already mentioned, she started this home in the name of "Miss Williams," subsequently changing it to "Mrs. Williams." After some years, when the home was growing into a bigger concern, and she herself was removing into a larger house and increasing her personal expenditure, she revealed herself as Mrs. Morgan, the wife of a gentleman who had originally objected to her association with a cats' home, but had apparently waived his objections when he saw that the cats were in receipt of a large income and had obtained the patronage of Royalty. From that day onwards Mr. Morgan has ostensibly been maintaining his wife in her comfortable house in Regent's Park. Yet nobody connected with the home has ever seen him, his whereabouts are unknown, Mrs. Morgan herself declines to say where he is to be found, and he himself remains obstinately in hiding, although he must know that this inconsiderate conduct exposes his unfortunate wife to somewhat unfavourable remark, and he has been urgently appealed to in these columns to disclose his address, if only in the strictest confidence. It would be affectation under the circumstances to pretend that no doubt surrounds the existence of the retiring Morgan, and the existence of such a doubt has an obvious bearing upon the question which arises out of the financial administration of the cats' home in past years. If Mr. Morgan will come forward and satisfy me, not only of his existence but of the fact that it is he who has been supporting Mrs. Morgan and her establishment in Regent's Park during the last few years, I am quite ready to admit that the maladministration of the cats' home points to nothing worse than feminine inaptitude for arithmetic and ignorance of the elementary principles of book-keeping. As long, however, as the existence of Mr. Morgan remains shrouded in mystery I should be disposed to think that this mystery extends itself to the funds of the cats' home. In this also I think most reasonable people will agree with me.

HOLIDAYS IN IRELAND.—II.

The Irish Wild West was, a comparatively short time ago, as little known to the tourist of Great Britain, and even of Ireland itself, as the Wilder West of ranches and prairies on the other side of the Atlantic. All that is now changed. The royal road of the tourist has been opened in Connaught as elsewhere, the wave of progressive civilisation has swept over the land, leaving its traces in the comfortable hotels of modern equipment, to be found in a large number of delightful resorts amongst the mountains, lakes, and moorlands, or by the seaside. Connaught, the smallest of the four provinces of Ireland, is most Irish of the Irish, the province, through one of the many "curses of Cromwell," having been made a kind of Reservation, into which the Celtic race was herded. Hence they are now a kindly, polite people, many thousands of them speaking the Irish language without any question of renaissance in the matter; there, within less than a full day's journey from London, the tourist will find himself in a world quite as full of novelty as any Continental one. Brittany or Holland will not give the holiday-maker of Great Britain a more thorough change, nor even "Elizabeth's" charming island of Rugen. The late summer or early autumn, when the weather is often better than in the heart of the year, is well suited for touring in Connaught. The country is not, generally speaking, wooded; there are not trees enough to hold damp to any unpleasant extent. And if the wind and rain come they are fresh from the Atlantic, under which conditions they are even welcomed by the ever-increasing number of the disciples of the modern fresh air cult.

The number of popular resorts where days, or where weeks, can be pleasantly spent is large, especially in Connemara, though many to suit a variety of tastes lie outside it also. To begin in the North-East of Connaught, Sligo, the chief town in the county of the same name, is interesting for the antiquary and historian, as well as for the lover of scenery, its situation being extremely picturesque. The Midland and Western Railway runs there from Dublin, and the Great Northern by way of Enniskillen and the Lough Erne country. The Lough Gill country in the neighbourhood is second only to Killarney in its attractions of mountain, water, wood, and waterfall. The abbey in Sligo is one of the most beautiful and interesting ruins in the kingdom, with a fine Gothic window and exquisite cloisters. The carvings and sculptures are elaborate and in good preservation. The student can gain much instruction—if he cares to introduce it into a holiday—from object-lessons in history in stones. The excursions to be made in the neighbourhood are lovely and varied; boating on Lough Gill amongst the many-wooded islands, and amidst scenery soft and gentle as that of Windermere, or driving through mountains with extensive views inland and sea. The beautiful valley of Glencar, with its lake and waterfall, lies north of Lough Gill; there is good fishing in both these loughs. Excellent sea bathing and golfing can be had at Rosses Point, to which a steamer goes from Sligo several times a day. For those whom the distant past fascinates, and to whom the attractions of visiting islands in the Atlantic are greater than the alarms, a visit to the island of Inis-Murray will prove very interesting, owing to the remarkable monastic ruins to be found there. Ireland, notwithstanding all the late discoveries regarding it, still invites discovery by the archæologist and historian, and is rich in rewarding research. The Atlantic, however, is often a very stern and inexorable guardian of the archæological treasures of the islands which fringe the Irish coasts. Ballina is reached by car from Sligo, and is picturesquely situated on the River Moy, which flows into the historic Killala Bay, in which the French, under General Humbert, disembarked and surprised the garrison of Killala. Downpatrick Head, north of Killala, standing out in the Atlantic, is well worthy of being visited by those who love majestic sea-beaten cliffs and wild scenery. Some miles west of Ballina is Crossmolina, where there is a good hotel close to Lough Conn, with trout-fishing in Loughs Conn and Cullin. A wild country of mountains, rivers, and lakes stretches beyond Crossmolina, the Nephin mountains being prominent in the views.

From Ballina to Westport the railway picturesquely skirts the Loughs, passing Foxford, renowned for its tweeds and early responsiveness to industrial effort in the country. After Foxford, with its modern industrial history, comes Castlebar, again recalling the past days when Humbert's attempt at discovering Ireland came to nothing. At Westport the tourist finds himself in one of the most picturesque spots in the country. Thackeray's admiration for the scenery was enthusiastically expressed many years ago. "'Wonderful, wonderful,' he pronounces the effect of the great mountain—sacred, too—Croagh Patrick, and Clew Bay, in the sunset, as he saw them on his arrival in Westport, which is situated on Clew Bay. "Printers' ink will not give these wonderful hues." The curious thing is that his charming descriptions of the beauties and wonders of the West, and his exhortation to "come and see," did not meet long ago with an enthusiastic response. However, whether or not the tourist was then willing to go and see, there were difficulties in his way. It was not until long after that the royal way of comfort and convenience beloved by him was thrown open. Now, in changed circumstances, he can go and see the unchanged beauty which evoked Thackeray's enthusiasm, and there is little doubt, whatever the poet may think of the improvement of Nature's best charms "when we see them reflected in books that we love," that the mere average tourist, given more to prose than poetry, gains the happiest impressions of them when seen from the comforts of a good hotel, in which good square meals are daily incidents. Clew Bay is a great inlet of the Atlantic, about twenty miles long by ten or so broad. It is dotted with wooded and grass-covered islands and surrounded by mountains. Westport lies south-east; at the north-east corner is Newport, to which a light railway goes from Westport, and thence through Mallaranny to Achill

Sound. The Mallaranny Railway Hotel, standing in a breezy situation, overlooking Clew Bay, with Croagh Patrick opposite and mountain ranges behind, is amongst the most popular of Irish resorts. Mallaranny has visitors at every season, as the winter is soft and mild. Weeks might be enjoyably spent there in perfect air of sea and mountain and modern comfort of the most up-to-date kind. Achill Island is not far distant, and is one of the most interesting of the Irish islands, with its wild mountains and great cliffs, against which the Atlantic beats magnificently. The views from it are grand and spacious on all sides. A stay at Dugort, on the northern shore of the island, amidst the wildest scenery, is an interesting experience of what may truly be called the Wild West. There are hotels at Dugort and at Achill Sound. Clare Island, at the mouth of Clew Bay, is not so easily accessible; its mountain and cliff scenery is fine, and it has historic and antiquarian interest. The renowned Grannaile resided there and carried on her piracy. Her ancient home is in ruined existence; the ruins of a Cistercian abbey also give interest to the island. The air of Achill is more bracing than that of the mainland, and is considered of special curative value for dyspepsia and nerves. Air is the great nerve tonic; there is little doubt about the quality and the quantity of it to be had in Achill. A day on the island, or, still more, a night, with a gale blowing in from the Atlantic, would not easily be forgotten. Golf links are, of course, to be found in the West as elsewhere in Ireland; those at Mallaranny are much in favour.

Other popular places of resort in the country which is generally, if not quite correctly, called Connemara, are Leenane, Renvyle, Letterfrack, Clifden, and Recess. At the latter place is another Midland Railway Hotel. Recess is a lovely inland resort at the head of Glendalough. It is on the railway line from Galway to Clifden, and situated close to the rugged ranges of mountains known as the Twelve Pins, into whose fastnesses in "the brave days of old" the O'Flahertys retreated from their enemies, and sallied forth to attack them. A solitary country of mountain, moorland, and bog land, of innumerable shining lakes, where sedges whisper and water-lilies bloom. The roads, generally running through wide valleys between the mountains, are beloved of cyclists. Happy days and weeks may be passed at Recess, which is also much favoured as a fishing resort. The same thing may be said with regard to Leenane and Renvyle, both of which are by the sea, the latter in more open sea. Leenane is in the heart of Connemara between Westport and Clifden and Recess. It is a charming spot at the end of an inlet of Killery Bay, which, though many miles long, is only half a mile in breadth. Leenane can be made the centre from which to see some of the finest scenery in Connemara. The drive to Renvyle, Letterfrack, and thence through the lovely Pass of Kylemore can hardly be surpassed in its scenic beauty of various kinds. Rugged mountains, precipitous rocks, thick woods, and wonderful hedges of fuchsia are amongst the attractions. The picturesque Kylemore Lake, two miles long, lies between high mountains. Kylemore Castle stands beside it, now belonging to the Duke of Manchester. Kylemore House, also in the neighbourhood, is one of the numerous picturesque places of which Lord Ardilaun is the owner in Ireland. Excursions can also be made to Loughs Mask and Corrib. At Cong, which lies between the two loughs, are the very fine ruins of an ancient abbey, and not far distant are many interesting memorials of past ages. The larger Connemara lakes, Glendalough, Inagh, and Ballynahinch, afford fine salmon and trout fishing. Clifden is a seaside place and quite modern, its situation at the head of the Bay of Ardbear on high ground, giving it the full benefit of the Atlantic air. The light railway from Clifden to Galway goes through a country of great beauty, of mountains and innumerable lakes, big and little, gleaming, if the sun be shining, on all sides.

Galway, the "city of the tribes," is one of the most interesting towns in Ireland. It has filled many pages of history with its varied and successive records of tribal battle and strife, commercial prosperity, of the heavy blight of the "curse of Cromwell," and of the Williamite war. The air of the past rests on the town, which, as yet, shows little sign of awakening to modern prosperity. The Claddagh people, a race of fishers living apart from the general population—somewhat like gipsies in their aloofness—suggest, in their olive complexions, black hair and eyes, and frequently handsome faces, the Spanish origin of the Milesian race. Galway Bay, on which the town is situated at the mouth of the river Corrib, is the finest inlet on the Irish coast. Two miles from Galway, and connected with it by a tramway, is Salthill, a pleasant place to stay at, with sea breezes of healthful renown. The road to Spiddal, on the north side of the bay, is wild and beautiful. On the opposite side is the grey coast of Clare, the weird country known as the Burren, so beautifully described by Miss Lawless in her powerful "Hurrish." The bay opens wide to the full Atlantic, and at its twenty miles wide entrance are the famous Isles of Arran. Miss Lawless's "Grania" gives a most realistic as well as picturesque description of these islands as they now are. Tourists to Galway should read both her books, which tell, as no guide-book does, of the places and the people. As the North of Ireland has given its two distinguished men, Lords O'Hagan and Russell, to modern history, the South, on the opposite shores of Galway Bay, has given Lord Morris of Spiddal and Lord O'Brien of Kilfenora.

Clare is reached from Galway, either by steamer across the bay, or by railway to Athenry and Ennis. The attractions of Clare are mainly its seaside resorts and celebrated cliff scenery. Lisdoonvarna, however, lies inland, and is of old and great renown for its springs, and classed with Ilkley in Yorkshire and Braemar in Scotland as the three places in the kingdom where the air is most perfect in health-giving properties. It is a favourite health resort, and many interesting excursions can be made from it. Kilkee is unsurpassed as a bathing place, facing the wide Atlantic, and situated amidst grand rock scenery. Its "Atlantic rollers" are amongst its best known sights, and as their effect is heightened

by bad weather, tourists find some compensation, when otherwise enduring the afflictions of storm and rain. The coast from Kilkee southward to Loop Head at the mouth of the Shannon has remarkably fine cliff scenery. Northward to Hag's Head, at the entrance to Galway Bay, the cliffs are still finer, including the celebrated cliffs of Moher. Not far from the latter is Lahinch, with its new and very popular hotel and golf links of renown. A golf tournament is annually held at Lahinch, which is frequented by golfers all the year round, as well as by the vast numbers of them who specially attend the tournament. Lord Dudley has played on the Lahinch links, and on most of the prominent ones in Ireland. From Lahinch, Limerick and the South of Ireland are reached direct by rail through Ennis. Tourists of archæological tastes might go by Kilkee to Kilrush also by rail, and thence by Shannon steamer to Limerick. Kilrush is worthy of a visit for the sake of Scattery Island, which is only one mile from the shore. It contains one of the finest round towers in the country, quite perfect, and 120 ft. high, and also some interesting ruins. An ancient monastery was founded there by St. Senanus, whose fame as a woman-hater is second only to that of St. Kevin.

The West of Ireland boasts many more places of interest to tourists, but the necessity of making a long story short, allows of no more particulars. Once in the country, they can make discoveries for themselves; it is unlikely that they will ever experience any cause for regret in having taken the advice of Thackeray, "Come and see."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"DOUBLES" AND MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

THE Beck tragedy of errors has, I see, been serving as a dull-season topic. Let us hope that the stir it causes in Fleet-street will not die out before the Long Vacation ends. I do not so much wonder at miscarriages of justice arising from doubles as at so few happening. To test a witness to identity by setting him or her to pick the accused prisoner out of a crowd is really no test. A person charged with a serious crime must feel terribly nervous, however innocent. His countenance would probably display this feeling and convey a hint to the person seeking to identify him. For the test to hold water, all the other men among whom he is placed should be made also to imagine themselves suspected of the same crime. Three years ago, in a Norman village, the mother of a soldier saw a murderer in her own son. He would have gone to the guillotine had the jury not admitted exculpating circumstances. The real murderer confessed the crime on his death-bed, and made so clear a statement as to justify the intervention of the Court of Cassation. He resembled the technically guilty man. The uniform, as he rushed by the peasant woman's cottage at five o'clock in the morning, completed the resemblance. In Normandy the visual nerves both of men and women are often blunted by cider-brandy, and were so, probably, in this instance. French witnesses generally have clear perceptions and heads. Still, at times when "public rumour" runs strong against an accused party, they may be suggestionised by it into seeing identity where there is only resemblance.

The whole defence of Marie Antoinette in the diamond necklace affair rests on mistaken identity. Who made the mistake? Cardinal de Rohan, Grand Chaplain of the Court and ex-Ambassador to the Court of Vienna. He had been in the habit of seeing her from her thirteenth year, and had celebrated mass in her presence, as Grand Chaplain, the Sunday before his adventure in the Bosquet de la Reine. Few at Court could have been more familiar with her appearance. The person for whom he mistook her, Oliva, a Palais Royal *promeneuse*, was ten years younger. The Cardinal's mother had filled the first place in the Queen's Household. One might imagine any mistake as to identity impossible. So thought the Court, and the Parlement, or highest court of justice, of Paris. Yet a whole school of historians have, within the last twenty-five years, and at the cost of much serious research, been proving the opposite.

The Bosquet de la Reine is close to the west end of the great terrace, and is still simply a *théâtre de verdure*. Two avenues with a western aspect lead into it. I on purpose went to the Bosquet de la Reine on an anniversary evening of the alleged hurried apparition there of the ill-fated Queen to the gallant Cardinal. The setting sun lighted it up magnificently. If the Queen passed between the sun and the Cardinal his eyes might have been dazed almost to blindness. This could have well happened. If he stood with his back to the sun he must have seen so well the fleeting figure as to preclude the possibility of error. About a year before the *esclandre* the Queen's Imperial mother remonstrated with her on her inordinate love of jewellery, and refused to admit that the extravagant sums she spent on it could in any way add to the dignity of the Crown. The maternal remonstrant cited herself as an example. She never afforded herself more costly jewels than were absolutely necessary. It could not be said that her regal situation suffered in consequence. This letter appears in the correspondence edited by Arneth. In weighing moral evidence it should not be discarded. The judges of the Parlement of Paris might have known of it from some gossip in the Queen's Household.

The Emperor Napoleon III. had a double of about his own age in the contractor for public fêtes during the Second Empire. His name has escaped my recollection. He had also contracts for soldiers' shoes and uniforms, and he kept his stores at the old Hippodrome after the lease to a circus company fell in. His likeness to the Emperor startled me the first time I saw him. This happened at the ticket office of the Passy railway station. When I scanned him more closely I saw that he was not Louis Napoleon risen from the grave. No double will bear scrutiny, however well made up, as this particular one would have been. He knew of the

resemblance I had noticed, and gloried in it. The Comte de Paris also had a double, or what looked one at a distance. The likeness, strong enough to have been the pivot of a tragedy of errors, disappeared greatly when he took off his hat. The Comte de Paris had a pointed head like the German Emperor's; the person I speak of as resembling him had a full forehead projecting near the roots of the hair.

I often saw old and young ladies extremely like Queen Victoria. The former mostly came from Frankfort or parts of Franconia, near the Duchy of Coburg. The sister of the late Mrs. Moses Levy, of the *Daily Telegraph*, could, had her complexion been sunburnt, have easily passed at the age of eighty for the late Queen. Louis Philippe's double, an Italian named Chiappini, emigrated to the Cape. His grandson-in-law is Mr. Rudd, the associate of Cecil Rhodes. The resemblance was even stronger between Louis Philippe and Chippini *padre*. I have somewhere a letter dictated by the late Lord Newborough to his son, and addressed to me, in which his lordship stated that the first time he saw the Citizen King he exclaimed: "What an image of Chiappini!" and could not keep his eyes from following him for a whole evening.

In history we have the false Smerdis. Different impostors passed themselves off as Sebastian, King of Portugal, who was believed to have been killed in a battle with the Moors in Morocco. Miss Jane Porter early in the last century revived the legend in a novel. She sided with those who held Sebastian to have been wounded only, and hunted down by Philip II. of Spain, who seized on his heritage. Three "false Joans of Arc" appeared in the six years following that of her execution. Two of them avoided every one who had known her.

I have read with deep interest Prince Krapotkin's character-sketch of the Czar, published in the *Speaker*. I know the author, and used often to meet his wife when he lay in Clairvaux Prison. His imprisonment, I then thought, and think still, was a gage required by the Emperor Alexander III. before he committed himself to the Russian alliance. My first meeting with Prince Krapotkin was at the house of the late Elisée Reclus the morning after his release from Clairvaux, his health utterly broken down. He struck me as one of Nature's gentlemen, perfected by education. He had a sweetness and saintliness, albeit an anarchist, that one could not expect to meet in an Englishman of his rank, however delicate his culture or *humanitaire* his ideas. His simplicity at once captivated as a flower of the soul. A thing that he said is worth remembering. I had been told by a fellow-prisoner how the Citoyen Krapotkin had taught foreign languages at Clairvaux. Wishing to say something agreeable, I repeated this. "One cannot teach a language," said Krapotkin; "it must be learned." I had never thought before of the discipline of the will involved in learning a foreign language out of the country where it is universally spoken. The reason then came home to me of the fine intellectual and character-drill the study of dead languages gives.

Krapotkin sent me his memoirs. They give, without the slightest egotism or wish to shine or to *faire la littérature*, a moral portrait of himself. In one respect they approximate to those delightful little masterpieces of Xavier de Maistre. They are rich in telling mosaics, composed of small incidents. No tawdry rhetoric, no garish effects, no forcing of the note to rise above matter-of-fact flatness, for values are instinctively observed. The narrative ripples on with infinite variety, like an upland brook. Judgments are penetrating. Their truthfulness alone makes them severe, for the author never sins from want of charity. As there has been such terrible truckling by British pens to Nicholas ever since he came to the throne, *j'ai bu du lait* on reading the character-sketch in the *Speaker*.

My personal impressions of the Czar I conveyed to you in October, 1896, and also those of his Russian *entourage*, which seemed to me made up of hard livers, incapable as they could be. He did not strike me as a high type of manhood, but as *plein de gentillesse*, if made on a small pattern. I thought a pretty sauciness, chiefly expressed in the head, and in the saucily turned-up nose, quite taking. Björnson, the eminent Scandinavian novelist, saw, in writing about Finland, mischievous *gaminerie* in this peculiarity. It amused (he said) the Czar to flout European opinion by girding at Finland. He (Björnson) had heard so from the Court of Copenhagen. This may well be. Russians—and connected with their court—now assure me that ten years spent amid the fumes of flattery have not improved the Emperor's disposition. They cannot blame him for ridding himself of De Witte, whose policy it had been to drive the moujiks from their villages into manufacturing centres. What they regretted was the cause of the disgrace, namely, the plain speech of De Witte and the hostility to him of a palace coterie.

A certain imperiousness, hardly noticeable in 1896, struck the French statesmen assembled to meet the Czar at Compiègne. Prince Krapotkin is right again in speaking of the former as unfavourably impressed, or rather *froissés*—a French word here more serviceable than any English. The snail is *froissé* if you touch, however lightly, the tip of its horns, and recoils at once into its shell.

This *froissément* may have come of the exercise during nearly six years of irresponsible power. In that time the Bear had put his paw well down on Manchuria, where he meant to keep it. He felt, naturally, less beholden to France than in 1896. That might have made a difference in manner. The Emperor and Empress, I know, stood aloof from host, hostess, and their official French guests. Their Imperial Majesties were as if at an hotel where they had engaged to have meals in their private rooms. What else could have been expected, considering? I think I mentioned at the time how, neglecting the Présidente at the Bethany review, the Czar, in the glee of a stimulating outing, devoted himself to the Empress. She returned his devotion. Seeing this, M. Loubet exclusively chatted with the lady on his left and attended to her wine glass.

A French officer—I must not say whether naval or military—who served as aide de camp to the Emperor at

the Châlons review, said to me when I spoke of his *gentillesse*: "His smile struck me as being cold as a ray of polar sunshine."

I had a long acquaintance with Vice-Admiral Ponty, whose wife I knew from childhood. He, as aide de camp of Vice-Admiral Gervais, took a prominent part in the Franco-Russian naval demonstrations. His familiarity with the Court of Athens when it was an annexe of the Court of St. Petersburg rendered his opinion valuable. A strong Conservative, Admiral Ponty meant to praise the Emperor Nicholas in describing him as a reactionist and resolved to keep in his father's footsteps. A naval officer is unable to look at a despotic monarch from the civilian standpoint. His idea of government is that of the ship captain, whose one great duty is to command.

I hardly wonder at the fire in the Forest of Fontainebleau. The French, if they forgive and forget easily, are terrible in the first emotion of anger. In these respects the artist and anarchist *ouvrier* resemble each other. Imagine the feelings of either at finding himself shut out from all the wild places, the paths stopped with barbed-wire fences, and game rangers, paid by the State, acting as policemen for private persons. After September 1 wanderers will be warned off the roads in the game-haunted parts. The shootings in the forest are jobbed away, and have been for the last twenty-seven years, for miserably small rents. The whole of the domain forests, which are so far-reaching, bring in a revenue of less than £60,000 a year. The rents of the different shootings of Fontainebleau are under £1,500. This is one of the many instances in which truth and probability conflict. The forests will pay best in being kept for public recreation grounds; that is to say, for wanderers and artists. Most of the lessees are Society people, and by no means confined to *la haute banque* or *la haute juiverie*, though doubtless connected by matrimonial links with both. Fontainebleau when I first knew it was as wild as a Scotch moor. A sojourn there brought back tone to jaded nerves and lifted one above the prose of life. There are places on the face of the earth which are as wireless telegraphy in communication with the source of all beauty. Fontainebleau is one of them, the Acropolis is the other. Philæ used to be the third until hydrographic engineers drowned the island on which the temple stands. I am not sure that in loveliness Philæ did not far outstrip the Acropolis. One had at Philæ a combination, too beautiful to be talked of save in music, of water, dryness, fertility, stony desert, barrenness, and the magic of ever-changing colour.

Bismarck throughout the Franco-Prussian War grumbled at "the Princes" who commanded under Prussian leadership. "The Princes have taken all the comfortable lodgings," "the Princes drink up the fine wines," "the caterers for the Princes carry off the best joints from the butchers and the best vegetables and fruits from the greengrocers," "the Princes are a cause of constant friction and embarrassment." Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern's baggage as described in a French paper reminds me of Bismarck's growls. His Royal Highness, who is brother-in-law of the German Empress, wanted to take to the Farthest East 500 *colis* or trunks, bales mostly bulky and weighty. Prince Khilkoff, Director of Railways, is said to have turned pale on receiving a letter from Prince Leopold's secretary. In his embarrassment he applied to the Czar for guidance, reminding respectfully his Majesty that Russian officers could only take a single box and a hand-bag. After an exchange of telegrams between St. Petersburg and Berlin, the Emperor William decided that his cousin could do with fifty boxes and bales. Members of the Imperial Japanese family are on the same footing as other officers and put up with the eternal rice cake and handful of dried fish.

There are five Popes on the face of the globe. They are the Pope of the Latin Church; the schismatic, or Orthodox, Pope; the Father of the Faithful, ruling at Constantinople; the Pope of Tibet, who has five hundred millions of subjects; and the schismatic Pope of the Mahommedan world, who reigns at Morocco. All five are threatened with hard times; 1904 has been unpropititious to them. He of Morocco takes his situation with the lightest heart, and goes on amusing himself with scientific toys. He is an amiable being, and the son of an English mother, who bargained in her marriage articles to be buried in British soil at Gibraltar or elsewhere. Since the signing of the Anglo-French accord German agents have given him no peace. He is glad of this. It opens to him a prospect of the Emperor William following towards France, civilly but firmly, a dog-in-the-manger policy. The finest pastures in Africa are in Morocco, and the Germans hunger for them. Of the five Popes, Pius X. is the most venerable, Nicholas the most feared, the Sultan the most terror-haunted and terrorist, the Dalai Lama the most mysterious, and the head of the Muslim schismatics the best fellow. We may see a few of them here some day taking the places of Daudet's "Rois en Exil."

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE Curiosities of the Curiosity Shops," dear Lady Betty, is a promising title. The writer has been an ardent collector for many years past, and is now wandering about England at random in search of valuable prints, scarce china, decorative furniture, and art treasures generally. In one village, on the East Coast, he has discovered a vicar who is a dealer: in a town in a western county, a bath-chair man who sells prints, china, clocks, and glass; in the Midlands, a sexton who collects curiosities for the London market; and in a secluded valley in Wales, a barber who buys in the district on commission for the West End traders! He has frequently wondered, as most collectors have, whether art dealers, like poets, are born and not made; two of them informed him that they had originally been waiters at hotels, and a third was a valet!

It is a late Victorian trick, it appears, to deposit oak

SPECIAL NOTICE.—A 10s. 6d. DINNER is now served daily at PRINCES', PICCADILLY, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

chests, dressers, chairs, and ornaments in pottery in remote cottages. The cottager is instructed to tell visitors that those articles have been in the possession of his family for generations! The great London dealers now lend pictures, tapestry, furniture, and valuable china, to fashionable American women, impecunious peers and peeresses, and popular West End men, who receive a commission up to a certain sum on the sale of these, and share the profits above the fixed price! "Lord ——," a rich London dealer assured the writer, "is the finest salesman in the trade. There is scarcely a chair or an ornament in his house in Belgravia that does not belong to me. He knows everybody, goes everywhere, makes the acquaintance of all the rich men and women as soon as they come from the United States, rise to the top from the City or South Africa, or arrive in London from the provinces. He introduces them to the other members of his gang—for a gang it unquestionably is; advises them to buy a house in Mayfair, on the sale of which he receives a commission; sells them furniture, pictures, prints, and china at prices I could not even ask, and procures for them their motor-cars, horses, wines, and cigars. It is all done, moreover, as a favour, and as he has been so obliging to them in all these matters they are expected to show their gratitude by giving him thousands of pounds' worth of fully-paid-up shares whenever they launch a new company! You would never suspect for an instant that he has any connection with me. He generally describes me as 'that infernal thief, Ebenezer,' and entreats rich and poor never to deal with such an unscrupulous swindler, a man who has not a single genuine article in the shop except by an accident! When we meet at Christie's I take off my hat, which act of civility he returns with a sulky nod, and then, looking round, surveys me with the utmost contempt, so that any one who is watching may gather that he thinks me the vilest of creatures! That night he dines with me and my family in the suburbs, and makes us shriek with stories of his dupes and their ignorance of art in particular and 'society' in general! I am not surprised that well-connected men and women are adopting the stage as a profession; many of them are in everyday life the finest actors and actresses there are. My customers often tell me that they cannot imagine how I find the valuable treasures I have to sell. It is simple. Those fashionable agents of mine visit all the best country houses as guests. If they see in any of them a picture or a suite of furniture which is saleable, they either let me know that it is there, and the pecuniary condition of the owner, or they instruct one of the gang to make an offer for it!"

"Do you know the pecuniary condition of most of the 'well-to-do' people?" I asked.

"Certainly," he answered. "Mr. Smith or Mr. Robinson, in these days in England, has an altogether better chance of thriving than has a well-connected man. If one of the former is inquired about, little is known of him. If I have occasion to ask about one of the latter, I am at once told, by his most intimate friends even, all there is against him: what nick-name he had at Eton; how disgracefully he behaves to his wife; what money he has dropped on the Stock Exchange; and how impecunious he is at the moment. My informants, of course, want to show me how well-acquainted they are with West End people, and it is easier to do that by telling what is bad of them than by doing the reverse. You are pulling each other down madly. I necessarily travel a great deal on the Continent and in the United States, but nowhere else but in England have I found any trace of this treachery. Here brother is against brother, cousin against cousin, friend against friend—behind the scenes of West End life—however attached they may appear to be in public. It is the last stage in the collapse of an old-world aristocratic system."

The indiscreet dealer is not one of the least interesting curiosities of a curiosity shop.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE month of August is a period of the racing season when it is possible to estimate the value of the form of the year to a considerable extent. Of course, no rational being will begin to meditate seriously on Two Thousand and Derby prospects until after the race for the Dewhurst Plate, or certainly not until the Middle Park Plate has been run; but so far as we have gone, it would seem that the best two-year-olds are Lord Rosebery's Cicero, by Cyllene out of Gas, and Mr. Fenton's Vedas, by Florizel II. out of Agnostic. Of this pair, many good judges predict the brightest future for Vedas, who was amiss when Cicero defeated him at Ascot, and he is more capable of improvement than Lord Rosebery's colt. Next to these two animals in order of merit I should be disposed to place the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins, and Cyanean, by Cyllene out of Nenemoosha, who has been sold to Mr. Hill-Wood for £3,300. This filly is a mere pony, and the best may perhaps be seen of her during the present season. Cyanean has no engagement of any importance, and she was unluckily withdrawn from the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park on October 7, when the minor forfeit was declared. Lord Crewe's Polymelus, by Cyllene out of Maid Marion, and the Duke of Portland's Pamflete, by St. Simon out of Mneme, should probably be placed next in order of merit, and the ruck of the two-year-olds are an exceedingly moderate lot.

Of the three-year-olds, Pretty Polly maintains her pre-eminence. She walked away from the best of the colts last season in the Champagne Stakes and in the Middle Park Plate, and she has won all her races this year without having once had occasion to exert herself. The colts are a poor lot. Henry the First has deteriorated to a truly shocking extent, and John o' Gaunt has been cursed with an extraordinary run of ill-luck. Delaunay (colt by Fortunio out of Pet) would probably have discovered himself to be one of the best of them if he had been engaged in the classic races.

Of the older horses, Sceptre appears to have lost her form, and when once a mare "goes to pieces" she is seldom of any value afterwards for racing. Zinfandel's failure to win the Ascot Cup was a direful disappointment, but I feel convinced that Lord Howard de Walden's horse would have been successful in that race if his jockey had "come through" with him. Rock Sand has won some rich stakes since Zinfandel and Sceptre defeated him at Epsom on the day after the Derby, but his reputation has not been heightened by these performances, as he has beaten nothing, and in two of the races which he carried off he had a prodigious advantage in the weights.

The backers of Pretty Polly for the St. Leger must be among the most infatuated of dunderheads. Under no circumstances could it be good business to bet odds on Major Loder's mare so long before the race, but as matters stand it is simply an example of the bottomless and boundless fatuity of backers of horses. If St. Amant comes fit and well to the post at Doncaster it will be easy to back Pretty Polly on more advantageous terms after the numbers are up. Every one knows that any Derby winner is sure to be a great public fancy for the St. Leger at the finish.

The field will probably include Mr. Musker's Henry the First and Admiral Breeze, Duke of Portland's Darley Dale (winner of the Eclipse Stakes), Mr. Alexander's Andover, Lord Harewood's Almscliff, Mr. S. B. Joel's St. Denis, and possibly one or two other outsiders. There will no doubt be plenty of place betting, for although on public form the three favourites ought assuredly to fill the first three places, yet the Epsom running has often been reversed in startling style at Doncaster. I expect that Almscliff will be a strong place tip at the last, and Lord Harewood's colt has greatly improved during the summer, and he can stay well.

John o' Gaunt's recent accident will probably prevent him from starting for the St. Leger. He has been a very unfortunate colt. He could not have lost the Newmarket Stakes if he had been well ridden, and when the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Ascot and other engagements which were at his mercy were waiting for him, he was amiss and could not start. John o' Gaunt, had all gone well with him, would have picked up stakes to the value of about £6,000 during the summer, and he had some promising autumn engagements. I never considered that Sir John Thursby's colt stood the slightest chance of winning the St. Leger while Pretty Polly is well. As to St. Amant, everything depends upon whether he will do his best, and in my opinion Mr. de Rothschild's colt has shown that he cannot be trusted unless he has it all his own way from start to finish, as was the case in the Two Thousand and in the Derby. Doncaster is not a course which one would select for a colt of his peculiar temper, and unless a miraculous change has taken place in St. Amant, he will probably "turn it up" if he is once fairly tackled. The tactics which proved so successful in the Derby cannot be safely repeated at Doncaster, which is a much more severe course than Epsom, to say nothing of the extra distance. If St. Amant made every post a winning-post, as in the Derby, he would probably be dead beaten by the time the field reached the Red House. I cannot understand the reasoning which induces the backers of St. Amant to expect that he will beat Pretty Polly. Nobody can tell whether either the one or the other will stay the St. Leger course. They have each won races over the R.M. and the Epsom mile and a half, but (putting aside the consideration of St. Amant's deplorable exhibition in the Newmarket Stakes) the mare simply walked away from him last year, both at Doncaster and at Newmarket. It appears to be taken for granted that this running is to be reversed in the St. Leger, but I do not understand that the backers of the colt have a particle of real ground for supposing that St. Amant will outstay Pretty Polly on September 7. However, it is well that an exciting race may be expected at Doncaster, as last year the St. Leger was altogether uninteresting.

There are only thirty-eight entries for the Great Yorkshire Handicap at Doncaster, an event which formerly excited general interest and extensive speculation. Thirty years ago there were sixty-two entries, with £200 of added money, and now the race is a subscription plate of £1,300, the minor forfeit being £5, a much larger entry might reasonably have been looked for. The best of the older horses are Mr. Bottomley's Wargrave, Mr. Clarke's Mark Time, Captain Forester's Lady Drake, Major Loder's Hammerkop, Lord Carnarvon's Mountain Rose, Mr. Hay's Palmy Days, Mr. Walker's Sandboy, Mr. Goodchild's Scullion, Mr. D. Faber's Saltpetre, Lord Ellesmere's Kroonstad, and Mr. G. Faber's Loveite and Fermoyle. The list of three-year-olds includes Mr. Buchanan's Hands Down, Mr. Perkins's Inverkeithing, Mr. A. James's Jupiter Pluvius, Mr. Henning's Foundling, Mr. Low's Imari, and Lord Penrhyn's Peroration.

There are thirty-seven entries for the Cleveland Handicap of £500 (one mile), and thirty-nine for the Alexandra Handicap of £500 (one mile and a half), and only forty-one horses have been engaged in the Portland Plate of £800, a handicap which at one time excited nearly as much attention as the Stewards' Cup. Among the horses entered are Lord Carnarvon's Santry (this colt will not start for the St. Leger), Mr. Daly's St. Brendan, Mr. Creet's Killeevan, Mr. Keswick's Csardas, Lord Howard de Walden's Imperious, Lord Wolverton's Montem, Mr. Stedall's Marsden, Mr. Kerne's Newsboy and Melayr, Sir J. Miller's Cossack and Cinquefoil, Mr. G. Faber's Duke of Westminster, Mr. Pulley's Fariman, and Mr. Joel's Sundridge, who will, of course, be top-weight.

Sixty-two animals are entered for the Prince of Wales's Nursery of £1,000, distance one mile, and fifty-three have been engaged in the Glasgow Nursery of £200, distance five furlongs. The distance of the former race should be reduced to six furlongs, and, indeed, mile races for two-year-olds should be abolished altogether. A remarkable number of winners are entered for the Prince of Wales's Nursery, including Mr. G. Faber's Queen of the Earth, Sir J. Miller's Amitié, Captain Orr-Ewing's Thrush and Song Thrush, Mr. Neumann's Petit Bleu, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell's Brother Bill, Mr. King's Comedian, Lord Carnarvon's Grandiflora, and Mr. J. B. Joel's Lancaster Gate.

A fortnight ago I mentioned the Middle Park Plate as being quite likely to be won by one of M. E. Blanc's colts. Jardy, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces (winner of the Oaks in 1898), made a successful début at Deauville last week, when he won the Prix Yacowlef very easily indeed, having eleven other two-year-olds behind him. On Tuesday Val d'Or, by Flying Fox out of Wandora, won the Prix des Deux Ans in a canter, beating a field of seven, and this colt had been so highly tried (added to the prestige of his stable companion's victory on Sunday) that odds of 7 to 2 were betted on him. Whichever of these colts may represent M. E. Blanc at Newmarket on October 14 will probably carry off the Middle Park Plate (which race was won by their owner in 1890 with Gouverneur), as the entry for that race does not include either Cicero or Vedas, and the form of the public lot is exceedingly moderate, while one has not heard of any dark animals which are likely to distinguish themselves in any special degree. Jardy and Val d'Or are both engaged in next year's Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger.

Zinfandel is undergoing a steady preparation for the Doncaster Cup, and I shall be much surprised and disappointed if Lord Howard de Walden's colt does not win that race. Zinfandel is a genuine stayer, and he could not have lost the Ascot Cup if he had been ridden in a sensible manner, while last year the Jockey Club Cup was also thrown away through his being insanely withdrawn from that race in favour of St. Maclou. He has, indeed, been a most mismanaged horse. It may be hoped that he will be kept in training for another year, and this season he certainly ought to win the Doncaster and Jockey Club Cups, the Sandown Stakes of £1,000 at the Autumn meeting, and the Limekiln Stakes at Newmarket. His only engagement next season is the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot, the entry for which race (eighty-three) includes Gouvernant, Ajax, Vedas, and St. Amant.

Entries for the Princess of Wales's Stakes and Jockey Club Stakes will be closing on the Tuesday after Doncaster, unless the arrangements in connection with those races are altered. It may be hoped that either the breeding allowances will be abolished altogether or else that there will be a clause cancelling any such allowance in the case of the winner of £1,000. The 9 lb. breeding allowances claimed by Rock Sand in this season's races have utterly destroyed them, and next year Sir James Miller's horse again figures in the entries, and still in the enjoyment of a breeding allowance which reduces his 14 lb. penalty to 5 lb. The winner of a great race ought not to be entitled to any such allowance, and in any case it should not be continued as a perpetual benefit. It is really too preposterous that Rock Sand's breeding allowance should not have been extinguished for future events by his victory in the Princess of Wales's Stakes.

Among the English mares sent this year to Flying Fox was Major Platt's Mary Seaton (dam of Merry Gal), by Isonomy out of Marie Stuart, who won the Oaks and St. Leger of 1873 for Mr. James Merry. Major Platt also sent Primrose to M. E. Blanc's horse. His famous old mare Lonely, by Hermit, who won the Oaks of 1885 for Lord Cadogan, is in foal to Orme, and Surprise-Me-Not went to Melton.

With the exception of Full Cry (filly by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins), the Duke of Devonshire's two-year-olds are an exceedingly moderate lot, the greatest disappointment being in the case of Mon Roy, by Orme out of Mon Droit, dam of Dieudonné. A very high opinion was entertained of this colt when he was a

yearling, and he was engaged in no fewer than forty-eight races, but, judging from his recent failure in a trial, his prospects of winning any of these events are grievously remote.

Only thirty-six entries have been obtained for the Queensberry Handicap of £500, which is a race in the place of the Old Cambridgeshire Handicap, to be run over the R.M. on the last day of the Houghton meeting, weights to be published after the Cesarewitch. A very moderate lot of animals have been engaged, putting aside Hackler's Pride. Lord Stanley's Flamma, who met with a mishap when running for the Liverpool Summer Cup, has been entered. There are very few three-year-olds, the best of them being Mousqueton, who has not been entered for either of the big handicaps. Mr. Baird's colt cannot stay one yard beyond a mile. The Queensberry Handicap has been named after that notorious Duke ("old Q"), who (as Lord March and Ruglen) was a staunch supporter of Newmarket, and a regular visitor there during many years. He was an original member of the Jockey Club, and belonged to it from 1750 until his death in 1810. He was a very active member, and bred and owned racehorses during the greater part of his life. He betted very heavily, and was an inveterate and most successful gambler. After a bad week at Newmarket he wrote to George Selwyn that he was stopping on there "to reflect coolly on these losses and the nonsense of keeping running horses."

I see it is stated that St. Denis will probably be reserved for the Jockey Club Stakes. Although Mr. Joel's colt will have a maiden allowance of 5 lb. at Newmarket, his chance of winning certainly does not seem to be roseate, as he would be meeting Rock Sand with only 10 lb. the better of the weights, and I would certainly expect Sir James Miller's horse to win easily on those terms. St. Denis is also engaged in the Great Foal Stakes of £1,000 on the first day of the First October meeting, and here his prospects are more hopeful, as in that race he would have 22 lb. the better of the weights with St. Amant, and John o' Gaunt, as matters now stand, would be giving him 5 lb.

The racing at Stockton last week was not so interesting as usual, and there were only small fields for some of the principal events. Andover was not sent to run for the Great Northern Leger, and Almscliff won cleverly from the filly by Isinglass out of Sweet Duchess, to whom he was giving 24 lb., so it was a most creditable performance. Next day Lord Harewood's colt won the Durham County Produce Plate, and he found no difficulty in giving 16 lb. to The Warrior, who was very heavily backed. Therapia started favourite for the Wynyard Plate, but Rievaulx (who had 9 lb. the better of the weights) won cleverly for Sir Edgar Vincent. The defeat of Therapia was a severe disappointment to Northern backers, as her victories at Gosforth Park and at Redcar had caused Mr. Hay's filly to be regarded as very smart. Rievaulx was well galloped at Newmarket before he was sent to Ostend, where he got away badly in the race for which he was so much fancied. On Thursday he won the Elton Plate very easily, and he is no doubt a really smart colt. Rievaulx, who is by St. Angelo out of Queen of the Dale, was bred by Lord Feversham, who sold him privately to his son-in-law. He is named after the old Cistercian Abbey on the borders of Duncombe Park, which is one of the most picturesque ruins in England.

There were good fields for most of the events at Hurst Park, but the only race of any interest on Friday was the Two-Year-Old Plate, which was won by Mr. Joel's Cherry Royal, by Royal Hampton, after a most exciting finish with Costly Lady and Silver Streak. Cherry Royal had run well at Sandown Park with Pamflete and Graceful. Silver Streak had 15 lb. the worst of the weights with the first and second, so the form was nothing grand. The £1,500 Lennox Plate on Saturday collapsed dolefully, as has been the case with so many other races of the same class during the present season. John o' Gaunt could not have lost if well, but in his absence Mr. Houldsworth's very moderate colt Lochryan was able to win, there being only four starters, and one of them was Cinquefoil, who had no pretensions to stay the course. There were 101 entries for this race.

There will be an overabundance of racing next week, with meetings at Derby, Kempton Park, and Sandown Park. It is impossible to understand why Derby should be dragged over three days when two would fully suffice, and the eccentric arrangement of one-day fixtures at the two suburban meetings is detestable.

Derby Summer meeting is not a "smart" fixture, differing in this respect from the Autumn meeting in November, when there are always large parties for the races at Chatsworth, Rangemore, Elvaston, Osmaston, Doveridge, Markeaton, Bretby, and other country houses in the neighbourhood.

There were thirty-eight entries for the Peveril of the Peak Plate of £1,000, which is the principal handicap on the Derby programme, and forfeit has been declared for only thirteen horses. Littleton, who is top-weight, will not be really fit for some time to come. Hazafi, Best Light, and Csardas have quite enough weight to carry, and Uninsured should be able to beat all such candidates. Love Charm is much fancied at Newmarket for this race. I shall give a plumper for Killeevan, who has been going remarkably well in her gallops, and she not only has a fine turn of speed, but is quite capable of staying the easy mile at Derby.

There are 128 entries for the Champion Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,000, and the fund recovers £640 of the advertised value of the race by means of the entrances. I shall predict the success of either Cyanean or Pamflete. There are 114 entries for the three-year-old heat of the same stake, and if St. Amant starts he certainly ought to win over this course, in spite of his 10 lb. penalty. John o' Gaunt will not run, and Darley Dale would meet the Derby winner at even weights.

There were originally 105 entries for the Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,000 at Kempton Park on Friday, September 2, and when the final forfeit was declared forty-five two-year-olds were left in. This race can be better dealt with next week.

At Sandown Park on Saturday there is a £500 race for three-year-olds and four-year-olds. Andover will win if he runs, and in the absence of Mr. Alexander's colt Harry Melton should be successful. Cicero is among the seventy-five entries for the £500 race for two-year-olds, but Lord Rosebery's colt certainly will not run. Rievaulx and Graceful are the best representatives of public form.

SURREY CRICKET AND ITS CRITICS.

The fact that the writer of these notes is away for his holidays prevented his dealing last week with a letter in reference to the stringent criticisms in Truth a fortnight ago on the methods of the Surrey cricket authorities, their Selection Committee, and the constitution of the Surrey team. The writer of the letter, whose position in the Surrey cricket team stamps him with the hall-mark of authority, states that his faith in Truth will be somewhat shaken if Truth publishes such false and malicious statements as it did about Surrey cricket. I am very sorry that his faith should be shaken, but I very much fear that it will not be strengthened by what I am going to say after carefully considering his communication. Having said that he fears that I am the victim of an ignorant contributor, he proceeds:—

> The only statement he can be left with unchallenged is that the Selection Committee should be "thrown out of the windows or swept away." (I did not suggest such Jezebelian tactics, but I let that pass.) Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but competent judges have expressed theirs before, and that is that the Surrey Selection Committee is the strongest possessed by any county or even the M.C.C. At any rate here it is, and your readers must judge for themselves. John Shuter and K. J. Key, ex-captains of Surrey; H. D. G. Leveson-Gower, late captain of Oxford

University; and W. E. Roller, probably the best all-round cricketer (even including Lohmann) that ever played for Surrey. Again, the captain has full power of selection, and can leave out or include anyone he sees fit, the "selection" being more correctly termed an advisory committee.

Then, again, far from Baker (who has a good business of his own) being shelved, he concluded an arrangement practically on his own terms with the Surrey committee early in the season.

Again, with regard to Abel, we have his own statement to the effect that the committee have left it to him to play whenever he feels fit.

Now, with regard to this advertisement of capacity, it is a great pity that my correspondent does not further describe Mr. Leveson-Gower as an intermittent Surrey captain. I am sorry to say that I am not impressed with this explanation of the state of affairs at the head-quarters of Surrey cricket. It bears all the impress of the semi-official explanation which, of course, is meant to make everything look very satisfactory. Let me examine the position. The first question I should like answered is this: How can the Selection Committee advise a non-existent entity? Week after week this season has the Surrey captain been changed. What I want to know is: Who is responsible for these various changes? Is it the General Committee or this most competent of all Advisory Committees? How often does this Committee meet, and who are present at its meetings? I am sorry to say that this paragon of cricket excellence must be judged by its work. No Advisory Committee of any county has played more cricketers in its county team or enlisted the services of more captains. If this be the test of competence, then I suppose Henry VIII. must be regarded as the best of husbands because he possessed at one time and another nearly as many wives as the Surrey Advisory Committee has had cricket captains this year. It is simply puerile nonsense to tell me that the captain has full power of selection, when it must be obvious to the meanest intelligence that it is utterly impossible for such a power to be exercised with any effect when the captaincy is being perpetually changed. I wonder if my very self-satisfied correspondent has read the cricket notes in the *Daily Telegraph* of August 16 last. There it is explicitly stated that the decline of the county dates from certain unfortunate circumstances in 1899. Mr. Key would have been delighted to continue in his office as captain if his relations with the Committee had remained amicable. It seems to me difficult to reconcile this statement with that of my correspondent that the captain has full power to select his team. What the cricketing public cannot fathom is the reason for the perpetual changes in the membership of the team. One day a new amateur, another day a fresh professional tried and dropped. The *Daily Telegraph* distinctly charges the Committee—and I presume that in this instance the General Committee is referred to—with mistaken policy in giving two amateurs in 1897 places in the team, and so excluding young professionals and chilling their enthusiasm. It is pointed out that in 1897 Hayes, who had made a brilliant first appearance against the Australians in the previous season, was only played twice. This mistaken policy, or, as I prefer to call it, miserable muddling, has been continued ever since. During the last two years it has been intensified to a degree that calls for the intervention of the general body of members who have any interest in the game of cricket and the revival of the good name of the Surrey eleven. If the fault does not lie with the Selection Committee, then it lies with the active members of the General Committee, and the sooner they are swept away the better for Surrey cricket.

It would indeed be difficult to find better instances of mismanagement than those given by my correspondent. I am sorry that I was wrong in saying Baker was shelved for his want of success. He has, so the semi-official statement leads one to believe, ceased to play because his agreement permits him to do so, while the authorities would like to have his services. Similarly with regard to Abel, the suggestion is that Abel, finding he was out of form, did not desire to play until a holiday match at Blackpool showed him that he was in scoring vein. Then he exercised his prerogative, and, deeming himself fit, played again. When, by the terms of their agreements with the General Committee, the professional players have such freedom of action, it is simply nonsense to talk about a captain having full power to select a team, or the Selection Committee being in any real sense advisory. Anything more calculated to upset a team than such arrangements it would be difficult to conceive. The captain of any ordinary club team knows as well as possible that nothing so upsets a team as the man who only plays when he thinks he will. The chances of other players are frittered away, and they get sick of being left out just when some big gun thinks he will play. Similarly with county cricket. The younger players must get tired of being shunted for players with such prerogatives, or of being kept out for some amateur, run in, most likely, by the General Committee only to be tried and dropped. Surrey, unlike Middlesex, has a big professional reserve, who ought to be drawn on, instead of enlisting the services of an amateur for a match and then leaving him out. Professionals with special privileges, and amateurs who can only play in a match or two, are bound to be sources of unrest in any team. It was this sort of policy that lost the county the services of Braund. Now, my correspondent may rest assured that I know perfectly well the reasons that are alleged for the Surrey people dispensing with his services. The cause of those reasons, if true, lies with the Surrey Committee. A young and promising cricketer gets utterly sick of being played the fool with. He has no incentive to steadiness and progress. Braund had to wait two years to play for Somerset. His displays for the L.C.C.C. and for Somerset did not suggest any reasons why he should not have been equally valuable for Surrey if his services had been properly utilised. That instance is a pregnant example of the incapacity of the Surrey authorities to manage cricket and cricketers. They make it utterly impossible for their team to acquire that unity of action and purpose and that pride in success which are such invaluable assets in county cricket. The information that my correspondent has placed at my disposal simply strengthens my belief in the soundness of the view to which he takes exception.

In his letter the writer says that I blame the Committee because the proceeds from Oval benefit matches are not so princely as those from benefit matches in the North. I can only tell him I did nothing of the sort. But I can tell him this with some confidence, that if the authorities at the Oval do not mend their ways the benefit matches in the future will not be anything like as good as they have been in the past. Indeed, there will not be any players to deserve benefits. Then with regard to the collection for Abel, to which I took exception, I am told that it was allowed at the request of the friends of Abel to supplement the testimonial benefit promoted by the Surrey Club, which the club headed with £50. I am invited to purge my offence by sending a donation, and by asking my readers to contribute. As I am trying to apply the purging process to the Surrey Club, the kind invitation must be declined. My view is that such collections should only be made when real benefits are held or when any player has done something exceptional, and then all the professionals should share in it. I do not believe in such collections as a rule. It will not escape notice that this collection was not part of the original scheme. The friends of Abel, and not the Committee, were responsible, just as Abel and Baker, and not the Committee, were responsible for their presence or absence from the team. So far as I can judge, the state of affairs seems to be this: the friends control the player, the player rules the Committee, the Committee directs the Selection Committee, and the

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Selection Committee, in its turn, advises the captain. The explanations and revelations provided by my correspondent quite convince me that the Surrey team is being run on anything but the best possible lines.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Fairly Bright—Cheap Money and War Developments—Bank and the Gold Arrivals—Paris and Peace Hopes—Wanted, A Public!—Feverish Yankees—Kaffirs and Tube Mills.

At one time during the week it looked as though "the most dismal account of the dog days" was going for once in a way to belie its reputation. The markets, influenced by the cheapness of money and by the Japanese successes, developed quite a fair degree of strength. The Continent has since become again a competitor with the Bank of England for the gold arriving from abroad, but the easier state of trade, as indicated in the Board of Trade returns, will help to keep rates at a moderate level, and the Bank's latest weekly return shows a considerable improvement, the reserve being higher by about a million and a quarter. As to the other factor, it is hoped, and nowhere more generally and more earnestly than on the Continent, that the dispersal of the Russian fleet, the impending fall of Port Arthur, and, it may be, an unpleasant surprise for the army, will reconcile the Czar and the Russian nation to an early peace, now that a Czarevitch has been born. The inference does not follow, but if a way out of the hostilities could be found, markets all round would have a remarkable fillip—Consols, for instance, being good, one would think, for a quick recovery of about 5 points. Peace, however, is in the future, and at present we have war with only aspirations of peace. The slight stimulus in the earlier part of the week was not maintained, for the sufficient reason that dealings were almost entirely professional. But the tone keeps tolerably good, save in Home Railways, which are discouraged and flat on the week's bad traffics following upon the poor foreign trade for July. Foreigners are cheered rather than upset by the progress of affairs in the East, and the American market is kept up by Wall Street operators. Here there is rooted distrust of this particular section, and the manipulation of specialties in New York seems to show that the leaders there are beginning to despair of creating outside interest in their market. Seeing how bad are the wheat crop reports, how unmistakably dubious is the condition of business, and how necessary good harvests are for the return of trade activity, I should say that "Bulls" of Yankees are indulging in unusual risks. The Kaffir section, in respect of the volume of business, is in much the same case as the rest of the House, but there is a remarkably strong undertone, and the introduction of tube mills will mean a greatly increased extraction and better dividends for shareholders. After the holiday season, there should be really good conditions in Kaffirs.

Money Fairly Easy—Cash Returning from the Provinces—Gold from Abroad—The Japanese Loan Money—A Good Bank Return—Autumn Prospects.

Calls on new capital issues during the past week have been of little account, and though considerable displacements of cash have been caused by the Home Railway dividend distributions, they have had scarcely any effect upon the Money Market. Call loans, after starting at about 2½ per cent., have gone off to 1½-2 per cent., and accommodation for a week can be obtained at 2 per cent. Discount rates have also eased off; three months fine bills are taken at 2¾ per cent., and long-dated bills at 3 per cent. or the smallest fraction above. The change in the aspect of the market during the last two or three weeks is striking. I have referred before to the drain occasioned by the payment of instalments on the new gilt-edged loans which flooded the investment market between April and the early part of July. This element, coincident with the Bank's inability until quite recently to obtain the gold arriving from abroad, and with other factors, depleted the resources of Lombard Street in a manner which caused surprise among the experts, who had freely prophesied easy conditions with the turn of the half-year. That is being all changed now. Money taken into the provinces for the holidays is returning, and the volume is increased by the remittances of provincial banks to London by reason of the slackness of trade. Austria has come into the market again as a purchaser of gold, but the Bank is taking the bulk, and between one thing and the other the reserve is increased in one week from £24,406,000 to £25,632,000, and at 54.7 per cent. the ratio to liabilities is nearly 3½ per cent. higher. This current week should see a further improvement to between £26,000,000 and £26,500,000. Supplies have been increased by the liberation of the cash accumulated in London for the payment of the last call on the Japanese Six per Cent Loan, the receiving banks relending quite freely with commendable promptitude; and also by the discounting of bills by the Bank of England. At present the market is out of the hands of the Bank again, and it ought to continue free at least down to the end of the month. In the autumn will have to be considered the withdrawals for Egypt and Argentina, as well as our own provincial requirements. Though the present condition of ease is temporary, there are signs which indicate that there will be no exceptional stringency between now and the end of the year.

Consols Improve — Better Monetary Outlook — Some Attractive Stocks—Johannesburg and Sierra Leone Fours—Water Board Stock Weak—What Peace Will Bring to the Markets—War Stocks—South Americans.

The Gilt-edged market has responded to the favourable influence of cheaper money and a better outlook. There is little buying of anything, but Consols are better on the week, and a number of other investment stocks have received a little attention. Johannesburg Fours, on which a full half-year's interest is payable on October 1, have advanced to 1¾ premium; and Sierra Leone Fours have also been favoured by investors, and the premium is now 1⅝. Water Board Threes, on the other hand, have gone back to 91 as compared with 94 a few weeks back, it being understood that the £2,000,000 of stock unplaced will shortly be offered to the public. East India Railway Debentures have also been sold by those wishing to avoid the call, and the scrip is now 1½ discount. All the four stocks named are excellent investments, and with money conditions generally easier, they should witness a substantial appreciation, especially if this influence should coincide with the end of the war in the Far East. I estimate that Consols, with which these others will move, if not at the same rate, are good for an almost immediate rise of five points on the conclusion of hostilities; and as to cheap money, it will be seen from my Kaffir article that they are talking about the doubling of the Rand's output following upon the introduction of tube mills. It may be noted here that the West Ham new Threes, with nearly the whole of which the underwriters were landed at the time of issue, have attracted a little attention, in view of the fact that the full half-year's dividend is payable on October 1, making the yield nearly 3¾ per cent. Pending some decisive development of the war in the Far East, the Foreign section still maintains a passive attitude, dealers not being inclined to take any undue risks, and as a consequence very few features have been noticeable during the week. As a whole, the tendency may be described as fairly satisfactory, notwithstanding that movements here and there are somewhat irregular. After a day's holiday the Paris bourse took the news of a further Japanese naval victory quite philosophically, and did not develop a fit of nerves as was anticipated in some quarters. In fact, the Frenchmen gave a little support later on for some of their own particular favourites, such as Spanish, Turks, and

Egyptian Unified; and Tintos were helped by the copper statistics. Russian Fours, however, receded somewhat, a report which emanated from Moscow stating that the Government had arranged a new loan with France for 100,000,000 roubles, in 5 per cent. bonds, to be issued at 99¾, and repayable in six years, of course, not having a good effect. Japanese issues, on the other hand, have been favourably affected by the war news, although the rumours of heavy losses in the vicinity of Port Arthur did not make for confidence. South American bonds have moved irregularly, but there is a quiet investment demand for some Argentine and Brazilian issues which show advances of from ¼ to ⅜ on the week. Chilians, too, have come in for a little attention. Uruguays, after being rather dullish, recovered, while amongst the "rubbishy" things in this market Colombians reacted sharply on realisation by speculators who brought about the recent spurt. Venezuelans continued quite featureless.

Home Rails Weak—Absence of Investment Purchases—Heavies Specially Flat—Disappointing Money Situation—Gloomy Outlook—Irish Railway Critics.

The Home Railway department has been weaker than ever, and there seems a total absence of any real support. There still exists a comparatively large "Bull" account, and until it is cleared away prices are likely to fall. There is, of course, no considerable amount of selling—the market is far too narrow for that to be possible. The real cause of weakness is the almost total absence of the investment buyers. Not many years ago purchasers for investment were the mainstay of this market, and a fall in any stock from speculative liquidation was almost sure to bring in investors who were attracted by the low price. Now a fall in any stock only appears to drive away the investor, who has seen all the old standards of value in this market quite upset, and is more anxious to see some of the serious depreciation on existing holdings removed than he is to increase his stake in Home Railways. I would not advise investors to sell on any account, but certainly intending buyers might well put off their purchases, for I see no reason to suppose that prices will advance just yet, and there are only too many reasons for fearing they may further fall. One disturbing factor in the situation is the high yield and low prices of "gilt-edged" stocks, which compete with Home Railways for the patronage of the investor. The supply of such securities has increased rather than diminished. Another adverse feature is the doubtful traffic outlook. In spite of poor traffics a year ago, recent receipts have been on an even poorer scale, and hopes of a recovery in dividends are postponed indefinitely. This implies that the present yields on the ordinary stocks, though comparatively liberal, are more likely to fall than to rise, taking into account prospective dividends. The special flatness of the "heavy" stocks may be attributed to the belated abandonment of any hope of really cheap money during the present year. Towards the close of last half-year these stocks were bought speculatively on money prospects, and the sales of stock now proceeding on an unwilling market afford the explanation of the somewhat serious fall, and North-Eastern, North-Western, Midland, and Great Western stocks have all suffered from this liquidation—the last stock perhaps most of all. Yet from an investment standpoint it is the most attractive, as it is one of the few Home Railway Ordinary issues which hold out any hope of maintaining their current dividends. The Scotch Railway stocks which held their own fairly well till lately have now joined in the general decline. The dividends on these will appear shortly, but under present conditions the coming distributions are not likely to have much effect. The last of the important English railway meetings was that of the North-Western last week. Lord Stalbridge was able to point to a reduction in both capital and revenue expenditure. The former was certainly substantial; but, after all, a saving of £46,000 in revenue expenses with a decreased business is not very important, especially if account be taken of the millions added to expenses during the past decade. The Chairman had very little to say about the change of book-keeping made last half-year by which cost of carriage on all stores, materials, and coal is charged to each department, and added to the revenue. No one thought it worth while to ask the very pertinent question whether the same policy is adopted in regard to materials carried on capital accounts. It is the old, old story. Capital can take care of itself; the revenue for each separate half-year is all that claims the attention of directors and shareholders. Half-a-century of this neglect has much to do with the present misfortunes of the companies. From the last speeches of the North-Western and Midland chairmen it is also woefully plain that railway "co-operation" is as far off as ever. I would direct attention to an article on "Train Mileage" in the *Financial Times* of Friday last, in which it is clearly shown that the leading companies are squandering in the passenger department the money they have managed to save in the handling of goods and mineral traffics. Criticism by railway shareholders of the affairs of their own undertaking has lately been conspicuous in Ireland. The half-yearly meeting of the Great Southern and Western had to be adjourned twice for the completion of a poll taken in opposition to the re-election of three Directors. The latter won in the end, but the opposition had a strong following, and would probably have gained their point but for the fact that most railway shareholders think it "bad form" to send their proxies to anybody but the Directors. At the Midland-Great Western meeting last Thursday some of the shareholders, smarting under a reduction of ½ per cent. in their dividend for last half-year, also opposed the adoption of the report, but in this case also the Board won, in spite of a very substantial opposition. My table follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Aug. 13.	Price, Aug. 19	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79¼	74½	74½	74½	—
Do. Def.	35⅝	28¾	28⅝	28	− ⅝
City and S. London	59	45	42 xd	41xd	−1
Central London	99	99	88 xd	88xd	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48½	—	44½	44½	—
Do. "B"	26⅜	23½	23½	22	−1½
Do. "A"	14⅜	13½	13¼	13	− ½
Great Eastern	91¼	86	85⅜	84½	−1*
Great Northern Pref.	101½	102	100 xd	99½xd	− ½
Do. Def	42½	39	38½	37½	− ⅝
Great Western	139	141	139 xd	136½xd	−2½
Hull and Barnsley	42½	34	33½	33¼	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	96½	95	95xd	—
London and Brighton "A"	116	119½	118¾	116½	−3
London, Chatham, and Dover	15½	15½	15⅜	15	− ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	96	98¾	97½xd	96xd	−1½
Do. 2nd Pref.	65	63	63	63	—
London and North-Western	161½	151	151	150	−1
London and South-Western Def.	56	51½	51½	50	−1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	84	94½	93 xd	91½xd	−1½
Metropolitan District	34	36	35½	35	− ½
Midland Pref.	69	67½	68 xd	66½xd	+ ½
Do. Def.	68	63	61¾xd	60½xd	−1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	77½	77⅜	77½	− ½
Do. Def.	45⅝	42⅜	42½	42⅜	− ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	144¼	137½	135 xd	133xd	−2
South-Eastern "A"	56½	53	52½	50½	−1

American Railroads Advance and Partly React—Wheat versus Stocks—Erie Preferred—Low-priced Stocks Prominent.

A somewhat anomalous position exists in the United States. Both wheat and stocks have been advancing concurrently. The advance in grain would only be justified if the reports of crop damage were well-founded. On the other hand, if they are well-founded stocks ought to fall instead of rise. Operators in American rails are thus somewhat puzzled. Is the advance in wheat justified? If it is, then the logical conclusion to be drawn is that stocks cannot advance to any marked extent, and they may fall seriously. I would counsel caution, however, in accepting the reports

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regarding damage to crops. It is quite evident that some at least of these reports are absurdly exaggerated—this is shown by the official contradiction regarding the wild rumours of damage to the Canadian crops. Speculation in wheat, as in other things, is not always based upon solid foundations, and, indeed, the outbreak of speculation in that direction is taken by some observers as a sign that the American public is ready to again turn its attention to Wall Street if it receives fair encouragement. Undue importance need not be attached to the reaction in stocks at the close of last week. All the week prices had shown an advancing tendency, and it was not confined to any special group of stocks. Ontarios were certainly a conspicuous feature, and their advance to over 35 a few days ago was accompanied by rumours of a contest for control. More attention has been paid to Erie shares and coalers generally, which had lagged behind somewhat in the earlier stages of the recent advance. Erie First Preferred, in receipt of its 4 per cent. dividend, appears to be attractive as a speculative investment. The yield is over 6 per cent, and the price has not yet recovered the fall induced by earlier doubts about the maintenance of the dividend. Louisvilles and Southerns enjoyed further marked advances, as continued favourable reports regarding the cotton crop are still coming to hand. If there is any exceptional feature about the advance, it has been the relatively important recovery in the low-priced shares such as Missouri, Kansas and Texas, Denvers, Southerns, Ontarios, etc. The hoisting of these low-priced issues may have been the method adopted by the wire-pullers as a convenient way of attracting public interest. So far their efforts appear to have been accompanied by only a moderate amount of success, and the best support has probably come from the "Bears." London's interest has generally been professional or on Continental account, and there is not much prospect that the British public will be enticed into this market. There is, however, a strong probability that the American investor and speculator will be attracted into the market before long, especially if the crops are good. Money is plentiful in New York, and prices generally are not high. Efforts being made to curtail railroad expenditure are proving fairly successful, and trade conditions are by no means bad. Whatever may be the case with wheat, there seems little doubt that the maize and cotton crops will be "bumper" ones. Steel issues are wavering, and I think investors and speculators alike will find more profitable opportunities among the various Railroad issues than among the Industrials. My usual table shows the measure of movements during the week:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, Aug. 6, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 13, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	80⅝	81⅝	83¾
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅝	88⅜	98	98½	100½
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	86½	86¼xd	87½xd
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	35	37⅜	38⅝
Denver	43¾	18¼	22⅝	23¼	25½
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	73½	73½	77
Erie	43 7/16	23¼	25½	25⅞	27⅞
Do. First Pref.....	75½	64½	64½	63¼xd	65¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	120xd	121	124½
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	151	152½	154½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	19⅛	21	22⅜
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	89½	88½xd	90xd
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	63⅛	63⅞	66⅜
New York Central	158	116¾	121½	122½	123¼
Ontario	36	19⅜	31⅜	32	34⅞
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	61½	62	63½
Reading.....	35⅝	20	26⅝	27⅝	29
Do. First Pref.....	45⅛	36¾	42¼	42¾	43½
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	26⅛	26⅞	28⅜
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	92½	93	95
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	51¼xrts	56	56⅞
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	98⅜	99⅞	101½
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	95¼	95½	96½
Wabash Pref.	55⅞	30	37	37½	39½
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	60½	62½	63½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12¼	12¼	12½
Do. Pref.	—	—	62¼	60 xd	60⅝

CANADIAN RAILWAYS INACTIVE—"CANADAS"—POSITION OF TRUNKS—PREFERENCE DIVIDEND PROSPECTS—REDUCED ARGENTINE EARNINGS—MEXICAN RAILWAYS.

Canadian Railway stocks are less neglected, perhaps, than some other departments of the House, but they are left almost entirely to the professional element, the public being apparently too well occupied out of town to worry much about stocks and shares of any description. The Canadian Pacific reports another good traffic, the increase this time amounting to $84,000, on top of a very satisfactory total for the corresponding period of last year. On the strength of this, and of the outlook, coupled with sympathy with Americans, the Company's shares have kept firm in the neighbourhood of 130, and, as I have said before, they are quite reasonably cheap for investment at this price, although those who took my advice and bought when the quotation ranged between 113 and 120 have naturally done better than those who come in now. Grand Trunks are a very uncertain quantity, and a purchase of them is attended with much risk. For 1903, it will be remembered, the line met all charges down to the Second Preference stock in full, and had a sufficient balance left to distribute 2 per cent. on the Third Preference as well. Out of the net earnings of the first half of 1903, 2½ per cent. actual—being the six months' dividend—was paid; this year, not only the Second, but the First Preference dividends have been "passed;" and, as a consequence, a particularly heavy burden is entailed upon the earnings of the December half, for it will be necessary, if retrogression is not to be recorded, that they shall be sufficient to meet twelve months' charges on the first two Preference issues, and then to find 2 per cent. for the Third. Will the Trunk be able to accomplish this? It is possible to make out a case for the full dividend on Firsts and Seconds; but this last stock appears to be in some jeopardy, and at present it is difficult to see where the Thirds will come in. For the six months to December of last year there was an increase of about £426,000 in gross earnings. This year, so far, there has been a decrease of £48,098, and as comparisons down to October are with big totals last year, the Company is hardly likely to have a larger gross income than in 1903. Working expenses during that period, however, were admittedly on an abnormally high scale, and the directors have shown by the reduction of £100,000 in expenses for the June half that they are bent upon making substantial savings. Should they save as much in the the second half—and probably they will save more—and should there be only a moderate total decline in earnings, which later on will show up better, the Second Preference stock will be all right. It will be realised that though we are now having declines, the aggregate is still very large, and a drastic reduction in expenses will leave the Company with a good sum to distribute. As I have said, the Third's chances depend entirely upon economies of working. Here is my table of Colonial and Foreign Railway stocks:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	128½	128½	130¾
" 4 per cent. Preference ..	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	18½	13	13 1/16
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	102½	96	97
" 1st Preference	112⅜	99½	99⅞
" 2nd "	99½	84½	85½
" 3rd "	49⅜	36⅜	37⅜
Bengal and North-West.....	127	137	137½
Bombay Baroda.....	162	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.....	130	126	126
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	97½	101½	102½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	96½	113½	116
" " 1st Preference..	98	102	103½
" " 2nd " ..	87	93	93
" Great Southern.....	132½	131½	133½
" Western	125	123½	125
Entre Rios Railway Preference	54	58½	58
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	83	92⅜	94½
Costa Rica Railway.....	2½	1⅜	1⅜
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	89	89½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75½
Mexican Railway	19	17¾	17½
" 1st Preference.....	71¾	82⅜	82
" 2nd "	27	28½	28
Nitrate Rails	5 1/16	7⅜	7¼

The Argentine traffics as a whole are not considered satisfactory, but here the decreases are explained by the wet weather, which has interfered with the carriage of the maize. Later on, the Companies will get the benefit of the traffic now held over, and meantime the rains are having a beneficial effect upon the new crops. The Rosario has an increase of £1,964, and if this is not large, it is still in contrast with heavy figures a year ago. There is still buying of the Company's stocks on account of Buenos Ayres. Mexican Railways have suffered from a heavy "Bull" account and a dearth of public support. Indian Railway issues are inclined to go off in sympathy with the Funds.

Kaffirs Idle—Firm in Tone—French Nibbling—Chinese Labour and First Results—What Tube Mills Will Accomplish—White Unskilled Labour—Some Plain Words to Speculators—Deep Levels Favoured—Lace Diamonds.

The midsummer slackness which has attacked the rest of the markets has not left South African mines alone. Dealings are small, and the break occasioned by a Saturday holiday—with its extensions at both ends—has naturally helped to intensify the idleness. One or two shares have developed some slight degree of weakness, notably Salisburys, but the market as a whole has shown quite a marked degree of strength which ought to be reflected in active conditions of trade when the holiday season comes to an end, and paterfamilias is constrained to look about him for means of making money to replace the drain of cash from his pocket into that of the seaside boarding-house harpy. The only obstacle is the lack of public interest, and I feel confident that this will be removed within a brief space of time. At all events, conditions are making that way. The French, who have a lot of capital which will be available when things are moving more briskly—for the Frenchman, like most Englishmen, will not come in when business is slack and values low—are already beginning to nibble, and in addition to the leading descriptions, are picking up Eastern Rand shares, especially Transvaal Consolidated Lands. The monetary outlook is better; labour reports are very promising; and the adoption of tube mills will prove a great stimulus as soon as people realise their possibilities. Another shipload of coolies has sailed from Ching Wang-Foa on board the *Ascot*. They number 1,977, and they bring the aggregate of those working on the Rand or on the way thither up to close upon 10,000. By the end of September about 15,000 are expected to be on the goldfields, and by the end of the year this figure should be doubled. There are no two opinions concerning the efficiency of the Chinese. Lord Milner's despatch stating, in relation to the first batch, that "the experiment has so far been sufficiently satisfactory to justify our making every effort to secure a steady stream of indentured labourers from the same source," had a cheering effect upon the market. In the report to the Chamber of Mines it is announced that the Chinese on the New Comet have drilled an average of 16.79 in., while on the Van Ryn on the 16th inst. an average of 22 in. was drilled, and the manager has declared that he is convinced that the coolies are going to prove far and away superior to the Kaffirs. Nor is the progress of the Chinese being accompanied by the sacrifices of other varieties of labour. There is plenty of work for the black if he cares to have it, but it seems to me that the mine managers are justified in paying especial attention to the pigtails, because they give better results, and it will be remembered that last week I pointed out that, over and above the actual accomplishment of more work (which will mean more pay), the three years' indenture, as against six months for the Kaffir, will be equal to a saving of several shillings in the pound to the mines. As to unskilled white labour again, the statement at the last meeting of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines is categorical. Mr. Schumacher repeated that if Chinese were introduced into a mine where white unskilled labour was employed, the latter would not be turned adrift, as work would be offered elsewhere. This carries the assurance a step further given a month earlier by the Vice-President of the Chamber that where in certain mines the thinness of the reefs rendered rock-drilling by hand preferable to white skilled labour (machine drills, etc.) and the latter were supplanted by coolies, they would be engaged on skilled work in other mines. It was officially stated that prior to the arrival of Chinese at the New Comet only thirty-four white men were engaged in the mine, while now there are actually 136. I submit, on the basis of what has been already said, that the labour problem in South Africa has been settled satisfactorily, and that, as a result, the one great obstacle to progress has been removed. Simultaneously we have the prospect of increased extraction, larger outputs, and considerable economies, consequent upon the introduction of tube mills. These have been in use in Western Australia for some years, and the engineers of the Rand have been constrained during the period of inaction to sharpen their wits and to look about them for means of reducing expenses. Some time ago I referred to the improvements in connection with the recovery of cyanide residues and the treatment of slimes, but the introduction of tube mills promises to be much more important. They are being installed by the Consolidated Gold Fields, the East Rand and the Goerz groups, in addition to Messrs. Wernher, Beit, and Co. and the General Mining and Finance Corporation; and, as giving briefly some idea of what the result of the general adoption of the new method of ore treatment would mean, I quote the following from *South African Mines*:—

> For the first six months of this year practically 4,000,000 tons have been crushed by 4,913 Transvaal stamps. We are erring on the safe side when we say that under the new principles 8,000,000 tons would be treated under similar circumstances, that the gold yield would have approximated 15,000,000 instead of between 7,000,000 and 8,000,000, and that profits would be considerably more than doubled. These figures speak for themselves in an unmistakable manner, and they may be accepted as emanating from an exceptionally sound authority.

A concrete example is given by the *Financial Times*. At the Glen Deep Mr. J. R. Williams has been carrying out a series of experiments, and the results to hand show that the adoption of coarse grinding in tube mills enables a battery to double its output—that is, to treat ten tons of ore per stamp per diem instead of from four to five tons, as formerly. At the Glen Deep 10.68 tons per stamp per day have been treated. As the cost of the extra installation for obtaining this return both in first outlay and in running cost is stated to be much less than that of the extra stamps that would be required to produce the same output—four tube mills, costing some £6,000, as against several times that amount for a 100-stamp battery, while the former involve the employment of less labour than the latter—it would seem that "the general adoption of the new method would considerably benefit the industry, the more so as it is found that the finer grinding of the coarse sands in tube mills yields an increased extraction over the plates of as much as 3 dwt. of gold per ton of sands ground, while, in addition, there is a higher extraction from the sands vats from cyanide owing also to the finer grinding of the charges." Increased production, of course, implies a shorter life for the mine, but it means increased profit, and with the economies possible by the use of tube mills and the enhanced ratio of extraction, the doubling of the output will be accom-

The Cure of Consumption.—The following letter proves the value of Dr. Alabone's treatment:—"Sir,—I have some thirty patients in all stages of phthisis undergoing Dr. Alabone's treatment, some very bad, so that I should not be surprised if I lost one or two, but at present I have lost none. The improvement in them is most marked and surprising. I do not think there is any doubt of the great efficacy of his treatment in stopping the advancement of the disease. *It has in my hands been very successful in many cases.*—I am, yours faithfully, W. F——, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.M. Edin. "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s.-6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, London, N.

panied by an increase of considerably more than 100 per cent. in profits. My table follows:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9½	6	7	7⅛	6¾xd
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3½	3 5/16	3⅜
Aurora West	3¾	2	11/16	1½	1 5/16	1⅜
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	1/16	1/16	3/16	3/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1/8	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2⅛
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅞	5¾	6 5/16	6	5¾
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅜	4 13/16	5⅜	6 3/16	6 1/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12¾	18½	16½	14½	13	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅜	18⅝	18⅝
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18¾	18¾	18½
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5	5 1/16	4¾xd
Durban-Roodepoort	8 1/16	6½	5½	4¾	4¾	4¾
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	1¾	2	2
East Rands	12	10 3/16	6¾	7 3/16	7 15/16	8 1/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¾	5/16	5/16	5/16	5/16
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	21½	20½xd
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 5/16	1 7/16	1 13/16	1 5/16
Geduld	—	9 1/16	5	5 15/16	6½	6 1/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4¼	3	3½	3 5/16	3⅜
Goch (New)	3¾	4¾	2½	3	3	3 1/16
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7¾	5½	5¾	5 7/16	5 5/16xd
,, Main Reef	1 1/16	¾	½	½	½	½
Glencairn	4⅜	2¾	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Henderson	5½	2 7/16	—	1⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10¼	7⅜	8⅜	8¼	8¼xd
Heriot	12½	8½	3¾	2¾	2¾	2⅝
Jagerstontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6¾	4 3/16	2½	2 13/16	2 13/16	2 13/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅝	4½	4½
Jumpers	8¼	5½	2¾	2¾	2 15/16	2⅝
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6¾	2 1/8	1⅜	1⅞	2	2 1/16
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5¼
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 3/16	1¾	⅝	⅝	3/16	3/16
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 3/16	3½	3⅝	3⅝xd
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	6¾	3¾	2	2 7/16	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2⅞	1 5/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4 3/16	5 7/16	2¾	4	4	3 15/16xd
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¾	5½	5½	5⅜xd
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14 3/16	7 11/16	8⅜	8 11/16	8 7/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	11/3	12/-	12/6
Nigel	8 7/16	4	2⅜	2½	2½	2 7/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	1 7/16	1 13/16	1¾
New Comet	4¾	4	2	2 13/16	3	3
New Rietfontein	6¾	3½	1⅜	2 5/16	2 3/16	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¾	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 11/16	1 5/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	1/32	1/32
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Primrose (New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3¾	3¼
Princess Estate	4½	2	13/16	7/8	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	9⅜	10 3/16	10 5/16xd
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
,, Robinson	2 1/16	2 5/16	1	1⅝	1 1/16	1 1/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅜	1⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1	1⅛	1⅛
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9 3/16	9 3/16	9¼xd
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2½	3 5/16	3⅜	3 5/16xd
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14 3/16	6½	6 5/16	6 5/16	7¼
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/8	9⅜	4 5/16	4 1/16	5	4 1/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 11/16	11/3	2/6	3/6	3/3
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/6	12/-
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4 5/16	6 5/16	3 5/16	3 1/16	3⅜	3 5/16
Transvaal Development	2 1/16	2 7/16	24/-	1 13/16	1 7/16	1 5/16
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅝	¼	6/-	6/3	7/3
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2 7/16	2½
Treasury	5	6 5/16	4½	3 5/16	3 5/16	3⅜
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1 3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 7/16	2½	3¼	3 1/16	3⅜
Village Main Reef	9½	9 3/16	7/8	6 7/16	6 7/16	6½
Violet	—	3¼	2	2¾	3	2 1/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2 3/16	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8 1/16	6½	6 7/16	6½	6½
Wemmer	13⅜	15	9½	10 3/16	10 1/16	10⅛
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	¾	1/16	1/16
,, (New)	—	2 1/16	1/16	1 15/16	2	2
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3 1/16	3 3/16	3⅛
Worcester	6½	3 3/16	1⅛	1½	1 5/16	1⅜

* £5 shares.

The foregoing considerations ought to convince speculators that Kaffir prospects are very bright, and that indications point to good markets between now and the end of the year. We do not want "booms," which are unhealthy developments, but there ought to be an appreciation of 25 to 50 per cent. on merits within a few months, and if speculators are wise they will get in now, and not wait until the rise has been brought about. But while I give this advice, I know quite well that most people will disregard it. They know it is a truism that the ideal way to speculate successfully is to get in at the bottom and out at the top, but they are timid and, like a flock of sheep, they will only move in big groups—will, in other words, only commence to buy when long-headed men are thinking of realising. If they buy now, they will be too late to get in at the actual bottom, but they will still be able to get in at a moderate level, and should see a good profit before them without waiting to get out at the top. I should deprecate any waiting for this consummation. It is another truism that the man who waits to get out at the top has a good chance of finding himself struggling to get out at anything short of the bottom again. Moderation in profit-taking as in other things is always the best. I had proposed to institute some comparison between present and some past prices, but my space is about exhausted, and I must defer that for another time. My table above shows in a general way how we stand as regards the highest of two or three previous periods. Deep Levels have been quite firm on home and foreign support induced by the tube mill results referred to above; and Glen Deeps, French Rands, and Wit Deeps have stood out prominently, it being expected that they will receive the next allotments of coolies. Diamond shares are generally steady, and Lace Diamonds have hardened on the statement that the Chairman had exercised his option on the 25,000 reserve shares at 30s. It may be remembered that he was granted this option when he took up at par a moiety of the 50,000 new shares created last February, making the capital £300,000. My Deep Level table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest	Make-up, July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6¾	3¾	1 15/16	1½	1 5/16 xd
Cent. Nigel Deep	1/16	1	½	1/16	1/16	1/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2 3/16	2½	2⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13	12¾xd
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅜	2	2 7/16	2½	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	5 5/16	5 5/16	5 5/16
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3½	3⅜	4 1/16	4½
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8½	11	11½	11xd
Jumpers Deep	5¾	6⅜	3½	4	4½	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3¾	2 15/16	3	3 1/16
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4 7/16	2½	2	2½	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3 5/16	2	2½	2 7/16	2
Do. West	2¾	3	1¾	2 3/16	2 5/16	2 3/16
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½	2 15/16	3	2 15/16
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6¼	3½	4	4½	4¼
Nigel Deep	2	1 13/16	15/16	7/8	15/16	15/16
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4¾	2⅜	2½	2 5/16	2 5/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 5/16	4½	5½	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 5/16	2¾	4 5/16	4½	4 5/16
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¾	8½	8 5/16	8¼xd
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅝	1 15/16	1⅝	1¾
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1¾	1⅝	1⅝
South Geld. Deep	3¾	4¾	2 3/16	2½	2½	2¾
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	2½	1¾	2 1/16	2 1/16
Simmer and Jack West	4¾	5 5/16	2⅜	2 15/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2¾	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 3/16	2 1/16	3½	3¾	3⅜

Rhodesians Inactive—A Record Gold Output—The Sympathy with Kaffirs—Chartered and the Leading Shares Steadier—Copper Shares—Tanganyikas and Zambesias.

Perhaps the most important influence at work during the past week in the Rhodesian section has been the country's gold output for July, which was a record one of 24,339 ounces, comparing with the previous best of 23,571 ounces for July of last year. This certainly shows some sort of progress, and if progress on this scale were the only essential for the future of the Chartered Company all would be well. But unfortunately it is not, and although the increased production had an influence upon the market, it was not solely responsible for the firmer tendency noticeable in the shares of this group, which was due as much, if not more, to sympathy with Kaffirs. There is not much real life in the market—certainly no public interest evinced in it—but on balance a good number of the better-known shares show a slight improvement, and Chartereds, after see-sawing between 1 13-32 and 1 7-16, finished at the higher figure. The Ayrshire return for July shows further progress, the total output of gold being 3,050 ounces, of an estimated value of £12,100, as compared with 2,160 ounces, valued at £8,550, in June. The Copper shares in the section have been rather more active, while the "northern" descriptions came in for some attention, including Tan-

ganyikas and Zambesias, both of which moved upwards. My usual table of Rhodesian issues is appended:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug. 19, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅝	½
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1	1
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4¼	1½	1⅝
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	6/-	⅛
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅞	¼	⅜
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅛	⅛
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	¼
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	⅛	⅛
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅜	1⅝
Lomagunda Dev	250.000	250.000	1	f.p	6⅛	1⅛	1⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	⅜	⅛
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4¼	⅛	⅛
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	2⅜	2⅝
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1½	⅛	⅛
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600.000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅛	10/6
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	⅛
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2	1⅞
Salisbury Districts	50.000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	⅛	⅛
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	⅛	⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3⅜	3⅛
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	¼
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	6/-	⅝
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	⅜	3/-	3/-
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅝	4/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅞	1½	1½

West Africans Further Depressed—Amalgamated and Ashanti Goldfields Weakest—Evidences of Quiet Liquidation—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Broken Hill Props. Improve—British Columbians Steady—Mount Morgans—Etruscans.

The Jungle has been more depressed than usual during the past week, and values have continued on the down-grade with Amalgamated and Ashanti Goldfields the weakest spots, followed closely by Bibianis. Except for Wassaus, which contrived to keep relatively steady, the whole market shows losses, and although the ostensible reason for the declines may be said to be the recent disappointing returns, I think it would be far more accurate to attribute all the prevailing conditions to the liquidating of the large accounts of deceased holders, despite statements to the contrary. Small holders, too, are endeavouring to get out of their risky commitments in West African properties, and between one thing and another this section of the House is becoming more and more discredited each consecutive week. It is true that within recent times many optimists have been talking of the "gilded" future there is in store for the country, but when one contrasts these rather too confidently asserted prognostications with the evidences of the past and the present, the results are amusing. My usual table of movements follows:—

—	Capital. Autho-rised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price. Aug. 13, 1904.		Closing Price. Aug. 19, 1904.	
	£		£					
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	1½	1⅝	1½	1⅝
Axim Mines	160 000	62,393	1	f.p.	—	—	—	—
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅜	⅛dis	⅜	¼ dis
Ashanti Sarsu M'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜	¼	⅜	¼
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜	½	⅜	½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅜	½	⅜	⅝
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1½	2	1½	1⅝
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	¼	¼	¼	¼
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼	½	¼	½
London and W. A. G. Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	—	—	—	—
Obbussi Syndicate	25,000	25,180	1	f.p	⅜	½	⅜	½
Prestea Mines ...	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	¼	⅛	¼	⅛
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	¼	⅜	¼	⅜
Taquali & Obosso	350,000	310,135	1	f.p.	⅛	¼	⅛	¼
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	216,800	1	f.p.	1½	1⅝	1½	1⅝

The Miscellaneous Mining market has not been too well off for business and movements have been irregular. Among Silver shares Broken Hill Props. have kept buoyant as a result of the good half-yearly statement alluded to in this column last week, and they finish with a good improvement. Indian gold-mine shares were inclined to be dullish, and among British Columbians there was very little activity, apart from some bidding for Tyees. Camp Birds and Le Rois keep steady. Mount Morgans relapsed on the Directors' report, which shows that the profit for the last financial year was £100,000 less than that for the preceding twelve months, and that in order to provide funds for the erection of a separate plant to deal with copper gold ore, it may be necessary to issue debentures. Etruscans are without particular change, notwithstanding the third return from the smelter, which shows that 1,742 tons of ore, "including mineral-bearing flux," were treated. It appears from an office note that smelting operations were suspended between the 6th and 13th inst. In the Charter Towers group Queen's Cross Reefs developed some weakness, but the other things in the section kept tolerably steady. My usual table follows:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9.	Closing Price. Aug. 19.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3⅜	3⅜	4
Balaghat Gold	1⅛	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅛	1½	39/6	42/6
Cape Copper.....	5	2	3¼	3⅜
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/3	32/6
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	1/16	⅜
Mason and Barry.....	4½	3⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Mount Lyell Mining.....	4¼	2	13/3	13/6
Mysore Gold.....	7⅜	5⅛	6⅛	6½
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	2⅛	2⅜
North Mount Lyell	1 15/16	13/16	—	—
Nundydroog	2 15/16	1⅞	30/-	1⅛
Ooregum	2⅜	21/9	17/9	17/6xd
Rio Tinto	53⅜	38½	52½	53⅜
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4½	4½
Waihi Gold	6⅜	4 11/16	5 1/16	5 1/16

Westralians Still Inactive — The General Tendency Better—Oroya, Boulder, and Perseverance Dividends —Reaction in "Little Kangaroos."

With the public still somewhat shy and the professional element not so much in evidence owing to the holidays, it is not altogether surprising that the West Australian section should have continued in a rather inactive state during the past week. The general tendency was inclined to be downwards, though towards the close a better feeling was manifest amongst the leading shares, and Fingals, Great Boulder, and Associated recovered the better part of the ground they had previously lost. Horseshoes were a rather weak spot at one time, in consequence of some free offering from Paris, but this, however, was not of long duration, and the shares were subsequently put better, finishing with a slight gain on balance. Two or three dividends were announced during the week, the Oroya Brownhill declaring an interim distribution of 3s. per share, and the Great Boulder Proprietary Company an interim dividend of 9d. per share, while the Perseverance announced a second interim distribution of 1s. per share in respect of the year ending next December, on account of which 1s. 3d. per share has already been paid. In view of the startling disclosures within recent months the reduced rate declared by the Perseverance did not occasion any surprise, but, on the contrary, the opinion was expressed in some quarters that it might have been more judicious if the directors had decided to keep back the funds in hand for the proper development of the mine at depth as recommended by the managers. In regard to these developments, a cable received was regarded as satisfactory, and had a good effect upon the price of the shares. The pretence at liveliness made by the "Little Kangaroos" a short time ago has completely fizzled out in consequence of the cessation of Colonial inquiries which were the cause of the upward movement, and Boulder Deeps, Hannan's Stars, and Central and West Boulders have reacted. There has, however, been some inquiry for North White Feathers

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

on the strength of a cable received announcing that at the 414-ft. level the average width of the vein is 4 ft. 9 in. of an average value, given by five samples, of 2 oz. per ton. My usual Australian table follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up. July 25, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7/8	3/8	1	2/1	1/6	2/6
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3/3	4/3	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3
Brownhill Ext.	3/3	1/3	3/8	3/8	3/8	1/4
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/9	9/3	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/3	7	7	6/3	6/3
Golden Link	3/4	15/3	6/-	4/6	4/6	4/3
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	23/9	22/3	22/3
Do. Main Reef	2/4	1/4	8/6	4/6	3/9	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13/4	1/3	1/3	11/-	11/-	12/9
Do. South	3/3	1/3	3/8	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6/3	9/3	5/3	7/3	7/3	7/3
Hamault	1/3	3/8	1/4	3/8	3/8	1/4
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/6	6/-	6/6
Ivanhoe (£5)	15/4	10/9	6/3	7/3	7/3	7/3
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4/3	1/3	3/8	3/4	3/4	1/3
Kalgurli	9/3	4/4	2/3	5/3	5/3	5/4
Lake View Consols	5/3	6/4	1/3	1/3	1/3	1/3
L. & W. A. Exploration	1/3	1/3	1/4	3/8	3/8	3/8
North Kalgurli	1/3	10/-	4/-	6/9	6/3	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4/3	2	3/3	3/3	3/3
Peak Hill	5/3	2/4	3/8	3/8	1/3	3/8
Sons of Gwalia	6/3	2/3	1	1/3	1/3	1/3
South Kalgurli	6/4	2/3	1/4	1/3	1/3	1/4
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1/3	3/4	1/2	1/2	1/2

Sand Fork's Second Metempsychosis.

There are many people in this country who have occasion to remember only too well the Sand Fork Petroleum Company, an American oil swindle, whose worthless shares were foisted off upon people over here under promise of fancy dividends, paid monthly, and guaranteed by a concern calling itself E. R. Holden and Co. This was in 1901, and on more than one occasion Truth warned its readers against having anything to do with the shares, and pointed out that Holden and Co's guarantee was not worth the paper on which it was printed, in the absence of substantial people to guarantee them. The business was, in fact, a very common type of Yankee swindle, of which the Texas Oil Securities and the Dominion Oil ramps are more recent examples. In due course Holden and Co. disappeared, first from London, afterwards from Paris, and finally from New York, and dupes who have written to the New York address tell me they can obtain no replies to their letters. This is not to be wondered at, seeing that, having accomplished its aim, the firm has passed away "into the ewigkeit." In due course, and after the usual fashion, it was decided to amalgamate with the National Consolidated Oil Company, two shares in this concern being given for each Sand Fork. The professed object was what the circular announcing the fact called "the economic conduction of the business." The real object, of course, was to cover the tracks; and probably it will not cause surprise when I state that since the consolidation of the mis-called business, precious little information has been furnished to the English shareholders as to the "conduction" of the undertaking. But there is evidently something fresh in the wind. A dividend has been declared on the Preferred shares, and accompanying the cheque, which is payable at the First National Bank of Lima, Ohio—a centre singularly favourable to the presentation of their pieces of paper by English shareholders—are documents advising an application for shares in the Continental Copper Company. Mr. D. H. Lamberson, Secretary of the National Consolidated Oil Company, was so favourably impressed with the future possibilities of the property that he thought it would be a good thing to "turn in" a portion or all of that company's stock. The little matter has been arranged comfortably, and shareholders may exchange all or part of their holdings for Continental Coppers on the basis of 25 cents for each 10 cent share. But only one-fourth of the purchase price of Continental Coppers (par value 50 cents) is payable in shares, the other three-fourths being payable in cash. The *Oil News* of Lima, Ohio, is engaged in pushing this deal. It says:—

> This paper is in a position to know almost beyond any question of a doubt that Continental Copper Co. stock will sell at one dollar before January 1, 1905, therefore every stockholder has an opportunity of not only doubling the amount of cash capital they would invest in making an exchange of their shares for Continental Copper shares, but would practically be securing double the prices allowed as stated above for their present holdings. For example, and to be more explicit, any stockholder desiring to invest one hundred dollars in shares of The Continental Copper Company can purchase the same by forwarding an amount of shares that would equal $25.00 at the prices above set forth and $75.00 additional or in that proportion for any amount of Continental Copper Company shares desired. In line with the policy of *The Oil News* to at all times protect and advise to the best interests of shareholders of any and all companies we have recommended, we have brought this exceptional opportunity about, knowing as we do after the most searching investigation, the true merits of The Continental Copper Company. Being firmly convinced that Continental Copper Company shares will be worth, within the next twelve months, many times their present selling price, and that great results in the way of dividends will be forthcoming in the near future, we advise every shareholder in the above companies to take advantage of this splendid opportunity of turning their present stock holding into shares of a company that will eventually become one of the great dividend payers of the world.

I sincerely trust that the poor folks who are saddled with National Consolidated Oil shares will not be so foolish as to send more money and their share certificates to the *Oil News*. Incidentally, I shall be glad to know if the National Consolidated Oil Company's cheques for "Dividend No. 1" have been honoured by the First National Bank of Lima, Ohio.

Profits from Losses.

I have seldom seen a more absurd promotion in the line of insurance than the Tradesmen's Indemnity Insurance Company, Limited, which has just been offering its shares to the public. Prospectuses of this kind generally reach me when adverse comment is too late for useful warning, but if allotment has not yet been made I would strongly dissuade any investor from putting money into the venture, which I regard as an utterly hopeless one. The declared aim of the concern is to insure "retail tradesmen, wholesale tradesmen, and professional men" against loss from bad debts! The object is admirable, and if there were superhuman shrewdness of management, backed by large financial resources, and assisted by abnormal honesty on the part of policy-holders, it might be just possible to keep a business of the kind from disaster; but in the present combination I see no prospect of an approach to any of these essentials. The childish crudeness of the main idea is revealed in the leading paragraph of the prospectus:—

> In order to discourage the reckless giving of credit the insurances will be arranged so that the amount payable as compensation will only be a certain proportion of the loss insured against. The method of insurance proposed will also secure to the Company the benefit of the debts in respect of which claims are paid, so that the Company may have the opportunity of recovering the full amount of the debts and thus realising a profit. This scheme of insurance, which has been formed after very careful consideration, is a new departure, and will undoubtedly supply a long felt want.

The suggestion that claims of this class are to be an absolute source of profit is so transparently foolish that only the simplest of investors could be attracted by it, and I do not greatly concern myself to guess how the thing is supposed to work out. When a merchant, prior to claiming under his policy, has got all that he possibly can out of an insolvent debtor, an assignation to the company of the balance due is one of the least likely sources of profit which can be imagined. This obscure and absurd feature and estimate is the only new thing about the scheme, as bad-debt insurance in itself has many a time been tried, and always with poor success. For this precious idea the promoter, Mr. E. Lindsay Lindsay-Pembroke, is to receive £400 in hard cash, an allotment of 600 fully-paid shares, and a job at £300 a year. The only per-contra besides the "idea" is his agreement "to pay all expenses of and incidental to the promotion and registration of the Company, except—(mark the word)—the legal charges in connection therewith, the fees for registering, and the cost of printing," which exceptions come to £270 out of £360.

It might have been supposed that for a hazardous

kind of business which has a past record of disaster, care would at least have been taken to secure a capital large enough to inspire confidence and give the thing a chance. The directors, however, ask for only £20,000, and express their readiness to start work on getting £6,666 (a figure painfully suggesting the number of the Beast), whereof £1,270 would be gone before they took an office or bought an ink bottle. The whole thing is absurd, and the Bayswater men whose names appear on the prospectus may be thankful if the stipulated subscription is not forthcoming. A memorandum sent out with the prospectus says in ungrammatical phrase that "it (that is, the prospectus) will reveal to you a thorough novelty in the Insurance world, and promises to be immensely profitable," and then goes on to urge immediate application to avoid disappointment. I hope that the prospectus will not be profitable to anybody but the printer thereof, and if there be disappointment about the shares it will, I imagine, be on the part of the unlucky early birds who make prompt application and get what they ask for.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

W. W.—Your New South Wales and Queensland stocks should have some recovery when conditions in the Gilt-edge market are more normal. But, as you know, Colonials are very much out of favour with investors on this side, quite irrespective of the reduced amount of money available for investment—a condition for which the Colonies have only themselves to blame for their past recklessness. *C. J., Leicester.*—The Debentures are all right to buy, and the Preference stock is speculatively promising, but the chances of the Ordinary are very remote. *L. S. H.*—Johannesburg Fours are quite a good purchase, especially with half a year's dividend (shortly due) in the price. *Brum.*—I have already, on more than one occasion, explained my views on the subject of a purchase of Japanese stocks. As an investment for a short series of years the new 6 per cent. bonds are attractive, since they are secured on the Customs revenue of the Empire. But the others are risky—not because default is probable, but because the war is a long way from being over, and because, as a consequence, the country will be forced to borrow further, increasing its debt greatly and crippling its financial resources generally. If the end were in sight I should recommend a purchase, because some recovery beyond the present level would be a tolerable certainty. But the end is not in sight, and it is quite on the cards that values may go back again.

Railways.

Henri.—Great Westerns are worth holding. I should not sell the Brighton Preferred Ordinary stock, which is sufficiently well secured to satisfy the average investor. *R. B., Blackpool.*—There is every reason to expect that the full dividend will be paid on the Grand Trunk First Preference stock for the twelve months. See my remarks in this issue. *Violet.*—The only objection I know of to a purchase of Bombay Barodas is that when the Government exercises its right to take over the concern, the terms may be as ungenerous as in the analogous case of the Great Indian Peninsula. *Gollywog.*—B.A. Great Southerns make a good purchase for investment. *W. R. K.*—Do not take notice of the cables about serious damage to the crops in Canada. They are grossly exaggerated (when they are not altogether deliberate inventions), and Canadian Pacifics are quite well established on a 6 per cent. basis. I do not counsel a sale of the shares. *C. E., Bishop's Stortford.*—1. Great Central 1872 Preference stock would suit you. The yield is nearly 3⅞ per cent., and the Company is going ahead rapidly. 2. I would buy North British Deferred in preference to Caledonian. This last company is not making headway, and I should prefer to operate on evidences of progress. *J. J.*—On London and Tilbury stock at the present price there is a return of 4⅛ per cent., and on Taff Vale Ordinary you can command 5 3-16 per cent. Both make good purchases. *Salopian.*—Grand Trunk Ordinary stock does not seem to me to be particularly desirable on the basis of present indications. *Reader.*—1. If bought at about 55, there is a very fair prospect of an advance of 5 to 8 points within the next twelve months. 2. Leopoldina Railway Debentures at 35 are reasonably safe, but (3) there is some risk attachable to the Ordinary shares. 4. I should not buy Chatham Ordinary as a speculation at present. 5. I recommend Great Westerns, North Westerns, Brighton Ordinary, and Argentine Great Western Preference and San Paulo Railway Preference stocks. 6. I do not look for any early return of Mexican Railway Firsts to "between 60 and 70." *G. L. M.*—The full dividend on the Grand Trunk First Preference stock is almost certain to be paid at the end of the Company's year. *Kendal.*—1. The Grand Trunk First Preference dividend for the year 1904 does not seem to me to be in any jeopardy, and I look for a full return on the Second Preference as well. The fact is that the Company is able to effect very considerable economies of expenditure; it did so to the tune of about £100,000 for the first half of the current year, and should be in a position to do at least as much during the second half. 2. I do not recommend either Rosarios or B.A. Pacifics as "absolutely safe" investments, but they strike me as quite satisfactory speculative investments. *E. C. B.*—The mistake was regrettable. To date for this current half-year the South-Eastern and Chatham Company has an increase of £9,416.

Mines.

A. F. C.—Boulder Perseverance are more than a little risky, but the prospects are brighter than they seemed a few weeks ago. Developments are more promising, and the concern is now in good hands. *Torrance.*—I should not buy Ashanti Goldfields—in fact, the West African market might be left alone until it furnishes evidence of fulfilling even the more moderate estimates entertained of it. *Flambrough.*—Simmer and Jack, Roodepoort United, and Rand Collieries make a good trio of promising Kaffirs, moderately priced, which are likely to have a substantial advance on a better market. *J. P.*—Rio Tintos make a good purchase on any set back, especially in the present condition of the copper market. *Co. Down.*—I should hold the Champion Reefs and Mysores. 2. With more active markets, Nile Valleys are likely to go better, but I do not see much chance for them otherwise. *Irish.*—Heriots should give you a profit within another month or two. Gold Trusts, Barneys, Johnnies, Hendersons, East Rand Extensions, New Africans, and Anglo-French, are good speculative holdings. I should be inclined to keep Frank Smith Diamonds as well. *C. M. H.*—Modders are one of the best selections in the Kaffir market. *Cymro.*—Rhodesia Mining and Finance shares are quoted at 1s. 6d. *S. F.*—A share is not necessarily cheap because it is at a heavy discount—quite the reverse; and I see no reason why Chillagoes should be recommended because they can be bought for 9d. or less. *Derwent.*—All four mines are highly undesirable, and you should sell out. Do not join the reconstruction of No. 1. *Suffolk.*—Lace Diamonds are a speculation, and not an investment; it has not paid any dividend yet, and it is not possible to say when it will pay one. As "a high rate of interest is of importance," your best plan would be to put your money into an industrial—say Lyons, which return about 8 per cent., with more than fair security. *Aurum.*—Johnnies, East Rands, and General Mining and Finance. *X. X.*—The condition of and the outlook for the West African market are so unsatisfactory, that I do not care to recommend any of its shares at present. You might keep Amalgamated and Taquah and Abossos, though probably it would pay you to realise them and put the proceeds into a good Kaffir or Westralian. *Nota Bene.*—You cannot improve upon the best, therefore keep the Rand Mines, Modders, and East Rands. *Scrutator.*—1. I do not advise dealings with the concern. 2. Hendersons should be good for a recovery to 2 or more on a reasonably active market. 3. Better sell Le Roi No. 2. *Hurlingham Court.*—Stratton's Independence are quite unattractive. *V. T. R.*—Rand Collieries make a promising purchase. *Verax.*—1. Exchange into Randfonteins. 2. Robinson Deeps and Knights Deeps should touch your figure in the near future. *E. Reynolds.*—On the Andilla Copper Mines development work is supposed to be progressing, but the Company does not seem solicitous to furnish information as to progress. The price of Gold Coast United shares is nominally about 2s. 6d. *W. C.*—I am, to my regret, unable to say what progress is being made by the San Francisco del Oro Company.

Miscellaneous.

L'Argent.—Of the concerns mentioned, the first two are quite desirable; I do not recommend the third. *Simplex, Bournemouth.*—The concern is hampered by want of capital, and it seems likely that you will be asked to sacrifice something even on the Preferred, but the condition should improve within a year or two. *Stewart, Bolton.*—Armstrong Whitworth Ordinary shares at their present price give a yield of about 5¼ per cent., and I consider them a desirable industrial holding. *Investor.*—The three banking concerns you mention are all safe, but I would choose the first two. The shares of the first give a return of 5⅝ per cent., and the second nearly 4½ per cent. *Milford.*—1. If you write to the secretary of the Company he will tell you the present value of the stock. 2. This is a legal point upon which you ought to get the opinion of your solicitor. *Doncaster.*—The dividend prospects are very remote, and the chances of the Port of London Bill being carried are equally far off, and I am of opinion that your best plan would be to realise and put the proceeds into London and India Dock Deferred, which give a return of about 4 per cent. *R. Johnson, Carlisle.*—Try the Century Insurance Company, of Edinburgh, or the Scottish Assurance, of Glasgow; but before doing so I would strongly advise you to carefully read the couple of articles dealing with this

question which have appeared in the last two issues of Truth. *Sweden.*—There is considerable liability in holding bank shares in respect of uncalled capital, but the concern mentioned is one of the best, and its shares at the present price give a return of about 4¾ per cent. *Don, Weston-super-Mare.*—The brewery named seems a fair industrial investment. With regard to the Metropolitan Electric Tram shares, these are guaranteed by the British Electric Traction Company, and consequently are not in any danger; and I think you might hold on to the Deferred, so long as you can afford to do so, awaiting developments. *G. Smith, Notting Hill.*—The last two mentioned ought to be given a very wide berth, but No. 1 seems promising. If, however, you decide upon him, you ought to pay by results only. *Coal, Cardiff.*—Judging by the results for the first half of the year, it seems probable that London and India Dock Deferred will receive the full 4 per cent., and on this basis it is a cheap investment at the current price. *Nemo, Cardiff.*—What would I do? I would leave Howard, Marshall, and Co. very severely alone. You will find it to your advantage to take no notice whatever of their wonderful circulars. *Isis, Oxford.*—I do not seem able to identify the two concerns; but anyway, the one whose prospectus you send along should be avoided. *Gaiety, Boston.*—I think it would be best to hold on. *Isfahan.*—My objection to the concern comprehends the bonds it issues. *Hereford.*—Yes, Stephens and Henderson's circulars do interest me, and I thank you for the favour. Leave the concern alone. *London, Meath.*—It is rather amusing how these strangers take an interest in you, but it would be well to remember that they take a greater interest in your money. You will not, of course, reciprocate this feeling. *F. C., Aberdeen.*—I believe that the concern deals fairly by you. *W. L., Weston-super-Mare.*—I have repeatedly uttered warnings against my readers having dealings with Stephens and Henderson. *C. C., Buxton.*—I do not recommend either of the Companies on any consideration, and you might have inferred from what I said that both are undesirable. *Pyx.*—The Companies are not likely to lower their rates. *M. F. S.*—British Insulated Ordinary shares are attractive, and Henley's Telegraph shares are also worth purchasing at the present price. *Belfast.*—Parr's Bank and Standard Bank of South Africa shares are both good industrial investments. The first brings in 4⅞ per cent., and the second a good 5½ per cent. *T. W. R.*—I should not buy Mazawattee Teas. Nor are Tower Teas a particularly attractive purchase. *C. W. R.*—Lyons shares are a fair industrial purchase, and at the present price, on the basis of the last two dividends, the return is over 8 per cent. The Company may find it necessary soon or late to abandon the system of bonus share distribution, but in that event the Directors will probably be in a position to declare an increased dividend by way of compensation. *J. M. T.*—I believe the lottery is genuine, as a lottery, but there is no catch in the business at all, and the agent is unreliable. *M. T. E.*—I am obliged to you for passing on to me the circular of our friends Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool, and I commend you for your discretion in having nothing whatever to do with the concern. *J. E. C., Derby.*—It is very much to your credit that you should have decided not to send for the pamphlet which Stephens and Henderson are so desirous to supply you with. *Musicbox.*—The National Bank of South Africa is a well reputed concern, and your money is quite reasonably safe in its custody. *T. Brook.*—No information is obtainable from the Company, and, in the circumstances, I should not buy shares for either an investment or a speculation.

Mixed Investments.

Sark.—1. Marston Thompson Preference and Newcastle Brewery Preference shares, both yielding 5½ per cent., would suit you. 2. Not Grand Trunk Ordinary stock, as you say that you are "not prepared to take risks." 3. Metropolitan Electric shares are quite good to hold. *X. Y. Z.*—There is no reason why you should sell Imperial Bank of Persia or Bank of Tarapaca shares. Neither is, of course, of the highest class, but both are reasonably good things of their class. *Joe.*—The Consols, Home Railway debentures, Indian Railways, and Colonial Government stocks are quite good investments, and with the monetary outlook promising, your best plan will be to hold them for a recovery, dividends being in the meantime assured. *Haman.*—1. The information has not been made public. 2. Negotiations are proceeding for the settlement of the Guatemalan bonds arrears of dividends, but for my part I do not feel very hopeful. *F. M. C.*—All four shares are worth holding for better conditions along with a maintenance of dividends in the meantime. *Lichfold.*—1. The Government has always met the interest on its foreign debt. 2. The publication is reliable. 3. I understand that the concern deals fairly by its clients. 4. Bank of Tarapaca shares are worth buying for steady dividends and ultimate appreciation. 5. Mexico has kept faith with its foreign creditors, and the financial position of the country is highly satisfactory. *W. H. W.*—1. I should sell William Griffith Ordinary shares. 2. Tilling's Preference shares are worth keeping for dividends and a fair profit. 3. Anglo-French and Transvaal Consolidated Land shares are worth keeping. 4. I should be disposed to buy British Electric Traction Ordinary shares. *Bridge.*—You cannot do better than distribute the sum between Lyons Preference, Newnes Preference, Canadian Pacifics, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and Great Northern Deferred. 2. I cannot help you to the work you are seeking without further information.

Claridge's Hotel, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

Miscellaneous Market Inactive—Water Issues Weaker—Water Board Stock and Reports About Further Issues—Breweries Irregular—Allsopps—Dock Stocks—Iron and Steel Group—Cunard Shares Easier—Telegraph and Telephone Descriptions Active—Sweetmeat Automatics Weak.

No appreciable change has taken place in the general position of this market. Dealers still lament the indifference of the small investor, but are hoping before long that he will once more extend his patronage to this particular department. In the meantime business continues on a very restricted scale, and shows no signs of improving. Water issues, as a whole, have been rather dullish, New Rivers, Southwark and Vauxhall, Kents, West Middlesex, and Chelsea all showing slight losses; while the Water Board stock has been adversely affected by reports that an issue of a considerable amount will be made shortly, and the price, after opening at 91¾, fell as low as 91 at one time, though there was a recovery subsequently to 91¼, which shows a net depreciation of ½ on the week. Brewery issues have been by no means brilliant, but, on the other hand, have been rather dull, Watney, Combe, Reid issues and Camden Preference losing some ground. Allsopp descriptions, however, were the centre of most interest in this section, which was not unnatural by reason of the meeting, at which the position of the Company was discussed. Much was expected from this gathering-together of shareholders in view of the published statement, but nothing of great consequence resulted save that the forlorn situation of the undertaking, brought about chiefly by bad management in the earlier days, was verified. In trying to explain away the bad results the Chairman said that "in these times of depression the competition amongst those in our trade becomes all the keener, and, therefore, we find it all the more difficult and the more costly to carry on our business with due regard to the output. We find that we have to canvass much more, and we are met all round by the keenest competition, no doubt accentuated by the bad times." As regards the loss of 3 per cent. in the volume of the trade, he said this occurred solely in London, where they had the keenest of competition. Dock stocks did not display much activity, though India Deferred developed a weaker tendency at one time, but recovered again. In the Iron and Steel group movements have been mostly upwards, Guest Keens, Babcock and Wilcox, Pearson and Knowles, Rhymneys, Armstrongs, and Vickers all hardening to some slight extent. Robert Stephenson Debentures, however, came on offer and lost a little ground, and Cammell Lairds finished the turn easier. Walter Scotts were not affected by the dividend announcement, although the rate announced was only 5 per cent., as against 9 per cent. last year. The Bolckow Vaughan dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. is declared, with £48,190 carried forward, while the board recommended the appropriation of only £36,500 out of revenue for extension of plant, as compared with £140,000 allotted for the same purpose in 1902-3. This, however, was without any effect upon quotations. Gas stocks were very inactive, and showed few features apart from a slight set-back in Gas Light and Cokes. In the Shipping group, Cunard issues were offered on the announcement of the further cutting of passenger rates by the Shipping Trust, and lost ¼; but, on the other hand, Peninsular and Oriental Deferred improved on some small buying. More interest than usual has centred round Telegraph issues, Anglo-American descriptions in particular being active and gaining some ground, while Easterns and Globe Trust improved. National Telephone stocks, too, came in for a good deal of attention, the Deferred being 3 points higher on balance, while the Preferred made a little headway. In the Hotel class, Spiers and Ponds were lower, but Hotel Cecil Preference and Gordon Hotels improved to a slight extent. As a whole, the "Bunshop" group was firm, but without much business, while Mazawattee Teas continued on the down grade; and Meat shares, including Nelsons and River Plate Meats, were dull. Textiles were steady most of the week, though English Sewing

Cottons and Calico Printers were inclined to sag, and American Thread Debentures yielded a point. Sweetmeat Automatics dwindled away on a continuance of the falling off in receipts, which for the current year show a decrease of almost £16,000. Nitrate shares continue firm, and amongst the other things in this section Hudson Bays were in rather active demand.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE GHOST OF PHARAOH NECHO.

IT has often been remarked how the spiritualists, no less than the Christian Scientists, have a happy and peculiar knack of finding converts to their respective cults among the wealthy and well-to-do classes; and how, on the other hand, the indigent and impecunious are seldom brought within their sphere of influence. This may be an accident, or it may not. I offer no opinion on the point. I merely record the fact. And, as a characteristic example of the fact, I beg to advance the case of Polonius Bruggins.

Polonius Bruggins had achieved the mature age of 78 when he first fell a victim to the fascinations of psychic research. He was a man of education and refinement, well read in the classics, who could quote his Horace or his Homer *ad lib.*, when occasion required, and read his Livy or Thucydides in the original, with ease and pleasure.

In his Oxford days, great things had been predicted of him by his tutors. They had marked him down as a certain occupant, in the future, of one or other of the professorial chairs; and, in truth, if he had applied himself seriously to such an aim, their predictions might very well have been realised. But soon after he took his degree, he inherited a large fortune from a wealthy relative, which rendered him independent of all labour or study.

He therefore ceased to prosecute the brilliant scholarly career that lay open to him, and, surrendering himself to the enjoyments of an idle life, though still continuing to cultivate his Latin and Greek to an extent that demanded no sustained or laborious effort, he merely amused himself with the classics as a pleasurable pastime, but never again made any serious attempt to compete with the professional students in those languages. In a word, he drifted into the ways and habits of a scholarly *dilettante*.

Now, in relation to psychic phenomena, and, indeed, to everything else that savoured of mystery or superstition, Polonius Bruggins had always been a pronounced sceptic. And so he continued as long as his mental vigour remained unimpaired. But when increasing age and failing health began, in some degree, to cloud his faculties, he became bitten with a strange mania for dabbling in those very mysteries which, throughout his life, he had persistently ridiculed.

There were not wanting those to encourage him. An old gentleman, fast sinking into his dotage, with £150,000 at his absolute disposal, was hardly the sort of proselyte to be otherwise than warmly welcomed by the esoteric brethren and sisters. Two of these made a particularly bold bid to get hold of him, and they succeeded almost beyond their hopes.

The names of these two were Percival Hyslott, a past-master of the science, famous in the West End of London, and his wife and coadjutor Mehalath, who, as a medium, was said to have no rival.

This precious pair fairly got old Polonius Bruggins under their thumb, so that he became afraid to take any step whatsoever without first consulting the spirits through their agency.

The affair had its ludicrous aspect. That a man, still preserving traces of intelligence, should have been deluded by the solemn tomfooleries in the way of revelation with which they humbugged him was, from one standpoint, ridiculous to the verge of farce. Yet it also had its tragic side. Indeed, to hear poor Bruggins talking with genuine emotion of the interviews he had held with the spirits of the departed—sometimes that of a stranger, sometimes those of his father, mother, brothers, or sisters—and of the striking messages they had conveyed to him, was at once pathetic and wrath-inspiring—pathetic, because of the old man's guileless belief in the reality of it all; wrath-inspiring, because every honest-minded person must needs have itched to commit bodily violence on the calculating charlatans who thus made capital out of the sacred mystery which invests with so peculiar a sanctity the spirits of our dead.

It need scarcely, perhaps, be said that the general trend of these spiritual revelations was to the great material advantage of Percival Hyslott and his wife Mehalath. Did Percival want a cheque wherewith to defray the expenses of his luxurious living, the spirit of Bruggins' dead mother was put up to prompt him to write it—yea, not only to prompt the writing of the cheque in general, but even to specify the exact figure thereof in terms of £ s. d. Did Mehalath see in some jeweller's window a diamond necklace that particularly took her fancy, what more simple than to evolve an urgent message from the other world commanding Bruggins to buy it for her?

I don't quite know how much these two took off poor old Polonius in the course of twelve months, but I have reason to believe that it was a sum sufficient to have made the present writer comfortable for life. Yet, even so, they were not satisfied. They designed, by the aid of the spirits, to get their victim to make a will in their favour, leaving them his whole fortune. This design of theirs soon became apparent to William Shakespeare Bruggins, nephew and heir of old Polonius. As you may imagine, it made him pretty sick, and he used every effort to enlighten his uncle as to the fraudulent character of the persons by whom he was being fooled. However, Polonius was too far gone to believe him, and the young man's well-meant, if not entirely disinterested, endeavours, failed to produce any salutary result.

Now, you may wonder how it was that even an old man, sinking into his dotage, can have allowed himself to be deceived by practices the aim and object of which were so transparently mercenary. But the fact was that Percival Hyslott and his wife Mehalath were exceedingly astute people, and in particular they showed a masterly skill in forging the credentials of their spiritual revelations—that is to say, in introducing into them certain features seemingly incompatible with fraud or trickery.

Let me describe in detail one of their favourite devices. Mehalath was a woman of no particular education. She had no languages at command except her own, the English, and a slight smattering of French and German. Yet if she got in touch with the departed spirit of any foreigner—Russian, Turk, Chinaman, Hindu, or Persian; aye, or some spirit of the old-world dead, Sanskrit, Ancient-Egyptian, Koptic, Phœnician or Ethiopian—her revelations, under the influence of the particular spirit, were always delivered in that spirit's mother-tongue.

Moreover, in order to prove conclusively to the audience at the *séance* that she did really speak in the language specified—Sanskrit, Koptic, or Ethiopian, etc., as the case might be, it was Percival Hyslott's practice to invite now and then some recognised professor of Oriental languages to be present, one whose bona fides were above suspicion—and to call upon him to interpret the message of any Oriental spirit under whose influence Mehalath might come.

Such experiments, though frequent, and though conducted by men who were, more often than not, scoffers at spiritualism, invariably proved successful. That is to say, the interpreter was always bound to admit that the medium *did* speak quite correctly in the language of the spirit whose message she was inspired to convey.

It was a great puzzle to the professors. They were altogether unable to explain it by natural means. That Mehalath, when in her waking senses, knew nothing whatever of the languages in which, when under spiritual influence, she frequently spoke, appeared to be true

enough. Besides, even if she had learned one or two such languages, it was inconceivable that she should have been mistress of more than a dozen such, any one of which by itself was the study of a lifetime. How, then, was it to be explained? The professors shook their heads, and frankly admitted their inability to supply any solution. What wonder, then, if the ordinary, credulous person was driven to accept the explanation put forward by Hyslott—viz., that his wife really was inspired at such times by the spirits of the departed? Ay, and many not credulous, who came as sceptics to one of these *séances*, and witnessed one of these crucial experiments, went away believers.

Polonius Bruggins himself pinned his faith upon this particular test, and used it as an unanswerable argument to all his friends who remonstrated with him on his credulity. In fact, he told William Shakespeare Bruggins, in so many words, that when he could explain *that* he, Polonius, might have patience to listen to him, not before.

Of course, William Shakespeare Bruggins could not explain it. Yet the explanation, had he only known it, was simplicity itself.

There dwelt at that time in the purlieus of Bloomsbury, not far from the Euston-road, one Andreas Polyponski, a Polish Jew, who had formerly been Professor of Oriental Languages in the University of Warsaw. He was an exceedingly clever man, with a marvellous gift for languages, of which, ancient and modern, he knew some two dozen. But withal—like many another gifted man—he was vicious, dissipated, and drunken; and so he had gradually lost berth after berth, until he had finally come down to a bed-sitting-room in a tenth-rate street off the Euston-road, where he picked up a precarious livelihood by acting as intermediary and interpreter in a shameful import traffic which I will not deign to specify.

By some means or other, Percival Hyslott had found this old man out, and, seeing what possibilities lay in him, had made overtures to him to place his linguistic attainments at Mehalath's disposal in return for certain remuneration in hard cash.

Polyponski, who had no scruples, and was prepared to do anything for a little ready money, jumped at the offer. So Mehalath would visit him at intervals, taking with her a written English version of the revelation to be made at the next *séance*. This Polyponski would render it into the language required—Syriac, Persian, Koptic, or whatever it might be—*verbatim*, and repeat it slowly to Mehalath, who went on repeating it after him until she had it by heart. She had a wonderful memory, so this exercise presented no serious difficulty to her. An hour with Polyponski, and she was primed and ready. There you have in plain terms an explanation of the whole mystery.

Now, when in course of time it was planned by this designing pair, the Hyslotts, to induce Polonius Bruggins to make a will in their favour, they determined, in order to place the revelation beyond doubt, to have recourse to this crowning miracle. And, after some discussion of details, they decided that one of the monarchs of Ancient Egypt—Pharaoh Necho, in fact, as a well-known historical character—should be the spirit with whom Mehalath should find herself in touch.

The substance of the dialogue to be enacted was drafted as follows:

"Who are you?"

"A Pharaoh of Egypt."

"Which Pharaoh?"

"Pharaoh Necho."

"Have you anything to say to me?"

"Yes, something most important."

"What is it?"

"The spirits of the departed are much troubled about Polonius Bruggins. He designs to leave his fortune to a scoffer and a sceptic. Seek the man out; tell him that, if he persists in this resolve, he will have a terrible time here when he comes to be one of us."

"Who is the sceptic of whom you speak?"

"William Shakespeare Bruggins."

"Have you any more to say to me?"

"No, not now. I have delivered the spirits' message to Polonius Bruggins."

This choice specimen of Percival Hyslott's composition was taken by Mehalath to Andreas Polyponski. The old man read it through with a knowing grin.

"Aha!" he chuckled, speaking with his quaint foreign accent. "Dish Necho—practishal old speerit hum—what? He know—vot you English say—two or dree tings! So you vish him rendered into de pure Egyptian of de period, eh, madam? Vell, vell. I can do dat for you. I have study de hieroglyphics. Let me tink a minnit, and den I shall have de repetition lesson ready for you, madam. . . . Now den. I vill begin, and you shall say after me. Von guinee? Oh, come, madam, I tink dat de Egyptian of de period might be vorth a guinee and a 'alf," he added, in wheedling tones.

"No, no, Andreas. A bargain is a bargain. And you know that a guinea a lesson is our agreed terms," answered Mehalath, shaking her head.

"Vell, madam," he said, "since we agree for von guinee, I vill do it for von guinee. But it is cheap—dirt cheap at de figure. Have I madam's attention?"

"All right. Go ahead," replied Mehalath.

He began, rehearsing the Egyptian of the period slowly, word by word, Mehalath repeating it after him. In less than an hour she had it pat and perfect. Then she took her departure.

The séance was fixed for that evening. Percival Hyslott had done his best to arrange that some recognised Egyptologist should be present, so that he might be called upon to translate Pharaoh Necho's message, and so the genuine character thereof might be established beyond cavil.

But, failing in his endeavours, he had secured the services of a friend and fellow-spiritualist, who was to attend the *séance* as an independent member of the audience, and who, when the usual invitation was issued to "any lady or gentleman present who may understand this spirit's tongue to come forward and translate it for us," should declare himself an Egyptologist and volunteer his services as an interpreter.

Of course, this confederate, who did not know a word of Ancient Egyptian, had been previously supplied with the necessary key to the translation. He had also been cautioned not to offer his services too quickly, but to wait and see whether any real Egyptologist were present among the audience (as possibly there might be), and to give such an individual the opportunity of volunteering first. Percival Hyslott, indeed, hoped that this might be the case. The more independent the testimony, the better he should be pleased.

The hour of the *séance* arrived. Mehalath, the medium, was placed in a raised chair in the centre of the impressed and awe-struck audience—men and women of all ages, and of varying degrees of intelligence, who had each paid their guinea for admission. The room was darkened. All waited, eager and intent. Dead silence for five minutes. You might have heard a pin drop.

Then, hark! Mehalath, the medium, begins to mutter.

"Hush!" says the voice of Hyslott, in an impressive whisper. "They come! they come! The spirits of the dead possess her. . . . Ah! Who is it? . . . Say, Mehalath, what do you see?"

"I see," answered the medium, in rapt, far-away tones, "I see a man, tall and of a swarthy countenance. He wears a jewelled crown and royal robes. He speaks! He addresses me. Aha!"

She shrieked, as if in an ecstasy. Then began to speak fast and eagerly, in an unknown tongue.

"Stay, Mehalath!" says Hyslott, with a commanding air. "Stay! What language is this?"

"It is the language in which the Royal Spirit speaks to me—he is a Pharaoh of ancient Egypt. I see his name written in letters of fire on his forehead. It is Pharaoh Necho."

"Is there any one present," demanded Hyslott of the audience, "who knows the tongue of the ancient Egyptians, and will volunteer to interpret for us the message of the great Pharaoh Necho?"

Silence. No response. A long pause of suppressed excitement. Then the confederate spoke.

"I know the language of the ancient Egyptians," he said. "I will interpret."

He came forward, and stood bending over Mehalath, the medium, who in dreamy, far-off tones recited the spirit's message.

Word by word, sentence by sentence, the confederate rendered it into English.

"The spirits of the departed are much troubled about Polonius Bruggins. He designs to leave his fortune——"

But here, suddenly, some one in the audience laughed; then another; and all became confusion.

"Who are these impious scoffers," cried Hyslott, angrily, "who thus dare to make game of the solemn messages of the departed?"

Only more laughter. Then some one switched on the light, and now was revealed the venerable person of Polonius Bruggins, standing erect, his face pale with fury and humiliation, shaking his fist at Percival Hyslott.

"Impostor! Swindler! Thief!" he gasped.

Then he turned and hurried from the room.

* * * * *

Percival Hyslott and Mehalath found it advisable to leave London early next morning and to lose themselves for awhile in foreign parts.

So William Shakespeare Bruggins, after all, inherited his uncle Polonius's fortune, and indeed he had earned it by his astuteness in finding out the secret of Andreas Polyponski, and bribing that unscrupulous old Jew, with fifty guineas down, to prime Mehalath, the medium, not with the requisite message from Pharaoh Necho in the Egyptian of the period, but simply with the Lord's Prayer in Greek, from the Gospel according to St. Luke.

MUSIC.

THE FIDDLE-DE-DEE OF FANCY FIDDLES.

A DELIGHTFUL, and possibly a true, story recently went the round of the Press, of a Stradivarius violin which forty years ago a disconsolate footman had offered in vain to swap for a concertina, the tone of which was preferred by his lady love, the housemaid. The fiddle, it was alleged, was purchased from the footman for 25s. by a perambulating performer, known as "Jack the Painter," was played by that worthy about the streets of Marylebone, and was sold by him for £25 to Mr. W. E. Hill, who parted with it to Mr. Laurie for £80. Its present possessor sent it to the auction room, where, last month, it was knocked down for £700. It is understood it was bought in at that price, which is the more probable, inasmuch as Mr. Hill and Mr. Laurie, two eminent experts, were not at all likely to estimate the worth of so valuable an instrument at £80. But the incident has given rise to, or has recalled, a crop of sensational stories, pathetic anecdotes of impecunious betrothed couples, who, by the sudden discovery that "father's old fiddle" was worth millions, have married and lived in affluence; of distressed farmers who paid off mortgages by the welcome sale of the family violin, and so forth. In the United States these stories obtain special credence, possibly because in that youthful country the fancy flows more freely than in moribund England. At one time the fashion in such sensational fictions ran on pictures, and the newspapers, especially during the silly season, were never tired of discovering forgotten Titians and Rubens, Raphaels, and Correggios, which were picked up for a few shillings in second-hand furniture shops, but subsequently proved to have been painted by living impecunious copyists.

Journalistic discoveries of Cremonese violins have perhaps some little excuse, as many thousands of "Strads" bearing the full label, "Antonius Stradiuarius Cremonensis, faciebat Anno. 1717" (with or without the added words "Made in Germany") have within the past twenty years been distributed at about six guineas the baker's dozen by the wholesale dealers in such articles. It is also very likely that many of the sensational fiddle stories are based upon the undoubted fact that some eighty years ago Arthur Betts, of the Royal Exchange (a family now extinct) bought for a guinea the famous 1704 "Strad," which, after keeping for about twenty years, he got rid of to Mr. Bone, of Devonport, for £500, Tasirio, the friend of Charles Reade (who, amusingly enough, obtained from him certain skilfully forged name labels), also, doubtless, picked up some wonderful bargains during his thirty years' wanderings in search of old fiddles; and so, after his death in the early fifties, did Vuillaume and Chanot. But the general history of an authentic Cremonese violin is one of gradually increasing prices, as by accident or otherwise the number of genuine instruments grows fewer, or the open-handedness of the multi-millionaire sends the figures up. Still, as I have often said, there is no instance on record of a violin fetching £1,000 at auction. And the auction is, after all, the true test.

On this point I have received from a well-known German authority a letter which is too long to print, even if the greater part of it did not go over common ground, such as that very cheap instruments probably have some defect—a revarnish, or a new head, or something of the sort—while the most valuable "Strads" are those whose history can be traced. Moreover, as my correspondent rightly points out, the professional violinist will, as a rule, only go to a certain price, and he seeks a full tone. After his limit has been reached the performer drops out, and the amateur collector buys the instrument for its history or its rarity. Still, even at a private sale of a Cremonese fiddle it is seldom that the price goes much over £1,000, except, perhaps, in paragraphs in the halfpenny newspapers. Messrs. Hill, who as a leading firm of dealers are not likely to unduly belittle the prices, candidly admit, in their magnificent "History of Stradivarius":—

> To-day an average specimen cannot be purchased for less than from £600 to £1,000, while a fine specimen is worth from £1,000 to £1,200. The examples which command a still higher figure are of quite exceptional merit, and their value is a fancy one. Nevertheless, the Stradivaris for which sums greater than £1,000 have justifiably been paid, are fewer by far than is popularly believed.

And in regard to violins not purchased at auction, there must, according to my Leipsic correspondent, be allowed something for "loadings." When, for example, a number of admirers of a popular performer subscribe to present him with an old instrument:—

> The dealer asks a good round price, say 25 to 40 per cent. more than he would if the buyer were an artist. I have even known of cases in which the dealer allowed the artist to whom the fiddle was given a good round percentage on the sum paid. This percentage to the artist for giving his advice is a regularly understood thing. Ten per cent. is, I fancy, the least that is paid by the dealer, but 15, 20, or 33⅓ is often paid, and I know of one case in which an artist received 50 per cent. on all the fiddles sold by a certain dealer through his recommendation, mostly to his pupils, who could ill afford it. Both the artist and the dealer are dead, so there is nothing to be attained by giving their names, but they were well known all over the world in professional circles.

All of which, if true (and a good deal more than a mere general statement is clearly needed to establish the fact) would seem to indicate that a Secret Commissions Bill is sadly wanted in the violin world.

Reputable dealers, however, carry on their business in straightforward fashion. They are the largest buyers at violin auctions, a fact which further goes to prove that the auction test is the true one. They must pay interest on unproductive capital, for it is probably many years before they find a customer, and, thanks to this fact alone, their profits are not by an means so large as might be imagined. My correspondent seems to hint that there is something like a knock-out, but no one who has attended violin auctions will believe it. Still more extraordinary is it to be told that it is to the interest of the dealers to keep down prices. Obviously their interest lies in persuading wealthy buyers that prices are rapidly on the up grade. Moreover, the whereabouts of every really important instrument is so well known, that anything in the nature of a knock-out or a fictitious sale would be almost impossible, at any rate in England. But it is only the fancy fiddles

that fetch very large sums, even as private bargains. No doubt Paganini's "Joseph" (Paganini, by the way, was himself a speculator in violins) would fetch a long price, simply because it is the property of the Municipality of Genoa, and some people are willing to offer enormous sums for the unattainable. "Le Messic," which is, perhaps, the finest example of a "Strad" extant, was about a century ago sold by Count Cozio for £120, was offered by Vuillaume to M. Fau in 1865 for £400, and in 1890 was bought by Hills for £2,000. The "Rode" violin was bought about 1826 for £160, and was sold to Hills in 1890 for £1,200. "La Pucelle" was sold in 1851 for £240, and (by auction in Paris) in 1878 for £884. The "Dolphin" went in 1862 for £260, and was twenty years later sold by David Laurie for £1,100. These are all exceptional instruments, and as many of them were on the fanciers' hands for long periods, of from fifteen years to a quarter of a century, the mere compound interest on capital would bring the price over the £1,000, which they might have fetched at auction. But there are plenty of excellent Cremonese fiddles which at auction have been sold at less than £200. Stradivarius himself is believed to have been paid an average of about £4 each for his instruments, although the purchasing power of gold was, of course, much greater in his times than in these degenerate days.

The Sunday League performances have recommenced some weeks earlier than usual; and in fact, as Messrs. Chappell will not let Queen's Hall save for every Sunday in the year, the League concerts in that building will henceforward take place all the year round. The afternoon Symphony Concerts organised by Mr. Robert Newman, the pioneer of high-class orchestral Sunday performances, will not begin till next month, when also we may expect the resumption of the chamber concerts at South-place, and the concerts given by the Sunday League at theatres and concert halls in various parts of the metropolis. Last winter five hundred Sunday concerts were organised by the League in twenty-one halls and suburban theatres, and this year the number will probably approach six hundred, as there will be more concerts at Queen's Hall, and three suburban theatres have been added to the list. The Sunday concerts at the Albert Hall, of course, continue all the year round.

These Sunday performances attract a totally different audience to that of the ordinary recital or week-day concert. It is true that some time ago I had to record, though I failed to sympathise with, the complaint of a lady that, although she sat in her carriage outside Queen's Hall for an hour before the doors were opened, yet she was met with the announcement that the free seats were already full, thus forcing this spoiled plutocrat to sport sixpence for a place. But the majority at Queen's Hall are of the work-a-day, the counterman, the shopgirl, and the small shopman class, who have the time to enjoy music on Sunday nights and do not mind spending a few pence for a ticket. Their tastes are their own. They do not care for oratorio, save as to "Messiah" and "Elijah," and thus, I fancy, they fall into the views of the League, who are not anxious to pay a band and a quartet of soloists and to devote many free seats to the choir. But these Sunday folk like the bands of the Guards, they appreciate Mr. Henry Wood's orchestra in Tschaikowsky and Schubert, Mendelssohn and Wagner, Sullivan and Edward German (it cannot be said that their tastes are not eclectic), and, above all, they admire a mixed programme, with plenty of British ballads, the old ballads, I fancy, being more popular than the new. And these they can get in plenty in a couple of dozen of theatres or concert halls every Sunday, at prices ranging from threepence to two shillings a seat. Last winter over six hundred thousand persons enjoyed a relaxation which may be more or less elevating, but to which none but a fanatic could take exception. And it was done at a profit, which the Sunday League refused to accept, devoting the surplus to all sorts of poor funds, children's funds, and other charities, not forgetting the Royal Society of Musicians.

The smile that is childlike and bland is apparently not confined to California. Somebody started a competition in Germany for the best Volkslied, and no fewer than 9,000 songs were sent in, out of which thirty were chosen. A subscription has now been opened to print and publish the remaining 8,970. Not even in ballad-loving Britain have we, I think, ever been startled with a suggestion of this sort.

For the truth of the rumour which credits Dr. Richter with a determination to break with Bayreuth, we must wait till the return of the great conductor to England next month. It is true that with Frau Wagner's son and one of her step-sons as conductors and another step-son as stage manager, the Festival is becoming a family affair. But no doubt also Richter finds it difficult to promise to be at Bayreuth every year, and a triennial Bayreuth has now become impossible, unless Mme. Wagner wishes to be cut out by Munich, where the casts and the *mise-en-scène* are greatly superior. I hear wonderful accounts of Herr von Possart's storm in "Die Meistersinger," of the day-break effects in the garden scene of "Tristan," of the darkness which spreads over the sea in the death scene in the same opera, and of the kermesse (which might have been designed by Teniers) in the last act of "Die Meistersinger," which, with Van Rooy as Hans Sachs, and with Nikisch in the orchestra, must have been an interesting performance indeed. But the élite of the operatic world still go to Bayreuth. Mme. Nilsson, M. Messager (who is holiday-making at a French seaside resort, or, in other words, is finishing an opera in telephonic communication with his librettist), Mme. Kirkby Lunn, and others have now left, but among the recent visitors there I learn were Madame Patti, who went over from Carlsbad, and Mme. Nordica, who herself is engaged to sing at the Wagner Festival at Munich.

The star vocalists seem temporarily to have had their day in the United States, and the run just now is on violinists. It is true that the figures of the average newspaper paragraphist in regard to the salaries of eminent artists are usually subject to a huge discount; and at any rate, if America were blessed with an income tax, the returns would not always square with the newspaper statistics. I forget how much little Von Vecsey is supposed to receive for the tour which will commence early in January, but he, I think, is bound to be the big sensation of the New York season. M. Ysaye, it is stated, will be paid this winter £12,000 for his American tour. M. Kubelik, as might be expected, thereupon goes one better, for a message from New York states that he asked for a fortnight's time to consider an offer made to him for a concert tour of a hundred nights, commencing October twelvemonth, the fee to be a million of francs, or £40,000 sterling, with travelling and hotel accommodation for himself, his wife, the twins, and a suite of seven secretaries, cooks, and servants. To my modest mind, the chief reason to doubt the accuracy of these figures is the fact that M. Kubelik took a fortnight to consider the matter, but it is, I learn, all now arranged, the entrepreneurs being Messrs. Görlitz and Joseph Schürmann. By the way, this popular violinist is now in England, for Mr. Görlitz has arranged for him a tour through the holiday resorts, starting at Blackpool last Sunday. Mme. Kubelik has come with her husband, but the twins are this time left behind in Bohemia.

Mr. Henry Wood is patiently progressing with his interesting experiment of producing new works at the Promenade Concerts, but with the exception perhaps of Tschaikowsky's "Woltava," I doubt whether he has yet discovered anything that he would care to transfer to the more important programmes of the Symphony Concerts. As to the undiscovered genius, there appears to be good reason why he cannot be found. He simply does not exist, although there are plenty of clever imitators of current styles. Among them is the Massachusetts composer, F. S. Converse, whose "Festival of Pan," although stated in the programme to have been suggested by the opening of Keats' "Endymion," is certainly more suggestive of Wagner. A by no means

interesting concerto for viola, by Hubay, was skilfully played by a very able recruit to the Queen's Hall Orchestra, namely, M. Wertheim, who must be credited with excellent patience in learning such music. The Tschaikowsky interlude was wrongly announced as for the "first time in England." Indeed, less than ten years ago the entire opera was given in the provinces by Lubimow's troupe from Moscow, who afterwards came to London, revived an opera by Rubinstein (at the Queen Street Theatre if I recollect rightly), and collapsed before "Mazeppa" could be heard in the Metropolis. The most worthy member of the troupe was M. Winogradow, whom Augustus Harris promptly engaged, although he by no means proved a star at Covent Garden. But "Mazeppa" certainly was given in the provinces, and in fact the book of words is now before me. Moreover, it is in five acts instead of three, as the Queen's Hall programme states, and the battle entr'acte, now revived by Mr. Wood, occurs in the final scene; after Mazeppa has arranged the execution of his papa-in-law (the gallant Hetman of the Cossacks coveted the family fortune), and just before he leaves his brain-stricken wife wandering about the battlefield. The battle occurs "off," and the music comprises the Russian hymn "Glory," snatches of the Greek Church tune also introduced into the "1812" overture (it is on the stage played by a military band, but at Queen's Hall it was given on the organ), and a genuine March of the time of Peter the Great, which dies away in the distance, after the manner of the "Turkish Patrol." On Saturday we had an orchestral piece, "L'Après-midi d'un Faune," by M. Debussy, an exponent of the advanced French school. This strange composition is based on a poem by M. Stephane Mallarmé, and it seems to have puzzled both poet and musician to determine what really are the afternoon thoughts of a young gazelle reclining sleepily under the forest trees. M. Debussy, at any rate, has determined that they must be vague, and so accordingly is his music. It is possible that such a subject could not have been more satisfactorily treated; but why it should have been chosen is the point. We shall next be having a "symphonic poem" illustrating the desert of Sahara. One of the great successes of the Saturday night concert was won by Mr. Tonking for a masterly rendering of the first "symphony"—or rather organ concerto—by the veteran M. Guilmant. That gentleman, the finest organist of his school now living, is, despite his sixty-seven years, just off on an American recital tour, which will start at the St. Louis Exhibition. The Queen's Hall public appreciated his "symphony," and Mr. Tonking was heartily recalled. It should be stated that the general programmes at the Promenade Concerts have been on the whole of a most interesting character; and that the new orchestra is now gradually getting into full working order, so that before long it will be a band quite equal to any of its predecessors at Queen's Hall.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Whistler as I Knew Him" (1) is at once a superb and an amusing book—superb in the number and excellence of its reproductions of Whistler's work, amusing in its characteristic anecdotes of the Master. These anecdotes are characteristic certainly; but sometimes characteristic surely rather of Whistler the humourist than of the real man. It is difficult not to believe that "The Master," as he reverently calls himself throughout, is not laughing at once at himself and at his Boswell in many of the incidents and conversations recorded in the biographical part of the book. No doubt, you have the real Whistler in the National Gallery where he criticised to Mr. Menpes, with a refreshing candour, Raphael, Rembrandt, Turner, Reynolds, etc. Raphael is merely "smart"; Rembrandt's masterpieces are not great works, but pictures which interest you merely because of their technical dexterity. "The English school of Romneys, Gainsboroughs, and Reynolds he would not tolerate at all. For them he could find no place. Seldom could I induce him even to look at them." "Turner's work was not the work of a man who knew his trade. He was struggling with the wrong medium. He ought not to have painted. He ought to have written." As for present-day painters in England, there was but one. "On the morning of the first exhibition of Whistler's own special Art Society"—where the pictures only of the elect of the elect were hung—"all the members assembled in the gallery to await the arrival of The Master. He was late, and many were the nervous conjectures as to what he would say concerning such and such a picture—whether he would praise or condemn it. At length it was said that The Master had arrived. There was intense excitement. We were self-conscious, yet tried to appear at ease. The Master appeared, faultlessly dressed, walking with a jaunty step, evidently well pleased with himself and the world in general. He passed down the gallery, humming a French chanson, and, never noting the members, walked straight up to his own picture. There he stayed for quite fifteen minutes, regarding it with a satisfied expression, stepping now backward, now forward, canting his head, dusting the surface of the glass with a silk pocket-handkerchief. We watched him open-mouthed. Suddenly he turned round, beamed upon us, and cried enthusiastically, 'Bravo, Jimmy!' Then he took me by the arm and hurried me out of the gallery, talking rapidly of the luncheon we were about to have." Whistler, indeed, seems to have given much more serious attention to the dressing of his own hair than to the works even of his own worshipping disciples; and the scene Mr. Menpes describes of Whistler at the barber's treating his hair as an exquisite work of art, is one of the most amusing in the book. On one occasion, after an hour's intense devotion to his coiffure, he stepped with Mr. Menpes into a four-wheeler and thrust his head out of the window to give the driver directions. "His hat just touched the window and disarranged his hair. Whistler stopped the cab, got out, re-entered the hairdresser's, and the work began again." But surely both The Master and the dealer were laughing at themselves and at each other in the following scene, which Mr. Menpes takes quite seriously:—"Sometimes we visited a dealer who owed him money, and Whistler would receive a cheque. Once the cheque was not handed to him in what he thought a sufficiently dignified manner, and he said to the dealer, 'This is careless of you. You push this cheque towards me, and you do not realise what a privilege it is to be able to hand it to The Master. You should offer it on a rich old English salver and in a kingly way.' Once a dealer borrowed a gorgeously embossed silver salver for the occasion, and when The Master arrived for his cheque—he was very punctual—presented it on the salver with a carefully worded and elegant little speech that he had taken some pains to rehearse. The Master was pleased. 'This,' said he, 'is as it should be.'" I ought to say that the really superb illustrations in the volume were engraved and printed in the Menpes Press and under the expert direction of Mr. Menpes. What will you say of a novel whose middle-aged, pock-marked, under-sized, wry-necked, squint-eyed hero is transformed, in part through being dipped in the fire of Vesuvius, as in a Medea's cauldron, and in part through the magic treatment of a Moorish sage, into a tall, handsome, smooth-complexioned, straight-eyed, and comparatively young man? If you can accept this transformation, you will find in its consequences as thrilling a story as you have read for many a day. You will then have to accept even its astonishing dénouement, which makes the hero, who was presumed to have been overwhelmed in a Vesuvian eruption, marry his own supposed widow without her suspecting, or him even confessing, his identity wtih the

(1) "Whistler as I Knew Him." By Mortimer Menpes. (London: Adam & Charles Black. 40s. net.)

(2) "The City of Mystery." By Archibald Clavering Gunter. Illustrations by Henry Austin. (London: Ward, Lock & Co. 6s.)

(3) "Hearts are Trumps." By Sarah Tytler. (London: John Long. 6s.)

(4) "A November Cry." By Frances G. Burmester. (London: Smith, Elder & Co. 6s.)

(5) "A Taste of Quality." By E. S. Rorison. (London: John Long. 6s.)

husband whom he was understood to have succeeded! In a word, in spite of the monstrous improbabilities of its plot, Mr. Archibald Gunter's "The City of Mystery" (2) takes and keeps fast hold of you from its first page to its last. I cannot say that Miss Sarah Tytler's "Hearts are Trumps" (3) is either very probable or very exciting. Judge Peignton marries for his second wife his first love, who finds herself thereby embarrassed with the charge of two grown-up step-daughters. It would be more correct, perhaps, to say that the domineering elder of the two girls finds herself saddled with the care of a step-mother in addition to that of her hysterical sister. This sister was married privately to her step-mother's brother, before the marriage of that lady to the Judge, and much of the interest of the novel centres in the efforts of the domineering sister to keep husband and wife apart. That she should succeed in doing this when the two are together under her father's roof is one of the improbabilities of the story. However, the hero's third act of heroism—his saving of a dog, as he had earlier saved first some drowning children and then a drowning man from death at the risk of his life—his third act of heroism, which prostrated him for weeks, indirectly and through the intervention of his sister, brought about his re-union with his wife. There is nothing now except a stormy scene with the Judge between all the characters and the haven where they would be. It is quite time that a publisher's reader, who has sickened with hope deferred and broken with disappointed hope the hearts of so many aspiring novelists, should be adequately punished in a novel, as he certainly is in "A November Cry" (4). All the same his death came at an untimely moment, when he is about to make all the reparation he could to the injured lady novelist, including the humble gift of his hand and heart. Untimely also seemed to me the heroine's marriage to the K.C. so soon after Dick Britain's death, but, after all, he was only a publisher's reader. More natural is the quarrel and reconciliation of Thirza Mayhew and her husband—natural indeed as Essex nature itself. By the way, surely the French lines quoted at the close of the book should run:—

"On sort; on crie;
Voilà la vie!
On crie; on sort;
Voilà la mort!"

Your interest in "A Taste of Quality" (5) is a good deal distracted, but I suppose Din Arkwright and Dick Treswell are intended to be the two most sympathetic personages, and yet you are disgusted with Din for her treatment of Dick. Altogether the novel leaves upon you at once a confused and an unsatisfactory impression.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—It is interesting to notice the difference in small things between England and France. The gardens, for instance, though gay with flowers among which hydrangeas and begonias play a prominent part, as well as red geraniums, have badly-tended lawns. The grass is not kept trimmed and neat, as it is with us, the edges clipped and clear. There is a greater fancy for statuary and outdoor ornaments than there is in all but the most elaborately kept of our home gardens. In a beautiful garden not far from here there is a carved marble well-head very like a handsome one I saw at Charles's in Brook-street just before I left town. In another garden there is a set of three fountains on three terraces, in miniature an imitation of the famous fountains at Versailles. The little river that runs past this village supplies the water for many fanciful arrangements, and the play of water on one lawn we sometimes pass is like a great table of silver sheen with a wall of dropping diamonds all round it. A coat of arms is carved on the base. And yet, even here, where money has been lavished, the grass is rough and ill-kept.

The pride of our English gardens is, after trees and flowers, the beautifully-kept turf, and it seems curious that the French, with their exquisite taste, love of order, and attention to detail, should be negligent in this particular.

Many wear pearls here by the sea. Some clever man pleased the whole of pearl-wearing womankind by giving it out some years ago that these exquisite ornaments benefit by fresh air and sunshine. Some persons believe even that it does them good to be bathed in the sea, their native element. I wonder if it is so. One would naturally imagine that the salt water would soon break the string that holds the pearls together.

We sometimes go and sit on the *plage* in the shelter of the awning-covered seats and watch the bathing. The French shriek has less volume and more shrillness than our own. It is very different from the full-breathed yell in which 'Arriet expresses her excitement on the switchback or at first contact with the sad sea waves. Very few of the women bathers here do any swimming, and their performance in the water is so lacking in heartiness that it seems hardly worth while to undress for it. Some of the younger ladies are mightily coquettish in the sea. They trip it in the shallow waves, try to hold down their skirts with one hand, their shady hats with the other, and make little pirouettes, accompanied by little cries like sea birds'.

Some of the very stout men must have had some difficulty in getting bathing suits sufficiently ample. When they run across the *plage* to the sea, their legs have an overworked appearance. Substantial as these limbs are, they scarcely look sufficiently solid to support the quivering mountains that they carry towards the sea.

A pretty, fair-haired girl in a pale green linen bathing costume takes her bath on a chair by the water's edge, merely dipping in one pretty pink foot, then the other. Her maid dries them for her, and the business is over. From the next tent to hers comes an English girl with a dash across the sands, a rush into the sea, and a plunge that carries her far out in a glorious swim. Our pale green girl receives an unpleasant surprise as this small avalanche in blue serge and scarlet braiding dashes past her, sending some spray over her.

You are not allowed to drown yourself here. Horns toot at you if you swim farther out than the authorities consider safe. If any one wants a good swim he must hie him to an unchaperoned part of the coast. Our party bathes at St. Etienne, the full programme of the bath involving a walk of a mile and a half up the steepest of hills and a less precipitous descent on the other side; but it is lovely bathing.

Richard laughs every time he hears the funny little horn with which the guard starts his train after a stop at stations—it sounds so utterly babyish and unofficial; and we all laugh, too, at the tiny treble note of the little trumpet with which the seller of hot *brioches* advertises his arrival. The noise he makes suggests a Brobdingnagian gnat, rather than a commercial announcement. A peripatetic vendor in England who should blow a toy trumpet like one of these would have to encounter considerable ridicule.

A lady here amused us very much by saying that she thinks the *entente cordiale* has made the Custom House officers much more "lenient" about our English luggage. I do not fancy that it has yet had any such effect, nor that it ever will. Business is business. Bee is always angry when the officials of the *douane*, passing over me as though I were not there, look her straight in the face and say, "Avez vous de l'alcool, du vin, du tabac ou cigares à declarer?" The firmness of her "No!" is tremendous. "Why do they pick out me?" she asks, and I try to console her by suggesting that it is because she is so tall. "Do I look like a consumer of tobacco and spirits?" she further asks, and I reply, very truthfully, that I do not think she does.

I see by the papers that the gilded youth of the Continent of Europe, and many who are not gilded, have rushed into red ties and socks because the King of England wears these colours at Marienbad. It is

very comforting, in a way, to know that the superior sex suffers just as we do from these little weaknesses. Do you remember reading, a few years ago, that a journalist had cabled across to New York that he had just seen Lord Marcus Beresford in Pall Mall with the leg of one trouser turned up and the other not? Immediately and unanimously did the golden youth of the States begin to take its walks abroad with trousers turned up on one leg but not on the other.

Our King, when visiting Paris as Prince of Wales some years ago, went gloveless to a theatre. The youth of the capital after that attended balls without gloves, giving as their reason that "le Prince de Galles ne portait pas les gants en habit de soir." So uncomfortable for their partners!

We are not so very much more foolish than this, are we, dear?

Apropos to fashion, I hear that purple and a very bright shade of red, like scarlet geranium, are to be the fashionable colours for autumn. We see a great deal of the bright tone of blue now called "royal," in taffetas chiefly, and sometimes, but not so often, in voile. The trimmings all go straight round, no longer slanting downwards towards the back. The blue foulards are in every shade, and most of the skirts are gathered in several rows round the waist and just below it. Pipings trim the gowns in every direction, and form little epaulettes on the top of sleeves. Ruches are still enormously popular, and tucks adorn nine dresses out of ten.

Sitting out the other evening on the terrace of the Château du Touquet, listening to the band, we studied the mingled nationalities of the assembly with much interest. The Frenchwomen are very much closer and neater in their hairdressing than the English, and their high pompadours are raised entirely from the forehead with hardly a hint of a curl or wave. In many cases they wore light hats, but the English displayed their beautiful hair. High but elaborate dresses are the rule for this delightful way of spending the evening. We noticed the comparative rigidity of outline in the smart French dresses; where an Englishwoman wears muslin or chiffon, a French one dons taffetas or canvas. This gives added emphasis to the tightly-swathed bodice, the puffed sleeves, and the full, wide skirt, which reign over here. English skirts are longer than French; French sleeves are shorter than English. High, pointed waistbands are worn by both nationalities. Even after dinner, we noticed that French visitors clung to race-coats in white or fawn cloth, with frills and trimmings galore. These pale cloth coats are a very distinct feature of the topmost French fashions that throng Le Touquet. The Englishwomen there are exquisitely dressed, too; the blue-spectacled tourist in awesome clothes has not yet penetrated to this brilliant miniature world set amid the whispering dusk of the pines. We saw a very distinguished-looking French lady in an exquisite dress of some silver-grey woollen material with a woven silken sprig. The skirt was cut with two small shaped flounces, and down each seam ran a line of little white silk links threaded with the narrowest gold braid. The bodice, of silver-grey chiffon, was swathed, picture-fashion, into a high belt of gold tissue embroidered in silver valley-lilies, and crossed a little vest of the same. Bands of the grey material were arranged across the chiffon, each held by a little gold filigree button, from which fell a little jabot of coffee-tinted lace. The puffed chiffon sleeves ended just above the elbows with pointed bands of the tissue, crossed, and held with similar buttons; and from them fell many copious frills of the lace, of varying depths. A white hat wreathed with black, silver, and gold tulle, with one black plume held by a gold buckle, completed it.

I asked a doctor in England if perfumes are really disinfectants. "No," he said. "How can they be?" I asked a doctor here in France the same question, and he answered, "Mais oui, Madame, sans doute," and explained that the basis of every perfume is a strong essential oil of some kind, and that these essential oils are antiseptic, and possess most valuable disinfecting qualities. Now, which is right? I should really like to know, for we brought with us some of our long-known and beloved Hasu no Hana, believing it to be as effectual a safeguard against evil odours as it is a delicious scent. What do you think about it? A chemist at Boulogne sells a delightful toilet water made from white heliotrope. Can it have any antiseptic influence, since it contains no essential oil? By the way, I do not think I have ever heard of white heliotrope, have you?

Really good perfume is so delightful that one feels quite grateful for it; but is there anything more odious in its way than cheap, nasty scent that suggests hair oil? And how detestable is patchouli! Where can people's noses be who spend their money on it?

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Dublin is, in a way, one of the most festive capitals in the world. Besides its "season" *par excellence*, and its season within the season, that is, the "Castle season," it enjoys a great number of "weeks" at intervals throughout the entire year. In fact, something is more or less always going on in the town or its neighbourhood; its dead periods are of short duration. The streets are never deserted either, for when the good houses are shut up and the inhabitants away holiday making, the holiday makers of other countries are, in a yearly increasing number, to be seen in Dublin. Trade, like the farmer, is always grumbling. The trade of Dublin is no exception to the rule. Under the circumstances one cannot help wondering why it does not enjoy some measure of prosperity, but dare not whisper a doubt as to where the fault might possibly lie. Is not grumbling an accusation of fate, generally speaking, by those who make no attempt to propitiate it? And what a time one has who ventures to tell a grumbler to look within. The only mitigation is that he, too, has a bad time, if he finds out certain truths in connection with himself as the result of looking within.

By the way, apropos of grumbling in general, is it a misfortune or a fault? An innate twist of the mind, or a mere habit? Whichever it may be, grumblers seem to enjoy the affliction thoroughly, to hug and foster it, and to find their own peculiar content in discontent. Have we not all amongst the circle of our acquaintances those of the class "who would grumble at the draughts in Heaven and find fault with the fit of their halos"? And somehow they never seem any the worse for it, though possibly their friends often do.

Those who were grumblers grumbled hard about the weather last week. Those who were not rejoiced with cheerful but insufficient logic that the weather of this week would be all the better for the unsatisfactoriness and general badness of the last. It is, of course, a very important matter to have fine weather for this, the greatest perhaps of all the Dublin "weeks," the Horse Show week. We need it for an infinite variety of reasons, serious and frivolous, the latter being generally placed to the credit of our sex. To confine ourselves to them, the weather is the most important element in the dress question. And what a worry it can be, especially when in a betwixt and between mood; when it can neither make up its mind to be very good nor horrid. Our own minds supply vacillations enough regarding the most suitable dress for the occasion and the season without needing any help in that direction from the weather. At best of times the end of August has uncertainties. Shall we have a last wear of summer or will a forecast shadow of autumn oblige us to renounce the joys of the dresses that were so specially beautiful this year in their light airiness? Who can tell? We must only be prepared for contingencies.

Last week, on Saturday, Leopardstown race meeting was a kind of horsey prelude to the Horse week; the beautiful weather was of hopeful augury. Leopardstown is one of the most attractive of Irish race meetings, the place and its surroundings are so perfect and picturesque, and the air from the mountains so invigorating. The King and Queen paid their first visit to it this year, and were charmed with everything connected with the meeting. There are no fatigues in getting to Leopardstown, as it is within a few miles of Dublin.

This week may well be called a full one in our capital and its neighbourhood. Society and every one else can find ample occupation for their time. We have the horse in much variety: the show, the race meetings of Leopardstown and Phœnix Park, and polo

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playing on many different polo grounds. An Art Industries Exhibition is also being held by the Royal Dublin Society at Ballsbridge, where lace, embroidery, tapestry, artistic enamelling, stained glass, and all the other artistic works being taken up and developed in the country will have exhibits. What a busy people we are now, with all our industrial effort and revivals. If only we have staying power. And perhaps the success of the broth is endangered by the number of cooks, professional and amateur.

Lord and Lady Ardilaun have returned to St. Anne's, Clontarf, where they always entertain a party for the Horse Show, Lord Ardilaun being President of the Royal Dublin Society. Lord and Lady Iveagh and many members of their family are at Farmleigh. The young Duke of Leinster has been at Carton for some time, and Lady HolmPatrick, with Lord HolmPatrick and her daughters, at Abbotstown. Lady Ashbourne is staying with her family near Dublin, but Lord Ashbourne went abroad after the prorogation of Parliament. Lord and Lady O'Brien are also away having a "cure" at Homburg. The legal luminaries have to avail themselves of the Long Vacation to take a comfortable and protracted holiday, though they are not unfrequently able to snatch a little relaxation at other times as well. Lady Evelyn Ward and her husband have been enjoying some Irish fishing. Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Ward returned to Ireland with Lord Dudley to stay at the Viceregal Lodge. This week Society is mustering in great strength in Dublin, but I cannot tell you of it until next week.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Fillets of trout à la Burton are really good:—

Cut and trim the fillets of a small salmon trout into convenient-sized fillets, arrange them on a buttered sautépan, season them with pepper, salt, chopped parsley, and truffles, cover them with a buttered paper, moisten them with a little stock from the boiled fish bones and cook them in a moderate oven about half-an-hour. Dish them in a circle; garnish the centre with ball-shaped pieces of boiled cucumber, and pour the following sauce round them:—

Dissolve 1 oz. of butter in a stewpan, mix in a tablespoonful of flour and sufficient stock from the boiled fish bones, to make the sauce of a nice consistency; when it boils, add the yolks of two eggs mixed with half a gill of cream, the juice of half a small lemon, salt and pepper to taste. Whisk the sauce until it is quite hot but not boiling; then add a tablespoonful of shredded truffle.

Asparagus salad is always appreciated, and this is a lovely way of making it. Bottled asparagus makes this dish very well:—

Cut the tender part of a bundle of large asparagus into pieces an inch long, boil them carefully and drain them till they are cold. Cut three hard-boiled eggs into slices, take out the yolks and pound them with a spoonful of capers, a saltspoonful of French mustard and an ounce of butter, rub them through a hair sieve, mix the purée with a spoonful of thick mayonnaise sauce, and with it fill the white rings of the eggs, press a round piece of truffle on each, and with them make a border on a silver dish, using a little worked butter to keep them firm. Season the asparagus with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, add chopped tarragon and chervil and a very little chopped chives. Pile in the centre of the dish and strew with finely shredded truffle.

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ENTRE NOUS.

JUST a line or two in continuation of the paragraph I wrote about the Truth Dolls last week. A wholesale dealer in the City has very kindly sent me a large parcel of ribbon-ends suitable for the adornment of dolls, and I shall be pleased to distribute amongst those ladies who apply at once the material thus received.

The King will next week pay his fifth visit to Rufford Abbey, the delightful old seat of Lord Savile in Notts. His Majesty's first visit to Rufford took place in the eighties, when the place belonged to the late Mr. Augustus Savile, and he has been four times the guest of Lord and Lady Savile. Rufford, which is near Ollerton, in a very picturesque and heavily wooded country, is a stately Elizabethan house, built upon the site of an ancient Cistercian monastery, which was founded in 1148 by Hugh Fitzralph and his wife. The house contains some fine rooms with much old oak panelling, and there are a few interesting portraits. The park, which contains a pretty lake, is well timbered, and has some beautiful sylvan scenery. The estate, which is a very large one, passed from the Ords to the Talbots, and an heiress of that family conveyed it to the Saviles, Marquises of Halifax. The heiress of the Savilles married an Earl of Scarbrough, which carried the property into the hands of a collateral branch of the Savile family.

The King is to arrive at Rufford Abbey on Monday evening, and he will stay there until Saturday morning, the 10th, when his Majesty is to travel direct from Ollerton to Ballater, by way of York, Edinburgh, and Dundee, the Royal train passing over the Forth and Tay bridges. The house party invited to meet the King at Rufford includes the Duke of Portland, M. de Soveral (who has been in Portugal during the last three weeks), Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lord and Lady Churchill, Lord Farquhar, Captain and Mrs. Ronald Greville, Mrs. George Keppel, Major and Mrs. Heneage, Mrs. Alan Johnstone, Miss Thornewill, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur James, besides Colonel Davidson and Captain Fortescue, who will be in waiting. Count Mensdorff will be unable to join the party, as he is abroad, and is not expected to return to England until the end of October.

It was announced in Truth several weeks ago that the King is to pay a visit this month to Lord and Lady Burton at Glenquoich Forest, Inverness-shire. I hear that either just before he goes to Glenquoich or directly after his visit to Lord and Lady Burton the King will be the guest of Lord and Lady Cadogan for a day or two at Killiechonate, the shooting-lodge in the deer forest of Inverlochy, between Spean Bridge and Fort William. Lord Cadogan has rented this forest and other shootings, and a beat of the Spean salmon fishings, from Lord Abinger's trustees.

The King is to be invited to open the Winsley Sanatorium, near Bath, in the course of the autumn. It is scarcely probable that his Majesty will be able to accept the invitation, but it is hoped that in this case the Prince of Wales will be deputed to represent the King at the ceremony. The Prince (or whoever attends on the part of the Royal Family) will be the guest of Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder at Hartham Park, near Chippenham.

A morning paper announced on Saturday that the King is to arrive at Prague on Thursday, the 8th, for a stay of two days. His Majesty returns to England on Friday evening, and he will be at Rufford Abbey and at Doncaster on the days which he is announced

to spend at Prague. The Royal Yacht leaves Portsmouth to-day to embark the King at Flushing for Sheerness.

The King's Household-in-Waiting will be constituted as follows during September:—Lords of the Bedchamber, Lord Lawrence, Lord Denbigh, Lord Churchill; Grooms of the Bedchamber, Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton, Mr. Henry J. Stonor, Captain Walter Campbell; Equerries, Colonel Arthur Davidson and Captain Seymour Fortescue; Gold Stick, General Lord Chelmsford, Colonel of the 2nd Life Guards; Silver Stick, Colonel Bingham, 1st Life Guards; Deputy Clerk of the Closet, Rev. W. R. Jolley; Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, Colonel Ricardo, Grenadier Guards.

The Prince of Wales had three days' grouse driving last week over the Advie and Tulchan Moors in Morayshire, which are rented by Mr. Arthur Sassoon from Lady Seafield. The weather was not particularly favourable for shooting, and only moderate sport was obtained, ninety brace being the best day's bag. The guns were H.R.H., Lord Stanley, Lord Wolverton, Mr. William James, and Sir Charles Cust. On Thursday and Friday the Prince of Wales had a series of drives over Lady Seafield's Castle Grant and Dava moors in Strathspey, and the shooting party lunched at Castle Grant. When Tulchan was rented by the late Mr. Bass, M.P. for Derby, the father of Lord Burton, Mr. Bright was a regular visitor every autumn, and he landed many fine salmon from the Spey while staying at the lodge.

The Princess of Wales is to arrive in London to-morrow (Thursday) evening from Germany, attended by Mr. and Lady Eva Dugdale. H.R.H. has been abroad for five weeks. The Princess will leave Marlborough House on Friday evening (attended by Lady Katherine Coke) for Abergeldie Castle, where the Prince is to arrive to-morrow from visiting Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon at Tulchan Lodge, Morayshire. The Prince and Princess of Wales are to return to London from Scotland about Saturday, October 8, and a few days later they will proceed to York Cottage, Sandringham, which is to be their principal residence during the autumn and winter months.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to return to England this week from Tyrol. After the manœuvres in Essex the Duke is going to Scotland, and he will pay a visit to the Duke of Atholl in Perthshire, either at Blair Castle or at Dunkeld House, and will also spend a few days at Balmoral with the King.

Princess Henry of Battenberg, who has been residing during the last six weeks at Osborne Cottage, her place in the Isle of Wight, will probably spend the winter and early spring months in the Mediterranean. H.R.H., who was in Egypt last winter from December until April, has purchased the large steam yacht *Gloaming* from Captain Orr-Ewing. This vessel, which is to be renamed *Sheila*, is a most comfortable cruising yacht, and a capital sea boat, and she will probably go to the Mediterranean in November for six months.

Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, who is at present the guest of Mr. and Lady Florentia Hughes at Kinmel Park, Denbighshire, is going shortly to Ireland, on a visit to Lord and Lady Dartrey, at Dartrey House, Monaghan.

The King of the Hellenes, who passed through Paris last week on his way from Aix-les-Bains to Copenhagen, is to stay in Denmark until the end of October, when he will probably come to England for a fortnight before returning to Athens for the winter. In this case King George will spend about a week at Buckingham Palace, and he will be included in the house party which is to be entertained at Sandringham during the second week in November for the celebration of His Majesty's birthday. Queen Olga, who has been staying in Russia for more than two months, is to spend three weeks in Denmark during the autumn, and is expected to arrive at Copenhagen about the middle of September, accompanied by Prince Nicholas of Greece and the Grand Duchess Helena Vladimirovna.

A good deal of discussion is going on in the German papers in regard to a trusted Court official obtaining subscriptions to charities by getting decorations for the donors. There seems to be no question as to the money thus obtained being devoted to the charities, but it seems to be thought that the mode of obtaining it was unjustifiable. This is a little absurd, for it assumes that a decoration is a proof of the recipient having invariably done something to deserve it. It may be so in a few instances, but it is by no means the rule—indeed, I should imagine it to be the exception. But even were every one with a ribbon or a metal plate on his breast to have deserved this official recognition of his services, I greatly doubt that these services have been equal to what the community derives from some handsome gift to a useful charity. Both decorations and titles are conferred by us for a monetary equivalent. Sometimes a charity gains, but more frequently the electoral chest of a political party. As for decorations, they have been so multiplied of late, and so profusely distributed, that it will soon become more distinguished to be without one. Titles, too, have ceased to be a hall-mark of distinguished services—even those giving a man the right not only to become a legislator, but to convey this right to his descendants *in sæcula sæculorum*. And yet the anxiety to get one seems to grow with the diminution of their value.

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For Foreign Hotels, see page 557.
For Amusements, see page 553.
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For Our Puzzles, see page 561.

In Italy no one inheriting a title can use it without paying a heavy registration duty. This seems to me to open out a considerable field for a Chancellor of the Exchequer in search of new taxes. I would abolish entirely any exceptional right to legislate owing to the possession of a title. But I would frankly sell titles for the benefit of the public exchequer instead of for that of party funds. If, too, a deserving charity is really in want of money, I would present it with a few baronetcies or knighthoods, with permission to sell them to the highest bidder. The heir to the purchaser —as the heirs of all existing titles—would have to pay a considerable sum for assuming it on coming into his inheritance. Thus the public would benefit by the mania for titles, and many respectable persons, blessed with this world's goods, would be able to get what they are so anxious to possess.

The birth of Lord and Lady Dudley's third daughter at the Viceregal Lodge last week was an interesting event of a kind not frequent in Irish Viceregal records. Over fifty years ago the late Colonel George Villiers was born during the Viceroyalty of his father, Lord Clarendon, the name of Patrick being included in his baptismal names to commemorate the connection with Ireland. Since then no event of the kind has happened in an Irish Viceroy's family until last week.

Lord Dudley, notwithstanding domestic anxieties, fulfilled the Viceregal duties of the Horse Show week with his usual energy. Amongst the "house party" at the Viceregal Lodge were the Duchess of Beaufort, Lord and Lady Coventry and Lady Dorothy Coventry, Lord and Lady Rossmore and Miss Naylor, Lady Evelyn Ward and Mrs. Cyril Ward. The Lord Lieutenant and the Viceregal guests, officials, and staff attended the Horse Show in State throughout the week. The greatest of all the Dublin Horse "weeks" was again a brilliant success, although the weather was somewhat broken. Dublin and its neighbourhood were crowded, and the fashionable society of the kingdom was more strongly represented than usual at the Horse Show, the race meetings of Leopardstown and Phœnix Park, and at the polo matches throughout the week. Dinner parties were given each evening at the Viceregal Lodge, and on Thursday evening Lord Dudley and his party attended a dance given by Lord and Lady Grenfell at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, the first entertainment of the kind given under the new régime at Kilmainham.

The presence of the Channel Fleet at Kingstown, under its very energetic and popular Admiral, Lord Charles Beresford, was an additional attraction of the week. Naval hospitality was freely exercised. The Viceroy and his party paid several visits to the Fleet; on Friday they were entertained at luncheon by Lord Charles, a number of the elect being invited to meet them. In the afternoon at the naval sports and sailing contests got up by the Admiral Lord Dudley's *Fodhla* —the Viceroy himself steering—took part, and was a winner. The Lord Lieutenant's was a "popular win," and called forth much enthusiasm.

The new Irish Commander of the Forces and Lady Grenfell took up their residence at the Royal Hospital last week, where they entertained a Horse Show party. Amongst their guests were Lord and Lady Waterford, Lord and Lady Marcus Beresford, Lady Victoria Grenfell, and Mrs. St. Aubyn. They gave several entertainments during the week, including a dance. Lord Grenfell was a popular and hospitable host during his tenure of office as Lieutenant-Governor in Malta, and will no doubt enjoy social popularity in Dublin.

Lord and Lady Curzon of Kedleston, who are now at Walmer Castle, will leave Dover on Thursday, the 29th, for Marseilles, whence they will sail next day for Bombay in the P. and O. steamer *Arabia*. Lord Curzon will return to England in May, 1906, his term of office as Viceroy of India finishing on March 31, 1906. Lord Curzon must kiss hands on his re-appointment, and he will either have an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on Saturday or Monday next, or he will pay a visit to his Majesty at Balmoral during the week after next.

Mr. Balfour, who is to arrive at North Berwick today from Whittingehame, his family place near Prestonkirk, will stay there until the 24th or 26th, when he is going to Balmoral for a week as Minister-in-Attendance on the King. It is understood that Mr. Graham Murray will be the Minister-in-Attendance at Balmoral from the 12th until the 19th. Between the 19th and the 26th the King will be away on his visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Glenquoich Forest, Inverness-shire.

The late Mr. Peters, of Siggieden, Forfarshire, was widely known in Scotland as a most enterprising and successful agriculturist and as a most ardent politician. Mr. Peters was all his life a very strong Liberal, and he professed decidedly Radical views at a period when such opinions were far from popular among either landlords or tenant farmers. He had rented the large farm of Siggieden, on the Fotheringham estate, for nearly twenty-two years, and for seventeen years previously he was resident agent for a large property in Sussex. He was an able man all round, of the old Scotch type, and distinguished for his strong commonsense.

Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal has increased his landed property on the West Coast of Scotland by purchasing the islands of Colonsay and Oronsay, which have been owned by the M'Neill family since the middle of the seventeenth century, the Duke of Argyll being the feudal superior. The two islands comprise nearly 14,000 acres, including arable and rich pasture land, hill grazings, heather-covered moors, and extensive

woods and plantations. There is an excellent and well-situated mansion on the east side of Colonsay, with nice gardens and sheltered by woods. The two islands are separated by a narrow channel, which is dry for three hours at low water. There are some most interesting ruins of an ancient church and monastery in Oronsay. The islands afford good and varied shooting, with first-rate sea-fishing and angling in several lochs.

There has been an extraordinary delay in making a new appointment to the Regius Chair of Medicine at Oxford. It is well known in the University that there has been a contest between two powerful parties, one desiring that the chair should be amalgamated with another Professorship, while the other side wished that a medical man of real distinction should be selected to succeed Sir John Burdon Sanderson. The latter party, which was headed by Sir William Church, has succeeded in convincing Mr. Balfour of the soundness of its views. Dr. Ostler, who is to be the new Professor of Medicine, is well known in the United States and Canada as a lecturer and writer of the highest distinction, and he is a man of great scientific knowledge and exceptional administrative capacity. Dr. Ostler's appointment meets with general approval, and he will be warmly welcomed at Oxford.

Scarcely a day passes at this season of the year without bringing me some complaint of a traveller or holiday-maker against his hotel bill. As a rule, I fear that I am not very sympathetically disposed towards these complaints. In the first place, the value of a thing is what it will fetch, and an hotel proprietor is justified in charging such prices as he finds that the generality of his customers will pay. In the second place, I do not think that excessive profits are made in the hotel business, taking one establishment with another, from which it would seem to follow that prices are on the whole not unreasonable. Besides this, a man, before he engages a room or orders his dinner at an hotel, can easily ascertain for himself what price he is going to be charged, and it seems rather foolish, therefore, on his part to neglect this precaution, and afterwards complain that he is charged more than he expected he would have to pay

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However, one hears sometimes of charges so outrageous that they deserve some publicity, if only as a warning to other travellers. For instance, an Englishman sent me the other day two bills which he had had to pay at the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. He had stayed at the hotel on two separate occasions in July. On the first occasion he was charged $1 for certain services rendered to him under the head of "valet," which he did not complain of, though it seems fairly stiff considering he had only been in the hotel one night. But on the second occasion he gave out a suit of clothes to be brushed, and this time he was charged in his bill "Valet $2 50s." This works out in English money at about half-a-guinea, and as the charge for brushing a suit of clothes I think this may fairly rank as a record in hotel charges. The observations made above have obviously no application to this case, because the traveller had stayed at the hotel before, and enjoyed the services of a valet for $1. Moreover, he was only paying $2 for the use of his room for the night, so that he could hardly expect having to pay more than that amount for having his clothes brushed. The charge, therefore, looks like a trap, and one feels justified in advising visitors to this particular hotel to brush their clothes themselves.

Another correspondent writes:—

I have just been reading your article of last week on British and Continental hotel tariffs. I do not think that nowadays foreign hotels are cheaper than English ones, whatever they might once have been. There are always cheap hotels for those whose tastes or necessities lead them to travel on the cheap. But the up-to-date hotel is dear in France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and other European countries, because the demands made on the hosts by travellers are considerable. The hotel has to be lavishly furnished. There must be a "hall" and numerous reception-rooms. The bedrooms have to be thoroughly comfortable, the service must be good, and the cuisine above all reproach. All this costs a good deal of money, and it costs as much abroad as it does at home. In Switzerland, a return was made last year of the net profits upon the capital invested in hotels. It showed, if I remember rightly, that this was 5 per cent. Of course, it included all hotels; but a large, well-managed hotel would consider that it is doing well if it made 10 per cent. on its capital, and this, considering the risks, is certainly not excessive. In many places abroad the money has to be made in a comparatively short season, and for the rest of the year the hotel has to be run either at a loss, or to be closed. There are, however, cheap hotels in almost every Continental town, where the charges are small and the comforts limited. These, however, are very rarely patronised by English people. I should say, on the whole, that a person travelling and desirous of being "well done," should put the cost of lodging and eating at about £1 per head a day, and considerably more if he wants a sitting-room. Any one prepared to stick to living in places out of the season may, however, live cheaply. Generally the hotel is nearly empty, and for six or seven francs a day he may have the best, for the proprietor does not look to profit, and likes his bedrooms to be aired. Good first-class hotels are not inclined to take in guests *en pension* during the season, and in this they are, I think, wise, for this is their harvest time. Undoubtedly, as you say, you may find pensions in Switzerland where the charge is five francs per diem even during the season; but the fare is usually scrimpy and the living is usually more or less rough. The benefit of hotels to a town or a watering place lies not so much in the profits of the hotel proprietors as in the number of the inhabitants who find work, and the benefit accruing to the purveyors of food and the shop keepers. Foreign health resorts are more popular than English ones because the foreigners are prepared to spend a good deal more in making the resort attractive. They do not do this on philanthropic, but purely on business grounds.

I have received a good many letters about fountain pens, owing, I presume, to some paragraphs that appeared in last week's Truth, alluding to a newspaper offering these pens to its readers. I have for years used either stylographs or fountain pens, and I will give my experience—it is a comprehensive one, for, in my search for a perfect pen, I think that I must have tried one or more of all those on the market. Stylographs I have given up because the nib gets so often bunged up, and one has to pass so much time poking wires through it in order to clear it. The most useful fountain pen that I have come across is one sold by Messrs. De La Rue. The ink is poured into it from the top, and it does not come out until a turn is given to a joint in the middle, no matter in what position it is carried. This is a great advantage, for no one can remember always to see which end upward the pen stands

in his pocket, as is necessary with most of these pens. The De La Rue pen is, however, not perfect, for usually one has to jog it severely on commencing to write with it, with the result of the ink spluttering over the sheet of paper or the blotting pad on which the latter is placed. Why, too, is there only a small size De La Rue pen? I want a large size, so I suppose would others, because the larger the pen the less frequently does it need filling.

A few weeks ago I was in Brighton. Pottering along the King's Road, and looking into the shop windows, I saw a fountain pen with an advertisement below that it could be filled without a syringe. I at once bought it, and it professed to be its own syringe, and that one had only to dip it into a bottle of ink, and fill it by turning a screw at the top. It went all well for a day or two, and then it declined to write. But it strikes me that if such a pen were carefully made it might become the pen of the future. One fault almost all fountain pens have—the screws do not act well. They are apt to stick, and one has to use pincers or something of that sort to turn the screw. I can understand this with cheap ones. There should be economy in paying dear for one, instead of trying a lot that get out of order. When, however, one does pay a good price, one ought to have an article on which one can depend.

THE MANAGER'S CA-PIT-ULATION.

By a Long-suffering Pittite.

'The alterations at the Haymarket Theatre include the re-formation of a pit.—*Morning Paper.*

"I love it! I love it! Nay, I admit,
I have always loved it—that Haymarket pit!
I frequented it much in old Buckstone's days;
Full oft have I helped to sing its praise—
'The best in London!'—My heart was sore
When the Bancrofts said 'It shall be no more!'
And I saw what most thought the last of it,
When they turned into stalls that dear old Pit!

"Since then, from aloft, have I sighed to see
Where that pit, so spacious, once used to be.
I have looked at plays that have earned much fame,
But my pleasure has never been quite the same;
Though, e'en as I gazed from the upper tier,
My star of hope has shone bright and clear;
For I've always thought I again should sit
Some day in that re-created Pit!

"So I've patiently waited, year in, year out
(If I still had locks, they'd be grey, no doubt);
I have seen new managers come and go,
And the popular taste swing to and fro;
Till now, when years twenty-four have past,
The day so yearned for has come at last;
And I'm told that ere long, in a manner fit,
They will re-establish that dear old Pit!

"Can you wonder, then, as I gladly read
Of what Mr. Maude has for me decreed,
That I look ahead to his opening night
With a feeling of unalloyed delight?
And see in his act a welcome sign
That managers, all along the line,
The force of 'the playgoers' plea will admit,
And give us again the abolished Pit!"

The Rev. J. F. Welsh, who has been for eighteen years Principal of St. Boniface College, Warminster, has accepted the Bishopric of Trinidad offered him by the Board of Bishops which appoints to this and other Colonial Sees. Mr. Welsh has conducted St. Boniface College with conspicuous ability and success, and the College has flourished exceedingly under his judicious charge. He is an admirable preacher, and has taken a most active part in all local affairs. He is well known as a prominent member of the Urban District Council, as President of the football club, as a clever chess player, and as an accomplished musician. He has always been warmly interested in missionary work.

Mr. Balfour has presented the Rev. Walter David Williams, Vicar of St. Asaph, to the rectory of Trefnant, Denbighshire, vacant by the death of the late incumbent. Trefnant, which is a considerably more valuable benefice than St. Asaph, is in the alternate gift of the Crown and the Bishop of St. Asaph.

Mr. Balfour has also filled up the valuable Crown living of Aldingham, Lancashire, by presenting Dr. Wall, Vicar of Denton, near Leeds, and formerly for many years headmaster of Portarlington School. Aldingham became vacant by the death of Dr. Hayman after an incumbency of twenty-nine years. His predecessor was a brother of Lord Macaulay, who thus noted the appointment in his journal, May 5, 1849:—"A letter from Lord John (Russell) to say that he has given my brother John the living of Aldingham, worth £1,100 a year, in a fine country, and amidst a fine population. Was there ever such prosperity? Wrote a few lines of warm thanks to Lord John."

The Duke of Bedford has presented the Rev. H. H. Jebb to the important living of Streatham, vacant by the resignation of Canon Nicholl, who had been rector of the parish since 1843. Mr. Jebb, who is a brother of Professor Jebb, M.P., was ordained at Liverpool by Bishop Ryle in 1881. He was presented by the late Duke of Bedford in 1883 to the rectory of Awliscombe, Devon, which he held until 1895, when the present Duke offered him the rectory of Battlesden-cum-Potsgrove, Bedfordshire, which he now vacates. Mr. Jebb is an evangelical of the Vaughan school, and an excellent preacher. The rectory of Streatham is worth about £1,200 a year, with residence.

Dean Hole was well known as a most eloquent and forcible preacher and platform speaker, but he had a still wider reputation as a successful amateur gardener and a connoisseur of roses. His versatility was most remarkable, and he was a divine of very striking per-

SUMMER HOLIDAYS.—WEYMOUTH, the charming Dorsetshire seaside resort. Delightful scenery. Steamboat and char-à-banc excursions. Send six 1d. stamps to Town Clerk for illus. guide.

sonality. The Dean was a genial and witty man, and he had no patience with humbug in any shape or form. For nearly half a century Dean Hole was a wealthy "squarson," and held the family living of Caunton, Notts. He was an exemplary parish clergyman, and very kind and generous to the poor. The Dean was a man of much literary culture, and he had been on intimate terms with many celebrities, including Thackeray. At the age of seventy Lord Salisbury gave him the deanery of Rochester, and he was as popular and as highly esteemed in Kent as he had been in Notts and Lincolnshire. He was a High Churchman, and in politics a Tory of the old school.

Canon Evans, who died the other day at the age of eighty-one, was well known as the able and highly successful head master of Birmingham School, whither he proceeded after he had been for a few months the first headmaster of Clifton College. He had been previously for many years an assistant master at Rugby under Dr. Tait, Dr. Goulburn, and Dr. Temple. On leaving Birmingham Canon Evans accepted the rich living of Solihull, Warwickshire, which he held for twenty-two years, resigning in 1894 owing to failing strength. He was a pupil, and afterwards the son-in-law, of Prince Lee, Bishop of Manchester, who was head master of Birmingham School when Benson, Lightfoot, and Westcott were also pupils there. Canon Evans, who took the highest classical honours at Cambridge, was a profound scholar and a most inspiring teacher. He belonged to the old and "thorough" type of classical scholar, and he was literally steeped in Homer and Virgil and the Greek dramatists.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Nottingham, Dr. Brindle, has caused a fluttering in the dovecotes of his diocese by proceedings that he has lately taken against one of his priests in the Market Rasen County Court. On his appointment a few months ago Bishop Brindle ordered that all rents of Church properties should be sent to him direct at Nottingham. The order applied to a number of properties which really formed the endowments of various missions, but which were nominally vested in the Bishop and certain priests as trustees to avoid any conflict with the law relating to bequests for religious purposes. At Market Rasen the Roman Catholic rectors had for forty years received the rents of lands left for the benefit of that mission, and the present rector, Father Hays, declined to transfer this income to the Bishop. In spite of the notice from the Bishop, five out of the six tenants continued to pay their rent to Father Hays, and he obtained judgment against the sixth in the County Court. Thereupon Bishop Brindle and his co-trustees brought an action against Father Hays in the same court, claiming a declaration that they were the owners in fee-simple of the lands in question and an injunction to restrain the defendant from receiving the rents. The Judge held that he had no jurisdiction to make a declaration of title, and the Bishop's action was accordingly dismissed.

It is easy to understand the objection of the clergy to the Bishop's scheme, and, speaking as an impartial observer, it appears to me to be a very reasonable objection. By securing the control of the mission funds and becoming the paymaster the Bishop would reduce the priests to the position of mere puppets in his hands. Even if no change were made in the distribution of the money, those who accepted missions under the old conditions would still naturally resent such a lowering of their status and independence; while if the Bishop did think fit to cut down or withhold the income of any mission the cleric in charge would be without means of redress, the law of his Church prohibiting him under penalties from taking action against the Bishop in a civil Court. From the case at Market Rasen it would seem that in this matter the Roman Catholic canon law is very one-sided; and I may add that a further interesting commentary upon Bishop Brindle's action against Father Hays is supplied by the fact that only a short time since his lordship declared a lady "excommunicated" because she sued a priest in a civil Court for slander.

In the administration of the Education Act at Twickenham, three rules have been laid down:—(1) Religious education is to be part of the elementary school programme; (2) it is not to be given by the recognised schoolmaster; (3) it need not be given within the school buildings. Acting on this, the Twickenham school children are marched off to places of public worship during school hours, either to attend a service or to receive religious education. Thus say its defenders: "The right of all children is established to be taught the faith of their fathers, whether that be Baptist or Romanist, Churchman or Quaker, Jew or Unitarian." This sounds very well; but in each parish are there places of worship for all these respective religions? As a matter of fact, we know that there are not; whereas in all parishes there is a church of the Anglican denomination. The system would therefore work out to the advantage of that church if universally adopted.

Every day's experience shows that there must be endless trickery by which education suffers so long as the principle is not laid down that the State shall only concern itself with secular education, leaving the religious education of children to their parents, guardians, or pastors. No one doubts that secular education is necessary for the well-being of the community. Most

Lucerne, Switzerland.—Hotel Schweizerhof. Loveliest situation on lake. All modern comforts. Private Bath. Pension arrangements. Open all the year.—Hauser Brothers.

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex rd., Islington, N.

people think that religious education is equally beneficial. But whilst they agree on the former, they disagree as to what religion is to be taught. Why, then, not confine themselves to what there is agreement upon? For a child to learn some trade is advantageous, not only to him, but to the community. But would any one assert that a portion of the time devoted to learning a trade should be passed in the religious education of the child? As it is with a trade, so ought it to be in regard to the education provided by the State.

The Vicar of Elworth, Cheshire, has just created one of those "burial scandals" which do more than anything else to bring the Established Church into odium and contempt. An elderly resident of the parish hanged himself under circumstances which amply warranted the verdict of the coroner's jury that he committed suicide "whilst temporarily insane." The funeral was fixed for the following Monday afternoon in the full expectation that the Vicar, who had been informed of the arrangement, would attend and officiate. His reverence did not put in an appearance, however, and upon a message being sent to him at the vicarage he emphatically replied that he did not intend to take any part in the burial. To the intense grief of the mourners the body was consequently laid in the grave without any religious service.

In an interview with the Vicar, which is reported in the *Crewe Chronicle*, it is said that he admitted he was asked on the Sunday night to conduct the service, "but he then pointed out that the funeral ought to take place during the night," and also that the notice given was too short, "as he thought it necessary to make a few inquiries." The reporter adds that the Vicar "seemed to be under the impression that the coroner's jury ought to have returned a verdict of *felo de se*, in which case the Prayer Book would have given him absolute power to refuse to bury the deceased." Whatever the Vicar may now say, it is certain that the relatives of the deceased believed that he was willing to conduct the service or else they would have secured the attendance of another minister, and so avoided the painful experience that befell them at the graveside. I suppose that the notice given was really too short to comply with the law, but except on this ground the Vicar had, of course, no right to refuse to read the burial service in a case of "suicide whilst temporarily insane." He was bound by the verdict of the coroner's jury, and his remark that "the funeral ought to take place during the night" shows that he is as ignorant of the law as he is deficient in Christian charity. The inadequacy of the notice will save his reverence from the penalties to which his action would otherwise have rendered him liable. It should not, however, prevent the Bishop of Chester from administering the sharp censure which he merits.

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A WORSHIPFUL DECISION.

Mr. Baggallay decided at Greenwich on Saturday that playing tennis and bowls on a green adjoining a chapel did not involve an act of public worship.

The Law and common sense, for once,
Were found in suitable conjunction,
When from the Greenwich Bench 'twas held,
Tennis was no religious function;
And, further, that a chapel green
On which, for bowls, folks congregated,
With public worship could not be,
Even in name, associated!

But though there may be sense in what
The Greenwich Magistrate decided,
To some his broad conclusion will
Appear, in part at least, misguided.
For there *are* games, as those know well
Who on the matter have reflected
In which the most suggestive acts
Of "public worship" are detected.

Has there no "public worship" been
Of famous cricketers this season?
Will not footballers "worshipped" be
Ere long, and for a kindred reason?
In short, is there one sport in vogue
To which this fact is not appliable?
One sport whose chief expositors
To "public worship" are not liable?

Sir Walter Gilbey again appeals to the Press to assist in urging the claims of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution to charitable remembrance when harvest thanksgivings are being offered up. I am glad to take my share in this task, and I trust that the clergy of all denominations will do their part also. The pith of Sir Walter Gilbey's appeal seems to lie in the statement that although the Institution last year provided pensions for no less than 1,131 persons who would otherwise be ending their days in the workhouse, 268 applications from deserving people known to be in the deepest poverty had to be refused during the year for want of funds, while many fresh applications have since been added to the list. The whole of this number are, Sir Walter tells us, penniless "through no fault of their own, through no lack of consideration on the part of landlords"; simply from the irresistible force of the circumstances against which the tiller of the soil has to struggle in the present day. Here is a form of "agricultural depression" for which one remedy at least can easily be found. I need only add that the Secretary of the Institution is to be found at 26, Charles-street, London, S.W.

The following amounts have reached me on behalf of Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund: H. W. Braddon, R.N., £1; May and Jack, £2; J. T. F., £2 2s.; H., £5 5s.; O. W. L., £1; "Theseus," £2 8s. 6d.

I have also received £1 for the Toy Fund from "A Scotch Whole Hogger."

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

Very strong comments have been made in military circles upon a note which has been for two months in succession appended in the official *Army List* to the name of a captain and brevet-major of a certain infantry regiment, the effect of it being that the officer has lost fifteen months' seniority. What the facts may be which lie behind this notification is not known outside the regiment; but it naturally connects itself with a story of a *fracas* in the officers' mess which got about some little time ago; and the natural inference is that a court-martial followed, the results of which have not been made public, though the result, as regards this particular officer, has been thus recorded in the *Army List*. I believe there is no precedent for gibbeting an officer in this way; and if the proceeding is to be regarded as an instalment of Army reform, I doubt if much can be said in its favour.

The 17th Lancers have just had an experience which is quite in keeping with the fine old crusted traditions of the War Office. They have been for some time past under orders to embark for Egypt on September 2. All arrangements had been made for this purpose. Officers have disposed of their houses, and begun to pack up their effects, and everybody concerned has incurred most of the expenses preliminary to a shift on to a foreign station. Then at the last moment the order is countermanded and the regiment learns that it is for the present to remain at Edinburgh. I imagine that if anybody were to discourse to the 17th Lancers at present on the transformation that has been effected at the War Office by the reforms of Lord Esher and his colleagues, he would be referred to the Marines.

An appeal has lately been in circulation inviting officers who have been at the Staff College during the last forty-five years to contribute to a fund that is being raised to provide for an old servant of the College named Cocks. The facts mentioned in it, which are authenticated by the signature of the Commandant, seem to me to deserve the widest publicity that can be given to them. They are (1) that Cocks entered the service of the College in May, 1859; (2) that he is now seventy-one years of age, and physically unfit for further service, or of contributing towards his own or his wife's support; (3) that a pension has been refused him, but a gratuity of one's week's pay (£1 1s.) for every year's service (forty-five) has been sanctioned.

As a taxpayer I hope I am not ungrateful to My Lords of the Treasury, or whoever else is responsible for the above-mentioned decision, for the care with which they guard the public purse, though I cannot help wishing that they were equally economical in the case of individuals of more exalted rank who get quartered on the Estimates. It would seem, however, that they were under the impression that the princely stipend of 21s. per week which Cocks has enjoyed for forty-five years must have enabled him to put by a sufficient provision for his old age; and as this is certainly a delusion, it ought to be pointed out to them, and a reconsideration of their decision invited. It also seems to me that the spectacle of this poor old man, after forty-five years' faithful public service at 21s. a week, being cast adrift when he is incapable of earning another penny, with a gratuity of £46 11s. 4d., to last him and his wife for the rest of their days, is calculated to bring the public service into odium and contempt. For this reason also I suggest that the decision should be reconsidered. That, however, is no reason why officers who have known poor old Cocks during his forty-five years at the Staff College should not give him any help they can in the hour of need.

With regard to the case noticed last week, in which a quartermaster-sergeant who had leave to wear plain clothes was sentenced to reduction to colour-sergeant for the awful crime of returning to barracks in those garments, one of my Service readers draws a comparison between this case and that of a captain in the Royal Marines, who was convicted by court-martial of drunkenness while detailed to act as president of a court-martial, and was sentenced to lose six months' seniority. The contrast is certainly significant. It is difficult to imagine conduct more essentially prejudicial to discipline than for an officer to get drunk while acting as president of a court-martial. Had the officer in question been dismissed from the Service, I doubt if any voice would have been raised in his defence, for a man with so little control over himself at such a time can never be trusted to be sober when on duty, whatever the emergency. When, side by side with this, we see a man of eighteen years' exemplary service condemned to a punishment which not only means loss of rank for the time, but a tarnished character and a reduced pension on discharge, it is pretty evident that the Shakespearean principle with regard to a "choleric word" in the captain and "flat blasphemy" in the soldier still governs the administration of justice in the Services.

Apropos of the wearing of plain clothes, my attention has been called to the following garrison order, issued the other day at Portsmouth, under this head:—

> Instances having occurred of N.C.O.s and men of the Garrison being seen at this Station dressed in plain clothes, attention of Officers Commanding is directed to para. 1955, King's Regulations.

The suggestion would seem to be that there have been breaches of the proviso in this paragraph, requiring men who have permission to wear plain clothes on furlough or pass to leave and return to barracks in uniform. Of course, regulations must be observed, but it is a great pity that this regulation has not been modified before now. When a man, in order to get the benefit of the present rule, either has to keep a suit of clothes somewhere outside barracks, or to send them out specially to some convenient spot where he

can change after he starts and before he returns, the value of the concession is to a great extent lost, and men are tempted to break through such idiotic formalities, as did the quartermaster-sergeant of the Royal Scots whose case I have dealt with.

At the station hospital, Thayetmayo, it is the custom for the assistant-surgeon when he goes off duty at 8 p.m. to lock up all medicines, surgical appliances, etc., and take away the keys, so that if any of these things are required in an emergency in the night they are not available. One night, in July, a soldier of the 2nd Border Regiment attacked another man with a sword and inflicted horrible wounds, gashing him about the head and arms and cutting off one of his hands. The man was carried to the hospital, and for the reason just mentioned, no surgical appliances of any kind for dealing with his case could be obtained. The soldiers who carried the man in had to take off their shirts and tear them up to make bandages for him. Indeed, it seems to be a mere accident that the man did not bleed to death, for the hospital does not appear to have any R.A.M.C. orderlies on the staff, and the orderly left in charge is merely a private soldier with, of course, the merest smattering of knowledge of a hospital orderly's duties. In any hospital, of course, the medicines and appliances are as likely to be required during the night as during the day, and it is as absurd to keep them locked up with the key out of reach, as it would be to keep a fire escape in the same way.

In consequence of Mr. Arnold-Forster's declaration of his desire to do all he can to promote the employment of discharged soldiers, a man who has taken his discharge in Cape Colony calls my attention to the way in which the mineral water factory of a regiment in the colony is worked. The staff includes one sergeant, one corporal, and six privates, who are exempt from duty and drills, to say nothing of receiving extra pay for their work in the factory. I suppose that a similar state of things could be found in many regiments, and of course the objection to it applies to other forms of employment for soldiers besides mineral water factories. It would really be a useful measure of army reform if all work which involves permanent withdrawal of soldiers from military duty were transferred to pensioners or discharged men. It seems to me that a special corps, or perhaps a branch of the Army Service Corps, should be formed to take over such jobs.

"From information received," as the police constables say in the witness-box, I gather that boots are a source of discomfort to certain men in a horse artillery battery at Ipswich. I mean moral discomfort, not physical. It is a question of ankle boots, and, as I understand it, it arises from recruits not getting the two pairs of such boots which they are entitled to on starting their career, and being at a later stage of their development required to show two pairs, and to make up the deficit at their own expense. The matter seems worth looking into, not only because it is wrong that a soldier should have to provide himself with any articles which his grateful country is supposed to supply him with, but also because it looks as if somebody was taking advantage of the inexperience of the recruits—possibly for his own benefit.

A grievance has been caused in the 2nd Oxford Light Infantry, at Chatham, by men being required to wear their tunics on guard duties. Until a recent date service dress was worn, but for some reason unknown tunics are now required, while the number of sentries has also been increased. The carrying of a well-oiled rifle during a spell of sentry-go is very disastrous to a tunic, and as the men themselves always have to make good damage of this kind, it is natural that they should ask the question why they should do this duty in their "Sunday best."

Probably one reason why so many schemes of army reform miscarry is that the individual chiefly concerned is never consulted. I refer to my friend Mr. Atkins, whose views are decidedly worth having in the case of all measures designed to popularise the service and encourage recruiting. If a Royal Commission were to take a few volumes of evidence from the rank and file I feel sure that a great many novel and instructive views would be elicited. For example, a confidential communication addressed to me the other day discloses the fact that a hitherto unsuspected grievance in the Army is the compulsory growing of moustaches. "Why should not a man be allowed to do what he likes with his own features?" asks the indignant writer. "There are plenty of officers clean-shaved; why not Tommy? What does a man look like that has clean-shaved all his life and joins the Army and has to grow a moustache?" Such questions as these require an answer from the army reformer, bearing as they do upon the keenest susceptibilities and daily happiness of many thousands of our brave defenders.

It may be assumed, I suppose, that a moustache is not in any way connected with the efficiency of a soldier. The only effect one can imagine it having on the battlefield is to give the wearer a more ferocious appearance and so strike terror into his enemies; but this does not come to much, because some of the mildest-mannered men wear moustaches—one has even seen ladies with them—and what is more to the point, battles are now fought at such long range that it is hardly possible to know whether your enemy wears a moustache or not. The desire for uniformity may have something to do with it; but in that case officers ought also to be forbidden to shave. And after all, try as you will you cannot make a regiment of soldiers exactly like a row of ninepins or the tin warriors in the toy shops. Nature compels you to enlist dark hair and fair hair,

long legs and short legs, noses that stick up and noses that turn down. Nature also grows robust moustaches and sickly ones, and makes them an ornament to some faces and a disfigurement to others. I think, therefore, if I were a Commander-in-Chief, or a Secretary-of-State for War, I would not bother to lay down any rules about moustaches. We hear a good deal nowadays about developing individuality in the soldier—though such a thing is contrary to all military tradition. Perhaps a start might be made with the moustache question.

I was asked the other day why it is that while trumpeters of the Royal Horse Artillery draw bombardiers' pay, trumpeters in the Field Artillery only get gunners' pay, and I doubt if even the wisdom of the Army Council would be able to answer it. It is true that pay is on a higher scale all round in a horse than in a field battery; but the pay of the respective ranks bears more or less the same proportion throughout, except in the above instance. The work of a trumpeter is, of course, the same in a horse battery and a field battery, and whatever pay is given for the work in the one should be given in the other.

Here is another problem which is quite beyond me, being essentially of a technical character:—

In paragraph No. 5, section 103, of the 1902 Drill Book, it is laid down, in order to accustom the men to march at once at the word of command, the whole battalion, company, etc., etc., as the case may be, will usually "slope arms," and move off on the command "quick march" or signal to advance, and halt or stand at ease on the word or signal to halt, without further orders.

This is the depot of the 8th (Liverpool) and 40th (South Lancashire) regiments. The 8th are taught to "slope arms" before they attempt to step off, and the 40th are taught to step off at once, doing the first movement of the "slope" as the left foot goes forward. When the two have to be "boxed" together for any cause, as very often happens, or when their respective instructors change over for any reason, then the trouble begins, as the 40th are three paces in front of the 8th, after getting the command to "quick march." The senior sergeant-major belongs to the South Lancashire. He says he is right. The other sergeant-major says he is right. But it looks as if there were something wrong somewhere, and if you, or someone in authority, could settle it, it would save a lot of trouble among the N.C.O.s and others here.

It looks as if something wanted setting right, but I think I must leave it to the properly constituted authorities.

My Service readers continue to send me particulars of cases where civilians are filling berths which might easily be reserved for ex-soldiers. In the R.A.M.C. office at Dover a civilian clerk has been employed for two or three years. There is another at Canterbury. These men, like others to whom reference has been made in the last few weeks, were engaged during the war, but, so far as I can learn, no promise of permanent employment was made to them, and there is no reason, therefore, why they should be retained while discharged soldiers, competent to do the work, are looking for jobs. The employment of civilians under the War Office is altogether unnecessary and anomalous; and if this principle were adopted and acted up to, and the employment of serving soldiers in quasi-civilian billets stopped at the same time, work could be provided for many thousands of discharged soldiers.

Vice-Admiral Sir Archibald Douglas, who succeeds Admiral Sir John Fisher as Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, is to take up the duties of that appointment on October 20. Vice-Admiral Bosanquet, who replaces Sir A. Douglas as Commander-in-Chief on the North American and West Indian Station, is to have his appointment dated September 1.

To the lay mind, unversed in naval technicalities, the results of the struggle for the command of the sea in the East seem to show that superiority does not depend on the size and number of ships. At the outbreak of the war the Russian Pacific fleet was, according to the usual rules by which comparisons are drawn on paper, superior to that of Japan. To-day it is practically non-existent, while the Japanese fleet has suffered no serious loss. What is the reason? By all accounts, the Russians have fought with as much bravery as the Japanese, indeed, on some occasions their valour has been desperate. The result seems to resolve itself into a question of seamanship and straight shooting, the qualities by which British naval supremacy has always been achieved in the past, rather than a question of the size or number of ships and guns, the tests by which we are always bidden nowadays to judge the relative strength of our own and foreign navies.

Heaven forbid that I should venture to suggest what ought to be done in the matter of the Navy, for I have no great respect for the counsels so often vouchsafed to us by civilians in regard to naval and military matters. I believe that those of three or four naval experts are far more valuable. I confine myself to urging our naval experts to take well into consideration the lessons of the Russo-Japanese war, and to prefer this experience to all theory. Of one thing they may rest certain. We are not prepared to spend more money on either Army or Navy, nor, indeed, shall we long consent to spend at the present rate. They should, therefore, not exclude economy from their estimates, and every shilling of outlay should be well considered.

In December last the Admiralty made an addition of 6d. a day to the pay of torpedo instructors, but up to the present the increase has only been granted to men who have qualified, or requalified, since December 1, the date of the letter granting the increase. The result is, of course, very unfair. For instance, on one of H.M. ships the senior instructor, who requalified just before December 1, remains on the old scale of pay, while a junior, who qualified for the first time a few weeks later, is drawing 6d. a day more. I understand that there are a great many men in the Navy in more or less the same position. Not only is this unfair,

but it would hardly seem to have been the intention of the Admiralty, as the course of instruction for the rating of torpedo instructor was left unaltered by the Admiralty letter, so that there is no difference between the professional attainments of men who qualified before that date and those who qualified afterwards.

TO THE FLAG-OFFICERS OF ENGLAND.

A Campbellian Echo.

An Admiralty Order, decreeing certain elaborate alterations in the trimming of the cuffs of the full-dress coats of Naval Flag-Officers, has just been issued.

Flag Officers of England,
That guard our native seas,
Before you hoist your battle-flag,
One moment, if you please!
Oh, tell us, are you *quite* prepared
To meet your country's foes?
Is the lace
In its place
Where around your cuff it goes?
Is there a *quarter of an inch*,
Oh, say! between the rows?

"Britannia needs no bulwarks"
(So Thomas Campbell wrote);
"Her march is o'er the mountain waves"—
But will you kindly note
The "slash" you wear upon your sleeve
Of oak leaves is to be
In the place
Of the lace
That upon it now we see—
And *with no edging*, recollect,
Whatsoever else there be?

"The meteor flag of England,"
With which you have concern,
No doubt if it get half a chance
"Shall yet terrific burn!"
But even though there doubt may be
About the meteor flash,
For the fame
Of your name
Don't forget about that "slash."
N.B.—Please mark especially
No edging to that "slash"!

The spirits of your fathers
May help the foe rebuff,
But, all the same, 'twould safer be
To see about that cuff.
Get lace of just the proper width,
A "slash" that's not too wide,
And you'll sweep
Through the deep
As though Nelson were your guide;
With cuffs thus trimmed, pray how can aught
But victory betide?

By one of the rules of the Post Office service "officers are strictly forbidden to lend to or borrow money from each other, or to trade in jewellery, watches, etc., in the office," and any officer breaking the rule renders himself liable to dismissal. It is an excellent rule, but some cases that have come under my notice show that its excellence is very much marred by a conspicuous lack of impartiality in its administration. Two inspectors were found to have been borrowing money from employees of a lower grade. Both were permitted to retire with their pensions. Shortly afterwards certain sorters were dealt with for borrowing money from a fellow-sorter. They were men with from twenty to thirty years' service, but were, nevertheless, summarily dismissed without, of course, any pension or compassionate allowance to lighten the blow. On the other hand, the lender was retained in the service, although it was well-known that he had been for years advancing money at interest to fellow-officers, and taking legal proceeding against defaulting borrowers.

The contrast between the treatment meted out to the borrowing inspectors and the borrowing sorters respectively is very striking, for by reason of their position and of the fact that they obtained loans from subordinates, the former were obviously worse offenders than the latter. As to the moneylending sorter, it is clear that he was even more deserving of punishment than the borrowers, and it says little for the sense of justice among the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand that his gross violation of the rule should have been passed over.

Off the coast of Wicklow and Wexford vast quantities of fine oysters are left to pine away in deep sea beds, with never a chance of fulfilling the highest destiny of their species, which is to be consumed by man. This melancholy fact is the foundation of a complaint that I have been asked to ventilate in the interests of the fishermen of Arklow. Years ago they carried on a fairly prosperous oyster-dredging industry, but, like so many Irish fishing industries, it was allowed to languish and die out. There is said to be no doubt about the productiveness of the oyster grounds that can be fished from Arklow, but the fishermen are too poor to resuscitate and develop the industry without assistance, and it is claimed that they are entitled to this assistance out of the grant of £10,000 a year which is made for such purposes to the Fisheries Branch of the Irish Department of Agriculture. For some incomprehensible reason, however, the west-coast fisheries seem to be treated with far more liberality and sympathy than those of the east coast, and though things have been going from bad to worse with the Arklow fishermen, owing to the failure of successive herring and mackerel fishings, all appeals to the authorities to help them to revive the oyster-dredging, which would provide them with employment during months when their boats are now laying idle, have been disregarded.

My correspondent certainly makes out what appears to be a very strong case on behalf of the Arklow fishermen. He expresses, by the way, warm appreciation of the well-intentioned efforts of Sir Horace Plunkett, the Vice-President of the Department, and suggests that the denial of assistance to the Arklow fishermen is

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

attributable to the perversity of certain permanent officials who dominate the Fisheries Branch. Perhaps Sir Horace Plunkett will inquire into the matter for himself.

A lady at Beaminster begs me to "wake up" the authorities of that town on the subject of the water supply. It seems that so long ago as December, 1900, an inquiry by an Inspector of the Local Government Board resulted in the condemnation of the existing supply, and a committee was appointed by the Rural Council and the Parish Council to take the necessary steps to obtain a new supply. After the lapse of over three years, however, the unfortunate inhabitants are still obliged to use the condemned water, and the promised new supply appears to be as far off as ever. All the authorities have done down to the present time has been to levy rates for "preliminary expenses," which have been largely wasted in messing and muddling. I doubt whether anything I could say would stir up the Rural Councillors, but the Local Government Board can compel them to do their duty, and it is high time that such compulsion was applied.

Two of the Poplar Guardians have recently visited the Jones Homes at Sandgate, and reported to the Board the result of their inspection. As regards the general unsuitability of the houses and the regimen for consumptive patients, what they say is very much what might be expected after the emphatic condemnation of the business at the Folkestone meeting of the Institute of Public Health, and the strong articles that have appeared on the subject in the *Lancet*. One point, however, which I do not think has been noticed by anybody before, will be found in the following passage:—

> We then visited the largest of the houses. One was kept for men with consumption. . . . This house was chiefly built of wood and the bedrooms were built in the shape of corridors. The front room had the windows opened and kept open in the night about one foot and a half. Each room following this had an aperture at the top of the partition left open at about the same depth, the consequence being a through draught through all the rooms; so much so that, considering all was of wood, if one of the rooms caught fire the whole would be in flames before it would be possible for help to reach them; and in addition we noticed that the only provision against fire was two buckets of water kept in an out-of-the-way part of the building. The passages of the house were very narrow and tortuous, and it was in our opinion one of the most dangerous buildings it was ever our lot to see.

The name of the house referred to is not given, but if the local authorities had any sense of their duty in such matters they would ascertain it for themselves and use their influence in getting such a state of things remedied. The two Poplar Guardians report generally that "the Homes as at present constructed are highly undesirable both for the treatment of consumptive patients and for those who are simply sent for recruiting purposes." At the same time they recognise that it is at present impossible to stop all patients going there, and they recommend further inquiry into the sanitary condition of the houses and the dietary. The former suggestion is pointed by a reference to the filthy condition of one of the bathrooms; the latter by the pleasing fact that some of the consumptive patients were found to be breakfasting on pork sausages in the dog days.

The impossibility of "stopping all patients going there" is presumably attributable to the fact that there are not other places where Guardians can send consumptive paupers. We are thus brought back to what I have repeatedly referred to as the root of this scandal, namely, the failure of the Local Government Board to recognise that country sanatoria and convalescent homes in connection with poor-law infirmaries are an absolute necessity, and that means ought to be taken to provide them and to ensure their proper management. In allowing this urgent want to be supplied for something like ten years in an utterly inadequate and inefficient manner by one enterprising speculator and his heirs and successors, successive Presidents of the Local Government Board have been guilty of a gross neglect of their duty.

There is one little incident mentioned by the deputation from Poplar which throws an interesting sidelight on the spirit which animates the present managers of these places:—

> Unfortunately, our visit was made under the worst possible conditions, for the very first house we went to we found that Miss Jones was there, and when she heard who we were she went at once to tell her brother, whom we afterwards met coming on his bicycle from the houses, where he had been to warn the caretakers of our presence in the town.

That the two Guardians should have come to this conclusion and attached so much importance to the incident suggests that they hardly formed a high opinion of the Jones family. And if it be really the fact that on the appearance of a visitor the first instinct of a member of the family is to send warnings of his approach to all the establishments—like a schoolboy crying "Cave" to his fellows on the appearance of a master—it is natural that the impression conveyed should have been unfavourable.

The Mayor of Hythe evidently does not agree with the proverb that cleanliness is next to godliness—at any rate so far as teeth are concerned. His Worship is a member of the Elham Board of Guardians, and at the last meeting a proposal was made that tooth brushes should be supplied to the pauper children in the cottage homes. It elicited from the Mayor the remarkable statement that he was certain many of the Guardians "did not know what it was to have tooth brushes during forty-five years of their lives," and the equally remarkable opinion that "these fads were ruining the stamina of the nation." Here, then, is an easy remedy for the physical deterioration of the race which is troubling so many minds. You have only to teach the rising generation to keep their teeth dirty, and all will be well. I wonder, by the way, whether this worshipful Bumble was speaking from personal experience in allusion to his colleagues who had not used a tooth brush "during forty-five years of their lives."

Mr. A. T. Lawrence has been "in the running" for a judgeship for some time past, and everybody will be glad that his claims have at last been recognised. Mr. Lawrence is not one of those barristers whose names are often before the public in *causes célèbres*, but he is a thoroughly capable lawyer, of sound judgment and wide experience, as well as a popular man in his own profession; and there is little doubt as to his making a good useful judge.

There has just been a sequel in St. Helens Police-court to an exposure in TRUTH last March of a couple of unscrupulous bloodsuckers named Samuel Cohen and Rose Cohen, his wife, of 104, Bignor-street, Hightown, Manchester. Samuel Cohen is registered under the Moneylenders Act as "The British Finance Co.," and Rose Cohen as "Charles Russell"; and in these two aliases they carry on about a dozen usury-shops in Lancashire and Yorkshire towns. In the case with which I dealt, James Sumner, a farmer in the neighbourhood of St. Helens, was attracted by an advertisement setting forth that "Charles Russell," a young gentleman with large uninvested funds, lent money without sureties or publicity. Sumner applied for a loan of £60, and signed what he believed to be a promissory note for that amount with interest at 5 per cent. per annum. It was only upon the publication of the statutory notice in the *London Gazette* that he discovered that the document was really a bill of sale, scheduling property of the value of £700 or £800 as security for the advance, and charging interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per month, not per annum. Sumner at once repudiated the transaction, and as the result of a subsequent action in the St. Helens County Court, the jury found that the moneylender (Rose Cohen) had intentionally and fraudulently concealed her real name and occupation, and that the bill of sale was obtained by fraud. The bill of sale was accordingly set aside, and Sumner was awarded £50 damages and costs. On these facts I urged that a criminal prosecution ought to be instituted under the fourth section of the Moneylenders Act.

After a delay of several months, the Treasury recently undertook this suggested prosecution in the St. Helens Police-court. The section of the Act on which the prosecution was based is as follows:—

> If any moneylender, or any manager, agent, or clerk of a moneylender, or if any person being a director, manager, or other officer of any corporation carrying on the business of a moneylender, by any false, misleading, or deceptive statement, representation, or promise, or by any dishonest concealment of material facts, fraudulently induces or attempts to induce any person to borrow money or to agree to the terms on which money is or is to be borrowed, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable on indictment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding two years, or to a fine not exceeding five hundred pounds, or to both.

Instead of proceeding against the principal, Rose Cohen, the Treasury obtained three summonses against Solomon Myers, who acted as her agent in the transaction with Sumner. It will be observed that such agents are explicitly included in the terms of the section. Sumner was, of course, the chief witness for the prosecution. His attitude towards the moneylender by whom he had been swindled seemed to have undergone a remarkable modification since his appearance in the County Court. At an early stage of the hearing in the police-court, a solicitor interposed with the statement that "he was there to watch the case for Sumner," who "was perfectly content with the result of the proceedings in the County Court, and did not desire to prosecute Myers at all." Sumner also said that, the bill of sale having been set aside and the damages paid, he was "perfectly satisfied." Still, he admitted that Myers did not tell him what the bill of sale was when he signed it, and that he only found out the truth when the announcement appeared in the *London Gazette*.

Although Sumner was a reluctant witness, his evidence nevertheless clearly proved the concealment and deception that Myers practised in securing his signature to the bill of sale. But, in spite of this evidence and of the previous finding of the jury in the County Court, the Mayor of St. Helens and his fellow-magistrates announced that they had unanimously come to the conclusion to dismiss the case. It is an amazing and incomprehensible decision. I do not know whether their worships were influenced by Sumner's unwillingness to prosecute, or whether they laboured under some ignorant delusion that Myers, not being the actual lender, was not legally responsible for what he did. The Act clearly makes an agent just as amenable to the law as his principal, while the wishes of the witness Sumner were utterly immaterial in such a prosecution. Whatever their reasons may have been, however, these muddle-headed magistrates have certainly perpetrated a gross miscarriage of justice.

The necessity for a thorough investigation into the Beck case is not diminished in the least degree by the letter of the Recorder of London in the *Times* of Monday. Beck's trial in 1896 (by an obvious slip of the pen the date is incorrectly given in the letter as "1894") took place before Sir Forrest Fulton, who was then Common Serjeant, and his chief object in writing to the *Times* is apparently to justify the course that he adopted on that occasion. There has been some adverse criticism of his ruling that the question of Beck's identity with the John Smith who had been convicted of similar frauds in 1877 was inadmissible. His reply is that the prosecution having decided not to proceed with the indictments in which Beck was charged with the previous conviction as John Smith he was bound by "the ordinary and well-established practice" to give the ruling that he gave. Upon this point of law I do not feel qualified to express an opinion.

Assuming, however, that the ruling was right in law—and Sir Forrest Fulton is so experienced a judge in criminal trials that probably it was right—the fact still remains that it was repugnant to the ends of justice.

The case against Beck had been originally based upon the theory that he and John Smith were one and the same person. At the Police-court a constable swore that Beck was Smith, and, as already stated, some of the indictments at the Old Bailey charged him with having been convicted as Smith in 1877. If those indictments had been proceeded with Beck could have knocked the bottom out of the case for the prosecution by proving beyond a shadow of doubt that he was in Peru when Smith was serving his sentence of penal servitude in England. The curious action of the prosecution in abandoning this part of the case, and the consequent ruling of the Common Sergeant, resulted in what is now admitted to have been a gross miscarriage of justice.

In support of his view that on the evidence before them no other course was open to the jury but to convict Beck, Sir Forrest Fulton makes two or three remarks which call for comment. "It was never suggested," he says, "that Beck had any alibi as to any of the ten charges laid against him in the indictment that I tried." More than once I have heard the same point raised. It seems to me utterly unreasonable. In connection with these ten charges, it was alleged that Beck had conversed with various women in streets in the West End or paid brief visits to their rooms on about twenty different dates between December, 1894, and December, 1895. The trial took place in March, 1896. By chance, of course, a man might be able to show that he was away from London on a particular date nine months or fifteen months ago. But, putting this chance aside, what possibility would there be of an average citizen—more especially if he was the master of his own time and movements—proving to the satisfaction of a judge and jury that, though he was living all the time in the West End, he was not in some particular street there on a given date many months previously?

Sir Forrest Fulton also lays stress upon the fact that the women "swore most positively to the identity of Beck, and picked him in every case from ten or twelve others, and, with two or three exceptions, they were entirely unshaken in cross-examination." That fact becomes, however, less impressive when all the circumstances are taken into consideration. In the first place, a police-officer admitted that although these ten women had identified Beck, six other women who had been victimised by the same swindler failed to do so, and consequently were not put into the witness-box. In the second place, nine out of the ten only identified him after he was in custody. Beck was given in charge by one of the women, who saw him standing at his own door in Victoria-street, and professed to recognise him as a man who had robbed her a month or two previously. As she fell into this mistake—and it is now beyond question that it was a mistake—from some general resemblance that Beck bore to the real culprit, it is not at all surprising that the other nine women followed suit when they were brought to the police-station for the express purpose of identifying him. It is true that Beck was put among ten or a dozen other men, but not one of them was really like him, and nothing was more natural than for the women, on the look-out for the criminal, to choose the man who had already been mistaken for him. If I were on a jury I would never convict any prisoner on evidence of identification procured in this way.

In another part of his letter Sir Forrest Fulton says he is quite unable to follow the argument that because the methods of the criminal in the case tried in 1877 were the same as those disclosed in the case tried in 1896, one man must have committed both series of frauds. This would, of course, be an absurd argument if it were a mere matter of the sameness of the methods employed. In these cases, however, not only the general methods, but the very details of the story told by the swindler were the same. There were the same references to the house in St. John's Wood, the same pretences as to the swindler's position—in 1877 he called himself Lord Willoughby, and in 1895 Lord Wilton—the same bogus cheques on the very same bank, and the same pretexts for carrying off the women's jewellery and borrowing their money. Above all, there was the evidence of the Treasury's handwriting expert, given at the Police-court but excluded at the Old Bailey, that the cheques, letters, etc., written by the criminal in 1877, and those written again in 1895 were "all in the self-same handwriting." It was just within the bounds of possibility, though highly improbable, that one criminal might have imitated everything else that another had done eighteen years previously; but quite incredible that he would have been able, even if he had troubled to do so, to copy exactly his predecessor's handwriting.

Nobody doubts that both judge and jury acted with a sole regard for the interests of justice, though the outcome was unhappily—as Sir Forrest Fulton frankly acknowledges—the wrongful conviction of Mr. Beck. It is not what they did, but the conduct of the officers concerned in getting up the prosecution in 1896, and again in the present year, that requires investigation. There is certainly evidence pointing to the conclusion that Mr. Beck has been the victim of proceedings which, as Mr. George R. Sims asserts, "are nothing short of a conspiracy to procure the conviction of a prisoner by suppressing facts which would have insured his triumphant acquittal." It needs to be explained also how Mr. Beck came to be branded in prison as a prisoner previously convicted in 1877, when no attempt was made at the trial to prove this previous conviction, and why the authorities at the Home Office did not revise the sentence of seven years' penal servitude that had been passed upon him, when it was found to be physically impossible that he could be John Smith. So far the Home Secretary has not taken any steps towards the holding of an investigation. He is, however, making a grievous mistake if he imagines that the case will be allowed to drop without one.

A striking contrast to the treatment automobilists receive at the hands of the Great Unpaid is supplied by two cases against drivers of horses which are recorded in my Legal Pillory this week from the Grimsby County Police-court and the Melbourne (Derbyshire) Petty Sessions. The defendant charged with furious driving at Grimsby knocked down and seriously injured a pedestrian, whilst the defendant at Melbourne brought his trap into collision with another vehicle. These reckless Jehus were each let off with a penalty of ten shillings; yet motorists are frequently fined £5 for simply driving in excess of the statutory limit of speed on clear country roads where nobody is even endangered, let alone actually injured. Turning to the remainder of the list, I give some instructive examples of magisterial leniency towards wife-beaters at Axbridge, Hanley, and Eckington, and towards other ruffians convicted of brutal assaults at King's Heath, Ayr, and Kettering. It will be seen, however, that there has been no lack of severity in dealing with such crimes as poaching, petty larceny, and sleeping out without visible means of subsistence:—

Grimsby County Police-court. Before Mr. W. M. Wright and other magistrates, Douglas Whettal, waggonette driver, charged with furiously driving a horse in the street. One pedestrian was knocked down and seriously injured, and another was also struck by the waggonette shaft. Fined 10s. and costs.

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Boston, G. F. Lyndon, and J. J. Tomson. Wm. Arthur Bowater, charged with assaulting George Leonard Noake, a youth, by striking him on the head with the butt-end of a whip. The blows inflicted injuries for which the complainant had to receive medical attention, and he appeared in court with his head in bandages. The magistrates said that another blow might have killed the youth. Fined 10s. and costs.

Hanley Police-court. William John Gilbert charged with assaulting his wife. He thrashed her in a brutal manner. Since their marriage last March he had given her twelve black eyes. Fined 20s. and costs.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. F. Swallow, R. A. Sorby, H. A. Fowler, R. Eyre, and Major Bowden. Daniel Simcox charged with assaulting his wife. Three of her teeth were knocked out. Fined 20s. and costs.

Melbourne Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. H. Gascoyne, W. Briggs, and G. D'Arcy Clark. Walter George Astleforth summoned for being drunk whilst in charge of a horse and trap. He was driving at a furious rate, and the trap collided with another vehicle. Fined 10s. and costs.

Keighley Borough Police-Court. Before Messrs. C. H. Foulds, W. L. Marriner, and J. Mitchell. Israel Allison charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Broseley Police-court. John O'Brien charged with stealing a loaf of bread from a baker's cart. One month.

Ilkeston Petty Sessions. Before Mr. W. Tatham and other magistrates. James Fletcher, John Henry Reeves, William Henry Parry, and Joseph Harrison charged with stealing apples from an orchard. Harrison seven days, the others one month each.

Bridgwater County Police-court. Before Messrs. W. L. Winterbothom, R. Y. Foley, and W. F. Gooding. Michael Tucker, aged 68, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal Court. Before Sheriff Scott Moncrieff. Francis Gilles charged with attempting to break into a shop. Six months.

Reading Police-court. Before Messrs. C. G. Field, G. Philbrick, and W. Ferguson. Henry Barlow charged with stealing two bushels of corn. Twenty-one days.

Scarborough Police-court. Before Mr. J. Sinfield. William White charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Retford Police-court. Smith Lidgett, labourer, charged with stealing a coat. Two months.

Hereford Police-court. John Holland and Frederick Jackson charged with stealing a pair of boots. Jackson fourteen days, Holland one month.

Honiton Police-court. Before the Mayor. William Harris charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Kettering Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. T. Stockburn, T. Wallis, J. A. Gotch, G. H. de Crespigny, and other justices. William Mundin charged with assaulting Samuel Joseph Gubbins by striking him on the head with a stick. It was a savage assault, and complainant was rendered unconscious. Fined 10s. and costs.

Ayr Police-court. Before Baillie Wallace. Allan Duncan convicted of assaulting John Dickie by kicking him and rendering him unconscious. Fined 20s.

Axbridge Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Long and Messrs. E. H. Llewellyn, B. E. Somers, C. L. P. Edwards, and E. Ashby. England Puddy convicted of assaulting his wife. He struck her about the head with his fists, making her nose bleed and her ears swell. Fined 10s. and costs.

Market Drayton Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. Taylour, Captain C. Mainwaring and Colonel F. R. Twemlow. Richard Hicks, Alfred Blaze, and Thomas Chidlow charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of seven rabbits. Chidlow fined £1 and the others £2 each.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Hinton, F. P. Goddard, and W. Reynolds. Peter Simpkins charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Sanford Petty Sessions. Before Captain A. H. Morse and Mr. J. O. Fison. Samuel Pryke charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found with seven rabbits in his possession when searched on the highway. Fined £2 10s.; in default, one month.

"The enclosed balance-sheet," writes a correspondent, "gives a practical illustration of the working of our rotten bankruptcy laws." With all respect, I am not so sure about that. The debtor was a chair-manufacturer at High Wycombe, who had executed a deed of assignment, and all his worldly goods, when realised, yielded £75. Out of this £32 was paid to the creditors, at the rate of 4s. in the £, and £3 odd went in payment of rates and tithe, so that the cost of winding up was about £32 also. If any creditor is dissatisfied with this result he must have had an exceptionally favourable experience of bankruptcy law; and if any one can explain by what process an estate in going to be wound up for less, I shall be very glad of the information.

A bankruptcy, in any shape, involves the employment of a trustee, an auctioneer, a solicitor, payment of certain official fees, and generally some expenditure on printing, advertising, and postage. There is, therefore, a certain irreducible minimum of expenditure, which no Act of Parliament can eliminate. It is a very rare thing, in my experience, to get the costs below £50, even in the smallest bankruptcy, and I have often said that where the estate is not likely to yield more than £100 creditors are foolish to resort to bankruptcy, for it must mean the sacrifice of about half the assets in costs. When a trustee manages to get the whole job done, as in the above case, for less than £32, he certainly deserves the thanks of the creditors. I am no apologist of our bankruptcy system. I have no doubt it could be vastly improved. But if anybody supposes that legal machinery can be invented which will extract blood from stones and perform the operation free of expense, he is pretty certain to be disappointed.

In fairness to the Derbyshire Standing Joint Committee I am asked to explain that they are not responsible for the spectacle that is sometimes witnessed in Derby of a gang of prisoners, handcuffed and chained together, being marched through the streets from the railway station to the gaol. It seems that these prisoners come from Staffordshire, committals being made from part of that county to the gaol at Derby.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

The Derbyshire authorities do not keep a prison van, but a conveyance is hired to take all prisoners belonging to the county across the town from the railway station to the gaol, and a similar arrangement ought to be made by the Staffordshire authorities. I would suggest, however, that a covered vehicle should always be used for this purpose. My original informant mentioned that prisoners arriving in Derby by train were occasionally taken to the gaol in a waggonette, and though this would be preferable to marching them through the streets, it nevertheless makes a public exhibition of them. Some, at least, are only prisoners on remand, or awaiting their trial at the Assizes or Sessions, and they ought to be spared every unnecessary indignity.

The Spanish Prisoner seems to have been doing very well of late, for in addition to the £140 which, as I have already recorded, he obtained from an artless citizen of Leeds, he is also said to have made a haul of £100 from a leather merchant at Manchester, and another of £275 from a builder in the neighbourhood of Ripley, Derbyshire. For one victim who confesses his folly there are probably fifty more who hold their tongues rather than expose themselves to the ridicule of the public. Not a few of the dupes must have heard or read warnings against this form of the confidence trick, but they nevertheless find it impossible to resist the temptation to their cupidity which is conveyed in the Prisoner's offer of a share of his mythical fortune.

As an instance of the difficulty of saving such gulls, a solicitor in Nottingham tells me that in June last he was consulted by a tradesman of the city in reference to one of the usual letters from Barcelona. The solicitor, of course, pointed out that the whole thing was a barefaced swindle. "But, notwithstanding my emphatic opinion," he writes, "my client wished to write to the unfortunate Prisoner instead of, as I advised, forwarding the letter to Scotland Yard. Whether he did or not I cannot say, though I trust not." I have myself often found it no easy matter to convince inquirers of the fraud. On one occasion, indeed, a man who had been recommended to call at Truth office before parting with his cash was still disposed to believe in the genuineness of the Prisoner's story after he had been shown a big bundle of letters practically identical with those that he had himself received.

A misguided lady relates how, having a watch to dispose of, she advertised it in a paper called *Bargains*, and received a postcard from one, W. Bancroft, with what purported to be a trade address at Birmingham printed upon it, inviting her to forward the watch "on appro." The address inspiring her with confidence, she complied; but as the reply did not come, as promised, by return of post, she wrote again, and had the satisfaction of getting her letter back with the information that Bancroft had gone away and left no address. The police are now looking for Bancroft, and I hope they will find him. But I would suggest to other ladies who may seek to dispose of valuables in this way, that it is better to communicate with the police before than after parting with the goods

Inquiries are still reaching me in regard to the advertisement for clerks with spare time, which emanates from the man Forshaw, of 14, Victoria-square, Bolton. It may, therefore, be useful to repeat once more that this advertisement, like many others of the same class, is merely a device to enable Forshaw to extract a preliminary fee of 2s. from clerks and others in search of work. The idea which he encourages that this payment will secure them remunerative employment for their spare time is a delusion, and the fact that most of the dupes are persons who can ill-afford to throw away two shillings adds to the cruelty of the trick. It is surprising that respectable London and provincial newspapers should be willing to make themselves parties to this barefaced imposition by inserting Forshaw's advertisements.

Several references have been made in Truth to the business carried on in London by a Mr. Eichler, of 103, St. John-street, Clerkenwell, and in Lancashire by people calling themselves the Manchester Publishing Company. It may be remembered that this business consists in distributing from door to door rubbishy, and often indecent, novels, translated from some foreign language, and published in parts, the object being to obtain subscriptions for the whole series, and further inducement being offered in the shape of "premiums," to be awarded when the subscription has been completed. The "premiums," by all accounts, are of much the same class as the literature. I have received a complaint from a gentleman at Preston, who has had the first part of one of these delectable novelettes left at his house, and it is clear from this that the business is being pushed in that town. It so happens that the particular work with which Preston householders are being favoured is one which was the subject of an application a few months back to Mr. Justice Buckley, who held that it was an obscene publication, and on that ground refused to grant the publisher the relief he sought from the court. The police, therefore, have good ground for stopping the distribution of this rubbish, and I would recommend my Preston correspondent, or any one else who suffers from the annoyance, to call the attention of the police to it accordingly.

Although, as I remarked last week, there have not been any conspicuous advertisements of the Drouet Institute in the London Press since the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the Dakhyl case, with its outspoken condemnation of the methods of the Drouet gang, it would seem that these advertisements are still appearing in the provinces, and one of my readers forwards a specimen taken from a Hastings paper of last week. It would be better, of course, if all newspaper proprietors excluded this and similar advertisements. At the same time I do not think it is fair to gibbet a small local journal, so long as the wealthiest organs of the London Press set them the example of advertising rank and notorious impostors.

In this Hastings paper, however, there is another feature, for which there is no excuse whatever. I refer to the publication, not only of the Drouet

advertisements, but of other advertisements of current quack remedies in the guise of news or editorial observations, and without any indication that they really are advertisements. This is a practice deliberately designed to mislead ignorant readers, and it is difficult to understand how any self-respecting newspaper proprietor—whatever his financial straits—can condescend to resort to it.

Apropos of a paragraph last week concerning the advertisement of a notorious firm of moneylenders, several correspondents state that the same advertisement is displayed at railway stations on other lines besides the line that I mentioned, and it is also to be seen in the lifts and the carriages of the Twopenny Tube. No newspaper with any respect for itself or regard for the interests of its readers would accept an advertisement from these bloodsuckers, and it is anything but creditable to the railway companies that they should be willing to do so.

During the past month or two an individual styling himself "The Arlington Publishing Co. (late Burlington Publishing Co.)," with "offices" at 30, Bridge-avenue-mansions, Hammersmith, W., and "works" at "Harrow, Manchester, Glasgow, Belfast," has been attempting to carry out an impudent ramp at the expense of a number of well-known owners of race-horses. His *modus operandi* was simple. To each owner a type-written letter was sent inviting him to favour the company with a subscription of £5 5s. "for the new volume we have in hand for publication entitled 'Winners of Great Races, 1904.'" The letter contained a puff of this work, which was to be issued for private subscription only, and the owner was asked to supply a recent photograph of himself and of a horse of his that had won some more or less important race. If it was not convenient for him to procure a photograph of the horse, the company would "send our own photographer down to make a picture of him." With the remark "you will see by the following list of subscribers that, with the exception of yourself, our subscription list is complete to date," the letter then set out the names of between twenty and thirty noblemen and gentlemen connected with the Turf.

The company apparently overlooked the possibility that some of the owners might question one another regarding the inclusion of their names in this list. This was just what happened, however, and the result was just what might have been expected. Owner after owner whose name figured in the list denied the soft impeachment that he had been fool enough to pay, or to promise to pay, £5 5s. for the forthcoming volume. In each letter the company, of course, omitted from "the following list of subscribers" the name of the person addressed, but inserted it in letters to other persons. On August 10, for example, letters were sent to Mr. L. Neumann and Major Eustace Loder respectively. In the letter to Mr. Neumann, Major Loder was incorrectly represented as a subscriber, and in the letter to Major Loder, Mr. Neumann was similarly mentioned, each being assured in turn that "with the exception of yourself" the list was complete. The same thing occurred in connection with the letters to Mr. H. J. Newman, Mr. W. Goodchild, Mr. P. P. Galpin, Mr. A. P. Cunliffe, and Mr. W. H. Walker, and doubtless in other cases also.

One gentleman had the curiosity to call at 30, Bridge-avenue-mansions. He discovered that the so-called "offices" consisted of a small flat, with nothing on the door to indicate that "the Arlington Publishing Company" or any other firm carried on business there. Neither the company nor anybody else appeared in answer to knocks at the door; but the visitor was told at the inquiry office in the flats that the occupier of No. 30 was "a Mr. Hobday." Another gentleman wrote to the company protesting against the appearance of his name in the list of subscribers. "At the time we included your name," was the cool reply, "we had not had a refusal from you. We naturally anticipate that every person to whom our book applies would become a subscriber, and until we receive a direct refusal to this effect we count them as such." In view of this confession of their effrontery it is, perhaps, hardly necessary to say anything more about the Arlington Publishing Company. It seems to me, however, that this unauthorised use of one set of owners' names in order to induce other owners to become subscribers may turn out to be a very risky game for the company to play.

From some correspondence forwarded from Matabeleland it appears that the impudent swindle carried on by Dorey, Lester, and Co., of Winchester-avenue, Kilburn, is still being run on the old lines. The victim in this instance forwarded £2 12s. to these people in June, 1903, as the price of two marvellously cheap watches in their catalogue. Some months later, not having received the watches, he wrote for an explanation, and in due course got a printed epistle from Dorey, Lester, and Co. informing him that the manufacturers had not yet delivered the watches. Five months have since elapsed, and fifteen months since the payment of the money, and the goods have not yet been delivered, nor is it likely that they ever will be, for this story has always been told by the individual trading as "Dorey, Lester, and Co." in excuse for the non-delivery of goods for which he has received payment. As readers of Truth are well aware, this system of fraud has been carried on for years at the expense of people residing in distant colonies who are not likely to trouble Mr. "Dorey, Lester, and Co." with a prosecution, and for this reason, I suppose, he will continue to carry on the game with impunity. As he chiefly catches his victims by means of postal circulars, it is no use to warn newspapers against publishing his advertisements. It might be of some use, however, if the victims were to write to the local papers exposing their experience for the benefit of their neighbours.

An esteemed reader of last week's Truth writes to say that there must be some mistake about the statement that the Bank of England refuses to furnish certificates of deduction of income tax upon Consol coupons, inasmuch as he himself only last month cashed for a friend abroad coupons to the value of £160, and in due course

received through his bankers the certificates to enable his friend to recover the income tax. There was certainly no mistake, however, in the facts as I stated them. On the contrary, I now hear that another income tax recovery agency has foreign clients in the same position as Mr. Chapman, of Chichester-street, who is responsible for the facts which I gave last week. Further, the position is so clear that the matter has been laid before the French Ambassador. So my correspondent must look elsewhere for the error than in my statement. Is he quite certain that what he was cashing were coupons to bearer? If he is, I can only guess that the Bank of England will furnish the certificates through the instrumentality of another banker, while declining them to the "bearer" who applies over the counter. But this seems quite unreasonable.

Another absurdity of income-tax administration, certainly not designed to assist parties entitled to recovery of the tax, is reported from the Straits Settlements. An Englishman there receives certain income in England through an agent furnished with a full power of attorney. His attorney desires to make a claim on his behalf for refund of income tax, but, after much correspondence with Somerset House, is informed that the claim must be made out and signed by the principal. A man at the other side of the world can buy and sell land or shares to any amount, or transact any other important business, by means of his attorney in England. But if it is a question of recovering a few pounds from Government the papers must be sent to the other side of the world for his signature. What can be the object of this formality if it be not to delay and embarrass the man in the assertion of his rights? I wonder how long it will be before we get a root-and-branch reform of Somerset House—of all Government departments the most pig-headed, the most autocratic, and the most indifferent to public rights.

The *Times* published last Friday a despairing letter from a gentleman at Rugby on the motor-car question. After describing two recent disasters which "are not accidents," and deploring that pleasure and even safety are now banished from "one of the finest and most beautiful bits of road in England," he points this moral:—

> Let us do away with the speed limit, which is proving useless, and let there be a simple clause that no motor is to be driven to the danger or discomfort of the public.

This exactly bears out what I said when the new Act was in process of incubation. A speed limit is quite as much a source of danger as of safety, because it naturally causes the motorist to think that he is free to go at the maximum speed, unless he sees any risk in it, and cases are constantly arising where the maximum speed *is* dangerous, and where the motorist does *not* see the risk. On the other hand, there are perhaps just as many cases where a car might be driven at double the maximum speed without any danger—unless to the driver. A further objection to the speed limit is that in case of accident there is always a conflict of evidence as to the speed of the vehicle. Neither the driver nor any spectator can be sure of judging to a mile or two, or even five miles, the speed of a rapidly moving vehicle. Police timing is not infallible; and moreover it is not when policemen are on the *qui vive* that collisions occur.

My own impression is that the high speed motor-car will eventually have to have a road to itself; and I was interested to see this view expounded in an article in the last issue of the *Monthly Review*. Motoring is at present in its earliest infancy—no one can feel much doubt about that. In the natural course of things the speed of cars will increase, and the number of cars will increase yet more. If to-day cars travelling at 20 miles an hour are a serious annoyance and a considerable source of danger, matters will certainly be far worse ten or twenty years hence. If to-day a 20-mile speed limit is felt to be an unreasonable and irksome restriction, it will be far more so when the speed possibilities of cars are greatly increased. Sooner or later it must follow that special tracks for high speed motoring will be constructed; and my only wonder is that there has been no movement in that direction already.

BACTERIAL BEDDING.

A well-known humourist, one day,
  Anxious in old beliefs to shake us,
Showed by statistics where 'tis Death
  Most likely is to overtake us.
But few of us, at most, he proved,
  Got drowned at sea, ill-fated wrecks in;
In railway accidents, he found,
  A small percentage "passed their checks in;"
The place Man had most cause to dread
Was, he asseverated, Bed!

Balloons were chancy, he allowed,
  And Battlefields were somewhat deadly;
Whilst motorists, of risks of death,
  Possessed, he owned, a gruesome medley.
But when he 'd thought the matter out,
  And made us the statistics know, too,
He clearly proved, that, after all,
  The deadliest place that we could go to
Was where we rest our weary head—
In short, our over-vaunted Bed!

And now—the first-fruit of the crop
  We stand to reap this silly season—
Mr. Inspector Peter Fyfe,
  Of Glasgow, tenders us the reason.
Our bed is such a fatal place,
  And fear of it is widely spreading,
Because we in our ignorance
  Use cheap and nasty wool-flock bedding!
Which, we are told, in language terse,
Than Glasgow sewage is much worse!

"Better," say those who've had a chance
  This wool-flock's quality of testing—
Better that those who lie on it
  Their heads should be on drain-pipes resting!
For, only think! the beds on which
  Our fellow-creatures do their dreaming.
(*Vide* Inspector Fyfe's report)
  With "live potential dirt" are teeming!
And (not to use too-stilted terms)
Are reeking with infectious germs!

Thus, though there is augmented cause
  For recommending early rising,
Those, who an early hour for rest,
  Have been so zealous in advising,
Should be more chary how they use
  A precept that's become a stock one;
And, ere they counsel early bed,
  Be sure it isn't a "wool-flock" one!
For *that* might prove, there's cause to dread,
How fatal 'tis to go to bed!

The rosy accounts of Northern Nigeria and its administration that are published for the benefit of the public at home seem to cause much diversion among officials in the Protectorate. Lately I have had several letters telling a very different tale of the country and its resources and the policy and methods of the High Commissioner. Sir F. Lugard is admitted to be a very hard-working High Commissioner, but it is represented that his absorption in small matters, about which he is incessantly writing "minutes," is not really conducive to the smooth and efficient running of the administrative machine, while in big matters he has made some grievous mistakes.

There is still, for instance, general grumbling over the selection of Zungeru as the headquarters of the Protectorate. The High Commissioner's residence is built upon high ground, but the civil and military lines have been stupidly placed in a hollow where no air reaches them, and the ground is in the rainy season always damp-smelling. Drinking water has to be fetched from a stream a mile away, and, owing to the inaccessibility of Zungeru, the food supply is both unsatisfactory and expensive. Perhaps this difficulty will be removed when the proposed tramway from the Niger to Zungeru is completed. It is, by the way, ostensibly in connection with the cotton-growing scheme that the expenditure on this tramway is demanded, but I gather that men on the spot are disposed to think that the project is at least equally due to a desire to cover up the blunder that was made in choosing Zungeru as the official capital of the country.

In March and April last I drew attention to the case of Mr. H. C. Hopton, late Assistant Director of Agriculture in the East African Protectorate, who, after being engaged for a period of three years, was summarily dismissed at the end of six months. His dismissal, which took place at the instance of the Director of Agriculture, was a most arbitrary and unjustifiable proceeding; and I am glad to learn that upon a further consideration of the facts, the Foreign Secretary has now ordered that Mr. Hopton shall be paid his salary to the end of the year.

Public opinion in regard to the vexed question of the rights of belligerents and those of neutrals on the high seas, has not kept pace with the trumpet blasts of some of our large organs, which would have us at once threaten Russia with war, if she does not accept our views of international law in her dealings with our commerce. Such newspapers are a veritable curse to a nation whenever any critical issue arises between us and some foreign Power. They generally assume that all the facts are in our favour, and that we have only to bluster in order to carry all before us. This, I apprehend, is not because they really want to involve us in a war, but because they like to get all the sensation that they can out of any incident, and imagine that they increase their own importance by defying the lightning, like the mad Ajax.

So long as there is not a general agreement as to neutral and belligerent rights, difficulties must always arise as to their respective rights whenever two or more nations possessed of navies are at war. Certain principles are recognised by all, but there are others on which each nation insists upon being a law to itself. For instance, there is no agreement as to what constitutes contraband of war, and this difficulty is aggravated by contraband admittedly depending largely on the particular circumstances of the case. There is no clear agreement as to what a belligerent ship of war may do when it discovers contraband on a neutral. Does the existence of the contraband on the neutral involve the confiscation of the vessel? If so, is this only so where the vessel and contraband belong to the same owners? If it be admitted that the vessel is a good prize if search is resisted, what constitutes resistance? Should it be impossible to send the captured vessel to a port of the belligerent for adjudication; may it, under such circumstances, be sunk; if so, under what circumstances? There are a good many such questions, the replies to which would not be identical on the part of all nations; and, indeed, in regard to which our own prize courts in the past have not always taken consistent views.

I see that our traders and shipowners write letters to the papers protesting against any sort of interference with our trade. Naturally, they personally object to it, for they are the losers by such interference, and they have no difficulty in showing that it is generally adverse to our trade. But they seem to forget that this is the inevitable consequence of the existence of a state of war between two foreign Powers, and that the object of international law is to regulate the interference with all neutrals consequent on it. Were we at war, we most unquestionably should use our belligerent rights because this would be to our interest. We cannot therefore complain if other belligerents with whom we are at peace use theirs in their interests. It is obvious that we cannot have it both ways.

Above all other nations, it is our interest to see that food, for instance, is not under any circumstances liable to be made contraband of war unless there be an effective blockade of all the ports of a belligerent. It is also our interest to maintain the right of search, and the right to confiscate everything that really is, and ought to be, contraband of war, because in the event of our being at war, we should be—or at least we hope that we should be—masters on the high seas. When anything unjust is done to one of our traders, either by Russia or Japan, we ought to protest, and, if necessary, insist upon its being rectified. We ought, however, to be very careful to see that the injustice has been committed, and we should not jump to a conclusion before the entire facts are known, and justice has been refused by the offending Power. Holding these views, I am far from complaining of the action of the Government in regard to seizures of our ships. It seems to me to be one of the few occasions on which it has acted sensibly.

I am not quite certain whether I am right, and have by me no book of reference to refer to, but unless my memory plays me false there is a general international rule, which has been embodied by us in an Act called the Hovering Act, which prohibits ships of war of a belligerent from hovering outside a neutral port with a view to capturing either the vessels of a belligerent coming from it or neutrals suspected of conveying contraband. If so, the Chinese should act upon it, and, when ordering the ships of one belligerent to leave the port, should require those of the other belligerent to withdraw from hovering outside.

The latest news is that the Russian Government has commissioned our own Government to deliver an urgent message to the two vessels of the Volunteer Fleet which are supposed to be cruising in South African waters, and the Admiralty has sent its instructions accordingly to British officers in that part of the world. It is difficult to imagine how one Government could give to another more convincing proof than this of its good faith and desire to avoid unnecessary trouble. A considerable sacrifice of dignity is involved when one Government employs naval officers of another in order to send orders to its own officers. To appreciate this it is only necessary to reverse the position, and imagine a British naval officer on a distant station receiving his orders through the agency of a foreign officer. One could easily understand the British officer treating a message so received with considerable suspicion and trouble arising from that cause. Any one, therefore, who is capable of looking at the situation impartially must see that the Russian Government has gone very far out of its way in order to oblige us in this matter. But I have no doubt we shall continue for weeks to come to see articles and letters in the Press denouncing the supposed conspiracy of the Russians against British shipping.

Why Lord Rosebery should protest against the Anglo-French agreement I fail to understand, unless it be that he is against all give and take, and still holds to his old doctrine, that we ought to "peg out claims" in Africa, irrespective of what other nations may think, in case future generations of Englishmen may want to make use of them. The full recognition of our position in Egypt, and the settlement of the Newfoundland coast difficulty, was well worth the price paid, namely the recognition of Morocco as being within the French sphere of influence. We were not prepared to go there ourselves, and, if we had been prepared, France would have objected. If a good Government be established there, unquestionably this will be beneficial to our trade, even though it may be more beneficial to France. Judging by Algiers, to establish a good Government there will be a costly job to France, as it would have been to us had we undertaken it, whilst a dual control would have been certain to lead to disputes. Under these circumstances, even apart from what we get from France elsewhere, I am very glad that France, and not we, should have this job on hand.

A Beautiful Hotel at Bournemouth.—The "Royal Bath." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

THE BOOBY AND THE PLAUSIBLE STRANGER.

A Village Booby was once leading a fine young Steer to Market, when he met a plausible Stranger driving a Sheep and a Lamb.

The plausible Stranger stopped, accosted the Booby, and got into Conversation with him.

"Look here," said the Stranger, after a while; "I've taken a most amazing Fancy to you, my honest Friend, and Nothing would please me more than to do you a good Turn. See this Sheep of mine? He hasn't his Equal on all the South Downs. Well, I'll exchange him for that very indifferent Steer of yours. It will be giving him away. But such is my pure Affection for you, that I am willing to make the Sacrifice."

The Booby scratched his Head and hesitated.

"Hang it, man," says the plausible Stranger, with reckless Generosity. "When I make up my Mind to do the Benevolent, I'm not the one to do it by Halves. Tell you what! I'll not only exchange my Sheep against your Steer, but I'll throw you in the Lamb *for Nothing*."

The Temptation of securing a Lamb for Nothing was too much for the Booby. He agréed to the Exchange; and, well pleased with his good Fortune, drove his two Prizes Home.

But when he told his Wife, she flew into a Passion, and rated him, soundly.

"What be Matter now?" says the ill-used Booby. "Bean't thee satisfied with me, then, for having picked up a Lamb wi'out paying for 'un?"

"Wi'out payin' for 'un!" shrieks the angry Dame. "But thee hast paid for 'un, and mighty dear, too. For, can't thee see, thee silly Natural, that the Sheep and the Lamb together bean't worth half the Price of thy single Steer?"

Moral.—What is "given away with a Pound of Tea" is handsomely paid for by the Purchaser."

SCRUTATOR.

RAILWAY RATES AND TARIFF REFORM.

"I SAY emphatically that the British farmer has more to gain from railway reform than tariff reform." These words were addressed to a representative of the *Daily Chronicle* by Mr. J. W. Dennis, Chairman of a Committee of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire agriculturists formed to resist a recent incease of rates by three of the railways serving the district. Mr. Dennis happens also to be a "tariff reformer," and one of the agricultural representatives on the Chamberlain Tariff Reform Commission, which adds materially to the significance of the words I have quoted. That the words are literally true even the most rabid Protectionist can hardly doubt.

Whatever may be done by protective tariffs in the way of raising the price of agricultural produce, it is certain that—unless agriculture alone is to be protected, which is not at present in contemplation by anybody—such tariffs must also raise the price of machinery and tools, and the cost of labour, so that at the best higher prices can only leave a problematical balance of profit to be divided between the farmer and his landlord. On the other hand, any reduction of railway rates is so much assured gain to the agricultural interest. It appears that for sixteen years past the net rate for the carriage of potatoes from Lincolnshire to London has been 7s. 2d. per ton. This rate has just been raised at a bound to 9s. 2d.—something like 30 per cent. Mr. Dennis, in the *Daily Chronicle* interview, works this out as equivalent to a tax of 15s. per acre on the potato-growing land affected. No protective tariff at present within the range of practical politics is likely to put as much as this into the pockets of farmers. It is easy, therefore, to understand the reasoning by which a militant agricultural tariff reformer is led to the conclusion that "the British farmer has more to gain from railway reform than tariff reform," if by railway reform is meant security of some kind against the arbitrary raising of goods rates. It is asserted that the increase now complained of is purely arbitrary, and it certainly has all the appearance of being so. The railway managers, of course, will say that the increased charge is rendered necessary by the conditions of their business, and that the new rate will not yield an unfair profit. It is impossible to suppose, however, that they have for sixteen years been carrying potatoes at a loss, or that, even if the business has lately become unprofitable, it was necessary to increase the charges 30 per cent. at once in order to make it pay. The amount of the increase renders its justifiability incredible; and one is forced to agree with Mr. Dennis when he says that the only principle on which the railways have acted is that of clapping on as much as they think "the traffic will bear." Probably they have reason to suspect that potato-growers have been doing well lately, and that a promising opportunity offers of diverting some of the profits into the pockets of railway shareholders. If that is not the principle adopted in this case, it is the principle that has been often enough followed. And, from the railway point of view, there is no reason why it should not be. It is the principle of all business to make as much profit as you can, and the railway manager who follows it is only doing his duty to his employers. But when the business conducted on these lines is a State-created monopoly, the parties out of whom the extra profit is being squeezed are naturally disposed to kick, and to look about for a remedy. And when these parties represent an industry the prosperity of which is of the greatest national importance, we ought all to sympathise with them, and to help them if possible.

What is true of the potato-growers is true in a greater or less degree of all industries. Railway rates are a heavy burden upon many of them, and, what specially calls for attention at the present time, the stress of foreign competition is very frequently aggravated by this burden. It has been the policy of the Germans of late years to grant reduced rates upon goods of all kinds consigned to German ports for export. Of this in itself we cannot complain, since it is in the nature of a bounty of which the British consumer gets the benefit, but it is a matter to be taken into account in considering the position of the home producer in relation to foreign competition. Not only does the British exporter get no such consideration from the British railway company, but it has frequently happened that the British railway itself gives a preference to foreign imports, thereby further handicapping the home producer. How far such preferential rates still exist, since the agitation on the subject a few years ago, I do not know. I have heard directly contradictory statements on this point from railway managers and farmers. But it is quite certain that, whether owing to preferential treatment on this side of the water or lower rates on the other, the British producer still has a substantial grievance. In the interview above-mentioned, Mr. Dennis stated that he and his friends have lost the London and other southern markets in recent years, because, owing to the heavy railway rates, competing produce can be brought to those markets from the Continent more cheaply than from Lincolnshire. This must apply as much to one class of goods as another. The cost of inland transport has also been raised in England by the virtual extinction of water carriage. The railway companies have made it their business to get control of the principal canals, and have in that way protected themselves against competition from that quarter, and at the same time created a barrier to any improvement and development of canal traffic. The Manchester Ship Canal is the one and only example of a great undertaking of this class since the dawn of the railway era. The very opposite policy has been pursued in France and Germany, where canals have been improved and multiplied side by side with the railways. There is not the slightest reason why this should not be so. There are many classes of goods which can always be carried more profitably by water than by rail, and had the inducements existed for the introduction of improvements into canal traffic, by mechanical haulage and so forth, the advantage which the railways possess in speed and the economy of time would not have been sufficient to secure them their present monopoly. By arresting the further extension of canal traffic, and suppressing it altogether where the competition was inconvenient, the railways have been enabled to lay a heavy tax upon many industries for their own benefit. In these days of keen international competition and the universal cutting of prices this is a matter calling urgently for consideration.

THOMAS GOODE & Co.—China, glass, pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues post free.—South Audley-street, London.

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., CONVALESCENT HOME, Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

My own view as to the shape which "railway reform" in the interest both of traders and passengers should take has often been expressed. I would have all railways taken over by the State and managed exclusively for the benfit of those who use them. That is to say, no profit should be made out of them beyond the payment of interest on the State investment in the purchase of the undertakings. This interest, at the current rate on which the State can borrow, would be less than 3 per cent. The difference between that figure and the amount at present earned by the railway companies and distributed among the holders of debenture, preference, and ordinary stocks, would represent the gain resulting from the operation to all who use the railways. If arrangments were made, as they should be, to extinguish the debt in the course of a term of years, further benefits would result at the end of that period. Time was when the nationalisation of railways was generally regarded as a wild and revolutionary proposal. That can hardly be the case now. We have seen precisely the same principle applied to waterworks, lighting works, tramways, and other public services, which are everywhere being transferred from private hands to those of municipal corporations—for the most part with great benefit to the public. There is no reason why railways—perhaps the most important public service of all—should not be treated on the same lines; on the contrary, the reasons for the operation are in this case stronger. The thing has been done not only in a great many foreign countries, but in India and several of the Colonies. If public opinion is not ripe for it in England, it could be ripened by a very few months' education if the case were properly presented. It is a question only waiting for a political party to take it up. The Liberal Party is the proper Party to do it, and the present juncture is particularly suitable for the purpose, for nothing is easier than to show that not only farmers but those who are engaged in every branch of industry "have more to gain from railway reform than tariff reform."

A TUBERCULOUS QUACK.

One of the latest developments of American quackery is now being advertised in England under the name of "Tuberculozyne," the advertiser being the "Derk P. Yonkerman Co., Ltd.," of Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., and 6, Bouverie-street, E.C. Derk P. Yonkerman is apparently the name of the "doctor" who has invented Tuberculozyne. His portrait adorns the Tuberculozyne literature, from which I conclude that the doctor is under the delusion that it is likely to inspire confidence in the reader. For my part I find this frontispiece entirely in keeping with the general character of Yonkerman's advertisements. The chief of these is a pamphlet stuffed with the most bloodcurdling descriptions of the effects of consumption and the most outrageous allegations as to the success which has attended the Yonkerman "treatment." These allegations are fortified by testimonials of the usual character from patients, some of the most impressive of them purporting to be lithographed copies of letters, which are sent out in batches to those who answer the Yonkerman advertisements. Among other things, the reader is told that "the price is low." This is a point in regard to which any one can judge for himself. As a matter of fact, the price of one "treatment," which seems to mean a month's supply of Tuberculozyne, is £2 10s., and when one "treatment" fails to produce the expected result the usual system of "follow up" letters is used to tempt the patient into taking another fifty shillings' worth. My attention was called to the Yonkerman business the other day by a lady, who found that her coachman's wife had spent £5 on Tuberculozyne for the benefit of one of her children, and was being worried for another £2 10s. One of the letters written for this purpose will give a better idea than anything I can say myself of the methods by which the victims of this class of quackery are imposed upon:—

Dear Madam,—It is now some time since we sent you the second months' treatment of Tuberculozyne, and you have not written us that your son is cured; yet surely if he is not cured you must realise the urgent importance of keeping up this treatment until the last trace of the deadly consumption is destroyed. If he has taken Tuberculozyne exactly according to directions, he is out to-day [meaning apparently that the stock of medicine must be exhausted.—Ed.] and it makes us shudder to think of the terrible risk he is taking by going a day without this medicine. We are sure you would never allow him to stop the use of this remedy until he was absolutely cured, and cured to stay cured. Consumption is as fatal as leprosy. It may run along for years, or it may take a sudden fatal turn, and bring death in a few days or a few hours . . . .

Dr. Yonkerman has laboured among consumptives for years. He worked day and night and found the remedy. He is a comparatively young man, yet his hair is gray with days and nights of watching, of studying and experimenting. He has discovered a most marvellous remedy for consumption. The patient has continued with the treatment for some time, and should not now fail to follow and reinforce that already taken by another month's supply. Then why do you delay? Consumption is no ordinary sickness. It is a germ that eats the very life away, and Tuberculozyne is the only remedy which kills the germs. It takes time to do this. In every drop of his blood there were many of these germs. They were in his sputum, they were in every evacuation of his body, yet this remedy destroys them, and can withal be taken without fear of injury to the system.

Our remedy cannot save him unless he takes it, and takes it exactly according to directions. You must remember that this is no ordinary patent medicine. It is a scientific and carefully prepared specific which has made hundreds of marvellous cures, but if it is not taken for a sufficient length of time you cannot expect him to become one of the many who owe their health and life itself to Tuberculozyne . . . .

We are enclosing a specially marked envelope together with an order blank which we urge you to fill in and forward to us at once, etc., etc.

On hearing of this case I got one of my staff to put himself in communication with the Yonkerman shop in Bouverie-street. He made some inquiries of them, nominally on behalf of a friend, and was at once favoured with what the Yonkerman people call a trial treatment, that is to say, two small bottles of the Tuberculozyne preparations. As the order for further supplies did not follow, he was promptly assailed with the usual course of follow-up letters. Here are a few tasty extracts from one of them:—

You undoubtedly realise the terribly fatal nature of the disease that has stricken your friend, and that to dally with ordinary drugs or medicines is simply folly and a frightful waste of valuable time. The consumption germs are so insidious in their work, eating and burrowing into the lungs and membraneous linings of nose, throat, and air-passages, that not even those who have studied the disease closely for years can tell what moment the germs and the

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard st., W. Inspection solicited.

horrible sores they make in the lungs, nose, and throat may eat through into an artery, and, hemorrage after hemorrage following, lead to a frightful death. One should never under any circumstances delay a moment getting relief and cure. Consumption is the most terrible of all diseases. It is fatal—it is as deadly as the worst poison . . . . More fatal than all the poisons, more fatal than small-pox, diphtheria, or yellow fever; it kills 60,000 people in Great Britain every year; it claims for its victims rich and poor alike, and there is but one remedy for it in all the world,—the Tuberculozyne treatment. We have given you proof of many cases which we have cured, and we can send you more. The cost of the full month's treatment is £2 10s., and we send it to you carriage paid. Act now, etc., etc.

By way of assisting my representative to "act now," this communication was accompanied, not only by the usual order blank, but by a money order form in favour of the Derk P. Yonkerman Co., payable at the Ludgate-circus office.

In the meantime I had sent the "trial treatment" above mentioned to the Editor of the *Lancet*, asking him if he could get it analysed for me, which he very kindly did. I give below the result of the analysis. It should be understood that according to the Yonkerman pamphlet the basis of the treatment is the introduction of copper into the system. It is incidentally mentioned that Yonkerman, "after a long and weary search," discovered "new salts of copper," and that after satisfying himself by tests on infected cattle that the new salts of copper "would kill the tubercle bacillus," the discoverer next experimented on himself for three months, in order to satisfy himself that "there was not in all that time the slightest indication of any irritant or toxic (poison) effect from the copper on his system." The following analysis and the observations of the Editor of the *Lancet* upon it make it easy to believe this last statement:—

August 11, 1904.

YONKERMAN'S TUBERCULOZYNE.

The preparation was contained in two bottles, marked respectively No. 1 and No. 2.

The accompanying directions were to the effect that after each meal a teaspoonful of medicine from each bottle was to be put into a glass of milk, stirred well, and drunk immediately.

No. 1.—A brilliant plum juice coloured liquid, alkaline in reaction and smelling strongly of cinnamon. Analysis showed that it contained—

Water	85.12 per cent.
Glycerine, cinnamon and colouring matter	11.82 per cent.
Potassium chloride and carbonate	3.06 per cent.
	100.00

No. 2.—A brown fluid, smelling of oil of bitter almonds and slightly acid in reaction.

Analysis showed that it contained—

Water	83.48 per cent.
Glycerine, oil of bitter almonds, and colouring matter	16.48 per cent.
Mineral matters	.04 per cent.
	100.00

The mineral matters contained .014 metallic copper equal to .017 copper oxide in the ash. The stuff contains, therefore, .014 per cent. of copper. It is stated that the preparation contains hæmocyanin, which is a proteid like hæmoglobin, except that copper to some extent takes the place of iron.

In forwarding this analysis, the Editor of the *Lancet* writes to me as follows:—

The Lancet Offices,
423, Strand, and 1 and 2, Bedford Street (adjoining),
London, W.C.

To the Editor of TRUTH.

August 12, 1904.

10, Carteret Street, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

DEAR SIR,—We enclose you our analytical chemist's report upon Yonkerman's "Tuberculozyne" and the prospectus, directions, etc., which your representative left with us

Apart from the question whether copper ever reaches the blood when taken into the stomach, no possible germicidal effect could be obtained with gallons of "Tuberculozyne." Five to 10 per cent. solutions of copper salts are inhibitory to the growth and life of organisms, but such solutions are poison to man. Hæmocyanin, which the remedy is claimed to contain, is normally present in the blood of snails and oysters. It would be no use as a preventive of phthisis, nor do the ordinary tests for proteid substances prove its presence in the remedy.—We are, yours faithfully,

THE EDITOR.

The effect of this is that while a 5 to 10 per cent. solution of copper salts might kill the bacilli of tuberculosis, it would kill the patient at the same time, so the remedy could hardly be said to have any advantage over the disease. The Yonkerman specific, however, contains .014 per cent. of the quantity of copper necessary to effect either of these purposes, in addition to which there is a question as to whether copper ever reaches the blood at all when taken into the stomach From this it may be judged how much foundation exists for all the sensational allegations about their marvellous discovery on which these quacks are trading, and on the strength of which they seek to extort their £5, £7 10s., or whatever it may be, from any ignorant person who is caught by their advertisement, like the coachman's wife referred to above.

When one sees the enormous trade that is done in the present day in quack remedies of this class, it seems to me that some amendment of the law is required to meet what is undoubtedly a very serious evil. There is, of course, quackery and quackery. When a man sells some compound of well-known drugs, representing that it will cure half the everyday ailments that afflict mankind, it would be as foolish of the law to interfere with him as it is of the public to believe all he says. His pill or his potion may possibly do good occasionally, and is not likely to do any harm, unless when taken to excess—in which it does not differ from mutton chops, gooseberries, or even toffy. Whether it possesses all the virtues claimed for it is a question which the customer, being an adult of sound mind, must decide for himself, as he does in every other case when a tradesman makes fanciful statements about the value of his goods. But the case is different when a man comes forward with an offer to cure for a certain price some specific and dangerous disease, accompanying his offer at the same time with a pack of lies about his remedy, expressly designed to deceive ignorant people. Apart from any question of fraud, which the law as it stands may be strong enough to deal with, this is a case which comes within the spirit of a large class of modern legislation for the protection of the public from trade abuses which give rise to serious social dangers. If a man sells milk containing a certain percentage of water, or if he sells under the name of butter some kind of fat—possibly innocuous—which does not answer to that definition, the law comes down more or less automatically upon him. There is just as good reason for the law coming down in the same way upon a man who pretends to sell an infallible remedy for consumption, diabetes, deafness, or any dangerous disease, and thereby not only imposes upon his dupes, and robs them of their money, but exposes them at the same time to all the dangers which may result from delay in having recourse to proper medical treatment.

HOLIDAYS IN IRELAND.—III.

The province of Munster is pre-eminent for the beauty of its scenery, and, in especial, the county of Kerry, where the Lakes of Killarney are situated. Killarney stands out as *the* tourist resort, not only of the South, but of the whole of Ireland. It is no late discovery: the prestige of time attaches to it; in old days, when tourists were real travellers, with the spirit of inquiry—not to say that of adventure even—strong within them, beautiful and romantic Killarney was known and appreciated. Old legends cling round it and history old and new; it has inspired poets in style as widely different as Moore and Tennyson, and prose writers of many countries and many periods; in fact, Killarney has quite a literature of its own. The ways of reaching Killarney from North and South are numerous; the direct route from Dublin is by the Great Southern and Western Railway, which has excellent express trains, particularly during the tourist season, which lasts until October. Probably the English tourist bound for Killarney, or, indeed, any of the show places of the South of Ireland, cannot do better than choose the Great Western Railway route from New Milford to Waterford and Cork. The short voyage is performed in comfortable, well-equipped steamers, in connection with which there is a good service of fast trains both on the English and the Irish side of the Channel.

From Limerick, whither the last article about Irish holiday resorts took the tourist, Killarney, is easily reached by rail. Limerick has interest of its own, especially to the historic student, whilst in its neighbourhood is the great Shannon fishing region and the picturesque Lough Derg country. The fishing resorts of Castleconnell, Killaloe, and Williamstown are known to all anglers, and there are many other quiet places wherein the gentle art may be practised. Castleconnell, on the Shannon, overlooks the Falls of Doonas and the beautiful surrounding scenery of wood and rocky islets. The ruined castle of the O'Briens, on a height close by, gives the complete Irish touch to the scenery, for Ireland surpasses even the Rhine country in its all-pervading ruined castles, to say nothing of its church and monastic ruins. Killaloe is a pleasant place to stay for the lovers of picturesque scenery, as well as for anglers. Lough Derg is close by, the largest of the Shannon loughs, twenty-five miles in length, remarkable for its beautiful mountain scenery and interesting islands. Holy Island contains ecclesiastical ruins of much antiquarian interest dating from the sixth century. Needless to say, the surrounding country has its ruined castles too, though of the most famous of them, Brian Boroimhe's Palace of Kincora, no stones remain, but only a mound to mark the site.

Limerick, "the city of the violated treaty," is one of the oldest and most historically interesting towns in Ireland. The curse of Cromwell lighted on it in the shape of General Ireton, who took the town, and afterwards died of fever there. The siege, followed by the capitulation, and the "treaty broken ere the ink with which 'twas writ was dry," came some forty years later. Hundreds of years ago it all happened, but the history is still curiously green in Irish memories. Perhaps the fact is not, however, so curious; a treaty guaranteeing "full religious and political liberty to Roman Catholics" can hardly be said, even now, to be fully observed in Ireland, with its educational grievance. Limerick has older historic interest also, and contains an old Norman fortress of King John's time, which is well preserved. It overlooks the Shannon, the river flowing majestically through the town, to widen a little beyond it into an estuary. Adare, some miles from Limerick, might be visited by those interested in very old and very new history. The antiquarian finds a feast of ruins there—a Black Abbey, a White Abbey, an Augustinian monastery, a Franciscan friary, and an old castle of the Desmonds. Adare Manor is the residence of Lord Dunraven, whose name has been associated with some of the latest phases of the Irish Question.

Killarney needs description no more than the lake countries of Italy, Switzerland, and Great Britain need it. The Italian, Swiss, English, and Scotch lakes are beautiful, all in their own especial styles, and so are the lakes of Killarney. Their beauty is purely Irish, a vein of wild sadness and romance intermixed with their exquisite charm. Long years of sightseers and even of "trippers" have failed to take the poetry out of Killarney or even to mar it. The great mountains, however approachable, hold their air of majestic aloofness, the waters and the wooded islands their mystery, of which the sedges only seem to whisper.

No steamer on the lakes gives a modern touch; the tourist of the twentieth century glides over the waters, with the plash of oars, just as the O'Donoghues, O'Sullivans, and MacGillicuddys did in past ages, and the monks of Innisfallen, centuries before any Saxon had ever come, in war or peace, to Ireland. Muckross Abbey overlooks the lakes, as Tintern Abbey stands by the Wye, illustrating one era of the past, whilst the picturesque Ross Castle tells the old story of Cromwellian times, having sustained a siege and having been taken by General Ludlow—"Solid Ludlow," as the dour Carlyle calls him—who succeeded Ireton as Cromwell's deputy in Ireland. Killarney and its inhabitants remain Irish, notwithstanding the long contact with the tourist world of many countries, to a curious extent, which strongly shows the ineradicable tendency of the Irish to remain absolutely Irish, under all circumstances. Weeks may be passed pleasantly in the comforts of the various Killarney hotels, and September, even late in the month, may be enjoyed there, the autumn tints of the woods adding an extra beauty to the scenery.

Tourists to Killarney, after staying there, generally take what is called the "Kerry round" to Caragh Lake, Cahirciveen, Valencia, Waterville, Parknasilla, Kenmare and Glengariffe. The Southern Railway hotels are excellent, and there are other comfortable ones as well. Caragh Lake is a favourite resort, twenty-five miles or so from Killarney. A quiet and enjoyable stay may be made at the hotel, situated on rising ground overlooking the lake, by lovers of mountain drives and

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

walks, and of boating and fishing. All parts of Kerry are popular, too, with the cyclist and motorist. At Glenbeigh and Glencar the mountain scenery is very fine and wild, and there are comfortable hotels where anglers make themselves happy.

The railway to Cahirciveen goes along the south side of Dingle Bay; the scenery is splendid, range upon range of mountains rising on each side of the wide and lovely bay, great promontories standing out in the Atlantic, and wild, rugged islands. The rate at which the train goes is favourable to lovers of scenery, if not to lovers of pace. The Irish, who love a joke against themselves, attach a legend—needless to say, not founded on fact—to this line. At a certain place the train stops, the guard dismounts, and goes along calling out: "First-class passengers, keep your sates; second-class, dismount to aise the engine; third class, push."

From Cahirciveen, the birthplace of Daniel O'Connell, the island of Valencia is reached, where there is a hotel, as well as at Cahirciveen. The ferry to the island is wide enough to be unpleasant to the average tourist, if the mood of the Atlantic be unpleasant. The surrounding scenery is wild and grand, so are the cliffs, mountains, and headlands of Valencia, between which and America the Atlantic rolls in freedom. Valencia, for all its wildness, has sheltered spots, whereon the vegetation is almost tropical, owing to the mild climate. Beautiful gardens surround Glenleam, the Knight of Kerry's residence, and groves of splendid arbutus, fuchsia, and myrtle. The tourist for whom the wildness and remoteness of Valencia are not enough may visit the Great Skellig Island—a serious undertaking, however, and only for fine weather. A bit of the world, as it was many centuries ago, is found there, but deserted by inhabitants. The bee-hive cells, on the steep rocks, are of deep interest to historic and archæological students. A coach goes from Cahirciveen to Waterville, which may be said to have two sides to its character—a seaside and an inland one. The village, which has two good hotels, stands on the shore of Ballinskelligs Bay, at whose mouth on either side are the great Bolus Head and Hog's Head, to which ranges of mountains extend. A rising ground shuts out all view of and shelters the charming Southern Railway hotel from the sea. A quarter of a mile inland it stands on the side of Lough Currane, facing it, with mountains rising over mountains all around. A charming spot for the dreamer and the artist, for the angler, and for all who want a pause in a strenuous life. There are no woods such as Killarney has; lakeside and mountain roads fringed with fuchsia hedges; a lake of gleams and ever-changing waters, on which anglers pass contented days. There are islands, too, with ruins dating from the earliest ages of Christianity. The walks and drives are wild and beautiful in this country of mountains—worthy of the name—and lakes.

The coach goes from Waterville to Parknasilla, along a splendid road, amidst scenery of unrivalled beauty and variety, through the pass of Coomakiska, a matchless drive, as beautiful in its own style as any in Europe, and one well worth going into the wilds of Ireland to take. Derrynane lies between Waterville and Parknasilla, where the road descends towards Kenmare Bay. Many distinguished travellers have stayed at the quiet and comfortable hotel in Derrynane, close by the residence of the "Liberator," Daniel O'Connell, who filled such a prominent public place in the early annals of the last century. There is a fashion of great men, as of everything else; they have their day, and it passes. Few pilgrimages for the sake of O'Connell are now made to Derrynane, but the beauty of the spot draws many visitors. The charming scenery has been described by Montalembert, Froude, and many others. Parknasilla has a high place amongst popular resorts; the fine hotel stands on the shores of Kenmare Bay in a sheltered situation. Around the hotel are many islands connected by bridges. The mild climate favours the vegetation on them; arbutus, rhododendrons, myrtles, fuchsias, and even oleanders grow in profusion. Garinish, close by, on which Lord Dunraven has a residence, has beautiful gardens, and is altogether an island of romance. Weeks of healthful enjoyment may be passed at Parknasilla, where the lover of Nature will never have a dull moment, nor, it may be added, an uncomfortable one, as regards creature comforts. The hotel is on the north side of Kenmare Bay, backed by the great Killarney mountain country; on the south shore, nine miles across, range upon range of mountains extend to the Atlantic, the air of which, softened by distance, comes up the bay to mingle with mountain breezes. Bathing, boating, fishing, mountain walking and climbing, driving, and above all cycling, for the roads of Kerry are of high renown with cyclists—are among the pursuits at Parknasilla. Kenmare, to which a coach goes frequently, is not twenty miles distant, by a charming road between the mountains and the bay, which becomes a river at Kenmare. The fine Southern Railway Hotel stands looking to the mouth of the bay in the far distance and amidst beautiful scenery in which trees have a place. Many excursions can be made, the roads on every side being through lovely scenery. Derreen, Lord Lansdowne's place on the south side of the bay, may be visited by car or cycle, to say nothing of motor, a charming road leading to it, but about thirty miles distant. Lord Lansdowne's ancestor, Dr. Petty, possessed himself—in some cases, it is said, by purchase from the Cromwellian soldiers who had been allotted portions—of the confiscated estates of the O'Sullivans at the Revolution. The O'Sullivans in fallen fortunes are still strong in numbers in Kenmare and on the lands over which their forbears ruled, and where the descendant of Dr. Petty now holds sway, by no means convincing as an Irish chieftain to the Irish themselves. The drive by coach from Kenmare to Glengariff is exquisite, and ends in the lovely creek of Bantry Bay, close to which are Eccles' and Roche's Hotels, of old and good renown. Glengariff is one of Ireland's health resorts, and is frequented in winter and spring by those in search of a mild climate sheltered from cold winds. East, north, and west rise chains of mountains; in front extends the great Bay

of Bantry, of historic renown in the past, and well prepared for it in the future, since the bay holds an important place in the defence scheme of the kingdom, and its naturally strong positions have been in process of strengthening for many years. Glengariff, notwithstanding its wild mountainous surroundings, is a smiling spot, the bay in front full of fertile islands and surrounded with wooded slopes. Birch, arbutus, hollies, and myrtles grow down to the water's edge, and sub-tropical plants of many kinds flourish unsheltered. A coach goes to Bantry, some ten miles distant, from which the railway goes by Bandon to Cork. The drive from Glengariff to Macroom, which also has railway communication with Cork, is one of the most beautiful amongst the many exquisite drives through the lake and mountain county of Kerry. It leads through the wild pass of Keimaneigh, and by the renowned lake of Gouganne Barra, an island which is sacred to St. Finbarr, of saintly renown in Cork and the South of Ireland, the road runs through Inchigeela and a country much frequented by anglers, to Macroom, which has an old castle with historic interest and Macroom Castle, another of Lord Ardilaun's picturesque Irish seats.

Cork, the Southern capital, no more needs description than Belfast, the Northern. Every one knows of the Bells of Shandon and "the pleasant waters of the River Lee." Sea lovers and seafarers know Queenstown and Crosshaven. Youghal still has memories of Sir Walter Raleigh, once Mayor of that town. It is the one place in Ireland which records a blessing rather than a curse of Cromwell, the place of his departure from Ireland, after what Carlyle euphemistically styles "a very handsome spell of work done there." Youghal Harbour is formed by the mouth of the Blackwater, a picturesque river up which delightful excursions can be made. Lismore Castle, where the King and Queen visited the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire this year, is situated on it, and many other places of interest. Blarney Castle can be visited from Cork by any one who yearns to have, as they say in Ireland, a "sluthering tongue," for the Blarney stone is still there in all its magic renown. Better still, the tourist might stay at St. Ann's Hydropathic, a very unique establishment at Blarney, where the first Turkish bath was introduced into Ireland, under the inspiration of the well-known Mr. David Urquhart. From the undoubted comforts of St. Ann's he might enjoy a pleasant country, and cultivate "blarney" at his ease.

Even now the tale is not completed of the many interesting and pleasant places to which tourists in Ireland may comfortably resort. Enough has been said to show that the country may fairly take its place on the list of countries enjoying popularity with tourists. The hotels in the leading resorts are excellent, and everywhere they are improving year by year, supply increasing with the growing demand. There is "cut, and come again," for an infinite variety of tastes; practically unworked mines of lore for the antiquary, historian, and archæologist; sermons in stones for the politician, for whom the light of the past may enlighten the future; golfing, boating, fishing, bathing for enthusiasts in these directions; the average enjoyments which he desires for the average tourist; unimpeachable fresh air, and to spare, for all. The Irish are the most polite and genial of people in the world with tourists. The "Saxon foe" of patriotic poetry and speeches never crosses the Irish Sea; some magic charm in passing over the waters turns him into a friendly stranger, for whom there is always a friendly welcome. There is a vast number of different opinions on the Irish Question, but who have ever visited the country as tourists without arriving at the unanimous conclusion that it is second to none amongst the countries of the world in the wild and romantic charm of its scenery?

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A "BUSKER."

With one or two notable exceptions every West End theatre not devoted to light opera is closed, and I read in the papers that this and that eminent actor and actress is renewing his or her strength on the Continent or the golf links preparatory to an autumn season. This is all very well in its way, but sometimes something more than strength requires renewing, and I am not sure whether the profession is wise to neglect the opportunity which a holiday affords of coming closely into touch with the great public and gaining a little of that fresh, untutored, and above all unwritten, criticism the spontaneity of which at once attests its truth. There has been much talk about "busking" lately. I should like to see a little less talk and a little more practice. I should like to see a "busking" class attached to Mr. Tree's dramatic school, and run on the same lines as an open air sketching class in an art school. I should like to see a few budding Romeos and Juliets, a few would-be Alexanders and Mrs. Patrick Campbells trying to draw tears and laughter from the great heart of the nation, or of the seaside public, without the support of the footlights, of fine dresses, and of a theatrical atmosphere. A clever actor once said to me that the first essential when playing a part was to look the part. This is the simplest part of the game—the resource of the mediocre. To carry away an audience so that your appearance is forgotten—that is where genius comes in. To "busk," therefore, seems to me to be pursuing the ideal. I defy any woman—I should say, any actress—to look like Juliet on the sands at Brighton or on the beach at Margate, with a glaring sun overhead; and all our embryo Hawtreys would find that the reserved force, hands-in-pocket style of modern acting would be absurdly futile if exhibited on a Palace steamer or before a Bank-holiday crowd. Therefore I say, let us have a little good, honest "busking," and he or she who proves himself or herself a good "busker" shall have my most earnest attention when next appearing in town.

It is positively amazing to me that the profession has never grasped the advantages accruing to this simple and healthful way of spending a holiday. The rude breath of truth seldom blows into a West End theatre. Actors are either favourites and receive more than their due meed of praise, or are unpopular and unfairly ignored. There is nothing more difficult in this imperfect world than to give every one

his exact meed of praise or blame. Under the blue canopy of heaven, though, and with no adventitious aids, nothing but genuine talent would prevail, and a London idol, seeing an audience (thick at first, as the pebbles on the beach on which it gathered) melt away in search of metal more attractive, might possibly go home and ask himself whether there was not something radically wrong with his methods. I need hardly say that the whole point of the experiment would be that "stars" should "busk" *incog.* They should leave their great names in London, just as a regiment going on active service leaves its colours, and should go forth to win new laurels under new names. But the worst of it is that the profession is so afraid of novel departures. It clings to old methods. The music-hall lady who thinks her name is dropping out of the papers still writes to her agent: "I am travelling to Blackpool to-morrow. Please see that my diamonds are stolen on the way;" and the hero of melodrama writes to his man of affairs: "Shall be staying at Margate for a week. Arrange that I save from drowning two boys or one man, full size." And our great actor-managers, if they could be prevailed upon to "busk," would never consent to veil their identity under common names, but would want to bill the beach with huge posters, announcing that So-and-so, with his entire company and full scenery, would "present" his latest success for one morning only on the beach. The Town Council would charge a hundred pounds for an allotment of sand, huge prices would be charged for standing room only, and a special train would take the crowd back to dine at the Carlton.

I need not say my dream does not run at all on these lines. Instead, I imagine a little party dining near the open window of a seaside hotel. The magic of a voice enters, the conversation flags and falters, and is hushed. One and all sit enthralled and spellbound. The great tragic scene from "The Fifth Mr. Daubeny" is being played outside by a company of buskers. You probably all remember the scene. Monica Devenish is just explaining to Paul Daubeny why she will not marry him. He, kneeling before her with his head on her lap, has just explained how unworthy he is to breathe the same air which she uses, and she, toying with his hair, gives that wonderful passage which runs:—

> Did I but hate you, Paul, how gladly would I marry you, not once but often, for love would come after marriage as surely as sunshine after storm, as surely as a great effect after an absurd cause, as surely as twins to the starving curate. Believe me, dearest, I know, for I have been there. But I love you, darling, and I should come to hate you. Better—better by far the poetry of a wonderful farewell this evening than an eternity of prosy mornings. Good-bye, because I love you. Good-bye, because to preserve that love I will not marry you. Good-bye, because this is the only way to save me and you from my undying hate—hate—hate!

The stage directions, I remember, ran: "Laying the swooning and heartbroken Paul gently on the ground, and bending over him for one instant as a mother might over a child, Monica draws her costly mantle round her and vanishes into the night." One of the diners leaving the table rearranges his tie at the window and throws out a sovereign. Another profoundly moved stirs the remains of his champagne with a bread crust and sniffs. A third mutters on his breath: "By gad, that's acting; no, by gad, it's life"! The fourth, less moved, nips a desire on the part of the others to throw out money. "Wait a bit," he says, "one of 'em always comes round with the hat. Perhaps she'll come. I'd like to get my optics on her a bit closer. Rippin!" This, of course, represents the ideal. Is it Duse, Bernhardt, Ellen Terry, or Mrs. Campbell who has so charmed them, and made them forget their liqueurs and let their coffee grow cold? The programme says merely "Mary Jones." Genius, for once, is as modest as the tribute paid to it is scarce.

So far so good, but I tremble to think what might happen in other cases. I can imagine, for instance, a member of another little party, whose conversation is broken in upon in similar manner, rising languidly, pulling down the window, and saying, as he returns to his companions, "It's a rum thing, but every ass who has nothing better to do will go and imitate Tree or Irving. It is as easy as pie. I've done it myself. One can stand the real thing when it's properly dished up, but these imitator fellows, who have just the tricks without the genius are awful." It would be horrible if, shorn of his "accessories," any one of our great actors proved as unimpressive to the unintelligent public as the great statesman in Carlyle's "unclothesed" House of Lords. Again, it might sometimes be painful to our "Stars" in mufti to read the local paper, for local dramatic critics panting to air their views on the drama would soon visit the "buskers," and it is just possible that they might make mistakes and fail to recognise genius in disguise. I can imagine something like this:—

> Strolling out last night, my attention was attracted, by sundry ardent wooers of the Temple of Thespis, yclept, "buskers," and finding the time hang heavily on my hands, I dallied for the nonce to see if peradventure I might find that *rara avis*, a dramatic genius stranded on the sands of Mudcliffe-on-the-Beach. Alas! *Vanitas vanitatum! Aut non tentaris, aut perfice.* The gentleman who enacted the premier rôle, the part of squire of dames, was painfully modelled on that great comedian, Sir C—— W——, but was made up at least twenty years too old for the part. He gave us merely mannerisms without soul, while instead of trying to present the author's character, he thrust his own ill-fitting personality into the part until the character was as distorted as a glove into which a clothes-peg has been stuck. I wish I could say more for the other members of the company, but though *veritas odium parit*, my duty compels me to advise one and all to try and study under some competent management. A month in a theatre run by some great London actor would be the best training for these amateurs, and of far more value than the so-called experience of playing in this manner and forcing their incompetence upon the countryside. During these seaside peregrinations they rarely meet with intelligent criticism (I only came across them quite by chance when smoking a post-prandial cigar), and as a result bad habits become ingrained and vices engendered. *Verb. sap.* Far from London though we be, Mudcliffe-on-the-Beach boasts many earnest students of the drama. If only some prominent London actor-manager would include us in his itinerary, he would be astonished at his reception—but away with these sorry buskers.

There was a man once who made a bet that he would stand in the street offering sovereigns for sale at a penny each, and that no one would buy them. He won his bet, for the public is mistrustful, and there is always this chance that the genuine article might go unappreciated; but then, on the other hand, success would be so much the more a triumph. Better than two columns of praise in the *Telegraph* to Sir A.B. or Mr. C.D. would surely be a hat well-filled with the

coin of appreciation! The box office test is a sure test of appreciation, and you apply it in its simplest form if, when after giving a scene with all the fervour or humour of which you are capable, you follow the old time-honoured custom and yourself take round the hat! Cast into the crucible of "busking," it seems to me that real merit would inevitably be discovered. Into the melting pot I would throw great reputations, mediocrity, genius, incompetence, and all those people, lower even than the last, who only cumber the stage because their own or other people's money buys them standing room. The dross I would pour off, and a little pure gold would remain. In the face of this argument which is surely irrefutable, nothing but criminal weakness or craven fear should prevent our leading actors and actresses from putting their talents to the test, and I hope the present decline in "busking" is the precursor of a great revival.

THE THEATRES.

"The Chevaleer," at the Garrick.

I went to see the first play of the autumn dramatic season hatched out on Saturday, but, alas! the chick is not a promising one. What has come to Mr. Jones? Has all his old fertility deserted him? He seems to be content nowadays to pitchfork together fragments of a dozen of his old plays, plant some one interesting character in the middle and then proudly survey, and buoyantly paragraph, the result as though it were an artistic triumph. The Chevaleer himself—an embryonic Barnum, with a gorgeous flow of language culled from penny novelettes and a sublime belief in himself—the Chevaleer is a triumph. His self-bestowed titles, his clothes, and his vocabulary, all these are delightful, but he is the one interesting figure in a little world of dummies, and his overmastering personality would seem more pronounced if the people he dominated were less futile. Time was when Mr. Jones was something of an idealist; now he seems to have an overwhelming contempt for human nature as he sees it, and particularly for married human nature. He builds these plays mechanically. In Act I. take, as the cookery books say, a young married couple, who quarrel about nothing; stir in a friend of the family, strain off the husband, and serve up the residue in an inn at night. In Act II. the wife, of course, must be vastly concerned lest her husband should discover that nothing happened at the inn, and so she spends her time placating the people who, as she thinks, have discovered her indiscretion or persuading them to swear that she was somewhere else. For the proper development of this part it is necessary for her to have a dear woman friend of the meanest possible kind. In Act III. all is put right on the basis of nobody telling any one anything, for the husband also has something to conceal, and the barque of matrimony once more sails serenely down the stream. If any one of the characters showed a trace of dignity or reticence or common sense, the plot of the play would fall to pieces at once, but by a masterly avoidance of all these qualities the thing is kept together for two hours. But the plot and the exponents of it are all subsidiary. They are merely a setting for the Chevaleer Mounteagle, that prince of showmen who combines the best attributes of the immortal Crummles and of Mr. Sass's circus-master in "The New Clown" with an audacity and colossal impudence for which every credit is due to Mr. Jones. The Chevaleer dominates every situation; he knows nothing really of the "errors of judgment" of either husband or wife, but he knows that there is something to know, and as they think he knows all, he makes full use of the power this shadowy knowledge gives him in extorting fabulous terms for giving a show of his world-renowned circus in Kellond Park. Finally, because Mr. Jones is never happy until he has made some one read a foolish wife a lecture, the Chevaleer flings himself into the breach and lectures Lady Kellond with greasy effrontery. Real people would not have tolerated this bizarre impostor for a moment, but these are not real people, they are a background to show up the Chevaleer. Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Mr. Nye Chart, Mr. O. B. Clarence, Mr. Valentine, and Miss Nancy Price almost make them seem living at moments, but they really had nothing in particular to do, though they did it very well. The play is just a monologue with interruptions, and its excuse is that it once more shows Mr. Arthur Bourchier as the best comedian we have. Time was when Mr. Bourchier used to be called an amateur. At the present moment he is almost the only actor we have who steadily advances, and, whether giving us such a grim picture as the examining magistrate in "La Robe Rouge," or this exuberant mountebank, he is neither monotonous nor mannered, but gets inside each part in a way that reveals him to be one of the most versatile actors we have.

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I went to see Mr. Reginald Kennedy-Cox's play, "The Chetwynd Affair," at the Royalty, on Monday, and I much regret the circumstance. I am afraid this is the kindest thing I can say.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE BAPTISM AT PETERHOF.

VISITING the mineral springs at Pierrefonds the other day, I fell in with an old canon of St. Denis, who had figured as a bishop in the Second Empire. Before the late Pope, for some reason never explained, obliged him to retire to the all but honorary canonry, he had saved enough to give him bread and cheese. Between the hospitality of old friends of his episcopal days, contributions to Catholic papers, and a biography of Saint Colette, he can travel about a little and go on the cheap to watering-places. Of course, he is a Bonapartist. He associates his halcyon days with the Second Empire. Had he but the time, he would lay himself out to prove that Napoleon was "the sword" which Jesus Christ said He had brought into the world. Napoleon's sword protected all the good and glorious fruits of the revolution, and gave a famous pruning to old worn-out institutions. We came round to the

Russian Alliance, which he did not like. This brought us to the baptism at Peterhof. The name of Alexis conveyed no meaning to the venerable Canon beyond what he had gathered from Voltaire's "Peter the Great." He read in that work how Peter, after ordering his heir to be soundly knouted, went to more tragical extremities.

The ill-starred Czarevitch disposed of, the Canon exclaimed, "Those present day Sovereigns don't know how to name a young prince of vast prospects. Why don't they consider well the name and title given by Napoleon to his only son: Napoleon after himself, Charles after Charlemagne, Joseph after the foster-father of Jesus Christ? Could he go any higher? If Talleyrand and his friends smiled at the fond father's assumption, Napoleon could say that he had just given three family names to his son, but since their cap fitted the child he should wear it. To hear of that cabotine of the Place du Châtelet playing the Aiglon's part in the uniform of an Austrian officer, should have disgusted every right-minded Frenchman. In his title (King of Rome the Eternal), in his orphanage, in his unique captivity, in his constantly wounded pride, in his fruitless longings, in his death he drank to the bottom the chalice of suffering, and rose to the sublime. We should never forgive Rostand for delivering him over to a Jewish play actress, who found a stage attraction in the contrast between her feminine anatomy and his military attire."

The good Canon knew nothing of Alexis Michailovitch, the only Czar of the name, and the last Czar who died and was buried at Moscow. He established a curious link with England. To punish that country for the trial and execution of their king "Carlus" (Charles I.) this Alexis cancelled a treaty one of his predecessors had made with Queen Elizabeth, ordered his subjects to break off all trade relations with the English merchants, and turned the latter out of Russia, threatening them with the knout and beheadal if they came back. He vainly appealed to his brother-monarchs to enter into a league with him against Cromwell and his brother-regicides. When they showed themselves lukewarm he gave a pension to Charles II., which enabled him to live according to his sociable and gallant propensities at Breda. Guizot makes a passing allusion somewhere to Alexis, and Maartens mentions his services to the Merry Monarch in the introduction to the ninth edition of the "Receuil de Traités." Victor Hugo, in the drama of "Cromwell," puts these words, which have now some actuality, into the mouth of Thurlow:—

. . . Sa Sérénité
Le Tsar de Moscovie implore, par supplique
De votre bienveillance, une marque publique.

The poet errs, however, in bringing in with Alexis a lot of other rulers. All the monarchs west of Muscovy preferred courting Cromwell to going to war with him.

The parental ideal is constantly manifested in the names given at christenings. Alexis Michailovitch will probably be held up by Nicholas to his heir as the exemplary ancestor. He should, therefore, be an object of contemporary interest. Alexis came to the throne when Poles and Tartars had been well beaten back. This enabled him to be the Czar of Peace, to move for the creation of a Holy Alliance in favour of the Stuarts, and to stand out in Russian history. There was, so far as I can ascertain, no Mme. de Krudener in his life. His love of peace, such as it was, does not seem to have had drawbacks. His piety, however, led to the great schism in the schismatic Church of the Old Believers. Advised by the Patriarch Nicon, he ordered the vulgate translation of the Scriptures to be revised, and divers changes in the ritual. Considering that "what comes out of the mouth defileth," he and Nicon set their faces against the tobacco-smoking introduced by the English traders. Every Muscovite, who could afford to smoke, smoked the Virginian plant. The Czar and Nicon hit English trade in a sensitive spot. When the Merry Monarch came to his own and interceded at Moscow for his subjects, tobacco entered Russian ports again, but to be chewed and taken in snuff.

This exemplary Czar passionately loved blood-curdling tragedy on the stage. He built the Kremlin theatre to encourage it and for his own delectation. I suppose there were no Muscovite anarchists in his time. Otherwise he could not have taken delight in a drama written to order: "Judith and Holofernes." If revived at Helsingfors, it might have consequences.

You see, the Emperor Nicholas might easily find a worse model for his son than in this father of the great Peter. Alexis is inimitable. Peter is inimitable, look at him as you may.

There are certainly such things as fatalities, which no amount of human wisdom can prevent. Without believing in omens, far be it from me to deny them. "Coming events," said a Scotch poet who never incurred the charge of superstition, "cast their shadows before them." Think of the shadows cast on the reign of Nicholas II. at its opening, and on his heir from the very first expectation of his advent. Nicholas unable to visit Rome from fear of anarchists, that ear malady of the Empress, the death of that very interesting child, Elizabeth of Hesse, who had left Darmstadt with her Imperial uncle and aunt to be the playmate and the classmate of the youthful Grand Duchesses, are among the ominous domestic events. Since the war began nearly every telegram from the Farthest East must have been as a torpedo shock to the nerves of Emperor and Empress. One almost wonders how their nervous systems can have outlived the constant repetition of shocking telegrams. She is believed to have had dark forebodings, and to have been averse to the favourites, the general policy, and the particular moves which rendered war unavoidable. Circumstanced as she is it can be no satisfaction to say "I told you so." She has done what she could to stem the tide of war miseries, and to merit the goodwill of the mass from which the soldiers are drawn. But what immediate good can all her efforts amount to? Her example at ladies' Red Cross meetings in working at a sewing-machine and her very handsome gifts to

The CARLTON HOTEL. RESTAURANT and GRILL ROOM.
The CARLTON HOTEL. The most fashionable in London.
The CARLTON HOTEL. Nat. Tel. 1598 Gerrard. Gen. Mgr. C. Ritz.

the army at the front are now as the proverbial drop in the ocean. They can only bear valuable fruit years hence. She knew from the first of the assassination of the late Governor of Finland. The fact of Plehve's assassination has been kept from her. The day on which she gave birth to the long-wished-for son coincided with the destruction of the warship *Czarevitch*. On the day of the christening, the Imperial father had to drink deep of the cup of humiliation in ordering the *Grosovoi* and *Askold* to disarm. Had he delayed, Admiral Togo would have certainly held the cup to his lips. Another of those fast-recurring messengers of evil awaited him at the close of the baptismal feast—two *contre-torpilleurs* (I do not know the English term), the remains of the Port Arthur squadron, had struck mines, and one of them gone down.

I cannot in these days of cheap tours speak as with superior knowledge of the chapel of Peterhof Palace and its lining of sheet gold frequently thickened into high relief. It is small, as is the Assumption Church in the Kremlin. The gorgeousness of the setting makes the faces of the holy images almost black—a symbol full of meaning, though never meant to symbolise the shade into which saintly qualities are thrown in real life, and especially in Court life. This gold would have been a magnificent background for a full-dress ceremonial at which the ladies attended in the old Russian costume. Those of the Imperial family crowded on their finest jewels and the gentlemen of the official world their crosses and badges of orders. Spectators who believe in the virtue of such things must have looked forward hopefully as their eyes were dazed with epaulettes, gold lace, and embroidered uniforms. They could not have mentally stripped the wearers or suspected them to have no more virtue than so many supers. The pomps before their eyes would have shut out the mournful background of peasant life in Russia, and the foreground of misery "at the front" under Kuropatkin.

Only members of the Imperial family and god-parents' proxies could witness the three immersions of the Czarevitch in the baptismal water. The rest of the company stayed in the room from which the chapel is entered. I wondered why the French Government made such small ado about an event so important as this christening. The reason now given is that the attachés of their Embassy, civil, military, and naval, had been excluded from the Peterhof gathering. Ever since 1892 one might have imagined the French Foreign Office had gone over to Orthodoxy. It lost no opportunity to attend those masses at the Rue Daru Church which mark Imperial birth and death days. M. Delcassé must have known that directly the cannon announced the three immersions and the unction of myrrh the church bells rang out glad chimes over the length and breadth of Russia. The myrrh unction is supposed in the case of a Czarevitch to endue the neophyte with the Holy Paraclete. He is raised to the divine level.

The exclusion of the French attachés is probably due to pique. "La foi qui n'agit pas, est-ce une foi sincère?" French faith in the Russian alliance has been declining to inactivity. French officers are reminded by Russian military and naval disasters of their own army and navy thirty-four years back. They congratulate themselves at not having to help the generals and admirals in the Farthest East. If they could risk advising their Russian friends, it would be to make peace and once more enter on a policy of *recueillement*. It had been hoped at St. Petersburg that Russian warships might expect friendly offices at Jiboutil and Saigon. This dangerous hope has been dashed in recent communications between the French and Russian Foreign Offices. The French never could have anticipated the continuous fighting force that Togo's fleet has shown. Those Chinese seas, with their oft-recurring typhoons, soon wore out the blockading squadron under Courbet, in 1884-5. He died fearing defeat from the Chinese, so used up had his vessels become.

The incident of the attachés arose in this way. Invitation cards to the christening and the lunch to follow had been sent to all the members of the Corps Diplomatique. On the day before the heads of Legations and Embassies learned by telephone that they were to regard the cards sent to their attachés as cancelled. Late in the day all these personages save the French Ambassador learned that their attachés might attend with their Excellencies. Court people in Russia rather look down on their Ambassadors. They are apt to undervalue those of other Powers who have not prestige independent of official standing. The title, wealth, and personal pretensions of M. de Montebello awed them, as did a certain pompous air of M. Félix Faure. I can imagine M. Bompard, who is a first-rate man for commercial affairs, but manifestly bourgeois, having no influence with Count Hendrikoff and Baron Korff, the Grand and sub-Grand Master of Ceremonies, or with the Grand Marshal of the Palace. According to M. Galliard, who is generally well-informed, the French attachés remained out in the cold because they had no relative of the Czarevitch to plead for them. The Queen of Greece got in Greek attachés, the Crown Prince of Denmark, Danish, Prince Louis of Battenberg British, and so on.

Last week I fell into chat in a railway carriage with an old naval officer who served as midshipman in Japanese waters in 1867-68. The first steamer the Mikado owned, this officer said, had been bought at Birkenhead second-hand from a mercantile company. They armed it any way at all, and sent it out to Japan with a British crew. The Japanese had closely watched the manœuvres and methods of the French and other squadrons that had come to Japan at Consular calls. They seemed delighted with their bargain. In their impatience to handle the steamer they dismissed the sailors and sent on board a native crew. These men peeled off their clothes to work. They did fairly well in the land-locked Osaka Bay. One afternoon the officers and crews of the French warships could not make out why the Birkenhead steamer went round the bay circling in a narrowing course at the top of its speed, and when it neared the flag-ship, where there were Japanese on board, the commander of the steamer called out, "Something wrong with the engine. We can neither stop nor slow down!" "Leave off coaling, and keep circling round, but farther off from us!" sang out the French captain. This the

Japs did. When they stopped a French frigate towed them to their moorings, and they relished the compliments they received on the way in which they handled the wheel.

The Mikado, hearing of the occurrence, asked the French Admiral if he could arrange to afford the crew of the steamer some naval instruction. He courteously told off for that duty a lieutenant, a midshipman—now the old officer I talked to—and a dozen or so of enginemen and sailors. They brought back every evening amusing stories about their pupils, who insisted on taking hot baths daily in swabbing buckets. They continued to cast aside their clothes when hard work had to be got through. However, their zeal to learn, their close application, their quickness, amazed their instructors. They went to their tasks with minds fresh and retentive as a child's, and the reasoning powers of clever adults. In six weeks they needed no more teaching, and they could outstrip Breton sailors in baffling the fury of a typhoon.

The papers have so often glorified the heroism of Mme. Cartier that I take for granted you know all about it. She had no intention in going to Armenia as wife of the French Consul at Sivas to play the part of heroine. The necessity was laid upon her of facing terrifically grim realities. She rose to the situation, protected rifle in hand, and with true aim, Armenian Catholics who had fled to the Consulate as protégés of France. Her courage never faltered, her spirit never quailed. That ride of hers across Armenia in the rear of a caravan of fugitives, with her husband in the van, is another proof that pluck may work miracles. They all at last got on board a French steamer bound for Marseilles.

M. Cartier, whose health broke down under the strain of his efforts and responsibilities, died after he quitted Sivas for good. Madame married last week his brother, Captain Cartier. They have gone to reside at Compiègne, where his regiment is garrisoned. She has been, in consequence of her celebrity, pestered by autograph collectors and by philanthropists, sincere, self-seeking and advertising, or merely faddists. Some of them seem to think she ought to make a business of heroic conduct. They wanted her to set up soup kitchens in Macedonia or direct leper settlements in Norway, Iceland, the Pacific Islands, or Siberia. Others asked her to devote herself to Russian ambulance hospitals. An English lady pointed out a smallpox hospital as a field for her labours. Mme. Cartier does not want, and never wanted, to overtop other ladies as a working philanthropist. She just aspires to be the happy wife of Captain Cartier and to train carefully her boy Leon in the way his late father wished. She became Mrs. Captain Cartier in the chapel of the Invalides. The Governor (attended by his staff) attended the religious ceremony there. All the pensioners had leave to present to the bride a bouquet which they subscribed to buy. She wore a grey velvet dress and a white corsage, with the red ribbon of the Legion of Honour on her breast. It had been spontaneously given to her by the present Government.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

ST. AUGUSTINE, dear Lady Betty, prayed, "Convert me—but not now." In the same attitude of mind the writer exclaims, "Make me industrious—but not now"! With a scorching sun above, a cool sea beneath, a ship so spotlessly clean that it is difficult to believe this is not her first cruise, and a party on board that is quietly pleasant, and pleasantly quiet, who would work? There are distressingly ambitious people who live in the future—that acreage of hope which so continually produces disappointing crops—who might spoil even this situation; but the host and hostess, and their guests, are all intelligently idle. We have escaped from the tyranny of work. Those villainous workers, how they have spoilt the world! What wars and abuses may be traced to them! It is they who have caused competition; it is to them that is due the accumulation of wealth in a few hands; and it is their fault that much of the poverty there is exists! It is the idle who do not hoard money, who laugh, who feast, who do not struggle, and live sensibly, forgetting the past which is dead, careless of the future which may be still-born, and enjoying the present that is.

Ours is a State-aided cruise, for it is a Government ship which has been placed at the disposal of the host. "Why should there not be State-aided excursions for the children in the slums?" asks the hostess. "Each succeeding Government assists the powerful monopolies with public funds—the Church, the Army, the licensed victuallers, the farmers; yet the children of the slums will become, some of them, men who will fight our battles, others women who will be mothers. It is the children of the poor who are the beams and bricks in the Imperial edifice, the children of the rich are only the architects. We should be most careful that the material is sound, otherwise ours will be but a jerry-built Empire."

"There are over five hundred thousand children in London alone who have never seen the sea, and have never breathed the fresh air of the country!" adds an official, but official figures may be made to tell any tale.

When the greater part of the population lived in the country most of the children grew in the fresh air. Now most of our young are imprisoned in the towns, and it is not surprising that the amount of disease is increasing, that there is more insanity than there was, and that the race is deteriorating physically. The conditions have seriously changed, but the Government ignores this, and leaves it to private charity to administer small doses of fresh air to comparatively few of our poor children. "State-aided excursions to the sea" is a newly-coined phrase which it is to be hoped will not be withdrawn from currency until it has done good work.

. . . . .

An eminent surgeon on board has startled us. "Many a fee has been paid," he casually informed us, "for operations which have not been performed." This was incomprehensible as it stood, but he explained the statement. "For instance, according to the diagnosis the patient is suffering from appendicitis. It is decided to operate. The necessary exploratory incision is made, and the surgeon discovers that the diagnosis was wrong. The operation is discontinued, but the discovery is not communicated to the patient or to his or her friends, and the fee is accepted, not so much for the sake of the money as to avoid exposure!"

. . . . .

A foreigner who is of the party asks some perplexing questions. "Why do you 'cut' each other in Eng-

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land?" is one of them. "Abroad we often have quarrels and dislikes, but we seldom go so far as to 'cut' each other. But you do that with and without any serious cause. A woman in England will 'cut' the man who was her neighbour at dinner the preceding evening, the hostess at whose dinner she danced that week, or the girl who spent several days at a country house where both were guests in the autumn. Your men 'cut' each other even as easily. Of course, abroad that would be dangerous; it might lead to duels. Perhaps the abolition of duelling in this country has made you less careful and considerate than you were." "Why, too, do your men generally seem afraid of the women? I notice two Englishmen talking together naturally. A woman enters the room, and both those men suddenly become awkward; their thoughts appear to be less clear than they were a second ago, for the conversation is at once obviously restrained and inconsequential—it is now an effort to express themselves and to develop the subjects. They are restless, are conscious that they have legs and arms, keep moving the former, and dare not make a gesture with the latter, and recollect that they have a moustache which they pull aimlessly, a coat, which they try unnecessarily to adjust, and a collar, which seems to strangle them. An Englishman speaking to a woman generally reminds me of a culprit before the judge; a foreign woman talking to a foreign man is in the position of one who wishes to please reasonably a person of the other sex who is anxious to be polite." Those questions must remain unanswered here, as they were on the deck of H.M.S. "——."—Believe me to be very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A WEEK or two ago most of the papers announced that Sir Ernest Cassel had sold Grafton House, his former residence in High-street, Newmarket, to Sir Stanley Clarke, who was understood to have purchased this property on behalf of the Prince of Wales, with whose name some journals have been taking great liberties of late in connection with racing affairs. I am informed that Grafton House has really been sold to the King, who now finds the accommodation afforded by his suite of apartments at the Jockey Club to be inadequate to his requirements. His Majesty is usually at Newmarket during at least six of the eight race meetings, and he would no doubt find it convenient to have a residence of his own there. Grafton House, which is opposite the Jockey Club, is large and well arranged, with some good rooms. It was altered and improved by Baron Hirsch. The King's purchase of a house at Newmarket will delight the inhabitants, as the town is in sore need of a lift. There has been preposterous over-building at Newmarket, and many houses are standing empty. The closing of Cheveley Park has been a serious loss to the town and neighbourhood. It was rumoured that Lord Howard de Walden would become the tenant of Colonel McCalmont's fine place, and deep was the disappointment when it became known that he had taken Audley End, Lord Braybrooke's magnificent old seat in Essex.

The withdrawal of the French horses has enormously diminished the interest of the race for the St. Leger, and altogether the sporting prospect at Doncaster is not particularly bright; but from the social point of view the meeting bids fair to be a great success. The King, who is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey, intends to be present at the races every day, and large parties will be entertained during the week by Lord and Lady Fitzwilliam at Wentworth Woodhouse, Lord and Lady Scarbrough at Sandbeck Park, Lord and Lady Wharncliffe at Wortley Hall, Lord and Lady Wenlock at Escrick Park, Lord and Lady Halifax at Hickleton Hall, Sir William and Lady Mildred Cooke at Wheatley Park, Lord and Lady Galway at Serlby Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wilson at Tranby Croft, Lord and Lady St. Oswald at Nostell Priory, Sir Thomas and Lady Kathleen Pilkington at Chevet Park, and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson at Warter Priory.

There were 104 entries for the Champagne Stakes when this race closed last November, and forty-one two-year-olds were left in when the minor forfeit was declared on July 5. There are neither penalties nor allowances in this race, so it is not good policy for the owner of a smart dark animal to bring it out here, and such two-year-olds are usually reserved for the Middle Park Plate or some other stake in which maidens meet winners with an advantage in the weights.

The King is represented by no fewer than five animals, not one of which is likely to start with even the most remote prospect of winning the race. It was a mere throwing away of £75 to leave in such creatures. The best public form is represented by the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins; Mr. G. Faber's Queen of the Earth, by Flying Fox out of Lonely; and the Duke of Portland's Pamflete, by St. Simon out of Mneme. Other winners in the list are Lord Derby's Verdiana, Mr. Raphael's Graceful, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell's Brother Bill (nominated by Mr. Sievier), Lord Londonderry's St. Florentin, and Sir John Thursby's Standen. Two of the failures of the season—Mr. A. James's Atlas and Mr. L. de Rothschild's Monarda—are left in. Atlas was understood earlier in the summer to be the highest-tried two-year-old in the Egerton House stable, and, if this statement is correct, Marsh must be cursed with a wretchedly bad lot of animals. Atlas, however, is fully expected to retrieve his reputation during the autumn. Monarda, who is half-sister to St. Amant, by Florizel II., was fancied for the Richmond Stakes at Goodwood after having done well in a trial, but she ran very badly, and if that was her true form she must be an exceedingly moderate filly. I shall give a plumper for Full Cry; and Queen of the Earth will probably finish second to the Duke of Devonshire's filly. Full Cry was "tipped" by most of the papers for the Gimcrack Stakes at York, but it was announced in Truth a fortnight ago that she would be reserved for Doncaster. Considering how heavily Full Cry is engaged, it would be a most fatuous policy to knock her about as a two-year-old, and if she had started last Thursday she would have carried a penalty of 9 lb., and would have been giving a stone to maidens.

It has been repeatedly asserted that Major Loder's Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly, is in reserve for the Champagne Stakes. The writers who have been so eagerly circulating this romance were of course unaware of the fact that she was struck out of her engagement at Doncaster nearly two months ago. Adula is a fine, slashing filly, but she obviously wants time, and she has been most judiciously managed, having been so far doing no work beyond easy galloping. She can be perfectly well got fit to run for the Middle Park Plate or the Dewhurst Plate (she would not meet either of M. E. Blanc's colts in the latter race), but I fancy that Major Loder will decide (and wisely) to keep this filly for her three-year-old engagements, which include the One Thousand, Oaks, St. Leger, and Grand Prix de Paris, and the Coronation Stakes at Ascot.

Sir Daniel Cooper's dark filly Fleta, half-sister to Flotsam, by St. Simon, is also talked about as a promising candidate for the Champagne Stakes, but she also was withdrawn from this race when the minor forfeit was declared. Fleta is a most racing-like filly, and a fine mover, and she has done well in some fast gallops with certain of her stable companions (including Llangibby) which have won races during the season. I am told that Fleta will probably make her first appearance in the Imperial Produce Plate of £3,000 at Kempton Park, which race is run on October 7. She would there meet Cicero (if he runs, which is unlikely), Vedas, and Full Cry, with an advantage of 10 lb. in the weights. Fleta is also engaged in the

Glasgow. St. Enoch Hotel (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at Ayr and Dumfries are charming centres for Tourists & Burns' Country. Descriptive tariff free.

Middle Park Plate, and in the Surrey Stakes of £2,500 at Gatwick on October 19.

There were originally fifty entries for the Tattersall Sale Stakes (£500 added), on Wednesday, and twenty two-year-olds have accepted. I shall plump for Cyanean, who is a very smart filly. Fifty are left in for the Rous Plate of £500 on Thursday, out of an original entry of eighty-one, but this event cannot be dealt with at present.

There are fifty-four three-year-olds engaged in the Scarborough Stakes on Thursday, and a grievously poor lot they are. The American filly Tripping has a good chance of recovering a part of the 2,800 gs. which Darling paid for her at the sale of Messrs. Keene's race-horses last December. No bargains, most assuredly, were picked up on that occasion.

There was a splendid entry for the Doncaster Cup of £1,000 when the race closed on July 5, but (as is now usually the case under such conditions) it is to be feared that the field will be very small. Throwaway, being amiss, has been scratched, and Sceptre will not start. It is rumoured that Almscliff will be withdrawn from the St. Leger in order that he may be kept fresh for the Cup race, and it is stated that he will meet Zinfandel with a great advantage in the weights. The fact of Lord Harewood's colt having incurred a penalty of 7 lb. by his victory in the Gratwicke Stakes at Goodwood appears to have been overlooked, and his "great advantage" against Zinfandel is only 3 lb. Bachelor's Button is understood to be in reserve for this race, and he is a much improved horse, and has escaped a penalty, so he will have 10 lb. the better of the weights with Zinfandel, but I fancy that Lord Howard de Walden's horse will be able to beat him. The conditions of the Cup are ridiculous and idiotic, for the winner of any race whatever, value £900, should carry a penalty, instead of handicaps being excepted.

Eighty-nine fillies are entered for the Park Hill Stakes, and one can only give a plumper for Pretty Polly. In the absence of Major Loder's mare this race would be a good thing for Fiancée if she has recovered her form of last season to any extent.

Fifty-four three-year-olds were engaged in the Doncaster Stakes (with £500 added), and twenty-four are left in, including Pretty Polly, Admiral Breeze, Darley Dale, Mousqueton, Galapas, and Flamma. In the almost certain absence of Major Loder's mare, I shall expect Galapas to defeat Admiral Breeze, and win.

Of all the Doncaster handicaps the weights have been published only for the Great Yorkshire Plate on Tuesday, and this is a race which cannot be dealt with until after the acceptances are made known.

Forty-three horses have been engaged in the Prince Edward Handicap of £2,000 at Manchester, which is run on the 24th. The managers of the meeting stipulated for fifty entries, but they sensibly accepted a less number. There are a remarkably large number of three-year-olds in this race, the best of them being Mr. Gilpin's Delaunay, Mr. Henning's Galapas, Mr. Creet's Killeevan, Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head and Grey Plume, Lord Penrhyn's Peroration, and Mr. Stedall's Marsden. The best of the older horses are Mr. Clarke's Mark Time, Duke of Devonshire's Cheers, Lord Howard de Walden's Kilglass, Mr. Neumann's L'Aiglon, and Lord Carnarvon's Robert le Diable.

Fifty-one two-year-olds are entered for the Lancaster Nursery of £1,000 at Manchester, the best of them being Sir Edgar Vincent's Rievaulx, Mr. Joel's Lancaster Gate, and Lord Carnarvon's Grandiflora.

The Duke of York Handicap of £2,000 at Kempton Park, which is run on October 8, did not fill when originally advertised, and the race has been re-opened, to close next Tuesday. The managers stipulate for fifty entries, but they will be well advised if they accept any number over forty, as it would be a heavy blow and a great discouragement to this meeting if its principal autumn handicap fell through.

After the dolorous collapse of the sales at the Newmarket July meetings, breeders must contemplate the catalogue of the Doncaster sales with quaking hearts. More than eighteen columns of the *Racing Calendar* are taken up with the list of animals to be offered, and such an apoplectic plethora in the lots is certain to produce a paralytic tenuity in the biddings. All breeders who have sufficient sagacity to be observant of the signs of the times will act with practical common sense if they sell without reserves, and this course is to be adopted by Mr. Musker and Major Platt, two of the principal vendors of the week, who may be congratulated on their decision. It is feather-brained foolery at the present time either to send up animals with the exorbitant reserves which have been so common of late years or to exasperate would-be purchasers by putting in somebody to bid. These crazy practices simply kill sales, for people who might be disposed to bid become utterly disgusted. Of course the sporting papers are filled with rigmarole puffs of the various teams, but possible buyers have long been nauseated by these excessive and absolutely indiscriminating panegyrics, which now do more harm than good, as only a mooncalf could be beguiled by them.

On Tuesday there are a great number of miscellaneous lots, besides the eight remaining yearlings of the late Sir Blundell Maple, and Mr. Musker's team of twenty-three, which will excite most interest. Sir B. Maple's lot include colts by Mackintosh out of Mereden, and out of St. Mary, by Hermit; by Royal Hampton out of Siffleuse and by Common out of Simon's Bay (this colt is an own brother to Simony), and fillies by Mackintosh out of Nun Nicer, and by Royal Hampton out of Cimiez (this filly is own sister to Queen's Holiday). Mr. Musker's team includes an own brother to Princess Melton, colts by Melton out of Ruby Gill (the dam is own sister to Ercildoune) and out of La Petite Duchesse, an own sister to Graceful, and fillies by Melton out of Paradoxical, Fledgling, and Columbian, and by Chevening out of Irena, Marguerite, and Palmira. Lord Dunraven sends up five yearlings from Adare Manor, all sired by Desmond, by St. Simon out of L'Abbesse de Jouarre. Desmond was mentioned in TRUTH some time ago as a horse likely to achieve great success at the stud. There are colts out of Molly Morgan and out of Gold Wave.

On Wednesday Major Platt offers ten from his stud at Chesterford, near Cambridge, including fillies by Flying Fox out of Leonie, by Orme out of Lonely, by Ladas out of Primrose, and by Diamond Jubilee out of Sea Air; and colts by Ladas out of Surprise-Me-Not, and by Persimmon out of Mary Seaton. I expect that certain of these animals will realise about the highest prices of the week. There are also the Lordship Stud, Rowden Abbey, Tickford Park, Ligamaddy Stud, Stockwell Stud, and Osberstown teams. Lord Savile sends up eight from Rufford Abbey, seven of them being sired by El Diablo, and there are six of Lord Feversham's, including a half-sister, by St. David, to that very smart two-year-old, Rievaulx. Major Joicey offers a colt by Melton out of Silver Thames, who is half-sister to Lord Bobs and other well-known winners. The Worksop Manor team of twelve includes colts by Carbine out of Pindi (dam of Bass Rock), by St. Frusquin out of Melba, and by Persimmon out of Golden Spangle; and fillies by Gallinule out of Moira (dam of General Peace, General Cronjé, and other winners), and by Ladas out of Weir. Mr. Cox will offer a filly by Galeazzo out of Farewell, and a colt by Gallinule out of Croceum. Farewell, who is by Doncaster out of Lily Agnes (dam of Ormonde), won the One Thousand of 1885 for the late Duke of Westminster, and she produced several winners while at the Eaton stud.

On Thursday Lord Londonderry sends up eleven, including colts by Cyllene out of Cockeye and fillies by Galeazzo out of Dulcis, by Ladas out of Saintfield, by Royal Hampton out of Serfdom, by St. Simon out of Lady Orme, by Orme out of Nenemoosha (dam of Cyanean), and by Persimmon out of Wise Flower (dam of Florinda and St. Florentin). The Sheffield Lane year-

lings, four in number, are all sired by King's Messenger, and there are lots from the Wisdom, Athgarvan, Mowbray, Sturton, Aislabie, and Theakston Hall studs, and nine bred by Mr. J. S. Harrison, including colts by Persimmon out of Crusado and by St. Serf out of Phantassie; and fillies by Florizel II. out of Lady Cadeby, by Cyllene out of Stolen Love, and by Persimmon out of Ella Tweed. Mr. H. D. Brocklehurst offers a filly by St. Simon out of Pannonia, by Hagioscope. Mr. A. Bartram sends up a team of eight.

Sir Tatton Sykes sends up nine from Sledmere, including colts by Royal Hampton out of Altesse, by St. Simon out of Ornis and out of Cymbeline, and by Florizel II. out of Bonnie Morn; and fillies by St. Simon out of Tragedy, by Persimmon out of Wedlock, and by Gallinule out of Tierce (sister to Game Chick). Lord Clonmell will offer nine, which are to be sold without reserve, including a filly by Diamond Jubilee out of Yesterling, a sister to Orator, and a brother to John Peel.

It is highly absurd to find some of the papers complaining of M. E. Blanc's uncertainty in his racing arrangements, the fact being that Ajax has been struck out of the St. Leger because he has met with a serious accident. This is a most vexatious mishap, as the horse had some rich stakes absolutely at his mercy. Gouvernant has enjoyed a brilliantly successful career since he ran at Epsom, and has conclusively demonstrated that his form in the Derby was all wrong. He would no doubt have proved an excellent substitute for Ajax at Doncaster but for the fact that he is a very bad traveller, and he has several valuable engagements in France.

I now expect that Pretty Polly will confirm the accuracy of the two-year-old form by winning the St. Leger. She cantered away from St. Amant both in the Champagne Stakes and in the Middle Park Plate, and on paper she has 10 lb. in hand at least. Neither the colt nor the filly has ever gone beyond the easy mile and a half at Epsom, but there is no earthly reason for doubting Pretty Polly's stamina, apart from the fact that the stock of Gallinule do not as a rule stay well. The recent gallops of Pretty Polly have given much satisfaction at Newmarket, where no doubts are entertained as to her capacity for staying the St. Leger course.

St. Amant will no doubt be sent along at his best pace from start to finish, as in the Derby, and while he has everything his own way he will do very well. If, however, Mr. de Rothschild's colt is tackled in earnest by any of his opponents it is just as likely as not that there will be a repetition of his Newmarket Stakes exhibition. St. Amant is evidently a most uncertain horse.

Henry the First, John o' Gaunt (if it is found possible to get Sir John Thursby's colt to the post), St. Denis, Darley Dale, and Andover all now seem to be hopeless candidates, and Almscliff is no doubt the best outsider. Lord Harewood's colt stays well, and he has made prodigious improvement during the summer. The collapse of the St. Leger field is a great disappointment, as there was the prospect of the most exciting and interesting race that has been run at Doncaster for many years past. Many people appear to be of the opinion that Pretty Polly will fail to stay the Leger course. I have always been of the opinion that Ajax would defeat Major Loder's mare at Doncaster if he came to the post in his best form. I cannot, however, discover any reason for anticipating that Pretty Polly will be beaten by St. Amant, to whom she was so greatly superior as a two-year-old.

The York meeting proved a veritable Moscow campaign for backers, as in many events public form was ruthlessly upset. The adverse Fates had it all their own way on Wednesday and Thursday, when several "certainties" were overturned, and some promising "plants" withered in their bud. On the third "day of rebuke and blasphemy" the battle went hard against plungers, and the last four races were a succession of crashes.

Renaissance, who won at Lewes, and who has since been well galloped, was made a great favourite for the Prince of Wales's Plate, Galantine being also heavily backed. Galantine broke a blood-vessel, and Renaissance was cleverly beaten by Lord Derby's Verdiana, own sister to Volodyovski, who was not backed for a penny. Llangibby was scratched for the Convivial Produce Stakes, having been pricked in shoeing, and odds were lavishly betted on Polymelus, who had no chance with Mr. Joicey's Grand Medal, to whom Lord Crewe's colt was giving a stone, and who started without a price in the betting in a field of six. Vedas was regarded as a likely "retriever" when his number went up for the Gimcrack Stakes, and odds were freely betted on him, but he ran in a curiously shifty fashion, and appears to have turned rogue. Shah Jehan was backed by many clever people, but Désirée won cleverly at the finish from Galangal.

Andover was a boiling "pot" for the Duke of York Stakes, but he was hopelessly shut in on the rails, with the tragical result that he did not finish in the first three. The Erin colt, who won from The Warrior, had never been mentioned in the ring. Galapas was considered to be a good thing for the Great Yorkshire Stakes, but he stopped to nothing after having made strong running for more than a mile, and the unbacked Castello came with a rush and easily defeated Rydal Head, who was second favourite.

Palmy Days started at 2 to 1 for the Ebor Handicap, and she certainly carried off the honours of the race, as she was giving 19 lb. and a year to the Irish horse, War Wolf, who won easily at the finish. It was surprising to see Hands Down backed so heavily, as Hammerkop appeared certain to beat him on the Ascot running. Palmy Days must have improved vastly since she won last year's Liverpool Autumn Cup, when she was receiving 17 lb. from Whistling Crow, but could beat him by a head only. Bachelor's Button was third, beaten two heads, and was giving the winner 29 lb.

In case the correspondent whose letter I noticed last week should still wish to find a little faith in what Truth says about Surrey cricket, I beg to call his attention and the attention of the Surrey Committee as well to the remarks of Mr. G. W. Beldam in the *Daily Mail* last week. Writing on the Middlesex and Surrey match, he says, "Now that the Surrey executive have given their skipper more power than hitherto, there should be great Surrey days once more. They have several promising young players if only they were able to know that they were certain of a prolonged trial." Now this statement does not agree with the semi-official communication that I received, which would lead one to believe that the captain had always had plenary powers of selection. But far more important than this is the vindication of the opinion frequently expressed in Truth, that there was plenty of good material if it were only properly utilised. The view of an experienced cricketer like Beldam is of primary importance to those who are interested in the welfare of Surrey cricket. It directly contradicts the view that the Surrey Selection Committee is the finest in the kingdom. If the committee is responsible in any way for the methods of selection that have been adopted, then it is obviously about as rotten a selection committee as could be found. If, on the other hand, it has been the tool of the executive, merely doing the best it can with the material placed at its disposal from time to time by the executive, then it is not worthy of being called a selection committee, and the club members are lulled into a state of security by a galaxy of brilliant but impotent names. Of course, as a mere member of the public, I should like to know when and under what

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Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

circumstances these further powers were given by the executive. This information is of vital interest to the members of the club. I trust that at the general meeting a full explanation will be forthcoming, and that if necessary a really strong and independent committee of investigation will be formed.

Of course, if Beldam had been a Surrey man he would probably have been turned out of the team. He has not been the brilliant success he was last year, and yet in the recent run of Middlesex wins his steady play has been of great value. Middlesex may well be pleased with their recent successes. Kent, Surrey, and Sussex have been beaten in consecutive matches. The Kent match was such a one as every true cricketer must love. Marsham has been criticised for having declared, and so thrown away the chances of a drawn game, which would have amounted to a certainty. On the facts of the game he was clearly justified in the course he took. He relied on his bowlers. They were equal to the occasion. He relied on his fielders, as every captain is entitled to do; but at the critical moment an epidemic of missed catches set in. The ball that gave the run that won the match was a catch that should have been held. The result would then have been a tie. Who can say Marsham was wrong? He played the proper sporting game. He played to win. That is the right spirit with which to inoculate a team of promising youngsters. There is no playing for averages in such a team. The excitement may have been too much. The ordeal was a trying one for a young team. But the experience was well gained. The Kent team is a good team. It will be even better.

The Lancashire County team are to be heartily congratulated on having gone through the long season without defeat, and on leaving off champions with such a large percentage of wins. Sixteen victories out of twenty-six matches is indeed a splendid record, having regard to the continuous strain that first-class cricket must be to those who play regularly. Of course, it will be said that some other county is really better. Yorkshire and Kent do not import players from Australia. But, then, no other county has to contend with the opposition of cricket leagues in which bowlers quite good enough for county teams find regular employment on terms which the county team cannot afford to offer. Outside folk are apt to forget these difficulties. Rather than poach on other counties' preserves, Lancashire has gone beyond the four seas and found salvation in Australia.

Although Surrey is so low down there are signs of resuscitation. It is a long time since two amateurs only bowled in both innings and got out a first-class county in each innings for less than a hundred runs. But this is what Crawford and McDonnell did against Gloucester. No wonder report says that the Surrey team fielded well! Such bowling breeds keen fielding.

I cannot help feeling that a good many cyclists and motorists are following the Beck case with some interest. It has called public attention to police methods which in all cases do not meet with the censure they deserve. Let me take an instance. A cyclist on a motor-cycle was nearly pulled off his machine by a constable, whom he threatened to report for stopping him in that way. He at once rode off to the station, a Metropolitan one, and reported the policeman. On his return to the traffic point controlled by the constable he was asked by the constable for the first time for his licence, and then summoned on a charge of furious driving. Fortunately he was a man of education. He knocked the constable's cock-and-bull story to pieces by his cross-examination, and finally disposed of the case by saying that the constable had made no charge against him of running into anybody until he had reported him. The magistrate dismissed the summons. The zealous constable ought to have been dismissed the force. Not long ago another constable was giving evidence in an action brought against an omnibus company owing to the alleged negligent driving of the busman. The constable had already taken out a summons for furious driving or some such offence. The magistrate adjourned that case as soon as he heard the civil action was pending. In cross-examination during the civil action the constable said that progress in the force depended on securing convictions. Mr. Justice Darling pertinently asked the jury whether, under these circumstances, the voluminous notes the constable took could be regarded as being history in the strict sense of the term. The jury did not accept the constable's yarn, and found for the company. Men of that character deserve to be dismissed the force. Excellent men there are, no doubt, in all constabularies; but it is the small percentage of bad ones that do the harm, especially when they reach the higher grades. Their methods then seriously affect their underlings. Such officers are capable of doing serious injustice when they are supported by a complaisant magistracy who make dead sets against a class of men like motorists or poachers.

I have received a communication with regard to the non-appearance of Third Trinity at Henley in the Grand. The breakfast problem that is set is why they did not row for the Grand when they had nine men rowing at Henley. I will try to explain. Goldie never meant to row in an eight. That leaves only eight men at Henley available for the Grand. This is, of course, quite enough men for an eight. But as a matter of fact the eight were never more than seven. When they meant to go for the Grand, Powell, under doctor's orders, was not allowed to row. This made seven. Then Dudley Ward cried off. This made six. Then they decided to throw in their lot with Leander. After this Powell was allowed to row. But though eight men might then have been available for Henley, they could not go back on their promise to Leander, and in any case they would not go to Henley with only eight men and no spare man. However, this discussion seems rather of academic than of practical importance. The crew, as originally constituted, would have been all Leander men. The majority of them would have been men who had gone down and who would have been ineligible for either inter-university or college rowing.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Idle—Pay-day Account—Politics and No Public Support—The Shanghai Incident—Premier's Assurances—"Bears" Take Fright—Feverish Yankees—Kaffir Outlook—A Rhodesian Banket Reef.

THE past week has witnessed no development of particular interest in the Stock markets. The concluding days of what is notoriously the most unsatisfactory account in all the year are not usually distinguished by a sudden outburst of activity or by surprises of any sort, and this year has furnished no exception to the rule. But the stagnation has not, perhaps, been so marked. Earlier in the week there was depression, due in the main to the absence of public support coupled with political uncertainties. The appearance of Russian cruisers off the Cape of Good Hope seemed to point to more friction with Russia over the question of contraband, and the Shanghai incident—served up with sensational incidents, as is the way of the Shanghai reporter—had in it the makings of much general trouble had it been badly handled. Mr. Balfour's statement to the deputation of traders who waited upon him was in reality a shameful confession of Cabinet ineptitude, but it included the assurance that the commission to the Volunteer Fleet was ended, and it was sufficiently reassuring to occasion fright among the "Bears," who had been kicking their heels just a trifle too barefacedly. Following upon the explanation of the position, there came a rush of "Bear" repurchases, which have served almost completely to re-establish an equilibrium in prices. The gilt-edged group is better. Consols scoring quite a good recovery, and in Home Railways the rebound has been even more marked, for

the reason that the "Bears" there over-reached themselves and found very little stock about when it came to buying back. Americans have been carried ahead by the Wall Street "Bosses," who, to their very intense disgust, have the market almost entirely to themselves; but Canadian Railways are in an unsatisfactory state, and Canadian Pacifics have weakened on the official announcement—following, in fact, an official denial of rumours afloat—that the proprietors will be asked, at the annual meeting in October, to increase the capital by over £5,000,000 sterling. In Kaffirs the march of affairs has been uneventful, but Rhodesians have been wakened into life again by the report that on the properties of the Rhodesian Exploration and Lomagunda Companies a payable banket reef has been struck. The Directors of neither company have anything to say on the subject, which seems rough on the shareholders and also on the general public; for some such discovery as this is needed to rehabilitate the Rhodesian market in the favour of the public.

Money Fairly Easy—Moderate Supplies and a Small Inquiry—Japanese Money—Treasury Bills Renewals—Bank's Strong Position.

In the Money Market the course of events has been uneventful. Floating supplies are not particularly abundant, but, on the other hand, there has been only a quiet demand for accommodation, trade all round being in a quiescent state. Call loans have been arranged at 2 per cent. or less, and for weekly fixtures, which cover the Stock Exchange settlement and the end of the month requirements, no more than 2½ per cent. has been exacted. Towards the end, the inquiry for loans has been stimulated by the transfer of the Japanese money, and by the payment for Treasury Bills to the amount of £3,000,000. But neither operation is of much consequence; the Japanese money will be immediately available again, and the Treasury Bills are only a renewal, a similar amount maturing. Of more consequence, since it involves about a million and a quarter, is the fact that the agents of the Japanese Government have not renewed the batch of Treasury Bills which they purchased some time ago, and the market will find it necessary to apply to the Bank for help during the current week, especially as there is the Stock Exchange settlement to be considered. But there is not much likelihood of really dear money in the near future. The Bank is securing the bulk of the gold arriving from abroad, despite the competition of Austria, and its position now is quite strong enough to permit of the autumn drain to Egypt and South America—possibly some portion of the demand for Argentina may be shifted to New York. Thanks to the arrivals of gold from abroad and the return of currency from the provinces, the Bank's reserve has been strengthened by £1,010,000 during the past week, and the proportion of reserve to liabilities is now as high as 55 9-16 per cent. as compared with 54¾ per cent. for the previous week.

Consols Improve on a Clearer Political Atmosphere—Business in the Gilt-edged Section Small—Foreigners Idle, but Steady—South Americans.

In the absence of business the political situation has again been the one great influence on the Stock Exchange, and according to the readings of the political barometer the trend of movements has been either upwards or towards lower values. At one time, when the news of the stoppage of an English steamer off the Cape of Good Hope was received, the House grew somewhat apprehensive, the general impression being that the Russian cruisers were becoming rather too obnoxious in their search for contraband, but later on again the reasurring statements of the Premier in reply to the deputation from the Chamber of Commerce, coupled with the satisfactory arrangement of the Shanghai question, which seemed to have in it all the components of serious trouble, a better tendency became manifest and was maintained. The monetary position has developed no adverse facts to operate against the gilt-edged section, which is in a tolerably cheerful humour, though the feeling, as a result of the war in the Far East being so productive of rumours about complications, is not altogether confident. Consols, of course, started the improvement, and in their wake the War Loan, Transvaal Threes, the Irish Land stock, and London County Council Threes followed, while the remainder of the market was firmer in appearance. The various Continental bourses continue to evince little inclination to undertake any further risks until the struggle between Russia and Japan has reached a more decisive stage, consequently the Foreign section has presented but few features of interest. As a whole, the tone may be described as steady, especially among those issues affected by Paris, which gave some support for Russian Fours, Spanish, Turkish Unified, Tintos and Italian Fives. Japanese, on the other hand, were adversely affected by the protracted fall of Port Arthur, which operators, obvious apparently of all the difficulties in the way, consider should have been brought about by this time. Some of them are evidently becoming nervous and tired of holding on to their stock for the appreciation which that event in the war is calculated to bring with it, but the weakness is by no means marked. South American issues continue quietly firm, with some small investment buying of one or two of the leading Argentine and Brazilian descriptions. Chilians are without alteration, but a little attention was paid to Uruguays, the reports concerning the progress of the revolution evidently being regarded as more hopeful. Among the "rubbishy" bonds in this section there has been very little business, and they remain without change of any consequence. As a matter of record I give the following table from the annual report of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, showing the details of the principal foreign loans at present in default:—

States.	Approximate Principal Outstanding.	Approximate Interest Arrears.
	£	£
Argentine Municipal Loans	1,[illegible]0	83,[illegible]18
Do. Provincial Cedulas	15,141,881	—
Colombia	2,700,000	[illegible]3,500
Costa Rica	2,000,000	500,000
Former Confederate States	2,418,500	6,603,324
Guatemala	1,482,260	355,872
Honduras	5,398,570	14,752,147
Louisiana (Certificates)	184,432	—
Mississippi	1,400,000	4,[illegible]9,000
Venezuela	4,671,167	1,047,568
West Virginia	3,017,874	—
Total	£31,400,0[illegible]4	£29,079,219

Home Railways Inactive—"Bears" Rampant—A Rush to Cover—The Competition of Gilt-edged Stocks—Trade Position—More Encouraging Traffics—"Leeds" Stock—Undergrounds in Favour—Scotch Railway Dividends.

During the earlier portion of the week the Home Railway market was in a very depressed and demoralised condition, and the "Bears" ran rampant and attacked pretty nearly everything. They had many things in their favour—poor earnings, an indifferent trade outlook, the competition of good Colonials giving as high a return with on the whole better security; and stale "Bulls" assisted the rout by their frantic efforts to get out. The liquidation had been going on for some weeks and the "Bull" account must have been pretty nearly wiped out, and the "Bear" selling has been on such a large scale that the speculative position must have been almost completely changed. With it all, there was very little throwing out of stock by real investors, and as a fact stock has been relatively scarce. The "Bears" overreached themselves; a series of traffics much more encouraging than had been expected caused them to think of covering, and buying back is what they have been engaged in pretty steadily ever since. They were the

more solicitous to get in because of the imminence of the settlement, it being expected—or at all events hoped—that the conclusion of the "worst account of the year" coinciding with the commencement of the return of the holiday-makers to town, would mean rather more activity during the new time. It will be seen from my table below that while the Midland and Great Northern returns are poor, those of the Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Western, and North-Western are not unfair—bearing in mind always that in addition to an unsatisfactory condition of business generally, our trade with Japan is virtually suspended owing to the interference with British shipping and the comprehensive Russian conception of what constitutes contraband:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 71	- 433	+ 9,055
Caledonian	- 1,720	+ 3,201	- 7,151
Great Central	+ 1,388	- 280	+ 502
Great Eastern	- 1,500	+ 2,600	- 8,200
Great Northern	- 4,731	+ 1,355	- 30,594
Great Western	+ 1,900	+ 1,900	- 10,400
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 7,232	- 674	+ 4,493
London and North-Western	+ 2,000	- 4,000	- 51,000
London and South-Western	- 400	- 500	+ 4,300
Midland	- 9,737	+ 3,490	- 83,937
North British	- 1,615	+ 5,710	— 10,973
North-Eastern	- 3,446	+ 407	- 5,512
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 1,011	- 377	+ 8,736

The improvement in values has been almost general, and quotations are well up on the week, although most stocks are still down as compared with making-up prices at the last settlement. "Leeds" stock had the smartest recovery, perhaps, but it has looked a trifle tired after the effort. All the "Heavies" have followed; Southern issues are good, and the strength of Metropolitans and Districts has been one of the outstanding features. In these last the cessation of liquidation of a large account coincided with evidences of activity in the electrification of both systems, hence their prominence. It is unfortunate for the Railway market as a whole that it should at a rather unfortunate moment have to face the competition of gilt-edged descriptions, and, with a superabundance of these about and no plethora of buyers of anything, even the best, it is not easy to see how a sustained advance in values is to be engineered until the Russo-Japanese War comes to an end, and investment capital becomes more plentiful with enhanced gold production, the absorption of high-class stocks, and increased savings on the part of the nation. But while speculation does not look very promising, there is no reason why holders of good Railway Preference and Ordinary stocks should think of realising. My table follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Aug. 19.	Price, Aug. 27.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79¼	74¼	74½	75	+ ½
Do. Def.	35¾	28¾	28	28½	+ ½
City and S. London	60	45	41xd	41	—
Central London	99½	90	88xd	88xd	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48⅝	—	44½	44½	—
Do. "B"	26¾	23½	22	23	+1
Do. "A"	14½	13⅛	13	13⅛	+ ⅛
Great Eastern	92	86	84½	85	+ ⅝
Great Northern Pref.	102	102	99½xd	100	+ ½
Do. Def	43⅜	39	37½	38½	+ ⅝
Great Western	138½	141	136½xd	137½	+1
Hull and Barnsley	42½	34	33½	33½	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	102	96⅜	95xd	96½	+1½
London and Brighton "A"	118	119½	116½	118	+1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15½	15½	15	15⅛	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	96	95½	96xd	96xd	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	65	63	63	62	−1
London and North-Western	162½	151	150	150	—
London and South-Western Def.	56	51½	50	51½	+1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	84½	94½	91½xd	93½	+2
Metropolitan District	34½	26	35	37½	+2½
Midland Pref.	69	67½	66¾xd	66	− ¾
Do. Def.	69¼	63	60½xd	62	+1⅜
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	75½	77¼	77	− ¼
Do. Def.	46⅜	43¾	42⅜	43⅛	+ ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	146	137½	133xd	134½	+1½
South-Eastern "A"	57¼	53	56½	56½	—

The Great North of Scotland Railway has announced its dividend for the half-year to July. It is at the same rate as last time—1½ per cent. per annum—and is just about up to market expectations. The Caledonian declaration is due early this week, and that of the North British on the 8th prox. The former will find it difficult, on the basis of the earnings reported, to repeat its 3¾ per cent. on the Ordinary stock, especially as additional capital ranks; but the North British will probably pay 2 per cent. on its Deferred, which will make the yield for the year as much as 5 per cent., which is high for such a stock.

CANADIAN PACIFIC'S NEW CAPITAL—POSITION OF THE COMPANY — GRAND TRUNK UNCERTAINTIES — ARGENTINE RAILWAYS—MEXICANS—BRAZILIAN STOCKS FOR INVESTORS.

Canadian Pacifics reacted to 129 on the official announcement that at the annual meeting, in October, authority will be asked for an increase of $25,500,000 in the Ordinary capital, but the market soon got over this and the shares have recovered, being helped by the activity in Americans. The wild and reckless statements about an outbreak of rust were not taken very seriously by any save "Bears" of wheat, and any symptom of disquietude which may have arisen among Canadian Pacific shareholders was dissipated by the official denial. The worst that can be said apparently is that the harvest is later this year than last, but it will be a large one, and in the meantime the Canadian Pacific goes on reporting big traffics. For the past week there is an increase of $76,000, following upon $135,000 a year ago, and the aggregate of $1,200,000 is larger than anything reported last year, with the exception of four or five weeks. There is not much that is new to say about "Canadas." They make a good investment, being now well established on the 6 per cent. dividend basis, and the prospects of the country and of the company with it are bright. The Chairman, Sir William Von Horne, who has recently returned to Montreal from a trip over the Company's lines to the Pacific, gives a glowing account of prospects. "When it is remembered," he says, "that all the present development of the North-West has come from the cultivation of an exceedingly small percentage of the cultivable land, the future development must be regarded as being almost without limit." The new capital will be immediately productive, and already the earnings are equal to the additional sum required for interest. The position of Grand Trunks is very slow in improving. The traffic for the third week of August shows a decrease of £15,318, making an aggregate reduction for seven weeks of £63,416, which contrasts with an increase of £191,551 for the corresponding period of last year. The comparison is still with very large totals a year ago, but in another three or four weeks receipts will go against figures more moderate, and then, especially with the crops moving, the Company should show up to better advantage. Meantime, it is reducing expenses, but the July revenue statement shows a decrease in net earnings of £8,100 as against a gross decrease of £38,800. The market had looked for an increase of between £2,000 and £5,000. In view of the very great uncertainty as to the outlook, the outsider would do well to devote his attention to other markets, say the Argentine, which offers a number of fairly good investments. Earnings in this group look moderate, but they follow upon bumper totals and are in reality excellent, especially if allowance be made for the weather and for the holding back of the maize. The Pacific and the Western report declines, and the last-named is now £23,520 to the bad since the beginning of July. In spite of this, the Company's stock has improved. The decreases are not likely to become serious: the totals are in reality large; the reserves are strong; and there is a big margin of profit left after paying the customary 7 per cent. dividend. The new stock is in favour at 120, and might be bought, as it will rank with the old after payment of the approaching dividend of 4 per cent., and the present margin of 5½ points is excessive.

In the Brazilian group San Paulos are very firm; the traffics are highly satisfactory, there being an increase of £23,479 since July, and the heavy arrivals of coffee at Santos point to a further improvement. At the present price the stock yields over 7 per cent. On Rio Claro Sao Paulo stock the return is 5¾ per cent., on Antofagastas it is 5⅝ per cent., and on Leopoldinas 7¾ per cent. Nitrate Rails have received a fair amount of attention. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	127	128¾	129
4 per cent. Preference	106	—	102
Grand Trunks	18⅞	13	13⅝
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	103	96	96¼
,, 1st Preference	113½	99½	99½
,, 2nd ,,	100¼	84½	84⅞
,, 3rd ,,	50½	36⅜	36¾
Bengal and North-West	128	137	138
Bombay Baroda	162	154	154½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	131½	126	124
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	99	101½	102⅜
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	99½	113¼	116¼
,, 1st Preference	99½	102	103
,, 2nd ,,	90	93	93
,, Great Southern	135	131½	132½
,, Western	127	123½	125
Entre Rios Railway Preference	53½	58½	58
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	85½	92¼	95
Costa Rica Railway	2¼	1¼	1⅜
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	103	89	88½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75½
Mexican Railway	19½	17⅜	17⅝
,, 1st Preference	73¾	82¾	82½
,, 2nd ,,	27⅜	28½	28½
Nitrate Rails	5⅜	7¼	7½

AMERICANS LIVELY AND CHEERFUL—NO PUBLIC—WHAT THE LIQUIDATION MEANS—A GAME OF DESPERATE BLUFF—PRICES REACT—THE UPWARD MOVEMENT OVERDONE—CROP OUTLOOK.

For the better part of the week the good people of Wall Street kept up the attempt to induce the outsiders to take a hand in the game, and until down to the end the American department was one of the most cheerful in all the House. Not that much encouragement was given to the movement by any but the professionals on this side, and even they preferred not to take undue risks, being of the opinion that the whole movement is artificial, and that while it is all right for the purpose of snatching quick profits the situation does not warrant any real broadening of the market. Most of the generally active stocks, the low-priced things not excluded, have had their turn. Harriman, Gould, Vanderbilt, and other groups have been taken in hand, and have received an upward twist, all for the encouragement of the mere outsider. That individual continues to contemplate the market with stolid indifference. The noisy demonstration over particular stocks in order to facilitate quiet liquidation in others has not escaped notice, and to the ordinary man it does not seem reasonable that the cliques should be putting stocks higher on merits, seeing that the merits, as gauged by progressive earnings and the crop and trade prospects, are not very conspicuous. The whole movement, as I have before pointed out, is of the nature of desperate bluff, designed to bring in the public in order to reduce the commitments of the "bosses." These gentry are a trifle overloaded, and naturally yearn to realise in order that they may come by their own again later on, using the Presidential election or some other factor as a stick with which to beat values. Contrary to their expectations—it is not the first time during the last year or two that their well-laid plans have been circumvented by the fates—there is no wild rush to oblige, and the fact that money in the United States at least is plentiful and cheap seems to indicate that the rank and file have learned what Shakespeare once called "a trick worth two of that." You can get plenty of excitement out of a flutter in Americans, and if that is what your soul desires, and you are prepared to be philosophical if the luck goes against you and hits you badly, you cannot do better than take a pin, close your eyes, prick out a stock—*sortes Virgilianæ!*—and back it for all you know. It does not really matter which you select; the game will probably go against you, anyway, and at the best you play it in the dark—a condition which some people find pleasing. At the moment prices are disposed to react. The crop news is not good, there is talk of damage to the corn, and the mention of rust in wheat causes a general shiver; and, again, money is hardening. In the circumstance, and "Lambs" being not numerous at this season of the year, it is coming to be felt that the recent rise has gone quite far enough for the present. It must occasion great grief in the bosoms of the New York "bosses" to reflect that the Englishman is no longer to be counted upon to relieve them of stock at top prices. On the contrary, the Englishman unloaded on to them at the time of the "boom," and has remained away ever since. Movements on balance during the week are shown in my table below:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest	Closing Price. Aug. 13, 1904.	Closing Price Aug. 19, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug 27, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56¹	81⅞	83⅞	82⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅞	98¹	100½	100½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	86¼xd	87½xd	88xd
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	37⅜	38⅝	39
Denver	43⅞	18⅞	23¼	25½	25⅝
Do. Pref.	93¼	66⅞	73½	77	77
Erie	43⅞	23¼	25⅞	27⅞	27½
Do. First Pref.	75¼	64¼	63¾xd	65½	65xd
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	121	124½	124
Milwaukee	187½	137½	152½	154½	156
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	21	22⅜	23¼
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	88½xd	90xd	91xd
Do. Common	78½	55¾	63¼	66⅜	68
New York Central	158	116⅜	122½	123½	125
Ontario	36	19⅞	32	34⅞	31⅞
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	62	63½	63¾
Reading	35¼	20	27⅝	29	29½
Do. First Pref.	45¼	36⅞	42¾	43½	43
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	26⅝	28⅜	29⅛
Do. Pref.	97½	73½	93	95	96½
Southern Pacific	69¾	39⅞	56	56⅞	57⅜
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅝	99⅞	101½	101½
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	95½	96½	96¼
Wabash Pref.	55⅞	30	37½	39½	39½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	62½	63½	64
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12¼	12½	12⅜
Do. Pref.	—	—	60 xd	60⅜	61¼xd

I have previously pointed out that good crops are of especial importance to the United States this year if the retrogression of trade is to be arrested and another run of fair prosperity inaugurated. Unauthorised rumours of damage are to be received with caution, because most of them are put into circulation by "Bull" or "Bear" groups. The latest report which is reliable is that of the Washington Agricultural Department. It confirms the impression of a considerable loss in wheat. The winter wheat harvest is practically completed, and the estimated yield is only 333,400,000 bushels compared to an actual harvest of 399,867,250 last year. Here is a loss of over 66,000,000 bushels in that part of the crop, not so much due, however, to a difference of condition as to a reduction in acreage from 32,510,510 to 27,083,500. The yield per acre is 12.3 bushels against 12.4 last year, assuming the estimates to be correct. In spring wheat there is less difference in acreage, 17,140,800 acres this year to 17,257,000 last, and though the condition of August 1 showed a deterioration from 93.7 to 87.5 compared to July 1, it was better by more than ten points than on August 1 last year, when it was reported at 77.1. According to expert calculation this would mean a yield of 15.9 bushels to the acre against 13.9 last year, or a total product of 272,539,000 bushels against last year's 237,954,585 actually harvested. Supposing these calculations to be verified by results, it would mean a total wheat crop of 605,939,000 bushels, or nearly 32,000,000 less than last year and more than that less than any other year since 1900, when the total yield was 522,229,505 bushels. But since August 1 there have been reports of injury to spring wheat in the north-west from too much rain and from rust, which may reduce the year's harvest below 600,000,000 bushels. The deficiency will be felt by the railroads, and the surplus for export may not be enough to make up in price for lack of quantity, while short supply and high prices will be an unmitigated

misfortune for the large class of domestic consumers who constitute practically the whole population of the country. For the other grain crops the prospects continue favourable for a large yield. This is particularly the case with corn, of which the condition shows a gain to 87.3 for August 1, from 86.4 for July 1, and 78.7 for August last year. It is higher than in 1902, and the present promise is for a crop of 2,564,847,000 bushels, which has been exceeded only once, in 1899, when the price went so low that there was "corn to burn" in Kansas. But the corn crop is by no means out of danger, and August and early September will be a critical time for it. It has three enemies to escape yet, too much rain, drouth, and frost. On the subject of the harvest, *Bradstreet's* says that representatives of some of the western railways minimise the importance of the damage to the wheat crop, and others lay stress on the probability of a good yield of corn, which would naturally have a great effect on the business of the south-western roads. "The officers of trunk line and eastern roads," says this journal, "also seem to take comfort from the same circumstances, and in addition point to the activity of traffic in general merchandise, which they claim has assumed unexpectedly large dimensions." In both cases there is a notable disposition to consider that the promised improvement in railroad business has actually begun and to draw the inference that from now on the lines will have an abundant tonnage to transport. This leads to the further conclusion that while railroad equipment is not fully employed, the autumn will bring with it increased requirements for engines and cars, and that, great as has been the increase in rolling stock within the last two or three years, there is a prospect of another serious car shortage. . . . It must also be noted that the season for the movement of the grain and other crops opens this year without any indications of rate cutting or even of serious friction between the different systems, either east or west. During the winter and spring railroad financiers and the higher officials of the roads have apparently exerted themselves to remove or diminish the opportunities for proceedings of that nature, and while there may, of course, be some trouble with the minor roads, which have to fight for their share of the traffic, it would seem that the disposition on all sides is to keep the peace and secure stable rates." *Bradstreet's* also estimates that the earnings of a majority of the railroads of the country for the six months to June show a decrease in gross of only 0.7 per cent. and in net of as much as 10.5 per cent., and it furnishes the following table.—

Gross.

	1904.		1903.		Dec.
Grangers	$56,642,250		$58,389,732		2·9
Central Western	60,142,684		59,739,942		*·7
Trunk Lines	227,913,366		240,895,720		5·8
Eastern	13,450,180		13,630,227		1·3
Coal Roads	45,439,269		46,791,834		2·9
Southern	106,057,647		102,486,955		*3·4
South-Western	86,022,965		84,970,202		*2·3
Pacific	86,453,075		80,828,151		*6·9
Total	683,026,438		687,725,855		·7

* Increase.

Net.

	1904.		1903.		Dec.
Grangers	$13,001,719		$17,181,607		19·0
Central Western	13,451,963		16,114,064		16·5
Trunk Lines	55,407,720		68,504,119		19·1
Eastern	3,629,224		4,090,896		11·2
Coal Roads	16,496,615		18,110,895		8·9
Southern	30,445,333		30,086,053		*1·2
South-Western	25,795,732		26,870,393		4·0
Pacific	24,961,190		24,916,606		*·2
Total	184,089,496		205,874,633		10·5

* Increase.

The net decrease is accounted for by the fact that the cost of labour to the railroads was unusually high, while damage and blockades, owing to the prolonged winter season, proved to be the cause of unusual expenditures.

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KAFFIRS QUIET—MORE HOPEFUL FEELING—PROFESSIONALS OPERATING—OPTION BUYING—FOREIGN SUPPORT—LABOUR PROSPECTS—WHAT THE MINES WILL SAVE—SIX MONTHS' v. THREE YEARS' INDENTURE—TUBE MILL EXTENSIONS—A COMPARISON OF PRICES—DEEP LEVELS.

It cannot be said that there is much business on hand in the Kaffir section and it must be owned that outside interest continues on a very small scale. With the passing, however, of the dismal nineteen-day account there is a more confident feeling about, and it is hoped that the return of people from their holidays will mean a broadening out of the market within the course of the next few weeks. Meantime the professional element is doing a little, and on public account also there are some option dealings. The lighter contangoes and the better tone of Consols following Mr. Balfour's statement on the subject of the Russian Volunteer fleet have both helped, and from the Continent as well as from the Cape some buying orders have come along. There is not much in the way of features, but the whole active list has moved upwards, and shows a moderate improvement on the week. Labour reports continue encouraging. On the Van Ryn, it is cabled, the Chinese are working satisfactorily, drilling an average of 25 inches daily, and steadily improving. We do not hear much on the subject of recruiting, but the *Tweeddale* and the *Ikbal* are both to return to the Flowery Land for fresh consignments, and now the *Courtfield* is about due at Durban with 2,200, of whom it is understood that 1,850 will be allotted to the Glen Deep and 350 to the South Nourse. If the coolies are not coming along as quickly as might have been hoped, or if the supply of tonnage on the spot be inadequate, it is certain at least that the supply will prove sufficient within a few months for all the requirements of the South African mines, and the first fruits of the labour of those already at work ought to be visible in the next monthly return of gold production. As the supply increases, it is probable that on some properties the coolies will displace the Kaffirs entirely, because they are better workers. The Simmer and Jack, for instance, is credited with this intention, but there will be no lack of work for the niggers on other mines. A very great advantage which coolie labour will entail is the three years' term of indenture. The black contracts for six months, but as it takes six weeks to teach him his business, the mines have only the benefit of four and a half months' real service, and by the time he is really valuable, he clears off and buys a wife or two, so that he may not have to work again. In the case of the Chinese, the service is three years' continuously minus the few weeks during which they are serving their apprenticeship. In the matter of tube mills, which are to increase the gold output by anything up to 100 per cent., and to give a considerable saving in costs of extraction, there is not much that is new to state. In some quarters they are throwing cold water upon the departure, but it may be taken that Rand mining engineers are long-headed enough to know what they are doing, and that they have sufficient justification to warrant them in making the experiment. It is stated that the tube mill on the Treasury will be in operation during September, and that the mine will be in a position to crush eight tons a day instead of five as at present. The Modderfontein is also credited with the intention of erecting a tube mill. The other day I witnessed a demonstration of the Edison process, which gave results much more satisfactory than are at present obtained. Some of the South African houses have been much impressed with this process, and it is probable that a plant will be installed on one of the large mines before long. In one way and another the mine leaders are grappling seriously with the problem of more efficient and economical extraction, with the object of bringing expenses down to the irreducible minimum, and the fact ought to be appreciated at its true value by shareholders in South African mines. Already expenses compare favourably with those on other goldfields, but

there is no reason why they should not be reduced still further in the interests of all concerned; and it must be remembered, too, that there are a number of low grade mines to which a further curtailment of costs will mean all the difference between dividends and unprofitable working. And it all makes for an enhanced output of gold, with great possibilities as regards the money markets of the world. My table shows the movements on balance during the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 27, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	7¼	6⅞	6 15/16
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 13/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3½	2	1/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	7/16	⅜	⅜	1/16
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	1/16	1⅜	1 1/16	1½
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 5/16	2 9/16	2⅝	2⅝
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5½	6	5⅝	5⅝
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 13/16	6⅜	6⅛	6 3/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 9/16	1⅜	1⅜
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	18	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18⅝	18¼	18⅜
Do. Def.	—	26½	18⅜	18½	18⅜	18 1/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5 1/16	4⅜	4 1/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	6½	5¼	4⅜	4¼	4¼
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	▮	2	2 1/16
East Rands	12	10 3/16	6⅜	7 13/16	8	8¼
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	3/16	1/16	2/-	2/6
Ferreira	22	26	18	21½	20½	20½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Geduld	—	9 1/16	5	6½	6 7/16	6 7/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4½	3	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2½	3	3¼	3¼
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅜	7½	5½	5 7/16	5¼	5⅜
" Main Reef	1 1/16	¾	½	½	½	½
Glencairn	4⅜	2½	1½	1 5/16	1⅜	1 7/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2⅜	2 9/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16		1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8½	8¼	8¼
Heriot	12½	8½	3¾	2 1/16	3	3¼
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/16	2½	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
" Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅞
Jubilee	12⅜	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅞	2 13/16	2⅞	2⅞
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1 1/16	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅜	2	1 7/16	2⅛
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	2⅜	5 1/16	5 1/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1⅞	⅝	⅞	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜	3 11/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¾	3⅜	2 7/16	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2⅜	1 5/16	1⅜	1⅜	1 1/16
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 1/16	2⅜	▮	3 15/16	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅞	5½	5½	5¼
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14 1/16	7 1/16	8 1/16	8 5/16	8 5/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	12/-	6	12/6
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2½	2 7/16	2 7/16
" Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	3	3	3 1/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2 3/16	2½	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1 1/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1 3/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	⅜	½	⅜	⅜
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅜	½	½	½
Primrose (New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3½	3½
Princess Estate	4½	2	13/16	1	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 1/16	8 7/16	10 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	2 15/16	2 15/16	3 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 1/16	1 7/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
" Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
" North	—	2 1/16	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅛
" Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9 3/16	9 1/16	9⅛
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2⅛	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14 3/16	6½	6 13/16	7 1/16	7 1/16
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9 1/16	4 13/16	5	4 15/16	5 1/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 15/16	11/3	3/6	3/-	3/-
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1⅛	1 3/16	1 15/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/9	12/-
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅛	6⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2 5/16	24/-	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅜	¼	6/3	6/9	7/3
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅜	3 1/16	2 3/16	2 7/16	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3 15/16	3 13/16	3 13/16
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	3 1/16	4	4
Village Main Reef	9½	9 1/16	7⅛	6 15/16	6 13/16	6⅝
Violet	—	3 1/16	2	3	3	2 1/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2 3/16	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8 1/16	6½	6½	6½	6⅜
Wemmer	13⅛	15	9½	10 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	15/16	15/16	1 1/16
" (New)	—	2 3/16	1 1/16	2	2	2
Wolhuter	12	6½	▮	3 3/16	3½	3 3/16
Worcester	6½	3 1/16	1½	1 9/16	1 13/16	1 9/16

* £5 shares.

It is worth while drawing attention to the great discrepancy between current prices of speculative Kaffir favourites and those of "peace" time. In the above table the highest of 1902-3 may be taken to represent the best points touched during the small boom which preceded the declaration of peace. The prices of 1895 may be ignored for my present purpose, because they were the outcome of extraordinary conditions in which the imagination and public cupidity played the most important parts. Since the war came to an end, the market has gone through one steady succession of adverse factors, and forced liquidation has reduced the speculative position to quite moderate proportions, and at the same time has caused prices to fall away by anything up to 50 or 60 per cent. If Rand Mines were worth over 13 in 1902 they ought to be worth at least that figure to-day, seeing that during the days of depression damage done during the war to the various subsidiaries has been quietly remedied. There is the question of whether Rand Mines were really worth 13 in 1902, but speculatively they no doubt were, and there is no reason why, given active markets, they should not go quickly to that figure again. The remark applies all round, and the activity will be induced as soon as the nation has got over the wastage of capital caused by the Boer War, and as soon as the increase in the production of gold looks encouraging. In the Deep Level group there is nothing that calls for particular notice, but this section has kept good in company with the rest of the market. Here is my table:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 27, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅜	1½	1½	1 15/16
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅝	1	½	5/16	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2½	2½	2½
Crown Deep	13½	18¼	12	13	12⅜	12⅜
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 3/16	▮	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅝	5⅜	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6 1/16	3½	4 1/16	4¼	4¼
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11½	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5½	6¼	3¼	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4¼	5⅜	3¼	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4 1/16	2½	2⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
Lancaster	3⅜	3 1/16	2	2 1/16	2 1/16	2⅛
Do. West	2½	3	1⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½	3	3	3
Nourse Deep	5⅞	6⅞	3½	4½	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Rand Victoria	3 1/16	4⅜	2⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 1/16	4½	5⅜	5⅜	5 7/16
Do Cent Deep	4½	5 1/16	2⅜	4½	4½	4½
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅞	8 1/16	8	8⅛
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2 3/16	2½	2½	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	2½	2 1/16	2	2 1/16
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 1/16	2⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1½	⅜	1/16	1/16
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	3⅜	3½	3⅜

The *Standard* of a few days ago gave some interesting details about the allocation of coolies, arrived and to arrive. I have already stated that the *Tweeddale's* 1,049 are now at work on the New Comet, and that of the *Ikbal's* 1,969 men, about 1,500 were allotted to the Van Ryn and about 500 to the North and Central Geduld. The correspondent mentions that the 1,998 men brought by the *Swanley* are now employed on the North Randfontein property, and he adds: "The shipments which have left Northern China are the steamship *Courtfield*, with 2,200 coolies, who are expected at Durban about August 25, and of whom 1,850 are intended for the Glen Deep and 350 for the South Nourse, whilst of the 1,977 men embarked on the steamship *Ascot*, which is due to arrive about September 10, about 1,500 will be allotted to the Witwatersrand Deep, and 500 to the Roodepoort (Kimberley Roodepoort) Gold Mining Company. Prospective arrangements include the second trips of the steamships *Tweeddale* and *Ikbal*, with 1,500 and 2,250 men respectively, who are expected during the latter half of September, and will be allotted to the French Rand and Simmer and Jack Proprietary. A further shipment of 2,000 coolies may reach South Africa from Southern China at the end of September or the beginning of October, and one-half of this number is intended for the Cason Gold Mines—the total number of Chinese required by the East Rand group, including those at work on the New Comet and promised for the Cason, being about 3,500. The Simmer and Jack has applied for a total of 6,250 men, i.e., 4,000 in addition to the 2,250 to be embarked on the steamship *Ikbal*, and it will then dispense with its native labourers, for whom, however, there is ample employment in other directions. The Rand Mines group intends working

three or four of its mines with coolie labour, about 2,000 men on each property. The New Modderfontein may receive 1,000 Chinese at the same time as the Cason, the Princess Estate 1,000 in October, the Witwatersrand Deep has applied for additional 1,500 men for the end of the year (raising its complement to 3,000), and at about the same time the Lancaster Gold hopes to receive 1,700 and the Tudor 300 coolies."

WEST AFRICAN REVIVAL—"BEAR" REPURCHASES—INTEREST ENTIRELY PROFESSIONAL—MISCELLANEOUS MINES QUIET—INDIANS STEADY—COPPER SHARES FIRM—BROKEN HILL PROPS. RECEDE.

The Jungle furnished quite a surprise for those individuals—and they are numerous and not far wrong in their conjectures—who have been constantly reiterating their opinions as to its decease. Perhaps, however, the movement can be ascribed to some nerve twinging, but anyway it would seem from the little pretence at activity witnessed during the week that the West African market is still capable of arousing a little professional interest at all events. In all probability "Bear" covering was responsible for the change, though there is just a possibility that it might have been a manœuvre to attract outside support, despite the fact that it is very questionable whether any amount of professional manœuvring will ever bring about a different feeling on the part of the public generally in regard to West African mines, at any rate until it does something to justify itself. The revival started in Amalgamated and Bibianis, which contrived to put on about 3-16 each, and the contagion spread to Wassaus and Ashanti Goldfields, both of which advanced 1-16, but, though they all retained the gain secured, the activity was not maintained, and the whole section sank into its customary condition of lassitude after the one day's exertion. The whole of the section, however, remains as discredited as ever in the eyes of the public, and, although the fillip given by the "Bear" repurchases is noticeable in prices, the improvements registered are utterly insignificant when compared with the steady decline in values which has been so persistent within recent months. My usual table follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price. Aug. 19, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 27, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	155,000	4/-	f.p.	1¼ 1⅜	1⅜ 1½
Axim Mines	100 000	62,393	1	f.p.	— —	— —
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅜ ¼ dis	⅜ ¼dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	7/16 7/16
Attesi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	7/16 ⅜	7/16 ⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	⅜ 1⅛
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜ ¼	⅜ ¼
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1/16 7/16	⅜ ½
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1¼ 1⅜	1⅜ 1½
Goldfields of East. Akim	200,000	89,274	1	f.p.	⅛ ¼	⅛ ¼
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅛	¼ ⅛
London and W. A. G Synd.	25,000	25,000	1	f.p.	— —	— —
ObbuasiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	¼ ¼	¼ ¼
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120.000	1	f p.	⅛ ⅛	⅛ ⅛
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅜ ⅜	⅜ ⅜
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¼ 1⅜	1 1/16 1 1/16

The Miscellaneous Mining market has been very inactive and devoid of any features of great consequence. In the Indian group the tendency has been firm. Copper shares have kept steady, Tyees coming in for some more attention, while Mason and Barry and Tharsis scored slight advances on some small buying. Etruscans, too, displayed a disposition to go higher, but this was only momentary. Among silver shares Broken Hill Props. have not maintained their recent firmness, the Colonial support coming to an end and there being a rumour in circulation regarding the unsatisfactory working of the new machinery. New Zealanders moved mostly in a downward direction, both Waihi and Waihi Grand Junction losing some of the ground recently gained:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26.	Closing Price, Aug. 27.
Anaconda Copper	7⅛	3⅜	—	4
Balaghat Gold	1⅜	14/-	15/3	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅛	1⅛	42/-	42/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	3⅛
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/6	32/6
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Mason and Barry	4½	3⅛	—	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4¼	2	12/1½	13/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5½	6¼	6¼
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅞
North Mount Lyell	1⅜	⅜	—	—
Nundydroog	2⅜	1⅜	31/6	1⅜
Ooregum	2⅜	21/9	17/-	17/6
Rio Tinto	53⅞	36¾	—	54½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	—	4⅜
Waihi Gold	6⅜	4⅛	5⅜	5⅜

WESTRALIANS INACTIVE — TENDENCY SLIGHTLY BETTER — LEADING SHARES FAIRLY STEADY—ASSOCIATED AND PERSEVERANCE—THE FEATURES—"LITTLE KANGAROOS" IDLE AND DULL.

The lethargy which has been noticeable in the Westralian market for some time past is still in evidence, though the dulness which accompanied it is not, perhaps, quite so pronounced. Indeed, it might be said that some of this dulness has disappeared, but the process of improvement which seems to be going on is very slow. This, however, is not a matter for surprise when it is remembered that public confidence in the section, thanks to the ever-present fear of a recurrence of some scandal or another, for which Westralia generally has such an unenviable notoriety, is not restored. This state of affairs is to be regretted, for among West Australian mines there are some shares which are above suspicion and have in them really good speculative possibilities. But the bad name which the section has obtained through the recurring incidents of "Westralianism" seem to obscure the good things it possesses, and they are as a consequence neglected by the majority. All these leading shares have moved somewhat irregularly, but within very narrow limits, and the tendency generally might be described as tolerably steady, notwithstanding that one or two of them, such as Fingalls and Oroya Brownhills finished with a slight loss. The features of the week have been Associated and Perseverance, the former recovering sharply on a cable from the mine stating that the Iron Duke lode had been cut 160 ft. from the Oroya boundary. In regard to Perseverance, the interest was occasioned by a somewhat belated awakening to the fact that a dividend of 1s. had been declared, and the price of the shares was promptly put up, though towards the close they receded, and show but a slight advance on balance. There has been no sustained renewal of interest in the "Little Kangaroos," which, for the most part, have displayed an easier tendency throughout, Boulder Deeps, Hannan's Stars, and Peak Hills all losing ground. My usual table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Make-up. Aug 26, 1904.	Closing Price. Aug. 27, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	3⅜	1	1⅜	2 5/16	2⅜
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1⅜	1⅜	1½	1½
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1⅞	⅝	⅝	⅝	½
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/3	7/6	7/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/9	7	6⅝	7½	7
Golden Link	3¼	15/3	6/-	4/6	4/3	4/3
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	22/3	21/3	21/3
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	3/9	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅜	1⅛	11/-	12/6	13/3
Do. South	3¼	1⅜	⅝	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅜	9⅜	5 1/16	7½	7⅜	7⅜
Hainault	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/-	6/-	6/-
Ivanhoe (25)	15½	10	6⅜	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/16	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1 1/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1¼	¼	½	8/-	⅜
North Kalgurli	1⅜	10/-	4/-	6/3	5/9	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅜
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2 1/16	¼	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	⅜	½	½	½

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

RHODESIANS LIVELY—RUMOURS OF AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY—OFFICIAL RETICENCE AND THE REASON THEREOF—LOMAGUNDAS AND RHODESIA EXPLORATIONS THE FEATURES—CHARTERED BETTER—"NORTHERN" SHARES.

A rumour concerning the striking of a rich banket reef served to galvanise some sort of life into Rhodesian mining shares towards the end of the past week. One report had it that the strike occurred on the Lomagunda property, while another pointed to the Rhodesia Exploration as the lucky concern, but inquiries at the offices of these companies elicited neither confirmation nor a denial of the wild stories current regarding the importance of the discovery. At first the reef was alleged to stretch for a length of seven miles; then this figure was doubled, and finally, after mature consideration, its length was put down as between three and five miles. From all indications it would certainly seem that a discovery of some importance has been made, but—in view of the reticence of the officials of the Companies in question, whose silence is said to be of a discretionary kind, because they wish to secure some of the adjoining land without paying through the nose for it—it is, of course, quite impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to the approximate value. This attitude is not commendable, and it is a matter of regret that the officials should maintain it now that the news has leaked out, as the shareholders are certainly entitled to any information which concerns their holdings, and it is questionable whether the Directors will be able fully to justify their conduct. However, there is no denying that if the later and seemingly more reliable rumours as to the strike do not prove to err on the side of exaggeration, it will be a good thing for Rhodesia generally, and will revive public confidence, which has for some time past been gradually dying. If, on the other hand, these tales should turn out to have originated in the brain of some ingenious operator who had become desperate at the course of the market, then it is safe to predict some trouble for the Directors of both the Companies connected therewith for not divulging the accurate position of affairs. Rhodesia Explorations and Lomagundas are naturally mostly affected by the discovery, and when it was first reported they scored a substantial rise, while Chartered also came into demand on provincial account, and on balance show an appreciation of 3-16, which contrasts rather sharply with the persistently downward tendency the shares have manifested within recent months. The rest of the market, too, managed to throw off some of its dulness, Globe and Phœnix, Selukwes, and Rice Hamiltons, among the better-class things, finishing higher, while the "Northern" descriptions, including Tanganyikas, Zambesias, Northern Coppers, and Rhodesia Coppers came in for some attention. Movements may be seen from my customary table, which follows:—

	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price Aug. 27, 1904.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	5/16	1/16
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2 5/8	1 11/16	1 3/4
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1 1/16	1 3/8
Bulawayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/4	1/4
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	191,028	1	f.p.	1/8	3/16	1/4
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p	1	1/16	1/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p	2 7/8	5/8	5/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 1/4	1/4	1/4
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	3/16	3/16
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 5/8	1 7/8	1 7/8
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/4	2	2 1/4
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	3/4	3/4
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1/2	1/2
N'th'n Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	2 1/16	2 1/16
Rezende	175,000	148,037	1	f.p.	1 1/4	1/2	1/2
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/4	1/4
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9 1/4	3 1/16	3 1/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1/16	1/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2	1 3/4
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/16	1/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	3/8	3/8
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	20 1/2	3 3/4	3 7/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 5/8	1/4	1/4
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,000	1	f.p.	1	6/-	5/-
White's Con	500,000	326,450	1	f.p	3/4	2/6	3/6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	4/6	4/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/8	1 3/16	1 1/8

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

B. N.—Johannesburg Fours are all right; also Cape Three and a Half per Cents. *Trustees.*—The stock authorised throughout the United Kingdom are Consols, Two and a Half and Two and Three-quarter per Cent. Annuities, India Three and a Half and Three per Cent. stocks, Local Loans, Exchequer Bills, Bank of England stock, Metropolitan Board of Works Three or Three and a Half per Cent. stocks, and any other securities the interest on which is guaranteed by Parliament. English trustees have special powers concerning London County and a number of other stocks, so that you are all right. *J. Wetherby.*—Canadian Provincial Government stocks are reasonably safe. Quebec bonds (5 per cent., redeemable 1912 or after) will give you 4⅜ per cent. and Manitoba bonds (5 per cent., redeemable 1910) return 4⅛ per cent. *Hereford.*—The recovery in Consols is retarded, political considerations apart, by the multiplicity of gilt-edged issues virtually as good, since they carry the guarantee of the British Government, and only inferior in point of negotiability, as against which drawback you have a higher yield. At the present price Consols give 2⅞ per cent., whereas on the National War Loan you may command over 3¼, and on Local Loans 3⅛ per cent. *Tuan.*—Uruguay Three and a Half per Cent. bonds are decidedly speculative, by reason of the wretched state of the country and the perpetual recurrence of revolutions, one of which, started several months ago, is still in progress. At the same time, it must be allowed that the Government is regularly meeting the charges on its foreign debt. I should choose the new Japanese Six per Cent. bonds (which are a specific charge upon the Customs revenue of the country) rather than the Four per Cents., in view of the uncertainties of war. But the latter have the prospect of a substantial recovery ultimately, especially if the fortune of war should go with Japan.

RAILWAYS.

W. H. Stamp.—The outlook for Grand Trunk Third Preference stock is too uncertain to make it a desirable purchase by one who asks for a "really safe" investment. As a speculative investment it possesses attractions, but you may be compelled to hold for a considerable time for your profit. *S. C. H.*—Great Westerns are about as desirable as anything in the Home Railway Ordinary market, and the yield on the basis of the last two dividends is 3⅞ per cent. Midland Deferred gives 4⅛ per cent., and North-Easterns just over 4 per cent. *West Country.*—Probably the new Canadian Pacific stock will be offered at a price which will be attractive to the present shareholders. I see no reason to worry over the increase, as the Company is in a very strong position and well established on the 6 per cent. dividend basis. The shares are not dear at 130 or under, having regard to the position and the prospects. *Anxious, Fremington.*—Better keep the Mashonaland Railway Debentures. The guarantee is all right, but a number of holders have recently been frightened by rumours as to the position of the Chartered Company and by the depression in Rhodesia itself. *B. B.*—I recommend Great Central 1881 and 1889 Preference and Grand Trunk Third Preference as good stocks to lock up for a year or two. *Parson.*—I should not look upon Bombay Baroda stock as attractive, in view of the possibilities of Government purchase, especially with the Great Indian Peninsula precedent. *Ecuador.*—The bonds are not a desirable purchase.

MINES.

Express.—I do not see any prospect of a good recovery in West Africans until the gold-mining industry is on a better footing. The market went through the first step some time ago, and is still suffering from the excesses then committed. It has not yet entered upon the second stage of gold-mining history—that in which values are measured by results and not by prospects in which the imagination plays a great part. *Irvine.*—Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares are a good speculation, which is a rather different thing from an investment. If bought now and held for a few months they ought to give a good profit from appreciation with other Kaffirs, apart from the dividend which may be declared. *Fred.*—I am unable to trace the Silver Mountain Mining Company in any of the works of reference. Apparently it is numbered with the dead. *W. F. S.*—Champion Reefs are a promising purchase as well as Mysores, and among Westralians Kalgurlis and Horseshoes are good speculations. *Peepjohn.*—I should select S. A.

Gold Trusts, Langlaagte Estates, Johnnies, Barnatos, Transvaal Estates and Developments, Rhodesian Explorations, and Tanganyikas. These make a highly promising group. I should not buy Rathbone Syndicates. *City.*—Northern Territories are highly speculative, but not without promise on that basis. I should not buy Boulder Deeps or Boulder Main Reefs. Bellevues and South Kalgurlis are all right in their way. *Zillah.*—Better hold the Chartered shares. The reported discovery of a banket reef in Rhodesia will be a considerable help if confirmed. Your Kaffirs are worth keeping, and you might increase your holding of Randfonteins, Gold Trusts, Johnnies, and Hendersons. *G. T. C.*—Vogelstruis, General Mining and Finance, Transvaal Goldfields, and Simmer and Jack. *Novitiate.*—1. You can always find a purchaser, if you want one, of South African shares of the sort you name. 2. I believe the concern does fairly by you. *Oedipus.*—The Transvaal Exploration Company (which must not be confounded with the Transvaal Exploring Land and Mineral Company) was formed in May, 1902, and acquired 110 claims on the extension of the main reef, West Rand, and five freehold farms, covering 11,000 acres, near Pretoria. The purchase consideration was £100,000 in fully-paid shares, and the capital is £200,000, of which £125,007 in £1 shares has been issued, including the vendors' shares. Prospecting is said to be in progress. *Garryowen.*—I fear it would be throwing good money after bad to join the reconstruction. *H. B.*—Roodepoort Heidelberg Gold shares are not dealt in here, and I am unable to obtain a quotation for them. *Paul Dombey.*—Le Rois do not strike me as at all attractive; nor should I buy Le Roi No. 2. Camp Birds, on the other hand, are a good mining speculation, paying regular dividends. The mine is in Colorado, U.S.A. *Langthos.*—Have nothing to do with the Pioneer Mining Company of Seattle, or the paper which is puffing its shares. *P. F. H.*—Nile Valleys are worth holding for the present. *H. H.*—West Africans are not a useful outlet for a woman's capital, and the individual who suggested that you should buy them is a poor adviser.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Femina.—I do not regard the present as a favourable moment for the sale of your investments, as markets are in an unsatisfactory condition. You ought to do better if you can afford to wait for a few months, when investment money will probably be more plentiful and the general feeling more confident, especially if the Russo-Japanese war be brought to an end before long. 2. The Eagle and the Sun are good offices. *En Pension.*—1. Hold the Canadian Pacifics; they are established on the 6 per cent. dividend basis, and there is no need to fear on the score of the new capital. In connection with this, shareholders should receive a nice bonus. 2. I do not believe in U.S. Steels. The yield on the Preferred stock is very high, no doubt, but it will be nothing at all if the Company fails to pay dividends on this stock, as seems probable before long. 3. I see no reason why Oroyas should be sold. 4. Keep the General Mining and Finances, Randfonteins, and Barneys. *Safety.*—1. There is no prospect of Tanganyika Concessions going again in a hurry to the prices of 1892 and 1893. 2. I should call La Guaira Harbour debentures more of a speculation than an investment. 3. The omission will be remedied next week. *Anxious, Dublin.*—1. The Gramophones are worth keeping, but I should not buy more. Put the money into some other industrial. 2. Great Western stock may go off with other Home Railways, but more might be bought on any fall, and the whole held for a good recovery ultimately. 3. Santa Fé Land Ordinary shares are not desirable. 4. I should not buy Curtis and Harvey shares. 5. Broken Hill Props. are worth buying. The Company is likely to benefit soon from the production of zinc. 6. I suggest Northern Coppers, Johnnies, Barneys, Randfonteins, and Lomagundas. The present is a good time to buy. I do not see why prices should go lower on the fall of Port Arthur, especially with the Continental Bourses so philosophical. *Borough.*—1. I believe the concern is trustworthy. 2. Hulls are worth buying. 3. I see no prospect of a good improvement in Le Roi No. 2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

S. H. M., Manchester.—Your best plan would be to refuse to pay anything. If they go to an extreme length put the matter into your solicitor's hands. *N. E. M. O., Reading.*—The concern's method of working does not strike me as being particularly desirable, and I should advise you not to have anything to do with it. *Bay, Birmingham.*—I have had my eyes upon them for some considerable time now, and I have persistently advised readers of TRUTH to be proof against Stephens and Hendersons' offers. *Clarke.*—Do not be misled by Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. They ask £9 for Ottoman and Panama Bonds, which are procurable at the Bourse price of £5. *Plower, Dublin.*—It would be to your great advantage if you took no notice whatever of the Company's misleading statements. It is an utter impossibility to secure such a return as they "guarantee," which guarantee, by-the-bye, is not worth anything. *Bulb. Brighton.*—Sweetmeat Automatic earnings are certainly unsatisfactory, but there is just a possibility that there has been some saving in expenses, and that the profits from the wholesale confectionery business will make up for some loss over the slot machines. Perhaps it would be advisable to wait a little. *Lichfield.*—You refer to the *Investors' Review*, not *Guide*, edited by A. J. Wilson. It is both useful and reliable, and its editor is one of the best advisers in the country, albeit a trifle pessimistic, perhaps. *Southsea.*—The Directors are "guinea pigs" pure and simple, and I think your best plan would be to pay no more premiums and leave the concern alone. *T. G. L.*—I consider Frimley and Farnborough Water fairly safe. *Busck.*—I can find out nothing about the British Canadian Wheat Raising Company. From what you say of the other concern I should be inclined to leave it alone. *W. Bury.*—I consider the shares fairly desirable. Their nominal value, however, is 4s., not 1s. *R. J. R.*—You have been very unfortunate in your speculations and have been badly bitten, but I do not think that there is even the remotest possibility of your ever getting any portion of the money back. *Nancy.*—I consider London and India Dock Deferred a good holding, and judging by the results of the first half-year's working, it is very probable that the full 4 per cent. will be paid, on which basis the yield is over 5¾ on the present price. Keep the Aerated Breads. *Mary, Birkenhead.*—I do not like the concern's method at all, and consequently cannot recommend you to entrust it with your money. *House Purchase.*—Before deciding upon any concern, and particularly upon the one named, it would be advisable to carefully read the two articles dealing with the subject which appeared in TRUTH about a fortnight ago. *Nitrates.*—If you disclose your name and address in your communication I may be disposed to pay attenton to your suggestion, but not otherwise. *Hooper, Stoke Newington.*—The scheme is no doubt well intentioned, but the chances of the ideals being realised are doubtful. *Rioma.*—I do not regard the shares named as a good holding. Better get rid of a good proportion. *Foster, Ilfracombe.*—A bucket-shop, and quite unreliable.

INDUSTRIALS INACTIVE—WATER BOARD STOCK RECOVERS SLIGHTLY—DOCK STOCKS DULL—BREWERIES AND HOP CROP REPORTS—IRON AND STEEL SHARES STEADY—ELECTRIC SHARES—REFRESHMENT GROUP IRREGULAR—ACTIVITY IN NITRATES—SWEETMEAT AUTOMATICS SLUMP.

No improvement is noticeable in the volume of business transacted in the Industrial section, but perhaps when the holiday season finally comes to an end the outside public will be more inclined to study the list of attractive things there are in this market worthy of attention. Dealers are hoping that something of the sort will happen before long, that the present indifference displayed in regard to Industrials will disappear, and that the low figures at which a good many of the shares stand at present will prove attractive enough to induce a few purchases. Whether this comes to pass, however, is a question which time alone will answer, but meanwhile this department shows little animation save in one or two isolated corners. Waterworks issues show no change of consequence, but the Water Board stock was decidedly weak at one time, the impending new issue still operating detrimentally, though the price recovered to 91½ before the close, the better tone in the gilt-edged being chiefly responsible. In Dock stocks the tendency has been dullish, Millwall issues being particularly weak, while London and India Deferred came on offer and was in consequence put lower. But, as I have said before, if the trade of the Port during the second half of this year continues on the same scale as during the first six months, the chances of India Deferred receiving the full 4 per cent. are almost assured, and, having regard to this point, I think the stock at its present level is worthy of attention. In the Brewery group some unfavourable reports concerning the hop crop were adverse factors, and movements in a downward direction preponderated, Allsopp issues being noticeably depressed, while declines were recorded in Benskin's Watford Debentures, William Hancock Deferred, Ind, Coope and Salt "B" Preferences, and Colchester, among many others. Apart from a somewhat easier tendency in Gas Light and Coke, lighting descriptions keep steady, and Telegraph issues, too, continue firm, though Anglo-American Deferred has reacted from the best. In the Iron and Steel class Pease and Partners have been on offer and have lost a little ground, but there has been some inquiry for Babcock and Wilcox, which show up slightly better. The other shares have remained steady, and Vickers Maxims and Armstrongs in the armament class have been firm. It is generally recognised that the shares of Companies having some connection with electricity either in relation to propulsion or lighting are full of possibilities in

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view of the widespread adoption of this force, and I have prepared a small table of construction shares:—

Name.	Price.		Yield per Cent. £ s. d.
British Insulated and Helsley Cable (£5)	6	.....	6 5 0
Ditto do. Pref.	6	.....	4 16 0
Callender Cable (£5)	10	.....	6 0 0
Dick Kerr & Co. (Ordy. £5)	8	.....	6 5 0
Electric Construction Pref. (£2)	2¾	.....	5 2 0
General Electric Pref. (£10)	9¾	.....	5 5 0
Henley's Telegraph (£5 Ordy.)	12	.....	6 5 0
Do. do. (Pref. £5)	5¼	.....	4 2 0
Indiarubber and Gutterpercha (£10)	19½	.....	5 2 0
Telegraph Construction and Maintenance (£12)	38	.....	6 2 6

Textile shares have not been conspicuous, though Coats Debentures improved to a small extent, and Fine Spinners, Calico Printers, Sewing Cottons, and Bradford Dyers kept firm. In the Refreshment class Lyons were offered at one time and Aerated Breads were put slightly lower, but, on the other hand, British Tea Tables rallied on some inquiries, and Slaters, Harrods, and the other things connected with the catering business hold their ground well. Meat shares continue dull, with Imperial Storage the weakest spot, and Nelsons not much better, but Eastmans have been inquired for and finished with a slight advance. The brightest spot in the whole of this section has undoubtedly been the Nitrates, which group have been creeping upwards for some weeks past. There has been a continuance of inquiries from both the Continent and this country, induced, of course, by very favourable reports concerning the industry. Laguna Syndicates and Liverpool Nitrates have been the most conspicuously favoured perhaps, but the whole of the list shows more or less substantial improvement on the week, and for the benefit of those of my readers who care to speculate in such shares I append the following little table:—

	Price.		Yield per cent. £ s. d.
Colorado (£5)	2¾	.....	15 15 0
Lagunas Syndicate (£5)	2¾	.....	13 17 0
Lautaro Nitrate (£5)	6¾	.....	8 2 6
Liverpool Nitrate (£5)	9½	.....	14 0 0
London Nitrate (£5, £3 15s. paid)	5	.....	8 15 0
Do. 8 p.c. Preferred	4¼	.....	8 0 0
Rosario Nitrate (£5)	5½	.....	7 12 6
Salai del Carmen (£5)	7¾	.....	6 9 0
San Jorge Nitrate (£4)	2⅝	.....	10 7 6
San Lorenza (£5)	7	.....	7 0 0
Santa Rita (£5)	5	.....	10 0 0

Oil shares have been dullish, but among the more Miscellaneous things in this section there has been some inquiry for Nobel Dynamites, and a little attention has been paid to Salmon and Gluckstein's. Hudson's Bays have been wanted for investment. One of the weakest features of the week have been Sweetmeat Automatics, which slumped further on the publication of a further decrease in earnings.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

UNWELCOME ATTENTIONS.

MRS. LORRIMORE, a young widow, of attractive appearance and ample means, occupied a luxurious flat in the neighbourhood of Victoria. She had no children, and no family ties to occupy her; so she devoted most of her time to amusing herself.

The amusement from which she derived the greatest satisfaction was that of shopping. With many ladies this is a weakness; with Mrs. Lorrimore it was a passion. Day after day she might be found strolling along Piccadilly, Bond-street, or Regent-street, looking in at all the shop windows, especially those which displayed millinery, mantles, robes, or other articles of feminine apparel, and going in and buying whatever took her fancy.

Luckily, she could well afford to indulge her whims in this respect, so nobody was any the worse for it; while the tradespeople and Mrs. Lorrimore's maid (who came in for all her derelict clothing) were considerably the better.

Now, in the course of her promenades, the widow happened to notice a certain elderly gentleman, who was a frequenter of the same shopping haunts. She seldom went out but she encountered him. He was well dressed, of military and decidedly aristocratic appearance; while the expression of his good-looking old face was bland and genial. Mrs. Lorrimore soon discerned that this elderly beau was struck with her attractive personality, for he had a certain way of looking at her as he passed that betokened very evident admiration. That glance, indeed, was neither rude nor offensive. It differed altogether from the bold stare of the professional street swaggerer, who haunts Regent-street and the vicinity, ogling every good-looking woman or girl who has the misfortune to come in his way. The old fellow's admiring looks, apparent though they were, were too much tinged with deference and respect to be a cause of annoyance, and they merely affected Mrs. Lorrimore with a mild sense of gratified amusement.

If the matter had ended here, it would scarcely have been worth referring to. But certain developments presently arose, which invested the old gentleman (in Mrs. Lorrimore's eyes) with a new and mysterious interest.

One morning, while she was walking down Regent-street, she happened to see in a shop window a pretty little fur collarette that took her fancy amazingly. She went in and asked the price. She was told it was eight guineas.

"Seems a good deal for such a small thing," said Mrs. Lorrimore. "What is the fur? I do not remember to have seen anything exactly like it before."

"No, madam. It is quite peculiar. It is silver fox, of an unusually blue shade. We have no other like it in our whole stock."

"May I just try it on?" said Mrs. Lorrimore, regarding the rare and pretty little article with admiring eyes.

"Certainly, madam. Will you step into the showroom?"

Mrs. Lorrimore did so. She tried on the collarette, and surveyed the effect of it in the mirror.

The damsel who was waiting on her expressed the opinion that it became Madam extremely well. Nor was this mere business blarney. For once in a way, it was the truth. The mirror fully endorsed the damsel's assertion, and so pleased was Mrs. Lorrimore with what the mirror showed her that she produced her purse from the side pocket of her cloth coat and paid the eight guineas on the spot.

"Where shall I send it for you, madam?"

"Oh, I'll keep it on, I think, as it's rather a cold day," replied Mrs. Lorrimore.

That, however, was not the real reason. The fact was our widow, seeing how nice she looked in the collarette, was minded to lose no time in airing it. When she had something new to wear, she was always like a child with a new toy—in an incontinent hurry to handle it. So she walked out of the shop, feeling very well pleased, with her dainty purchase round her neck.

She had not proceeded many paces down the street in the direction of Waterloo-place when she became involved in a crowd which had collected to watch the efforts of a fallen 'bus horse to regain its feet. Among this crowd was the old gentleman. Mrs. Lorrimore did not pay much attention to him at the time, her one thought being to extricate herself from the crush. But she just noticed that he was there, and the recollection of his presence was soon brought home to her in a very startling manner.

This was about twenty minutes later, when, while crossing the Green Park on her way back to her flat, she happened to put her hand into the left side pocket of her cloth coat. She never carried anything in that pocket, and was therefore considerably surprised when her fingers came in contact with a hard substance.

Her surprise increased to absolute astonishment when she took the thing from her pocket, and found that it was a gold bracelet set with fine opals and diamonds.

"Good Heavens!" she exclaimed to herself. "Now how on earth did this come here?"

Then she suddenly thought of the old gentleman, and the explanation of the puzzle flashed across her. It must be—yes, without a doubt, it was—a tribute of devotion from him, which, either through eccentricity or excessive shyness, or both, he had taken this extraordinary means of conveying to her. Yes, yes! That was it. He must have seized the opportunity of being close to her in the crush to slip the gift, which he had not the courage to offer openly, into her coat pocket.

"How romantic! He is evidently seriously *épris* with me!" she ejaculated; "and this is his odd way of letting me know it. I suppose, by the laws of propriety, I ought to give it back to him next time we meet, and inform him, in freezing tones, that I consider his present a gross piece of impertinence. Yet he is old enough to be my grandfather, and I shouldn't like to hurt his feelings, poor old dear! Really, I'm hardly sure that I don't think it rather sweet of him. They are beautiful stones. He cannot have given a penny less than £100 for them. I'll see how the bracelet looks on my wrist." Here she snapped it on, and, holding out her hand at arm's length, took in the effect of the opals and brilliants with a critical gaze.

"Well, you shall stop there for the present, at any rate, you pretty things!" she said to herself. "I *do* think no stones suit me quite so well as opals. What a fine rich fire these have, too! I will tell Mary Burdett and Nellie Chase all about it at luncheon to-day, and ask them what they think."

So, in the course of luncheon, she told the whole story to her two friends, Mrs. Burdett and Mrs. Chase, who were partaking of that meal with her at her flat, and showed them the bracelet.

They were much amused and interested by the story, and expressed unfeigned encomiums upon the bracelet. Indeed, Mrs. Chase declared that they were the finest opals she had ever seen, and must be worth two hundred pounds at least.

Then the ladies began to chaff Mrs. Lorrimore about her mysterious elderly admirer.

"He evidently means business, else he would never have run into all this expense. How do you like the prospect of becoming an old man's darling, Lizzie?" laughed Mrs. Burdett.

"Such a delicate way of wooing, too," murmured Mrs. Chase.

"But so commendably practical," added Mrs. Burdett. "I'm sure I wish my Alfred had wooed me in the same language. I'd certainly have fenced with him a good deal longer than I did—just to stimulate him to a few further efforts of opalesque eloquence."

"It used to be said that lovers' vows are writ in sand," remarked Mrs. Chase. "But this lover's vows are writ in—stones, which is a far more permanent and satisfactory medium."

"No, but do be serious," expostulated Mrs. Lorrimore. "I want your advice. Ought I to return this poor old dear his bracelet?"

"That depends upon whether you mean to encourage him or not," replied Mrs. Burdett.

"It would certainly be a sin not to encourage such a wooer," smiled Mrs. Chase.

"Of course, I shouldn't think of marrying him—if you mean that," declared Mrs. Lorrimore.

"Why not?" inquired Mrs. Burdett.

"Well, you see, he is old enough to be my grandfather."

"All the better. He will the sooner demise and leave you his fortune."

"I don't know that he has a fortune."

"He must be well off, to be tossing about two-hundred guinea bracelets in this free-and-easy manner."

"Perhaps he bought it on credit," said Mrs. Lorrimore.

"Jewellers don't supply such articles on credit to impecunious persons," answered Mrs. Chase, sagaciously.

"Besides, he is a total stranger. I don't even know his name."

"You could easily inquire. It would be quite worth your while. Possibly he is a duke or something else in the Peerage. How would you like to be addressed as 'your Grace,' eh, Liz?"

"I do wish you would be serious, and give me sensible advice," remonstrated Mrs. Lorrimore.

"So I will, then, my dear. And my sober advice to you is—is——"

"Well?" said Mrs. Lorrimore.

"To await developments," replied Mrs. Chase, "and to do nothing in a hurry."

Now this advice was rather consonant with Mrs. Lorrimore's own views, for she was in love with those magnificent opals and really wanted some decent excuse for retaining them. So she determined to act upon her friend's half-jesting counsel, and not to return them, at any rate, for the present.

A few days later she again ran up against her elderly admirer as she was coming out of Swan and Edgar's, where she had been battling with some hundreds of her own sex at a sale of remnants.

Their eyes met. The old gentleman's fell and he seemed to change colour, as with a certain air of guilty consciousness.

Mrs. Lorrimore's hand went straight into the pocket of her coat, her heart beating faster from anticipation—from excitement. Yes! She was not mistaken. There was something there. He had stealthily conveyed into her possession another offering. She drew it forth. It was an exquisite little gold watch, the back of the case set with emeralds. Mrs. Lorrimore looked round for the donor. He had disappeared.

The same sort of thing happened once again. The next time was at Peter Robinson's; and the old gentleman's third offering put the two previous ones into the shade. It was a diamond brooch, set with brilliants of the first water. Mrs. Lorrimore's excited gaze told her at a glance that its value must run into four figures. But now with her excitement was somehow blended a sense of vague alarm. Who was this mysterious elderly admirer of hers? And why did he persist in this stealthy method of loading her with costly presents? If he were an honourable man, and wished to make her acquaintance for an honourable purpose, why did he not go about it in a straightforward manner? Was it possible that he wished, for some reason or other, to compromise her? The mystery of it all, which, at the outset, had rather appealed to her sense of romance, now began to frighten her. She made up her mind to put a stop to it.

Next morning, therefore, having packed up the bracelet, the watch, and the brooch into a parcel, she took it out with her, determined, if she met the old gentleman, to give him back his gifts and to request him, in plain language, never again to make her the recipient of his stealthy and unwelcome offerings.

Sure enough, she did meet him, about half-way down New Bond-street. She stopped, and, screwing up her courage, though her heart beat nervously, accosted him:

"Excuse me, sir, I have not the honour of your acquaintance, nor do I even know of your name. But I have reason to believe that it is you to whom I am indebted for several presents of valuable jewellery, which have lately, by some mysterious means, found their way into my possession. I must beg you to understand that my acceptance of such presents from a total stranger is out of the question, and I desire to take this opportunity of returning them to you."

As she spoke, she held out the parcel to her elderly admirer. He did not, however, take it. He merely gazed at Mrs. Lorrimore in bewildered astonishment.

"I beg your pardon," he ejaculated, raising his hat, courteously, "but it is evident that you are labouring under some misapprehension. I have certainly not been guilty of this impertinence which you ascribe to me. Indeed, I assure you, madam, upon my honour, that this is the very first I have heard of it."

Poor Mrs. Lorrimore blushed crimson. The old gentleman's bewilderment was too natural and spontaneous to leave any doubt of its being genuine.

"What!" she ejaculated, in confusion; "then it was not you who slipped those presents into my pocket?"

"Eh?" he cried. "Slip presents into your pocket! My dear madam, I give you my word as a gentleman that the thought of taking so extraordinary and audacious a liberty never entered my head."

Poor Mrs. Lorrimore blushed crimson. The old gentleman's manner made it perfectly clear that he was speaking the truth, and that she had put her foot into it with a vengeance by fathering those mysterious presents on to the wrong donor.

"Forgive me," she murmured, in painful embarrassment. "I have evidently made a foolish mistake. I—I—good morning, sir."

And she turned and hurried away, her cheeks burning.

"Good morning, madam," replied the elderly gentleman, raising his hat and gazing after her, with a puzzled frown, as though he were in some doubt as to her sanity.

Mrs. Lorrimore went straight home and had to take sal-volatile before she recovered from the shock of this embarrassing experience.

So he was not the mysterious donor of the bracelet, the watch, and the brooch! Who, then, was? To this perplexing problem Mrs. Lorrimore could conceive no solution, and she felt more than ever uneasy and alarmed.

But next day, while she was skimming the outside sheet of her *Morning Post*, her eye fell upon the following announcement:—

"£20 Reward.

"Lost, in Regent-street, or Waterloo-place, between noon and one o'clock, on the 14th instant, Lady's Half-hunter Gold Watch, set with emeralds.

"The above reward will be paid to any one bringing the same to 900, Grosvenor-square."

As she read this, Mrs. Lorrimore's eyes dilated, and her breath came fast. The 14th! That was last Thursday, the very day she was at Swan and Edgar's sale, and found the watch in her pocket after emerging from the shop. "Lady's half-hunter, set with emeralds." That exactly answered the description. What did it all mean?

One thing was certain. She must take the watch to 900, Grosvenor-square at once. She turned to a directory and ascertained that this was the address of the Dowager Viscountess X. In great excitement, she rang the bell, told her maid to whistle for a hansom, and in a few minutes had arrived at 900, and was explaining to the butler, in a few hurried words, the object of her call.

"Her ladyship is engaged at this moment with an officer from Scotland Yard, who has called in connection with the same matter," replied the butler. "But perhaps she might like to see you, madam, while he is here. Will you step this way? I will take in your name to her ladyship."

He presently returned, saying that the Viscountess would see Mrs. Lorrimore at once.

The result of the interview was that her ladyship at once identified the watch as her missing property, and it was handed over to her. Both she and the Scotland Yard man, however, regarded Mrs. Lorrimore with some suspicion, while she was telling her story. Indeed, our widow was conscious of an uncomfortable conviction that they thought her account of how she had come by the watch a trifle thin. But when she declined the proffered reward, their demeanour underwent a change, incredulity giving place to puzzled astonishment.

"You say you have had two other valuable articles of jewellery slipped into your pocket in the same mysterious way, madam?" inquired the detective, after a pause.

"Yes. It may seem incredible, but it is the literal truth," Mrs. Lorrimore assured him, energetically.

"Will you kindly describe them to me, madam?"

Mrs. Lorrimore did so.

"Umph!" said the detective, thoughtfully; "they correspond pretty exactly, from your description, to certain missing articles that we have been consulted about. May I take the liberty of calling at your address presently and having a look at them, madam?"

"You may come back with me now, if you like. My cab is waiting," said Mrs. Lorrimore.

The detective availed himself of the offer. When he saw the bracelet and the brooch, he was in no doubt at all that they were the missing articles of which he had spoken, more especially as the dates and circumstances under which they had come so mysteriously into Mrs. Lorrimore's pocket tallied precisely with those under which they had been missed by their original owners.

"But how on earth did they get into my pocket? And who can have put them there?" exclaimed the bewildered Mrs. Lorrimore.

"I really cannot surmise, madam. The thieves—for there must have been thieves in it—would hardly have made you a present of them, I fancy. It is a queer business altogether. Perhaps we shall arrive at the explanation later on. In the meantime, shall I take these articles away, with a view to restoring them to their lawful owners?"

"Yes, please do. I shall be thankful to be rid of the things," answered Mrs. Lorrimore, with a sigh of relief.

But even this was not the end of the widow's troubles. Three or four days later, a similar experience again befell her in Bond-street. This time it was a gentleman's scarf-pin that found its way into Mrs. Lorrimore's pocket.

In great alarm and excitement, she took it straight to New Scotland Yard.

There she saw the same officer whom she had met at Viscountess X.'s. She told him her story, and handed him the pin.

He seemed more than ever mystified, and sat regarding her with a perplexed frown.

Suddenly he exclaimed:

"Excuse me, madam, but that fur collarette you are wearing; can you kindly tell me where you obtained it?"

"Certainly," was the surprised rejoinder. "I bought it a few weeks ago at Blank and Dash's, the furriers in Regent-street. But why do you ask?"

"I have my reasons, madam. If there should prove to be anything in them, I will communicate with you and explain in due course."

That same evening he called in person at Mrs. Lorrimore's flat.

"The mystery has been cleared up," he told her. "I went round to Blank and Dash's this afternoon. From what they told me, it appears that a lady called there some two months ago with three skins of that peculiar coloured silver fox, and asked to have them made up into eight collarettes. The order was duly executed, and the goods were paid for and taken away by the lady in question. But a little of the fur happened to be left over, and was retained by the shop people, who took a fancy to it, because of its unique colour. They subsequently made it up, on their own account, into a ninth collarette, which they exposed for sale in their window."

"Ah, and that was the one I bought?"

"Yes, madam."

"But I don't see how this throws any light on the mystery of the jewels that found their way into my pocket."

"I will explain the connection, madam. A female member of the gang that's in this job was arrested by our men yesterday. She was wearing one of these peculiar collarettes. When I noticed yours yesterday and saw the precise resemblance, I believed I had the clue, and my inquiries at Blank and Dash's have since confirmed me in that belief. It is evident, madam, that those collarettes were ordered by a gang of pickpockets as a uniform by which they could identify one another when they were at work in a crowd, and so, if they suspected they were being watched, could pass the swag on to their nearest confederate.

"You, madam, who were unconsciously wearing the uniform, were (doubtless in the flurry of the moment) mistaken for such a confederate, and that is how the stolen articles found their way into your pocket."

MUSIC.

With sincere sorrow I have to record the sudden death on Saturday last of Mr. Percy Betts. Since October, 1885, Mr. Betts has contributed—I think without a single week's break—the "Music" article in TRUTH. He was a journalist of remarkable ability, and, I think, always a fair and kind-hearted critic, though unsparing of all forms of humbug, of which the musical world has its fair share. It is scarcely necessary to tell readers of this column that Mr. Betts possessed an unrivalled knowledge of musicians past and present, and of all the ins and outs of musical life, and a wonderful memory, which seemed never at fault, enabled him to utilise his knowledge to the full. He was an extremely hard worker, contributing regularly to several other papers besides TRUTH, and no one in his profession was more unfailing in his attendance at every musical event of importance. Full of fun and good stories, he was universally liked, and his death is regretted by a host of friends in all branches of journalism. He was at work almost till the moment of his death, as the following article shows, and it grieves me indeed to know that it is the last I shall ever have from him.—ED. TRUTH.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVALS.

THIS week the orchestral rehearsals are in progress for the Gloucester Festival, which opens on Sunday, and will be followed from September 21 to 24 by the Cardiff Festival, and from October 5 to 8 by the Festival at Leeds. Then, also, there is the National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held at Rhyl, which is this year of equal importance to some of the musical festivals, inasmuch as the evening concerts will see the production of two novelties of large dimensions by native musicians, namely, a new cantata, "The Captivity," by Mr. Emlyn Evans, and an oratorio, "Job," by Mr. David Jenkins. I fear that none of this year's festivals are likely to produce epoch-making works, and possibly few of the novelties will ever be thought worthy of reproduction in London. But the list includes at Gloucester a service in G by Mr. Ivor Atkins, organist at Worcester, an anthem by Mr. J. E. West, musical adviser to Novello's, Sir Hubert Parry's short oratorio for two choirs, "The Love that casteth out Fear" (which it is possible we shall hear at the Albert Hall), Lee Williams' Motet to the words of Jeremy Taylor's festival hymn, "Awake, my soul, and come away, put on thy best array," and a half programme oratorio, "The Holy Innocents," the text by Mr. Joseph Bennett, the music being by Mr. Herbert Brewer, the conductor of the Festival. At Cardiff the novelties are Massenet's old oratorio, "Eve" (this, however, is said to be its first performance in Great Britain), the choral setting by Dr. Cowen of Cowper's "John Gilpin," an orchestral piece, "In the East," by Mr. Arthur Hervey, and Mr. Harry Evans' short Welsh cantata, "The Victory of St. Garmon," the music of which I believe has been published locally. Then at Leeds we are promised Sir A. C. Mackenzie's cantata, "The Witch's Daughter," set, of course, to Whittier's poem, Dr. Davies' music to "Everyman," Dr. Charles Wood's setting for solo bass, and chorus, of Aytoun's "Ballad of Dundee," and Mr. Holbrooke's concert piece "Queen Mab," for orchestra and chorus.

Although there may not be anything of exceptional importance in it, this long list at any rate shows that our composers are gradually shaking themselves from the dull subjects which only a few years ago they preferred for English "festivals." Latin "Tediums" and three-hour vocal tragedies are, it is hoped, now things of the past, and at Cardiff especially secular music plays a more than usually important part. Perhaps Mr. Brewer might have chosen a more cheerful subject for a Gloucester Festival than Herod's great political mistake; but Mr. Bennett has arranged the text dramatically, and, as an epilogue, has effectively introduced Bishop Heber's hymn for Innocents' Day, the beautiful "O weep not o'er thy children's tomb." As the Gloucester Festival takes place in the Cathedral (except as to the Wednesday night concert, for which, curiously enough, there are no novelties), flippant, not to say light or aggressively secular, music is practically interdicted, although of late years it has been the custom to include in the programmes Wagnerian and similar excerpts and symphonies for the benefit of those who otherwise have few opportunities of listening to the great masterpieces, as performed by an orchestra of festival importance. I am told that at Gloucester the prospects of the celebration next week are good. Of course, as usual, "Elijah," which opens the week, will draw the county families, while "Messiah," on Friday, is the day for the parson and the squire. But on Thursday evening, although Mme. Albani is singing, the price of seats is reduced some sixty per cent.—that is to say, 15s. places sell for 5s. 6d., and 12s. 6d. seats for 4s., so there is pretty certain to be a good attendance.

It is a long time since the Education Department began to be chaffed concerning the delay in the issue of the regulations for the registration of competent musicians. The Department (if I recollect rightly, just before the 1902 holidays), modestly deeming itself incompetent to settle the question alone, referred it to a Consultative Committee, who, after an interval of several months, during which nothing was done, called to its aid the Teachers' Registration Council. Then came the autumn holidays of 1903, and nothing could be done for some months. After being duly refreshed by Alpine climbing and sea breezes the two committees met again, and, both displaying an equal diffidence, they eventually appointed a joint sub-committee. This sub-committee worked manfully (doing nothing) throughout the year, until the present autumn holidays, when the heat of the weather grew too much for the whole party, and they finally threw up the sponge. It is narrated that when a Turkish cruiser was once sent on a voyage to Malta, the vessel, after being absent some months, struck the coast of Italy, and the Turkish commander then telegraphed to the Sublime Porte, "There is no Malta." The Education Department appears to be in a somewhat similar fix. They find there is no musical teaching, and the sub-committee advise that the subject of registration of teachers should be dropped until music has been further organised in connection with general education. And My Lords, who seem fully to appreciate the advantages of doing nothing, have accepted this advice, with greater alacrity than has been shown at any previous period of the business, which has lasted on and off about three years.

Meanwhile the charlatan teacher flourishes, and the average school mistress or master, who may be very learned in Greek, but who does not pretend to know anything of music, has no register of qualified teachers to guide him. The teacher who sports a bogus degree or title, therefore, often stands a better chance of a good billet than the worthy musician who may possibly have been unable to spare the time or money for a University degree, but who has been waiting for examination and registration to place his qualifications on an official basis.

No doubt there are difficulties in the way of registration, but none that have not been successfully surmounted by the dentists, the accountants, and other professions which have organised registers of their qualified members. In the musical profession of course there must be grades, for the qualifications sufficient for a governess, who clearly should be able to obtain a qualification certificate according to her grade, would, for example, not suffice for a teacher at one of our great subsidised schools. No doubt also the status of existing teachers presents some difficulty; for, if precedents in other professions be followed, all who are of a certain standing or who have exercised their profession for a certain number of years, must be admitted to the register (which would let in Mr. Lansdowne Cottell), or they must

be examined, which in the case of Parry, Bridge, Prout, Mackenzie, Cummings, and the rest of the bigwigs would be absurd. The sub-committee were supposed to be devoting the twelve months of their existence to the elucidation of these not altogether insurmountable problems. But they have preferred the easier method of postponement *sine die*.

One objection to depending upon the great chartered examining institutions for certificates guaranteeing merely musical efficiency or merit, lies in the fact that they are continually interfering with matters which do not concern them. Take for example, the Royal College of Organists. The technical examinations of this distinguished body are notoriously among the hardest extant, and accordingly, their fellowships have always been considered of high value. But now there is an agitation to superimpose a so-called "arts" test. One gentleman demands that the candidate for the Royal College Fellowship shall, in future, be obliged to pass in, among other things, syntax, geography, with map drawing, algebra, and Latin. What on earth would be the use of this knowledge to an organist, and how it all can possibly tend to prove him to be a qualified musician, it is not easy to understand. We want an organist to play the organ, and not to work out problems in algebra or to draw maps. Handel's orthography was, I fear, not always immaculate, but the world would prefer that he composed "The Messiah" rather than that he spelled with the accuracy of a dictionary maker.

The conductorship of the London Symphony Orchestra—which was formed chiefly out of the malcontents who on occasions sent deputies to their duties at Queen's Hall—is, after all, to be put in commission. I doubt the wisdom of this plan. It has been tried more than once before—for example, at the Philharmonic after its reconstruction, and by Mr. Newman at his festivals—but it never has yet succeeded. An orchestra of British performers get to know their own conductor, and they are rarely at their best when the chief is changed at every concert. However, the band (who are giving concerts on the community principle) have already tried Dr. Richter and Mr. Charles Williams, and they are during the present winter to be conducted at one concert each by Cowen, Nikisch, Stanford, Colonne, and Elgar. The last conductor of the series will I should imagine appreciate the feelings of Dr. von Bülow, who, when his predecessor had bought a hundred lead pencils in order that the players might jot down his marks of expression on their band parts, purchased one hundred pieces of india-rubber, in order that they might rub those directions out.

My warning to accept with a grain of salt the German rumour that Dr. Richter had seceded from Bayreuth, because the conducting and the stage management were now entrusted to Frau Cosima's son and to two of her sons-in-law, seems justified. At any rate, at the farewell supper at Bayreuth, Siegfried Wagner denied that Richter was leaving this worthy family party, and, after solemnly proposing his health, soberly kissed the worthy doctor. That kiss, I think I may say, is heartily at the service of any pretty girl who chooses to ask Dr. Richter prettily for it.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—I am not sure whether Bacon, if he had read the letters of "A Later Pepys" (1) and his correspondents, would have cited them in exemplification of his opinion that "Letters written from wise men are of all the words of men, in my judgment, the best; for they are more natural than orations and public speeches, and more advised than conferences or present speeches." Neither the letters of Sir William Pepys nor those of most of his correspondents are natural or profound, or even witty. Fanny Burney, indeed, testifies to Sir William's "great shrewdness and drollery," but, though there is some trace of the shrewdness, there is none of the drollery in the letters. Indeed, I doubt if Sir William knew what wit in its modern sense was, to judge by the famous controversy between him and Dr. Johnson on Pope's couplet—

> True wit is Nature to advantage dressed,
> What oft was thought, but ne'er so well expressed,

—which, by the way, is very nearly Lord John Russell's definition of a proverb. "Sir," said the Doctor, "what Pope means, if he means what he says, is both false and foolish. In the first place, 'what oft was thought' is all the worse for being often thought, because, to be wit, it ought to be newly thought." "But, sir, retorted Pepys, "'tis the expression makes it new." "How can the expression make it new? It may make it clear, or may make it elegant; but how new? You are confounding words with things." "But, sir, if one man say a thing very ill, may not another man say it so much better that——" "That other man, sir, deserves but small praise for the amendment; he is but the tailor to the first man's thoughts." "True, sir, he may be but the tailor; but then the difference is as great as between a man in gold-lace suit and a man in a blanket." "Just so, sir," rejoined the Doctor, triumphantly, "I thank you for that. The difference is precisely such, since it consists neither in the gold lace nor in the blanket, but in the man by whom they are worn." In his own letters Sir William seems to adopt Pope's definition without having acquired Pope's neatness and terseness. Not only is the dress of thought everything to him, but it is everything to him that this dress should be padded and pompous. He reminds you of Malvolio approaching Olivia, self-conscious, self-satisfied, stiff and stilted with the elaborate cross-gartering. But, indeed, almost all his correspondents are similarly artificial and full-dressed in letters which are supposed to have been thrown off lightly and spontaneously. They seem to me always as artificial, and sometimes as amusing in their artificiality, as the tears of the famous Sophy Streatfield—

> Smiling Streatfield's ivory neck,
> Nose and notions *à la Grecque*.

Here is a really delightful scene from the introduction—incomparably, by the way, the most interesting portion of these two sumptuous volumes:—

"Nobody," says Mrs. Thrale, "does cry so pretty as the S.S." (Sophie Streatfield). "I'm sure when she cried for Seward I never saw her look half so lovely." "For Seward!" cried Sir Philip Jennings Clerk. "Did she cry for Seward? What a happy dog! I hope she'll never cry for me, for, if she does, I won't answer for the consequences!" "Seward," said Mrs. Thrale, "had affronted Johnson, and then Johnson affronted Seward, and then the S.S. cried." "Oh," cried Sir Philip, "that I had been there! I have heard so much of these tears that I would give the universe to have a sight of them." "Well," rejoined Mrs. Thrale, "she shall cry again if you like." "Oh, pray do," implored Sir Philip. "Yes, do cry a little, Sophy; pray do! Consider now you are going to-day, and it's very hard if you won't cry a little," urged Mrs. Thrale. Now for the wonder of wonders. Two crystal tears came into the soft eyes of the S.S. and rolled gently down her cheeks; neither her features nor complexion were ruffled—she was smiling all the time. "I thank you, ma'am; I'm much obliged to you," Sir Philip contrived at last to say, after a struggle between his politeness and his sense of the ridiculous. Dr. Delap gravely added: "What a wonderful command the lady must have over herself." "There now," said Mrs. Thrale, "she looks for all the world as if nothing had happened; for, you know, nothing *has* happened."

Much of the sentiment of these letters, and indeed of that century, had as little genuine feeling behind it as the crystal tears of the S.S. There is an amusing story told in a letter by a Mrs. Hartley which I must quote

(1) "A Later Pepys." The Correspondence of Sir William Weller Pepys, Bart. 2 vols. (London: John Lane. 32s. net.)

(2) "The Passing of Arthur." By Cosmo Hamilton. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 3s. 6d.)

(3) "At the Back of the World." By L. T. Meade. (London: Hurst, Blackett & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Father Clancy." By A. Fremdling. (London: Duckworth & Co. 6s.)

(5) "The Church and the World." By H. A. Bulley. (London: Greening & Co. 6s.)

for you. A virtuoso, who had brought his little boy with him to see Lord Callan's pictures, raved to his host about the precocious taste for paintings exhibited by the child. As the boy stood riveted before Claude's picture of the Israelites worshipping the Golden Calf, the father rapturously remarked in an aside to his host, "See the genius of that child! How he looks at that picture! He is fixed! He is lost in admiration!" Presently, the amazing boy broke forth, "Papa, I want to know how the cow got upon the pump!" "The Passing of Arthur" (2) is at once too tame and too extravagant to be an effective political skit. In one chapter the men and measures satirised are probable; in the next preposterous. I suppose there is humour of a kind in the denouement, where the Irish Party to a man plumped against the Home Rule Bill they had spent their lives to carry. And perhaps there are those whose sense of humour is so subtle as to join in "the general but reserved laugh" of that Cabinet Council, when the Duke of Devonshire says to the Prime Minister, "Get along with yer, Balfer. Let's cut as much of the jaw as we can and get to business." For myself, I confess I found the skit dull with that most intolerable kind of dulness which aims at facetiousness and fails. I cannot think that Miss L. T. Mead is at her best in her Irish story, "At the Back of the World" (3). The heroine's father has been accidentally killed by her lover, and, as the homicide has been witnessed by three people, and has been confided to one by the hero (who committed it), there is throughout the story a sword of Damocles hanging over the lovers. You are a little repelled from the heroine by her vindictive curse called down upon a penitent peasant on his deathbed, and you are altogether disgusted with her English bosom friend, who insists on betraying the secret the hero had confided to her, in order to wreck his happiness and that of his bride. However, both she and the other witnesses are at last persuaded to bury the secret for ever, and the scene falls upon the happy pair—still, indeed, under the sword of Damocles, but hanging now by something less frail than a hair. You cannot help feeling, though, that the sense of this terrible secret will haunt the heroine, and the dread of its disclosure the hero, to the end of their lives. I am quite sure that the saintly priest, "Father Clancy," (4) is true to life in the novel of that name, and I imagine those priests who are introduced at once to throw him into relief and to exemplify the power and its abuse of the Catholic Church in Ireland, are also to be met and reckoned with in that country. Priests would not be human if they did not occasionally abuse at once tyrannically and immorally the enormous power conceded to them in Ireland; and I have no doubt that when such sheep are black, they are quite as black as Mr. A. Fremdling paints them in this extremely interesting and instructive novel. You have to do with Anglican priests of a pronounced type in "The Church and the World" (5), but neither they nor their first tenor, the hero, deeply interest you. However, this feeble, vacillating, and self-indulgent young gentleman dies in the odour of sanctity, and leaves the heroine so far from inconsolable that she marries a "neologist" parson.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—Since my last reference to Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co's Temple Classics several additions have been made to this well-known series, which now constitutes in itself a large and varied library of the best literature. It includes many books not obtainable in any other series, and the dainty and tasteful "get-up" of the volumes gives them a unique attractiveness. Among the recent volumes (price 1s. 6d. each) are Mrs. Jamesons' studies of Shakespeare's heroines; "Pascal's Thoughts," in a translation specially prepared for the series by Mr. W. F. Trotter; a new translation of Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell," by Mr. A. G. Latham, with appendices containing much valuable explanatory matter; and a collection of translations into English of the Odes of Horace, arranged and edited by M. Jourdain. Under the title of "Favourite Classics," Mr. Heinemann has commenced a series of reprints which, even in these days of cheap books, is a remarkable achievement of publishing enterprise. For 6d. each he presents volumes which are admirably printed in good, legible type, on good white paper, and charmingly bound in cloth with gilt backs. The series opens with the works of Shakespeare, each play forming a volume and having an introduction by Dr. George Brandes, with a photogravure plate representing some famous actor in a familiar part for frontispiece. Eight plays have now been published. Mr. Grant Richards has included a reprint of Mr. Watts-Dunton's "Aylwin" in his World's Classics, and also a collection of Tolstoy's Essays, translated for this edition by Mr. Maude. The same publisher has started a series of Boys' Classics, in which favourite stories by Captain Marryat, Fennimore Cooper, Harrison Ainsworth, and other writers are issued in handy 1s. volumes. Well-printed and neatly-bound pocket editions of "Peter Simple" and "Midshipman Easy" (1s. 6d. each) have also been published by Mr. John Lane. By the way, anybody requiring suitable publications for very small children which will stand rough usage in the nursery better than ordinary picture books cannot do better than procure a catalogue from Dean's Rag Book Company, 160A, Fleet-street. The firm's picture books have this great merit, for, being printed on strong cotton cloth, they are practically indestructible, while as an additional advantage all the colours used are "fast," so that the infant who has a fancy for licking or sucking them comes to no harm.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Would you not like to have seen the christening of the boy baby at Peterhof? The sun shone out when the chubby child, who is the centre of so many fervent hopes, was on his way to the church. Cannon roared for him all through the day, and bells rang from morning until night. The marvellous fountains at Peterhof threw tons of sparkling water into the air for this small scrap of humanity. The costumes of the ladies alone must have made the scene picturesque. Their white semi-circular headdresses were a-glitter with precious stones. Princess Galitzin carried the precious baby, and a general at either side of her bore its pillow and veil!

It must have been rather an ordeal for the week-old infant. He was baptised, confirmed, and given the Holy Communion, all in the same ceremony; was thrice immersed in the holy water, besides being oiled in various places, anointed with a chrism, and also had his soft little hair cut into the form of a cross. Small wonder that he cried.

He is a splendid baby, weighing 10 lb., and he must need all his strength to support his honours, being already colonel of a regiment. What does the future hold for the child?

Have you ever noticed in what a very different way people read the papers? Some appear to do more rustling than reading. The amount of noise that a few individuals I know can get out of a newspaper is really surprising. On the other hand, the persons who sit down to a single page and study it silently for an hour are rather calculated to alarm one. There is certainly a quantity of information to digest, and a slow assimilation may possibly assist the process. Richard reads; I skim. Side by side with his bulky and dignified budget of neutral dulness arrives the perky and impudent "Daily Ha'porth," which is cut up into paragraphs like a garden into conic sections. Richard

LADIES requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.—JOHN BUSVINE & CO., 4, Brook-st., London, W.

says "Pah!" when he finds it sometimes tucked into his own more august pages, as newsagents love to tuck it. It is certain, however, that he reads it at the club.

Not so his wife; she merely runs her eyes along its headlines, with something like this effect:—Expedition to Lhasa. Port Arthur. Russians Defeated. Plucky Japs. Speech in Dullshire. Tax on Tea—The Fair Sex Disconsolate. His Majesty's Plans. Boy's Suicide. CRICKET NEWS. SENSATIONAL SCORING! etc.

This is quite sufficient. Someone later on says: "Do you think the lady will get her verdict?" And I answer: "Is it not an extraordinary case? But I have not had time to read the details." Whereupon I hear all I want to know (more, very often), have proved that I know something about it, have been labelled in his mind "an intelligent woman" for asking him something that he knows and I do not, have not burdened my brain with thousands of things which are quite useless, and, in fact, have scored all round. Vive le Daily Ha'porth!

As though our brains had not enough to do! It is impossible to go out without involuntarily taxing them through the ears with snatches of conversation heard in passing, and through the eyes with the mechanically-read information that something is Grateful and Comforting or good for Pale People. Of course, there are pleasantly unnecessary things—unnecessary in connection with mechanical hearing and seeing—like Big Ben striking and flower-shop windows. But they all are tiring, and we live in a constant strain.

An American friend told us that in the States the hillsides and gateways and walls are all covered with texts which catch the eye and are occasionally startling. Better such violent admonition than our own horrid advertisements reared up in all the prettiest spots in England, which are visible from road or rail. It will not be very long before Tintern Abbey and St. Paul's try the eyes in the same way if the present rate continues.

We drove one lovely June day to Stoke Poges Church. It was sunny, it was warm, and the day smelt of hay and hawthorn and lilac and wallflower. There was no one in sight save a gardener, who was old and quiet, and slew buttercups and daisies with a sickle in a slow, swinging motion which it made one drowsy to watch. The yew tree under which Gray wrote the most often-quoted poem in the world whispered in its dark-green sleep; there was nothing to distract the eye or the ear. It was a "haunt of ancient peace." Richard did not mention a single thing he had read in his morning's paper during the whole drive back. If he had known the gratitude he inspired!

The Arachne Club is doing its best to solve the servant problem. It is at this club that ladies are trained for housework, and every domestic in the club is fully certificated, from the manager down to the kitchen-maid. Consequently both sides of the question are equally well understood in this assemblage of spiders who weave their webs for the general good.

First of all, a Union of Mistresses was formed to protect households against incompetent servants, and the three resolutions passed were that ladies should make service happy, healthy, and morally beneficial to the men and women they employ; that servants who have to be up at six should be allowed to go to bed in proper time; and that when work is competently done the worker should have some time to herself. Then came the formation of a Servants' Union, the members' qualification being a year's good character. There was a suggestion of marriage dowries for good girls who have kept a place for five years; but where would the money come from? Membership is a penny a week. That would not run to many dowries. However, one can but wish all success to this attempt to put matters on a comfortable and friendly footing. A mass meeting is to be held in October, when some bright ideas will probably be struck out.

It is but few men who would be rendered unhappy by coming in for a large fortune. This is what happens with the lovable but irritating hero of "The Luck of John Seaton," an interesting *Family Herald Supplement* that just lasted me through the Channel passage. To keep one's eyes glued to a book is an excellent way to avoid *mal-de-mer*. When I left Boulogne I rather liked the girl in the book. When half-way across I should have liked to slap her, and just before getting into Folkestone I felt sorry for her.

Bee was immersed in "Captains Courageous." She is an ardent Kiplingite. Do not forget to try our preventive when next you cross the waves that are ruled so very crookedly by Britannia and Japan.

Moths detest the smell of printers' ink. This is a useful thing to remember, especially just now when the little things are busy settling down in winter quarters. Wrap all your woolly things in newspaper, and the cheaper the newspaper the better, for then the ink has completely its own way. It is an irritating thing to have the moth spoil one's nice coats or furs or blankets, so I send you this word of warning. Ella's lovely Jaeger shawl, soft and smooth as an Indian chuddah, was invaded by them in June and discovered and routed only just in time to save it. It is one of her most cherished possessions. She carries it with her in all her little trips, for, light as it is, it is as warm as a thick blanket.

Maisie sends me the following letter from Scarborough:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Sunny Scarborough once more! The town is simply packed with people, and the season is considered an unusually good one. One of its principal and most brilliant events took place last Wednesday. It was a bazaar in aid of Seamer Church, held in the grounds of Londesborough Lodge, and was one of the prettiest sights you can imagine. The Londesborough Lodge gardens are always charming, and the tents among the trees and flowers added to the picturesque effect. The bazaar itself was held in a large tent on the tennis court, and there was a café chantant, presided over by Lady Ida Sitwell and Miss Darley, in another tent behind the White Lodge. Lady Londesborough't flower pagoda was on the lawn in front of Londesborough Lodge, and near it was a stall of Oriental knick-knacks, fancy work, and jewellery, temptingly set out under the gorgeous shade of a Japanese umbrella. On the terrace was an aviary of singing birds and small pets. Lady Londesborough was helped by the Dowager Countess of Londesborough, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley, Lady Ida Sitwell, Lady Mildred Cooke, Lady Irene Denison, Lady Emily Kingscote, Mrs. Sneyd, and Miss Dansey. There were several stall-holders, including Mrs. Steble, Mrs. Blaylock, Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Stapleton, and the Misses Woodhall. The opening ceremony was performed by Lady Londesborough. The café chantant proved a great attraction, and people simply crowded to drink coffee at the little tables and listen to the concert given by Madame Belle Cole and other celebrities, including the ever-popular George Grossmith. The gardens were illuminated at night, and a Neapolitan band played and sang under the trees, while a string band discoursed the sweetest of sweet music in the large tent. Lady Londesborough wore a white gown with a black and white collar and touches of pale blue, and a big hat with pale blue and white feathers. Lady Ida Sitwell wore pale pink, and a grey chiffon hat trimmed with currants. Lady Mildred Cooke wore soft grey, and a green hat trimmed with roses. Lady Irene Denison wore cream, with touches of pale blue. Miss Iris Darley wore dark blue, and a dark blue hat with a wreath of forget-me-nots.

The coming week will be a very brilliant one from a social point of view. The Cricket Carnival begins on Monday, and on the evenings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Lady Londesborough is going to give a series of entertainments at the Hippo-

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drome. Miss Ada Crossley will sing on Friday, and the band of the 21st Lancers will play every night. The company of amateur actors and actresses will include Lady Alington, Lady Maud Warrender, Lady Lettice Cholmondeley, Miss Muriel Wilson, Lady Kinnoull, and others. One of the great attractions will be the performance of "The Dancing Girl and the Idol," the little play by the Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton and "Dora Bright," that was given with such conspicuous success before the King at Chatsworth. There will be two sets of tableaux vivants, "The Gleaners" and "Peace and War," and last, but not least, the ever-green and ever-popular "Pantomime Rehearsal" will be performed by the following cast: Miss Muriel Wilson, Lady Alington, Hon. Mrs. Ailwyn Fellowes, Miss Dansey, Miss Eloise Breeze, Mr. Rupert Beckett, Mr. Leo Trevor, Mr. Cecil Wellesley, and Mr. C. P. Little. MAISIE.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—The Dublin Horse Show week requires fine weather to make it a complete success, which is a pity, as nothing is more uncertain in these climes than the weather. However, the very certainty of the uncertainty helps the situation; we are prepared for contingencies and are determined to do the best we can under any circumstances. The weather last week was of a somewhat mixed nature—not altogether good, but not too bad either. All the better for the trade in society raiment, no doubt, especially as regards our sex, for the variety—if not the prodigious numerical strength—of Lord Anglesey's wardrobe was required almost to meet the variations of good, bad, and indifferent each day. Waterproofs, umbrellas, parasols, wraps, tailor-mades, and diaphanous full dress had one and all their opportunity throughout the week. Fortunately, what is called the "Ladies' Day"—Wednesday—of the Horse Show was very fine, without even an unsettled threatening in the skies. Summer toilets, in their present-day lightness, whiteness, and picturesqueness, had a late, and possibly last, occasion for showing themselves. One says picturesqueness without absolute confidence, for in many cases there is a degeneracy into grotesqueness. The present fashions require to be treated with delicate and artistic taste, especially as regards head gear. The picture hat, with wide straw, flowery leaf and strings, may be a thing of beauty; it is one of fearful possibilities as well. What a shock the incongruous faces beneath them often give. Why will women of an "advanced" age wear such things? Do they not know that they are "advanced"? And how is any one able to keep secret from herself what is such a very open secret to every one else? Another of life's mysteries! We know so well that "others" grow old, but somehow miss ourselves out from that universal law. Fashion just now seems bent on fostering illusions; it is very unfavourable to the old—in fact, makes no count of them at all. Does not eternal youth simper from the illustrations in the infinity of fashion papers, that give instruction and enjoyment to such a large portion of the feminine world?

Lord Dudley, owing to the appearance of the baby girl on that day at the Viceregal Lodge, did not go in the usual procession with his guests and suite to the grand stand. He was, however, present at a later hour of the afternoon, and the Viceregal procession was not missing from the occasion, as he went away in state with his household and guests. The crowd was very great, filling the enclosure, and the numerous stands therein, which hold their thousands. Society, as usual, mustered in great strength, so did the distinguished foreigners from many countries and the tourists, whose number at the Horse Show increases each year. Aga Khan, the Duke de Mandas, and many others of the high and mighty of various lands are now in Ireland, viewing the country and people, looking at horses and buying them.

Amongst those who were to be seen in the Viceregal box on the grand stand, in addition to the Viceregal guests and officials, were the youthful Duke of Leinster, who made perhaps his first public appearance in society in Ireland; his aunt, Lady Helen Vincent, Lord Grenfell, Lord and Lady Ardilaun, Lord Frederick FitzGerald, Colonel Crichton, with Lord and Lady Headfort and Lady Milbanke. Flitting about the enclosure or seated on the stands watching the jumping competitions, or sometimes, perhaps, not watching them, were well-known members of society, in numbers as great as those that ever attended a Horse Show. There was quite a Beresford family party, Lord and Lady Waterford, Admiral Lord Charles, and Lord and Lady Marcus Beresford—ought one to put "Marky" for "smartness'" sake?—and a Guinness party, with the Ardilauns, and also Lord and Lady Farnham, Lord and Lady Oranmore, Lord and Lady Barrymore, Miss Post, and Miss Coote. Lords Drogheda, Meath, Orkney, Castlerosse, Clonmell, Massy, Ikerrin, Carysfort, Monck, and Greville Lord and Lady Talbot de Malahide, Lord and Lady Rathdonnell, Lord and Lady Huntingdon, Lord and Lady Fingall, Lady HolmPatrick, with her son, Lord HolmPatrick, and her daughters; Lady Granard, with the Ladies Eva and Margaret Forbes and Lady Sophia Bellew, and the Ladies Caroline, Louisa, and Alice Howard were among those present. Effective costumes were worn by the Duchesses of Beaufort and Newcastle, Lady Noreen Bass, Ladies Evelyn Ward, Mabel Crichton, Rossmore, Arnott, Gwendolen Guinness, the Dowager Lady Arran—to whom the "Dowager" seems so very inapplicable, with its elderly and ponderous association of ideas—Miss Claire Stopford, and many others. The prevailing colours of the dresses were white, in every creamy variety of shade, and light and airy as to texture, and pastel and other blues. The majority of the costumes were tasteful, and the rest—well, no doubt there was a great deal of taste in them, too. Do you know the old Irish family servant's criticism of her mistress with regard to dress?—"It isn't that the misthress hasn't taste; she has a power of bad taste."

The Chief Secretary did not come over for the week, but we had the Under Secretary, whose Catholicity seems to be such a crime in Orange eyes in Ireland, though the British and Indian Governments found no fault with it in the great Indian Empire. There were few legal luminaries, owing to the Long Vacation, but Sir Horace Plunkett and many others who aspire to be specialists on the Irish Question were at the Show. A new feature of the occasion was the very large number of motors, which took their owners and large parties to Ball's Bridge from afar and near. Do they threaten the existence of the horse? Will they only cut off his utility in one direction, to have it develop in other directions? To say that future ages may take to using him as a staple—Fred interpolates that it should be "stable"—article of food sounds horrid, and even heartless, does it not? One dare not so much as whisper such a suggestion over here, nor indeed anywhere in "society." Who can conceive the "smart" set without the "horse," with its position merely that of the ordinary beeves and fatlings? The case would indeed be one of "Othello's occupation's gone."

The week was undoubtedly a very busy one; we had that great desideratum of modern society, a rush of entertainments. More things to do than could be done with any degree of personal confort. What else did we want? Horse Show, race meetings, polo matches, dinner parties, a select dance—their inaugural one—given by Lord and Lady Grenfell, where the beautiful dresses were worthy of the occasion, and the host and hostess most charming; another at the Under Secretary's Lodge, where Sir Antony and Lady MacDonnell exercise much hospitality. The afternoons on Friday and Saturday were charming on the Phœnix Park Club lawn; beautiful dresses were worn, and every one who was any one not only was there, but seemed to be enjoying the race meeting, as though one could never say of the horse *Eheu! jam satis!*—Yours ever, CLARE.

P.S.—What an example of the fascinations of the horse! Imagine my forgetting to tell you of the Channel Fleet being, or rather having been, at Kingstown, where the great ships did indeed look imposing. Lord Charles Beresford is a most popular and energetic Admiral, as every one knows, and most hospitable in welcoming all sorts and conditions to inspect the wonders of his fleet. Many were bidden to luncheons and teas on board the great ships, and many accepted the hospitality, whilst others, who would fain have done the same, remained on shore from a discreet fear of taking their pleasure in "great waters."

Try this very enticing trout à la Princesse:—

Bone a nice salmon trout, fill the inside with quenelle of whiting, sew it up in a cloth previously wetted and spread with butter. Braise the trout very slowly in good stock for an hour, then remove it to cool. After which, take off the skin and cover the surface of the fish with a little of the forcemeat. Cover it with greased paper and place it in the oven long enough to set the forcemeat. When the fish is quite cold, coat it with thick mayonnaise sauce, pipe it tastefully with lobster butter and decorate it with cut truffle. Dish the fish, garnished with a

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border of artichoke bottoms, filled with cold green peas that are dressed with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, groups of chopped aspic and slices of cucumber.

To make the farce:—Pound the flesh of two small whiting, adding 4 oz. of panada, 4 oz. of butter, two whole eggs and two yolks, work in two tablespoonfuls of white sauce and a spoonful of cream, then rub it through a fine wire sieve.

You will find these moussettes de caneton à la Russell an excellent way of utilising cold duck:—

Cut the breast from a cold, cooked duckling, mince and pound it finely with two yolks of hard-boiled eggs, an ounce of butter, salt and pepper to taste, work in half a gill of cream, and rub it through a wire sieve. Whisk a gill of aspic, adding the purée by degrees, and pour it at once into small dariole moulds, that are set with aspic, and decorate with truffle. Turn out the darioles and dish the moussettes with a border of chopped aspic, garnish the centre with pea-shaped carrots and green peas that have been boiled and seasoned with oil, vinegar, salt and pepper.

Bombay toast is a delicious savoury:—

Cut a slice of toasted bread into pieces with a small round cutter, dip them in dissolved butter on both sides and spread one side with bloater paste. Melt 2 oz. of butter in a stewpan, break in three fresh eggs, season them with salt and pepper and mix in a dessertspoonful of Escoffier anchovy sauce; stir the eggs briskly on the stove until they are thick, and put a portion on each of the rounds of toast, and dust them with coralline pepper.

You will find timbale à la Royale a very delicate dish:—

Beat four eggs with half a pint of good consommé, season it with salt and pepper, adding a pinch of coralline pepper, pour it into a plain pipe mould that is sprink'ed with chopped truffles, twist a buttered paper over it and steam it, without boiling, for an hour. Turn the mould carefully out on a dish, pour nicely-seasoned white sauce round it and garnish the centre with a little well-boiled rice, heated with butter in a stewpan and mixed with a spoonful of chopped truffle and tongue.

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• TRUTH •

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King, who arrived at Buckingham Palace on Saturday evening from Marienbad, left town on Monday afternoon on a visit to Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey. His Majesty was expected to arrive at Balmoral Castle on Saturday, but will now prolong his visit to Rufford Abbey until Monday morning, when he is to travel by special train direct from Allerton to Ballater, by way of Edinburgh and Dundee. It is expected that on Saturday the King will visit Clumber Park and Thoresby Park. The report that the King would drive from Rufford to Doncaster on each day of the races in a motor-car is incorrect, as Lord Savile has arranged to run a private special train daily between Allerton and Doncaster. The Royal stand has been redecorated and refurnished, and it is now fitted with an electric lift.

His Majesty will stay in Scotland until Friday, October 7, when he is coming back to London, and on Monday, the 10th, he will go to Newmarket for the Second October meeting. During the King's stay at Balmoral there will be deer drives in the Royal forests and drives for roe from Abergeldie and Birkhall woods. The King will shoot over Brackley moors with Sir Allan Mackenzie, and over Invercauld moors with Mr. Neumann, and his Majesty and the Prince of Wales are expected to join the Duke of Fife for the annual deer drive in Mar Forest.

The King is to pay a visit in January to Lord and Lady Alington at Crichel, Dorsetshire, where he will stay for three days. His Majesty (when Prince of Wales) was several times the guest of the late Lord Alington at Crichel, which is one of the best estates in the South of England for partridge and pheasant shooting.

The Queen and Princess Victoria, who arrived at Buckingham Palace on Saturday morning from visiting the Duke and Duchess of Fife at Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire, left England on Tuesday for Denmark in the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*, which is to pass through the Baltic Canal. The Royal passengers will land at the Klampenborg Pier, a few miles to the north of Copenhagen, which is within a short distance of the Château of Bernstorff, where King Christian is now residing. His Majesty's house-party includes the King of the Hellenes, Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark, and Prince Hans of Glücksburg, while Prince and Princess Waldemar of Denmark are at their villa in the Royal park.

During her stay at Mar Lodge, the Queen made several excursions, including drives to Balmoral (where her Majesty spent several hours on Thursday), and to the Falls of Garrawalt in Ballochbuie Forest, to Linn of Dee, and to the Falls of Quoich. This was her Majesty's first visit to Mar Lodge for several years past. The announcement, in several papers, of the Queen's visit to Loch Muick was incorrect, as that lake, which is at the top of Glen Muick, is out of reach of Mar Lodge, being a drive of over twenty miles.

The Prince of Wales, who arrived at Abergeldie Castle on Thursday afternoon, had some very good shooting during the last three days of his visit to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon at Tulchan Lodge, Morayshire. On Monday there were grouse drives over Lady Seafield's Cromdale moors, on the borders of Inverness-shire, and over two hundred birds were killed. On Tuesday the Prince drove through Dufftown to the lodge in Glenfiddich Forest, and shot over Blackwater moors with Lord Durham, who has rented extensive shootings in Banffshire from the Duke of Richmond and Gordon for this season. On Wednesday there were drives over three untouched beats of the Tulchan and Advie moors, and 130½ brace of grouse were killed. The Prince of Wales will have plenty of shooting during his

stay at Abergeldie, as not a rifle has yet been fired in the Royal deer forests of Abergeldie, Ballochbuie, Balmoral, and Whitemonth; nor have the grouse moors of Gairnshiel and Micras (rented by the King from Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld) been touched so far.

The Prince had hoped to get some salmon fishing on the King's fourteen miles of water on the Dee, but that river has been running very low indeed for some time past, and there will be no successful angling until a high flood has taken place. Sport has been a blank between Braemar and Aboyne, except for an occasional grilse, and lower down the river the Bishop of London has killed a few fish on Borrowstane Water.

Princess Henry of Battenberg, who has been the guest of the Empress Eugénie at Farnborough Hill for a week, will probably pay a visit shortly to Lord and Lady William Cecil, who are residing at Hunmanby Hall, their place on the Yorkshire coast between Filey and Bridlington, where Prince Maurice of Battenberg has been spending a week with them. Hunmanby, which is well situated between the sea and the wolds, is a large plain house of the Queen Anne period, with nice garden and grounds. The Hall is an old seat of the Mitford family, but Hunmanby is best known from having been for many years the residence of the celebrated Archdeacon Wrangham, who was lay rector of the parish.

Prince Nicholas of Nassau and Countess Merenberg, the parents of Countess Torby, arrived at Claridge's Hotel on Tuesday from Keele Hall, where they had been staying for several weeks with the Grand Duke Michael and Countess Torby, and they have since left London for Wiesbaden. The Grand Duke Michael and Countess Torby left Keele on Thursday for Scotland, and they are now on a visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Glenquoich Forest, where the King is to arrive from Balmoral on Monday, the 19th. Lord James of Hereford and Miss James are now staying at Glenquoich.

It is very likely that the Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania will come to England in the autumn to pay some visits, in which case they will be included in their Majesties' first circle of guests at Sandringham, which is to be invited from Saturday, November 5, until Monday, the 14th. The first shoot at Sandringham will be on Tuesday, November 8, and three following days. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania have been staying at Sigmaringen with the Prince and Princess of Hohenzollern. The Crown Prince is now taking the waters at Kreuznach, and the Crown Princess Marie has joined her mother, the Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, at Schloss Rosenau in the Thuringian Forest.

The Comtesse de Paris, the Duc de Chartres, the Duc and Duchesse de Guise, and other members of the Orleans family have arrived in England from France, in order that they may be present at a requiem mass for the Comte de Paris, which is to take place to-morrow at Weybridge. The Comtesse de Paris will proceed on Friday to Wood Norton on a visit to the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans.

The King has placed Abergeldie Mains at the disposal of Sir Frederick Treves, who arrived there on Friday, and he will stay on Deeside for about a month. During Queen Victoria's reign Abergeldie Mains was lent during the autumn either to members of the Royal Family, or to personal friends of her late Majesty, or it was occupied by members of the Household. For the last three years the Mains has been the residence of Mr. Michie, the "commissioner" for the King's estates in Aberdeenshire, who, however, was transferred to a house nearer Balmoral a few months ago. Sir Frederick Treves is to open the new hospital at Crewkerne on October 13.

The insignia of the Order of the Garter belonging to the late Duke of Cambridge, which was sold to Mr. Marx, a jeweller of Homburg, for £1,100, has been re-sold by him to the German Emperor for £1,300, and is to be added to the Prussian Crown jewels.

Lord Dudley will take a holiday when Lady Dudley is sufficiently recovered to leave the Viceregal Lodge for change of air. It will be a well-earned one. Lord Dudley has established a record in Viceregal work, and the illness of Lady Dudley has in the last few months thrown an extra share of duty on her husband in the entertaining of the King and Queen, and in the Horse Show week. His activity, however, has never flagged.

Although the Union wrought such social havoc with Dublin, the Irish capital still has what may be called a very good "Society" position. Not only is Dublin Castle—including the Viceregal Lodge—a great social centre, but Dublin possesses two other important ones, the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, and the Chief Secretary's Lodge. Since Sir Antony MacDonnell's tenure of office in Ireland, the Under-Secretary's Lodge may be added to the number as well. It is an interesting fact that the Commander of the Forces, Lord Grenfell, and the Under-Secretary, Sir Antony MacDonnell, have both held quasi-Viceregal positions in the British Empire—Lord Grenfell in Malta and Sir Antony MacDonnell in India.

Lord and Lady Scarbrough's house party for Doncaster races, at Sandbeck Park, near Rotherham, includes Lady Ormonde, Lady Londonderry, Lord Clarendon, Lady Berkeley Paget, Mrs. Lowther,

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 621.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 622.
For Amusements, see page 619.
For Our Puzzles, see page 625.

Sir James and Lady Miller, Sir Edgar Vincent, Sir William Eden, General Brabazon, Major Milner, Mr. Weston Jervis, and Mr. R. C. Ashton. The large and picturesque park at Sandbeck is bordered by a deep and narrow valley, in which are the ruins of Roche Abbey, which are close to a large lake.

Lord and Lady St. Oswald's party at Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, includes Lord and Lady Chelsea, Lord Gerard, Lady Angela Forbes, Rear-Admiral Hedworth Lambton, Lady Cooper, Mr. F. and Lady Alexandra Stanley, Mr. John Baird, Mr. J. B. Leigh, Mrs. Bulteel, and Miss Constable. Nostell is a very fine house, standing in an extensive and well-wooded deer park. There is a good collection of pictures, including the superb representation of Sir Thomas More and his family, which is ascribed to Holbein. This noble picture, which hangs in the hall, is 11 ft. 6 in. by 8 ft. 3 in. There are eleven figures.

The appointment of Lord Grey to be Governor-General of Canada will meet with universal approval. He is a practical man, with a marked capacity for administration, and considerable knowledge of social and political problems. Lord Grey is a wide-minded man, and quite devoid of aristocratic airs or hidebound prejudices. Lord Grey's uncle, the third Earl, was for several years at the head of the Colonial Office in Lord John Russell's Government, and his grandfather was the Prime Minister who carried the Reform Bill. His father, General Grey, was private secretary to the late Queen for many years, and a *persona gratissima* at Court. He was a clever, sensible, tactful man, and Queen Victoria never had a wiser adviser.

Sir Edwin Egerton, who has been for fourteen years Minister at Athens, has been promoted to the Embassy at Rome, in the place of Sir Francis Bertie, who succeeds Sir Edmund Monson at Paris. Sir Edwin has fairly earned this promotion. He has been employed in the Diplomatic Service for forty-four years, and has still seven years to serve before he is retired for age. Sir William Goschen, Minister at Copenhagen, whose name had been generally mentioned in connection with the vacancy at Rome, is understood to be destined to replace Sir Francis Plunkett as Ambassador at Vienna.

Sir Rennell Rodd, First Secretary of Embassy at Rome, who succeeds Sir William Barrington as Minister at Stockholm, is a very able man, and his promotion has been exceptionally rapid. The great event of his diplomatic career up to the present time was his successful mission to King Menelek in 1897. It is expected that Sir Rennell Rodd will ultimately find himself Ambassador at Constantinople, unless he is selected to succeed Lord Cromer at Cairo.

DEVELOPING (any size) ROLLABLE FILM, 12 expos. 1s. Printing price list free. Cameras bought for cash or exchanged. Wanted Kodaks.—MARTIN, Chemist, Southampton.

The death of Admiral Parker, of Delamore, South Devon, is greatly regretted in that county, and in his own neighbourhood he will be much missed by a very large circle of friends. Admiral Parker, who came of a distinguished naval family, served for over thirty years, and he had the reputation of being a most skilful navigator and a thoroughly efficient officer, but he never saw any war service. He was on the China Station during the Crimean War. The Delamore estate, where he spent the last thirty-two years of his life, came to him in 1857 by his marriage with Miss Praed. He was a large landowner in several counties, and his relations with his tenantry were always most cordial. He was most cheery and genial in manner, and a great favourite amongst all classes of his neighbours. For twenty-two years he was a very efficient Master of the Dartmoor Foxhounds, and was also well known as a fine shot and an expert angler. He took an active and useful part in county business and local affairs generally.

Vice-Admiral Rolland, who has died at the age of eighty-seven, distinguished himself during the China wars of 1841 and 1856-7, and also in the Crimea; and in 1856 he received French and Turkish decorations, in addition to the Crimean medal and the Sebastopol clasp. He received the special thanks of the American Government and a gold medal in 1846 for assisting to save the crew of the United States cruiser *Somers*, which was capsized off Vera Cruz; and in 1863 he was thanked by the Austrian Government for getting the steamer *Europa* off the rocks at Lanarca. Vice-Admiral Rolland attained flag rank in 1875.

A Scotch correspondent writes:—

People in the North have been puzzled by the announcement in a weekly journal that "the meeting of the Royal Highland Society is fixed for September 15, and will be again attended by the King."

What is "the Royal Highland Society"? The Braemar Gathering, to which reference is apparently intended to be made, is a merely local affair. There are over a hundred "gatherings" in Scotland for Highland games and sports during August and September, and the Braemar fixture differs from the others only in that it has been frequently attended by members of the Royal Family since Queen Victoria first came to reside on Deeside late in the forties of the last century.

Bournemouth is one of the towns which have come under notice in connection with the advertising of usury-shops on the municipal tramcar tickets. A resident now sends me a batch of tickets to show that they no longer contain these delusive announcements, which simply beguile needy and unwary people into the clutches of unprincipled extortioners. I am delighted to find that the Bournemouth authorities have ceased to thus aid and abet the bloodsuckers, and I trust that other corporations and companies owning tramways will follow their example.

If it is really the case that first-class carriages increase the cost of a train by 30 per cent., and only carry 2 per cent. of its passengers, the sooner that the railway companies abolish them the better it will be

financially for the companies. But I doubt whether this represents the real state of things. In fast trains, I should imagine that the first-class passengers are far more than 2 per cent., and in slow trains the cost of the train is not increased 30 per cent. by running first-class carriages, for there are so few of them. I do not know that people travel first-class because they want comparative seclusion. They regard it as more comfortable mainly because they get more space secured to them, and those who can afford it are ready to pay for additional comfort when travelling. It always seems to me that the companies waste a good deal of money in the elaborate decoration of their first-class carriages, for which no one thanks them. The *Times* seems to think that the days of only one class are not far distant. If so, it will only come by third-class carriages being, so far as comfort and sitting space is concerned, levelled up to first-class. Otherwise we may be certain that there will always be better accommodation for those ready to pay for it.

On the Continent, nearly all the new corridor carriages have almost the entire side of the carriage looking outwards composed of glass, and the glass is much lower than with us. This is, I think, most agreeable to the passengers, for they can see well the country through which they are passing. The blinds, however, to keep out the sun are usually curtains which have a disposition never to keep closed. On some foreign railways the electric lights are fixed on each side instead of hanging from the middle of the carriage. This is a great advantage, for it is impossible to read conveniently by the middle light.

A good deal of improvement is possible in the cars of the International Sleping Car Company. I would have in one part of each car a sort of dentist's chair on which a person would be able to sleep perfectly well. Under the present arrangement it is all very well if two friends are travelling together, for they can take a two-bedded compartment. But the traveller when alone has to share his compartment with some utter stranger, and few like such promiscuous pigging together. If not prepared to do this, he has not only to pay for the two beds, but also for two first-class tickets, and this comes expensive.

The other day I took a sleeping car ticket, and I found myself alone in a two-bed compartment. An hour later a lady boarded the train at a station and entered the compartment. She was a stout, middle-aged matron. Having glared at me as though I had been an adventurous intruder in her bedroom, she sternly asked me whether I contemplated undressing for the night. I replied that this was my intention, and indeed that was why I was there. "Whilst I am here?" she screeched. I modestly explained to her that I had not asked her to share my apartment, but that, being there, I would respectfully advise her to do the same, if she so pleased. On this, after crushing me with a final glare, she disappeared, and I suppose found a place in some first-class carriage. And yet I was entirely in the right.

Ladies are given to stretch their rights in trains to a point at which they become nuisances. On another occasion I got into a compartment marked "Smoking," in which a lady and gentleman were already seated. After a minute or two a second lady entered; she seemed to be a friend of the first lady, for they shook hands. Noticing the label "Smoking," she announced that she could not stay. Lady No. 1 on this assured her that her husband would not smoke if it was disagreeable to her, and she took a seat. I said, "This is a smoking carriage and I mean to smoke, whatever that gentleman may do." On this the two ladies glared at me as though I had proposed to murder them, but the husband smiled gratefully. No. 2 withdrew, and the husband and I smoked during nearly the whole journey. Now what would this lady have said if I had entered a carriage reserved for ladies, lit a cigarette, and suggested that the ladies should withdraw if they did not like smoking? On occasions such as these, I always feel that I owe it as a duty to my sex to stand up for their rights.

MEN *MUSTN'T* WORK.

Some remarkable figures published by the United States Census Bureau prove that women are now crowding men hard in numberless fields of industrial activity. Many women, it is stated, are employed as carpenters, masons, painters, etc., etc.—*Westminster Gazette.*

'Tis the voice of the Workman. I hear him complain,
"Here is Woman, confound her! she's gone it again!
So long as she stuck to the learned professions,
I didn't care much for her frequent aggressions.
As a lawyer or doctor I said 'Let her be'!
She could not, as a dentist, much harm do to me;
But now things are looking more risky, I vow,
Right into the Workshop she's followed me now!

"She jibs at a brush, and she shies at a basin;
She won't be a cook, but she will be a mason!
A housemaid? Not she! Mops, she fancies, would taint her,
But she 's ready enough to become a house-painter!
The thought of a parlourmaid's place makes her blench,
But she 's found her way up to the carpenter's bench;
And clearly—for who, pray, can limit her tricks?—
She will soon run me hard as a layer of bricks!

"How, then, will it end? At this rate, without doubt,
We poor Workmen ere long shall be wholly squeezed out.
Must we, then, be content to go loafing around,
Whilst the Women pervading our Workshops are found?
Or shall we—whilst they hang their hats on our hooks—
Take their places as housemaids, and nurses, and cooks?
And meekly allow, to our infinite cost,
That as 'Lords' of Creation our titles we 've lost!"

A week or two back I ventured to banter a Fellow of the Royal Society, Mr. J. Brown, on a remarkable article that he had contributed to a contemporary anent the destruction of herrings by gulls. Mr. Brown gave an elaborate series of calculations to show that the consumption of herrings, especially the small fry, by

the gulls around our coast results in a loss to the nation of fish of the value of £24,000,000 per annum. His argument offered an irresistible temptation to the use of a *reductio ad absurdum*, and by means of a process of reasoning similar to his own, I demonstrated that we suffer a loss of just £9,600,000 per annum through the birds in these islands gobbling up worms which would otherwise be available for sale as fishing-bait. But while it was impossible to treat Mr. Brown's statistics seriously, I quite recognise that there may be a serious side to the question he raised, and a friend of mine, signing himself "Yachtsman," has now sent me the following letter:—

Your "diet of Worms" argument, wherewith you belabour Mr. J. Brown, F.R.S., and his calculations as to the destruction of herrings by gulls (I don't know why herrings alone should be mentioned) is very specious, but I think that, if you had spent as much of the last thirty or forty years on the West Coast of Scotland as I have, whatever you might think of his statistics, you would not dissent from his conclusion. In the late sixties one could get a few fish for dinner almost anywhere, if one had any bait, by simply letting down a line on dropping anchor; when the wind fell light one trailed some kind of artificial bait, and a few gurnet, or perhaps a mackerel or two, graced one's dinner table. I have trailed a bait repeatedly in 1900, 1903, and this season. I think our catch has been *one* mackerel! The other day a yacht came in here. We speculated as to who she was. One of the "hands" thought she had been in before; then, looking hard at her, "No, she can't have been; they've put a line over-board!"

If we want to have Benjamin's portion of what is going in the way of fish, and desire that portion to be as large as possible, the fewer we have to share it with the more likely we are to attain what we wish. As it is, what with gulls and other sea-birds above and dog-fish and seals below the water, it is not to be wondered at that the sea-fishing on the West Coast of Scotland has "gone to nonsense."

I detest, as cordially as you can possibly do, the Cockney gunner with his indiscriminate slaughter and, worse still, thoughtless wounding; but were I a Highland proprietor I would encourage the people on my estate to take all gulls' eggs they could; these are then wholesome and palatable food, which, once hatched, they never can be again. I hear that a demand for skins of the hair seal (a very different animal from that which supplies the costly seal-skin cloak) is arising for the purpose of making motor coats, and I hope that this may tend to decrease the number of these interesting but most destructive animals. They, too, have other uses. They produce a certain amount of oil. I have never seen any seal oil myself, but I believe it can be utilised for various purposes of lubrication, etc., and in Harris it is in high repute for supposed medicinal properties. It is taken internally, with whisky, as well as applied externally.

Sir Theodore Martin, who will next week celebrate his eigthy-eighth birthday, is residing at Bryntisilio, his place on the Dee Valley, near Llangollen, and he is in very good health, and is contemplating a visit to Scotland. It had been hoped that Sir Theodore would before now have sanctioned the publication of his interesting monograph on Queen Victoria, which was privately printed about two years ago.

Lord Rothschild has placed all Lord Beaconsfield's papers in the hands of Mr. W. F. Monypenny, who has undertaken to produce a biography of that statesman. There are immense collections of letters and memoranda, as Lord Beaconsfield kept the whole of his correspondence, even invitations and mere scraps of notes. Reference has frequently been made in the Press to Lord Beaconsfield's "literary executors." There are no such persons. The executors under the will were Lord Rothschild and Sir Philip Rose. Lord Beaconsfield left no literary executors, nor did he give any special directions as to the disposal of his papers.

Bishop Ridding was a brilliantly successful Headmaster of Winchester, and at Southwell he proved himself to be a most capable organiser and administrator of an exceptionally onerous diocese. The Bishop's munificence was a striking feature in his episcopate, and it is well known that he regularly spent more than his official income on the diocese, and in charitable and church subscriptions. He was greatly liked and most highly esteemed by both clergy and laity, and, although himself a decided High Churchman, he was entirely trusted by the Evangelicals.

It would be impossible to over-estimate the value of the services rendered by Dr. Ridding to Winchester College. He was to that great school what Arnold was to Rugby and Vaughan to Harrow. Dr. Ridding, himself a thorough Wykehamist, did not shrink from changes which he regarded as desirable and salutary, and all his reforms, which were promptly and wisely carried out, have turned out well. It is no exaggeration to describe him as the second founder of Winchester College. Few men would have been so brilliantly successful both as Headmaster of a great school, which then required very careful management, and as Bishop of a new diocese in which everything had to be organised.

The Bishop of London has presented the Rev. Francis Norman Thicknesse, Vicar of All Saints', Northampton, to the important living of Hornsey, where he will replace the new Bishop of Brisbane. Mr. Thicknesse, who is a son of Bishop Thicknesse (formerly Suffragan for the diocese of Peterborough), was ordained at Durham in 1882 by Bishop Lightfoot. He had been successively Vicar of Limehouse and Rector of Abingdon, when Lady Wantage presented him in 1899 to his present benefice. Mr. Thicknesse is an excellent organiser, a very good preacher, and a most popular clergyman.

Sub-Dean Duckworth has replaced Bishop Welldon as the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at Westminster Abbey, while at St. Paul's Cathedral Chancellor Newbolt has been succeeded by Canon Henry Scott Holland, who has recovered from his long and severe illness.

The Bishop of Ripon has given his decision upon certain complaints against the Vicar of Rawdon, the Rev. S. H. Mills, which were recently the subject of an

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—In a letter to the Editor of *The Christian World* on this important question, Dr. Smith, L.S.A., gives the following convincing testimony: "The patient, Mrs. Wright, whom I sent to Dr. Alabone some months ago with advanced phthisis, has been to see me. I have examined her lungs and am much pleased with the result of your treatment. She has regained her weight, and is able to resume her ordinary duties. She was given up as incurable by another eminent man before she came to me. I shall try to induce all cases of Consumption in my practice to place themselves under your care." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

inquiry. The Vicar was charged with having grossly neglected his duties, and the evidence revealed a deplorable state of affairs. It was shown that the reverend gentleman was habitually late in his attendance at services and funerals, and that he did not visit his sick parishioners or display any concern whatever for the spiritual welfare of his flock. The services were conducted in a perfunctory and unimpressive manner, and the organist and the choir had withdrawn from the church. The church itself was in a dirty state, and the churchyard was overrun by the Vicar's hens and geese, while his horse sometimes galloped over the graves. The result of all this was that a congregation once numbering between two and three hundred had dwindled down to about a dozen persons besides the school children.

One of the Vicar's answers to these complaints was that "the people of Rawdon were not a godly, religious people, and there was too much drinking and immorality in the parish." Considering that he has been in charge of the parish for a quarter of a century, this, if true, would be in itself a condemnation of his reverence and an argument for providing his flock with a more efficient shepherd. The Bishop seems to have taken this view of the matter, and he has now ordered Mr. Mills to obtain the services of a curate within three months. How Mr. Mills is to remain vicar and pay a curate out of his stipend of £140 per annum is not very clear. Failing compliance with the order, however, the Bishop will himself appoint a curate and sequestrate the living, which perhaps is the end that his lordship is aiming at.

I was asked last week whether I had heard anything more of the Rev. James Thomson, respecting whom a not very edifying story was told in Truth on July 21. It may be remembered that in response to an advertisement a lady was induced to pay £75 to this gentleman and his wife as an investment in a poultry farm which they were starting in Monmouthshire, where Mr. Thomson held a curacy at the moment. The lady was to assist in the management of the farm, and to receive one-half the profits in addition to her board and lodging; but at the expiration of five or six weeks, Mr. Thomson contrived to make her so uncomfortable that she had to cancel the agreement. Her £75 ought then to have been returned to her. This, however, was not done. Mr. and Mrs. Thomson departed, leaving no address; and when they were ultimately found through a solicitor, the latter advised his client that there seemed to be no prospect of recovering the money by any legal process.

When telling this story I expressed a doubt as to whether this Mr. Thomson was identical with the gentleman who appears in the appendix to "Crockford" as James Edward Thomson, and I have now been asked whether any more light has been thrown on this point. It has not. And as the James Edward Thomson of "Crockford" has not repudiated the Rev. James Thomson of my story, and as there is no Rev. James Thomson in the Clergy List, I conclude that the hero of the story was James Edward. The James Edward Thomson of "Crockford" held curacies between 1890 and 1895 at Worthing, Walworth, and Luddesdown, Kent, but no subsequent record of his clerical services appears. In view of his performance as a poultry farmer I feel curious to know more of his history.

A BONE WITH A BISHOP.

Bishop Welldon has written in the new number of the *Nineteenth Century* an article on "The Difficulty of Preaching Sermons."

Will Bishop Welldon pardon us
If, very gravely and sedately,
We tell him that his views and ours
On modern sermons differ greatly?
His point (made in his article)
Is that 'tis difficult to *preach* them.
Because they are so hard to *hear*—
That is the reason *we* impeach them.

But, as a fact, both views hold good—
Each is as valid as the other;
Cause and effect they may be deemed,
And they react on one another.
Sermons which are not hard to preach,
And which their hearers' eyes make glisten—
To such discourses, it is sure,
'Twill not be difficult to listen.

But when the preacher "hums" and "ha's,"
And drones out weak and slipshod platitudes,
And, having naught, in fact, to say,
Says it—in most affected attitudes;
When even frequent usage fails
Through verbal swamps to safely steer him,
The difficulty felt by him
Is shared, be sure, by those who hear him.

A Member of Parliament forwards me a letter addressed to him from Princetown, Dartmoor, by a lady signing herself "S. Eva." She states that she would be "very much obliged and indebted" if the gentleman addressed "would be so kind as to give me £10." So would anybody, I take it. The object of the £10, however, in this case is to "procure some games and books for the Dartmoor children, whose parents are very poor." The lady is specially desirous of providing the children with bibles, hymn-books, and prayer-books. She appends a list of names, presumably the names of the children who are to have the books, and as there are only twenty-five of them, one cannot help thinking that the proposed expenditure works out at a somewhat excessive sum per head—all the more, seeing that "S. Eva" suggests there is room for an even larger contribution than £10. One of the names on the list is Charles Eva, and as the name is not a common one, one would suppose that the writer of the letter is a relative of this particular beneficiary. Under all the circumstances I feel justified in expressing a desire to know more of Miss Eva and her philanthropic work.

I have received £4 4s. from G. A. Z., £2 2s. being for the Toy Fund and £2 2s. for Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund. A. M. H. has also forwarded 10s. for Lady Jeune's Fund.

The latest newspapers published in India give some information as to the progress that is being made with Lord Kitchener's proposed reorganisation of the canteen system. One hundred and ninety-five officers have given their opinions at the request of the Commander-in-Chief—134 in favour of the scheme, 22 against it, and 39 indifferent or facing both ways. The 22 dissentients seem to be chiefly commanding officers who like the regimental system of management, and are shy of the introduction of the contractor. Lord Kitchener, however, is satisfied with the overwhelming show of opinion in favour of his proposals, and it seems to be practically decided that the scheme shall be carried out forthwith, subject to some few trifling modifications. The mineral-water factories and the dairies of certain regiments will be taken over by the new organisation; a monthly capitation grant will be made from the central fund, instead of a fixed sum for each unit, as originally proposed; the title of the new organisation will be the "British Army Clubs" instead of "Indian Army Canteen," and so forth. In all its essential features the scheme as outlined in Truth of July 7, will be carried out unchanged.

I suppose from this that Lord Kitchener is now sure of a contractor who will take over this job at a 2 or 3 per cent. commission on the turnover, under the title of "managing agent." I hope he is equally sure of the ability of the military authorities to see that the managing agent does not get more out of it than the agreed percentage. As I have already said, I myself feel a good deal of doubt upon this last point. It is no use saying again how easy it would have been to make this scheme a purely co-operative one. Possibly it may develop into that at some future date. But, in the meantime, I do most sincerely hope that before any definite contract is made with the managing agents, my suggestion as to giving them an interest in the profits as well as a commission on the turnover will be carefully considered. Unless this is done, I do not see how any commercial firm can be expected to devote themselves to nursing the profits in the way that is necessary if the scheme is to be really successful. It may be necessary to secure the contractor against loss by granting him an assured commission of a certain amount upon the turnover; but it is to the interest of the Army, whatever the contractor may think about it, that the bulk of his profit should depend upon what the Army gets out of the business.

With a sense of relief I read in my daily paper on Friday that the Essex manœuvres are designed for the purpose of studying offensive rather than defensive operations. My relief was due not to any apprehensions of the approaching occupation of London by Sir John French, and a demand for the surrender of this office to the "Blue" commander-in-chief; but, rather to visions of more invasion scares arising out of the Essex operations, and a fresh demand for a *levée en masse*, accompanied by an addition of another ten millions or so to the next Army Estimates. It is comforting to know, therefore, that offence, not defence, is the order of the day.

What is really going on, as far as I can make out, is a sort of dress rehearsal of the programme of Mr. Arnold-Forster's "striking force." We are going to see what sort of a job it is to pack the force up, throw it across the Channel, and unpack it on the other side under the guns of a victorious fleet. This may be a very interesting question, though rather of the "academic" order. But what I should like to know is what will happen to the "striking force"—designed by Mr. Arnold-Forster to consist of 16,000 men—when it gets out of range of the guns of the fleet and begins to strike—and also to be stricken. For this purpose, the "general idea" ought to assume the presence on the other side of a million or so of men of all arms waiting to receive the striking force. As that idea does not appear to enter into the calculations, the scheme rather lacks actuality. However, we know that the cruise of this striking force from the Solent to the Essex coast will cost a tidy sum of money, so there will be one substantial result gained.

There is one very interesting strategical question on which this operation might be made to throw a great deal of light, whether the primary considerations relate to attack or defence. I mean the probable physical condition of an army disembarking on our coasts after a few hours in the Channel or North Sea. I remember long ago seeing this point discussed by some strategist, amateur or professional, as a material factor in the invasion question. According to the most knowing alarmists among us, the next invasion of England is to be carried out from Friesland, where the terrible Germans have already made the preliminary arrangements for the operation. This means a sea voyage about as long as from Antwerp to Harwich. I can only say that if half the invaders feel like I have done when completing that voyage they will have little stomach for fighting, or anything else, for a good many hours after landing. I trust that the wisdom of the Army Council has provided a sufficient staff of medical men to thoroughly investigate the fitness of Sir John French's men to take the field when they come ashore in Essex.

The Army Council, I see, has issued some orders with a view of stopping the use of Army motor-cars for other than official purposes. No doubt the orders were not issued before they were needed. The authorities would do well, however, to open their eyes to the fact that similar abuses take place in regard to other articles than motor-cars. I have often spoken in Truth on the use of Army horses for hunting and other such purposes. I am told that the same thing goes on with

Lucerne, Switzerland.—Hotel Schweizerhof. Loveliest situation on lake. All modern comforts. Private Bath. Pension arrangements. Open all the year.—Hauser Brothers.

regard to Government launches—particularly at Plymouth and Devonport. Whether, however, it is much use calling attention to this point I am not sure, for by all accounts Admiralty officials are among the chief offenders.

It seems that I did not do full justice in last week's Truth to the case of Mr. Cocks, the old servant of the Staff College. The old man has only been in receipt of the magnificent salary of 21s. a week since last Christmas. He was on 18s. a week for the previous forty-four and a half years of his service. His quarters cost him 6s. a week, so that during these forty-four and a half years the man and his wife were expected to feed and clothe themselves on less than 1s. 9d. a day. No exalted official at the Treasury or the War Office could seriously expect a man to save enough out of this to keep himself and his wife on retirement. The only idea, therefore, of presenting him with a gratuity of £46 11s. 4d. must be to enable Mr. and Mrs. Cocks to have a little flare-up—a fortnight in Paris, or something of that kind—prior to retiring permanently to the workhouse. When it is added that one reason why this old man is now done for is that a few years ago he had a bad accident while on duty, and broke both his legs, it will be seen that the case is a particularly bad example of the meanness of the highest ranks of officialdom in dealing with the lowest. I should hope that something more may yet be done for poor Cocks than a voluntary subscription among the officers he has at different times worked for.

Reference was made in Truth the other day to the employment of two civilian clerks in R.A.M.C. offices at Dover and Canterbury, to the exclusion of men of the corps or other soldiers who might be eligible for such work. It was said that these men had been taken on during the war, and suggested that they ought to have been got rid of when the pressure was relaxed. I now hear, however, that the only two clerks in that position are late privates of the R.A.M.C., who served in South Africa, received medals for the war, and were invalided home after suffering from enteric fever. They were only given these berths after they had failed for some time to obtain civil employment, and had applied to the War Office to help them. There is, of course, no valid objection to the employment of men under such circumstances; on the contrary, I should think discharged soldiers ought to be selected for such jobs in preference to men still serving.

Some particulars were given in Truth three weeks ago of the discovery of certain systematic frauds in the messes of the ships' police at the Naval Barracks, Chatham, and the arrest of a ship's corporal, and his subsequent escape in conjunction with the prison corporal who had charge of him. It was reported in the daily papers last week that a ship's corporal had been sentenced to a year's imprisonment and dismissed from the Service in connection with these frauds, but whether this is the man who escaped from prison I do not know. The *Daily Mail* states that similar frauds have also been discovered at Portsmouth, and that "a master-at-arms has been disrated and four ships' corporals deprived of badges for complicity in the robberies," though the mysterious statement is added that "the court of inquiry did not find sufficient evidence to prove fraud against the men, and they will not be court-martialled." The same journal informs the public that "it is estimated that by these practices the public have been robbed of thousands of pounds during the past few years." From what I hear, this estimate is by no means exaggerated.

The Admiralty ought to hold a comprehensive and searching general inquiry into this matter, and others of the same nature of which a great deal has been heard lately, and not content itself with merely investigating specific allegations here and there against particular men. Abuses of this kind grow and grow in the Navy largely owing to the pig-headed refusal of the Admiralty to take cognisance of any matter which is not brought before it officially. In this respect, at any rate, the War Office is the wiser of the two departments. It is recognised there that the Press has opportunities of learning many things which official authority is necessarily in the dark about, and that its information may consequently be utilised with great advantage to the Service. This is known throughout the Services, and the result is that a few lines in Truth, or any reputable paper, will often serve to nip an Army scandal in the bud without any action on the part of the authorities. In the Navy it is totally different. I know by experience that a newspaper may expose and expose wrong-doing in the Navy without producing the slightest result, simply because the men who are at the game know that the Admiralty Gallios care for none of these things. I am no advocate for government by newspaper, but the Press is capable of rendering great services to a Government department really desirous of honest administration, and it is a misfortune for the Navy as well as the taxpayer that the Admiralty is almost the only department in which this is not recognised.

In this very matter of robbery through mess-books, I have been reminded that the matter was referred to in Truth nearly nine years ago. Had the Admiralty taken any notice of the hint then given as to the prevalent corruption among the police and stewards of the naval depôts the "thousands of pounds" spoken of in the *Daily Mail* would have been saved to the taxpayers—if that is a consideration of any weight in Whitehall. I could point to many other abuses that have been mentioned in Truth in the intervening years which still flourish unnoticed by "my Lords"—down to the flagrant scandal of systematic blackmailing by the ship's police, which has

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd, 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

lately been exposed in many papers besides Truth. The man who first called my attention to the mess frauds nine years ago writes to-day: —

> From what I know of the present scandal, I gather that it is nothing but the game of ten years back found out at last. But what I cannot believe is in the alleged non-complicity of the ship's steward's department in the frauds that have been discovered. I think, Sir, that I can clearly prove that it is quite impossible for a master-at-arms to misappropriate mess-savings without the connivance, if not the assistance, of ship's stewards.

The inference from that is that the authorities have not got to the bottom of the evil even now. And this is borne out when we are told that a court of inquiry which has ascertained enough to justify the disrating of a master-at-arms and the forfeiting of four ship's corporals badges, has failed to discover sufficiently definite evidence of fraud to enable any man to be put on his trial. The authorities evidently do not know the whole truth, and it seems open to doubt whether they want to know it.

A balance-sheet of the Royal Naval Athletic Sports at Malta has been sent to me from the Mediterranean Squadron with some observations which are worth notice. The receipts are made up of contributions to the amount of £209 from the canteens of the ships on the station. The first observation made on this is that it helps to show the heavy profits made by the canteens; and when the critic adds that his ship, besides a handsome contribution to this fund, pays £100 a year to the games funds, and meets other considerable charges, the observation seems well-founded. Even if it be not true, as alleged, that the canteen prices are extortionately high, it is very evident that the co-operative principle—which means that the customers receive the profits in reduced prices—is not yet understood as it ought to be in naval canteen management.

The other observation relates to the other side of the account, and is to the effect that the heaviest item of expenditure—£81 9s. 2d. paid to "Ward Room Messman, *Bulwark*, for refreshments"—refers solely to refreshments for officers and their friends. This may be a mistake; if it is, it had better be corrected at once, and I shall be pleased to assist in doing so. Here we have a fund raised mainly, if not wholly, from the profits of the lower-deck canteens. The total amount expended is £214 17s. 5d. The very prizes given to the men who find the money only amount to £52 15s. 6d.; while £81 odd—nearly two-fifths of the whole—is alleged to be spent on refreshments for officers and their guests. If true, the allegation is a disgraceful one. The critic of the balance-sheet remarks: "The fact is that those sports are resolving themselves into a picnic for the officers, and the friends they generously invite to share with them in the hospitality of the men." There is no reason why the officers should not have a picnic on the occasion; but there is every reason why the lower-deck canteens should not pay for it.

I had an interesting letter the other day from a lady who had been spending a holiday on the shores of Torbay. It described how, while a section of the British fleet was anchored "in the offing," every tide brought ashore on Goodrington Sands large quantities of bread, good heads of cabbage and lettuces, turnips (both single and in bunches), onions, and lemons, some whole, some in slices. Much of the bread was in half loaves, and the writer states that there was enough of this alone after each tide to have supplied several families, and that the wasted provisions were left in lines along the shore as the waves receded. Evidently a family camping out in the neighbourhood of a British naval anchorage might have an economical holiday. At the same time I should think that somebody might with advantage inquire into the reasons for jettisoning stores on this scale. I myself should attribute it to the demoralisation produced in all ranks by the reckless way in which money is voted for the Navy.

A Lieutenant R.N.R. tells a singular story of Admiralty dealings with officers of the Reserve. As I understand it, he has been retired and deprived of a considerable amount due to him in retaining fees, because he has been at sea in H.M. ships in obedience to orders when he ought to have been at sea in the mercantile marine. It would seem that he has been several times appointed for sea service in H.M. ships by mistake. When he was at last informed that he ought to be serving at sea in the mercantile marine, he at once went, but his retirement was gazetted while he was at sea. According to his account, he has been deprived of his R.N.R. emoluments past and future because he obeyed orders which the Admiralty gave him in error, and because he has not been serving in the Navy and the mercantile marine at the same time. He has urged this on the Admiralty, but he says that they do not answer his letters on this point, and he assumes that they are unable to do so. If the Admiralty have any answer to give, it is a pity they do not give it, for the case as it stands has an extraordinary appearance, and is hardly calculated to attract recruits to the R.N.R.

The suggestion that defective signalling had anything to do with the loss of the *Decoy* in the naval manœuvres disappears with the fuller information that has come with the two courts-martial; though that does not make the question of the undermanning of the signalling branch a matter of any less urgency. As the story is now told, the explanation of the collision seems to be simply this, that the game of playing at war was being carried out just a trifle too seriously. One cannot help sympathising with Commander Tyrwhitt, of the *Arun*, in his appeal for the support of the court on behalf of all officers who are ready to incur great risks in advancing the efficiency of their own branches of the Service; and the reprimand which was the result of the trial, and the answer to this appeal, seems altogether in keeping with the traditions of naval justice. If your manœuvres are to approximate at all to the conditions of war—that is to say, if they are not to be all make-believe and delusion—and if your officers are as keen as you want them to be, they are bound to

run risks. The risk results in an accident, and you censure the officer who takes it. Why? For being too keen. That is how it strikes me.

There has been a great deal of fever among the officers of the Mediterranean Squadron during the summer. This is attributed in many cases to the foul atmosphere which prevails where the victims have slept. The sleeping quarters are overcrowded, and there are no fans to purify the air. Mediterranean fever is very severe, and often shatters the constitution through its virulent effects.

Very odd sidelights are thrown on the minor phases of Indian administration by the memorials that I am continually asked to notice in the interests of natives aspiring to a place in the public service or aggrieved at their removal from it. Here, for instance, is a letter begging me to support the prayer of a memorial to the Viceroy from a certain Babu who is an ex-sub-deputy-collector in Bengal. It seems from the memorial—a little document covering thirteen closely-printed pages of foolscap—that this individual was made a sub-deputy-collector, after he had passed an examination, mainly on the strength of various petitions representing that he was the only son-in-law and the sole support of the widow of a native deputy magistrate who had died of plague. Whether it is the custom to provide indirectly for the widows of deceased officials by giving a job to another member of the family I do not know, but this is admittedly what happened in the present case. Very soon after this appointment, however, the widow applied for a post for her "true son-in-law," at the same time informing the Government of Bengal that the sub-deputy-collector was not her son-in-law at all, and that she had no knowledge of the petitions that he put forward in her name.

The Government of Bengal came to the conclusion that the widow's statements were correct, and the sub-deputy collector was accordingly dismissed for having secured his appointment by false pretences. The gist of his memorial is that he is a victim of injustice, the outcome of feminine inconstancy. On the question of the petitions, he flatly contradicts the widow, asserting that it was with her full consent that they were drawn up and presented, and that after his appointment she received assistance out of his pay. It is true that he has to make the awkward admission that he is not the widow's son-in-law, being, in fact, her sister's son-in-law. But he denies that his description of himself as the widow's son-in-law was a deliberate falsehood; he merely followed a common practice of Hindu society, in which "kindness or consideration for the feelings of kinsmen often induce a member of a joint family to represent a relationship as nearer than it actually is." It is only fair to the memorialist to say that the Government acknowledged the existence of much "laxity of usage of the terms mother-in-law and father-in-law in Bengal," though it did not consider that this laxity was justifiable in petitions to Government. Without expressing any opinion upon the merits of the whole case, I must say that on this point I am inclined to agree with the Government.

The following letter from Mr. Chapman, of Chichester-street, explains a difficulty mentioned last week. The original point referred to was the refusal of the Bank of England to give certificates of deduction of income tax to holders of Consol coupons to bearer, thereby preventing them from obtaining the refund of such deduction to which they are entitled. A correspondent subsequently pointed out that there must be some mistake in regard to this, as he had himself recently obtained such certificates through his banker on cashing coupons for a friend abroad. The explanation, as I understand it, from what Mr. Chapman now says, is that the Bank of England only refuses to grant such certificates retrospectively:—

It is perfectly true that the Bank of England gives to bankers and even to presenters of coupons to bearer certificates of deduction of tax if asked for at the time of cashing the coupons. This has induced my firm to cash such coupons when sent to us by clients, and thus to circumvent what I consider sharp practice on the part of the Inland Revenue. I have no complaint to make against the Bank of England, who are the bankers of my firm. My quarrel is with the Inland Revenue, who, having made a recent rule that they will not refund income tax without the production of the certificates of deduction, have made an agreement with the Bank of England not to give such certificates for the past. The Bank of England are necessarily desirous of pleasing a public department, and are quite willing to save themselves trouble by acting upon this agreement. The question asked by Mr. Herbert Samuel in the House of Commons applies to coupons already paid, and it was in reference to such coupons that the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised that claims unaccompanied by certificates of deduction should be dealt with on their merits. It is this promise that the Inland Revenue ignore, thereby disregarding the authority of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as I can prove by a letter I have received this morning from the Board of Inland Revenue.

Another correspondent writing on this subject argues that the demand for certificates of the deduction of income tax on Consol certificates is itself unreasonable. No certificate of deduction is required, says the official form of claim, in the case of income derived from dividends on stock inscribed in the books of the Bank of England. But the Department requires such certificates in the case of Consols on the ground that Consol certificates are not inscribed in the books of the Bank of England. But, as my correspondent points out, Consol certificates are numbered, and the numbers must be registered, which, for the purpose of the Inland Revenue, is the same thing as if they were inscribed stock; that is to say, there is no more difficulty for the Inland Revenue authorities to satisfy themselves that tax has been deducted from a coupon bearing a specified number than there is in obtaining proof that the tax has been deducted from a dividend on inscribed stock bearing a specified name.

There is really no end of the anomalies and iniquities of income tax administration created by the arbitrary methods of the Board of Inland Revenue. It appears that a married man residing abroad has been refused the refund of income tax to which he is *primâ facie* entitled on the ground that the securities on which his income is derived are comprised in a marriage settlement. What is

the authority for this decision? It is quite true that for income tax purposes the separate incomes of husband and wife are treated as one, but that rule does not appear to cover the case above mentioned.

Apart from any question of income tax, in these days when married women have the absolute right to their own incomes, whether earned or derived from investments, the lumping together of husband's and wife's incomes in order to preclude them from the exemption granted to small incomes seems to me altogether wrong in principle. The tax is a tax on the income of the individual, and each individual's income ought, therefore, to be treated as a separate unit for purposes of taxation. The fact that two people are living together and dividing their incomes between them does not affect this principle. But if it is held to do so in one case, it should do so in all. That is to say, if two ladies or two men are keeping house together, their incomes ought to be treated as one joint income for the purpose of taxation. If this is an absurdity, so is the treatment of husband's and wife's income in the same way.

At this time of year people travelling on the Continent are always sending home local postcards of one kind or another which are not intended for international use, and do not conform to the rule of the Postal Union by having the magic words "Post Card" printed on the face. The result is that the recipients in England have to pay a substantial surcharge upon them. It may be as well to mention this for the enlightenment of British tourists. At the same time the rule requiring the words "Post Card" to appear on every card sent abroad seems an irrational piece of red-tape, and I suggest that the more enlightened Post Offices should endeavour to get the rule altered at the first opportunity.

As it is a good thing that every side of a case should be heard, I publish the following observations of a correspondent on the Beck case. One very good reason why I have assumed, and still assume, Mr. Beck's complete innocence, is that he has received a pardon and been offered compensation to the extent of £2,000. This implies that the Home Office and its legal advisers are perfectly satisfied of Mr. Beck's innocence, and in the face of that no one would be justified in publicly expressing any doubt on the point. Of course, everybody wants to know how and why the police and the Home Office blundered in the matter, as they admit they have done. For everybody's sake it is most important that all the points which have been raised should be thoroughly cleared up. The inquiry which the Home Office is said to be holding is clearly not a satisfactory kind of inquiry for this purpose. The inquiry ought to be independent, thorough, and, above all, public. As long as it is not public there is no security for its being worth anything, especially if the very office which ought to be on its trial is conducting the proceedings:—

> I am no lawyer, but the case of Mr. Beck is not quite so clear as you and others seem to imagine it to be. A man was arrested for swindling women, and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. It is certain that the man was not Beck, but a certain Smith. On this man coming out of prison, other women were swindled in the same fashion. Beck was arrested. About a dozen women swore that he was the person who had swindled them, and it was assumed by both judge and jury that he was the Smith who had been condemned for similar offences in 1877. The trial resulted in Beck being sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Whilst in prison it seems that conclusive evidence showed that he was not the Smith of the first trial, which must have been known to the police, to the prison authorities, and to the Home Office. After Beck had served his sentence women were again swindled in the same fashion. Again he was identified by the police as Smith, although the Home Office officially admitted that he was not Smith.
>
> I fail to see what the women on the second trial gained by swearing that he had swindled them. If there had been any similarity between him and the person who swindled them, then this might have been a case of mistaken identity. But admitting that the second offence was committed by Smith, it is admitted that no one could mistake Beck for Smith. If not, are we to suppose that the guilty man was some person not yet discovered? No alibi was put in to show where Beck was on any of the occasions when the offences were committed. I blame neither judge nor jury for the verdict. Had I been one of the latter, I should have found him guilty, for although the women were by no means respectable, they did not know each other, and therefore could not have conspired together to ruin an innocent man; nor, as I have said, had they, on the face of it, any motive to do so.
>
> Here, therefore, is a case which most unquestionably demands further investigation in the interests of justice and its administration. How came it that the police arrested Beck in the second instance? Did the women receive any inducement from the police to identify him? When it was discovered during Beck's imprisonment that he could not have been Smith, what action was taken by the police and by the prison authorities? Why, too, did the police insist that he was Smith on the third trial? When they did this, why did not the prison authorities, who were aware that he could not be, protest?
>
> It may be that the Home Office are investigating all this. But the Office was itself concerned in these extraordinary transactions. The inquiry should therefore be a public one. The women of the second trial should be examined; the police concerned in that trial should be examined; and the prison authorities should be examined.
>
> Far be it from me to say that Beck was guilty; indeed, I am inclined to think with you that he was not. Still, the fact that so many women for no apparent cause swore that he was the man who swindled them needs clearing up, and the action of the police, the prison authorities, and the Home Office needs explanation.

If my correspondent will read the official reports of the various trials he will see that most of his points are based upon a misapprehension of what occurred. For example, he says that at Beck's first trial it was assumed by both judge and jury that Beck was Smith. The fact is that, though this erroneous assumption had been made by the police in the preliminary proceedings at the police-court, it was abandoned at the trial at the Old Bailey, and the Common Serjeant refused to allow the question of Beck's identity with Smith to be raised. It is one of the mysteries of the affair that although the prosecution did not even attempt to prove that Beck was Smith, and although no previous conviction was ever alleged against him in court, he was nevertheless compelled in prison to wear a mark indicating that he had been previously convicted in 1877—in other words, that he was after all John Smith. My correspondent's idea that the police again identified Beck as Smith when he was arrested in April last is also incorrect. The police were careful not to repeat that blunder.

How, then, did Beck come to be arrested in April last? A perusal of the evidence at the subsequent trial before Mr. Justice Grantham supplies the explanation. A police inspector received information of a woman having been swindled in precisely the same manner as in the cases that were tried in 1877 and 1896. The police knew where Beck, the prisoner convicted in 1896, was

living, and this woman was taken to a restaurant in Oxford-street where he usually dined. This was only nine days after she had been robbed, but though she saw Beck in the restaurant, she did not recognise him then. In cross-examination she said that she "inwardly thought that he was the man." After this failure to identify Beck a fortnight was allowed to elapse. The inspector then placed the woman at the corner of a street near the house where Beck lived, telling her to look out for anybody she knew. Beck—the man she had been taken to see at the restaurant—came along, and this time she "identified" him as the swindler. Thereupon Beck was arrested, and afterwards two other women who had been similarly defrauded picked him out from among a number of other men at the police station, Beck being the only one who in age or appearance bore the remotest resemblance to the swindler they were in search of. It was on the strength of these so-called identifications, now officially admitted to have been mistaken, that Beck was, for a second time, wrongly convicted of frauds which there is not the least doubt were really perpetrated by another individual. It is noteworthy that beyond his identification by the women not a scrap of evidence was ever produced against Beck at either of his trials; that none of these women had seen the swindler more than twice—on the first occasion for a few minutes, and on the second occasion for an hour or two—and that in most instances the identification took place months afterwards.

In some quarters it seems to be thought that such miscarriages of justice are extremely rare. I am not so sure about that. There is the possibility that for one that is brought to light half a dozen may go uncorrected. It is now pretty clear, for example, that two men have been wrongly convicted of being concerned in a recent series of frauds upon publicans in the West of England. One of them, Isaac da Costa, was found guilty at Devon Quarter Sessions and sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, in spite of the Chairman, Lord Coleridge, having practically suggested to the jury that it would be unsafe to convict on the evidence. There is little doubt Da Costa was a victim of mistaken identity and of erroneous evidence by a handwriting "expert." The same thing happened in the case of the second prisoner, William Shellard, who was convicted at Wilts Quarter Sessions and sentenced to six months' hard labour. The real author of the frauds alleged against him was soon afterwards arrested, and Shellard was released by the Home Secretary when he had served nine weeks of his sentence. In connection with all these cases it is to be hoped that serious consideration will be given to the methods adopted by the police for obtaining the identification of accused persons, and also to the worthlessness of the testimony that is put before juries by handwriting "experts."

The English judges, though in no way bound, of course, by the decisions of their American brethren, are always, I believe, ready to learn from them when points arise in which no native precedents are forthcoming for their guidance. I have been speculating, therefore, on the possible results, should Sir Francis Jeune be tempted to broaden his particular branch of British jurisprudence in the spirit which has recently moved a divorce-court judge at Denver. If we may trust the American reporter—and at this season of the year who would not?—Mrs. Howard Bryning came to the court with a somewhat novel complaint against her spouse. Bryning's fault as a husband seems to have been that he was fond to the point of imbecility. He indulged Mrs. B.'s every whim. She tried to find limits to his pliability, but in vain. "My husband had no backbone," she says. "Whenever I asked for anything I always got it without question." She was "aggravating" to an extent passing the aggravation of women, but Howard Bryning refused to be aggravated. "There is no satisfaction," she says, "in that kind of humdrum existence for me." The large-hearted Court sympathised with the painful story of conjugal misery, and, in the spirit of the English maxim that there is no wrong without a remedy, granted Mrs. B. a divorce. Let us hope that it will not be long before she finds a new mate, with a backbone suitable to her requirements.

It was only the other day that I was discoursing upon the extent to which a good wife may be rightly expected to "knuckle under" to her lord and master. What I endeavoured to convey on that occasion was that in order to make the delicate business of matrimony work smoothly, a certain amount of "give and take" is required. The value of the case of Bryning *v.* Bryning is that it enforces this humble moral in an entirely novel way. In considering those cases where all the give is on one side, and all the take on the other, one is apt to consider it unfair from the point of view of the giver—the weaker vessel, whether the male or the female, who has to go to the wall in the conflict of conjugal interests. What Mrs. Bryning teaches us is that this one-sided apportionment of the spoils of matrimony may be as unsatisfactory for the taker as for the giver.

Mrs. Brown may feel a sense of grievance when she has meekly surrendered to the domineering Brown all the plums in the domestic pudding—humbly allowing him to choose the dinner and the servants, arrange the furniture his own way, use his latch-key as he likes, bring home his own friends, and even order her very bonnets for her. But may not Brown be nursing his own sense of grievance, too, all the time? May he not be secretly pining, like Mrs. Howard Bryning, for a wife with a backbone, and sneering to his friends at the club about his humdrum domestic existence? We have been—for several centuries now—sympathising with the patient Griselda. But, in our shortsighted way, we have never given a thought to the husband's side of the question. Judge not, that ye be not judged. It may be that Mr. Griselda—I cannot think of the gentleman's name at the moment—was provoked beyond

all bearing by his wife's maddening meekness, and that if she had stood up to him in the first instance and given him a bit of her mind—a good big bit—there would never have been any serious trouble afterwards. According to the sensible rule in Bryning *v.* Bryning, it was Griselda who was really at fault all through, and if Mr. G. had been a citizen of Colorado he could have got a divorce at quite an early stage of their married life. After which he could have consoled himself with a lady with a backbone and no taste for a humdrum life—somebody like Mrs. Howard Bryning.

I suppose the truth is that a state of war is natural and wholesome to man, and to woman also. Wise men who write in the monthly reviews, and occasionally in the daily papers, tell us that nations degenerate in time of peace, and that, in order to keep them vigorous and progressive, it is necessary that they should from time to time pick quarrels with one another, and kill or maim a few thousand men on each side. What is true of nations in a case like this is probably true of individuals. It may easily be, therefore, that occasional domestic rows improve the tone of married life, and elevate the characters of husbands and wives, to say nothing of their children. As regards women, the wisdom of our ancestors tells us that "the more you beat 'em the better they be." On the same principle, a man may be a better husband and father for having a hair-brush thrown at him now and then while he is shaving, or a plate of soup emptied over his head occasionally at dinner time. These are the sort of things that at present constitute cruelty in the narrow code of our courts. Many marriages which might have turned out happily have consequently been prematurely dissolved. We may expect very great improvements when the Probate and Divorce Division adopts the enlightened doctrine of Colorado—that the worst form of cruelty consists in letting your wife always have her own way, and *vice versâ*.

Can a County Court bailiff enforce two warrants of execution concurrently on the same debtor's goods, and exact double possession fees? The question is asked by an unfortunate debtor whose house was lately entered by a bailiff armed with two warrants issued at the instance of two separate creditors, "A" and "B." The bailiff remained in the house for seven days, and the debtor then paid out "A's" execution, including possession fees for the seven days. "B's" execution was also paid out at the same time, but with only one day's possession fee. The bailiff, however, insisted that he was entitled to the full seven days' fees under each warrant, and a seizure of goods was made for the balance of six days' fees in respect of "B's" execution.

Like this debtor, I have been under the impression that the levying of executions for debt is governed by the principle of "first come, first served," and that one execution must be satisfied in full before another can take effect. If this be so, it would seem to follow that there can be only one "possession" at a time, and that a bailiff has no right to charge his fees twice over because he holds two warrants. Perhaps some of my legal readers will tell me exactly how the law stands. In the meantime I can only say that if the law is on the side of the bailiff it is in a most iniquitous state, opening the door to what is nothing less than a system of legalised robbery at the expense of poor debtors.

At Coleraine Petty Sessions a few days ago a boy was convicted of placing some blocks of wood on the railway line at Castlerock, in such a manner that a serious accident might have happened if the obstruction had not been noticed in time by a porter at the neighbouring station. The Bench discharged the defendant on security being given for his good behaviour. In sending me a report of the case "A Tourist" makes some caustic remarks upon the decision of the magistrates, whose conception of mercy to the culprit ought, he suggests, to have been tempered by some regard for the safety of the travelling public. But what were the magistrates to do? It would have been ridiculous to impose a fine for such an offence, while no good would have been gained by committing the boy to gaol. Imprisonment would only have harmed him without doing anything to protect the railway from the next child who, having no idea of the consequences of his act, thinks it would be sport to throw an engine off the rails. A good deal might be said in favour of the administration of a sound flogging as a deterrent to such juvenile delinquents. Unfortunately, however, the law does not permit the infliction of corporal punishment for an attempt to wreck a train, though it is allowed for the most trivial theft.

Blackpool must have been a happy hunting-ground of fortune-telling humbugs, judging from the number lately haled before the magistrates. I am glad to see that in each case their worships inflicted a fine of £25 and costs—a penalty sufficiently heavy to convince the defendants that in Blackpool, at least, their game will no longer be worth the candle. The husband of one defendant, who went to gaol in default of paying the fine, has called upon me to denounce the police and the magistrates. I am afraid that I cannot oblige him, though I am, of course, sorry that the lady should have had to go to prison. The only difference between her case and the others was that, instead of professing to tell fortunes by means of palmistry, she pretended to be in communication with "spirits"; and to my mind this was not a difference in her favour. In the witness box she explained that "her spirit guide was a little negro called Lulu" whom she had known "about five years;" also that as soon as she saw the policeman who visited her she knew he was a policeman—"she had only to look at his feet." Looking at his feet would doubtless be as useful as examining his hands or consulting the "spirit guide;" but if the defendant knew by his feet that her visitor was a policeman, it was very foolish of her to accept his fee of half-a-crown and tell his fortune. It was, too, very inconsiderate of Lulu not to warn her of the consequences that would follow this indiscretion.

The Home Secretary has just issued a circular directing the attention of magistrates to the recent observations of the Lord Chief Justice on the administration of the conscientious objection clause of the Vaccination Act of 1898. His lordship's advice and admonitions may have a salutary effect on magistrates whose misinterpretations of their duty under the Act are due to sheer stupidity, but I fear that there are others whose disobedience to the law in this matter is too deliberate to make it likely that they will amend their ways. Mr. E. David, the Chairman of the Llandaff Petty Sessions, seems to be a Shallow of this description. Last week three conscientious objectors applied for exemption certificates, but without even a pretence at inquiry into their cases Mr. David refused to grant the certificates, telling the applicants to come again when another magistrate would be in the chair.

One man protested against such treatment, and pointed out that this was the third lost journey that he had made to the Court. "You have a conscientious objection on one side," replied the Clerk to the Bench, "and his worship has a conscientious objection on the other side; that's what it comes to." But the two objections are not in any way analogous. The man's objection is recognised by the law; the magistrate's is not. What Mr. David does is, in fact, to set the law at defiance. He may disapprove of the issue of certificates of exemption from vaccination, but he is bound by the obligations of his office to carry out the Act of Parliament, and as he is apparently too self-opinionated to do this, the Lord Chancellor ought to remove his name from the Commission of the Peace.

By the way, I see that the Duke of Hamilton obtained a certificate for his infant daughter at Wimborne Petty Sessions the other day. His Grace simply stated that he had a conscientious objection to vaccination, and his application was at once granted. This was the proper course for the magistrates to pursue, and it certainly makes a striking contrast to the badgering and bullying which anti-vaccinationists who do not happen to be dukes frequently have to undergo.

As a pleasant change from the censures that magistrates so frequently incur on account of their indulgent treatment of wife-beaters, a word of commendation seems to be due to Mr. T. F. Nooney, J.P., of Mullingar, for his conduct in a recent case. Seeing a ruffian striking and kicking his wife in the street, Mr. Nooney went to the woman's assistance, gave the man into custody, and appeared as a witness against him at the Petty Sessions. Although she had been knocked about in a most brutal manner, the woman herself—as so often happens in these cases—did her best to screen the defendant, asserting that "she did not feel hurt in any way" when she was thrown on the ground and kicked. The Bench, however, very properly sentenced the defendant to five months' imprisonment, and also ordered him to find sureties for his good behaviour when he is liberated.

Conspicuous among the examples of misplaced lenity in my Legal Pillory this week is a case at Weobley, Herefordshire, where a farmer, convicted of what the magistrates rightly characterised as "a very murderous assault," was let off with a pecuniary penalty. The seriousness of the offence was aggravated by the callous conduct of the farmer and his workmen in leaving the injured man unattended on the ground, heedless whether he recovered or not; and the magistrates' remark that the defendant was lucky not to be sent to prison suggests that their worships were conscious of the inadequacy of their sentence, which was, indeed, a travesty of justice. It will be seen that at Ledbury, Herefordshire, the theft of a piece of wood by a poor, half-witted old man was visited with precisely the same penalty as this "very murderous assault" by a farmer. The case from Yarmouth is noteworthy on account of the Mayor's frank admission that assaults upon women are not punished with sufficient severity—a fact exemplified by the decisions that are quoted every week in these columns. While, however, the Great Unpaid always seem to be too tender-hearted or muddle-headed to deal effectively with offences against the person or cruelty to dumb animals, they never hesitate to come down heavily upon persons accused of such crimes as poaching, sleeping out, and petty larceny:—

Bradford City Police-court. James Boocock, charged with cruelty by working a horse whilst it was in an unfit condition. The horse, which had had a heavy load, collapsed through weakness and exhaustion, and after lying on the ground for some hours, it was destroyed by order of a veterinary surgeon. It was in a shocking condition, consisting of nothing but skin and bone. This was the defendant's seventh appearance at the court, and he had been fined for a similar offence quite recently. Fined £5 and costs.

Middlewich Petty Sessions. Job Evanson, charged with assaulting Richard Maddock, aged eighty-five. After being knocked down, the old man was struck over the shoulders several times. Fined 5s., and 14s. costs.

Yarmouth Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Alfred Ceiley, jun., charged with assaulting Christina Robinson. Without any provocation he struck her twice in the face, knocking her down and rendering her unconscious. In fining the defendant 40s. and costs, the Mayor said: "I think we should be more severe than we are in punishing assaults upon women."

Ayr Police-court. Before Bailie Wallace Allan. John Young, charged with assaulting Alexander Stewart by seizing him by the throat and butting him in the mouth. Several of Stewart's teeth were knocked out. Fined 20s.

Bradford City Police-court. Thomas Lee, aged nineteen, charged with stealing two ducks. One month.

Peterborough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Beeby, F. Rouse, W. Cliffe, O. Edmonds, W. E. Welby, G. H. Dean, and M. Wolryche-Whitmore. Ann Davies, an aged woman, charged with begging. Fourteen days. Prisoner: "For asking for a bit of bread, sir?" Mr. Beeby: "For begging; yes."

Norwich County Police-court. Before Messrs. E. S. Trafford, T. B. Lennard, G. H. Stracey, and other magistrates. Arthur Johnson, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 15s.; in default, twenty-one days.

Mansfield Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. F. W. Sanders and S. Wilson. Wm. Housley, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. In default of paying £1 10s., he was committed for a month's imprisonment.

Newton Abbot Police-court. Before Dr. Ley. Elizabeth Brown, a middle-aged woman, charged with sleeping out in Courtenay-road, near Dr. Ley's house, and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Pontypool Police-court. John Edmunds, charged with trespassing in pursuit of conies. fined £2.

Honiton Police-court. Before the Mayor. Clara Baker, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Leslie. James Kelly, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her on the head, dragging her about by her hair, and kicking her. There were a large number of previous convictions against the accused. Fined 25s.

Weobley Police-court. Before Messrs. W. Prescot and G. Marshall. Thomas Rees, farmer, charged with assaulting Henry Smith, chimney sweep. Complainant went to the defendant in the harvest field to ask for payment of a bill of 8s. for sweeping chimneys. Defendant refused to pay more than 5s., and on being asked for the full amount he struck the complainant over the eye with the iron part of his "pickle." Complainant received a serious wound, which bled copiously, and which, according to a doctor, might have had serious results. Defendant and his men went on with their work, leaving complainant unconscious on the ground, although one of them "thought he was dead." Fined £5, the magistrates remarking that it was a very murderous assault, and that the defendant was lucky not to be sent to prison.

Cardiff Police-court. Robert Brown, a powerfully-built collier, charged with being disorderly, with using bad language, and with assaulting a constable and two civilians. He was extremely violent, and one of the civilians, who went to the officer's assistance, was so severely kicked that he had to be attended by a doctor. Fined 40s. and costs.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Mr. H. Heath and other magistrates. Richard Stanley, charged with maliciously ill-using and torturing a horse. The horse, which was turned out in a field, was badly cut with a knife, a wound fifteen inches long and from half an inch to two inches deep being inflicted on its shoulder. It was stated that defendant was drunk at the time. Fined £2 2s.

Boston Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. C. N. Hunn and T. Kilwood. Wm. Wakefield, charged with stealing a boot from a shop. One month.

Stamford Borough Police-court. Before Alderman Knott and Mr. G. Higgs. Wm. Cargill, charged with sleeping out on the highway and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Ledbury Police-court. Before Messrs. C. A. Hewitt, E. Conder, J. Riley, C. W. Stephens, H. Bray, and S. H. Bickham. Thomas Oliver, an old man, charged with stealing a piece of wood, value 1s. It was stated that the old man was not really responsible for his actions. The Bench said that on account of his age they would inflict a fine, which would be £5 and costs, and they hoped his children would look after him.

Buxton Police-court. Michael Barry and James Kelly, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. One month each.

Southmolton Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. A. E. Shapland and R. S. Bryan. James Bater, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Albrighton Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. Buller Lloyd, J. Barker, T. Corbett, and W. Jones. Thomas Jones, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being suspected of coming from land where he had been in pursuit of game, a gun being found in his possession. Fined £5; in default, two months.

Penkridge Petty Sessions. Samuel Barrett and Charles Colley, charged with poaching. Six months each, and a further six months in default of finding sureties that they would not so offend again for a year.

Pontefract Police-court. Alfred Bramley and Samuel Winstanley, charged with stealing two ducks. Two months each.

Apropos of the recent successes of the Spanish Prisoner, an esteemed correspondent tells me that a man in his neighbourhood, having received one of the usual letters, wrote to the British Consul at Barcelona for information, but was not favoured with any reply. In this instance the swindle did not come off. It is conceivable, however, that the failure of the Consul to answer such an inquiry might be indirectly responsible for an innocent succumbing to the fraud, and as the Foreign Office is apparently powerless to prevent these Spanish banditti from preying upon the British public, the least it can do is to take every opportunity of warning intended victims against them. Very likely the Consul at Barcelona is inundated with communications respecting the Spanish Prisoner, and it may be that he finds the trouble and expense of dealing with them too great a burden. If this is the explanation of his silence, he ought to be provided with any necessary assistance and refunded the cost of postages. There is no reason why a letter should be written to each applicant for advice. A circular would answer the purpose, or, better still—at all events from my point of view—the Foreign Office could supply the Consul with copies of TRUTH containing exposures of this venerable fraud, to be used for the enlightenment of inquirers.

Quite as pertinacious and irrepressible as the Spanish Prisoner is the American Gold Brick swindler. One of my readers states that seven or eight years ago, when he was acting as an executor, he came into possession of the customary mysterious letter, ostensibly addressed to the deceased testator, which constitutes the opening move in the gold brick version of the confidence trick. He is now again acting as an executor, and, sure enough, another letter, telling the same old story, has reached him. "Thomas," poor fellow, is still in very bad health and still anxious, out of gratitude for past kindnesses, to make you an equal partner with himself in the fabulously rich gold mines that he has located in the Cripple Creek district of Colorado. Here and there variations occur in the wording of the letter, but all the main features of this audacious piece of fiction are the same now as they were seven or eight years ago. From the fact that such letters are year after year systematically directed to every deceased person whose position makes it probable that his executors or relatives will prove a profitable capture, if they rise to the bait, it is evident that the practitioners of the fraud discover an incessant supply of dupes.

I have been asked to sound a note of warning against a man who has been going about obtaining from hotel and boarding-house keepers orders for advertisements, and cash at the same time, on the pretence that he represents the proprietors of "The Liverpool A.B.C. Railway Guide." There is the more reason for this warning, as the swindler in question devotes his attention specially to women, and women who keep boarding-houses are generally not blessed with any superfluity of income. Probably the reason why they are specially favoured is that they are shy of communicating with the police and thereby possibly involving themselves in legal proceedings. The correspondent who brings this matter to my notice remarks that it is anomalous that the proprietors of the publication should have no *locus standi* to prosecute in such a case. But surely it is within their power to collect the necessary evidence and put the police on to the man.

More than once I have suggested that the tipster Pizzey, of Heath Villa, Ascot—the individual who was last year compelled by the Jockey Club to retire from the Turf as an owner of racehorses—was also carrying on business under the alias of "Captain W. Gough," of Chavey Down, Bracknell. The fact has now been established by the inquiries of a correspondent at Chavey Down. The place is in the neighbourhood of Ascot, and letters and telegrams for "Captain W. Gough" are delivered at a cottage whence they are fetched each

morning by a man in the service of Pizzey. The advantage to a tipster of an alias or two—some of the fraternity have half a dozen or more—is obvious. It enables him to give a different tip for the same event under each name, and as an illustration of this Pizzey was last week advertising that he had (as Pizzey) given the winners of two races, though as Gough he had also given losers for these races. Such a system makes the tipster's game one of "heads I win, tails you lose."

In a paragraph on July 7, concerning the betting system swindle of an individual styling himself "Price and Cameron," of 34, Craven-street, Charing Cross, W.C., I mentioned that one of the victims had received a letter stating that the business was being wound up. This was, of course, simply a lie, told to persuade the man of the futility of attempting to recover the money that he had lost. "Price and Cameron" have since been working the same fraud, and I have just heard of a case in which they netted no less a sum than £600. I trust that this case will result in the prosecution of "Price and Cameron," which the police ought to have long since instituted, and if any victims of the firm care to assist in bringing them to justice I shall be glad to put them in communication with the parties who are already moving in the matter.

At one time and another a great many references have been made to the practice of sending gangs of boys about the country selling tin-ware, brushes, and other such-like household odds and ends in the name of alleged "working boys' homes" with nebulous addresses in the south-eastern districts of London. One of these gangs has lately been at work in South Wales, and I have heard of it last from Penarth. The circular distributed by the boys is an interesting document, and should convey to any one who reads it intelligently the humbug of this business. It is headed with the usual formula of "National Working Boys' Home, Peckham, London, S.E., and Farnborough." It is signed by one "J. Roynon, late traveller for B. H., Peckham, S.E.," who writes as follows:—

> Having served upwards of twelve years with the above institution, and not having the opportunity to learn a trade previous to its failure and closing for want of funds, expiration of lease, etc., and having been given a start in life by one of the head officials, I beg to inform my friends and patrons that owing to the above institution being closed and the great depression of trade, I am now making a call and sending lads round for myself, but not as a representative of any home or institution whatsoever, but to supply my friends and patrons and the public generally with a first-class article at a reasonable price. The lads are provided with food and shelter, and are sent round to sell the articles on commission, so as to enable them to provide clothing for themselves, and will make a call twice or three times a year, no more, and shall be pleased at any time of calling to exchange for goods cast-off clothing, boots and shoes, etc., and by this means I am not only trying to obtain a livelihood for myself, but I am able to give other poor lads employment to help them gain an honest living.

It will be seen that after heading his circular with the name of the "National Working Boys' Home," etc., this worthy proceeds to explain that the home has been closed, and that he has nothing to do with it. The institution which he says has been closed never, of course, had any existence. The name has been used for years in circulars of this character, accompanied by representations that in the home boys were taught useful trades, and that the goods offered for sale were the proceeds of their labour. This choice flower of an imaginary institution, however, now gives away the whole thing by stating that though he himself was in the home for twelve years, he never had an opportunity of learning a trade previous to its close. At a guess one would say that the sole foundation for his statement about his twelve years in the home, and his "having been given a start in life by one of the head officials," is that having been employed for some time as one of the boys who go round selling goods in the name of this apocryphal home, he has now come to the conclusion that he may just as well do the business on his own account. Very possibly his story about the closing of the home is intended to have the incidental effect of damaging any other gangs which may still be in the field in the character of boys from the home. Or it may be that one or two recent prosecutions have shown him the risks of pretending to represent a non-existent home, and that he has made this much concession to truth as a matter of prudence.

I call attention to this business again, not so much for the benefit of householders who are induced to purchase goods from these gangs out of benevolence, as to show the need of some systematic attempt to suppress this buiness altogether. To get together parties of boys and take them round the country like gipsies, earning a precarious livelihood by cadging from door to door with these circulars, is in every way a most demoralising method of employing them. It means for certain training them as vagabonds, and possibly as rogues also; and it is quite immaterial whether the master of the gang represents himself as a "Boys' Home" or as a poor, deserving lad struggling to assist others like himself to get an honest living. The business is illegal, because the boys ought to possess hawkers' licences, which they never do, and are never likely to do. In one or two counties this has been recognised. The police have been instructed to interfere wherever they see these boys at work, and when they have been brought before the magistrates for hawking without licences the magistrates have always supported the police action. What is required is that the same action should be taken everywhere. Apparently it is only in a few places that the county police authorities appreciate the existence of the evils of the system. I suggest, therefore, that the Home Office should issue a circular on the subject to all police authorities in the kingdom.

Some little time back my attention was called to the business of a Mr. R. Courtney, trading as Courtney and Co., Colonisation and Emigration Agents, 2 and 3, West-street, Finsbury-circus, E.C. This is one of those agencies for shipping lads to Canada and finding them berths on farms which have been so often criticised in TRUTH. The inquiries I have made on the subject, in the course of which I have had Mr. Courtney himself interviewed, show pretty clearly that the stock objections

to businesses of this kind apply equally to that of Courtney and Co. By means of newspaper advertisements, chiefly in the provinces, parents are induced to hand over their boys to the agency. The charge of the latter seems to be generally £25 or £30, varying with the class of passage desired. The stock form of contract provides that for this sum Courtney and Co. will place the boy on a farm in a specified district of Canada, "where he will be under the supervision of our resident agent"; and there is a stipulation that "the pupil will receive his board and lodging, in addition to a small salary ranging from five to twelve dollars a month." The first figure seems to be a good deal nearer the mark than the second.

Now, a reference to the shipping and railway rates will show that at the price paid the agent makes a gross profit ranging from £10 or £12 to £15 or £16, possibly more, upon each boy shipped. What does the boy or his parent get for this payment to the agent? Simply the introduction to a farmer in Canada who wants cheap labour, the services of Mr. Courtney in booking a passage and escorting the boy over, and the nebulous "supervision of our resident agent." The first part of the business, the Canadian Government is ready to undertake free of charge; and this is the chief objection to all businesses of this kind. If parents would take the trouble to ascertain the arrangements which the Canadian Government makes for importing farm apprentices, they would certainly never pay the preposterous charges of these agencies. The business, therefore, is carried on at the expense of foolish people, on whose ignorance the agent trades.

As to the escort, whatever it may be worth, when it is mentioned that in April last Mr. Courtney arrived in Canada with a batch of about thirty boys, on whom his gross profits would be at the very least £360, it is obvious that he is extravagantly paid for his personal services. I have no doubt that the same remark applies to the subsequent "supervision," though its precise value cannot, of course, be tested. Further, when these boys are placed on farms at five dollars a month, the farmer makes an uncommonly good bargain, for I am told on the best authority that £2 a month would be a fair rate of wages, and that the boys could easily obtain it if they negotiated direct with the farmers. One naturally wonders, therefore, whether the agency gets anything from the farmers for the service that it renders to them. Anything that it did get in that way would, of course, be, in reality, paid by the boys.

The questionable dodges by which this class of business seems to be always pushed are exhibited in connection with the literature which Courtney and Co. use for advertising purposes. Until a recent date this included a letter from Lord Roberts to a Mr. Bunbury, expressing his lordship's satisfaction that this gentleman has "been offered an appointment by the Canadian Emigration Agents to look after the young gentlemen employed learning their work in the fruit farm district of Ontario." The letter was obviously a private letter, written without any knowledge of the "Emigration Agents" whose service Mr. Bunbury had entered, and there could be no excuse for using it for the purposes of advertising Courtney and Co.'s merits. When he heard of the use that was being made of it, Lord Roberts promptly stopped this piece of impudence. Another letter used in the same way was written by Governor Forget, of Regina. In response to an inquiry, he has replied that the use made of the letter was unauthorised, and that he knows nothing of Courtney and Co. Probably the same thing is true of several other letters of a similar character which Courtney and Co. display as evidence of "the reliability and standing of our resident agents." There is a whole bookful of testimonials from parents and guardians, which are entirely beside the point, the writers being of course in blissful ignorance of the fact that they have paid Courtney and Co. considerable sums of money without the slightest occasion for doing so. Their letters only show the necessity of once again warning the public of the folly of employing any of these agencies at all.

It is astonishing what interesting things one learns from the newspapers at this time of year. Look, for instance, at the Spaniard who has been discovered in New York by a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. He arrived "a physical wreck, with his nerves and digestion ruined." By some inspiration peculiar to the silly season, he was impelled to try a diet of grass and water. He is now restored to robust health. What is more, he has acquired a taste for grass—a most economical taste, too, for it enables him to browse free of charge in the public parks like a Transatlantic Nebuchadnezzar. When the winter spoils the New York grazing he proposes, we are told, to move south in search of fresh fields and pastures new. I suppose the public parks in New York are not exactly in the same condition as those of London, as lately described in the Press, or the grass would hardly be tasty, whatever its nutritive value.

Foulon, who prescribed a similar diet for the starving French proletariat, was rewarded with a noose and a lamp-post, but it now turns out that he had made a discovery of incalculable value to mankind. The *Daily Telegraph* will doubtless have noticed the bearings of this discovery on the burning question of tariff reform. There is no point in elaborating schemes of "scientific taxation" to develop wheat-growing and beef-growing in the Colonies, when common or garden grass is found to have the same food value as either of them. The problem of food supply in time of war is solved at the same time. When you come to think about it, there is nothing at all incredible in this discovery. The natural history of our sheep and cattle shows clearly that grass and water contain all the necessary raw material of beef and mutton, and it is rather surprising in these days of applied science that nobody has ever devised a process

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

for getting the one from the other without the intervention of sheep and oxen. The same thing, of course, applies to milk. I wonder that the vegetarians have not seen all this and laid stress on the value of a grass diet.

OUR SPORTING MISSIONARIES.

Where *now* are the critics, permit us to ask,
Who have daily so loudly exulted
That our Mission to Lhasa has failed in its task—
That no fruits from its toil have resulted?
What *now* can they say, in the face of the news
That our Jingoes has moved to elation—
The news of the things that that Mission has done
In the name of our Civilisation?
Its time was but short, but to have it inferred
That its work has been wasted is too, too absurd.

It has not, it is true, caught the wily arch-priest
Who took flight from the blessings it proffered;
It has surely not scored any striking success
In discussing the Treaty it offered;
But at least it has gained 'mongst the people, poor things!
A most showy, if brief, popularity,
By giving a widespread and practical proof
Of our Nation's devotion to charity,
Though in principle, p'raps, it was scarcely quite sound
To lavishly scatter small silver around!

But that wasn't all; having taken a course
Which had not very much to commend it,
The chiefs of the Mission who'd given the cash
Next provided occasion to spend it.
For they kindly arranged a Race-Meeting to hold
Which—the Turf's normal features begetting—
No doubt gave the people of Lhasa a chance
Of acquiring a knowledge of betting,
And of learning the arts, until then unrevealed,
Of "backing their fancy" or "laying the Field"!

Let those, then, who'd hint that our Mission has failed
In performing the duty assigned it
Just think of this seed it has recently sown
In the land it will soon leave behind it.
Colonel Younghusband goes, but, though *he* may depart,
Native sportsmen, his lessons completing,
May induce the Grand Lama himself to assist
At Lhasa's renowned "Summer Meeting;"
Whilst the "Bookie," his flag in the breezes unfurled,
Yells out the last odds from "the Roof of the World"!

This, again, is not all; other seed, dropped *en route*,
It may be by a sport-loving picket,
May bring to our Island, in due course of time,
A Lama Eleven—for cricket.
Whilst the day may soon dawn when "The Saints"
or "The Blades"
Can produce nothing tougher or taller
Than Secundra Ram Dam, of the Gyangtse Team,
The marvellous Buddhist Foot-baller!
The latest, the greatest of "Soccer" half-backs,
Who will simply walk round all our goal-getting
"cracks"!

Then clearly the thing it behoves us to do
In the face of such grand possibilities,
Is to give to such Missions as that lately sent
The completest and widest facilities.
They may fail to make treaties; may tend to make wars,
They may serve disagreements to nourish;
Where peace and where plenty have hitherto been
They may cause want and sorrow to flourish;
But who would such Missions refuse to support
If they spread through the world all the blessings of
Sport?

There is to be a contest for Oxford University at the next election, the High Church party having decided to oppose Sir William Anson, whose seat is considered to be in serious danger. Strange as it may appear to his opponents in Parliament, Sir William's views on educational questions are a great deal too liberal for the powerful clerical section of University electors, who desire to bring forward a candidate who will be a staunch and unswerving supporter of Church principles and prejudices. The out-voters, who turned out Mr. Gladstone in 1865, will probably be as successful in their attack on Sir William Anson.

The North Devon Tories have been searching from one end of that county to the other in order to find a candidate for the Barnstaple district to oppose Mr. Soares, who won the seat in 1900 for the Liberals from Sir Cameron Gull, whom he defeated by 347 votes. It is well known that the Tory prospect of regaining this seat is grievously forlorn, and one and all of the local notables who were suggested as suitable candidates have positively declined to come forward. Under these circumstances the local leaders of the party have appealed to the party wire-pullers in London, with the result that an announcement appeared last week that Mr. Horne, of Godalming, is to come forward. This gentleman is altogether unknown in Devonshire, and if the chances of a popular local candidate were regarded as poor, the prospects of a stranger are altogether hopeless. If Mr. Horne has any knowledge of the intricacies of Devon politics on the Tory side, and of the personal questions which play a large part in the county elections, he would not be gulled into wasting time, trouble, and money on so impossible a contest.

Sir Michael Hicks Beach, who sat in the House of Commons for more than forty years, will disappear from that assembly at the dissolution, and it is generally expected that he will be offered a peerage. Sir Michael's son, Mr. M. H. Hicks Beach, is to be the Tory candidate for the Tewkesbury division of Gloucestershire at the General Election, in the place of Sir John Dorington, who retires.

Had the Government announced last year that, in view of the opinions advanced by some of our manufacturers, it might be to the public interest to inquire into the soundness of our fiscal system, in order that those desiring a change in it should have a full opportunity to submit the grounds on which they relied, and that full and reliable statistics in regard to our trade and commerce should be laid before the Commission of Inquiry, there would have been no very strong opposition to the proposal, for Free Traders would have been convinced that the result would have nipped in the bud any hankering for Protection. Instead of this, Mr. Chamberlain, having withdrawn from the Cabinet, commenced an agitation for Protection. Mr. Balfour professed his sympathy with him, and the Free Trade members of the Cabinet were jockeyed into resigning. At present all Unionists who

do not accept the Chamberlain creed are being forced out of the party, even though they profess to be pro-Balfourites, and, so far as can be understood, they are not to be accepted by the Unionist Associations as Unionist candidates. The suggestion of Mr. Ritchie that we should now have a Commission of Inquiry, with the proviso that whilst it sits no member of the Government should prosecute a campaign in the country on one side or the other, is, therefore, hardly practical. It is like a proposal on the part of two belligerent forces, engaged already in a campaign, that hostilities should be suspended in order that a prolonged, searching, and careful investigation might be undertaken by impartial persons to decide on all points of difference.

My own impression is that Mr. Chamberlain himself would not accept such a proposal so long as he has the faintest hope that he will capture the country as he has the Unionist party, and certainly Liberal Free Traders, who believe that they are winning along the entire line, would not agree to it. The issue must now be fought out at the polling booths, and be decided by the appeal to Cæsar. Apart from all party differences, this, I think, the best course, for the sooner it is definitely settled under what conditions our trade and commerce are to be conducted, the better it will be for all. In the interests of the Unionist party, I would, however, suggest to Mr. Ritchie that he might propose to his party to appoint a Commission consisting of members one-half of whom would be nominated by the Unionist Free Traders and one-half by the Unionist Protectionists, with some absolutely impartial man as its President, and that the party should agree to accept its decision. As it is, the Unionist party has had a millstone tied round its neck. This suggestion is a kindly one on my part, for, as a mere Radical, I have no desire to see it relieved of its millstone.

The Canadians are in no way bound to treat our imports preferentially. But when we are asked to reciprocate this preference by taxing our food in order to give Canadian produce a preference over the produce of foreign countries, it is just as well that we should understand what Canadian preference means. A telegram from Ottawa informs us that in consequence of a rail-making plant at Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario) having been established which is expected to turn out 500 tons of rails daily, a duty of $7 is to be now levied on steel rails imported into Canada. Under the British preferential tariff this duty is subject to a reduction of one-third, but a bonus of $2¼ is to be paid by the Dominion Government on every ton of rails manufactured in Canada. The duty therefore paid by British rails entering Canada will be $4 67c. Add to this the $2¼ bonus per ton, and the protection granted to the Canadian manufacturers of rails as against our manufacturers will be $6 92c. per ton. Against this we allow all Canadian produce to enter the United Kingdom free of all duty, and competing against no bonus on our home production. Notwithstanding the preference, therefore, Canada has far the best of the present tariff arrangements.

Naturally, if we are such fools as to tax our supplies of food from foreign countries in order to be able to treat Canadian food imports preferentially, the Canadians can hardly be expected to object, and still less so if we consent to a heavy duty being levied by the Dominion on our exports to Canada in addition to a bonus on all Canadian home production. But to call this a bargain is a misnomer. It is a bribe given by us to induce Canada to maintain her political connection with us, to which the poor amongst us will be by far the largest subscribers, and this is all the more absurd as Canada utterly repudiates any necessity for this bribe.

Were I a Canadian I should object to enter into any binding tariff agreement with the Mother Country. It by no means necessarily follows that such an agreement with us is commercially wise. The Canadians have always been desirous to make a reciprocity tariff treaty with the United States. In view of the vicinity of the two nations, and the fact that such a treaty would probably be to the advantage of both, and, as regards Canada, more advantageous than any tariff treaty with us, it hardly seems a sound policy for them so to tie their hands that under all circumstances they would be obliged to give a preference to our imports over those from the United States. Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, therefore, would be as harmful to Canada as they would be to us, assuming that Free Trade is to our interest. Nor do I believe that they would in any way conduce to the unity of our Empire, for no arrangements between the component parts of an Empire which are not based upon the advantage of all strengthen the ties that hold them together.

Another way of estimating the preferential treatment of British imports by Canada is this. The Sault Ste. Marie establishment will, it is said, turn out 500 tons of rails every day. Taking the working days of a year at 300, and the duty on our imports of rails with the bonus granted to Canadian rails at $6 92c. per ton, the total money value of the preference to the Canadian as against the British rails would be £207,600 per annum in this one factory. What possible advantage to us would it be that foreigners importing rails into Canada would be still more adversely treated? The tariff against us is intended to have the effect of making Canadians buy Canadian rails, rather than British, and would, no doubt, have that effect.

When the Transvaal mining magnates appealed to Heaven and to the British nation to rescue them from the terrible cruelties inflicted on them by the Boers, who would neither give them votes nor allow them to get the amount of cheap servile labour that they

desired, we were asked to regard them as suffering Britons, although the majority of them were not Britons. It is now admitted by most persons that they were feathering their own nests very comfortably, and that the 250 millions that we have spent in fighting for their right to employ Chinese chattels in their mines might perhaps have been more usefully expended. These worthy gentlemen were simply money-makers who regarded our flag as a good commercial asset. So it is with our shipowners. If they had their way, not only would they bring us within the vortex of the war now raging in the Far East, but they would have us so interpret international law in regard to the rights of neutrals for their temporary benefit that we should find ourselves seriously embarrassed the first time we were ourselves at war.

They are still bitterly complaining that their interests are not being looked after by our Government. In one letter a shipowner who is engaged in conveying goods to Japan protests against any Russian cruiser declining to accept a neutral ship's papers in regard to the character of the cargo, and insisting upon searching it. Another suggests that no neutral ought to be searched unless it be in the vicinity of Japan. Several still insist, without the shadow of evidence, that Russia treats German vessels preferentially, both on the high seas and before her prize-courts. And many indignantly ask of what value is our Fleet if it cannot prevent these persistent "outrages" on our flag.

I would strongly recommend them to clear their minds by learning something of international law. Most of what they complain of is quite in accord with our own reading of that law, and, were it changed, we should eventually find ourselves the greatest sufferers. This, however, seems a small matter to them in comparison with their own interests of the moment. So it always is with any particular business which finds itself hampered in its transactions. With all respect to our shipowners engaged in trading with Japan, we have no intention to sacrifice our permanent interests as a nation for them. If they can show that they have been treated unfairly, they will be supported in their protests, but so long as Russia acts in accordance with the recognised law of nations, they must not expect support. A state of war between two Great Powers must always be disturbing to the trade of neutrals. So it always has been, and so it always will be.

It is curious what a great effect comparatively bad times have upon the vast number of persons who are possessed of incomes, either from trade or from a profession, who, under ordinary circumstances, are able to have an outing abroad, and yet make two ends meet. This year, and for the last two or three years, the number of these travelling on the Continent, with or without their families, has very largely fallen off, because money either does not circulate as it did, or has not taken the direction of their pockets. All this has been the result of our South African War. A country cannot suddenly plunge into an enormous unproductive expenditure without suffering in consequence. The majority of those thus indirectly suffering from this war were—whilst it lasted—vapouring as though the war was an unusual blessing. What war really means is now brought home to them, and I trust that they will profit by the experience.

There are learned disquisitions in the papers as to either Japan or Russia being forced to conclude peace owing to want of funds to continue the war. And yet, if people will only consult history, no war was ever brought to a close by want of money. No matter what it costs, cash or the equivalent of cash is always found to prosecute it. If extra taxes are put on, there is little complaint. Loans are raised, and if the terms are almost usurious, this rather affects the future than the present, while the money thus obtained helps to make up for the shrinkage in legitimate trade and commerce. It is after the war is over that its effects on the national prosperity are felt. I imagine that the Russo-Japanese War will have an end, but this will not be the result of the absence of money to prosecute it.

During the Crimean War, Russian State securities fell very little. This was due to their being made up of a vast number of small loans, instead of a few large ones. Thus the government could maintain the price of any loan on which there were considerable sellings—either genuine or speculative—by comparatively small buyings. Russian indebtedness is far greater now than it was then, but the system still prevails of a number of separate loans, and presumably any one that is attacked is kept up in the same way. Were it not for this, there would be a general stampede, and instead of Russian credit having fallen since the outbreak of the war less than 10 per cent., it would have fallen 20 or 30 per cent., for I very much doubt whether Russia will be able to pay her way after peace, considering the effect of the war upon her trade and production, and the large amount by which the debt will have to be increased. If, therefore, I had Russian bonds, I should be inclined to sell them at present price, and to accept a comparatively small loss.

Before the outbreak of the war I happened myself to have a few of these bonds, which I had bought at about par, and which paid 4 per cent. I sold them on this calculation: "If there is no war, I shall be able to buy them back at about what they cost me; if there is war, they are certain to fall during the war, and to fall still more after it, and a trifling certain loss is far better than the reasonable probability of a much greater one."

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I admire the Japanese for many things—they seem to have been born anew when they determined to throw their traditions to the winds, and to adopt all that they regarded as valuable from the Western nations. There is no hide-bound conservatism with the Japanese. Everything is judged by its merits. If they approve of it they adopt it, dropping all that is useless, and improving on what is useful. Had we had in command of our troops in South Africa a few Japanese officers, they would have grasped at once the situation and have made our armies fit into it. Had they been on the Boer side, they would have rendered our task a good deal more difficult than it was. I do not pretend to be a stragegist, but they seem to have made very few mistakes in strategy, and as Napoleon said, the best general is the man who makes the fewest.

What particularly commands my admiration is the manner in which their War Office and their Generals have kept their own counsel. The war correspondents who have been sent out give us no news, not only because their communications have to pass the Censor, but because care is taken that they should know nothing until after it has happened. Our Generals, and indeed most European Generals, are so anxious to keep well with the priests of publicity, that they do not dare to treat correspondents in this fashion. The only English General who has appeared indifferent to correspondents is Lord Kitchener. General Kuropatkin, however, apparently does not kow-tow to them, and very little of his intentions finds its way into the newspapers. Secrecy is necessary in war. Nations do not fight to amuse and interest the readers of newspapers. The issues are far too important to risk success for the benefit of non-combatants at their breakfast tables.

The Cretan question is again re-opening itself, and Prince George is undertaking a mission to the Powers, for the purpose, apparently, of enlightening them on the situation, and guiding their judgment. It is to be hoped that no serious attention will be paid to his views, for he has utterly discredited himself as a ruler, and shown himself altogether unworthy of the confidence reposed in him when he was installed in Crete. No doubt there will be the usual manœuvring and intriguing among the Powers concerned before the new crisis is disposed of, each party looking to its own interest, real or supposed, and the only interests disregarded being those of the unfortunate Cretans. As long as that is so, so long will the Cretan question remain with us. The proper way to settle the business is to leave the Cretans to settle it themselves. Our vote ought to be given in that direction, and, if it were, France would probably vote the same way. So far as can be seen at this distance, if the Cretans had their way they would unite their island to the Kingdom of Greece. There is no reason, at any rate so far as we are concerned, why they should not do so.

BRIGHTON.—NEW SHIP HOTEL.—The best of everything. Electric light throughout. Night porter. Telephone No. 292. Manageress, Miss Tucker.

THE UNCONSCIONABLE GAMEKEEPER.

A certain Wood in Days of Yore
With Snakes abounded—by the Score.
Two Sorts were there: one "Viper" hight,
Detested for its poisoned Bite;
The other "Common-Snake" was called,
Most harmless Worm that ever crawled.
At length, the Lord who owned the place
Resolved those Vipers to efface,
So bade his Keepers scour the Wood,
And ruthless slay the noxious Brood;
Yet gave Instructions clear and plain
That only Vipers should be slain;
"The harmless Common-Snakes," said he,
"Must all be left unscathed and free."
Further, this Lord (to make them willing
And active in their Viper-killing)
Announced that they should Sixpence win
On every Viper's head brought in.
The Keepers ('twas but Nature) burn
The proffered Sixpences to earn,
And, keen, to Viper-hunting turn.
But Master Viper, he's a Snake
Who always has his Wits awake,
And takes a quite unholy Rapture
In artfully evading Capture.
So now, the baffled Keepers found,
Though Vipers by the Score abound,
And though for every captured Nob
The Lord had promised Half-a-Bob,
Yet, 'spite their vigorous Pursuing,
Of Tizzies they could rake but few in.
But one, a Keeper extra-smart,
Evolved some more successful Art,
Whereby, at whiles, he'd catch and slay
His Score of Vipers in a Day,
Whose Heads he carried to his Lord
And claimed for each the due Reward.
"How is it done?" a Comrade cried;
"For Months, I've tried and tried and tried,
Yet think I'm lucky if I slay
One single Viper in a Day!
While you, with Ease, can kill your Score!
Tell me the Secret, I implore."
Said t'other, with a Wink, replying:
"O Friend! As easy 'tis as lying.
Though *Vipers* may be hard to spot
And catch, yet *Common-Snakes* are NOT.
So when I lack a Viper's Head,
I take a Common-Snake's instead,
On which, less Boss the Trick should see,
I stamp, in Ink, the needful 'V.'"

MORAL.

Now while in "the Force,"
As a Matter of Course,
Quick Promotion's ensured
By Convictions secured,
There'll be false-swearing "Tecks"
And wronged Adolf Becks.

SCRUTATOR.

EPOCH MAKING AT LIAO-YANG

THE London Pressmen, who announced "a Russian Sedan," or "a Russian *débâcle*," as soon as the first news arrived of a Russian retirement from Liao-yang, seem to have been a little previous. Kuropatkin has fought a pitched battle on ground of his own choosing, and he has been decisively beaten. There is no doubt about that, and it is an event of profound significance. But so far as can be judged at the present moment, he has succeeded in withdrawing the greater part of his army, an achievement which denotes generalship of no mean order, and splendid fighting quality in that section

of his army which had to hold the victorious Japs at bay while the rest of the beaten army made its way aross a river in flood. The attempt of General Kuroki to bar the path of the retreating army also seems to have been foiled—for the time. It may be that another great battle has still to be fought in that direction, and that the Japanese hope of destroying at one blow the flower of the Russian forces in Manchuria may yet be realised. But at the time of writing the balance of probability is that Kuropatkin will make good his retreat on Mukden or Kharbin, badly mauled no doubt, but with the consolation of having inflicted also terrible punishment on his enemy. I question whether he ever expected to do much more. There has been a week of hideous carnage. Prodigies of valour have been performed on both sides. The victory has gone to the bigger battalions, and I should say also to better generalship and organisation. Such a result, seeing who the combatants are, is an epoch-making event. For the first time in history the East has beaten the West in a pitched battle on land as well as on sea. I suppose this upsets a tradition as old as the Persian rout at Marathon, for the occasional incursions of Eastern invaders into Europe in the interval are hardly parallel events. But, so far as can be judged, the Russian army, in spite of its defeat, still lives to fight another day. Any calculations based on the contrary idea are, for the present, fallacious.

Without having any sympathies one way or the other—beyond a feeling that the Japanese are fighting the cause of Asia for the Asiatics—I should have preferred to see a decisive result which would have ended the present campaign at one blow. Were the Russians left without an army in being in the East, and with the Japanese in command of their own end of the Siberian railway, the prospect of ever reconquering Manchuria would be so remote that the Government would be compelled to consider the advisability of patching up a temporary peace at least, even at a sacrifice of its own dignity, with a view to renewing the strife at some future date under more favourable conditions. If, on the other hand, Kuropatkin makes good his retreat to Kharbin, or even further north, his strategy is certain to be represented as a policy of *reculer pour mieux sauter*, and no idea will be entertained in Russia but that of despatching in the spring a fresh army to reinforce him and retrieve the position. In the former event Russia would be in much the same position as we should have been in had the Boers, at the outset of the war, overrun Natal and Cape Colony, seized the ports, leaving us with no base of operations for the reconquest of the country. Indeed, they would be in a worse position, for we could always have landed an army somewhere in South Africa under the guns of our fleet, and so gained a foothold; whereas the invasion of a distant country by means of a single line of rail in the enemy's possession is a strategic impossibility. But with an army still holding the railway, and the possibility of still sending troops through, even in dribblets, throughout the winter, Russia is really no worse off than we were after Colenso and Magersfontein. No idea of making peace ever crossed the British mind at that time. It was accepted as a matter of course, even by those who hated the war, that having gone into it, we could not drop it at that point. There is no likelihood that the Russians will take a different view of their position in the East. Rightly or wrongly they are certain to feel that honour and interest prevent them entertaining any idea of making peace so long as they are in a position to strike another blow. Moreover, they are sure to cherish the idea that the Japanese are incapable of standing a prolonged struggle, and that they can be worn down by sheer dogged persistence, though probably this idea is as fallacious as many others with which they entered on the struggle. The probability, therefore, is that the war will go on until either the Japanese can deprive Russia of her last foothold in the Far East, or until Russia has succeeded in beating them off, and both sides get equally tired of the struggle and ready to listen to reason. It is not a pleasant prospect.

That Russia will ever again re-establish herself permanently in Manchuria is difficult to believe after all that has now happened. It is this that gives such a significance to the campaign of which the battle of Liao-yang is so far "the crowning mercy." The Russian soldier is possibly as good a man in his way as the Japanese, if not better. Remembering the Russian inferiority in numbers, and remembering also that the bulk of the Russian forces hitherto engaged have been Siberian troops, the poorest material in the army, it seems impossible to avoid drawing this inference from the heroic defence of Port Arthur, and the stolid retirement from Liao-yang. But in training, leading, generalship, initiative, organisation, and, so far as one can see at present, in contempt of danger and the determination to do or die, the Japanese have the advantage. It is difficult to believe that the army which by dint of these qualities has fought its way unbeaten from the coast almost to the gates of Mukden, will ever be driven back again, except by such superiority of force as Russia has little chance of ever bringing to bear. Nor is it at all likely that the resources of Japan are any less equal than those of Russia to a continuance of the struggle for another year or two, if need be. We must, therefore, recognise the fact that the yellow man has stood up to the white man, and beaten him decisively. And as the fight is for the yellow man's ground, and in a great measure for the cause of all yellow men against white domination and interference, it is one of those performances which are certain to leave their mark on history. Personally, I rejoice at it, having no sympathy with the pretensions of the white man to dominate all other races and manage their affairs for them in accordance with his own ideals and his own interests. Seeing, however, that of all white men we display the strongest pretensions in this direction, I am rather surprised that the event is received with such unmitigated satisfaction as it is in

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this country. I fancy that the satisfaction is a trifle short-sighted, and chiefly the outcome of our traditional antagonism to Russia—itself a very short-sighted sentiment. The epoch marked by the appearance of a new Great Power in the Pacific is bound to have very important consequences for the United States and the people of Australia and New Zealand, especially as all of them have hitherto studiously boycotted the yellow man, and declined to recognise him as a man and a brother. The fact that this new Power is in the best position for controlling the unknown destinies of China further enlarges the future possibilities of the situation. Our own concern in all the results that may follow in these ways is pretty obvious. A little reflection upon them suggests doubts whether a generation or so hence the epoch-making incidents at Liao-yang may be regarded in England with as much satisfaction as they are to-day.

LABOUR AND RADICALISM.

The English newspapers seem to have paid scant attention to the gathering of representative Socialists in Holland, which resulted in a resolution being carried against an alliance with any other political party. It was supported by Herr Bebel, and the German Socialists, whilst M. Jaurès and the majority of the French Socialists opposed it. The view of the former was that they differed so entirely in regard to the basis of civilised society with all existing Governments that they would sacrifice their principles if they acted with them; that of the latter that, whilst remaining true to the Socialist ideal, they would be wise to make common cause with Democracy in supporting all political and social reforms which would tend to the betterment of the condition of the working man, or would enlarge the area of self-government. This has been the line of late taken in France by the Socialists, and it certainly seems to me that—even assuming that Socialism ought to be the ultimate aim—it is the most reasonable course to be pursued by those of that opinion.

What is the Socialist creed? Broadly speaking, it is that the entire framework of modern society is rotten, and that so it will remain until individualism in property has been replaced by collectivism. In theory it sounds practical that there should be neither rich nor poor, and that all should perform their fair share of labour. In practice it would never work, because men are not mere machines, but are what ages of evolution have made them. Some are more intelligent than others; some are lazy, and some are workers. Some have energy and perseverance, others are entirely destitute of these qualities. Socialism presupposes, not only that they are all alike, but that they are all angels ready to square their conduct to certain fixed laws because they are told that these are for the common benefit. Individualism is engrained in them, and they would never be likely to consent to be reduced to one dead level, in which the State settles what each man is to do, and what each is to have from the common fund. A world, indeed, conducted on these lines would not be worth living in. In the conflict of intelligence resides its chief charm, and is the only incentive to progress.

In England Socialism has never "caught on." There are in England, I make no doubt, convinced Socialists, but they are few in number. The large majority of those calling themselves by this term are persons who fret at the present state of things, and would have it changed without any clear notion what they would substitute for it. They see around them much want and misery. They perceive that some have too much of this world's goods, and some far too little, and a good many of them find themselves in this latter category. But I doubt whether there is one single constituency in Great Britain in which a Socialist would be elected were he to come forward as the exponent of his creed, and to declare that he would support no Government which would not act on it. If he were elected, it would be because the electors would very well know that the creed was not within the area of practical politics, and because they would be convinced that his abstract belief in it would not hinder him from doing good service in the cause of Democracy. This is a pretty clear proof that the Socialists, with us at least, are not sufficiently strong to separate themselves from Democracy. Labour representation is a very different matter. The great majority of the electors are engaged in manual labour, and consist of what are called the working classes. They ought to be fully represented in Parliament by men who have practical experience of their requirements and aspirations. Those who are elected are sure to act together, for this strengthens them collectively. I should be glad to see them even more closely united throughout the country, for they have powerful interests banded together against them, and they are not likely to get fair justice, unless they stand shoulder to shoulder to fight for it. The moneyed classes have the power of the purse; the aristocracy is in possession; the great mass of snobs are with them. The middle classes believe that this is the "gentlemanly" party, and, as Mr. Chamberlain explained in his own case, they rally to "the gentlemen of England." All this has tended of late to strengthen Conservatism. The Conservatives are wise in their own generation. They take care that administrations shall be drawn almost exclusively from the classes that they represent. We have peers and landowners, and "nephews," and "cousins," and lawyers as our rulers—and a Press supporting this dispensation with a view to peerages, baronetcies, and other such social recognitions. If they do, now and then, agree to labour legislation, it is to catch votes, but they take care that the Government of the country remains in their hands. They sit at the table, and labour must rest satisfied if a bone is thrown to it, as to a dog. A Labour party, making the interests of labour its first consideration, is most useful, but it should act as one wing of the great army of Democracy, and it should do its best to aid in democratising our institutions—political and social.

Were I a working man, I should be a Trade Unionist, although I do not quite agree with Trade Unionists in their view that a man who chooses to work harder than another, who is so skilled a workman that

he can turn out more in a given time than the average of his fellows, should not benefit personally by his assiduity or his skill. Equally, I think it a mistake to insist on an excessive number of men looking after the working of a machine that has replaced hand-work, or to unskilled work being paid at the rate of skilled work. I do not regard all this as in the interest of the working men. A worker endowed with industry, energy, perseverance, and intelligence should be able to better his own individual lot, whilst nothing is more certain than that the lower the price for which an article can be sold the greater is the output. A minimum wage ought to be laid down by the State, and a minimum period for a day's work. But if a man is worth more than this minimum wage, or if he chooses to work overtime, I see no reason why he should not do so. One thing I have never understood. It is why there should not be shifts in factories as in mines. I doubt at present whether the profit of employers is on an average excessive. Judging by limited liability companies, it seems to be about 6 per cent. on capital employed—*i.e.*, about 3 per cent. more than can be got on the safest securities. This is not large, considering the extra risks and the skill that is necessary to conduct an industrial enterprise. Workmen should, in their own interest, support any scheme by which the return is greater, taking care that they get their fair share of the increase. In the United States they have already realised this; but it is not so with us. Had I, too, my way, I would insist on legislation rendering arbitration obligatory in cases of trade disputes. In these sometimes one side is right, sometimes the other, and often there is a measure of right and wrong on both sides. No one is an absolutely unbiassed judge where his own interests are concerned. A strike or a lock-out is directly harmful to all concerned. They might be avoided by independent arbitration, and consequently this is as desirable as it is when nations fall out, and each threatens to have its way by shooting the citizens of the other.

These remarks in regard to Trade Unions are, however, only incidental. What I would venture to impress upon working men is that it is a mistake to refuse to act with Radicals, who are at one with them in regard to most matters. Even Socialists—if they are practical—should not stand apart, because they entertain the belief that the existing conditions under which a community holds together ought to be replaced by their particular theory. The day may possibly come when this theory will command a majority. But it is not likely that either this generation or the next will see that day dawn. If the majority of Democrats in a constituency are Socialists, then the Liberal candidate should be a Socialist, and all Democrats should vote for him. If a Socialist comes forward and promises to work with Democrats in the House of Commons, and await the conversion of the majority to his social creed, I see no reason why he should not, if he be an able man, be selected as the Liberal candidate, even though the majority of the Liberals are not Socialists. Although I am not a Socialist, I should like to see some dozen or so of Socialists returned to Parliament, for all opinions should be represented there. Democracy ought not to suffer by differences between Democrats, for there are obstacles enough to its progress without multiplying them gratuitously. Although the Socialists' creed is, to my thinking, at least, only possible under conditions which certainly will never prevail before the advent of the millennium, there is plenty of social legislation to which they and other Democrats are inclined. We ought to make it our business to get railroads and such-like concerns transferred to the State. We ought to insist on the State, or the locality, taking upon itself better housing, the feeding of poor children in schools, and other such duties obligatory to a civilised community. Personally, I would go further. I would use the credit of the State to establish everywhere stores where articles of primary necessity should be sold at cost price. But for all this, it is necessary that Democrats should unite and take care that the representative council of the nation is thoroughly Radical, and that it is in earnest in its determination to give full effect to the aspirations of the Democracy, with administrators in office who will be its servants and carry out its will.

HOW TO CATCH YOUR "TOMMY."

Everybody knows the immortal cookery-book maxim on the cooking of hares: "first catch your hare." A similar maxim ought to be prefixed to every scheme of army reform. Before you can construct an army it is fairly evident that you must "first catch your Tommy." This "condition precedent," however, has not as a rule troubled the exalted geniuses who from time to time propose to remodel our army for us, and more than one scheme of army reform has miscarried in consequence. Mr. Brodrick the other day was quite confident that he could catch his hare, and cooked up an appetising dish on that assumption; but the result was disappointing. Mr. Arnold-Forster, our last new cook, when expounding his brilliant recipe, did not seem so cocksure about the raw material in the larder, which was perhaps natural under the circumstances; but it evidently did not cause him much anxiety. He indicated, without condescending to details, that barracks would be improved and that steps would be taken to provide more employment for discharged soldiers. That done, he evidently thought that the hare was as good as caught, and passed on to the operation of dressing him and serving the feast. For my part, I am not so sure about the supply of hares. The difficulty of getting the right sort of men for the Army in sufficient numbers has certainly increased, and my belief is that it is certain to increase in the future *pari passu* with the improvement in the condition of the working classes, which, *pace* Mr. Chamberlain, is one of the signs of our time, and is bound to continue as long as civilisation advances. If the Army is to be kept up to the mark, the difficulty of inducing the best type of young working-men to join it must be faced and surmounted. Until this is done, you are only wasting time and breath in discussing the train-

ing of your men, the organisation of your "cadres," and the strategical distribution of your forces about the Empire. First catch your Tommy.

I have been rather interested in a contribution to the art, or sport, of Tommy-catching offered by Mr. John R. Hutchinson, of Leamington. The proposal which he makes is a revolutionary one. The gist of it is nothing less than the transfer of the whole business of recruiting —and some other business besides—to the civil local authorities. There are other proposals in his scheme, as to the term of service, foreign and reserve service, and so forth, which are somewhat "blanketed" by Mr. Arnold-Forster's proposals, since published. For this reason it is hardly worth while to discuss them in detail; but I may say that the general idea is that men should be enlisted for two years' training, followed by ten years in a 1st Line Reserve, and ten more in a 2nd Line Reserve; that foreign service battalions should be enlisted, on a seven years' engagement, from men who have completed their two years' training; that the 1st Line Reserve, virtually constituting the Home Army, should consist of the men who do not go into foreign battalions at the end of their two years' training, and of men who return from foreign service at the conclusion of their seven years' engagement; and that the battalions of this Reserve should be called up annually for training, like the Militia, which would be disestablished. Here you have your home and foreign service armies. The 2nd Line Reserve would consist of all the foregoing men after they had completed their first twelve years, and would not be called up for periodical training; that is to say, it would be a reserve pure and simple. This is rather an interesting scheme, and I call attention to it because it seems to me that this idea of enlisting men for a period of continuous training and then passing them to battalions called up annually gives the direction in which the reform of the Militia ought to proceed, and that this kind of a home service army is sounder in principle than Mr. Arnold-Forster's ideas on the same point, so far as they have yet been developed, and more likely to attract the recruits required.

But, as I have said, the salient feature of this scheme is the proposal to make the raising of recruits, and in addition the care of soldiers after their discharge, a matter of local government. It is proposed that a number of men proportionate to population should be requisitioned from each area; that the local authorities should be responsible for raising them; should keep their names and addresses when, under the scheme above outlined, they are not embodied; should be required to produce them when wanted for training or mobilisation; and should also be responsible for bounties and pensions to them on discharge, which should be paid out of the rates. The effect of this, it will be seen, is that if in any district men were "backward in coming forward," the local authority would have to increase the inducements by offering increased bounties on enlistment and discharge, and that the cost would fall on the district generally. Incidentally, this suggestion implies a large measure of decentralisation of the War Office business—the great desideratum of the hour with army reformers of all schools. The author of this scheme carries the process further by proposing that battalions shall manage their own affairs without any interference from the War Office, which will keep no men's accounts, but simply pay the men weekly, without any deductions, and leave them to keep themselves with their money as best they can. In fact, Mr. Hutchinson's idea seems to be that the War Office should have nothing to do with soldiers beyond paying them and organising and training them for war; but this, whatever there is to be said for or against it, is outside the question of catching your Tommy, with which we are now concerned.

I would not, off-hand, express any definite opinion on the root-idea of this proposal. But no one can deny that it offers a practical solution of all difficulties about recruiting, and an alternative to the various schemes for making service compulsory of which we hear so much, apart from the means it affords of creating a genuine "territorial" army and relieving the War Office of a vast amount of business which could be as well or better done by civilians. Consider more closely the bearings of the proposal. Parliament, on the advice of the Army Council, votes so many men for the Army. The number voted will bear a certain proportion to the number of adult males of the required age in the community—say, one in ten, for the sake of argument. The local authorities now have to enlist one man in every ten. If one man in ten is at once ready to soldier on the terms offered, so much the better for the other nine. If there is a difficulty in getting him, a further cash inducement will have to be offered, and the other nine will pay it. They will not, it is true, put their hands directly into their pockets, but they will feel the consequences through the rates. The natural result of this will be to give everybody a personal interest in encouraging recruiting instead of thwarting it, as a large section of the community does at present. If soldiers are a necessity of the national existence, which for the present purpose must be taken for granted, you want to bring home to the people generally that soldiers must be provided, and that they have got to provide them; to bring it home not so much to the potential soldiers—boys still in their teens—as to their fathers and mothers, and uncles and aunts, and neighbours, who are at present by far the greatest hindrances to recruiting. The present scheme at least offers a means of doing this, and without resorting to that direct compulsion which is both unpopular and, for the purpose of a small Army, chiefly for foreign service, unnecessary. As such the proposal seems to me at least worth the careful attention of all who are perplexed by the problem of recruiting the Army under present conditions.

If, however, this proposal were adopted to-morrow, a good deal more would be required before the catching of a sufficient number of hares, and hares of the right quality, would be assured. Out of the men raised by the local authorities solely for home service in the first instance, the Government would still have to enlist all that it would require for the foreign service army, and to provide inducements for the purpose—the difficulty which, more than anything else, cracked up Mr.

Brodrick's scheme, and which Mr. Arnold-Forster has still to get over. Moreover, it is not enough that local authorities should merely supply a certain number of men who can pass the doctor. We want, if possible, to get men of the best character, education, and intelligence to make the Army more representative than it is at present of the pick of the population. Under the present purely voluntary system, or any other, this is equally necessary. We thus get back to the old question—What is the reason which keeps so many of the right sort of men out of the army? We have raised the pay, we have eased the soldier's burdens, we have done a good deal to improve his comfort. Taking it all round, the Army to-day offers a young man of the working class the certainty of several years' fairly-well-paid employment, no very excessive amount of work, and a chance of rising to a comfortable position and earning a certain provision for the rest of his days by the time he is forty—a chance the like of which is not to be found in any other walk of life. And still the men do not come. What makes them so shy? One school will tell you it is nothing but distaste for fighting; as Lord Wemyss put it not long since in a letter to the *Times*, they have too much regard for their precious carcases. Fiddle-de-dee! The chances of being shot do not enter into the calculations of a boy of eighteen when weighing the pros and cons of soldiering. If he thinks about fighting at all, it is the prospect of all others that attracts him. The best proof of that is that there is never any difficulty in getting recruits, and of the best quality, when there is fighting going on, as the late war showed clearly enough. It is in time of peace that the quantity and quality fall off, and this fact in itself really goes to the root of the whole difficulty. There is another school which tells you that the young men of the present day hate discipline, are impatient of all restrictions on their liberty, and shun the Army for that reason. I have heard this curious distinction between the youth of the present generation and of all previous generations solemnly propounded by a grey-haired general, and the theory is widely held. Nonsense again! It is sufficiently answered when the fact is admitted, as it is universally, that the steadiest and best brought-up lads are the most difficult to catch, while bad characters, with the eye of the police on them, can always be picked up by the recruiting sergeant. The truth of the matter is that there is a strong prejudice against Army life among the class you specially want to catch, and not only among the lads themselves, but still more among their fathers and mothers, and among the mothers most of all. The prejudice does not bear any reference to the fear of fighting or the chances of being shot—except, perhaps, as a secondary consideration with some of the nervous mothers. It is a prejudice against the life of young soldiers in barracks and garrison towns in time of peace. It rests partly perhaps on the feeling that soldiers are treated like horses or dogs, and that a respectable lad who joins the Army goes down a step in the scale of comfort and decency to which he has been accustomed at home, and to the maintenance of which the more respectable section of the working class attach the greatest value. But chiefly it rests on the belief that the life is an idle and dissipated one, that it exposes young men, unprotected, to a great many temptations, leads them into bad habits, and unfits them for following any remunerative trade afterwards. These are the real reasons why so many well-to-do working-class fathers and mothers are averse to their sons joining the Army, and why so many lads who enlist do it on the sly, and only announce the fact at home when the step is irrevocable. Even then, how many fathers and mothers there are who are ready to sacrifice their last penny to buy the boys out again! I ask any candid reader who knows the Army whether this prejudice has no reason in it. For myself, I am quite certain that it has. Anyhow, the prejudice exists, and it has got to be removed before the supply of recruits will ever be equal to the demand in time of peace. How that is to be done is a big question, which I must reserve for further discussion in a future article. But if I am right, there is one thing which any intelligent observer can see for himself at once, namely, that mere increase of pay will not effect the desired result. That is the great mistake that has been made up to the present time—and a very expensive mistake, too. Indeed, by giving a young soldier more pocket-money, you inevitably increase his temptations, aggravate whatever demoralising tendencies there are in his life, and thereby encourage the prevailing prejudice against the service. It is not cash that is required to popularise soldiering, but an intelligent improvement of the everyday conditions and incidents of Army life.

THE THEATRES.

"Beauty and the Barge," at "The New."

It is customary to talk of the Harrison-Maude management as very lucky. "They have only had one failure," people say to me; "what extraordinary luck!" Well, I am no great believer in luck in theatrical enterprises. I like to look behind the luck for a guiding principle, and it seems to me that the management now temporarily installed at the New Theatre affords a good object lesson. The Haymarket Theatre is run on unusually rational lines. Mr. Cyril Maude is a delightful actor, so he sticks to acting. Mr. Frederick Harrison is a shrewd practical manager, so he manages. Every one makes mistakes at times, so Mr. Harrison makes mistakes; but there has been a smaller percentage of errors at the Haymarket than at any other theatre in London, and the reason seems to me obvious. Wiseacres say that no man living can tell by reading it whether or not a play will be a success. Probably this is so. All the same, the best judge of a play's commercial possibilities is not author, actor, or actor-manager, but a practical business man with an understanding of, and sympathy with, the stage. Over and over again one comes away from the theatre wondering what could possibly have prompted any one to sink money in so forlorn a hope as this or that play, and I have arrived at the conclusion that there are two

classes of people in the world who fling their money away thus foolishly. The one class consists of people with money but no brains, who like to be connected with theatrical enterprises, and boast of the money they have "dropped." The other class consists of actors. There would be fewer futile productions if theatres were run by competent business men whose judgment on plays possessed a value. In the theatre as in politics we want a little sound, business common sense, but just as, physiologically, the "normal" man is almost unique, so is common sense the rarest sense.

After this preamble I have to say that Messrs. Harrison and Maude have scored what is likely to be the success of the season in "Beauty and the Barge," by W. W. Jacobs and Louis N. Parker. Possessing but the most diaphanous of plots, it is so full of freshness and admirable characterisation that it keeps the house laughing almost hysterically from first to last. Mr. Maude's Captain James Barley is a gem. This lovable, bragging, drinking, flirting, elderly barge captain is a veritable creation. We owe him to Mr. Jacobs first, but we owe much to Mr. Maude, particularly the quaint little touch of sentiment on which the curtain comes down. The play is admirably cast. Nothing could well be more winning than pretty Jessie Bateman's wayward girl, who tries to run away to London on the willing captain's barge. Admirable is Mr. Lennox Pawle's bulky bargee, and beautifully realistic is Miss Mary Brough's buxom bar lady, whose ripe charms pale in the captain's eyes directly he sees Miss Bateman, even as he has flitted to the bar from the arms of that sublime comédienne, Mrs. Calvert. Mr. Kenneth Douglas, as a young naval officer, carries through his quick wooing in so dashing a manner that it seems quite plausible, while the whole company play together in a way that is very seldom seen in London, and I have to go back to the time when George Alexander produced "The Importance of Being Ernest" for a production to compare with "Beauty and the Barge," both as regards light-hearted humour in the play and the successful catching of this humour by the players.

There is one simple brutal test to apply to a play, and that is to ask of any one who has seen it, "Would you like to see it again?" Thus tested Mr. Jacobs' play emerges triumphantly. I should like to see it many times. I am sure the London play-going public will see it many times.

I have taken so much space for this eulogy that I can only briefly mention the curtain-raiser "That Brute Simmons" adapted by Herbert Sargent from Mr. Arthur Morrison's familiar story. It tells of a husband with a nagging wife who comes home to find that the wife, thinking he has been drowned at sea, has married another. His futile efforts to do a deal with the interloper, and make him compound the bigamy for a sum which begins with being five pounds and ends with being the price of a drink are very funny. The little episode ends with both men decamping. It is hardly a play, but the dialogue is excellent.

"The Garden of Lies," at the St. James's.

After an excursion into farce, Mr. Alexander has returned to the well-trodden paths of romance at the St. James's, but I am afraid that Mr. Grundy's version of Mr. Forman's story is no second "Prisoner of Zenda," on which it is most glaringly modelled. It is a crude romance of incident, very wordy, and none too well written. There is all the material in the book for a picturesque, moving drama, but Mr. Grundy has handled it indifferently, and though "The Garden of Lies" very probably will be a popular success, the credit will be due to Mr. Alexander, and not to his author or his adapter. Novodnia, an obscure principality, boasts a Prince who has married a beautiful American. A carriage accident robs the wife of her memory, and she has no consciousness of having a husband. When the play opens she is being cared for in Paris by a great Scotch specialist, Mr. Kinghorne, while her husband gallantly wrestles with his enemies to keep the throne of his fathers under him. The young wife, having had the news of her marriage broken to her, cries for the husband she does not even know by sight. If no husband be forthcoming she will go out of her mind, says the specialist, who ought to know. Problem, what is to be done? If the Prince leaves his principality, we are given to understand that his throne will totter to its fall; if he does not leave it, his wife will die or go mad. A little council of three plotting in a Paris café decide to save the poor lady's reason by paying some one to personate the absent husband. Enter at this moment Mr. George Alexander, an Irish ne'er-do-weel, soldier of fortune, journalist, and drunkard, but gentleman at heart. The plotters, who consist of the physician, a Novodnian diplomat, and a young Englishman, hail him as their man, and the absinthe-soaked Denis Mallory, after some scruples, accepts the delicate and not over nice task. He does not at first know that the lady is really married; her talk of Prince Carl he apparently accepts as a sign of dementia, but he has seen the lady from his studio window, and he loves her. The convent garden where she walks is immediately below his studio window; you open the window and jump into the garden—rather unusual, you may think, but let it pass. It is a very charming garden, and here every day Denis meets the beautiful American Princess, and the two fall desperately in love. If better written, these scenes would have been charming; the setting is exquisite, and the situation is good, for the man soon learns that the Princess is truly married, and he is torn between his sense of honour and his overmastering love. He flies to drink, but absinthe only makes his head grow fonder, and so the plot thickens until there bursts in upon them, through the studio window, a furious Prince, who has left his throne to totter for a moment and come to see his wife. He is at first enraged with Denis Mallory, then understands, and makes him his staunch friend, but the duped wife, who now learns the truth, bitterly upbraids the man who has stolen her heart. The Prince goes back to the tottery throne, and Denis accompanies him, hoping to find death in Novodnia, but when the throne finally totters

and falls it is the Prince who is killed, and Denis, after a year in which he is mourned as dead, recovers of some dire wounds, and in the old Garden of Lies finds his Princess and forgiveness. I like the sound of the story here as I write it better than I liked it when I saw it at the St. James's. Mr. Alexander throws himself into the part of the Irish adventurer with splendid energy, but I never yet knew, or heard of, absinthe exercising such a curious effect on any one. At one moment he is a raving madman, a slave to drink; the next he is Mr. Alexander, a quiet, restrained, courteous man of the world, wearing his clothes with distinction and without even what is vulgarly known as "a head on him." He makes so fine an effort to carry the play through triumphantly that he deserves to be better supported. He quotes hackneyed lines from Omar and Herrick with fine feeling, and blinds one at times to the weakness of the story. The ruler of Novodnia, cleverly played by Mr. Dansey, looks just like one of those obscure Teutonic princes whose portraits appear for the first time in the illustrated papers when their wives run away from them, and whose appearance always seems to offer more than sufficient explanation of the scandal. I could not help wondering why the beautiful American married him at the beginning, but I can very easily understand why she decided to make her memory a blank on the subject of her marriage. He is bald and ugly and unromantic. At the end I was forced to the conclusion that she married him solely in order to become a Princess, and my sympathy for her largely vanished. Mr. Kinghorne, as the Scotch physician always complaining of his inadequate remuneration, represented a type with which I am unfamiliar, while I utterly failed to understand Mallory's friend, Mr. Leslie Faber, who insulted him by refusing to take his hand when he undertook his sorry task, and then turned up in the Irishman's studio the next day calling him "dear old fellow." I saw afterwards why the physician, the diplomatist, and the friend were obliged to refuse to shake hands with Mallory. It was merely in order that when Mr. Alexander returned from Novodnia covered with glory he could refuse to shake hands with them when they clamoured for the honour, but such devices partake of the nature of "clap-trap." I have left Miss Braithwaite to the last. Whatever the faults of the play, her part as the deceived Princess is a good acting part. It is full of tender scenes, and has one great moment when she discovers the trick that has been played on her. If she had brought something to the play she would have saved many passages, and there would not have been that pitiable tendency to laugh at wrong moments which was unfortunately noticeable. She tried, but failed; the thing was beyond her, and I was sorry for Mr. Alexander, because it did not seem to me that any one gave him support at the crucial moments. Fine acting requires responsiveness on the part of the person with whom you are playing. Miss Braithwaite's gentle amiability is never responsive, and she has no great emotions. Broadly speaking, any one can play a fine play, but second-rate work demands much of the actors. Mr. Alexander alone seemed to realise this, and, as I said before, if "The Garden of Lies" is a popular success, as I do not doubt it will be, to him will all the credit be due.

"Winnie Brooke, Widow," at the Criterion.

Long ago in these columns I prophesied that Miss Ada Reeve would one day give up musical comedy and urged some dramatist to write her a play. Mr. Malcolm Watson has flung himself into the breach, and I wish I could say successfully. Unfortunately "Winnie Brooke" is not a good play, but merely a commonplace farce. When played in the country I believe it was a musical comedy. It has come to town stripped of its music, and as a consequence it is bare and unsatisfactory. Act I. is rather funny. Act II. is not so funny. Act III. is not at all funny. And a play which progresses in this wise is severely handicapped, because whatever amused at the beginning is forgotten in the boredom of the finish. The whole thing is triumphantly obvious, and when the curtain rises on a sort of modern "monkery," showing a number of fatuous young men who have donned red cloaks of celibacy because they have been crossed in love, we all know what will happen. Even before we learn that the "monkery" is conterminous with a seminary for young ladies, or before that vivacious widow Miss Reeve insinuates herself inside the walls of an establishment where petticoats are banned, the course which events will take is so patent that the interest is gone. Miss Reeve did her bravest and best; she has many faults at present, but they are the faults of promise, not of mediocrity. Her worst failing is a habit of taking the audience into her confidence and calling them to witness how cleverly she scores off her companions on the stage, but she is chic and fascinating, and only wants a good part in a good play. Mr. Robb Harwood made much, rather too much, of the part of a singularly unpleasant clergyman, Mr. Eric Lewis laboured like a Trojan in a thankless part, and Miss Drusilla Wills gave a capital sketch of a laundry girl, but one and all deserved better material. I am afraid "Winnie Brooke" comes poorly through my second visit test.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE PRINCESS AND THE COUNT.

"C'EST très Parisien." "What," you may ask, "is so Parisian?" To see on the first page of the journals two or three opening columns devoted to the "Princess Louise and the Count Mattachich," and the greatest battle of modern times, the battle of Liao-yang, relegated to the fourth and fifth columns of the same page. The fugitive Princess and the Count have *une bonne presse*. There can be no sort of doubt that she was a prisoner in a *maison de santé*, and at the hotel where she stayed when she went to take the waters of Elster, in Saxony, her lady, Fräulein von Gebauer, slept in the bedroom to the right of that of the Princess, the *femme de chambre* in the one on the left, and a sort of warder in a room across the corridor. The night warder walked up and down that passage or sat on a chair near the door of the chamber serving as a prison. That door was locked outside from the time the feminine attendants left their royal charge until they returned. She

drove out, but in a motor-car going at a high rate of speed. A jump from such a vehicle would have been attended with loss of life or, at least, with broken bones. The Princess might have risked the leap had she not kept on hoping that her Géza would certainly rescue her. Cyclists followed the motor. At Elster, a whole corps of gendarmes were mobilised to watch the approaches to the hotel, and a photo of the Princess given to each man. The first opportunity the Croatian Captain had of giving the Princess the assurance of his unchanged sentiments was at an art exhibition at Dresden. She had asked to be taken there, perhaps acting on some mysteriously given hint. The doctor who keeps the "sanatorium" where she stayed near Coswig went with her. She seemed enchanted with the pictures, the dresses of the ladies about, and went, apparently amused and interested, from painting to painting. Coming up to one which a gentleman seemed to be looking at with interest, she found herself face to face with Count Géza, who had a party of friends near him. They both conversed as freely as if no Saxon Forbes-Winslow were near, and he may be said to have renewed his vows of eternal fidelity. This incident led to a closer watch. The Princess, rendered prudent by hard experience, played well her part in protesting, whenever it was mentioned, that she had had enough of romance, and had begun to aspire to the contentment that is found in a quiet life. She appeared to take pleasure in such amusements as her keepers allowed, and to let herself be absorbed in trifling occupations. Tzigane concerts interested her, and they took her to Tzigane concerts in the grounds. The Count, as a violinist, got in there. He dropped, before the concert began, bits of paper near the seat reserved for the Princess. She picked them up, and read his letters. She sometimes ran into a throng at the close of a concert, the lady in attendance behind holding her skirt. She found means to receive notes from persons who seemed to hustle her, and read them in the solitude of her own room. Nothing went well in the rescue plans until Count Mattachich secured the help of two Frenchmen, one of whom went to stay at the hotel where she had rooms at Elster. The night of her escape she and her lady had gone to the theatre. Means were taken to apprise her that relief would come at eleven o'clock that night, and what steps she should take to help her deliverer. A dog had been given to her. She had grown fond of it, and acted on the suggestion of her keepers to have it in her rooms at night. Their idea in giving her the dog was to make it an unconscious auxiliary. They knew it would bark furiously if any stranger found his way in by stealth to the Princess. This had been foreseen by those who arranged for the flight. The Princess was to let the dog, towards ten o'clock, run about the corridor, and somebody he knew would pick it up and give him a hypodermic injection of morphine. By the appointed hour the drug would have taken effect. All that is wanting in this romantic affair is the co-operation of Mme. Bob Walter and the motorist who discharges Gretna Green tasks for her. In dismissing Fräulein von Gebauer, the Princess spoke of the heat of the theatre as having fatigued her. She begged to be allowed a good long morning's sleep—say until ten, or half-past. She did not go to bed, and she took all her jewels, some of which are valuable, and the few thousand francs in her possession. Before the attendant came into her room with the breakfast tray she, the Count, and his friends, who followed in a second fleet motor, had a start of eleven and a half hours.

Count Géza Mattachich made 50,000 fr. by the sale of his memoirs and jottings of the Princess, which revealed the temptations to which she found herself exposed when she first went to reside at the Coburg Palace at Buda-Pesth. Her husband has a close hand. His brother Ferdinand used to offer her money and jewellery, and they sometimes had races round the great dining-hall, she generally running fastest. She had been sought in marriage from the strong motive of vanity. Her father, King Leopold, had then a European prestige which his mercantile genius has since diminished. Her Royal standing would give her high precedence at the Court of Vienna, and add to the dignity of the Kohary Coburgs, and she had brilliant monetary expectations, though but a trumpery dowry of 40,000 fr. a year. Other high and mighty personages besides Prince Ferdinand proposed to serve her as bankers and to minister to her fancies in jewellers' shops. She found but three estimable persons at the Court of Vienna—her mother-in-law, the Archduke Joseph, and the Emperor. The Emperor's mind from an early phase of her married life had been poisoned against her. As he under all circumstances means well she cannot blame him for his manner towards her throughout their last interview. The late Queen of the Belgians, according to the "jottings," agreed that it would be less hostile to God's law to divorce Prince Philip of Coburg than go on living with him. The King held an opposite opinion, and preached to his daughter the social necessity of using her husband as a screen.

Le Journal, which published the "memoirs" and the "jottings," took an interest in the rescue scheme, and sent a trusty member of its staff to watch progress at Coswig and Elster and bring to Paris an account of the event directly it had taken place. He had also instructions to make inquiry at Vienna as to the charges brought against Count Mattachich at the instance of Prince Philip. He never wrote the name of her sister, the Archduchess Rudolph, on a promissory note. The Princess once did so, at a time when her relations with her sister were intimate and affectionate. This was morally wrong and illegal. But she was sorely pressed for money, and could not hope to wring any out of her husband by other means. She foresaw the refusal of the Archduchess to pay and the intervention of the Emperor. He afterwards obliged Prince Philip to pay the money-lender. A reason for thrusting the Princess Philip into the private asylum was to prevent her appearing as a witness for Mattachich. He stood his trial before a court-martial

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for the use made of Stéphanie's name, and met with a sentence of five years' imprisonment and the loss of military rank and civil rights. He never owned to the forgery, and asked for the Princess to be examined. His advocate declared as much to the gentleman sent to him by *Le Journal*. He also pressed for the examination of the Princess. This the Public Prosecutor declared impossible, she being in confinement as a lunatic. It is her intention to sue for a divorce, and to appear as a witness for the Count. His advocate advises him to demand a new trial, and not with closed doors either.

Le Journal promises startling accusations against Prince Philip, the King of the Belgians, and the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein, brother-in-law of the German Emperor. He seems to have inherited the passion of the late Duchess-Dowager for luxurious beautifying baths and clothing. She spent many years in a *maison de santé* near Dresden. Her chief daily task was to attend to her appearance and her wardrobe, so that she should be well equipped against she received a call to go to reign in Paris as Empress of the French. The Duke wanted, when under orders to proceed to Manchuria to study military operations there, to take five hundred boxes. The Czar reduced the number to fifty. General Kuropatkin has since vehemently protested against his being sent at all. His Serene Highness is, in consequence, not to go. I am unable to think in what way the Duke can be brought into the Princess Louise scandal. Nor can anything worse be said about King Leopold than what the French papers have so often given. Every one knows that Prince Philip has lived at Vienna the life of a fine gentleman. We cannot forget that he went to Meyerling with the Crown Prince Rudolph on the evening of the fatal 30th of January, 1889.

Captain de Cuverville, one of the missing attachés who left Port Arthur a short time ago, is son of Vice-Admiral and Senator de Cuverville. The latter is ex-head of the General Staff at the Marine Ministry. So far as he could under the rule there of M. Lockroy, he dedicated the French Navy to St. Michael. He wholly dedicated the Mediterranean Squadron, when under his command, to that saint. The Admiral, a bluff and very capable seaman, claims to have saved a man-of-war in this way. A fire broke out with such great violence that pumps seemed of no avail. A hasty prayer coupled with a vow caused an almost instantaneous lull in a gale that had been blowing, and a downpour comparable to a flood. He respectfully conveyed to the Russian Marine Minister last February his conviction that Michael intercedes for Russia against the yellow race. Every one who knows the Admiral well loves him, and not least the free-thinking M. Lockroy. That Captain de Cuverville grew up a fervent believer in St. Michael is not wonderful. He refused to quit Port Arthur in the same train as the Grand Duke Cyril. It is hoped that his faith may have kept him there when the other military and naval attachés left. He might have reflected that the saint and archangel limits his protection to fortresses, and leaves that of persons at sea to other celestial personages. The navigation of the Bay of Pechili is now perilous in the extreme. The junks that go down are endless. Nobody troubles about the quality of those who may have perished in them.

A marriage in which both parties have reached the age of sixty-five is, beyond all doubt, a *mariage de raison*. If, however, the bridegroom alone has reached that age of respectability, while the bride-elect will be but twenty-three at next birthday, then all the chances are that it is a love match—on one side, at any rate. This consideration, by itself, would account for the interest taken by Paris society in the coming event of next week, in the marriage of M. Arthur Meyer and Mlle. de Turenne. The young lady's family, connected with the Fitzjames', belongs to the oldest nobility of France. M. Arthur Meyer's nobility is of still older origin, for it mounts up, by a ladder as long as that of Bethel, to Abraham.

M. Meyer's career is one of the most extraordinary instances of success conquered by dint of perseverance in the teeth of all sorts of obstacles and prejudices. That a born Jew should have made the *Gaulois* newspaper what it is, the organ of the most exclusive Royalist and Catholic society, is in itself sufficiently wonderful, but when the other difficulties he encountered are considered the fact appears as nothing short of a miracle. M. Meyer started in life as the secretary of a professional beauty; this was thrown in his teeth many years after. As a Jew, he was furiously attacked by M. Drumont at the time anti-Semitism was powerful. He challenged his assailant, and a duel with swords was fought. M. Meyer, who had never handled a foil, finding himself in the presence of a skilled fencer, lost his presence of mind. Overmastered by the instinct of self-preservation, he seized his adversary's sword with the left hand (cutting himself badly while so doing), and with his right hand he ran his own weapon through M. Drumont's body. The editor of the *Libre Parole* was for some weeks between life and death.

M. Meyer lived this incident down. His paper became more and more the organ of Orleanists. The Duke of Orleans wrote to a friend (about the same time as the Duke's letter to Willette on Queen Victoria): "Have nothing to do with that low Jew." The letter was published in the whole Paris Press—except the *Gaulois*, of course. It does not seem to have injured M. Meyer a bit, and I was told that the young Pretender apologised to M. Arthur Meyer just as he apologised to the late Queen.

The editor of the *Gaulois* did not even go through the form of baptism. Dowagers remarked to him: "It is such a pity, dear M. Meyer, that a man like you, with such truly Catholic sympathies, does not join the Church formally. You belong already to the soul of the Church. Alas, that you should not yet belong to its body!" M. Meyer replied that nobody grieved more sincerely over this situation than he did, but—"Que voulez-vous? Je n'ai pas encore la foi;" though he prayed hard to

get it. People liked him the more for this reply. In the minds of the dowagers, it is of little account if a man thinks wrong, provided he votes on the right side. M. Meyer was in the heyday of his prosperity when, nine years back, at a gala performance at the Opera organised by him in honour of the Russian naval officers, he took in on his arm the Russian Ambassadress, Baronne de Mohrenheim. He had not yet received the baptismal waters, and had he ventured on a visit to St. Petersburg, he would have been turned out neck and crop.

His name has been identified with that of a certain Duchess Dowager of great wealth and unbounded generosity. He gave her the kind of advertisement she wanted, and she pushed him in Royalist and aristocratic circles. He attacked M. Loubet, who, during the Félix Faure presidency, inflicted a severe wound on her *amour propre*. No more than the heart of man is the heart of woman ever satisfied. The Duchess wished for fame as a sculptor and the red ribbon. To this end she executed that Emile Augier monument for a public place at Valence which the Committee of the Champs Elysées Salon refused. The poet, large as life, appeared seated before a square table, pen in hand, and as if beating his brain for ideas. When she could not get it into the Salon she exhibited it in front of Ledoyen's restaurant and then sent it to Valence. M. Félix Faure promised to go from the inauguration of a Ponsard monument in that town to unveil the one designed by the Duchess, if not exactly modelled by her. He would have kept his promise had not M. Loubet, as president of the County Council of the Drôme, backed by the majority, protested. He declared that if M. Félix Faure persevered in his intention an important section of County Councillors and the great majority of mayors would think it their duty not to appear at Valence when M. Faure came there. The Duchess had been an active fomenter of the Boulangist agitation, and subscribed more money to the General's war fund than all the other enemies of the Republic. To decorate her must cause painful astonishment everywhere in France. She and M. Arthur Meyer never forgave M. Loubet for preventing her triumph as a sculptor of genius. When he invited her, as president of an association of lady artists, to the gala soirée at the Opera in honour of King Edward, she sent back the invitation. The *Gaulois* applauded this display of "hatred and contempt" for M. Loubet.

It is now asked whether the Duchess has not helped M. Meyer as a suitor. She belongs to the same set as the Turenne-Fitzjames families. It may have been represented to the Comte and Comtesse de Turenne that talent is too seldom found on the Royalist and Catholic side for them to risk allowing M. Meyer to marry a conforming Jewess. He deserves well of them for having encouraged his first lieutenant, M. Polonnais, to demand public baptism of the curé of Sainte Clotilde's. The religious marriage is to come off at Versailles, and none but members of the Turenne family, intimate friends, and witnesses are invited. Society knows not what to think.

The future Mme. Arthur Meyer is descended from the first Duke of Berwick and his second wife, Miss Bulkeley. Louis the Fourteenth made him Duc de St. James for the advantage of the eldest son of this marriage, and gave him the fief of St. James in Picardy, where the late Mlle. Croizette, as Baroness Stern, had her racing stud. The title of Berwick went to the eldest branch, and has come down with that of Alva to a great-nephew of the Empress Eugénie. The bride's grandmother, *née* Loevenhielm, is daughter of a Swedish Minister in Paris in the reigns of Louis Philippe and Napoleon III. I remember seeing her at balls a good many years ago, and thinking her extremely like portraits of the eccentric Queen Christina, daughter and heiress of Gustavus Adolphus. She looked a harsh, clear-headed little woman, wilful, proud, ably active, and mannish in a curiously feminine way. She introduced the American vine into France, and planted her very extensive vineyards in the Gard with it to improve her old vines by grafting. Then came in the phylloxera. The vineyards of the Duchess withstood the malady, and she found a gold mine in them when the vine disease ravaged France. The future Mme. Meyer is descended from a collateral of Marshal de Turenne and, I have heard, from William the Silent, Prince of Orange.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

AN industrious and curious politician, dear Lady Betty, has discovered the address of every member of the House of Lords and the House of Commons during the last half of the late month of August, and he is astonishing his friends by showing how many of our legislators are spending British money in foreign countries. He reminds those friends that he heard continually in the House of Commons during the late Session that the country is suffering severely because money is exceptionally scarce, and in consequence of the decrease of trade; that every patriotic Englishman should give the preference to the produce of British labour; and that Protection must be resumed to compel our fellow-countrymen and women to buy home-made commodities. He declares that he cannot understand, therefore, why so many members of the Houses of Lords and Commons have hurried out of the country after the close of the Session, for not only are they buying foreign produce unnecessarily, but their example is inducing thousands of less prominent persons than they are themselves to spend the holidays out of England.

He has communicated with some of his absent colleagues, and all of these have answered that the heavy and rich dinners they have eaten during the season had affected their digestion, and this has made it necessary for them to undergo a cure. That, he declares, is an especially singular explanation, for it is little else than a confession that they have eaten too much while they were entreating their fellow-country men and women to take immediate action to relieve the rapidly-increasing thousands who are starving!

Moreover, he reminds his friends that many members of the Houses of Lords and Commons are endeavouring to exclude poor foreigners from this country because they take money out of the pockets of our labourers, but he has discovered that as many English men and women visit foreign lands every year, and they pour out in these much more money which should find its way into the pockets of British workpeople. He argues that if it is objectionable that poor emigrants should take money out of our pockets it is considerably more so that rich and well-to-do English men and women should empty their own pockets into foreign hands.

The friends of that politician say that his mind is affected; that he imagines that politics is a game which disinterested persons play at for the benefit of the public instead of being a game which interested persons play at for their own benefit.

. . . . .

Meanwhile, it is said that many deer-forests, rivers, sporting estates, and country houses, which, generally, are hired at high rents, have not been let this year. There are those who declare that this is an unmistakable sign that money is unusually scarce in the country. The more intelligent, however, maintain that during the last twenty years there has been an enormous increase, not only in the number of rich men and women there are in the country, but in the fortunes which some of them possess. The proprietors of deer-forests, rivers, shooting estates, and country houses, therefore, have raised the rents very considerably, and these luxuries are now no longer within the reach of the moderately rich who used formerly to secure them. The very wealthy men of to-day employ much of their money in acquiring speculative shares, and when these are for the moment depreciated, the millionaires have to retrench. It is not, therefore, because the country has less well-to-do persons than it had that the deer-forests and estates are unlet this year, but because the proprietors have raised the rents of their properties so considerably that only those who are enormously rich can hire them, and the rich men of this calibre are for the moment in comparatively embarrassed circumstances.

The great increase in the number of persons in England who have large fortunes, and the unequalled increase in the size of many of those fortunes, have induced those who have something to sell to almost double the prices they used formerly to exact. Prices have increased enormously in this country in almost every direction during the last twenty years. If some occurrence, or a combination of circumstances, injuriously affects the very rich class of customers, those prices are quickly seen to be unreasonable. Did hotel-keepers and others only charge the prices they did twenty years ago, they would find, even in this crisis, that the demand for the accommodation and fare they provide is fully treble that which it was then.

. . . . .

By a complicated process of reasoning an unusually interesting conclusion is now reached. Two developments in modern English life are here laid bare: on the one side the prices have all been considerably advanced because there are now so many people in this country who are very rich, and some of them have such enormous fortunes; and, on the other, in a thousand ways we are providing excursions, amusements, provisions, accommodation, and even luxuries, for the more or less impecunious millions. The large class of moderately well-to-do persons which exists between those two extremes, however, is being sacrificed ruthlessly. That is part of the process known as the Americanisation of England.

It will be sufficient to direct attention to a rapidly approaching development to make this part of the argument clear. The directors of several of our railway companies are prepared to abolish the first-class carriages on their respective systems. When that alteration is completed there will be but one class for the ordinary traveller; it will be better arranged than is the third-class of to-day, and the fares will, generally, be less than they are. Those changes will greatly benefit the million. On the other hand, the millionaires, and those who wish to appear to be millionaires, will possess their private cars, as the very rich do in the United States. That will be a luxury altogether out of the reach of the moderately well-to-do, who will then be forced down to the level of the multitude. That process of forcing them down has been begun in many directions, and will rapidly be continued on all sides. Pretensions of almost every sort must be suppressed by circumstances; wealth alone may afford to indulge in them! There must be none but the millionaires and the millions!

That brings the argument to the heart of the matter. It is a mark of a leading country to lead: Is Great Britain or are the United States leading the civilised World? Is England originating its own developments, or is it willingly, or unwillingly, adopting those which have been accepted in the United States? Is it from Great Britain or from the United States that come now the great discoveries; that have come the telephone, electric traction, the phonograph, and photography of motion? Are the women of the civilised world forming themselves on the patterns provided by British or by American women? Are the men throughout Europe adopting trade because Englishmen have become workers, or have our peers and well-connected men followed in this the example set them in the United States? Are our own institutions and those of foreign countries not now very obviously shaping themselves in accordance with the patterns given us by America?

It is granted that Great Britain was never larger and richer than it is to-day, but it is obvious that it is the United States, and not Great Britain, that is leading the world. An American may now justly say to England: "The immediate past belongs to you; for us is the immediate future."—Believe me to be very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

CERTAIN of the sporting papers have at various times printed a great deal of laudatory nonsense about Sir James Miller's colt San Roque, the three-year-old own brother to Rock Sand. He was several times mentioned during the spring as a promising dark candidate for the Derby, and was actually backed for that race by some infatuated noodles, while in the summer he was positively "tipped" in large letters for a certain race by writers whose fancy for him was obviously founded in the most utter ignorance. It was stated long ago in Truth that San Roque was by no means a promising colt, that he had not been doing any work worth notice, and that it was very improbable that he would ever distinguish himself on the Turf. That my early information on the subject was correct is proved by the fact that he was last week struck out of all engagements for this year. San Roque was highly thought of as a yearling, and last season he commenced his two-year-old career with forty engagements, including all the classic races and many heavy stakes, so there will be a heavy account to pay for his forfeits.

It was announced in several papers that in the Doncaster Cup Zinfandel would have to give a lot of extra weight to Almscliff. Lord Howard de Walden's horse would have carried a penalty of 7 lb., and it is apparently assumed that Almscliff is a maiden, although people might surely remember that he won two races at Stockton only the other day. As a matter of fact, Zinfandel and Almscliff would have met at weight for age, as Lord Harewood's colt has incurred a penalty of 7 lb. by his victory in the Gratwicke Stakes at Goodwood.

The writers who were drivelling about M. E. Blanc's "uncertainty," "caprice," and so on and so forth must eat dirt now that Ajax has been struck out of all engagements. The fact is that Ajax was a certain starter at Doncaster if he had kept well, and he was scratched for the St. Leger only because (as was stated in Truth last week) he had met with a serious accident. One wiseacre audaciously announced that Ajax had been withdrawn from the St. Leger because the stake is not valuable enough to be an object to M. E. Blanc. Another dunderhead animadverted upon the delay in scratching Ajax, which had resulted in money being got out of the French horse. Such crazy *contes de ma mère l'oie* are beneath contempt. Ajax has never been beaten, and the early close of his

Turf career is a real calamity for M. E. Blanc, as the horse had many rich engagements both in France and in England, and he appeared certain to win most of them if only he kept well. He has won five races of the value of over £27,000. Ajax, like his sire, Flying Fox, will go to the stud at the age of four. I am told that Adam, own brother to Ajax, is the best-looking of all M. E. Blanc's fine lot of two-year-olds. This colt, who has not yet started, has no English engagements. However, M. E. Blanc appears to have a bright prospect of winning the Middle Park Plate with either Jardy or Val d'Or. Jardy is by Flying Fox (a Derby winner) out of Airs and Graces (an Oaks winner), and he is a very fine colt, and is believed to stay well. Airs and Graces was bred by the Duke of Portland in 1895, and he weeded her out of his stud as a yearling, which was a truly tragical transaction. Mr. Jones, an Australian sportsman, was the purchaser of Airs and Graces, who won him the Oaks of 1898; and as a four-year-old she ran second to Irish Ivy for the Cambridgeshire, when she had been backed to win a great stake. She was afterwards sold to M. E. Blanc. Val d'Or is by Flying Fox out of Wandora, dam of Vinicius.

About twelve months ago Lady Meux's yearlings of last season were offered in a lot to Mr. George Lambton, who took several of them for Lord Derby, including Verdiana, sister to Volodyovski, winner of the Prince of Wales's Plate at York. Mr. Lambton declined Vedas, and his refusal to purchase this colt has been severely criticised during the summer. After the singularly unsatisfactory exhibition the animal gave in the Gimcrack Stakes at York, it looks as if Mr. Lambton had been quite right. I fancy it will turn out that we have already seen the best of Vedas as a racer, and if Cicero stands training as a three-year-old he will very likely discover himself to be a non-stayer.

It is said that Mr. J. R. Keene will have a dangerous American candidate for next year's Derby, but the two-year-old Sysonby in this stable, about whom many writers have been thrown into paroxysms of enthusiasm, was beaten the other day in the Futurity Stakes, the great race of the season in the United States, which was considered to be a good thing for him.

The Duke of Westminster's three-year-old filly King's Favour, by Persimmon out of Phantassie, who cost 5,600 gs. as a yearling, and who has never won a race, broke down badly at York, and I hear that she is to be relegated to the stud. It may be hoped that she will be more successful as a brood mare than she has turned out as a racer.

St. Simon's subscription for next season is full at the fee of 500 gs. The son of Galopin and Penitent is now in his twenty-fourth year, and he is at present second on the list of winning sires, Gallinule (by Isonomy) being first, while St. Frusquin (son of St. Simon) is third. Of the younger sires, Cyllene (fifth) has done by far the best, and I am not surprised that his subscription for next season should be full at the reasonable fee of 100 gs. It was a lucky day for the Duke of Portland in July, 1883, when he bought St. Simon at the sale of Prince Batthyany's stud, by the advice of Matthew Dawson, for 1,500 gs. Before that month was out the colt had proved himself to be a good investment by cantering away with the Halnaker Stakes at Goodwood. It was a curious fact that St. Simon, who was far and away the best horse ever bred by Prince Batthyany, was entered as a yearling for very few races, and his engagements did not include the Derby of 1884.

M. Ephrussi's Champ d'Or, winner of the Futurity Stakes at Baden-Baden, is a smart filly, and it is perhaps as well for English owners that she has no engagement in this country. Champ d'Or is by War Dance out of Eighteen Carat (own sister to Siffleuse). The dam was purchased by M. Ephrussi from Major Fife for 470 gs. at the Newmarket Winter Sales in 1899.

Entries close next Monday for a large number of events at Newmarket, including the Jockey Club Stakes of £10,000 for 1907, this race being open to foals of 1904 and upwards. The amount to be divided between second and third is £2,250, and this is to be made up out of the stakes "if sufficient surplus be not obtained from subscriptions." The people who manage (with an additional syllable) these matters at Newmarket are certainly among the most determined enemies of every species of change, however obviously desirable and salutary, and any improvement must always be forced upon them from without. Every one has been pointing out the folly and absurdity of permitting a breeding allowance to be a perpetual benefit. We see the mischievous results of so nonsensical an arrangement in the case of Rock Sand, and it was suggested that the aforesaid allowance should be extinguished in the case of the winner of £3,000 or upwards. However, the somnolent muddlers at Newmarket have taken no notice of this sensible proposal, the conditions as to allowances remaining unaltered. *Stupiditas stupiditatum!* Moreover, in a race of this class it is ridiculous to inflict a penalty for winning a stake of £500, and the penalty for a winner of £1,000 should be 3 lb. instead of 6 lb.

Rock Sand's 9 lb. breeding allowance (after winning the Two Thousand, the Derby, and the St. Leger!) simply smashed the Princess of Wales's Stakes, with disastrous results to the Newmarket finances. The Jockey Club Stakes, to be run on the 29th, will similarly collapse. John o' Gaunt has been struck out of all his engagements this year, and in any case he would have only 2 lb. the better of the weights with Rock Sand, who meets St. Amant with an advantage of 7 lb. It is said that St. Denis is in reserve for the Jockey Club Stakes. Be this as it may, the prospects of Mr. Joel's colt do not appear to be particularly bright, as Rock Sand can surely find no difficulty in giving him 10 lb. I have always believed that the Derby was altogether a false-run race, and that Gouvernant might just as well have been in his stable for all the good he was on that afternoon. The place gained by St. Denis was probably an arrant fluke, attributable far more to luck than to merit.

I see it is stated that the Duke of Devonshire would be at Doncaster to see Full Cry run for the Champagne Stakes. The Duke left Bolton Abbey for Homburg on Saturday, the 27th ult., and he will not be racing again until the Newmarket First October meeting. The Duchess left Bolton Abbey on August 19 for Aix-le-Bains, and they will be abroad until the 25th. Full Cry will probably miss her engagement in the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park on October 7, in order that she may be kept fresh for the Middle Park Plate. She might not be able to give 10 lb. to Sir Daniel Cooper's filly Fleta at Kempton Park. Full Cry is also in the Dewhurst Plate.

There are eleven subscribers to the Boscawen Post Stakes of £100 each, to run at the Newmarket First October meeting, 1906. The King, who heads the list, has entered a filly foal by St. Simon out of Meadow Chat (dam of Mead), and a colt by Persimmon out of Courtly. One of Lord Derby's pair is a colt by Orme out of St. Victorine. Lord Ellesmere has engaged two foals by King's Courier. Mr. A. James has an own sister to Rabelais. One of Sir J. Miller's pair is a filly by Chaleureux out of Roquebrune, dam of Rock Sand. Mr. W. Bass, Lord Howard de Walden, the Duke of Portland, and Mr. Musker are among the other subscribers. One of Mr. Musker's is an own brother to Henry the First. Lord Wolverton has engaged a colt by Flying Fox out of Woodbury.

New stands are being built at Newmarket on the Plantation side of the July Course.

A sporting paper, in a rigmarole dissertation on past racing, states that Cotherstone was the first Derby winner "under the Streatlam colours." As a matter of fact,

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the first Derby won by "the Streatlam colours" was the race of 1835, which Mundig, by Catton, carried off for Mr. John Bowes. Cotherstone, by Touchstone, half-brother to Mundig, was his second winner, and he was successful in 1843. Mr. Bowes won his third Derby in 1853 with West Australian, by Melbourne, whose dam was own sister to Cotherstone. Cotherstone also won the Two Thousand, and West Australian won both the Two Thousand and the St. Leger. It was odd that Mr. Bowes never won either the One Thousand or the Oaks. His Turf career extended over more than half a century, and he was a member of the Jockey Club during the greater part of that period.

Entries close next Tuesday for the St. Leger of 1906. The race remains a sweepstakes of £25 each, and resembles the Two Thousand Guineas and the One Thousand in offering the subscribers only their own money to run for. The pecuniary conditions of the Grand Prix de Paris, which stake also closes on Tuesday, are in striking contrast to those of the Doncaster event. There is £8,000 of added money, the sweepstakes also going to the winner, and a subscriber can "get out" for £4 by declaring forfeit about six weeks before the race is run. The Grand Prix is both the richest and the cheapest stake in Europe. There is also a bonus of £600 for the breeder of the winner if the animal has been foaled in France, and it may be noted that this bonus is an addition to the added money, and is not subtracted from the stakes, as is the beggarly custom in England.

A number of races close also on Tuesday at Liverpool (1905 and 1906), at Chester, at Gatwick, Hurst Park, Lincoln (including next year's Brocklesby Stakes), Lingfield, Manchester, and York. There are races of £2,000 (1906) and of £5,000 and £2,500 (1907) at Gatwick; and events of £1,200 and £2,000 to run at Lingfield in 1907.

The *Standard* on Saturday included Major Loder's Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly, among the animals engaged in the Champagne Stakes, whereas she was withdrawn from that race when the minor forfeit was declared on July 5.

Lord Gerard, who will come of age in November, intends to become an owner of racehorses. It may be hoped that he will be more fortunate than his father, whose Turf career was by no means successful, although he did win some important races. The great blunder of the late Lord Gerard was the sale of Pilgrimage when a two-year-old to the late Lord Lonsdale only a week or two before she discovered herself to be one of the smartest animals of the season. Pilgrimage was certainly the best three-year-old of 1878, and she would have won the Derby if she had been entered, and the Oaks and St. Leger if she had kept on her legs. Fortune was very kind to the late Lord Falmouth in two successive years, for in 1877 the breakdown of Chamant gave the Derby and St. Leger to Silvio, while in 1878 the collapse of Pilgrimage allowed Jannette to win the Oaks and St. Leger.

Lord Dalmeny is also coming on the Turf, and he has registered his colours under both Newmarket and National Hunt Rules.

There was some interesting sport at Derby, but St. Amant did not start for the three-year-old stake, as the ground was dreadfully hard, so Mr. de Rothschild's colt was sent back to Newmarket on Wednesday morning. The withdrawal of St. Amant left the race at the mercy of Andover, whose defeat at York was palpably all wrong. The sensible people who backed Mr. Alexander's colt were wonderfully fortunate in being able to lay only 11 to 8 in consequence of the crack-brained rush on the Pace-Egger colt, who is dreadfully bad. Andover, of course, won in a canter, and plungers are not likely to be favoured with another such certainty in a hurry. There was the same melancholy collapse in the strength of the field that has been seen this season in so many valuable three-year-old races, for with 114 entries there were only four starters.

Cyanean was not sent to Derby, and Shah Jehan was made a great favourite for the principal two-year-old race. Sir Edgar Vincent's colt was considerably interfered with during the race, and if he had been favoured with a clear course he would probably have won. Shah Jehan is coming on, and he will probably win next time he starts. The winner turned up in Mr. Larnach's Helene, by Inferno out of Helen Mars, a dark filly, bred by Lord Londonderry, and purchased as a yearling for 140 gs. Mr. Joel's big colt Lancaster Gate won the Harrington Stakes easily, and if he stands training he will probably turn out a very smart three-year-old. Lancaster Gate, who is by Orme out of Serpentine, was bred by Lord Rosebery, and he cost only 110 gs. as a yearling. There was a large field for the Devonshire Nursery, the first event of that class which has been run this season. Laughter was declared to be a real good thing, and so general was the impression that she could not lose that the ridiculous price of 11 to 8 was finally taken about her in a field of sixteen! Laughter was in front for half a mile, and her backers were confidently counting their gains when she suddenly stopped, and there was a most exciting finish between Comedian, Little Dolly, and Reggie, who were separated only by short heads. The placed animals were all rank outsiders. Laughter evidently cannot stay beyond half a mile. It is always satisfactory to see a nursery won by the top-weight. This was a most successful handicap.

Killeevan started favourite for the Peveril of the Peak Plate, but it is now clear that she cannot stay a yard beyond six furlongs. The favourites were all out of it at the finish, the winner turning up in Marsden, who started at 20 to 1, his owner's investment being a "pony" only, as he was afraid to trust him. It was impossible to fancy Marsden, whose public form has been miserably bad this season, and his easy victory was a complete surprise to his owner and trainer.

Zinfandel is certainly a most unlucky horse. Last year he was not started for the Jockey Club Cup, when that race was an absolute certainty for him. This year he would have won the Ascot Cup if he had been judiciously ridden—*i.e.*, if his jockey had been ordered to come through, instead of insanely waiting. Now, when Zinfandel appeared likely to win the Doncaster Cup, he has fallen lame, and in his absence that race will be carried off by either Ypsilanti or Bachelor's Button.

The Cesarewitch and the Cambridgeshire need not be noticed until after the acceptances have been published. The early speculation on these handicaps is now all fiddle-faddle moonshine, and prudent people will leave them alone for several weeks to come.

Next week there will be racing at Warwick, Ayr, Yarmouth, and Windsor. The best sport will be at Ayr, where the West of Scotland Foal Stakes (£500 added) should be won by Thrush, who enjoys the benefit of a 10 lb. breeding allowance. There will be no racing of real importance after this week until the Newmarket First October meeting, which begins on the 27th inst.

Messrs. H. S. Persse, Ltd., have been exclusively commissioned to supply their Pure Pot Still Whiskey to the Doncaster Race Meeting.

SURREY CRICKET TROUBLES.

It is as difficult to drill sense into some people as it is easy to get nonsense out of them. A fortnight ago I published all the material parts of a semi-official communication that I received from a member of the Surrey Cricket Club. He attempted to justify the extraordinary proceedings of the Surrey authorities. In my opinion he utterly failed. He now writes me a long letter which he desires me to publish. I regret I cannot do so. He still fails to answer the questions which I put to him. The knowledge of facts is with him and with members of the Surrey Committee. If it were any advantage to him I would publish his letter, but

I must confess that I have little satisfaction in dealing with a correspondent who, when he is in the position to give facts, merely attempts to draw a red herring across the path. This is the method of the expert witness. I have seen such folk in the witness box. Their astuteness is apt to pall. Now let me endeavour to clear up one point. This gentleman accuses me of twisting and distorting what he says to suit my own invective against the Surrey Club. There was no occasion to twist or distort. The absurdities were patent to any one. The honorary defender of the club gave himself away all along the line. He made the best of bad materials. But what he and his friends will not understand is that I am animated by no hostile feelings against Surrey cricket or against the Surrey Committee or against the writer himself. I am dealing with a matter of public interest in which I take a personal interest. I write strongly because I feel strongly. I feel that somewhere or another—I may not be able to put my finger on the exact spot—there is some bungling and some mismanagement which demands correction. Other writers in the public press have called attention to the singular methods of selection adopted by the Surrey authorities. I have referred to the writer in the *Daily Telegraph*, and the *Daily Express* has certainly not been behindhand. If I remember rightly, Mr. Jessop, in either the *Mail* or *Express*, said that he wondered why Nice had not been for some time past a regular member of the team. Fortunately my correspondent gave me some glaring instances of mismanagement. He told me the captain had plenary powers of selecting men. The Selection Committee was only advisory. This is an instance of the nonsense that some folk talk. It is utterly absurd to suggest that such powers can possibly be exercised when the captain is changed in almost every match, as he was until Raphael took the post, and as he would be again if certain grumblers had their way. Some of the Surrey members would have turned Raphael out after the Middlesex match. They say he threw it away—just as though captains like Shuter were made in a day. Then, why on earth he was not elected straight away, instead of M'Donnell being given a match or two, I cannot understand. As with captains, so with players; there is no definite policy. There is continuous shuffling and shilly-shallying. As other instances of mismanagement, my correspondent gave me the cases of Abel and Baker. He seems to think that I imagined the circumstances of these two men applied to everybody. If they did matters would be infinitely worse than they are. In all conscience it is bad enough to be told that Abel is to play when he feels himself fit, and that Baker dictates his own terms to the Committee. My correspondent tells me that, with regard to Abel, such treatment was a mark of respect on the part of the Committee to one of the greatest cricketers that ever handled a bat. A more fuddled-headed compliment I cannot conceive. There could be nothing more likely to upset a team or impair a captain's power of selection than the fact that a player can play when he pleases. I would not play Ranjitsinhji or Fry, or Grace in his heyday, or poor Lohmann under such conditions. Then I am told that Baker's terms referred to the time he could give and his remuneration. When I am told a player made his own terms I want to know who is boss? My correspondent believes Baker has played more times than any other man for the county this season. I am not concerned with his beliefs. He has means of knowledge, and he could give the facts. He says he has seen what the *Daily Telegraph* said about K. J. Key and the captaincy of the Surrey team. In that paper it was stated that Mr. Key had had differences with the committee. But having only heard the ex-captain's statement, and not being in possession of the committee's version, the writer declined to comment on the matter. My correspondent admires the writer's imaginative genius. Until he sees an official statement from Mr. Key or the Surrey Club he will not accept such a statement as having any foundation in fact. I suppose he means that the writer in the *Telegraph* is not stating facts. But his method of dealing with the matter will not satisfy me. Having regard to his position, he is well able to get at all the facts. He is well able not merely to pooh-pooh the writer in the *Telegraph*, but he can actually show where he is wrong. He cannot reconcile such an idea, he says, with the fact that since his resignation Mr. Key has taken an active part in selecting the eleven to represent the county, and has on occasions captained the team. To my mind there is nothing inconsistent in such conduct. Mr. Key is a good sportsman and a gentleman. He would naturally place his services to an extent at the disposal of his old team rather than see it left in the lurch. He is not possessed of the relentless hatred of an eastern race. But what I cannot reconcile is the statement that Mr. Key has taken an active part in selecting the eleven with the previous statement that the Surrey Selection Committee was only advisory, and that the captain had an absolute discretion in the matter. I am very much afraid that this emphatic defender of the Surrey Committee has let the cat out of the bag with a vengence. He is singularly annoyed about the Braund incident. If Surrey were able to adopt the same tactics as were pursued by Somerset and Braund in the matter, they could, he says, have the best eleven in the world in a few years. Fortunately, he adds, the M.C.C. has passed a rule making such an action, legal at the time, impossible now. Really, his knowledge of incidents, when he chooses, is remarkable, and he is quite able to make seriously disparaging assertions without official statements to fortify his belief when such incidents do not reflect unfavourably, in his view, on the authorities of the Surrey Club. I do not care a rap about his views on the iniquity of Somerset. The point is that Braund would not have been lost to Surrey and become the faithful servant of Somerset if the Surrey Committee had had the wisdom to put him regularly into their team. Lastly, he says the members of the Surrey Club regret as much as any one else the changes in captaincy. He has not seen the name of any first-class cricketer in any paper who is able to devote his time to the office. He suggests that it would be kinder for the Press to find a captain instead of abusing the committee for not overcoming an impossibility. It seems to me that the Committee that allows a player as a compliment to play as and when he pleases, that allows another player to play on his own terms, and that permits an ex-captain to take an active part in selecting the team may be the real impossibility. My correspondent concludes by trusting that Mr. Raphael may long captain the team. But that, I fear, is another impossibility over which neither he nor the Committee has any control. In conclusion, let me repeat that I am imbued with no sense of hostility with regard to the Surrey Club or players. But it is by no stretch of imagination, but by a simple process of deduction from patent facts that I conclude there is something wrong with the works of the Surrey County Cricket Club.

I am asked to say that the Le Touquet International Championship Lawn Tennis Tournament, at which the referee and handicapper is Mr. G. M. Simond, will take place on September 19 and onwards. There are valuable challenge cups for the singles. Full particulars as to how to get there may be obtained of the secretary, Le Touquet Sports Office, 12 and 13, Nicholas-lane, E.C. For those whose geography is rusty, I may mention that Le Touquet adjoins Etaples, and is fifteen miles from Boulogne-sur-Mer. Travelling is made easy, and residence is cheap. I am almost tempted to become a lawn-tennis player myself for a week.

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MAMMON.

Stock Exchange Doing More — Prospects of Better Business—Easier Money and War Developments—Hopeful Markets—Leakage of News.

WITHOUT much improvement in the general volume of business carried through, there has nevertheless been more activity in the stock markets during the past week, and the feeling in the House has been noticeably better. The passing of the worst account of the year was of itself a good augury; there is reason to look forward, with the end of the holiday season, to more outside interest in the varied bargains which the Stock Exchange has to offer the speculator and the investor alike. Helpful influences are cheaper money and the war developments. At the moment there is such a flood of cash in the market that profitable employment for it in everyday banking business is not obtainable. The supply will not be so abundant by the end of the week, when the Bank of England has been repaid and the new Treasury bills are paid for, but bankers are more hopeful as to the immediate outlook than they have been for some time past, the dividend money having come out again, while a considerable sum in gold is on the way to this country, and half a million has arrived this week-end from India. The disturbing effects of a Saturday holiday in London and a Saturday and Monday holiday in New York are less marked than was the case a few months back, when such an event made itself felt a week in advance and for a week afterwards. Whether this coming autumn is or is not destined to witness really buoyant markets, operators are very hopeful; and certainly there are at least some departments which ought to go better, and which will go better, failing unexpected developments in Manchuria or a cataclysm of some sort. The one adverse influence is the war. If that were terminated markets would go ahead all round, and we might even have the boom which has so persistently eluded the touch of the fortune hunters; but until it is over there is bound to be unsettlement among investors here, which not even a plethora of capital would entirely remove. It is more than a little significant of the changed sentiment on the Continent, which was at one time a source of much weakness, that it should welcome a severe Russian defeat, such as that at Liao-yang, by putting prices higher, and there can be no doubt that Paris would be exceedingly "Bullish," and might even get out of hand, if terms of peace were arranged. Its buying on a reverse may be compared to the movements of a pawing horse anxious to be free. After the gilt-edged group, which has been assisted by heavy buying on account of the insurance Companies, perhaps the strongest market of the moment is that in Argentine Railways, but the inherent strength of Kaffirs is shown by the fact that the collapse of the Coronation Syndicate left it almost unmoved. It is to be hoped, in this connection, that efforts will be made, as Messrs. Barnato Bros. suggest, to find out how the adverse nature of Dr. Corstorphine's report upon the properties came to be known in advance. We have had quite enough leakage of information in the Westralian and West African markets without having more in the South African.

Consols Firmer—Other Gilt-edged Stocks also Buoyant—Argentines a Feature—The Continental Bourses Calm—Japanese Advance—South Americans.

Notwithstanding that the volume of business continues on a comparatively small scale, the gilt-edged market has been in a fairly cheerful humour, though this was more marked perhaps towards the end of the week. In the first place the absence of political rumours has been a good factor, and the further success of the Japanese seems to bring the end of the war nearer, while the easier money condition at the beginning of the month and the prospect of this condition prevailing for some time to come, have all been favourable influences. Helped by some good buying on the part of large insurance and other institutions, as well as some "Bull" purchases, Consols steadily advanced, and, allowing for the dividend deducted, show a fair appreciation on the week, while Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, and the Irish Land stock also came in for some attention, and India issues hardened all round. The feature in the foreign section has been the strength shown by Argentine issues, in which dealings are considerable. Anticipations of a favourable budget statement are responsible for the interest displayed in these descriptions, though it may be remarked that a good deal of the Continental buying is based on the possibility of the unification scheme being settled. The last plan submitted for the settlement of this question fell flat for a number of reasons which need not be detailed now perhaps, though the principal obstacle was probably the insufficiency of palm oil applied in the proper quarter. This may, or may not, have been the cause, but anyway I have prepared the following table of Argentine bonds showing the present price contrasted with the lowest of this year, which ought to be a guide for any reader who fancies these descriptions:—

Name. Coupons Payable in London.	Per Cent	Present Amount.	Present Price.	Lowest this Year.
		£		
Argentine Rail. Loan, 1881	6	162,240	103	100
Do. 1884	5	1,352,000	97	91
Do. 1886-7	5	7,120,800	101½	98½
Do. N. Ct. Ry. Ext. Gv. Mt.	5	3,580,900	96	86½
Do. do. 1890	5	2,750,700	97½	88½
Do. Treasury Conversn.	5	554,100	97	89½
Do. Internal Gold Loan	4½	3,567,800	89	84
Do. Sterling External	4½	4,787,460	91	85½
Do. External Loan	3½	2,228,720	71½	64
Do. Funding Loan	6	7,337 980	104	100½
Do. Buenos Ayres Wat. Supply	5	6,092,340	97½	89½
Do. Rail. Gu. Rescission	4	7,831,100	81½	74
Do. Bonds (1897) (Lw. 3,378)	4	6,575 651	81½	72½
Do. Bonds (Lw. 3,655 and 3,750)	4	1,488,776	81½	73
Do. Bonds (1899) (Lw. 3,378)	4	2,958,146	81½	73
Do. Bonds (1900) (Lw. 3,378)	4	2,810,700	81½	72½
Do. Bonds (1900) (Lw. 3,378)	4	2,582,093	81½	72½
Do. Port of Buenos Ayres	5	1,921,760	98½	92

Following Argentine bonds, perhaps Japanese issues have been the most interesting by reason of the latest victory. They advanced, of course, while Russian Fours lost some ground notwithstanding the inspired support. Happily, the Continental bourses digested the latest intelligence from Manchuria in a calm manner, Paris, in fact, rather relishing the defeat because it makes the chances of mediation less remote. Spanish, Turks, Portuguese, and others of its favourites remain tolerably steady, and Tintos, after easing off on the monthly statistics, have now hardened again to 54⅞. Among other South American bonds Brazilian have shown some irregularity, but on the other hand Chilians have been in demand, and there has been some buying of Peruvian Corporation issues on the expectation of a good return.

Money Easier Again—Hopeful Outlook — Borrowings from the Bank—New Treasury Bills—More Gold from India—Bank's Position—South African Gold Shipments.

In the earlier part of the week a number of calls on new issues of capital combined with the requirements of the Stock Exchange settlement (including that in Consols) to stimulate the demand for money, and as some of the joint-stock banks called in loans in order to make good balance-sheet showings, and again as the Japanese loan money was transferred to the Bank of England, supplies of cash in the open market were unequal to the demands, and another procession from Lombard-street to Threadneedle-street was witnessed. About £3,000,000 in all was borrowed, and this will have to be repaid during the current week. The £2,500,000 of new Treasury bills for which tenders were received on Monday will have to be paid for. Floating credits will by these two operations be considerably curtailed, and the glut of money existing at the moment of writing

must as a consequence be very temporary. But bankers anticipate fairly easy conditions for some weeks at least to come. The Treasury bills went off at an average of £3 0s. 10d. per cent. as against 3⅛ to 3¼ per cent. anticipated. There is a considerable amount of gold on the way to this country, and the better part of it will remain with us. It is also announced that another £500,000 will come from India, from which country a similar sum has just arrived. The Bank return shows a loss of £140,000 for the week, and the ratio to liabilities is 2⅜ lower at 53 3-16 per cent. But it remains that the total is large. It amounts to £26,501,000 as compared with £24,442,000 last year, and the stock of gold stands at £36,754,000 as compared with £35,501,000. With trade easy and gold coming from South Africa and elsewhere in large quantities, we should be able to meet the autumn drain, and still remain in a tolerably comfortable position. It is worth pointing out, for the encouragement of investors, that, although the production of gold in South Africa is still only very partial, the shipments of the metal from that country are as large as they were in 1898. India, too, will probably have to make further consignments to pay for silver bought to keep the currency reserve up to trade requirements.

HOME RAILWAYS NEGLECTED—SCOTCH RAILWAY DIVIDENDS—CALEDONIANS AND AYRSHIRES—GILT-EDGED COMPETITION—POOR EARNINGS—CENTRAL LONDON.

The Home Railway market presents a somewhat forlorn aspect. Scotch stocks in the early part of the week strengthened all round as a result of the Caledonian and Glasgow and South-Western dividends, which were both above the general estimate, the first paying at the rate of 3¾ per cent., or the same as last year, when increased capital charges and reduced earnings had led to expectation of a reduction of ¼ or ½ per cent., and the second at the rate of 1½ per cent. on the Deferred, or ¼ per cent. better than last time, when similar conditions had convinced the market that last year's rate could only be maintained. In company with the stocks of the two Companies concerned, North British issues strengthened, operators being encouraged to raise their estimate of that line's forthcoming dividend, but the rest of the market saw no reason, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, to be cheered, and the Scotch stocks themselves soon fell back, although the issue of the Caledonian and "Ayrshire" reports caused them to rally again. The fact is that the fountain of public interest in the more active Railway Ordinary stocks has dried up, more than one explanation being available. There is not much money about among the smaller investors, a number of good Colonial and other stocks may be purchased to give as good a return as Railway Preference and Ordinary, and the weekly traffic returns are more or less unsatisfactory, even though they may not bear out the utterly dismal vaticinations of a few weeks ago. In such a condition of neglect is the market that it has almost failed to profit by the recurrence of easy money rates and the good recovery in the Funds. A Saturday holiday may perhaps have checked what little feeling of enterprise there may have been about, but the trouble is that the conditions do not make for enterprise, and it can scarcely be surprising, therefore, that tired "Bulls" should continue in their endeavours to get out. There is not much stock about, real investors holding for dividends and an ultimate recovery, with the return of normal monetary conditions and a trade revival; but certainly there are few buyers at present, and it is difficult to find anything particular to say or any feature to draw attention to. Prices show some improvement, due to a little bidding towards the end:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Aug. 27.	Price, Sept. 2.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79	75	75	76	+1
Do. Def.	34½	28½	28¾	28½	+ ¼
City and S. London	59½	41	41	41	—
Central London	99½	87½	88xd	87	−1
Great Central '94 Pref.	48½	—	44½	43½	−1
Do. "B"	26½	23	23	23	—
Do. "A"	14¾	13½	13½	13½	—
Great Eastern	92	85½	85	85⅞	+ ⅜
Great Northern Pref.	102½	100	100	100⅛	+ ⅛
Do. Def	42½	38¾	38¼	38	− ¼
Great Western	138½	137½	137½	137½	− ¼
Hull and Barnsley	42½	33¾	33¾	34½	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	102	96½	96½	96½	—
London and Brighton "A"	117½	118½	118	117½	− ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15⅝	15⅝	15½	15½	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	95½	96	96xd	96	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	64	62	62	62	—
London and North-Western	159½	150	150	147½xd	—
London and South-Western Def.	56	51	51½	51	− ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	84½	93	93½	93½	—
Metropolitan District	34½	38	37½	38	+ ½
Midland Pref.	69½	66½	66	66½	+ ½
Do. Def.	69	62	62	61¾	− ¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	77½	77	78	+1
Do. Def.	40½	43½	43½	43½	+ ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	145	135½	134½	135	+ ½
South-Eastern "A"	56⅞	57¾	56½	58	+1½

One of the few features of the week has been a fall of a point in Central Londons. I see no reason, apart from personal necessities, why this Company's stocks should be sold. On the Preferred the yield is almost 4 per cent., and on the Deferred it is about £4 18s. 6d., and it seems to me that the electrification of the Undergrounds can hardly have a marked effect upon the earnings—so marked an effect as to necessitate a lowering of the dividend of 4 per cent. now paid on the Deferred. The case of the City and South London is not exactly on all fours, but I should say that the fall in the price of this Company's stock to 41 has pretty generously discounted the influences operating adversely. The City and South London is £1,091 down and the Central London £2,066 down for the half-year to date. The earnings of the more important Companies are given below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	− 1,107	− 902	+ 7,948
Caledonian	− 1,182	− 9,047	− 8,333
Great Central	+ 1,058	+ 726	+ 1,560
Great Eastern	+ 2,700	− 5,000	− 5,500
Great Northern	− 969	− 5,624	− 31,563
Great Western	+ 800	− 3,300	− 9,600
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 5,769	− 7,012	+ 10,262
London and North-Western	+ 1,000	− 18,000	− 50,000
London and South-Western	− 1,800	− 6,300	+ 2,500
Midland	− 8,313	− 2,682	− 92,250
North British	− 1,156	− 481	− 12,129
North-Eastern	− 8,902	− 4,054	− 14,414
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 3,073	− 1,558	+ 11,308

Two or three Companies are doing well relatively, but decreases following upon decreases last year are not exactly encouraging. It will be seen that the Midland and the North-Eastern have to tell of considerable reductions.

AMERICANS IMPROVE FURTHER—NOW HESITATING—"POOLS" FORCED TO SUPPORT—ERIES AND STEELS—MORE MANIPULATION—CROPS AND TRADE—RAILWAY EARNINGS—STEEL PRICES—MONEY GOES INTO THE INTERIOR.

The situation in Americans shows little change. Almost throughout the week the support from the other side has been sustained, and a further advance in prices has been registered. So far as the English public is concerned the interest has again been of the sentimental sort—the sort that looks on and does nothing beyond criticising the game. Apparently the attitude of the American public is much the same, for one reads: "Public interest in the market is still lacking, and the professional pools, finding considerable difficulty in distributing recent purchases, are consequently compelled to support prices. The easy monetary conditions make the carrying of the large 'Bull' account easy, but

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the market is narrowing, and there is a disposition to suspend fresh transactions until the crop outlook is clearer." The Morgan interests are credited with having supported Eries in order to prevent any possibility of a change in the control; and the buying of Steel stocks may be traced to the same quarter, the talk being that the earnings for the September quarter are likely to prove better than had been anticipated, which is all moonshine—talk designed to frighten the "Bears," who have not been proof against it, knowing that the supply of stock on the market is not over-plentiful. The Harriman group has supported Union Pacifics, Southerns, and Southern Pacifics; and other cliques have bid for their own specialties. But, as it is observed above, considerable difficulty is found in distributing recent purchases made by the professional pools, and, as a result, we have been treated to a continuance of manipulation—the vigorous support of one stock in order to cover quiet liquidation in a number of others. In Readings this has been especially marked, though it has not, by any means, been limited to Readings. Towards the end, the nearness of the Labour Day celebrations—meaning the closing of Wall Street on Saturday and again on Monday—has induced caution and realisations, and the fact that the professionals of London also were away on the first of these two days tended to slackness. There are other signs that the big people are growing a little tired of waiting for a public which persists in being shy, and I confess that, to me, Americans seem quite high enough—rather too high, as measured by the prospects. The crop reports are somewhat better, save that the corn is threatened, but there appears to be no room for a really large harvest such as would inspire strong confidence in industrial circles. In the meantime there is the Presidential election hanging over the market, and almost without exception the July earnings of the leading lines show considerable decreases, while expenditures are high. The meat strike is ended, but trouble is feared in the hard coal region, and the labour situation throughout the country is unsettled. It is assumed that the reduction in steel prices will prove a healthful step. Lower values, says the New York *Chronicle*, "will certainly by degrees stimulate buying in all trades affected by the decline; and as railroads are in a state calling for economy, if the cut should be extended to contracts for rails (as the reported sales this week seem to authorise us to anticipate) that, too, would be a highly encouraging feature. Perhaps contracts already made will prevent sales of home deliveries of rails the current year at the lower prices, but the way is at least open for sales for next year's delivery. It was also claimed, when the uplift in the iron and steel trades was in full progrsss and every consumer had to wait for his order to be filled, that manufacturers could sell at much lower rates than then prevailed and still make their dividends. That assumption is another contingency which is about to be tested." Unfortunately the satisfactory working out of the steel problem will be somewhat hampered by the strikes in progress, especially that in the building trade. For all these several reasons, I fail to appreciate the assertion that the present is an auspicious moment for the inauguration of a "Bull" campaign. Values have had quite a substantial recovery during the last few months, and, having regard to the outlook, they are generally high enough—in the case of the low-priced stocks, they are a great deal too high. I am inclined to ask, with the *Financial News*, why the British investor should be expected now to buy shares at prices which are from 20 to 30 points higher than those at which the Wall Street bosses thought it good enough to sell a year ago. The best "Bull" point is cheap money. There is a larger accumulation than usual in New York owing to the trade reaction, and if the harvests are moderate, the outflow this autumn will not be on any very large scale, so that stringency is not to be feared. But lack of confidence will mean that the available cash will not be put into the more speculative Ordinary stocks of railroads, but into bonds, which have been a rising market for months and remain very firm to-day because of this steady demand for them. The movement of cash into the interior has already commenced. Last year, between August 20 and December 23, the net shipments of money to the interior aggregated about $36,000,000, which corresponds closely with the decrease in the average bank reserves at New York during the months of September, October, and November. In 1902 the loss in reserve by the banks was about $33,000,000, and in that year, when the drain commenced, the cash holdings of the New York Clearing House institutions were some $253,000,000, the latter item at the close of August, 1903, having been $250,000,000. The reserve held by the banks is now $361,000,000, and the surplus reserve $58,613,000. The fact that the banks are thus apparently in position to lose a sum through the interior movement equal to the net amount of the shipments to the West and South and still maintain a surplus in excess of that year is accordingly regarded as an element of safety in the situation, and seems to afford ample reason for the confidence with which the banking community regards the general outcome. My American table is appended:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.	Closing Price, Aug. 27, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 2, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56	83⅞	82⅝	83¼
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅝	88⅜	100½	100⅓	100¾
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	87½xd	88xd	89¼
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	38⅝	39	39⅛
Denver	43¾	18⅜	25½	25⅔	26
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	77	77	66¾
Erie	43 1/16	23⅛	27⅞	27¼	29½
Do. First Pref.	75⅛	64½	65¼	65xd	66⅞
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	124½	124	124
Milwaukee	187½	137½	154½	156	159¼
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30¾	16 7/16	22⅜	23¼	22¼
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	90xd	91xd	92
Do. Common	78⅛	55¾	66⅜	68	70⅛
New York Central	158	116⅜	123½	125	125⅝
Ontario	36	19¾	34⅞	31⅛	32
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	63½	63¾	64½
Reading	35½	20	29	29½	31½
Do. First Pref.	45¼	36¾	43½	43	43
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	28⅜	29⅛	29¾
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	95	96½	97½
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	56¾	57¾	58¼
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	101⅛	101⅛	101⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	96½	96½	96xd
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	39½	39½	40
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	63½	64	64½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12½	12⅜	13¾
Do. Pref.	—	—	60⅜	61¼xd	64½

Canadian Railways—Canadian Pacific's New Capital—July Statement — Grand Trunks Weak — Crop Prospects—Qu'Appelle Bonds—Argentine Railway Dividend Prospects—Mexican Railway.

Allowing for the deduction of half a year's interest from the price of the shares, Canadian-Pacifics show little change on the week, though the tendency is firm. The market soon got over the announcement that the Ordinary stock is to be increased by $25,500,000; the activity in Americans was a helping influence, and operators were cheered by better advices regarding the wheat crop, and by a fairly satisfactory revenue statement for July. This last shows that an increase of $402,000 in gross earnings was accompanied by an advance of $271,000 in working expenses, so that the net improvement is $131,000—not so much as it might have been, but in striking contrast to the results reported by the Grand Trunk. The stocks of the last-named have been weak consequent upon the poor statement, the expectation of a considerable decrease in the forthcoming traffic, and sales by tired holders despairing of

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a change for the better in earnings. The revenue statement, as I stated last week, told of a decrease of £8,100 in net earnings. There was, to be sure, a drop of £36,800 in gross receipts, but having regard to the possibilities of economy in expenditures, it was hoped that in net there would have been a slight gain. The Western section is responsible for the poor showing; the main system almost held its ground, while the Detroit had to tell of an actual increase. Current earnings are not high, but the last traffic has belied expectations, showing an increase of over £7,000 when a decrease of £8,000 or £10,000 had been looked for. In another few weeks the comparison will be with more moderate figures a year ago, and with good harvests assured despite the rust, the Company ought to wind up its year well. The chances of the Second and Third Preference stocks depend upon the measure of the savings effected, and at the moment it is quite impossible to say anything that is definite on this matter. Therefore Grand Trunks are not at present to be regarded as promising purchases, except at the instance of people who care to keep them until, say, next spring, when the earnings ought to show up very well, since they will be going against the skeleton figures of the current year. Crop reports are more satisfactory. A message to the Canadian Bank of Commerce states that while rust undoubtedly exists in a considerable part of Southern and Central Manitoba, there is none elsewhere, that the last four or five days of fine weather have materially lessened the damage which was feared from rust where it exists, and that a good crop of wheat in volume is reasonably assured, although it may fall short of last year. "In any event, if the crop fell to only 40 million bushels, of which there is no reason to fear, at a fair price, and one much lower than those now prevailing, it would produce more money than the crop of last year. Oat and barley crops are fully equal to last year's in quantity and value, and all crops in North-West Territories and on all new lands are good." I think that the crop position need not deter from a purchase of Canadian Pacifics. Some demand has sprung up for the bonds of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake, and Saskatchewan Railroad Company, it being believed that the Canadian Pacific proposes to expend some of the new capital shortly to be raised in the acquisition of the undertaking. Sooner or later, no doubt, the line will be taken over, and if the Canadian Pacific were to make terms with it now it would be able to do better than, say, five or six years hence, since the Qu'Appelle Company is making progress. The Canadian Pacific is already working the line tentatively, and has done so under a monthly agreement since the definite working contract expired on August 1, 1901. The bonds are entitled to 6 per cent., but the earnings only permit of £2 2s. per cent. in actual cash, the balance being paid in the Company's scrip, redeemable out of surplus earnings after payment of the current coupons in full. The bonds are repayable in 1911. My table is appended:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	127½	129¾	127¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	106xd
Grand Trunks	19⅝	13½	13⅞
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	103	96½	96½
,, 1st Preference	114	99	97½
,, 2nd ,,	102	84	83½
,, 3rd ,,	52¾	36¼	36¾
Bengal and North-West	128½	137½	138
Bombay Baroda	162	154	154½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	130½	124	124
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	100	102¾	104
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	99½	116	119½
,, ,, 1st Preference	99	102½	102½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	89½	93	93
,, Great Southern	136	132½	134½
,, Western	129	125½	126¾
Entre Rios Railway Preference	53	58	59½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	86¾	95	97½
Costa Rica Railway	2¼	1¾	1⅞
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	104	88	88½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	75½
Mexican Railway	19⅞	17⅜	18¼
,, 1st Preference	75	83¾	85½
,, 2nd ,,	28¼	28⅞	30½
Nitrate Rails	6	7½	7½

Good earnings, dividend expectations (the announcement is not due for about a month yet), and a relatively high level of silver have united to cause a revival of interest in Mexican Rails and the present buying is of the good sort. It is estimated that the Company is earning 6 per cent. on its First Preference stock, and even should it distribute much less than this, its rate is likely to look well in comparison with the 1⅞ per cent. paid a year ago. The stock is not dear speculatively at the current price, and I look for a further appreciation. The Argentine Railway market is also strong, the nearness of the dividend season combining with a continuance of satisfactory earnings to make these stocks attractive. The Buenos Ayres Western is the one exception; it reports another falling off, this time amounting to £2,320, which is attributable to the more moderate quantity of maize that is carried. The Company will probably soon come to the end of its streak of thin traffics, and it is in such a strong position that there is no reason for concern. The Great Southern appears to be benefiting to some purpose by the heavy expenditures of the past few years. The traffic increase is £9,029 following upon £6,600; and the Rosario is also doing strikingly well, having an increase of £7,565 on top of one of £24,000 last year. The Pacific, whose totals have seemed scarcely satisfactory since the Bahia Blanca's receipts have been included, is now able to speak of an increase of £1,067, and the Argentine Great Western is £1,730 to the good. Next week the dividends will commence. The Rosario's is an interim distribution, and will probably be at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, as against 4 per cent., and any question of paying more than 5 per cent. for the whole year will be left until the results for the year are known. The Company will apparently be in a position to pay 6 per cent. on both Ordinary and Deferred, the two participating equally in everything above 5 per cent. "Rosies" ought soon to touch 100 in accordance with my predictions, and are attractive. The Deferred also possesses distinct merits. The Great Southern and the Western will probably bring their full rate for the twelve months to 7 per cent; but the Pacific will be in a position to distribute 10 per cent., if the Directors choose, and still leave a respectable sum to go forward after increasing the reserves. The interim distribution was at the rate of 6 per cent.; for the year 7 or 8 per cent. may be paid.

Kaffirs Quietly Firm—Coronation Syndicate Collapse—Leakage of Information—Johnnies and the Syndicate—More Public Buying—Continental Support—Labour Position—More Dividends—Deep Levels and Diamonds.

The collapse of the Coronation Syndicate has been the one outstanding event of an otherwise quiet and almost uneventful week in the South African market. Luckily, the interest has been to a considerable extent sentimental, since not many people are interested in the shares in this country, while the few who are can presumably afford to shrug their shoulders and talk philosophical sentiments—those of them, I mean, who did not adopt the wise plan of selling when the quotation of this "rich man's gamble" reached its height. The Syndicate, it will be remembered, was formed in 1902, with a capital of £120,000, in shares of £100 each, to acquire and deal with options on farms extending over a distance of thirty-five miles south-east of the Rand. On the strength of wonderful talk about the value of the discoveries made, and the promise of another Rand far richer than the original one, the price of the shares was gradually advanced to £3,000 each, or thirty times their face value. By the beginning of May of this year it had gone back exactly one-half, to £1,500, and then the shares were split in order to make them lighter and more marketable, and were made of the

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denomination of £1 each, and were placed on the market at £15. For some time they were neglected; then they commenced to sag steadily. It was officially announced that numerous options on the Blinkpoort-Rietpoort line had been abandoned, and though others of extensive area were acquired in their place, it was clear that the concern was still in the position of being a sampler of untried properties for subsequent purchase if promising enough, and this did not look very encouraging after an existence of nearly a couple of years. More recently the price has gone down with a run. At the last settlement the shares were made up 9½, a drop on the account of 3½, and during the past week they have slumped sharply, until in the Street on Friday they were called "2 to 4," with virtually no buyers. It was stated that the reef—sometimes rich, but always thin and irregular—on the Edenkop farm had been lost altogether, and this was the more discouraging as this particular property was the "show piece" of the Syndicate, and was apparently to have been floated off as its first subsidiary. Messrs. Barnato Bros. have furnished the real explanation. They have received a cable (which was communicated to the Press with commendable promptitude) stating that the report of Dr. Corstorphine, the independent geologist who had been engaged by the Syndicate to report upon the various properties, was of a very unfavourable nature; that the reef is not, in his opinion, on the Main Reef horizon; and that, again in his opinion, its extension is not to be expected. This seems to knock completely on the head the dreams of untold wealth which were indulged in, but Dr. Corstorphine's first opinion as to the position of the Main Reef was rather different, and the consulting engineer, Mr. J. Harry Johns, has been asked for his opinion. Unfortunately, now that it has come along, it only confirms the other expert's view, save that Mr. Johns does not agree with the view that the Edenkop is not on the Main Reef horizon. At the same time the Directors of the Syndicate have been asked to make a careful investigation into the undoubted leakage of early information. Messrs. Barnato state that until they received the cable they were not aware of anything that could justify the heavy fall in the value of the shares. This sudden collapse of the Coronation bubble is a regrettable incident, but it does not really concern the Kaffir market. The Company stood by itself as a dream of auriferous possibilities, and the money of only a few rich men has been lost by its collapse. The Rand mining industry is an entirely different thing. Save for the more outlying properties on the far east and far west of the Rand, whose speculative qualities are quite accurately appraised, its possibilities can be measured with almost mathematical precision, and even the Barnato group, which is interested in the Syndicate, stands to lose next to nothing, and the fall in its various shares was the result of "Bear" selling out of "sympathy." The Johnnies Company is the only one which is at all largely interested, it having received 27,500 of the new £1 shares in return for its vendor interest when the splitting scheme was carried through in May; but this represents a very small original cost, and it is thought doubtful if even on the slump the book value of the shares will show an actual loss. On a better recognition of these facts, Barneys and Johnnies are on the up-grade again, and the recovery is facilitated by "Bear" covering. The rest of the Kaffir market has been steady with an inclination to firmness throughout the week. Speculative commitments are small, and the position consequently is sound. The start of a new account gives the hope of more active conditions now that the holiday season is about at an end; there is more outside, as well as inside, interest in the various shares; and Continental buying is helping the upward movement. It will be seen from my table below that during the week values have held their ground well:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug 9, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 2, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9½	6	7½	6⅞	6⅞
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 13/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3 5/16	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅛	1 5/16	1 5/16	1⅜
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅞	⅞	⅜	⅜	1⅛
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	⅛	1½	1 7/16	1½
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 3/16	2 3/16	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅞	5½	6	5½	6⅛xd
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 15/16	6 3/16	6½	6⅜
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 5/16	1 5/16	1⅜
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	10½	13	14⅛	14⅜
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅜	18½	18⅜
Do. Def.	—	20½	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜	19
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	5 1/16	4⅞	4⅞
Durban-Roodepoort	8 3/16	6½	5½	4⅜	4⅞	5
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2	2	2 1/16
East Randa	12	10 3/16	6⅜	7 13/16	8	8 1/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅜	⅛	⅞	3/-	2/6
Ferreira	22	26	18	21½	20½	20½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 5/16	1 13/16	1 7/16	1½
Geduld	—	9 3/16	5	6½	6⅜	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3⅛xd
Goch (New)	3¼	4⅜	2½	3	3⅛	3⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	7⅜	5⅜	5 1/16	5⅛	5⅜
" Main Reef	1 1/16	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1⅜	1 7/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2 1/16	2 3/16	2⅜	2⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2⅞		1 7/16	1 7/16	1½
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8½	8⅛	8⅛
Heriot	12½	9⅛	3⅜	2 7/16	3	3⅛
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 1/16	2½	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
" Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅜
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4 7/16xd
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2 13/16	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1 5/16	1 1/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	■	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅜	2	1 7/16	2 1/16
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	2⅜	5⅜	5 1/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 3/16	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 1/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4⅜	3⅜	2 7/16	2⅜	2½
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅜	1 5/16	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 1/16	2⅜	■	3 1/16	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14 3/16	7 1/16	8 1/16	8 1/16	9 1/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 1/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	12/-	⅝	14/-
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2½	2 7/16	2½xd
" Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 1/16	1½	1 13/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
New Comet	4⅜	■	2	3	■	3 1/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2⅜	2½	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1 5/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Oceana Mineral	—	1½	⅜	⅛	⅜	⅜
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
Primrose (New)	8 3/16	5 1/16	3 1/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜xd
Princess Estate	4½	■	⅛	1	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 1/16	10 3/16	10 7/16	10 3/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	2 13/16	2 13/16	2 13/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3⅜	1 7/16	1 13/16	1 13/16	1⅞
" Robinson	2 7/16	2 5/16	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅛
" North	—	2 5/16	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	⅝	1⅜	1 7/16	1⅜
" Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	—	—
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6⅜	6⅞	7⅛	7⅛
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9⅜	4⅜	5	4 15/16	5⅛
Sheba	2⅛	1 1/16	11/3	3/6	3/-	1/6
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1 3/16	1 3/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	11/9	12/-
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3 3/16	3⅛	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2 5/16	24/-	1 5/16	1⅜	1⅜
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	⅛	6/3	6/9	7/3
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2 7/16	2½	2⅜
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3 13/16	3 13/16	3 13/16
United African Lands	—	6/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4 3/16	2½	3 13/16	3 13/16	4
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅛	7⅛	6 7/16	6 7/16	6½
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	3	3 1/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6½	6½	6½	6⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10 3/16	10⅜	11
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
" (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2	2	2
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3 3/16	3½	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1 5/16	1⅜	1⅜

* £5 shares.

Much interest attaches to the forthcoming figures of production for August. Though the continued defection of natives may operate adversely, that promises to be more than neutralised by the benefits of coolie labour. The *Courtfield* has arrived at Durban with 2,152 Chinese (no deaths having occurred during the voyage), which brings the total now in South Africa to 7,168; in addition to which there are 10,500 *en route*. It would be unreasonable to expect the maximum of results from the start, but sufficient time has elapsed, one would think, for the effect in ounces to be appreciable, especially, as the *Financial News* reminds us, as the New Comet and Worcester totals will no doubt be

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

included, that the Van Ryn with its 1,200 extra labourers will probably show a better result, and that the Salisbury has completely recovered from the effects of the fire in the shaft and will therefore be enabled to turn out its normal quantity of gold. The announcement by the Ferreira that the old Worcester head gear and sorting floors had been destroyed by fire was without effect, particularly as the message stated that the monthly return would not be effected. These several items of news have helped to strengthen the cheerful feeling which is daily becoming more pronounced. Activity on the Paris Bourse is reported, and further inquiries for the leading Kaffirs and De Beers have been received from that centre. Moreover, the deduction of another batch of dividends has served as a reminder that even with conditions anything but favourable quite a respectable return is being made to shareholders. The total is £463,000, to be added for this account to the £1,500,000 distributed during the last account, and of course there will be more to follow. I see no reason for anything but hopefulness for the early future of the Kaffir market, and, whatever may be the speculative influences operating from day to day, the odds in favour of a substantial appreciation within two or three months are overwhelming. Diamond shares have tended to firmness during the week; and without showing any striking movement Deep Levels have picked up with the rest of the market. This will be seen from my table below:—

—	1900.	1902-03.		Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 2, 1904.
	High'st	High.	Lowest.			
Bonanza	4½	6⅜	3⅞	1½	1½	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅝	1	½	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	12⅜	12⅜
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅝	2	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6⅛	3½	4 7/16	4¼	4⅛
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11¼	11	11½
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6¼	3½	4¼	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4⅞	2⅜	2⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
Lancaster	3⅜	3 7/16	2	2 3/16	2 1/16	2⅛
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5 1/16	2½	3	3	3 1/16
Nourse Deep	5¾	6¾	3½	4¼	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5¼	6 7/16	4½	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜xd
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 7/16	2⅜	4½	4½	4½
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6⅜	8 1/16	8	8¼
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4¼	2	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2 3/16	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	3½	2 15/16	2	2 1/16
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 7/16	2⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3½
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1½	⅜	⅛	⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4 1/16	2 1/16	3⅛	3⅜	3 1/16

The report of the New Modderfontein Gold-mining Company for the year to May 31 last states that milling was resumed on August 1, 1903, with 60 stamps. During the twelve months 5,195 ft. of development was done, most of it in the West Mine. The ore reserves at the end of the year were estimated at 301,922 tons of an average value of 10.35 dwt. over 52 in. stoping width, in addition to 431,587 tons of doubtful value, some of which may prove payable under improved conditions. The debit balance at the end of the year was £45,994. In accordance with the policy adopted by most other undertakings on the Rand, the Modderfontein has been registered as a member of the newly formed Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, and subscribed for 2,000 shares of £3, being one share for every boy of its nominal complement.

RHODESIANS STILL BUOYANT—THE BANKET REEF DISCOVERY—LOMAGUNDAS AND EXPLORATIONS—CHARTERED NOT SO DULL—NORTHERN DESCRIPTIONS BETTER.

The Rhodesian section continues very buoyant, thanks to the gossip relating to the banket reef discovery. There is hardly any reason for doubting that an important strike has been made, but it remains to be seen whether the results will prove as satisfactory as indicated. It seems that at the beginning of the year a banket had been found in the vicinity of the Lomagunda property, and experts who were sent out not only confirmed the discovery, but traced the reef for 160 ft. horizontally, and 250 ft. down, 2½ ft. wide, with a 45 degrees dip, showing gold of an average assay equal to the best of the Rand mines. The latest advices report that the formation has been traced for a distance of 11 miles, but as yet the assay of gold in this length has not been proved, and, of course, nothing definite can be asserted in regard to the approximate value of the discovery until the development work is completed. It may be said, however, that banket formation occurs in many parts of South Africa, and it does not follow because this particular discovery is banket that it contains unheard stores of wealth. As a matter of fact, banket sometimes possesses no auriferous metal whatever, while at other times the quantity is so small as to be utterly worthless for all practical purposes, owing to the cost of extraction. Assuming that the development work should prove the existence of the formation possessing a good average value for anything like the distance mentioned, the importance of the discovery is exceedingly great, and it ought to put quite a different complexion upon the gold-producing possibilities of Rhodesia. It remains to be seen that the banket is so rich as it is said to be, but in the meantime this information adds a great deal to the speculative value of some of the shares in the section. Lomagundas and Exploration are naturally the centre of most interest, and they scored further substantial advances during the past week notwithstanding a temporary set back caused by some profit taking induced by one or two unsatisfactory rumours. Chartered, too, threw off some of the dullness which has been inseparable from them within recent months, but the change in the quotation is comparatively insignificant. Globe and Phœnix, Rice Hamiltons, and a majority of the other leading shares also benefited to a slight extent by the prevailing buoyancy, and there has been some bidding for the Northern descriptions, including Tanganyikas and Zambesias, which finish better on the week. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up. Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 2, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	1/16	1/16
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1/16	1 1/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	1 1/16	1⅛
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	¼	¼
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	3/16	3/16
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	1/16	1/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/16	1/16	1/16
Exploring L. & M.	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	¼
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	3/16	3/16
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/16	1 1/16	1⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2	2 1/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	1/16	1/16
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	1/16	1/16
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅛	2⅛	3
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	¼	11/16
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	3 1/16	4 1/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1/16	1/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2	2½
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/16	1/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1/16	1 1/16
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3½	3½
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	¼
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	6/-	6/6
White's Con	500,000	336.450	1	f.p.	⅝	2/6	3/6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	4/6	5/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/16	1⅛	1⅛

WESTRALIANS QUIET—NO CONFIDENCE—ASSOCIATED AND GREAT BOULDERS WEAK—THE OTHER LEADING SHARES—"LITTLE KANGAROOS" INACTIVE—PEAK HILLS.

It would seem as though the recent revelations concerning the questionable methods practised in the West Australian mining world brought to light in connection with the Government inquiry into the Boulder Deep scandal are still exercising a powerful influence against business in this section. When one fully realises all that this means there is no cause for wonderment at the continued distrust of the whole market shown by the public. During the past week the volume of business has been poor and movements generally within very narrow limits, Associated and Great Boulder Props.

being the chief centre of interest on account of their dulness. The former lost ground, the more satisfactory reports of the previous week having been discounted; but in regard to Great Boulders, there were many "Bear" rumours in circulation, one of which had it that the lode showed signs of dipping into the Horseshoe property at depth. Among the other leading shares, Fingalls and Ivanhoes and Sons of Gwalia show slight gains on balance, while Oroyas and Kalgurlis are without any appreciable change. The activity displayed by Perseverance, as a result of the dividend announcement, has fizzled out, and some selling of the shares has brought about a lower level in the price. The "little Kangaroos" continue altogether out of favour, with prices generally tending downwards, this being especially marked in Peak Hills in consequence of the unsatisfactory report for July, which shows that although nearly 800 tons more ore were crushed, the yield was only 853 ounces, as contrasted with 1,113 ounces for June. This averages four pennyweights per ton, which it is safe to say will not cover expenses; but it must not be forgotten that last month the engineers announced that one-half of the battery had been shut down, while development work was being pushed on with the object of opening up "reserves of suitable." If the more suitable ore is not obtainable the outlook will not be at all pleasant. My usual table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 9, 1904.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 2, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Assoc. Nth Blocks	8⅜	4½	1⅞	1⅛	1½	1½
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¾	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	9/3	7/6	7/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	11¾	7	6⅝	7⅛	6¾xd
Golden Link	3½	1/3	6/-	4/6	4/3	4/3
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	22/3	21/3	20/6
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	3/9	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅛	1½	11/-	12/6	12/6
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅝	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅛	9⅛	5⅛	7⅛	7½	7⅜
Hainault	1¾	3	1	⅝	¾	1⅛
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/-	6/-	6/6
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10	6½	7⅜	7⅜	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5½	5⅝	5⅝
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅜	¾	⅜	⅜	⅜
North Kalgurli	1⅜	10/-	4/-	6/3	5/9	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅛	3⅜	3½
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¾	⅜	⅓	⅛	¼
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	¾	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	¾	¾	¾	⅞xd

West Africans Continue Firm—A Spurt and a Reaction—Miscellaneous Mines Quiet—Copper Shares—Mount Lyell Developments—No. 2 South Great Easterns.

The Jungle has continued in a tolerably cheerful condition during the week. It may be noted, however, that the dealings have been of a strictly professional character, and the disguise is so thin that it is inconceivable that the object of the move—the captivation of public attention—will succeed. One almost feels inclined to admire the strenuous efforts being made by the professional element in order to unload their holdings, but it is very doubtful whether any amount of this artificial booming will induce outsiders to have any connection with West African ventures after the sad experience of the past and the unsatisfactory results now being reported by the country's mines. There are, however, many optimists still airing their views concerning the future of the country, declaring that most of the evils from which the country is at present suffering is the result of the company-promoter's work. This may be the case, but with present results so distressingly bad, are we to believe that to be the sole cause for the depression from which the Jungle has been suffering for the past year or two? We are recommended to turn over the charming pages of some of the older books on West Africa, in which the authors describe the brisk gold trade and the country's gold mines which are calculated to afford relief from much of the modern tinsel. One great point is, however, that after perusing such interesting volumes the actual and profitable auriferousness of the Jungle is as difficult as ever to estimate. At the beginning of the week the section maintained its liveliness, and most of the leading shares scored further advances, but a reaction ensued, and they finished well below the best, and in many cases show but slight differences on balance, as will be seen from the usual table which follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Closing Price, Aug. 19, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 2, 1904.
	£		£			
Ashanti Gld f'lds (4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1½ 1⅝	1½ 1⅝
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	⅜ ¼ dis	⅜ ¼ dis
Ashanti Sansu Mine	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ⅝
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅛ ⅜	⅛ ⅜
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	⅜ ¾	⅜ 1⅛
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅜ ½	⅜ ⅝
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅛ ⅛	⅛ ⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1½ 1⅝	1⅝ 2
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼ ½	⅛ ⅛
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	⅜ ¾	⅜ ¾
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅜	8/- 9/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	¼ ⅜	¼ ⅜
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	⅜ ¾	⅜ ¾
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1½ 1⅝	1⅝ 1⅝

Business in the Miscellaneous Mining section continues on a very restricted scale, and for the most part movements during the past week have been within very narrow limits. As a group Indian Gold mines kept fairly steady, though Mysore for an exception developed a slight weakness on some small offering of the shares. Among Copper things Utahs are strong on more American support, and are quoted at 8⅜, and there has been some bidding for Bostons, both on home and American account. Tyees remain in favour, and Etruscans picked up a little on the last fortnight's returns, though this is not altogether a brilliant showing. Mount Lyells, on the other hand, weakened on a cable from the mine stating "600 ft. passed out of ore; believed to be offshoot from main ore body; now driving to expected situation of the latter." It is to be hoped that this expectation will be realised in spite of the pessimism prevailing in some quarters, but if the ore should not be encountered again the mine's future is gloomy. Waihis relapsed on the death of the Chairman, and among Silver shares Broken Hill Props. weakened slightly. Among Queensland mines No. 2 South Great Easterns advanced on the optimistic tone of the half-yearly report to hand by mail. In trying to explain the recent serious drop in the market value of the mine, this document states that "the principal reason appears to be the exhaustion of the amalgam held in reserve." It seems that there was a great deal of squabbling on the Board as to the amount of reserve necessary, and in consequence of some share selling the late Chairman was disqualified, and other changes have been made in the personnel of the Board. In conclusion the report says that: "In the Directors' opinion, as far as the prospects of the mine are concerned, there was no justification for the panic that took place, and they feel, supported by the manager's and surveyor's reports, there is every prospect of dividends being paid for many years to come."

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26.	Closing Price, Sept. 2.
Anaconda Copper	7⅛	3⅞	4	4
Balaghat Gold	1⅝	14/-	15/3	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1¾	1¼	42/-	40/6
Cape Copper	5	2	3½	3½
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/6	33/-
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	¾	¾
Mason and Barry	4½	3⅜	2⅛	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	13/1½	12/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5⅛	6¼	6⅛
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	2⅛	2¼
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	31/6	1⅜
Ooregum	2¾	21/9	17/-	17/6
Rio Tinto	53⅛	28⅜	54	54½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4½
Waihi Gold	6¼	4⅛	5½	6⅛

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Dalesman.—There is no reason why your Queensland and New Zealand stocks should be sold. These Colonies are out of favour with investors, but there is no question of them paying their way, and with better conditions in the Money Market their stocks should appreciate to some extent. *B. B. R.*—At about 96¾ the new Japanese Sixes are an attractive purchase. *Lady.*—For security, of course, you cannot improve upon Consols, but save that they are a trifle less negotiable, National War Loan and Local Loans stocks are equally desirable, and they bring in about 3½ per cent. *M. A., Oxon.*—On India Rupee Paper the yield is 3½ per cent.; the security is excellent, and there is every prospect of the value of the rupee being kept at 1s. 4d. by the Government. On the India Three and a Half per Cent. Sterling stock the return is about 3½ per cent. *M. H., Westgate.*—(1) City of Mexican Fives are the best of the three. (2) Argentine bonds ought to go still higher in view of the forthcoming unification scheme, but buy soon, if at all, as they are on the up-grade again. As an investment, they give from £4 19s. per cent. on the Rescission bonds to 5⅞ per cent. on the Six per Cent. Funding bonds of 1891. *Stock.*—I am afraid the success of Leeds in the matter of its loan at 4 per cent. will encourage other municipalities to extravagant courses again. *M. S., Stockport.*—On Cape Fours you can command 3¾ per cent.; and on Natal Fours just over 3½ per cent. Johannesburg Fours will give 4½ per cent., and Pietzmaritzburg Fours almost as much. *Amateur, Truro.*—The new Chinse Railway loan is fairly desirable. It stands at 2¾ discount.

RAILWAYS.

Dublin.—There is every reason to believe that for the year the Grand Trunk First Preference stock will receive its full 5 per cent. *W. L., Bournemouth.*—Keep the Great Western Ordinary and Brighton Preferred Ordinary for dividends and an ultimate recovery. They are quite good investment holdings, and you have no cause to worry on the score of the dividends. *Dubius.*—1. Rosarios are likely to go better; hold on at least for the dividend. 2. I do not look for a fall in Canadian Pacifics, consequent upon the new capital issue. That seems to have been discounted already, and the company is enjoying splendid earnings. *A. B. D.*—For a lock-up Qu'Appelle bonds are very hopeful. Soon or late the line will no doubt be taken over by the Canadian Pacific. *Hope.*—1. See reply to "Dublin" above. 2. The British Columbian Government guarantees the interest on Nakusp and Slocan Railway bonds. 3. The Atlantic and North-West is leased to the Canadian Pacific, which pays 5 per cent. on the stock. *Medico, Eastbourne.*—It is easy to make out a case for 10 per cent. for the year on B.A. and Pacific stock, but I doubt if more than 7 or 8 per cent. will be distributed. *Joseph.*—Keep the debentures. There is a likelihood of the American Government paying compensation.

MINES.

Eastbourne.—Geldenhuis Estates, Jumpers, Camp Birds, and Sons of Gwalia are good to hold for dividends and an appreciation in capital values. With the exception of Jumpers, they are dividend payers. Bonanzas are not attractive; the mine is nearly played out. *Curious.*—Sansus and Presteas might be held for better conditions in the Jungle, if you are venturesome. It seems to me, however, that with the market so discredited, your best plan would be to get out and put the proceeds into a South African or Westralian of promise. *Bertie.*—Central and West Boulders and North Kalgurlis might be recommended among Westralians, if you are prepared to hold for a couple of years for developments. *B. D.*—Camp Birds, Champion Reefs, Kalgurlis, Transvaal Goldfields, and South African Gold Trusts make a promising quintette. *Notrub.*—I should not buy any more Buluwayo Explorations. They will probably go better sympathetically if the reported banket reef discovery in Rhodesia proves to be true and the find a valuable one. But, intrinsically, the shares have not much value. *P. B.*—I recommend East Rands, Rand Mines, Gold Trusts, and General Mining and Finance shares. *Bijou.*—1. I should get out of Shebas. 2. Smelting and Refining are not an attractive purchase. *H. W. R.*—Niekerks are a promising speculation, nothing more; and if you would come in at all, do so early, and be content with a moderate profit when you see one. *Twice Sold.*—I do not recommend any one of the five mine shares selected by you. The De Lamar is, perhaps, a fair speculation; the rest are played out. *Cent.*—1. East Fingalls might be kept as a gamble. 2. Do not join the reconstruction. 3 and 4. Both are absolutely hopeless. *Sitting Tight.*—1. See reply to "Notrub" above. 2. You might hold for the present. 3. Worth holding. 4. A very good "spec." at the current price of 1¼. *Bromo.*—Average on all four. Langlaagte Estates, Treasurys, and New Africans are the best. *Vital.*—Do not join the reconstruction; you will only be throwing good money after bad.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

J. F. T.—1. Brazil Great Southern Railway Six per Cent. Debentures are worth holding, but I do not look for much further appreciation, the stock having had a good rise already. 2. Buenos Ayres and Valparaiso Preference shares are promising in view of pending developments. 3. I should not join the Sheba reconstruction. 4. Maple Ordinary shares are likely to keep steady. *X.D.*—1. New York Central Three and a Half per Cent. Bonds (Michigan Central Collateral) and Pennsylvania bonds may be recommended; they bring in 3¾ per cent., and are likely to improve because of the glut of money in the United States and the slackness of trade. 2. Grand Trunk Guaranteed is all right. The Ordinary is very attractive to the people who are willing to wait some years, it may be, for a big appreciation. 3. I suggest National Telephone Second Preference yielding 4⅝ per cent., Raphael Tuck and Sons' Preference giving 4 11-16 per cent., and Westminster Electric giving 5 per cent. 4. Conditions are not propitious for any early and marked advance in the price of your Jungles; but Presteas and Bibianis are worth keeping, unless you prefer to transfer into Kaffirs. *Ineptus.*—The Railway stock had better be held. The Industrial is desirable enough. *Kilmacduagh.*—1. No. 2. You might buy National Provincial Bank shares. 3. Also London and Westminster Bank shares. 4. Hold, but do not buy more. 5. Williamson Debentures and Preference shares are good to keep. 6. One per cent. above Bank rate. *Co. Wexford.*—1. Consols suffer, no doubt, from the abundance of high-grade loans giving a higher return, and almost equally excellent, but with the restoration of really easy conditions in the Money Market. 2. Great Central 1881 Preference stock is a very hopeful speculative investment. For the current year it ought to receive the full 5 per cent. 3. Hudson's Bays are worth keeping. *Twice Sold.*—1. No dividend has been paid on the Preference shares for 1903-4. I understand that the company is doing better, but a purchase would be very risky. 2. Ilford Ordinary might be bought. 3. I do not know enough about the Whitstable Oyster Fishery Company to be in a position to advise you. 4. Do not buy the Railway bonds. 5. Every broker's list contains a number of gas and water investments. *Shelem.*—1. Duguid's work on "The Stock Exchange," in Methuen's series of Books about Business will help you. The price is 2s. 6d. 2. I suggest the new Johannesburg Fours, Sierra Leone Fours, Electric Construction Debentures, and South Metropolitan Gas stocks, which will average a good 4 per cent. 3. Brokers who are members of the Stock Exchange may be dealt with with safety. *T. C. Mowbray.*—1. That particular form of speculation is undesirable. 2. The three are good to hold. Sell the Kaffir when you see a profit. *Eastbourne.*—1. Nelsons are not desirable, and you might sell. 2. Buy more Hendersons to average. 3. Ilfords make a fair industrial purchase. The shares have not recovered from the fall brought about in connection with the attempt of the Americans to secure control. *Westminster.*—For choice I should say Cape Threes, Bengal and North-Western Debentures, Egyptian Unified, and P. and O. Navigation Preference. Standard Bank of South Africa shares are a good purchase if you do not mind the liability.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Agra.—Well intentioned, but not hopeful as a business proposition for the settlement of the old-age pension question. *J. N. R.*—1. There is no reason why the Lion Brewery Ordinary shares should be sold. They make a respectable Industrial holding. Manchester Breweries are not very hopeful. Try Newcastle Breweries, which will give you 6⅜ per cent. *McGee.*—Nitrate prospects are satisfactory. Lautaros give a yield of nearly 8 per cent., and Santa Ritas 10 per cent. But you realise, I hope, that you cannot command these high figures without taking risks. *Delta.*—Do not pay the calls. The Directors will think more than twice before attempting to enforce it. *B. H.*—C. Arthur Pearson Preference Shares would bring in nearly 5½ per cent., and George Newnes' Preference just over 5 per cent. On Amalgamated Press Preference the return is about 5⅛ per cent. *R. E.*—The Bodega is suffering from poor trade, like most of the concerns of the same class. Ultimately the price of the shares should improve. Short's Preferred are all right to buy. They give 5 per cent. at the current price. *Bertie.*—Eastern Telegraph and National Telephone Preferred Ordinary stocks would suit your needs. The first yields nearly 5½ per cent., and the second nearly 5¾ per cent. *Rex.*—No. 2 is the only reliable one of the four. Niekirks should have a respectable advance by the end of the year, but 30s. seems a little too much to look for.—*Investor, Grantham.*—George Newnes' Ordinary Shares are a good Industrial purchase. *In Doubt.*—1. The question is one for a solicitor. 2. Peel River Land and Mineral stock is good to keep. Might go better if weather conditions keep good. *Doubtful, Bishop's Stortford.*—I understand that the concern deals fairly by its clients, but I should prefer an inside broker. *Shuler.*—Not satisfactory. *J. Williamson.*—I do not consider the concern a reliable one for introducing capital into a business. It is more anxious about its fees than anything else. *W. Frank.*—The concern does a money-lender's business to a very large extent, and you would be well

advised not to place your money in its possession, especially for so prolonged a period. *J. Hughes.*—I advise no dealings with the concern. You omitted to send the cuttings referred to. *F. G. F., Pretoria.*—The concern is absolutely sound. *Kakoom.*—Messrs. N. Keizer and Co, of 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., will furnish you with the numbers of Suez Canal, Congo Free State, Ottoman, and other premium bonds as they are drawn, and they will collect for you the amount of any such drawing. *Credo.*—Northampton Brewery Preference shares are the best of the three; after them I should place Welford's Dairy Preference. *Thomond.*—You will find the first-named reliable. *X. X. X.*—Good Brewery Preference shares, returning 5 per cent. and over, include J. Marston, Thompsons, Newcastle, and Massey's, Burnley, Preference, which would average 5⅛ per cent.

INDUSTRIALS IDLE — HUDSONS BAYS THE FEATURE — CROP PROSPECTS AND A "BEAR" SQUEEZE—WATER BOARD STOCK BETTER—BREWERIES QUIET—TELEGRAPH STOCKS STILL FIRM—CALICO PRINTERS' DIVIDEND—MEAT SHARES AND THE STRIKE — NITRATE ISSUES BUOYANT — OIL SHARES ACTIVE.

No appreciable increase in the volume of business transacted is noticeable in the Miscellaneous market, but, on the whole, the tendency may be described as fairly steady, though apart from the strength displayed by Hudson's Bays as a result of both favourable reports concerning the harvest (which will mean greater land sales for the Company) and a little "Bear" squeeze, there has been no outstanding feature. The shares finished at 42½ an advance of 2½ on the week. The Water Board stock, after a hesitating start, was influenced by the better tendency in the Funds, and scored a slight advance to 92, but among water issues, both Chelsea and East London receded, the former 2½ points to 360, and the latter 3 points to 132½. On the whole, Brewery descriptions have been very idle, the few movements recorded being mostly in a downward direction, including a further loss in Allsopps' Preference. Among Gas and Lighting issues there has been a moderate inquiry for both Gas Light and Coke Ordinary and South Metropolitans, while the majority of the other issues remain firm. London and India Deferred came in for some attention, and shows a slight gain on balance, and in the Telegraph group there has been a good deal of bidding for Anglo-American issues, particularly the Deferred, which at 8⅛ shows an advance of ½. For the benefit of those of my readers who fancy such holdings I have prepared the following little table of Telegraph stocks, showing the yield obtainable:—

Name	Sh. and paid	Present Amount.	Price.	Yield per cent.
	£	£		£ s. d.
Anglo-American, Limited	Stk	763,580	50	5 14 0
Do. 6 p.c. Preferred	Stk	3,118,210	95	6 0 0
Do. Deferred	Stk	3,118,210	8½	...
Commercial Cable	$100	$15,000,000	190	4 6 6
Do. Ster 500-yr. Debs.	Stk	1,903,856	96	4 3 6
Direct Spanish, Lim., Cm. Pf.	5	6,000	8	6 5 0
Direct U. S. Cable, Limited	20	60,710	10½	5 15 6
Eastern Ex., Aus. & China, Ld.	10	300,000	12½	5 12 0
Eastern, Limited	Stk	4,000,000	131	5 7 0
Do. Preference	Stk	2,000,000	90	3 17 9
Indo-European, Limited	25	17,000	46	5 8 9
Western Telegraph, Limited	10	207,930	12½	5 12 0
Do. Deb. 2nd Series 1906	100	75,000	104	3 3 6

Telephone Deferred is also in request, finishing ¾ up at 9½, but the Ordinary is unchanged. Not much activity has been noticeable in the Iron and Steel group, which have remained tolerably firm, Vickers Maxims and Cammel Lairds gaining a little ground. Textiles, too, have been idle and without any interesting feature, apart from a rally in Calico Printers occasioned by the dividend announcement of 6d. per share, equal to 2½ per cent. This is at the same rate as a year ago, but in view of the falling off in business revealed by the figures recently published the market was not altogether sure that any distribution would be made this year, hence the better tendency. Coats Preference shares also hardened at one time, but this was not maintained, while Fine Spinners Ordinary are somewhat dullish. The news concerning the spreading of the Chicago packers' strike created a better tendency in the Meat class, both Nelsons and River Plate meats coming in for some attention at the hands of speculators, who saw increased profits for the Company's trading with Argentina as a result of the trouble. The settlement of the strike knocks the bottom out of this hope. Imperial Storage also picked up, and in the "Bunshop" group Aerated Breads have hardened appreciably, while there is also some small buying of Lyons. Slaters and Harrods hold their ground well, and Schweppes Deferred have been picked up. Nitrate shares maintain their buoyancy, Londons, Salar del Carmens, and Lagunas being the most active. More attention than usual is being paid to Oil shares, Schibaieffs, Bakus, and Russians being put higher; while among the more miscellaneous things in this section Nobel Dynamites and New Explosives have been in moderate request, and Sweetmeat Automatics are helped upwards by a more satisfactory weekly return. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

SAINT CECILIA.

THE woman looked at the child, and the child looked at the woman, and Cicely Maynard looked at the two of them.

"I don't think I quite understand your point of view," she said. "I think if I had been in your place I should have acted differently."

The woman smiled bitterly.

"I dare say you would," she said. "I dare say many women would, but, you see, we can only act according to our lights." And then she paused and raised her eyes to Cicely's. "I hope you never will be in my place," she added.

They were beautiful eyes, and the face that they illumined was beautiful too, though sadly worn and faded. Beautiful with the beauty of statuesque features, and satin skin, and golden hair; but cold as ice, with the deadly and irrevocable coldness of burnt-out fires. A very different face from the one that looked back at her with wondering sympathy, for that was just a girl's face, fresh, and sweet, and tender, with smiling lips bright with the glad confidence of youth and hope. The face of a woman who had all her life to come, not the face of a woman who had lived her life and bidden youth and hope a long farewell.

Cicely turned quickly.

"I'm so sorry," she said in her impulsive, girlish way. "I wish I could help you."

"You do help me," the woman answered; "you let me talk and that helps me. It's so long since I cared to talk to anybody as I talk to you."

"Go on talking," Cicely said simply. "I like to hear you, even if I don't agree with you."

"It isn't likely that you would agree with me," the woman said, and smiled her bitter smile again. "Things are so different with us now that you couldn't possibly look at life from my standpoint. I hope, for your sake, they may always be as different."

Cicely looked back at her, and, as she looked, she felt, even more keenly than usual, the peculiar fascination of the woman's personality—a fascination that had drawn her to the house time after time since their first chance meeting. And what a chance that first meeting had been—the merest chance in the world! Cicely was thinking of it then, and the woman was evidently thinking of it too, for presently she spoke of it.

"If," she said, and laughed a little, "you hadn't happened to be caught in a thunderstorm when you were down here 'slumming,' as I suppose you call it, and I hadn't happened to find you at my very door, frightened out of your wits, we should, in all probability, never have met."

Cicely laughed too.

"You were very kind to me," she said, with grateful remembrance.

The woman's face darkened.

"Was I?" she said. "Well, perhaps I was, though I'm not given to being kind to people. You see you're the sort of person that one is kind to instinctively, and so——"

She broke off sharply, and Cicely looked at her thoughtfully, wondering, as she had so often wondered before, at the strange freak of fate that had placed her in her present position. She was so obviously different from her surroundings, so obviously made for other things, that the contrast was keenly cruel, and it hurt the tender-hearted girl to see it.

"Are you engaged to be married?" the woman asked abruptly.

Cicely shook her head.

"No," she answered.

The woman looked at her earnestly.

"Are you quite free?" she asked, in the same abrupt way. "Isn't there anybody in your life—anybody who loves you, or whom you love?"

Cicely flushed crimson.

"Well, there is somebody," she admitted; "but he has never said anything, and perhaps he never will. I don't know. He isn't an easy man to understand. But he likes me, I think, and I like him, and so—and so—well, perhaps, it will all come right some day."

Her bright face clouded a little as her thoughts flew to the man she loved, for he was, as she said, not an easy man to understand. He loved her, her quick and unerring woman's instinct told her that; but he had never said so. Sometimes she feared that he never would say so; but she always tried to crush the fear down in her heart, for it meant more to her than she could bear to face.

The woman was still looking at her.

"Is he a good man?" she asked.

Cicely flushed again, and hesitated; but she always told the truth—even when she didn't want to.

"No," she answered reluctantly, "I'm afraid he isn't quite what we understand by a good man."

"Ah!" the woman said, with a shrug of her graceful shoulders. "That's why you love him, of course. Good women, like you, always love men who are—not good. I suppose he's very fascinating. Bad men generally are."

Cicely's thoughts flew once more to the man she loved.

"Yes," she said, "he's very fascinating, and—and I don't know that we ought to call him bad. I think—I think, he may have been good once. Perhaps he has had a great disappointment, or perhaps somebody has done him a great wrong. He seems——"

The woman interrupted with a short, cynical laugh.

"He seems made for better things, I suppose," she said. "Oh! I know that sort so well, and the influence they have over women. There is no bad man in all the world so dangerous to a woman as the man who was made for better things."

Cicely sighed.

"Perhaps he will come to the better things some day," she said.

The woman laughed again.

"Perhaps he will," she said; "but I shouldn't pin my faith to it if I were you. They don't, as a rule—that sort." And then she paused for a moment. "I suppose," she added presently, "you'll marry him if he asks you to?"

"Yes," Cicely answered simply.

"With the idea of leading him to better things, of course," the woman went on.

"Yes," Cicely answered again.

The woman looked at her for a moment with a smile of amused disdain, then all at once her cold face softened.

"Poor child," she said.

Cicely bit her lip.

"Surely," she protested, "there would be no need to pity me in that case. Surely a woman could know no happier fate than that of leading the man she loves to better things."

But the woman made no answer, and her beautiful eyes were dark and troubled as they met the girlish ones uplifted to hers. Life and men had taught her many a hard truth, and many a bitter lesson, and she had not forgotten. She was not the sort that forgets.

"If," Cicely went on, "I had been in your place, I should have stayed with my husband. I shouldn't have left him as you did, and refused his money, and, and—everything. I don't forget anything that you have told me, and I know it would have been hard, but I should have stayed. Oh! yes, I should have stayed."

"Yes," the woman said, "I am quite sure you would."

Cicely gave her an appealing glance.

"You see," she said, "you married him. He was your husband, and then there was—the child."

The woman shrugged her shoulders.

"Yes," she said, "there was the child. That's why I didn't stay." She looked down at the child as she spoke, and Cicely saw her eyes soften into passionate tenderness as they rested on the delicate flower-like face that was pressed against her arm. "That's why I didn't stay," she repeated, and stooped to kiss the rosy lips. "I could have borne it for myself, but I couldn't bear it for—the child."

And Cicely was silent, for she felt that the tragedy of the woman's life was beyond her. It had gone to depths whither her simple experience could not follow.

"Mind," the woman said presently, "I don't say that the fault was all my husband's, any more than it was all mine. We were both to blame, but fate was more to blame than either, for fate threw us together, and lured us on, till we mistook fascination and infatuation for love—and married. Yes, fate was to blame. If my husband had married another woman, he might have been a good man. If I had married another man, I might have been a good woman. As it is——" She broke off abruptly, and Cicely filled in the blanks according to her lights.

"I have sometimes thought," the woman went on musingly, "that if he had married a woman who was a bit of a saint, perhaps things might have been all right for him. He seemed made for that sort of woman. But there was nothing of the saint about me, and so——" She broke off again, and again Cicely filled in the blanks according to her lights.

"But I have the child," she added a moment later. "Whatever I may have lost, I have the child." And once more she kissed the little face that nestled on her arm.

"Yes," said Cicely, "you have the child. Whatever you may have lost, you have the child. But your husband—what has he?"

The woman's face hardened again, and grew bitter as she looked back at Cicely with cold defiance.

"He has," she answered, "as far as I know, all that he wants. He has money and position, and society and friends, and, what he probably values above all things, his freedom. What can he want more?"

"Love, perhaps," Cicely said softly. "I think a man wants love, whatever he may be."

The woman laughed her most cynical laugh.

"Oh!" she said, "if he wants love, he can have it galore. I don't doubt that it's showered upon him by all sorts and conditions of women, in and out of season. He's one of the most popular actors on the London stage, and you know what that means—or, if you don't know, you can guess."

She paused and looked at Cicely, and Cicely looked back at her, and all at once, by instinct rather than reason, a vague fear rose up in her heart.

"An actor?" she repeated. "Will you tell me his name?"

The woman hesitated.

"I don't see why I shouldn't tell you," she said doubtfully. "It can do no harm. His name is Leslie Norton."

SPECIAL NOTICE.—A 10s. 6d. DINNER is now served daily at PRINCES', PICCADILLY, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

And the fear was realised.

For a moment Cicely's heart stood still, then bounded on with heavy pulsing throbs that seemed as if they must choke her; and that moment held all the concentrated sorrow and regret of a lifetime. This was the end of everything for her, the bitter end of everything. Fate could deal her no harder blow. For the man she loved was Leslie Norton, and Leslie Norton was this woman's husband.

She stood silent and motionless, lost in a whirl of memory, till the woman's voice broke the silence, seeming to come from immeasurable distance.

"Do you know him?" she asked.

Cicely pulled herself together, and recalled her wandering thoughts with an effort.

"Yes, I know him," she answered, and their eyes met.

Perhaps the woman guessed the truth in that moment, though she made no sign, for woman's instinct is quick, and seldom at fault. At all events her voice sounded softer when she spoke again.

"The next time you meet him," she said, "think of me and—the child."

And then she turned away.

* * * * *

"The next time you meet him, think of me and—the child."

The words haunted Cicely, as she hurried along the streets that led from the woman's humble lodging in the East End of London to her own luxurious home in the West End. She could not get away from them. They rang in her ears. They echoed in her heart. They were written in letters of flame on the pavement at her feet—letters that burnt her eyes as she read them:

"The next time you meet him, think of me and—the child."

All was over now. There was no hope for her any more in the world. She must dree her weird, and dree it all alone. The man she loved had never told her that he loved her, and never would tell her so now. Never, never. She would have to live her life without him. The life that——

"Hullo!" said a man's voice, breaking in suddenly upon her bitter thoughts. "What are you doing here, Saint Cecilia? I didn't know that your 'slumming' brought you into these streets."

A faint note of disapproval and displeasure made itself heard in the voice, and an uneasy frown flashed swiftly over the face that looked down at Cicely's, to fade as swiftly, leaving a smile in its place.

Cicely looked up, flushed and startled.

"I—I didn't expect to meet you," she faltered.

"No," said Leslie Norton, with some amusement, "I dare say not; but it's always the unexpected that happens, you know. I go 'slumming,' too, sometimes, you see."

Cicely was silent. She was thinking, as she had been bidden to think—thinking of the woman and the child. There was no room in her heart at that moment for any other thought.

Leslie Norton looked at her, and smiled again.

"A penny for your thoughts, Saint Cecilia," he said, and his voice lingered caressingly on the name that it had amused him to bestow upon her in the early days of their friendship. "You look as grave as the proverbial judge."

And then Cicely forced herself to speak.

"Is there," she asked, "by chance, a tea-shop near here where we could talk quietly? I have something to say to you."

Leslie Norton looked round him doubtfully.

"Well, it isn't a very nice neighbourhood," he answered; "but, if I don't forget, there's a tea-shop a little farther on, where we should be all right. I might have something to say to you, too."

"Let us go there," said Cicely, and they walked on together.

When they had found the tea-shop, and were comfortably ensconced in a corner of the deserted room, with tea and muffins on a small table between them, Leslie Norton looked inquiringly at Cicely.

"What have you to say to me, Saint Cecilia?" he asked.

She looked back at him, and, in spite of herself, her eyes softened as they rested on his face. It was a fascinating face, with its mocking eyes and dare-devil smile, but it was not a good face, though it seemed to Cicely that it might have been good once, in the days when it was younger and smoother, before it was so deeply lined and scored with marks of the world's wear and tear. But, good or not good, it was the one face in the world for her—the face of the man she loved.

He looked troubled, she fancied, and the clear-cut, cynical lips were graver and sterner than usual; and her heart went out to him at once.

"You're worried about something," she said, with the ready sympathy that was one of her greatest charms to a world-worn man like Leslie Norton. "I wish I could help you."

He looked at her musingly, with thoughtful, brooding eyes, before he answered.

"Right, Saint Cecilia," he said at last. "I am worried about something, and I'm afraid it's something a bit beyond you, though you generally manage to help me." He paused and looked at her again. "It's about a friend of mine," he went on slowly. "He's a married man, but he and his wife separated a year or two ago. I needn't go into the reasons. There were faults on both sides, but I dare say he was the most to blame. Men generally are. However, I think he never really loved his wife, and now he has met a woman he does really love, and the question is—what is he to do?"

He paused again, and Cicely looked steadily back at him, meeting the mocking light of his eyes with calm serenity.

"There's nothing," she answered quietly, "that he can do but just bear it. That's all. He must just bear it."

Leslie Norton looked at her again in the same thoughtful way.

"There's always the Divorce Court, you know," he said, and for a moment there was silence.

"The Divorce Court!" Cicely echoed, and her eyes were filled with horror-struck wonder as she raised them to his. "The Divorce Court! Oh! but for a divorced man or woman to marry again is a deadly sin. Such a marriage is no marriage at all. It's a deadly sin. Nothing less."

There was another silence, and then he laughed aloud.

"A deadly sin," he repeated. "Yes, I thought that was what you would call it, Saint Cecilia. A deadly sin." For a moment his eyes rested on her face with a curious look in their eloquent depths, then he squared his broad shoulders. "So much for my worry," he went on. "Now, tell me what it is you have to say to me."

She hesitated a little, for it did not come easily to her to say that which she had to say.

"I've made up my mind," she said slowly, "to give up the world, and join a nursing sisterhood. That's all. It may not interest you very much—but I thought I should like to tell you."

He looked at her questioningly.

"It interests me very much," he said. "But isn't it a sudden decision? When did you make up your mind?"

"Only to-day," she answered, and her voice sounded quite quiet and natural even in her own ears.

He looked at her again, and then he laughed once more.

"So you're going to be Saint Cecilia in sober, solemn earnest," he said. "I named you well, after all. Well, well, such is life."

The laugh hurt Cicely almost like a blow, and she said nothing, but as he met the look in her eyes his face changed suddenly.

"Do you want to do this thing?" he asked. "Tell me. Do you want to do it?"

Still she was silent, for she could not tell the truth, and she would not tell a lie. She knew in her heart of

hearts that she did not want to do it, but she was going to do it because to do it seemed the only course open to her, forced upon her by circumstances over which she had no control: the only way of escape from a position that she could not trust herself to face.

Her silence was answer enough to the man who was watching her as if his life depended on her words, and he moved a little nearer to her.

"If only," he said, in a low tone. "If only——" And then he broke off sharply. "Ah! Saint Cecilia," he added, bitterly, "those two little words 'if only' stand between us poor mortals and so much of the happiness of life."

He did not know that she could fill in the blanks in his broken sentence, but she could, and the knowledge that had come to her that day seemed to crush her heart beneath its leaden weight. And, as she looked at him, the words that the woman had spoken came back to her:

"I have sometimes thought that if he had married a woman who was a bit of a saint, perhaps things might have been all right for him. He seemed made for that sort of woman."

Well, she herself was a bit of a saint. He had said so when he laughingly named her Saint Cecilia. He had often said so. And perhaps—perhaps——

I suppose there are times in the lives of even the best of us when the old land-marks, that have guided so many perplexed travellers on their journey, seem in danger of being swept away, and the fundamental principles of life are shaken to their very foundation—when the boundary-line, dividing right from wrong, grows so faint that it is almost indistinguishable, and it appears a positive certainty that if we do evil good will come.

Such a time had come to Cicely now, and for one wild and lawless moment she was tempted to hold out her hands to the man she loved, and tell him that nothing on earth should stand between them, and that everything was nothing worth when weighed in the balances with love. The temptation was so overwhelming that to resist it was like tearing her heart out, but she did resist. It was only a moment, and, like other moments, it passed.

"What is is, you know," she said, and sighed. "We can't alter things, and so we must just face them as they are. That's all we can do."

He looked at her in silence, looked at her long and intently, and she looked serenely back at him, though Heaven knows what feelings were clutching and tearing at her heart. Then he smiled his dare-devil smile once more, and the light that flashed from his eyes to hers seemed to burn into her soul, scorching and searing her with its reckless passion.

"Saint Cecilia," he said, "will be Saint Cecilia to the end, it seems. Well, well; so be it. We must go our different ways, you and I, my sweet Saint. You have chosen the better part, and I am sure it will not be taken away from you. As for me—well, I always accept the fortune of war, and, after all, nothing lasts for ever:

'Come what come may,
Time and the hour run through the roughest day.'"

* * * * *

So they went their different ways, and the ways were so very different, and lay so far apart, that they never crossed again.

He went back to his old life, and the better things that had looked so fair and bright to his tired eyes seemed farther away than ever. He never even caught a glimpse of them again.

She went to a new life, a life that was lived for others. She had chosen the better part, and it was not taken away from her. She fought the good fight, and conquered; and her life was as happy as self-sacrifice and renunciation could make it.

But deep in her heart she cherished the memory of a dream.

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MUSIC.

THE FESTIVAL QUESTION.

THE first of the festivals, in that of Gloucester, is being held this week. What is the value of the provincial musical festival? The question is one which has elicited at times the most diverse opinions. According to some, the average institution of this kind is nothing more or less than an overgrown church bazaar with musical trimmings, diverting into the pockets of charity money that should rightly go to music, concentrating into one annual or triennial debauch the musical activities of a district which throughout the intervening periods suffer inevitably from inanition, repressing local talent in the interests of "star" singers and London instrumentalists, and so on and so on. If such may be believed, indeed, these festivals do far more harm than good to the cause of the art which they are supposed to promote. Even charity itself, in the opinion of some, is not wholly a gainer by them, the subscription for a couple of concerts being held an excuse by the parsimonious for declining any further to assist in local philanthropic causes. But it is from the musical standpoint that the festival as an institution has been most severely attacked. Why should not the whole proceeds of the musical festival, ask those who adopt this attitude, be devoted to music? Why, in a word, should music do the work and charity take the pay? And on the face of it the inquiry seems not unreasonable.

In truth, however, it is based on a misconception. In considering this matter it is essential to remember that it is the philanthropic basis of the festivals which helps mainly to attract their audiences and secure their success. A large proportion, perhaps the majority, of those who attend these festival performances are influenced by other motives than mere love of music. They help thereby the local charities, they meet their friends at them, and it is the correct thing to do. A mere set of concerts as such would make no like appeal and gain no such support. Leeds might spend £6,000—that amount is understood to represent the expenses of its festival—on a series of high-class concerts, given on an ordinary commercial basis, and hope in vain to get its money back—much less to obtain that handsome surplus in addition which, under the existing circumstances, goes to swell the funds of the local hospitals. Wherefore, if charity takes a goodly portion of the profits, music has no real cause for complaint. On the other hand, the delight afforded to local music lovers by these periodical performances, to say nothing of their educational influence, needs no telling. High-class concerts become more and more costly affairs as time runs on, and the lot of the average provincial amateur would be pathetic indeed but for these recurring feasts. What wonder indeed that when at these rare intervals the opportunity does present itself he should be tempted to gormandise?

As to the alleged repression of local talent, I doubt if there is much in this. It will usually be found, I fancy, that the districts supporting festivals are those in which choral societies, orchestras, and the like are most numerous. It is true that the instrumentalists usually hail from London, and that the vocal honours are likewise monopolised generally by outsiders, but the grievance here, if such it can be called, is more apparent than real. However excellent the musical culture of a given district, it is not to be supposed that an ordinary provincial town could under any circumstances supply the talent for concerts on a festival scale. The local players and the local singers have their chance at less important concerts at other times; to which it may be added that even if the former were engaged as members of the orchestra they would in most instances find the game hardly worth the candle in view of the necessity entailed of attending rehearsals in London.

Indeed, the only people who seem to have any genuine ground for complaint against the festivals are

the unfortunate composers, who are notoriously underpaid, or not paid at all, for the masterpieces which they are invited to contribute. More than once, indeed, this or that eminent musician has openly rebelled against the system, and declined to countenance it any longer. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, for one, adopted this attitude some years since. But I fear that little improvement has been effected thereby. The only real remedy, perhaps, would be the formation of a composers' trade union, with stringent rules as to blacklegs. But that would take some organising. The unfortunate composers suffer also in another way. Not only do they get little or nothing for the works which they contribute, but each work when produced is doomed almost by that very fact to subsequent oblivion. For no self-respecting festival deems it consonant with its dignity to produce in 1904, say, a work which was the "novelty" of a rival festival in 1903 or 1902, and hence, when approaching a composer, invariably stipulates for nothing less than a brand new composition. The unfortunate musician may have half-a-dozen in his desk as good as any new one he could write, but no, a new work or none must be produced for the occasion. And so most of those conventional cantatas and otiose oratorios performed as "novelties" at the festivals and thereafter never heard of again get themselves produced. But take them all in all, the provincial festivals play a notable part in the musical economy of the country, and their discontinuance, if such a thing could be imagined, would certainly be matter for regret.

This is the slack season in the musical world, and, save for the Promenades and the barrel-organs, not a note of public music is now to be heard within the four-mile radius from week's end to week's end. Yet it is by no means certain that there is any real necessity or warrant for such a total cessation of musical activity at this period of the year. After all, a good few music lovers are still left in London, and, with other distractions less numerous than usual, an occasional concert of the right kind might well secure at least as much attention at the present time as that obtainable in the height of the summer. But concert-givers are curiously sheep-like in this respect. One and all—the famous and the obscure alike—must be heard in the season or not at all, with the inevitable result that disappointment is entailed all round. That multitudes of music-lovers are still in London is proved by the patronage which the Promenades secure, while, in one respect at least, the artist electing to be heard just now would certainly score, since he (or she) would, at any rate, obtain the undivided attention of the critics. And as a very considerable proportion of the concerts given in June and July by unknown and second-rate performers have no other end in view than "notices" in the London Press for subsequent reproduction elsewhere, this, at least, is a consideration which should appeal to many.

The Promenade Concerts continue to draw good audiences, and Mr. Wood is steadily licking into shape his new band. The improvement which has already been effected in their *ensemble* is, indeed, very perceptible, and I shall be surprised if in the end the reorganised Queen's Hall orchestra is not found in every way as good as that which it has succeeded. Meanwhile Mr. Wood has been able to realise this week the advantages of the new system. Under the old condition of things, with the Gloucester Festival in progress, half of the band during the present week would probably have been represented by deputies. Under the new régime this has, of course, not been the case. The programmes announced for the current week have, in fact, included quite an exceptional number of new works. Among these may be named a symphony by Paul Juon and a pianoforte concerto by Edward Schütt, which were down for performance last night (Tuesday); a Serenade, for flute and strings, by Theo. Gouvy, and a Ballade, for contralto and orchestra, entitled "Death on the Hill," by Norman O'Neill, to be given on Thursday; and a "Hamlet" overture by the last-named composer, which is announced for Saturday. Last week an unfamiliar concerto grosso by Handel, for two pianofortes and other solo instruments, was one of the "novelties" introduced, but it can hardly be said that the old-fashioned work produced a very powerful impression. A couple of orchestral pieces, entitled "Childhood" and "Girlhood," by Dr. Cowen, heard on Saturday, proved dainty and pleasing little works.

Only in one particular, I think, are the Promenade programmes open to criticism. Apparently it is an inexorable law with Mr. Wood that under no consideration whatever must less than an entire work ever be performed. Now, this is a rule which might well be relaxed now and again in the case of such concerts as the "Promenades," with their avowed appeal to a more or less uncultivated public. No one would advocate a general policy of snippets, but a single movement from long classical works would certainly be often listened to with pleasure when the whole symphony or concerto, as the case may be, is found too long. Not that these wonderful Promenade audiences ever manifest impatience. The respectful attention with which they listen to compositions obviously beyond their comprehension is, indeed, quite astonishing, and sometimes rather pathetic. But is it sound policy to tax their powers of endurance in this respect quite so severely? To the man in (or from) the street, who, without pretending to any knowledge of the art, is yet fond of music, and "knows what he likes," it is the excessive length of what he calls "scientific" music to which he chiefly objects. Give him a fine slow movement from a symphony, and he follows it with delight. The whole work played right off the reel, on the contrary, he finds an infliction.

Again, if the practice which I suggest were adopted, it would often permit of fine works, or parts of such, being heard which, by reason of their length, can, as things stand, hardly ever be thought of. Even such a "whole hogger" as Mr. Wood is bound to recognise that symphonies lasting over an hour are apt to prove tiresome to a popular audience. Hence such glorious works as Schubert's great symphony in C, Dvorak's "New World" symphony, and others must perforce be almost entirely neglected. Yet single movements from such compositions would certainly be listened to with delight. Then, too, it often happens that one movement of a symphony is worthy of performance, while the remainder of the work is unattractive. Why not, in these circumstances, give the acceptable section and omit the rest? The part is sometimes greater than the whole in music. Meanwhile, as to the general excellence of these concerts and the good work which they are accomplishing from the educational point of view, there can be no possible question. Under Mr. Wood's fostering care the British public has been brought not merely to tolerate, but to understand and appreciate, and receive with wild enthusiasm even, music which, before the experiment had been tried, would have been held quite hopelessly beyond their comprehension. The British not a musical race indeed! It may be so. But at least it is the literal truth that no such popular concerts as those of the Queen's Hall Promenades are to be found in any other country in Europe—concerts, that is, at which the programmes are so good, the performances are so excellent, and the prices of admission (less than 6d. a concert if a season ticket be taken) are so moderate.

That must have been a comical incident which recently dissolved in laughter a Berlin audience at a performance of "Lohengrin," when, as it appears, the youthful Gottfried at the close of the drama managed to tumble headlong over the body of Ortrud, dragging down Elsa with him in his fall. After this Covent Garden must look to its laurels. But the marvel really is that contretemps of this order do not occur more often. Not many months ago Mme. Gadski, playing Brünnhilde in New York, was the victim of a somewhat similar, though rather more serious, mishap. When falling to the ground, beneath Wotan's fiery wrath, at the close of the third act, she managed somehow to strike her

head a violent blow against some of the scenery, and as a consequence lay in a dead faint for some five or ten minutes, the audience, meanwhile, being quite unaware of what had happened. Luckily, during Wotan's long-drawn monologue she was afforded time to recover, and, not being required to sing again, was able to go through the remainder of the performance.

A body which ought to be better known, and whose labours should be more widely supported is the Folk-Song Society, a copy of the last number of whose Journal has just reached me. Year after year it becomes more imperative for the old tunes scattered about the country to be collected and noted down, if they are not to be lost or changed beyond recognition, and this is the work to which the society in question addresses itself. Some time ago Mr. Cecil Sharp, the Principal of the Hampstead Conservatoire (who, I notice, has recently joined the Executive Committee of the Society), gave an amusing lecture describing his experiences while collecting some hundreds of old songs in Devon and Somerset, and many amateurs in the country with time hanging heavily on their hands, might render useful help in the same good cause. The worst of it is that nowadays the youthful rustics are more allured by "Hiawatha" or "Bill Bailey" than by the quaint old ditties of their fathers, and even the old people are not always more sensible. "Don't teach them that rubbish! Give them 'Hymns Ancient and Modern,'" was the remark, for instance, of an old Hampshire gardener referred to in the current Journal, when his wife was teaching their children some old ballads. Most of the examples contained in the present volume are from the fine collection of Mr. Frank Kidson, of Leeds, and some are very quaint. Some interesting Sussex songs are contributed also by Mr. Percy Merrick, who noted them down from the lips of an old farmer, who died a few years since at the age of seventy; though some of the words of these, it is shocking to learn, were "not quite proper." But that is rather a way they have in these old songs.

Mr. Hugo Görlitz writes gravely to the papers, as Kubelik's agent, to contradict the report that there is any stipulation as to his twins accompanying that famous artist on his projected visit to America. But doubtless to allay the bitter disappointment likely to be occasioned in multitudinous fair breasts by this announcement, Mr. Görlitz adds that the twins will none the less probably accompany their father, "especially as Mrs. Kubelik will always travel with her husband in future." Who would not be a fashionable violinist—with or without twins? For 140 concerts in North and South America Kubelik has been offered, it seems, £40,000. It appears, however, that he is disinclined at present to include the southern hemisphere in his travels, so other arrangements may be arrived at. Some £285 odd per concert is not bad pay. Mr. Kubelik, by the way, who begins a seven weeks' tour throughout England and Scotland at the end of this month, has just celebrated the first anniversary of his wedding.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—There is a sound Protestant flavour about "Louis XIV. in Court and Camp" (1) which, however, does not detract from its interest. At the same time it is well to warn sensitive readers that the work is a chamber of horrors, so frightful are the infamies and cruelties inflicted on Protestants both in France and Spain which it records. Philip V. of Spain, *e.g.*, attended in person during his reign seven hundred and eighty-two *autos-da-fé*, saw twelve thousand persons tortured and flogged, and between fifteen and sixteen hundred burnt alive. It may be some slight consolation to Protestant readers to learn that the bed this Prince shared with his little vixen of a French wife was not a bed of roses. When they quarrelled in bed as to whether a Piedmontese or a French lady should succeed the infamous Mme. des Ursins, "the worst woman in Europe," this little spitfire of a wife "attacked Philip with both her fists, drove him out of bed and left him shivering in an armchair till the morning!" The chapter devoted to the Dragonnades would be in place in Fox's "Book of Martyrs." I shall cite as a specimen one comparatively mild extract:—

> In the convents of the "New Catholics," which in the time of the Dragonnades were created everywhere, the nuns resorted to severe discipline. At Uzes they devised the horrible idea of flogging before male witnesses eight young Protestant ladies between sixteen and twenty years old. Both Jurieu and Elie Benoit describe how in the presence of the judges of Uzes and the Major of the Vivonne regiment, the furious nuns uncovered and flogged the unhappy girls with straps armed with pieces of lead! The screams of the poor young ladies thus martyrised by these furies of hell in the garb of religion were heard without the convent walls in the streets.

By the way, among the other victims of Catholic zeal was a seventeenth-century Pigott, a man named Simon Morin, who believed himself to be the Messiah. He was Christ-like both in his character, which "was singularly sweet and patient," and in his teaching, which was "uniformly pure." This poor lunatic was burnt alive, and of his three disciples, two, who were priests, were sent to the galleys for life, and the third, who was a woman, Mme. Malherbe, was brought on to the scaffold naked, branded with a hot iron, and publicly flogged. On the other hand, the lives of the most zealous of the persecutors, whether bishops, priests, princes, or ladies, were so far from being uniformly pure, that you are continually reminded of Boileau's *mot* on the Jesuits—"they had lengthened the creed and shortened the decalogue." From Louis down all seemed to think that they compounded adequately for the immorality of their conduct by the ferocity of their faith, till France in these days might well have been typified by the young lady, Madeleine de la Palud, an Ursuline nun, who was possessed, according to Father Michaelis, the Pope's inquisitor at Avignon, of 6,700 devils. The good father succeeded in drawing out of her "in a gluey mass 6,600 devils," but the balance remained, and wrought unspeakable suffering, both to Madeleine and to all the innocent people she had burnt alive through her ravings under torture.

In a book of exciting jungle stories, by a sportsman who has spent a life amongst the creatures he describes—"Sport and Adventure in the Indian Jungle" (2)—I came upon an interesting identification of Cleopatra's asp with the smallest and most venomous of all snakes, the bingraj. It is a tiny snake six inches long, like a dry twig, and lives upon insects, ant-lions, etc:—

> The natives say that if this snake bites one in the foot, death is instantaneous; but if it bites one in the chest, a gentle drowsy sensation of sleep overcomes one, and one dies with a pleasant look on the face. Rajpoot women, when they wish to commit suicide, apply one of these snakes to the bosom and make it bite them there, when they enjoy the most pleasurable sensations and die quietly. There is no cure; whether it bites in the foot or chest, death comes all the same, only the one is quicker than the other. Can there be any connection between this story and that of Cleopatra and the viper?

You remember the Clown's description of "the pretty worm of Nilus that kills and pains not"? "A woman

(1) "Louis XIV. in Court and Camp." By Lieut.-Colonel Andrew C. P. Haggard, D.S.O. With Twenty Illustrations, including a Photogravure Plate. London: Hutchinson & Co. 16s. net.)

(2) "Sport and Adventure in the Indian Jungle." By A. Mervyn Smith. With Illustrations from Original Drawings and Photographs. (London: Hurst & Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d.)

(3) "A Lonely Summer in Kashmir." By Margaret Cotter Morison. (London: Duckworth & Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

(4) "The Heron's Tower." By Emily Gerard (Emily de Laszowska.) (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(5) "Krum." A Study in Consciousness. By Ernest G. Henham. (London: Grant Richards. 6s.)

(6) "The Wheeling Light." By Fergus Hume. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(7) "Will-o'-the-Wisp." By Pauline Hamer. (London: S. H. Bousfield & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

(8) "Oddities, Others, and I." By Henriette Corkran. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 16s.)

(9) "Nature's Comedian." By W. E. Norris. (London: Longmans Green & Co. 6s.)

(10) "The Duke's Jest." By L. A. Talbot. (London: Harper Brothers. 6s.)

(11) "Lilies of a Day." Short Poems by Sarah Bragg Pearce. (London: Headley Brothers. 1s.)

died of the biting of it no longer than yesterday, and made a very good report of it." While Cleopatra also makes a very good report of it:—

> Dost thou not see my baby at my breast
> That sucks the nurse asleep:
> As sweet as balm, as soft as air, as gentle?

Mr. Mervyn Smith has certainly identified Rudyard Kipling's Mowgli, the wolf-boy, of whom he gives a painful photograph, taken ten years after the creature's capture. According to the natives these wolf-children are not at all uncommon:—

> The natives declare that when a she-wolf has lost her whelps she experiences a soreness at the teats from the accumulation of milk, and she then generally steals a child. The sucking of the child relieves the wolf, and the infant is thenceforth regarded as a member of the family, and shares the wolves' den and food.

Mowgli showed something of a human intelligence from the first, came later to learn the Gond language, and was ultimately committed to the charge of a missionary in the North-West. He would probably have enjoyed himself better if he had been allowed to remain in the neighbourhood of his capture, where he would henceforth have been worshipped as a god!

> The women asked permission to worship him, and brought presents of milk and fowls. With the favour of the "Lord of the Wolves," as they called him, their flocks would, they said, be safe from the ravages of these fierce beasts.

Mowgli's business eye, however, was fastened so greedily upon—not the dedicated fowls—but the little children of his worshippers, that several attendants had to keep watch and ward against his springing upon them and rending them to pieces. The most exciting story in the collection is certainly "The Terror of Hunsur," which was a mad elephant that killed a score of people before he was at last tracked down and slain, with a skill and coolness which makes you hold your breath as you read, by a member of that famous family of sportsmen, the Gordon-Cummings. I wonder, by the way, if there is any evidence which could be considered convincing that an elephant, like this "Terror of Hunsur," whose tail is cloven, is as invariably treacherous as the natives believe him to be. Or, again, do boas, as the natives believe and as Rudyard Kipling, in his "Jungle Book," asserts, kill always with a blow of the head, and use their constrictive power only to squeeze the body of their prey into a manageable mass for swallowing? "The boa," says Mr. Mervyn Smith, "has a square nose, like that of a buffalo, which is not soft, but hard and bony, and it can deliver a blow as hard as that of twenty men together, and strike an object eight feet away." You will, I think, be pleased with "A Lonely Summer in Kashmir" (3), Miss Margaret Cotter Morison's narrative of her journey with "Jones" through that country, where every prospect pleases, and only man is vile—for the lady has not one good word to say for the natives. "Jones," I ought to say, was her brother's composite dog, which seemed to combine all the virtues of soul and all the deformities of body of his mixed ancestry—the bull-dog being the predominant factor in both his character and his appearance. Whether Miss Cotter Morison dared have ventured without "Jones" amongst the pariah men and dogs she describes is doubtful; and, indeed, it is doubtful whether she could have so greatly dared without her perfect health, as well as her indomitable pluck and persistence. Her description of living in tents during tropical rain is enough to make one shiver with imagined ague; but Miss Morison was

> one of those happily constituted people who are totally unconscious of possessing a liver or any other article of internal economy. Indeed (she adds), my attitude towards my own anatomy has always much resembled that of the careful mother who wrote to the schoolmistress about her daughter: "Please, don't teach Mary Jane anything more about her inside, for it don't do no good, and it's rude."

The appendix to this profusely-illustrated and picturesquely-written record of travel gives a serviceable and detailed account of the necessary cost and equipment for a similar tour. I have not read for some time a novel with a more effective hero, heroine, villain, and plot than those of "The Heron's Tower" (4). The scene of the story is laid in Germany, where the heroine grows to womanhood unloved and neglected since her parents resented her sex. It was she, they thought, and not her twin brother, who should have died at birth, since a male heir was needed to carry on the ancient name. Athirst for love of all kinds, she comes across, at the most susceptible age, a Greek like Tito Melema, or, rather, perhaps, like Juvenal's *Græculus esuriens*—subtle, greedy, selfish, and conscienceless. He is, however, an Antinous in his lithe grace and beauty, and the heroine clothes his character with her day-dreams. When the hero at last appears upon the scene, she has already given her heart to this supple and sordid villain, and, indeed, writes him a letter, which was intercepted, agreeing to an elopement. This letter is ingeniously made the pivot of the plot, since it is sent by her scheming mother to the hero, and brings about his marriage to the heroine. After marriage, however, he finds that it was written to another man, and the discovery leads to the separation of the newly-wedded pair. I shall leave you to find for yourself how poetic justice was dealt out all round, making hero and heroine happy, disposing most appropriately of the villain, and withholding from the heartless and scheming mother the good news of an heir, for which she had longed all her life. "Krum" (5) is certainly original in its hero and in its plot. Its hero, having slain under overpowering provocation his worthless chum (with whom he was prospecting for opals), in an access of remorse, returns to England to personate as a prodigal the man he has slain, and so cheer the dead man's father with the illusion of that youth's repentance. That you will admit is an absolutely original idea, and it is well worked out till towards the close of the story, when Mr. Henham seems to lose control over his characters and himself. What is "The Wheeling Light" (6)? It is the light of a revolving lighthouse revealing to a man at sea a murder committed on land. This strikes the keynote of Mr. Fergus Hume's stagey story, which is more stirring than probable. Perhaps the necessary misunderstandings which separate for a time the lovers, married and unmarried, in "Will-o'-the-Wisp" (7) are a little too thin, since a question, which must in real life have been asked, would have reassured Paul of the love of Adrienne, and Freda of the loyalty of John; but such questions are never asked in novels until the last chapter. On the whole, you will find Miss Hamer's first attempt at fiction a pretty and promising love story for girls. Whether the subjects of Mr. Henriette Corkran's "Oddities, Others, and I" (8) will be as pleased with her reminiscences as she is herself and as you will probably be is doubtful. The lady, *e.g.*, has been very, very cruel to her impassioned suitors, and her cruelty might well have been sated with the breaking of their hearts without recording the fractures for the amusement of an irreverent public. The jilted Dr. C. perhaps deserved his fate, as Miss Corkan's description of him recalls Dryden's

> "Was everything by starts and nothing long;
> But in the course of one revolving moon
> Was chymist, fiddler, statesman, and buffoon."

He wound up with being a monk and Miss Corkran's revenge for having jilted him—since, to quote Dryden again:—

> "Forgiveness to the injured doth belong
> But he ne'er pardons who hath done the wrong—"

Miss Corkran's revenge, I say, for the wrong she had done him was sufficiently humorous to be its own justification. Having ascertained that Dr. C. while in probation was not allowed to write or receive letters, and that any letters sent to him would be read by the Father Superior, Miss Corkran copied some most passionate epistles she had read in a current breach of promise case and posted them to her old flame. Miss Corkran's other love affair was yet more serious—for the victim—but perhaps time has healed even that deep wound. By the way, the distance of time from which Miss Corkran recalls these romantic and amusing reminiscences is in one respect an advantage, since it

necessarily compels her to invent the bright dialogues, etc., which no memory could have retained. There are two admirable studies in Mr. W. E. Norris's "Nature's Comedian" (9)—this actor on and of the stage, and his patroness, Miss Gardener. A great psychologist holds that nothing is more demoralising than acting, since the actor in time, through being continually some one other than himself, loses all sense of truth and reality. Mr. Norris's "Nature's Comedian" exemplifies this theory. "What," asks Elia, apropos of Elliston, "if it is the nature of some men to be highly artificial. The fault is least reprehensible in *players*." A little earlier in the essay Elia quotes some one as saying to Elliston, "I like Wrench, because he is the same natural, easy creature *on* the stage that he is *off*. "My case exactly," retorted Elliston—with a charming forgetfulness that the converse of a proposition does not always lead to the same conclusion. The inference at first sight seems identical; but examine it a little and it confesses only that the one performer was never, and the other always, *acting*." Harold Dunville was always acting—acting even when he committed an heroic suicide—and the habit of histrionism seems to wear away sincerity, to wear away even his original self. Not less true to life and nature is the selfish worldling who, so to say, invests in the actor, when he seems a good investment and sells out promptly and remorselessly when he seems a wild-cat speculation. But, indeed, all the principal personages are well drawn and interesting—the self-effacing Rector, his sister, his sweetheart, Lillian Ormond, and the actress Lorna Fitzwalter—while the plot allows each full play for the development of his character. "The Duke's Jest" (10) is too fantastic for my taste. A kind of Lady Don Quixote, feeling that she was fast becoming an old maid, thought she would at least take the advantage of her mature age, and roam the world alone. She encounters two men, who implore her to marry their Prince off-hand to save him from an immediate and infernal death. His enemy, at whose mercy he lies, will set him free only on the condition that some foreign lady marries him. She consents at once, though the captive Prince is a monster of ugliness, with "mis-shapen brow, pendulous nose, purple lips, and falling chin." After she has married him, however, she discovers that the ugliness was a waxen mask! Nevertheless, she returns to England—for she agreed to the marriage only on the terms that it was to be a merely nominal union—but is presently recalled to the dying Prince's bedside. He is being fantastically poisoned through the kisses of a girl, and is only just saved from death by his wife's watchful nursing. The villains—the Duke and this girl La Brinvilliers—die together, and the heroine consents to be the Prince's real wife and queen. I have just been glancing through a pretty booklet of poems, "Lilies of a Day" (11), which I think you will enjoy, especially, perhaps, its dainty triolets.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—It is a very comfortable thing to be hopelessly unfashionable and able to enjoy London in September when smart folk are conspicuously absent. The dear little village is full of pleasant things, and there is a most delightful leisure in which to enjoy them. There are new and successful plays at the theatres, whereat one may agreeably spend the rapidly lengthening evenings. The weather is just right for sauntering about the streets, neither too hot nor too cold; and the shop windows are getting full of dainty things displayed expressly for our nice American cousins, who are already considerably in evidence, and will be so more and more with every week.

For their benefit, particularly, are the new winter furs exhibited in the windows devoted to peltry. A study of them results in the conviction that there is no great novelty to be expected at present. The Russian blouse in caracul or beaver holds it own, with or without a basque; and embroidered revers appear to be greatly favoured; much more than those of the fur itself. Many of these fur coats are made without any collar, and the revers look rather lonely where they leave off at the neck, instead of foregathering with a collar as was their wont.

Embroidered kid is to be used for revers later on, I hear, and the belt is to be embroidered to match. It is to be a button season, so look up your treasures of the kind. Old silver, enamel, miniatures set in gold or silver, quaint and barbaric patterns, are all to be in great request, as well as up-to-date enamel work, such as so many ladies make as a means of livelihood, cut steel, and even paste.

But I do not think paste buttons suitable for an outdoor coat, do you? On a black velvet one, perhaps—but no! Steel or enamel would be better. I saw the other day some exquisite green and blue buttons made by a lady who learned how to work by persevering at a jeweller's bench for two years, hard at it during the usual working hours of an apprentice's day. That I call real courage—do not you? The drudgery of it must be full of excellent lessons and training in patience, perseverance, and the overcoming of self-indulgent impulses. This lady deserves success. Whether she has attained it or not I do not know.

Since writing the last line I have been to a private view at Lucile's of a great number of lovely gowns to be worn in "The Catch of the Season," Seymour Hicks's new musical play to be produced this week at the Vaudeville. The gowns have all been designed personally by Lucile (Lady Duff Gordon), and all were made in London. They were so many and so dazzlingly pretty that it is impossible to do them anything like justice in describing them, as they appeared on the softly-lighted stage in the beautiful room with its Adams ceiling and parqueted floor, at the back of the house. The windows look out on a large tree-shaded garden, so unexpected in the crowded West End of London, and proportionately pleasant.

Lucile's gowns are avowedly "calculated to express personality in curves and colours." She believes that "gowns may express ideas from grave to gay, even emotions and passions." Her translations are certainly extremely pleasing. As, one after the other, the pretty actresses who are to appear in the play passed through the green-grey curtains of the stage, and, lingering for a moment in the rosy light, descended the steps and passed down the long room, the various colours made a brilliant effect. There were bright rose-coloured gowns, old-world pink taffetas, with a sheen and a bloom upon them, a black velvet and jet, worn by a tall girl with the face of a child and the bearing of a queen, a green gauze over blue that must have been meant to express witchery—and very suitably, and dozens of others, which would fill volumes if properly and painstakingly described. A pretty face was invested with a huge Victorian poke bonnet, the immense brim of which was sewn round with small pink roses. The brown silk gown was flounced in the fashion of the period.

Several of the frocks were of the Louis XVI. period, the fully-gathered skirts opening in front over an elaborately-trimmed underskirt, the bodice with sloping shoulders and wide, puffed sleeves. Others were Edwardian, and so up-to-date that they may be studied as modes of to-morrow. One of these was an exquisite arrangement in tan-coloured tulle, with gold embroideries over copper-gold silk. The dazzling embroideries finished the bodice round the shoulders. Another sweet

LADIES requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.—JOHN BUSVINE & Co., 4, Brook-st., London, W.

gown was all lace and chiffon, with interludes of soft, bright blue.

I liked very much a brown silk shepherd's plaid, the studied simplicity of which made its mark among so much that was rich and fanciful. Linen collar and cuffs gave an expression of their own to this gown. A very sweet white satin wedding dress has, in the play, to be put on in a few seconds. The bride has to get out of her ball gown and into her wedding gown in less than four minutes. I conclude that the fastenings have had to be specially arranged. The four child-bridesmaids wear Louis XVI. gowns in white muslin trimmed with pale pink and blue ribbon roses. They wear pink and blue wreaths. The grown-up bridesmaids have very similar frocks, but wear charming hats, light and vaporous.

I forgot to tell you about a pretty peach-coloured velvet, with silver embroideries round the hem and girdling the shoulders. And there was a white and black frock which will, I fear, be coveted by many a feminine visitor to the Vaudeville, and a softly falling grey gown, in some very light material, had a novel Watteau pleat which was nothing less than a stroke of genius. Instead of starting from the shoulders in a pleat that more or less disguises the figure and too often gives a round-shouldered effect, this Watteau was slung on a curved line, which was covered with a glitter of steel. The lowest part of this curve fell almost to the waist line, and the whole arrangement was as pretty and graceful as could be imagined.

Another very new idea was that of a bright pink silk bolero which came down to the waist in a point at the back and was there fastened. This is worn over an old-world chiné plentifully sprinkled with wraith-like roses and dreamy daisies.

How a scarlet and mauve with pink sleeves escaped being loud, gaudy, and discordant only Lucile can tell. But that it did escape there is no doubting. Such a gown requires some art in the wearing, and in this case it got it. All the actresses were pretty, and they moved gracefully. It seems much more difficult to move gracefully than to be pretty.

There were quaint conceits in basques and bows. One of the latter, perched sideways upon a gown of a wholly different colour, seemed to me to be extremely irrelevant, but perhaps it expressed some particular phase of feeling that will need elucidation in the play. And again, a very full but short green silk basque pulled tightly down under a belt, and worn at the back only—what did it signify?

Did you read the account of the swimming match near New York last week, when two girls beat all the men but one, and he had only one leg to resist the water? Was it not a triumph? The course was thirteen miles in a choppy sea. The men who competed were all plied with stimulants, but the girls cheerfully declined everything of the sort, even tea.

O those mischievous stimulants! How men ruin their constitutions with them! Do they not?

Says Bernard Shaw in a number of the now-forgotten *Savoy*:—

> To those professional men whose art affords practically boundless scope for skill of execution and elevation of thought, to take drug or dram is to sacrifice the keenest, most precious part of life to a dollop of lazy and vulgar comfort.

But not even an angel from heaven would convince such men of the truth of it!

I am sending you two interesting novels. In one, "They Twain" (Fisher Unwin), the authoress depicts a close and tender matrimonial union apparently strong enough on both sides to give the partners endless confidence in each other. And yet the wife, on seeing her husband in rather suspicious circumstances, distrusts him at once, and never even asks him for an explanation of what could easily have been explained. This inconsistency, however, does not spoil the interest of the story.

The other book is "The Perils of Sympathy," by Nina Stevens (Fisher Unwin), who might have found a better title. Most of the story takes place in Bengal, and is told by one who knows all about social life in India, is at home in the Governmental circles of Calcutta, and knows how terribly hard the unfortunate Civil Servants are worked in that far land. There is a graphic description of a presentation scene at Government House, and in another chapter a sketch that is almost photographic of Benares. An artist could paint a well-filled canvas from the details given on a single page. I know you will be immensely interested in the story of the half-caste girl.

Maud and the two children are with us, and we are taking the youngsters to see the sights. At the Tower they were anxious to know on which side of the block the heads of the victims fell, where the headsman stood, and how many chops he had to make. I really think that children take a natural delight in horrors. At Madame Tussaud's they both anxiously inquired for the Chamber of Horrors, and accounted for their anxiety by saying: "Nurse says that you can see the blood slowly trickling from all the murderers if you look very hard." Nurses apparently know what fare suits the childish mind, and take care to have plenty of it handy.

We all caught a glimpse of the King on Saturday. The children, however, were not happy, because he was not in uniform. I believe they think his Majesty wears it even in bed. Which reminds me that there is actually a picture of the deathbed of Queen Elizabeth, showing that regal lady in bed with not only her crown on her head, but a well-stiffened ruff about her neck!

Maisie writes from Scarborough:—

Lady Londesborough's entertainments at the Hippodrome on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday proved a tremendous draw and the huge building was filled to overflowing each night. People were paying half-a-crown for the shilling places on the promenade. The Hippodrome had been transformed for the occasion into a delightfully-decorated theatre, and the scene was a most gay and animated one. The orchestra was the band of the 21st Lancers, and there is nothing like a military band, is there? The gathering of society people was a very smart and distinguished one, and included Lord and Lady Londesborough (the latter wearing a gown of cream chiffon and lace that suited her fair beauty to perfection), the Marchioness of Cholmondeley (in black and gold), Lady Lettice Cholmondeley, Lord George Cholmondeley, Lord Raincliffe, Lady Irene Denison (in white), Dowager Lady Londesborough, Lady Ida Sitwell (in black), Lady Mildred Cooke (in white), Lady Sybil Codrington, Miss Veronica Codrington, Lord William Cecil, Sir Everard Cayley, Miss Fairfax, Miss Darley, Miss Iris Darley, Lady Maud Warrender, Lady Alington, Lord and Lady Kinnoull, Hon. Mrs. Ailwyn Fellowes, Mr. Rupert Beckett, Mrs. Arthur Wilson, Miss Muriel Wilson, Captain Clive Wilson, and many others too numerous to mention. "The Dancing Girl and the Idol" was just as great a success as when it was given before the King when he was staying at Chatsworth. Miss Muriel Wilson played the part of Namouna, the dancing girl, with her usual perfection of style. Lady Maud Warrender played the part of Sundrum, the lover, and her beautiful singing was received with frantic applause. Lady Kinnoull gave a delightful performance on the violin, and wore a charming gown of turquoise blue velvet, trimmed with creamy lace and diamonds. Some lovely gowns were displayed by the lady performers in the "Pantomime Rehearsal." Lady Alington, as Lady Muriel Beauclerc, wore blue tulle powdered with blue sequins and blazing with diamonds. Hon. Mrs. Ailwyn Fellowes, as Hon. Lily Eaton Belgrave, wore white gauze massed with silver sequins, and beautiful white roses on her bodice and in her hair. Miss Muriel Wilson, as Hon. Violet Eaton Belgrave, wore white gauze thickly embroidered with gold sequins, and pink roses on the bodice. Miss Eloise Breeze wore white with a blue waistband, and red roses on the bodice.

The Cricket Festival has been a great success, and the attendance is considered a record. Lord Londesborough is the President this year, and a large party went from Londesborough Lodge

Redfern's Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit-street Showrooms.

every day. The Esplanade was very full this morning, and there was a crowded church parade. I noticed Lady Ida Sitwell in white, with a Tuscan hat trimmed with brown tulle and creamy roses. With her were Miss Willoughby, in a white gown and a large Leghorn hat with pink roses, and Mrs. Wardle in blue and white. There were many more smart gowns to be seen, but I am afraid I have not space to write about them. MAISIE.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Dublin returned last week to its normal condition, the great event of the year—the Horse Show—having passed away. The crowds, festivities, and excitement were over, and what is more, well over, and with no other "week" looming on the horizon. "Weeks" are great specialities with us over here. They play a great part in what may be called our society industry; they have a suitably brilliant finish with the Horse Show week, the rest of the year providing no other important one. The tourist and excursionist, who generally take a look around the capital before going through the country or on leaving it, have the town to themselves. September, of all months, is perhaps the least pleasant in a town, whilst, if fine, it is capable of being very enjoyable in the country. And it often is fine, especially when the summer has done its duty in that direction; just as we ourselves are frequently extra good and sweet, when it marks the contrast more forcibly between us and somebody else who is not so. Last week we had, in some degree, real summer weather, though the nip of freshness, now inevitable in the evening air, and the shortening days were reminders of the fact that autumn had come. Not necessarily an unpleasant fact, all things considered, or, at least, one with compensations. Though we may not have so much to enjoy as in summer, we have against that more energy, owing to the cooler temperature, for enjoying what we get. How often the most glorious of summer days just simply tantalises us; we can only look at it from afar, as it were, and are obliged to seek shelter from its glories.

September, of course, is welcomed by those, mainly men as yet, who number "killing" amongst the greatest pleasures of life. The month extends the scope of their activities, providing more things to kill. Is it as great a mystery to you as it is to me that those, otherwise humane, and apparently without savage instincts, should find such pleasure in killing? One wonders if the men who kill beef, mutton, etc., find keen pleasure in the occupation. Does not modern shooting, especially as conducted in the highest places, seem to have all its enjoyment in the mere killing of the slaughter-house kind?

Lord Dudley left Dublin immediately after the Horse Show week to pay a visit at Crom Castle, Lord Erne's place, which is picturesquely situated near Lough Erne. Lady Dudley and the baby were getting on very well at the Viceregal Lodge. Later on Lord and Lady Dudley will take a holiday in some place that has bracing air. Lady Dudley has not been out of Ireland for a long time, and Lord Dudley has only crossed the Channel on very occasional and flying visits this year.

Lord and Lady Iveagh and a family party have been staying at Farmleigh, where other visitors have been entertained as well. The Guinness family are enthusiastic motorists, and have been so from the beginning. In Ireland motors have caught on very severely, one may well say. Whatever they may be for those who are in them, they are certainly very severe for those who are not. As with the eye of the Government in Russia and other police-ridden countries, you can never be sure that the motor is not upon you. How disturbed is now the peace and happiness of the "quiet walk along not more than ten or twelve miles of road a day," which Ruskin decrees to be "the most amusing of all travelling." Where can the road for quiet contemplation be found, the road on which the motor does not flash by with its sound of fury, cloud of dust, and evil smell? "Musing meditation" must now seek the hill-tops; "pensive secrecy" could not be found in a "desert cell" or anywhere on the flat, however far from the cheerful haunts of men. Even the seashore has been invaded—the strands once sacred to bathers, and to innocence with its spade and bucket. This week motor races are being held near Dublin—within some six or seven miles of it—on the renowned "Silver Strand" of Portmarnock. One wonders when the mad-

RECEIVED LATE.

NEW MODDERFONTEIN GOLD MINING COMPANY, LTD.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st May, 1904.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital—						
300,000 Shares of £1 sterling each	1,200,000	0	0			
10,000 Shares held in reserve	40,000	0	0			
290,000 Shares of £1 sterling each ...				1,160,000	0	0
,, Share Premium Account—As per Balance Sheet 31st May, 1903				455,772	7	10
,, Sundry Creditors—						
On Current Account for Stores, Native Wages, &c.	6,850	4	8			
Sundry Shareholders, amount to be refunded in respect to Reserve Shares over applied for as per Balance Sheet 31st May, 1899, £555 5s., less £12 since refunded ...	543	5	0			
				7,393	9	8
				£1,623,165	17	6

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Property—						
Mynpacht, Mining Claims and Water-rights...				834,260	6	0
,, Buildings (at cost)				53,717	3	7
,, Machinery and Plant (at cost)				299,544	15	11
,, Shafts (at cost)—						
West Incline Shaft	9,677	18	11			
East Incline Shaft	10,909	9	1			
Main Shaft, No. 1	29,068	2	9			
Main Shaft, No. 2	30,386	19	1			
Incline Shaft	8,972	5	0			
No. 10 Shaft, East Mine ...	8,150	14	7			
No. 12 Shaft, West Mine ...	4,083	3	1			
No. 13 Shaft, East Mine ...	205	12	8			
				101,454	5	2
,, Mine Development (at cost)—						
West Mine	87,086	12	8			
East Mine	19,519	0	6			
				106,605	13	2
,, Prospecting and Boreholes (at cost)				1,414	1	9
,, Dams and Reservoirs (at cost)	21,691	3	7			
,, General Improvements and Cultivation (at cost)	2,135	19	10			
				23,827	3	5
By Live Stock, Vehicles, and Harness	1,451	3	3			
,, Furniture (at cost)	2,675	11	3			
				4,126	14	6
,, Share Account (at cost)—						
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, 400 Shares, 25s. per Share deposit for boys and 12s. per Share paid up ...	740	0	0			
Co-operative Exchange Yard, 18 £80 Shares, £16 per Share paid up...	288	0	0			
Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Ltd., 2,000 £3 Shares, 6s. per Share paid up	600	0	0			
				1,628	0	0
,, Stores on Hand				24,551	16	5
,, Sundry Debtors				2,713	17	5
,, Gold in Transit...				7,508	17	10
,, Cash—						
National Bank, Ltd., Johannesburg, Fixed Deposit... ...	115,000	0	0			
National Bank Ltd., London...	27	2	3			
Cash in Transit to London ...	300	0	0			
Cash at Mine	2,703	0	10			
	118,030	3	1			
Less National Bank, Ltd., Johannesburg, Overdraft...	2,211	8	3			
				115,818	14	10
,, Appropriation Account... ...				45,994	7	6
				£1,623,165	17	6

H. G. L. PANCHAUD, Secretary.

W. H. DAWE, Acting Chairman.
H. C. BOYD.
W. T. GRAHAM, } Directors.

We hereby certify that we have examined the Books and Vouchers of the New Modderfontein Gold Mining Company, Limited, for the year ended 31st May, 1904, and that the Balance Sheet and appropriation Account represent a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs on that date.

HOWARD PIM, Chartered Accountant,
LEO. F. MELVILL, Incorporated Accountant, } Auditors.
Johannesburg, 4th July, 1904.

ness of motor-racing will die out. To have them on the sands instead of on the public road has some hopeful signs of a movement of the authorities in the direction of sanity. It would be so much better to be energetic in developing the uses of the motor instead of its abuses. Motoring in moderation is a charming way of seeing a country; the pity is that motorists in general never seem to want to see anything. A select number, however, have been doing motor tours in Ireland this season, amongst them Lady Arran—the Dowager—and her daughter, Mr. R. and Lady Gwendolen Guinness and others who made a beginning in Dublin with the Horse Show.

Lord Powerscourt's genial presence was much missed at the Horse Show, which owed in its successful development so much to him. Lady Powerscourt—the Dowager—has left Ireland with her daughters. The new Lord and Lady Powerscourt are entering into possession of their kingdom, and have taken up their residence at Powerscourt for the present.—Ever yours,

CLARE.

Soufflé of grouse is a delicious entrée:—

Take all the meat from the bones of cooked grouse, about 8oz.; chop the bones and stew them some hours to make stock, which reduce to demi-glaze after it is strained. Pound the meat, adding half a gill of good brown sauce, then rub it through a wire sieve. Put the purée into a stewpan containing the demi-glaze from the bones; add a large spoonful of tomato purée and the yolks of four fresh eggs, season all with salt and pepper, and mix in lightly the whipped whites of four eggs. Bake the soufflé in a silver soufflé dish, or a deep fireproof dish will answer.

No one can fail to like these fillets of grouse à la Lucullus:—

Take the fillets from a couple of young grouse and split them, making eight pieces; lay them on a bed of cut vegetable and slices of bacon in a braising pan, cover them with buttered paper, moisten them with a glass of sherry and a little good stock, cover them closely and cook them an hour in a moderate oven, after which drain the fillets on a cloth, and coat one side with a little quenelle made from the flesh of the legs of the birds. Place them in a buttered sautépan, moisten them with a little stock, cover them with a buttered paper, and cook them in the oven long enough to set the quenelle. When they are cold, cover the thick end of the fillets with white chaudfroid sauce and the thin end with brown chaudfroid. Decorate the thick end with strips of red chilli or truffle, and dish them on a border of chopped aspic. Serve tomato salad in the centre.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King did not go to Doncaster on Thursday, but remained at Rufford Abbey. The morning was spent in the new Italian and Japanese gardens and on the croquet lawn, and in the afternoon his Majesty and several members of the house party drove through Edwinstowe and the Birkland Forest to Welbeck Abbey. There was a procession of four motor-cars, the leading one being occupied by his Majesty, Lady Savile, and Mr. Sidney Greville. A drizzling rain fell during the afternoon. On Saturday morning the King planted a cedar in commemoration of his fifth visit to Rufford, and on the same lawn is a cedar which was planted by Charles II. when he was the guest of Lord Halifax at the Abbey. In the afternoon his Majesty and the other guests went for a long motor drive, during which they passed through Worksop, and visited Sandbeck Park (Lord Scarbrough's seat near Rotherham), Thoresby Park (the domain of Lord Manvers), and Clumber Park, where a short halt was made at the house. The King (then Prince of Wales) was the guest of the present Duke of Newcastle's grandfather at Clumber for several days in 1860. At Sandbeck his Majesty visited the ruins of Roche Abbey, which are on the bank of "Capability" Brown's famous lake. On Sunday the King spent the day in the gardens and park, and his Majesty attended service in the private chapel of the Abbey at eleven o'clock.

The King left Ollerton shortly after eight o'clock on Monday morning, and the journey to Ballater was completed in less than ten hours, the only stoppages in England being at York and at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The King travelled in the new Royal corridor train, which was recently built at Wolverton, and which was used for the first time on the occasion of their Majesties' journey from Euston to Liverpool on July 19. This train was lent to the Great Northern Company by the London and North-Western. The King breakfasted, lunched, and drank tea on the train, which is admirably fitted up, and affords every imaginable comfort. His Majesty will travel by the West Coast route (over the Caledonian and North-Western lines) when he returns south next month.

It was stated in Truth last week that the King is to pay a visit to Lord and Lady Alington in January at More Crichel, Dorsetshire. I understand that during his Majesty's stay in the county he will pay a visit to Lord Portman at Bryanston Park, near Blandford, a place notable for its magnificent modern house, its fine gardens, and its beautiful park.

Great preparations are being made for the Braemar Gathering, which takes place to-morrow, as the King and the Prince and Princess of Wales intend to witness the games. For many years this gathering was held in the Duke of Fife's ground at Old Mar Lodge, and it was transferred thence to a "grass park" in the vicinity of Balmoral Castle. For the last few years the gathering has taken place at Clunie, near Invercauld, which is about seven miles from Balmoral and two miles from Braemar.

The Northern Meeting will take place at Inverness next week, and balls are to be given on each night of the gathering. The Northern Meeting does not now attract the native aristocracy, the company at the balls consisting principally of American and English tourists and shooting tenants or their guests.

The Prince of Wales is to pay a visit to Lord and Lady Iveagh at Elveden Hall, near Thetford, either during the third week in November or on December 5. Elveden was an unpretending old manor house when the estate was sold by the Newton family in 1862, and

the property was nearly being purchased for the Prince of Wales (the present King) instead of Sandringham. Elveden was then bought for the Maharajah Duleep Singh, who had just previously purchased from Lord de Mauley the Hatherop Castle estate, in East Gloucestershire, which was rented by Sir Thomas Bazley. The Maharajah entirely rebuilt the house, where he expended an enormous sum of money on the decorative work, and he laid out and considerably extended the gardens and grounds. During his ownership the whole estate was converted into a game preserve. Lord Iveagh has altered and enlarged the house, besides carrying out all kinds of improvements about the place, and he has added considerably to the property.

The Elveden estate is now unsurpassed in England for battues, the whole property being laid out on scientific principles with a view to the preservation and killing of game, and there is a luncheon house at each centre. The land is of very little agricultural value, and the country all round is flat and by no means picturesque. Lord and Lady Iveagh usually reside at Elveden Hall from about the end of September until the middle of January, and they are very popular in the neighbourhood.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, who will spend the late autumn and winter at Bagshot Park, are going to Scotland for about three weeks, and they are to reside at Birkhall, the King's charming old place in Glen Muick, near Ballater, which has been occupied during the last month by Sir Dighton Probyn.

The Duke of Teck, who has held the appointment of Military Attaché to the Embassy at Vienna since March last, is to return to England next month, when he will rejoin his regiment, the 1st Life Guards.

The Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans had their first shooting party at Wood Norton, near Evesham, during the early part of last week, their guests including the Comtesse de Paris, the Duc de Chartres, the Duc and Duchesse de Guise, and the Duc de Luynes. Heavy bags of partridges were obtained on Monday and Tuesday, and a number of deer were killed, four of which were shot by the Comtesse de Paris. Since the death of the Duc d'Aumale a considerable part of the Wood Norton estate has been converted into a deer park, and a number of the creatures are shot every autumn. The deer are driven.

Lord Dudley has taken few holidays from Ireland this year, but the Chief Secretary has had a long vacation, his official residence remaining unoccupied even during the Horse Show week. Lady Grosvenor was in the North of Ireland, where her son-in-law, Lord Shaftesbury, had typhoid fever at his residence near Belfast. Lord and Lady Grenfell have been living at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham, which each new Commander of the Forces has to fit up for himself. The "flittings" to and from the Royal Hospital are very serious, as regards the trouble which they entail. The big hall, however, owing to improvements made in Lord Wolseley's time, is always in hospitable readiness as a ball and reception room.

After nine years as Minister in Tangier, Sir Arthur Nicolson has been appointed Ambassador at Madrid, but will not go there until the beginning of next week. The old Embassy has been given up, owing to its unhealthy situation. The Government have bought a new one, more out of the town and with a garden, which is a pleasant change. Sir Arthur and Lady Nicolson were popular and hospitable at Tangier. Lady Nicolson is an Irishwoman of the North, the sister of the Dowager Lady Dufferin. She was married to Sir Arthur at Constantinople, when Lord Dufferin was Ambassador there. Lady Nicolson and her family have been staying in Ireland with her mother, Mrs. Rowan Hamilton, at Shanganagh Castle, and with Lady Dufferin, at Clandeboye, in the Co. Down.

Sir Arthur himself belongs to an old Scotch family, being descended from John Nicolson, who in the sixteenth century was one of the leading lawyers of Edinburgh, and he purchased considerable property in Midlothian. Two of John Nicolson's early descendants received baronetcies, which are still extant, the first (granted in 1629) being represented by Sir Arthur Nicolson, of Lasswade, and the second (which dates from 1637) is the one possessed by the new Ambassador to Spain, and was granted by Charles I. to Sir Thomas Nicolson, of Carnock. Sir Arthur Nicholson commenced his official career early in the seventies as private secretary to Lord Granville at the Foreign Office, and he had served at Sofia, Buda-Pesth, Teheran, Berlin, Athens, and Constantinople, previously to his being appointed Minister at Tangier in 1895.

General Sir Charles Mansfield Clarke, Governor and Commander-in-Chief at Malta, is coming to England for two months on leave, and during his absence he will be replaced by Major-General Sir William F. Kelly.

The Duke and Duchess of Portland have returned to Langwell Lodge, their place on the east coast of Caithness, after a cruise with the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland to the Orkney and Shetland Islands in the steam yacht *Catania*, which landed her passengers at Dunrobin, whence she proceeded to Cowes, where she will be laid up for the winter. The Duke has now com-

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 682.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 683.
For Amusements, see page 679.
For Our Puzzles, see page 685.

menced deer-stalking in the forests of Braemar and Langwell, which extend over nearly 50,000 acres, and several heavy stags have already been killed.

The Duke and Duchess will return to Welbeck Abbey for the winter, about the third week in October, and they will probably spend a few days in Ayrshire on their way south. It is reported that the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay a visit to Welbeck Abbey during the winter. Until the last few weeks there has been no entertaining at the Abbey since the burning of the Oxford wing, but the rebuilding and extensive alterations have now been completed. The gardens round the house have been all changed, and the result is a great improvement. During the works at the Abbey the Duke and Duchess resided at Cuckney House, a place on the borders of Welbeck Park.

Lord and Lady Cadogan returned on Saturday to the shooting lodge in Inverlochy Forest, Inverness-shire, from visiting Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey and Lord and Lady Londonderry at Wynyard Park. The King may possibly pay a brief visit to Lord and Lady Cadogan at the end of next week, when he leaves Glenquoich Forest, near Invergarry, where his Majesty is to be the guest of Lord and Lady Burton at their shooting lodge on Loch Quoich for several days. Lord and Lady Cadogan will return south in time for the First October meeting at Newmarket, which begins on the 27th.

The Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe have returned to Floors Castle, the family seat near Kelso, from Byrecleugh Lodge, Berwickshire, where their small party for grouse shooting included Lord Robert Innes-Ker and Captain Duff. There will be numerous guests at Floors during October and November for the autumn salmon angling in the Tweed, and it is rumoured in Roxburghshire that the Prince and Princess of Wales will be guests at the Castle for a few days when they leave Abergeldie for the south early in October.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who will return to England on the 25th, are to be at Newmarket for the autumn race meetings, and they are to arrive at Chatsworth on October 29 for a stay of about three months. The King's projected visit to Chatsworth will take place, either in November, during Derby race week, or during the second week in January.

Mr. James Lowther, although he failed to reach quite the front rank in politics, has been for a generation past one of the most familiar figures in Parliament. Thirty or forty years ago, in the first stage of his political career, it looked as if he might aspire to the very highest political position. That he did not do so was due in a great measure to his blunt sincerity and honesty, and his refusal to compromise with his own convictions at a period when the old Tory creed was being whittled away in all directions to suit the times. He entered Parliament in 1845 as a Tory and a Protectionist; he dies in 1904 in the same faith, and never once in the interval has he shrunk from confessing it. It was this, coupled with his unfailing good temper and geniality of manner to opponents and friends alike, that made him not only universally popular, but universally respected. His life is a remarkable proof that a man may hold unpopular opinions unflinchingly, fight for them valiantly, and yet be a greater favourite among his fellows than one who is all things to all men.

Mr. John Clay, who died last week, was well known in agricultural circles for nearly half-a-century. He farmed on a very large scale in the Border Counties, and was said to pay over £4,000 a year in rents. Mr. Clay served on several Royal Commissions, and he earned in early life a high reputation as an energetic, shrewd, and progressive farmer. Mr. Clay, who was all his life a strong Liberal, unsuccessfully contested North Northumberland in 1880, but this fight was most beneficial to the party, as it paved the way for a Tory defeat in 1885. Mr. Clay was very genial and hospitable, and for fifty years he was a prominent figure in the hunting field, and a regular follower of the Buccleuch and Berwickshire Foxhounds.

Sir James Steel, whose death at Edinburgh is announced, was the son of a Lanarkshire farmer. He was an experienced and most successful builder, and erected more houses at Edinburgh than anyone else has ever done. He made a very large fortune, as all his building speculations turned out well, thanks to his own remarkable forethought and practical sagacity. He built both for the upper classes and for working people. For over thirty years he was a very useful member of the Edinburgh Town Council, and he held the office of Lord Provost from 1900-3, and received a baronetcy when the King and Queen visited Holyrood last year. Sir James Steel was all his life a zealous Liberal, and for many years he was one of the active leaders of the Edinburgh Radicals, who succeeded in overthrowing the old Whig party which for over thirty years monopolised the representation of the city.

Sir Uthred Dunbar, of Mochrum, Wigtownshire, was the head of an ancient and distinguished family. One of his ancestors was Sir John Dunbar, who fell at Flodden in 1513. The baronetcy of Dunbar of Mochrum was created in 1694. Sir Uthred was called to the Bar in 1866, but he never practised. For more than twenty years he acted as private secretary to his father, Sir William Dunbar, who held the important and lucrative office of Comptroller and Auditor-General of the Exchequer. Sir Uthred Dunbar married Miss Grant, of Kilgraston, but

he leaves no children, and the titles and estates pass to his brother, Mr. William Cospatrick Dunbar, who has been for several years the Registrar-General for England.

The Duchy of Lancaster estate of Methwold, in Norfolk, which comprises nearly four thousand acres, has been privately sold by the Council of the Duchy to Mr. Keeble, of Peterborough, who intends to cut the property up into small holdings which will be re-sold. This Crown estate consists of fen farms and marshlands.

REPAVING OR REVOLUTION.

Foreign Visitor, *loq.*:—

"What's the mattare with your London? When I came
to it last week,
Folks did say 'Ah! 'twill amaze you! 'Tis a City
magnifique!
When you see our Peekadilly lost in wondare you will
stand—
It is terrifique you'll find it—all the bustle of the
Strand!'

"Then White'all! Ah, voilà! 'Splendide!' is the
word you will repeat
When you gaze upon its buildings, and the shops of
Oxfort-street!'
So they told me on the *bateau;* so they said, too, in
the train;
But it all seems different—very—p'rhaps, *cher* Truth,
you can explain?

"For I went to Peekadilly in a hansoms-cab, you know,
But a constable he stop me. 'Not this way,' he says;
'no, no!
Peekadilly's up!' he shouted, and he chuckle as he
spoke
Whilst my eyes was nearly blinded with the clouds of
that black smoke!

"'Nevare mind, good Mr. Cabsman!' quite good-temperedly I said;
'We will try the Rue of Oxfort, and will see those shops
instead.'
So away he drove like Jéhu, but, *ma foi!* it was no good.
For, built up, *en face, vous savez,* was one barricade of
wood!

"Blocks were piled breast-high before us, and behind
these wooden bricks
There was pots of pitch a-boiling and stout navvies with
their picks;
There was not a chance, 'twas certain, to get by on either
hand.
So I cried, 'No mattare, cabsman! Let us try your
busy Strand!'

Et alors, when we had tried it, it was one more beeg
rebuff;
Sacré nom d'une pipe! we tried it, but a sample was
enough;
For the horse jibbed at a bonfire in the *chaussée* for our
pains,
And he all but backed the hansoms down amongst the
water-mains!

"All for naught I reesk these dangers and a score of
others too,
For of all your streets most famous I not one have
driven through.
North, and South, and East, and West, Truth, disappointment feel my cup,
Oxfort-street and Peekadilly, Strand and White'all—all
was 'up'!

"So for this, Truth, I am writing; if you pleece, have I
good ground
For suspecting the occasion of the state of things I've
found.
Tell me, pleece, if these closed roadways and these barricades I've seen,
Don't some sort of revolution in the heart of London
mean?"

* * * * *

Truth replies:—

"No, my worthy Correspondent, though so well you've
used your eyes,
You are just a *little* 'previous' in your plausible
surmise;
No, those West End streets of London, you with reason
have attacked,
Were not 'up' for revolution, but repaving, as a fact.

"But I do not mind admitting that, if things should
still go wrong,
There *will be* a revolution here in London's streets
ere long;
And the long-enduring tradesman, and the worms that
pay the rates,
Will combine to wreak the vengeance that incompetence
awaits.

"Ay, there'll be a revolution, and Old Bumble and
his gang
Will from London's highest lamp-posts for their sins
unnumbered hang;
Or be forced to yield their block-heads (as a punishment
more meet)
To supply the wooden pavement to patch up a London
street!"

A firm who took part in the food and grocery exhibition that has lately been held at the Crystal Palace send me the following letter which they received, and it seems worthy of notice:—

Dear Sirs,—As president of the jurors who will make awards, I have already visited the Palace and inspected your exhibits, but it is quite impossible to make any tests on the spot; I would therefore suggest that you send me a few samples of your specialties, for this purpose to the above (my private) address, to reach me not later than Thursday next, as myself and colleagues will be visiting the exhibition on Friday next, etc., etc.

This letter, of course, may easily have been written in perfectly good faith. It is manifestly impossible to test on the spot foodstuffs or any other goods sent to exhibitions sealed or otherwise tightly packed up. If a juror wishes to form an honest opinion on their merits, he must test them at his leisure and in his own way. On the other hand, it is obviously undesirable that the jurors who have to make the awards on the respective merits of various trade productions submitted in competition with one another should invite the competitors to send samples of their wares to their private addresses. The proper remedy for this is that all reasonable facilities for testing the respective merits of the goods, whatever they may be, should be given to the jurors in connection with the exhibition itself. I presume that this is generally done. If not, the competition is not a fair one to the tradesmen concerned.

Red tape as made in Germany seems to be a very choice article. A German lady sends me the following anecdote. A female teacher in a school in Westphalia had to make an official communication to the Minister

of Education. She used for the purpose what is called "eagle-paper," having the Royal eagle upon it as a water-mark, and duly despatched it to Berlin through the School Board of Essen. After a few days the letter came back, with an intimation that it must be rewritten, as the eagle appeared upon it head downwards. Evidently Berlin smelt "Majestätsbeleidigung."

A lively controversy has been going on between the directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society and Professor Wallace, Professor of Agriculture in Edinburgh University, in reference to certain allegations that the latter made concerning the management of the society and its educational policy. The directors appointed a committee of inquiry, but the inquiry seems to have been a very one-sided affair, and the Professor has just issued a vigorous and effective reply to the whitewashing report which the committee presented. There are personal issues involved in the dispute upon which it is unnecessary to express an opinion. But Professor Wallace certainly appears to show that the executive of the society have adopted a mistaken and unfortunate course in dealing with the question of agricultural education, and it is to be hoped that the members at large will give serious consideration to the matter.

The Bishop of Stepney, who has been staying in Germany for the benefit of his health, is now well again, and he will resume his work in the diocese of London at the beginning of next month. Bishop Lang is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during October.

The Archbishop of York, who has been spending a holiday in Norfolk, is to return this week to Bishopthorpe Palace. The Archbishop's September Ordination is to be held in Bishopthorpe Church, in consequence of the unprecedentedly small number of candidates, which has caused the removal of the service from York Minster. During Archbishop Maclagan's absence from Yorkshire, the diocese has been in charge of the Bishops of Beverley and Hull.

The Rev. James Adderley, Vicar of St. Mark's, Marylebone, who has just accepted the important living of Saltley, Birmingham, on the gift of his father, Lord Norton, was for some years the very efficient head of the Christ Church (Oxford) Mission at Poplar, and he afterwards held curacies in Essex, and for three years before he was presented to his present benefice, in 1901, he was Minister of Berkeley Chapel, Mayfair. He is a reasonable High Churchman, an energetic parish clergyman, an admirable preacher, and a clever organiser and administrator. Mr. Adderley will be warmly welcomed at Birmingham by his friend Bishop Gore. He makes a pecuniary sacrifice by accepting the living of Saltley, which parish, moreover, is a most onerous charge, the work, in Mr. Adderley's own words, being "tremendous."

A Scot domiciled in Queensland has requested me to decide two questions on which he has had an argument with one of his fellow-countrymen there—first, whether John Knox played golf on the Sabbath, and secondly, whether a law was passed making the game lawful in Scotland on the Sabbath, except during the time of divine service. It grieves me to say that the flattering confidence thus shown in my editorial omniscience—all the more flattering as I am a mere Sassenach—is misplaced. I do not know whether John Knox played golf at all, let alone on the Sabbath, nor do I know whether the game was expressly sanctioned by statute on that day. It is recorded, however, that in the sixteenth century the Edinburgh Town Council modified a previous total prohibition of golf on the Sabbath by directing that it should only apply "in tyme of sermons," while early in the seventeenth century a Royal proclamation was issued ordering that people should not be discouraged from this "harmless recreation" on the Sabbath, provided they had "first done their dutie to God." On the other hand, in spite of these signs of a more enlightened spirit, golf continued to be generally regarded as a profanation of the Lord's Day—a matter in which Scotland still stands where it did.

Welsh Sabbatarianism, by the way, seems to be fully equal to the Scotch brand. The Merioneth County Council were horrified to learn last week that the medical superintendent and patients at a home for habitual drunkards at Dinas Mawddwy "desecrated the Sabbath by fishing, shooting, and golfing," and it was unanimously resolved that the licence of the establishment should be renewed only on the condition that all such wicked practices were discontinued. No doubt these Sabbatarian Councillors know that it is an important part of the treatment of the inebriates to keep them constantly interested and engaged in healthy amusements and games. It would seem, however, that they regard their own narrow-minded notions on Sunday observance as of more consequence than the reformation of inebriates, and so these unfortunate patients at Dinas Mawddwy are—if the Council have their way—to be condemned to pass one day a week in a pious gloom, which will be admirably calculated to set up a craving for drink. Fortunately it rests with the Home Secretary to decide whether the condition imposed by the Council shall be enforced, and I can hardly believe that he will countenance anything so foolish.

My attention has been again called to the continued activity of the individual who styles himself the "Right Rev. Bishop McLaglen," and goes about collecting money for a nebulous charity described as the Gordon Memorial Day Nursery, and other concerns of the same nature. This man is one of the most arrant humbugs in the charity-mongering business, and to those who know his record—which has been fully given in Truth—his continued success in that line is nothing short of amazing. I heard recently that the *soi-disant* "bishop"

keeps four or five collectors regularly employed in London. Each of them takes something like £3 a week on the average. About £780 a year is therefore picked up in this way. In addition to this, McLaglen himself and his son are also engaged in collecting, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that their earnings are equal to all those of the other collectors, for while the latter may be generally dismissed with a shilling or a florin, who would think of offering such a sum to a live bishop in all the glory of apron and gaiters? Besides all this, of course, McLaglen begs extensively by post, and must receive considerable sums through that channel.

A more interesting piece of information is that the deputy collectors are paid no less than 10s. in the £ on their takings, as well as an allowance for "expenses" which comes to about 3s. a day. Out of every £3, therefore, which he collects in the course of the week, the collector actually pockets £2 8s. While this reduces the net profits of the episcopal proprietor of the business, it aggravates the fraud upon the charitable public; in fact, I have never heard of such an expenditure on the process of collection, even in the worst abuses of public charity. When it is added to this that McLaglen himself lives, and lives well, out of the business, it is not surprising that the "day nursery" and the shoeblack brigade on which he chiefly trades are mere burlesques of charitable institutions. The moral pointed by this "bishop" and his satellites is that the police regulation of street collections ought to be extended to parties begging from house to house. The other well-known clerical beggar, the "Rev." Robert Macmillan, teaches the same lesson. Indeed, so far as McLaglen is concerned, the police could perfectly well put a stop to his operations without any extension of their present powers.

I have received from the Secretary of Lloyds' Patriotic Fund a copy of the receipts and payments accounts from the date of the outbreak of the Boer War to June 30 last. The general result is certainly most satisfactory, no less than £136,069 having been received during that time, the greater part of it in subscriptions, either paid direct to the Fund, or through the Mansion House. I should, however, like to know on what principle a balance of £22,639 is kept in hand at the end of the time, and another £12,000 invested. There may be possibly some good reason for keeping the first sum in hand; but the system of investing for future use money subscribed under these circumstances has been condemned again and again, and is, in my judgment, indefensible.

The following amounts have been forwarded to me for Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund for Poor London Children:—Gumputty, £2; A Boys' Reformatory School Band, second donation, £2 2s.; A. Moreton Mandeville, £2 2s.

During the progress of our "peaceful mission" to Tibet, we have heard from time to time of commissariat difficulties. A private letter from Darjeeling, extracts from which I have seen, may possibly throw some light upon this matter. The writer states that at Siliguri and Ghoom, two stations in Darjeeling, he saw hundreds of tons of provisions for the Tibetan Field Force lying about without any protection from the weather, although the rain had been so heavy as to swamp the ground. The condition of the stores indicated that they had been lying thus for a considerable period. Potatoes were sprouting out of their sacks. Wheat was in much the same condition. Sacks of flour were lying stacked on the wet ground, sodden and useless. Whole ricks of hay were absolutely rotten, and all the stores, mostly foodstuffs, were similarly damaged.

The writer points out that all this waste could have been avoided by simply laying down a brick floor, and putting up a few portable iron sheds; but for want of a few pounds of expenditure in this way thousands of pounds' worth of stores were utterly spoilt. This is the way the money goes in connection with all wars great and small, "peaceful" and otherwise. It would really seem that as soon as an expedition of any sort is organised, all the usual military checks for safeguarding public property are thrown to the winds, and the principle of "hang the expense" substituted. We have hardly yet heard the last of the reckless waste and downright robbery that went on unchecked and unregarded in South Africa. Yet here is precisely the same sort of scandal, with nothing like the same amount of excuse for it.

Reference was made in TRUTH of August 11 to the fact that married officers were occupying quarters at the infantry barracks, Halifax (N.S.), to which they were not entitled, with the result that a number of unmarried officers had to live out of barracks. In commenting upon this matter I assumed that this meant a considerable expense to the public in the payment of lodging allowance to the unmarried officers. From what I have since heard, however, it would appear that such lodging allowance is not being drawn, at any rate in all cases. In that case, of course, the public purse does not suffer, but the ejected officers do, and the irregularity of the arrangement is in no degree altered. Virtually it means that certain officers are allowed privileges to which they are not entitled, and that other officers have to pay. It is surprising, not only that any C.O. should assent to this state of things, but that any other officer should be ready to accept a favour on such terms. I should have thought, too, that there were other objections to the occupation of bachelor quarters in barracks by married officers and their wives; but if those who know more of Army life than I do see no objection to the arrangement, it is not for me to make remarks about it.

Apropos of a recent paragraph in TRUTH on the practice of employing soldiers on "sergeants' mess

fatigues" in India, a correspondent at Aden mentions that the same practice prevails there, with the difference that it is a daily fatigue instead of a weekly one. He gives an imposing list of the daily fatigue duties that have to be provided for. They include, in addition to sergeants' mess, officers' mess, corporals' room, canteen, library, coffee-shop, guard-room, guard orderly, pay office orderly, and two "C.O.s' orderlies," who act as messengers for the orderly-room clerks from 7.30 to 11 a.m. Of course, there are certain fatigue duties that soldiers may reasonably be expected to perform, and it may not be desirable that they should be always idle when off duty. But in India and the tropics the principle that menial work shall be done by natives is generally adopted, and I should have thought that principle would apply to some items in the above list. Besides this, it strikes me as undesirable that soldiers should have to do anything in the shape of menial work for N.C.O.s, unless they do it voluntarily and for payment.

Credit is due to Lords Curzon and Kitchener for having done something to eradicate the notion that a British soldier in India is free to knock a native about as he pleases, and that the incidental death of the native is a matter of no importance. It would be a misfortune, however, if, in place of the old notion, a new one grew up to the effect that a native is free to knock a British soldier about as he pleases without fear of the consequences. According to some Anglo-Indians there is a danger of this. Probably they exaggerate it; but I am rather struck with an incident reported in the *Sind Gazette*. A disturbance took place, and the military police appeared on the scene and arrested a native who was attacking a soldier. A native policeman refused to take charge of the prisoner, and the crowd set on the soldiers and stoned them all the way back to barracks. The subsequent proceedings ended in the native being fined two rupees—which seems a futile punishment if he had really done what he was charged with.

Again, in a letter from Roorkee it is mentioned that a gunner of the R.G.A. had been sentenced to three days' C.B. for the curious crime of "using strong language to a native bullock driver." Hard words break no bones, and the language must have been very strong indeed to justify the punishment. At any rate, if strong language is to be suppressed, let the same rule be applied all round. You must be careful to punish the native, too, if he addresses unseemly expressions to a soldier. Otherwise the mild Hindoo will assuredly take advantage of his privileges, and perhaps extend the inch to an ell.

By the way, what is the punishment in India now for an officer who uses strong language to a native? I hope the principle has not been adopted that being sworn at becomes less offence as the difference of rank between swearer and swearee increases. It will add to the stock of Tommy's grievances if an officer is allowed to say things to a native which a private may not. And do officers never "use strong language" to privates now? I have heard of such a thing in former days. Perhaps if that were stopped, the private would not feel such a desire to exercise his own tongue on the native. I should think it is less unpleasant to be cursed in a foreign language than in your own.

Here is a good example of the way fictitious offences against discipline are manufactured in the Army. A private in the R.A.M.C. is on duty at the Station Hospital, Valetta, in attendance on two serious cases of enteric. A kit inspection is held, and he does not attend it. It has been generally understood, and the man himself so understood it, that when warned for special duty on serious cases men are excused all parades. Moreover, the matron of the hospital had told the man in the morning that he would not be for parade that day. The man, however, is brought before the C.O., who ascertains from the matron that he could have attended the kit inspection had he asked her for permission. Thereupon the delinquent is punished with fourteen days' C.B. Any intelligent person looking at this case can see the strong possibility that the man honestly thought that he was not required to attend the parade, and would at least give him the benefit of the doubt. But in the Army the rule seems to be, "When in doubt punish the prisoner;" and that is how so many men leave the Army with useless characters.

A soldier recently made an application for board and lodging at a Soldiers' Home at Darjeeling. The following is the answer he received from the lady in charge:—

DEAR FRIEND,—In reply to your letter of Saturday asking for furlough accommodation I am glad to say we shall be glad to receive you, providing you are not a Roman Catholic, and are willing to conform to the rules of our home, which are very simple. One is that our furlough men come either to our morning or evening prayers. No intoxicants allowed, or dogs, etc., etc.

It may or may not be desirable that at a Soldiers' Home attendance at prayers should be compulsory. My impression is that it is not, because it gives a goody-goody character to the place which is likely to frighten many men away, and therefore to limit the usefulness of the place. But however that may be, a Soldiers' Home which refuses admission to Roman Catholic soldiers has no right whatever to its name, and it is a pity that any sectarian spirit should be introduced into such institutions at all.

It was stated last week in TRUTH that there has been a great deal of illness lately among the officers of the Mediterranean Fleet, principally fever. I have since

BROCKENHURST, New Forest (2 hours London).—BALMER, LAWN HOTEL, refurnished, finest position. Central meets, fox-deer hounds, golf, stabling, garage. High-class cuisine. Manager.

heard that no fewer than five officers died during last month, all of enteric. Either the quarters of the officers must be scandalously unwholesome, or the outbreak must be due to impure water. The matter should be thoroughly investigated at once.

Our naval officers abroad continue to groan under the expense thrown upon them by the entertainment of foreign officers. I can remember this grievance as long as I have been connected with journalism, and the Admiralty seems so indifferent to the question that the grievance will probably last until somebody takes it up energetically in Parliament. It is quite true that when one of our fleets visits a foreign port, or when a foreign fleet visits one of our own, certain allowances are made for entertainment expenses, but what presses upon officers, and especially the juniors, is the cost of the casual exchange of hospitality which takes place when stray ships meet on distant stations, as they continually do. The interchange of courtesy under these circumstances is not only natural, but desirable from an international point of view, and proper provision ought to be made for it among the ordinary expenses of the Navy.

It may sometimes happen that a single ship comes across half a dozen foreign vessels at different ports in the course of a few months, and the result to the mess bills of the junior officers is disastrous. I had a communication the other day from a junior officer serving abroad who complains of being "stone-broke" for this reason. He remarks that the spirit of hospitality, and the desire of keeping up the credit of the flag, would induce him and his friends to spend their last sixpence, as they appear to have done, in entertaining their brother-officers of other countries; but he thinks it rather hard that they should have to bear the whole brunt of an expenditure which is thrown upon them by their position, and is felt to be more or less obligatory. This is a perfectly reasonable view, and the more reasonable on the part of a youngster serving on exiguous pay and having no superfluity of pocket money. I believe it is the case—certainly it used to be so—that foreign Governments are more liberal in this respect than our own. This is a reproach to us as the leading naval Power, and one which spends three or four times as much as any other on its Navy.

With reference to what was said in last week's Truth about the balance-sheet of the Royal Naval Athletic Sports at Malta, a naval officer writes from Portsmouth:—

> The fleet canteen at Malta, which receives a yearly grant, I believe, from the Admiralty, subscribes a certain sum yearly towards the sports fund. Each ship subscribes a certain sum, which is calculated according to the number of commissioned officers in her complement. This money is raised by voluntary subscriptions among the officers only, and averages 9s. or 10s. a head. If the majority of the fleet are in harbour at the time, which is generally the case, this means about £200 or more.
>
> Thus you will, I hope, understand that it is a gross injustice to say, because the bill for refreshments for the officers and their friends came to about £81, that the lower deck had to pay it.

From other remarks in the same letter the writer seems to think that I am responsible for the suggestion that the lower deck paid for these refreshments. I did my best to guard against such a construction. What I said was that this observation upon the balance-sheet was made by a naval correspondent at Malta; and that if there were a mistake it had better be corrected at once, and that I should be pleased to assist in doing so. Assuming that the above explanation is correct—I do not say that there is any doubt about it, but the officer admits that he is speaking from memory—it is obvious that there is a very serious misapprehension in the fleet about the way the sports fund is raised. In the balance-sheet itself certain amounts are entered as the contributions of each ship, the total being £209. My first correspondent wrote under the impression that each of these amounts represented a contribution from the lower deck canteen of the ship mentioned. It is not likely that he is the only man in the Mediterranean Squadron under that impression. If, therefore, the fact is that the whole of this amount is derived from the voluntary contributions of officers, that fact ought to be made more widely known. One knows that in the Army men get hold of the most extraordinary misapprehensions about the way canteen funds are used—usually because the accounts are not published in a proper shape. I dare say that similar misapprehensions arise in the Navy. They are very mischievous ideas, but the fault lies solely with those responsible for the publication of accounts, and is due either to their not publishing them or not making them sufficiently explicit.

A gentleman in the West End sent a telegram to Brittany the other day in which he referred to St. Briac. He found that this name had been charged as two words, so he sent his messenger back to the post-office to inform the clerk that he had frequently telegraphed the same name before, and that it was always charged as one word. His messenger returned with the following memorandum:—

> Written like this, "St. Briac," counts two words. Like this, "Stbriac," one word.

I do not know if this is in accordance with the rules laid down by the G.P.O. for the guidance of its staff, but, if so, it is a good example of the nonsensical nature of many such rules. So long as the word is legible in the telegram when delivered, what does it matter if it is written "St. Briac" or "Stbriac"? The only result of such a rule is to leave the spelling to the taste and fancy of the telegraph clerk, which means, of course, that the charge for telegrams varies with the taste and fancy of the same individual.

Here is another incident recorded by the same witness. At 7.15 p.m. he handed in a telegram at a Paddington

office addressed to Shaftesbury-road, Hammersmith, making an appointment for the same evening. He then dined, took a cab to Shaftesbury-road, and arrived there at 8.35. Five minutes later his telegram arrived, having therefore been an hour and twenty-five minutes on its journey. For a distance which must be well under three miles I should think this is a record. The time marked on the telegram itself shows that it was received at Hammersmith post-office at 8.12—fifty-seven minutes from Paddington—and the other twenty-eight minutes were occupied in delivering it from that point.

Some recent appointments in the Post Office have excited profound dissatisfaction in the department. They do not appear to have been made either by seniority or on account of special qualifications. In some cases the selected official has passed over the heads of between thirty and forty seniors, several of them being men of acknowledged ability. There has always been a great deal of jobbery in the Post Office. The merit test appears to be applied only to the junior appointments, while the senior and best-paid positions are filled up by selection, a system which is, of course, saturated with nepotism.

One of the resolutions adopted by the Trade Union Congress in the interests of Post Office servants urged that local sanitary authorities should be empowered to inspect post office buildings and enforce proper sanitary conditions. Many instances of the need for this reform have been given in Truth, and I have just heard of another at Dover, where the staff in the sorting office at the railway station are compelled to work under the most abominably unhealthy conditions. The building has been condemned by the local medical officer, and if it were a private factory or workshop the owner would have been long since brought to book by the sanitary authorities. As, however, it belongs to a Government Department, no action can be taken, and so the staff have to go on working in a foul, ill-ventilated room, which the most callous and parsimonious private employer would be ashamed to use. We were told once that it is the desire of the Post Office to be a "model employer," and surely the first thing it should do is to bring its workrooms up to the standard of sanitation which is required by law in those of other employers.

The battle between motorists and anti-motorists that has been raging in the *Times* shows how strong the feeling still is against motors in country districts, notwithstanding all that the Legislature and the police have done up to the present date. There is some reason, and some unreason, on both sides. The anti-motorist is frequently a person with a pig-headed prejudice against any new mechanical invention which introduces new conditions into his life; and he was just as much in evidence when bicycles first appeared on the scene. Very often he is a horse-owner who, as a bicyclist remarked the other day, has hitherto supposed that the roads exist for him only, and has applied this doctrine remorselessly to every one else who presumes to use them.

But the motor is undoubtedly abused, too, and there is ground for Miss Jex-Blake's indictment of them, and for her statements as to what nervous people suffer in consequence, apart from any actual physical damage. I know a widow lady in the country who drives a pony. She has had one or two narrow escapes from accidents, neither from her fault or the pony's. I do not think the pony is afraid of motors, but his mistress certainly is; and as the result the pony is now out at grass, and his mistress has given up the daily outings that she has enjoyed for years. This is entirely due to the inconsiderate and caddish behaviour of one or two motorists.

Precisely the same nuisance is to be seen on country roads at present as was seen on the river when steam launches first came into use. Of course, the evil exists on the river still, and will exist on road and river as long as cads exist. But on the river it has been greatly abated by repressive measures, and a good deal still requires to be done in that way on the road. But what seems to me of far more consequence is that motorists who are not constitutionally cads often fail at present to appreciate what a terror they are to quiet and inoffensive passengers on foot or horseback, or on other kinds of vehicles; and how easily they might avoid frightening and annoying their fellow-creatures by slowing down for a few seconds, as the owners of fast launches so frequently do when passing other craft.

As I have said before, I expect that eventually there will have to be separate tracks for fast motors. While things are as they are, what is wanted is first a little more consideration for other people on the part of motorists. Next, the abolition of a definite speed limit in favour of a general rule that cars shall not be driven to the annoyance or danger of the public at large. The difficulty is aggravated at present by the vagaries of the magistracy. There is neither rhyme nor reason in their methods of dealing with motorists. At one time they bring the law into discredit and derision by convicting motorists on obviously untrustworthy evidence, imposing heavy penalties for purely technical offences, and generally exhibiting an

The Cure of Consumption.—The following is an extract from a letter written by Mr. J. Lock, Rowborough, and proves beyond doubt the statement that Consumption (even in its latest and apparently hopeless stages) is perfectly curable: "I write to say that Dr. Alabone undertook my son's case when other doctors had given up all hope in the matter. Dr. B——, senior physician of the —— Hospital, said a few weeks—five or six—will 'end it.' In six weeks my son had reached Sandown; four months later he was walking ten to twelve miles. He is now roughing it in South Africa, and is in excellent health." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

insensate antipathy to the new mode of locomotion. At another time they proceed to the opposite extreme and allow a "road hog" of the worst type to escape with an utterly inadequate punishment.

There was an instance of the latter phase of magisterial imbecility at Rugby Petty Sessions last week, when a motorist was charged with reckless driving. Witnesses stated that the defendant was travelling at the rate of forty miles an hour, and, whatever his exact speed may have been, there was no doubt as to his recklessness. He nearly ran down a cyclist, and soon afterwards the wheel of his car caught a trap which had been drawn on to the grass at the roadside to be out of his way. The result of this collision was that two persons were pitched out of the trap; and finally the motor-car dashed into a telegraph post. So recently as July last this defendant was fined £10 for reckless driving, and an additional £5 for failing to stop when requested. But in spite of this the Bench, after denouncing his conduct as perfectly scandalous and declaring that "this sort of thing must be stopped," contented themselves with inflicting a fine of £20 and costs. In such a case a sentence of imprisonment ought to be passed without hesitation, and every well-conducted motorist would approve of this course being adopted.

An aggrieved citizen of Bradford forwards, with some disparaging remarks, a tasteful handbill distributed by a Committee of the Corporation in connection with the City of Bradford Exhibition, now being held. It announces that "Owing to the delicate state of health of the Sultana Fatima (of the Somali Village) the Bombardment of Port Arthur will be suppressed. . . . . until the happy event"; also that the happy event when it comes off, "will be announced to the world by the firing of a Royal Salute of 21 guns (maroons) should an heir-apparent arrive, or 16 guns for a princess." This is certainly rather an unusual sort of exhibit in connection with a municipal exhibition. Evidently when Town Councillors turn showmen they are "whole-hoggers." But we are an imperial race, and the birth of a new prince or princess to the Empire under the direct supervision of a provincial Mayor and Corporation may well cause a little patriotic excitement. At any rate the Town Council showed a proper sense of its responsibilities in suspending the Bombardment of Port Arthur.

Apropos of a reference in Truth to the causes of beri-beri a correspondent at Shanghai relates the experience of the prison authorities there in dealing with this obscure disease. Two or three years ago beri-beri was so prevalent among the native prisoners that the erection of a new gaol was advocated, the argument being that the disease could not be extirpated in the old building. On the strength of many years' experience in China, however, a local resident suggested that the consumption of rice which had not been thoroughly washed prior to cooking was probably the principal, if not the sole, source of the disease. This seems to have led to changes in the prison dietary, and since that date, though the old building is still used, no outbreaks of beri-beri have occurred. My correspondent adds that the Chinese, who as a race are averse to washing most things, will not eat rice unless it has been thoroughly washed. I have heard before this theory that the germs of beri-beri are conveyed in rice, and this further testimony on the point may be worth the consideration of medicos dealing with the disease in South Africa or elsewhere.

RATS!

"Who said Rats?"—*Recent Saying.*
"I did!" said Sir James Crichton-Browne at Bournemouth.

O wise and versatile Sir James,
If we should now allude
To how, not long ago, you worked
A Nemesis for Froude;
'Tis only, as it were, to make
A sort of peg of that
On which to hang your last *bête noire*—
Which is, 'twould seem, the rat!
That hairy pest which, as you 've stated,
Should be forthwith exterminated!

Visions of Cockney sport at once
These hints of yours induce;
And London's drain-pipes we can see
Turned to a sportive use.
Their moors in Scotland millionaires
Will doubtless still demand,
But Lord Tom Noddys will make shift
With sewers in the Strand:
Placards upon big bags dilating
Will posted be at every grating.

At the Main Outfall Cockney "guns",
"Records" in rats will seek;
At Shoreditch there will be big "shoots,"
Battues at Barking Creek;
Till, as the rodents grow more rare,
Those who'd good sport provide
Will have to rent, on fancy terms,
A man-hole in Cheapside!
And for a rat-stocked drain deliver
As much as for a salmon river!

Yet stay! we must not be too rash,
Or else, as sure as Fate,
If we, these so-called hairy pests
Forthwith exterminate,
Some one, as learned in his way
As our wise "Crichton" is,
Will jeer at his too hasty scheme,
And his conclusions quiz;
Contending, with a force distressing,
That rats are an unceasing blessing!

So, though Sir James's animus
Is clearly very strong,
We must remember even *he*
May *possibly* be wrong!
And therefore that it would be well,
Rough as *he* is on Rats,
To leave these rodents, as before,
To terriers and to cats,
Lest, from the Cockney sportsmen's cartridges,
They have to be preserved, like partridges!

Lucerne, Switzerland.—Hotel Schweizerhof. Loveliest situation on lake. All modern comforts. Private Bath. Pension arrangements. Open all the year.—Hauser Brothers.

Now that the Home Secretary has at last ordered an inquiry into "the circumstances of the convictions of Mr. Adolf Beck in 1896 and 1904," it is a matter of satisfaction to be able to congratulate him upon his choice of a committee for the purpose. In an inquiry conducted by the Master of the Rolls, Sir Spencer Walpole, and Sir John Edge, the public will feel the most perfect confidence. It is true that a suggestion has been made that under the terms of reference the consideration of the committee may after all be confined to the actual proceedings at the two trials, leaving aside the infinitely more important questions of the methods pursued by the police in getting up the prosecutions and the conduct of the authorities at the Home Office subsequent to the discovery that Beck could not be Smith. But it is really inconceivable that the Home Secretary can have contemplated such a restriction of the inquiry when he appointed the committee, and it is, moreover, quite certain that the Master of the Rolls and his colleagues would refuse to be parties to what would be nothing less than a farce. A thorough investigation of the whole of the circumstances connected with this scandalous case is required, and I have every hope that such an investigation will now take place.

Cases of "mistaken identity," seem to be alarmingly common. One of a most extraordinary character came before the Kidderminster County J.P.s last week when a man named Matthewman, of Birmingham, was charged with frequenting an athletic ground near Kidderminster for the purpose of betting. A police inspector, a detective, and three constables, partly corroborated by two civilians, swore that they saw the defendant betting at some sports held on the ground in question on August 1. It was known that the defence would be an alibi, and a man who acknowledged that he was the real offender was present in court. In cross-examination, however, the police officers insisted that it was impossible that they could be mistaken. Nevertheless it was shown beyond a shadow of doubt that they had wrongly identified the defendant, a number of perfectly respectable and independent witnesses proving that on the day and at the time he was alleged to have been at Kidderminster he was in reality present at some athletic sports in Newport, Mon. The Bench accordingly dismissed the summons, allowing the defendant his costs.

While a miscarriage of justice was averted, thanks to the fact that the defendant was in a position to incur the expense of bringing witnesses from a distance to establish his innocence, it seems to me that the case ought not to be allowed to drop here. By some means the police got hold of the wrong man's name and address and summoned him. This was an unfortunate error for which nobody would very much blame them. The serious part of the business is that they blindly persisted in this error to the very last. One must assume, of course, that they were honestly mistaken in their identification of the defendant in court, but this does not mend matters from the point of view of the public interests and the public safety. It shows, on the contrary, that these five police officers are quite unqualified for their duties. No dependence can be placed upon the evidence of men capable of making so flagrant a blunder, and the Worcestershire Standing Joint Committee ought to take into serious consideration the question of their retention in the force.

The Lord Chancellor has given another illustration of his unblushing partisanship in the appointment of magistrates by placing two more Tories on the commission of the peace for the borough of Tamworth. There has not been even the feeblest pretence at impartiality in the constitution of this Borough Bench. The Mayor is a Liberal, but he presides over the Bench by virtue of his office, and not by the grace of the Lord Chancellor, and every one of the permanent magistrates is a Tory or Unionist. A similar state of things prevails on the Tamworth County Bench, only one J.P. being a Liberal. However, it is useless to denounce Lord Halsbury's prostitution of his powers for party purposes. The Lord High Jobber will go on jobbing to the end of the chapter, and the only consolation is that the end will now soon be reached by the succession of a Liberal Lord Chancellor.

The Wallingford Borough Bench heard the other day a summons for damage to a window, which in this trivial form raised a question as to the construction of a partnership agreement between the complainant and the defendant. The complainant's solicitors were Messrs. Hedges and Marshall, and Mr. Hedges is the Clerk to the Bench. The firm consequently instructed another solicitor to conduct the complainant's case in Court, but a local correspondent states that Mr. Hedges apparently occupied his usual position as Clerk to the Bench, and I have been asked whether this was a proper proceeding. It is so obviously improper, that I am inclined to think that there must be some misapprehension of what occurred. As Clerks to Justices are permitted to take private practice, it is inevitable that cases will crop up in which clients of theirs are interested. In such circumstances it is plainly the duty of the clerk to request some independent solicitor to fill his place as adviser to the magistrates, and it seems almost incredible that this course was not adopted at Wallingford.

Three human "exhibits" in the persons of boys whose arms had been torn off were produced by a factory inspector at Oldham Police-court last week in support of a summons against a spinning company for neglecting to fence certain machinery. It was not alleged that the boys had lost their arms in this company's factory, the inspector explaining that his object in bringing them

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to the court was simply to demonstrate the danger of leaving the scroll-bands of spinning mules unfenced. He added that within his own experience five boys had lost their arms, four had had their arms broken, three had had their fingers taken off, and sixteen had had their fingers crushed in similar accidents. On the other hand, not a single accident had occurred during the last four years amongst the thousands of these machines that had been provided with guards.

The inspector's ghastly catalogue of casualties among the boy workers in the spinning mills does not seem to have made much impression upon the Oldham Bench. Mr. Bolton, J.P., thought it was very wrong to bring maimed youths to the court (no doubt the spectacle was a nasty prick for the consciences of magistrates loth to enforce the law), and the Clerk observed that "whatever you do you can't prevent accidents happening." This is a truism, but it is clearly no reason why preventive measures should be neglected, more especially when those measures are required by the law of the land, and when experience has proved that they practically abolish the risk of the particular kind of accidents against which they are directed. In the light of the evidence tendered by the inspector, it is regrettable, if not surprising, to find that on the defendant company promising to fence the machinery the magistrates passed over the offence with a paltry fine of 20s. and costs. Such violations of the Factory Acts are really encouraged when the delinquents know that a promise, after they have been summoned, to do what they ought to have done before, will save them from anything more than a nominal penalty.

Having last week bestowed a meed of praise upon one Mullingar J.P. for his treatment of a wife-beater, I am now invited to censure two other Mullingar J.P.s, Messrs. O. Wickham and P. Keelan, for their decision in a case of threatening language. John Keena was summoned for using threats of violence to a corporal in the 6th Battalion Rifle Brigade, and in default of finding two sureties of £15 each that he would keep the peace for a year the defendant was committed to gaol for nine months. It is an outrageously severe punishment, especially as the law provides no direct punishment whatever in such a case. The magistrates have no power to inflict a fine or imprisonment, but only to send a defendant to gaol if he fails to comply with their order for sureties, and it is contrary to all reason and justice that such a failure should be visited with nine months' imprisonment. This term of imprisonment for mere threats is, in fact, three months in excess of the maximum sentence which these Dracos could have passed if John Keena had been convicted of an actual assault of the most aggravated kind.

Some magistrates have a curious habit of giving themselves away by first discoursing upon the seriousness of an offence and then letting off the offender with a ridiculously indequate penalty. One or two performances of this kind are included in my Legal Pillory this week. The Shrewsbury Shallows told a defendant that he had been guilty of one of the most cowardly and unprovoked assaults that had come before them for a very long period, but nevertheless they allowed him to escape with a fine instead of inflicting the sentence of imprisonment which he deserved, and which was at the same court awarded as a matter of course to a poor woman for sleeping out without visible means of subsistence. The Stratford-on-Avon Shallows spoke very feelingly upon the danger to the public which arises when vehicles are driven about the streets by drunken drivers, but although the farmer before them had been repeatedly convicted, and although their Worships practically admitted that he ought to be committed to gaol, he was simply called upon to pay a trumpery fine. At this court also no hesitation was shown in sending two men to prison for the so-called crime of sleeping out. There are several further instances of misplaced leniency in dealing with charges of violence and cruelty, and in the opposite column the Richmond (Yorkshire) J.P.s are represented by two particularly severe sentences for poaching and for a petty theft. On the whole, however, I think that all the doings of the Great Unpaid are put into the shade by the monstrous punishment which a London magistrate, Mr. Lane, inflicted upon a costermonger in a case of larceny by finding:—

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Evan Jones, and J. A. Lea. Wm. Harris, convicted of assaulting Thomas Henry Parry. Complainant received an injury to his throat, for which he had since been under medical treatment, and the magistrates remarked that it was one of the most cowardly and unprovoked assaults they had had to deal with for a very long period. Fined 40s., including costs.

Stratford-on-Avon Police-court. Before Mr. J. Smallwood and Dr. Greene. Frederick D. Wynn, farmer, charged with being drunk while in charge of a horse and trap. The magistrates said they felt very strongly about people driving horses when in a drunken condition, as there was danger to other people as well as themselves. Several previous convictions were proved against the defendant. Fined 20s. and costs, the Chairman observing that the defendant should "think himself lucky."

Nottingham Police-court. John Hogg, charged with assaulting John Connell. It was a cowardly and brutal assault, complainant's collar bone being broken. Fined 20s.

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Evan Jones, W. Toye, and J. Kent. Martha Annie Logie, charged with sleeping in an untenanted house and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Ayr Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff Bain. Charles M'Kerrol and John Rankine, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 each; in default twenty-one days.

Stratford-on-Avon Police-court. Before Mr. J. Smallwood. George Woolven and James Earry, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Totton Police-court. Before Mr. C. F. Wilson and Colonel Heathcote. James Dowden and Stephen Palmer, charged with poaching. Palmer fined £1 5s.; Dowden, two months' imprisonment, and a further three months in default of finding sureties.

Malvern Police-court. Before Major Hill, Colonel T. Twynam, Mr. H. A. Acworth, and Dr. Dixey. Joseph Porter, charged with sleeping-out on the Common and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

JEFFREY & CO.'s ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Swindon Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Hinton, A. D. Hussey-Freke, L. L. Morse, F. P. Goddard, and W. Reynolds. Ed. Stiles, charged with assaulting Mabel Annie Arnett, a neighbour's wife. Defendant challenged the woman's husband to come out of his house and fight, but he declined to do so, and the defendant then attacked the woman, blackening her eyes and knocking her down. Ordered to pay the costs, 17s. 6d.; and bound over.

Holt Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. Bowyer-Sparke, C. W. H. Cozens-Hardy, C. J. Temple-Lynes, H. Sparke, and J. B. Rogers. William Cooper, charged with assaulting Robert Lambert. After striking the complainant with his fists and also biting him on the cheek, defendant took a stone from the road and hit him on the head with such violence that he was rendered unconscious. A doctor gave evidence as to the complainant's injuries. Fined 10s. and costs.

Godstone Petty Sessions. Percy Fulbrook, 'bus proprietor, charged with cruelty to a horse. Having borrowed the horse from the owner "to try," defendant thrashed it and over-drove it in a merciless manner. The horse finally fell down, and was so badly injured that a veterinary surgeon advised that it should be destroyed. Fined £2 and costs.

Stratford Police-court. Before Messrs. J. S. Curwen and W. P. Griggs. Stephen Rowe, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, gave his wife two black eyes, and kicked her. Fined 40s. and costs.

Bideford County Police-court. Before Major Kirkwood, Admiral Sir W. M. Dowell, Colonel Winterscote, and Messrs. E. J. Tattersall and W. H. Turner. Samuel Mitchell, charged under the Ground Game Act with setting spring traps in the open. Fined £2 11s.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. Thomas Allen, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

South-Western Police-court, London. Before Mr. Lane. Joseph Hall, costermonger, charged with stealing a brooch value seven guineas. The owner lost the brooch while out walking and the prisoner picked it up and attempted to pawn it. He stated that it belonged to his wife, and on being asked if he had her authority to pledge it he produced a letter which he represented that his wife had written. Mr. Lane said that instead of taking the brooch to the police station the prisoner told lies about it. Six months.

Richmond (Yorkshire) County Police-court. Two men named Poppleton and another man named Parkin, charged with poaching. Three months each.

Thomas Calvert, charged with stealing a cabbage, valued at a penny, from a garden. One month.

Wolverhampton County Police-court. Edward Cotterill, charged with stealing two ducks. Two months.

Paisley Sheriff-court. Walter Tait and Henry Jack, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Fined £2 each; in default, thirty days.

Tonbridge Police-court. Peter Goode, charged with stealing a fowl. One month.

Fareham Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Boyd and Colonel Martin. Two boys and three girls charged with damaging underwood by trespassing to pick blackberries. Fined 4s. 9d. each.

As a rule, the certificates of exemption granted to conscientious objectors to vaccination contain a reminder of the requirement of the Act that the certificate shall be forwarded to the vaccination officer within seven days. The forms used in the City of London are silent on this point, and a case came before the Romford Guardians the other day in which a certificate issued by the magistrates at the Guildhall was retained by the objector, in ignorance of the proper procedure, till he was called upon to have the child vaccinated. The officer then told him that as the certificate had become inoperative owing to his omission to forward it he would be prosecuted if the child was not vaccinated, and the Guardians, to whom he appealed, have approved of this course being adopted. The letter of the law undoubtedly renders the man liable to penalties for the non-vaccination of his child. At the same time, it is repugnant to the spirit and intention of the law that a conscientious objector should be prosecuted, nor is such a proceeding likely to promote the purpose which the Guardians presumably have in view. The prosecution of this objector on account of a mere technical irregularity will have an appearance of persecution, and, as the Royal Commission recognised, this is always helpful to the anti-vaccination movement.

Within the last few weeks I have received several inquiries from Canada respecting an advertisement addressed "To Bachelors," which had appeared in certain colonial papers. The advertisers called themselves "Messrs. John Lloyd and Duncan, Anglo-American agents 91, St. Mary's-road, Leyton." They pointed out that "there are some hundreds of thousands more men than women in the Central and Western States of America and in Canada," and their kindly purpose was to call in the Old World to redress the balance of the New. That is to say, they proposed to supply the men of the West with suitable partners from the "thousands of good, intelligent, and attractive girls" round Leyton, and in other districts, who "see nothing before them, while they stay here, but the prospect of living and dying old maids." Any Colonial with a fancy for one of these damsels was to apply to John Lloyd and Duncan, and remit five dollars.

On sending up to 91, St. Mary's-road, the other day, I found that the house had been empty for some weeks, and that John Lloyd and Duncan had left behind them no means of tracing them. I may add that their advertisement was sent out by "Messrs. Hunter, Sons, and Holland, advertising contractors, 211, Sheringham-avenue, Manor Park," and an inquiry recently addressed on behalf of a Canadian paper to Hunter, Sons, and Holland, elicited the information that this also was an empty house. I fear, therefore, that the only result of this philanthropic enterprise is that a certain number of dollars have been transferred from the other side of the Atlantic to this, and that the number of bachelors on the one side and spinsters on the other remains unaltered. I wonder that the possibility of this result did not occur to any of the colonial papers which published this advertisement.

A number of inquiries have reached me respecting the home employment offers of a mysterious concern calling itself "The Psychic Union," located in a small office at 55 and 56, Chancery-lane. The "Psychic Union" advertises in North of England and Scotch papers for persons to address circulars at the rate of payment of 7s. 6d. per thousand, the main condition of employment being the remittance of a fee of 2s. 6d. to cover the cost of "materials." There does not appear to be anything particularly psychic about this offer, though to a psychologist the mind of the man, living, say, at Aberdeen, who is induced to forward the half-crown in the hope of getting employment would afford interesting material for investigation. Unfortunately there are always a number of these interesting psychological studies available, and in their interest I give

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

the experience of one who has been tempted to forward the 2s. 6d. preliminary fee.

The materials received in return for his half-crown consisted of five circulars and five half-penny stamps. The circulars offered a book entitled "The Science of Success" for sale for 5s., and, judging by the list of contents, it is the usual farrago of nonsense upon the subject of the power of hypnotism. Accompanying each circular was an order form for a copy of the book, and the psychic student was instructed to utilise the five halfpenny stamps in posting the circulars to five friends who would be likely to become purchasers. On each order form there was a blank space left for the names and addresses of five friends of the recipient who might also be considered possible purchasers of the hypnotic manual, and these names were to be circularised in turn. In other words, the offer of the "Psychic Union" resolves itself into the simple proposition that for half-a-crown the would-be employee is permitted to become the starting point of a snowball advertisement for the sale of a rubbishy book, with the prospect of receiving 7s. 6d. and the return of his half-crown when, through his agency, his employers have sold 200 copies and netted £50. The chances of any one earning 7s. 6d. under these conditions seem to me so remote that I would not advise even a graduate in the science of success to risk half-a-crown in the attempt to do so.

I had another communication last week from a lady who had been victimised by the Home Industrial Art Supply Company, of 6, Great James-street, Bedford-row, this time through the medium of an advertisement in the *Daily Mirror*. The story of the trick is precisely the same as others that have been told in Truth, but there is one noteworthy feature in the case—namely, that the victim had had previous experience in the work of colouring prints and photographs, so that the pretence of the H.I.A.S. Company that they could not take any of her work, after she had spent 9s. 6d. on their materials, because it was not up to their standard, was in this case a degree thinner than usual. The lady thinks that her experience may serve as a warning to others. I should like to think so too; but, as I have been warning the public against this particular firm off and on for several years past, I am afraid that it is too much to expect. It is a most foolish proceeding to pay money to any advertising "home-employment" firm, but I am afraid that it is not much use to say so.

With reference to the paragraph in last week's Truth describing the operations of a swindler who had been obtaining orders and cash in the name of "The Liverpool A B C Railway Guide," I am informed that the proprietors of that publication have already taken all possible steps to put a stop to these frauds. In fact it appears that they communicated with the police on the subject so far back as May last. It was suggested in my paragraph that this ought to be done, and I am glad to know that the firm in question are equally alive to the necessity of it. Of course, in all these cases the parties who are defrauded are the parties who ought to move, but unfortunately they rarely see the matter in that light.

It was mentioned last week that the tipster Pizzey, of Heath Villa, Ascot, and the tipster "Captain W. Gough," of Chavey Down, Bracknell, are one and the same person. Some one has now sent me a circular from "George Cobbe," 32, Adelaide-square, Windsor, who, after offering to supply his own "one-horse wires" for 15s. a week, adds: "On the same messages I will advise you, free of extra charge, what are Pizzey's and Gough's 'one-horse specials'—that is, if you wish to know what these are." Is Pizzey, alias "Captain W. Gough," also alias "George Cobbe"? It scarcely seems credible that one harpy in this line of business would take the trouble to pirate another's tips, more especially those of such an egregiously blundering prophet as Pizzey has shown himself to be. In any case the backer who pays his money to take his choice of three different sets of tips must be exceptionally asinine—indeed he must himself feel like an ass between three bundles of hay.

Advertisements have appeared in the *Times*, and I dare say in other papers, inviting subscriptions to "The Betterment of London Association," under the picturesque heading "A Quieter London *versus* The Noise Fiend of the Metropolis." Simultaneously with this I hear that Bowden Green himself has been busy in the City lately collecting for the same object, and also for that old-established piece of humbug, the National Thrift Society. It seems, therefore, desirable to repeat the warnings that have so often been given in Truth against Bowden Green and all his works. At the moment I have not space to go into the reasons for these warnings, but they have been set out in Truth very fully, and if anybody desires fuller information, I shall be pleased to tell him where he can find it.

Here is another of the "follow-up letters" used by the Derk P. Yonkerman Co., of Bouverie-street, which was referred to in a recent Truth article entitled "A Tuberculous Quack":—

Dear Sir,—When you first wrote inquiring about Tuberculozyne (Yonkerman) you certainly thought that you, or someone in whom you were deeply interested, had consumption. We promptly answered your letter, sending you our booklet, and we have also written you since then. We have been expecting to hear from you almost every day, only to be disappointed.

Surely you know the terribly fatal nature of consumption, and you must realise that, once this dreadful disease fastens itself upon its victims, it never lets go. Sometimes it suddenly turns to quick or galloping consumption, taking the patient to the grave with almost no warning. More often its advance is so slow, that the sufferer disregards the little cough, the pains like rheumatism, the headache, the tired feelings, loss of appetite, and many other warnings, with the result that the germs are spread throughout the body, and the end is near while he has

been deceiving himself and trying to believe that the trouble was only bronchitis, sore throat, asthma, or catarrh. . . .

It must be that you are getting worse every day, and wishing as we do to give you every opportunity in our power to secure the remedy for this deadly disease, we have decided to send you a full month's treatment upon receipt of only £2, and we will never ask you for another penny, etc., etc.

It is very sad to think of Derk P. Yonkerman sitting in his office waiting in vain day by day to hear from a fellow-creature whom he desires to deliver from a terrible death, and distressing himself in the meantime by conjuring up in his imagination all these lurid pictures of the poor sufferer's awful condition. I, therefore, hasten to inform Yonkerman that the gentleman to whom he refers in the above letter has just returned from his holidays, and is to all appearance in robust health. He has not even the symptoms of bronchitis, asthma, or catarrh. He is, in fact, the member of my staff who, on my instructions, communicated with the Tuberculozyne shop, as mentioned in my previous article.

A good example of a Drouet Institute advertisement appears in a Weymouth paper, and no doubt in many others. Mr. Carré, as my readers may remember, deals in catarrh as well as deafness. In this instance, after a preliminary flourish about the universal prevalence of catarrh, he enumerates no less than fifteen symptoms of this disease. Every one of them is such as accompanies any cold, and the effect of it all is to persuade any one whose voice is husky, or who sneezes, or has occasion to blow his nose or even sleeps with his mouth open, that he is afflicted with a serious disease, and that it behoves him to write at once to the Drouet Institute for further information about his dangerous condition and the remedy. The humbug of this particular advertisement is so transparent that it is astonishing how any respectable paper could ever insert it, even if the name and character of the Drouet Institute had not been rendered notorious by the recent judgment of the Court of Appeal in Dr. Dakhyl's case.

The Rev. Hugh Chapman, of St. Luke's, Camberwell, has lately been calling attention to a drink cure to the success of which in some cases he testifies, and in a letter to the Press two or three weeks back he proposed to organise a thorough test of the remedy. His scheme was that persons applying to him during the space of one month should get a voucher signed by "a doctor, magistrate, minister of religion, nurse, or relative," who would undertake to send him a quarterly report of the patient's condition. He had arranged at the same time with the discoverer to supply the remedy "at a nominal sum."

One is reluctant to say anything in disparagement of such a benevolent scheme, but some information given in last week's issue of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, which has been looking into the matter, suggests a doubt as to whether Mr. Chapman has been wise in identifying himself with it. The editor applied to Mr. Chapman for information, and received from him a pamphlet which he has himself written in praise of the remedy, which is called "The Normyl Cure." The pamphlet states that the cure was discovered thirty years ago by a chemist in Canada, and a printed letter which accompanied it stated that "the price of the treatment as entrusted to me is 2 gs., which is one-fifth of the regular charge, and it must be enclosed with the signed voucher form in your application." A sample of the remedy had been asked for, but Mr. Chapman professed to be unable to send one, as the remedy was a proprietary one. I have also had a personal communication from the editor of the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, in which he tells me that Mr. Chapman gave him the name of the proprietor of the remedy, and that he wrote to this gentleman, but has received no reply. This is rather singular, if inquiry is so much courted as Mr. Chapman's scheme would seem to suggest.

The *Pharmaceutical Journal* criticises Mr. Chapman's scheme on the ground that the remedy is evidently a secret one, and that Mr. Chapman is allowing himself to be used for the purpose of advertising a quack nostrum. This seems a reasonable inference from the facts above mentioned. Very possibly the remedy in question has some practical value. There are many such cures advertised at the present moment, and the proprietors are all able to produce testimonials from reputable people, like Mr. Chapman's testimonial to the "Normyl Cure." I am constantly asked about them myself, and my answer always is that not having had occasion to try them on myself or any near relative, I cannot express any opinion about them, and that the best thing people can do is to try them for themselves. I certainly do not believe in any drug proving a universal specific for intemperance, but there are, no doubt, drugs which have a good effect in some cases, though they may be ineffectual in others. I should, however, regard with some suspicion a "new" remedy which owned to having been discovered thirty years ago by a chemist in Canada, yet has remained unknown till the present moment, and I should be sorry to become a party to an experiment one of the incidents of which is that people should pay the "nominal sum" of two guineas for the remedy, on the representation that this is only one-fifth of the market price. If it would be foolish of a journalist to do such a thing, it is equally foolish on the part of a London vicar.

I continue to receive a great many communications on the subject of stylographic and fountain pens. As so much interest seems to be felt in this subject, I may mention in particular the evidence of one gentleman who has in his possession a gold pen which he bought in 1879, and has had in almost daily use during the sub-

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

sequent twenty-five years. Some people wear out pens more rapidly than others, and this may apply to gold as well as other materials. But the above experience may be worth the attention of those who find their steel pens wear out rapidly, whether used with fountain or ordinary holders. A friend of mine, whose literary output is extensive, tells me that he gets through about three "J" nibs a day. At that rate, a gold pen which would last twenty-five years would be a real economy.

A JESSE COME TO JUDGMENT.

'Tis bad enough when Joseph takes
To making spiteful allegations,
And throws his insults right and left,
Impartially, at friendly nations.
'Tis bad enough when diplomats
Have *his* crude speech's edge to bevel;
And to explain why *he* compared
The Czar of Russia to the devil!

But surely it is ten times worse,
And makes our wrath rise ten times faster,
When a mere serving-man is seen
Aping the manner of his master.
Words the chief actor Joseph speaks,
Ill-judged as they may be *in esse*,
Sound vastly worse when spoken by
His third-rate understudy—Jesse!

For *him* to dare—this vain old man,
Who once, we blush to say, held office;
This weak, pretentious serf of Joe's,
Whose very name a cause for scoff is—
For *him* in public to revile
As "fraud" and "bully" a great nation
With which in amity we live,
Calls for the sternest reprobation!

Sir John Dickson-Poynder, M.P. for North-West Wilts, is an uncompromising Free Trader, so the Protectionists of his constituency decided several months ago to contest the seat at the General Election. Sir Audley Neeld consented to come forward, but he soon withdrew, and the Tory wire-pullers have since been hunting all over the country to obtain a candidate. They have at last induced Mr. Randolph, the tenant of Estcourt House, near Malmesbury, to come forward. He is quite unknown in the county, and every one recognises that his chances of success are utterly forlorn. The sitting member is very popular, and he owns one of the largest estates in Wiltshire.

The remoteness of the country which it administers does much to protect the British North Borneo Co. from the fierce light that usually beats upon a chartered company, and judging from the information that occasionally leaks out, the court of directors in London have good reason to be thankful for this escape from criticism. My attention has just been called to the very arbitrary treatment some of the principal officers of the company have received from the directors. One case is that of Mr. T. R. Hubback, the late Superintendent of Public Works in British North Borneo. Just before his departure on furlough Mr. Hubback sent home a report on the public works and the new railway, which was endorsed by the then Governor, Mr. E. W. Birch, but which proved by no means palatable to the directors in London. When he reached Singapore Mr. Hubback was informed that the directors had dispensed with his services, and he thereupon brought an action against the company for wrongful dismissal. At the trial in London some time back the jury showed their opinion of the directors' conduct by awarding Mr. Hubback £761 damages, and though this amount has since been reduced by the Court of Appeal to £365, on a technical point relating to the company's right to terminate the agreement during the furlough, that fact only emphasises the hardship of the case.

Before Mr. Hubback's action against the company was finally disposed of, his successor as general manager of the railway was also abruptly dismissed. It was only in 1902 that the line was taken over by the company from the contractors, and since then two general managers and one acting general manager have been got rid of. It has been said, indeed, that the company deals with high-placed officers as if they were "so many coolies," and the remark seems to be justified. In less than five years two Governors have resigned as a protest against the policy of the directors. Mr. Birch came home two years before the expiration of his term of office, and it is well-known that his differences with the directors arose from his objection to the duties and responsibilities of this chartered company in regard to the good government and general welfare of the country being unduly subordinated to its aims and interests as a commercial concern. North Borneo appears, in fact, to be another instance of the pernicious results of entrusting the administration of a country to a trading corporation.

In answer to some recent paragraphs on Northern Nigeria, a correspondent takes up the cudgels on behalf of the High Commissioner, Sir Frederick Lugard. He thinks that the criticism regarding Sir Frederick's incessant interference in the most pettifogging details of administrative business "is, if weighed, a compliment rather than anything else," while the reference to Sir Frederick's mistakes in really important matters is dismissed with the remark that my informants "evidently do not know much of the man and his work." A similar reply is made to the complaints respecting the selection of Zungeru as the headquarters of the Protectorate, the alleged inaccessibility of the place and the scarcity of food there being described as myths. As to the suggestion that the light railway scheme is partly due to the desire to cover up the blunder that was made in choosing Zungeru as the capital I am told that it must be the outcome of malice or a wilful attempt to mislead. Being always willing to hear both sides of a case, I have given the gist of my present correspondent's letter. But most of the points he mentions are obviously matters of opinion rather than of fact, and I

feel bound to add that my previous paragraphs were based upon letters from officials in the Protectorate whose good faith I have no reason to doubt.

I was discussing a day or two ago with a veteran Liberal, who has before now had something to do with Cabinet-making, the sort of Ministry that ought to be formed when we have got rid of the present limpets. His idea was that the Cabinet should not consist of more than fifteen. The Premier ought to be in the House of Commons. This he regards as essential. The Lords should be limited to three. If the House of Lords takes upon itself, as heretofore, in any way to interfere with the Bills sent up to it, these three and all other Liberal Peers should decline to attend its sittings in future, which would be a useful object-lesson to the country. Of the remaining posts, one-half should go to the front Opposition bench, and half to the rest of the party, two, at least, being Labour Members. Bygones and personal rivalries should be forgotten, and whilst there should be a working majority in the Cabinet of men who have never succumbed to the Imperialist microbe, those who have purged their blood of this pernicious insect should not be excluded.

This seems to me a very reasonable scheme. In the first Liberal Session of the next Parliament, we shall have to recast the Unionist Education and Liquor Bills, and the Budget will have to be relieved of about twenty millions now expended on armaments. I suppose that Lord Milner will not wait to receive his congé, but will send in his resignation so soon as a Liberal Ministry is formed. There must be great care in the selection of his successor. He must be not only an able man, but a firm man, and one whose views on Chinese chatteldom and other such subjects are absolutely sound. As for the minor posts in the Administration, the only difficulty will be to make a selection from the numerous aspirants, for where all are about on the same level this is by no means easy. If, however, we are to judge by the way in which many of the minor Unionist posts have been filled up, no excessive ability is necessary to fulfil these duties respectably.

There has been great crowing in the Jingo Press over the conclusion of a treaty with the Tibetans, but there seems to me a great deal of make-believe about it. So far as the terms of this document have been disclosed, it gives us nothing that we had not got, on paper, before the "peaceful mission" started. The singular statement has been made that there are other terms which are not disclosed, which looks like make-believe again, for the mere idea of a "secret treaty" between the British Empire and Tibet—especially Tibet in the hands of a provisional government—is too comic for serious consideration. For the purpose of make-belief it has also to be assumed that the fugitive Lama has disappeared for good, and will trouble the might of Britain no more. It seems to me far more probable that when the last Sikh and the last pom-pom have disappeared over the mountains, the Lama will return, and either the *status quo* will be restored, or Tibet will be plunged into political dissension and chaos. That is the usual result of raids or "peaceful missions" of this character, and one of them invariably leads to another, until the permanent occupation of the country becomes the cheapest solution of the difficulty.

THE DESIGNING PARSON.

Old Parson Sly, one Sabbath broiling
(In August), for his Nap was spoiling;
But, as must cruel Fate ordain,
He had two Guests to entertain.
Who with their drowsy *would* keep
A-chatting, and prevented Sleep.
At length, so heavy grew his Eye,
He felt that he must nap, or die;
Yet still those Guests his Ear they sought,
Still 'gainst his Drowsiness he fought,
Till, in a Gleam of Inspiration,
He hit upon this Machination
('Twas prompted by Invention's Mother)
To make 'em entertain each other.
Now, One in Double Harness ran,
Id est, he was a married Man;
While t'other Guest, at fifty-four,
Remained a happy Bachelor.
And either, you must let me say,
Esteemed his own the better Way.
Which Fact old Parson Sly he knew,
So sprung this Problem on those Two:
"Whether enjoys the happier Life—
Who's single, or who takes a Wife?"
Forthwith, as Parson had designed,
Those two in wordy Warfare joined;
The married Man by Marriage swore,
By Single Bliss the Bachelor,
Till soon the Duel waxed so hot,
Their Host's Existence was forgot.
"Good, here's my Chance," Sly Parson thinks,
Slips off, and gets his forty Winks.

Moral.

When Letters, on some trivial Matter,
Our "Dailies" flood with twaddling Chatter,
'Tis pretty plain a Hand controlling
Has set the Ball, on Purpose, rolling;
That Readers may themselves amuse
By airing their respective Views;
Eke useful Copy, Day by Day,
Providing, while the Staff's away.

SCRUTATOR.

THE SITUATION IN MANCHURIA.

THE Press descriptions of the battle of Liao-yang are now coming in, and they confirm the first impression derived from the brief official despatches a week ago. The Japanese have won a great victory, but very far from a decisive one, so far as the ultimate issue of the war is concerned. The journalistic honours of war rest so far with the *Times*. The precise and graphic account of the battle of Liao-yang which it published on Thursday and Friday last is quite the best piece of work that has been done by any correspondent in the present war, and recalls the performances of Archibald Forbes in 1870 and 1877. The *Times* correspondent was with General Oku, who directed the main Japanese attack

on the south side—"five days," as he describes it, "of the fiercest fighting the world has seen since the American Civil War." The strongest impression, indeed, that the ordinary reader derives from the narrative, is that more horrible carnage has never been witnessed. The description, brief as it is, of the sight witnessed when the Russian lines were entered after the first stage of their retirement, the passing allusion to the cremation of the piles of Japanese dead, the mere figures of Oku's losses are sickening to read of. Next to this, what the story brings out most clearly is the failure of the main Japanese attack. The Russians were not driven from their positions by Oku's army, but retired in consequence of the pressure of Kuroki on their left flank, which in itself failed to achieve its main purpose. Both sides fought with heroic valour. The Japanese general made three assaults on the first Russian line of defence in 24 hours; but each one was repulsed with horrible slaughter. The fourth was in preparation when the Russians were found to have retired. So far, however, from the battle being then over, there were nearly three days' more fighting before the Japanese entered Liao-yang; and then there was a mere remnant of the Russian army barring their way, and contesting every inch before it finally withdrew. No less than eight general assaults were made in the five days, and all failed. It is absurd in the face of this to speak of a Russian rout. Their retreat must have been well planned and executed, and we ought to give them the credit for having held on with invincible courage until the advance of another army on their flank made the position strategically untenable.

Reviewing the operations in a subsequent letter, which appeared in Saturday's *Times*, the same correspondent gives it as his opinion that "there was nothing strategically excellent in the handling of either army." General Oku, he thinks, "commands the best infantry in the world," and no one can entertain much doubt on that point after reading how they responded, day after day, to the orders to attack impregnable positions. But "the sole spirit of the Japanese tactics was sledge-hammer frontal attacks," and as regards strategy, "Kuropatkin can claim to have defeated the main object of the Japanese operations." This view is confirmed by all that has happened in the week since it was written. The Russian General has managed to retire on his next position, more or less unmolested. As Mr. Bennet Burleigh puts it in his despatch to the *Daily Telegraph*, "the battle of Liao-yang has resulted in the minimum, not the maximum, of strategic success, and has struck the power of Russia no vital blow."

In explanation of the Russian defeat some curious observations are made by Reuter's correspondent, who was on the Russian side and was taken prisoner when the Japanese entered the city. He evidently did not get such a clear view of what went on as the spectators on the other side, and he attributes to Oku's army a good deal more than it really performed. He tells us that the Russian infantry were demoralised by successive retreats, and he gives an ugly picture of the levity and unwarlike habits of the Russian officers. Though what he describes is no doubt true enough, its effect on the issue of the fight is evidently imaginary, for it is inconsistent with what we hear from the other side as to the success with which the Russians repulsed Oku's attacks, and the unquestionable skill with which the difficult operation of retirement was effected. It is a great mistake, and can do nothing but harm in this country, to depreciate the qualities shown by all ranks of the Russian army in fighting a losing battle. Full credit can be given to the wonderful achievements of the Japanese without that. So far as I can see, the Russians have come to grief for much the same reasons that we did in the first stage of the Boer War. They went to war unprepared; they miscalculated the resources and spirit of the enemy; and their operations have been governed by political considerations and instructions from home against the advice of "the man on the spot." By all accounts Kuropatkin was against attempting to hold Southern Manchuria, just as Sir William Butler, confirmed afterwards by Sir George White, was against attempting to hold Northern Natal, and, like them, he was over-ruled on political grounds. It is certain that the insane movement for the relief of Port Arthur was undertaken in obedience to peremptory orders from St. Petersburg. It is a pretty safe assumption that a pitched battle at Liao-yang was only fought for the same reason; at any rate, it is evident, from the way the retreat was carried out, that Kuropatkin must have foreseen the probability of having to retire, and made all arrangements for it. His plan of campaign seems to be to hold the enemy back as long as possible, damage him as much as possible, and then go. A good general would rarely adopt this policy spontaneously. There may be reasons for it occasionally, but as a rule you gain more and risk less by retiring first and fighting afterwards, when you see a probability of holding your own. Everything points to the conclusion that the politicians at home are responsible for all the Russian failures; first, by letting their diplomacy outrun their military and naval preparations; secondly, by dictating the course of operations in the field, instead of giving their general a free hand. In the like situation we buoyed ourselves up with the hope that we should "muddle through," and eventually we muddled through. The Russians—those of them who have any definite ideas on the subject of the war—probably entertain the same hope, and up to the present there is no reason why it should not be realised. Everything depends, to my mind, on what the Japanese can achieve between now and the beginning of winter.

Naturally enough, the present situation has already

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given rise to rumours of mediation, and it is worth notice that the first of them has come from Berlin, and pretends to announce the intentions or desires of the German Emperor. If any such movement should come from that quarter, it places us in a most delicate and difficult position, and it is to be hoped that our own Government and diplomacy are prepared for the contingency. There is a rather interesting article on this point in the *Fortnightly Review* by the sage who prophesies under the style of "Calchas." I am always amused with the outpourings of this class of prophets. Their wisdom is so exalted. Their style is so oracular—even the prophets of the Turf, indeed, do not surpass them in cocksureness. Their knowledge of the inner minds of those mysterious entities, the "Wilhelmstrasse" and the "Quai d'Orsay," is so intimate and so imposing. Their mission is invariably that of the Fat Boy in "Pickwick"—to make the old lady's flesh creep; and many an old lady, of both sexes, must have passed uneasy nights in her snug British bed after reading their tales of the sinister designs afoot in various Continental capitals against the majesty of the British Empire. Of all these Fat Boys, "Calchas" of the *Fortnightly* is the most blood-curdling disturber of the peace of quiet homes. He is in his best form on the present occasion, when he sounds "A Note of Warning" against "the new German Intrigue." But we most of us know that "Calchas," like the Turf prophets, has information, and his divinations on foreign politics are frequently shrewd. He is probably right in the opinion that the wicked "Wilhelmstrasse" encouraged Russia to go to Manchuria, and from much the same motives that a generation earlier it encouraged this country to go to Egypt. It is naturally the policy of Germany to give her immediate neighbours something to occupy their attention away from the German frontiers. She has far stronger motives than we have for diverting Russian ambitions from Constantinople, and if while doing this she could land Russia in troubles at the other end of her Empire, that was all to her gain. Whether or not it was all planned out beforehand, the end has been gained in the position she now occupies in regard to Turkey and the Euphrates Valley scheme, and in the position Russia occupies in Manchuria. It is equally certain that the *rapprochement* between England and France does not suit Germany, and is more or less a rebuff to her traditional policy. If German diplomacy can manipulate the situation arising out of the present war in such a way as to scotch the newly hatched "entente cordiale," to further estrange Great Britain and Russia, to make Russia more and more dependent on the good-will and financial support of Germany, to encourage Russia to look for expansion in Southern Asia rather than the Near East or the Far East, and to isolate Great Britain in the European system, we may reasonably expect that German diplomacy will direct itself to those objects. The business of our diplomacy is obviously to prevent any such results of the war.

Without quaking before the "Wilhelmstrasse" bogey which the *Fortnightly* conjurer illuminates with his lantern, I am entirely in accordance with what seems to be the only practical conclusion of his article—that our business is to develop out of this war a better understanding between ourselves and Russia. Foreseeing the approaching advent of a Liberal Ministry to office, "Calchas" winds up with a final flourish of the bogey's arms for the benefit of Liberals, and adjures them to remember that St. Petersburg is the friend, not Berlin, and that if it is not London, Paris, and St. Petersburg against Berlin, it must be Berlin, Paris, and St. Petersburg against London. The last proposition remains to be proved. But as far as the great mass of Liberals are concerned, the advice of "Calchas" is superfluous. It would be much better addressed to the colleagues and disciples of Mr. Jesse Collings, who has seized this opportunity to revel ecstatically over the misfortunes of Russia, and to celebrate the masterly achievement of the present Government in compassing her downfall through the instrumentality of somebody else. This is the mischievous spirit that wants squelching now, and it is not most in evidence on the Liberal side. If the great end above indicated is ever to be gained, the traditional British policy of the last fifty years towards Russia will have to be reversed, and the worshippers of the great god Jingo will have to repudiate one of the cardinal articles of their faith. I have not much confidence in Tory diplomacy taking any course which requires these sacrifices, and for that reason I view the present position of things in the East with apprehension. The situation, in fact, increases the need of a Liberal Government in England, and it is to be hoped that we shall have one before the question of mediation, or interventon, takes practical shape.

A GERMAN ON BRITISH POLITICS.

A few days ago I came across an article in a German paper from a Teuton in London upon the state of parties in England which struck me as interesting, for it showed what is the view of an independent, and apparently an intelligent, observer. I append an English version of the substance of it. The writer has not, I think, sufficiently realised that the middle classes with us are largely composed of Nonconformists, who are by no means under the Chamberlain influence, and that most practical men of business hardly regard him as a sound guide. It is, I think, true that many of them are not in harmony with the "fine gentleman" cynicism which was an element in the popularity of Lord Beaconsfield and Lord Palmerston, and which is emulated by Mr. Balfour and Lord Rosebery, and that they prefer a man who takes himself and his duties to his country more seriously. But I greatly question whether such men are supporters of Mr. Chamberlain. The Conservatives are, at any rate, his mainstay. He serves them with the proverbial zeal of

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a renegade who would become their master. Some are Conservatives from honest conviction, some from snobbism, and some from dread of Radicals and Socialists interfering with their opportunities to grow rich. They believe that he alone can stem the advance of democracy. He is their "strong man," for they have the sense to entertain small confidence in the "fine gentlemen" and the cousins who man the Conservative official ship. But whilst accepting him as a defender of their cause, they have an uneasy feeling that he is using them to further his own ambition, and they are uneasy as to where he may lead them by his recklessness and his flightiness. Their feeling towards him is akin to that of an Italian town in the Middle Ages that hired a captain of trained bands to fight for it, but felt suspicious all the time of the possible designs of the champion against his paymasters. The South African War has been a rude awakening to all engaged in industry and commerce. They were persuaded by Mr. Chamberlain that it was a good speculation, and that glory and cash would be reaped from it. As a monetary speculation it has proved a dismal failure. Mr. Chamberlain is in politics what some company promoters are in finance. They are expected to make money for their clients. So long as they do they are lauded to the skies. But when, instead of a dividend, there is a call, the popularity vanishes, and the promise of a golden future if only the call be paid is doubted. The fact is that Mr. Chamberlain is not a good man of business. He is far too rash. When he launches a scheme which is to make us all rich he has not looked into details, and when this becomes apparent he only replies to criticisms by bounce and bluster, and by vowing that he is so exceedingly able that all should trust in his assurances. Such a man is not a safe statesman, but the sort of kill-or-cure political adventurer of which history has furnished many examples. They often are enthusiastically supported for a time, but in the end they are usually found out. So it is beginning to be with Mr. Chamberlain. But let us come to the German observer:—

When Joseph Chamberlain a little more than a year ago astonished the world with his fiscal proposals the overthrow of the Unionist Ministry seemed certain. This anticipation has not been fulfilled. The Cabinet and the Parliament will in all probability last another year, and possibly until 1906. The bye-elections, it is true, have shown that the country will not hear of Protection. But the majority in Parliament still support the Premier, mainly owing to his skill in smoothing away distrust. His party, however, is every day becoming more openly attracted to Chamberlain. A few weeks ago a dinner took place to celebrate the birthday of the latter, in which two hundred Parliamentary supporters of the Government took part, amongst whom were two of Mr. Balfour's colleagues, and it was understood that the guests were all pledged to Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal scheme. Few of the Liberal Unionists have sided with the Duke of Devonshire, who is an honourable but not a very brilliant politician, and has thrown in his lot with the Free Traders. In the House of Commons the son of Lord Randolph Churchill has joined the Liberal Party, but he is without the ability or the importance of his father, and is a nervous impressionist of no convictions and eager to push himself to the front. It can hardly be averred that the proposals of Chamberlain are already negatived because a few bye-elections have gone against them, and because he has not himself continued his crusade in favour of them during the last six months. Mr. Chamberlain is no idealist, nor is he in the habit of taking up a policy the failure of which is a foregone conclusion. His dominant position in the Unionist Party is by no means due to any exceptional liking entertained by "society" for the ex-screw manufacturer of Birmingham. It fears him more than it loves him. Even when he is not himself in the House of Commons one hears citations any moment from his speeches and his writings, which is evidence of his enormous influence over those who are not in "society." He is interested in no sport. He cares nothing for art or literature. He occupies himself exclusively with politics and orchids. His early education was rudimentary. As a Minister he has often made the most elementary blunders. But his energy in all that he undertakes is almost beyond belief. People were surprised when he selected the Colonial Office on his entry into the Unionist Ministry. It had always been regarded as a post to which some second-rate statesman fond of his ease was appointed and of which the leading statesmen fought shy. Chamberlain managed to make it more important than any other Ministry. The Conservatives have little in common with him. He has none of their prejudices: his mode of thought is not theirs, nor are his habits. "He is not a pleasant man," one of them said to me. "He is not what we call a gentleman. He is essentially a man of the middle class, and nature made him to be a clever advertising grocer. Nevertheless, it is better that he should be with us than against us."

The average Englishman deems him essentially a "strong man." I have heard this said of him a hundred times, although to German ears it sounds like comparing a statesman to a Hercules performing in a booth. This conviction of his strength has won to his side the middle classes, who seldom have had a liberal education. He is one of them, and they are more in sympathy with him than with any highly-educated and well-born Minister who does not neglect art, literature, or sport in his devotion to politics. For years they have seen men in the highest posts whose polished irony they could not understand, whom they only half trusted because they doubted their sincerity. The present Premier is a man of this type. He is a professional sceptic. He has written a "Defence of Philosophic Doubt" and an "Introduction to the Study of Theology," and he has publicly admitted that he has no settled convictions on anything. Chamberlain has often changed his opinions, but this is forgotten, for he knows how to convey the impression that what he says he honestly believes. Neither as a speaker nor as a writer is he particularly choice in his language. In the House of Commons he usually appeals to the coarser instincts. He pleases those whose patriotism is not averse to sensation in its outcome or to boastful self-praise in its expression. Such persons fanatically admire Joe—the man, the eye-glass, the orchid, and the oratory. When he was two years ago in South Africa orchids were almost daily sent to him from his hothouses. He needed them to set off his speeches. The South Africans who flocked to his meetings would have been disappointed had he appeared without this flower. His popularity is very much akin to that of the late General Boulanger in France. The orchid and the eye-glass are as necessary to the one as the prancing horse was to the other. He is the hero of the music-halls, where allusions to Joe are frequent and always rapturously applauded. This pothouse popularity would, however, never have secured him the position in the public eye that he has attained. For thousands of earnest men Chamberlain is the hope of the nation, notwithstanding his eight-and-sixty years. With characteristic cynicism, Lord Beaconsfield once said that the respect of the English people for its Government rests upon the national habit of its Ministers making political speeches after lengthy dinners when their auditors have drunk themselves into good humour. The country has, since the South African war, been in a serious mood. Something more is at present demanded of public men than a facility for sarcastic after-dinner speeches. Though other statesmen may be more cultured, better

born, and broader in their views, Mr. Chamberlain is accepted as the "strong man" amongst them.

The appeal to the country to revert to Protection has found more adherents than was anticipated. Naturally many landowners welcome it because it will enable them to raise their rents. About one-half of the most important employers of labour are in favour of it. It is, in truth, remarkable that so many leaders of industry should be for it, considering what enormous wealth has been accumulated under Free Trade. The Commission appointed by Chamberlain to inquire into the desirability of reverting to Protection, has recently published the result of its investigations into the Steel and Iron industry. Hundreds of replies from firms engaged in it are appended to the Report, although few of these firms allow their names to be published—a reticence which greatly weakens the effect of their replies. To judge by them, however, one would suppose that the entire industry is eager for Protection. This is not quite so. Many of the leading ironmasters remain strong Free Traders. They hold that we Germans cannot permanently injure well-managed British steel and iron works that have up-to-date machinery and a considerable capital. Dumping, which is one of Chamberlain's strongest arguments in favour of a protective duty, they consider, is, on the whole, to the advantage of the British steel and iron manufacturers, for it enables them to compete in price with foreigners, owing to their getting at comparatively small cost a good deal that they need in producing the completed article. I visited Sheffield, which is strongly Protectionist. This is owing to there being there so many "bread and butter" manufacturers, i.e., manufacturers in steel and iron who carry on their business in a small way, and who, not finding this pay as it once did, are entirely with Chamberlain. There are physiological considerations which have helped the movement. At the present moment Germany is not popular in Great Britain. There are as many anti-Germans there as there are anti-Semites in the Fatherland. This antipathy is strongest amongst the middle classes. Every clerk who complains of the competition of Germans for clerical work is an unpaid agent of the Tariff Reform League.

The general opinion, and even that of the Unionists, is that Chamberlain will be beaten at the next General Election. The Unionists, however, believe that the Liberal Administration that will come into office after this election will not last, and that then Chamberlain's opportunity will come. The Liberal Party, according to its opponents, is so permeated by differences of opinion and personal rivalries that it will soon break up under the stress of the tenure of office. And even if it were possible for the Moderates and the Radicals that comprise it to act together for any length of time this would be rendered almost impossible by the attitude which the Irish Party and the Labour Party—which last, according to the opinion of all, will be greatly strengthened in the next Parliament—will take up.

I have talked over the political future with many Liberal members of Parliament, and amongst them Sir Edward Grey and Mr. James Bryce. Both, it is certain, will be in the next Liberal Cabinet. Sir Edward is a fresh-looking man about forty years old, and is the youngest of the Liberal right honourables. Bryce is the well-known author of the "Commonwealth of America," and was Minister of Trade under Mr. Gladstone. Of the three possible Liberal Premiers, Lord Rosebery is fifty-seven, Lord Spencer is sixty-nine, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, who leads the Liberals in the House of Commons, is sixty-eight. Spencer has the best chance of becoming Premier. Rosebery is suspected by the strictest Gladstonians of opportunism. He has taken of late no part in party councils and he holds no intercourse with the leader of the party in the House of Commons. This leader is Bannerman. He is genial, but he is deemed somewhat shifty, and it is thought that he would be unable to stand hard work. Spencer is the Party leader in the House of Lords, and his chance of being selected Premier is thought by many to be the best. He is an eminently respectable nobleman, of no exceptional capacity, honest, obstinate, and narrow-minded, hardly a Radical, but not without Liberal aspirations, and his chance is due to all this.

And what will be the Liberal majority in the next House of Commons? Will so many seats be gained that the Party will be independent of the support of the Irish? If not, will it be once more rent in twain on the Home Rule issue? The impression prevails that it will be possible to circumnavigate the Irish rock. A large number of Liberals are in favour of letting, if possible, the question sleep, and the Irish Party has already obtained so much from the Conservatives that it cannot hope for much more from them. It will therefore not be in their interest to join in turning out a Liberal Ministry. How the Liberal majority will be composed, and what will be its chances of retaining office, seems very largely to depend upon the votes of the working men at the next General Election and the strength of the Labour Party in the next Parliament.

HOW TO CATCH YOUR "TOMMY."—II.

Under this heading I endeavoured to show last week that the real cause of the reluctance of the best class of working lads to join the Army is the prejudice against barrack life which exists among the fathers and mothers of such lads and among the well-to-do working classes generally; and that this prejudice is founded upon the belief that the life is a demoralising one, and that it unfits men for subsequent employment in well-paid trades after they have taken their discharge. We got finally to the point that the mere increase of pay is, for the foregoing reasons, not the remedy for recruiting difficulties; but that a systematic and intelligent attempt must be made to improve the conditions of Army life for the rank and file. I propose next to point out the principal directions in which this improvement is required.

There is a very interesting and sensible article on this subject in the current number of the *United Service Magazine*, signed "Colonel." I do not subscribe to every word of it, but in the main the writer's conclusions agree pretty closely with those to which I have been led after a good many years' study of this subject. This is the only military question on which I regard myself as an authority. Strategy, tactics, organisation, and training for war are matters in regard to which a civilian can only borrow his opinions from professional experts. But on matters concerning the domestic life of the soldier, and the causes which tend to make military service popular or the reverse, a civilian is in as good a position for forming an opinion as an Army man—probably more so—always provided he knows the facts of the case. In the present instance the civilian happens to have been in the habit for fifteen or twenty years of receiving almost every day the confidences of soldiers on every conceivable subject which excites their disapproval. That is why I regard myself as an authority on this question. And I feel comfortably fortified in my views when I find them confirmed by an article in a Service journal, evidently written by an officer of experience, who has given a good deal of intelligent thought to the subject. The opening remarks of this officer go straight to the root of the question:—

> Some years ago I took the trouble to investigate the history and to test the worth of an enormous number of reservists who applied to me for help. I do not remember one out of the number as being a tradesman or mechanic. Only two proved satisfactory

and stuck to their work as bricklayers' labourers. Of the rest the less said the better. In nearly every case the story was the same—no trade, or lazy, or drunken, or worthless.

He does not spare the men, or suggest that no fault of their own has contributed to this result. But he comes to the conclusion that "there is much to be said in favour of the view that military life has a deleterious effect upon 'Tommy Atkins,' and that therefore it is desirable to remedy those defects which admittedly exist, rather than cast all the blame on the man and his childhood's upbringing." He recognises, too, almost in the words I have myself used, that under present conditions the Army has, and is bound to have, "a bad reputation amongst the class of people from whom a large number of recruits are obtained."

Foremost among the causes that lead to this result he places the canteen, which he regards as "a direct incentive to intemperance." He thinks it sophistry to argue "that, as men *will* drink, it is better to give them wholesome drink in barracks, under military supervision, than to let them get unwholesome drink outside." On this point we do not agree. So far from being sophistry, I think the principle is sound. If it does not justify itself in practice, I should say the fault lies with the way the principle is applied, that is to say, with canteen management. How does the "Colonel" himself speak of the canteen? "It is at best an evil-smelling, cheerless pot-house." The obvious answer is that there is no reason why it should be an evil-smelling, cheerless pot-house. It ought to be the exact opposite—that is to say, a wholesome, comfortable place of recreation, where a man can have any refreshment he wants—just as the Colonel can at his club—but where drink is the very least of the attractions offered. I have said so much at different times about the reform of canteen management that I need not go into this question closely now. But, without taking the extreme temperance view, I am quite sure that the canteen in its present shape may be rightly included among the demoralising influences which bring the Army into disrepute, and, if so, it follows that reform in this institution is one of the first steps towards "catching your Tommy." This has been recognised by a greater authority than any of us. As readers of Truth are aware, Lord Kitchener is at the present moment hatching out a comprehensive scheme of canteen reform, his avowed object being to convert the canteen in India into a wholesome and useful soldiers' club.

There is a very interesting passage in the same article on the value of Soldiers' Homes, especially in India, when managed by wise, sympathetic, and tactful ladies, and also of their failure when managed under other conditions and as sectarian institutions. The writer speaks, no doubt rightly, of the loneliness of a young soldier's life in a foreign country, and the lack of any one to whom he can go for advice in time of trouble or difficulty. This is in a large measure the result of the military tradition which insists on the maintenance of a broad gulf between the private soldier and his superior in the commissioned or non-commissioned ranks. As this gulf must always exist naturally, it seems a mistake to widen and deepen it officially. Anyhow, the effect of it is that there is little room in the Army for the operation of the personal influence of older and more experienced people, which is essential to the moral welfare of young men in every station of life. A senior officer can exercise it for the benefit of a junior. But there is no one who can perform the same office for poor Tommy. The *United Service Magazine* Colonel thinks that this is where the good motherly lady of the Soldiers' Home should come in. Probably he is right, though I do not know whether the supply of good motherly ladies for this purpose is likely to be equal to the demand. You may easily, however, deprive the Soldiers' Home of any chance of doing even this amount of good, and the following observations show how—

> In those garrisons where unsectarian Homes exist—and these are remarkably few—the men feel that they have at least one friend to whom they can go when in trouble, and this is the lady in charge. By Soldiers' Homes I do not mean those Church of England Institutes which have been erected out of opposition to such institutions as those run by Miss Daniells, Miss Sandes, Miss Robinson, and other ladies. I allude to Homes such as those conducted by the above-mentioned ladies, and in no way subject to the chaplains. The men do not take to the former, they do appreciate the latter. And I speak with some knowledge, as all my knowledge of "Tommy's" inner life has been gained from men who use these unsectarian homes.

There is one other evil of Army life which, however difficult to discuss, must not be left unnoticed when the parental view of enlistment is under consideration. The evil has been advertised enough, and fathers and mothers are bound to know of it; and when they hear, as they must, of shiploads of young men being invalided home from India every year with their constitutions ruined by one of the most horrible of diseases, it is not likely that they will be favourably impressed with the advantages of a military career for their children. It is absurd to suppose that the recruiting difficulty will ever be got over while this blot on Army life remains. This is not the place to discuss remedies, but when we talk about making barrack life more comfortable, providing soldiers with rational recreation, and bringing wholesome influences to bear on them, let this particular matter always be kept in view. In the *United Service Magazine* article it is suggested that midnight passes should be abolished, and men required to be in barracks early, which, in the writer's opinion, will not be unpopular with the majority, in view of the fact that they rise so early; and the following further suggestions on this point are worth quoting:—

> In India, especially, do not treat vice as a necessary concomitant of military life. On the contrary, treat it with severity, and instead of providing facilities for indulgence therein, and preventive measures recommended by so-called medical authorities, make it known that vice is vice, and will be treated as such. Moreover, let lectures by officers be given to recruits and to the men at intervals on the evils of vice. Do not permit these lectures to be given by chaplains only, as the men regard all such as mere "religion," to be jeered at in private; whereas if an officer addresses the men they pay attention.

That must depend a good deal on the officer. I do not believe much in formal moral lectures, whether by clerics or laymen. A little kindly personal talk of the right sort where it is known to be needed is far more to the purpose. Moreover, as I suggested when referring to this subject a few weeks ago, the influence of officers is likely to be more effectual in the form of example

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

than of precept. If Mr. Arnold-Forster ever establishes the ideal depot, this will be the place for laying the foundations of the soldier's character, as well as imparting the elements of his professional education. Let us, at any rate, remember this, that there is no reason why a young man should be more vicious in the Army than in civil life; and if he is, the fault must rest largely with those who are in charge of him.

So much for the moral aspects of this question. Side by side with it comes the question of technical education for civil life. We are assuming now that the greatest hindrance to recruiting among the well-to-do working classes is the wholesale failure of soldiers to obtain well-paid employment after discharge. In part this may be due to the tendency of Army life to foster intemperance, laziness, and other bad habits. But it is every bit as much due to the fact that the majority of soldiers when they take their discharge know no trade, and are too old to learn one. There are a certain number of positions for which they are well suited, provided they are sober and trustworthy, but the number is limited, and so is the pay, as a rule. As things are, the ex-soldier has no chance of becoming a well-paid artisan; and to say this is to say that all the best class of working men, if they feel ordinary parental concern for their children's future, will object to their sons going into the Army. If Mr. Arnold-Forster, or any one else, can construct a home service army which will be virtually a militia, that is to say which will not involve the continuous withdrawal of the recruit from civil life for more than a year or two at the outside, this objection will be to a great extent removed, especially if an opportunity can be given men of earning pensions, or old age pensions, in such a force. This is, to my mind, one of the strongest arguments in favour of a home-service army on the militia model. But foreign service involves the withdrawal of a man from civil life during the whole time that he should be learning a trade. That being so, it is absolutely essential, if the Service is to become generally popular with the working class—I am speaking chiefly of the fathers and mothers—that some provision should be made for ensuring employment to the soldier on discharge, and that whether he serves with the colours for seven years, twelve, or twenty-one.

There are two ways in which this can be done. The first is by teaching trades systematically in the Army. The second is by increasing the employment of soldiers in all branches of the public service for which they are suitable. In the *United Service Magazine* article above-mentioned it is suggested that recruits should be taught trades for two years in training depots, at the same time that they are taught soldiering; and that throughout their subsequent service they should be "encouraged, assisted, and obliged whenever possible to work at their trades," receiving working pay when so employed. If Mr. Arnold-Forster's training depots ever come into existence, the suggestion that technical education should form a part of the curriculum is worth consideration; but there is no time for it in a recruit's course as at present understood. As to encouraging or obliging trained soldiers to work at their trades "whenever possible," the question at once arises, When is it possible? Work is already found for men as tailors, shoemakers, farriers, wheelwrights, and so on, in different branches of the Service, but how many more is there room for? Possibly barrack building and repairs might be done exclusively by soldiers; and in this way a certain number may occasionally get a little practice as bricklayers, carpenters, plumbers, decorators, or what not; but it will be little more than occasional jobbing. Without wishing to throw cold water on any scheme of technical education for soldiers, it seems to me that the real solution of the difficulty is the provision of State employment for ex-soldiers. The State is by far the largest employer of labour in the country, and it employs labour of every kind, clerical and manual, skilled and unskilled. There is not the slightest reason why the State should not exact a term of military service from every man it employs in any capacity. In the Post Office, the Metropolitan Police, the arsenals and dockyards, and in the lower grades of the Civil Service, there is a vast field for the employment of soldiers. I have no means of estimating its exact size, but it would certainly take a large proportion of the men who leave the ranks every year. All soldiers of good character are fit for one or other of these vocations; and if they were not, they soon would be when it came to be understood that the only road of entry to all these branches of the public service was through the Army. Once let it be understood that a man who enters the Army enters the Government service for life, provided he conducts himself satisfactorily, with permanent employment secured to him, and a pension at sixty or sixty-five, and all difficulties about getting the best men, whether for the Army or for subsequent civilian employment, will very soon vanish. The Government may not have room in its service for all its soldiers when it has done with them. In that case, municipal authorities with their vast army of tramway servants and other employees, might be required to take some of them. But it is worth noting that if the principle which I am proposing were adopted, you would be able to keep your men in the Army much longer. They would not mind extending their service for a year or two, if they were only waiting for vacancies in another branch of the public service. On these terms you would discharge fewer men per annum, and require fewer recruits.

There is one other point of very great importance in connection with the "unemployment" of ex-soldiers, that is, the character given on discharge. It has been recently discussed in Truth very fully. What requires to be recognised by the Secretary of State and his colleagues is that the character they at present give their men when they have done with them is given in a form eminently calculated to deceive the next employer to whom it is presented, and therefore to damage the man unjustly. The reason of this is that the offences which lead to a soldier's discharge with a second or third-rate character are chiefly breaches of discipline, which do not necessarily indicate that a man is so many degrees morally worse than his neighbours, and which have generally little or no bearing on his

value to a civilian employer. Take the question of drink. Many excellent workmen, highly valued by their employers, frequently come home the worse for drink on Saturday nights. It does not affect their characters in their employment, because their employer does not know anything about it, and does not want to. But a soldier who comes into barracks once in the same condition may have a mark against him for the rest of his time; and the repetition of such marks, perhaps a dozen times in the course of seven years, will spoil his character on discharge, and handicap him in getting work afterwards. Or take a stronger case. A man may in a fit of temper, or perhaps under the influence of liquor, strike an N.C.O., with the result of a court-martial, a sentence of imprisonment, and a useless character at the end of his time. From the military point of view the offence is a serious one, but what employer would ever hesitate to engage a man, who otherwise suited his purpose, because some years previously the man had been before a magistrate for assaulting a policeman? Or what employer, if he had kept a man in his service for several years after such an incident, would think of raking up the fact against him when giving him a character to another employer? This is where the Army character is unreasonable and unjust. When this matter was recently discussed in Truth an officer suggested that the fairest course is to give the man a copy of his defaulter sheet, and leave his next employer to form his own conclusions from it. The only objection to that is that the employer may still fail to properly appreciate the bearings of the document, and do the man an injustice in consequence. The fault seems to lie chiefly with the grading of characters. I think there should be three grades—"exemplary," for the irreproachable man; "good," for the ordinary mortal who has occasionally got into trouble, but never given any evidence of such serious depravity as to justify his being branded for life; and "indifferent," for the man who has so misconducted himself that it becomes a duty to give a subsequent employer a word of warning. But in the last case, the reasons why this character is given should be categorically set out, so that the next employer may judge the facts for himself. Beyond this, very precise instructions ought to be given to commanding officers as to the principles on which characters are to be assessed, one principle being that when there is any doubt the man should always have the benefit of it. And, in the last resort, the man should have the right to appeal when he thinks he has been unfairly treated, as he would against any other decision of his C.O. by which he is seriously damnified. There is really no more momentous matter for him in the whole of his service, for every prospect he has in life may be at stake in it. Moreover, the Army itself is vitally concerned in the treating of every man in this respect with not only justice but mercy. It is not the interest of the Army to tar its men unnecessarily when it dismisses them. The failure to recognise this contributes not a little to the recruiting of the ranks of the unemployed from the ranks of the Army, which does as much as anything else to give military service a bad name with the working classes.

SHYLOCK'S MICHAELMAS GEESE.

There are certain seasons of the year when the plague of moneylenders' circulars breaks out with extra virulence. The state of my letter-box, congested as it is every day with letters of inquiry and protest concerning such circulars, shows that one of these seasons has now arrived. My acquaintance with the fraternity, though extensive and peculiar, is not sufficiently intimate to enable me to say whether the average usurer takes a summer holiday like other people. If he does, he gets back to business betimes. Instead of lingering in the country for the partridge-shooting, he returns to the office to set about the capture of sillier birds—a species of Michaelmas geese that will lay golden eggs for him. He knows that this month many a paterfamilias comes home lamenting the cost of holidays, and wondering how on earth he is going to meet the demands of the approaching quarter-day. In such an emergency an offer of cash accommodation is peculiarly tempting, and so from the beginning of September the enterprising moneylender, ever ready to take occasion by the hand, makes a lavish distribution of his seductively-worded circulars. You might imagine from these effusions that he approaches you in a spirit of pure philanthropy. Observe, for example, the sympathetic way in which "B. S. Thomas," 4, Adelaide-street, W.C., and elsewhere, alludes to the difficulties of those "persons in all positions of life" who find themselves short of money and do not care to borrow from friends and acquaintances. Anybody foolish enough to fall into his clutches soon discovers, however, that the smooth-speaking "B. S. Thomas" (the alias of a Hebrew named Charles Samuel) is really one of the most rapacious and unprincipled bloodsuckers in London. Another individual of the same kidney is Henry Sagar, 36, Bloomsbury-street. He has adopted as his telegraphic address the word "Intermediate," which is very appropriate in view of the fact that his victims are frequently passed on for final fleecing to Isaac Abrahams, otherwise the Bedfordshire Loan Co.

"R. N. Webber" (alias Arthur Henry Norris), 49, Finsbury-pavement; "J. King," 107, New Oxford-street; "G. Foster," Hatfield House, Victoria-square, S.W.; "P. Saunders" (alias Braham and Philip Samuel), 3, St. James's-road, Kingston-on-Thames; and "T. Wilson and Co.," 30, Craven-street, W.C., are also represented in the recent additions to my unrivalled collection of moneylenders' circulars. The three last-named profess themselves willing to call upon you with the cash to arrange terms and complete the transaction. This is now a common dodge, and applicants are thereby often rushed into taking loans on exorbitant terms, which they would never have accepted if they had had time for consideration. It is scarcely necessary to say that my invariable advice to everybody is to avoid any dealings whatever with professional moneylenders. Instead of extricating himself, a man is bound to sink deeper into the mire of financial difficulties if he resorts to Shylock for assistance. There are, by the way, harpies who mark down as their special prey all whose troubles are published to the world, seeking to

bleed them for whatever they may still be worth. One of the oldest of these practitioners is E. Cogswell, 20, Bedford-street, Charing Cross, who issues a circular for the express benefit of parties against whom bills of sale or judgments have been registered. After mentioning that he noticed the fact of the registration "whilst looking through one of the trade journals" (just as though he did not diligently search such publications for this very purpose), Cogswell proceeds to say that he will be pleased to give the debtor "the best advice how to act," and that he has "wealthy clients with capital at command to pay off, consolidate, arrange and make further advances upon existing mortgages, reversions, life interests, annuities, freehold and leasehold property, furniture, bills of sale and every conceivable security." "I am not," he concludes, "a moneylender." No, Cogswell has been for many years a degree worse than a moneylender. He is a moneylender's tout.

It is not, of course, by circulars alone that the blood-suckers lure victims to their toils. Some of the worst of them rely for the purpose on advertisements in newspapers, and I am sorry to say that they find plenty of newspapers — London dailies as well as country weeklies — ready to aid and abet them in their nefarious business. Conspicuous among these patrons of the country papers is the notorious John Kirkwood, the proprietor of a number of usury-shops carried on under the high-sounding title of "The Provincial Union Bank." During the past ten years or so many severe remarks have been made in Truth concerning Kirkwood, but information that has lately reached me shows that he is an even more unscrupulous rascal than I have taken him to be. I have known all along that his advertisements are misleading and his terms exorbitant, that he remorselessly exacts his full pound of flesh, and that his victims are often duped into supposing that the interest will be 5 per cent. per annum, when it is really 5 per cent. per month, or—if there are monthly repayments—considerably more than 60 per cent. per annum upon an advance which, as a rule, is amply secured by a bill of sale. What I have now learned is that Kirkwood, not content with his gains from this usury, also practises the species of robbery called the preliminary fee trick. A person applying to the Provincial Union Bank for a loan receives in reply a circular from W. H. Goodman, the manager, requesting the remittance of a certain sum—usually half a guinea—for the travelling and other expenses of "our valuer." "It is our invariable rule," the circular says, "not to entertain any application until our valuer has visited the applicant at his residence, had a personal interview, and inspected the proposed security." It is further asserted that the payment of the valuer's expenses is only required "as a guarantee of the borrower's good faith," that "no good application is ever refused, as we have always a large capital on hand," and that in order to save all possible delay "our official" will bring with him the amount needed in gold or bank notes, and make the advance there and then "provided he finds your security and position satisfactory." Evidence now in my possession shows without a shadow of doubt that on the strength of the assurances contained in this circular the "bank" has frequently obtained payments for "valuers' expenses" in cases where it had neither the intention nor, at the moment, the means to make the desired advance.

I believe that Kirkwood has sunk a good deal of money during the past year or so in the building of a fine residence at Crowborough, where he has an idea of setting up as a country gentleman. It is possibly, in part, as the result of this expenditure that there has been an unusual shortness of cash at the bank, combined with greater avidity in grabbing "valuers' expenses." It is, at any rate, a fact that Kirkwood's valuers have been instructed to visit applicants for loans not only when they were unprovided with the promised gold or bank notes, but when they were positively ordered not to make any advance. This has been done regardless of the nature of the security and the position of the applicant, and in his instructions to the valuers Goodman has not attempted to disguise the fact that the only object of the visits was to justify the retention of the fee that had been obtained. It is obvious that by means of these fees, which must come to a considerable amount in the course of a year, the working expenses of the business are greatly reduced, particularly as, during one visit to a town or district, a valuer can often dispose of a whole series of applications. It may be said that, after all, the people whose dealings with the Provincial Union Bank begin and end with the payment of half a guinea for "valuer's expenses" are better off in the long run than those who are granted loans at the customary inordinate rate of interest. But this is, of course, no excuse whatever for the system of swindling—it is nothing else than swindling—which I have described. Not many years ago a moneylender was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for practising this preliminary fee trick, and if Kirkwood got his deserts he would be similarly punished.

THE THEATRES.

"Merely Mary Ann," at the Duke of York's.

One of the things which I find it increasingly difficult to understand is the spirit in which clever, even brilliant, men of letters approach the theatre. Mr. Zangwill stands very high among our living writers, but the veriest novice could not have more studiously avoided realities in writing what purports to be a realistic play than he has done in "Merely Mary Ann." I like fantasy, I like romance, I like farce, and I like realism. I only ask that they shall be good of their kind; but here is a play which deludes one into the belief that it is going to portray the comedy and tragedy of lodging-house life, and instead merely serves up very prettily a sugary compound of by-gone sentiment. I find it difficult to forgive Mr. Zangwill, because he is one of the people who might, if he would, help the stage, and I remember scenes of his in a play produced some years since at the Adelphi which were not sentimental, but strongly human and full of power and pathos. The story of his impecunious musician lodger adored

by a little drudge is a story which we all know well. We know the lodger's landlady; we know his breezy, prosperous friend. Above all, we know his soaring pride and the symphony which one day will make him famous. He is a profound egoist, and he behaves pretty badly to poor Mary Ann. He is too poor to marry, but not too poor to love, and the fact that Mr. Zangwill has chosen to call him Lancelot seems to unnecessarily aggravate his failings. He proposes to take his favourite slave away into the country, but when through the death of a brother Mary Ann becomes a half-a-millionairess, he realises that this would not be quite the thing, and so they part, much to the grief of his little worshipper, who is deeply hurt. All this takes three acts; in the fourth act Lancelot, now famous and rich, meets his humble admirer, now a society lady, and they make it up. If you like sentiment, the first three acts are pretty, fanciful and tender in an unreal way; but the last act is a mistake, for Mr. Zangwill is not quite happy when dealing with high society. I have seen many bad last acts, but few which seemed to me more wrongly conceived. Mary Ann as the lodging-house servant is a type sentimentalised—metamorphosed into a society woman, she is merely a figment. You might not think from the above that the play has any redeeming qualities, but it has. Its author is a wit, so it is punctuated with clever, sometimes brilliant, things. It is superficially fresh and unconventional, though in its essence it is sentimental. In the days of the Great Exhibition of '51 it was noble to refuse well-paid work because you had a soul above it, but had not a soul above running up debt with a hard-working landlady. Times were when a genius had to look the part—wear his hair long, and play the fool generally—be rude to rich friends who offered him the use of money to which he was morally entitled, and consider himself insulted when he was asked to pay his rent; but nowadays feeling runs rather more in favour of the commonplace bill-paying members of the community, and my sympathies were much more with the breezy businesslike Gerald du Maurier than with the Byronic Henry Ainley. Mr. du Maurier had a small part, but he made it individual. Among our younger actors he stands in the very front rank, and I could have done with a good deal more of him in the play, and a good deal less of the long-haired composer—not that Mr. Ainley did not do very well as the picturesque egoist. It was the part I disliked, not the actor. Mr. Cartwright, who ought to be seen more often in London, gave an admirable little character study of an elderly music publisher, but the success of the play was, of course, Miss Robson as the slavey, and Mr. Zangwill is much in her debt. She is a fine artist, and she went far beyond her material, for hers was a very delicate, subtle performance. She brought a pathos to the part which was not in the lines, and if anything could have made me believe in the childish innocence and ignorance of this little Somersetshire maiden shedding her fragrance in a London lodging-house, it would have been Miss Robson's consummate art. I should like to see her in a better play, for though "Merely Mary Ann" is the play of a clever writer, it is not a clever play; and being the play of a wit, it is spoiled in many places by the untimely jest and pun. Mr. Zangwill can never resist the jest when it comes into his head, with the result that laughs are heard in wrong places and situations come nigh to being ruined. When its author takes the stage more seriously he will give us a better play.

"The Catch of the Season," at the Vaudeville.

There is not very much to be said about Messrs. Seymour Hicks and Cosmo Hamilton's modern "Cinderella," except that it follows exactly on the lines of the old story, and that it is a good idea very brightly worked out. It begins feebly, but very speedily becomes gayer and brighter, and I found it thoroughly enjoyable. Three vivid impressions now remain on my mind. Firstly, and I think I am writing in the order of importance, the dresses are brilliant and bewildering. I am no judge of dresses. They all fall easily to me into one of two categories—those that look nice, and those that do not. I have noticed, by the way, and this is a fragment of profound observation, that the dresses which look nice are usually worn by pretty girls, and those which do not look nice are mostly worn by not pretty girls. At the Vaudeville I should hesitate to say that there are any which do not look nice. "Lucile," who figures on the programme (I do not know whether Lucile is Mr., Mrs., Madame, Mademoiselle, or merely "and Co.") is quite as important an author of this piece as Messrs. Hicks, Hamilton, Haines, Baker, and Taylor, who are responsible for the words and music, and I trust "Lucile's" royalties are equally large. After "Lucile" I admired Mr. Seymour Hicks. His energy and versatility are stupendous. He dances and sings with equal dash and lightheartedness, and, what is more to the point, he can act. I can easily forgive him when he falls into imitations of Wyndham, because I know this merely means that he has not quite "found himself" yet. When he is himself, as in the little serious comedy passages with Cinderella, he is admirable, and shows real feeling. But this earnestness is Mr. Seymour Hicks. If he stands on his head, he stands on his head as though he meant it; if he falls in love at first sight, you feel that he is very honestly in love, and this is not a thing I often feel when watching stage lovers. Miss Zena Dare, who plays Cinderella—Angela she is called in the play; Mr. Hicks is the Duke of St. Jermyns—is pretty and dainty enough to afford the young Duke every excuse for falling in love with her at sight—the audience as one man sympathised with him. She is a young actress who should go far if she will only restrain a certain restlessness. A graceful dancer, and endowed with a most pleasing personality, she played the comedy scenes with charm and distinction. I should like to see both Miss Dare and Mr. Hicks in a more ambitious production, but I should miss them desperately when I went to see "The Catch of the Season" again, as I hope to do very shortly. I am not fond of infant prodigies, but I could not help admiring the cleverness of Master Valchera, who played the part of

an amorous but infinitesimal page. I fancy he will be one of the successes of the piece. The libretto did not strike me as anything out of the ordinary, and the score reminds me of a criticism passed the other day on another work. "Of course," said this critic, "it is all reminiscences of things one has heard before, but the selection has been made with such taste and discrimination that the result is quite pleasing."

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On Monday night "The Earl and the Girl" was transferred to the newly-decorated Lyric, where, with new songs and dresses, this new edition seems to promise a career of popularity as lengthy as the first edition enjoyed at the Adelphi.

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There has been much rather aimless discussion lately as to whether or not pit and gallery seats should be numbered and reserved. The question is a very simple one, and could be very easily decided, because I am quite sure that managers would be only too willing to meet the views of the public if they were sure that the change were really desired. At present they are anxious to please, but are by no means certain whether the change would not make more enemies than friends. I do not think myself that the majority do desire the change, but this is immaterial. I would suggest that for a week every occupant of the pit and gallery in half a dozen or more of the principal theatres should be furnished on entering with a printed slip on which to record his view. At the end of a week we should have a very fair consensus of opinion. It is not a matter on which the views of people who write to the papers are of any value. We want the views of regular theatre-goers.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE CROWN PRINCE'S FIANCÉE.

THE fiancée of the German Crown Prince may almost claim to be French. Her father, the late Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, cheated tuberculosis by living for about six months a year in the South of France. He first tried Palermo, and then Cannes, where he established himself twenty-five years ago as a winter resident, purchasing the Villa Wenden. The Grand Duchess Anastasia Michaelovna became there the centre of Russian society, and of the *crème* generally. It was under her roof that Queen Wilhelmina, at a wedding gathering, resolved to marry Prince Henry, half-brother of the Grand Duke and of the Grand Duchess Vladimir.

The engagement of the Crown Prince William is spoken of here and in Germany as one of political convenience. The Emperor, when stricken last winter with the sort throat, felt great anxiety to secure allies and friends for his son. Through the marriage he has arranged he will closely connect Prince William with the Hanoverian Guelphs, the Court of Russia, and that centre of European diplomacy, the Court of Copenhagen. A Mecklenburg Princess is established there as the wife of Prince Christian, eldest son of the Crown Prince. A Guelph Princess married the other day the young Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. An uncle of the bride-designate is the Grand Duke Alexander, the inner Prime Minister of the Czar (if I may so speak), and the most favoured son-in-law of the Empress Dowager. Another uncle, Grand Duke Michael, who has made a home at Keele Hall, in Staffordshire, is the very close friend of King Edward. About eighteen months ago, the future of the Mecklenburg Duchess Cecilie seemed to lie in Sweden. Prince Gustavus Adolphus was invited to Copenhagen to meet her at family parties, and they and the young generation of Danish, Guelph, and Mecklenburg Princes and Princesses used to go cycling across country, and along the forest roads. The visit of the German Emperor to the Danish capital changed the views of parents and guardians.

Duchess Cecilie is tall and slender. She is what the Americans call an open-air girl, and perhaps owes her fresh complexion to living much out of doors. She comes on the paternal side of a delicate stock. Most of its members died young, and hardly any of them knew what the joy of life meant. The late Comte de Paris had the Mecklenburg-Schwerin constitution, which he inherited from his mother. It does not so far appear that the longevity of the Grand Duchess Alexandrina, sister of Emperor William I., has been transmitted to any of her descendants. The affianced ones have been enjoying forest walks and Baltic breezes at the Grand Ducal marine villa at Gelbensande, near the Isle of Rügen. The house, on the very edge of the sea, has its own landing-wharf and bathing-place, and reserved sands of exceptional hardness. It has a pine forest for a background, a large part of which is a private pleasure ground, but open to the public for the sake of the income which cafés, restaurants, and villas bring into the Grand Ducal exchequer. The engaged pair at first found it hard to go anywhere without being mobbed. A police force from Schwerin put a stop to this annoyance.

Crown Prince William and the Duchess Cecilie are both blond. She is twice descended from the Emperor Paul, and he as often. They are extremely musical. The Royal palace of the Guelphs will be assigned them for a residence, with Marienberg, the palace of Queen Marie, for a lodge or Trianon. They will find themselves in their element as musicians at Hanover, which has the best opera house and concerts in North Germany.

Newspaper romances are piled up on the romance of the Princess Louise. She never wrote that letter which appeared in the *Vooruit* of Ghent, nor could have written it. Her great affection for the late Queen of the Belgians precludes the possibility of her having done so.

The Lindenhof private asylum is not in the Dresden, but the Meissen, district, and a sub-prefecture. When any friend of the Princess Louise appealed on her behalf to the Dresden police, the answer given was that her case did not concern that department. Besides, it was "a Court affair." The King of Saxony wanted to oblige the Court of Vienna, and he had an undoubted right to place an erring member of his house under restraint.

Prince Philip is at once a Hungarian and a Saxon. Liberties appear to have been taken with the law, and they will be gone into if Prince Philip should demand the extradition of his wife, or ex-wife, on the ground that she is mad. As the necessary revelations of her counsel could not but cover with confusion the Prince and all who abetted him, he may be expected to follow the advice of the Emperor of Austria. The aged Sovereign is for letting her finish her romance with her Croatian officer. "It will," he said, "go on for some time and die a natural death, like all other romances. Human life is made up of cross-purposes. The best way to avoid worry is to accept this truth."

M. Sudekum, the Socialist German Deputy who gave the fugitive Princess hospitality in Berlin, went to see M. Jaurès about the extradition danger. The latter promises to stand by the fugitives if necessary, whether at the Ministry of the Interior, in the Chamber, or in his paper. He gave in his journal a delightful account of the flight, and of the rare pluck and presence of mind of the Princess. She never faltered nor was at a loss for a device to throw pursuers off the scent, or to turn attention from herself. Her very tall stature, her striking likeness to the King of the Belgians, and the publication all over Germany, and indeed the whole of Europe, of recently-taken photos of her, stood in her way. A proffered reward of 70,000 fr. for her apprehension must have sharpened the eyes of detectives where she might have been expected to turn up. The Princess played to perfection, as Frau Sudekum, the part of a fault-finding wife during forced halts in wayside inns and at hotels. The 25-horse-power motor-car which took the party from Berlin to Hildesheim had not the fleet and solid qualities of Mme. Bob Walter's famous car. It broke down four times, thus entailing long delays and obliging them to go by an ordinary train from Hildesheim to Cologne, where a man engaged in the express to Paris recognised Count Mattachich, but promised not to betray him, and kept his word. The fugitives had gone into the lion's mouth in going to Berlin, while a double of the Princess, wearing her red mantle and green dress, went to Zurich. They dared less in going through Belgium. The passage of the Cologne-Paris express through that country is short, and Belgians are not lynx-eyed. The king is unpopular and his eldest daughter an object of general sympathy. Besides, she kept in her nightdress in her sleeping-car until the French frontier had been crossed. What a blessing it is that there are frontiers! She had crossed the Bavarian frontier at Hof, and three other frontiers in the rush from Berlin to Cologne.

The Princess had 600 fr. a month for dress, charities, and amusements such as concerts and theatres. She went to these places attended by a doctor, a lady, and a warder dressed as a servant. Her gaoler, she says, had 50,000 fr. from King Leopold, and 70,000 fr. from Prince Philip of Saxe-Coburg. Out of this the Saxon Forbes Winslow had to find the wages and board of the attendants and the monthly allowance. Isolated from all her friends and relatives, she had no opportunity to enjoy alone the pleasure of communing with her own thoughts. She had to put up with the company of Fräulein von Gebauer from the moment she rose in the morning until she was locked in at night. The principal of the asylum took his meals with her. She has an imperious temper, but had to keep it constantly from rising. To have let herself be carried away would have afforded an excuse for the straitwaistcoat, and this she knew. The nearness of the busiest railway to her bedroom—the distance of sixty yards—tried her severely. It prevented her in hot weather from keeping her windows open. The drives in the motor-car exasperated her. In that vehicle, more than in the house, she felt herself a prisoner.

The Socialist Deputy Sudekum stood in need of his philosophy and generous sentiment not to feel annoyed at the Royal ways of the fugitive Princess. She deceives herself, he says, in thinking she only aspires to benefit by the common law and live like any other lady. Her self-respect is on a courtly basis, and will remain so as long as she lives. She cannot root out the habits of forty-six years. They are a second nature. Another person who has seen her—one of three, the only visitors admitted—tells me that she is a strange mixture of Bourbon, Coburg, and Hapsburg-cum-Würtemberg. Morally, and to some degree physically, she resembles her collateral ancestress, the Grande Mademoiselle. She has her taste for romantic adventures, her impetuous disposition, her pride, and much in her appearance that shows the same blood. The nose is a mixture of Bourbon and Coburg, as in King Leopold. She has at times, when her pride is hurt, the rough frankness of the Würtembergs—one saw examples of it in the late Prince Napoleon and in the Princess Mathilde. But affability appears in the welcome she gives a caller whom she is glad to see.

To enter into details as to appearance, her tall figure is not quite free from defects. She resembles the Countess Lonyay in the nearness of the hips to the arms, and is at more advantage on a high than on a low seat. The blond hair is turning white. She speaks of her numerous *ennuis*. In enumerating them the high colour in the cheeks spreads over the face. Publicity is one of her very great trials. She owes, no doubt, much to the Press, but she would be glad, now that she is out of the madhouse, if it ceased to regard her as a mine of "copy." Her one ambition is now a quiet life and a fixed income large enough to enable her to be reasonably generous. Unreasonably generous she has been, and she owns that she has been unreasonably so to the verge or more of prodigality. Of Courts she has had enough; however, in saying good-bye to them she wishes to avoid scandal.

Mattachich, if her De Lauzun, conforms to her protocol of etiquette. He does not sit down in her presence, nor does any one else who is not of her rank until she points to a chair. The simple Socialists of the Sudekum household found this protocol irksome. I believe that Caroline of Brunswick fenced herself round in many ways with ceremoniousness, and only admitted her own right to dispense with it. Mattachich bows low each time he enters the presence of the Royal fugitive. His utter ignorance of French is a bar to his usefulness. He does not sleep

in the house where she has rooms, but goes each evening after dinner in quest of a lodging, asking each evening for a room at a different hotel from the one he last put up at. As he has only a small handbag, he pays in advance. At first he had simply his nightgown rolled up in a newspaper. The Princess has now no wish to sue for a divorce, and professes devotion to the Catholic Church. Her conversation when her *ennuis* do not press on her severely is said to be bright and interesting. She has the fluency of her father and great-grandfather (Louis Philippe).

French correspondents in the Farthest East surpass, it seems to me, all others in the descriptiveness that depends on style. Romance may enter into their letters, but they have those qualities of Vierge's drawings which, if not the real truth, had verisimilitude and suggestiveness, and the faculty of giving salience to everything which ought to stand out. Those French correspondents have one advantage over the American in chastened taste and a fine artistic touch, which is at once a flower of instinct and of scholarly culture. Three hundred years of high classical culture appears in what they write, to say nothing of that far back race refinement which the retrospective sections of the 1900 Exhibition revealed to us. Classical training, which has now many drawbacks, has been to the French mind what the vegetable mould is to the soil of a country. Add to this the fact of the French language being the most perfect vehicle of modern times to express visual impressions, passing emotions, shades of thought and feeling, flashes of intellect, play, irony, glancing wit, and to wrap up whole trains of thought in nutshells. It certainly deserves the first place in its aptness to convey values and to produce striking effects without ceasing to be sober. Exaggeration, tawdry rhetoric, risky cocksure assertion, paradox, except just as mustard is served with meat, or in articles signed by Rochefort, are repugnant to its genius. There must be no painting in prismatic hues, *nuances rompues* being more consonant to its general harmonies. One saw this very much in M. Naudeau's letters from Macedonia last year, and in those he and MM. Rodes and Pierre Giffard have been sending us from the seat of war.

Better than any other writers do the French, it also seems to me, understand the art of innuendo and of packing between the lines contraband information meant to cheat censors. The French "specials" at the seat of war did this so nicely that Alexeieff obliged them to send their descriptions and military comments in Russian. Innuendo and sly digs between the lines lost all its zest when translated into a foreign tongue and then retranslated in Paris into French. Still, the French "specials" managed to deserve well of their Boulevard readers whenever they could transmit their letters and telegrams through a Chinese channel. M. Pierre Giffard's accounts of his professional tribulations at Harbin and Mukden have been delicious reading. The Namiestnik and the Generals acting as censors did not like to vex the French Press by point-blank refusals, and followed the more provoking method of treating the correspondent as a shuttlecock, which they dipped in *eau bénite de cour* before they knocked him as if with battledores from one to the other, with the firm intention of forcing him to keep silence about what he saw. He confesses they were right to prevent camp miseries being unveiled, but thinks the Namiestnik ought to have made up his mind at an early stage of the war. He could have then prevented them coming all the way to Harbin at great expense to their journals. Still, M. Giffard and his French brethren have yielded to the temptation of turning on the grim Admiral Alexeieff and the Generals acting on his censorial orders.

Those French "specials" never cease to be the friends of Russia, and whenever they can, say friendly things. Still, they cannot help giving pictures which might be of inestimable value in historical class books in military academies. They establish that material force is of small avail compared to the force of brains lighted by a scientific training and heated by patriotic enthusiasm.

Before the Russians left Newchuang, M. Rodes sent home letters that also deserve to appear in military histories, written for cadets' schools. When he wrote them he could get the French Consul to slip them into his despatch-box or send them to be posted in China. He corroborates M. Naudeau's accounts of Babylonian festivity having reigned at Port Arthur for some days before Admiral Togo made his first attack. As in the Catholic Church, there is in the Greek a long period of severe fasting, preceded by a sort of carnival. Officers came from inland stations, where they had been unable, however prodigally inclined, to spend their pay. Wines, brandies, vodki, and beers flowed. The managers of the Circus and the Opera Comique never knew of so good a season. Roulette, rouge et noir, baccarat, bridge shifted wealth from pocket to pocket, and balls in private houses drew officers and civil servants who had managed to keep sober.

Before quitting Newchuang to follow Kuropatkin M. Rodes wrote as follows in recently-published letters, transmitted through a Chinese channel:—

Each day brings in a new set of officers, generally young fellows with faces set round with fair beards. They remind me of students too ready to avail themselves of the latchkey, and hardly seem in their true element in camps. Doubtless they will fight with set teeth and firm resolution at the near front where war now rages. We expect to hear of those who have gone there proving their unflinching pluck, or meeting death like heroes. The later comers are more square shouldered, more heavy, and have harsher faces. They do not keep in vain the knout fastened to the wrist ready to pass on for use to some low down fellow. Still, they have the same careless manner and the same complexion of intrepid *jouisseurs* as their juniors. . . . Above everything else, they strike one as being big, barbarous, grown-up children who consume themselves in gross licentiousness. Our officers, finding the eyes of well-educated privates on them, go in more and more for scientific culture, and whether in peace or war now take their military duties very seriously. Our friends and allies have no critics in the ranks. They are still imbued with old-fashioned notions. One has to suppose that they think deep drinking, heavy gaming, and gross gallantries best become the officer. I can imagine our officers in their place poring over maps, inspecting with sharp eye equipments, arms, rations. Our friends here pass their days at drinking bars and those places which spring up like mushrooms wherever armies are concentrated. Indeed, it may be said that our friends prepare to face the Japanese in a never-ending debauch (*une noce sans fin*). Still, I am persuaded that to-morrow or next day they will show no white feather, but die game. . . .

As to the soldiers, they too are grown-up children—big, uncouth, lumbering, good-natured fellows, utterly submissive and resigned. They go about aimlessly in twos and threes, not knowing what

to do with themselves, and always carrying the rifle with fixed bayonet. They fear their firearm might be stolen were they to lay it aside an instant. A Frenchman cannot but wonder at their want of handiness. Our fellows would know how to tie up torn boots and smarten themselves up for parade. Those Russian chaps are *coiffés* and generally rigged out in the most haphazard way, and their head-gear seems to have been assembled from every part of the gigantic empire without reference to the regiments in which it is to be worn. This is picturesque, but it betrays want of good organisation. One seldom sees a regimental frieze coat that is not threadbare, draggled, and altogether the worse for long wear. The badness of the boots is hidden most of the time under a cake of mud. Those poor fellows were enrolled in a hurry and packed off here. They know nothing of the grim work of war. Their firing drill is given hastily by sergeants who do not spare the knout. Twice a day the troops are called together to chant religious chorales. This they do in perfect time and tune. It is about their only regular drill. If I saw them in column they might give me an impression of inflexible force—at any rate, for bayonet work.

Before the battle of Laio-yang Colonel Picquart predicted a Russian defeat. He went on this: "The Russians are bad marksmen. Their superiority is in the bayonet, and they do not fight well except in serried ranks, shoulder to shoulder. The Japanese are good marksmen, and their artillery is as perfect as scientific training can make it. At close quarters the bayonet driven home by a powerful ox-like soldier would have the advantage. But this might be equalised by the extraordinary courage of the Japanese in attacking, and their gymnastic training."

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

COTTAGE-SNATCHING, dear Lady Betty, is the latest craze in England, and the attention of the public must be directed to this at once, for hundreds of labourers and their families have been driven, and thousands may otherwise shortly be driven, from their homes, and the overcrowding amongst the poor in the country is becoming as serious as it is in the towns.

Within fifty miles of London most of the "picturesque" cottages have recently been bought, or hired on a long lease, by comparatively rich men or women who have "restored" them, added to them, have furnished them artistically, and have surrounded them with well-cared-for old-fashioned gardens. The demand for cottage property has increased enormously during the past twelve months, and it is now being snatched at all through England.

Meanwhile the displaced cottagers are in a most pitiable condition, for as few of the landlords are sufficiently prosperous, or are disposed, to build other homes for them, the dispossessed labourers are compelled to herd in batches, as the poor do in London, to remove to the towns, or to emigrate.

A painful case may be described here which has attracted much attention, though there have recently been hundreds of others that resemble it almost exactly. There are in the county of ——, some forty miles from London, two rows of cottages—the one composed of three, the other of four, houses—the age, the wooden beams, and the small windows of which have excited the appetite of the "converters." Each cottager paid about twelve pounds a year rent. An artist and a solicitor have persuaded the landlord to evict the cottagers, and the artist now pays sixty pounds a year for one row, and the solicitor a hundred for the other! The new tenants are turning their respective rows into one house, and are spending money more or less freely in improvements. The unfortunate labourers and their families now occupy small rooms in the already overcrowded village on the outskirts of which they formerly lived! Were this a solitary case it would be bad, but when hundreds of cottages have been converted as those are to be, and when hundreds of comparatively rich men and women are endeavouring to find others throughout England to transform in the same style, it is time to direct public attention to the matter. It is not so much want of work, and the better opportunities which the towns and the Colonies offer, that are driving the labourers from the country, as the want of accommodation which is provided for them on the land.

It is obvious that the lower middle class in England to-day is considerably more prosperous than it was a quarter of a century ago, and it can, therefore, afford to occupy better houses, and to enjoy more luxuries than it could formerly. On the other hand, from a variety of causes, the lower upper class of this country has become less prosperous, and is being compelled to remove from the homes which it can no longer afford to maintain. There is, therefore, at this moment an unexampled demand from below and above for small houses, the rents of which are cheap, and that do not require much money to keep up. The old-fashioned labourer's cottage which can be converted into an artistic private house at a small outlay, the rent of which is at the most thirty or forty pounds a year, is an especially tempting morsel, and as such is being pounced upon in every direction throughout England.

Meanwhile, the landlords, though they deplore the consequences of the agricultural depression, cannot afford to build new cottages, or are not disposed to do so, spend every year more of their time and money in foreign lands, in Germany in the autumn, in the South of France or in Egypt in the winter or the spring, and occasionally visit South Africa and the United States. They most of them, however, insist that, for the good of the country, the labourer must be driven "back to the land"!

. . . . .

There is a broad and deep vein of inconsistency in the English character. Cottage-stripping is another development of the times in this country which is, however, less serious than cottage-snatching. There are in almost every country district many associations which endeavour to make the labourer cultivate "beauty in the home." There are cottage garden and window flower associations, and there are lectures delivered by the thousands on art, and on the decorative properties of those simple objects which our forefathers manufactured and constructed for the use of the poor. Meanwhile, the vicars, the curates, the doctors, the solicitors, all their grown-up women-kind, and a multitude of visitors, are searching every farm and cottage carefully for grandfather clocks and armchairs, old-fashioned and Chippendale furniture, settles, china, Staffordshire pottery, glass, books, and curiosities, and are never so happy as when they can say, "I bought this in a cottage for five shillings, and a dealer has since offered me fifty pounds for it!"

. . . . .

The politicians, and those whose interest it is to say so, tell us that the country is suffering from poverty. If that is the case, why do the local magnates continue to spend money on illuminated addresses, presentation caskets, gold keys for opening ceremonies, and silver trowels for the laying of foundation stones? Almost every Royal personage in the country has cast away illuminated addresses that are absolutely useless to them or any one else, that have seldom ever been examined by them, that have cost much money to prepare, and have only served to bring a local celebrity, who desires to obtain a small title, into momentary notice. Could the Royal personages sell most of the caskets, keys, and trowels they possess even for a nominal sum without fear of detection, there is not one of them who would not immediately endeavour to find a purchaser. Would it not be a graceful departure for the members of the Royal Family to suggest for the future that the money spent on those useless gifts should be employed in relieving the poor of the district?—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

A FORTNIGHT ago I contradicted an announcement which had gone round the Press, that Grafton House, Newmarket, had been privately purchased from Sir Ernest Cassel by the Prince of Wales, and I stated that the property had been really sold to the King. My information on the subject was correct, and Sir Stanley Clarke is acting as his Majesty's trustee in the business. The King wishes to have a separate residence of his own at Newmarket, and the suite of rooms at the Jockey Club which he has occupied for many years past is to be made over to the Prince of Wales. His Majesty intends to be at Newmarket next month during the Second October and Houghton meetings, and he will probably occupy Grafton House during the race weeks. Baron Hirsch laid out a great deal of money on this property, and the house is now in excellent order, and wants very little doing to it. The King's purchase of a house at Newmarket will give immense satisfaction to the inhabitants of the town, and Sefton Lodge and other properties there which are in the market, will no doubt find buyers before long. There has been considerable depression at Newmarket of late, partly caused by over-building, and also through so many houses in the place having been given up. The deaths of Prince Soltykoff and Colonel McCalmont were severe blows, and the closing of Cheveley Park has caused much consternation in the neighbourhood. The Cheveley shootings are to be let for this season, and there has been some talk of their being taken over by a small syndicate. It is hoped that the Prince of Wales will replace the Duke of Cambridge as a patron of Newmarket. The Duke had been for some thirty years a staunch supporter of the race meetings, and his tenancy of the Six Mile Bottom shootings (now rented by Admiral Sir Adolphus FitzGeorge) gave him a permanent connection with the place.

I stated last week that Lord Gerard intends to become an owner of racehorses. Marsh purchased some yearlings at Doncaster for him, and his horses are to be trained at Egerton House by permission of the King. The late Lord Gerard was for many years a very staunch supporter of Newmarket, and he rebuilt the house and laid out the grounds at Moulton Paddocks, but ultimately sold the property to Mr. G. A. Baird (Mr. Abington), after whose death it was purchased from his trustees by Sir Ernest Cassel, who now resides there during the race weeks, and he has several times entertained his Majesty there. The late Lord Gerard's horses were trained at Bedford Cottage under the superintendence of Captain Machell, who was the "manager" of his stud.

The result of the St. Leger fully justifies the opinion as to the English three-year-olds which has been frequently expressed in TRUTH. A fortnight ago I wrote as follows respecting the St. Leger:—

> I now expect that Pretty Polly will confirm the accuracy of the two-year-old form by winning the St. Leger. She cantered away from St. Amant both in the Champagne Stakes and in the Middle Park Plate, and on paper she has 10 lb. in hand at least. Neither the colt nor the filly has ever gone beyond the easy mile and a half at Epsom, but there is no earthly reason for doubting Pretty Polly's stamina, apart from the fact that the stock of Gallinule do not as a rule stay well. The recent gallops of Pretty Polly have given much satisfaction at Newmarket, where no doubts are entertained as to her capacity for staying the St. Leger course.
>
> St. Amant will no doubt be sent along at his best pace from start to finish, as in the Derby, and while he has everything his own way he will do very well. If, however, Mr. de Rothschild's colt is tackled in earnest by any of his opponents it is just as likely as not that there will be a repetition of his Newmarket Stakes exhibition. St. Amant is evidently a most uncertain horse.

I never could understand how any one fit to go at large could seriously expect St. Amant to defeat Pretty Polly at Doncaster, and an amazing amount of the most abject trash and nonsense has been written by the infatuated admirers of Mr. de Rothschild's colt. For example, I read last week that, whereas St. Amant "has proved his capabilities as a stayer," Pretty Polly had not done so. What on earth is the meaning of this balderdash? St. Amant's longest race was over the easy Derby course at Epsom, which nobody with a particle of practical knowledge of Turf affairs would consider to be a conclusive test of stamina. The fact is that the two-year-old running had proved Pretty Polly to be a racer of altogether different class to the colts, which, as I have frequently pointed out, must inevitably be an exceedingly moderate lot, after the best of them had shown himself to be some 10 lb. behind a filly of the same age. The rant and rhapsodies of St. Amant's Press friends were astounding. It was forgotten that in the Two Thousand and Derby the colt had it all his own way from start to finish, and that in both races he met fields of miserable quality, putting aside Gouvernant, whose running at Epsom (as I have always maintained) could only be ignored, after his subsequent excellent form in France. St. Amant's deplorable exhibition in the Newmarket Stakes has been carefully overlooked since the Derby, although most people with any racing experience have fully expected that there would be a repetition of it whenever any opponent got fairly to his head and it became necessary for his jockey to call upon him. One enthusiast had no doubt of St. Amant's ability to stay the St. Leger course after his having made the running in the Derby and won in a canter, and described him as the best colt of his age, and so on and so forth. Such gushing gibberish is only worthy of Colney Hatch. There is a vast difference between the easy Derby course and the tiring track (to say nothing of the longer distance) over which the St. Leger is run. St. Amant may be the pick of the English colts, whenever he is disposed to give his best running, but he has no pretensions to be regarded as a racer of high class, and Ajax would have lost him either at Epsom or at Doncaster. If Gouvernant had run up to his best form in the Derby he would have won that race. No hocus-pocus can get out of the fact that as two-year-olds the best of the colts twice showed themselves unable to make Pretty Polly gallop, and the running last week has proved that her immense superiority is still well maintained. It was really nauseating on the Saturday before the St. Leger to read in a well-known sporting paper such dreary, muddy-minded drivel as the statement that "judging from the time test," St. Amant is better than Pretty Polly! The time test is a will-o'-the-wisp which has led many simpletons astray. It passes belief, however, that an experienced writer could seriously assert that the colt was superior to the filly, looking at the public running of the pair. St. Amant's "splendid performances" in the Two Thousand and Derby, about which there has been so much jargoning, simply consisted in each race of easily defeating a truly contemptible lot of opponents. On what running there was any justification for expecting "a right royal battle" between the pair I cannot understand. St. Amant met Pretty Polly twice as a two-year-old, and he never had a chance with her. History repeated itself at Doncaster. People who depend upon such moonshine as "the time test" when considering the prospects of the runners for a great race had better betake themselves to the salutary seclusion of a padded room. I am sorry that St. Amant has proved a failure (for an animal which shows himself to be an arrant rogue can only be regarded as a failure), as early in the spring of last year I mentioned him as being likely to turn out one of the best two-year-olds of the season. I did not cease to regard him as a colt of high class until after his defeat in the Middle Park Plate, for which no excuse was alleged, and the running appeared decisively to dispose of his claims to be regarded as a veritable flyer.

Pretty Polly won the St. Leger in a common canter, and it is really impossible to estimate the amount of weight which would have brought her to the level of any of her opponents. St. Denis ran very badly, and I have always regarded his third place in the Derby as being one of the most flagrant flukes of that utterly false-run race. If all goes well with Mr. Joel's colt

during the next seven or eight months he ought to make a very useful four-year-old. Henry the First, after having been all to pieces for several months, is now beginning to recover his form, and he ought to win some races during the autumn. Mr. Musker's colt cannot beat Rock Sand for the Jockey Club Stakes, but he might secure second or third money; he looks like winning the Royal Stakes at the Second October meeting, and he appears to have a good chance for the £5,000 stake at Gatwick on October 18. In this race he would meet St. Amant with 6 lb. the better of the weights, the distance being one mile and a half. I do not suppose that John o' Gaunt will be in any condition to start, or the Gatwick Stakes would be a good thing for him on the spring running, as St. Amant would be giving him 8 lb. and Henry the First 6 lb. Mr. Musker's colt, the Derby winner, and John o' Gaunt are all in the £2,500 race on the second day at Gatwick, for two-year-olds and three-year-olds, distance seven furlongs. If Mr. de Rothschild is well advised he will keep St. Amant for this engagement, which he is very likely to win. He is a quick beginner, and the Epsom tactics could be successfully repeated over this distance if he got off well in front. Andover would probably have preferred a shorter course. I fancy that Mr. Alexander's colt is best over a mile. Almscliff has stamina, but he is not a colt of good class, and, as I pointed out some weeks ago, the merit of his victory over Darley Dale at Goodwood had been extravagantly overrated.

I hope we shall hear no more crack-brained cackling about the superiority of the English three-year-olds, for, apart from Pretty Polly (with whom the best of them cannot be handicapped, so enormous is her superiority), they are a despicable lot. There was much asinine braying after the Derby about "the French impostor" and the superlative merit of St. Amant, but, looking to the running of the pair since Epsom, it must be obvious that Gouvernant might as well have remained in France for all the good he was in the race for the Derby.

Pretty Polly's only engagements in the future are the rich Prix du Conseil Municipal at Longchamps on October 9 and the Champion Stakes and the Newmarket Oaks at the Second October meeting, both races being run on the same day. Next year Major Loder's mare is in the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, and her name will doubtless appear next January in the entry for the Gold Cup.

The result of the race for the Champagne Stakes is calculated to confirm the impression that this season's two-year-olds are a direfully moderate lot. The Middle Park Plate appears to me to be at the mercy of M. E. Blanc, who can win it with either of the Flying Fox colts—Jardy or Val d'Or—both of which animals are engaged in next year's Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger.

Costly Lady was made a very hot favourite for the Champagne Stakes directly it became known that Full Cry was not up to the mark, but the Beckhampton filly was just beaten by Galangal and Verdiana, who ran a dead heat, the third being beaten a head. It was a very fine finish, and the general opinion was that Galangal ought to have won. The running of Pamflete was a disappointment to those who regarded her as a really smart filly, and it is evident that Brother Bill is only a moderate colt. It is said that Pamflete was amiss. Carita was a Newmarket tip, and many people backed her at outside prices. So far as the future is concerned, Verdiana and Full Cry were far and away the best animals in the field, but I do not believe that a single really high-class two-year-old ran last week at Doncaster.

After Costly Lady's severe race on Tuesday it was barbarous to bring her out on Wednesday to run for the Tattersall Sale Stakes, for which race she was made a tremendous "pot," odds being freely betted, but she had no chance with Shah Jehan. I mentioned last week that at Derby Sir Edgar Vincent's colt was considerably interfered with, or he would probably have won, and added that he "is coming on, and will probably win next time he starts." The backers of Costly Lady deserved to lose their money, for it was a *bêtise* to start her, and only an ignoramus could expect a daughter of Ladas to do well two days running.

Loveite and Ambition were great favourites for the Great Yorkshire Handicap, but Hammerkop won very easily at the finish from Hands Down. Mr. Faber will do well to relegate Loveite to the stud, for she is of really no use for racing, to judge from her exhibition in this race. Whistling Crow, who had done an excellent preparation at Newmarket for this handicap, was very much fancied, but he could only get third. Hammerkop remarkably confirmed her previous running with Hands Down, and she was backed by some people who insisted that she ought to have won the Great Ebor Handicap.

Chatsworth was mentioned at Doncaster on Tuesday as likely to carry the King's colours in the St. Leger, but it was wisely decided to start the colt for the Bradgate Park Stakes, in which race he had very little to beat, and he found no difficulty in defeating Ravilious, who was made a great favourite. If more commonsense was displayed in "placing" horses, it would be well for their owners. It was far wiser to pick up a small stake with Chatsworth than to start him for the Leger, in which race he could not have stood the most remote chance of gaining even a place.

Santry won the Portland Plate after an exciting finish with Sundridge, who carried off the honours of the race, as he was giving away a great deal more than weight for age. Sundridge, however, had not been harshly treated by the handicapper, as he is decidedly the best T.Y.C. horse in training, and it was no wonder that he should have started first favourite. The fact that the top-weight should have been backed for a great deal more money than any other horse in the race proves that no great respect was entertained for the class of the field. Melayr ran well for some distance, and then suddenly collapsed.

Sir James Miller's dark colt Mozart was regarded as a good thing for the Rous Plate, but he ran very green, and Olivares, the gelding by Velasquez out of Meta III., won by a head from Golden Measure. Mozart was unlucky in running, and most people thought that he ought to have won. He will be worth remembering when he starts again, his next engagement being the Prendergast Stakes at the Second October meeting, where he will be receiving 9 lb. from Galangal.

Admiral Breeze won the Doncaster Stakes easily enough at the finish, but he made his backers exceedingly uncomfortable when the race was being run, and if Lord Falmouth had objected to the winner for bumping, it is quite likely that the stake would have been awarded to Esquire.

The Doncaster Cup was a second edition of the Ascot Cup. Bachelor's Button and Palmy Days cantered together at an easy pace for a mile and a half, and then Robert le Diable came along as fast as he could, and easily defeated the favourite for speed. The Cup field was a most melancholy collapse, considering the excellent entry which was obtained when the race closed in July. I fancy that Ypsilanti would have won, as the race was run, if he had started.

There were one hundred and twenty lots in the sale catalogue on Tuesday, and sixty-five changed hands, many of them at truly miserable prices. The only yearling which went into four figures was a sister to Queen's Holiday, from the late Sir B. Maple's stud, for which Lord Westbury paid 2,300 gs. Sir Tatton Sykes obtained the best average of the week, *i.e.*, 1,178 gs. for seven, the highest price being 3,600 gs. for the filly by Gallinule out of Tierce (own sister to Game Chick), Mr. Croker being the purchaser. The feature of all the sales was the desperately slow bidding, which was most depressing, and caused a most inconvenient waste of time. When at last a start was made it was melancholy and ludicrous to see ten guinea biddings literally dragged out of the would-be purchasers, and these paltry

offers had to be worked up by degrees. Moreover the biddings were most capricious, there being a rush for the yearlings of fashionable, and well advertised, and persistently puffed studs, while animals as well bred and better looking from other establishments were neglected.

Wood Pigeon has been backed for the Cesarewitch, in spite of her bad running in the Cleveland Handicap at Doncaster, it being assumed that because Almscliff has been withdrawn from the long-distance handicap Mr. Leigh's filly is the better of the pair at the weights, and therefore worthy of support. This is a mere fairy tale, and Wood Pigeon has not the ghost of the shadow of a chance for the Cesarewitch, the fact being that the filly has no pretensions to stay the course.

The Cesarewitch will be left alone by all people endowed with a particle of common sense for another three weeks at least, and probably those will do best on the race who wait until after the decision of the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park on October 8. Of the horses trained at Newmarket, I expect that Foundling and Switch-cap will run well if they come to the post all right.

There will be racing next week at Birmingham, Lingfield, Lewes, and Folkestone, all being one-day meetings, and at Pontefract and Manchester, each of which fixtures is allowed two days. The "one-day" arrangement is a detestable novelty, and universally unpopular.

The best sport will be at Manchester on Friday and Saturday, but the Prince Edward Handicap (for which race an excellent acceptance has been obtained) can be better dealt with next week. Rievaulx and Lancaster Gate are the best two-year-olds engaged in the Michaelmas Plate, which is now worth only £450 to the winner.

The South Africans brought their long cricketing tour to an end with a match against the South of England at Hastings. It was most unfortunate that the attendance was so small. The weather did not account entirely for this fact. I fancy the explanation is that the cricket-loving public are so slow and conservative in their notions that they have failed to realise what really good cricketers the South Africans are. True, the home team did not include Grace, Fry, or Ranjitsinhji. But it was a very strong team, and there was Jessop—and he was Jessop. I was much amused to hear the laments of many who missed their chance of seeing him in a most characteristic display. Things were going badly. He was fifty-five minutes over his first fifty—good scoring for most bats. He was a quarter of an hour over his second fifty. Out of 237 runs he made 159 not out. But to return to the South Africans. They won ten of their first-class matches and lost only to Worcester, Kent, and the Gentlemen of Ireland. Some of the counties did not put their best teams in the field. This caused disappointment. It was most ungracious behaviour. In Schwarz, Kotze, Sinclair, and White they had four bowlers who made up as strong a quartet of cricketers as could be found for a gentlemen's team at Lord's against the players. Their fielding was superb. The wicket keeping of Halliwell was as fine as any that can be seen. They are to be heartily congratulated on the result of their tour from a cricketing standpoint. Next time the team comes over, it may have dawned on the intelligence of the British public, including the authorities of county cricket teams, that the game of cricket as played in South Africa is not much if at all inferior to the game that is played in England and Australia.

Ireland has another and genuine grievance. In order to develop the game of cricket in that country a committee has been formed entitled the Committee Controlling Representative Irish Cricket. The Honorary Secretary is Mr. Gillman. He has been in correspondence with Mr. Lacey, the Secretary of the M.C.C., as to whether the matches between the Gentlemen of Ireland and the South Africans and Cambridge University are to be included amongst those that rank as "first-class." Mr. Lacey replies that they do not so rank, but that a three-days' match between a representative All Ireland team and a first-class eleven would be first-class. Thereupon Mr. Gillman scores heavily. He does not leave Mr. Lacey a leg to stand upon. With what means of progression he has left the Secretary of the M.C.C. takes cover behind his Committee. As this august body does not meet until the beginning of November, the Secretary of the M.C.C. will have plenty of time to recover his injuries. Mr. Gillman points out very clearly that his Committee is appointed by the Irish clubs and unions for the sole purpose of arranging representative matches. If the words "All Ireland" are needed as the open sesame or password to the sacred circle of first-class cricket, why was the Gentlemen of Ireland team that came over two years ago treated as being first-class? On Mr. Lacey's own showing there is no reason why the matches should not be first-class, and his ruling will do a deal of injury to the game. I must say I agree with every word that Mr. Gillman says. He points out that the first-class averages will all be made up before the M.C.C. Committee meets. Mr. Lacey was a bold man to try to tackle the Irish question single-handed. On paper he is entirely out of court. I sincerely hope the Committee will admit these matches to the circle of first-class cricket. They will only do what others in this country have often done, and that is grant to Ireland a meed of justice the day after to-morrow when it ought to have been granted to-day.

Mr. Gillman also asks for a representative match between the Gentlemen of Ireland and Gentlemen of England. Mr. Lacey very properly points out the difficulty of arranging such a match, owing to the heavy list of county fixtures. If I were Mr. Gillman, I would go the whole hog, and challenge an All England eleven or an M.C.C. team. They are quite strong enough to put up a good game. The M.C.C. must bestir itself in spite of the demands of county cricket to secure the services of players who will bring back to the club some of its old prestige in the cricketing world. The M.C.C. has more money and uglier stands than any other club. The money should be spent in getting good cricketers, and then the stands would be filled. At present there are fewer people present each match the club plays. Let the club start afresh on a new cricketing policy with a match against All Ireland. Let All Ireland play All Scotland. These international games would do a lot of good, and perhaps they might be included as first-class cricket, without the insertion of the mystic word "all." It is not necessary to describe the match as "All Gentlemen" *v.* "All Players," in order that the Gentlemen and Players' match should reckon as a first-class game. Why, then, put this burden on Ireland?

I have no desire to add to the sorrows of Surrey. At the same time I have been much amused by the stately criticism of the *Field* on the season's results. We are told that criticism from the club's followers does not assist to recovery, that importations from Notts and Yorks are tedious and speculative under the new rules, and that it is difficult and futile to discuss whether the Surrey management has been injudicious or unlucky. Certainly the latter, says the writer. And then he coldly remarks that there have been undeniable signs of vacillation in the Surrey experiments. I hope the Surrey management will take these criticisms to heart. I find my views corroborated in every quarter. No doubt the ardent defender of Surrey will regard the writer in the *Field* as being guilty of violent imagination. But facts are facts. The *Field* lets in a little light when it says that a good score in a non-county match by a retired veteran or a rejected aspirant has cost the committee many searchings of heart. And yet I have been told in all solemnity that the captain selected the team. I must protest against the Committee being saddled with any such reflections. But if the management would remember that when a colt is tried and begins with some success his subsequent failure may be safely predicted, things

might be better. This is the *Field's* proposition. The wealth of reasoning power possessed by the Surrey Committee seems to work on these lines. As soon as a colt fails, try another. Then we may have a series of successes. On this principle only can one explain the many amateurs who figure in a match or two and the long troupe of professionals who cross the stage. Give the colt who starts well or badly a thorough trial; let him feel that, while success will make him, failure will not damn him. Then the task of the captain will not be, in the words of the *Field*, an ungrateful one.

The victory of Mr. Travis, the American, in this year's amateur golf championship, has very naturally turned the home golfers' attention to championship matches in the States. They are now anxious to know to whom they will have to bow the knee in future. Well, there are one or two who may trouble the home golfers. Mr. Travis has been beaten and his victor has been beaten. Ormiston beat Travis. But he was beaten by Herreschoff, who in his turn was defeated by Mr. Candler Egan, of Exmoor, Chicago, who was nine up at the end of the first half of the final. At Lahinch Mr. Castle almost equalled Fry's exploit in the open amateur championship a year or two ago. Castle was playing Mr. David Forster in the final of the South of Ireland championship. He was five down on the first round. In the second round he was all square at the sixteenth. He halved the rest and lost on the last green. At St. Andrews the jubilee vase was won by Mr. H. L. Boyd, who beat Mr. Blackwell by five up and three to play. In a heavy south-west wind, with driving showers, Alec Herd went round the old St. Andrews links in the splendid score of 75.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets More Cheerful—Influence of Cheap Money—The Plague of High-class Borrowers—Recovering from the War—French Money in the Market—Restoring Confidence—War Influences—The Investors' Opportunity.

THE easy condition of the Money Market is the one great factor for good in the stock markets. It was predicted for July, but a number of uncalculated contingencies have delayed its arrival. Now that it has come its influence may be the more marked, because in the interval the general situation has grown more healthy—most important of all, the army of high-class borrowers has been kept at arm's length and made to understand that its contemplated trips to Lombard-street would not be welcome. Some of them have adopted other means of raising funds of which no doubt they are badly in need; Leeds, for instance, has placed a round million by going direct to the public and asking for deposits for a fixed period at 4 per cent. But, on the whole, the movement has been pretty effectually checked, and the country will be allowed some little time to make a more complete recovery from the wastage of the South African war, which, as every one knows, is at the bottom of our present impoverished condition. That the nation is enormously wealthy was shown the other day by the report of the Inland Revenue Commissioners, but even the British nation cannot recover all at once from such a costly luxury as was the Boer war, which not only drained our floating funds, but stopped one of our principal sources of fresh gold supply. Helped by cheap money and the prospect of its continuance, the Stock markets have betrayed a better feeling during the week. The only drawback is that the abundance of the supply is due to a considerable extent to the employment in our market of much French gold which is liable to be withdrawn, in part at all events, at short notice under easily conceivable circumstances. It was this fear that caused a setback in the Funds at one time during the week when it was stated that the Russian Government was about to withdraw several millions from Paris, but it was a poor compliment to the perspicacity of our leading financiers that they should have allowed such a circumstance to give them a fit of the shivers. There is not much buying of stocks by the small investor in any market, because available supplies are unevenly distributed, and the small investor has felt the pinch of indifferent trade. But there is enough all round to cause an improvement in business if only the general confidence were restored by the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese war. Unfortunately, the escape of the main Russian forces after the battle of Liao-yang seems to spell an indefinite prolongation of hostilities from which Russia may possibly benefit, but from which no others can. The people who have money for investment will find the present an excellent time to buy, because floating supplies of cash are increasing quietly but steadily, and when the war comes to an end, the restoration of confidence will mean a rapid advance in securities. For present speculation there are two or three markets which offer opportunities. Kaffirs, for instance, are attractive; and the present demoralisation of the Westralian section affords an opportunity of picking up some good things cheap.

Money Easy—Paying Off the Bank—New Treasury Bills—Gold from Abroad—Bank's Strong Position—The Autumn Drain.

Money throughout the week has been plentiful and cheap, call loans being obtainable at 1-1½ per cent., and fixtures for a week at 1¾ per cent. The three millions borrowed from the Bank of England during the preceding week was repaid easily, and the £2,500,000 of new Treasury Bills were paid for on Friday without turning a hair. There is a good deal of French money employed in London, because profitable use cannot be found for it at home, but domestic supplies are more plentiful, consequent in part upon the receipts of gold from abroad and in part upon the release of funds which had been hoarded. There is not much inducement to leave money on deposit when bankers allow only 1½ per cent. upon it, and therefore, even with the uncertainties of war, people are adventuring their funds more in various enterprises. The Bank is in a singularly strong position, the reserve totalling over £27,500,000, while the ratio to liabilities at 37⅛ per cent. is higher than at any time since 1896, when money was a drug. There is the autumn drain to Egypt and South America to be considered, but the first country will require less money than last year, and some portion of the requirements of the second will be diverted to New York. Moreover, gold to the value of about £2,200,000 is on the way to this country, and apparently the bulk of this will remain with us.

Consols Firm on Easy-money Prospects—Now Below the Best—Some Gilt-edged Investments—Paris Specialties—Tintos Strong—South Americans.

The easy condition of the Money Market and the indications of a maintenance of fairly cheap rates throughout the autumn, despite the drain of gold to Egypt and South America, have had a very good effect upon the Funds and the rest of the gilt-edged section, and Consols and other stocks show a further improvement on the week. Prices now are perhaps a little below the best; a rumour that several millions of Russian gold in Paris were about to be lifted off that market caused fears lest some of the French gold employed on our market would be withdrawn, and though it has not been verified, the whole market has developed a mild fit of lethargy. Cape Three and a Half per Cents have been inquired for by some investors, and to those who are on the look out for new issues making a good return—good, that is, having relation to the excellence of the security—I would recommend Johannesburg Fours, Sierra Leone Fours, and East India Railway Three per Cent. Debentures, the last carrying the guarantee of the Indian Govern-

ment. The Foreign market has again been dominated by the war, and has been inactive and irregular, though good on the whole. Paris has been in a buying humour most of the week, though it has not developed exceptional briskness in its bidding for anything, if Rio Tintos be excepted. These shares having registered a good advance on the strength, not of the copper statistics, which are rather adverse, but of the prospects, it being argued that as demand is growing more active and the available supplies continue to lag, there is room for higher prices for the metal. Russians have been helped by Continental support as well as by repurchases by local "Bears" on the eve of the account. Japanese, on the other hand, have been offered; the Mikado's statement that the general indications point to a prolongation of hostilities was hardly relished, and the people who bought heavily under the foolish impression that the battle of Liao-yang would mean the end of the war have been betraying much anxiety to get out. Among South Americans, Argentine bonds continue firm on the budget statement, and the prospect of an announcement before long on the subject of the unification of the debt. Brazilians and Chilians are steady, with a little buying from the Continent, but virtually none from this country. Uruguays have had a good recovery on the further defeat of the insurgents. There has been considerable bidding for Peruvian Corporation issues, and especially the Preference stock, on the strength of a good return for August.

HOME RAILWAYS IMPROVE — EASY MONEY AND BETTER EARNINGS—NORTH BRITISH DIVIDEND—NEW PREFERENCE CAPITAL—"BEAR" COVERING—GREAT WESTERNS—THE UNDERGROUND STOCKS.

Easy money with a prospect of its continuance, a series of traffics better than had been expected, and monthly trade returns of a more hopeful nature than those for July have united to cause a better feeling and a recovery in prices in the Home Railway market. There is very little public buying of stocks, even of the best class, partly because of the competition of good Colonials, which give as high a return, but, on the other hand, there is remarkably little public selling, and the quantity of stock is very limited, rendering a recovery all the more easy to manage when favourable points present themselves. The "Bulls," who bought so largely a month or two back, have now got out in disgust, and their places have been taken by a small army of "Bears," who betray a disposition to cover on the slightest provocation. The indications point to moderate rates for money down to the end of the year, and there is a hope that an advance in the Bank rate may, after all, be obviated in view of the strength of the reserve, and the probability that most of the gold to arrive from abroad will remain in this country. This is a good influence, and earnings show up rather better. My traffic table is appended:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 578	+ 2,073	+ 8,626
Caledonian	- 355	+ 6,287	- 8,688
Great Central	+ 719	+ 2,417	+ 2,279
Great Eastern	+ 800	+ 1,300	- 4,700
Great Northern	+ 1,669	+ 2,194	- 29,894
Great Western	+ 2,700	+ 7,100	- 6,900
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 4,160	- 14 380	+ 14,422
London and North-Western	- 5,000	+ 7,000	- 55,000
London and South-Western	+ 2,100	+ 6,500	+ 4,600
Midland	- 7,689	- 3,273	- 99,939
North British	+ 2,167	+ 5,988	- 9,962
North-Eastern	+ 5,245	- 6,148	- 9,169
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 223	+ 4,675	+ 12,031

The Midland apart—and it would be interesting to know the reason for the heavy declines which this Company is reporting week by week—the earnings are looking better; the Southern lines, as well as the "heavies," Great Centrals, Great Easterns, and Great Northerns, have good figures to tell of. "Leeds" stock has been bought, and registers a moderate gain, and with the Funds, North-Westerns, Great Westerns, and some others have enjoyed some attention. Metropolitans have been favoured by investors attracted by the prospect of a considerable advance on the electrification of the system; and Districts have come in for attention for the same reason. North British among the Scotch lines have been active, but they have gone off now that the dividend has been declared for the half-year to July 31. Last year the Deferred received 1¾ per cent., but it was generally expected, since the Company had a traffic increase of over £7,000 and the other Companies had managed to effect economies, that this year 2 per cent. per annum would be paid. In this the Directors have failed to oblige—the distribution is at the same rate as last time, though the £12,000 carried forward is nearly double the figure of a year ago. The Highland Railway will pay at the rate of 1½ per cent., which is about what was expected, though some estimates were up to 2 per cent. A year ago the rate was 1 per cent., and £4,450 was carried forward. The balance over this time is £4,079, but now £3,000 is carried to bridge renewal fund, and a similar amount is placed to reserve, no such transfers being made in respect of the corresponding period. Movements on balance during the week will be seen from my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Sept. 2.	Price, Sept. 10.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	79	75	76	77¼	+1¼
Do. Def.	34⅜	28½	28½	28⅜	- ⅛
City and S. London	59½	41	41	45	+4
Central London	99½	87½	87	87	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	48⅝	—	43½	43½	—
Do. "B"	26½	23	23	23½	+ ½
Do. "A"	14⅜	13½	13½	13½	—
Great Eastern	92	85½	85½	86½	+ ¾
Great Northern Pref.	102½	100	100¼	100¼	—
Do. Def	43⅜	38⅜	38	38⅜	+ ⅜
Great Western	138½	137½	137½	137	- ½
Hull and Barnsley	42⅞	33⅜	34½	35	+ ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	102	96½	96½	97	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	117½	118½	117½	118	+ ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	15⅜	15⅜	15½	15⅝	+ ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	95½	96	96	97	+1
Do. 2nd Pref.	64	62	62	63	+1
London and North-Western	159½	150	147½xd	147	- ½
London and South-Western Def.	56	51	51	50½	- ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	84½	93	93½	94½	+1
Metropolitan District	34½	38	38	38½	+ ½
Midland Pref.	69½	66½	66½	67½	+1
Do. Def.	69	62	61⅜	61½	- ⅛
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	79	77½	78	77	-1
Do. Def.	46½	43½	43½	42⅝	- ⅞
North-Eastern Consolidated	145	135½	135	135⅝	+ ⅛
South-Eastern "A"	56⅜	57¼	58	58⅜	+ ⅜

CANADIAN RAILWAYS — CANADIAN PACIFIC'S YEAR—WHY EXPENSES HAVE BEEN HIGH — NEW CAPITAL AND EXTENSIONS — GRAND TRUNKS IN BETTER HUMOUR — ARGENTINE RAILWAYS.

Canadian Pacifics have moved within very narrow limits round about 129, and have been, on the whole, a very firm market. They are helped by quiet investment buying, by professional support on Wall Street, by the continuance of splendid traffics, and by the evidences of substantiality and progress furnished by the annual report. The earnings for the last ten days of August show an increase of $128,000, following upon $147,000 increase for the corresponding period of last year, and for the two months of its financial year the Company has a very pleasing little improvement of $720,000, the aggregate receipts amounting to $8,793,000 on an increased mileage of 628 miles. The annual report to June shows a surplus of $1,666,000 after paying 6 per cent. for the year on the Ordinary shares. The working expenses for the year amounted to 69.42 per cent. of the gross earnings and the net earnings to 30.58 per cent., as compared with 63.97 and 36.03 per cent. respectively in 1903. The large increase in working expenses was due, not only to the additional railway mileage operated, but to the higher sums paid for wages, fuel, and supplies, and the unprecedented weather conditions that prevailed during the winter. A final settlement has been reached

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with the Dominion Government in the matter of the selection of the balance of land grants, the Company agreeing to accept lands in what is known as the Irrigation Tract, between Medicine Hat and Calgary, to the extent of 2,900,000 acres, in one solid block instead of in alternate sections, as originally contemplated. Works for irrigation purposes are to be commenced forthwith. The land sales for the year were 928,854 acres for $3,807,248, an average of $4.10 per acre. There was a considerable decrease in the acreage sold as compared with the previous year, when large blocks of land were disposed of to Colonisation Companies, but the price realised was 43 cents per acre higher. A further amount of $3,000,000 has been deposited with the Dominion Government during the year on account of the $15,000.000 land bonds mortgage, making a total amount of $3,500,000 deposited up to the end of the fiscal year. The amount of deferred payments on lands sold is now $15,252,308, drawing interest at 6 per cent. per annum, while the total of the land bonds outstanding is $11,500,000, at 3½ per cent. per annum. The Directors have arranged to acquire by lease the control of the Tilsonburg Lake Erie and Pacific Railway, extending from Port Burwell on Lake Ontario, viâ Tilsonburg, to Ingersoll, on the Ontario division, a distance of about thirty-five miles, which will afford a connection by vessel at Port Burwell with the great coal-producing districts of Ohio and Pennsylvania. The Northern Colonisation Railway and the Guelph and Goderich Railway are also to be leased at a rental equal to the interest at 4 per cent. on bonds issued with the consent of the Canadian Pacific to an amount not exceeding $20,000 a mile in the case of the first, and $25,000 in the case of the second. The Calgary and Edmonton will construct two branch lines, each for a distance of fifty miles; and in view of the contemplated construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, it is considered important that the Company should, with the least possible delay, secure its own independent connection between the main line and the City of Toronto. The shortest and best route, and one upon which the local traffic will be profitable, is from a point in the vicinity of Sudbury to a point near Kleinburg on this Company's Ontario division, a distance of about 230 miles. The Directors are proceeding with the construction of the line, and the shareholders will be asked to authorise the issue and sale of the necessary securities to meet the expenditure. Atlantic freights were in a demoralised state during the second half of the year, and the whole of the net earnings of the first six months was absorbed by the shrinkage occasioned thereby. But the steamers have proved "a valuable auxiliary" to the railway, and it is proposed to arrange for the construction of two new vessels for the service. It will be seen that the Canadian Pacific is going ahead at a very rapid rate, and the proposal to increase the capital by $25,500,000 will now be readily understood. But the expenditures are judicious and will open out new tracts which will quickly become remunerative. The outstanding fact is that the Company is already in a position to maintain its 6 per cent. dividend. Rather more interest has developed in Grand Trunks. The latest traffic for the last ten days of August shows an increase of £7,353, instead of the decrease of £10,000 or more which had been anticipated from the fact that for the same period of last year there was an improvement of as much as £31,476; and as comparisons after the middle of the current month will be with more moderate totals a year ago there appears to be room for a more hopeful feeling as to the immediate outlook. There has been a fair amount of buying during the past week or two from Berlin, which has bid especially for the Second and Third Preference and Ordinary stocks. In the Argentine market, the week opened well, but operators professed to be disappointed over the traffics, which showed only moderate increases for the most part, while the B.A. Western reported another decrease. The fact is that the figures, following as they do upon large earnings a year ago, are really large, and the semblance of thinness was seized upon as an excuse to get out before the end of the account. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Making up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	127½	129¾	129⅝
,, 4 per cent. Preference	106	—	103
Grand Trunks	19⅝	13¼	14⅝
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	103	96½	99¾
,, 1st Preference	114	99	99½
,, 2nd ,,	102	84	86¼
,, 3rd ,,	52¾	36½	38¾
Bengal and North-West	128½	137½	138
Bombay Baroda	162	154	154½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	130½	124	124½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	100	102¾	105½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	99½	116	121
,, ,, 1st Preference	99	102½	104½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	89½	93	94½
,, Great Southern	136	132½	135
,, Western	129	125¼	127
Entre Rios Railway Preference	53	58	63
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	86¾	95	97
Costa Rica Railway	2½	1⅜	1⅜
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	104	88	91½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	75	80½
Mexican Railway	19⅜	17⅜	18¼
,, 1st Preference	75	83¼	85
,, 2nd ,,	28½	28⅜	30¼
Nitrate Rails	6	7¼	7⅛

Americans Keep Active—But Dealings Professional—Why the Public Holds Aloof—Distrust of the "Bosses"—Politics and Trade Reaction—"Bull" Manipulation—Market Bare of Stock—Baltimore Convertible Debs.—Readings and the Voting Trust—Steel Preferred.

The Yankee market has again been one of the most active and firm in all the House. But again the interest of the British speculative public has been of the sentimental sort, and apparently the American public, much as it loves a flutter on the "ticker," has kept away religiously, for we read: "The improvement was due mainly to professional operations, public interest being still on a small scale and the technical position under 'Bullish' manipulation easy, the market being practically bare of stocks." Whether Americans are or are not attractive for purposes of speculation is a question over which one need not linger. The English public, even if its fancy ran towards the market, would be deterred from doing much because it has not the funds. In America, on the other hand, money is very plentiful and very cheap, and it will remain fairly easy and abundant after the autumn drain to the interior for the moving of the crops is ended. The refusal of the American public to take a hand in the game in the circumstances means mistrust, arising either out of loss of confidence in the market leaders, or out of the industrial situation, or out of the crop position, or out of the uncertainties of the Presidential election. The Vermont election is thought to forecast a big victory for President Roosevelt, though it does not necessarily follow, and it is beyond question that by his attitude on public questions Mr. Roosevelt has alienated the sympathies of many good and important Republicans. Doubts as to the issue of the election are natural, but as the Democratic candidate is sound there is no reason for alarm such as might be felt if there was even a remote prospect of a Bryan getting in. Trade and the crops are bound together closely. The September reports of the Department of Agriculture are discouraging, especially that on wheat, the yield of spring and winter wheat combined being estimated at 539,090,000 bushels, as against an indication of 605,939,000 bushels a month ago, and 669,841,000 bushels a year ago. The conditions of corn, oats, rye, and barley are also less favourable, though to nothing like this extent. It is recognised in the United States that the country depends more than usually this year upon good crops for a return of prosperity, and unless the Washington statisticians are woefully out in their calculations, good

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crops are what the country will not have. From New York I read again that "mercantile agencies reported a steadily expanding trade. The expansion of railroad traffic in grain and merchandise and the Pennsylvania Company's shop employees' resumption of full-time working were evidences of improving railroad conditions. The settlements of various labour disputes helped the sentiment." Steel trade reports are more satisfactory following upon the reduction in prices of structural material. But I suspect that the manipulation of Steel Trust stocks is not unconnected with these more favourable statements. Political and industrial considerations are helping to keep the American public apathetic in regard to stocks, but the chief operating influence is distrust of the leaders. People recognise that with the market in the control of four or five groups of financiers, who are decidedly not in business for the benefit of the everyday American citizen, and having had experience of pool methods before—to their heavy cost—they keep away. "The market is practically bare of stock;" consequently the big interests, which have control of the stock, can do what they please with prices. During the last few months prices have had a very substantial advance, but it has all been engineered with the idea of unloading, and the feverish nature of the market at the moment shows that the professionals are becoming desperate. With rooted distrust among the people who alone can relieve the situation, cheap money will not do much. Instead of being put into the more active and speculative descriptions, it goes into bonds, which if they cause less excitement certainly occasion less anxiety. Talking of bonds, Baltimore and Ohio Four per Cent. Convertible Debentures are worthy of attention. Holders have the option of converting at par on thirty days' notice into Ordinary shares. These last are now 91, but last year they stood at 106, in 1902 at 121½, and in 1901 at 118¼. I see no reason why the quotation should go anywhere near 120 at present, but the Company is doing well, and on merits its shares may easily go above par. Meantime the interest on the bonds is assured. My table shows the measure of the movements during the past week in the more active Americans dealt in on our market:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price. Aug. 27, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 2, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 10. 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	82⅝	83¼	84⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	100½	100⅜	101¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73⅛	88xd	89⅛	91⅜
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	39	39⅜	43⅜
Denver	43¾	18⅜	25⅝	26	27⅜
Do. Pref.	93¼	66⅜	77	66¾	71⅜
Erie	43 1/16	23⅛	27¼	29½	32⅛
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	65xd	66⅜	70
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	124	124	126
Milwaukee	187½	137½	156	159¼	161¾
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅞	16 7/16	23⅛	22¼	24⅛
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	91xd	92	92
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	68	70⅛	70⅜
New York Central	158	116⅜	125	125¾	128¼
Ontario	36	19¾	31⅞	32	34¼
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	63¾	64½	65⅞
Reading	35½	20	29½	31½	35⅜
Do. First Pref.	45½	36⅞	43	43	44
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	29⅛	29⅜	32⅜
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73¼	96½	97½	98
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	57¼	58¼	59⅛
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69⅛	101¼	101⅜	102⅜
Do. Pref.	97¼	86⅝	96¼	96xd	96½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	39½	40	42½
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	64	64½	67½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	12⅜	13⅜	15⅛
Do. Pref.	—	—	61¼xd	64½	66½

Coal shares have been most prominent during the week, Eries and Chesapeakes being taken in hand by the Morgan interests. Readings have also been supported on the report that the Company will exercise its option to retire the Second Preference stock, by conversion into one-half First Preferred and one-half Common stock, on the termination of the Voting Trust this month. The Morgans have also been buying Southern Common and (among Industrials) Steel Preferred, the demonstration in this last being accompanied by the talk, above alluded to, of better conditions in the trade. Probably the dividend for the September quarter is in jeopardy; even if the full 1¾ per cent. be paid, it is quite safe to say that it has not been earned. Union Pacifics and Southern Pacifics were strong at one time, the first-named touching 104, but towards the end the Harriman interests have been liquidating them quietly. Most of the noisy bidding for Americans in the London market has been on New York account, and has been part of the game.

West Africans React—Poor August Returns—Wassau Figures—Action by Ashanti Goldfields Board—Miscellaneous Mines Idle—Indians Steady—Queen's Cross Reefs Improve—Broken Hills Weak.

It would perhaps have been too much to expect that the somewhat buoyant appearance presented by the West African section within the past week or two would be sustained for any length of time, despite the efforts of the professionals. As I have said before, this upward movement was altogether artificial and was intended to allure the public, but it does not seem to have been at all successful, and on the publication of one or two unsatisfactory returns for August the whole market relapsed into its former state of dulness. The first of these to become known was that of the Wassau, which shows a total yield of 2,558 oz., as against 2,195 oz. for July. Although there is a slight improvement in the output for the month, the fact that the average value of the ore treated was only 17 dwt., as compared with 18 dwt. for July, is not calculated to inspire confidence. The Ashanti Goldfield output for last month is also unsatisfactory, only 4,780 oz. of gold being recovered from 8,940 tons of ore, as against 4,780 oz. from 7,800 tons in July. There is no escaping the significance of this bad showing, and in an office note it was stated that the Directors, being unable to understand the cause of the continued low returns, have requested Mr. Daw to proceed to the mines, and he intends to remain there until the milling and cyaniding departments are put on a satisfactory basis. Mr. Daw is leaving about the end of this month. The cyanide plant has, for the present, been closed down owing to the unsatisfactory results obtained during the first two months' work. Mr. P. S. Tavener (late of the Bonanza Mine, Johannesburg) is en route to take charge of this department. It will be interesting to watch whether the efforts of these experts will be productive of more satisfactory results in the future. The Bibiani and Sansu returns, too, were not encouraging, and served to accentuate the weakness, and on balance most of the shares finish with losses ranging fom ⅛ to ¼, as will be seen from my usual table, which follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Sept 12, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 12, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/3 dis	4/3 dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅞	⅞
Attesi Mines.....	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5/-	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1	1
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	½	½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1⅛	1⅛
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	6/6	6/6
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p	1	1
Prestea Mines....	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	8/-	8/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	15/-	15/-
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅜	1⅜

Business in the Miscellaneous Mining section continues exceedingly quiet, and during the past week no

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

feature of any consequence has been noticeable. Indian gold mine descriptions have been helped by the satisfactory returns for last month, but among silver shares Broken Hill Props weakened on a cessation of the Colonial support, though they recovered slightly towards the close. In the Charters Tower group Queen's Cross Reefs have been in request, and among Copper shares there has been some moderate buying of Tharsis. Etruscans lost a little ground. British Columbians show no change, but amongst New Zealanders Waihi Grand Junctions have not been quite so steady.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12.	Closing Price, Sept. 12.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3 3/8	—	—
Balaghat Gold	1 3/8	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1 1/8	1 1/4	39/6	39/6
Cape Copper	5	2	—	—
Champion Reef	7	5 3/4	32/9	32/9
Le Roi	4 3/8	3/4	3/4	3/4
Mason and Barry	4 1/2	3 3/8	—	—
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/2	2	12/9	12/9
Mysore Gold	7 1/8	5 1/8	6 1/4	6 1/4
Namaqua Copper	4 3/8	2 1/4	2 1/4	2 1/4
Nundydroog	2 5/16	1 5/8	32/9	32/9
Ooregum	2 3/4	21/9	17/-	17/-
Rio Tinto	53 7/8	38 3/4	—	—
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 1/8	3 3/8	—	—
Waihi Gold	6 1/4	4 1/16	5 7/8	5 7/8

RHODESIANS BUOYANT — THE "BANKET" DISCOVERY — PROFIT-TAKING AND A RECOVERY—MASHONALAND AGENCY —NORTHERN DESCRIPTIONS RATHER DULL.

At last the official statement concerning the "banket" discovery in Rhodesia has made its appearance, and on the whole confirms what I said in this column last week, that the strike is of some importance. According to this document, which emanates from the Rhodesia Exploration Company,

The discovery has shown that there is undoubtedly a sedimentary conglomerate or banket formation running for many miles in the Lomagunda district, in a large part of which the Company becomes interested. Our investigations at present do not extend further than about four miles, which have been superficially examined, and show that gold in payable quantities occurs in this conglomerate reef. At one point on the reef a considerable amount of development work has been done, the formation having been sunk on to a depth of about 250 feet, and ore of very high value has been probed, a drive of between 200 feet and 300 feet at the 150 feet level giving an average result of 19 dwts. over a width of 5 feet.

Most of the development work as yet accomplished has been on the Eldorado claims, situate about four miles to the east of the Hunyani River, to which the formation itself extends, but although it has not been actually proved to exist to the west of this stream, old workings continue for a good many miles in that direction, and seem to attest the extension of the reef; and "we have lately been advised," say the Directors, "that the reef has been traced for another ten or eleven miles to the east of the Eldorado mine. In the meantime, the engineers investigating the proposition are satisfied that the chances are large, and the developments so far quite justify the Directors' expectations." Let us hope that these sanguine anticipations will be realised. There can, indeed, be no doubt whatever that if the discovery turns out to be anything like so important as the foregoing circular seems to demonstrate, the future of Rhodesia ought to be very bright, and the lack of confidence in the country's gold-producing possibilities, which for some time past has been becoming more and more pronounced, will disappear. There has, of course, been some profit-taking as a result of the publication of the belated official statement, but the reaction was only temporary, and, helped by a later cable announcing—rather too concisely, perhaps—that "Eldorado—No. 2 level—struck rich reef," the market again exhibited a cheerful tendency, and most of the shares show slight gains on balance. Chartered, after being rather dullish, picked up, and finish with a slight improvement, while there was some bidding for Mashonaland Agency shares, this Company being interested in the Scottish Mashonaland Company, which own the Eldorado property. Among the "Northern" properties, Tanganyikas have been somewhat depressed, and Zambesias, too, have sympathised with them, while Rhodesia Copper and Northern Copper have not been too cheerful. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept 12, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/4	3/4	3/4
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2 1/8	1 7/8	1 7/8
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/2	1 3/4	1 3/4
Buluwayo Explorat'n.	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	6/3	6/3
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1/8	1/4	1/4
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	3/8	3/8
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	7/8	7/8
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/8	3/8	3/8
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	7/8	7/8
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/2	1 1/2
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6 1/2	2 3/8	2 3/8
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 7/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/8	7/8	7/8
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,300	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	3	3
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	3/8	3/8
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	1/2	1/2
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2 1/8	2 1/8
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	3 1/8	3 1/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/2	1/2
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/2	1/2
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	3/4	4/-	4/-
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	6/-	6/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 3/8	1 3/8	1 3/8

KAFFIRS QUIET—FIRM UNDERTONE—CITY AND SUBURBAN RUMOURS — AUGUST GOLD AND LABOUR RETURNS — CORONATION REEF DEVELOPMENTS—PUBLIC HOLDING ON —MODDERS DULL—DEEP LEVELS.

The Coronation Syndicate incident, never of much direct influence upon the Kaffir market, wore off quite early in the week, but its place in the forefront has been taken by City and Suburbans. There was considerable offering of these shares at one time on the circulation of a number of adverse rumours about the property, one being that the reef had been lost, another that the ore body had deteriorated into stringers in a fashion similar to what was officially acknowledged to have occurred on the New Heriot exactly a year ago, and yet another that the reef had been cut out by a dyke in depth. Possibly these rumours had little effect upon the outside public, for the sufficient reason that they were not looking at Kaffirs or anything else for the time being, but they were not calculated to inspire confidence—were, on the contrary, calculated to weaken it; the one thing certain about South African mines of the proved sort being—so we have all been led to believe hitherto—that their auriferous possibilities can be quite accurately ascertained. If the City and Suburban, "whose life" has been estimated by such an authority as Mr. Mabson at about nineteen years, was going to peter out suddenly, it would be necessary to revise all existing notions of Rand mines as speculative investments and look upon them merely as gambles. Luckily, we are spared our old beliefs. The Company cables that the rumours are "utterly without foundation," and as the profit of £16,000 for August is £1,750 more than that for July, holders are cheered again, and City's have rallied to 5, at which price they bring in 12 per cent. It is quite possible that a dyke may have been encountered on the property, but dykes are no new thing. After using City's for all they were worth, the "Bears" took up the August gold output, and said that instead of an improvement it would show an actual decrease following upon the falling off for July. There was nothing in the individual returns as they came out to warrant this assumption, and the official figures of the Transvaal chief mines, sent out late on Saturday afternoon, showed that the "Bears" were wrong. The produc-

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tion for the month reached 312,277 fine ounces of the value of £1,326,468 in comparison with 307,840 ounces value £1,307,621 for the preceding month. The increase of 4,437 ounces in weight and of £18,847 in value, is not striking, but it is fair in the circumstances, especially when the labour figures are kept in mind, and it is remembered also that the Chinese must have a little time in which to become proficient. It seems that at the end of August 4,947 coolies were on the goldfields, but the reduction of blacks was 1,446, the wastage amounting to 7,624, while only 6,178 were distributed among the mines. The situation even in regard to black labour is better than it was, in spite of the good crops, which make the nigger more independent. Apart from 514 allotted to the railways, there were 568 detained in the Native Labour Association's compounds at the end of the month, under the system which has been introduced of postponing the distribution to the mines of natives who arrive in a weak condition until they are declared medically fit for work. Had these natives been distributed during August the net loss for the month would have figured at 878. It is still rather early to take the exact measure of the yellow man's superiority to the black. The first output of a mine operated with Chinese labour—that of the New Comet—is rather less than had been expected, but this is due to the postponement of the clean up. In spite of adverse influences—or to be more exact, in spite of "Bear" perversions—the undertone of the Kaffir Market during the week has been quite good. If there is not much public buying—the absence of which can be understood from the fact, based upon old experience, that the public never come in on the lower levels—there is at least an absence of public selling, and with the outsiders as well as the leading interests holding tight, there cannot be much stock about, which makes the inherent position all the more healthy. Modders are one of the few exceptions; the report, referred to by me last week, has occasioned a few realisations. All the same, the shares are speculatively among the best in the whole market. Barneys and Johnnies have recovered from the unreasoning scare which attacked them in connection with the Coronation Syndicate's operations. As to Coronations, the consulting engineer, Mr. J. Harry Johns, agrees with Dr. Corstorphine's conclusions save in relation to the Edenkop; he is not convinced that this property is not on the Main Reef horizon, though he allows that further investigation is required to prove this point one way or the other. Whether it is or is not, the immediate points are that so far the Syndicate has found no really promising mining proposition, and that on the Edenkop, the "show piece" of the whole huge undertaking, the reef has been intersected by a dyke. Mr. Carl Hanau, the Chairman, is credited with a willingness to stake his reputation on the soundness of the project, but Mr. Hanau is (I take it) a financier first and a geologist second, and personally, with all respect for him and for what he accomplished on the Eastern Rand, I should elect to follow the mining engineers. A late cable issued on Saturday by Messrs. Barnato Bros. gives an epitome of a circular sent out in Johannesburg. Among other things, largely technical, it says this:—

> The work now in hand includes boring operations on Edenkop below No. 3 shaft, at Grootvlei, at Rietbult, and at Modderfontein; and with a view of getting an entire section of the Main Reef series a drill will be started during the week below the big reefs overlying the Coronation Reef, and this will be continued until the slate underlying the Coronation Reef has been intersected. With regard to the reports current as to the entire disappearance of the reef in No. 1 shaft on Edenkop Mr. Johns is of opinion that this reef will open up again, but nothing can be said regarding its width or value until the reef has been intersected. Mr. Johns has instructions to visit Edenkop immediately the reef has been intersected and to report to the Board. The information will be communicated to shareholders. Mr. Thomas, manager at Edenkop, being questioned by the Chairman, said he thought there was no cause for uneasiness; he felt confident that the Coronation Reef would be recovered shortly, and it was only a question of time and work. The dyke had never caused him the least uneasiness. It will be noted that the reports now submitted to shareholders indicate several portions of the Syndicate's properties upon which little work had been done. It is the policy of the Board to push on with the work upon these and other large holdings of the Syndicate. No effort will be spared to get prospecting and developing work done to prove as rapidly as possible the extension of Coronation Reef.

It ought to be remembered that the Coronation Syndicate's operations, while interesting in relation to the extension of the Rand, are of no direct and immediate consequence to the Kaffir market. As I said last week, there are potentialities in connection with them, and these are—or were until recently—sufficient to influence the imagination. But the Kaffir market that we know rests upon a basis of ascertained facts; and one may be content to take it as it stands now and leave the Coronation possibilities to the rich men who alone were permitted to have an interest in the concern in the first place, and who have only themselves to blame if, having failed to get out when they saw a handsome profit, they are now losers. My Kaffir table is appended:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept 12 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 12, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	6⅞	6⅞	6⅞
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3¾	2	⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 5/16	7/16	⅜	⅜	⅜
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2¼	2¼
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5⅛	5½	5 11/16	5 11/16
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4⅜	6⅛	6 5/16	6 5/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
Crown Reef	12¾	18½	16½	14¼	14¼	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18½	18 5/16	18 5/16
Do. Def.	—	26½	18⅜	18⅝	18¼	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Durban-Roodepoort	8 1/16	6½	5½	4½	5 7/16	5 7/16
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2	2	2
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	8	8	8
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	1/16	3/-	2/-	2/-
Ferreira	22	26	18	20½	20½	20½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Geduld	—	9 1/16	5	6 5/16	6 5/16	6 5/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2½	3¼	3 1/16	3 1/16
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	7⅜	5½	5¼	5½	5½
,, Main Reef	1 1/16	⅝	¼	¼	7/16	⅜
Glencairn	4½	2⅞	1½	1⅝	1 5/16	1 5/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 7/16	2 1/16	2⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16		1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8½	8½	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8½	3⅜	3	8	3
Jagerstontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/16	2½	2⅞	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	13/16	13/16	13/16
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅞	2⅞	2 15/16	2⅞	2⅞
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅛	1 7/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	5 1/16	5½	5½
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 3/16	1⅞	⅜	13/16	13/16	13/16
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅞	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅜	1 1/16	1⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 1/16	2½	3 1/16	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅞	5½	5⅜	5⅜
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14⅜	7 1/16	8 7/16	8 1/16	8 1/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	8	16/3	16/3
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2 1/16	2⅜	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 7/16	1½	1 13/16	1¼	1¼
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	3	3	3
New Rietfontein	6⅜	8¼	1⅜	2½	2½	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅞	1 1/16	1⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	7/16	13/16	13/16	13/16
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	7/16	⅞	⅞	⅞
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5 7/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅝	1	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅛	8 7/16	10 7/16	10 3/16	10 3/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 1/16	1 1/16	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2⅜	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
,, North	—	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	—	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9¼	9½	9¼
Roodepoort United	8⅛	4¼	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14¾	6¼	7¼	7¼	7¼
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9⅜	4⅜	4 15/16	5⅛	5⅛
Sheba	2⅜	1½	11/16	3/-	—	—
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/9	11/9	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅛	6⅛	3 1/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2 7/16	24/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅝	½	6/9	7/-	7/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	5	6½	4½	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 3/16	2½	3 7/16	4	4
Village Main Reef	9½	9¼	7⅛	6 13/16	6¼	6¼
Violet	—	3¼	2	3	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6¼	6¼	6⅜	6¼
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10 3/16	11	11
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅜	7/16	⅜
,, (New)	—	2¼	⅝	2	1 15/16	1 15/16
Wolhuter	12	6¼	3	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1¼	1½	1 7/16	1½

* £5 shares.

Diamond shares have held their ground, though they are without much feature. Deep Levels have shown heaviness, consequent upon the poor support, though movements are not material. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 12, 1904.
Fonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Cent. Nigel Deep	1/16	1	⅛	1/16	1/16	1/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2¼	2¼	2¼
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12⅝	12⅝	12⅝
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅜	2	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4½	4½	4½
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅞	12¼	8⅜	11	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3⅞	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5⅜	3¼	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4⅞	2½	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Do. West	2½	3	1⅞	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2⅛	3	4½	4½
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅞	3⅜	4½	3/2	3/2
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅞
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4½	2⅜	2⅝	2⅜	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5⅛	6⅞	4½	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5⅛	2⅜	4½	4⅛	4⅛
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅞	8	8⅛	8⅛
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅛	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4⅛	2	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
South Geld. Deep	3⅞	4⅞	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Simmer and Jack East	3⅛	4⅜	3⅛	2	2	2
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅞	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅛	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4⅛	2⅛	3⅛	3⅜	3⅜

Westralians Depressed—Aggressive "Bear" Tactics—Great Boulders and Horseshoes—All the Leading Shares Sympathise—An Improvement towards the Close—Perseverance—"Little Kangaroos" Idle.

The weakness which has characterised the Westralian section for some time past developed to an extraordinary extent during the past week as a result of more aggressive "Bear" onslaughts, and at one time the market seemed almost demoralised, though it was evident towards the end that these gentry had over-reached themselves. The outstanding features have been the weakness of the majority of the leading descriptions, Great Boulders in particular, which fell away to 17s. 6d., the lowest level for three years, as a result of "Bear" manœuvring, large sales from Paris, and the receipt of the development report for the second half of July. Although this latter document only confirms the statements contained in the cable received about six weeks ago, it seems to emphasise the decline in the values at the lowest level, which at the northern extremity prove to be unpayable. The August return is fairly satisfactory, and although the Directors themselves cannot account for the continuous decline which has been in evidence recently, in view of the seriousness of the loss which has occurred and the persistency of the "Bears" they ought to see the necessity for obtaining an exhaustive statement relating to the true position of the mine without further delay. Horseshoes sagged away steadily until they were no better than 6 13-16, a loss of ½ within a couple of days, the reason being found in the retirement of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing, and Co. from the management owing to a difference of opinion as to policy with the managers. The rest of the market sympathised, Associated, Ivanhoes, Kalgurlis, and Sons of Gwalia all losing from ⅛ to ¼, but they subsequently recovered most of the ground lost. Perseverance were depressed by the development report for July, which gives full particulars of values, etc., and it may be mentioned as rather singular that this report does not mention Messrs. Bewick Moreing, the managers, but is countersigned by the underground manager in addition to Mr. Ralph Nichols. The weakness was helped also by the resignation of Mr. Frank Gardner, who decided to adopt such a course in order to be better able to explain his position with regard to the Boulder Deep. Very little attention has been paid to the "Little Kangaroos," which continue in a state of dulness, and have revealed no feature of interest during the week. My customary table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 12, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	2/9	1⅛	1⅛
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	33	4½	1/6	1½	1½	1½
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	7/6	6/9	6/9
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7⅛	6⅞	6⅞
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/3	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	21/3	18/9	18/9
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1⅛	8/6	4/6	4/-	4/-
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅛	1⅛	12/6	10/9	10/9
Do. South	3⅛	1⅜	⅜	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6½	9⅛	5/6	7/½	7/¼	7/¼
Hainault	1⅜	⅜	¼	⅜	⅛	⅛
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/-	6/-	6/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10½	6⅜	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅜	5/6	5/6	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1/6	1/6
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅛	¼	8/-	8/6	8/6
North Kalgurli	1⅛	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/3	5/3
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3/6	3/6	3/6
Peak Hill	5⅛	2⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2/6	1	1/6	1/2	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	⅜	1/6	1	1
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅛	⅜	½	⅝	⅝

An Inveterate Share-pusher.

Alison, Gardner, and Co., of 88-90, Chancery-lane, W.C., have been engaged in share-pushing for such a length of time that I fear they must find it profitable. But their methods are crudeness itself, and if people are taken in, the number of fools in the country who prefer to lose their money must be even greater than I had been led to understand. Those methods simply consist in offering shares up and down the land at considerably more than they can be bought for elsewhere, and it seems to me a sign of incipient softening of the brain to accept the offer of an absolute stranger without making inquiries in responsible quarters, if not as to the good faith of the would-be seller, at least as to the real selling price of the shares which are being peddled. Alison, Gardner, and Co's latest flat-catcher is Prince Line shares. "Under exceptional circumstances, which unfortunately compel one of our clients to realise some of his industrial investments," they write, "we can offer you the above (100 shares) at the low figure of 18s. 6d. each, at which price they will yield an excellent return in interest, and, assuming you have any available capital for investment, we certainly advise you to secure the above." Concerning the excellence of Prince Line shares as an industrial investment, I am not called upon to speak, but seeing that at the time Alison, Gardner, and Co.'s exceptional offer was made they were changing hands at 14s. each their offer is anything but tempting.

Gold from Sea-Water Again.

It is some time since one heard anything of the old project of extracting gold from sea-water. That the metal in infinitesimal quantities is contained in the water which washes two-thirds of this globe of ours is undoubted. Alluvial gold represents the metal washed from auriferous veins and carried down by rivers and deposited in creeks and the like. But probably that which is saved to enrich—in not a few instances to impoverish—mankind forms only a small proportion of the actual quantity carried down from the mountains by running streams, and if one could only collect it all and smelt it down it might be possible to pay off the National Debts of the whole world and make millionaires of us all. But the trouble lies in its profitable extraction, and all experience has shown that the thing cannot be done on a commercial basis—that is, save at a loss. The last time I heard of a serious attempt to extract gold from sea-water was some years ago, when a much-respected Boston (U.S.A.) clergyman succeeded in making a demonstration in that city, but it was not

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discovered until he had skipped to Europe with many thousands of pounds that he had liberally "salted" the experimenting ground a few hours previously. I am reminded of this circumstance by the prospectus of the British Sea Gold Syndicate, which has been formed with a capital of £25,000 in £1 shares, of which £2,500 is now offered for subscription. The prospectus gives a neat little history of the many efforts made to extract sunbeams from cucumbers—I beg pardon, gold from sea-water—since Sonnstadt announced his hair-raising discovery in 1872. It appears that "some of the schemes and processes, though apparently practical enough, are, however, chimerical when put to the test, because, owing to the very minute quantity of gold per ton of sea-water, the cost of working these processes has swallowed many times over the amount of gold extracted"—exactly what I have, in fact, said above. But where so many have failed, two gentlemen named Messrs. H. C. Ciantar and Umberto Ciantar claim to have succeeded. They have taken out a patent, No. 689 of 1904, in order to demonstrate their ability to achieve the feat. They have, so they tell us, elaborated a method to meet the exacting requirements of the case—cheapness of plant, compactness and economy, rapidity in working, ability to treat vast quantities of sea-water, etc., etc., and "have obtained at various times satisfactory and substantial proofs of the commercial possibilities of their process." There was a demonstration at Hayling Island in July last which is said to have returned 12.56 grains from 61 tons of sea-water, the loss of mercury being only 2 per cent., and it is calculated that a plant to treat from 240 to 300 tons an hour can be bought for £1,200, that the cost of working would be £1,200 per annum, including office expenses, Directors' fees, etc., and that if only ¼ grain of gold were obtained per ton of water put through, the annual profit would amount to £4,500, or enough to pay 15 per cent. after allowing amply for depreciation. It all sounds very nice and specious, but I hope that no readers of TRUTH will be so foolish as to take shares in this golden dream.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Chubbler.—1. The transfer to the Argentine stock is a good move. 2. Well rid of the shares. 3. The Debentures are all right, no doubt, but I think you could obtain a better bargain, and I do not think very well of the Preference. 4. Kynochs and Birmingham Small Arms Ordinary shares are good to hold. *Eland.*—I would rather not commit myself to a date as to when Consols will touch par again, but they should get there when we have a return of monetary conditions similar to those which existed prior to the South African war. I have discussed this question on more than one occasion in TRUTH, and have not room just now for an elaboration of the arguments. A little later, probably, I will return to it. If you want a present higher return than the Funds give, and are willing to ignore the possibilities of recovery, try Cape Three and a Half per Cent. stock, or Johannesburg Fours, or Sierra Leone Fours. *H. W.*—The action of the municipalities is reprehensible, and the success of Leeds in going direct to the public seems to open up the door for more extravagance, which should be checked by the refusal of the public to grant loans on the terms offered. *Zoon.*—I should select Sierra Leone Fours, Johannesburg Fours, and London County Threes. I look later for a fair appreciation in Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock.

RAILWAYS.

M. A.—Speculatively Pacifics and Rosarios are the most attractive Argentine Railway stocks. But for investors, Great Southerns, Westerns, and Argentine Great Western Preference are better. *R. T.*—I should hold the Grand Trunk Second Preference stock. There is little doubt that the full year's dividend will be forthcoming. The Ordinary is a good stock to hold for, it may be, a few years for a big appreciation. The Company's earnings promise to improve between now and the end of the year. *Club.*—Not a very hopeful speculation in the present condition of the Home Railway Market. I should prefer Metropolitans or Districts. *Puzzled.* Due to buying for control, and to the possibility of a scheme for reorganising the bonds. *A. H. J.*—Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Ordinary stock is a promising speculative investment. *Torre.*—Great Western Railway Ordinary stock for 4 per cent., Argentine Great Western Preference for 5¼ per cent. If you would rather some other than a Railway stock, write me again. I cannot say at what price the new Canadian Pacific shares will be offered, but there will no doubt be a bonus. *Rappel.*—Great Western of Brazil shares are worth buying in view of the extensions. They give over 6 per cent. at the current price. Hold the Interoceanic "B" debentures. *Alpha.*—Barry Ordinary stock yields 4 15-16 per cent., Rhymney 4½ per cent., North British Deferred 4⅝ per cent., and Taff Vale 5⅛ per cent. For the yield required you could scarcely improve upon these—in the Home Railway market, I mean. *W. H., Chatham.*—The Canadian Northern debentures are quite excellent investments. The Four per Cent. Mortgage debentures quoted at 101 carry the guarantee of the Manitoba Government. The Four per Cent. Consolidated debentures quoted at 89 are secured on bonds and shares of subsidiary Companies, and (subject to the earlier bonds) on the general undertaking. The first are easily the more desirable, but the second give about 4⅝ per cent., as against 3 15-16 per cent. on the others, and are a safe investment. Calgary and Edmonton debentures are guaranteed by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

MINES.

Perseverance. Hold on to the Great Boulders, but sell out the Perseverance. They are too risky for you, and the outlook is not particularly encouraging. *E. H.*—You might buy more Johnnies and Barneys. Hold the Chartered and Charter Trusts, but do not increase the holding. Chartered Debentures are all right to keep. *R. W.*—I suggest Ivanhoes and Kalgurlis, with Fingalls if you want a third. Sons of Gwalia are not exactly in the same class, but they are a hopeful purchase. *Wuhu.*—Do not make the exchange into Bonanzas. The mine is nearly played out, and can be good for only one or two more dividends. *B. C. R.*—1. I should not buy Le Rois, and the Stratton's Independence mine is on its last legs, which makes the shares dear even at the current price. Camp Birds are good to hold on to for dividends. The mine is undeniably a good one. 2. Nile Valleys should be good for a fair rise between now and Christmas. In the market there is talk of taking Egyptians in hand before long. *Ralph.*—1. I do not recommend the option. 2. The shares are rotten. *N. R.*—Of those suggested, I prefer Wit Townships, S.A. Gold Mines, and Robinsons. *Mayfair.*—Niekirks are likely to go better still, but they have had a good advance, and if you would come in at all, do so quickly, and be content with a moderate profit. *Perplexed.*—I do not look for a recovery in Great Boulders to the price at which your shares were bought. Nor do I advise you to buy more, at all events at present, but hold on for dividends and a moderate recovery, which seems probable. Ida H. and Red Hill Westralia shares are fairly promising speculations. *Abonni in Holland.*—As I explained in last week's issue, I do not anticipate that the fall in Coronation Syndicates will affect the real value of Johnnies appreciably, if at all. On the subject of a dividend on the latter this year, I am not in a position to speak, but I will make inquiries. *Norway.*—Robinson, Wit Townships, and Village Main Reefs. *J. M., Penarth.*—I know of neither concern, and judging from the source from which the shares were purchased, I think you will be safe in concluding that both are swindles. *Anxious, Forest Hill.*—The shares might be kept for further developments and the starting of operations with a better labour supply. The shares are not dealt in much here. *Old Subscriber.*—1. Do not join the reconstruction. 2. The Company is still in existence, but operations are suspended for want of funds. *Honesty.*—1. You got into the hands of a rather bad bucket-shop keeper. 2. I should not buy Anacondas. The property is in the hands of the American Copper trust, and no reports are obtainable. *Constant Reader, Glasgow.*—Sell, if you can find a purchaser. No dividend has ever been paid.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Francis.—Place one-third of the amount in Consols, and hold for a good recovery. You might put another third in Transvaal Threes, Irish Land, and India Three per Cent., which will have a good appreciation in the wake of Consols, and the remaining third in Great Westerns, North Westerns, Brighton, Grand Trunk Firsts, B.A. Rosarios, and B.A. Pacifics. *Borough.*—1. Do not pay the call. 2. The American Market seems good for a reaction before long, as the public keeps out, and Wabash Preferred seems a trifle high upon merits. *Safety.*—You do not say what rate of interest you look for. Probably the advice given to "Francis" above would meet your requirements, as I take it that you want a fair return with prospects of

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ultimate appreciation. Or perhaps this selection would suit you better:—Irish Land (yield 3 1-16 per cent.), Transvaal Threes (yield 3½ per cent.), Johannesburg Fours (4¼ per cent.), Cape Fours (3⅞ per cent.), Natal Fours (3½ per cent.), South Australian Fours (4 per cent.), Great Western Railway (3 15-16 per cent.), North Western (3 15-16 per cent.), North Eastern (4 1-16 per cent.), Canadian-Pacific Ordinary (4¾ per cent.), Grand Trunk Guaranteed (4¼ per cent.), and B.A. Great Southerns (5¼ per cent.), and B.A. Rosario (5¼ per cent.). *B. Sc.*—Good speculative investments in Railways are Great Central Junior Preference stock, Grand Trunk Thirds and Ordinary, Qu'Appelle bonds and Minneapolis St. Paul and Soult Ste. Marie Ordinary stocks. 2. Hudson's Bays on merits are quite worth their present price. *Golgotha.*—1. Chinese Fives (1896), Cuban bonds, Japanese Sixes, and Mexican Fives make a good quartette. The Japanese Sixes are secured on the Customs revenue of the whole country, and are worth holding whatever the issue of the war. *Alice.*—Place one-fourth of the sum in the new Japanese Six per Cent. bonds (which are reasonably safe) and the rest in equal proportions in Argentine Great Western Railway Ordinary stock, Lyons Ordinary shares, Ind Coope's "B" Preference shares, and John Barker Ordinary shares. *R. H.*—1. Chartered debentures are all right to hold, but I should not buy more. 2. Matabele Shebas are not very hopeful, but you might hold on on the chance of activity in the Rhodesian section during the autumn failing the banket reef discovery. 3. Telegraph Construction Ordinary shares make a good Industrial investment. 4. I do not regard San Paulo Railway Ordinary stock as too high at the current price. It returns 7 per cent., and the line is a good one. *Victoria X.*—Chinese Fives, Mexican Fives, Argentine Rescission bonds, and Chilians 1892. *Hopeful.*—1. I should hold the Aërated Bread shares. 2. The Company has poor prospects. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8. Very doubtful mines, with poor prospects. 7. Spratt's Patent (America) shares have good prospects. 9. Sell Mazawattee Ordinary. 10. Keep the Japanese Fives of 1902, but do not buy more until the outcome of the war becomes plainer. 11. Port Elizabeth stock is safe enough. 12. Metropolitan Electric Supply Preference shares bring in 4 per cent. at the present price. 13. London and South-Western Railway Preferred Ordinary stock is a good investment. 14. B.A. Great Southern Preference stock is also desirable. *Ubique.*—1. I should not join the reconstruction. 2. New Kleinfonteins are a promising holding. 3. Parker's Burslem and Massey's Burnley Breweries shares are very good investments of their class. 4. Barry Ostleres Ordinary might be bought, as the Company is doing better. 5. Sacke Estates are worth holding for a better price. 6. I suggest Natal Navigation Collieries and Rand Collieries. *Penna.*—Hold the Great Central Railway stocks; also United Alkalis, Salt Union Preference, Cement Preference, Glencairns, Randfonteins, Johnnies, Barneys, Hendersons and Niekirks. Get rid of the others. I do not care for the Linotype and Machinery shares.

Miscellaneous.

Unique.—Lyons and Aerated Breads are worth keeping. *Ash.*—Armstrong-Whitworth and Vickers-Maxim shares make a good purchase. War is a good thing for these and similar Companies. *Father.*—Leave Stephens and Henderson alone. Speculation in cotton "futures" is altogether too risky a game for the amateur, even with the aid of such philanthropical experts as these. *D. H.*—London General Omnibus stock and London Road Car shares are reasonably promising purchases. At present prices, on the basis of the last dividends, the first returns 6½ per cent. and the second over 7 per cent. *J. B., Blackburn.*—I do not recommend dealings with the Provident Association of London. *T. C. Davison.*—Carlton Hotel and Hotel Cecil Preference shares might be bought. The other I do not care to recommend. *Crescent.*—Prospects are not unpromising, and I think your best plan would be to pay the calls. *R. H.*—1. Edmondson's Electricity shares ought to be kept. 2. I recommend Metropolitan Electric Supply and Westminster Electric Supply. The first will bring in 5⅝ per cent., and the second a full 5 per cent. *William.*—Fine Cotton Spinners are worth buying. The present price is 23s. 6d., and the yield is 6½ per cent. *A. W.*—You will be well advised to give the concern a wide berth. *H. H. R.*—Hudson's Bays are a good speculative investment at the present price. *J. W. B.*—I am obliged for the enclosure. The concern is an old hand at the share-pushing game. *Ash.*—The Preference shares are a good industrial holding, bringing in 4⅞ per cent. *X. X.*—Colorado Nitrates are very risky. *North.*—You may possibly have to sacrifice one or two half-years' dividends, but the Company has big contracts in hand, and a recovery is tolerably certain within the next year or so. *E. W.*—I should be inclined to get out, as the position is not altogether satisfactory. *Ryburgh.*—I am obliged for the cutting. The gentleman is in error; Truth has not written any favourable articles on any of the gentleman's schemes. *J. O., I.*—Not particularly desirable. *Astur.*—I have not a high opinion either of Wm. Jameson, Ltd., or of Stafford, Wood, and Co., who have been engaged in puffing its shares for a couple of years or so past. My advice is that you leave both alone. *H. B., Birkenhead.*—Among telegraph construction shares, British Insulated and Telegraph Construction would suit, the first giving 6⅜ per cent., and the second 6¼ per cent. Or if you prefer electric lighting shares, I suggest Westminster, yielding 5 per cent., and Oxford, returning nearly 5¼ per cent. *T. G. L.*—Documents are returned, with thanks. *H. B.*—The objects are excellent, but I doubt if the scheme is workable. *Thomond.*—I should not buy Willans and Robinsons Preference shares when there are so many regular dividend payers about. The other three are all right. The Fraser and Chalmers dividends are distributed in March and November, and the Richardsons Westgarth in January and July.

Industrials Quiet — Anglo-American Telegraphs the Feature — Recovery in Water Board Stock — Breweries Idle—India Dock Deferred in Request —General Omnibus Dull—Iron and Steel Group Firm—Sweetmeat Automatics React—Hudson's Bays Steady.

Indications of any revival of public interest in the wares which the Industrial market offers are still unfortunately absent, but notwithstanding that the volume of business continues somewhat restricted, the tendency on the whole has been tolerably cheerful with telegraph descriptions, such as Anglo-American issues, conspicuously lively as a result of very favourable reports concerning the Company's prospects for the current year. Strong support has been forthcoming for all of the concern's stocks, the Preferred advancing 3 points to 98, the Ordinary 3 to 52, and the Deferred ⅜ to 8½, and although a slight reaction, brought about by some profit-taking, ensued, the three issues show appreciable gains on balance. In sympathy with the Funds the Water Board stock displayed an upward tendency, and after starting at 92⅜, hardened to 93, but it receded subsequently to 92¾. Other water issues remain quietly firm without any movement of interest, and brewery descriptions, too, continue very idle. A slight improvement is noticeable in Allsopp's Ordinary and Preference issues, and Ind, Coope "B" debentures are somewhat better, while Northampton Six per Cent. Preference came into request, but, on the other hand, Watney, Combe, Reid descriptions show no signs of recovery, the First Preference losing further ground. There has been some small buying of Gas Light and Coke Preference, and the price hardened in consequence, but the Ordinary stock remains unaltered. After the recent dulness more attention was paid to London and India Dock Deferred, which on balance is 3 points higher at 72, but the Company's "B" Debenture stock came on offer and is slightly easier. Apart from the spurt in Anglo-Americans alluded to at the outset, the telegraph group shows no changes of consequence, though amongst telephone issues steady support has been in evidence for National Telephone Deferred, and the Preferred is slightly harder. London General Omnibus stock has been rather weak, and from 114½ receded to 111½, but other descriptions of this sort keep firm, British Electric Traction debentures hardening. Although exhibiting a firm tendency, the iron and steel group has been badly off for business, and apart from slight gains registered by Beyer Peacock, Babcock and Wilcox, North British Locomotives, and Armstrongs, changes are few and insignificant. Textiles, too, keep firm, with a moderate inquiry for Coats, though Bradford Dyers and Calico Printers are not very brilliant. Aerated Breads in the refreshment class have been the centre of interest, the price hardening appreciably on some good buying, while Lyons and Spiers and Ponds are somewhat dullish. Gordon Hotels have been put slightly higher, and both Apollinaris debentures and Schweppes Deferred improved, but the report that the Chicago packers' strike had come to an end was sufficient to bring about lower values in one or two meat shares, such as James Nelsons, though River Plate Meats were not much affected. Imperial Cold Storage shares were given some good support and kept steady. Nitrate descriptions, though not quite so active as they have been recently, are still buoyant, but, apart from a small appreciation in Salar del Carmens, show no changes. Among the more miscellaneous things in the market Nobel Dynamites continue in demand. Oil shares are steady, but Sweetmeat Automatics reacted sharply on the publication of another disappointing return following upon a satisfactory increase for the previous week, which it was hoped would be the beginning of a series of larger takings. For the forty-

nine weeks to September 3 the aggregate receipts from the machines totalled £132,415, representing a total decrease of £18,584, a very significant figure, which will undoubtedly have some effect upon this year's distribution unless, as it is being hoped, the profits from other sources show an appreciable increase. Notwithstanding a temporary relapse, occasioned by profit-taking, Hudson Bays continue strong, but are without change on the week.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A WEST END ALIEN.

IN a crowded drawing-room in Mayfair a rather ornately dressed man, with just enough of the aquiline cast in his features and of a foreign accent in his words to mark him as one of the numerous aliens who invade our shores, stood and criticised his fellow-guests with the easy assurance of the days we live in.

"By Jove!" he exclaimed, suddenly. "That is a deuced fine-looking girl—a regular stunner! Doesn't, somehow, look as though she belonged to this show. I wonder who the dickens she is."

"Which one, Mr. Van Schaafte? There are so many nice-looking women in the room, are there not? You know I always pride myself on my collection of pretty faces."

For once in his life Alfred Van Schaafte was taken aback—knocked clean out of time. The artificial feminine voice that had answered his remark was the very antithesis to the cheery, masculine tones of Jack Horley, who had accompanied him to Mrs. Sinclair's "At Home," and who a moment before had been at his elbow. Without his knowledge they had drifted apart in the crush, and now, to his surprise, his hostess stood beside him.

Being blessed with the supreme self-confidence that—in this plutocratic age—only a very long purse can bestow, Van Schaafte's confusion evaporated almost as soon as felt, and the red in his full young cheeks was scarcely a shade deeper than usual as in somewhat guttural accents he murmured:

"I beg a thousand pardons, Mrs. Sinclair. I did not know you were near me. I thought I was speaking to Jack Horley. But will you not tell me who the lady is?"

"Certainly, if you will tell me *which* she is," replied his hostess, smilingly, noticing with some interest the direction in which his glance travelled.

"It is that beautiful girl in white at the other side of the room," replied Van Schaafte, elucidating his words with a side movement of the head.

The description, to say the least, was vague, but like most up-to-date hostesses Mrs. Sinclair was habitually lenient to the shortcomings of her wealthy young men friends, and did not appear to find it so.

"The one near the window? That is dear Lady Dolman's youngest girl; just out."

"No. That is not the young lady. The one I mean is some way from the window—nearer the door."

"Oh, Dolly Freeman. I don't wonder you admire her. Her colouring is quite—remarkable."

"I know Miss Freeman and her wonderful complexion quite well. The lady I was alluding to has a much more natural one. Ah, she has just turned to speak to Lord Caveat. You see her now?"

"Oh! *That* is my niece, Muriel Leslie. Yes, she is a nice-looking girl, as you say and, what is more, a sweet one, too. But I fear she is also a very foolish one. I am quite vexed with her."

When he wanted to know anything Van Schaafte never hesitated to push his inquiries into the debatable ground of other people's private affairs.

"What has she done?" he asked, point-blank. "She has a good face. She does not look as though she could do anything bad."

"Bad! Oh, no. Muriel could not do anything bad. You wouldn't even suggest it as a possibility if you knew her."

"But you say she has done something to displease you. What is it?"

Mrs. Sinclair opened and shut her fan and gazed at its snowy plumes meditatively.

"I don't suppose there is any harm in my telling *you*," she said, thoughtfully. "We all know that you are not a marrying man; but you mustn't let it go further to those who *are*, for I am worldly or prudent enough to hope that the dear girl's foolishness may not be final. You see, I am quite candid with you, Mr. Van Schaafte."

"It is an honour," returned that gentleman, with a bow and a little flourish of his hands that betrayed his continental extraction even more unmistakably than his speech. "I shall ever consider it so. But what has the young lady done?"

"Well, to me it seems as if she had committed social suicide. She's engaged herself to a curate. A nice enough man in himself—clever, and pious, and gentlemanly, and all that kind of thing, but no money. Not a farthing beyond his stipend."

The rich man's full under-lip shot out in disapproval.

"It is madness," he said, "unless Miss Leslie has a large income of her own."

"That's just what she hasn't. But no considerations of that kind influence her. She doesn't care a straw for dress or diamonds, or any of the dear, delightful, naughty things that make life—well—bearable. Not even bridge."

"A very remarkable young lady. But it is madness all the same."

Mrs. Sinclair looked pensive.

"Some people would call it the highest kind of wisdom," she observed, apparently in confidence to her fan. "Muriel is a perfect saint. She really only lives to do good."

"One would not think so from her appearance," remarked Van Schaafte, practically.

Mrs. Sinclair sniggered.

"You are very severe, Mr. Van Schaafte. Poor Muriel!"

This time the colour flew to the young man's countenance.

"I did not mean to be rude," he said. "I think the young lady looks an angel. But she has also a very expensive gown, and people who live to do good have generally very ugly ones. Is it not so? The dress she is wearing to-night must have cost a good deal."

"It did; a very great deal. I know, for I have to pay the bill. In fact," lowering her voice confidentially, "I don't mind telling you that I am going to give her all her frocks as long as she is with me. I am determined that she shall have every opportunity of forgetting that wretched curate. Pretty frocks and fun and frolic will all help, won't they? But all this is in confidence, you understand—quite between ourselves—and I shall trust to you, Mr. Van Schaafte, to further my efforts in any way you can."

Van Schaafte repeated his ceremonious bow.

"I shall be most happy," he said. "But now will you not present me to your niece?"

"With great pleasure," returned Mrs. Sinclair. And the recording angel—had one been present—would have noted that for once she spoke truthfully.

As of other people of large and certain fortunes and humble and uncertain origin, there were many stories afloat as to the Van Schaaftes' antecedents; the country they had originally hailed from, the social plane they had previously moved in, the source from which they drew their delightful and enormous income. By accident or design a veil had been drawn over the facts, consequently the surmises of the curious were of many shades and varieties. Pawnbroking, usury, sweating, dealing in every conceivable article of commerce from pliable bayonets to paper bags and old clothes, had, in turn, been conclusively proved to be the golden fountain which had so bounteously enriched them. As to nationality, Rumour, with her thousand tongues, proclaimed them to be Russian, Polish, Armenian, or Jew

as the humour took her. Quite lately, however, since (to put a date to it) Van Schaafte *père* had considerately dropped out of the running and Alfred his son had reigned in his stead, these discreditable fictions were considered rather bad form, or at any rate out of date. It was now confidently asserted that the money—and the name—had been derived, or had evolved, from successful dealings in gold mines. Everybody felt that it was a much more respectable story, and quite as probable as any of the others.

It was reserved for Mrs. Sinclair's mother, old Lady MacTavish—a woman of undoubted birth and breeding, and still quite a power in her own section of society—to go one better.

"The Van Schaaftes? Oh, dear, yes. They are quite nice people," was her pronunciamiento. "They're an offshoot of an old German family—or is it Dutch? My memory is beginning to fail me for details. *Tant soit peu bourgeoise* in their manners, did you say? Oh, no! Not at all. Only foreign. Now I come to think of it I *have* heard they've a right to a title, but don't use it. The money, of course, came from gold mines on their own estates in South America. No gold mines there? Why, there must be, since that is where the money comes from. You can take my word for what I am telling you. The old man was a German baron, and made his money in gold. That I'm certain of. You see, I'm *quite* clear about my *facts*, and I'm *quite* sure that we all wish we could do the same."

And the smart set that Lady MacTavish headed had taken her word for it. It suited them, too, for one thing, and for another, when a statement is repeated often enough and glibly enough, most people end by believing it. Perhaps in this case the wish may have been father to the belief, for, figuratively speaking, Society took Van Schaafte the younger, to their bosoms, sent him cards for their "At Homes," shot his pheasants, sailed in his yacht, drank his champagne, won his money (whenever possible) at bridge, and beset his path with "pitfall and with gin," in the hopes of catching him for one or other of their fair daughters.

Though still on the sunny side of twenty-five, Van Schaafte, from his early training, or his race, or from some other cryptic reason, was in some ways as shrewd as many a man of our own nationality of twice his years. Though he made no outward sign he was quite aware of the nature of the snares and entanglements by which he was surrounded. Therefore, like the minister's cat on the top of the glass-strewn wall, he had walked warily and with circumspection. From his father he had inherited the mental clear sight that goes to the upbuilding of fortunes; from his mother—an honest, affectionate, frugal-minded creature—qualities of heart that seldom long survive a sudden accession of wealth. In a word, under a somewhat unprepossessing and unpolished exterior Van Schaafte was a really good fellow that money and a life of idleness had, as yet, failed to corrupt.

One need not be a clairvoyant to see why, under these conditions, it was a positive relief to him to be taken into Mrs. Sinclair's confidence. It was as though all sorts of pleasant things had been set in motion by the starting of that one wheel. Hitherto he had always been assigned the rôle of victim; to-day he was, if not exactly asked to join the hunt, at least invited to witness the spectacle.

All his life long—or, to be accurate, since he had left school and worn tails and rings—Alfred Van Schaafte had been fond of ladies' society. He would have been a home bird had not the constant driving to which he had been exposed made him wild. A house full of sisters and cousins and their girl friends would have suited his gregarious nature, but Fate had willed it otherwise. He had no sisters, nor any cousins that he knew of; and the sense of the lurking snares, added to his natural caution, had hindered him making friends with any of the smartly-dressed saleable girls he met in society. Every man who is or ever has been an eligible will know exactly what he felt.

But, like some beneficent autocrat, Mrs. Sinclair had changed all this by a word. It was quite surprising to see the rapidity with which the friendship between him and the gentle-eyed Miss Muriel grew. Jonah's gourd was nothing to it. The more he saw of her the more he found to admire; her aims were so high, her sense of duty so strict, her unworldliness so edifying. It is a mistake to think that we can only appreciate those qualities in others that we possess ourselves. On the contrary, the coward envies the courage of the brave, and the money-worshipper will value to the full the disinterestedness of the unmercenary.

When two hearts beat one measure on a common ground of high and lofty sentiment, even if one of them is that of an alien and the other can boast of some of England's bluest blood in its veins, many of the world's shibboleths and conventionalities may be laid aside. Mrs. Sinclair, with her usual clearness, saw this from the first. For a woman of fashion she was extraordinarily indifferent to Mrs. Grundy's censures. Muriel, she said, was an engaged girl, and Mr. Van Schaafte knew it. If people talked because they were so much together, let them do so. What did it signify? The chief, indeed the only thing that was of any consequence, was to have the approval of one's own conscience.

And Alfred Van Schaafte quite agreed with her.

The season—one of the most brilliant on record—was at last on the wane, and yet Mrs. Sinclair lingered on in town. Muriel was still unprovided with the richer substitute for her curate lover, a fact that Mrs. Sinclair openly deplored, and which she honestly acknowledged to have done her uttermost to bring about.

She confided her chagrin to Mr. Van Schaafte.

"The foolish girl! Three good offers that I know of waiting for the uplifting of her little finger, and she won't do it. Most provoking! Now I suppose she will marry her curate."

Van Schaafte's championing of Miss Muriel had only added to the good lady's irritation.

"You are nearly as foolish as she is," she had snapped. "A nice pair you would make!"

Van Schaafte, however, was not sensitive enough to be easily offended. He had only laughed good-naturedly, and each time that the ladies had altered their plans for leaving town had changed his own to suit theirs.

But, as the wise man has taught us, there is a time for everything, and after the first of August no one who is any one can stay in London, as Mrs. Sinclair was well aware. On that day, for better, for worse, in sickness or in health, the move must be made.

Muriel, for one, was not sorry, and when Van Schaafte came to say good-bye she told him so.

"Ah, yes! I shall be glad to get back to the country and the simple life I lead there. Of course, I have enjoyed my visit to town, and it will always be a most pleasant memory to me; but I have other duties and a higher call. Every one has been so kind and nice, and I have made many dear friends. It is a little sad to think I shall never see them again."

"But why should you not see them?" asked Van Schaafte, who felt himself included in this category. "You are not going into a nunnery, Miss Muriel?"

"No; I am going to be married. But after my marriage, as far as seeing any one, it will be much the same as a nunnery, only—more so."

"I do not understand. It is not necessary to be buried alive, even if you are married to a clergyman."

Muriel smiled a sweet, pensive smile. She looked her best when she smiled in that way.

"There is one thing I have not told you," she said. "I have kept it from you—perhaps I did wrong—but I was afraid it might sadden our friendship. Now, I must tell you, as we shall never see each other again. As soon as I am married I am going out to Central Africa as a missionary with my husband."

"But this is monstrous! It cannot be allowed! There are cannibals there."

"One must not mind. It may mean a martyr's crown!"

"But you have duties at home. Your aunt——"

"Her daughter is growing up and will take my place.

Besides, when I am married my duty will be to my husband. I should meet death with calmness at his side."

A fierce and very poignant pang shot through the immaculately glossy shirt-front that Van Schaafte wore just where a large and brilliant diamond stud held it together, and pierced a heart that had hitherto been invulnerable. Until that moment he had fancied that Miss Leslie's marriage would but mark another phase in the life-long friendship that was to be theirs. He had pictured himself an intimate of a family of which Muriel would be at once the head, the centre, and the mainspring. He had imagined himself endowing her church, supporting her schools, subscribing to her charities. I do not know whether he had contemplated listening to her sermons, but I am sure he would not have objected to her friendly admonitions.

Now, in a trice, his airy castle was shattered and lay in fragments at his feet. The peerless girl he loved—for now he realised that he did love her—to be given over to cannibals and mosquitoes: Muriel, with her delicate beauty and dainty, expensive dresses among savages! It was unthinkable.

He hid his face in his much-beringed fingers and shuddered. There was only one way to save her.

"Don't," he cried, "don't!" His words tumbled over one another in his haste. "It is not right that you should go. You can do more good at home."

"But my mission. I have always felt I had a mission. I cannot give it up."

"There is no need to give it up. I only ask you to change it."

"I fear that is not possible. How can I change my mission?"

"Oh, it is quite easy. Why should you not have a mission to the alien? There are thousands of them in London more to be pitied than any heathen in Africa. I know it. I have been among them as a boy. I have more money than I know what to do with. If you will marry me, Muriel, instead of the curate, we will work amongst them together. We can have a little house in the East End, somewhere. It will not be as nice as Park-lane, but it will be better for you than Africa. Will you not say 'Yes,' Muriel?"

In his excitement Van Schaafte had seized Muriel's slender fingers, and, all unconsciously, pressed them hard against the diamond shirt stud. Through her gloves she felt the sharpness of the facets, and some magic in their touch made her lips form the monosyllable he asked for:

"Yes."

* * * * *

Another three months had been added to the past, and people were collecting again in town with almost as much *empressement* as they had shown when leaving it at the close of the season. At a certain club in Piccadilly a number of men stood criticising their fellows with the same easy assurance that Van Schaafte had once displayed in reference to Muriel Leslie.

"Hulloa, Horley," said one, "you're the very man we want. What about Van Schaafte's marriage? Has it come off, or is it still on the lap of the gods?"

"Oh, it's off," said Horley. "There was some row about a curate."

"Often is," cynically said the man who had first spoken.

"But this was quite a novelty in rows," explained Horley. "Most men would object if the curate was too much in evidence. But Van Schaafte objected because he was *non est!* Said there ought to have been a curate when there wasn't one. Never could quite understand it myself, and of course couldn't ask Van Schaafte to explain. But the result is that the match has fallen through, and Mrs. Sinclair is furious. But I'd lay my money that Van Schaafte was right. He's as straight and as honest as they make 'em."

"And what is Miss Leslie doing?"

"Ah, who knows? Taken up good works in earnest, I expect. They generally do when they've had a facer."

MUSIC.

THE COPYRIGHT SCANDAL.

WHAT is going to be the next step in regard to the copyright business? That is the most pressing question which is engaging the attention of professional musicians just now. The future of Richard Strauss, the prospects of national opera, the use and abuse of the charity concert—these are topics of interest and importance; but they pale into insignificance beside that of this copyright problem, which comes home so emphatically to the businesses and bosoms of one and all. Authors, composers, publishers, all are concerned in this question, and suffering more or less direct loss from the deplorable condition of the law as it stands at the present time. There is no occasion to exaggerate. Let it be granted that most of the music publishers and music shops are still keeping open their doors. Likewise that it is only certain branches of the publishing trade which are primarily affected by the operations of the pirate. Possibly even the present condition of affairs is proving in some respects not altogether without its redeeming features. 'Tis an ill wind, and thus it may well be that a publisher confronted with an unpromising MS. may sometimes find it convenient just now to plead the uncertainty of the outlook rather than a more frank and less palatable ground for its non-acceptance. And after all what budding composer would not sooner have his masterpiece returned to him on the score that if published it would certainly be snapped up by those dreadful pirates and sold like hot cakes in the streets rather than learn the melancholy fact that it had not impressed the publisher as likely to prove an attractive speculation? But what is certain is that the same course is being likewise adopted by many publishers just now in absolute good faith.

Here are a couple of printed forms, for instance, in use at the present time by one of the largest firms, which tell their own tale:—

> Messrs. Chappell and Co. regret to inform M..... that they are unable to purchase or publish any more musical compositions until musical property is adequately protected by Act of Parliament. They return the accompanying manuscript with best thanks for the offer of the same.

That goes to the composers; and this to the singers:—

> Messrs. Chappell and Co. regret to inform M..... that they are unable to pay any further programme fees to singers for singing their publications until musical property is adequately protected by Act of Parliament. They will still, however, continue to advertise singers in the columns of *The Daily Telegraph*.

Communications of this nature are certainly calculated to bring home forcibly to their recipients the precise bearing of the copyright question so far as it concerns themselves. If it were possible, indeed, to estimate the actual amount of the monetary loss which has been sustained by composers alone through the operations of the pirates, the public would, I think, be fairly astounded. When it is stated, however, that quite recently Messrs. Chappell made a haul of over 100,000 copies of a single work—in point of fact, one of "The Cingalee" arrangements—some slight notion of the magnitude of the illicit trade may be obtained. Unfortunately, wholesale captures of this kind cannot always be accomplished; while the absurd procedure requisite before it is possible to effect seizure in the street itself, and the highly problematical prospect of any substantial benefit resulting therefrom, are too well known to need recapitulation here.

Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to learn that the Musical Defence League, which was recently instituted, does not intend to remain idle. Private legislation having signally failed in two successive Sessions to redress a gross and manifest wrong, what the League urges is that the Government of the day may now be fairly asked to take the matter up. Accordingly the leaders of each party will be interrogated in turn as to their views on the subject, and invited to pledge themselves

if returned to power to promote remedial legislation. Failing satisfactory assurances, the League proposes to organise forthwith with a view to making the influence of the music trade felt in the constituencies. Musicians as a class, perhaps, are not aggressively political; but this is by no means to imply that they are a force to be despised. It must not be overlooked that this question of musical copyright affects not only the authors, composers, and publishers, but in a corresponding degree all the other members —printers, lithographers, engravers, proof-readers, travellers, shop assistants, and so on—of the huge industry which they represent. It may be that the musicians will not prove so powerful as the brewers. Likewise, it may, perhaps, be assumed that the next General Election will not precisely turn on the question of musical copyright. But, at least, the Musical Defence League intend to secure that the urgency of their claims shall be realised by every candidate.

There is another aspect of the matter which is, perhaps, too often overlooked, and this is the moral responsibility of those who purchase these pilfered goods. It is manifest that buying and selling are the opposite sides of the same transaction, and what cannot be stated too clearly in this particular case is that any one who patronises these purveyors of stolen property becomes thereby accessory after the fact to downright robbery and nothing else. Properly looked at, indeed, the respectable, law-abiding citizen who traffics in such wares is infinitely more blameworthy than the poor wretch in the gutter who has been induced by his necessity to sell them. Time was, perhaps, when the facts of the case were not so generally understood as they are to-day. Then the average person might have been excused if he hardly thought it necessary to go into the rights and wrongs of the matter, and was content to take what was offered him at the price demanded. To-day the case is different. No one has the right to plead ignorance any longer of the grievous wrong which is being suffered by the members of an entire industry through the inadequacy of the existing law. Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, abstract considerations of this kind are too frequently inoperative. Those who, if offered a stolen ring or a watch of doubtful origin, would probably send forthwith for a policeman, will cheerfully purchase a pirated copy of "The Holy City" or "Ora Pro Nobis," and indignantly repudiate the suggestion that they are doing a shabby thing. Wherefore the law which permits this state of things cannot be amended too soon.

"Degrees of No Value—Musical Exploitation in Jamaica—Yet Another Warning—How Innocent People are Led Astray"—these are the vigorous headings of an article appearing in a recent number, of which I have received a copy, of the *Jamaica Gleaner*, perusal of which shows it to relate to our old friend "Dr." Lewis and his Guild of Church Musicians. This venerable imposture has been so often dealt with in these columns that little further need be said on the subject on the present occasion. It is merely depressing to note that, despite the attentions which he has received in the pages of Truth and elsewhere, "Dr." Lewis is evidently continuing to make a good thing out of the "Guild," though it may be hoped that, so far as his operations in Jamaica are concerned, this article in the *Gleaner* will have a healthy influence in the opposite direction. It appears, by the way, that this is not the first time that "Dr." Lewis has tried his hand with the Jamaicans. Some years ago he made a previous attempt, though then, as now, he got thoroughly shown up for his pains in the local Press.

The announcement of an autumn season of Italian opera at Covent Garden, to commence about the beginning of next month, is interesting. Rumour to the effect that some such season was in contemplation was afloat some time ago, but on the announcement of the usual fancy dress balls, which begin on September 30, and are to continue fortnightly throughout the winter, it was supposed that the scheme had been abandoned, like so many other autumn opera projects which have been mooted in previous years. It would seem, however, that for once in a way this has not been the case. The company of the San Carlo Opera House has, it appears, been engaged and a series of high-class performances, at ordinary theatre prices, is promised.

Are there any limits to the attainments of the Kaiser Wilhelm? Not content with all his other achievements, he has now turned ballet-master, it appears, though it has been left to the Berlin correspondent of the *Express* to do full justice to his abilities under this head. The earlier accounts of the matter, indeed, were miserably inadequate. We were merely told how, seated in the stalls of the Imperial Opera House at a rehearsal of the new ballet "Coppelia," his Majesty had at a certain point thrown out a hint which was forthwith adopted with excellent effect. From the *Express* representative's account of the matter, received later, it is clear that this was hopelessly understating the facts of the case. What really happened was much more exciting. "Leaving his place in the stalls," we read, "his Majesty mounted the stage and began to coach the ballet girls in person, showing them exactly what graceful movements they should make, and how they should make them." Moreover, "in giving this object-lesson in ballet dancing the Kaiser showed perfect knowledge of theatrical routine." But this was not all, for "the Kaiser then instructed the orchestra how the music was to be played as an accompaniment to the Slavonic dance, taking the bâton out of the conductor's hand and assuming the direction of the band of over forty musicians." Proceeds this veracious narrative: "Stage-manager, conductor, actors, actresses, and ballet girls gazed in astonishment at his Majesty in his latest rôles, whereupon he turned to the assembled company and remarked, 'Yes, yes, you may look at me, but you know that my interpretation is correct.' The stage experts were, in fact, obliged to admit that the Kaiser had exactly hit the mark, and the ballet was performed according to his directions." Wonderful Wilhelm! Excellent *Express!*

Mr. Sterling MacKinlay concludes in the new number of the *Strand Magazine* the interesting reminiscences of his mother, which he has been contributing to that periodical. One fact which he brings out will be rather surprising to those who only knew Antoinette Sterling during the later period of her career—namely, that it was as a singer of German *Lieder* that she first made her name. Thus she was among the earliest to introduce to the American public Schumann's "Dichterliebe," Schubert's "Doppelgänger" and "Tod und das Mädchen," as well as various songs of Bach, Mendelssohn, Liszt, and others. That in later years Mme. Stirling should have transferred her affections from Schumann and Schubert to British ballads of the kind with which she came to be chiefly identified was in truth a curious process of development.

But the explanation is not far to seek in the case of one with whom, as her son puts it, Heart always went for more than Art. As time went on, she came to attach more and more importance to the words and less and less to the music of her songs; in the end, as her son asserts, preferring to sing even without any accompaniment at all. Doing this, she declared, she felt a greater freedom and a completer possession of her voice, and even at times passed thence into actual improvisation—"the words and the music coming together and demanding utterance—the most wonderful and ecstatic sensation in the whole range of musical art." And in Mme. Antoinette Sterling's case one may credit implicitly a statement which in the mouths of some might give rise to doubt. No one, indeed, could be in the presence of Antoinette Sterling for five minutes without realising that she was not only one of the most famous singers, but also one of the most remarkable women of her time. The woman, indeed, was greater than the artist in her case. Mr. MacKinlay recalls an occasion when she was invited unexpectedly to sing at a Fourth of July banquet

at the Hotel Cecil, and broke down; I, on the other hand, recall another occasion when at a similar gathering in the same building, she was called on equally unexpectedly to address the company, and made the speech of the evening. How many of her platform rivals could have done the like I wonder.

A volume shortly to be issued which should attract considerable attention in musical circles is Mr. B. W. Findon's "Life of Sir Arthur Sullivan." The scope of the work is not very extensive, since it is designed for the general reader and is being issued at 3s. 6d., but, as a cousin of the late composer who is also an accomplished student of music himself, Mr. Findon was peculiarly well qualified to write a work of this kind, and his pages will certainly be read with interest.

A good many new works have been heard of late at the Promenade Concerts, though nothing of very much moment has been produced in this way. A symphony by a Russian composer, Paul Juon by name, proved more remarkable for its elaboration and ingenuity than for any suggestion of inspiration or genuine musical worth. A concerto by Eduard Schütt, heard the same evening, with Mr. Carl Weber at the piano, was at least a more melodious and spontaneous work. On Thursday a Ballade for contralto and orchestra, well sung by Miss Grainger-Kerr, entitled "Death on the Hill," by Norman O'Neill, found considerable favour, while an unpretending suite for flute and orchestra by Theo. Gouvy, the solo part of which was taken in admirable style by Mr. Fransella, was also well received. Mr. Cyril Scott's new Rhapsody, on the other hand, was rather disappointing—too little Scott and too much Richard Strauss. Among forthcoming novelties, I notice a new "Harlequinade" suite by Mr. Clutsam to be heard on Thursday, and a piano concerto by York Bowen, which will be given on Saturday.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"The Web of Indian Life" (1) is written by a woman who, through the key of sympathy, has unlocked that mysterious chamber, the Oriental mind, and searched all its secrets with an ever-growing wonder and worship. It is, besides, a most eloquently written set of essays—too eloquently written for a man who, like me, has to read running. Again and again I have had to read and re-read its majestic periods in order to master their meaning, though, I admit, it was worth, when mastered, all the time and trouble it had cost. Here, *e.g.*, is a passage suggesting the secret of the exquisite politeness of the East, with a comment which I had to read over twice to understand its relevance:—"The East suffers from the very perfection of its formulæ. 'Tell the truth,' says the commandment in the Occident, and, again, 'Be courteous in thy speech.' How often have we not seen crude knowledge struggle blindly to co-ordinate these conflicting dicta, with how many degrees of ill-success! But in the East, for more than two thousand years, people have lived under the shadow of Manu's saying: 'Tell the truth, but not that which is unpleasant; tell the pleasant, but not that which is untrue.' Alas! its completeness leaves nothing to be added. That unconquered space which the mind needs to bring out its fullest potentiality; that strip of wilderness to be empirically observed and reclaimed, and finally annexed to the territory of prescribed law; that sense of personal adventure on the great ocean of truth, there to encounter tempests of doubt and negation and overcome by slowly-gathered knowledge only—all these are now attainable in the view of the Universe which is presented by Western science." It took me, I confess, a little time to discover the relevancy of this comment to that perfect canon of politeness: "Tell the truth, but not that which is unpleasant. Tell the pleasant, but not that which is untrue"—where your self-respect and your respect for others are mutually reconciled. I know no book that lets in such light upon the Eastern, and especially upon the Indian, ideas of womanhood, motherhood and widowhood, as this "Web of Indian Life." "The courtesy of husbands to their wives is quite unfailing among the Hindus. 'Thou shalt not strike a woman even with a flower' is the proverb. His wife's desire for companionship upon a journey is the first claim upon a man. And it is very touching to notice how, as years go on, he leans more and more to the habit of addressing her as 'O thou, mother of our son,' and presenting her to new-comers as 'my children's mother,' thus reflecting upon her his worship of motherhood." For in India the mother is absolutely worshipped.

It is told of a famous Bengali judge who died some twenty-five years ago—one whose judicial decisions were recorded and quoted even by Englishmen as precedents of English law—it is told of this man when on his death-bed, that his mother stumbled and hurt her foot on the threshold of her room one morning as she came after bathing to visit him. Another moment and, weak as he was, he had crept across the floor and lay before her kissing the wounded foot again and again and bathing it in hot tears of self-reproach for the pain it suffered.

But the widow also is worshipped in a higher and more saintly sense:—

"The religion of the wife lies in serving her husband; the religion of the widow lies in serving God," say the women; and there is no doubt in their minds that the widow's calling is the higher of the two.

When the husband of the great Mahratta Queen of Indore, Ahalya, died in battle against Scindia, her first act was to disband her armies and send word to the conqueror that she was a defenceless woman wholly at his mercy. Scindia forthwith sheathed the sword and left her unmolested to reign in her husband's stead. When a freshly-widowed young daughter returns to her family, the tenderness lavished on her is unspeakable. They will even adopt themselves the austere mode of living to which she is by her widowhood restricted, and so deep and universal is the mutual devotion of mother and widowed daughter that it is said proverbially of a boy who is chivalrous to his mother: "But this is no boy! This is surely your widowed daughter!" "The Web of Indian Life" will also revolutionise English ideas of the religions of India—Hindu and Mohammedan, which, by the way, are less mutually hostile and more generally tolerant than is usually supposed. Even Mohammedanism is less tolerant, say, than Catholicism or Calvinism, since it reaches that "God is the God of all creatures, not of one section only," and especially exempts from condemnation "the peoples of the Book," *i.e.*, the Jews and the Christians. Mr. Chris. Healy's "Confessions of a Journalist" (2) is a light, bright, interesting book, which sometimes seems to sacrifice even the author's self-respect to the reader's enjoyment. Not the least characteristic chapter in this entertaining book is that entitled "How I made war against Spain," where Mr. Chris Healy claims for himself the credit of that colossal kind of mischief-making in which Yellow Journalism generally delights. It was, in fact, Mr. Healy who struck the match, which lit the torch, which caused the conflagration of the Spanish-American War! "*Cher maître*," he said to Rochfort, "a message from you to the American people would be read with avidity at this moment. Will you send them one?" Rochefort accordingly wrote a burning invocation to the American people to avenge the loss of the *Maine*:—"If this autograph exists—and it is somewhere in New York—it ought to be preserved with great care, as this strip of paper made war between two nations." "My Airships" (3) gives an account as modest as is interesting of M. Santos-Dumont's successful attempts to master the problem of air-navigation. It confirms a long-established conviction of mine—that the worst persons to consult upon any new departure are those experts who are the best guides in the old paths. All

(1) "The Web of Indian Life." By the Sister Nivedita (Margaret Noble), of Ramakrishna-Vivekananda. (London: William Heinemann. 7s. 6d.)

(2) "Confessions of a Journalist." By Chris Healy. With a Portrait. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(3) "My Airships." The Story of my Life. By Santos-Dumont. Illustrated. (London: Grant Richards. 6s. net.)

(4) "The Greatness of Josiah Porlick." By Anon. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(5) "A Weaver of Webs." By John Oxenham. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

the experts were against George Stephenson, and all the experts were no less unanimously and vehemently against M. Santos-Dumont and any other form of balloon than the spherical. M. Santos-Dumont had many thrilling moments, and he communicates the thrills to you:—"What is coming next, I thought"—when his balloon was breaking in two a mile above the earth. "What is coming next? What am I going to see and know in a few minutes? Whom shall I see after I am dead. The thought that I should be meeting my father in a few minutes thrilled me. Indeed, I think that in such moments there is no room either for regret or terror. The mind is too full of looking forward. One is frightened only so long as one has a chance." And this, I think, is the merciful and almost universal experience of those brought suddenly face to face with inevitable death. Having known myself men like "Josiah Porlick," I can bear warm testimony to the extraordinary power and truth of the novel which cynically describes "His Greatness" (4). It is certainly a repellent picture of a self-made Englishman, "whose god," to borrow the description of Burke, "whose god is his gold; his country his invoice; his desk his altar; his ledger his Bible; the Exchange his church; and who has no faith but in his banker." Josiah is thoroughly conscientious, too, as such men are, but his conscience is of that pettifogging attorney kind which justifies ingeniously the most abominable baseness; and Josiah has also, as such men always have, his nemesis. He lives and dies in the polar iciness and isolation of the atmosphere of fear and hate he has created around him. I cannot say much for "A Weaver of Webs" (5), which, in spite of the aristocratic society into which it introduces you, has a high-life-below-stairs flavour about it that is ludicrous without being amusing.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—You pity me for being in town in September, but I assure you I am enjoying myself very much indeed. True, almost all the great houses have their blinds down, several of the thoroughfares are "up," and London is full of badly-dressed persons who never know their own side of the way. But still there is balm in Gilead. The showers do not matter much in town, where there are always plenty of cabs, and where paving-stones quickly dry up. Showers in the country are no joke. And for once there seems to be a little leisure in London. The new fashions are beginning to appear in the shop windows, and my frivolous mind pleases itself with the survey. The new shades of brown are charming, so deep and soft, some of them approaching terra-cotta. Brunettes will have a fine innings this winter. Orange still enjoys a great vogue, and I saw a very delicious tan-brown velvet picture hat, with a high crown and a twist of orange velvet round it. A tall girl walked up Bond-street just in front of me wearing a brown cloth gown of the finest texture, and lit up here and there with pale blue. The skirt opened, to show brown silk pleatings, and round these openings there was a pale blue cord. A glimpse of a pale blue silk petticoat was only what I had expected, and when the graceful wearer stopped (as every woman does) to look at the thirty-shilling hats at No. Thirty, I saw that she wore a pale blue chiffon vest, and that her bolero was finished with pale blue cord. In her large black hat there was a *chou* of pale blue velvet.

At a smart wedding I saw a brown crêpe-de-chine, made with three flounces, each its own width distant from its neighbour, on a very full skirt gathered into the waist. The very full bodice was gathered into the loveliest possible pale green crochet, worked in silk and touched here and there with pale gold thread. Some one told me that this crochet is going to be much worn next year, not only in wool for trimming gowns, but also in cotton and in silk. Lilla is giving an invalid girl an order for a top for an evening bodice in black and white. It is a lovely design, rather close and thick with transparent intervals. It goes square and straight across chest and back, and forms a band upon either shoulder.

Beatrix is embroidering a white blouse for her mother in broderie anglaise and satin stitch. These blouses are so smart! So are those in pale coloured glacé silk very bright and sheeny, with deep, cream-tinted lace for trimming, pointed on the back and front and sleeves. And another blouse-bodice that I liked very much was in a window in Bond-street. It was made of a kind of creamy crash, and had a band of scarlet and black lace down the front, another across the chest, and a narrower one down the back of either sleeve. This is just the sort of thing to wear with a new autumn coat.

The glacé silk frocks can be very smart and pretty. I have just seen one in a rather pale shade of cornflower blue, with ruches round the skirt at intervals of about eight inches the whole way up. The skirt was full and gathered at the waist. There were more ruchings on the sleeves, and the bodice had full fronts gathered on the shoulders, and drawn down to a point below the waist. The daintiest possible pair of bronze boots were worn with this gown. Are they coming in again, I wonder?

Do not omit to have your sleeves well puffed above the elbows when you are having new frocks made. A double puff with a band of trimming is the best way of giving the width on the shoulders that is now indispensable, unless you wish your gown to be *démodé* in a few weeks. And what sane woman could wish for that?

Our dear little bride is getting on with her trousseau. Her wedding gown is to be silk muslin, all flounces and gaugings, with paniers of old lace and, on the bodice, the sweetest little pelerine of old lace coming down in a point at the back of the waist and hanging in square, lappet-shaped ends in front on either side of a wonderful piece of seed-pearl embroidery, one of her wedding presents. The colour alone of it is a joy, such a soft, mellow tone of cream, and the design appears to have been knitted or crocheted originally and then sewn over. It represents ivy leaves and berries. Such work cannot be done now.

The going-away gown is pretty; a moleskin-coloured voile, accordion-pleated from the waist and finished with a deep flounce pleated in the same way and bordered with a ruche. The bodice is all pleated very closely into an Irish lace yoke, the lace being deep cream-colour. A wide band of this lace holds up the pleated puffs at the top of the sleeves, and below the puffs falls a deep pleated frill, forming the rest of the sleeve. Under-sleeves are made of the Irish lace (really crochet in a very rich design). A line of pale blue velvet at the top of the lace collar and round the lace cuffs at the wrists makes the brown all the more becoming. The hat is brown chip trimmed with a lovely ostrich feather that goes entirely round it, and a small knot of pale blue velvet is introduced.

The cloak to be worn (or carried) with this sweet frock on the interesting occasion is of fine brown cloth lined with pale blue satin and arranged in pleats at the back, which widen as they fall. This coat is three-quarter length.

One of the rooms in their house is to be papered with the picture postcards the young couple have received through the post. I wonder what it will look like. I should prefer the cards to be confined to a deep dado and something of a light colour on the wall above.

LADIES requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.—JOHN BUSVINE & CO., 4, Brook-st., London, W.

"LA SAMOTHRACE."—Every corset of the LONDON CORSET CO., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

Curtains that will not fade! You will at once want to know all about them. I have only just heard about them myself, and am sending you Liberty's illustrated list of these new furnishing fabrics that are absolutely fast, successfully resisting not only the processes of washing and cleaning, but the action of the sun as well. And it is good to hear that they are manufactured in England for the above well-known firm. The colourings of these tapestries are in the soft, rich tones so well known to admirers of Liberty silks, and the designs are chiefly conventionalised floral. The Wargrave is a good example, showing wild flowers in blue, pink, or green on a cream-coloured ground. The Thurso is very quaint and novel, intended for morning-room draperies, and carried out in pale colours on silver white. There is a lovely poppy design, with flower, leaf, and seed pods introduced, for drawing-room curtains, and for the dining-room there is a closely-woven tapestry with a large and handsome leaf pattern in blue, red, green, and silver-grey. You would like the Mortimer, a heavy tapestry for upholstery purposes, in which the effect of old-world sampler embroidery is imitated in a design of conventionalised carnations in blue and green or in green and gold on a silver-grey ground. Sample lengths will be sent on approval free of charge, so that any one wishing to match the tapestries to walls and carpets has only to write to Liberty, Regent-street.

A correspondent sets me right about the attire of Queen Elizabeth when she was dying. "You ought," writes my kindly informant, "to go and see the wax effigy in Westminster Abbey, dressed in the actual gown in which she died, having refused to undress, and rolling on the floor, unwilling to occupy a bed. So says tradition." Poor Queen Bess! With all her greatness she had many of her sex's weaknesses. Sir Gilbert Parker's new novel, 'A Ladder of Swords,' makes her at least interesting. Have you read it? However, in the picture to which I alluded, Elizabeth lies on a couch with pillows behind her, pearls and diamonds in her hair, and an immense ruff. This picture is by Delaroche, and is in the Paris Louvre.

In an old history that I possess, published in 1719, her Majesty is described as:—

"Spain's Rod, Rome's Ruine, Netherland's Relief,
Earth's Joy, England's Gem, World's Wonder, Nature's Chief."

Rhymsters knew how to flatter in those days.

G. E. M. writes:—

Dear Madam,—Pardon the liberty that I take in addressing you, but on seeing your paragraph in last week's Truth about "texts" on the "hillsides," etc., in the United States, I am afraid you have been "had" by your American friend.

Having just returned from a three months' visit to America, and having travelled some thousands of miles there, I can assure you that the statement, by its inaccuracy, savours rather of a joke than a reality. As a matter of fact, the obnoxious display of advertisements amid picturesque scenery is carried to extremes in there, mile after mile of continuous hoarding disfiguring the railway side to an extent to which we, in England, are strangers; but never a text did my eye catch sight of, although, being myself engaged in religious work, I should naturally have spotted them at once had they been there.

Do not forget that this is the time for choosing bulbs, and getting them all ready for planting when the dear summer flowers have to be cleared away. Reading the catalogue makes me wish that I had acres of grassy downs and thousands of snowdrops, scilla, daffodils, tulips, anemones, crocuses, and fritillaries to plant them with. And do not you like gladioli and "pokers"? Cyclamen I cannot really love, partly, I think, because I did not know them when I was a child. That makes such a very great difference, and not only in floral friendships, but in human ones as well.

The sight of glorious begonia beds in French gardens has made us enthuse about this curious flower, which must surely have a bit of butterfly nature about it somewhere. Its petals are like wings, and the whole flower looks as if it had rather alighted on the stem than grown upon it.

I should love to plant a whole company of lily-of-the-valley. And I want two cedars of my very own, and two mulberry trees and an avenue of limes and one of poplars. That is all that I can think of for the moment. Richard says that every one should plant mulberry trees who has the chance, because they are growing scarcer and scarcer.

Ella grew miniature hyacinths last winter in Japanese bowls in a particular composition that she got from Worcester. They were very pretty, and looked happy. Many hyacinths do not. They look uncomfortable in their long glasses, and I often fancy that their roots are pining for a home in the warm earth instead of the chilly water. And when there are two hyacinths in one pot they often hustle each other very uncomfortably, or seem to do so, being obliged to grow at an unnatural angle in order to get out of each other's way.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—September, especially in its last weeks, may well be classed amongst the awkward months of the year for our sex. Dressing gradually becomes more and more of an embarrassment; one day can never be judged on data from another; our raiment daily demands special thought. Even then the evening—or, still worse, the afternoon—does not always justify the decision of the morning. One clings to summer dress on the slightest excuse, as to youth; one is loth to consign its beauty and charm definitely to the past. And then, unlike our youth in that particular, it is often so little worn out, the caprices of our capricious climate may have given it so few opportunities. The case is not one, either, of a "thing of beauty" being "a joy for ever." What worries the little-worn dresses of one summer are, when the next comes round! Too good to be given away, and impossible of wear without what may be called structural alterations. Oh, these alterations! What time, trouble, and mental effort they cost! Three or four makings would not take as much out of one as a single remaking. And then superior artists will not remake, or if they do—well, it does not help the economy of the situation. Remaking a dress is amongst the minor evils of life, of which men know little or nothing. They just wear and cease to wear, according to taste. There is no question of alteration in the fashion of a garment, no flounce to be added, nor gore to be taken in, nor fulness to be let out. The old suit has passed through no changes when it is succeeded by the new. The "heightem"—you remember the classification of dress, under three heads "heightem, tightem, and scrub"?—of one year cannot with men, as with us, turn into the "tightem" or "scrub" of another season. It pleases men to look on us as the extravagant and "dressy" sex, but the average man spends more on dress than the average woman. Do you not think that dressy kings spend more on clothes than dressy queens, especially since the former have taken to what might be called emotional dressing—that is, to expressing feelings by their dress? Example, especially in high place, is so compelling, we shall soon, no doubt, see judges donning, to show the friendliness of their feelings, military uniform when visiting generals, military men in clerical dress when being entertained by Church dignitaries, and so on. And then to help in the promotion of *ententes cordiales*, should not every tourist have to wear the dress of the country he is travelling in? How interesting—if a little more tedious—it would be at frontier stations, when "change here" would be so fully and literally carried out!

By the way, what an object-lesson in man's extravagance Lord Anglesey gives! The Pan-Celtic Congress, too, showed man's love of dress. A Pan-Celtic costume was devised—in words—for men, but no mention of women was made. Two years ago Lord Castletown, the designer of the dress, had not got beyond the very sketchy and initial stage of embroidered brogues; this year, however, he has added an embroidered petticoat, or kilt, and a jacket. If the Celts go back to the old times in dress, why not the Saxons, the Normans, and the ancient Britons also? If to the dress, why not to the habits, manners, and ways which, no doubt, it suited? Would not the gun of the Celtic sportsman have to be laid aside for the arrow or some even more futile weapon? What a world it is, what a stage for play-acting!

Redfern's Beautiful Dresses and Cloaks for Race Meetings and Garden Parties, with Dainty Paris Hats en suite, now on view in their Conduit-street Showrooms.

Last week the motor races on the Portmarnock Velvet Strand attracted the crowds who are interested in machine racing, by no means so great as those which assemble together when horses are in question. At best, motors make clumsy racers; in looking on at such races one only feels thankful that it is not worse, that they are not traction engines or tram-cars. Mr. Rolls and many well-known English motorists competed, and amongst the Irish winners were Mr. A. Lee Guinness and Mr. Plunkett. Mr. Algernon Guinness is the nephew of Lords Ardilaun and Iveagh, and the heir-presumptive to his grandfather's baronetcy, at present held by Lord Ardilaun. The Guinness family are much given to motoring. When Lord Iveagh is at Farmleigh or St. Stephen's Green, the family motors, in infinite variety, are much seen in the Dublin streets and Phœnix Park. Mr. Rupert and Lady Gwendolen Guinness were motor touring at Killarney, Limerick, and other places in the picturesque South-west of Ireland last week. The motor tourist has been much in evidence over here this season, but neither our island nor Great Britain itself offers wide-enough fields for his ambitions. He is all over the country at once and sighing for fresh worlds to conquer. The opening up of Africa will be a great boon to him, the tracklessness of the deserts will come to an end. Perhaps even the Arctic and Antarctic Circles will be invaded, and motorists will be added to the number of the adventurous enthusiasts who so persistently seek to penetrate the mysteries of the Poles. And then there will be Tibet. No doubt the motor has a great future, and above all it needs a spacious one.

Lord Dudley in his motor is a familiar figure all over Ireland. The Viceregal motors are very numerous, but the horse equipages for State occasions have not yet been superseded. Lady Dudley is still at the Viceregal Lodge, where the Duchess of Bedford arrived on a visit last week. The baby girl will, no doubt, receive a commemorative Irish name in baptism. There are many very pretty ones, and not as yet commonised by use. What's in a name? A great deal. Are not some names which suit youth absolutely grotesque for age? We should all be equipped with baptismal names to suit different stages of life. Lily, Violet, and the flower names should never grow old and fat, nor should Daphne, Phyllis, or any of romantic and poetic suggestion.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Before giving you a recipe this week I want to tell you how to make stewed plums and plum tarts quite delicious. This fruit is apt to be a little insipid when cooked, but if two tablespoons of Kirschwasser and a dozen cloves are added to each quart the improvement in flavour will be great. And do not forget to use Melba sauce when preparing peaches, apricots, or nectarines for table by stewing or any other method of cooking.

Here is just one recipe; it is called grouse salad à la Verdley:—

Cut the remains of cold cooked grouse into as neat pieces as possible. Make three gills of mayonnaise sauce and mix it with two finely-shred hard-boiled whites of eggs, a very small portion of scraped shalot, and a finely-shred gherkin. Dip the pieces of game in the sauce and dish them in a neat pyramid on a circle of worked butter, sprinkle the grouse thickly with finely-shred truffle and garnish it with slices of tomato and picked lettuce.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King, who is now on a visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Glenquoich Forest, will return to Balmoral on Monday next. His Majesty's round-about railway journey from Ballater to Invergarry by way of Dunblane, Callander, and Spean Bridge, occupied nearly seven and a half hours on Monday, after which there was a motor drive of twenty-three miles from the station to Lord Burton's shooting lodge on Loch Quoich. It is possible that the King may pay a brief visit to Sir Reginald and Lady Cathcart at Cluny Castle, their fine seat in the Strathdon district of Aberdeenshire, when he leaves Balmoral for the season the week after next. His Majesty is expected to arrive at Buckingham Palace from Scotland on either Friday, October 7, or Saturday, the 8th, and on Tuesday, the 11th, he goes to Newmarket for the Second October meeting.

Glenquoich is a part of the immense "country" formerly possessed by the Clan Macdonell of Glengarry, which extended from Fort Augustus to the sea. The estates were sold about sixty years ago to the late Lord Dudley and the late Mr. Edward Ellice. The section purchased by Lord Dudley was resold to Mr. Ellice, and the Glengarry and Glenquoich estates now belong to his daughter-in-law. During the reign of George IV. the sporting value of this property was only £50 a year, whereas now the rental is over £7,000.

Lord Burton has rented Glenquoich, which comprises 50,000 acres, for thirty-three years. The forest extends from the top of Glengarry to the sea at Loch Hourn, and there are one hundred and fifty miles of bridle-paths within its boundaries, so that every part is easily accessible. The scenery is magnificent and much diversified. The collection of deer-heads at Loch Quoich Lodge is believed to be the finest in Scotland, and includes a very remarkable specimen of twenty points.

There are to be deer-drives in Mar Forest next week, when the King and the Prince of Wales will be the guest of the Duke of Fife. The most successful drives in this forest (which comprises about 100,000 acres) usually takes place in the Glen Ey; Glen Quoich, and Glen Derry beats. Mar is a very old forest, and it is heavily stocked with red deer.

The Braemar Gathering took place on Thursday afternoon in very fine weather at Clunie, near Invercauld. The King and the Prince and Princess of Wales drove up at four o'clock from Balmoral in an open carriage and four, preceded by two outriders in scarlet coats. There were five other carriages from Balmoral and Abergeldie. The King and the Prince of Wales and the young Princes were in Highland dress, the kilts being of Royal Stuart tartan. After a march past of the Highlanders there was Highland dancing, followed by the usual races and games. The Royal party left at six o'clock, when there was a general break-up of the company. The Duke and Duchess of Fife and their daughters came from Mar Lodge, Lord and Lady Normanton from Braemar Castle, and Mr. and Mrs. Neumann from Invercauld House, and a few of the shooting boxes in Upper Deeside were represented.

The Queen and Princess Victoria, who have been cruising for ten days among the Norwegian fiords, have joined King Christian's family party at the Château of Bernstorff, near Copenhagen, where the King of the Hellenes, Prince and Princess Waldemar, and Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark are staying, and the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland are expected shortly.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, who are residing at Abergeldie Castle, Aberdeenshire, will arrive at Marlborough House from Scotland about Saturday, October 8, and are to stay in town for a few days before going to Sandringham for the winter. The Prince has enjoyed some good deer-stalking in Whitemonth and Balmoral Forests, and last week H.R.H. joined the King in a drive for stags from Abergeldie Woods, while another day there was a similar drive from Birkhall Woods, and on Wednesday there were grouse drives over the moors of Gairnshiel and Micras, which his Majesty has rented from Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld. The Prince of Wales has been fishing on the King's waters in the Dee, but without much success, as the river was only last week beginning to get into

good ply. The prospects of the autumn salmon angling are most favourable.

One of the evening papers announced on Saturday that the King "finds a congenial companion" at Balmoral in the Marquis de Soveral. My contemporary is evidently unaware of the fact that M. de Soveral has been in Portugal during the last six weeks, and he is now staying at Cintra.

The Duke of Connaught is to pay a visit shortly to the Duke of Atholl at Blair Castle, Perthshire, where there was a large house-party for the annual Atholl gathering. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert spent several weeks at Blair Castle during the shooting season of 1844, and the King and Queen (then Prince and Princess of Wales) were guests there in September, 1872, when 3,000 red deer were driven in Atholl Forest at once in sight of the Royal party. Blair Castle is a large white-washed house in the Scottish baronial style, which was rebuilt in 1870, when the ancient tower and battlements were restored. The grounds are extensive and beautiful, and contain many fine trees of remarkable age and size.

The King of Roumania, who has been spending a month at Bad Gastein, arrived last Wednesday at Ragatz, accompanied by the Comtesse de Flandre and Prince and Princess Frederick of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen.

Lord Dudley spent last week in Dublin, at the Viceregal Lodge, where Lady Dudley has been slowly recovering after her long delicacy. Lord and Lady Dudley will leave the Viceregal Lodge when Lady Dudley is equal to a thorough change. On Sunday the infant daughter of the Viceroy was baptised at the private chapel of the Viceregal Lodge, the godmothers being the Queen and Lady Mayo. The names given were Alexandra Patricia, the latter to commemorate, if not Irish birth, birth in Ireland. Whilst Patrick has been the most popular name amongst Irishmen since the days of St. Patrick, its feminine adaptation is modern, and has grown in fashion, since a Princess "Patsie" is numbered amongst the members of the Royal Family.

Mr. Graham Murray spent last week at Balmoral as Minister in attendance to the King, and Mr. Balfour is expected to arrive at the Castle on Monday or Tuesday next. Mr. Balfour, who is at North Berwick, is going from Balmoral to Whittingehame, his place in Haddingtonshire, where he proposes to stay until about the 24th of October. Mr. Balfour's public engagements include Tory meetings at Southampton during the last week in October, and at Glasgow towards the end of November. The Prime Minister will be the guest of Colonel and Lady Emma Crichton, at Netley Castle, when he goes to Southampton, and of Lord and Lady Blythwood, at Blythwood House, Renfrewshire, during his visit to Glasgow.

I was in error in speaking last week of the Hatherop Castle estate as having been rented by Sir Thomas Bazley from Lord de Mauley, prior to its purchase by the Maharajah Duleep Singh. The Maharajah bought Hatherop in 1862 from the late Mr. Ashley Ponsonby, uncle of the present Lord de Mauley. He sold the place five years later to Sir Thomas Bazley, and after that purchased Elveden. Hatherop, like Elveden, was under consideration for purchase by the then Prince of Wales, prior to the acquisition of Sandringham.

Lord Spencer arrived in Paris on Friday from Frankfort, en route from Nauheim, where he had been staying for several weeks. Lord Spencer is going for a short time to his place in Norfolk before he returns to Althorp Park for the hunting season.

Lord and Lady Lansdowne, who have been staying during the last five weeks at Derreen, their beautiful place on the coast of Kerry, are expected to arrive early next month at Bowood Park, the family seat in Wiltshire, where they will entertain numerous guests during the winter.

Lady Catherine Loftus, widow of Captain Loftus, formerly Keeper of the Crown Jewels, has surrendered the "apartment" in Hampton Court Palace, which was granted to her by Queen Victoria in 1891. The King has given this excellent apartment (which is in Fountain Court) to Lady Biddulph, widow of General Sir Michael Biddulph, late Keeper of the Crown Jewels, and Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, and formerly Groom-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria.

A lady who devotes whatever mind she has to dress, and who is one of those who pass as the leaders of fashion in Paris, confided to me recently that the best-dressed women entirely decline to adopt the fashion of big puff sleeves coming down to the elbows and a sort of cape over the shoulders, because they do not consider it so graceful as the close sleeves and light bodices, for it make a woman look twice as broad as she really is, and is only fitted for tall, thin, and what are called by Americans "slab-fronted girls." The fashion, said my authority, has been started by a dressmaking establishmen in Paris and London, which is more patronised by English and Americans desirous to be in the latest fashion than by Frenchwomen, and the leading French dressmakers in Paris have declared themselves against it. I am myself a mere child in the technicalities of the feminine toilette, but certainly the dumpy women that I have come across arrayed in the new fashion do not strike me at their best.

The object of the change is, of course, to oblige those who cannot exist without being in fashion to discard all their old dresses, and to buy new ones, greatly to the benefit of the dressmakers. I am glad that even fashionable women with more money than brains have revolted against the domination of dressmakers. Sometimes the fashions started by them are pretty, sometimes they are ugly, but most women follow them blindly. The truth is that what suits one woman does not suit another. A woman should have the sense to understand this, and exercise whatever intelligence Heaven has vouchsafed to her on being dressed prettily, if this be her aim,

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 742.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 741.
For Amusements, see page 737.
For Our Puzzles, see page 745.

instead of being the slave of some greedy dressmaker, often utterly without taste, and desirous only to encourage the spending of money in excess on dress. If they only knew it—and if as I suppose they dress to secure the admiration of the male sex—they ought to be aware that men look at the general effect, and care very little whether a pleasing effect is produced by being in the latest fashion, or not.

A MISDIRECTED "MOVEMENT."

The "no hat" movement amongst women, which, to the chagrin of certain parsons, has spread to the fair sex when attending Church, is not yet, it would seem, in operation at theatrical *matinées*.—*Daily Press passim.*

Since Eve, in an age now so distant,
In Paradise first graced the scene,
How illogical, how inconsistent,
O! Woman, you ever have been!
But although your inconsequence greatly
Has with your supremacy grown,
In your craze for "no hats" you have lately
Its climax assuredly shown.

For, to change most decidedly leaning,
And of pretexts for novelty glad,
You (as we from the papers are gleaning),
"No Hats!" make at present your fad!
"No hats!" 'twas with joy that we read it,
For news full of comfort it looked,
And giving you thanks and full credit,
We seats for a matinée booked!

But fancy our grief and vexation
When, almost as soon as we sat,
High in front, with its old ostentation,
Still rose the dread Matinée Hat;
And we came to the painful conclusion,
As we gazed at the folks in the stalls,
That "no hats" was an utter delusion
Within a "smart" theatre's walls.

In the Church 'tis that Woman tabooes them
As the parsons already complain,
As she walks by the sea she eschews them,
On the pier she declares they are vain—
She, in short, where they are *not* a nuisance,
Their wearing 's resolved to debar,
Whilst perversely protracting their usance
In the one place on earth where they *are*.

A young man, whose name I will not mention—though it would serve him right if I did—is at present engaged in collecting subscriptions for the purpose of enabling him to study for the musical profession. He states that his voice has been greatly admired by Mme. Melba, and he encloses a copy of a letter from Mme. Melba herself, who states that his voice has also evoked the admiration of M. Jean de Reszke. I should hardly think that Mme. Melba can be aware or approve of the use that is being made of her letter. I wonder, too, whether Lord Chesterfield has authorised the statement made in one of these letters, that he is raising a fund to enable the youth to study for "the Opera." The coming star wrote to one gentleman—a perfect stranger to him—for a subscription to this fund on August 17. Getting no reply, he writes again on September 9, making this reference to Lord Chesterfield, requesting an early reply to his previous communication, and giving at the same time the names of other nobility and gentry who have already made their contributions. If coolness and assurance are any qualifications for success upon the operatic stage, I should think that this young gentleman has a future before him, whatever may be the truth about his voice.

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery at Edinburgh has received a notable addition in the shape of a portrait of Sir Walter Scott, painted by Saxon in 1805 for Lady Scott. This is the only good representation of Scott which shows him in early life. He is depicted sitting in an armchair, before a crimson curtain, with his favourite bull terrier ("Camp") beside him. The only other early portrait of Scott which possesses real merit is Raeburn's first picture, which was painted in 1808, and it is now in the library at Bonhill, the Duke of Buccleuch's seat in Selkirkshire, while there is a replica, with variations, at Abbotsford.

Two new life trustees of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust have just been elected in place of two gentlemen who have resigned in consequence of age and infirmity. The new trustees are Lord Redesdale and the Reverend T. Hodgson. The proposer of the latter explained that he did not urge the election on the ground that Mr. Hodgson was the son of his father, but because he had qualifications of his own, and being a near neighbour would be more likely to attend the meetings of the trustees, judging by the past, than students of Shakespeare, and other gentlemen who reside at a distance. It is to be hoped, however, that as may trustees will be asked to confirm the decision of the Executive Committee that the cottages close by Shakespeare's birthplace shall be allowed to remain. The cottages were in the possession of the poet's granddaughter, and I can perceive no valid reason why they should be pulled down. The question is not a local one, but is national. It, however, seems to me that the interest of the townsmen of Stratford is that the cottages should stand, for the town is only famous because Shakespeare was born there, and as this brings them hosts of visitors who presumably are a source of revenue, its inhabitants should be very careful in seeing that all buildings that are connected with Shakespeare should continue to exist.

Some weeks ago I called attention to the matter in its national aspect, and a gentleman who seemed equally interested in the preservation of the cottages wrote to tell me that the deeds and leases pertaining to them are in the hands of the Trustees, who decline to make them public, because, according to my correspondent, they would go to prove that Shakespeare was born in one of the cottages, and that the place now shown as his birthplace was selected in ignorance of the true facts. This may be the case, but I am inclined somewhat to doubt it, and it is by no means necessary that the poet should have been born in one of the cottages to render it desirable that they should be preserved. Their suggested destruction seems to be a local fad of certain residents, and they really should have the sense to see that it would be a mistake, in view of the opposition of all those who, everywhere outside Stratford, are opposed to it.

Lord Brampton is compiling a volume of reminiscences of his long and distinguished career at the Bar and on the Bench. He ought to produce a most entertaining work.

THE LATEST PARADOX.

The Russian Doctor, Metchnikoff
(Oh, doubting Thomases, don't scoff!),
Of drugs so famed a mixer,
Has now, he fervidly declares,
Made man, in answer to his prayers,
Proof 'gainst the arch-transfixer!
For those who Death's decrees would bilk
Can now discover in sour milk,
Says he, Life's true Elixir!
How strange that, of all things the meetest,
Sour milk preserves what Man deems sweetest!

Some of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge bear an unenviable reputation as landlords, and an instance of the inconsiderate treatment old tenants experience has just been brought under my notice. For about half a century a quantity of land belonging to St. John's College, Oxford, has been rented by the owner of a house in Warwickshire, the carriage drive to the house being made through one part of the holding and another part being used as a kitchen garden. At present the house is let to a tenant who desires to purchase it, but who has not been able to come to terms with the owner. The latter, however, has now received notice to terminate his tenancy of the college land, which, it turns out, has been sold behind his back to the tenant of the house. The consequence is that if the owner of the house still refuses to dispose of it he will run the risk of being deprived of the drive and grounds which have so long formed one of the amenities of his property. On this statement of the case the action of the college authorities seems anything but creditable. They were, of course, entitled to sell the land to whom they pleased, but in the circumstances ordinary courtesy surely required that an option to purchase should be given to the old tenant.

The appointment of the Bishop Suffragan of Burnley to the see of Southwell has met with general approval. Dr. Hoskyns has enjoyed an extensive and varied parochial experience, and has everywhere been popular and successful. He has much of Bishop Ridding's remarkable capacity for organisation, and also his predecessor's zeal for work. He has been both liked and trusted by the clergy and laity of Lancashire, and will no doubt be soon equally appreciated in Notts and Derbyshire. Dr. Hoskyns is a High Churchman of the moderate school, and has always been deeply interested in social questions. When the present Bishop of London submitted two nominations to the Crown in 1901 for the Suffragan Bishop of Stepney, Bishop Hoskyns was the second name sent up to his Majesty.

The Church Congress is to meet at Liverpool on Tuesday, October 4, under the presidency of Bishop Chavasse. There will be four opening sermons, the preachers being the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Exeter, the Bishop of Ossory, and the Bishop of Glasgow. The papers on "The Cathedral and Its Staff" (by Mr. Bodley, the Bishop of St. Albans, and the Dean of Ely) ought to have special interest for Liverpool people. The list of speakers includes the Bishops of Durham, Salisbury, Chester, St. Asaph, Hereford, Exeter, Derry, Clogher, Manchester, Sodor and Man, and Glasgow; and among the lay speakers will be Lady Frederick Cavendish, Lady Henry Somerset, Lord Hugh Cecil, Sir Edward Russell, and Mr. Justice Kennedy.

The vacancies on the Episcopal Bench caused by the death of the Bishops of Southwell and Carlisle will give seats in the House of Lords to the Bishops of Wakefield and Bangor. The next two vacancies will be filled by the Bishops of Liverpool and Oxford.

The Bishop of Peterborough has presented the Rev. La Grange Leney, who has been for fourteen years vicar of Hinckley, Leicestershire, to the rectory of Barnack, near Stamford, vacant by the much regretted death of the Rev. Marshall Tweddell. This living was held for a great number of years, along with a stall in Peterborough Cathedral, by the late Dean Argles, who was a son-in-law of Bishop Davys, the "preceptor" of the late Queen when Princess Victoria. Barnack, which is the parish in which Burghley House is situated, was formerly the richest benefice in the diocese of Peterborough, the stipend being about £1,300 a year, and it is still worth about £600 a year, with an excellent residence.

Bishop Bardsley, like Archbishop Magee, was an alumnus of Trinity College, Dublin. He was no pusher, and never achieved nor desired to achieve a widespread reputation, but his name was a household word in South Lancashire for more than twenty years. He was known both to clergy and laity as a model parish priest, a most successful organiser and administrator, an eloquent and scholarly preacher, a most effective platform speaker, an earnest promoter of popular education, and a man abounding in sympathy, tolerance, and common sense. Bishop Jacobson entertained the highest opinion of Dr. Bardsley, and Bishop Ryle's first exercise of patronage was to appoint him to the Archdeaconry of Warrington. He was an hereditary Evangelical, but was never a partisan, and he was believed to exercise a softening influence over Bishop Ryle, who was a thorough party man. The peace which generally prevailed in the diocese of Liverpool from 1880 until 1887 was mainly due to the genial diplomacy of Dr. Bardsley.

In 1887 Lord Salisbury appointed Dr. Bardsley to the See of Sodor and Man, in the place of that distinguished Low Churchman Bishop Rowley Hill. He accomplished much good practical work in the Isle of Man, including a considerable development of the Theological College. In January, 1892, Lord Salisbury translated Bishop Bardsley to the See of Carlisle, where he replaced Bishop Harvey Goodwin. He was as successful in his new and more important sphere of duty as he had been in his former positions. The Bishop, although always himself a sincere Evangelical, was on the best possible terms with all his clergy, and he was thoroughly trusted by them and also by the laity. He was generous and helpful to the poorer clergy, and the hospitalities of Rose Castle were most pleasant and liberal. Bishop Bardsley had no pretensions to be a profound theologian or a learned scholar, but he was a most excellent working prelate, and was universally beloved and esteemed. It was in a great measure owing to his own great popularity that his untiring efforts on behalf of clergy sustenation were so successful.

There are angry complaints against the military authorities from the villages round Salisbury Plain in consequence of the singularly primitive arrangements for disposing of refuse from the camps. It seems that heaps of refuse are simply deposited on the Downs, whereby an intolerable and dangerous nuisance is created. People are asking indignantly why refuse destructors have not been established at these camps.

It was stated in a local paper the other day that the Duke of Connaught and the Duke and Duchess of Teck have given their patronage to a scheme for raising a memorial at Aldershot to Roman Catholic soldiers who fell in South Africa. Possibly the statement is incorrect, and, if so, one would like to see it denied. The idea of erecting a war memorial on a sectarian basis is decidedly offensive, and it is difficult to believe that any member of the Royal Family would give it encouragement. If such a scheme is really on foot, I suppose we shall hear next of memorials to the Anglicans, Wesleyans, Baptists, or other Nonconformists who fell in South Africa.

When the War Office employs a retired officer, and the retired officer has to keep a horse for use in the performance of his duties, why is he not supplied with a groom or an equivalent allowance in cash? Is it supposed that a retired officer can feed and groom his horse and clean out the stable himself without loss of dignity, while the dignity of an officer on the active list would be impaired by doing so; or is it thought that the pay of the former is so munificent that he may reasonably be expected to pay a groom out of his own pocket? The latter idea, at any rate, certainly bears no relation to the facts. The pay of retired officers when employed is decidedly meagre, and it is quite indefensible that they should be compelled to bear other charges which ordinary officers do not.

One of the most painful stories I have heard from the Service for a long time past is that of sergeant in a certain infantry regiment—wild horses should not drag its name from me—who, the other day incurred a severe reprimand for falling out without leave at running drill, having been for ten years previously clear of an entry. It appears that the man, who has nearly fourteen years' service, has been employed in the orderly-room nearly the whole of that time. I gather from this, and from the sequel, that he is not exactly trained "too fine," and it may be that his wind is not quite what it was when he joined. On the occasion in question the battalion "doubled" for about 1,500 yards, and the last 500 yards was up hill. It was that last 500 yards that beat the sergeant. Hence the tragedy. Like many tragedies, it may have a comic element in it; but, Heaven forbid that I should make fun of the story.

The moral of it seems to be that a man who has been nearly fourteen years in the orderly-room is not much good for the rough business of soldiering, and the blame for that result rests primarily on the system or the individuals who allow him to be in the orderly-room for that time. After allowing that, it is rather unfair to the man to suddenly call him out and make him, as the Harrow song has it, "double hard about the yard and up and down the hill." It really is not his fault if he finds the pace killing and fails to stay the course. At least he ought to have a few weeks' notice, during which he might go into training.

The hardship caused by allowing N.C.O.s to serve on for unlimited periods in order to increase their pensions, regardless of the results to other men, has just been again illustrated in one of the R.G.A. depots. In this depot there is a staff-sergeant with over thirty years' service, as well as several others ranging from twenty-one to twenty-five. In consequence of this state of things a company sergeant-major, who only came home two years ago, after a very long tour of foreign service, has now to go out again to India; and, of course, when there are a number of senior men like this, promotion generally is blocked and many men suffer. Another aspect of the matter is shown in the fact that the staff-sergeant above referred to, owing to his age, did not go out with his company to South Africa.

I am not saying that a man should never be allowed to extend his service beyond 21 years. But the time and the number of men so privileged should be limited, and there are certain conditions which should be observed. It is not right that one man, who has failed to secure the maximum pension, should be allowed to earn it at the expense of other men, either by precluding them from earning full pensions or by throwing on them an unfair share of foreign service. And it is radically wrong, from the public point of view, that men should be retained in the army as a favour, if they are not fit for active service when wanted. Considerations of efficiency ought to override all others.

A letter received the other day from a soldier in India reiterates a point which has been frequently noticed in these columns, and is well worth the consideration of the military authorities both at home and in India. The writer says that he is one of hundreds of privates who are approaching the completion of their colour service, and have no desire to leave the Army, and would cheerfully re-engage for twenty-one years if they were allowed a six months' furlough to England. I hear this so often that there must be something in it, and it is perfectly credible, for, however keen a soldier a man may be, when he has been seven years or more abroad he naturally feels a very strong desire to see his nearest relations again. Everybody, soldier or civilian, knows what this feeling is, and it is worth while to remember that the feeling is likely to be just as strong in a private soldier as in any man of higher rank and education. There is a great deal of human nature about Tommy Atkins, though those in authority over him do not always give him credit for it.

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD, 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

The difficulty of recruiting the foreign service army is one of the most serious with which the military authorities are faced. A large proportion of men are always certain to be thoroughly sick of India after a few years of Army life there, and if there is a minority who are disposed to stay on, it is very desirable that they should be encouraged to do so. I would point out that it costs no more to bring a man home from India on furlough and take him back again, than to bring him home for discharge, and send a new man out in his place, and common sense suggests that if you can keep a trained and seasoned soldier by the former process, while you have a difficulty in getting the new man who would otherwise be required to replace him, the balance of argument is all in favour of granting the furlough.

Rear-Admiral Sir Archibald Berkeley Milne will vacate the command of the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* at the end of this year, and he is to be replaced by Captain Stanley Colville. The *Victoria and Albert* is to be laid up for the season when she returns to Portsmouth from the Baltic, as the Queen will travel overland when she comes back to England from Denmark next month.

The attention of the Admiralty might be directed with advantage to certain changes now pending in the management of the canteen at the R.N. barracks, Portsmouth. The canteen, which seems to have been very carefully constituted under a complete set of rules and regulations, is governed by a committee elected by the various messes, with the Commander as President, and two other officers as vice-presidents. The dry canteen has hitherto been let to a contractor; the wet canteen has been managed by the men. Handsome profits have been realised, and the men in barracks appear to have been universally satisfied with the management. However, the present Commander, who has not been very long upon the scene, recently decided, *proprio motu*, to hand the whole canteen over to a tenant and advertise for tenders. The committee were not consulted. The Commander simply called them together and informed them what he was going to do, and the next information they had was that the tenders had been opened and one of them accepted.

This step has created the greatest dissatisfaction in the barracks generally. On this point I am in a position to speak confidently. The dissatisfaction has been increased by the discovery that the tender accepted was by no means the highest. The committee were informed in the first instance that Messrs. Dickeson and Co.'s tender of £3,600 per annum had been accepted. They asked for information as to the other tenders, but were told that the tenders had been returned, and that the information could not be given. It has since leaked out, however, that the Junior Army and Navy Stores tendered at £4,200; W. Miller, Limited, of Portsmouth, the present tenants of the dry canteen, at £4,500; and Messrs. Whicher, of Chatham, at £5,000. The consideration of the tenders was referred to a committee of officers, two Commanders and a Fleet Paymaster, but whether or not the decision in favour of the fourth tender on the list was theirs, the responsibility for adopting it necessarily rests upon the Commander of the barracks.

I believe that no question can be raised as to the accuracy of any of the foregoing statements, and they call imperatively for inquiry and explanation. The Commander is, of course, actuated by the best motives, and will no doubt say that the men will get more under the new arrangement than the old. That, however, remains to be seen. It is quite certain that the men will be slow to recognise the advantages; and that they will continue to resent the carrying out of this change without any reference to their wishes, and the taking of the thing out of their hands, without even the formality of consulting the committee which they have been empowered to elect. The Commander may have the right to act in this way, but he is very ill-advised in using it. And, at least, if he chose to take this step and put the contract up for tender, he was bound to accept the highest tender. If he says he is only trying to do the best he can for his men, he stultifies himself when he accepts a tender for £3,600 in preference to one for £5,000. It is quite true that Messrs. Dickeson are a highly reputable firm with a large experience of the business; but it would be absurd to suggest that the superiority of their catering will make up for a loss of £1,400 a year in hard cash. The other firms are all well known, and in view of the disparity of the prices were at least entitled to trial.

With reference to the jettisoning of bread, vegetables, and other goods on the coast of Devonshire from H.M. ships, a naval correspondent points out that the food belongs to the men, and, if it were not drawn, "savings" would have to be paid to an equivalent amount. This view of the matter may remove any objection to the waste from the taxpayer's point of view, but that is all that can be said for it. The waste remains, and there must be something wrong in the system under which large quantities of provisions are issued to the men which they cannot consume, and simply throw overboard.

I take the following from an interesting letter written by a naval officer on the subject of bribery and other abuses on the lower deck:—

I have read with great interest your recent articles on the Naval Police. I have often thought that masters-at-arms have too much power, and I have noticed that one will put a man in the report for what is overlooked by another. While attending the captain at "defaulters," I have often heard a man complain that the master-at-arms had a "down" on him. Of course, whenever such a complaint is made, the men are asked to prove it. Equally, of course, they can never do this satisfactorily. It is clear to me that the men are terribly afraid of getting into the master-at-arms's black books, and that they have reason to be so.

So far as concerns payment for the purpose of being let off 10A punishment, it would be a good thing for every captain personally at irregular intervals—and not on Sunday morning only, as is generally the rule—to compare the punishment record and spirit stoppage book with the number of men who fall in at the black list bugle. I was once with a captain who compared the spirit-stoppage book with the record on one occasion, and discovered that several men were drawing their rum who were supposed to be doing 10A. The master-at-arms explained that it was an accidental mistake, and no more was heard of the matter. But I suspect that such mistakes are common, and would be freely discovered if captains went the right way to work.

I have again been asked to ventilate the grievance that arises from the present system of allotting cabins among naval officers. The grievance is an old one, I dare say as old as the Navy, and it is a pity that it is not dealt with more intelligently. A recent Admiralty circular laid down rules for the allotment of cabins among wardroom officers, leaving the rest at the captain's discretion. It is here that the grievance arises, for it stands to reason that different captains will exercise their discretion differently, and thereby create anomalies and dissatisfaction. As an example of the anomalies that arise, I can mention one battleship in the Home Fleet where there are at present two cabins absolutely vacant owing to the exercise of the captain's discretion, the captain not approving of junior officers using cabins. Surely it would be far more satisfactory to allot all cabins in order of seniority. In nearly all ships the captain's cook, the wardroom steward, the bandmaster, and sometimes the master-at-arms have cabins, while a certain number of commissioned officers are denied that privilege. It seems putting a gratuitous indignity upon, let us say, an assistant paymaster, to deny him a cabin, while a mere domestic servant in the ship is allowed that privilege.

Again, as long as there are officers left without cabins there ought at least to be cabins assigned to sick officers who have none of their own. In some ships, I believe, a cabin is set apart for this purpose, but not in all. An officer who is ill cannot well be taken to the sick bay, and the result is that if he has no cabin of his own, he has to be nursed and doctored in a hammock in a crowded, ill-ventilated, and noisy flat, or else a ward-room officer has to temporarily give up his cabin to him. Neither arrangement is agreeable or necessary.

Those who are familiar with the habits of "Jack" ashore will probably be surprised to learn that it is a high crime and misdemeanour in the Navy for a man to engage in conversation with one of the female sex. A party of bluejackets and marines landed at an east coast watering place the other day to play a cricket match. On their way back, while they were waiting on the pier for a boat to take them off, two damsels inquired of one of the marines whether they could go over the ship, and a little chat ensued, in the midst of which an officer appeared on the scene. The result was that the erring marine was "had up" next day charged with the crime of being in company with females on shore, and punished with the stoppage of a week's leave. To me it is altogether news that they are so particular on this point in the Navy, and I am curious to know more about the rules, which, on the face of them, seem supremely idiotic. Is a man supposed to "cut" his mother or his grandmother if he meets her on shore? If a lady asks her way or inquires the time from an officer in uniform in the streets of Portsmouth or Plymouth, is he liable to be tried by court-martial if he is caught answering her? Perhaps, in the interests of morality, it would be better that naval officers and men when on shore should be accompanied by elderly chaperons, lest designing females should attempt to get into conversation with them.

Sir John Gorst's contribution to the *Times* correspondence on the feeding of school children is an admirable summary of the ethics of the question. His contention is that "under the existing social system every child is born into the world with a right to be maintained during childhood by its parents, and, if destitute by reason of the loss or incapacity of its parents, by the public." He argues that no member of the community has a stronger claim to the interference of public authority to protect his rights than a helpless child, and if the parents fail to fulfil their duties the State must enforce them. Further, Sir John Gorst contends that the State has undertaken a fresh responsibility in the matter by compelling the child's attendance at a public school, and since to force a hungry child to effort, physical or mental, is an act of cruelty which, if practised on a horse, would bring the perpetrator within the penalties of the criminal law, so by its action the State is not only failing in its general obligation to secure the children's rights, but is inflicting on them an additional and cruel wrong.

Judging by much of the correspondence which preceded Sir John Gorst's terse statement, there seems to have been a necessity of recalling the fact that, after all, it is the child whose welfare is the main consideration in the matter, and that the questions of the lessening of parental responsibility and pauperisation are merely subsidiary issues. In this respect the experience gained by communities who have already recognised their responsibilities in the matter should be of value, and accordingly an article in the current issue of the *Lancet* giving an account of the history and organisation of the Paris Cantines Scolaires is of special interest at the moment. From this it appears that from an original scheme to provide children whose parents were in receipt of poor relief with a meal has grown up a universal system whereby the children sit down to a substantial three-course meal in the middle of the day, consisting of soup, meat, and a substantial vegetable course. Instruction in manners is taught by the presence of the master and mistresses, who sit down with the children and share the same food.

Under careful supervision the cost of this meal has been brought down to 15 centimes per head, and each child is called upon to pay 1½d. per day for the ticket entitling him or her to the meal. But the tickets are issued privately, so that only the person who gives the ticket knows who have paid and who have not. The parents of those who do not pay are visited, full inquiry made, and deserving cases put on the free list. As the special commissioner of the *Lancet* describes it, the whole system is worked with a single eye to the child's welfare, and though it may be open to abuse by thriftless and dissipated parents, yet in no case is the child humiliated or troubled, and on no pretext whatsoever is necessary food refused. The Paris school-canteen system may not be perfect, but undoubtedly it does secure the primary result that no child shall go hungry. And it does so with a minimum of danger as regards the loss of self-respect of the child. Indeed, so far as I can see, the danger of pauperisation is infinitely less

than in this country, where sporadic charitable efforts are made in time of exceptional distress.

Whatever may be the result of the official inquiry now pending in regard to the Beck case, the statement which Mr. Charles Mathews made for the Crown at the trial of William Thomas, alias John Smith, must strengthen the general impression that Thomas committed the frauds of which Beck was convicted, and it is also frankly admitted that the Crown authorities hold this opinion. The statement contained the important disclosure that of the five women who identified Beck at his trial last June three, who have since seen Thomas, now admit that they were wrong—in other words, that it was not Beck but Thomas who swindled them. The time that has elapsed makes it very much more difficult to obtain direct evidence in regard to the 1896 conviction; and obviously the Crown would not be entitled to state positively at Thomas's trial that he was really guilty on the former occasions. But so far as Beck was concerned Mr. Mathews said clearly that he had no doubt that the conviction in June last was wrong, and added that "in our opinion, though we have no conclusive proof, the 1896 conviction of Mr. Adolf Beck was equally a mistaken conviction."

Some comments have been made upon the comparative leniency of the sentence of five years' penal servitude which Mr. Justice Phillimore last week passed upon Thomas. Considering that Thomas pleaded guilty to a previous conviction for similar crimes, his present sentence certainly is lenient in comparison with the seven years' penal servitude which Beck received in 1896 when, as no attempt was made to prove a previous conviction, he was presumably dealt with as a first offender. In fairness to Mr. Justice Phillimore, however, it must be borne in mind that Thomas has now reached an age—he is over sixty-five—when five years' penal servitude is a very heavy punishment for a man.

The tribute which Mr. Mathews paid to Inspector Kane will be endorsed by every one who has followed the case. It is evident that, as the result of his conviction in June, Beck would have been again condemned to a long term of penal servitude but for the fact that, while he was awaiting sentence, Thomas, having been taken into custody for similar frauds on women, was recognised by Inspector Kane as the probable author of those of which Beck had been found guilty. For the skill and the diligence with which he set to work to clear up the mystery Inspector Kane deserves the warmest praise. The admirable conduct of this officer is, indeed, almost the only bright feature in the dark story of the Beck case.

I have been taken to task for saying recently that miscarriages of justice in our criminal courts are by no means so rare as is generally assumed. With all respect to my critics, however, I am still of this opinion. Reference has already been made in Truth to the cases of two prisoners named Shellard and Da Costa who were convicted—the former at Wilts Quarter Sessions, and the latter at Devon Quarter Sessions—of being concerned in a similar series of frauds on country publicans in connection with the sale of herbal cigarettes. Through the arrest of another man it was discovered that Shellard was the victim of mistaken identity, and the Home Secretary ordered his release after he had served nine weeks of his sentence of six months' imprisonment. Da Costa's defence was an alibi, witnesses being called to prove that he was in London at the times these frauds were committed in Devonshire. In spite, however, of a summing-up in his favour by the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions the jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour. But the alibi has at length been conclusively established by the production of further unimpeachable evidence, and last week Da Costa was liberated after serving about a fourth of his sentence.

The occurrence of these cases of mistaken identity is scarcely astonishing in view of the methods of identification that seem to be frequently practised by the police. Da Costa, for example, is a Jew, and the frauds with which he was charged were perpetrated by a Jew. What, then, could be more misleading than the process the police adopted of placing Da Costa, for the purpose of identification, among a number of men of whom not one was a Jew?

In connection with the trial of Beck's "double" I am glad to see that the *Westminster Gazette* has made a much-needed protest against the common practice of allowing prisoners to describe themselves as journalists when they have no right whatever to be so described. In the Old Bailey calendar the man Thomas was set down as a "journalist," although he has never had any connection with journalism. It has, indeed, become the custom of all sorts of criminals to call themselves journalists when they get into trouble, and the police and the prison authorities do not seem to care whether they are entitled to do so or not. I question whether they would permit a prisoner to misdescribe himself as a police officer, or a barrister, or a doctor, or a parson, and I see no reason why this injustice should be inflicted on journalists. No doubt there are plenty of black sheep in the journalistic fold. But really we are not quite such a bad lot as the casual reader of the newspapers might suppose from the extraordinary number of self-styled "journalists" among the criminal classes.

The well-meant attempt of the Lord Chief Justice to enlighten the magistrates on the administration of the Vaccination Act has not met with much success. In the minds of some of them, in fact, confusion has only been worse confounded. One of his lordship's points was that it was not in itself sufficient for an applicant for a certificate of exemption to hold a mere general objection to vaccination; he must conscientiously believe that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child. Owing partly to the imperfect way in which Lord Alverstone's remarks were reported, but more to the obtuseness of the magistrates, this point has been completely misunderstood. Some of their worships now ask an applicant whether he has a general objection to vaccina-

tion, and if he replies in the affirmative they refuse the certificate regardless of the question of his conscientious belief concerning his own child's health.

This course was adopted the other day by the Berkeley Solons, who apparently had not the gumption to see that a general objection to vaccination was not in any way incompatible, but, on the contrary, was quite in consonance with the applicant's conscientious belief in regard to his own child. However, these blunders of the rural magistracy are not perhaps surprising. Even in Birmingham, where the Lord Chief Justice's address was delivered, the Clerk to the Magistrates has been telling an applicant that it was his Lordship's ruling that "you must *show* that vaccination will be prejudicial to this particular child." It is needless to observe that Lord Alverstone said nothing so nonsensical—indeed, the principal object of his remarks was to dispel this idiotic idea.

The Horncastle J.P.s do not even go through the form of considering an application. At their last sitting a conscientious objector asked for a certificate, but was told that he must wait till the other business was over. He waited accordingly, with the result that the moment he rose to repeat his application all the eight magistrates, with the exception of the Chairman, left the Bench. The Chairman said that he was willing to grant the certificate, but two signatures were required, and he could not make any of his colleagues sign if they were not disposed to do so. The insolence of the magistrates to the applicant is bad enough. A far more serious matter, however, is their refusal to administer the law, and if the Lord Chancellor did his duty, the whole lot of them would be removed from the commission of the peace.

In answer to a recent query, a correspondent sends me the following extract from a judgment of the late Mr. Justice Wright:—

> If separate warrants of execution are issued out of a County Court in respect of separate judgment debts due to separate judgment creditors, and the High Bailiff seizes different goods of the judgment debtor, on the same premises in respect of the different warrants, and places the same man in possession of all the goods, he is entitled to possession fees under each of the warrants.

It is evident from this that, if different goods were "seized" under each warrant, the exaction of double possession fees in the case I described was perfectly legal. It would seem, indeed, that a bailiff may take possession under any number of warrants at the same time, and draw fees upon all of them so long as he is careful to annex different articles for different debts—the chairs, say, for one creditor, the tables for another, the carpets for a third, and so forth. The fact that this is the law, however, does not in any degree modify my opinion that such a system of multiplying fees is a harsh and unnecessary imposition upon the judgment debtor.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—In this connection we reproduce the following letter, written to the Editor of *The Christian World* by W. F——, M.D., L.R.C.P., L.M., Edin., who writes as follows: "I have some thirty patients in all stages of phthisis undergoing Dr. Alabone's treatment, some very bad, so that I should not be surprised if I lost one or two, but at present I have lost none. The improvement in them is most marked and surprising. I do not think there is any doubt of the great efficacy of his treatment in stopping the advancement of the disease. It has in my hands been very successful in many cases." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

AN AWKWARD SLEEPING PARTNER.

At Worship-street Police-court a neatly-dressed woman of thirty applied to Mr. Mead for a separation order on the ground that her husband did nothing but sleep.—Daily Paper.

'Tis the voice of that Sluggard—I hear him complain:
"You have waked me too soon; I must slumber again.
I have slept for a year, but, despite my endeavour,
I am feeling this morning more drowsy than ever!
What is that which you threaten? You'll summons me, eh"
(Thus he turned on his wife.) "Well, then summons away!"
And before his good lady could answer "I will!"
With a somnolent snort, he lay silent and still.

'Tis the voice of his wife, bent for counsel to plead,
That is heard in due course by urbane Mr. Mead.
"Such a husband," said he, "should be certainly chid.
You should say you will summon him."—"Please, Sir, I did."—
"Well, that frightened him—what?"—"No, indeed, with a snore,
He only turned over and went off once more.
Separation is what I am anxious to gain,
For my husband's too sleepy a wife to maintain."

Said the Magistrate then: "I a summons will grant.
Bring your husband to me!"—"But, suppose, Sir, I can't?"—
And, far from contented, the wife disappeared
Still her husband to find fast asleep, as she feared.
Such a helpmeet, 'tis certain, is quite out of place,
Yet how can we deal with so curious a case?
Unless, as a log, we this "sleeper" convey
To a suitable berth on some permanent way!

A very interesting letter was published in the *Times* last week from Signor Luca Bertrami of Milan. It appears from it that a mediæval cope now on exhibition at South Kensington, and lent for the purpose by Mr. Pierpont Morgan, was stolen two years ago from the Cathedral of Ascoli Piceno. Signor Bertrami appeals to Mr. Pierpont Morgan to restore this cope to its lawful owners. That is a question for Mr. Pierpont Morgan himself, and it is not my business to express an opinion upon it. But it appears to me that one of our national museums ought not to be used as a receptacle for stolen property, and I imagine that this view will be generally held.

Judging from the experience of Mrs. Annie Williams, it is a fortunate thing for Mr. Pierpont Morgan that he has not got to account to the Brentford J.P.s for his possession of the stolen cope. An overmantel, which had formed part of the proceeds of a burglary at Twickenham some time previously, was recently seen in the shop of a local furniture dealer. It was ascertained that he had purchased the overmantel from Mrs. Williams, and she was charged with the theft. Her explanation was that she bought the overmantel from a hawker at the door, but, running short of money, sold it again, and there was nothing in the evidence incompatible with this statement. The sagacious magistrates arrived at the conclusion that "there was something of a failure in the directness of the evidence, although the circumstances were suspicious." "However," continued the chairman, Mr. C. J. Cross, "you shall have the benefit of every doubt, and we shall bind you over to come up for judgment when called upon." This beats the familiar finding: "Not guilty, but don't

do it again." The evidence against the woman has failed, and she is to have the benefit of every doubt, but nevertheless she is treated as a convicted person by being bound over to come up for judgment!

One is accustomed to such aberrations on the part of the Great Unpaid, but what is to be said about Mr. Sheil's equally remarkable performance at Westminster on Saturday? A servant girl left her employment without proper notice, but leaving some of her luggage behind. Immediately afterwards her mistress missed a diamond bracelet, and, suspicion falling on the girl, she was followed and arrested in a music-hall. While the girl was under remand, however, the theft was traced to a woman who had been a guest at the prosecutrix's house, and who has now pleaded guilty to the charge. In these circumstances the servant was, of course, discharged, and her solicitor asked Mr. Sheil to say that she left the court without a stain on her character. "There is nothing against her character," his worship replied, "but whatever trouble she has brought upon herself she richly deserves, for she went away without giving proper notice, and was found at a music-hall." It is conceivable that the girl had good reasons for quitting her situation without notice, and as to the second of her enormities, it would seem that this austere magistrate disapproves of music-halls, and regards those who frequent them as suspicious characters. Like anybody else he is entitled to his opinion on these places of entertainment, however foolish it may be. But for a magistrate to tell an innocent girl that she richly deserved to be arrested and treated as a thief on any such grounds is an abuse of his authority as stupid as it is harsh.

The town of Tipton has just been treated to an edifying exhibition of Sabbatarian intolerance. For many years past a poor cripple has been in the habit of taking round Sunday newspapers on Sunday mornings. He does not stand in the street or cause any annoyance by shouting, but delivers the papers to regular customers, and sells any odd copies for which he may be asked on his way. Some muddy-minded bigots, belonging to the District Council, have now discovered that this proceeding is a violation of the Lord's Day Observance Act of Charles II., and at their instigation the police seized the cripple's stock of papers. The seizure was followed by a summons against the man for "publicly exposing for sale certain goods, to wit newspapers, on the Lord's Day," and the Magistrates last week made an order for the forfeiture of the papers so seized. There is now hardly a town or village in the country where newspapers are not openly sold on Sundays, and I do not suppose that anybody but a handful of sanctimonious humbugs objects to the practice at Tipton. That this minority should be enabled to interfere with such a business—it is not in the least degree likely that they will succeed in suppressing it—is surely as strong an argument as could be desired for the repeal of the absurd and antiquated statute under which this unfortunate hawker was deprived of his goods.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give a case from Oldham Police-court which is noteworthy on account of the presiding magistrate's frank acknowledgment of the inadequacy of the sentence which the misguided leniency of the majority of his colleagues on the Bench compelled him to pass. What Lord Justice Bowen said of the judges is equally true of the amateur magistracy. They are fully conscious of one another's shortcomings, and a new and piquant interest would be imparted to proceedings at petty sessions if their worships would indulge in a little mutual criticism. After all, judges sitting together in the Court of Appeal frequently express their disagreement with one another's judgments, and there is really no reason why a magistrate should not dissociate himself from a decision of the majority of the Bench if he disapproves of it. In the present instance, the Chairman at Oldham was certainly justified in holding that the prisoner deserved a more severe sentence than a month's hard labour. Even a month's hard labour, however, was a fair measure of justice in comparison with some of the preposterously light penalties for brutal assaults which I record in the following list. It will be seen that in case after case the defendants convicted of such offences have been let off with trumpery fines, though, on the other hand, sentences of imprisonment have been freely inflicted for such crimes as poaching, petty theft, and sleeping out:—

Blackburn Police-court. Before Mr. Hamer and other magistrates. James Gaffney, charged with assaulting Mary Manham. Without any provocation he knocked her down and kicked her. Fined 20s. and costs.

Lincoln County Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Ellison and other magistrates. Harold Syson, charged with assaulting a girl named Whittaker. The magistrates said that it was a disgraceful case, and that the defendant had had a narrow escape of being sent to the Assizes. Fined 40s., including costs.

Stonehouse Police-court. Before Mr. J. Pearse and Admiral Hammick. Victor Ramsey, charged with assaulting his wife by knocking her down and kicking her. Fined 5s. and 10s. 6d. costs.

Middlesbrough Police-court. Before Mr. C. J. Coleman. Michael Lawler, charged with being drunk and with assaulting his wife and his daughter. He caught hold of his wife by her hair, dragged her about the house, and punched her in the face. On his daughter interfering he knocked her down with a tin can, inflicting a wound on her head which she had to have dressed at the infirmary. Fined 10s. for drunkenness, 21s. for assaulting his wife, and 25s. for assaulting his daughter.

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. Bowen, Mogg, Tomson, and Lyndon. Henry Liddle, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her in the face with his fist and banged her against a wall. Fined 20s. and costs.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent, Messrs. A. N. C. Hemsworth, O. R. Dunell, H. T. Partridge, and Major Keppel. Thomas Dent, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Newton-le-Willows Police-Court. James Clare and Alfred France, charged with poaching. Three months each, and a further three months in default of finding sureties.

Andover Police-court. Before Mr. W. C. McLoughlin. Four men, named Javes, Read, Jones, and Archer, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Eckington Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. F. Swallow and R. Eyre, Colonel Bowden, and Major J. B. Bowden. Arthur James Wood, charged with stealing a tame rabbit. One month.

Nottingham County Police-court. Before Messrs. A. J. Martin, J. Baldock, and J. R. Anderson and Major Tennant. Thomas Peacock, charged with poaching. It was his first conviction. One month, and a further month in default of finding sureties that he would not so offend again for six months.

Brecon Police-court. Thos. Price and Septimus Price, charged with stealing a pair of boots. One month each.

Usk Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Humphreys and J. T. Davies. Theophilus Jones, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with coming from land where he had been in search of game. Fined £3; in default, two months.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Dishart. David Wilkie, convicted of assaulting Andrew Kinnear by striking him on the face, kicking him on the leg, and biting him on the shoulder. Fined 20s.

Barnstaple Police-court. Before the Mayor, and Messrs. J. P. Finch, A. E. Arnold, R. Ashton, and J. J. Tremeer. Robert Turner, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and threw a glass inkpot at his wife, cutting her eye so badly that she still had to attend the infirmary three times a day for treatment. Fined 10s. and costs.

Sittingbourne Petty Sessions. Walter Barrett, charged with cruelty by working a pony whilst it was in an unfit state. The pony was in an emaciated condition, being "practically skin and bone, and only fit for slaughter." Fined 6s., and 9s. costs.

Kettering Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. T. Stockburn and other magistrates. Arthur John Sturgess, charged with a breach of the Poaching Prevention Act. Fined £2 13s. 4d.; in default, one month.

Blackpool Police-court. Thos. Dickinson, Frederick McDermott, and Alfred Jarvis, charged with stealing three empty beer bottles from an hotel yard. Dickinson two months, the others one month each.

Thrapston Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. T. W. Buckley and and J. W. Jellis. George Smith, charged with stealing a pork pie. One month.

Harwich Police-court. Before Dr S. Evans and Mr. W. J. Nalborough. James Price, charged with stealing coal, value 3s. 9d. One month.

New Ross Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. C. Brehon and other justices. Mary Fleming, a cripple, eighty nine, charged with begging. One month.

Oldham Police-court. Before Dr. Yates (Chairman) and other magistrates. William Mochan, charged with assaulting his sister. He knocked her down, banged her on the floor, and then jumped on her face and head. He was wearing clogs, and the complainant received some severe wounds. Dr. Yates said it was a brutal and unwarrantable assault, and deserved a much heavier sentence than the majority of the magistrates were in favour of imposing. There were some very lenient gentlemen on the Bench that morning, and th prisoner would only have to go to gaol for one month. "You are a very lucky man," Dr. Yates added.

As a rule the smallest country papers draw a kindly veil of silence over the applications for relief that come before the Board of Guardians. Here and there some ill-conducted journal makes an exception to the rule, and my attention has just been directed to the system of reporting all these cases, with the names and addresses of the applicants and their pitiful stories of poverty, which is adopted by the *Llanelly Mercury*. I can well believe that many of the poor look upon this exposure of their position as a great hardship. It is humiliating enough to become a pauper without having the fact advertised, and though I should be the last to favour any interference with ordinary reports of poor-law administration, I think the Llanelly Guardians would be fully justified in putting a stop to this practice.

It has more than once been mentioned in TRUTH that the man Tanquerey, of "free portrait" notoriety is in the habit of amusing himself when he feels in a hilarious mood by inditing facetious epistles to the proprietor of TRUTH. Here is the latest of these documents. It is interesting as being written from Tanquerey's country house, Château "Mon Repos," Blainville-sur-Mer, where the free-portrait artist is enjoying a holiday. I had mentioned that "some free portrait swindler" had lately been busy in Cape Colony, and suggested that it might be Tanquerey. Tanquerey, it will be seen, is anxious that no doubt should exist on this point:—

Yess, indeed, it is the same irrepressible Tanquerey that is now working in South Africa. It is a good field, as you know. There has been a few killed over there, thanks to Joe Chamberlain.

I have also my eyes on Russia and Japan; there will be lots of pictures to be made there in the sweet bye-and-bye.

Meanwhile I am enjoying quietly the soft breezes in my beautiful château by the sea, and you can bet your bottom dollar that I do not give a dam for anyone, and specially for newspaper men, that so kindly take interest in my welfare.

I am now working at a new scheme for the fall season, which promises wonderful results. You shall soon read of it.

I remain, as usual,
Yours truly, full of life and kicking,
A. TANQUEREY.

P.S.—Anyone reading this letter would think I am from Yankeedom, but I am not. I am only one of the cutest Normans you ever saw.

Pending the development of his new scheme and his invasion of Russia and Japan, Tanquerey seems to be extraordinarily busy in India. It is some comfort to know that I am a bit in front of him on that ground, and the last Indian mail again brought me some dozens of his circulars from various Anglo-Indian readers of TRUTH. I am sorry to find, however, that an officer holding the responsible post of D.A.A.G. has sent Tanquerey a photograph for reproduction "on the strength of your testimonial," meaning thereby the impudent forgery which Tanquerey has been distributing for the last five or six years, and which has been repudiated at every opportunity. The D.A.A.G. promises to let me know the result, but I hope he will spare himself that trouble, for I know it already.

I also have a letter from a gentleman in New Zealand who has paid Tanquerey 5s. 6d. for the "packing and postage" of his "free portrait," after all attempts to induce him to buy a frame had failed. He recognises that he has been swindled, the postage being 2d., and the packing having possibly cost another ½d. It seems from this that the New Zealand papers might usefully give their readers a hint about the free portrait trick, notwithstanding Tanquerey's profound indifference to newspaper men. I am glad to see that this has been done for the benefit of our Eastern dependencies in a recent issue of the *Straits Times*.

Our colonial kinsmen pride themselves on being very wide-awake, but they are occasionally caught napping, as the above-mentioned letter from New Zealand shows. A letter which I had from Johannesburg last week also shows that Colonists require to be instructed in the mischief and folly of the "snowball letter" as a means of collecting money for charitable purposes. The combined wisdom of the Rector, Churchwardens, and Sidesmen of the Anglican Church of St. Peter, East London, has set in motion one of these objectionable appeals for the purpose of restoring the church. The letter is in the usual form, and warns the recipients of the disastrous results of breaking the chain. However, I am glad to know that this warning has been disregarded by one of the earliest recipients, and it is to be hoped that there is enough sense in South Africa to nip the thing in the bud before it has attained the monstrous proportions of some of these collections.

An effective method of dealing with the "Free Portrait" swindlers who are at present over-running the country was lately adopted by a Tiverton gentleman. In his case a tout in the employ of a concern called the London Modern Art Company, of Birmingham, obtained a photograph upon the usual assurance that an enlargement would be executed free of all cost as an advertisement. My correspondent obtained a repetition of the statement before witnesses and a further assurance that the purchase of a frame would not be insisted on. Nevertheless, when the enlargement was delivered the bringer threatened to take away the picture unless a frame was purchased, whereupon the enlargement was taken away from him, and, as he refused to leave the house without it, he was forcibly ejected. His impudence did not end here, for he sent for a constable, and breathed forth a variety of threats regarding proceedings

for assault and theft. Naturally my correspondent has heard nothing more of the matter, and I can strongly recommend the attitude he adopted as an example to any one who finds himself beset by pests of this type.

Among the pestilent advertisements of American quackery with which a certain class of magazines and newspapers are stuffed there is one of a cancer cure—"An American Physician's Wonderful Discovery"—emanating from the "Dr. Curry Cancer Cure Company," of Lebanon, Ohio. A case was brought under my notice the other day which shows very conspicuously the mischief done by advertisements of this type as well as the humbug of the testimonials with which they are garnished. The victim in this case was a woman living at Oxford. She was caught by advertisements appearing in *Lloyd's News* and the *Home Companion*. She paid £10 to the aforesaid Cancer Cure Company, suffered for some time excruciating torture from the use of the remedies supplied to her, and never experienced the slightest benefit—on the contrary, the latest report is that the disease is spreading rapidly.

Now, the advertisement of this remedy contained a testimonial from the daughter of a lady living near Oxford, who states: "Your remedy has cured my mother in thirteen days of a large breast cancer," and the patient above mentioned, before paying her money to the Dr. Curry establishment, had the prudence to send her own daughter to see the writer of this testimonial. The interview confirmed the testimonial, with the result that the treatment was taken and paid for as above mentioned. However, a nurse was in attendance upon the patient, and, after seeing with her own eyes the effect of the treatment, she herself went over to investigate the alleged cure mentioned in the testimonial. The woman who was said to have been cured in thirteen days then admitted that she was still suffering from cancer, and that she was undergoing the treatment again. She also confessed to having suffered terrible pain during the treatment, although its comparative painlessness is one of the merits claimed for the cure, and, waxing confidential, she advised the nurse to have nothing to do with it. How the "testimonial" came to be written under these circumstances it is not necessary to inquire. All that I am concerned to show is the value of such documents when attached to the advertisements of quacks.

The following is an extract from the first letter written by the Dr. Curry Cancer Cure Company after their advertisement had been answered in the above case. It is dated from the "Dr. Curry Cancer Sanitarium," a picture of which heads the document, although, oddly enough, the address of the company is given in the advertisement as "Box 1,114, Lebanon, Ohio." The body of the letter is printed in imitation of type-writing, and is obviously a common form:—

> Your request for information as to our method of treatment for cancer is received, and we take pleasure in mailing you under separate cover our little booklet on cancer and cancerous growths and their cure. We also enclose our diagnosis sheet with questions for our information in studying your case, which we will be glad to have you fill out and mail to us with your letter.
>
> All cancers are dangerous, and necessarily fatal if neglected. A person suffering from cancer or cancerous growth should, therefore, lose no time in having it removed, and eradicating the poisonous germs from the system. An operation is absolutely useless. It causes terrible suffering and loss of blood, and when you know that there are hundreds of little tendrils running through the flesh surrounding the cancer the extreme folly of an operation becomes apparent. No surgeon can with a knife follow each tendril to its very end, yet that is exactly what our treatment does. It immediately stops further growth, promptly kills and removes every vestige of the cancer, which if neglected means certain death. We have treated hundreds of malignant cancers, where the attending physician expected death to ensue in a very short time, and have saved the patient to long life and perfect health and happiness.

An interesting comparison may be drawn between this document and the corresponding letters of the "Tuberculozyne" quack which have recently been quoted in TRUTH. Not only are all these documents alike in their insistence on the deadly nature of the disease, the imminent danger of the sufferer, and the uselessness of all remedies but the writer's, but the language of all of them bears a strong family resemblance. I take it that the writing of advertisements and trade circulars for quack doctors is part of the curriculum of the American "Colleges" of advertising of which we hear so much. The chaste style of these documents is no doubt formed upon certain classical models studied in the schools, and a family likeness is thus developed in the literary efforts of the students, like that which may be noticed in the writings of graduates and undergraduates of Oxford and Cambridge.

It is difficult to see why the military mind should be deemed peculiarly susceptible to the wiles of the harpies of the Turf. Still, it is an undoubted fact that officers in the Army, and in the Volunteers also, are bombarded more persistently than any other class, with the circulars of these gentry, and as the latter would not be likely to spend powder and shot aimlessly, I fear that they must bring down many victims. Lately I have had one or two inquiries concerning a "turf accountant," otherwise a starting-price bookmaker, who calls himself "C. B. Rae," and dates from 47, Pall Mall. In reply, I can only say that "C. B. Rae" is really the alias of one Sydney Reed, a solicitor who acquired such a shady reputation in his own profession that prudent people will give him a wide berth in his present business.

Another inquiry has reached me in reference to a touting tipster named "W. H. Bell," of Seafield House, Whitley Bay. Bell has been inviting officers at Aldershot to send him 20s. for some "exceptionally authentic and exclusive information" about two forthcoming races. "You can recover all losses," says Bell, "and win yourself a few hundreds with a small outlay." I know nothing about Bell. Surely, however, even the youngest subaltern ought not to be so green as to need a warning against the folly of paying 20s. to a stranger in this line of business merely on the faith of the stranger's own statements in a circular.

Talking of tipsters, I notice that our old acquaintance, Charles Robinson, of Epsom, continues to dedicate a paragraph in his circular to the praise of the sporting articles in TRUTH, "which will be," he says, "found invaluable to the student of racing lore and by the turf speculator." This is very handsome of Robinson, more especially as I have repeatedly explained that I cannot return the compliment. On the contrary, this "estimable journal," as he is pleased to call it, has time

after time advised its readers to have nothing to do with Charles Robinson or any other member of the tribe to which he belongs.

Last April I referred to a betting agency which was being carried on by a Mr. W. Tate, under the style of "Tate and Co.," at an office in the Haymarket. Circulars were issued describing Tate and Co. as "successors to George Silke," whereupon I pointed out that George Silke was a defaulting bookmaker. Mr. Tate then called upon me and explained that he had bought Silke's business in ignorance of that individual's failure to meet his liabilities—an explanation which I had no hesitation in accepting, for it was obvious that Tate would not knowingly have damaged himself, as he did, by advertising that he was the successor to a welsher. Mr. Tate, of course, disclaimed any responsibility for the debts owing by Silke; but he avowed that he had every intention to pay his own clients in full, and from what I have learned I dare say that on this point also he was sincere. Good intentions, however, are of little use without the means to fulfil them; and Tate, in his turn, has become a defaulter. For a time his obligations were duly discharged, but afterwards complaints began to reach me from backers who were unable to obtain the money they had won, although the correctness of their claims was admitted, and the investigations that I have made show that these complaints were well founded.

There seems to be no doubt that in a very short period Mr. Tate dropped a substantial amount of capital in this business. There are dishonest backers as well as dishonest bookmakers, and Mr. Tate, who was new to the game, made a great many bad debts. In his inexperience he appears, indeed, to have fallen a prey to a host of sharps. If he could have collected what was due to him on losing accounts, he would have been in a position to settle all the winning accounts. Being unable to do this, and having apparently exhausted his own resources, he at length retired from the business. To the backers who have failed to get what they won it is, of course, no consolation to be told that other backers have failed to pay what they lost. Nor is this latter fact any excuse for the conduct of Tate in undertaking liabilities which he was unable to meet. The case proves once more what a risk there is in betting with these starting-price agents. Here and there an office may be carried on in a satisfactory manner. But the majority of the bookmakers who send out circulars offering to open credit accounts with all and sundry are nothing better than swindlers, and where, as in this instance, they are not swindlers it is pretty certain that sooner or later they will become defaulters.

In view of what has happened in Tate's case, I hope that the Directors of the London City and Midland Bank will now take care that it does not again consent to be used as a reference for the "financial stability" of any betting agent. Tate opened an account at the Mayfair branch of this bank, and the management answered favourably inquiries that were made concerning his position. No doubt his account was in a satisfactory state at the time, but no bank ought to undertake the responsibility of becoming a reference for a man engaged in the hazardous business of a starting-price betting agent.

Can any one give me any information concerning the "Pearl Camera Company," of 31, Maiden-lane? I ask because, although I have made half a dozen attempts during the past week or two to penetrate the casket in Maiden-lane where the Pearl is enshrined, I have never yet succeeded in getting sight of him. Yet he should not be of so retiring a disposition, for a few months ago he was advertising photographic outfits in the *Strand Magazine*, and his present desire for privacy is scarcely reconcilable with a desire to do extensive business. If, however, many people have had the same experience as that of a correspondent of mine who forwarded him the price of a camera and outfit, and has been unable to obtain any acknowledgment thereof, though the money order forwarded has undoubtedly been cashed, I can readily understand the Pearl shutting himself up in his shell. It looks as if he might be a black Pearl, and every one knows they are more valuable than the ordinary variety, and consequently require more careful watching.

During the last few weeks numerous inquiries have reached me respecting the "Old Age Pension Trust," a benefit society which has been recently established with a considerable flourish of trumpets, and which has its office at Greenhithe. Several of my correspondents make very severe reflections upon the financial character of this scheme, and express no very complimentary opinion about its founders and managers. Looking at some of the names of the trustees and committee of management, I cannot doubt that the motives of these gentlemen are perfectly disinterested and benevolent; but whether the merits of the scheme are as admirable as the motives of the founders is decidedly questionable. The scheme has already been adversely criticised in other journals from an actuarial point of view, and the actuarial view seems to correspond to that which most men of business would arrive at after looking at the benefits offered by the scheme and the price that is to be paid for them.

I gather from what has appeared in the Press on this subject that the promoters are to some extent conscious of the financial shortcomings of their project, but defend it as being essentially of a philanthropic, rather than a business character. Their idea seems to be that the solvency of the trust will be secured by the contributions of well-to-do people, who will subscribe without claiming benefits. This seems to me to be nonsense, and it is better to say so frankly. Nothing but loss and disappointment to the humbler class of subscribers can result from a benevolent scheme resting on this basis, and in the long run nothing but humiliation, and obloquy to the promoters, however noble their aims and motives.

The latest papers received from Demerara report the close of a bitter and protracted dispute between the Governor, Sir Alexander Swettenham, and the local sugar-planting interest, represented by the New Colonial Company. The matter at issue relates to a disgraceful scandal which has been rife in the Colony for many years, namely, the abuse of their position and powers by overseers on the sugar plantations at the expense of the female coolie immigrants. From time to time the

Government and the Immigration Department have made attempts to check this evil, but it has continued to exist. A very bad case on one of the estates of the above company came to Sir Alexander Swettenham's knowledge. He drew the attention of the manager to the fact, and as the latter took no action, he called on the company to dismiss him. The company temporised, in expectation of the approaching departure of the Governor. The Governor gave another turn to the screw by threatening to withdraw every indentured coolie from the estate. The company moved for an injunction to restrain such action, but the Court held that the Immigration Ordinance gave the Governor the discretion which he proposed to exercise. The whole planter interest was now up in arms against the Governor, and a resolution tantamount to a vote of censure was moved in the Legislative Assembly, but defeated. However, the directors in London, who had at first supported their local representatives, now seem to have thought better of it, and have dismissed their manager.

Sir Alexander Swettenham deserves the greatest credit for this victory, and for the courage and persistency with which he has fought the question in the face of the most powerful local interest and at the cost of much unpopularity. It is not a question of private morals, with which possibly a government is not concerned. As long as the coolies are under the protection of the State, it is manifestly the duty of the Government to protect the girls against abuses of this character, even though—as generally seems to happen in these cases—their fathers are, for their own ends, consenting parties. The State has, indeed, a direct interest in the matter, for the misconduct of the overseers provokes the deepest resentment among the coolies, and Sir Alexander Swettenham attributes recent riots principally to this cause. The tenacity with which the planters generally have resisted the Governor's efforts to stamp out such a mischievous scandal is ugly enough, however specious the reasons by which it is defended, and the final victory of the Government is a good thing for the Colony as well as for the interests of morality.

The late Mr. James Payn once wrote an amusing story to illustrate the ease with which men who go to reside in out-of-the-way parts of the world slip out of the bonds of convention and propriety in which they have been brought up into the manners and customs of the society around them. Something of the same sort of thing is exemplified in what one hears of the free and easy ways of the overseers on the sugar estates. A sporting friend of mine once told me an edifying tale of an expedition he once made far into the interior of Demerara or some such place. He took with him an introduction to a Scottish planter, or manager, or overseer, or whatever he might have been, who was represented to him as a man of godly mind and a pillar of the Kirk. He did not anticipate much pleasure from the entertainment, but the place was rich in the game of which he was in search. He found a different kind of game from what he expected. The old gentleman was, in fact, living a sort of patriarchal life, with an establishment on quite an Oriental pattern. He appealed to my friend not to give him away at home, pointing out that stay-at-home people are narrow-minded and incapable of seeing the necessity of conforming at Rome to Roman usages. He even endeavoured to convert my friend to his form of Romanism, but an attack of ague happily compelled the traveller to return hurriedly to the coast. It is mentioned in regard to the Demerara overseers of to-day that they are mostly Scots. I do not record this as any imputation on the virtue of Scotsmen generally, but merely as showing that even the most austere are not proof against the influences of a tropical environment.

With reference to recent remarks in Truth on emigration and "farm pupil" agencies, a gentleman in the country asks me for more definite information as to how the services of the Canadian Government are to be enlisted by English parents desirous of sending their boys out, and apparently he is not the only person in the dark on this point. I have given the information so often that I thought everybody knew it. Mr. W. T. R. Preston is the Canadian Government commissioner of emigration in this country; and his office is the Canadian Government Emigration Office, Charing Cross, London, S.W. Not only will all information be afforded there, but assistance will be given in placing young men in suitable situations on their arrival in Canada, free of all charge, and without any necessity for employing a private agency.

"WHEN THE KING COMES TO HIS OWN AGAIN."

(With Apologies to the Author of "The Bard.")

The Dalai Lama *declaimeth*:—

"Ruin seize thee, ruthless John!
Confusion on thy banners wait,
Which, though my roof they wave upon,
Shan't wave there long, at any rate!
Thou hast thy Treaty, rash and purblind man!
Ye have deposed me—thou and the Amban—
No doubt thou thinkest thou art rid of me:
Poor fatuous Johnny! Wait, and thou shalt see!"
Such were the sounds that floated on the air
As the Grand Lama, bursting into song,
Adown a devious defile, cold and bare,
Wound, on his yak, right merrily along—
That same Grand Lama England's just deposed,
But whose career some think is far from closed.

Aye, on a yak, un-groomed but fleet,
Followed by others bearing packs,
The Dalai Lama and his suite
Was seen for Lhasa making tracks—
And, as he nearer to that city drew,
Bidding a portly priest do all he knew
Upon an odd-shaped Himalayan lyre,
Was heard to chant these lines with vocal fire:—

"Bring me the Treaty! Read the names
That are to it appended!"
(A priest each signature proclaims.)
"Good!" cried the Lama when the list was ended.
"I note the names of several once dear friends
For whom a more than brother's love I bore—
Some lives—'tis Buddha's will—have sudden ends—
To think my friends will sign their names no more!
But further talk of this I will defer.
It is, in sooth, a subject somewhat grim—
Where is my ex-High Executioner?
I leave these signers readily to him.

"And so the British have extinguished me!
And in my stead have wrathfully decreed
My friend, Secundra Dass, of Shiag-ste,
Shall be the Dalai Lama. *Oh, indeed!*
Poor silly Tashi!—poor Secundra Dass!
He has weak nerves, I always understood,
And, when he hears that I am in this Pass,
I don't believe he'll wait—*I wish he would!*

"Poor dense John Bull! He thanks his lucky stars,
And deems his little expedition done.
Methinks, though, he,
By Fate's decree,
Will find his homeward trip a risky one.
True, we are all in Buddha's mighty hands,
But with due reverence I'd like to say
That even *I*, to Bull's marauding bands,
May cause, perchance, occasional delay.
He vows, does John, he 's scored his points all round;
Does not the Tashi stand where I once stood?
But John must pass *en route* much broken ground,
And—*well, at ambuscades I'm rather good!*
Lhasa is calm, and he assumes that I
Have disappeared for ever from his track;
I wonder what would be Bull's startling cry,
If he could see me caracoling back!

"I'll boast not, for my part,
But poor old simple John,
When once he's made a start,
Had better push straight on!
For when once more my people on me gaze,
And in my sacro-sanctity I'm present,
He'll find in many very awkward ways
That when I please *I can be most unpleasant!*

"Aye, in my quiet way,
As many people know,
Though modest my array,
I still can strike a blow!
So do not deem your Dalai Lama vain
If he declares John's optimistic views
Will somewhat change when he is told the news—
The Dalai Lama is at home again!
Bull's made his Treaty—'twas his sole design—
And has with boastful laurel leaves entwined it:
Bull has his Treaty; 'twill next week be mine
To have the premature old friends who signed it!"
And with the same the ex-Grand Lama spurred
His yak (which had been sniffing round for grass),
And to his people sang no other word,
But, chuckling softly, ambled down the Pass.
(*Left ambling.*)

The *Daily Chronicle* published last week a very instructive article on British and foreign canals, which fully bears out what I have recently said myself on this subject. The main point of the article related to the progress of canal transport on the Continent as compared with its complete stagnation in the United Kingdom. At the present moment the Prussian Government has under consideration schemes of canal development involving an expenditure of over 16½ millions. Belgium has spent and is spending large sums in this way, the canals, like the railways, being entirely under the control of the State, and the latter being used both to feed and to supplement the former. Our Consul-General at Antwerp, after describing the system of canals radiating from Antwerp and carrying a large through traffic to and from Holland, Germany, and France, points out that this system has "enabled the Belgian manufacturer to compete on most advantageous terms with his foreign rivals."

This matter naturally attracts attention in the first place in its relation to foreign competition in our export trade; but it is of equal importance in relation to domestic trade and the cost of home produce to the home consumer. It was announced a day or two ago that the railways carrying coal to London had decided to advance their rates by a penny a ton. The announcement was immediately reflected by a rise in the stocks of these railways. The obvious meaning of this is that the railways lay a tax on the consumer of coal in London for the benefit of their shareholders. If coal were brought to London by canal—there is no reason why it should not be, except that the necessary canals do not exist—not only would the competition diminish the power of the railways to raise their rates at their own sweet will, but the cost of carriage would be reduced, and the price of coal with it.

The same argument applies to produce of all kinds. The carriage of a ton of eggs from Galway to London costs £4 10s. From Normandy to London it costs 16s. 8d. The difference obviously bears no relation to the actual cost of transport, and as it is quite certain that goods would not be carried from Normandy to London at a loss to the carriers, it follows that a most extravagant profit must be made by the carriers between Galway and London. This profit is an onerous tax upon the producer, and to some extent upon the consumer; and it would not be possible to levy it if the carriers were not in possession of a virtually uncontrolled monopoly. This question is of the very greatest importance to all branches of our trade, both domestic and foreign, and it ought to be the business of the coming Liberal Government to take it up.

A considerable sensation has been caused in North Wales by the announcement that Mr. J. E. Greaves, Lord Lieutenant of Carnarvonshire, who is the most influential Unionist in the county, has consented to preside at the great Free Trade meeting, which is to be held at Carnarvon on October 19, Mr. Winston Churchill being the principal speaker. It had been taken for granted by the Ministerial awkward squad that Mr. Greaves would vigorously support the candidature of Mr. Naylor, who is standing for the county in the Unionist interest in opposition to Mr. Lloyd George as a supporter of Mr. Chamberlain's policy. In any case, however, the seat for Carnarvonshire is quite certain to be retained by the Liberals.

I was talking to a Conservative friend about the prospects of Protection a day or two ago. He tells me that the Conservative and Liberal Unionist Associations now regret that they passed resolutions in favour of the Chamberlain scheme, for they have discovered that they jumped before they had come to the fence. They now find that the Associations in no way represented the views of those whom they are by way of representing, and that the enthusiasm which welcomed the scheme for a brief period is by no means shared by the majority of Unionists. Taxation of food is thoroughly unpopular except amongst a few strong Protectionists, yet unless food be taxed it would be impossible for the country to adopt retaliatory duties against those countries that heavily tax our exports. Mr. Chamberlain's appeals to patriotism have fallen very flat. If the Colonies maintain Protective duties to bolster up their own industries, it is thought that they can hardly ask us to raise the price of food or of anything else in order to give a preference to their products. Nor does any one believe that the Colonies will withdraw from the Empire if they are not bribed to remain. "If," said my friend, "the Colonies are only to be retained by cupboard love, their room is better than their company."

The aim of the wiser heads amongst the Unionists now is, in his opinion, to keep the party in power, if possible, for two more years, and during this time it is hoped that Mr. Chamberlain and his scheme will collapse, and the fiscal issue will be reduced to Mr. Balfour's meaningless profession of faith. It is admitted that the Government will be beaten at the next General Election, but it is thought that if only the Chamberlain scheme were practically dropped, the Liberals would not have a majority over both Unionists and Irish, and in this case it is supposed that a Liberal majority would not last long, and that the Unionists would return before long to office.

I asked my friend whether he knew precisely what had occurred between Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour in regard to a dissolution. "Balfour," he said, "has somewhat distrusted Chamberlain from the first. He has really no convictions upon fiscal matters, although, if anything, he is a Free Trader. On one thing alone he has developed a very fixed conviction. It is that he ought to be Prime Minister. He likes the position, he is fond of playing with politics, and of late he has taken an interest in military matters, and appears to be under a sincere impression that he understands them. A year ago, Mr. Chamberlain was staying with other leading Unionists at the country house of one of the Ministers. He then openly announced that the General Election would not be later than last June. This by no means pleased Balfour, and finally there was a sort of understanding between the two that the Session was to end at the normal time before a dissolution. Chamberlain did his best to upset the understanding indirectly. But he found that he would not have the party with him, if he did not abide by the understanding. At present there is no understanding, but if Balfour can manage it, he will hold on until 1906, and in this he will, I think, be supported, for the Unionist members are afraid of losing their seats, and imagine that the longer the election is deferred, the better chance they have of retaining them. They are obliged to profess admiration of Chamberlain, and few dare pronounce boldly against his policy, but in their hearts they bear no love to him, and believe that he is wrecking the ship for his own ends or his own fads."

It is perhaps somewhat unpleasant, both to the newspaper owner who incurs considerable expense in sending out correspondents to the seat of war, and to the correspondent who goes there, when no information is allowed to be cabled home. The former has hoped to cut out rivals and to increase the circulation of his paper by the information transmitted; the latter has hoped to increase his reputation by transmitting it. I have, however, no excessive sympathy with either, for war is productive of too much direct misery for much regret to be wasted on these personal disappointments. The correspondents, says a representative of the *Daily Telegraph*, are unable to do their duty or to perform honest work under the restrictions placed on them by the Japanese. He is only allowed to witness a battle from the distance. Even after the battle is over he is only allowed to go on the battle-field after an interval of two days.

Commenting on this, the *Daily Telegraph* informs the Japanese that they are committing a grave error, for not only would they benefit by publicity, but by reasonable criticisms which point out the defects that exist in their armies, as they, like all else human, cannot be absolutely perfect. I do not quite see how they would benefit by persons many thousand miles off having an opportunity to read the most graphic descriptions of recent occurrences at the seat of war. Still less do I think that the Japanese commanders would be likely to gain by a perusal of these descriptions because they would explain to them their errors. They might possibly think that they know their own business at least as well as their critics. I regard the Japanese as entirely right in the restrictions that they impose upon war correspondents, although I regret them from the selfish standpoint of a newspaper reader. A correspondent with the best of intentions may convey information to the enemy, and so harmful may this be that a nation engaged in a desperate war is quite right in not incurring such a risk.

Very little news now comes from Somaliland, and, judging from a letter written by an officer there, the little that reaches the Press is mostly inaccurate. He states, for instance, that the raid said to have been made by the Mullah's followers at Eil Dab never took place, while the report that the Mullah was within fifty miles of Berbera was equally unfounded. His whereabouts cannot be fixed with any exactitude, but since the fight at Jidballi he and his followers have kept well out of the way, and it is practically certain that at the time of this report he was not within even 350 miles of Berbera. There is presumably some object in spreading these false rumours, though it is not easy to see what that object can be.

THE SPORTING MONKEY.

A Traveller in far Fi-ji,
While resting 'neath a Banyan Tree,
A Monkey up above espied
With Feet and Hands securely tied,
A-trying hard the Tree to scale
By dint alone of Teeth and Tail.
The Trav'ller, by the Sight distressed,
The fettered Monkey thus addressed:
"Come, come, Sir Ape! These Efforts stop.
Thus bound you'll hardly reach the Top.
Here! Let me cut those Bonds, and then
You'll be aloft ere I count Ten."
The Monkey, stubborn, shook his Head:
"Thank you! I know it well," he said,
"But, then, I've sworn the Tree to scale
When limited to Teeth and Tail."
The other cried: "If me you ask,
You've sworn to do a silly Task.
For if your Aim, as you allow,
Is just to reach that topmost Bough,
Why, surely Common Sense would say,
'Reach it in what's the quickest Way.'
But now, through fearful Toil and Stress,
Painful and slow you upward press;
And if you reach yon topmost Shoots—
A Point on which I 'hae by doots'—
'Twill be but after many Hours,
Aching your Limbs and spent your Powers.
E'en then, by all this Stress and Strain,
Merely the self-same Goal you'll gain
As (if your Hands and Feet were in it)
You'd easy reach in Half a Minute."
Said Ape: "Oh, that's a meagre Story!
Climb for mere Use? *I* climb for Glory.

Of course, if Hands and Feet are free,
Why, any Fool can climb a Tree.
But 'tis some Credit to prevail
When limited to Teeth and Tail."
"But what's the Use? What Good is done,
Even suppose your Object's won?"
The Ape, he, pitying, smiled. Said he:
"Ah, you're no Sportsman, Sir, I see.
A Fig for mere Utility."

Moral.

When Packet-boats will take you over
To Calais, in an hour, from Dover,
What's gained by taxing all your Powers
To swim across in Twenty Hours?

SCRUTATOR.

ASIA FOR THE ASIATICS.

WAR is so uncertain that those who predict its result should take care to fix so lengthy a date for the realisation of their prophecies that people will have had time to forget them when the end really comes. Broadly speaking, the dictum that Heaven is on the side of the big battalions may be true; but it is by no means of universal application. One commander may have greater ability than the other, some troops may be better or better armed than the others, and there are many other conditions which may render the side that has the smaller force the stronger. War, in fact, is a game of chance and skill, and the one may upset all calculations based on the other. Napoleon was a more brilliant general than Wellington. He was probably justified in saying on the morning of Waterloo that the odds were largely in his favour. Yet he lost the battle. Far be it, therefore, from me to express an opinion as to whether ultimate victory will rest with the Russians or with the Japanese in the present struggle. What, to my thinking, is far more important in its effect upon the world's future history is that an Asiatic State has come into existence, and has shown that it can fight its own battles with as good chances of success as any European Power. All civilisation has come from the East. Great empires existed there before historic times. In later times, had it not been that a Frank king averted the invasion by a great and crushing victory over the warriors of the East, they would have overrun Europe; and it is not so long since a Polish king saved Austria from a like fate. But during the last few centuries not only has Europe had nothing to dread from the East, but Asia has been deemed her legitimate prey.

Asiatics are, to say the least, as intelligent as Europeans. They are as industrious as we are, and as cultured. But they have been either unwilling to fight, or they have sought to defend themselves without adopting modern methods. Might makes right. Now on one plea, now on another, European nations have either annexed territories in Asia, or imposed their will on its native rulers. When one has acquired Asiatic territory, this has been deemed a justification for another to do the same. Even when there has not been actual annexation, Asiatic governments have been treated as though they were outside all international law. The whole of Asia would have been by this time parcelled out between European States, had it not been for their rivalries and jealousies. I have no sort of antipathy to Russia. But I believe that the interests of justice and permanent peace will be best served not only by the recognition that yellow men have precisely the same rights as white men, but by their being able to defend those rights.

If this be established, the present war, however much misery it may directly cause, will indirectly benefit the world. The Chinese are individually as brave as the Japanese. But they despise the trade of soldiering. They are right in not deeming it, as we are apt to do, the noblest occupation for civilised human beings. But if a country is to be independent, it must accept the fact that it has to be organised to defend itself. China will probably profit by the experience of Japan, and there will be some sort of alliance between the two countries based on the doctrine of Asia for the Asiatics, and of their right, in all international matters, to be treated on an equality with Western nations. If by the "yellow peril" it is meant that Asia will ever overrun Europe, it is nonsense. If it be meant that Asia is no longer to be the prey of the Western nations, and its peoples to be regarded as made for them, then I hold that it is sound policy. The weakness of the inhabitants of this great Continent is itself a perpetual peril to the world's peace, for what we term the Great Powers are always lusting after influence there, and ever given to quarrelling over the booty.

The origin of most wars has been the desire of some State to extend its territory either directly by annexations or indirectly by imposing conditions favourable to itself on some other State. A weak State is always a temptation to strong States. The less weak States there are, the less are the chances of war between the powerful States. After the Napoleonic wars of the early years of the last century England enjoyed a monopoly of influence in Asia. We were greatly indignant when Russia turned her attention to the same quarter. In late years all great States have realised the importance of Eastern trade, and their rivalries and jealousies are perpetually threatening war. At one time we based our right to dominate Asiatics on the ground that we were anxious to convert them to Christianity, just as the Spaniards laid hold of South America in former times on the same plea. So far as Asia is concerned, we seem to have given up this justification for robbery, although it is still occasionally aired as an excuse for annexations in Africa. Of late we and other nations have proclaimed that white men have a natural superiority over men of other colours, and it is desirable that this superiority should be recognised by all who are not white. The real reason, however, why we and other nations seek to act on this assumed superiority is that we want to use Asiatics for our benefit and not for theirs; and we have carried this so far that we have forced Chinese to buy our opium, and in many other ways we have subordinated their interests to ours.

The latest example of this attitude towards Asiatics is to be seen in Tibet. The Tibetans have never manifested any desire towards ourselves or other Europeans except to be left alone. Apparently their rigid exclusiveness is the only failing that can be trumped up as a reason for interfering with them. They made a treaty giving us certain trading privileges, and seem to have

thought better of it afterwards. On this pretext we send an armed force into their country which fights its way to the capital against the opposition of the Government, and deposes the ruling pontiff. We add insult to injury by styling this armed invasion a "peaceful mission"—a fiction undeniably invented to obscure the fact that the Indian Government is making war beyond its frontiers without the authority of Parliament, which it has no lawful authority to do. We declare, as in another historical case, that we "seek no territory." Nevertheless it now appears that the treaty forced on the Tibetans provides that certain strategical points in Tibetan territory are to remain in the occupation of our troops until the huge indemnity, which we have exacted as a punishment for the late Government's opposition to our "peaceful" invasion, has been paid, which means, as Sir Henry Cotton has pointed out in the *Times*, until the Greek kalends. Not only this, but by another clause of the treaty we assume a sort of suzerainty over the country, which is theoretically a vassal State of China, assuming the right to exclude all other foreign influence or enterprise from Tibetan territory. We know what that blessed word suzerainty has cost us before, and there is no difficulty in foreseeing what it will lead to in this case. The new Lama whom we have set up will hold his own just as long as we are prepared to support him. In the natural course of events his fugitive predecessor will return, and either re-establish himself or plunge the country into civil war and chaos. In either case we shall have to intervene again, and make our hold on the government of the country more secure. All past experience shows that such a step as we have taken leads necessarily to annexation in the end. Meantime, our Jingo papers crow over the splendid new market opened up to our trade by this spirited policy—a market in a poverty-stricken, half-civilised country, the inhabitants of which have no wants which they cannot supply themselves, and little to offer in exchange for our wares if they wanted them. It is pretty well known that "trade" interests are a mere excuse for our entry into Tibet, which was really prompted by certain flirtations that were supposed to be going on between the Dalai Lama and the Russian Government. It is the story of Afghanistan over again, but with the difference that even a Russian occupation of Tibet, if it had ever come off, could be no menace to British India, the notion of a Russian attack on our frontiers from that quarter being the wildest nightmare, which no statesman or soldier in his senses would do anything but laugh at. On such grounds, however, we have invaded the country, destroyed its ancient Government, and got it under our thumb, careless equally of the liabilities and future trouble we are storing up for ourselves, and of the rights and interests of the inoffensive and peaceable inhabitants who have lived there unmolested from time immemorial. It is because I detest the folly and the injustice of such high-handed dealings with Asiatic peoples, that I rejoice in the lesson that the Japanese are teaching the Western World, and the prospect that the days of European aggression in Asia are coming to an end.

Naturally suggestions are made to bring the war in Manchuria to an end by arbitration. But a successful arbitration is far more easy before a struggle has commenced than whilst it is in progress, and its difficulties are increased when the stronger belligerent has failed in its operations, and victory—for the nonce, at least—is with its opponent. Up to a point, the Russians are in the position that we were when things seemed not going well with us in South Africa. The Russian statesmen at St. Petersburg undervalued the Japanese, and in their Manchurian Viceroy they had a man much like Lord Milner. It is true that the Japanese were by no means indisposed to precipitate a war, but the Russians, on the other hand, might have averted it, and probably would have done so had they been aware how unprepared they were to wage it successfully. Since the war commenced they have been uniformly defeated. They have been driven off the sea, and they have had to fall back from Korea and from the lower and most important portion of Manchuria, and it is only a question of time when Port Arthur must fall. The strategy of Kuropatkin may be the only one possible, but it has not added to the prestige of Russia. Up to now Japan has won along the entire line. It may be that Russia will in the long run be able to retrieve her position, but for this time is necessary. Under these conditions, it is doubtful whether Russia—or indeed Japan—would accept arbitration, and it is equally doubtful whether Russia would make such concessions to Japan for the sake of peace as an arbitrator would be justified in demanding of her. When Napoleon had reached Moscow, he offered to treat with Russia for peace. Had Russia consented, she would have lost her prestige of invincibility within her frontiers. She therefore rejected Napoleon's proposals, and in the end had no reason to regret her decision. It is true that she did make concessions to secure peace after the fall of Sebastopol. But then she had against her France and England, and the attitude of Austria towards her was more than doubtful. But practically to accept defeat from the Japanese would be a very different matter.

Even if arbitration or direct negotiation between Russia and Japan just now were possible, the difficulty of effecting a satisfactory settlement would be considerable. Russia established herself in Manchuria mainly because she had built the Siberian Railway at enormous cost, and needed a terminal port on the Pacific free from ice throughout the year. She sought to secure her ascendancy in Korea because her tenure of Manchuria would have been weakened had Korea fallen into the hands of the Japanese. Japan, on the other hand, regarded the supremacy of Russia in Korea as a serious danger to her, in which opinion she was not far wrong, and she wished to drive the Russians out of Manchuria, in part on strategical grounds, but mainly on the same ground that the United States object to further terri-

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torial acquisitions by European States in any part of America. It was, in truth, the Monroe doctrine applied to Asia. Russia is by no means likely to surrender the idea of a good terminal port on the Pacific, nor to cede Manchuria to Japan. She might, however, consent to Japan becoming practically the mistress of the greater portion of Korea. Possibly, therefore, a solution of the difficulty will eventually be found in Southern Manchuria reverting to China, in Northern Manchuria being incorporated into Russia, with perhaps a portion of Northern Korea, in order that she may have an open port on the Pacific, whilst Japan would come into possession of the greater and most important portion of Korea. But, as I have said, this or any other settlement seems impossible just now, however desirable. Whilst wishing, therefore, Japan a successful issue to the war, I should not be sorry to hear that the Russians had done something somewhat to balance this success, for this would tend to peace, and to a peace which I think would go far to put an end to the idea that Asia must ever continue to be the field of the rivalries and the ambitions of the Western Powers. This would not only be consistent with justice, but it would remove from the world a permanent danger of war.

A CLERICAL ADVENTURER.

In TRUTH of August 4 some observations were made upon the following announcement which had appeared a few days previously in the *Standard*:—

> Monsignor Benedict Count Donkin, D.D., Bishop of Santa Croce in Antiochia, has been appointed Vicar Apostolic of the Independent Roman Catholic Church in Southern Switzerland, by the Patriarch of Antioch. He is a grandson of General Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin and of Lady Donkin, daughter of the late Dr. Markham, for some years Dean of York.

This announcement, of course, emanated from Monsignor Benedict Count Donkin himself. I remarked upon it that, never having heard of an "Independent Roman Catholic Church" in Switzerland or anywhere else, I should like to know more of the community of which the Count had become Vicar Apostolic, and of the Patriarch of Antioch who had raised him to that dignity. In point of fact I had heard before of a Mr. Donkin, whom I suspected to be identical with the Vicar Apostolic of the aforesaid Church, and if the two were identical, I had no doubt that this announcement was a piece of impudent humbug on the part of an inveterate impostor. The allusions to the matter in TRUTH brought me a great deal of information about Mr. Donkin which shows that this view was absolutely correct. This Mr. Donkin intruded himself ten years ago into Father Ignatius' monastery at Llanthony and imposed upon the worthy Abbot very considerably. He was discovered to be an impostor, and the discovery led to an exhaustive inquiry into his antecedents, the result of which has been carefully recorded. I have that record, with other information, before me, and the whole story is curious and interesting.

The record begins early in the nineties in Australia, where Mr. Donkin, under the name of E. R. Dominic Donkin, and pretending to be an Oxford M.A., gained admission to a Benedictine establishment. He disappeared from that country in no good odour, and is first heard of in England in 1893, when he obtained a curacy in the diocese of Bath and Wells, in the character of a priest of the English Church. It was discovered that his letters of orders were forgeries, and he disappeared. He then presented himself at a French religious establishment at Glastonbury, where he was received into the Roman Catholic Church. He remained there for some little time, until he was discovered to have contracted debts in the neighbourhood in the name of the community, and had to leave, the French Fathers charitably paying the debts themselves. From Glastonbury he seems to have gone direct to the Roman Catholic monastery of Downside, near Bath, representing himself as a former Anglican clergyman, and producing letters of orders from the Bishop of Worcester. After a time some of his statements aroused suspicion, and inquiries led to the discovery that his letters of orders were forgeries, and that during occasional absences from the monastery he had been in London borrowing money from Catholic priests on the strength of his connection with Downside, and on another occasion at Wells attending a County Court summons. This naturally led to the termination of his connection with Downside. Shortly after this (September, 1894) he drove up one evening to Llanthony Abbey, introduced himself to Father Ignatius, and commenced operations by borrowing money to pay the driver of the vehicle which had brought him from Abergavenny, making a plausible excuse for arriving in this way, and without cash. He represented himself as a priest of the English Church anxious to enter the Order, and he explained that he had heard that Father Ignatius was desirous of having a resident priest in the monastery. He seems to have imposed upon the good Father by pure "cheek," being a person with a ready tongue and a very plausible manner. He was received into high favour, assisted in the services in the monastery church, and was admitted as a postulant as "Brother Benedict." He posed as a man of means, mentioning that he was a cousin of the Earl of Minto, and announced his intention of giving to the monastery a house which he possessed at Leamington, and placing his income of several hundreds a year at the disposal of Father Ignatius. He stated that he had been educated in Australia, ordained deacon by Bishop Barry, and priest after his return to England by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. So successful was he in getting himself taken at his own valuation, that after a very few weeks in the abbey he was selected by Father Ignatius to accompany him on his usual autumn missionary tour through England.

In the course of this tour certain extravagant statements about his property happened to be made in the hearing of a lady who knew something of the property to which he referred. Her suspicions being aroused, she communicated with the monastery, and inquiries were made by one of the Brothers there. Among other things, Donkin had mentioned that he had been a temporary guest at the monastery at Downside, where the monks had attempted to convert him, but in vain. A reference to that quarter elicited all the facts mentioned

above as to his connection both with Downside and the French Fathers at Glastonbury; and inquiry at Wells disclosed his previous proceedings in that diocese and the falsity of his statement as to having been ordained there. All this was communicated to Father Ignatius while he was on tour with his interesting disciple. Donkin attempted to brazen it out—he had previously intercepted telegrams and letters addressed to Father Ignatius from Llanthony—but eventually disappeared on the pretence that he was betaking himself to the house of an uncle at Tadcaster. This was on October 27, 1894. Father Ignatius subsequently caused a warning containing a brief statement of the trick Donkin had played upon him to be inserted in the *Times*, the *Guardian*, and the *Swansea Journal*.

After this exposure Donkin seems to have gone direct, not to Tadcaster, but to the Continent. He turned up in Paris in the character of a British nobleman. I do not know what title he assumed; possibly this was his first appearance in the character of "Count Donkin." He next proceded to Switzerland, and became engaged to a young English lady, from whose father he managed to borrow considerable sums of money. He was again found out, and again absconded. He next turned up in Rome in the guise of an English Benedictine, wearing the same habit in which he had left Father Ignatius. He was again found out, in consequence of the presence in Rome of some bona-fide Benedictines from Downside, and the result of his exposure this time was a sentence of imprisonment, apparently on the score of frauds upon people on whom he had imposed.

A few months later—apparently towards the end of 1895—Donkin appeared in England under a new name, that of the Rev. C. W. Montague Villiers, M.A., Oxon. Under this character he applied for admission to the Capucine Novitiate at Pantasaph. He represented himself as an ex-Anglican priest, who had been for six years attached to St. Alban's, Holborn, after which he had been received into the Roman Catholic Church by the then Bishop of Clifton, to whom he was related. He had subsequently been received into the sub-diaconate, and had resided after that time in the English College at Rome. In view of the true character of the institution in which he had been residing in Rome, this last touch is rather comic. On the strength of these statements, and forged papers in support of them, he was allowed to reside for some time in the guest-house at Pantasaph, but left on discovering that his papers alone would not be sufficient to procure him admission to the Order. His true character having been learned after his departure, a letter setting forth the above facts and some particulars of Donkin's previous career was addressed from the monastery to the *Catholic Times*, and published in that paper in 1896. The letter in the *Catholic Times* gave a description of his appearance, which may be worth reproducing, though it must be remembered that eight years have elapsed since it was written:—

He is above the middle height, and, though not tall, looks so on account of his extreme thinness. His hair and eyebrows are dark; his hair is stiff and cut close. His complexion is very pale and sallow; his mouth is broad, his forehead low, and his fingers are broad at the tips. He looks about twenty-eight years of age at most, though he gives his age as thirty. He speaks with a pronounced English accent. When in Pantasaph he wore clerical dress, including silk hat and Roman collar. He also wore a *pince-nez*. He habitually smokes cigarettes.

What became of Donkin after the exposure in 1896, I do not know, but more recently he has been in America, and apparently among Roman Catholics. Early in the present year he arrived at Naples from New York, and shortly afterwards was once again arrested in Rome on charges of fraud. I have before me a long extract from an Italian newspaper describing his arrest and the way he had imposed upon Monsignor Rey, Bishop of New York, who had been a fellow traveller with him on the voyage to Naples, and upon a boarding-house keeper at Rome with whom he had lodged. Unfortunately this extract only takes the story down to the time of his appearance before the magistrates, and I do not know what was the result of the prosecution in this instance. On his last appearance in Rome, Donkin described himself on his visiting card as "Comte Benedetto Donkin, Vescovo Titolare della Santa Croce di Antiochia," while he also used an English visiting card with the designation "Right Rev. Benedict Donkin, Vicar Apostolic, San Basilio dei Riservisti;" so that he does not appear for the first time in the recent *Standard* advertisement either as a Count, or Vicar Apostolic, or Bishop of Santa Croce in Antiochia. There can be equally little doubt that the publication of this announcement in the *Standard* must have been a step in the perpetration of some fresh fraud by this enterprising adventurer. Remembering what has been mentioned above as to his adventure in Switzerland in 1894 one can only hope that the right reverend gentleman has not been disporting himself in his diocese during the last few weeks and victimising other English people who happened to be in Switzerland at that time. It will be recognised that an impostor who can advertise himself in this way in a London newspaper after so many ignominious exposures is endowed with an audacity that will stick at nothing, and I, therefore, think it my duty to put the ecclesiastical world on its guard against him.

MADAME SUCKFULL'S *CLIENTÈLE*.

One of the most objectionable tricks of employment agencies is that of advertising one highly attractive berth and taking fees from an unlimited number of people who desire to offer themselves for it. The objections to this practice are self-evident, even assuming that the advertisement is a bonâ-fide one. It rarely happens that the "booking fee" demanded in such cases is less than five shillings; it frequently runs as high as ten. Assuming that one of these advertisements brings in fifty answers—the more attractive of them frequently bring in one hundred and fifty—forty-nine of the applicants must necessarily pay their five shillings for nothing, and the agency would take £12 10s. in fees for filling one place. This is not legitimate business, and the plea which I have had offered to me in extenuation of it—namely, that all

Special Notice.—A 10s. 6d. Dinner is now served daily at Princes', Piccadilly, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

the applicants are placed on the books of the agency and will have other berths offered to them as the vacancies occur—is obviously insufficient, for when an agency publishes several such advertisements, each bringing in its fifty or one hundred answers, the number of names on the books must soon far exceed the number of berths that the agency is likely to have at its disposal. There is no excuse for taking fees under such circumstances, and the practice is the more reprehensible from the fact that the majority of people thus induced to part with their money are of very limited means. That is the view of the matter on the assumption that the advertisement is a genuine one, relating to a specific post which the agency has been instructed to fill. But everybody knows that such advertisements are frequently fictitious, designed for no other purpose than to obtain fees and get names on to the agency's books, like the bogus advertisements of superlative servants issued by swindling registry offices. This is downright fraud, bad enough when practised on employers, and doubly wicked when the victims are hardworking girls or other poor people in search of employment.

During the last few weeks my attention has been repeatedly directed to advertisements in the *Morning Post* emanating from "Madame Suckfull's World-Renowned High-Class International Ladies' Companion and Family Agency." The office bearing this compendious title is to be found on a first floor at 213, Regent-street. Its announcements, even assuming them to be genuine, are typical examples of the trick above referred to. I have a list of the most conspicuous of them, extending over a period of two months or more. The first inquired for a lady companion "for the motherless daughter (age 19) of a well-known Russian Grand Duke, to travel in France, Germany, Italy, and Spain," at a salary of £250. Another offered no less than £300 to a lady companion "for the only daughter of a well-known millionaire, to travel in France, Germany, Austria during the summer, and in India during the winter months." In another a lady companion was required "for a Russian Princess and her daughter, aged 14, to travel in Bavaria, Austria during the summer months, South of France during the winter months; salary £200." In other cases such companions have been required for "two American ladies (orphan sisters)," for "a middle-aged American lady," for "a young American widow lady without children," and for "Australian lady and daughter"; the salaries ranging from £100 to £150; the scene of travel embracing France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and Egypt; while in more than one case there is the intimation, "foreign languages and previous experience not essential." I have heard of case after case in which a fee of five shillings has been paid in response to one or other of these advertisements without the slightest result. One lady who answered the advertisement of the "two American ladies" early in July has written to "Madame Suckfull" on the appearance of each subsequent advertisement, asking that her name might be put forward and was told that it had been done. The reader will at once notice that, having, as they must have after the earlier advertisements, hundreds of names on their books of applicants for posts of this kind, there could be no necessity for the agency to advertise the later posts at all, at any rate until all those hundreds had been offered for the place and been rejected, and it is incredible that this has been done. The most instructive communication I have had on the subject came over a month ago from the head of a governesses' institution in London. This lady stated that numbers of women in her establishment had answered these advertisements and paid their money without the slightest result. They had been promised that interviews would be arranged when the parties in search of companions returned to London, but no appointment for the purpose had ever been made. One of these ladies was informed at the office that 160 applications had been received in answer to one advertisement. The letter giving this information was addressed to me more than a month ago; yet, while admitting that all these names are on the books, "Madame Suckfull" has since continued to advertise precisely similar posts in almost identical terms, without once offering an interview to any of the earlier candidates who had paid their fees.

Assuming that all these announcements were genuine, we have here a flagrant example of the trick of advertising for the mere sake of obtaining fees from people who cannot get the place offered. But are the announcements genuine? The similarity of the advertisements, the lavish salaries offered, the needless repetition of identical inquiries, each of which has attracted a swarm of applicants, all suggest doubt on this point. The inquiries which I have made certainly do not dispel such doubts. I find that the office has only been open about twelve months, and I can find no previous trace of it in London, which at once raises the how and where the "world-renowned" Mme. Suckfull obtained this renown, and acquired the princely and opulent clientèle for which she caters. No Mme. Suckfull has ever been seen on the premises, although all the office letters are signed "Pauline Suckfull." The business has been conducted from first to last by a couple of foreigners. On learning as much as this, I sent a representative to inquire for Mme. Suckfull personally, wherever she was to be found; to explain to her that numbers of her clients had confided to me doubts about the genuineness of the business, and that I proposed to ventilate their complaints in Truth; and to suggest that she should put me in a position to state definitely that I was satisfied of the genuineness of the Russian Princess, the Russian Grand Duke, the well-known millionaire, or one or all of the clients on behalf of whom she has been advertising. My representative went to the office, but was told that Mme. Suckfull could not be seen. He saw the foreign gentleman in charge, who said that he was Mme. Suckfull's husband, and that Madame was in Paris.

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

Claridge's Hotel, Brook-street, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

and not at present attending to the business personally. My representative then explained his errand in accordance with the above instructions. Monsieur Suckfull replied that it would be a breach of confidence to reveal the identity of any of his clients. My representative replied that the information would be treated as confidential; but Monsieur Suckfull was firm, and declined to see that he had the right to give me the information desired, or that it would be expedient from his point of view to do so. My representative therefore left him.

And there I also leave him. I am, of course, no more in a position to disprove the existence of the Suckfull clientèle than Monsieur Suckfull is to prove it. The reader must form his own conclusions from the facts above stated. If the conclusion is unfavourable that will only be the agency's fault, for they have had the fullest opportunity of putting themselves right before the publication of this article, and have refused to avail themselves of it. But, whatever the truth about the Grand Duke, the Princess, the well-known millionaire, and all the rest of them, there can be no question that the business of continually advertising lucrative berths in this style, and taking fees in unlimited quantities without even a show of rendering any services in return, and with the certainty that ninety-nine out of every hundred individuals who pay them must pay in vain, is utterly wrong and ought to be stopped. I would earnestly warn all people, and especially young women, in search of employment against paying money under such conditions. Neither, in my humble judgment, is any newspaper justified in publishing a constant succession of advertisements of this class, at any rate without satisfying itself of the *bona fides* of the advertiser; and I specially commend what appears above respecting the Suckfull advertisements to the notice of the management of the *Morning Post*.

HOW TO CATCH YOUR "TOMMY."—III.

I have to thank several of my readers in the Army for criticisms and suggestions upon the articles that have appeared in the last two issues of Truth under the above heading. There are several of them which call for notice, and the following will be the most convenient to begin with:—

> While agreeing with much that you have said as to the reasons for the unpopularity of military service with a certain section of the working class, I think you have overlooked one important point. I refer to the lack of comfort and decency in barrack arrangements, the use of the same rooms for sleeping and meals, the slovenly way in which meals are served, the frequent bad cooking, the primitive sanitary arrangements, and so forth. From my own experience—and I expect many can corroborate it—all that you say as to the reluctance of parents to let their sons enlist is perfectly true. And the reasons you have given, such as the temptations to bad habits and the unfitness of soldiers for civil life after discharge, have a great deal to do with this. But fathers and mothers who pride themselves on keeping up decent homes and bringing up their children respectably also have a feeling that, for the reasons above mentioned, no lad who has been decently brought up can ever feel *comfortable* in barrack life. It is most important that this idea should be removed if the right sort of recruits are to be obtained in sufficient numbers.

If my correspondent will refer again to my first article, he will see that this point was expressly noticed. In speaking of the general prejudice of the well-to-do working-classes against soldiering as a business for their sons, I referred, among other things, to "the feeling that soldiers are treated like horses or dogs, and that a respectable lad who joins the Army goes down a step in the scale of comfort and decency to which he has been accustomed at home." It was my intention to return to this point, after dealing with others which, in my judgment, come before it, and only considerations of space prevented my doing so in my last article.

What, then, is required under this head of "comfort and decency"? First and foremost I place mess-rooms; and here, as in other points, I find that the writer of the *United Service Magazine* article already quoted is in agreement with me. I know that it is a large order, but I think the expenditure will have to be faced, and the proper way to look at it is as a necessary expenditure on recruiting and maintaining the Army on its present basis. The subject has been discussed in Truth over and over again, and always in connection with complaints from soldiers about the way their meals are served. Of course, all units are not equally at fault in this respect, and I believe there has been considerable improvement during the last ten years; but dissatisfaction is still widespread, and especially on colonial stations and in India. The complaints deal for the most part with such matters as the lack of proper utensils, dishes, plates, and table furniture, or their dirty and dilapidated condition; but I am convinced that at the bottom of it all is the use of the barrack-room as a dining-room. The same reason is connected with many of the complaints about cooking, for the barrack-room is, as a rule, unconnected with the cook-house—necessarily so, for you cannot well have bedrooms and kitchens in close contiguity—and the distance between them is often sufficient to mar the effect of the best cooking, especially when the meals have to be carried some distance through the open air in wet or frosty weather.

Attention has been specially called to the need of mess-rooms in connection with the articles that have recently appeared in Truth on the "restaurant system" of messing. It has been proved by practice that this system affords the opportunity for invaluable economies in feeding the men, and consequently for improving the variety and quantity of the food provided by their rations and messing-money. Since attention was first called in these columns to its advantages, the War Office has, in a tentative way, recognised the possibilities of the system by encouraging commanding officers to make experiments with it. But the adoption of this admirable arrangement is absolutely impossible without a mess-room constructed on the same principles as the dining-room of any hotel or restaurant, or other establishment where a large number of people have to be fed simultaneously. I believe all officers in authority are now practically agreed upon the desirability of mess-rooms, for this or other reasons. It is simply a question of money; but how fatal that obstacle is was brought home to me very forcibly only the other day. In the latest type of barracks mess-rooms are being provided. An account was given in Truth a few months ago of some admirably-designed barracks at Colchester, and one of the best features in them was a mess-room for each block, communicating

directly with the cook-house, so that each meal could come to table straight from the kitchen fire a few yards off. One would expect that, this type having been officially adopted, the arrangement would be universally followed in new barrack buildings. Not a bit of it. I had an opportunity a week or two ago of looking round one of the best organised military establishments in the country. A large block of barrack-rooms had just been completed. To my surprise there were no mess-rooms. The officer who was with me explained that there was a strong wish for mess-rooms, and they had been provided for in the original plans; but the War Office had cut them out on the usual plea, "We have no money." I wondered whether in all the year's estimates for an expenditure of 29 millions sterling, there was no item better worth saving than this. I thought of the Secretary of State entertaining Parliament with the recital of what he is going to do to encourage recruiting, and putting barrack improvements in the front of his programme. How long is it likely to be before all the existing barracks are brought up to date, when improvements already recognised as necessary are knocked out of the plans for new buildings owing to the tightness of cash? There are other improvements needed in barracks beside mess-rooms, particularly in regard to sanitary and bathing arrangements, hospitals, the premises of regimental institutes, and recreation grounds. Moreover, the question of furniture requires consideration as well as the actual buildings. When Mr. Arnold-Forster talks about improving barracks, it is to be presumed that he is familiar with all such points. The plain truth is that in the housing of soldiers, as in many other matters of army administration, the ideas of a century ago, or more, are mechanically reproduced and perpetuated, without intelligence, and without regard to the progress of the times, with the result that in all parts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies soldiers are condemned to live under conditions which would not be tolerated in any well-conducted public institution, in a board school, a hospital, or even an up-to-date prison. Remember, side by side with this, the very high standard of comfort which now prevails in the homes of the best-paid working-men except, of course, in the most crowded districts of great towns, and you will have no difficulty in perceiving one reason why so many of this class look down upon a soldier's life as something unfit for their sons.

I should like to say a word in reply to the following letter from an officer:—

> With all respect to the writer of your articles on the catching of "Tommy," it is a great pity that he should encourage the goody-goody ideas of a certain class of sentimental friends of the soldier. They are not always his friends, though they may "mean well." Young men will be young men, and all my experience of them has been that to try and make them anything else does more harm than good. My belief is that you will not get a better class of soldiers, taking them all round, by abolishing the canteen, sending them to bed at nine o'clock, and encouraging old ladies to coddle them in Soldiers' Homes. As for such measures rendering the catching of Tommy any easier, the suggestion is simply laughable.

With all respect to my correspondent, he seems to me to be putting up the ninepins for the purpose of bowling them over. The closing of canteens was not suggested in my last article, but was quoted from another source, and condemned. Nothing was said about sending men to bed at nine o'clock; but I quoted a suggestion that the midnight pass should be abolished, and some other observations of the same tendency, which were certainly not of a "goody-goody" nature. Still less was there anything of that nature in the reference to Soldiers' Homes, seeing that the passage which I quoted was strongly antagonistic to any religious element in the management of such places. It is absurd to talk of "coddling" soldiers in a place which they can only go to for an hour or two in the day, and I think the better sense of the Army is against this contemptuous reference to feminine influence, properly directed. I heard quite recently from one who has had the best means of judging a very high eulogy of the good done by nursing sisters in Army hospitals, not as nurses only. The truth is that women, old or young, can frequently befriend boys where a man is useless. The difficulty, as I said last week, is to get enough women to do the work they might do in Soldiers' Homes, and I was interested to see, almost simultaneously, a letter in one of the papers from the Bishop of Lahore, appealing for ladies for such work.

I am not given to sentiment myself, and in this and the previous articles I have looked at the question in hand, neither from the point of view of sentiment nor morals, but purely from that of business—the business of removing a widespread prejudice against the ordinary life of a soldier in time of peace. Everybody knows that you can get as many men as you want "when the guns begin to shoot." The main point which I have endeavoured to bring out is that the greatest obstacles to recruiting are the fathers and mothers and the older friends generally of the boys you want to catch. The failure to recognise this is at the bottom of all recruiting difficulties. What you want to do is, not to tempt the boy himself, but to alter the attitude of his class towards the Army. This can only be done by making the life and the prospects such that a father who is himself earning good pay in regular work, and who is careful for the welfare of his children, will be as ready to encourage his son to join the Army as to bring him up to his own trade. This is certainly not the case at present. In order to bring about such a change of opinion three things are necessary: First, to put an end to the wholesale discharge of soldiers in the prime of life without prospect of regular, well-paid employment, which can be done either by teaching them trades or by securing to them subsequent employment under Government and municipal authorities; secondly, to check the demoralising influences which make the Army to many young men a school for idleness, drunkenness, or other vicious habits; thirdly, to raise the general standard of domestic comfort in barrack life to a level with that prevailing in the better sort of working-class homes. When these ends have been gained, there will be no more difficulty in getting lads for the Army than for any other vocation. But until this is done, the bulk of your recruits will consist in

part of lads attracted by the glamour of soldiering, only to be disillusioned or disgusted on closer acquaintance with it; in part of those who have taken to the Army as a last resort, either because they cannot get regular work elsewhere, or because they do not like regular work, or in order to get out of a scrape of one kind or another. As long as the Army is recruited under these conditions, so long the supply of recruits will be precarious and uncertain; and, what is almost of equal consequence, a large proportion of your recruits will turn out bad bargains, and cost the country more than they are worth.

THE THEATRES.

"The Tempest," at His Majesty's.

I always find Dr. Johnson a most interesting commentator on Shakespeare. I seldom, it is true, find myself in accord with his views, but we differ very pleasantly, and so instinctively I turned to him to hear what he had to say about "The Tempest." "It is observed of 'The Tempest,'" says the good Doctor, "that its plan is regular; this the author of 'The Revisal' thinks, and I think, too, an accidental effect of the story not intended or regarded by our author." This is very grudging, and I wonder what "the great lexicographer" would have said of Mr. Tree's version, where the play has been somewhat ruthlessly fitted to scenery. The regularity, accidental or otherwise, has vanished, while in its place we have a marvellous series of stage pictures which begin by being wonderfully impressive and end by being wonderfully boring. However, to continue: "But whatever might be Shakespeare's intention in forming or adopting the plot, he has made it instrumental to the production of many characters diversified with boundless invention and presented with profound skill in nature, extensive knowledge of opinions, and accurate observation of life." Nowadays I suppose we should condense this wordy ambiguity into the terse phrase, "The characterisation is good," but a man who writes a dictionary must be excused when he draws on it as largely as possible, and Johnson never used one word where twelve would do. If there is one of Shakespeare's plays, though, in which the characterisation seems to me to be poor, it is "The Tempest." The inhuman tragic figure of Caliban is interesting, and Ariel is a quaint fantastic creation with charming songs, but the usurping Duke of Milan, the King and Crown Prince of Naples, and Sebastian and Gonzalo, are little more than puppets controlled by Prospero—a rather wordy old gentleman with all the attributes of a wizard—while Stephano and Trinculo are merely the stock Shakespearean clowns. How Prospero becomes possessed of his magic powers the story does not say, but, being possessed of them, all drama goes, because we know that his magic cloak and wand enable him to make people and spirits do just as he pleases. Now we go back to Johnson. "In a single drama," continues the good man, who feels that he has not yet said enough, "are here exhibited princes, courtiers, and sailors, all speaking in their real characters. There is the agency of airy spirits, and of an earthly goblin; the operations of magic, the tumults of a storm, the adventures of a desert island, the native effusion of untaught affection, the punishment of guilt, and the final happiness of the pair for whom our passions and reason are equally interested." I am bound to admit that my passions and reason were about equally interested with the result that I nearly went to sleep. It was not that Miss Kerin was not a pretty and charming Miranda, or that Mr. Basil Gill was not gallant and pre-Raphaelitic as Ferdinand; it was merely that the characters they struggled with are neither in themselves very passionate or very reasonable. Mr. Tree's Caliban is so grim and clever in its repulsive details, and withal so deftly touched with the suggestion that the "earthly goblin" had hopeless upward yearnings, that I am thinking of asking him whether he will let me prepare for His Majesty's a dramatised version of "Frankenstein." No one could play "The Monster" as he would play it, and I can see a thrilling tragedy in Mrs. Shelley's story. Miss Viola Tree's Ariel seemed to me to lack something; I think on the whole it was a fine effort on the part of a clever young actress to play a part for which she was physically unfitted. I wish I could hear the worthy Johnson's portentous comments on the stage pictures. Conscious of the play's shortcomings in the way of interesting our passions or reasons, Mr. Tree has staged it superbly, and of the many beautiful stage pictures of the island which poor Caliban protests is "mine, by Sycorax, my mother," three remain with me most vividly. One is the extraordinarily realistic shipwreck, another is the scene of the yellow sands with the sun gilding a jagged crag in the background, and Ferdinand, Miranda, and Prospero in their picturesque attire making an exquisite patch of colour in the foreground, and the third is the same scene as the last, only the setting sun shines on the sails of the departing ship, and a pathetic, solitary Caliban climbs the rocks to catch a last glimpse of the wanderers who have treated him none too well, but who yet, I dare say, infused a little "passion and interest" into his life. One more quotation from my friend Dr. Johnson seems apt here. Writing not of this play in particular, he says of Shakespeare, "He has scenes of undoubted and perpetual excellence, but perhaps not one play, which, if it were now exhibited as the work of a contemporary writer, would be heard to the conclusion." The above was written in 1765, and, if true then, I do not think it would be true now; but "The Tempest" would not be the exception. Mr. Tree was probably fully conscious of this when he staged it so exquisitely. Shakespeare may spell ruin, but scenery never.

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Milton's statue at Cripplegate is to be unveiled on November 2 by Lady Alix Egerton, daughter of the Earl of Ellesmere, and the Governors of the Cripplegate Institute promise a very interesting performance in connection with the event. "By arrangement with the Mermaid Society for the Production of Old English Plays, a performance of "Comus" will be given at the Institute on the afternoon of that day. Lord Ellesmere's family have a peculiar claim to be associated with any

memorial to Milton, for it was with the children of the Earl of Bridgewater that the story of "Comus" was concerned, and it was a Lady Alix Egerton and a Lord Brackley and a Mr. Thomas Egerton who took the chief parts in the original performances of the work, and were themselves the characters of the Lady and the Two Brothers represented in it.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE MALADY OF SHYNESS.

THE noise about McCalman's nonappearance at Hymen's altar has been echoed here. He has not been very long in the hydrographic works of Egypt, directed by Sir W. Garstin, to the destruction of all that intoxicating beauty, unique in the world, of the isle and temple of Philæ. To go to Philæ before the building of the Assouan Nile dam was to bring away a vision of loveliness enough to sustain one's soul for the rest of one's days in fighting against impressions of dreary ugliness. Garstin, Sir John Aird, and McCalman incurred the maledictions of Josephin Peladin and other French tourists who had seen the unrivalled isle before and since these British engineers submerged it for the sake of increased revenue. The portraits of McCalman do not prepossess in his favour.

I have said before that shyness is not often met with in France. Still, I can remember some remarkable exceptions. Dumas the younger suffered greatly from this moral malady. The Jewish blood that ran in his veins made him alive to the negro strain he inherited from his father. Like the Scotch, he strove to keep himself in countenance by rudeness of speech and cutting observations about quite inoffensive persons, and before their faces, too. He said of himself, "People think I am built of hewn stone. The truth is that I am a wooden shanty and am miserably alive to the fact." Henri IV., that typical Gascon, was also extremely shy, and concealed his timidity under an appearance of frank, free gaiety. Gambetta, another illustrious Gascon, and the warmest admirer I ever knew of King Henri IV., found in himself not a few points of resemblance to him. Shyness in youth had a prominent place among these qualities. Another which seemed incompatible with it was the necessity of talking to keep the brain in a state of active cerebration.

"I think, therefore I am," the famous axiom of Descartes, might have been paraphrased by Gambetta with "I talk, therefore I think." His shyness was cured, he told me, by one of his professors at the law school, where he first studied for the bar. This teacher was named Bugnet, and a man of a clear, as well as well-clarified, head, methodic ways, and a hater of hair-splitting and of specious paradox. He went in for sound sense, disliked artificial flights of "eloquence," which he called the eruptive ailments of young, crude minds. Bugnet had a choppy style, clear as crystal, and his arguments, when he argued, had a square basis, from which he proceeded to a culminating apex. He detested shyness, which he said led to loss of time and false situations and misconceptions of character. It proceeded, in his opinion, from pride, ignorance, weakness, and stupidity, and, contrary to the generally received opinion, had no backing of modesty. He used to single out shy pupils to examine them about the "preceding lecture," and force them to stand upon their mettle. This he often did to Gambetta, whose great qualities he divined. He sometimes sent round a note from the lecture desk to the future tribune to invite him to come to his private room, and have a friendly chat. One day there in the course of conversation he said to him: "My young friend, there are three ways to get on in life. The first is to have intellectual capacity. That is not given to every one, but any one can improve his talents, and, in searching well, find a field where he can usefully employ them. The second is, when one has lots of natural talent, to be laborious. Do you be so, for your innate abilities are uncommon. The third is to be simply daring. You will never come to anything if you keep shy. Take my advice; correct your shyness, root it out, and cultivate laborious habits and audacity. If you follow this counsel, it would not astonish me to see you at the head of this nation, great a potentate as Napoleon may now seem to most of us."

I had an account of this conversation from Gambetta's own lips when he stood above all others in French politics. Another old professor of the law school, under whom Gambetta studied, being present, struck in to defend shy people, and owned to his own shyness. This M. Valette had also been struck by Gambetta, and invited him at an early stage of his studies to come to his classroom. He had soft, insinuating manners, and drew out from the gifted student the story of how he had longed in the paternal home to come to the wider theatre of Paris, to qualify for a law professorship, instead of selling groceries in a small provincial store. He had also thirsted for companionship with young men who went in for intellectual pursuits. The father opposed him, and with the secret consent of his mother, who furnished him the slender savings of many years, he took a place in the stage coach, came to Paris, matriculated at the Law School, and had just enough of money to keep soul and body together. Valette asked him why he went secretly from his home, and whether he had not written to explain his disappearance to his father. Shyness, he explained, had, and he feared would always have, the effect of enforcing silence. Valette asked if he might write for him. The student gladly assented to the proposal. A reconciliation was brought about, and Gambetta, senior, made an allowance which enabled his son to study free from pecuniary cares. Valette had a singularly subtle mind, and delighted in scholastic casuistry. He remained the warm friend of Gambetta, and lived to witness his splendid career and to attend his funeral, which was a national one.

If the departure of the Russian Baltic Squadron for the Farthest East be not a feint, it will be the prelude to a singularly complex situation. It is due there in November, when Vladivostock harbour will be frozen, and

Port Arthur will be, in all probability, in Japanese hands. Where will it stay? Where will it coal? What will Togo be doing? Does it expect that France will be at war with China and Japan against December 21, or that the Emperor William will have declared himself on the Russian side, and offered winter quarters in Kaou Chow. France is bound by treaty to invade China from Tonquin in the event of that Empire actively allying herself with Japan. It would be hard to go to war with China in the conditions just mentioned without hitting Japan as a belligerent. If the Combes Government fell early next Session and a Doumer-Lanessan-Lookroy Cabinet replaced it, points might be stretched to afford the Russian Squadron winter quarters at Saigon. All would depend on the aspect of things in Manchuria. Victory has, so far, favoured Japan, and her marshal and generals are busy not merely preparing a forward movement, but in creating points of resistance against a return south of the Russians. The stubborn resistance of the starving, ill-officered Russian troops at Liao-Yang is being worked by Russian agents all over Europe and in London. The present object of these manipulators of opinion is to facilitate another Russian loan, and to throw difficulties in the way of a Japanese. Both tasks are easy, as things stand. The money markets of the world are in the habit of taking up Russian loans. They are unaccustomed to the Mikado as a borrower. The classes who have fattened on Protection in France, Germany, and other countries, are not, perhaps, terrified at the Yellow Peril, but are awfully afraid of the Japs and Chinese as trade rivals. The Russians they know take the difficulties of commercial life in a happy-go-lucky spirit. The Japanese are strenuous and ardent in trade competition as in all other forms of rivalry. These classes, therefore, prefer Russian supremacy in Asia to Japanese. Australia, the least interesting of the great Colonial States that have sprung from the British mother, is also quaking at the possibility, in four or five years, of Japan growing impatient at larrikin legislation, and calling on the Commonwealth to admit Japanese emigrants freely or try conclusions with the Mikado's armies and navies. Russia would do the same if she suffered from over-population and had still Port Arthur and Vladivostok. But as the danger of a Russian invasion is remote, the Australians at present do not trouble about it.

It is thought that the German Emperor has prepared a Germano-Russian alliance for the settlement of Turco-European and Turco-Asiatic affairs, and to deal with those of Central Europe when the Emperor of Austria's death and the intrigues of the two Northern Empires may bring on disruption there. Austria is the least intellectual of the great States of this Continent. Its whole internal policy from the death of Maximilian II. has been for darkness against light, or such light as emanates from human minds. To prevent the spread of Luther's doctrines the Hapsburg Emperors prevented the teaching of German in the different States under their sceptre. They also imagined that people divided by half a dozen or so of languages would be unable to combine against their despotism, and to some degree they were wise, if we regard their Empire from their Imperial standpoint. Joseph II., whose ideal was the good tyrant, and government by painstaking, conscientious clerks, wanted on the contrary to have but one official tongue—German. He trod under foot local customs, prejudices, dialects, and wanted to make Croatia, Moravia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, Hungary, Tyrol, and the German provinces conform to the same standard in everything. Though the best Hapsburg from the time of Max II., he made himself the best hated, and he attacked the Jesuits with indiscreet zeal without having first sought to gain popular favour or the favour of any class or caste.

The violent reaction against uniformity is not yet over. It is to be feared by those who would keep the Austrian Empire together that the accession of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand will split up Empire and Imperial family. He is to some degree a "reformed rake." His excesses brought on a state resembling tuberculosis. He then married, after seeking for three years, the Countess Chotek, a Czech lady. Francis Joseph yielded because his heir-presumptive seemed in such great need of a devoted nurse. In marrying he seemed to take out a new lease of life, and he is now the father of three children—two girls and a boy—who, however, like their mother, belong to the morganatic class. In Bohemia and Hungary, the institution of the morganatic marriage does not exist. Hungarian and Bohemian Catholics are for giving the Countess full matrimonial rights, and declaring her children heirs to the Crown of St. Stephen and of Bohemia. The Protestants, whom he hates, naturally return his dislike. He has a vast fortune and endless fads. They say at his country seat that he is prickly as a hedgehog, and that he counts the pins in his wife's pincushion to prevent her dressers stealing them. He prosecuted last spring a coachman whom he charged with having stolen a curb chain worth less than a florin, and could not prove the charge. Whenever he attends reviews in Hungary ugly incidents are provoked by him. He already manifests his intention to be master in that country and to stand no nonsense from the Magyars, or the Calvinists, who are a brainy body. He could never bring himself to show civility to any member of the House of Savoy, and he has all those years allowed the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, near Rome, to remain empty sooner than set foot in a place which is under the hated dynasty.

Francis Ferdinand blames the "weakness" of his uncle for suffering the Protestant propaganda that has been going on so rapidly in Lower Austria. He hopes to check it when he comes to the throne. To do this would be to throw that State into the arms of the German Empire. His legal heir, the Archduke Otho, is wild almost to the point of insanity, and not long ago was cuffed by the Emperor for some fault. Just now he is in a private hospital because of a severe attack of psoriasis. His eldest son, a youth of seventeen,

wanted not long ago to marry a Czech young lady, or at any rate to become engaged to her pending the present Emperor's lifetime. When he dies, the husband of the Countess Chotek could not consistently refuse to consent to the marriage. Out of the thirty-two Archdukes there is not a man of good average ability save the old Archduke Renier, who goes in for geology, botany, expositions, and is a miser, which does not prevent him plunging on the Stock Exchange. Whenever it is found necessary to send an Archduke on a mission to the Italian Government Regnier is chosen. His grandmother belonged to the House of Savoy, and he and Victor Emmanuel I. stood in the relation of first cousins and brothers-in-law. The Emperor is extremely jealous of his authority in the family circle, and at once puts down any Archduke who tries to make a mark in any line. Archdukes, he says, are handsomely provided for to come in as heirs to the throne if wanted, and meanwhile to discharge ornamental functions. They are not to be the rivals of professional men. He has banished the Archduke Eugene to Tyrol for attempting to distinguish himself at Vienna as a musician, and the Archduke Henry had to retire to Ems to indulge in his strong taste for sculpture and painting. The German Emperor does not see how these Archdukes can a little later on withstand the rivalry of his sons, who have been educated on the traditional Prussian lines, which tend to harden the grain and, I may add, the brain also. Eitel, the second, is laid out by William to compete for the Crown of Hungary, and has been carefully taught the Hungarian language, and the Croatian, Croatia being now attached to the Hungarian nationality.

M. Delcassé has returned from his residential château in the Ariège, an almost Pyrenean county. We are not to suppose from this that he sees any immediate danger of an international conflagration. He came back because the evenings are shortening and growing chilly, and he takes no interest in those shooting parties which his wealthy neighbours are so fond of. Still, as he says, events as they arise require to be dealt with carefully. If one do not watch them, one must not hope to deal with tangles with a light and dextrous hand. All eyes are now turned with some anxiety towards the German Emperor, who has strong motives for making up to Russia in this her hour of humiliation. However weakened she may be by Japan, she will still be strong enough to act as a powerful factor in Central Europe and Turco-European combinations. This, I dare say, is one of the reasons why France is anxious for the struggle in the Far East to be brought to a close, and not through the agency of the German Emperor. The Governmental organs here are full of "mediation."

The Kaiser's last speech to his Navy reveals again his burning desire to act a sensational part as a sea-king. It is no secret that a grievance of his boyhood lay in his not being at once heir of the Prussian war-king, his grandfather, and of the British sea-queen his grandmother. Every time he looked down from the terrace of Osborne on Portsmouth this thought haunted him, and he inwardly vowed to create, when he mounted the Imperial throne, a navy that would be the admiration of the world, and the rival of the one that lay before his eyes. Victoria, in having him at her marine residence, thus hatched a cockatrice that may plague John Bull. In his grandmother's time he exercised all his diplomacy to make her instrumental to his scheme of colonial and naval extension. Nor was he always unsuccessful. But nobody ever heard until the other day that he, except as a Knight of the Garter, claimed sonship to St. George. William brings the patron saint of Merry England into the memorial plaque he has designed for the relatives of soldiers slain in fighting the Herreros. St. George, mounted on a Brunswick war-horse, places a wreath on the apex of a pyramid formed of cuirasses, helmets, swords, rifles, and lances bearing flags. On the centre of the pile is the inscription: "Sacred to the memory of ——, who died for his Emperor and Fatherland, fighting the Herreros. Honoured be his name!" At the end of the plaque is a place for the photograph of the soldier whose death is thus commemorated. The whole is framed in ebony. On the corner one sees engraved a facsimile of the Kaiser's signature, with a portentous flourish beneath.

The Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg denies that she ever wrote the letter given over her alleged signature in the *Vooruit*, a Belgian paper, but admits the truth of most of the statements and assertions it contains, in so far as they do not concern the late Queen of the Belgians, whose memory she reveres. They were found in the jottings of the Princess, published in *Le Journal* last spring, and brought to the editor of that paper by Count Mattachich. She admits the authenticity of these jottings. But as she does not want to throw mud at the Court of Austria, she will add nothing to them unless driven by persecution to do so. She has only seen three persons since she came to Paris, who were not directly concerned in her escape. Her advocate, Herr Stimmer, has warned her that she cannot be too careful as to the persons she receives or the words they draw from her. The three who have been exceptionally favoured were indirectly connected with the scheme that enabled her to get away to Paris. She goes in a motor-car to take drives. At first she surmounted with difficulty her repugnance to that vehicle. She had had so much motoring in the six years that she spent at Lindenhof, as to hate the name and sight of it. However, to escape being stared at, she overcame her aversion. One of her drives has been in the Park of Versailles, whither she went by the St. Cloud-Montretout road. Armed with a large fan she took shelter from the rain in the museum, and showed Count Mattachich portraits of her Bourbon ancestors. He noticed her great resemblance to some of them, and most of all to the Grande Mademoiselle, who, though the greatest heiress of her time and so nearly related to the Great King, insisted on marrying De Lauzun, a poor Gascon soldier of fortune.

The Princess Louise is perhaps more Coburg than Bourbon in her appearance. She is fair, of almost

masculine height, has a remarkably short waist, and a haughty air when she finds herself looked at. All the frolic of youth for which she was remarkable in 1875 has vanished. Deep lines mark the corners of the mouth and seem to draw it down. An expression of morose sadness has settled in the face, and what wonder! The complexion is congested, and if she becomes at all excited the whole face becomes suffused with a purple-red flush. This is one of her points of resemblance to the late Queen Victoria. The Princess has alluded with tones of deep regret to the lines and wrinkles in her face which her mirror reveals. The looking-glass does not allow her to forget that she is forty-six, and has lived for six years a life of utter misery. She requires of Prince Philip the unconditional restitution of her dowry and freedom to live where she pleases and how she pleases. As Mattachich stood by her when every relative forsook her she is not going to turn him off. King Leopold is on a yachting cruise in the Channel. Of course he has news of her from the papers whenever he runs into port.

The burst of joyful feeling with which the good Saxon people learned of the Princess Louise of Coburg's escape has had more than one happy result. It facilitated a meeting between the Crown Prince of Saxony and his ex-wife at Tatrafuerad, in Hungary. They seemed enchanted to see each other. Their five children then came in, and the elder ones rushed into their mother's arms. The fourth and fifth, little girls, did not remember. The sixth, whom they had never seen, was reserved for another meeting. Everything points to a re-marriage, at any rate when the King has passed away. The day it takes place all Saxony will rejoice, for the Princess has never ceased to be popular. The Saxons took pleasure in her frank, free, hearty manners and her natural inclination to look for sympathy among them. The Court of Dresden is the most etiquette-bound in Germany. The King of Saxony must not salute any officer lower than a colonel.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE continual repetition of the word "decay," dear Lady Betty, in our newspapers, magazines, and reviews has not attracted the attention that it should. One writer describes "The Decay of Genius," another "The Decay of Humour," a third "The Decay of Originality," a fourth "The Decay of Conversation," a fifth "The Decay of Oratory," a sixth "The Decay of Manners," and then there are the decay of commerce, agriculture, and industry. The circumstances of their times did not suggest to our predecessors to write about "decay," nor do foreign journalists or reviewers now assure the readers they address that their respective communities are deteriorating generally.

If the English alone are degenerating in so many directions, it is the most important matter of the moment to discover the cause of this very serious condition. Is it because we are too rich? because we are conservative in an essentially progressive age? because our constitutions cannot endure the strain of modern life? or because our institutions, which are of mediæval origin, hamper our development?

The decay of moral strength, however, is a subject that no writer has yet attacked. It is continually said that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is the only strong man there is in England to-day! Of course, there are Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener, who are not politicians, but that there should be only three strong men at the moment in Great Britain, which has produced in every other generations so many, should be a most disquieting circumstance. In quite recent times, there were, for instance, Sir Robert Peel, the Duke of Wellington, Cobden, Palmerston, Brougham, John Stuart Mill, Roebuck, Beaconsfield, Carlyle, Gordon, Bright, Newman, Huxley, and Gladstone, all of whom were eminently "strong," and there were dozens of others whose names it is unnecessary to mention here. If there is a decay of strength of character, of genius, of humour, of originality, of oratory, of conversation, of manners, of earnestness, and of industry, the condition we are in would account for our being unable to compete successfully with our commercial rivals.

It is a natural accompaniment of this condition that there is always an excuse forthcoming. The Americans are destroying our trade because they are unscrupulous, the Germans because their workmen are underpaid, the other nations because we are Free Traders. The American girls secure the most desirable Englishmen because the former are rich. The American women are more generally successful in London society than are Englishwomen because the latter are more moral and less vulgar. The Boers almost defeated us because the country we fought in was exceptionally difficult, and the enemy killed our men from a distance, and ran away when charged, instead of stopping to be killed themselves. There are no great essayists and novelists now because the British public has no time to read anything but the newspapers, and that there are no first-rate dramatic authors is merely an accident.

The Americans are free and independent; the English are free but not independent. To express the thought in an epigrammatic form, we are slavishly free, and freely slaves—slaves to our prejudices, precedents, and peerage. Those characteristics must affect us unfavourably now, when, for the first time, we are struggling with a free and independent nation which is large, rich, powerful, energetic, tenacious, and ingenious. It is not Great Britain against Europe, but the United States against Great Britain, and Europe covertly hostile. America is the enemy.

* * * * *

There are two classes of mind—the assimilative, which collects knowledge and remembers; the associative, which connects and creates. The whole system of education in England at this moment is conducted to encourage those who have the assimilative mind, and to discourage those who have the associative. The competitive system of examination is all in favour of those who have stored facts in their memory, and in opposition to those who, connecting ideas and material, produce the new. In the official world, in business, and in private life, moreover, we see now in this country at every moment that those who are producers are disapproved of. In the official world it is patient mediocrity which is promoted; the able and resourceful man has the authorities and his colleagues against him. In business we discourage the discoverer, the innovator, and the man who advocates change. In private life the wit and the original-minded, the man or woman who disregards the temporary conventionalities in however trifling a circumstance, are avoided. As Mr. Cloudesley Brereton writes in the remarkable letter entitled "The Growing Handicap of Marriage," which was published in the *Times* on Saturday last: "Convention is but a game played with well-worn counters; there is little exchange of the real coin of wit and humour about it. It has been 'drawing-roomed,' and made a parlour-game, like parlour-cricket or parlour-tennis, specially

reduced to the level of the pinchbeck mediocrity who have captured and control so large a part of English society to-day. The clever man may no more make a clever remark than the cricketer may bowl right-handed to the lady cricketer."

"Show us," everybody almost blurts out, "the official stamp. Have you a title; are you rich; have you a position or a profession which is accounted reputable; have you the distinguishing appendices—the titular pot-hooks and hangers tacked on to your name; have you passed the examinations; have you had a 'brilliant career' at the University? If you have any of these qualifications the doors to success are open for you, and much may be overlooked that is otherwise regrettable. But you must travel on the ordinary roads; we will obstinately oppose any attempt to force your way to the front by by-paths. Nothing uncommon shall enter here, unless it obtains the official sanction." Marie Corelli is undoubtedly a clever woman, and the public reads with avidity whatever she writes, but the would-be controllers of our minds affect to despise her work. Were Miss Corelli to-morrow transformed by the Sovereign into Lady Corelli they would treat everything she then wrote seriously. An English man or woman introduces a new form of hat, he or she is avoided and abused. The hat is adopted by one who has authority to lead, it becomes the fashion, and is almost indispensable.

Meanwhile, there are thousands of English men and women who have the associative mind, have the gift of connecting and creating, who are like the great engines shunted on the sidings, unable to move because the "points" are closed against them. They see the old-fashioned local trains run by at their twenty-five miles an hour, and, knowing that they themselves can rush along the lines at a hundred miles the hour safely, remain where they are and rust, because those who accidentally direct the traffic of our times are conservative, and are deeply interested in discouraging change and improvement.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER had been a prominent figure on the Turf for more than thirty years. He was elected to the Jockey Club in 1877, and twice served the office of Steward. He took an active part in the general business of the Club, and there never was a more efficient Steward. In the eighties he was generally regarded as the successor to Admiral Rous. He was a zealous advocate for every measure tending to the reform and purification of the Turf, and, being a thoroughly practical man, full of strong, shrewd common sense, he never supported any visionary schemes. Mr. Lowther was a distinguished and a most influential and highly-esteemed personality on the Turf. He raced for sport only, and never betted, but as an owner he was singularly unfortunate. King Monmouth (1884-89) was the best horse he ever owned, and with this animal he won stakes to the amount of over £11,000. Mr. Lowther was a generous supporter of the Northern meetings, and he twice won the Gimcrack Stakes at York. At various times his popular colours were successful in most of the principal events at York, Newcastle, Stockton, and Redcar. The Lowther family have a hereditary interest in the York meeting, as in 1731 the then Lord Lonsdale won the first race ever run over the Knavesmire with a horse named Monkey. Mr. Lowther's racing stud was for some years closely associated with Lord Zetland's horses in training. Mr. Lowther had contemplated buying King Lud when the late Lord Zetland's horses were sold in 1873, but he abandoned the idea on hearing that his kinsman and intimate friend, the late Lord Lonsdale (the father of the present Earl), was anxious to get that horse. King Lud proved a good investment, for he won several valuable stakes, including the Cesarewitch and the Alexandra Plate at Ascot, and was then sold for a high price to go to France. Mr. Lowther bred his own horses, his stud being kept at Wilton Castle, his place near Redcar. The Yorkshire public always backed his colours, and their loyal enthusiasm was sometimes rewarded by most unexpected victories. It was quite enough for them to know that his horses were always running to win.

Mr. James Lowther was a son of the late Sir Charles Lowther, of Swillington, who was a nephew of the first Earl of Lonsdale of the second creation, the original title having become extinct on the death of Sir James Lowther, "the despot of the North," who was created Baron Lowther and Earl of Lonsdale by Mr. Pitt in 1784. He left no issue, and his immense estates passed to his cousin, Sir William Lowther, of Swillington, whose eldest son was created Earl of Lonsdale in 1807, while his second son, John (grandfather of Mr. James Lowther), was made a baronet in 1824.

Mr. Lowther inherited a large estate in the North Riding of Yorkshire from his father. Wilton Castle is a stately castellated house, which was built about a century ago by Sir John Lowther from designs by Smirke. It is surrounded by woods, and occupies a fine situation near the foot of the Cleveland Hills, and commands beautiful views of Teesdale and over the sea. Wilton was long the seat of the Bulmers, the last of whom was Sir John, who suffered at Tyburn for his share in the Pilgrimage of Grace, when Lady Bulmer was burnt at Smithfield. Mr. Lowther was very fond of Wilton, and he entertained largely there, and always had a big party for the Redcar and Stockton race meetings. He was a great favourite in every circle of society in which he mixed, and his death makes a blank which is not likely to be soon filled up. Mr. Lowther was emphatically an upright and a downright man, and in every department of sport he was a Yorkshire squire of the best type of the old school. He is a great and irreparable loss to the Turf, as men of his stamp are becoming as rare as the phœnix or the unicorn, and at the present time the Jockey Club certainly cannot afford to be deprived of the services of so valuable a member.

The yearlings purchased by Lord Fitzwilliam at Doncaster are to be trained at Doncaster by Vesey, so they will be prepared for their engagements within a short distance of Wentworth Woodhouse, their owner's famous place in Yorkshire.

It was given out that Lord Rosebery's colt Cicero would not run again as a two-year-old, but I am informed that if all goes well with him during the next fortnight he is to start for the Imperial Produce Stakes of £3,000 at Kempton Park on October 7. This is a race which has been fatal to many crack two-year-olds (notably Flying Fox), which failed to carry 10 lb. extra over the six furlongs which is the course. I do not, however, see anything in the list which is likely to defeat Cicero, unless it is Sir Daniel Cooper's dark filly Fleta, half-sister, by St. Simon, to Flotsam. Full Cry, Vedas, Pamflete, and Queen of the Earth have all earned penalties. This race is the only remaining engagement of Cicero during the present season, and as a three-year-old he is entered at the Newmarket Craven meeting for the Biennial and the Craven Stakes, but he is not engaged in the Two Thousand.

Next week will be taken up with the Newmarket First October meeting, and some interesting sport may be expected. At one time the Great Eastern and October Handicaps were the principal events at this meeting, but these two races have long ago fallen into utter obscurity, and the Jockey Club Stakes is now usually the most notable feature of the week's sport, while there is also some interesting two-year-old racing as a rule.

Sixty-eight three-year-olds are left in for the Great Foal Stakes of £1,000, including Mr. D. Baird's Mousqueton, Duke of Devonshire's Burgundy, Mr. Houldsworth's Lochryan, Sir J. Thursby's John o' Gaunt, Mr. Musker's The Warrior, Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head, Mr. Joel's St. Denis, and Mr. de Rothschild's

St. Amant. If St. Denis is worth keeping in training he ought to be able to win this race, considering that he has a maiden allowance of 10 lb., so that St. Amant (12 lb. extra) would be giving him 22 lb. Fifty-four three-year-olds are left in for the second heat of the Triennial, and I shall give a plumper for Almscliff, this race being apparently a good thing for Lord Harewood's colt. There are thirty-one entries for the Newmarket St. Leger on Friday, and a dreadfully bad lot they are. Either his Majesty's Chatsworth or the Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head ought to be able to win. Chatsworth has an allowance of 5 lb. for not having won a race value £300, but Rydal Head has not incurred a penalty for winning the Prince of Wales's Stakes of £187 at Ascot.

Thirty-two horses were left in for the four-year-old heat of the Triennial when the minor forfeit was declared, but scarcely any of them are now in training. I should fancy that Sir Ernest Cassel will win this race with Love Charm, who can surely beat Gay Gordon. The Beaufort Plate of £500, for four-year-olds, has a moderate lot of animals engaged, and Whistling Crow may be able to win.

The original entry for the Jockey Club Stakes fills eight pages of the "Book Calendar." There were 221 entries when the race closed on September 17, 1901, and forty-two horses were left in when the final forfeit was declared on January 5. This event is described as the last of this season's £10,000 races. As a matter of fact, the deductions for second and third horses are so preposterously large that the owner of the winner gets only £7,550, and unless he is also the breeder of the winning horse he is deprived of an additional £400, which goes to the nominator.

Rock Sand has been in reserve for this race, and he is believed to be now in excellent form. After having been rested for several weeks Sir James Miller's horse has undergone a steady preparation for his autumn engagements, and he has been going exceedingly well in his gallops. It will be remembered that last year Rock Sand disgraced himself in this race, when Sceptre gave him 9 lb. more than weight for age, and cantered away from him. His defeat under these circumstances was a shattering of the illusions of the numerous admirers of Sir James Miller's horse, who had regarded him as a racer of the highest class. As a four-year-old Rock Sand has won some rich stakes, and he has proved a most profitable horse to his owner, but his successes have not added to his reputation, as he has been fortunate in meeting with abjectly bad opponents, and in the Princess of Wales's Stakes (as in next week's race) he had the advantage of a 9 lb. breeding allowance. It is certainly the very extremity of absurdity and fatuity to permit an allowance of this description to be a perpetual benefit, and there should be a clause in the conditions of all stakes where breeding allowances are included providing that if a horse has won a race value £3,000 any such allowance is *ipso facto* extinguished. Mr. Musker is represented by Henry the First, William Rufus, and Admiral Breeze (the last-named colt being nominated by his breeder, Lord Rosebery), and I apprehend that Henry the First is the best of this lot over a mile and three-quarters. Mr. Musker's colt has incurred a penalty of 6 lb., while Rock Sand carries 14 lb. of extra weight, but the breeding allowance disposes of 9 lb., so that Henry the First really meets Sir J. Miller's horse with 1 lb. the worst of the weights. Chatsworth, Mr. Houldsworth's Lochryan, Mr. Henning's Foundling (entered by his breeder, Major Platt), and Mr. Neumann's L'Aiglon will all be outclassed. Mr. Faber's Bobrinski has lost his maiden allowance, John o' Gaunt and Flotsam will not run, Rydal Head has no chance of defeating Rock Sand at the weights, and Sir James Miller's colt can surely give 22 lb. to St. Denis without much trouble, this being 10 lb. more than the weight for age. If Mr. Joel is well advised he will start his colt for the Great Foal Stakes instead of reserving him for this race, and thereby throwing away the substance for the shadow. St. Amant will meet Rock Sand with 7 lb. the worst of the weights, and I certainly would not fancy the chance of Mr. de Rothschild's colt over this severe course under such conditions. It would be much better business to keep St. Amant for the Surrey Stakes of £2,500 at Gatwick on October 19, for there does not seem to be anything in that race that is likely to beat the Derby winner over seven furlongs.

Rock Sand now appears likely to finish up his career as a four-year-old by winning the Champion Stakes at the Second October meeting, as Sceptre seems to have gone altogether to pieces, and if Pretty Polly is sent over to France to start for the Prix du Conseil Municipal she certainly will not be seen at Newmarket on Tuesday after having run at Longchamps on Sunday.

If all goes well with Rock Sand he appears quite likely to win over £17,000 next year for his owner. I do not see anything that can be expected to defeat him in either the Princess of Wales's Stakes or the Jockey Club Stakes thanks to his insanely permitted breeding allowance; and the Goodwood Cup also seems likely to fall to him. So far as can be seen, Rock Sand will have only the best of the then three-year-olds to fear in the Jockey Club Stakes—M. E. Blanc's Val d'Or or Jardy and Lord Rosebery's Cicero—none of which are entitled to any breeding allowance.

There are to be sales at Newmarket next week, and also during the Second October and Houghton meetings. On Wednesday the horses in training and yearlings of Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith will be disposed of. There are nine yearlings, including fillies by Prisoner out of Vitula, by St. Simon out of Vain Duchess, by Isinglass out of Princess Anne, by Isinglass out of Sweet Marjorie (by Kendal out of St. Marguerite, by Hermit), and by St. Frusquin out of Wedding Bell. On Thursday there are six yearlings bred by the late Sir J. B. Maple, including fillies by Royal Hampton out of Galopin Lassie, by Martagon out of St. Nydia, and by Mackintosh out of Omladina. Mr. E. Dresden sends up seven horses in training to be sold without reserve, and there are some miscellaneous lots.

Switch-cap has no chance for the Cesarewitch, as she is doing no work, and I have no belief in the winning prospects of Wood Pigeon, in spite of all the eulogistic cackling about her satisfactory trial with Almscliff before Doncaster. I do not believe that Wood Pigeon has any pretensions to stay the course.

Roe O'Neill, who has been fancied for the Prince Edward Handicap at Manchester, may very likely be reserved for the Cesarewitch, and it is believed that he is a really good stayer. Roe O'Neill, however, is an animal that cannot be trusted.

Rondeau has been well backed, and she is in good work at Newmarket, and appears to be in excellent form, but I doubt her capacity to stay the Cesarewitch course, and Cerisier is another candidate that lacks stamina for this race. Lord Westbury's horse is very leniently treated in the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park on October 8, and I fully expect that he will "go for" that race.

The racing of last week was not of much general interest. The meeting at Warwick, which was a fixture of considerable importance when it took two days of the week before Doncaster, has degenerated into a mere orgy of plating, and Windsor has sunk in the same way, while Great Yarmouth has always been principally regarded as a Newmarket outing. The week after Doncaster is indeed one of the very dullest periods of the racing season, and it is not now enlivened by any sensational betting on the autumn handicaps.

Ayr, which is the most important meeting in Scotland, was fairly successful, and much satisfaction was expressed at the report that there is to be a new course, the present one being very bad indeed. Fusilier was made a great favourite for the West of Scotland Foal Stakes, but Mr. Douglas Baird's colt was beaten by a head, after a fine finish, by Mr. Baird Hay's Dhulochan, who had the better of the weights. One Away won the

Stewards' Plate in a canter, and he was heavily backed, although at the finish Cauld Blast was in better demand. On Thursday the Ayrshire Handicap was won very easily by Captain Kettle, who started favourite, and an objection for crossing by the rider of Powder Puff was overruled. Mr. Douglas Baird won the County Cup with Leucadia, who gave Gavello 16 lb. and a clever beating. It would be difficult to estimate the amount of weight which would bring Pretty Polly and Leucadia together. On Friday King's Birthday and Kilglass were equal favourites for the Ayr Gold Cup, and Lord Howard de Walden's horse was beaten by a neck. The victory of Kilglass would have been very appropriate, as his owner is one of the territorial magnates of the county, and possesses a great deal of very valuable property in and round Kilmarnock which belonged to the late Lady Ossington for her life.

Zinfandel, who could not have lost the Doncaster Cup if all had gone well with him, is again in work, and it may be hoped that this unlucky horse will be all right for his autumn engagements, which include the £1,000 race at Sandown Park on October 21, and the Limekiln Stakes and Jockey Club Cup at the Houghton meeting.

Delaunay had better be left alone for the Cambridgeshire until after the race for the Cesarewitch. Apart from other considerations, this colt is likely in any case to see a longer price when the betting widens out, for at present it is on a most limited scale, in spite of the elaborate reports in the daily papers.

Entries close next Tuesday for the Newmarket Stakes for 1906. This is a race for now yearlings, and the pecuniary conditions are certainly not inviting, these being a sweepstakes of £50 each, £20 forfeit *to the fund*, with £1,500 added. Owners do not care for races where the forfeit goes to the fund, and they would be moon-calves indeed if they were generous patrons of such events.

The Jockey Club Stakes for 1907 was to close last Tuesday, and as the entries have not been published in the "Calendar," it is probable that the race did not fill. Two hundred entries were asked for. Apparently several other events at Newmarket which had been advertised have failed to obtain the required number of entries, notably the Lowther Stakes for next year, and the Craven Stakes for 1906. Nobody can be surprised at the failure of such events at Newmarket to meet with adequate patronage, for the pecuniary conditions are usually most idiotic.

The autumn meeting of the Monmouthshire County Race Club will take place at Monmouth on October 26 and 27, and on the former date a race ball will be held at the Rolls Hall.

The last ball in first-class cricket has been bowled, and the first ball in a four-day match in first-class English cricket has been played. The dear old English weather beat the players, and by reason of the wet the match between Lancashire, assisted by two Australians, and the Rest of England resulted in a draw. In the match there was some brilliant fielding, and the one-handed catch by which Jessop took Tyldesley on the pavilion rails at the Oval will not be forgotten. With the conclusion of this match the first-class batting and bowling averages are published. These are indeed a catalogue of useless information. And yet, I suppose, the cricketer is delighted to find his name in the list. In the list of batsmen there are 242 names. There is no need to count them up. You take a foot rule and measure them off. Every average is carried out to two places of decimals, and by these decimal fractions are men separated. Top of the list is Ranjitsinhji with an average of 74.17. Last and wooden spoon is Lockwood with 10. How are the mighty fallen! After that no further batting averages are given, and no player is in the list who has played less than eight innings. There are twenty-three batsmen with an average of 40 runs or over, and of these sixteen are Gentlemen. Hayward has the highest aggregate. He has scored 3,170 runs, and he has played 63 innings. Hayes comes next with 58 innings, and then Denton with 55, Tunnicliffe and King 51, and Vine and Hirst 50. No amateur has played fifty innings; the highest is Spooner with 46. The bowlers are limited to those who have taken 10 wickets. There are about 115 names, beginning with Huddleston with 12 wickets for under 12 runs apiece, and winding up with Mead as last on the list, whose 52 wickets cost him just over 48 runs each. Another grievous fall of a cricketing celebrity.

Taking into consideration the players who batted on fewer occasions, it may be roughly said that some three hundred persons took part in first-class cricket, and fully 50 per cent. bowled at one time or another. It is a singular fact that no players are bracketed. The decimals give a difference. In looking through the list a single instance shows how popular notions are apt to be upset. One continually hears that J. Gunn is worth a place in any team because of his all-round play. It is said, too, that Rhodes was a bowler, but now he is trying to be a bat, and well—a significant shrug of the shoulders indicates that he is scarcely sure of a place in a representative match. The average tables work out in this way. Rhodes has played 47 innings and he has an average of 35.74. He has bowled 1,197 overs, which is more than any other bowler except Cox, and he has taken 131 wickets at an average of 21.92. Gunn has bowled 1,115 overs, and his 123 wickets have each cost 25.27 runs, while his 43 innings have averaged 30.62. Rhodes was four times and Gunn three times not out. It would seem that Rhodes is almost an all round player of some degree of excellence. By the way, those who think so little of the South Africans may like to know that Tancred is among the first twenty batsmen, and that Schwarz with 65 wickets and Kotze 121 wickets, are ahead of all the amateur bowlers except young Crawford. Schwarz is fifth in the list. I believe he discovered his ability as a bowler while practising at the nets at Oxford. And so, no more about cricket for many long months. Then the Australians will be here again and the strenuous endeavours of first-class county matches may be increased by the presence of Northampton in the list.

With solemn rites the expiration of the Dunlop, Welch, and Bartlett tyre patents has been celebrated. It scarcely seems possible that in fourteen years the bicycle craze has come and gone, and the machine has found its proper position in the world as a necessary to all classes of society. It only seems yesterday that the first crude tyres were used, and laughed at by the London crowd when seen on a grass track. But then it was opined that for racing on grass they were bound to succeed. Very soon it was seen that with the Welch and Bartlett coverings the Dunlops had come to stay for all purposes. The veterinary surgeon who designed the original tube to save vibration, and with no notion that pace would be increased, had become world famous. Then came the cycling boom. Every fad was exploited, and inflated companies were floated. Then came the crash. The small makers broke the high prices of bicycles. The mouse was killing the lion trusts. Then the trusts put cheaper machines on the market, and the small man and the small companies found their occupation, except as repairers, gone. As time went on, the price of tyres gradually went down. For good bicycle tyres the price has very nearly reached bottom level, although this has not been the case with motor tyres, where the fall in price will be of advantage to motorists next year. Meanwhile there is every prospect of bicycles becoming cheaper. Excellent machines have been put on the market this year at ten guineas. There is every probability that equally good machines will be available at an early date at about eight guineas. Those who need a bicycle, either for recreation or business—and in the latter class I include those innumerable folk who in country districts use machines

for the purposes of every-day private life—will not grudge an average expenditure of two or three guineas a year on bicycles. After two or three seasons' wear they will sell their machines for three or four pounds, and the balance for a new machine will not be a heavy outlay. For a cheap machine, which, with ordinary care, will last a couple of seasons, and not need the repairer's care, there is bound to be a big market. It is in this direction that the attention of manufacturers will be turned. Even then I do not envy the original shareholders in the over-capitalised cycling companies.

I suppose I ought to have gone into ecstasies because a first division football league match was played in London. But, having regard to the form displayed by the Southern League I was not very much moved. Woolwich Arsenal have yet to win their first match in the first division of the League. Judging by some of the twaddle that is written in the papers one would imagine that the Arsenal is engaged in an almost superhuman task in tackling the first division clubs. We are told that if the players and their employers realise that they are set no impossible tasks they will soon find the team victorious. Of course, all this nonsense has to be written to keep up the prestige of the League football.

MAMMON.

Stock Exchange Business Better—Influence of Cheap Money—A More Confident Feeling—Investment Buying—Markets and the War—Home and Canadian Railways—South American "Rubbish."

BUSINESS in stocks and shares is not on a good scale, and it is very partially distributed; but there is a material improvement to be noticed, after the stagnation of the preceding weeks of the August dog-days, and appearances point to a gradual increase. Cheap money and the prospects of relatively easy rates throughout the winter—with, it may be, no advance in the Bank rate above its present level of 3 per cent.—have brought about a distinctly more cheerful sentiment, and but for the war in the East we might now be well on the way to really active conditions, following a restoration of confidence and a partial recovery, at least, from the fit of financial depression from which the country has suffered for so long a time. Even with the war, there ought to be a quiet, steady, improvement in business from now onwards, and it will be surprising if this promise is not fulfilled, although the varying fortunes of the combatants must keep it in check, and may possibly induce occasional setbacks. It will not be possible to withstand long the warming influences of easy money: it means that more cash is available, and when a man can borrow at low rates he is tempted the more to speculate. The intrinsic position of the markets is mostly sound; Americans, while they are about the liveliest, are at the same time easily the most dangerous. They will give you an exciting run for your money, and with luck on your side you will come out with a profit more or less handsome; but my objection to Yankees is that you have to play the game in the dark, and that you are not permitted to see for yourself any of the moves in order to secure a clue. I very much doubt if they will ever become quite so active as they used to be some years ago, because the English people realise the situation, and have several other markets which give a chance of a fair profit without anything like the same risk of a loss. When we again have more money than we know what to do with, as we had eight or nine years ago, we may turn again to Americans as an outlet for some of it, but not before. It is satisfactory to note a revival in Home Railways, which had been badly depressed for several weeks, and it will be still more gratifying to find the public taking better advantage of the bargains which the market has to offer. Canadian Railways, too, are on the up-grade again, the favourable reports as to the harvest being a substantial aid; and Argentine Railways are prominent in anticipation of the dividend season, now imminent. The Continent is not worrying itself much about the war. It awaits the issue in repose, and positively refuse to develop weakness on reports telling of the fall of Port Arthur. A feature of this department during the week has been the activity in the stocks of the Central and South American Republics. Peruvians and Uruguays possess merits which can be gauged with some accuracy, but frankly I see no merit whatever in buying the bonds of such rascally States as Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Venezuela; and, to hear the talk that is indulged in, one might imagine that every one of them was about to return to honest courses, just in order to spite the Council of Foreign Bondholders, and compel it to give up business. The Germans and the Dutch like these "rubbish" bonds, imagining fondly that they get a good deal for their money from them. It is best to leave them to their illusions.

Money Very Easy—Supplies Over-abundant—Discounts Weak—Berlin Exchange—Bank's Strong Position—Autumn Drain.

Two or three important calls on new capital issues were due this week, and the £2,500,000 of new Treasury bills had to be paid for. The market, however, was able to meet these obligations without turning a hair, and loans have been obtainable at 1 to 1½ per cent. over the night and at 1½ to 1¾ per cent. for a week. Cash is, in fact, superabundant, and as the inquiry is moderate it is difficult sometimes to find employment for the sum available. In these circumstances the weakness of discounts is natural, and although towards the end the Berlin exchange has weakened to a point which has encouraged a renewed demand for gold for export, rates are easy, fine three months bills being taken at 2 5-16 per cent. The position of the Bank of England is quite exceptionally strong. The reserve has been increased to £28,486,181 by the return of notes and gold from circulation to the amount of £978,373, and this total is larger than at any time since April, 1897. The ratio to liabilities, too, is nearly 1½ per cent. higher at 58½ per cent., the record since August, 1896. The stock of coin and bullion is £38,153,000, a figure not exceeded since July, 1902; and the gold now on the way to this country amounts to £3,526,000, of which £2,100,000 is coming from India.

Consols Lag, Despite Cheap Money—Impending Gilt-edged Issues—Local Loans and Water Stocks—Paris Buying—A Sharp Recovery in Japanese—Italians and the Heir—South Americans—"Rubbish" in Request.

Consols have not responded so promptly and so completely as might have been expected from the pronounced ease of the Money Market, and, after hardening at the beginning of the week, they have since gone back and stand now in much the same place as when I wrote last. When the Funds fail to benefit by cheap money it is not necessary to go far for an explanation, and that explanation almost always is to be found in a forthcoming issue of gilt-edged stock. Advantage will be taken of the present favourable conditions to place the balance of Water Board stock to the amount of two millions or more, and it is probable that in another few days we shall be treated to a further issue of Local Loans stock, probably to the amount of three millions, although at the last moment rumour says that it has been postponed. Small wonder that, with the Government hungering to place loans on the slightest indications of monetary ease, Consols should hang fire. They are not allowed a fair chance, and although they possess merits which are shared with no other stocks whatever, the ordinary investor has to contrast them and the yield they give

with the return obtainable upon other Government issues, virtually on the same footing, and bringing in ⅜ or ½ per cent. more. The existing Local Loans stock has gone back on the talk of a new issue, and Water stock is also lower, but the rest of the gilt-edged group keeps fairly firm. Foreigners have been helped by steady support from Paris, which centre resolutely refuses to be frightened by stories of the fall of Port Arthur and the other "scare-head" inventions of the halfpenny Press. Russian bonds have been firm on more inspired support, added to the buying back by "Bears" at the settlement. Japanese were flat for the better part of the week; "Bulls" who had bought in the fond belief that Liao-yang meant the beginning of the end of the war displayed a really indecent haste in getting out when their prognostications were made ridiculous by events, and the "Bears" by that same token were encouraged to make sales. The "Bull" commitments are now small, the "Bear" commitments large; and towards the end of the week, when a rumour was in circulation that Port Arthur had fallen, the "Bears" received a twisting such as they have not had for a considerable time past, and the Fours in particular have had a smart recovery. At the same time investors ought to understand that this activity in Japanese bonds is the outcome of professional operations alone, and that, as the war is not likely to be concluded for some time to come, the present is not a good moment to buy, since the country will be forced before long to come to London for more of the sinews of war. Paris favourites are better, including Italian Rentes, the strength of which has been increased sympathetically by the birth of an heir to the throne. South Americans have been unusually prominent, not the standard bonds—Argentines, Brazilians, and Chilians—so much as the second and third rate descriptions. Uruguays have enjoyed a smart recovery on the death of the insurgent leader and the brighter prospect of peace in the country; and after a sharp spell of profit-taking Peruvian Corporation issues are being bought again, in anticipation of the next dividend, the Preference stock being once again the most prominent. For some reasons—inexplicable save on the hypothesis that they take the fit sporadically—Continental speculators have been picking up such "rubbish" as Venezuelans, Colombians, Costa Ricas, and even Honduras bonds.

HOME RAILWAYS IMPROVE—BEARS' FIDGETING—PREPARING FOR THE PUBLIC—IMPROVED EARNINGS—THE INFLUENCE OF EASY MONEY—NORTH BRITISH NEW CAPITAL—COAL FREIGHTS—DOVER "A"—SCOTCH RAILWAY REPORTS.

A distinctly better feeling has come over the Home Railway market. Stock is scarce, from which it is clear that investors that hold Railway Ordinary stocks have put them away for considerably higher prices, being contented with dividends in the meantime. The traffics for the most part make a more satisfactory showing than was the case a few weeks ago, when very dismal talk was being indulged in concerning the immediate future, and the pronounced ease in money has been a strengthening influence. In anticipation of an improved public inquiry before long, the dealers are anxious to have more stock on their books, and are bidding with some freedom, frightening the "Bears." In the circumstances the recovery in values has been marked, and it is probable that a further improvement will be registered, especially if the market's hopes of an early return of the investor come to be realised. The outlook is not all rose-coloured, of course, but it is better, and there is something to be said for a higher range of prices if only on the score of the high yields, which will not be long obtainable with money rates round about 1½ or 1¾ per cent. Railways are still out of favour, investors not having regained full confidence after the drop in dividends of three years ago and the evidences of directorial ineptitude then revealed. But for the Companies it must be said that they have benefited by the rather brutal criticism to which their working methods were subjected: they have shown that they can work traffic more economically without any sacrifice of inefficiency, they have reduced their capital expenditure, and they have cheap fuel and materials in their favour once more. Taken all round, as I pointed out some little time ago, the English Companies did better for the half-year to June than had been generally anticipated of them; and the North British is the only Scotch line whose results to July fell below expectations; and even the North British report presents compensating features. The announcement of a new issue of 4 per cent. Convertible Preference stock by this Company to the amount of £1,026,000 did not look encouraging, but as it will be used to repay bank advances it may cost the Company less than it has to pay at present. The issue seemed a "Bear" point at first, and there was much selling from the North on advance news regarding it, but the running off of the contango rate from 1s. 6d. to 1s. shows that it has not been easy to get back the stock for delivery, and there has been a sharp recovery in the price. Other Scotch stocks have hardened, the general conditions and the satisfactory reports leading to some professional support. The "heavy" stocks are harder, responding to the good influence of easy-money rates, coupled in the case of the North-Western and the Midland, with an advance of 1d. per ton in the charge for carrying coal. The agreement on this head is shared with the Great Central, Great Eastern, and Great Northern Companies, and as the quantity of coal conveyed over the various lines is very large, their mineral receipts are likely to benefit substantially. Southern stocks, after starting the week badly by reason of the poor weather, have since hardened, and Dover A in particular is being taken in hand. There are a number of better stocks in the market than this, but as a speculative favourite it has displaced Brighton A, and the price has fallen 6 points or more from the highest of this year, while the joint Company is doing fairly well. Personally, I do not regard Dover A as at all cheap at 58½, but actual merits have little to do with movements in it, and as a speculative purchase now it is interesting and promising. York Deferred possesses much more merit, and that also seems good for an early appreciation. Great Easterns are helped by the agreement above referred to, and "Leeds" has been bought because the earnings now are relatively satisfactory and trade prospects in Lancashire are brighter. Underground stocks keep firm and City and South Londons have maintained their recent recovery, but Central Londons are dull. My table of movements follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price. Sept. 10.	Price. Sept. 16.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	78	77½	77½	76½ xd	+ ½
Do. Def.	32⅜	28⅝	28⅝	30¼ xd	+2⅝
City and S. London	59	45	45	46	+1
Central London	99	86½	87	86	-1
Great Central '94 Pref.	46¼	—	43¼	43¼	—
Do. "B"	24½	23½	23⅝	24½	+ ⅜
Do. "A"	14	13⅜	13½	14½	+ ⅝
Great Eastern	90	86½	86½	87½	+1½
Great Northern Pref.	99¾	100¼	100	100¼	—
Do. Def	40¼	38⅜	38⅝	39¾	+1
Great Western	136	136½	137	137½	+ ½
Hull and Barnsley	41½	35	35	35½	+ ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	96½	97	99	+ 2
London and Brighton "A"	114	117½	118	118½	+ ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅜	13¼	13⅜	15 11/16	+ 5/16
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	93	97	97	97½	+ ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	61¼	63	63	63	—
London and North-Western	156	146¾	147	148½	+1½
London and South-Western Def.	54	50	50½	52	+ 1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	83	94	94½	94½	+ ½
Metropolitan District	38	38½	38⅜	38½	- ⅛
Midland Pref.	68½	67½	67½	67	- ½
Do. Def.	67	61½	61½	63	+ 1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78¼	77½	77	78	+1
Do. Def.	43⅜	43⅜	42⅝	44½	+1⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	142½	135⅜	135½	137½	+2
South-Eastern "A"	55	58	58⅜	59⅜	+1

The report of the North British Railway to July shows an increase in earnings of £10,979, accompanied by a decrease of £1,701 in expenses, and as a result the Company is only able to maintain its last year's rate on the Deferred stock, though it carries forward nearly

twice as much. The traffics were underestimated by only £3,000, and the savings were much below expectations, thanks to a rise of £9,636 in rates and taxes. The ordinary traffic receipts of the Highland Railway show an improvement of about £4,000, chiefly contributed by parcels, goods, and minerals. The fact that the gross income exhibits a decline is simply due to the inclusion in last year's revenue of an unusual payment of over £7,000 in settlement of the Forth and Tay Bridges bonus mileages suspense accounts. There is an extra payment in respect of the past six months in settlement of the tourist traffic suspense account, but the amount is only about £2,000. The large saving of £13,400 in working expenses is also not to be entirely explained by a lowering of normal charges. Over £9,000 of it, indeed, is represented by there being no Parliamentary costs and by capital account not being relieved of the expense of three locomotives. From the table below will be seen the traffic position of the chief Companies for the half-year to date:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 259	+ 659	+ 8,785
Caledonian	+ 433	− 2,584	− 8,255
Great Central	+ 3,606	+ 2,027	+ 5,885
Great Eastern	+ 2,200	+ 4,100	− 2,500
Great Northern	+ 1,266	+ 605	− 28,628
Great Western	+ 600	+ 5,100	− 6,300
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 1,701	− 5,410	+ 16,123
London and North-Western	− 4,000	− 9,000	− 59,000
London and South-Western	+ 2,600	+ 2,200	+ 2,000
Midland	− 6,448	− 4,255	− 106,387
North British	+ 1,107	− 268	− 8,855
North-Eastern	+ 1,843	− 3,302	− 7,326
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 1,357	+ 915	+ 13,388

Americans Active—Manipulation of Specialties—What about the Public?—Bad Crop Reports and Poor Bank Statements—Looking for the "Lambs."

Americans have again been the most active market in all the House, and in the earlier part of the week prices went ahead quite gaily—prices of specialties at all events. Towards the end, however, there has been a substantial reaction, which is not to be wondered at considering the unwieldy size of the "Bull" position which has been built up, and the very artificial character of the whole movement. There is no English public worth speaking of, and, from what one reads in the cables, there is little nibbling by the American public either. "Dealings," I read again, "were almost entirely professional, and there were evidences of considerable manipulation. Good selling was recorded everywhere, on any real broadening of the market; but I think that the big professional interests are working to maintain the present level of prices, if possible." No doubt, and so long as money continues very cheap, they can go on persevering, and can afford to send over buying orders to London, to encourage the belief that the Britisher is at length awakening to the attractions of the market. To any one who knows how little real buying results from the loud shouting in the Yankee section, and whence that buying emanates, it is a trifle ludicrous to learn from New York that "London was a big buyer." London is a big buyer of nothing, least of all Americans; it realises that the foundation of the movement is weak, and that, unless strongly underpinned by the public, it must soon collapse. The public has frequently obliged the "bosses," but it looks as though it had learned much from the experience of the past year or two. The American is well in funds, but when it takes up stocks it prefers those which are secured by mortgage—which, if they have in them less possibilities of appreciation, have also none of the possibilities of depreciation, and give a steady return upon an investment. The spectacle is not without its interesting side. Here are a few groups of men bidding up stocks in a violent fashion when pretty nearly everything is against them, in the hope of hoodwinking the outsiders into a belief that everything is encouraging. Did not the Government crop report for September indicate a partial failure of the wheat crop? On the strength of it, Grangers were put higher. Was there anything in the industrial and economic situation to indicate better conditions for the Coal lines? No, but no matter; it was desirable, in order to restore confidence, that coalers should be supported in their turn, and up they were twisted accordingly. Without "Lambs," the large and small interests on Wall Street cannot thrive for long, and the culmination of the one-sided movement cannot be far away. Easy money may prevent any material collapse, but it is admitted that "the decline of the Bank reserves cannot continue longer without a rise in money." Movements on the week are shown in my table below:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest	Closing Price, Sept. 2, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 16, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	83⅜	84⅝	84½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88¾	100⅞	101¼	101
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73¼	89⅛	91⅜	91½
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	39⅞	43⅝	43¾
Denver	43¾	18¾	26	27⅜	29¼
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅞	66⅞	71¾	83¼
Erie	43⅛	23⅛	29½	32⅛	32½
Do. First Pref.	75⅜	64⅛	66⅞	70	69¾
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	124	126	127½
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	159¼	161¾	162
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	22⅛	24¼	25
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	92	92	92
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	70⅜	70⅜	70⅞
New York Central	158	116⅜	125⅜	128¼	131½
Ontario	36	19⅜	32	34¼	34⅛
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	64½	65¼	67⅛
Reading	35½	20	31½	35⅜	33⅜
Do. First Pref.	45⅛	36¾	43	44	44
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	29⅜	32⅜	34¼
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	97½	98	98¼
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	58⅛	59½	57⅞
Union Pacific	107⅛	69⅝	101⅝	102¾	100⅞
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	96xd	96½	95½
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	40	42½	43½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	64½	67½	67½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	13¾	15⅛	17½
Do. Pref.	—	—	64½	66½	69

It will have been gathered from my remarks above that there has been no broadening of the market during the week. On the contrary, only specialties have been to the front, and they have been used to facilitate realisations in the general list. The move has become "rather too obvious," especially in Missouris, Eries, and Steel stocks. Unions and Southern Pacifics have been conspicuously dull; the Western operators are anxious to unload, and are circulating reports that crop conditions are unsatisfactory, and that in the corn belt damage has been done by frost.

Canadian Pacifics and the Crops—Bear Squeeze in Grand Trunks—A Brighter Outlook—Argentine Rails—Phantom Locusts.

Canadian Pacifics have risen 1¾ on the week. At one time they eased off along with Americans, with which market their affinities are too close for their own particular good, but they have since recovered, and remain round about 129¼-½. The Company's earnings continue on a handsome scale, and the prospects of a maintenance of large totals are increased by the good reports concerning the harvest. For the past week the traffics show an improvement of $95,000, following upon $94,000 increase for the corresponding week of last year, and down to September 7 the Company has the very creditable increase in gross of $815,000, with an enhanced mileage of 628. The alarmist rumours about the condition of the harvest prove, as I said at the time they would prove, to be entirely inaccurate, and having served the purpose of speculators in wheat they are now admitted to be untrue. The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, a very large concern which sends its own representatives throughout the wheat belt, estimates that the Manitoba output

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of wheat will be 58,000,000 bushels, and that the total for the whole of the Dominion will reach 72,000,000 bushels, of which fully one-half will be available for export, for the enrichment of the farmer and the country as a whole. The Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who are now making a tour of the country, also speak well of the position. They "all expressed gratification to find that every field of wheat in the neighbourhood (of Winnipeg) had been cut, and that a great deal of the crop was already in stack." Threshing will be general by the time this issue of TRUTH appears. It is stated further that the recent frost in Manitoba came too late to damage the wheat, as it was all cut a week earlier. It is not unfair to assume from all this that, if it has not proved to be quite as phenomenal as was at one time hoped for, the crop will be good, and the sowings having been on a larger scale than last year, the outturn will be much greater, thereby ensuring a maintenance of good business for the railways in transporting it. I do not look for any appreciable movement in "Canadas" one way or the other in the weeks to come. Should the American market break, the shares will probably suffer with it to some extent because of the affinity aforesaid, but they are so well established on the investment basis, and the outlook is so encouraging, that even in that event there ought to be a quick recovery, and at anything like 130 or under the shares are worth buying for the yield they give as well as for prospects. The sentiment in regard to Grand Trunks is improving, and the week has witnessed a fair recovery in the prices of the Company's stocks. Present earnings are not particularly good as compared with those of last year, but it ought to be remembered that last year the figures were quite abnormal, that the Company is in a position to effect great economies in expenditure, that betterments can now be provided for out of the proceeds of the issue of Guaranteed capital, that after this week the comparison as to gross traffics will be with relatively moderate figures in 1903, and that the good harvest ought to convert the present gross aggregate decrease into an increase before the end of the year. It is felt that the inimical factors which have been in operation during the current year have been generously discounted by the very substantial drop in prices, and there is good reason to expect that the Company will be able to pay the full year's dividend on the First and Second Preference stocks, and possibly leave something for the Third Preference holders. Speculatively, therefore, Trunks are becoming interesting again, but it will be obvious that if a really well-secured stock is looked for, one ought to go somewhere else. It may be taken as certain that in the absence of very unexpectedly unfavourable developments, Trunk stocks will be considerably higher than at present by the end of the year. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make up.	Latest Closing Price.
Canadian Pacific	125½	129	130⅜
,, 4 per cent. Preference	104	—	100
Grand Trunks	19⅝	14⅜	15¼
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102½	97	97½
,, 1st Preference	113⅜	100	100⅜
,, 2nd ,,	101½	87½	87⅝
,, 3rd ,,	51⅜	38½	39⅜
Bengal and North-West	130	138	135½
Bombay Baroda	163½	154	154½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	129	124½	124½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	102	105½	105½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	98½	120⅜	121½
,, ,, 1st Preference	99	104½	105½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	88	95½	95
,, Great Southern	134⅜	134⅜	135½
,, Western	129½	127	127½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	52	62½	62½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	86	96⅜	97½
Costa Rica Railway	2	1⅛	1⅛
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	104	91½	94½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	80	81½
Mexican Railway	19½	18½	18⅝
,, 1st Preference	74	85	85½
,, 2nd ,,	28	30½	30½
Nitrate Rails	6⅞	7⅜	7⅜

Some talk about the reappearance of the locusts caused a slight monetary shiver in the Argentine Railway market, but it soon passed off, and all the leading shares have improved on dividend expectations.

KAFFIRS NEGLECTED AND STAGNANT—INTRINSIC POSITION HEALTHY, BUT NO INITIATIVE—THE HOUR AND THE MAN—TOO MUCH HOLIDAY—ENCOURAGING LABOUR REPORTS—MORE DIVIDENDS—T. C. L. NEW CAPITAL—GOLD OUTPUT FIGURES.

The position in Kaffirs continues unsatisfactory. That is to say, there is irregularity in the tone, and though the tendency is, if anything, towards higher values, it is not pronounced, and dealings on public account continue very small in volume. Possibly the average man is not very well supplied with the funds for a speculation, but that does not furnish the full explanation. There is plenty of French money ready to be put into Kaffirs when matters look promising, and even we ourselves are not absolutely exhausted by our Boer War sacrifices—we still hold shares bought at higher prices, and we will for the most part continue to hold them until we see a profit. But with mining conditions in every way encouraging, there is a lack of buoyancy—I had almost said of confidence, but that would not be accurate, at least in relation to the mining industry—and the market goes on see-sawing day by day in a very disheartening manner. The Continent or the Cape sends over a few orders, and on the strength of the moderate advance induced thereby hungry professionals rush in to secure—if they may—profits on their own holdings. This is not the way to re-establish public confidence. I pointed out some months ago what was wanted—a leader bold, resourceful, and confident enough to carry the market out of its present slough of heavy drowsiness. One might have thought that in the various South African mining groups more than one man would have appeared when the hour for his services had arrived, but apparently this assumption is erroneous. I would point out to the magnates that the revival depends upon them, and that if they imagine Kaffirs are to be carried ahead on the shoulders of another market they are very woefully mistaken. That there is confidence for the immediate future is shown by the steady manner in which stock which individual necessities bring on to the market is promptly absorbed, and it may be that the market leaders are not convinced that the moment is altogether auspicious—that when the hour arrives so will the man or the men. Meantime, there is mild stagnation. The new account was sent off to the accompaniment of some slight bidding, but that soon died down; the old account was not out of the way until Thursday, and then there was the Saturday holiday to consider; and after a little fitful support, followed by an abortive "Bear" raid under the impression that the rumoured fall of Port Arthur would cause weakness in Paris, members began to "even up" their books. The "Bears" were the more encouraged to cover by the fact that Paris bought instead of selling on the rumour, and that favourable news was forthcoming on the subject of labour. The chairman of the Johannesburg Chamber of Mines at the monthly meeting stated that the native labour recruiting for the first two weeks of September showed a gratifying increase, that 5,000 Chinese would shortly arrive, and that the work of the coolies at present on the mines had improved about 50 per cent. on the first month, showing that the men are getting quickly into harness. It appears, too, that the recruiting difficulty at Tientsin has been satisfactorily settled—undoubtedly by the application of that "palm oil" which the mandarins appreciate so highly; and while they have not had much direct effect, the announcement of dividends of 90 per cent. by the Crown Reef, and 10 per cent. by the Ferreira Deep Companies came along as a further reminder that with all the existing drawbacks there are numerous mines which can make distribution of profits to their shareholders. Some concern was expressed—mostly by professional "Bears"—at the delay in the sailing of the *Ikbal* from the north of China, but that vessel has now sailed, and in addition 453 men ("of magnificent physique," says the cable) have just left Hong Kong to swell the number on the goldfields. There is every reason to

look for a steady succession of consignments henceforward until all the labour requirements of the Rand and the out-districts are met, and accompanying it there will be a gradual improvement in the gold output and a gradual appreciation in values. If the much-desired leader would only make his appearance to inspire more confidence among his fellows, among the general body of professionals, and among the public, the revival would be greatly expedited. My table is appended:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 16, 1904.
Angelo	7⅝	9 1/16	6	6¾	6⅞	6 13/16
Anglo-French	7⅝	5 15/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1 5/16	1 5/16	1¼
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	7/16	¾	¾	¾
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1⅜	1 7/16	1 7/16	1½
Barnato Consols	5¼	4⅜	2 5/16	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5¼	5 7/16	5 7/16	5¼
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 15/16	6 1/16	6 7/16	6 5/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	1¾
Crown Reef	12½	18½	16½	14½	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18½	18½	18½xd
Do. Def.	—	26½	18½	18⅜	18⅜	18½xd
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4¾	4⅞	4⅝
Durban-Roodepoort	8 5/16	6¼	5½	4 7/16	5 7/16	5½
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2	2	1 15/16
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6¾	8	8	8
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	3/16	3/-	2/-	1/6
Ferreira	22	26	18	20½	20⅜	20¼
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	1 7/16	1 7/16	1⅜
Geduld	—	9 3/16	5	6 5/16	6 5/16	6 5/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	3 1/16	3⅛	3
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2¼	3¼	3 1/16	3
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5½	5⅝	5¼
,, Main Reef	1 5/16	⅝	½	½	½	½
Glencairn	4½	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 11/16	1 5/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Henderson	5⅜	2⅞	1⅜	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 5/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10¼	7⅜	8¼	8½	8
Heriot	12½	8½	3⅜	3	3	3
Jagersfontein (New)	18	30	24	27¼	27½	27
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/16	2¼	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4½	4½	4½
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 15/16	1⅜	1 7/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Knight's	11½	9 5/16	4⅜	5 5/16	5½	5 5/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 7/16	2 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3 5/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¼	1 5/16	1⅝	1 11/16	1 5/16
May Consolidated	4 5/16	5 7/16	2¾	3 15/16	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¼	5¼	5⅜	5⅜
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14 5/16	7 11/16	8 5/16	8 11/16	8⅝
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	16/6	16/6	15/9
Nigel	8 7/16	4	2¾	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 5/16	1½	1 15/16	1⅞	1⅞
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	3	3	2 15/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2½	2 5/16	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2½	1 5/16	1⅜	1 7/16	1⅜
Oceana Mineral	—	1½	⅜	¾	¾	¾
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	7/16	⅝	⅝	⅝
Primrose (New)	8½	5 7/16	3 5/16	3½	3 1/16	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅝	1	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10 1/16	10 3/16	10 3/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	2 5/16	2 1/16	2 5/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1 11/16	1⅝	1⅝
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 5/16	1	1 15/16	1 15/16	1⅝
,, North	—	2 1/16	1½	1⅝	1 15/16	1 15/16
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 7/16	1 7/16	1
,, Mympacht	—	—	—	—	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9⅜	9½	9½
Roodepoort United	8½	4½	2⅜	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	7¼	7⅜	7⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9⅜	4⅜	4 15/16	5½	5 5/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 15/16	11/3	3/-	—	1/3
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1 15/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/9	11/9	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2 5/16	24/-	1⅝	1 15/16	1 5/16
Transvaal Exploring	—	½	¼	6/9	7/-	7/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3 15/16	3 15/16	3 15/16
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	3 5/16	4	3 15/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9½	7⅛	6 5/16	6½	6 5/16
Violet	—	3½	2	3	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2¾	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6⅜	6½	6⅜	6½
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅜	11	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	¾	¾	¾
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2	1 15/16	1 15/16
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3½	3⅜	3 5/16
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜

* £5 shares.

The week has developed little of consequence. The Coronation Syndicate's affairs have come to be recognised as of no direct consequence to the market—a fact which I pointed out clearly and at length a couple of weeks ago; and the City and Suburban has ceased from troubling, with the official denial of the rumours in circulation. Transvaal Consolidated Lands weakened at one time, and though they are now improving the shareholders do not like the increase of capital from £800,000 to £1,000,000, to approve of which a meeting was held at Pretoria on the 1st inst. It is stated that the arrangement with the Braamfontein Company is now about to be brought into effect, and shareholders in the latter Company will receive a total of 185,168 T.C.Ls in exchange for their interests. Among outcrop mines, Knights have hardened on the expectation that crushing will be started in December with the Chinese, for whose services the Company has made application. Among the cheaper shares, Niekirks have strengthened further on encouraging cables from the mine, and though they are some way above the price of a few weeks ago they are still a decent speculation for a few shillings' rise. Swaziland Corporations are not much affected by the announcement that Swaziland is to be constituted a Province of the Transvaal, and that mineral and surface concessions will be recognised, but all monopolies are to be expropriated at a valuation. Diamond shares have been irregular, and Deep Levels have been quiet, though the tendency has been better. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 16, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅜	3⅞	1⅝	1 11/16	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	½	1	½	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	⅝	1⅜	2¼	2½	2 5/16
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12⅜	12⅜	12¼
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 5/16	2	2⅜	2 5/16	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8½	5	5⅜	5 5/16	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6⅜	3½	4½	4½	4½
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6½	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3 5/16	4 1/16	2¼	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
Lancaster	3⅜	3 5/16	2	2 5/16	2⅜	2 5/16
Do. West	2⅜	3	1½	2⅜	3 1/16	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2 11/16	5 1/16	2⅜	3	4½	2⅜
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3½	4½	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4½	2⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6 5/16	4½	5⅜	5 5/16	5½
Do. Cent Deep	4½	5 5/16	2⅜	4½	4 15/16	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8	8 5/16	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅜	3½	1⅜	1½	1½	1 15/16
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1½	1½	1½
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 5/16	4 5/16	3½	2	2	2
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 5/16	2⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Witwatersrand Deep	2 5/16	4 1/16	2 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3 1/16

I referred last week to the increase in the August gold yield, and I give below my usual table for purposes of comparison:—

—	1899. Bullion. oz.	1901. Fine. oz.	1902. Fine. oz.	1903. Fine. oz.	1904. Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	404,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,502
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	308,242
April	439,111	—	119,588	227,871	305,946
May	444,933	7,478	138 602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219
July	456,474	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,340
August	459,709	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277
September	411,762	31,986	170,802	276,197	—
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	—
November	55,941	39,075	187,375	279,813	—
December	68,525	52,897	196,023	286,061	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	2,435,330

Values are shown in the next table:—

—	1899. £	1901. £	1902. £	1903. £	1904. £
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846,489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329
April	1,639,340	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576
May	1,658,268	31,271	588,746	994 505	1,335,826
June	1,665,715	84,014	606,493	1,012,322	1,309,231
July	1,711,447	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621
August	1,720,907	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	—
October	1,028,057	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	—
November		165,986	795,922	1,188,571	—
December		224,692	832,652	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	10,344,623

RHODESIANS MARKING TIME—WAITING FOR THE "BANKET" REPORT—CHARTEREDS DEPRESSED ON LARGE SALES—A FRESH RECORD IN THE GOLD OUTPUT—COPPER DESCRIPTIONS FIRM.

Believing that it knows everything that is to be known pending the completion of the investigation into the "banket" discovery, the Rhodesian section now displays an inclination to "mark time," and during the past week there has been an absence of anything approaching sensational movements in the shares of the Companies directly or indirectly concerned therewith. On the whole, however, there has been a considerable amount of activity, and though there was a slight setback towards the close, occasioned by some heavy selling of Chartered, on balance most of the shares show an appreciation, including Lomagundas and Rhodesia Explorations. It is being hoped that the report of the experts sent out by Messrs. Abe Bailey and Neumann to investigate the discovery thoroughly will prove favourable, in which case it is rumoured that a large concern will be floated to work the interests of the different Companies concerned. Consequently there is nothing for it but to await developments. The selling of Chartered alluded to above was on a considerable scale, and has been ascribed to a well-known Kaffir magnate. His reasons for getting rid of the shares are, of course, not known, but whatever they may be, it ought not to be long, if official promises are worth noticing, before the Company's report is published, and its true position made known to all and sundry. The gold output for August announced a few days ago gave a certain amount of satisfaction, a fresh record being achieved, but naturally it did not exert much influence when a large line of stock came on offer almost simultaneously. The country's output for the month aggregated 24,669 oz., as compared with 24,339 oz. for July, the previous record, and notwithstanding that a large proportion of the return was recovered by tributors, and will not therefore benefit the Companies themselves to any great extent, there is no escaping the significance, no matter how slight it may be in reality, of a couple of records occurring in two consecutive months. I append below a table, showing the country's monthly production of gold since the beginning of 1900:—

	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903	1904.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	5,242	10.697	15,955	16.245	19.359
February	6.233	12.237	13,204	17,090	18,673
March	6,286	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,756
April	5,456	14,998	17.559	20,727	17,862
May	6 554	14,469	19,698	22,137	19,424
June	6,165	14.863	15.842	22,166	20 402
July	5,738	15 651	15,226	23,571	24,339
August	10,138	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669
September	10,749	13,958	15,164	18,741	—
October	10.545	14,503	16,849	17,918	—
November	9.351	16,487	15 923	15 714	—
December	9,373	15,174	16,210	18,750	—
Total	91,850	172,060	194,268	231,872	162,478

Individual returns for the past three months will be seen from the following table:—

Mine.	June.		July.		August.	
	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd	Ore treated.	Gold recov'rd
	Tons.	Oz.	Tons.	Oz.	Tons.	Oz.
Antenior (Matabele)	1,267	748	1,250	776	1,274	805
Ayrshire	6,950	2,150	9,450	3,050	9,350	3,050
Dumbleton	553	408	590	445	500	405
Empress	855	1,505	848	1,454	910	1,220
Globe and Phœnix	5,640	3,029	6,421	3,792	6,031	3,599
Golden Valley	496	259	—	—	—	—
Imani	—	382	—	—	—	—
Matabele Sheba	1,071	300	584	497	—	—
Morven	1,093	703	1,116	701	1,217	731
Penhalonga	7,040	†1,047	7,100	1,142	6,980	†1,147
Revue (Manical'd)	1,059	258	1,212	338	1,278	340
Rezende	2,850	†1,156	2 900	†1,095	2 950	†1,160
Selukwe	5,036	2,334	5,270	2.810	5,135	2.773
Surprise	3,070	1,005	2,884	1,406	2,828	1,715
Tanganyika	—	420	—	544	—	—
Wanderer	10,778	1,431	13,020	1.588	11,718	1,475
Wareleigh	1,045	730	565	367	612	387

† Fine gold.

The Copper descriptions in this section are somewhat firmer, Rhodesias, Northerns, and Trusts being slightly higher on the week, and Tanganyikas and Zambesias remain fairly cheerful.

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Sept 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept 16, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1½	⅝	⅝
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2/	1⅛	1⅛
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,619	1	f.p	4½	1¼	1¼
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	6⅜	⅝
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	¼	⅛
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	¾	¾
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2/6	⅞	⅞
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1¾	¾	¾
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	⅛	⅛
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5/6	1¾	1⅝
Lomagunda Dev	250 000	250,000	1	f.p	6½	2⅝	2⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3/6	1/6	1½
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4½	⅝	½
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅝	3	3
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600 000	500,000	1	f.p.	1½	⅞	11/16
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9½	4½	4⅜
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2/6	⅜	½
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2/6	2⅜
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2½	1	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3⅜	3½
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	½	½
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	5/6	6/6
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	4/-	3/6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	6/-	5/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅜	1⅝	1⅝

WEST AFRICANS NEGLECTED—MOVEMENTS UNIMPORTANT AND UNINTERESTING—MISCELLANEOUS MINES QUIET—INDIANS STEADY—MOUNT LYELLS AND BROKEN HILLS RELAPSE—CHARTERS TOWER DESCRIPTIONS WEAK.

The spasm of activity which became noticeable in the Jungle a short time ago has completely disappeared, remaining but a memory, and the market has assumed its former, and perhaps natural, appearance of idleness and depression. Realising how discredited the market has been within recent years, it was obvious from the first that the artificial buoyancy, created by the professionals in order to attempt to attract a stolidly indifferent public, so that they themselves might possibly get rid of some of their holdings, was doomed to failure. It has fizzled out entirely, and during the past week dealings have been few and far between and of a strictly professional character. Movements, consequently, have been within very narrow limits, and the section has been altogether devoid of features worth recording. My usual table follows:—

—	Capital.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 16, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.				
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4.3 dis	¾ dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅞	⅞
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	5/-	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	1	1
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	½	½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	1⅛	1⅛
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	6/6	⅞
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,180	1	f.p	¾	¾
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	8/-	8/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	15/-	¾
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛

Among miscellaneous mines business continues on a small scale, and no features of interest have been in evidence during the past week. Indian gold-mining shares keep tolerably steady, Nundydroogs coming in for some attention and scoring a slight gain on balance. In the British Columbian section dealings have been very restricted, and for the most part prices remain without change of any consequence. After hardening slightly at the beginning, Mount Lyells relapsed on a continuance of selling, and among silver shares Broken Hill continue dullish in the absence of any support from the Colony. On the Charters Tower

group some steady Colonial realisations led to marked weakness in most of the shares. Egyptians exhibited some indications of life at one time, but this was only momentary, and they succumbed later on, finishing the week practically unchanged. Copper descriptions remain quietly firm, Rio Tintos being in request from Paris and closing well up on balance, and Etruscans, included in this group by courtesy only, came in for a little more attention for some reason which it is difficult to ascertain:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Make-up, Sept. 12.	Closing Price, Sept. 16.
Anaconda Copper	7⅛	3⅜	4⅜	4⅝
Balaghat Gold	1⅝	14/-	15/6	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1⅛	39/6	1⅜
Cape Copper	5	2	3⅜	3⅜
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/9	32 -
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Mason and Barry	4½	3½	2⅞	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	12/9	12/-
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5/3	6½	6⅛
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	2⅞	2⅞
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	32/9	35 -
Ooregum	2⅜	21.9	17/-	17/-
Rio Tinto	53⅝	38⅜	54⅜	55⅜
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4½	4⅝
Waihi Gold	6⅜	4⅜	5⅞	5⅞xd

Westralians Cheerless — The "Bears" Still Busy—Horseshoes and Great Boulders Weakest—Oroyas Dull — A Little Attention to Deep Leads — "Little Kangaroos."

The Westralian "Bears" are still busily engaged in banging the market, and during the past week very few shares have escaped their undesirable attentions, though Great Boulders and Horseshoes continue to be singled out for special and energetic treatment. In regard to the latter, no official statement has yet been made concerning the abrupt termination of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing's connection with the property, and until such an explanation is forthcoming and all the sinister rumours are contradicted, one cannot hope that confidence will be restored. At one time, when sales on French account became particularly pressing, Horseshoes slumped to 5¾, almost the lowest level in the whole history of the Company, contrasting with the highest of 11¾ in 1902-03, and a lowest during the same period of 7. Beyond a cable recording the best development so far achieved at the 1,900 ft. level, which is not altogether satisfactory reading, nothing has emanated from the Great Boulder Company repudiating the assertions of the "Bears" in regard to the position of the property, and though the shares picked up a trifle after the heavy slump of the previous week, they still remain depressed under the influences of the adverse rumours, and the persistency of the Colonial selling. Some manœuvring from this same quarter was also successful in knocking Oroyas down below £3, the mine report for July not helping matters much, though it furnishes no reason for any alarm. At the end of last year it was estimated that the ore reserves represented a "profit in sight" of more than £4 5s. per share, an estimate attested by the managers and vouched for by them, and it is, therefore, all the more remarkable to observe the temerity of the Colonial operators in attacking the property. Fingalls and Perseverance, too, have been a couple of weak spots, though by no means to so marked an extent as in the instance just mentioned, while the rest of the market was none too brilliant in tone, Associated, Northern Blocks, and Kalgurlis all showing slight losses on balance. A little more attention than usual has been given to Deep Lead descriptions, Loddon Valleys being of particular interest on account of a cable received announcing that the boring gives good prospects, and indicates ore of a value of from 1 oz. to 2 oz. 6 dwt. per fathom. It may be mentioned, however, in regard to this method of testing that the best opinion is that it is not too reliable. The "Little Kangaroos" received some considerable attention at the hands of the Colonials, Boulder Deeps and Hannan's Stars being the centres of most interest, but they relapsed before the close on profit-taking, coupled with another unsatisfactory report from the former property, which shows that though the quantity of ore dealt with was practically doubled, the actual gold output was only a few ounces more. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Aug. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 16, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	8⅜	1	2⅝	1⅛	1⅜
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1⅜	1½	1½	1⅝
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¼	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	7/6	6/9	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7⅛	6⅜	5⅝
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/8	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	21/3	18/9	18/9
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1⅜	8/6	4/6	4/-	4/3
Do. Perseverance	18½	1⅛	1⅛	12/6	10/9	9/9xd
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅜	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅛	9⅜	5⅛	7⅛	7⅜	7⅞
Hainault	1⅜	¾	½	⅝	⅛	¾
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	2/6	6/-	6/-	6/-
Ivanhoe (25)	15½	10/-	6⅜	7⅜	7⅛	7½
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	⅜	⅝	½	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅛	5⅛	5⅜	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅛	¼	8/-	8/6	⅜
North Kalgurli	1⅛	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/3	5/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅜	3⅜	3⅛
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅜	⅝	½	½
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅛	¼	1⅛	1	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	⅜	½	⅜	½

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Chester.—Your Argentine bonds are good to keep in view of a unification scheme. Uruguays should also be held; the revolution—a tin-pot affair at the best—is nearing its end. *R. W.*—Johannesburg Fours are quite a good stock which brings in nearly 4¼ per cent., and need cause you no anxiety. *Ida.*—The New South Wales and Western Australian stocks are likely to have a moderate improvement with other gilt-edged descriptions, but these Colonials are not in much favour with investors here, and you might consider the advisability of buying other stocks rather than increasing your holding of these. Cape Fours would give you over 3¾ per cent., and Natal Fours 3½ per cent. *Speculator.*—The time is not ripe for a purchase of Japanese Fours. The war is a long way from being over, and more loans will be imperative. For a present purchase I should choose the new Six per Cent. bonds, which are scarcely likely (having regard to the security behind them) to go back much, and they give quite a high yield. *T. R. G.*—No fault is to be found with your Corporation stock except that not much appreciation is to be looked for.

Railways.

Cook.—There is no reason to worry about the dividend on your Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock. It is the people who hold the Second and Third Preference who have ground for anxiety. *R. H. B.*—Great Western and North-Western Ordinary would suit. Both give you close upon 4 per cent. at the present price, and are good for an appreciation in the wake of the Funds. *Colne.*—On merits Great Northern Deferred is better than Denver A and much cheaper, but it is not such a speculative favourite. *G. E.*—The selling of City and South Londons was rather overdone, but on prospects I should choose Central Londons of the two. *Taffy.*—1. Canadian Pacifics are good as an investment, with the prospect of a fair appreciation ultimately. 2. Grand Trunk Thirds are worth attention speculatively. The Company appears to have about turned the corner, and with a good harvest the Company should do well during the last quarter of the year, especially as earnings will be going against more moderate totals last year. *Stella Maris.*—Brighton A ought to be held as well as South-Western Deferred. *A. A.*—1. Antofagasta and Bolivia stock would bring in 5¼ per cent. and San Paulo 7 per cent. 2. Cuban Central Railway shares might be bought as a speculation.

The Company is on the verge of a dividend, and at 3¾ or 4 the £10 shares look cheap. Costa Ricas are also interesting in the same way. *W. Ross.*—Americans seem to me to be very near the top, and if you would buy Atchisons do so soon. Milwaukees, New York Centrals, and Illinois Centrals are good investments, and should be held.

MINES.

Aqua.—I do not agree with the gentleman's observations about Kaffirs. His point of view seems quite a wrong-headed one. *H. M. C.*—1. The Goldfields of Matabeleland is interested in the banket reef discovery, because it has a considerable holding of Scottish Mashonaland land shares. 2. Elandsfontein Deeps stand at about 10s. and East Rand Deeps at about 15s. Neither is very desirable, though they might go better with others on a more active market. *Seer.*—Cloverfields and Cason Golds should be held. *Copper.*—The position is unsatisfactory, and evidently the concern is working at a loss. It may possibly turn up a trump after all, but I should elect to sell at a loss. *W. J.*—Prospects are fair, the Company having much stuff available for washing. The shares are a moderately promising speculation. *Hibernian.*—Your holdings of Kaffirs and the additional purchase (Klipfonteins) should be realised at a profit when conditions in South Africa improve. *Cornstalk.*—I should not sell Great Boulders on the strength of "Bear" selling. Oroyas, Kalgurlis, and Ivanhoes ought to be kept. T. C. S.—Niekerks are a promising speculation for a further rise of a few shillings. When you see a modest profit get out. *St. Stephen's.*—Gold Coast Investment shares are quoted at about 3d. each, Kumassi Syndicates at 6d., Ebenezers at 6d., and Gold Coast Development Syndicate at 1s. *R. A. V.*—Barnatos are worth holding for a good rise on a better market. On the subject of an early dividend I cannot speak. Hendersons are a fair speculative purchase. *Reader, Salterforth.*—I do not recommend dealings with either concern, and the three monthly options look very unattractive. *Kingston.*—I should not join the reconstruction. Prospects are poor, and you would do best to reconcile yourself to the loss already incurred without increasing it. *Green Linnet.*—1. I do not recommend a purchase of the West Africans named. 2. Nile Valleys possess promise. *Kuroki.*—A little forced liquidation, I believe; nothing worse, that I hear of. *Davy.*—A trust composed of Associated, Consolidated Goldfields of New Zealand, Great Boulder Proprietarys, Koffyfonteins, Brilliant and St. George, and Queen Cross Reefs would be hopeful. The others are no good. *Ajax.*—Hold for 30s. or 35s. I doubt if the Company is in want of more capital. *Medley.*—1. Quite a gamble, and I do not like the source of the tip. 2. Great Boulder Props., but not Perseverance. 3. Randfonteins are worth attention. *Avoca.*—I should not join the reconstruction. *Sceptic.*—1. Better pay the calls and hold on. 2. Well-intentioned, I believe, but a quite hopeless scheme.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Hosein.—1. The Kaffirs make a good selection, and should give you a respectable profit within six months' time. 2. Argentine Funding, Peruvian Corporation Debentures, and San Paulo Railway Ordinary afford reasonable security, with a good rate of interest. Rio Tintos are all right, but they have had a substantial rise within the past few weeks. *Spinster.*—The only shares I should recommend to you of those proposed are Distillers Preferred and Henry Clay and Boch Debentures. These, with Argentine Great Western Preference stock, would be all right. *H. M. M.*—1. I should not deal with Howard, Marshall, and Co. or with the London and New York Exchange. 2. Coats and Fine Cotton Spinners Ordinary shares are worth keeping. 3. Buenos Ayres and Valparaiso Transandine Preference shares will bring in over 11 per cent., and the prospects are fairly hopeful. But you realise, I hope, that you cannot secure such a high return as this without incurring some risk. 4. I should not buy either of the Anglo-American Brewery shares. *H. W. F.*—I suggest Egyptian Unified, Chilian 1886 bonds, and Hudson Bays. *Ewell.*—1. Buenos Ayres and Valparaiso Transandine B Debentures are good to hold. Prospects are encouraging. 2. Cuban Five per Cent. stock is worth buying. *Zeerust.*—1. Missouris, Ontarios, and Southern Common. 2. Johnnies, General Mining, and Gedulds. *Skip.*—1. Keep Johnnies, Randfonteins, Vereenigings, and Sub Nigels. Sell the others on any slight recovery. 2. The Mewossoo has been absorbed by the Himon Central Gold Mines, which was formed in May, 1903, to take over this Company and the West Africa Corporation. 3. Keep John Loveys and Morrison and Fleet Dairies. 4. I understand that the concern is honest, but I can say no more.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Winkee.—Option dealing is largely practised on the Stock Exchange proper, but to entrust your money to any outside bucket-shop for the purpose would be to lose it. Ignore the existence of bucket-shops and it will be to your great advantage. *Rita.*—The high rate of interest offered is not compatable with the security of your principal, and I would therefore recommend you to put the money into some respectable bank. *Inquirer, Cork.*—I think you might hold No. 1, but with regard to No. 2, if you wish to see any improvement in the quotation you will have to wait patiently for a couple of years. *Anxious, S.W.*—I consider the holding hopeful, especially as the position of the company seems to be gradually improving. *Regent's Park.*—Westminster Electric Supply are a fairly satisfactory holding, and return about 5 per cent. at the current price. *Reliable, Sussex.*—The most desirable of those mentioned are undoubtedly George Newnes, as with James Nelsons very much risk is attached. *Selwyn, Bootle.*—I do not know sufficient about the concern to say whether it is reliable or otherwise. It might be profitable to make inquiries in Glasgow. *X. Y., Plymouth.*—1. The concern is not to be depended upon. 2. Gamages make a fair industrial holding, but the Nitrate share is too speculative. *H. P.*—Bolckow Vaughan is a well-managed concern, paying decent dividends regularly, and subject to the usual condition of the iron trade the shares are worth holding. *H. C., Monmouth.*—Cannot recommend outside brokers. Leave Freeborn, Franklin, and Co. severely alone. I do not think much of the industrials mentioned; you could do better. *Anxious, Downpatrick.*—Many thanks for the document, which emphasises my previously expressed opinion that the concern is in a very bad way. *A. D. J., Edinburgh.*—1. If you have destroyed all the stationary, etc., then there is none to hand over, and that question can be easily settled. 2. A swindle which ought to be avoided. *Hickson.*—I have frequently had occasion to throw light upon Stephen and Henderson's philanthropic methods. *Gully, Cork.*—Would recommend you to avoid the company mentioned. The Scottish Temperance and the Century are reliable. *L. P. L.*—I do not consider a purchase of the shares as a safe investment. *Theta.*—Would not advise you to entrust any money to the concern for the reason that the alluring rate of interest offered is incompatable with security. *F. H., Seacombe.*—Nitrate shares carry a certain risk. *Faighe, Eastbourne.*—The share named is a very respectable industrial. *J. Howarth, Prestwick.*—The concern is anything but sound, and it would be more profitable for you leave it severely alone. I have frequently warned readers to ignore the circulars. *Baker.*—The banks are sound institutions, but there is considerable liability in respect of uncalled capital. *Incola.*—Many thanks for the circular. It is interesting to learn that Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. are searching for pastures new in South Africa. *Watson.*—Gramophones are a pretty fair holding, but certainly not excellent. Whether they are successfully meeting the competition is a question which I am unable to answer. *Belham.*—1. Yes. Foreign lotteries are illegal in this country. 2. Because there are thousands of better things to be obtained here which give a decent return. *H. F. B., Faversham.*—Your best plan would be to consult a solicitor at once. *Erne.*—The concern is slowly pulling itself together, and seems to have a fair prospect, but I would not recommend a further purchase of its shares. *Eigl.*—Do not take any notice of the circulars and it will be to your great advantage. *Aber.*—A semi-private concern which does not publish any balance-sheet. The shares are not dealt in on the Stock Exchange, and I cannot say anything definite as to its position. *L. Meade.*—1 and 2. I consider the two concerns quite satisfactory, and I would point out that they both have important foreign businesses. 3. Somewhat improbable. *Safety.*—A very good investment. *Enquirer, Westbury.*—Think the best thing you can do would be to get rid of the shares. *L. E. X., Derby.*—The office is a good one, and its guarantee quite satisfactory. *Telephonist.*—The sum is rather small for investment purposes, and perhaps you had better keep it in the savings bank. *Enquirer, Bournemouth.*—The concern seems to have disappeared. *Beech.*—The Company is bound by the laws governing its constitution to hold a general meeting, etc., but it is sometimes rather costly for a shareholder to enforce his rights. *Paw.*—The Company is safe enough. *Doubtful* and *J. W. T., Nottingham.*—I am repeatedly warning correspondents against being misled by Stephens and Henderson's. *C. J. C., Plymouth.*—Vickers Maxims are quite satisfactory to hold. At the present quotation they give a yield of about 6 per cent.

INDUSTRIALS QUIET BUT FIRM GENERALLY—TELEGRAPH STOCKS STRONG—HUDSON'S BAYS HELPED BY CROP NEWS—WATER BOARD STOCK SAGS—BREWERIES DULLISH—LONDON AND INDIA DOCK DEFERRED SPURTS—IRON AND STEEL SHARES—TRACTION SHARES IRREGULAR—TEXTILES QUIETLY FIRM—NITRATES STILL INTERESTING.

Business in the industrial section continues on a very restricted scale, and though there have been one or two not too brilliant spots, the tendency on the whole might be described as fairly buoyant, with telegraph stocks and Hudson's Bays still the centre of most interest. Among the former Anglo-American issues maintain their strength, and there has also been some bidding for Easterns and Globe Trusts, both of which show gains on balance. Hudson's Bays were helped further by excellent crop reports from Canada which, of course, means greater land sale by the Company. The Water Board stock has manifested a disposition to sag away in sympathy with the Funds, this feeling being helped by gossip relating to the early issue of the balance of the stock not taken by the proprietors of the concerns absorbed. This latter totals about a couple of million, and, of course, when it makes its appearance the effect upon the existing stock will be adverse. In the brewery section the tone has not been altogether satisfactory, movements in a downward direction preponderating, but though these losses were not very significant they occurred in many of the better class descriptions. There has been a steady

demand for London and India Dock Deferred, which shows an appreciation of 3 points, the buying being attributable to the belief prevalent in many quarters that the year's distribution will be at the full rate of 4 per cent. Surrey Commercial issues remain firm, and in the telegraph group National Telephone Preferred continues steady, though the Deferred shows a slight loss on profit taking. Not much animation has been witnessed among iron and steel descriptions apart from a slight set back in Armstrongs consequent upon the dividend declaration, which, though the same as last year, i.e., 15 per cent., was not regarded as altogether satisfactory, it being thought in some quarters that there would have been a small bonus in addition. Robert Stephenson and Rhymney Irons also lost a little ground, but on the other hand, a quiet demand for Thorneycroft's issues led to a slight advance in the Preference. Among traction shares London General Omnibus continue on offer at 110½, and Road Cars, too, have lost a ¼ to 5¼, but British Electric Tractions have come in for some attention, and together with Calcutta Trams, Anglo-Argentine Trams and Dublin Trams have hardened a trifle. In the textile group a continuous inquiry for Coats has been in evidence, and the market considering the statements made at the meeting as being more satisfactory, Calico Printers were looked upon more favourably, and in company with Bradford Dyers exhibited a better tone, though without quotable change in price. Aerated Breads have been the feature in "bun-shop" descriptions, finishing at 9⅛, and a little attention was paid to Lyons and British Tea Tables, both of which have hardened. Meat shares have not been very active, but after a hesitating start James Nelsons picked up a little and remained fairly steady, but Imperial Cold Storage shares fell away. A great deal of interest is still being evinced in Nitrate shares, amongst which there has been a fair inquiry for Salar del Carmens, San Lorenzos, Colorados, and Santa Ritas. Sweetmeat Automatics, among the more miscellaneous things in this section, were not appreciably affected by another decline—this time of £210—in the weekly receipts. There was a moderate inquiry for British Oil Cakes, but among explosives both Nobel's Dynamites and New Explosives receded, and Oil shares as well were not particularly strong. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

FARMER WOOD'S THREE HEREFORDS.

FREDERICK ACWORTH, of Acworth Hall, Salop, was a country squire of the old school, which, for good or ill, is now fast becoming obsolete. The religion on which he pinned his faith comprised three main articles:—

(i.) The Divine Right of Foxes to be hunted.

(ii.) The Divine Right of Pheasants and Partridges to be shot.

(iii.) The Divine Right of Country Squires to hunt and shoot them.

Holding, as he did, these articles of faith—compared with which the Thirty-nine Articles of the Prayer-Book were mere pious opinions—it naturally followed that he should make his duties as a landlord entirely subsidiary to his obligations as a game preserver, and should altogether postpone the rights of his secular tenants to those of his sacred foxes and deified birds.

To take but one instance: I remember an exceptionally severe winter—that of 1890-91, when in the Acworth Coverts innumerable fires were lighted and kept blazing all night, and night after night, at great expense, in order that the pheasants, attracted by the warmth, might come and roost near the fires, and so be saved from succumbing to the frost. Half the money and fuel expended on this costly undertaking would have provided firing for every poor family in the village all through the winter. Yet, though there was great distress among them, and though more than one child and old person actually froze to death, no help was forthcoming from the Squire.

This is no exaggeration. I am reciting what has occurred within my own experience and observation. We all scoff at the cult of the sacred monkey in India. We should do so with more consistency if we had first suppressed the worship of the deified pheasant in England.

I need not tell you, of course, that Squire Acworth regarded the Ground Game Act as an iniquitous measure and a disgrace to the Statute Book, for, while it did not touch his divine right to shoot pheasants and partridges, it did interfere with his right, scarcely less divine, to shoot hares and rabbits. Or, rather, it would have interfered with this, had he deigned to comply with the Act. But he did not.

You may remember that the Act expressly makes it illegal for tenant farmers to contract out of their rights under the Act, or for landlords to insert any clause of such tenour in their leases. Well, Squire Acworth, albeit himself a J.P. and an administrator of the laws, was by no means above dodging any particular law that he disliked. So he took care to let his tenants understand, without actually committing himself to any tangible statement, that if they should forego their rights under the Act it would be none the worse for them; whereas, if they should insist upon those rights, he would manage to find a reason—a reason totally unconnected, of course, with the Ground Game Act—for giving them notice to quit.

The hint had its effect. Most of the tenant farmers at Acworth were men who had succeeded their fathers and grandfathers in the same holdings—men to whom eviction would mean the severing of all their most cherished ties. It was this, and not the material advantages they derived from being Squire Acworth's tenants (for, truth to tell, he was a hard and exacting landlord), that rendered them submissive to his illegal threats. And the consequence was that only one tenant, and he an idle gipsy of a fellow, who held a small farm under the Squire, but did not care whether he retained it or not, defied the village Panjandrum in the matter of hares and rabbits.

Such conduct was not to be tolerated. This rebellious rascal, Richard Chappel by name, must be made to smart for it, and Squire Acworth had a means ready to his hand. Chappel was in arrears with his midsummer rent, which, although it was now getting well into September, had not yet been paid.

"So ho, my fine fellow!" soliloquised the Squire. "You would shoot my hares and rabbits, would you? Very well! Then I'll distrain upon your stock—you have three very nice Herefords there I see—without notice."

So he instructed his agent, who caused distress to be levied, and the three Hereford cows were seized for the Squire's rent.

Chappel watched the cows being driven off his land with perfect unconcern.

"Don't matter to me," he said to the bailiffs. "Them cows ain't mine. They're Farmer Wood's, that I sold the keep of my land to a month ago. Oh, no! 'Tain't no loss to me. I don't care a button."

Nor did he. On the contrary, the rascal was rather amused. It struck him as a capital joke that Thomas Wood's cows should be seized in satisfaction of Richard Chappel's rent.

Farmer Wood, however, didn't see matters in this light. The idea that his cows should be sold to pay Chappel's rent caused him acute dismay and annoyance, and off he went, post haste, to Squire Acworth to lay the facts before him and to claim the restitution of his three Herefords.

It was after eight o'clock p.m. when he arrived at the Hall. The Squire, who was entertaining a house-party for the partridge shooting—which, owing to the late harvest, had not begun that year until the middle of September—was then at dinner, and sent out word that he couldn't see Farmer Wood. Farmer Wood returned a message that his business was most urgent,

and could the Squire see him in an hour's time? After some grumbling, the Squire said he would, and at the end of that period, the farmer was ushered into Squire Acworth's study.

"If you please, sir," said he, "I've a come to see you about them Herefords of mine."

"What Herefords?" demanded the Squire.

"Them three what was on Chappel's land, sir, and what you've a seize for Chappel's rent."

"I have had to distrain for Chappel's rent. The good-for-nothing fellow drove me to it. Yes; I believe some Herefords were seized—the only things of any value on the place. But I've heard nothing of their being yours. What were your cows doing on Chappel's land?"

"I'd a bought the keep, sir, till Michaelmas. That's how it wur."

"Oh," said the Squire, after a pause, while a cunning look suddenly shone in his small eyes. "Then this rascal Chappel has let you in, and all I can say is that it's very bad luck on you, Wood."

"But now as you knows they're my cows, sir, you'll surely give on'em up to me?" exclaimed Farmer Wood, whom the Squire's peculiar look and tone had filled with a sudden sense of dismayed apprehension.

"Eh? Well, this is a pretty cool request, I must say, Wood," replied the Squire, with an unpleasant laugh. "Where should I look for my rent if I gave up the cows?"

"But, surely, Squire, you wouldn't a sell my cows—knowing 'em to be mine—in order to pay yourself money what some one else owes you?"

"The cows were on Chappel's land, and when you put them there, you did so at your own risk. I am quite within my rights in having seized them, and I see no reason at all why I should give them up. Your grievance is against Chappel, not against me. You must look to him to make good your loss," said Squire Acworth, meanly.

"Much good that would do me, sir," cried out Farmer Wood, beginning to wax indignant. "A man of straw, what's hardly worth the clothes he stand up in."

"That is your look out, not mine," retorted the Squire. "I shall certainly sell your cows, as the law empowers me to do."

"If that's the law, sir——"

"It is the law; there's no question about it," answered Squire Acworth.

"Then all I can say is, damn the law!" cried Farmer Wood, losing control of himself in his indignation.

"I'll thank you to remember where you are, Wood, and not to swear like that. Because Chappel has played you a scurvy trick, that's no reason why you should speak disrespectfully to me," blustered the Squire, assuming his most hectoring tone.

"Scurvy trick, indeed!" exclaimed Farmer Wood, now boiling over with indignation. "The trick what Chappel have a played me ain't one half so scurvy as the trick what you're a playing me. For you, a rich man, what calls yourself a gentleman, to take advantage of the letter of the law to rob a poor man and one of your own tenants——"

"Rob? How dare you impute such conduct to me, you contumacious radical?" stormed Squire Acworth, furiously.

"I said rob, and I mean rob," retorted the farmer, whose blood was thoroughly up. "No other word fits such behaviour. If you keeps and sells my cows, you're as good as a thief, Squire—a thief, I repeats. Aye, thief I says, and to thief I sticks. So there!"

At this plain speaking, Squire Acworth's face turned a rich purple, and rage, for some moments, held him speechless. Then he burst out:

"By G——d, you—you—ruffian, you—you—anarchist, you—you—poacher!" (The strongest term of reproach in Squire Acworth's vocabulary.) "How dare you? Leave my sight—get out of my presence——"

"So I will, Squire, and not sorry to go, neither," interposed Farmer Wood, with sudden and dangerous calmness. "But, remember, if you can take advantage of the letter of the law to do your neighbour out of his just rights, well, there's two can play at that game. And maybe I shall get my own back afore we're many hours older. Now, I'll wish you good evening!"

With which dark threat he quitted Squire Acworth's study.

It was some time before the latter recovered his equilibrium sufficiently to rejoin his guests. That he, a squire and a landed proprietor, should have been called a thief to his face by a mere tenant farmer, and should, moreover, have had to endure the insult without being able to commit the contumacious scoundrel to prison, or otherwise visit him with condign vengeance, was indeed an upsetting and a shocking thing. And it galled Squire Acworth the more because he was conscious, in his heart, that his conduct was both mean and despicable. Not that he frankly confessed this, even to himself. On the contrary, he persuaded himself that he was merely doing what any other landlord would have done in like case. Yet, all the same, deep down in his heart, the consciousness rankled, and it made the Squire's fury against Farmer Wood all the more unrelenting, and his determination not to give up the Hereford cows all the more obstinate. He would make the ruffian pay dearly for his insolence. Yes, he would find a way to do that.

But, for the present, his schemes of vengeance had to remain in abeyance, owing to his being fully occupied with his arrangements for the morrow's big shoot. Squire Acworth prided himself upon his partridge shooting, which was some of the best in Shropshire, and he had gathered together, as usual, a notable array of sportsmen for the opening of the belated season. There was the Right Hon. Harold Toochins, Minister of Agriculture; there was Sir Mangold Wirzell, of Wirzell Hall, than whom no one in the Midlands rode harder or shot straighter; there were Squire Allnut, of Allnut, and Squire Penfold, of Penfold, men celebrated for their unrivalled knowledge of sport and their unrivalled ignorance of everything else; there was young Harold Downton, a member of the Gun Club, famous for his exploits at Hurlingham, and, last and least, there was Perkins Chittenden, a mere solicitor, clerk to the local magistrates, who had been asked as a stop gap at the last moment.

So, including the host, there were seven guns; seven guns, too, who could be warranted to let off very little that came in their way. Even Littlemore, the head-keeper, expressed himself satisfied; and when Littlemore admitted satisfaction, you might be sure there was not much amiss with the shooting capacities of his master's guests.

The start next morning was made, according to the invariable custom, upon Church Farm, which comprised about three hundred acres, mostly arable, and contained some of the best partridge land on the estate.

Now, the tenant of Church Farm was Farmer Wood, and the line of shooters had scarcely begun to march when suddenly the farmer appeared, about a hundred yards in front, with his gun in his hand, his son walking by his side, and his dog at his heels. A rabbit ran out from the roots; bang—bang went both Farmer Wood's barrels. Whirr-whirr! Away went a large covey of partridges frightened by the report.

I must leave you to imagine the consternation of the partridge shooters and the furious indignation of Squire Acworth.

"Hi, you there! Confound you! What are you doing? Littlemore, go and tell that damned feller to clear out."

The scandalised Littlemore ran after Farmer Wood and gave him the Squire's message, with some incisive additions on his own account. Farmer Wood answered, with an air of bland surprise.

"Fact is," he said, "as I've took the fancy to have a day with the rabbits to-day. What ails you at that, Littlemore?"

"A day with the rabbits, when the Squire has a shooting party——!"

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

"Well, it's unfortinit for both on us, no doubt. But I don't see as it can be helped," said Farmer Wood, serenely.

"Good 'Evins! Are yer drunk, Wood?" cried Head-keeper Littlemore, aghast at the farmer's placid coolness.

"It's not me what's drunk, Littlemore," replied Farmer Wood, calmly. "It's certain other folks what's drunk—with their own importance. Seems to think they're sort o' God A'mighties. Well, you may just take Tummas Wood's word for it as they ain't, then."

Littlemore was speechless with amazement. A mere farmer defy a head-keeper in such terms! Littlemore didn't quite know whether he were standing on his head or his heels.

By this time Squire Acworth and the rest of the party had come up.

"What's the damned feller saying, Littlemore?" demanded the Squire, white with anger.

"I'm a saying, Squire," replied Farmer Wood, smiling serenely at his enraged landlord, "how unfortinit it is as you and me should both have fixed our little bit of shooting for the same day!"

"You—you—felon!" roared the Squire, provoked beyond all control by the civil impudence of the other's tone. "Clear out, instantly; or I'll commit you to prison. I'll ——"

"Very sorry, Squire. But I am afraid yer can't. The law's on my side," said Farmer Wood, still smiling at him pleasantly. "It's an unfortinit coincidence, as I said, as we should both have pitched on the same day. But there it is. So I s'pose we must just make the best on it."

Squire Acworth, clouded though his understanding was by mad fury, had still sufficient intelligence to see that this insolent farmer had the whip-hand of him and that to attempt further parley with him would be merely to court further humiliation. So, choking down his passion by a mighty effort, and affecting an air of dignified contempt, he turned to his guests and said:

"I shall know how to deal with this impudent scoundrel by-and-by. But for the present, since he seems determined to take a spiteful advantage of his technical rights to spoil our sport for us—like the dirty dog in the manger he is—I think we had better leave him to stew in his own juice and move on to the next beat."

"Feared it won't help 'ee much, Squire, if 'ee does," remarked Farmer Wood, continuing to smile at him affably. "For, from what I hears, the other farmers on the estate 's all took the fancy to have a day out wi' the rabbits to-day, as well as me——"

"By Heaven! So this is a regular conspiracy, is it?" roared the Squire, again letting his passion get the better of him.

"No, Squire; not as I am aweer on. It's only as we've all on us been and took the same fancy on the same day. Happen it's the fineness of the weather as has tempted us all out simultaneous. Horrid unfortinit, ain't it? But theer it is."

As the farmer spoke, he fixed his stolid eyes in a meaning stare upon Squire Acworth.

"Don't know, though, but what you and me might arrange it amicable," he added, in a low voice. "I ain't an onreasonable bloke, by no means, and if you could a-see your way to scratch my back, I'm quite agreeable to scratch yours. What do 'ee say, Squire? Eh?"

For some moments the Squire said nothing. He stood glaring at Farmer Wood as though he could cheerfully have strangled him. But at length, seeing that a mutual arrangement was the only possible way out of this humiliating *impasse*, with a very ill grace he came to terms. And that was how it was that Squire Acworth got his day's shooting and Farmer Wood got back his three Herefords.

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

ART NOTES.

THE APOTHEOSIS OF "FAKE."

THE well-meaning, if somewhat over-ambitious, photographers who run the Photographic Salon, are apparently still strenuously pursuing the object of their composite being. They are most of them, that is to say, doing all they know, and to a certain extent what they do not, to make a photograph look like a silver-point drawing, or an etching, or a mezzo-tint, or a water colour, or a lithograph—in short, like anything but what it really is. To the mere man-in-the-street, in fact, a visit to the Dudley Gallery just now is a liberal education in the requirements and developments of the ingenious art of "faking." Instead of calling themselves the "Members of the Linked Ring," which is a rather meaningless title, I would, indeed, suggest that "The Fakers of the Negligible Negative," or "The Brethren of the Illimitable 'Fake,'" would better describe the skilful operators who manipulate so cleverly the exhibits at successive Salon shows. Thanks to their persistent efforts a new zest is added to the delights of Press Day; whilst a keener interest quickens the placid pleasures of the Private View. I shall not soon forget the state of affairs at the Dudley Gallery on Wednesday last. The latest ingenuities of "the Fakers" were being tracked by excited experts. Animated arguments were being carried on in front of the most un-photograph-like exhibits as to where the action of light finished and the co-operation of "Fake" commenced. I doubt if even a heresy hunt in a Synod of the "Wee Kirkers" of "Auld Reekie" could have inspired more feeling. Assuredly the recondite effort of the seasoned Double-Acrostic Solver never involved investigation more earnest and sustained.

For my own part, I found myself, not unnaturally, at a disadvantage in an examination which implied an exhaustive fore-knowledge of the relative effect of a "potass. metabisulphite" developer as compared with an "eikonogen-hydrokinone" one, and required more than a nodding acquaintance with the various properties of "ennamo" bromide, sandarac, ferric ammonium citrate, and dammar! But what, as an outsider, guiltless of even a playful dalliance with a camera, I could not fail to notice, was the tendency that advanced photographers display to copy the defects as well as the good qualities of the art methods they labour so sedulously to imitate. It is not enough for Baron A. de Meyer—who (if I may so put it) is just now the Mrs. Cameron of the photographic world—that his portraits should recall Rembrandt's etchings, but they must needs, forsooth, recall those masterly efforts at their very murkiest and gloomiest. So sombre is the tone, so dark and opaque the shadows, of some of them that the difficulty is not so much to see their merits as to get a satisfactory sight of them at all. I am old enough, I regret to say, to remember the tantalising character of the daguerreotype portrait, of which the observer could only obtain a fitful glance by tilting it at various experimental angles and persistently varying the plane of vision. But really there are certain of the more advanced portraits now hung at the Dudley Gallery of which it is only by a lucky chance that the visitor is able to obtain even an indistinct view, and let me advise those who would question this statement of mine to just note what they can make of Baron A. de Meyer's "Mrs. Sarah Sears" (No. 41) or Mr. Clarence White's "Otto Meyer" (No. 213).

It was not, indeed, until I had risked a cricked neck and backed myself on to the toes of several blameless spectators that I was able to focus certain of the most-approved developments of the New Photography. Now this, let me assure the brethren of the "Linked Ring," is an unqualified mistake. Often have I had to complain in this column of the trouble to which I have been put by certain well-known impressionist painters before I could properly judge the effects which their pictures have been intended to produce. But even whilst complaining I have continued to look, for I

often found myself repaid for my pains when, at length, by going to the other side of the room, or by standing on a chair, or, possibly, by kneeling on the ground, their elusive works of art had been focussed. But I shall certainly refuse, and so I think will all other sensible folks, to waste time and patience on photographs, whose indistinctness is due to the deliberate perverseness of their producers. I would appeal, therefore, to the moving spirits of the Salon, who have done so much for photography, at once to check the disposition, shown by some of the exhibitors at their Twelfth Public Show, to consider no photograph indubitably artistic until it has been made provokingly obscure.

Apart from this mistaken tendency, which, I understand, is most evident amongst American photographers, there is much to admire at the current Salon Exhibition. The way in which photography is used there as a means of personal artistic expression is full of interest. To the casual observer, however, the daring excursions of Señor Puyo and M. Grimprel into the realms of colour-printing will prove most attractive. Experts, on the other hand, will study with special zest the admirable effects produced by Mr. Charles Moss and others in their well-informed revival of the almost discarded "gum bichromate" process. Into the ethical side of the question, as to the permissibility of "the Fake," I have no intention to enter. The result of its intelligent application to the methods of the camera has certainly been to banish from photographic exhibitions that mechanical monotony which one used to find so depressing. And for that relief I tender Messieurs les "Fakers" my sincerest thanks

MUSIC.

SONGS FOR SIXPENCE.

IN view of the contention so often put forward that copyright music ought to be obtainable more cheaply than it is usually sold in this country, that is an interesting experiment which is about to be tried by Messrs. Elkin and Co., in conjunction with C. Arthur Pearson, Limited, of supplying good copyright songs at sixpence apiece; and it is quite possible that far-reaching results may follow therefrom. While the fact does not afford the smallest justification for the action of the pirates, who simply steal that which is the property of others and re-sell it for next to nothing, there is little doubt that much of the music published to-day costs more than it need. The music publishing trade suffers, in fact, from a certain want of elasticity in respect of its prices. Practically speaking, there is one uniform price of two shillings net, or in practice 1s. 4d.—for all demand the "professional" discount in these days—for all kinds of modern copyright songs whatever their character or value—a state of things contrasting markedly with that prevailing in the book trade, where the utmost variety of prices obtains. Why should there be this difference? What the music publishers say, of course, is that under the existing conditions, putting failures against successes, allowing for the payment of royalties to composers, singers, and so on, the thing cannot be done for less; and no doubt this is true so far as it goes. But, then, the question is whether alongside of the royalty songs, if these must be maintained, there is not room for other works published under less onerous conditions at cheaper rates.

It must not be overlooked, of course, in the case of these sixpenny songs that, through the co-operation of Messrs. Pearson in the matter, great advantages will be enjoyed in the all-important matter of advertising, and these may mean all the difference between success and failure. It does not follow, therefore, because songs may be sold at sixpence each under these conditions, and realise a profit, that Messrs. Chappell, Boosey, and the rest could reduce the prices of their royalty songs with similar results. Messrs. Elkin will pay no royalties, they will have the benefit of extensive advertising, and they reckon on obtaining an enormous sale. By these means only could the thing be done with hope of profit. At the same time this is not to say that other publishers might not find it to their advantage to experiment in the same direction. The price adopted need not necessarily be sixpence. Between that sum and two shillings or 1s. 4d. there is a considerable difference. Reduction to even a shilling or ninepence would doubtless imply a vastly increased sale. Hitherto, however, apart from certain exceptions which do not affect the question, the older publishers have steadily declined to attempt anything on these lines, but have insisted on maintaining a minimum price of 1s. 4d. for every new song published.

Messrs. Elkin and Pearson's venture will help to prove whether there is not an enormous public who, without caring to pay two shillings or 1s. 4d. for a single song, would cheerfully give sixpence or ninepence. It was doubtless some such considerations as these which induced Mr. Caldwell to embark on his extraordinary crusade in defence of the pirates, although in point of fact the one thing is no sort of justification for the other. As was more than once pointed out during the progress of the recent controversy, people might think that Mr. Caldwell charged too much for his calicoes, but this would not justify them in stealing large quantities of it and disposing of it at lower prices. In the usual way these questions of prices can, no doubt, be safely left to settle themselves in conformity with the ordinary laws of supply and demand; and in this particular case the question may fairly be asked why, if songs can be supplied at a profit at lower prices than those which have hitherto prevailed, no publisher has so far had the enterprise to do this. The reply is perhaps that as things stand, with the business in the hands of a very few firms, enjoying in most cases the monopoly of those composers' songs whose works they publish, the ordinary "higgling of the market" is to some extent done away with, and a system has become stereotyped for which, in point of fact, there is no real economic justification. In any case the outcome of this joint experiment of Messrs. Pearson and Elkin will be watched with very considerable interest.

The abuses to which the deferred payment system is liable, whether in the case of pianos or any other class of goods, have been often pointed out in these columns, but there can be nothing but praise for the latest development of the system for which Messrs. John Broadwood and Sons have been responsible. With the adoption of a definite surrender value calculated on an equitable basis in the case of a purchase not eventually completed, the main objection to the instalment plan, as it has hitherto been known, disappears. The fear of the average purchaser buying goods on this principle is, of course, that if he finds himself unable to maintain the payment of his instalments he will forfeit all the payments which he has made on account; and all are aware of the system of organised roguery which has grown up on the strength of this monstrously unfair condition. Messrs. Broadwood's new arrangement, in these circumstances, is to retain only such proportion of the instalments paid as would be due if the piano had been hired under the usual conditions. Thus, supposing a piano has been purchased at 42 gs. on the three years system, and the buyer desires to withdraw from his bargain at the end of the first year, when he has paid 14 gs., he will be charged only twelve months' hire at 15s. per month, or £9, and receive the balance of £5 14s. back again. It is simply adopting, in short, the surrender value principle, which has been for so long an indispensable feature of life insurance; and since the terms seem as favourable as could be expected it will be surprising if the new arrangement does not find speedy favour with the public.

From the *Daily Telegraph*:—

BASS-BARITONE (well trained) will give services, concerts, etc., for Press notices and expenses.— ——, ——road, Upton Park, E

Such an announcement suggests forcibly enough the

severity of the struggle for life among singers to-day, though many doubtless will be loud in their denunciation of one who proclaims his readiness to spoil the market in this fashion. Yet in reality he is only undertaking to do openly what scores and scores of his rivals do habitually in ways more indirect. In fact, he is considerably less of a "blackleg"—if that term can be held to apply here—than many. He does stipulate at least for his expenses, and likewise for Press notices—though how the latter are to be guaranteed I am not quite sure—whereas the vocalist who pays hundreds or thousands of pounds, as the case may be, for the privilege of obtaining a public hearing, enjoys no such advantages. And in the same way the ordinary second-rate performer, who gives a recital without the faintest hope of making it pay, but simply as a means of advertising, and for the purpose of such favourable "notices" as may be gathered, is prepared to give not only as much as, but a great deal more for nothing than the gentleman in the advertisement. Still, it cannot be regarded as encouraging that the services of a Bass-Baritone (well trained) are seemingly worth so little in the open market, and I commend the fact accordingly to the attention of all whom it may concern.

Another Bayreuth festival is talked of for next year. Notwithstanding the rivalry of Munich, New York performances of "Parsifal," and the like, Bayreuth seems still to hold its place, and the reason is not far to seek. Say what the critics may, Bayreuth still has a charm and boasts advantages all its own. For one thing, it is still the only opera-house in Europe where the master's works are given under the exact conditions intended by their creator; and this in itself is much. "The Ring" can be as well sung in London or Berlin. It may even be as well stage-managed. But the performances remain utterly different all the same. I should be the last to maintain that the Bayreuth performances are perfect, considered from a purely critical standpoint. Indifferent singing, tasteless colouring, and wooden acting, resulting all too often from Mme. Cosima's ruthless adherence to ill-considered tradition —these and other charges have been laid often enough against Bayreuth. But say what the fastidious may on this score, who has enjoyed his "Ring" or his "Tristan" or his "Meistersinger" so much elsewhere as in the far-famed hill-top theatre where the surrounding circumstances are so pleasant and the conditions of the performances are so ideal?

None the less, it might not be bad policy, I think, on the part of Mme. Cosima slightly to extend the range of her operations. It was always Wagner's notion that not only his own works, but those of other masters also, would be heard to the best advantage under Bayreuth conditions. *Festspielhaus* is not only the ideal theatre for Wagner, but also for Beethoven, Mozart, Gluck, etc.—to say nothing of Shakespeare, Schiller and Racine. To enlarge the scope of its performances, therefore, so as to include works of this order as well as Wagner's, would be entirely in keeping with the mission and objects of its founder; while to do this could hardly fail to increase considerably the number of its visitors. Let Mme. Cosima, and her admirers consider, therefore, whether at the Festival of 1905 they cannot make a beginning on these lines by announcing performances of "Fidelio" or "Zauberflöte," or "Medea," say, on Bayreuth lines, in addition to those from the usual Wagnerian repertory.

Talking of Bayreuth, by the way, every one will hope that the report may prove unfounded that Ternina's Isolde is to be seen and heard no more after the present season. There is perhaps no finer creation to be witnessed on the lyric stage to-day than that of the great Croatian artist in this, the finest of all of the sixty or seventy parts comprising her total repertory, and the loss will be great indeed if the rumour should prove well-founded. Unfortunately, it is only too well known that Ternina's health has been far from satisfactory during the past few years. This summer, though she acted as finely as ever, the fact could not be overlooked that her voice was beginning to wear, and therefore it would not be surprising, though extremely regrettable, if she should find herself compelled before long to retire.

Your prima donna always gets chaffed when she loses her jewels, quarrels with a composer, or in some other harmless necessary manner gets her name into the papers in the off season; but no one will be likely to envy Mme. Melba the publicity which she obtained through her recent unfortunate experience while motoring. One may well believe, indeed, that this form of recreation will have little charm for her for some considerable time to come. Perhaps in the interim Mme. Melba will take to the milder joys of cycling again. There are those who still recall joyous memories of her earliest efforts in the latter direction. It was in Chicago of all places, at the eminently unoperatic hour of 8 a.m. that the attempt was made, though if the famous songstress had thought to secure immunity thereby from the observation of the curious that expectation was sadly at fault. The De Reszkes, at any rate, and Nordica, and Calvé, and Mr. Grau, and many more were there, though their evidence differed most strangely as to the precise number of "cadences" which Mme. Melba executed on that occasion. Between the sixty odd tumbles with which she was credited by Nordica and Calvé, and the two involuntary dismounts to which she confessed herself, there was certainly a marked discrepancy; though one and all were in agreement as to the wonderful costume—"not bloomers and not skirts, but a sort of half and half"—in which the *diva* appeared on that historic occasion.

Not content with his labours on behalf of the establishment of a national opera house, Mr. Charles Manners is lending his aid now, I see, in furtherance of the scheme for the establishment of a university in Sheffield. Despairing of State aid, the promoters of this project have, it appears, come to an arrangement with the energetic manager of the Moody-Manners Company, under which he will give a week's opera in that town on the understanding that all takings over £1,000 shall go to the University endowment fund. The customary seven performances are to be given in the week, Mr. Manners undertaking to spare no efforts for the occasion, while the university people, on their part, undertake to do their utmost to secure good audiences for Mr. Manners. It seems a sort of mutual benefit arrangement, to which no kind of exception can be taken, and in the result Sheffield music-lovers should obtain an excellent week's opera. The first acts of "Siegfried," "Die Walküre," and "Lohengrin" make up the rather quaint and decidedly substantial bill of fare set down for one evening, I notice.

A school for the teaching of pianoforte accompaniments is the latest development of musical specialism. Mr. Ernest Newton, a musician who has had wide experience, is at the head of the enterprise, and in these days when vocal concerts are so numerous and good accompanists are so few there seems no reason why it should not obtain plenty of pupils. Your really good accompanist no doubt is born—not made; as may be deduced, in fact, from the very poor performances in this regard of some who have practised the art most constantly. But this is by no means to assert that much may not be learnt from a capable instructor by an intelligent pupil. One of the finest of living accompanists is, I suppose, Mr. George Henschel. How perfectly he used to accompany his wife will be remembered by all, Dr. Richard Strauss performs the same service not less successfully for Mme. Strauss de Ahna, and Grieg and his wife used to co-operate equally happily when the former was in his prime. Then, among professional accompanists of note, there is, of course, Mr. Henry Bird, who does marvels in the way of transposing at sight. Mme. Patti will have no one but Mr. Ganz to play for her, as Melba in her turn swears by Mr. Landon Ronald. Mr. Hamilton Harty, one of the best of the younger men, dashes off the most trying accompaniments of Richard Strauss without a note of music before him; and there are many more.

In a recent article the expenditure in connection with the Leeds Festival was put at £6,000. A correspondent now tells me that this was an under-estimate, the expenditure on the last occasion having been £9,903. This amount left a balance of £1,651 for distribution to the hospitals.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In reading "The Surrender of Napoleon" (1) you are inclined again and again to wish for the credit of England that a man of the type of Captain Maitland, who had charge of Napoleon on his voyage to England, had been his custodian in St. Helena. The defenders of Sir Hudson Lowe seem to me to mistake altogether the cause and kind of disgust every gentleman must feel in reading of his treatment of his prisoner on the rock. It was not the rigour of the precautions Sir Hudson took—which may have been necessary—but the petty and vulgar vexatiousness of his manner of making his prisoners feel their humiliation every moment and at every turn. Nothing could be more rigid than the precautions Captain Maitland was ordered to take, and did take, to the extent even of depriving his captive of his arms and of searching his baggage, but he took them like a gentleman; and though Napoleon felt the humiliation of these measures, he felt also and expressed the feeling again and again, that what had to be done was done considerately and courteously. On quitting the *Bellerophon* for the *Northumberland*, "Napoleon walked out of the cabin with a steady, firm step, and came up to me, and, taking off his hat, said: 'Captain Maitland, I take this last opportunity of once more returning my thanks for the manner in which you have treated me while on board the *Bellerophon*, and also to request you will convey them to the officers and ship's company you command.'" And what were the feelings of the officers and men of the *Bellerophon* towards Napoleon? "After he had quitted the ship, being desirous to know the feeling of the ship's company towards him, I asked my servant what the people said of him. 'Why, sir,' he answered, 'I heard several of them conversing together about him this morning, when one of them observed, "Well, they may abuse that man as much as they please; but if the people of England knew him as well as we do, they would not hurt a hair of his head"—in which the others agreed.'" Here, again, is Admiral Lord Keith's opinion of the fascination of Napoleon's conversation. Speaking of Napoleon's wish for an interview with the Prince Regent he said, "D—n the fellow! If he had obtained an interview with his Royal Highness they would have been the best friends in England." Captain Maitland's courtesy to Napoleon, however, was quite as much inspired by what he felt was due to himself as by what he felt was due to his captive; since, after all, the whole etiquette of the case is summed up in Hamlet's rejoinder to Polonius in the matter of the treatment of the players:—"Good, my lord, will you see the players well bestowed? Do you hear, let them be well used." "My lord, I will use them according to their desert." "God's bodikins, man, much better. Use every man after his desert, and who should 'scape whipping? *Use them after your own honour and dignity.*" Captain Maitland never forgot what Hudson Lowe never remembered, that he was the representative of a great country on whose generosity Napoleon had thrown himself. Before passing from this volume, which deserves Scott's tribute as "a great and interesting national document, as fine, manly, and explicit an account as ever was given of so interesting a transaction," I should like to quote from it Captain Maitland's elaborate description of Napoleon:—

> Napoleon Bonaparte, when he came on board the *Bellerophon* on the 15th of July, 1815, wanted exactly one month of completing his forty-sixth year. He was then a remarkably strong, well-built man, about five feet seven inches high, his limbs particularly well formed, with a fine ankle and very small foot, of which he seemed rather vain as he always wore while on board the ship silk stockings and shoes. His hands also were very small, and had the plumpness of a woman's rather than the robustness of a man's. His eyes light grey, teeth good; and when he smiled the expression of his countenance was highly pleasing; when under the influence of disappointment, however, it assumed a dark, gloomy cast. His hair was of a very dark brown, nearly approaching to black, and though a little thin on top and front, had not a grey hair amongst it. His complexion was a very uncommon one being of a light, sallow colour, differing from almost any other I ever met with. From his having become corpulent he had lost much of his personal activity, and, if we are to give credit to those who attended him, a very considerable proportion of his mental energy was gone also. It is certain his habits were very lethargic while he was on board the *Bellerophon*: for, though he went to bed between eight and nine o'clock in the evening and did not rise till about the same hour in the morning, he frequently fell asleep on the sofa in the cabin in the course of the day. His general appearance was that of a man rather older than he then was. His manners were extremely pleasing and affable. He joined in every conversation, related numerous anecdotes, and endeavoured in every way to promote good humour.

Another book which has to do with Napoleon, "Napoleon's British Visitors and Captives" (2) is a well-written biographical dictionary of its subjects, giving, besides, the impressions made upon each other by the English guests and French hosts. Its most interesting references to Napoleon himself are, perhaps, those that have to do with his captivity in St. Helena. It is pretty and pathetic to see him sitting to learn English at the feet of that *enfant terrible*, Betsy Balcombe, who coolly questioned him, not only as to his supposed atheism, but as to the "happy despatch" of the wounded French at Jaffa and as to the execution of the Duc d'Enghien! While studying an English Æsop with her he pointed to the picture of an ass kicking the sick lion, and remarked, "It is me (*sic*) and your Governor" (Sir Hudson Lowe). Here, again, is the translation, which has never before been published, of a French theme set to him by Mme. Bertrand. The bracketed italics indicate the erasures:—

> "When will you be wise?" "Never (*than that*) as long as I (*should*) could be in this isle, but I shall become wise after (*have*) having passed the line. When I shall (*landed*) land in france I shall be very content. Mi (*wive*) wife shall come (*after, bef-*) near me. Mi son shall be great and (*fort*) strong. He (*shall get*) will be able to take his bottle of wine at dinner. I shall trink with him. Mi mother shall be olde, mi sisters shall . . . for the women believe they. . . ."

"I" is uniformly written "j," and "*sage*," translated "wise," means here "well-behaved." "When will you be a good child?" Mr. Christopher Hare's romance of old Siena, "Felicitá" (3), reminds me of those spectacular plays where the scenery is more attractive than the actors. The scenery in "Felicitá" is exquisitely painted, and no doubt archæologically accurate, but the characters somehow do not take great hold upon you. Yet it is a pretty story of boy and girl lovers, who, after many crosses in the course of true love—including the nominal marriage of the heroine to an ogre—are made mutually happy through the plague, which serves at once to remove the ogre, to bring out the beauty of the heroine's character, and to reunite her to the hero. Different, indeed, is the effect upon you of Mrs. Voynich's "Olive Latham" (4) which brings home to you all the horrors of Russian suppression, oppression, imprisonment and exile in a style so terse and tense that you seem to hear a man of iron, from whom no tortures could wring a cry, narrate these tortures with a Spartan self-restraint. It is hard to say whether the effect of Olive Latham's experiences upon her as the self-contained English nurse of her Russian *fiancé*, or those experiences themselves, are described with a grimmer power. No book on Russian prison horrors that I have read brings them home to you with such a terrible intensity as this novel. The heroine of "The Master Hope" (5) is a nurse also, but of a very different species from that to which Olive Latham belongs. She is an inveterate flirt, and seems

(1) "The Surrender of Napoleon." By Rear-Admiral Sir Frederick Lewis Maitland. A New Edition. Edited with a Memoir of the Author by William Kirk Dickson. (London: William Blackwood & Sons.)

(2) "Napoleon's British Visitors and Captives. 1801-1815." By John Goldworth Alger. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Felicitá." By Christopher Hare. (London: Harper Brothers. 6s.)

(4) "Olive Latham." By E. L. Voynich. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(5) "The Master Hope." By Phyllis Bottome. (London: Hurst & Blackett' Ltd. 6s.)

to keep as many men going together as a juggler keeps balls in the air. You are bewildered, indeed, by the number of characters in the novel, and of this number very few are sympathetic. The author seems thoroughly at home in the hospital scenes, which are admirably described.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Lady Ulrica Duncombe looked very handsome in her wedding gown of richest white satin, with its long train and lovely lace falling over it. Of her two beautiful sisters she rather resembles Lady Cynthia Graham than Lady Helen Vincent, having large dark eyes and very dark hair, with a brilliant complexion. She also recalls another lovely sister, the late Duchess of Leinster. Both the former were present. They never look more lovely than when they are together, forming such a striking contrast, Lady Cynthia so dark, Lady Helen so fair. The first wore cream colour, with a knot of soft salmon-pink silk at the waist. Lady Helen was in palest peach-coloured crêpe-de-chine. Her toque was dark green, with a line of white round the brim.

There were no bridesmaids and no pages, but there was beautiful music, and quantities of lovely flowers decorated the altar and the chancel, together with tall palms. The favours were real flowers, white gardenias and tuberoses chiefly.

The Countess of Feversham was in purple velvet and black lace. She wore beautiful diamond earrings. The Earl leaned lightly on a stick as he walked with the bride up the church.

I noticed the gowns very particularly, and am able to tell you that the fashionable length for skirts is from five to seven inches on the ground at the back. The days of long trains have gone for the present. So have the pouches and the tight skirts, with too visible fastenings up the back. All the new ones have full gathers at the back, and some are gathered all round. A brown gauze was arranged in this way, and was trimmed round with ruches at intervals the whole way from hem to waist. A mouse-coloured soft silk was trimmed with a very deep shaped flounce, and had a pointed fichu of lace completely covering the back, and coming in a deep point to the waist. I could not see the front.

I noticed a scarf made of tulle in white and shades of grey, all ruched. At the top were two rows of pure white, then two more of very pale grey, then two of a deeper tone, and finally two of decided grey. It looked very light and pretty. Another scarf was in tulle or very fine net, to which shaded pink rose-petals were sewn. It was worn over a black gown, and would have looked better over a white or light one.

I have seen many ruffles made of white cocks' feathers since I got back to town. The smartest frock I have yet met was a dark blue lisse with round red spots, the skirt trimmed with a very deep and much gathered flounce and worn over a red silk underskirt. Another smart frock was worn by a girl whom I suspected of being a bride, as everything she had on looked very new. Her frock was blue serge, open down the front of not only coat but skirt as well. The fronts were bordered all the way down with wide red and blue braid, and the space between them was filled in with pleated dark blue silk. A decidedly original gown.

Americans in London are flocking to the Duke of York's Theatre to see their charming countrywoman in "Merely Mary Anne." We found ourselves surrounded by high bodices and Transatlantic voices there the other evening, some of the voices deliciously sweet, others unmitigatedly nasal. Miss Robson's is a beautiful voice, so soft and caressing when she talks to her canary, but I wish I knew where to get such a canary. It sings a lark's song. This is beautifully done. I wonder how!

Tartan silk petticoats and blouses to match are features of the autumn fashions. I wonder what the Scottish clans think when they see all sorts and conditions of women toddling about in their own beloved tartans. Annette, who is a Stuart, was upset for a whole day, while staying with us, by seeing a terrible-looking old witch-like woman coming out of a public-house in a staggering condition, and wearing a blouse of the royal Stuart tartan. When we got poor Annette over some of her indignation we tried to surmise for whom that blouse had originally been made and by what steps it had come down in the world so fearfully low.

Chenille is the favourite material for winter hats. Some have crowns of cloth and chenille woven in and out and forming a trellis. In others the cloth is replaced by silk, which is much lighter. The chenille brims are very becoming. One that I saw was in a mixture of white silk and chenille, very smart and pretty. A moleskin coloured velvet toque had a white satin brim with moleskin coloured chenille worked across and across it. On the left side of the crown was a deliciously soft cluster of white marabout feathers tipped with the colour of the velvet. Black silk beaver is again to be worn, and it, too, is mighty becoming.

The dear Hyde-Parkes are back, and dined us at the Carlton one night last week. Our eyes were at least as busy as our jaws, for the big room was full. At one table were Prince and Princess Henry of Pless, she young and lovely as ever and wearing a wonderful gown. Prince Aga Khan was of the party. At another table were Prince Francis of Teck with Lord and Lady Warwick. A vision in pink silk and chiffon sat near us, in whom we were immensely interested, so childish and pretty was she. And then the cloak she put on when going away! It was all white pleated chiffon in deep flounces bordered with fine black lace, and a sort of fichu hood of the lace draped the shoulders and hung a long way down the back. It felt like the height of the season to be in the midst of that smart crowd.

The King, we hear, does not quite care for ordinary evening dress for men. It is reported that his Majesty likes knee breeches and silk stockings, and some young men who incline to encourage the innovation have resolved to have a large dinner-party at the Carlton Restaurant when all the men will wear the more picturesque costume. I hope they will succeed in making it general. Men look so nice in Court dress, and to this the new evening garb approximates. Then the next step will be velvet coats. No one can object but a few men who have unsatisfactory legs, and they must be a very insignificant majority.

Are you more conscientious on some days than on others? And do you, on those days, gladly avail yourself of your improved diligence to get done some little task that has been waiting for such a mood? There are days when I have a fearful time with my conscience. It keeps me hard at work from breakfast to bedtime. A slave-driving conscience mine is on such days. I used one of them lately in looking over boxes of odds and ends of lace of every kind and every size. They lie by year after year, and only on a particularly industrious day does one sort them over and find uses for them. Some of the lengths will make frills for sleeves. An odd piece will just do for one of the dainty little turned-down collars that add such a finish to a neat frock. There are dozens of ways of using up lengths (or shorts) of lace nowadays. The berthe provides one, and the long hanging sleeves afford another. The other day I saw a sleeve that is just the thing for using up a number of small pieces. It was part of a black silk bodice, and the whole way down the outside

LADIES requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.—JOHN BUSVINE & Co., 4, Brook-st., London, W.

of the arm the silk was cut away in angles, leaving angles of itself alternating with others filled in with flat pieces of lace laid over the white silk lining. The pointed pieces of silk were finished with a couple of lines of stitching. At the wrist was a frill of the lace. It made a pretty sleeve.

We saw at the Royalty Theatre a good example of a lace gown, worn by handsome Miss Granville, and in company with a most becoming hat of orange and yellow tulle and a highly prepossessing arrangement forming a tie. This consisted of about four yards of narrow orange tulle twisted once round the neck, then falling in long ends over the gown almost to the hem. The ends were finished off with pointed pieces of cream-coloured lace, something like that of which the gown was made. I have never seem a more effective get-up.

It was so nice to see, in this play, "The Chetwynd Affair," Dickens's "poor Jo" developed into a comely little lady of comfortable outlines, who now makes the audience laugh instead of cry. You wonder what I mean? The Mrs. Blackwood of the play is Miss Jennie Lee who, some years ago, made the whole of the civilised world shed tears with her impersonation of Jo in "Bleak House."

Have you read what "A Foreign Resident" thinks of Englishwomen in the present reign? Listen:—

> Clairvoyance, crystal-gazing, necromancy, palmistry: these are the superstitious rites that, with the bridge-playing, odds-taking ladies of the period are what church-going and good works were to their grandmothers.

This is distinctly unfair. There never was a time when great ladies were more devoted to philanthropic work work than they are at present.

And he calls our clubs "hencoops"! Could anything be more abominably rude?

Have you heard, by the way, of the new fashioned entertainment that women are giving at their clubs? A party of from six to twelve combine to give the dinner and each hostess invites a man. It is said that one lady actually invited her own husband. This, of course, was the most unsmart thing she could have done. How flattered he must have felt. But, after all, it would never do to flatter any other man to the same extent, would it? He would at once conclude that his fair Amphitryon was in love with him. The clever way would be for each woman to invite someone whose society would be agreeable to one of the others. A well-rehearsed reciprocity would result in a pleasant evening all round.

The Foreign Resident deigns to throw us a few kind words—though only relatively kind. "The island ladies," he says,

> Put on their clothes more gracefully than they used to do; they show a more practical sense of harmony in colour; they produce effects that are generally pretty by tastefully dealing with materials that are cheap.

All this, he asserts, we have learned from France:—

> The brightness and peace of English households of the upper middle-class have been much promoted by familiarity with foreign attention to the minor duties, the performance of which sweetens the life and the humour of homes.

But do not plume yourself, Amy dear, upon this eulogium, for it is addressed to the ladies of Eastbourne only.

I read in a paper this morning that a watchman, who had been having a fearful time with rats in a city building, bethought him of his bag-pipes, and took them from his home to the scene of his nightly duty. He began playing them, and marched all over the premises skirling away like mad. Not a rat was ever seen in that building after. What a fearful fright they must have had! It is interesting to know that rats are able to discriminate among musical instruments. I am sure they would not be scared away by a piano or a flute. Caterpillars do not like trumpets. I wonder if these blaring instruments would have any effect on cockroaches.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAR MARGE,—Small blame to us if we are always talking and thinking of the weather. How can we help it with a tyrant who dominates so strongly our daily arrangements and engagements, who puts us under a most strict and severe discipline, trying our tempers, thwarting our plans at every turn, and just roughly insisting "You won't" to each one's "I will"? To say one word to curry favour by knocking under, by the humble and conciliatory "weather permitting." It does not conciliate the more, but generally returns our submissiveness by increased inclemency. A real downright wet day is bad enough when there is the question of a social festivity to be attended, but how much worse is the day of stray sun gleams and illusive breaks in the clouds, which succeeds so far as to lure us into our best clothes, and then closes in for pitiless, persistent bad weather. Perhaps the usual failure in the method of conciliation accounts for the newer one of defiance which of late has been coming into fashion. Open-air faddists bid open defiance to weather; golf players are quite independent of it; hockey players try to be the same. The newest phase, however, is the renunciation of the umbrella which is a growing fashion, especially with the younger section of our sex, when going about the ordinary avocations of life, and just when the seasons for several years have been so bad. We are, no doubt, a contradictory sex, and certainly, through all the changes of all times, can make no claim to being guided by reason in the matter of our clothing and general equipment. However, exposure to rain may suit the young, one cannot but think that it must find out with sad and sorry rheumatical effect the "advanced." But, then, do "advanced persons" exist any longer in our sex? Fashion seems to ignore the idea, to decree eternal youth for all its votaries. Nowadays sixteen and sixty dress almost alike, and when frivolous there is little to choose between the frivolity of the one and of the other. Sixty, even fashionable sixty, does not always want to be sixteen in the matter of dress, and there the difficulty begins. One wonders that, in these days of specialists, special dress artists do not devote themselves to, let us say, after-fifty dressing. Many, no doubt, take a much longer time to get to fifty and after than others do, but then that is entirely their own affair. The number who do the distance in the given time is large enough to supply an important clientèle for an enterprising Paquin of the middle ages and later on.

This is a month of home-comings all over the Kingdom. The out-of-door and the "cure" seasons are ended; hotels in summer tourist resorts suggest, in many ways, the forecast shadow of a coming close. Arrivals are daily fewer, and departures on the increase—a depressing state of things from which most of us gladly take homeward flight. The weather generally breaks, too, at this time all over the Continent, and what can be drearier than hotel life in bad weather? The tourist over here has had a broken time also, but "pet" days have been sufficiently frequent to show that the country, if not the weather, is all that could be desired. Motorists in growing numbers are discovering Ireland. One hopes that they may learn a useful lesson in the land of leisure and get imbued with its spirit in some degree. Can you understand tourists tearing through a picturesque country without seeing the places they are passing through, and just simply choked with dust or else suffocating under defences against it? How great human ingenuity is in taking the good out of things. Reasonable motoring would be such a delightful way of getting about if it were not for the unreasonable, who make the roads so dangerous and dusty for others.

Dublin is showing signs of the return of its inhabitants, though as yet the symptoms are mainly premonitory—the opening of shutters and the appearance of painters, and such-like things. Not for another month will the town again be in full swing of its winter life. Lord and Lady Dudley are soon expected to leave the Viceregal Lodge for a holiday, much needed by Lady Dudley after such a long and trying invalid time. It is not the best of seasons for a change, but still, when the world lies all before the choice of people, some place can be found to suit any season, no doubt. What tonic equals that of change of air! I am not scientific enough to know the exact reason why, are you? But is it not the teaching of experience with us all?

Everybody is having shooting parties just now and paying country visits. The mighty hunters are beginning the remote preparation for their season of activity, the holiday time of the fox is drawing to an end. The Duke and Duchess of Abercorn

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have been spending the autumn at Baron's Court with many members of their family, and entertaining visitors. Lord Ranfurly has returned, with Lady Ranfurly and his family, to his northern home after his long absence in New Zealand, and met with a very hearty reception. The settling down into ordinary life, after a long habit of "reigning" in a viceregal position, must be a little disconcerting at first—to step down into the crowd, after having been raised an inch or so above it. The compensation may be that it is better possibly to serve at home than to reign in a distant colony. The Dowager Lady Dufferin has been spending the autumn at Clandeboye, where she usually lives. Her younger sister, Lady Nicolson, and her family have been staying with her. Sir Arthur and Lady Nicolson do not take up their residence at Madrid until the beginning of next year, but go abroad before that time. Lady Nicolson will be as charming an Ambassadress as her sister was. She has one little daughter, who was born at Tangier, and several sons, the eldest of whom is in the Army.

Several marriages of interest in Ireland took place last week. Lord Dunsany is the head of a branch of the Irish family of Plunkett, and the nephew of Sir Horace Plunkett. Miss Arnott, the daughter of Sir John and Lady Arnott, was married at Old Connaught, Bray, a large gathering of the elect of Society, including Lord Ashbourne, Lord and Lady Monck, the Ladies Howard, and Mrs. Rowan Hamilton, being present at an afternoon party on the occasion of the marriage. It is just the season for weddings—is it not?—when there is a lull in the rush of life.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Tomato croustades are a delicious savoury:—

Make 2 oz. of flour into a stiff paste with the yolk of an egg, a pinch of salt, and a spoonful of cold water; roll it thin, cut it into rounds, and with them line a number of small croustade moulds, using a wedge of the paste to press them into shape; fill the moulds with fine tapioca that is mixed with lard, and bake them a golden colour. Take the seeds and skins from three or four ripe tomatoes, cut them in dice and cook them in a little butter in a covered stewpan; pour off a little of the water, and mix in the raw yolk of an egg, salt and pepper to taste. Fill the croustade cases with the tomato, mix 2 oz. grated Parmesan with a little cream, put a portion on each croustade, and bake them long enough to take a nice brown colour.

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· TRUTH ·

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

A VERY timely gift has just reached me from "The Bradford Manufacturing Company, Limited," in the shape of a large parcel of short lengths of various fancy materials, well suited for the dressing of our Truth Dolls. I shall be pleased to divide the available pieces amongst the ladies who may first apply for an assortment of them. The state of affairs, in fact, suggests at present a paraphrase of the condition of Britannia in the Jingo ballad—"We have the dolls, we have the stuff," and I hope that, as the result of this announcement, we may shortly have the dressers, too! But this is a consummation still to be attained, for I find that at present nearly a thousand small Truth Dolls and a considerable number of large ones, are waiting, like so many Cinderellas, for the advent of the kind Fairy Godmothers who will fit them, sartorially, for the regions of dazzling light at which it is hoped they will appear shortly before Christmas. Who, then, will intervene on their behalf?

The King and Prince of Wales will have the annual deer drives in Ballochbuie Forest this week, and during the early part of next week. This forest, which was purchased by Queen Victoria from the late Colonel Farquharson of Invercauld, is fringed by extensive and beautiful woods, and it is bordered on the north side by the Dee. It contains the Falls of Garrawalt, which are very pretty, the stream descending by a succession of small leaps, and the chasm is overhung by firs and birches. The best view is from the bridge which Queen Victoria threw over the falls, and her late Majesty's cottage (which was frequently used for picnic teas) is within a short distance. Ballochbuie, which lies between Balmoral and Braemar, is heavily stocked with red deer, and there is abundance of shelter for the animals.

His Majesty intends to give a dance in the ballroom at Balmoral before his departure from Deeside for the season. This ballroom, which is ornamented with stags' heads and other sporting trophies, was built by Queen Victoria, and it occupies a detached wing to the north of the Castle.

The King's circuitous journey of over seven hours from Ballater to Invergarry was accomplished without a hitch. His Majesty, who left Balmoral at nine o'clock in the morning, breakfasted and lunched in the train, which stopped only at Ferryhill (Aberdeen), Dunblane, Crianlarich, and Spean Bridge. The King was delighted with the beautiful scenery through which he passed, the country from Dunblane to Invergarry being quite new to him. On arriving at Invergarry Station the King was received by Lord Burton, Lochiel (Lord Lieutenant of Inverness-shire), Captain Ellice (nephew of Mrs. Edward Ellice of Glenquoich and Glengarry), Mr. Baillie of Dochfour, and Mr. George Malcolm. The King was loudly cheered as he drove through the village of Invergarry in his motor-car, and the road was gay with bunting for several miles. In the course of the drive (twenty-three miles), to Loch Quoich Lodge, Mr. Baillie's motor-car was somehow set on fire, but the occupants escaped without injury.

The arrangements for the return journey from Invergarry to Ballater were precisely the same, except that the start of the train was more than an hour later. The King has used on these journeys the London and North-Western Royal corridor train, in which his Majesty travelled on the 12th from Ollerton to Ballater. This train remains at Ballater, and it will be used by his Majesty for his journey south next week, which is to be over the West Coast route.

The King's own double saloon carriage, which was built for his Majesty three years ago in France for use during Continental journeys, has arrived at Copenhagen. If the Queen goes to St. Petersburg she will travel in this carriage to the frontier at Eydtkuhnen, whence her Majesty will complete the journey in a Russian Court train. The King's saloon is divided into compartments, and is fitted up with every comfort both for day and night travelling.

Some days of the King's stay at Glenquoich were devoted to deer-stalking, and on Tuesday there were several drives, during which ten stags were shot. There were also some angling excursions on Loch Quoich, which is well stocked with trout and salmo-ferox. The other days were occupied with motor drives to Loch Hourn, Loch Alsh, and Loch Duich, where the King embarked on board Lord Burton's yacht, which each day conveyed the party for a short cruise through the Sound of Sleat, and along the coast by Glenelg, Balmacarra, and Knoydart. The weather was remarkably fine last week in this district of the West Highlands, and the King has greatly enjoyed his visit to Lord and Lady Burton.

Glenquoich means "the glen of the cup," the mountains forming a species of "quoich" about the deer forest. It is one of the very wettest spots in Great Britain, the average rainfall being about 110 in. every year. Prince Charles Edward was nearly being captured near Loch Quoich when he was escaping from Scotland in July, 1746, after Culloden.

The King and Queen are to pay a visit during the winter to Lord and Lady Cadogan at Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds. Their Majesties will probably arrive at Culford from Sandringham on Monday, December 5, and the Royal visit will terminate on Friday, the 9th.

It is probable that the Queen will proceed next month from Copenhagen to St. Petersburg on a brief and strictly private visit to the Empress Dowager of Russia, in which case her Majesty will most likely be accompanied by the Duchess of Cumberland. The Empress Marie was unable to pay her usual spring visit to Denmark this year, but it was hoped that she would arrive at Copenhagen about the middle of September for a stay of several weeks. It seems, however, that the Empress cannot leave Russia at present, and there is now no prospect of her visiting Denmark this year. The sisters are very anxious to meet, and, under the circumstances, they can do so only by the Queen undertaking a journey to St. Petersburg.

The Queen and several members of the Royal Family of Denmark were to have been last week the guests of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin at Ludwigslust, but the visit has been postponed in consequence of the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland (who were to have been included in the party at Ludwigslust) having deferred their journey from their seat in Upper Austria to Denmark.

The Prince of Wales has been deer-stalking in the Royal forests and salmon-fishing in the Dee during the last ten days. H.R.H. and the Princess are expected in town next week, and will stay for a few days at Marlborough House before going to Sandringham for the autumn and winter months

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is to visit Alton, Hants, on Monday, October 10, when she will open an Art Exhibition in the Assembly Rooms. Lord Northbrook and other county magnates are expected to be present.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia left Clarence House on Wednesday evening for Birkhall House, Aberdeenshire. The Duke and Duchess and their daughters will stay on Deeside for about a fortnight, and they are expected to take up their residence at Bagshot Park for the autumn and winter during the second or third week in October.

Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, who has leased Braemar Castle, Aberdeenshire, from Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, has sublet the place for this season to Lord and Lady Normanton. Neither shooting nor fishing is let with the place, which is well situated on the Dee, near the Lion's Face road, which was Queen Victoria's favourite drive when staying at Balmoral, and opposite to Invercauld. The Braemar Gathering is usually held in one of the grass parks near the Castle, which is a large, plain, whitewashed building, dating from the early part of the seventeenth century. It was used as barracks from 1715 until about 1765.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland and several members of the Percy family are staying for a short time at Keilder, their shooting lodge on the Cheviot Hills, before settling for the autumn and winter at Alnwick Castle, where they intend to reside until the meeting of Parliament in February.

Lord and Lady Derby and Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley are leaving Witherslack Hall this week for Knowsley Park, where there is to be a large house party during the Liverpool Church Congress.

The Duke of Sutherland is staying for a short time at Corrie-na-Fearnie, his shooting lodge near Kinbrace, for deer-stalking in the forest of Ben Armine, Loch Choire, and Dalnessie, which comprise about 55,000 acres. There have been no large parties at Dunrobin Castle this year, and the Duchess of Sutherland is going abroad next week for a month, while the Duke is coming south to Trentham Hall for a week or two. They will be again at Dunrobin during November. A section of Dunrobin deer forest is let to Lord Amherst, the tenant of Uppat House and shootings.

I used to know Herbert von Bismarck very well when he was a child, and his father was the Prussian Representative at the Diet in Frankfort. The father kept a sort of open house, where all friends were welcomed.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 802.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 803.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 799.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 805.

A more free-and-easy establishment I never knew, and there was a large hall or salon, where the family all seemed to sit. The father often did not go to bed all night, and kept up beer-drinking until the morning, either there or in a café. Then, having tied a wet towel round his head, he would write his despatches. After this he would ride forth on a raw-boned white horse, and on his return betake himself to a sitting of the Diet, where his chief delight was to make himself disagreeable to the President, who was an Austrian. Herbert, when he grew up, never seemed to me to care much for public life. He devoted himself to it up to a point, because this pleased his father. But even if the split between the father and the present Emperor had not taken place, I doubt whether he would have ever become a great statesman. Personally, however, he was a cheery, agreeable man.

The late Mr. William Lipscombe, of Heath, near Wakefield, was one of the oldest and best-known agriculturists in Yorkshire. Nearly sixty years have elapsed since he came into the West Riding as agent for the extensive Savile estates, which have been enormously improved by his judicious management, and the relations between tenants and landlord have always been most cordial. He was a brother of the late Canon Lipscombe, Rector of Staindrop, near Darlington, who died a few months ago, after having held that living for nearly fifty-eight years.

The death was announced last week of Mr. Wickham Flower, whose name has been so frequently mentioned in Truth in connection with the story of the Mokau Estate in New Zealand. He has not long survived the trial which brought the long controversy over that property to an end. In the course of that controversy I have been under the necessity of speaking severely of Mr. Flower's conduct; but I did not know him personally, I have never to my knowledge seen him, and I hope it is unnecessary to say that I bore him no malice. His fault seems to have been that, having taken a false step, he refused resolutely to admit that he had done so, even when the Court of which he was an officer had condemned him, on precisely the same ground that he had been condemned in Truth. I have no doubt that he persuaded himself that he had a right to do what he did, and remained firm in that conviction to the last. He must have suffered much for his tenacity in that opinion, and no one regrets more than I do that he should have died before the opportunity had come of "burying the hatchet."

Miss Hayward, of Lyme Regis, who died last week at the age of ninety, was a sister of Mr. Abraham Hayward, the well-known reviewer and essayist, whom she survived for more than twenty years. Miss Hayward passed her whole life at Lyme, where she was greatly esteemed, and she will be much missed by the poor of the town, to whom she was a kind and generous friend.

A correspondent writes:—

> Why will people persist in talking and writing about the "cure"? It is the German word "Kur," *anglice* "course," and means a course of bathing or drinking which patients undergo at Homburg, Marienbad, Nauheim, etc., and the "Kur" does not always end in a "cure." The mistake, therefore, is not only meaningless, but makes foreigners laugh at us for our ignorance and faulty etymology.

My correspondent writes as one having authority, but I should like to know the grounds for his assertion that the German word "kur" is etymologically identical with the English "course." I do not profess to be a German scholar, but I have turned this word up in two German dictionaries, and in each of them, under "kur," I find a reference to "cur," and the English for "cur" is in each given as "cure." It is true that the word is also defined as meaning a course of treatment, but no suggestion is made in my dictionaries that "kur" means "course" in any other sense. On the face of it the German "cur," or "kur," is etymologically connected with the Latin "cura," like the English "cure," and if any foreigner laughs at me for my ignorance in suggesting this derivation, I am ready to argue the point with him. I might remind my correspondent that an English "cure" does not necessarily mean a successful treatment or an infallible remedy. If he has any doubt about that, I shall be pleased to give him evidence in support of this statement.

THE BORGIAN BOWL.

By One Who Means to Shun it.

> For salads *le dernier cri* is flowers, something gay and pretty, to adorn the bowl.—*The Lady.*

No, no! the notion may not be
A bad one to inspire a ballad,
But I, for my part, earnestly
Protest against the Floral Salad!
Æsthetes may boom it, if they will,
Poets may rhapsodise its joys on,
But I remember, with a thrill,
That flow'rs secrete all kinds of poison.
And that the bowl, *not* filled with clover,
May prove one that will bowl me over!

Fair to the sight that bowl may seem,
Decked out with all the spoils of Flora,
But what if its contents should teem
With poppy-blooms and mandragora?
Tall spikes of foxglove charm the eye,
But, though dished up *cum grano salis*,
Few gourmets would consent to try
A bowl of seasoned digitalis;
Or bear more love than even Shelley bore
T'ward hemlock, aconite, and hellebore!

Let Floral Salads once be rife
And there would be such chance of error,
That they to luncheon and to life
Would add another daily terror;
Since dames determined to be "smart,"
And yearning to be in the fashion,
Might play a grim Lucrezian part
From ignorance, if not from passion;
Whilst Salad-bowls, by implication,
Would gain a Borgian reputation!

Lord Durham, who rented the deer forest of Glenfiddich in Banffshire for the season from the Duke of Richmond, has come south after spending about seven weeks at this shooting lodge, where he entertained the

Prince of Wales on August 31 for a day's grouse driving over the moors which are let along with the forest. Lord Durham will be at Exning, near Newmarket, during the three October meetings, after which he goes to Lambton Castle, the family seat near Durham, where the Prince of Wales is to be a guest for three or four days either about the middle of November or early in December.

The Luton Hoo estate, in Bedfordshire, has been privately sold for £250,000 by the trustees of Mr. Gerard Leigh to Mr. Julius Wernher, who is expending a very large sum of money in altering and improving the house. Luton Hoo was formerly a seat of the Marquises of Bute, and their house was burnt down about fifty years ago. For nearly thirty years Luton Hoo was the country residence of the late Mme. de Falbe, and during her occupation of the place it was frequently visited by members of the Royal Family. The engagement of the late Duke of Clarence to Princess May of Teck took place when they were guests there in November, 1891. There are fine gardens, and an extensive and heavily timbered park. The estate affords excellent shooting.

Last week I went to enjoy Messrs. Brock's benefit at the Crystal Palace. Near me sat two American misses on their way home after a tour of the Continent. I heard them say: "This is the finest show we have seen in Europe," and I should think they might have included America without exaggeration. It was the fortieth anniversary of Messrs. Brock's connection with Sydenham pyrotechnics. To celebrate the occasion a selection of the masterpieces produced during that period was revived, and for the best part of an hour the present Mr. Brock did all he knew, which means that the resources of the craft were about exhausted. Although such vast crowds flock to the Crystal Palace on firework nights, I find a great many people among my acquaintance who have never been there, and I think it is as well to tell them that they do not know one of the best sights London has to show. And there is no excuse for not having seen it, for the Crystal Palace is easily reached, and nowadays you can get as good a dinner there as anyone ought to want.

There seems to have been another record show on the same premises on Saturday, when the *Daily Mirror* gave its little "garden party." I am a great admirer of journalistic enterprise, and this monster advertisement was certainly enterprising enough. But what a queer beast is the British public! I suppose that every one of the *Daily Mirror's* 176,000 guests must have spent, on the average, a couple of shillings or so in getting to the Palace and refreshing when there. In other words they paid two shillings for the purpose of getting another shillingsworth *gratis*. Considering the attendant disadvantages—the awful crush, the difficulty of getting food or drink, the discomforts and dangers of the journey to and fro, one would hardly think this prospect alluring. But 176,000 of our fellow-creatures thought otherwise. So attractive is the notion of getting something—though only a shillingsworth—for nothing! I suppose if I were to announce that at a given hour I would distribute £1,000 in coppers from the dome of St. Paul's, hundreds of thousands would travel miles to the spot, and take the risk of being crushed to death on the chance of picking up one or two coppers.

Two Thackeray books are to be published next month by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co., which promise to be of exceptional interest; "Thackeray's Letters to an American Family," edited by a member of that family; and "Thackeray in the United States," by General Grant Wilson.

Two ecclesiastical biographies of the highest interest will be published by Messrs. Longman in the course of the next few weeks: Mrs. Creighton's "Life and Letters" of her husband, the late Bishop of London; and the Rev. J. O. Johnston's "Life and Letters" of Canon Liddon.

There is to be a new Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University next month. The Provost of Oriel, who has held the office for three years, is desirous of retiring, and it is understood that he will be succeeded by the Rector of Lincoln (Dr. Merry), who is also Public Orator.

The Archbishop of York has presented the Rev. Maurice Parkin, Vicar of St. Mark's, East Hull, to the important living of Selby, vacant by the preferment of the Rev. A. G. Tweedie to the rectory of Ruswarp, near Whitby, also on the presentation of the Archbishop. Mr. Parkin is to be instituted to the benefice in Selby Abbey early in November.

The promotion of Bishop Hoskyns to the See of Southwell places the rich living of Burnley at the disposal of the Crown, so it will fall to Mr. Balfour to appoint the new suffragan for the diocese of Manchester. The late Canon Parker, who was rector of Burnley for more than forty years, and himself patron of the living, obtained a private Act of Parliament, which transferred the patronage to the Bishop of Manchester, and provided that the rector should *ipso facto* become the suffragan for the diocese. This arrangement has caused great dissatisfaction at Burnley, as there is ample work in the parish and town for the rector, without his being engaged in episcopal duties. The experience of the last three years has proved the combination of offices to be most unfortunate, as Bishop Hoskyns has been so frequently absent on general diocesan work that the parishioners have felt themselves neglected, and the extensive church organisations in the town have suffered from the absence of the rector. It is highly objectionable that a valuable living such as Burnley, which is also a most important and onerous charge, should be appropriated for the support

of an episcopal curate, and this view of the case, which is now generally recognised in the parish, was pointed out in Truth when the Burnley Rectory Act was passed.

The Bishop of London, who has been absent from the diocese for two months, returned yesterday (Tuesday) to Fulham Palace from Scotland. The Bishop of London, who is to hold an ordination in St. Paul's Cathedral on Sunday morning, will reside at Fulham until the beginning of December, when he comes up to St. James's-square for the winter.

A window has been placed in the church at Morwenstow, Cornwall, as a memorial to Robert Stephen Hawke, who was vicar of the parish for forty years. Hawke was the pioneer of the High Church party in Cornwall, and an excellent parish clergyman. He was the first incumbent in England to establish the harvest thanksgiving services which are now so universal. Hawke, who gained the Newdigate at Oxford in 1827, was a poet of real and original genius. He is best known by his famous Trelawny Ballad, which Macaulay printed in his history, supposing it to be a genuine seventeenth century "Song of the Western men."

What church organists are apt to suffer at the hands of vicars and rectors has often been told in Truth. Few of these unfortunate musicians, however, have better cause to feel aggrieved than the organist of the parish church of Bridlington. The Rector of Bridlington is in the habit, it seems, of making critical memoranda on the services in a book kept in the vestry, and here are recorded such jottings as "Organ recitals this year below par, and they lack variety and power"; "Mr. ——" (a former organist of the church) "played on September 4 and 11—organ *heard* for first time for many months." One may fairly assume that these interesting records are intended rather for the benefit of the unfortunate organist than posterity. It is now alleged locally that the Rector is the author of a curious article which appeared in one of the local papers the other day. The article purported to be "an appreciation" of the late Auguste Wiegand; but that deceased master was obviously only used by the writer as a whipping-boy for other organists, and the present organist of Bridlington Church was plainly aimed at in one passage. The Rector, it appears, has been accused of the authorship of this article, and, the soft impeachment not being satisfactorily denied, the organist has resigned. Although the unfortunate musician has failed to rise to his Rector's high critical standard, I am told by competent judges that he is an organist of rather exceptional ability.

The sum of £10 has reached me from the Lion of Gensau towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund.

I have to acknowledge the following donations towards the Toy Fund: H.M.S. *Bramble* 16s. 6d., Mrs. S. Wells £1 1s., Muriel 10s., Winifred 10s., Jim 10s., Derrick 10s., Harold 10s., Alex 10s.

In Memoriam.

Pause, Passing Stranger!
Not to drop a tear,
But to deride, to chuckle,
And to sneer.
For
'Neath these stones,
Cast by a hostile host,
Lies
"Tommy's Bugbear,"
Once
A Brodrick's boast!
Conceived in Germany, it so befell
It found a foster-father in Pall Mall,
Whence,
Sallying forth,
It gained a ribald name—
Putting the Pancake to an open shame!
Of its life-purpose who
Can have a doubt?
It wore out "Tommy" ere by him worn out;
And, notwithstanding added badge or braid,
Touched not a forehead it did not degrade.
So now, to limbo mercifully borne,
'Twill Mr. Brodrick's phantom Corps adorn;
Leaving the Army with this comfort terse:
No future Cap can possibly be worse!

By way of reply to the observations in last week's Truth on the Roman Catholic war memorial, I have had a letter from a representative of that Church, enclosing particulars of the memorial, which he thinks are sufficient to justify it. The memorial, it seems, is to take the form of a Catholic church at Aldershot, and, apart from the need of such a church, and the desire to commemorate the services of those who fell in South Africa, my correspondent thinks that "one special reason for raising such a fund might be found in the genuine desire to give the lie to the cry, often heard: 'Catholics are disloyal.'" But if the fact of numbers of Catholic soldiers having died in South Africa does not give the lie to this cry, I confess I do not see that the fact of the surviving Catholics having erected a church to their memory is likely to have that effect.

However, the memorial seems to be now well afoot, and criticism is, therefore, useless. I suppose one must make the best of the business. But in defence of what I said last week, I feel bound to observe that I still see no reason for this memorial which would not equally justify a memorial to the Baptists, or Wesleyans, or Plymouth Brethren who fell in South Africa. The truth, I suppose, is that a Roman Catholic church was wanted at Aldershot, and this seemed a good way of raising the money. In the same way, when an Anglican Cathedral was needed in South Africa, that seemed to the local bishop the most suitable form for a South African memorial to those who fell in the war. These touches of Nature make all denominations kin, if they are not altogether pleasing. Only the other day I noticed the ingenuous scheme of a Protestant minister at Port Elizabeth for commemorating the foundation of the colony by enlarging his chapel, and adorning it with a campanile.

A British officer serving in India suggests that the Government ought to relieve officers of the additional life insurance premiums which they have to pay when they go on foreign service. I should be very glad if I could induce the Government to see its duty in that direction, though the present may not be a very promising time to suggest any steps involving an increased expenditure. The expenditure proposed by this suggestion, however, would be very trifling, and there is much to be said for it from the point of view both of justice and expediency. If a man's prospect of life is shortened, as the life offices hold, by residence in a tropical climate, to relieve him of the extra charge which he consequently incurs for life insurance would be at best but an inadequate compensation. It is the interest of the State, as the employer, to encourage men, at any rate when married, to make some provision for their widows and orphans; and the greater the chance of their dying prematurely, the stronger the reason for encouraging them to do this.

I have it from an officer in India that there are still two old Boer burghers detained as prisoners of war in Ceylon because they have refused to take the oath of allegiance. There were recently three, but one of them has just died, and my correspondent seems to think that there is a possibility of the number being still further reduced by another hot season in Ceylon on a "living wage" of one rupee a day, which is what these unrelenting foes of the majesty of Britain receive from a generous Government. Seeing that there are many hundreds of Boers now living in the Transvaal who have never taken the oath of allegiance, my correspondent suggests that the same measure of indulgence might be extended to these two old burghers, who only differ from their brethren in the fact that they have undergone three or four years' imprisonment in India. I should think that this sentiment will be shared by many Britons—whether they be pro-Boers or anti-Boers.

Some observations were made a few weeks back in Truth on sundry defects of hospital management at Deolali depôt. A subsequent communication from India suggests one possible reason for these shortcomings. It is certainly not due to the inadequacy of the staff, which at present comprises three R.A.M.C. officers, an officer of the subordinate medical service, five junior assistant surgeons, and about thirty native attendants. The number of patients, on the other hand, does not usually exceed forty, which gives about four patients to every doctor. It is said, however, that Deolali has lately acquired a name as a health resort, and is much frequented by wealthy Parsees and others, who have recourse to the professional services of the military medicos. The inference is that if the latter were limited to military duty, the hospital staff might be greatly reduced, while the patients might be better looked after. Another fact worth mentioning is that one of the assistant surgeons practises as a dentist, and even takes fees in that capacity from military patients. Surely this is not quite in accordance with regulations.

I give below a letter which makes a striking and useful addition to what has been said in Truth lately on the recruiting question. It comes from a non-commissioned officer, and gives the impressions of a soldier who is obviously a man of some education and refinement, though he does not lay claim to being anything more than a working man's son. The point raised was not dealt with in the recent Truth articles, but, no doubt, requires to be taken into consideration:—

The conditions under which men are recruited and compelled to live at the present time are very distasteful to the recruit of the respectable class, the men of whom it is desirable the Army should be composed; and, further, the money that is thrown away on vainly trying to reform men of the class I am about to describe is enormous. The Army is not a reformatory school, neither is it right that the taxpayers' money should be employed in making it such a school. The soldier is certainly well paid to-day for the duty he is called upon to perform, and if twice the amount was paid, I venture the opinion that respectable men would still hesitate to join. Why is this? Why do the class of people who educate their sons for the post-office, the dockyards, and numerous other Government positions which are open to all comers, never bring up their sons with a view to their enlisting in the Army? Why is the Service boycotted as a career for the sons, not only of the well-to-do working class, but also of the majority of small tradespeople? I will give you my opinion of the reason.

Under the present system we are enlisting numbers of men of a class that it is impossible to train as good soldiers. Men who have been rejected by employers of labour, men of the corner-boy type who have never earned a respectable living, and who never will. We impose upon our officers by giving them such men as these to train. They undoubtedly made good fighters in times gone by, but something more is wanted of a soldier in these scientific days. The men of this class are to be found either loafing in hospitals, or spending their time in the guard-room, or undergoing sentences of imprisonment. They are the class we see rolling about the streets, and they bring their calling into disgrace and contempt with the civil population. They abuse well intentioned privileges and contaminate all youngsters with whom they are brought in contact. The respectable parent naturally says, "Are these the men that you would have me send my boy among?" While we retain so many of this class of individual in the Army, and are continually recruiting more and more of them, are respectable citizens likely to rear their children for a military career? I say decidedly not. . . .

Probably no one who knows Army life will deny that there is a great deal of truth in this. One constantly hears the better class of soldiers speak with disgust of some of the company with which they find themselves in barracks; and the authorities have recognised the importance of this question by scrutinising more closely the characters of the men they enlist. I have already expressed the opinion that it is a mistake to look too closely at the characters of young recruits. A boy's character is very rarely formed for good at eighteen years of age. If he has by that time made a bad start in life it is not too late for him to make a new and a better one, and the Army, with its discipline and its opportunities for good influence ought to give him the best means of doing so. But it is obviously most important that if, after a year or two's trial, a youngster does not show signs of turning into a fairly well behaved member of society, the Army should get rid of him. The retention of such men must tend to degrade the general standard, and disgust those who are not con-

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taminated, and to give the service a bad name with the general public, as the writer of the above letter points out.

In the recent TRUTH articles on the recruiting question the influence of Army life in engendering bad habits of one kind or another has been mentioned as one of the evils which required to be dealt with, and in dealing with the question from that point of view it is obviously necessary that steps should be taken to get rid of all unsatisfactory characters. Of course there must be a difficulty in getting this policy carried out, however desirable it may be considered in the abstract, so long as there is a difficulty in getting enough men of the right sort. My impression is, however, that if the other steps that I have suggested were taken—that is to say, if proper provision were made for providing for the employment of the soldier after discharge, for removing some of the temptations to bad habits which the life at present affords, and for raising the standard of comfort in barrack life—you would get so abundant a supply of men of the right sort that the question of eliminating the undesirable would cease to be as urgent as it is at present.

A few days ago I happened to hear a Sapper officer of my acquaintance mention that recruiting for the Royal Engineers had recently been suspended. I asked why; and he told me he believed the establishment was full up. In the course of conversation he also mentioned that he believed they had been very strict lately in getting rid of undesirable men from the Engineers, though he added that in his experience, there were very few such, as nearly all their recruits were steady-going youngsters who had been brought up to trades. Surely all this is very significant. It shows that in the one branch of the Service which offers attractions to skilled artisans there is absolutely no difficulty in getting as many of the best men as there is room for. Such men know that as sappers they are assured of regular employment and fairly good pay for a certain number of years, and they will be in no worse position for working at their trades after discharge than when they join—possibly much better. Result: recruits are forthcoming in excess of requirements, and you can pick and choose your men and maintain the highest standard of character and efficiency. Royal Engineer conditions are, of course, different from those of infantry, cavalry, or artillery, and it may not be possible to place these branches in an equally favourable position in the recruiting market. Still the comparison shows exactly where and how the difficulty of recruiting the other branches satisfactorily arises, and the directions in which you must go to work to get over it.

A story told to me the other day by an ex-N.C.O. of the Cameron Highlanders has an interesting bearing on what has been said lately as to the failure of the State to do its duty by soldiers after discharge. This man, after many efforts, managed to obtain so-called "temporary employment" as a clerk in a Government office in Edinburgh. He remained in it for seven years, apparently doing his duty to the satisfaction of everybody. He was then called upon to pass some sort of educational examination under the Civil Service Commissioners, with the result that, at thirty years of age, and having a wife and a young family, he was thrown out of his berth. Nobody needs to be told that the position of a man under such circumstances is desperate. In this case the man seems to have been living a precarious existence for some considerable time. Like most men in that condition he has gravitated to London, and he is now with his family on the threshold of the workhouse. If a man has done his duty in a Government office satisfactorily for many years, what motive or justification can there be for suddenly calling upon him to pass an impossible examination, and then turning him adrift? It would have been kinder in this case to have refused the man work when he left the Army than to have kept him for seven years, only to kick him out on the streets at the end of that time. Who can wonder when such things happen that the Government finds a difficulty in getting soldiers?

The signalling establishment of the Indian Telegraph Department was reorganised a couple of years ago with the object of providing a more regular system of promotions. One feature of the scheme was the creation of a new grade of traffic sub-assistant superintendents, and in the regulations issued by the Director-General it was laid down that vacancies in this grade should be filled "by selection from first-grade permanent telegraph masters." This is explicit enough, but nevertheless such a vacancy has lately been filled by the appointment of a second-grade telegraph master, upwards of thirty men in the first grade being thereby superseded. The appointment is a flagrant and indefensible job, violating both the letter of the regulations and the whole spirit of the reorganisation scheme.

The Indian Government is apparently doing a little cheeseparing at present, possibly taking care of the pence to make up for the pounds squandered in Tibet. By an old standing order of the Public Works Department, men coming out from Cooper's Hill, or other establishments in England, became entitled to pay from the date of embarkation. This has been amended by a recent circular, and pay is, in future, to be drawn from the date of landing. The old arrangement was a perfectly reasonable one, and obviously designed to help the younger engineers in meeting the heavy out-of-pocket expenses they incur on their arrival in India, in providing themselves with household and camp furniture, horse, saddlery, etc. They will now have to start on their career with enough cash to meet all such

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expenses, or else buy on credit. It is a strange thing that when any Government thinks it necessary to retrench, steps in that direction are always taken at the expense of the men who have least money to spare.

Some interesting particulars of the service of some of the senior members of the staff are furnished from one of the infantry depots. There are two sergeant-majors who have extended their service beyond twenty-one years, although qualified for a full pension; a quartermaster-sergeant who has served for something like thirty years entirely in the depot; another quartermaster-sergeant who has just extended his service beyond twenty-one years, and whose only service outside the depot in that time is three years in Ireland; and several colour-sergeants are serving beyond twenty-one years who have never been out of England. As I have said before, there are many cases in which the re-engagement of a man beyond twenty-one years is perfectly reasonable. But that a single depot should hold all these men who have never done any foreign service and scarcely ever left the depot itself, is nothing less than scandalous; and it is time that the Army Council took steps to put a stop to such scandals.

Another interesting item of information in regard to one of the men above-mentioned is that he lives at a public-house near the barracks, and is constantly to be seen serving behind the bar in uniform. I do not know how this may strike the Headquarters mind, but it seems to me quite the reverse of desirable.

Yet another item of the same character is reported from one of the R.G.A. depots. Here there is a man who came to the depot as acting bombadier in 1900, and has been employed ever since in the shoemakers' shop, having been promoted to sergeant some two years ago. This also, I take it, is entirely contrary to regulations, but the regulation in question always seems to be more honoued in the breach than in the observance.

A letter from Allahabad mentions that in the fort at that place there is a library of books, but none of them has been issued to the men since the present company of R.G.A. has been there. The only purpose which the books seem to serve is for Boards to check and to sit upon—a truly military method of extracting amusement from literature. In the same fort there is a skittle alley, and this is used as a dormitory for the punkah coolies. Stories like this are always coming from India, and they show the need for Lord Kitchener's efforts to improve regimental institutes, and provide soldiers with suitable recreation—whether in the shape of books or skittles.

In referring the other day to Lloyd's Patriotic Fund, I commented upon the large balance in hand, and the fact that besides this balance the sum of £12,000 has been invested. Major Inglis, the secretary of the Fund, now writes to explain that the work of the Fund in connection with the war has by no means closed, that demands are being made upon it every day, and that the balance is retained in hand for that purpose. The £12,000 was only invested "in order to get a better rate of interest than could be obtained on deposit." This explanation is, of course, perfectly satisfactory, and I am very glad to hear that Lloyd's Patriotic Fund does not favour the practice of hoarding up subscriptions given for a definite purpose in order to make use of them for different purposes at a future date—the system which brought the Patriotic Fund into such disrepute.

Further letters from the Mediterranean station have reached me with reference to the recent paragraph in Truth about the Royal Naval Athletic Sports funds at Malta. One of them mentions that the only contributions from the lower deck are the entrance fees and the £50 canteen grant. The rest of the money, amounting to about £150, was entirely subscribed by the officers. My naval correspondents will have seen that this was explained in a subsequent issue of Truth, and I do not think it is necessary to say anything more about it now, unless it be to accentuate the fact that the source of the contributions ought to be more clearly explained when publishing the accounts, in order to preclude the misapprehensions which so easily arise on these matters.

I have been asked to mention that funds are urgently needed for the extension of the Royal Sailors' Home at Chatham. The institution is an excellent and useful one, as is shown by the fact that, although it was only opened in 1902, the demands on it are already far in excess of the accommodation. This is specially true of the beds, and although there are ninety-four of them it frequently happens that men have to be turned away after shakedowns have been provided on the floors of the reading and other rooms. It is now proposed to double the sleeping accommodation and to build a large dining-room at a cost of £5,000, and contributions for these desirable ends may be sent to the secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Barrett, R.M., at the home.

CYNICAL TO A—DEGREE.

The degree of LL.D. is to be conferred on our Poet Laureate by the University of St. Andrews.

What Alfred Austin, LL.D.?
Doctor of Laws? Let's hope, then, he
Will specially a Doctor be
(In candour be it spoken)
To Prosody's exacting laws,
Seeing 'tis these, for no just cause,
That he's so often broken!

"How is it that both France and Germany have a parcel post with this country, and England has not one yet?" The question is asked by an Englishman writing from Ecuador, and calls urgently for an answer. The writer also dwells on the strict supervision exercised by

the Post Office in London over the transmission of articles to Ecuador by sample post, giving two instances in which he has been informed by the G.P.O. that packages addressed to him at Guayaquil have been detained, with consequent loss and inconvenience. If there is no parcel post to any foreign country, I do not quite see what business it is of our Post Office to detain articles sent by pattern post. I should have thought that such interference with British trade might be left to the postal authorities on the other side. But the scandalous thing is that English firms should be unable to send parcels by post to a South American State while French and German firms can, and one wonders that the son of the great saviour of British trade, when he was at the Post Office, never gave his attention to such an anomaly.

The latest income-tax grievance to be brought under my notice relates to the collection of the tax on feu-duties in Scotland. A feu-duty is virtually a Scotch equivalent for an English ground-rent, though there is of course the important difference that grants of land for building or other purposes on the feu system of tenure are made in perpetuity instead of for determinate periods. It is generally a condition of a feu-holding that once in so many years (usually every nineteen years) the amount payable by the feuar to the superior shall be doubled. In ordinary years the whole of the income-tax on the property is collected from the feuar, and he recovers from his superior the proportion of the amount that is charged in respect of the feu-duty. It seems, however, that, when what is called a "duplication year" arrives, the Revenue authorities make a separate assessment against the superior for that year's double feu-duty, while at the same time no deduction is allowed in the income-tax exacted from the feuar. The consequence is that in that particular year the tax is paid twice over on the normal feu-duty, and, while the feuar obviously cannot get the money back from his "superior," neither can he obtain any repayment from the Revenue Office. I am told that the authorities absolutely refuse to redress this palpable injustice. But surely they might be compelled to disgorge if some of the feuars thus plundered would combine to test the question in the Law Courts.

A short time back reference was made to the dangerous condition of the water supply at Beaminster and to the dilatory tactics of the Rural Councillors in dealing with the question. It has been under their consideration for three or four years, but nothing has yet been done, notwithstanding the urgent recommendations of the Medical Officer, and at the last meeting the Committee again reported that they had not yet been able to decide on any satisfactory plan for a new supply. Surely it is the duty of the Local Government Board to stir up these somnolent Councillors. Their evil example seems, by the way, to have corrupted the Parish Council of Broadwindsor, which is in the Rural Council's district. At the same meeting it was stated that owing to outbreaks of diphtheria the water supply at Broadwindsor had been examined and analyses showed that it was unfit for consumption. This fact was communicated to the Parish Council, but these worthies did not even reply, it being stated that "they thought very lightly of the matter"!

It may be remembered that a few weeks ago two of the Poplar Guardians visited the Jones "homes" at Sandgate, and in their report spoke strongly, among other things, about the great danger from fire. They described one of the houses as the most dangerous they had ever seen. This report is recalled by the fact that a serious fire occurred at Sandgate last week at the music-hall in the High-street, immediately adjoining one of the Jones "homes." Luckily the fire occurred in the daytime, and the wind was blowing away from the "sanatorium," otherwise the statements of the Poplar Guardians might have been painfully verified. It is high time that the local authorities took this danger into consideration.

Another incident reported from Sandgate last week throws some light of a different kind upon the Jones' establishments. One of the patients in the "homes" was fined at the local police-court for being drunk and disorderly on the parade on the Saturday night. This is only one of several similar cases that have only recently occurred, and it illustrates one of the incidental nuisances created by the Jones business. Of course, if herds of pauper or other lower-class patients are imported into any town, they ought to be kept under some supervision and control. There is no pretence of anything of the kind in Sandgate. No proper provision exists for the recreation and amusement of the patients indoors, and they are simply turned out on the sea front to take their "air cure" at their own sweet will. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising if the air cure is sometimes converted into a drink cure.

The treatment of the insane is apparently one of those matters which are not ordered better under Lord Milner's administration of the Transvaal. From a vigorous denunciation of the system in the Johannesburg *Star*, it seems that in all parts of the colony lunatics or persons suspected of being lunatics are confined in the common gaols, ostensibly for the purpose of keeping them under medical observation before it is finally decided whether they shall be removed to the Pretoria Asylum. Not only is the amount of attention that they get from the visiting doctors necessarily small, but as there is no special accommodation for such patients, they have to be subjected to all the debasing conditions inseparable from prison life. In the country gaols especially it is practically impossible to avoid herding the lunatics with criminals, manacling those who are violent. The preliminary detention in the gaol, usually lasting for weeks and sometimes extending to months, is admirably calculated to convert a temporary mental disorder into incurable insanity, and both the medical and prison

authorities have protested against this barbarous method of dealing with lunacy cases. But although the Transvaal Government has spent money lavishly on many less urgent and desirable objects, it has so far refused to do anything to remove this reproach to its humanity.

There is an interesting article in the September number of the *Monthly Review* on "War under Water," but what interested me most in it was an incidental reference to the use of submarine navigation for the purposes of peace rather than of war. It is a remarkable feature of the spirit of the age that so many new inventions are looked at first not from the point of view of their utility to mankind, but of the improvements they promise in our existing facilities for destroying one another. From the *Monthly Review* article one learns that the difficulties at present encountered in designing submarines have reference entirely to their use for purposes of war—that is to say, to questions of "speed, vision, stability, diving, and armament"; and that "in the case of an effective passenger boat not one of these considerations need enter, for such a vessel might have her propulsive power outside her, and be worked like an electric tram. Some years ago, when the idea of a railway bridge across the Channel was first mooted, I remember asking an engineering friend of mine why the train should not run on the bed of the Channel instead of on a bridge over it. He laughed at the idea, and raised various difficulties which seemed to me unworthy of his profession. However, if engineers now see nothing impossible in a submarine boat for the Channel service "worked like an electric tram," my idea may be realised yet, in a slightly improved shape.

This submarine conveyance, I take it, would be attached to a cable, which would serve both to direct its course and to supply it with motive power. Seeing that a very high power could be applied under these conditions, and that we already hear of submarines doing their eight or ten knots, there seems no reason why the boat I have in my mind should not, in time, equal the average speed of a Channel steamer. I look forward, therefore, to being able at an early date to cross the Channel in an hour or so, even in the worst weather, without any more discomfort than is experienced in the "Twopenny Tube." Neither do I see why there should be any more risk. There are possibilities of nasty accidents in tube railways from which the submarine car would be exempt, and it would be easy to provide for bringing the car to the surface in the event of a breakdown. Moreover, there are considerable risks attached to the navigation of the surface of the sea in all weathers, and from these the submarine "worked like an electric tram" would be entirely free. We may even get across the Atlantic in this way—in time.

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LITERATURE FOR M'LUDS.

The Devonshire County Council voted £50 last week in order that the judges' lodgings at Exeter might be provided with suitable books for their Lordships' perusal.

Well done, Devonia! No one we are sure
This useful outlay carps at or begrudges;
It is with reason good that you secure
A store of volumes for King Edward's judges.
But none the less we think that it might tend
To other victims help in ennui-dodging,
Were you to tell us what you mean to send
To fill the bookshelves at your judges' lodging.

For instance, will assorted Primers gain
A place 'mongst other well-selected samples?
Primers in which, in type both large and plain,
Of "Easy sentences" are found examples?
And will "The Comic Blackstone" figure there
When *Chambertin* has followed on the *Sillery*?
Or will their "Lordships" find more serious fare
In the "judicial" jokes (!) of Truth's famed "Pillory"?

"The Trial from Pickwick": 'twould be well to burke;
"The Newgate Calendar" might prove too "shoppy;"
Of Mr. Justice Darling's witty work
You will, of course, not fail to send a copy.
Next—stay, though, there's a better plan to try
If you'd escape judicial critics' strictures—
All the new novels for their "Ludships" buy
And *all* the current magazines with pictures!

A good example of the working of our present bankruptcy system is afforded by the case of two partners in a Leicester firm whose bankruptcy has been administered under the local County Court. The assets realised £551 odd, of which £491 was derived from cash in hand and the sale of stock, trade fixtures, etc. There is, therefore, no visible reason for the incurring of any heavy costs over the administration. Nevertheless the actual costs incurred were £311, the trustee taking £103, the Board of Trade, £43, and the lawyers £77, while the other costs include such items as "incidental outlay, £25 11s. 11d.," "travelling expenses of committee of inspection, £14 12s. 3d." The net result was that £235 was left for the creditors, of which seven preferential creditors took £128, the balance giving the rest a dividend of 3¾d. in the £. It is worthy of note in this case that the auctioneer's charges and the expenses in connection with the sale of stock, etc., by tender were under £15, and the goods sold realised £438. It follows that the rest of the expenditure was incurred over matters which yielded practically nothing to the creditors. The system under which such waste of assets can occur must be radically rotten.

A singular decision was given by the Ripon City Bench last week, when Walter Tatham, a fruit salesman of Bradford, was summoned for having travelled on the North-Eastern Railway without paying his fare. The alleged offence occurred so long ago as August 2, the second day of the Ripon race meeting. According to the prosecution, Tatham, on arriving at Ripon by a train from Harrogate, gave up a single ticket dated August 1

and therefore not available on the 2nd. The moment he was questioned Tatham denied all knowledge of this ticket, and upon being detained he produced two halves of return tickets—one between Bradford and Harrogate, and the other between Harrogate and Ripon. The defence was that the collector made a mistake in supposing that the out-of-date ticket was handed to him by the defendant, and that the latter really gave up the half of his return ticket between Harrogate and Ripon. It appears from the newspaper report—though the point is not put very clearly—that the prosecution admitted that a half of a return ticket corresponding with the half produced by the defendant was collected.

There was a crowd coming from the train at the time the defendant was stopped, and the collector might easily have made a mistake as to the passenger from whom he received the old ticket. In spite, however, of this opening for doubt, and in spite, above all, of the evidence as to the return tickets produced by the defendant, a majority of the magistrates decided to convict, and a fine of 5s. and costs was imposed. What makes the case all the more extraordinary is the fact that no proceedings were taken by the railway company until after the defendant's solicitor had written to them threatening an action for damages for his wrongful arrest by the station officials. The conviction of the defendant seems to have been a self-evident miscarriage of justice, and, in view of all the circumstances, I should think he would still do well to institute the threatened action, adding a further claim for damages for malicious prosecution.

An extraordinary example of justice as it is administered in Belfast was given in the Recorder's Court in that city last week, when a middle-aged man named Richard Lutton, described as private secretary to Sir Daniel Dixon, ex-Lord Mayor, and a working-class youth named James M'Kee were tried upon what counsel for the defence characterised as "the most terrible and most horrible charge that could be brought against human beings." Neither of the prisoners attempted to contradict the evidence of the constable who arrested them. They simply swore that they were so drunk that they had no recollection of what he alleged. The officer himself deposed that they were not drunk, though he admitted that they might have had some drink. He also repeated statements made by the accused at the moment of the arrest which showed that they were at any rate sober enough to realise the seriousness of the position in which they had placed themselves.

The summing-up of the Recorder was one of the most astounding performances of the kind that I have come across for a long time. In effect, he invited the jury to accept the theory that the prisoners were drunk and as a consequence to acquit them on the ground that they did not know what they were doing. This novel doctrine that men cannot be held responsible for crimes which they commit under the influence of drink was eagerly swallowed by the jury, and both the prisoners were found not guilty. I wonder what would have happened if both these prisoners had belonged to the working class? It is at least extremely probable that in that event the jury would have been advised that drunkenness is no excuse for crime, and the culprits would have received heavy sentences. As it stands, the result of the case is a disgrace to the Recorder, to the jury, and to the superlatively moral City of Belfast, the rulers of which cannot endure that their fellow citizens should read accounts of horse-racing in the newspapers, though they are free to comport themselves publicly in the manner indicated above—provided they are also drunk.

Although every one is presumed to know that findings are not keepings in the eye of the law, judges and magistrates might surely make more allowance than has been done in recent cases for the temptation to which poor and ignorant persons are exposed when they see money or jewellery lying in the gutter. A fortnight ago I pilloried a sentence of six months' hard labour passed upon a costermonger at the South-Western Police Court for retaining a brooch which he picked up in the road and attempted to pawn. It seemed to me a monstrously severe sentence, and I am glad to learn that the Home Secretary has now reduced it to three months. Last week another equally outrageous sentence was passed upon a man at Clerkenwell Sessions for the larceny by finding of a sum of £16 15s. The money was dropped in the street and picked up by the prisoner's little boy. It was contained in an envelope bearing the owner's address, and the prisoner ought, of course, to have given it up. But the man and his wife and children were living in the direst poverty and, though poverty may be no excuse for crime, yet anybody with a spark of feeling will appreciate the soreness of his temptation to appropriate such treasure-trove.

This was evidently the feeling of the jury who tried the case, and, while compelled to convict the prisoner, they strongly recommended him to the mercy of the Court. In spite of this recommendation and of the fact that it was the man's first offence, the Chairman, Mr. Loveland-Loveland, sentenced him to six months' imprisonment in the second division. Owing to the representations of the jury, the Chairman subsequently reduced this punishment to four months, and at the same time explained that he thought he had given sufficient weight to the recommendation to mercy by ordering imprisonment in the second division instead of with hard labour. I will not say that this was a distinction without a difference, but in such a case it would certainly

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do little to take the sting out of the sentence. Considering the circumstances of the offence and that it was, too, a first offence, it seems to me that even now the prisoner has received an excessive measure of justice. Four months' imprisonment is more than is awarded for many worse crimes against property, to say nothing of crimes against the person.

Is not the Home Secretary going to follow up the action he has already taken in the cases of Wm. Shellard and Isaac Da Costa by granting these men free pardons and some pecuniary compensation for the injustice they have suffered? In both cases facts came to light which showed that the prisoners were victims of mistaken identity. The Home Secretary must have been satisfied that this was so, for otherwise he could have had no reason whatever for releasing Shellard and Da Costa, as he did, long before the expiration of the sentences which they received respectively at the Wilts and the Devon Quarter Sessions. There is now, indeed, no shadow of doubt that each of these prisoners was innocent of any complicity in the frauds of which he was found guilty, and the methods by which the police procured their conviction ought to be thoroughly investigated.

It is a manifest absurdity to grant a man a "free pardon" for a crime he has never committed, but this is at present the only method the law provides for wiping out a wrongful conviction. Shellard and Da Costa are clearly entitled to all the redress that the law can afford them in that direction, and both also have a strong claim to pecuniary compensation. According to the *Nottingham Daily Express*, Shellard, who is a hawker in Nottingham, spent all his savings on his defence, taking witnesses from that city to Wiltshire to establish an alibi which, as has since been admitted, ought to have ensured his acquittal. Da Costa similarly exhausted his slender resources in the attempt to prove his innocence. On this account, and still more on account of the unmerited punishment that they suffered before their release, the Treasury surely ought to deal generously with them.

At the South-Western Police Court recently a poor woman who was summoned for neglecting to send her child to school regularly, explained that the child was ill, and the magistrate thereupon adjourned the case for the production of a medical certificate, adding that in the absence of such a certificate she would be fined. The woman, however, was unable to pay for a certificate, and she would inevitably have been fined at the adjourned hearing last week if a doctor had not voluntarily come forward without a fee and given evidence as to the nature of the child's illness. The magistrate acknowledged the doctor's kindness and expressed regret that as he had appeared for the defence and not for the prosecution he could not be given a fee out of the public funds. Surely in these school-attendance cases the authorities ought to pay the fee for the medical certificate or medical evidence if it is found that the child is not well enough to attend school. As things are at present, a poor parent may be punished because of her inability to pay the doctor's fee, or worse still, she may attempt to escape punishment by sending to school a child who is ill and possibly a source of danger to the health of other children.

Mr. T. Byrne, a Liverpool City Councillor, has made some remarkable statements in the *Liverpool Daily Post* with regard to the imprisonment of parents for the non-payment of contributions towards the maintenance of their children in reformatory schools. Among several apparently hard cases, he asserts that a dock labourer named Garrity has actually been imprisoned for three years out of the last seven on account of reformatory fees for five of his children. Garrity is described as a steady, hard-working fellow, but unable to earn more than 7s. 6d. to 10s. a week owing to an accident which left him a cripple many years ago. As his wife only earns from 5s. to 9s. per week, the couple have had an average income of considerably less than a pound a week with which to support themselves and a large family. There are five young children still at home. According to Mr. Byrne, "Garrity has been in prison for maintenance of two daughters, now married, and one son, now dead—imprisoned years after the children had left the schools;" and a warrant has just been issued for his arrest in respect of arrears of contributions payable on account of two youths now in the reformatory.

On Mr. Byrne's statement of the case, this dock labourer seems to have been dealt with harshly, not to say vindictively. At the same time, the fact that no fewer than five of his children have been committed to reformatory schools is rather calculated to tell against Garrity. It certainly makes one wonder whether there may not after all be another side to the story. It is possible that he has been simply unfortunate in his children, but it is equally possible that he has been primarily to blame for the trouble they have caused. The system under which parents are ordered to contribute to the maintenance of their children in reformatories is perfectly sound in principle, but it should of course be administered with proper discrimination. It is alleged that in Liverpool defaulters are imprisoned time after time when they are without the means to keep up the required payments; and in view of the cases that have been cited, in addition to Garrity's, it is to be hoped that some explanation will be supplied by the magistrates.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

In my Legal Pillory this week a prominent place is accorded to the Solons of Barnsley. It will be seen that they still retain the pernicious and irrational views for which they have long been notorious with reference to the relative heinousness of offences against the person and offences against property. The ruffian convicted of a savage and unprovoked assault upon a woman was let off as usual with a pecuniary penalty, but two months' hard labour was inflicted for a petty theft, despite the fact that it was the defendant's first offence. At Bradford a wife-beater has been allowed to escape with a fine which, having regard to the evidence as to his brutality, was a mockery of justice; and the Knaresborough and the Hundred House J.P.s have also distinguished themselves by the absurd inadequacy of their sentences in cases of violence. In the opposite column of the following list I would particularly direct attention to the severity of the sentences for poaching at Ayr and at Peterborough:—

Swaffham Police-court. Before Mr. H. Lee Warner and Colonel Herring. Jacob Stapleton, charged with assaulting Isaac Churchman. Defendant gave the complainant several blows in the face and knocked him down. Fined 10s., including costs.

Dunfermline Sheriff Court. Robert Carr pleaded guilty to two assaults on his wife by striking her and kicking her; also to committing a breach of the peace. Fined 20s., and bound over.

Bradford City Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Skidmore, J. Popplewell, W. Laud, R. Johnson, C. Greenwood, and J. Whitley. Walter Henry Rawlings, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and after thrashing his wife tried to set her clothes on fire. He then locked her up in the kitchen, and later in the day gave her another thrashing. She had been frequently assaulted, and a separation order was granted. Fined 20s. and costs.

Knaresborough Police-court. Thomas Walker, Joseph Towers, and Wm. Gill, farmers, charged with assaulting John William Smith. Complainant was knocked down and kicked, and struck whilst he was on the ground, receiving injuries which confined him to his bed for several days. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Hundred House Police-court. Before the Rev. J. P. Hastings and Colonel Currie. Thomas Mantle, charged with assaulting George Meathway by knocking him down and beating him whilst he was on the ground. A doctor said the complainant had several wounds on his face and his head, and one of them had to be stitched up. Fined 30s. and costs.

Swaffham Police-court. Edmund Readam, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Spalding Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. J. T. Dove and other magistrates. John Wilson, charged with stealing a mackintosh. One month.

Derby County Police-court. Abraham Woodhouse, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of seven rabbits and a net. Fined £5 and costs.

Banbury County Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Norris, the Rev. A. Blythman, and Messrs. J. F. Starkey, H. du Cane Norris, and W. H. Walkley. Jesse Durham, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2, and 16s. 6d. costs.

Abingdon County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. B. H. Morland and J. W. Kimber. Charles Parker and George Carter, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Six weeks each.

Falkirk Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Bell. John M'Neil and John Mitchell charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of 14 rabbits. Fined £3 each; in default 40 days.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. George Andrews, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Ten days.

Peterborough Petty Sessions. Before Colonel Strong, Messrs. W. E. Welby, O. Edmonds, G. H. Dean, and W. Cliffe, and the Dean of Peterborough. Ernest Davis, charged with being on land at night with "certain engines" for the purpose of taking game. He had set a number of snares. One month.

Barnsley Police-court. James Marshall, convicted of an aggravated assault on Emma Carleton. He struck her about the face, blackening both her eyes, and kicked her. The magistrates said the appearance of the woman's face was ample testimony to the nature of the treatment she had received. Fined 40s. and costs.

Belper Petty Sessions. Before Sir J. G. N. Alleyne, and Messrs. T. H. Small and J. Borough. Thomas Ratcliffe, charged with assaulting Frederick Attwood by striking him in the face and knocking him down. A constable said two of the complainant's teeth were knocked out, and he lost a lot of blood. Fined 20s. and costs.

South-Western Police-court. Before Mr. Lane. James Merrington, charged with assaulting a woman. He rushed out of a public-house and struck indiscriminately at people in the street. Complainant received a violent blow in the face, which rendered her insensible. Mr. Lane said defendant had behaved like a wild beast. Fined 50s.

Barnsley Police-court. Thomas James, miner, charged with stealing an overcoat, which had been left in a conveyance in an hotel yard. It was his first offence, and he had already been in gaol on remand for eleven days. The Bench said they were sorry the defendant had yielded to temptation. Two months.

Chester Petty Sessions. John Evans, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nets for taking game. Fined £2 and costs; in default, one month.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Dr. E. Stewart. Frank Jenner and James Sherborne, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Ayr Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff Lockhart. Wm. M'Luag, charged with poaching. He had six rabbits in his possession. Four months.

Market Rasen Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Holdershaw and R. W. Pindar. George Humphrey, charged with stealing a pair of trousers from outside a shop. Twenty-eight days.

The Rugby J.P.s were called over the coals the other day for failing to pass a sentence of imprisonment in an exceptionally bad case of reckless driving by a motorist. It is due to their worships to say that I have since learned that they were confronted by a technical obstacle to the infliction of such a sentence. The defendant did not himself appear in answer to the summons, having gone to America, but he was represented by a solicitor, and his licence as a driver was duly produced. The licence bore an endorsement showing that a few weeks previously the defendant had been fined £10 and costs for reckless driving at Edgeware. For a second offence he was liable to imprisonment without the option of a fine. The magistrates at Rugby were advised, however, that the endorsement on the licence could not be taken as a sufficient proof of the previous conviction, and in the absence of any other evidence identifying the defendant as the person so convicted, they were unable to do more than impose the maximum fine for a first offence. This decision, if well-founded, reveals a very stupid flaw in the Act of Parliament. In many instances it must have the effect of practically defeating one of the principal objects of the system of endorsing convictions on the offenders' licences.

Mr. E. E. Naegelen, of the Diabetic Institute and the United Press Association, 15 and 16, St. Dunstan's-hill, E.C., has broken fresh ground with a monthly magazine entitled *The Young Journalist and Author*, which he claims to be "an indispensable companion and referee for all young men and others having journalistic or literary ambitions," and "the only paper of the kind devoted exclusively to the interests of those living by their pen, or desirous of doing so." I can find no justification for either claim in the copy which I have perused, though it reminds me of a number of magazines which have been started at various times for the pur-

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

pose of exploiting the aspirant to literary honours. I find, however, enshrined in its pages, certain maxims entitled "E. O. Grabbe's Recipe for Success," which would seem to be so far explanatory of this St. Dunstan's-hill gang's methods that they may be recommended to the attention of intending subscribers:—

Hard work—of others—can be made the foundation of your advancement.

Have a care for your conscience—it might break loose and interfere with business.

Get all you can, and while you are getting remember that counsel fees are high and gaols confining. Therefore get plenty.

"The most insinuating invitation that I have yet received from the money-lending fraternity" is a West End physician's tribute to a circular from "S. Bassett," 285, Oxford-street. The physician adds that he sends the circular on to me in case it may not have previously come into my hands. I am sorry to say that it has been coming into my hands for eight or ten years past—sorry because the continued activity of "S. Bassett" shows that he still finds medicos imprudent enough to accept his insinuating invitation. Bassett, whose real name is Barnett, is a sort of specialist in usury, confining his practice almost exclusively to the medical profession. He introduces himself with a sympathetic reference to "the unlimited credit that must necessarily be given to the general run of patients" and the consequential "drain on the capital of the most affluent in the profession, leading to the need of an advance for either a short or protracted period." But the doctor who allows Bassett, alias Barnett, or any other professional money-lender to prescribe for his financial anæmia will soon discover that the remedy only aggravates the disease.

A Hebrew named Goodman Aaronson, of Bradford, carries on a moneylending business in several Northern towns under the registered alias of "A. Goodman." One of his offices is at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and a misguided customer at this establishment, having paid off a small loan with interest and other charges at the rate of 130 per cent. per annum, wishes me to say whether it is possible for him to obtain "any compensation." I fear not. The only "compensation" open to him is the knowledge that he has gained a useful, though expensive, experience of the ways of the sharks of usury.

I am sorry to find, in spite of all that has been said in Truth on the subject, that people are still being taken in by the advertisements of the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company, of Brown-street, Manchester, who, it may be remembered, sell a rubbishy knitting machine, representing it as a means by which women can obtain profitable home employment. I have already pointed out that the people who find that they have been "sold" by these machines can generally get their money back if they tackle the Hardy Company with sufficient firmness, and the last story that reaches me again shows that this advice is sound. The purchaser in this case had the knitting machine for nine weeks, in the course of which every means was tried to make it work satisfactorily, but without success. After wasting much time on fruitless correspondence, she went personally to Manchester, and, after some argument, the Hardy Company refunded the money that had been paid. This has now been done so often that it would be hopeless for the Hardy Company to defend any proceedings taken against them for the recovery of the money paid for their machines.

Since writing the above, my attention has been called to a paragraph which appeared in the Press a few days ago, stating that "two men, named Hunter and Blouin, have been arrested at Havre on a charge of obtaining large sums of money on false pretences by selling a knitting machine." No further particulars are given. It may be remembered, however, that Hunter is the name of one of the individuals associated with the Manchester firm calling themselves the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company. The principal in the business is a man named Albert Bennett, who has run various swindling businesses in London and elsewhere for many years past. He and Hunter constituted the "Home and Colonial Knitting Machine Company," against which I published many warnings two or three years ago, and which ultimately came to grief through a County Court action, in the course of which Judge Edge described the business as a "gross and cruel fraud." Bennett and Hunter then bolted to America. Just as I am going to press I have received information to the effect that the Hunter arrested at Havre is an American, and that, according to his own statement, his machines come from Manchester. There is, therefore, a pretty strong presumption that this man is the Hardy Machine Hunter. He and his French colleague are still in custody, and I trust that the French authorities will be able to deal with them effectively.

An interesting game is being carried on by somebody at Stockport calling himself "Scale and Co., Publishers, Agents, and Mail Order Specialists." Scale and Co. sends out a circular reading thus:—

During the last twelve months we have spent a considerable sum of money investigating several of the advertised money-making schemes, art, evening and so-called spare-time employment offered in most of the English and American papers, and so far have not found one that was of mutual benefit to the employer and employee. [I have been engaged on a similar investigation for considerably more than twelve months, and with precisely the same result.—Ed. Truth.]

In nearly all cases a sum varying from 1s. 6d. upwards was required before the work could be commenced, and when it was sent, it was at such prohibitive rates that to make sufficient to cover expenses was an impossibility. In all cases so far investigated by us the sum required for outfit, etc., was obviously a trick to dispose of some worthless article.

We have a plan by which anyone may easily make £2 a week without canvassing, collecting, or soliciting orders. There is nothing to buy or sell, for us or anybody else. It is not gambling, speculation, a lottery, or competition in any shape or form. You have nothing to make up, manufacture, or produce in any way. Nothing to teach or learn. No outfit is required, no skill necessary, and you can start earning money immediately you receive our particulars, without a halfpenny in your pocket, etc., etc.

All this sounds as seductive as it is novel. The reader will notice, however, that nothing is said of the most important point of all, the necessity of a cash remittance which is the common feature of all these schemes. Alas! before one gets to the end of the circular it

appears that Scale and Co. are no better than all the tricksters whose dodges they have been investigating:—

To partly cover the expense of bringing this offer before your notice we shall charge 6d. for particulars of this money-making plan.

The remittance of 6d. produces the following particulars of Scale & Co.'s money-making plan:—

A remunerative occupation, and one that can be undertaken by anyone with intelligence, is that of a guide. Many persons who visit large centres and places of attraction often desire some one to show them the "sights."

The best way to proceed is to map out a course, starting from the railroad station, and including the principal buildings, streets, squares, barracks, monuments, chief centres of business, etc., and finishing up where you commenced. Arrange so as to occupy about two hours; this will give you the opportunity of conducting two or three parties per day. Charge 1s. per head if the party is not less than five and if more than five charge 5s. for the party. Arrange beforehand with a restaurant proprietor to give you a commission on all you introduce. Take your first party there for dinner and your second for tea, etc. You can also arrange for other commissions as they may present themselves. Start always from the railway centre or hotel, and approach your party in a gentlemanly way.

It is due to Scale and Co. to state that in the case I have before me, when divulging this valuable money-making plan, they returned 3d. on the ground that the charge of 6d. named in the circular was a mistake. I still think, however, that they returned 3d. too little.

Scale & Co. also hold out another means of making money by offering prizes to the amount of 35s. for any other money-making schemes of the same character that may be submitted to them. I do not propose to enter for this competition, but I know one scheme of this kind which seems much simpler than that of Scale and Co. It was practised some years ago by an individual who advertised in the papers that he would communicate an infallible method of making money for the remittance of 1s. When the shilling was forwarded he sent the laconic reply, "Do as I do." The police eventually stopped this little money-making plan, and I think it might be worth their while to see whether they could not do the same for Scale & Co.

Another promising money-making plan is being offered far and wide by means of circulars emanating from "The M. A. Winter Co.," of Washington, D.C. I referred to these advertisements some little time ago. The M. A. Winter Co. sell an infallible remedy for nearly all the diseases of mankind under the name of "Nature's Health Restorer." Their benevolent object is not confined to healing the sick of their ailments, but they also desire to give those who are whole an opportunity of adding to their incomes by retailing the remedy to their sick brothers and sisters. They address you in this style:—

You are well aware how hard it is to make even a bare living nowadays, if you are a mechanic, farmer, working at any trade, or are a wage-earner of any kind. You have to toil from morning till night, and get such small pay for your work that you never can get ahead in the world. You plod along from day to day, rising at the same early hour every morning, and going to work at the call of a whistle or bell, and working day after day with no diversion whatever. You can see nothing before you but grinding toil all your life. . . .

YOU CAN CHANGE ALL THIS, if you only will. You can enjoy life with its many pleasures, and become a person of prominence in your section. Would you not like to enter into a profitable business in which you can make a great deal of money, be your own master, control your own movements, enjoy life and be happy and independent? etc., etc.

There are thousands of people who will at once answer Yes to this question. It distresses me, therefore, to find that so many of these circulars are being sent to people who are not in the least likely to appreciate the offer. A friend who handed me one of them the other day is quite as well off as is good for him, and I have received other copies from professional men, country gentlemen, and other well-to-do folk, who are not in the least likely to set about increasing their incomes by peddling American quack remedies.

In reference to American quackery, a correspondent relates an experience arising out of a book on "Healing by Coloured Light," by one, E. Babbitt, M.D., of the College of Fine Forces, San José, California. At the end of his book the Professor of Fine Forces undertakes to supply appliances for the purposes of the cure as per price-list. A lady in England was injudicious enough to send an order. Not getting the goods, she wrote to make inquiries, and, after a long interval, was informed by Dr. B. that his agent in New York had been deceiving him, but that he (Babbitt) hoped that the goods would arrive "some time or other." The phrase is somewhat elastic. Neither the some time nor the other has arrived yet, although upwards of a year has elapsed since the lady last heard from Babbitt. It looks as if Babbitt's college might with advantage devote its attention to the study of such fine forces as common honesty and fair dealing.

The Imperial Art Supply Co., present addresses 28, Essex-street, Strand, and 17, Ranelagh-avenue, Fulham, has frequently been mentioned in TRUTH among the delusive home employment agencies which prey upon impecunious people. The latest information I have about this concern is precisely on a par with that given recently about the Home Industrial Art Supply Co., of Great James-street. In this case also the victim is a lady with some artistic training, and actually a teacher of painting by profession. Having been foolish enough to "deposit" 7s. 6d. with the I. A. S. Co., on their representation that they "want workers" and "supply the entire outfit free," she finds all the work she tenders rejected on the pretence that it is not up to the Imperial Art Supply Co.'s high critical standard. I suppose as long as there are poor ladies in need of work there will be harpies of this kind ready to prey upon them; but these harpies would have very little chance of profitable business if there were not also newspapers ready to co-operate with them by publishing their advertisements.

Apropos of such advertisements one of my readers forwards copies of several announcements of home work and employment of various kinds found in newspapers in the Belfast Free Library. One of the advertisements is that of the man Forshaw, of Bolton, whose tricks have been repeatedly exposed in these columns. It may be remembered that the authorities of this institution pretend to exercise a strict censorship over the newspapers exhibited in the library, and that a copy of TRUTH in the library recently had the Sporting Notes "blacked out" in the manner practised by the Russian press censorship. As I remarked at the time, if the

municipal grandmothers of Belfast propose to re-edit all publications exhibited in their library, there is a good deal of matter which needs to be deleted before the Sporting Notes in Truth. The advertisement columns contain by far the most objectionable portion of the contents of many newspapers and magazines; and the municipal morality which overlooks such matter, while forbidding the citizens to read descriptions of last week's races, is straining at gnats while swallowing camels.

The advertisements of Messrs. R. Courtney, of 2 and 3, West-street, Finsbury-circus, are, I see, still appearing in the *Daily Telegraph* under the head of "Canadian Farms." The latest of them states that three young gentlemen pupils are wanted for farms in Western Ontario. The cost is given as "£25 each, which includes passage and all fees." I therefore call attention again to what was said in Truth of September 8 with regard to Messrs. Courtney in particular and to this class of agency business generally. The chief point is that every payment of £25 for this purpose leaves a profit of upwards of £10 to the agency upon the actual cost of passage and travelling expenses, and nothing is given by the agency for this money which cannot be obtained free of charge by employing the services of the Canadian Emigration Office in London. I may add at the same time that Mr. Courtney has not thought it desirable to offer any answer to what has been said in Truth about certain features of his own business.

I hear of a trick on the part of one of Nelson & Co.'s agents, which, I believe, has been practised more than once, and which requires the attention of the new directors, who are endeavouring to put the business on a more satisfactory footing. A woman who had purchased her tea regularly since March, 1901, found herself unable to pay for the weekly stock on two dates in April last. She explained this to the agent, who told her that it would make no difference if she paid the money the following week, and the woman went on paying accordingly. Not long after, her husband died, when, of course, she found that the company repudiated the agent's statement, and that all her payments since the lapse had been thrown away. I presume that the directors have heard of this case, because the woman must have made a claim upon the company, and I should hope that they have let the agent know their opinion about it.

It is, of course, true that customers are definitely informed of the conditions of the contract, and also that the agents have no power to alter them; but it is a very easy matter for the agent to induce a woman to resume her purchases after a lapse by making a representation of this kind, and the trick is never likely to be discovered unless the husband happens to die before the woman has completed another year's purchase of tea. The agent has a personal interest in persuading customers to resume their purchase after a lapse, and in order that his blandishments may not assume a dishonest shape the company ought to deal very stringently with any agent detected in making false representations for this purpose. The business is quite unsatisfactory enough without the addition of fraudulent tricks by agents or canvassers.

In common, no doubt, with a good many other people I have recently been made aware of the existence of a newly-formed County Families' Association by the receipt of a circular issued from 217, Piccadilly, London, signed p.p. J. A. Macdonald. The gist of the circular appears to lie in a request to be supplied with the names of any ladies or gentlemen who would like to add to their incomes by devoting part of their time to pushing the interests of the associated County Families, and one paragraph states, "We only accept as members people of standing, and therefore do not require the ordinary commercial canvasser, but a lady or gentleman of good social position who, in an unobtrusive manner, would induce suitable people to share in the undoubted privileges and advantages of the Association."

I have been endeavouring to ascertain what are the "undoubted privileges and advantages" of the Association as disclosed in the account of its aims in *My Programme*, apparently a combination of a diary of current events with a seaside guide-book, which purposes to be the official organ of the Association. So far as I can discover the only special privilege offered to intending members is the privilege of paying £1 a year for membership, while the nature of the advantages may be gauged from the fact that one of them consists in the receipt of *My Programme* weekly, and another in a rebate of 10s. per case on a particular brand of champagne ordered by subscribers. The County Families, however, who have associated themselves for the purpose of selling *My Programme* and champagne, maintain so discreet a reticence concerning themselves—not a single name of a member or officer appearing in the official organ—that it is at once apparent that they are not engaged in an "ordinary commercial" enterprise. In fact, the picture of County Families paying £1 a year for the pleasure of giving 10s. to such of their number as become purchasers of a case of a particular brand of champagne affords such a delightful object-lesson in altruistic enterprise that their names really should not be allowed to remain in obscurity.

The famous Griffen snowball letter still continues to wander about the world like an uneasy ghost, and there is little chance of its wanderings being brought to an end, for I see in the last copy of the document that has come my way that people are now invited to go on reduplicating the appeal until the number 1,000 is reached. As the thing must now have been in circulation for something like seven years, and the number on the latest copies of it is only 255, it will be seen that those who are at present keeping the thing going still regard the movement as quite in its infancy. It is, indeed, quite impossible to measure the stupidity of the parties who are going on multiplying the distributing appeals of this nature, and the only excuse there

is for them is that they are mostly children or servant girls, or other ignorant people. In the last copy of the letter the name of the originator has been transformed into Siekin, and her address into Hayden Hill, New South Wales, so that there is not the slightest possibility of any of the contributions forwarded in response to the appeal reaching their destination, even if the New South Wales Post-office had not years ago refused to deliver any more of Miss Griffen's letters.

I was asked the other day to take up the question of the "standardisation of disinfectants." It looks rather alarming at first, but, after studying a mass of literature on the subject with which I have been supplied, I am inclined to think that the idea is sound. Disinfectants play an important part in modern civilisation, but to the man in the street a disinfectant is a disinfectant, and he has no means of ascertaining for himself its exact germ-killing virtues, though different articles may vary considerably in that respect. Each manufacturer proclaims his own production as the best, but we know by experience that the purchaser of any article of commerce needs to take a grain of salt with such recommendations, and there is, of course, no reason why an unscrupulous person should not put up any rubbish for sale as a disinfectant. We have found it necessary to make laws to secure the wholesomeness of food, and the purity of drugs, and the reasons which make this desirable in the case of drugs used for medical purposes apply with equal force to disinfectants.

PRODIGIOSISSIMUS!

In a report by Doctor Mervyn Gordon, just published at the instance of the Local Government Board, it is asserted that public speakers, singers, etc., disseminate noxious germs in the air to a most alarming extent whenever they use their voices.

When Tariff-menders state their case,
  Or what at present may survive of it,
We know the daring way in which,
  Taking twice two, they still make five of it;
But now 'twould seem that, even as
  With such financial fibs they dose us,
They also make the air all round
  Quite black with *B. prodigiosus*,
Spraying (to use the Blue-book's terms)
Myriads of streptococcian germs!

Just think, again, what it must mean
  When, upon crowded congregations,
A gushing clergyman pours out
  His most persuasive exhortations!
Good for the sinner's soul his words,
  No doubt, may prove, but, as yet gruffer
His phrases grow, it seems to us
  The sinner's bronchial tubes *must* suffer;
Seeing each word that preacher speaks
With noxious organisms reeks!

So at the Opera, those sounds
  Of which the Tenor feels the proudest
Are those we most should dread; he is
  Most perilous when he is loudest.
The Actor, too, whose mellow voice
  To listening crowds a vast delight is,
Can, in one scene, infect a House
  With something bad that ends in "itis";
Since, as he more impassioned gets,
He spouts out germs in septic jets.

In short, if that new Blue-book's right
  About this startling germ-dispersal,
The public safety should be sought
  By making silence universal.
And though it is a bitter pill
  For multiloquous folks to swallow,
If they would see a ripe old age,
  The Trappists' is the lead to follow!
To talk is palpably absurd:
Man's motto must be, "Mum's the word!"

Still, as we all by this time know,
  'Tis not the Doctors' way to spare us;
When a new bogey they create,
  They do their very best to scare us.
Man's tendency to eat, to drink,
  To sleep, they have in turn been balking,
And now in chorus they proclaim
  The frightful risks he runs in talking;
Forgetting, seemingly, the way
His tongue has wagged since Adam's day.

No, no! these Doctors, when they start
  A fad, too recklessly pursue it;
So 'tis with their germ theory,
  They most distinctly overdo it!
For even if they silence Man
  With their disquieting endeavour,
Their task must still be deemed half-done,
  Since Woman they will silence never.
Not all the germs by Science sung
Would make a Woman hold her tongue!

Instead of our agriculturists asking to be protected against competition by duties on all food imports, which would only lead to landowners raising their rents, they would be wiser if they were to agitate for a thorough change in our land laws. In Denmark there are 224,000 rural landowners. More than half have not more than one acre, 96,000 have less than four acres, and only 2,000 have more. The small landowners mainly occupy themselves with the egg and fowl industry. Each inhabitant of Denmark has on an average three fowls. There are in the country 8,766,382 fowls, 52,177 turkeys, and 803,401 geese and ducks. Denmark exports annually £1,500,000 worth of eggs. Cows, too, are almost universally kept, and the annual export of butter is worth £8,200,000. The cow-owners of a district are associated together, and co-operatively send their eggs, their chickens, their milk, and their butter to ports for exportation, either to England or to Germany. All this does not, however, prevent a considerable export of cattle and meat. The export of horses brings in annually about £880,000, of oxen and cows £750,000, of bacon and hams £4,200,000, of beef £500,000, of sausages and tongues £500,000.

All this shows that our agricultural industry is most backward. Denmark has no advantage either of soil or climate over us. All that she sends us we might produce. The only thing needed is a change in our land laws which would break up the land now held by a few into small holdings, and some sort of go and intelligence amongst the small proprietors. If Mr. Chamberlain would devote his energies to lecturing on our land laws, and on egg, poultry, and butter farming, he would be performing a far more useful task than in urging a system of Protection which would only benefit—if, indeed, it would benefit—his old enemies, the land-

owners—men who, he once said, "neither toil nor spin, and ought to be made to pay ransom for being privileged to exist."

The inhabitants of Milan number 491,460, of whom 116,007 are working men over sixteen years of age. Of the latter 29,401 are members of the Chamber of Labour. There have lately been labour disputes in several comparatively small towns in Italy, when the troops were called out to maintain order and to stop pillage that had commenced. In two or three cases a working man was killed during the combat. It was, therefore, decided by the Milan Chamber of Labour that all work should be suspended for twenty-four hours. The strike was, however, by a subsequent decree of the Chamber ordered to continue for five days. No work of any kind was to be done during this period, and the shops and factories were to remain closed. On the first day mobs invaded factories, stopped all tramways, allowed no carriages, public or private, to circulate, and broke the windows of shops remaining open. In one case, a dentist, who was looking on whilst a beer saloon was being closed by the mob, was killed. In many other cases persons who did not find favour with the mob were ill-used. The streets were unlighted. No newspaper was allowed to be issued, and the placards of the Chamber of Labour alone appeared.

The majority of the working men seem to have been opposed to this drastic policy, as were the shopkeepers. The Mayor, however, abnegated his functions, and fled eventually to Rome. Signor Giolitti, the Premier, advocated calm, and the Prefect did not interfere. The Chamber of Labour, therefore, remained absolutely master of the town; the working men gave up working, and the shopkeepers closed their shops. Occasionally arrests were made by the police, mainly of thieves and such-like who were plying their trade, and on the fifth day the inhabitants of the town took courage to applaud the arrests. In the meantime, the Chamber of Labour announced that the object was to force Giolitti to resign, or at least to call together Parliament, in which case the Socialist members would force a dissolution by obstruction. The newspapers, on their reappearance after the five days, denounced their fellow-citizens for having submitted to the rule of a sort of committee of public disorder, Giolitti for not ordering the Prefect to maintain order, and the Mayor for practically siding with this committee.

I cannot be accused of any desire to put down strikes by force. In Italy they have been useful, for wages were unquestionably too low, and owing to strikes they have been raised by about one-third in the last few years. But I fail to see the legitimacy of such a strike as this, and by no means approve of the constituted authorities, whether of the central Government or of the municipality of a town, allowing a small minority to impose their will on their fellow citizens in this fashion. Giolitti, the Prefect, and the Mayor seem to have failed in their duty, whilst the majority allowed itself to be coerced. If the right of working men to combine and strike is recognised, on the other hand the liberty of other working men not to strike and of shopkeepers to open their shops ought also to be recognised.

The railway employees were ordered to strike. They informed the company that they would not if they were protected. The head of the company at Milan therefore called in gendarmes, guarded the station, and thus defeated the object of the strikers, who not only wanted to call out all the railway employees, but to pull up the rails in order to stop all traffic. This shows how easy it would have been to maintain order had the public authorities done their duty.

Signor Giolitti has a Parliamentary majority only by the aid of the Socialist members, and by certain of the Conservative members supporting him. The Chamber comes to a natural death next June. An election, therefore, cannot be far off. Whether the election is deferred until then, or takes place at once, these proceedings—which also took place in many of the other large towns—do not seem likely to benefit the Giolitti party. What, however, happens at a General Election never can be predicted beforehand, except that the party in power always has an immense advantage owing to the tendency of so many to vote for the official candidates. Unless, therefore, Signor Giolitti is dismissed by the King before the election, he and his friends may get a majority, and it is not probable that the King will take this course.

I have more than once suggested that we have been counting too much on the certainty of the Japanese being the ultimate victors in the Russo-Japanese war. Their soldiers are wondrously brave, their generals have studied war in all its aspects, and know how to use their knowledge. But the Russian soldiers are also very brave, their generals are by no means idiots, and if the regimental officers are somewhat more inclined to carouse and amuse themselves than those of the Japanese Army, we must not forget that so also were the regimental officers of Napoleon's armies. People are always too much inclined to believe what they wish. Public opinion in England is in favour of the Japanese, but this will no more conduce to their ultimate success than if we were the inhabitants of the moon.

Without being a military man, or pretending to be an expert in strategy, any one can see that the further the Japanese are dragged from their base the more difficult will be their task; and this is all the more so when there are few or no roads. Kuropatkin was the Chief of the Staff of Stolopine, and was always supposed to be a far better strategist than his chief. Talking about the Turco-Russian war, the latter once told me that under modern conditions of war, the best defence of

a country is to have no roads. The issue of the present war seems mainly to depend upon the carrying power of the Siberian Railway. Assuming equality of tactics and bravery on both sides, the Russians seem to me just now to have placed themselves in a better position than the Japanese, owing to their retreat. But any trustworthy information as to what is occurring is so difficult to obtain that all that can be said is that each side has chances of winning, but no one can say which will win.

THE PRACTICAL SPIDER.

A Spider, bent on catching Flies,
A hundred wily Methods tries;
Up here, down there, her Webs she dots
In many unexpected Spots;
Then sits and views her cunning Toils,
Alert to seize th' expected Spoils.
Now, while she sits and watches there,
A Drone comes humming through the Air;
The Webs he sees, admires, then cries:
"How 'cutely set for catching Flies!
By Zeus, but such a clever Show
Deserves a Gall'ry, don't-cher-know!
My brother Drones I'll fetch outright
To come and see the wond'rous Sight."
Dame Spider hears; then forth she springs,
And nabs him firmly by the Wings.
"Not so, Sir Drone. But here you'll be
Until I choose to set you free."
"But why? I merely want to go
And fetch the Drones to see your Show.
'Twill interest them no end," he said,
"To mark how well your Toils you spread."
"Maybe; but while they stand and stare
'Twill show the Flies my Toils are there.
Extremely sorry to refuse
What might your idle Hours amuse.
But, just at present, 'tain't my Game
To have 'em stared at," says the Dame.
"If not at present, when?" he cries.
Says Spider: "*When I've caught the Flies!*"

Moral.

Learn of the Japs, who've wisely reckoned
War First and Correspondents Second.

SCRUTATOR.

IMPERIALISM OR EMPIRICISM?

LORD ROSEBERY'S gibes at the fiction of colonial "offers" of preferential treatment for British exports have evidently touched Mr. Chamberlain on a tender spot. I suppose he did not like being told by a rival Imperialist that his great Imperial nostrum is not Imperialism but empiricism. He was, no doubt, nettled when Lord Rosebery asked whether a swain who recommended a young woman to get married would be considered to have made her an offer, and applied this simile to the platonic utterances of the Colonial Premiers, on which all the hopes of an Imperial commercial union are built. Hence the letter in Monday's *Times*, in which Lord Rosebery is told that he is not an Imperialist, but a Little Englander, and that he is a mere cynic, which we all know is as bad as an empiric any day. This letter is really one of the most edifying contributions that its author has yet made to the fiscal controversy, and nothing could show more clearly the desperate straits to which he and his friends are reduced. Its purpose is to answer Lord Rosebery's taunts about the illusory nature of the alleged colonial offer, on which Mr. Chamberlain's whole case rests. That it is a definite offer he is bound to maintain, because he has warned us that if we reject it now it may not be renewed. Lord Rosebery, like innumerable Free Trade speakers before him, denies that any such offer has been made. There is one way, and only one way, of answering this—namely, to produce the offer or tell us where it is to be found. What does Mr. Chamberlain do in his letter to the *Times*? First, he produces a telegram "received this morning," in which "the Federal Council of United Chambers of Manufacturers of All Australia reiterate former assurances of unanimous support. Urgently invite yourself and Mrs. Chamberlain to visit Australia," etc. Where is the offer here? Secondly, Mr. Chamberlain quotes a newspaper statement that "the Queensland Chamber of Manufacturers has passed a resolution approving of Mr. Chamberlain's scheme, and cordially inviting him to visit Australia." Where is the offer here? Thirdly, he tells us that "the Boards of Trade of the principal cities of Canada have passed similar resolutions." Then, if there is no offer in the former cases, there is none here. Fourthly, and lastly, he "adds to this evidence the uncontested statement of Mr. Fielding, the Minister of Finance of the Dominion of Canada, in his Budget speech, that 'we say to the English people that Canada is practically a unit in support of preferential trade.'" That is the whole letter, save for a few rhetorical flourishes.

Mr. Chamberlain must have a very poor idea of the intelligence of his fellow-countrymen if he supposes that they are likely to be imposed upon by this transparent humbug. What is the position? His policy as so far declared is that we shall lay taxes on all our imports, including food, but grant exemption to imports from the Colonies. There is no likelihood that the Colonies will object to that policy; on the contrary, it is certain to evoke their enthusiastic admiration. We want to know what *we* are going to gain by taxing ourselves in this way. He replies that the Colonies are ready and willing to give us advantages in their markets equivalent to those we give them. Again and again he has been asked for proof of this, so that we may judge for ourselves of the value of this equivalent. He has told us exactly what we are to pay; we are entitled to know, with equal precision, what we are going to receive. This is a business proposition, and it must be put on a business footing before it can be discussed. He declines to do this, and takes refuge in vague generalities or gaseous platitudes. He comes forward now in response to the last challenge addressed to him, and even now he has nothing more to tell us than that certain commercial bodies in the Colonies approve of his scheme. Instead of telling us what their offer is, he piles up evidence to prove that they

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are vastly pleased with our offer—as kindly formulated by him. Their approval of our offer, he bids us believe, is the same thing as if they had made an offer. If anybody does not see this, he is deliberately refusing to see it, is "bringing himself into line with the Little Englanders," and is a base cynic, unworthy of the disinterested enthusiasm with which the Colonies are making their advances to him. This is truly the *reductio ad absurdum* of Chamberlainism. The best thing Mr. Chamberlain can do is to accept the invitations that are being showered on him to go to Australia. He can then explain to the colonists what they are to give, as he has explained to us what we are to give; and if he finds that they remain equally enthusiastic in their approval of his scheme when they understand that there are two sides to the bargain, he can then come back and tell us what he is evidently unable to tell us now.

Up to the present, none of the Colonies has gone further than this: Some of their public men have stated that, if we will levy an import duty on all food and raw material, and exempt colonial food and raw material, they would advocate as a *quid pro quo*, that our products should be allowed a tariff preference over the same products entering their ports from foreign countries, provided that the normal duty on all such products, whether from Great Britain or elsewhere, remains high enough to protect their home industries from all competition, and also provided that they may grant bounties to their industries with a view still further to protect them against us and all other countries. It might have been thought that even a Protectionist would have perceived the one-sided character of such an arrangement. Take our manufactured goods. Under such an arrangement they would obviously cost more to produce. Manufacturers would have to pay more for raw material, and for those partially manufactured articles that they now buy abroad, and re-export at a profit fully manufactured. The cost of living would be increased, which means that wages must be raised. Not only should we have, therefore, to compete under worse conditions than at present with all foreign manufacturers for the markets outside our own shores, while home consumers would also have the price of such goods increased by the amount of the duty, but the Colonies themselves would be doing their utmost to exclude us from their markets by means of the Protection secured by bounties on their industries, and by high import duties on ours. Though, consequently, we might be able to get an increased share of their imports at first, every successive year would reduce the volume of those imports.

Again, take the case of our agriculturists. They would be able for a time to sell their produce higher by the amount of the duty. But food can be produced cheaper in our Colonies than at home, and to any amount. As colonial food would not pay the duty, it follows that the competition from the Colonies would eventually destroy any advantage that our agriculturists would at first obtain from the duty. Food would be slightly dearer to us because of the duty, but the Colonies would in the end reap the entire benefit. Our agriculturists would consequently find that they would have to pay more for their machinery, their clothes, and their labour, without being able to compete with the Colonies on better terms than they now do with the entire world. Mr. Chamberlain is far too intelligent not to perceive this. "Whilst, therefore, indulging in vague rhetorical assurances that we should be the gainers by his fiscal scheme, the argument on which he relies is that unless we are prepared to make some sacrifice to the Colonies—or, in plain language, to bribe them—they will "cut the painter." Not one Colony has ever threatened us with this. All have repudiated the idea. I am no great believer in sentiment. They will remain with us so long as it is to their interest, and it is to their interest to do so without our paying blackmail to them. Speaking, however, as a citizen of the United Kingdom, I believe that their withdrawal from the Empire would be far less harmful to us than the adoption of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal scheme, and that its adoption would lead to such perpetual disputes between them and us that, far from preventing disruption, it would conduce to it. This is not an arbitrary assumption. It has been proved by experience. There is nothing new in the scheme of preferential commercial arrangements within the Empire. Like the Protection of home industries, which now goes hand in hand with it in the fiscal reform propaganda, it has been well tried, and its results have been disastrous. It did no good to the Colonies, rather the reverse; it made them, as Disraeli justly said, "millstones about our necks;" had it been persisted in, it would have led to the disruption of the Empire. No one who knows the history of the question can doubt that free trade saved us from that, and a statesman who can talk of saving the Empire by restoring the state of things which prevailed before 1846 may be justly branded as an empiric rather than an Imperialist.

OUR DANGER IN THE EAST.

That Germany should find it to her interest to take care to keep on friendly terms with Russia in regard to the Eastern war is self-evident. But it is probably a gross exaggeration to suggest that any specific treaty or agreement has ever been entered into between the two Empires, that Russia has engaged to support Germany in her designs on China after the war is over, in return for a German undertaking to shelter the Port Arthur Fleet if it managed to get into a Chino-German port, or that the German Government has arranged to coal the Baltic Fleet from German ships on its way to the East. The sole evidence vouchsafed of the existence of any such agreement is an anonymous letter published in the *Times* and the persistent assurances of this newspaper that its correspondent ought to be believed in face of all German denials. It seems pretty evident, however, that the *Times*, as the chief exponent of British Jingoism, is desirous that we should be involved in the war now raging, and this desire is more clearly expressed in the minor Jingo newspapers.

I cannot say that I saw any great merit in the treaty into which we entered with Japan. It imposed upon us the contingent obligation to join in a war which cannot be said to directly concern us, if any Great Power sided with Russia in the event of the conflict between her and

Japan, which most persons recognised was probable sooner or later. The treaty struck me as greatly to the advantage of Japan, and by no means so obviously to ours. It encouraged Japan to force on the war, to become master of Asia, and to drive the Russians, if possible, out of Manchuria. It can hardly, therefore, be denied that it was contrary to the interests of Russia, and that it did not make for peace. I do not believe in the wisdom of our entering into offensive or defensive treaties with any foreign nation. We ought always to keep our hands free to act according to circumstances, and in no case to accept engagements which may oblige us to become parties to a war not directly concerning us. When a war does unfortunately break out between two foreign Powers, our one paramount interest is to keep out of it. Germany's neutrality in the Russo-Japanese war is, no doubt, a benevolent one towards Russia, and in view of her having an exposed frontier towards Russia and France, she would be foolish were she not to be very careful in no way to offend the former, or to refuse to aid her so far as she can consistently with international law. Such aid is less than what we did for Japan by our treaty.

I hope that Japan may be the victor in the present war, for I am convinced that Asia for the Asiatics would tend to peace. But this aspiration is not so strong as to make me prepared to approve of our either provoking, or becoming a party to a great international war. We have a Conservative Government in office. The tendency of such a Government is to divert attention from democratic progress by what is called a spirited foreign policy abroad. This tendency was a potent factor in dragging us into the South African war. At present the Conservatives are admittedly clinging on to office by means of their khaki majority in the House of Commons. They admit that they do not enjoy the confidence of the nation, and that an appeal to the electorate would go against them. They affect to believe that this verdict will be reversed at a second General Election, and, in their opinion, this second appeal would have to be made in a year or two after the first owing to dissensions which must, they insist, break out in the Liberal Party. The wish is father to these expectations. They would prefer, naturally, to win the next General Election, and they perceive that the fiscal issue which has been forced on them by Mr. Chamberlain, is likely for long to prove a millstone round their necks. If they could, therefore, involve us in a war before a dissolution, it would be to their gain, and especially to the gain of Mr. Balfour. Neither he nor Mr. Chamberlain is over-scrupulous. Both dread the advance of democracy—Mr. Balfour because, although without convictions, he is professionally a Conservative; Mr. Chamberlain because he is a renegade Radical, and is possessed of all the zeal for his new principles, which is the special attribute of a turncoat. Besides this, both love power, and though they may try to trick each other in their desire for the first place, they are capable of very shady political action to keep any one but themselves out of that position. As for the *Times* and the other Jingo papers, they apparently love war for the sake of war.

Under these circumstances the country should keep a watchful eye on our present Government. So long as Parliament sat we were assured that there was no likelihood of a war in South Africa. No sooner was the Government left without Parliamentary control than it took steps to make war inevitable. One would suppose that, after its experience of Jingoism during the last few years, public opinion could not again be led astray. We have given it a fair trial. We have had a war that has cost us 250 millions hard cash, and probably as much again in the consequent reduction of our national credit and the dislocation of trade. The Transvaal has been the only asset that we have secured against this cost, and we are now told that the only thing to make the asset pay its way is to introduce Chinese serfs to work its mines. The cost of our armaments has increased by above thirty millions per annum, and we are told that this expenditure must be increased rather than be reduced. But unfortunately it is not difficult for any Ministry to entangle the country in a war, and, when it has once commenced, the passions become excited and reason is overpowered. A Ministry such as the present—desperately clinging on to office in defiance of the popular will, and under the illusion that its members are so able and patriotic that it is almost a crime for them to withdraw the light of their countenance from the country—is far more dangerous than a strong Ministry, however bent on evil. Drowning men are not particular as to the straws at which they catch. Our Jingo friends are fond of drawing a fancy sketch of those who do not believe in Jingoism. They term them opprobriously "Little Englanders." They picture them as poor-spirited creatures, so indifferent to the honour of their country that they meet insult and bullying by kissing the hand that strikes; and so basely sordid, that they would prefer to see the Empire dismembered, and a French or German Viceroy dictating the law from London, rather than pay for the armaments needed to avert this fate; so grovelling that they feel no patriotic glow when they think of the vastness of our territories, and have no noble desire to increase the area of the Empire, or to force additional millions of savages to accept our rule. Yet these "Little Englanders" are what the statesmen were of the past who built up our Empire and urged us on to devote all our energies to industry and progress rather than to war. Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone professed the doctrines of the Little Englander of to-day. There were Jingoes then, for in every community such baneful braggarts are always to be found. They sought to obtain the admiration of their fellow-countrymen by blustering and swaggering like the bandits of a melodrama, and by boasting that they alone were true patriots. They were always howling for some new conquest, and were perpetually complaining that our armaments ought to be increased, in order to render such conquests easy. The commonsense of the country regarded them, however, as pestilential humbugs. It is, indeed, a new phase of the national character that they should be deemed anything else.

What the Jingoes call a "Little Englander"

is a decent, respectable, and intelligent citizen of a small sea-girt and densely-populated kingdom, that has grown rich and powerful by industry. He considers that his duty is to endeavour, by continuing to tread the same path, to make his country still richer and still more powerful, and its people more happy. His main aim is to better the lot of the workers at home, because they are the vast majority, and their lot is open to improvement. He is well disposed towards our colonies, although he is not prepared to bribe them into retaining their connection with us. If they remain he regards them with affection; if they want to cut the painter, he is ready to speed the parting friend. So far from wanting to extend the area of Empire, he deems it already somewhat too large in view of the obligations that it imposes on us. As for foreign nations, he has no ill-feeling towards them, but he regards a determination on our part not to interfere in their affairs as the best way to ensure that they will not interfere in ours. He is aware that, in the present condition of the world, armaments are a necessary evil, and he is prepared to pay for the cost of what is strictly necessary for defence against all reasonable contingencies. But he objects to war expenditure in peace times, and agrees with Sir Robert Peel that over-insurance against dangers that are improbable, although humanly possible, is a ruinous mode of doing business. It was Little Englanders that made us the mightiest of Empires, and—if our Empire is to fall—it will be the Imperialists who will bring it to the ground. When Philip of Spain was seeking to crush religious and political liberty out of the Netherlands, his troops dubbed the resisting Hollanders "beggars." The rebels adopted the appellation as a rallying cry. In the same way I glory in holding fast to the doctrines of men like Peel and Gladstone, and accept as a compliment any name that Jingoes may apply to me, to show how greatly I differ from them. A shrieking Imperialist is no more a true patriot than Captain Bobadil was a brave soldier.

AN OUTRAGE ON CHARITY.

Some six months ago a good deal of attention was devoted in Truth to the "Hospital Penny Fund"—an egregious scheme for raising money for the hospitals in London and the provinces by the sale of penny stamps, which were to be bought and stuck into books provided for the purpose, the purchase of the stamps and books being stimulated by the offer of prizes to the extent of thousands of pounds for the biggest collection of the stamps. It might have been hoped that what then came to light respecting the origin of this scheme would have been sufficient to nip it in the bud. It appears, however, from the statements of the promoters, that the scheme has been launched, and circulars have been distributed during the last week or two inviting hospitals to co-operate in it. In their earlier announcements the promoters expressed a hope that one or more prominent and influential journals would take up the scheme, and place the competition before the public through the medium of their columns. This hope does not seem to have been realised, which is one point to the good at any rate. The latest circular, however, gives the information that the scheme is to be placed before the public by "*Public Opinion*, an old-established, high-class weekly paper." I am not concerned to dispute the accuracy of this description, but the journal in question, however old-established, is certainly not in the forefront of weekly journals in point of circulation, and any claims it may have hitherto had to the designation "high class" are likely to be seriously imperilled by association with an enterprise of this character. In addition to this information, the circular states that "a committee has been formed to see that the monies received from the sale of the stamps be properly dealt with, consisting of Sir Anthony Compton Thornhill, Bart., Sir Edward Noel Walker, K.C.M.G., Henry J. Drane, Esq., Managing Director, *Public Opinion*, G. H. Page, Esq., Managing Director Partington's Newspaper Advertising Company, Ltd." Only the first two of these gentlemen can be considered as independent members of the committee. The Managing Director of the newspaper which has undertaken to co-operate in the scheme is obviously interested in it, and it may reasonably be supposed that the presence on the committee of the representative of a well-known advertising agency is connected with the fact that in addition to the sale of stamps the Fund expects to receive a revenue from trade advertisements in its stamp books. A feature was made of this in the original prospectus, and it is to be assumed that the advertisements which are to yield this revenue will be obtained in the usual manner through an advertisement agency. We thus have a committee consisting of two gentlemen who have a business interest in the scheme, and two whose purpose is merely ornamental. I think it will be agreed that the second pair of committee-men have been very ill-advised in lending their names and influence to such a body.

The objections to this scheme are manifold, but the chief of them is that it is absolutely devoid of any philanthropic element, and is therefore inconsistent with the charitable principles on which the present hospital system rests. Although a pretence of appealing to charity lies behind it, the appeal only makes it an outrage on the name of charity. The public are invited to contribute their pennies with the prospect of earning considerable sums in prizes. In the first instance it was stated that £7,000 would be set aside for this purpose, and a first prize of no less than £3,000 in one lump was to be offered. The promoters expressly claimed it among the merits of the scheme that it would appeal to the prevailing craze for competitions. The prevailing craze for competitions is simply a development of the eternal instinct for gambling. Though the aggregate amount offered for distribution has now been reduced to £5,000, and the biggest individual prize to £200, it is obvious that the motive which the scheme really appeals to is, not charity, but the hope of winning a big sum in cash by the investment of a comparatively small stake. Further, there is not the slightest justification for the establishment of a new hospital fund, on this or any other basis. In the original circulars a pretence was made that it would bring in a

new class of subscribers to the hospitals, but the multiplication of hospital funds in one form or another in recent years has practically covered the whole of the ground there is to be worked. The Hospital Saturday Fund, the Hospital Sunday Fund, King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, have all been formed for the purpose of bringing new classes of subscribers to the hospitals. The League of Mercy, serving as an auxiliary to the King's Fund, is expressly founded to interest the great mass of the people in hospital work, and to collect subscriptions from them in small amounts. It is now raising upwards of £20,000 a year in this way, and the growth of its work goes far to justify the expectations of its founders that it will finally bring in three or four times that amount. It is therefore preposterous for the organisers of the Hospital Penny business to suggest that they will enlist for the benefit of the hospitals some class of subscribers which no existing agency touches.

Apart from this objection the scheme avowedly only offers to the hospitals a portion of the money collected. Twenty-five per cent. is to be reserved "for expenses of the staff and office, of advertising, printing, and for founding the prize fund, etc." A scheme for collecting money under which it is deliberately contemplated that the working expenses shall absorb 25 per cent. of the receipts is vicious on the face of it. Many a charitable agency has been rightly condemned for spending less than this on the business of collecting money. The reservation of this amount for working expenses at once reveals the true motive which prompts this movement. The business of printing, particularly the printing of the stamps, and the stamp books will, of course, absorb a large part of the 25 per cent. It was stated long ago by the promoters that a contract for the printing of the stamps had been concluded. This implies that an arrangement had already been made by which somebody was to get a very considerable profit. When this scheme is placed before the public, the public are entitled to ask who this somebody is, and what are his relations with the promoters of the scheme. In regard to the element of "staff," it was stated when I referred to the matter in May last, that some nebulous "committee" had appointed Mr. F. L. Rawson, M.Inst.C.E., as a salaried financial manager, because they did not wish themselves to handle any of the money coming in. In point of fact Mr. Rawson is one of the originators of the scheme. Closely associated with him was a Mr. Goldman, and in correspondence which has been published in TRUTH the original inception of the idea was attributed to this gentleman. The circulars announcing the launching of the scheme sent out last week are signed by "M. H. Goldman, Secretary." A Mr. Warren was the secretary at an earlier stage, and Goldman has succeeded him during the last six months. We thus find that Messrs. Rawson and Goldman, the two parties with whom this philanthropic scheme originated, are the principal members of the staff which has to be paid out of the 25 per cent. set aside for working expenses. These facts fully justify the suspicions expressed in the earlier references to the scheme in TRUTH, that it was worked by certain individuals who had axes of their own to grind. When this axe-grinding takes the form of appropriating 25 per cent. of the receipts for administration expenses, it is easy to judge how much philanthropy, and how much zeal on behalf of the hospitals inspires Messrs. Rawson and Goldman. So far as Mr. Rawson is concerned, I make this observation with the less hesitation, knowing that he has been for some time identified with the "Christian Science" persuasion. The creed of that sect repudiates all medical science, and implies that medical treatment in any shape is repugnant to the Christian religion. By taking up the position he has in connection with the Hospital Penny Fund, Mr. Rawson exposes himself to the obvious remark that either his professed belief in Christian Science or his professed zeal on behalf of hospital work must be absolute humbug.

In addition to Mr. Rawson and other parties who are going to divide the 25 per cent. profit made out of this benevolent movement, we now have the proprietors of *Public Opinion*, the managing director of which journal occupies a seat on the committee. We shall not be asked, I trust, to believe that any newspaper would take up such a business as this out of pure philanthropy. What may be the business arrangements between the managers of the Fund and the managers of *Public Opinion* the public has no means of knowing. Without any such knowledge, however, it is easy to see where *Public Opinion* "comes in." If anybody has a difficulty in seeing it, I need only refer him to the following advertisement, which has been appearing during the past week:—

PRIZES. £5,000 PRIZES.

HUNDREDS OF CONSOLATION PRIZES.

See this week's

PUBLIC OPINION,

To be obtained from all bookstalls and newsagents. Great and Popular Scheme to aid the Hospitals.

Everyone can help. Read the particulars.

NINEPENCE IN EVERY SHILLING GOES DIRECT TO THE HOSPITALS.

See this week's

PUBLIC OPINION,

or write

THE HOSPITAL PENNY FUND,

12 and 13, HENRIETTA-STREET, LONDON, W.C.

This is obviously neither more nor less than an advertisement of the journal, which offers this great attraction to all who desire to win a share of the £5,000. I am not for a moment suggesting that there is any reason why a newspaper should not run such a competition in its columns. All that I desire to point out is that there is no charity about this scheme so far as the promoters and managers are concerned, and that as regards *Public Opinion* the competition stands on the same footing as any other thinly designed gamble for prizes by which the circulation of a certain class of journals is nowadays stimulated.

The tactics adopted in putting this precious scheme forward have been entirely in keeping with its general character as above indicated. Those who are curious in this matter will find some interesting details in TRUTH of May 19 last. Mr. Rawson has been endeavouring to float the scheme since July, 1902. In seeking

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

influential support for it, he and his representative have at different times referred to Sir Joseph Dimsdale (then Lord Mayor of London), Sir Henry Seymour King, and Lord Duncannon in a way which suggested that they had already given the movement their approval and support. As regards the first two gentlemen, at any rate, any such suggestion was unfounded and misleading, and the use made of their names was unauthorised. Again, when I first referred to the matter in Truth, Mr. Warren in his capacity of secretary, wrote me a letter (Truth, May 5), which distinctly conveyed that Mr. Rawson was not originally connected with the enterprise, but that he had been selected by a "committee," on account of his organising capacity and integrity, to receive and administer the cash. This letter, though written for publication, was obviously calculated to convey an utterly false impression of the nature of Mr. Rawson's connection with the movement. I do not myself believe that there was any committee in existence at that time who could have appointed Mr. Rawson. I have said this before, and challenged Mr. Rawson to disprove it, but he has not attempted to do so. I believe that the first attempt at the formation of a committee took place last April; that it was called together for the purpose of hearing Mr. Rawson expound his plans, and that nobody present on that occasion had any previous knowledge of the scheme. Sir Edward Noel Walker, who took the chair on this occasion, expressly admitted that he knew nothing about it. If he has learned anything about it since which would lead a man of sound judgment to form an opinion favourable to the scheme, I should uncommonly like to hear from him what it is. A similar remark applies to his colleague on the Committee, Sir Anthony Compton Thornhill. The same disingenuous policy is still being pursued, as may be seen from the letter which the Hon. Sydney Holland sent to the *Times* and other papers a few days ago. The circulars that have been sent out inviting the co-operation of the hospitals, are accompanied by reprints of articles that have already appeared in *Public Opinion* describing the scheme. One of these gives the names of ten hospitals which will be represented in the first issue of penny stamps, and it would naturally be inferred that the authorities of these particular hospitals have been consulted, have given their approval, and are to share in the proceeds. One of them is the London. Another of the articles lays stress on the needs of the hospitals, and quotes statements of Mr. Sydney Holland and other gentlemen connected with large hospitals. As Chairman of the London Hospital, Mr. Holland feels it necessary to state publicly that the name of the London Hospital, and his own name, have been used in this way without any reference to him or the committee, and that they are not in any way associated with the scheme. The tone of his letter, and a passing allusion made to a previous article in Truth, indicate that there is very little probability of their having anything to do with it in the future.

This letter of Mr. Sydney Holland is most significant. It puts the promoters of the scheme in the position of parties who are pretending to raise money for a certain charity by methods which the managers of that charity are extremely likely to disapprove of, without asking permission to use the name of the charity, or troubling to ascertain whether the managers approve of their purpose or not. If they proposed at the same time to hand over the whole proceeds of their collection to the charity, it might pass as merely a piece of officious impertinence in rather bad taste. But when the fact is that the parties who go to work in this way are all "on the make," and propose to reserve no less than 25 per cent. of the receipts for purposes in which they will participate, irrespective of any indirect advantage to themselves in the shape of advertisement, the thing is reduced to a piece of impudent imposture under the cloak of charity. The plain truth is that the cause of the hospitals, the most valuable public charities we have, is being exploited by certain gentlemen, more astute than scrupulous, for purely selfish ends. Their scheme is a very clever one from their point of view, and not the least clever part of it is that there is nothing in the least unlawful about it, and no means of stopping it. Any newspaper proprietor, or any other individual, may get up a "competition" nominally for the benefit of the hospitals at large, and may reserve, not merely 25, but 50 or 75 per cent. of the proceeds for his own remuneration or "expenses," if he chooses. It is to be hoped, however, that the hospitals at large will refuse to countenance in any way such an attempt to use them for the personal profits of individuals, and take care, as the Chairman of the London Hospital has done, to make their attitude known. It is also to be hoped that the Press generally will do what it can to enlighten the less clear-headed section of the public as to the true bearings of this scheme, and to leave no one in doubt that it is a mere competition-mongering dodge without any charitable element about it.

SPANISH BANDITS IN IRELAND.

There has always been a great deal of sameness about the methods of the Spanish Prisoner. In my twenty five years' acquaintance with his doings I recollect very few important variations in the story with which he appeals to the cupidity and the credulity of mankind. One such variation was made years ago when most of the swindlers—there are several gangs of them in Madrid and Barcelona—abandoned the pretence that the treasure had been buried in some secluded spot in your neighbourhood, and substituted the explanation that it had been deposited in a bank in London or elsewhere. Instead of a plan of the locality, it then became a banker's receipt for the money which was hidden in a secret receptacle of the portmanteau seized by the authorities in Spain for the payment of the costs of the Prisoner's "process." The swindler has also rung minor changes from time to time on the reasons he gives for the concealment of his wealth and for the sentence of imprisonment that he is undergoing in the Castle Fort of Barcelona, or elsewhere. During recent years he has, too, adopted the idea of introducing himself with a reference to the excellent account which he heard of you from his dead wife, whom he describes

as "your relative" Mary Jones or Smith, or whatever your own surname may happen to be. But all the essential features of the story have been carefully preserved, and among those which have hardly ever been varied, even in the slightest degree, is the Prisoner's touching allusion to his only daughter, the dear child in whose interest he asks for your sympathy and assistance.

In view of the rarity of the Prisoner's departures from the beaten track of his familiar narrative, some information with which I have been favoured by a solicitor at Kanturk, County Cork, is decidedly interesting. The swindlers are now carrying out a wholesale raid on Irish farmers and tradesmen; and for this purpose various alterations have been made in their ordinary plan of campaign. The Prisoner drops the references to his own beloved child, and represents instead that he has become the guardian of a niece (or other relative) of the person to whom his letter is directed. The niece is said to be the descendant of a relative of this person who emigrated to America many years ago; and it is to the niece that the vast fortune (the security for which is, as usual, in the confiscated bag) belongs. In several instances these letters have given singularly accurate particulars of the dates and other circumstances in connection with the emigration of relatives of the parties addressed. My correspondent assumes from this that the swindlers must have employed agents in Ireland to obtain these particulars regarding different families, and he adds:—

In one case that came under my notice the recipient of the letter remembers, some six months ago, at a fair in the town of Mill-street, having a few drinks with a strange cattle jobber, who seemed to take such an interest in a sister of his that went to America some twenty years ago, and whom my client had almost forgotten and completely lost sight of, that, in spite of the potent effects of Millstreet whisky, the fact impressed itself on my client's mind. The other day he got a letter from the Prisoner saying that he had the custody of a daughter of this sister and £78,000 belonging to her, with the usual rigmarole about the bag, etc. The whole facts were so accurate that my client was quite convinced of the truth of it until he brought the letter to me to inquire what his legal status would be with regard to taking the money. With the aid of your issue of August 25 I succeeded after great difficulty in convincing him of the fraud, and then he recollected the above conversation. I cannot say, of course, whether this cattle dealer was an agent of the Prisoner, or whether the conversation having taken place and the attempted swindle being afterwards tried, related themselves in the farmer's mind as cause and effect; but that is more in your line to judge than mine.

It is scarcely possible to express an opinion on the farmer's case without carefully comparing any definite statements in the letter with the actual facts, and I am not in a position to do this. But there is nothing inherently improbable in the idea that the inquisitive stranger whom the farmer supposed to be a cattle dealer was in reality an emissary of some of these Spanish banditti. It is true that, in the vast majority of cases, the letter which forms the opening move in the Prisoner's game is obviously from beginning to end a "common form" sent out broadcast to persons whose names and addresses are taken from directories. Occasionally there are mistakes through changes of address, and so on, which show that old directories are being used. More than once, however, I have seen letters from the Prisoner containing particulars concerning the party addressed, or his family, or his neighbourhood, which seemingly must have been picked up on the spot—indeed, it is practically certain that from time to time the swindlers have been assisted by means of local inquiries. Judging from what my correspondent says, it is very likely that this is now being done in Ireland. There are few families in the country districts without relatives in America, and it is not at all an exceptional occurrence for communication with an emigrant to cease for years, or for an unexpected legacy to be received. Consequently such a yarn as the Prisoner spins does not appear so incredible as otherwise it might do, and I fear that he is reaping a rich harvest at the expense of poor Irish dupes. It is reported that the swindlers have got over £200 from different small farmers in County Clare, and a specific case at Miltown-Malbay has been narrated by a local magistrate in the *Irish Times*. The victim was a poor widow, who, being without any money of her own, prevailed upon a son in America (in this instance, presumably, the fable of the emigrant relative was not used) to realise and remit to her the required sum of £55. On September 1 she forwarded this amount in Bank of England notes, enclosed in a registered letter, to the swindler at Barcelona. On September 3 it somehow dawned upon her mind that she might be defrauded, and a telegram was sent to the postmaster at Barcelona to stop the delivery of the registered letter. That official, however, never even acknowledged the receipt of the telegram, and, whether the letter was delivered to the addressee or not, it is extremely improbable that the widow will ever get her money back.

People are sometimes inclined to doubt whether much money is now made out of this venerable version of the confidence trick. It may, therefore, be interesting to mention that, apart from these Irish victims, I have heard during the past month or so of three cases in England in which the swindlers bagged altogether no less than £525. As it is the exception rather than the rule for those who are gulled to disclose the fact, and as the fraud is practised upon the inhabitants of many countries besides the United Kingdom, it is obvious that the profits of the Spanish Prisoner must reach an enormous amount. There is, unfortunately, little prospect of the suppression of this lucrative fraud. The most persistent warnings in the newspapers fail to save infatuated noodles from falling into the trap, and it seems futile to expect any help from the administrators of the law in Spain. Years ago it was discovered that there were postal, police, and prison officials in the pay of the rogues who work the fraud at Madrid and Barcelona. Arrests are made from time to time, but only for the sake of appearances—indeed, a former British Consul at Barcelona told me that when one of the *soi-disant* "Prisoners" was actually locked up the connivance of his gaolers enabled him to carry on his business as usual from the gaol. I do not know whether the same system of bribery is still in operation, but it is at any rate certain that nothing effective is done by the Spanish authorities to put an end to this wholesale swindle. One can only suppose that, even if they do not exactly approve of it, they are at least determined not to hamper or harass this old-fashioned and flourishing Spanish industry.

THE THEATRES.

Melodrama at the Adelphi.

With the production of Mr. James Bernard Fagan's "The Prayer of the Sword," the Adelphi has gone back to melodrama, but it is melodrama of a most superior, blank-verse, ambitious character. Now, the worst of blank-verse dramas is the fact that they must be judged by a very high standard, and though the Adelphi production as regards writing, acting, and staging is eminently praiseworthy, there is no touch of anything in it which suggests genius. There are several big theatrical scenes, but no one great moment. When witnessing the serious drama I sit patiently all the evening waiting for a great moment, and when it does not come I feel that I have been defrauded of a thrill. As a matter of fact, Mr. Fagan has a great theme, but not a great pen. Here is a young monk who feels that he could serve Heaven better with the sword than by prayer, and he longs for a call which shall take him out of the monastery, where he is beating his ineffectual wings, into the world of strife. To the monastery comes its patroness, Lily Brayton (Duchess), and he naturally falls in love with her. A "call" comes very soon afterwards, but it is the call of the Duchess, not of Heaven, and our monk, like many other clerics, is not clear-headed enough to understand the difference between emotion and religion. A fair amount of sword follows, but very little prayer. He saves the Duchess, serves her, woos her and very nearly marries her, but Rome and his enemies intervene, and as a renegade monk he is excommunicated. Rome does not recognise the "call" he had to leave the monastery. Rome, which is very astute, possibly sniffed the Duchess. The great excommunication scene, when an apparently epileptic monk cursed the hero, is vastly effective, but not to everybody's taste. I appreciated far more the scene in the castle of San Martino, where Mr. Oscar Asche and Mr. Charles Rock, with poisoned daggers, come to kill the hero just as he is indulging in a farewell scene with his love. A better or more thrilling fight I have seldom seen. I could wish, though, that Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton would be a little quicker over their dying. The latter in particular wore me out. She gets a scratch from one of the poisoned daggers, and after being carried to a window, through which the sunlight streams, she takes a lingering farewell of her lover and of life. Miss Brayton is a pretty and rather charming actress when no great demands are made of her, but she is a staunch exponent of that school which believes that if you only give a long enough interval between your words the result will be pathos. As a consequence her death-scene dragged painfully, and the more so because her voice is always rather wearisome. I thought Mr. Asche as the villain Braccio Scorla, who tries first to marry and then to depose the Duchess, gave quite the finest performance in the play. He was vigorous and never monotonous. If all Bensonians could grip the parts they enact as he can I should think more than I do of the Bensonian school. Mr. Hampden, as the monk, did not seem to me to bring very much to the part beyond a beautiful voice and a Burne-Jones presence. I should have liked him to be more robust. Mr. Lyall Swete, Mr. Brydone, and Mr. Rock were all good in smaller parts. Mr. Brydone's frenzied excommunicationer, indeed, was quite remarkable, but it made me wonder whether Rome encouraged such raving madmen, just as I wondered whether duchesses were buried in monastery gardens, because this is Lily Brayton's fancy, and in the final tableau we see her lover, now old and grey, praying by her grave. With regard to the writing of the play, it often seems to me that blank verse is judged much more kindly than prose. If in the course of the long poetical speeches the audience came across one or two lines which seem to have an idea, or to express some pretty fancy, they hail them with enthusiasm. They do not expect poetry to be very intelligible, and are correspondingly delighted when they pick out fragments which are comprehensible. But very few people really enjoy blank verse, even when of the first quality. They approach the poetical drama much in the same way as with a smattering of French they approach French plays. Anything understood is hailed with delight. I think it was the late Mr. Haweis who said of Tate and Brady's version of the Psalms that of course there were some meritorious lines, because it would be impossible to write so many verses without writing some good ones by accident. I often feel like this about long modern poetical dramas. I do not want to suggest that Mr. Fagan's verse is bad. It is not. It is just mediocre, and the play would have been a better play in prose. Condensed, "The Prayer of the Sword" will probably be a successful melodrama, for it has all the necessary ingredients: hero, villain, unfortunate heroine, stirring situations, and kindly comic man in the person of a jester. In conclusion, one piece of sophistry rather interested me. A monk says to a layman: "That which prevents the sin of others cannot be sin." *Ergo*, to take an extreme case, if I kill a man to prevent his stealing a postage stamp I am no sinner. I should like to argue this out with Mr. Fagan or with Rome.

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It is a little curious that immediately after writing as I did the other day, news should come of the prospective dissolution of the Harrison-Maude management. Mr. Harrison will remain in possession of the Haymarket, and run it with another celebrated actor. Will this be Mr. Forbes-Robertson? I fancy not. Why not Mr. Gerald du Maurier?

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Mrs. Brown-Potter opens the Savoy to-morrow night with "George Daring's" play, "The Golden Light." "George Daring," most people now know, is Mrs. Potter's sister. The play is a drama of "intense human interest," which I am very glad to hear, as I have seen very few such lately. Of the intensely emotional gowns we have already heard much.

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Mr. Pinero's new play, "A Wife without a Smile," may be expected early next month at Wyndham's. Mr.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

H. G. Wells has dramatised his amusing story, "The Wheels of Chance," for Mr. James Welch.

* * * * *

That clever little comedian, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, has gone on tour with Mr. John Hare to play Miss Boucicault's part in "Little Mary," and she will also resume her original character in "'Op o' me Thumb," which nightly precedes Mr. Barrie's play.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

ROYALTY AND REGICIDE.

SUPERSTITION is one thing; belief in the moral force which rules in some mysterious way the universe is another. The heads of three great States were not afraid to authorise their Ministers at Belgrade to attend King Peter's coronation. It did not, apparently, occur to them that they, in taking this course, accepted judgment some day going against themselves on the lines he and his accomplices laid down on a memorable occasion. Their *métier* is to reign, and their desire is to escape from cranks impelled by the assassination mania. Did they not seem to justify the latter in attending the incantations of Innocenti and his four bishops in the Belgrade Cathedral? The Princess Danilo of Montenegro, who appeared in the incongruous pageant, is a great-grand-daughter of the late Duchess of Cambridge. She and her sister were thought to approximate to English girls when they lived so much under the wing of Duchess Augusta of Mecklenburg-Strelitz at Buckingham Gate and Kew. She abstained from attending the review that followed the Coronation. Perhaps she saw that King Edward had been unrepresented there. M. Delcassé sent Count de Vauvineux to swell the triumph of King Peter. He might not have done so if the Emperors Nicholas, Francis Joseph, and William had not ordered their Ministers to appear at the Coronation. He may have thought that a free-thinking Republic ought not be more squeamish than his Apostolic Majesty or the heads of the Orthodox and Prussian Evangelical Churches.

The Countess Lonyay's telegram to Philip of Saxe-Coburg was short but not sweet. It could not have been more to the point. The Countess had come to Paris to judge of her sister's state, mental and moral, and, after passing with her a whole afternoon, judged it sound. Louise, being, so to speak, on her trial, made the first visit as one Belgian Princess to another. The latter returned the call next day, and they both went for an airing in the Bois in a motor-car. The swiftness of the vehicle served as a veil, save in places where the crowd of carriages obliged the chauffeur to slow down to a foot pace. They are now inseparable. The ex-Crown Princess, who has descended with Imperial sanction to the mere rank of Countess, covers the unfortunate elder sister with the mantle of her respectability, and, so far as she can, has given her absolution.

Her behaviour must have weight with the Emperor of Austria, with whom she is on good terms. The publication of her telegram will prepare for any representations she may think well to make. It will tend to set Louise right in the eyes of any formalists whom she may want to gain. While there has been general sympathy for her misfortunes, she has only met with active help from the Socialists. They defended her in Austria and Belgium, and now stand by her in France. They think her persevering Catholic faith and her determination not to seek a divorce in Rome "illogique," and are a little chilled by her inability to forget her Royal birth. Herr Weitzer has gone back to Vienna. He hired, you may remember, a room under that of the Princess at the Elster Hotel, and stayed there for weeks so as to guide her successfully out of that cage. He is extremely stout at the waistcoat, florid, jovial, shrewd, humorous, shakes all over when he laughs, and declares that nothing gives him more amusement than to see how *les dieux s'y prennent pour s'en aller*. Herr Weitzer has a resonant voice that might carry distinctly what he says all over Trafalgar-square. This vocal gift he turned to account in conversations with other guests at the hotel in the garden or under the window of the Princess. Without letting them suspect it, he talked to her. Fräulein von Gebauer no more understood him than those persons he conversed with, but the Princess did. Weitzer threw out suggestions for her to seize, buoyed up hopes, communicated his own sanguine spirits, and took every opportunity to express sympathy for the Fräulein. The garden conversations often afforded opportunities for raising his voice almost to a shouting pitch. His guffaws of laughter rang through the house and grounds, disarming the suspicions of the gaolers. Imagine a Falstaff going from a flirtation with a Merry Wife of Windsor to rescue Marie Stuart, and you will have some idea of Weitzer and his task. He transformed a grim tragedy, devoid of grandeur, into a melodrama in which all comes right at the end.

The fad of the hour is "perpetual artistic royalties." Some artists are for a transfer duty of 2 or 3 per cent. on works of art. A small proportion of this tax might go to the State and the rest to the authors of such works each time they changed hands, or to his heirs. I cannot see how this could benefit artists generally. We judge of works of art according to present-day taste and conventions. We cannot help belonging more or less to our time. The passing conditions of present-day life determine its pictorial and other conventions in the long run. "But why," it may be asked, "have conventions?" Because we cannot do without them. The artist stands in as great need of them as the scientist of the hypothesis. To-day's convention, like the hypothesis now in favour, will have to make way for something different a generation hence. If there is so fine a market in our time for paintings of masters who have long mouldered in the tomb, it is because there are so many goldbugs in Park-lane and the West End of Paris, and so many multi-millionaires in America who have risen from an uncultured class. Had they "grandfathers" they would be in point of artistic taste men of their time. They are not sure they would have

their money's worth if they did not buy the works of artists of time-honoured reputations. De Morny was satisfied with a Baudry. A Rockefeller must have a Raphael or a Vandyke.

We cannot paint for the future, therefore, with any certainty of posthumous success. There is just a chance of sincere painting, combined with an excellent technique and cultivated taste, greatly fed on what is best in bygone art, pleasing our great-grandchildren. Reynolds is an example. But perhaps he might not please us now so much had he not pleased in his time the great ones of the earth, and his works become as heirlooms in their castles. Even artists who had great success and met with the highest patronage are liable to eclipse. Latour stands alone in the Pantheon of great artists. Who ever approached him in fixing the fleeting graces of French eighteenth-century ladies? It was hardly too far-fetched to say that his pastels were done with the dust of buterflies' wings. The weed of affectation had no place in his garden of beauty. During five generations his heirs would not have reaped any royalties from his works, if the proposed duty had been admitted in their time. The generation that were uppermost in the Marie Antoinette period and the First Empire idolised Mme. Vigée Lebrun, Gérard, and Gros, and turned their backs on Latour and Fragonard. A collection of Latour's pastels being for sale at the beginning of the last century, the auctioneer could not force the bidding above the upset price—300 fr. for the whole lot. Seeing this, the owner withdrew them, and presented them to a provincial museum. Fragonard lived to find himself out of date. The State grudged him the gratis lodging that he had been allowed at the Louvre. Following the policy of the well-bred dog, he retired from it. An art criticism by Thiers in the *Constitutionnel* in 1824, when Fragonard had long been dead, brought his works forward again. The priceless Watteaus in the Salle des Fêtes at the Palais Bourbon were rolled up and thrust away to make room for those declamatory subject pictures of David now in the Louvre. The Watteaus would to-day sell better than Crown jewels, and no amateur would care to have a big "David," however he might prize a portrait from the same pencil. Who could have foreseen a few years before the Revolution that a combination of Rousseau's fustian and the classicality which had risen from the grave of Herculaneum would soon permeate French art and hold it for more than a quarter of a century? What art critic during the boom of Gainsborough at Bath and other fashionable resorts could have told the fate of not a few of his portraits, and of noble sitters too? Not long ago a member of the Carnarvon Herbert family assured me that he remembered, in Christmas holidays, shooting arrows with other boys of his age at these portraits. They and the young Howards of their generation had found them in a lumber room at Charlton Park, Lord Suffolk's place, and taken them out to serve in the great gallery as butts for a school-boy archery club.

A wanderer fresh from Constantinople has been giving me an account of the German Emperor's fountain, set up there last August. William II. thought out the general structure and all the details, and with his own hand wrote minute directions for the guidance of the architect, builder, and decorators charged to execute his plan. The inception of the building sheltering the central fount is traceable to the Imperial donor's early impressions of the octagonal dairy at Balmoral. An arcade open all round replaces the blind walls of the dairy, in which the windows are like those of a prison, being about 18 in. high and close to the roof. The late Queen, or rather the Prince Consort, built in hewn granite; the German Emperor builds in white marble. Projections, perhaps, are wanting to produce effects of light and shade; so beautifying and so grateful to the eye in southern climates. Instead of rising to a point, the octagonal roof of the fountain has a curved outline towards the top which gives it a resemblance to a Turkish dome. A low balustrade, Oriental in character, encloses the platform on which stand the fountain and the sheltering structure. The illustrious designer would have remembered, as he used his pencil, how hot and cold water flowed in cataracts on the milk-pails in the Balmoral dairy, and the peculiar formation of the taps.

It is pleasing to think that impressions received in childhood as a visitor of Queen Victoria took a deep hold on the Imperial brain. We see in this fountain how the Highland home of her late Majesty reacts, through Berlin, on the city of the Sultan. The Emperor derived his ambition to become a sea-king from gazing down on Portsmouth from the terrace of Osborne. Those aspirations after universality may be traced to the posthumous reputation of the Prince Consort, as created by the late Queen and Sir Theodore Martin. The Emperor, in conforming to the grand-paternal type they set before him, has become sailor as well as soldier, statesman as well as ruler, diplomat, engineer, artillery-man, dancing-master, stage-manager, costumier, designer of the Empress's dresses, architect, painter, designer, preacher, composer, operatic singer. But I am out of breath with the enumeration, and must not make it twice or thrice as long, though in cutting it short I do not render full justice to his Imperial Majesty. The dedicatory sentences round the inside of the octagonal building are in gold letters and in German and Turkish, a language William studied before he paid his first visit to the Levant—and mastered. He is master, one may suppose, of as many tongues as he is owner of uniforms. Nobody could speak ill of him before his face at a modern Babel. Is there not something Babel-like in his mind? And is there not also much of the up-to-date newspaper—the *Daily Mail*, for instance, less the crimes and offences items—in the Emperor's consciousness?

Somebody, writing from the Cape, has asked me to suggest a short inscription for a porcelain wreath, representing forget-me-nots, for the tomb of the Princess

Glasgow. St. Enoch Hotel (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at Ayr and Dumfries are charming centres for Tourists & Burns Country. Descriptive tariff free.

Christian's son in the Transvaal. Might not "In memory of an unassuming servant of duty" suit?

I mentally associate Princess Christian and her exemplary son with the bereavement of Lady Jeune, with whom she so often associated in philanthropic effort. It gave me a great shock to hear that Lady Jeune has just lost her only son, who died of typhoid fever in India away from her. He was a promising, handsome young soldier, and the joy of her heart. Any words intended to console could not but jar on the feelings of the suffering mother. Time alone can provide a salve. When its healing action begins, that extended motherhood which has been a distinguishing feature of Lady Jeune's life will help the cure. Who is there who has done so much for the children of the poor as this remarkable woman? Has she not enabled thousands of slum children to feel the exhilaration of breathing country air, to rejoice in the sight of field flowers, of trees undefiled by soot, and, in short, to have a foretaste of Paradise? If their happy thoughts when in the country, and their remembrances of their excursions her open-air fund paid for, could now rise towards her, would they not be as so many angels trying to comfort her?

My first impression of Lady Jeune in her own house I received as she and her three children, then quite young, were actively engaged in some charitable enterprise. She struck me as at once sterling and capable, ambitious, perhaps, but entirely free from the taint of vanity; of quick, sure insight, and through and through to be relied on. I had later many opportunities to see her as an incomparable hostess, surrounded by the most brilliant circle that London could afford. I have rarely met any one with a freer mind at bottom, and yet submissive to every current conventionality. It took three great races to form Lady Jeune, the Scotch Highland, the English, and the Jewish.

The other day I quoted, for the benefit of "Our Boys," what M. Rodes said about the Russian officers at Newchuang. He has given us since an account of "the flight" thence and of the entrance of the Japanese. "The Russians burnt all they could set fire to. The Chinese sacked the rest, carrying off doors, windows, the boards of floors they had torn up, railway iron, coal, petroleum, and whatever commissariat stores the Russians had not destroyed.

"After a day of crushing depression Japanese reconnoitring parties entered at five in the evening. The men, little, square-built, well seated in their saddles, and riding good horses, knew exactly what to do, and answered no questions. Many small circumstances showed their military instruction to have been most careful. Each had a compass in a leather bracelet, worn on the left wrist, and many carried field-glasses. Certainly they did not strike one as famous for a charge, and one could not imagine them holding their own against a Cossack onslaught. But as a reconnoitring corps they approached, if they did not attain, perfection.

"These little men had gone through three days' hard fighting, and were our sole garrison through the night. Next day a cavalry squadron, followed by a corps of infantry, entered the town. I felt astonishment on seeing soldiers no bigger than small boys and not so big as the little dragoons. The infantry reminded me of the battalions of the elementary schools of Paris at their Fourteenth of July parade. It seemed incredible that these tiny beings could have beaten the big, burly Russians in all their different skirmishes and fights. One could not help wondering what conditions had enabled them to force the hand of Victory. Was it perfect training, extreme emulation, close cohesion, and the faith that moves mountains, coupled with patriotic enthusiasm?"

M. Rodes felt curious to ascertain the mutual relations of the officers and men. He witnessed the evening of the day on which the Japs occupied the town a little scene that explained much of their success. "In front of cantonments on the public place and before the hour for turning in had sounded, the tiny Nippons squatted down in a ring round an officer. Moonlight poured down upon them. Each man seemed rolled up in a ball and listened to what seemed a lecture from the officer in religious silence. At the end, knowing that he commanded brethren in arms, men of as high honour as himself, he closed his discourse with a facetious remark. A laugh burst from the entire class as if from one person. The little Japs had kept their lightness of heart, their sentiment of the fraternity of arms, and they turned in for the night ready for whatever might happen the next day. I could not help mentally comparing the commander and the men with those whom they replaced, with those officers who never worked and kept in a mad round of coarse dissipation, with those splendid Siberian soldiers, so devoted, so docile, so like good dogs, and so deserving of better leaders."

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"AMERICAN CIVILISATION," dear Lady Betty, is a phrase which now starts on a journey that may be especially eventful, for it describes a development of the times that threatens to seriously affect Europe. The civilisation which is coming to us from the United States is one of continual exertion, hurry, and noise, and though the constitutions of American men and women, and the stimulating properties of their climate, may enable them to endure the strain, it is not certain that most Europeans have the necessary mental or physical strength.

Experience has taught that when Western civilisation is introduced into countries where coloured men live, it generally demoralises, and often destroys, the native. Is American civilisation destined to have somewhat the same effect on European communities? Already there are signs that "strenuousness," continual hurry, and inordinate noise, are having an injurious influence on Europeans, for our women are now afflicted with nervous disorders which were formerly very uncommon, the number of insane people has increased considerably, and, within the last twenty-five years, we seem unable to produce good work, either as orators, authors, artists, or musicians.

If a quarter of a century of American civilisation, in its infancy, has so seriously affected us, what will be our condition twenty-five years hence?

Europe is a "half-speed" continent. From the

earliest times we have discouraged and persecuted those whose energy, enterprise, independence, or inventiveness, was inconvenient. When America established itself as a nation, and invited immigration, many of those whose energy or enterprise was not profitable in the Old World, removed to the New. The descendants of those emigrants are the Americans of to-day, and many of them have inherited the energy of their ancestors, and the stimulating properties of the climate have added to it.

We Europeans, however, have weeded out our most energetic and enterprising citizens during the last hundred years with unexampled thoroughness, and most of us, therefore, are the sons or daughters of "half-speed" parents.

The Americans and the Europeans, therefore, are altogether differently constituted, and the "full-speed" civilisation which the former have introduced may affect them comparatively little, whilst it slowly but surely destroys us.

That is certainly the most startling problem of modern times.

. . . . .

Those who have read history much, and intelligently, and have watched current events thoughtfully, have noticed that circumstances always arrange themselves to deal with the most important conditions that arise. Our chief requirements now in Europe are strength of muscle and of nerve, for strong minds and bodies will be essential to enable us to endure the strain of American civilisation. We must produce next generation, or a generation or two later, a race of men and women who are much more strong mentally and physically than we are. It is curious that throughout Europe more attention is now paid to athletic development than has ever been accorded to it before. We have not said, one to the other, or to ourselves, "physically and mentally, we are not sufficiently strong to endure the extra exertion which the new conditions impose; we must develop in both directions, and transmit to our descendants stronger nerves and muscles;" but without obvious cause we have focussed our attention—unduly, as some think—on physical training.

* * * * *

Lost.—An Anti-Free Trade Campaign, of no use whatever except to the owner. The finder will be handsomely rewarded on returning it to J-s-ph Ch-mb-rl-n, H-ghb-ry, B-rm-ngh-m.

. . . . .

Many years ago Mr. Joseph Chamberlain proposed to present us all with three acres and a cow. The offer did not fascinate the public, and he buried the cow in the three acres! Since then that small cemetery has been used by him to bury many a principle or policy; many a political association, or friendship; and many an indiscretion. Mr. Chamberlain has certainly earned the name of The Undertaker, for sooner or later all his principles, policies, and associates are laid to rest in his three acre cemetery, with the historical cow, with his semi-Republican proposals, with his Radical associates, with Home Rule, with Gladstone and the Duke of Devonshire. He is now silently consigning Protection to its last resting place. It is painful to watch Mr. Arthur Balfour vigorously endeavouring to keep out of the hungry three acres; his ingenuity and perseverance deserve success.

* * * * *

Art occupies the attention of the English to-day far more than it has at any other time. We now have many museums which are filled with treasures; there are thousands of lectures delivered every year on art; there are many journals and magazines which deal only with art matters, and many of the ordinary newspapers devote a column or two of their space to the subject. There are hundreds of curiosity shops where there was one twenty years ago, and we are almost all of us collectors. The unintelligent are astonished, therefore, that with all this devotion to art, we seem to produce every year commodities which are less and less artistic. The fact is that it is not art that we are studying, but the pecuniary value of art treasures. Nine of every ten visitors to a museum—not taking into account the loungers—are there to see if a bit of china, a glass, a piece of furniture, or some other object of the kind which they possess has its like in the national collection, and, if it has, to endeavour to ascertain the value of it.

The rage of the moment in this direction is not the cultivation of art, but the valuation of art commodities, the sale of art treasures. "This is a beautiful miniature, it is worth a hundred pounds," says one; "That cup and saucer I would not sell under twenty pounds," says another; "You were fortunate to pick this up, it must be worth five pounds at the least," says a third. There are very few English men or women who are being educated in art by the museums, lectures, and magazines, but there are hundreds of thousands of them who are learning through them the commercial values of the art commodities they possess or come across. Whether it is advisable to stock and maintain large museums at a considerable cost to teach the public what price to ask for such property, is a matter which is open to discussion, but it is altogether incorrect to imagine that the museums and magazines are serving the educational purposes which they are supposed to have in view. It is not art that this generation loves, but the money that art represents.

* * * * *

The National Association for the Feeble-Minded appears to have attached itself to the present writer, for it seldom takes any important step without first informing him of its intention. That may, or may not be, complimentary. The writer has now been asked to announce that the National Association for the Feeble-Minded, and the National Union of Special School Teachers will have a conference at the Guildhall, which will begin on Thursday, October 15, and that the Lord Mayor will preside on that occasion, whilst Mrs. Humphry Ward, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, Lady Frederick Brudenell Bruce, Hon. Maude Lawrence, and others will take the chair at various meetings. Both the Association and the Union fully deserve the assistance of the public.—Believe me to be very truly yours

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE proposed List of Fixtures for 1905 is scandalously plethoric, and it would have been a very good thing indeed if the disappearance of the Northampton meeting had reduced it by four days' racing. However, it seems that there is to be a new fixture at Newbury, where an enclosed racecourse has been laid out near the town, the arrangements of which have been the subject of much eulogy by the sporting papers, which always indulge in apparently stereotyped rhapsodies under such circumstances. Of course, the infatuated gulls who are financing this speculation will lose every penny they put into it, and when they realise that the new meeting is a hopeless failure, they are not likely to meet with any sympathy in their misfortune. All people interested in Turf affairs whose opinion is worth a potato-peeling are thoroughly convinced that there is a great deal too much racing already, and that a new meeting is just the very last thing in the world that is now needed, wherever it may be situated. Newbury is a country town in an agricultural district, very far removed from any populous centre. It will have to

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depend entirely upon London patronage, and the Metropolis is already much over supplied with race meetings. The appearance of Newbury in next year's official List of Fixtures is a flagrant proof of the fiddle-faddle weakness of the Jockey Club. Last year a quasi-official announcement appeared to the effect that the new meeting would not be licensed. The fact is that some of the relatives and friends of members are usually interested in such schemes in some fashion or other, and the result is a regular campaign of cadging, touting, and supplication in order to overcome opposition. There are several training establishments within easy reach of Newbury, but there has certainly been no local demand for a racecourse except from those persons who expect to make something for themselves out of the scheme. Looking at the miserable fields which have so often come out this year for valuable stakes, and which are unquestionably due to the frantic competition now prevailing amongst meetings, it does seem inconceivable that any sane and sober person can seriously maintain that an entirely new fixture can have the ghost of the shadow of a chance of achieving success from any point of view whatever.

Lord Hastings, who died last week, had been in a precarious state of health for some years past, and although he still kept a small breeding stud his colours had not been seen out for a considerable period. His yearlings have latterly been sold at Doncaster every season. Lord Hastings got together a stud of racehorses directly after he came of age in 1878, and he made his début on the Turf under the auspices of Captain Machell. His horses filled the boxes at Bedford Cottage which had been left empty by the abrupt retirement of the late Lord Lonsdale from the Turf. In 1879 Lord Hastings transferred his horses to Heath House, where they were trained by Matthew Dawson. Master Kildare, whom Lord Hastings had purchased from Captain Machell, and with whom he won several important races, went to the stud in 1881, and during his first season he sired Melton. This horse made his début in the New Stakes at Ascot, which race he won easily, and in the autumn he won the Middle Park Plate and the Criterion Stakes. Melton made his first appearance as a three-year-old in the Payne Stakes, which he won in a trot, defeating (*i.a.*) Lonely, who afterwards won that year's Oaks. Lord Hastings' colt started favourite for the Derby, but Paradox had been backed for a great deal more money, and the French horse Xaintrailles was very heavily supported. The finish for that Derby was one of the most exciting ever seen either at Epsom or on any other course, and Melton was certainly indebted for his "head" victory to the splendid riding of Archer, who would have won on either Lord Hastings's horse or upon Paradox. Melton won the St. Leger in a common canter, and a fortnight later he appeared on a racecourse for the last time as a three-year-old, when he won the Great Foal Stakes. As a four-year-old Melton had no chance with Ormonde, nor was he managed with any affinity to common sense or ordinary considerations. Melton went to the stud in 1887, and he soon sired some smart horses, notably Best Man and Avington. Lord Hastings ultimately sold Melton to the Italian Government for £10,000, and he stood for several years at one of the Royal stud farms near Pisa, and proved a most successful sire. Mr. Musker repurchased the horse, and brought him back to England, and he has sired many winners. Melton's stock, however, certainly do not appear to last on the Turf. His most brilliant two-year-olds have enjoyed comet-like careers. Lord Hastings never owned a good horse after the retirement of Melton, St. Patrick, Breach, Jessamy, Seaton Delaval, and Sir Jacob being the best animals which carried his colours after 1886. Lord Hastings was elected to the Jockey Club in 1880, and he once served the office of Steward, but he never took any active part in the business, and years have elapsed since his last visit to Newmarket. He owned an estate of nearly 13,000 acres in Norfolk, including the fine domain of Melton Constable, where there is some of the best shooting in England. The value of the property has been greatly diminished during the last twenty years, but Lord Hastings possessed another estate of 6,700 acres in South Northumberland, on which are extensive and rich collieries, which form the backbone of the family wealth.

Lord Carnarvon has recently transferred his breeding stud from Bretby Park, his place in Derbyshire, to Highclere Castle, near Newbury. He now has eleven mares, and Mauvezin, by Rueil out of Modest Martha, by Holy Friar, is the stallion of the stud. The mares include Patching, by Kendal out of Lucy Ashton; Sistrum, by Common out of Isis, by Bend Or out of Shotover; and the oddly-named Grand Prix, by St. Simon out of Selection, by Hampton.

A great deal of trash and nonsense of the most muddy-minded description has been appearing in some of the papers as to the possibility of betting "being legalised and taxed," and of bookmakers being "licensed." No wilder or more extravagant schemes are to be found in Gulliver's account of the prospects of the visionaries of Laputa. The moon will fall before any imaginable House of Commons would for a moment entertain any such crazy proposals. As to the story of a Bill, "upon the lines of this policy," being submitted to Parliament next session, no such measure would be seriously discussed by either House. The one certainty is that the Betting Bill which is supported by the Bishop of Hereford and Lord Davey will certainly be again introduced, as this measure is regarded with a certain amount of approval by the Government, and the chances are in favour of its passing.

There will be racing next week at Leicester, Nottingham, Haydock Park, and Kempton Park, but it is only at the last of these meetings that the sport is likely to be of much general interest.

The most important race of the week will be the Imperial Produce Plate of £3,000 at Kempton Park, which is run on Friday. There were 241 entries for this stake when it closed in November, 1901, and sixty-seven two-year-olds were left in after the final forfeit had been declared on March 29. The best public form of the season is represented by Lord Rosebery's unbeaten colt Cicero, who has incurred a penalty of 10 lb. The best of the other winners in the list are Lord Crewe's Polymelus, Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Mr. Larnach's Hellene, Sir E. Vincent's Shah Jehan, Mr. Faber's Queen of the Earth, Duke of Portland's Pamflete, Lord Londonderry's St. Florentin, and Mr. Fenton's Vedas. All these animals have incurred penalties, and they are all held quite safe by Cicero. The field will probably include Mr. L. de Rothschild's Monarda, half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant, but this filly seems to be exceedingly moderate. If Cicero is beaten, he will probably succumb to Sir Daniel Cooper's dark filly Fleta, who is said to be smart, and she has been in reserve for this race. Fleta, who is half-sister, by St. Simon, to Flotsam, will have 10 lb. the better of the weights with Cicero, and this gives her a great advantage in a race of six furlongs. The King has left in a couple of animals, but they are very moderate, and Mr. A. James's Atlas will no doubt be the best from Egerton House.

Pretty Polly is going to France to run for the Prix du Conseil Municipal of £4,000, the race taking place on Sunday, October 9. She has to give 12 lb. and two years to Bachelor's Button, and she meets Zinfandel in receipt of 1 lb., whereas, according to the weight-for-age scale, Lord Howard de Walden's horse should give her 9 lb. besides the sex allowance. Gouvernant and Macdonald II. will carry 9 st. 5 lb., to the mare's 9 st. 1 lb. The distance is one mile and a half. This will be Pretty Polly's only other race as a three-year-old. She is not entered for the Jockey Club Cup, which, in the absence of Major Loder's filly, looks like falling to Zinfandel if he is all right. I presume that Almscliff is Lord Harewood's sealed nomination for this race. The course will be too far for St. Amant, and

on the Epsom running Zinfandel should defeat Rock Sand.

A paragraph is going round the papers which states that "the sporting world is greatly interested in the filling up of the vacancies in the Jockey Club caused by the deaths of Lord Hastings and Mr. Lowther." The writer of this nonsense evidently knows nothing whatever about the matter. There are no vacancies to be filled up. The number of members of the Jockey Club is unlimited. It may be hoped, however, that the Club will speedily be strengthened by the election of a few practical, independent, and experienced men, who will regularly attend the meetings and take an active interest in the business and in Newmarket affairs generally. The Jockey Club has been for some time past in a grievously debilitated condition, and it is in urgent need of some new members of the right sort. It is worse than useless to elect merely ornamental members at the present juncture.

The Cesarewitch betting languishes in a depressing fashion. Wood Pigeon, who was once favourite, has been knocked out to a forlorn price. I never could fancy Mr. Leigh's filly for this race, being perfectly convinced that she has no pretensions to stay the distance. Rondeau is another candidate of doubtful stamina, and in any case she is of no use on soft ground, and the "going" is usually heavy on the Cesarewitch day. Catgut will be the best of Mr. L. de Rothschild's lot, and her chance is held in much esteem by good judges at Newmarket, where Roe O'Neill is also considerably fancied. Saltpetre is expected to run well. The Cesarewitch is exciting very little interest, and has really become a post-betting race.

Thunderbolt, who won the Prince Edward Handicap at Manchester on Saturday, was much fancied by many clever people, and he was certainly well in on his best form. The race attracted very little public attention.

The King and the Prince of Wales are both to be at Newmarket during the Second October meeting.

Many people are speculating as to which of M. E. Blanc's two-year olds will be sent over to run for the Middle Park Plate, and he appears tolerably certain to win that race with either Val d'Or or Jardy. These colts have won all the races for which they have been started with extreme ease, and they certainly appear to hold the English lot safe enough. M. E. Blanc brought out Adam, own brother to Ajax, last week at Longchamps, and this colt cantered away with the Prix de Sablonville. Adam has no engagement in England. Val d'Or runs for the Criterium at Longchamps next Sunday, and after that race M. Blanc will no doubt make up his mind as to the Middle Park Plate. Jardy is by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces, winner of the Oaks; and Val d'Or is by Flying Fox out of Wandora, dam of Vinicius. If M. E. Blanc's colts train on he bids fair to be invincible in the three-year-old races of next season, and no doubt his colours will be seen out both in the Two Thousand and in the Derby.

A very fair acceptance has been obtained for the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park, which is run on Saturday, October 8. Robert le Diable heads the list with 9 st. 2 lb. It seems to me that Housewife and Cerisier are the pick of the lot.

I hear that Mintagon is expected to win the Jockey Club Stakes. This colt, who is by Martagon out of Mimi, was bred by Sir Tatton Sykes, and he was purchased as a yearling at Doncaster by the late Mr. Whitney for 2,100 gs. Darling purchased Mintagon at Newmarket last December for 1,450 gs., and I understand that the colt has been in reserve for his autumn engagements. Mintagon has the advantage of a maiden allowance, so he will have 13 lb. the best of the weights with Rock Sand.

There was a good field for the Lingfield Autumn Handicap on Tuesday, there being no fewer than twelve starters, and Kilteel was made favourite. Valenza won easily for Lord Carnarvon, who purchased her at Newmarket last December out of Mr. Heinemann's stud for 680 gs. Valenza, who is by Winkfield out of Bellinzona (dam of Fariman), should prove a valuable addition to the Highclere stud. This is her last season on the Turf.

A large number of important events at the "back-end" meetings close next Tuesday, including the Liverpool Autumn Cup of £1,200, the Knowsley Nursery of £800, the Great Lancashire Handicap of £500, and the Liverpool Nursery of £500, all at Liverpool. The publication of the weights for the Liverpool Cup should, of course, be deferred until after the race for the Cambridgeshire. It is utterly idiotic to bring them out so early as October 20. At Derby there are the Chesterfield Nursery of £1,000, the Markeaton Handicap of £1,000, and the Derby Cup of £1,000. I wonder that the managers of this meeting do not start a T.Y.C. handicap of £1,000. At Lincoln there are several events, the principal handicap being the Great Tom Plate of £500. The Manchester November Handicap (distance one mile and a half) closes on October 11. This is now a subscription race, value £1,500, and the publication of the weights is sensibly deferred until after the race for the Liverpool Cup on November 11.

I read last week an interesting article by Hamish Stuart in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, in which he briefly reviewed the past history of football, both Rugby and Association. After stating that players of twenty-five years ago could never have foreseen Rugby football being played under the system and with the tactics at present prevailing, the writer proceeds to prophesy. Finding on analysis of the situation that Rugby is the game of the classes and Association the game for the masses, he opines that at public schools in England the Association game will die out. The amateur class will disappear altogether from the Association code. I do not think that he is quite correct in his inferences from existing facts. He utterly omits to take into consideration the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. So long as full Blues are given for both codes of play the public schools will play one game quite as much as the other. While, too, the Corinthians maintain their form there is always great encouragement to gentleman players. In professional circles it is recognised that the genuine amateur element must be encouraged. Indeed, I am inclined to think that if there is any danger, Rugby football in the Metropolis is most likely to suffer. Grounds become more expensive every year. Their up-keep demands gate money. Rugby club football does not draw the public. Genuine amateur clubs can draw a good gate. Take, for instance, Ealing, where the Association club is not only run on strictly amateur lines, but embraces a class of men such as one is used to see in Rugby club matches. The club draws excellent gates, and secures the attendance of all classes of people. The ground is well levelled and drained. The old Rugby team struggles on in a field hard by, unlevelled and undrained, and never above ten or twenty folk to see the play. The moral is that genuine amateur clubs can support themselves out of the gate. Their play appeals to the masses who understand the Association game. It is the masses who pay, and the game with the long purse is bound to be triumphant in the end. The Rugby player gets few spectators. He does not even honour them by turning up punctually. He despises the public. The amateur Association footballer can get a good ground from the public purse. He can play the game for its own sake. There is a big future for good social class amateur Association teams.

Butcher is an International half-back. He comes from Bristol. His London club used to be Streatham. Dillon and Cartwright are both International players. Their club used to be the Harlequins. Now, as I gather from the football press, the last two players are going to play for Blackheath and the first-named player is going to play for Richmond. If these facts be true, history is simply repeating itself, and the story is a very old one. The path to International honours used in the old days to

be a simple one. The motto was clubs, not men, shall win the prize; Blackheath (or Richmond) is the path to fame. Then Yorkshire and the North took up the game, and the monopoly was threatened. But those naughty folk took to professional ways or broken-time payments. They ceased to trouble. But in the West and Midlands the game began to flourish exceedingly, and men played for their own clubs instead of coming up to town for Richmond and Blackheath. These clubs were no longer a passport to Internationalism. Other London clubs levelled up their play and began to demand attention. Welsh and Irish players joined the London Welsh and London Irish. And so, if the statements of the foot ball Press are correct, it looks as though the old habit of mopping up the best players from metropolitan clubs is to be revived and a strenuous effort is to be made to rejuvenate Blackheath and Richmond and to bring back their old prestige, not by any intrinsic merits of the clubs themselves, but by an attack on the membership of other and less known clubs. When I see such changes of membership mooted, I cannot help thinking that there is just a taint of canting humbug in those strenuous advocates of the purity of Rugby football who announce that men play the game for their own pleasure, and that the be-all and the end-all of Rugby football is club football. And for the sake of club football, we are told, there must be no county matches on Saturday in the Metropolis. Yet Kent won the championship, even though Blackheath was not the strongest club in London. Let county cups and not Blackheath and Richmond colours be the marks of merit. Then club football will flourish and develop, and men will not be induced to leave a rising or a risen club for two that have great names although they no longer produce great players except by adoption.

As a *Daily Mail* breakfast problem, one might ask the Rugby football player in how many different ways the score of fifteen points could be made up in a match? The Old Merchant Taylors, including Raphael—and it was mostly Raphael who did the scoring—made fifteen points to three against the Harlequins by using every sort of score that is permissible under the Rugby Rules. They scored a goal from a try (5 points), a try (3), a dropped goal (4), and a penalty goal (3).

The London Athletic Club were fortunate in being able to secure the tenancy of the Stamford Bridge ground until the end of the summer. They were able to bring off their autumn-meeting, the very last on the old track. In the sprint Morton equalled the record for 120 yards. Jupp only just missed levelling the 300 yards' record. The handicap was not long enough to draw him out to the finish, while the path had been loosened by much running. Shrubb failed by nearly forty seconds to beat George's ten miles record. It should be within his grasp. He was troubled with a toe-nail, which caused him a good deal of pain in the last two miles. He practically worked the nail off in the race. The relay mile race was done in very fast time, and Morton gave the Rest of England a victory over the L.A.C. There was an impromptu match between Colonel Savage, R.E., in his fifty-seventh year, and Mr. Mayne, who is nine years younger. The veteran won the 100 in 11 1-5 seconds. Winners of college sprints and other platers please note. The Stock Exchange relay race was won by Mr. Cazenove's team. The club's final meeting was worthy of the occasion.

The figures of the entries in the South of England Lawn Tennis Tournament which is annually held at Eastbourne are simply stupendous. Last year the high-water mark of prosperity was supposed to have been reached. Then there were 570 entries. This year there were eighty more, and in this list pairs count as single entries. There were 119 entries for the men's singles handicaps. To see some of the finals at the end of the week the crowd was enormous. There is no decline in the popularity of the game. On the contrary, the number of good players is increasing. Smith beat Ritchie easily in the singles, and Miss Douglass repeated her Wimbledon victory over Mrs. Sterry. In the doubles the Allens were beaten after a fine struggle by Hillyard and Smith. The management was little short of wonderful. To encourage umpiring, four prizes were given, two each for ladies and gentlemen. The courts had much improved in condition. In short, everybody was very pleased with everything.

A correspondent begs me to protest against the reckless conduct of embryonic golfers who cut up huge divots on golf courses, and in addition wear boots and shoes with long cricketing spikes, which naturally ruin the putting. He encloses a cutting from the *News of the World* golf notes dealing with these evils which have come under the writer's observation. He wants to know if I can suggest a remedy. Country courses and seaside links naturally look to the visitors' green fees to add to their funds. In the summer months the holiday makers frequently take to golf for the first time. These are the mischief makers, and included in the number is the long handicap suburban player who goes to improve his game without any respect for the traditions and etiquette of the game. Well, on the receipt for the subscription or green fee I should print a notice reserving to the committee the right to refuse or recall the licence to play to any player not replacing divots or wearing spikes or nails that may injure the greens. I would further suggest that wherever possible a few greens should be laid out for novices. There they should be compelled to play until they had got hold of the elements of the game. Committee-men should volunteer to see that the regulations are enforced, and if these gentlemen wore a badge there could be no doubt about their authority to act. In addition I would discharge any caddie who did not replace a divot.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Reactionary Again—Public Still Out—Another Attack of Nerves—Profit-Snatching—Real Holders Sitting Tight—An Investment Opportunity—Easy Money—More Gilt-edged Stocks.

LAST week I remarked upon the revival of professional interest in certain sections of the Stock markets, especially in Home Railways, and pointed out that unless a public demand sprang up an early reaction would inevitably result from the desire to take profits. No public demand having sprung up, the reaction has come about, and it has been helped by political rumours of a sort which are none the less effective because they are incredible. In the present hypersensitive condition of things on the Stock Exchange any ridiculous rumour will suffice to discourage the "Bulls" and encourage the "Bears," and of rumours, political and financial, there has been no end. The threatened revival of unpleasantness with Russia over the much-vexed question of contraband caused a very cold shiver to go through the markets this week, although one might have thought—but for the existence of a "Bear" brigade and the general nervousness—that the story itself and the source from which it emanated would have been sufficient to cause it to be laughed away with ridicule. To do investors the barest credit, they have refused to be frightened into letting go of their stocks, and the reduction in values which has actually been registered is the outcome of operations by persons who have no concern whatever for stocks save as a medium for the snatching of "turns." This fact is so manifest that I do not consider it necessary to utter any warning against playing into the hands of "Bears." The situation is, in fact, very abnormal and peculiar, and it arises out of the war in the Far East, and the scarcity of what one may call fresh money for investment. There might be more activity of a sort that is not commendable if holders were to develop a fright; but this is just what holders refuse to do; and as at the same time—in some instances from lack of the requisite funds, and in others because of the uncertainty of the outlook—they decline

to increase their investments, matters continue in a stagnant condition, with only slight movements either way as temporary influences place the professional "Bulls" or "Bears" in a position of advantage. It must be recognised that the moment is not propitious for speculation pure and simple; but for investment, on the other hand, an opportunity is offered of acquiring stocks cheaply such as may not occur again within a decade—especially remembering that the war can hardly drag on long, in spite of the noisy assertions of Russia, and that the growing gold production of the Rand is steadily and surely wiping out the ill-effects of the Boer war upon our own country and its investing capacity. Money is very easy, and is likely to continue so, the German inquiry for gold being quite temporary. The Bank return is stronger than ever, and we have every reasonable assurance, having regard to the gold on the way to this country, that the autumn drain will not cripple the resources of the Money Market to any material extent. We are threatened with more gilt-edged issues, and this week Irish Land stock has taken the place of Local Loans among the gossip-mongers, and no doubt the present hungry and sorrowful Government will borrow again on the slightest indication of cheap money; but I doubt if the less influential borrowers have so soon forgotten the experience of four or five months ago. It would be an excellent thing for the markets, one and all, if the war in the East were to be brought to an end. Going with other factors, it would restore confidence completely. But at present business is poor, because the public is not confident as to the immediate outlook, this one adverse influence out-weighing half a dozen favourable factors.

Money Abundant and Rates Easy—Month-end and Other Requirements—Treasury Bills—Discounts Firmer—Germany Buying Gold—Foreign Exchanges Weaker—Another Strong Bank Return.

Throughout the week money in Lombard-street has been plentiful, and call rates have been no better than 1 to 1½ per cent. Two or three important calls on new issues have been due, but they have made next to no impression upon the market. Fixtures, on the other hand, have hardened, the current week seeing the Stock Exchange settlement, the calling in of loans by bankers for monthly balance-sheet purposes, and the requirements incidental to the end of the month and the end of the quarter. With the turn of the month we should have ease once again, and in view of the very strong position of the Bank and of the large sum in gold that is now on the way to this country, relatively low rates of accommodation will rule for some little time at least to come. While prospects are satisfactory enough, they do not indicate excessive ease so unmistakably as was the case a couple of weeks ago, and the change is reflected in somewhat higher rates of discount. The American, French, and German exchanges have fallen, a demand has sprung up for gold for Germany, and the foreign competition for bills is reduced; from which it is a fair inference that rates had been depressed unduly. It was desirable, if we are not to have an advance in the Bank rate this year, that there should be some recovery, because recent rates were scarcely justified, and only a little improvement was needed in order to make matters comfortable again. The Bank, as I have mentioned already, has improved its position still further. The reserve is £519,000 higher at £29,005,000, and the ratio to liabilities has risen to 58⅞ per cent., which is higher than at any time for some years past. The drain of gold for Argentina and Egypt has commenced in earnest, but a portion of that for the first-named quarter is being directed to New York.

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

Gilt-edged Stocks Depressed—Rumours of All Kinds—Consols Consistently Dull—Foreigners Not Cheerful.—Japanese React Sharply—Russians Easier—Paris Favourites Dullish—South Americans Mostly Lower—Perus on the Up-grade Again.

Rumours concerning all manner of adverse factors which were developing have been current on the Stock Exchange during the week, with the natural result that gilt-edged stocks have exhibited a very unsatisfactory disposition to sag away. Whisperings of an impending new Government issue, this time of Irish Land stock, together with expressions of uneasiness on the score of the revenue returns, assisted the reaction, and the depression became more accentuated when irresponsible gossip was indulged in on the contraband question; while, for some inexplicable reason, much importance was attached to a report emanating from France that the Bank of England would shortly advance its rate of discount. With a very sensitive feeling prevailing amongst gilt-edged descriptions, each of these legends had a little influence, and Consols drooped steadily from 88 5-16 to 88 3-16 for the account, the rest of the market, with hardly an exception, sympathising. The monetary position remains tolerably easy, but investment and speculative business, on the other hand, is on a very small scale, and shows no indication of broadening out, which, of course, is not a particularly inspiriting factor in the situation. The Foreign market has not been in a very cheerful condition, Japanese issues in particular reacting sharply on more gossip relating to a forthcoming new loan, while the continued absence of any favourable war developments materially assisted the downward movement, and on balance all the stocks show substantial losses. Russian Fours, too, are marked down to 92¼ in spite of repurchases by "Bears." Paris favourites generally have been somewhat dullish, that bourse itself being not too confident, and though the feeling became slightly better towards the finish the tendency is not very firm. South American issues displayed a disposition to sag away here and there on sales from the Continent. Argentine Rescissions and Waterworks, together with Brazilian Fours and Fives, amongst others, have lost ground. Perus had a sharp set-back, occasioned by profit-taking, but turned round again on some active buying, induced by the prospect of an early settlement of the outstanding claims against the Government. Better news regarding the chances of peace has had a good effect upon Uruguays. A little attention still continues to be paid, for some reason difficult to ascertain, to some of the "rubbishy" bonds in the market, including Colombians and Venezuelans.

Professional Flutter in Home Rails—A Rise and a Reaction—Points for Pessimists—Traffic Under-Publication—Comfort for Underground Holders.

Writing a week ago upon the Home Railway market, I had to record that a better feeling had come over this department, that dealers were laying in stocks in anticipation of an improved public demand, and that, as the volume of floating scrip was anything but large, it would require very little evidence of an increased outside demand to bring about higher prices. Unfortunately the hopes of a wider public interest have so far failed of fulfilment, and from a number of causes the professional or semi-professional elements responsible for last week's little flutter have shown anxiety to snatch profits. Consequently the market, after a few days of rising prices, finished the week almost at the level from which it started. There is no doubt that the recent persistent dulness of Consols and kindred securities has a good deal to do with the failure of Home Rails to maintain their advance. Cheap money is still with us; indeed, in normal times last Thursday's Bank return might easily have proved the signal for a boom in high-class stocks, even allowing for the fact

that the autumn is not the time to look for a continuance of easy rates in Lombard-street. What, however, underlies the scant attention paid to record Bank figures is the fear of a revival of public borrowing, which would, of course, once more tend to choke the present narrow investment market, and, by reason of the extra competition involved, bring down still further the quotations of existing securities. The second important factor upon Home Rails last week was the traffic returns. With one or two exceptions, the leading trade lines published more or less heavy decreases. The Midland once again made the worst display of all, the falling off for the week amounting to £12,000, which brings the aggregate decrease for the twelve weeks to date up to £118,000. Midland under-publication of receipts is notorious, and it may be that its estimate will prove to be pleasantly falsified when the actual figures come to hand. At the same time, this very substantial shrinkage is leading to a good deal of discussion in market circles as to the cause, and some people express the view that the line is suffering from more acute competition with the Great Central. If, however, one takes a broad survey of railway results to date, and of prospects in the immediate future, there would seem no need to be despondent. To begin with, apart from the line just mentioned, the published decreases in earnings are nowhere of a serious character, and in the case of the Southern group, thanks to the fine summer, the Companies have been able to pile up respectable gains. It is as well to keep in mind, too, that during the ensuing quarter earnings of Home Railways generally will for the most part run against decreases shown in the corresponding weeks of 1903, and it is, therefore, not impossible that the losses registered to date may be wiped out by the end of the half-year. There will be a larger harvest to move (only the other day the Chairman of the North British alluded with satisfaction to the fact that his Company "would have a good deal of agricultural produce as against last year, when there was no harvest at all"), and lines like the Lancashire and Yorkshire and North-Western should benefit considerably from the restoration of more normal conditions in the cotton trade. There is another point that should be considered when attempting a calculation of the current half-year's results. I alluded just now to the under-publication of traffics by the Midland, but the practice applies in a more or less modified degree to the Companies as a whole, and, moreover, in a period like the present, when general trade conditions are not particularly bright, railway managers are likely to err more than ever on the side of conservatism. It is true that the earnings of twenty-seven principal Companies for twelve weeks show an official decline in the aggregate of £220,000. That, however, is a comparison of estimated against actual figures. Now, it has been proved by experience that estimated against estimated earnings afford a much more reliable guide as to the real position, and if one takes the published receipts of those twenty-seven Companies for the twelve weeks to date, and compare them against the estimated receipts for the corresponding period of 1903, one arrives at an increase of £14,000. This is a matter upon which the pessimistically inclined would do well to ponder. All things considered, the dividend outlook, if not actually roseate, is by no means gloomy, and, apart from the Midland, there is fair ground for hoping that even those Companies which happen to finish the half-year with some loss in gross takings may be able to economise sufficiently in the matter of working expenses to avoid a reduction in dividends. With regard to the Underground lines, a particular crumb of comfort has just been afforded by the report of the Mersey Railway in respect of the first six months of the present year. During the whole of that period the line was worked by electric traction, whereas a portion of the corresponding period of 1903 was under the old steam régime. As a consequence of the altered conditions, the number of passengers carried increased from 3,201,000 to 4,499,000, while working expenses were reduced from 84.41 per cent. to 72.71. The cost per train mile worked out at 1s. 5.3d., whereas on the District for the same period the cost (with steam traction) was about 3s. per train mile. My table follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Sept. 16.	Price, Sept. 24.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	77	77½	76¾ xd	75xd	-1½
Do. Def.	21½	2[illegible]	20½ xd	20¼	- ¾
City and S. London	58½	45	46	47	+1
Central London	97	86½	86	86	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	44	—	43¾	43½	—
Do. "B"	24	23½	24½	24	- ½
Do. "A"	13[illegible]	12[illegible]	14½	13⅝	- ½
Great Eastern	89[illegible]	86½	87	87	- ½
Great Northern Pref.	99	100½	100⅝	101	+ ⅜
Do. Def	38[illegible]	38[illegible]	39[illegible]	39¼	—
Great Western	134½	136[illegible]	135[illegible]	136¼	-1
Hull and Barnsley	41	35	35½	35½	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	96½	99	99	—
London and Brighton "A"	113¼	117⅛	118¾	117	-1¾
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅜	15½	15[illegible]	15½	- ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	91	97	97½	97	- ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	58	63	63	63	—
London and North-Western	155½	146[illegible]	148½	147	-1½
London and South-Western Def.	54	50	52	51	-1
Metropolitan Consolidated	82½	94	94¼	94¼	—
Metropolitan District	32[illegible]	38[illegible]	38½	38½	+ ½
Midland Pref.	68	67½	67	67	—
Do. Def.	66½	61½	63	63	—
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78½	77[illegible]	78	76½	-1½
Do. Def.	45½	43¾	44¼	44½	- ¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	141	136[illegible]	137½	136	-1½
South-Eastern "A"	53½	58	59⅜	57¾	-1⅝

My traffic table printed below shows the position as to gross earnings for the half year to date:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 407	+ 971	+ 9,19[illegible]
Caledonian	+ 1,170	- 2,255	- 7,05[illegible]
Great Central	+ 2,034	+ 2,700	+ 7,91[illegible]
Great Eastern	+ 4,500	+ 100	+ 2,000
Great Northern	- 4,004	+ 2,788	- 22,6[illegible]
Great Western	- 100	- 1,600	- 6,40[illegible]
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 132	- 1,578	+ 16,25[illegible]
London and North-Western	- 6,000	+ 2,000	- 65,00[illegible]
London and South-Western	+ 300	+ 3,400	+ 2,300
Midland	- 12,188	+ 1,059	- 118,57[illegible]
North British	+ 1,448	+ 192	- 7,407
North-Eastern	- 7,039	+ 3,274	- 14,365
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 1,476	- 492	+ 14,864

CANADIAN RAILWAYS — CANADIAN PACIFICS FIRM — GOOD EARNINGS AND CROP REPORTS—GRAND TRUNK REPORT—TURNING THE CORNER—CANADA ATLANTIC ACQUISITION —ROSARIO AND "BAGS" DIVIDENDS—MEXICAN RAILWAYS

Canadian Pacifics show little movement on the week. The quotation of the shares has ranged between 130⅝ and 130⅞, and their strength, in face of the erratic movements in Americans and the unsatisfactory condition of markets as a whole, is one of the outstanding features of the week. The fact is that the shares are now mostly held for investment, and therefore they respond less freely than was at one time the case to the influence of Wall Street. The earnings continue on a very striking scale: the traffic for the week to the 21st inst. is $83,000 higher than that of last year, which in its turn saw a big increase. Moreover, there is reason to look for a continuance of satisfactory figures consequent upon the Company's extensions and the good harvest. Concerning this last, the High Commissioner for Canada in London has received from a reliable source the subjoined cable, dated from Winnipeg, regarding the wheat crop in the North-West of Canada:—"On personal investigation of the crop conditions here, we find thrashing returns exceeding our estimates, and a yield of most excellent milling qualities assured. There will be several millions of bushels of wheat more than last year, and the great bulk will be free from frost. Harvest weather brilliant." Grand Trunks were not much influenced by the report for the first half of the current year. The chief figures have been common property for some little time past, and have been enlarged upon by me. It is made clear that the falling off in receipts and the high ratio of working expenses—74.06 per cent., as compared with 71.81 per cent.—were the outcome of the very severe weather of the winter. "Every exertion," we are told, "was made by the management to reduce expenditure, which, however, was a matter of special difficulty in view of the

heavy charges necessarily resulting from the efforts to conduct the traffic and keep open communications during that period." Passenger receipts show a slight increase, despite this drawback; it was in freight and live-stock traffic that the Company suffered, there being a decrease under this head of £240,300. The hopes of recovery of some of the traffic held back by the snow and ice blockade were only partially realised, but the holders of the Company's stocks have the satisfaction of knowing that similar conditions—they were unprecedented for a generation or two—are not likely to recur during the coming winter, and that the Company is now saving, directly and indirectly: the latest traffic shows that it has turned the corner, and the comparison now being with moderate figures a year ago, the gross decrease to date ought to be wiped out by the end of the year; while the savings in working expenses will leave the Company with a good increase in net for the benefit of the First and Second Preference holders. At the meeting this week the proprietors will be asked to sanction an agreement for acquiring the control of the Canada Atlantic Railway. This system "extends from Depôt Harbour (Parry Sound) on Georgian Bay, through Ottawa and Coteau to the boundary line of the Province of Quebec and the State of Vermont (a distance of 300 miles), and by means of the Vermont and Province Line Railway . . . to a connection with the Central Vermont Railway at Alburgh Junction." The Canada Atlantic owns steamers running between Depôt Harbour and the Canadian and United States ports on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. The consideration to be given by the Grand Trunk is a guarantee of the principal and interest of a total mortgage of $16,000,000 Four per Cent. Fifty-Year Gold bonds, of which a proportion will be reserved for future capital expenditure. One important result of the deal will be that the Grand Trunk will in future possess its own station in the capital of the Dominion. The Company earns the interest on its bonds, and the Grand Trunk will be in a position to command more traffic. My table is appended:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make up.	Closing Price. Sept. 24.
Canadian Pacific	124⅜	129	130¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference	104	—	101
Grand Trunks	18	14⅜	15 5/16
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	100¾	97	97¼
,, 1st Preference	112½	100	101⅞
,, 2nd ,,	100¼	87½	88
,, 3rd ,,	49⅞	38½	40⅜
Bengal and North-West	130	138	130½
Bombay Baroda	163	154	154½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	128	124½	125¼
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101½	105¼	106½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	97	120⅜	121
,, ,, 1st Preference	97	104¾	105½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	86	95½	95
,, Great Southern	133	134¾	136
,, Western	127	127	128½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	52	62½	62
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	84½	96⅜	96⅜
Costa Rica Railway	2	1⅞	2
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	105	91½	95½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	89	80	81½
Mexican Railway	19	18½	18⅝
,, 1st Preference	73½	85	85⅜
,, 2nd ,,	27⅝	30½	30½
Nitrate Rails	7¼	7⅞	7⅞

In the Argentine market the dividend season has commenced, and the two declarations so far announced are up to expectations. The Rosario pays at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum as against 4 per cent, and carries forward £242,443 as against £221,600, and as the extra 1 per cent. per annum represents £76,000, a fair proportion of the gross increase of £281,000 has been retained in net, although it would appear that the ratio of expenses to receipts has risen. The B.A. Great Southern will distribute 4 per cent. actual, making 7 per cent. for the twelve months, being the same as for each of the five preceding years. The Company has a disposable balance of £665,200 as compared with £606,400, and after meeting the dividend and placing £50,000 to permanent way and rolling stock renewal funds, £5,000 to pension fund, £5,000 to staff life insurance fund, there is a sum of £125,179 left to go forward, this figure comparing with £96,425 a year ago, when £25,000 was placed to the general reserve and £5,000 to the pension fund. The market having got what it looked for in each instance, is now inclined to get out, and to transfer its attentions to some other stocks offering more immediate prospect of activity and profit. Consequently prices are easier. Present earnings are quite satisfactory. The Rosario and Great Southern report increases of respectively £8,800 and £11,000, while the Buenos Ayres Western, which has lately lagged behind, turns up with a small gain. Westerns have responded with a slight improvement, but other stocks have been unable to make headway in face of the dulness ruling in neighbouring departments. In Mexican Railways the dealings are mostly professional and small, any way. Firsts hardened on the traffic increase of $23,000, and though they afterwards eased off from 86¼ to 85, they are now moving upwards again, being encouraged by the rise in silver. Among the less active Argentine stocks, Cordoba Centrals have been bought, and seem good for a further improvement, and Cordoba and Rosario Preference stock has advanced further.

Tired Yankees—Specialties Twisted Up—The General List Weak—Altered Money Conditions—Striking Wheat Figures—A Coming National Deficit.

To the close observer the events of the past week in the American Market have furnished some valuable evidence, if further evidence were needed, of the real nature of the movement recently inaugurated in that department. We have witnessed a desperate struggle on the part of a group of financiers to maintain stocks in the face of growing adverse conditions, and, however much we may admire the persistence with which they have stuck to their self-imposed task, we must none the less acknowledge the fact that they have come off second best. Without prophesying dogmatically—for nowhere is it more difficult to prophesy than in the Yankee market—it certainly looks as if the top of the recent boomlet in that section has already been reached. During the last week the chief characteristic of the market has been the bidding on New York account for isolated stocks at the expense of the list as a whole. We have suddenly become acquainted with a spurt in some low-priced security which, by reason of the heavy discount at which it stood, could the more easily be manipulated, or in some high-priced security, the movements of which had long since been of merely spectacular interest to the market here, because it no longer held proprietary rights. Meanwhile, the rank and file of stocks were allowed to droop, and in some of them a lot of quiet selling was going on. This sort of thing is "cute;" it not only tends to keep interest alive in a market, but it is the best means possible of enabling the speculator to "get out" without making a disturbance. At the same time, the device is too hoary to be taken for anything else than an indication that the leaders of the market have come near the end of their resources in their efforts to attract the public. It is necessary to go back to July to trace the beginning of the last upward movement in Americans. At that time slackness of trade in the States was causing a rapid increase in the reserves of the New York Associated Banks, so much so that by the end of August the surplus reserve had risen to $58,000,000, which was with a few exceptions the largest on record. If one reads that circumstance side by side with what has been happening lately in the money market, it is easy to see why the rise in stocks should have received such a sudden check. During the last few weeks the outflow of cash for New York for crop-moving purposes, rendered all the larger by the big reverse movement just preceding, has made heavy inroads upon the cash reserves of the banks, and, instead of the comfortable autumn that was predicted, we have been treated to calculations as to how many weeks would elapse before the surplus reserves were wiped out. Probably bankers will find it necessary to meet the situation by effecting a contraction in loans, at present in use for purposes of

speculation, and the possibility evidently explains the recent anxiety to sell on the part of big operators. There is no doubt, too, that the crops are still a source of some anxiety. Wheat advices are certainly anything but satisfactory. The other day Chicago figured out an estimated yield of only 526,000,000 bushels, as against last year's 637,000,000 bushels, while subsequent reports of frost brought the estimate down to 500,000,000 bushels. The official record of grain exports for August put the wheat total at no more than 216,000 bushels as against 6,400,000 in 1903, 16,100,000 bushels in 1902, and 26,700,000 in 1901. This sensational shrinkage in wheat exports may more than outweigh the effect from a national point of view of bigger cotton shipments. Indeed, the decline both in the export and import trade of the United States lately is having a distinctly sobering effect upon market sentiment. At the present rate of loss in Customs there will be a deficit of 40 million dollars or more if continued during the fiscal year, or unless there is a decided curtailment in national expenditures. Until recently Wall Street has made much of the likelihood of a bumper maize crop. It may be so, although the estimate put forward by Mr. James Hill the other day that the yield would be under two million bushels, has done much to shake confidence. In some directions industrial conditions are said to be improving, but there is as yet very flimsy evidence upon which to base such a conclusion, and the *Iron Age* does not speak very confidently as to the iron and steel outlook. Altogether a consideration of American commercial and financial affairs strengthens my previously expressed conviction that the British public has been wise in refusing the invitations held out by certain interested groups to buy Yankee Rails. Whether its action—or rather inaction—arises from choice more than necessity, is a point that need not now be discussed. My table shows movements during the past week:—

—	1903. Highest.	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price. Sept. 10, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 16, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 24, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56¼	84⅝	84½	84¾
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88¾	101¼	101	102
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73¼	91⅜	91¼	90¾
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	43¼	43⅜	42⅜
Denver	43¾	18¾	27⅜	29¼	29¾
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	71⅜	83½	84½
Erie	43 1/16	23¼	32⅜	32½	31½
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	70	69⅜	68⅜
Louisville	134⅜	98⅜	126	127½	127½
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	161¾	162	161½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	24⅛	25	24½
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	92	92	92½
Do. Common	78⅝	55⅞	70¾	70⅝	70
New York Central	158	116⅜	128¼	131½	129½
Ontario	36	19⅜	34½	34⅛	35¼
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	65¼	67⅜	67
Reading.....	35¼	20	35⅜	33⅝	34
Do. First Pref.....	45¼	36¾	44	44	43½
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	32⅜	34¼	33½
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	98	98¼	98
Southern Pacific	69½	39¾	59⅛	57¾	58¼
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 1/16	102¾	100⅝	103½
Do. Pref.	97¼	86⅝	96½	95½	95
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	42½	43½	42¼
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	67½	67½	66
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	15½	17½	17¼
Do. Pref.	—	—	66½	69	69¼

WEST AFRICANS IDLE AND NEGLECTED—STILL DEPRESSED—LEADING DESCRIPTIONS EASIER—MISCELLANEOUS MINES QUIET—COPPER SHARES STEADY—MOUNT LYELLS DULL—INDIANS EASIER.

The Jungle continues in its customary state of idleness and dulness, and even the professional interest in the market has been very restricted during the past week, the public, of course, being entirely absent. Movements have been insignificant and quite unimportant, and consist for the most part of slight losses among the leading shares such as Wassaus, Ashanti Goldfields, Amalgamated, while one or two of the smaller shares receded to the extent of 1-16 or so. Prices may be seen from my usual table, which follows:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 26, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4 6 dis	¼ dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	¼	¼
Attasi Mines . ..	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/-	4/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1	1
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1/16	1/16
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	1⅛
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	6/6	¾
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	¼	¾
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	8/6	8/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120 000	1	f.p.	¼	¼
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	¼	¼
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¾	1¾

There has been very little activity in the Miscellaneous Mining Market, and changes are generally insignificant. Copper shares have persisted on their upward course, though Mount Lyells, for an exception, displayed renewed weakness, which was not arrested until the latest return (which gave no hint as to the reason for the decline) was published. The Etruscan Company is seemingly being dogged by the demon of misfortune, for it is now announced that the mine manager has vacated his position, and probably the easier tendency which became noticeable is to be ascribed to this cause. Indian Mining shares have not been quite so steady, and among silver shares Broken Hills Props., in the absence of support from any quarter, receded to a slight extent. In the Charter Tower group a slightly easier disposition became manifest, Queen's Cross Reefs losing a little ground. Here is my table:—

—	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 26.	Closing Price. Sept. 26.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	3⅜	—	4¼
Balaghat Gold ..	1½	14/-	15/3	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅜	1¼	29/6	30/6
Cape Copper	5	2	—	¾
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	31/-	31
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	¾	¾
Mason and Barry	4½	3½	—	⅛
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2⅜	9/9	11
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5 1/16	6⅞	6⅞
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	⅛	⅛
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	36/6	1/2
Ooregum	2¼	21/9	16/3	16/6
Rio Tinto	70½	55½	—	56⅜
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	—	4
Waihi Gold	6⅛	4⅛	5⅞	5⅞

KAFFIRS IDLE AND LOWER—PUBLIC SUPPORT STILL LACKING—INFLUENCE OF THE CHARTERED ISSUE—ALSO POLITICS AND CONSOLS—GOOD INFLUENCES IGNORED—MORE COOLIES—CORONATIONS—THE OUTLOOK—CLEARING AWAY OBSTRUCTIONS—WAITING FOR THE LEADER—DEEP LEVELS.

In the South African mining market the past week has seen no sign of improving business, and a further decline in values has to be recorded. At first things were fairly steady, though the absence of the Hebrew element helped to restrict professional operations, and of public support none worth mentioning was forthcoming. Later some weakness was developed consequent upon the issue of £1,000,000 of new capital by the Chartered Company, and the nearness of the settlement and the weakness of Consols, following upon the wild stories on the subject of Russia and contraband, prevented any appreciable recovery. Not even the favourable news concerning labour had any beneficial effect. The arrival of the *Ascot* brings the total number of coolies on the mines to more than 13,000, and apparently the blacks are changing their minds—at all events, as I showed last week, the native recruitings for the first half of this month show a substantial increase. The *Swanley*, with 2,250 coolies, and the *Cranley*, with 2,500, will have sailed by the time this number of TRUTH makes its appearance, and within the next six weeks at least three other steamers are expected to sail with 2,000 each, which will

bring the aggregate up to between 23,000 and 24,000. If the market were in a better humour, all this good influence would certainly have had a beneficial effect, and the sensible speculator will not forget its intrinsic value as a "Bull" point, even though its operation may be deferred for some time. Simmer and Jacks should have been strengthened by the announcement that one-half of the 4,160 on the way to South Africa will be allocated to the mine; but in accordance with the present "cussedness" of things the shares actually shaded off a trifle. Among the steadiest shares have been Barneys and Johnnies, which were helped by a report that the Coronation reef had been cut beyond the dyke at Edenkop, and that indications were more favourable. My table below gives the measure of movements in the markets during what has been another unsatisfactory week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sep. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 26, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	6⅞	6⅞	6⅞
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 11/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	3/16	2	2	2
Buntjes	7⅜	2¼	1/8	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2 3/16	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	H	7⅜	5½	5 7/16	5⅝	5⅝
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4 11/16	6⅛	6 1/16	6 1/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 9/16	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	14½	14½	14½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18⅝	18 9/16	18 9/16	18½
Do. Def.	—	20½	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4 15/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 1/16	6¼	5¼	5 1/16	5⅛	5⅛
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	1 15/16	1 15/16
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅞	8	8	7 15/16
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅜	3/16	2/-	1/-	1/6
Ferreira	22	26	18	20½	20⅜	20⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅛	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Geduld	—	9 1/16	5	6 1/16	6 1/16	6 1/16
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4¼	3	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2⅛	3 1/16	3	3
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	7⅜	5⅜	5½	5 7/16	5½
,, Main Reef	1 13/16	7/8	1/2	11/16	11/16	11/16
Glencairn	4⅛	2⅜	1¼	1 5/16	1 5/16	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2⅛	2⅛
Henderson	5⅜	2 1/16	—	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8 1/2	7⅞	7⅞
Heriot	12½	8½	3⅜	3	2⅜	2⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27¼	27
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/16	2¼	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1¼	1 7/16	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Jubilee	12½	7⅛	4½	4 3/16	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2⅞	2½	2½
Kaffir Cons. *	—	—	—	1⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅜	2 1/16	2¼	2¼
Knight's	11½	9 3/16	4⅜	5 1/16	5¼	5¼
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1⅛	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅛	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 1/16	2⅜	4	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6¼	4½	5 3/16	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17½	14 3/16	7 11/16	8 11/16	8 5/16	8 5/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 7/16	1½	1½
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	16/3	15/6	15/6
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2 3/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 1/16	1½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	3	2 15/16	2 15/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2½	2½	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¾	1 1/16	1 15/16	1½	1 7/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	1/16	7/16	7/16	7/16
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	1/16	1/2	1/2	1/2
Primrose (New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Princess Estate	4½	2	1/2	1	1	1
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10 3/16	10⅛	10 1/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 1/16	1 15/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 7/16	1	1 11/16	1 11/16	1 11/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1½	1 11/16	1 11/16	1 11/16
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 7/16
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9½	9⅝	9⅝
Roodepoort United	8½	4¼	2⅛	3 9/16	3⅜	3 3/16
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14½	6½	7 5/16	7 3/16	7 3/16
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅞	9 3/16	4 9/16	5 5/16	5	4 15/16
Sheba	2⅜	1 15/16	11/3	—	—	4/6
Simmer and Jack	*8¼	2⅜	1¼	1 15/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/9	11/3	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅝	6⅝	3 3/16	3 5/16	3 3/16	3 5/16
Transvaal Development	2½	2 7/16	24/-	1 15/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅝	1/4	11/16	6/3	6/6
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅜	3½	2⅜	2 5/16	2 3/16	2 5/16
Treasury	5	6⅝	4½	3 15/16	3 3/16	3 3/16
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4 3/16	2½	4	4	4
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅜	7/8	6½	6¼	6¼
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	2 15/16	2 15/16
Vogelstruis	6⅝	2⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6½	6 15/16	6½	6½
Wemmer	13⅛	15	9½	11	10⅜	10 1/16
W. Rand Central	—	1¼	⅝	1/16	1/16	1/16
,, (New)	—	2¼	1/16	1 13/16	1½	1½
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3 15/16	3¼	3 3/16
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅛	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛

* £5 shares.

It will be seen that movements are not material: they represent the shading away of values arising from absence of support accentuated by "sympathetic" influences of no immediate concern to the market. It is a noteworthy fact, which holders of Kaffirs ought to remember, that there is very little stock on the market—meaning that there are not many public realisations, and that professional dealings explain the sagging away of values. But the "Bears," who are now offering shares so freely, will be compelled to buy back sooner or later, and, given a favourable wind from any quarter whatsoever, the scramble to cover will mean a sharp all-round advance. The mining industry is in a healthy condition, and is improving every month, so that there is no reason to doubt for the future of the market. Properly regarded, recent events have done good by clearing away a number of obstructions, and now that the worst of the Chartered issue is known a bad element which has been hanging over the market is removed. The only thing that seems to be required now is that some individual or group should take the market in hand and do something to improve business and restore confidence—which comes back to what I said last week, that what is wanted badly to bring the market out of its present lethargic state is a strong leader. Unless the initiative be taken there seems no reason for anything more than a very gradual improvement in prices following upon the improvement in the gold output. As to an ultimate appreciation—and a very substantial appreciation, too, in the end—there is every reason for hope: it is all a question of a leader and time; and shares can now be picked up cheaply, and should be attractive to the man who can wait for his profit. The Deep Level group has developed no particular feature; dealings have been few, but the tendency has been towards lower values along with the rest of the market. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 26, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅜	1 5/16	1⅜	1⅜
Cent. Nigel Deep	1 1/16	1	⅛	3/16	3/16	3/16
Cinderella Deep	—	⅝	1 7/8	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12⅜	12½	12½
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4 3/16	2	2 1/16	2 1/16	5⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5 1/16	5⅜	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3⅛	4⅛	4 3/16	4 3/16
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11	11	11
Jumpers Deep	5⅛	6⅛	3½	4 3/16	4 1/16	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5⅛	3⅛	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4 7/16	2½	2 1/16	2	2
Lancaster	3⅜	3 5/16	2	2 3/16	2	2
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	3 1/16	2½	2½
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½	4½	3	3
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3½	3 15/16	4⅛	4⅛
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4½	2⅜	2 7/16	2½	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6 5/16	4½	5 3/16	5 1/16	5½
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 1/16	2⅜	4 3/16	4 7/16	4 7/16
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8 11/16	8⅝	8⅝
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅜	1 15/16	1 11/16	1 11/16
South Rose Deep	3⅝	4½	2	1 15/16	1 13/16	1⅞
South Geld. Deep	3½	4⅜	2 3/16	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Simmer and Jack East	3 15/16	4 5/16	3½	2	1 15/16	1 15/16
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 1/16	2⅜	3 1/16	3	3
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2½	1½	½	½	½
Witwatersrand Deep	2 5/16	4 1/16	2 5/16	3⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16

The report of the Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Ltd., for the year to June 30 deals in detail with the development work done during the twelve months. Early in the year an amount of rock from the development drives and from the dump was put through the mill, chiefly for the purpose of testing the new plant. With the acquisition of a further supply of native labour, milling was officially resumed on May 1 with sixty stamps, and it is hoped that as the supply of labour further increases this number will gradually

The Most Popular Method of Curing Obesity is unquestionably that described by Mr. F. C. Russell in his "Corpulency and the Cure" (256 pages). The 19th edition, just issued, gives particulars of hundreds of cases—representing thousands annually—in which persons, both sexes, by using pure vegetable and delightfully refreshing preparation (recipe given), without fasting and with increasing appetite, are losing fat often by several pounds per week. Post free three penny stamps, at Woburn House, Store-street, Bedford Square, London, W.C.

advance to the full battery of 120 stamps. At the end of the year the debit balance was reduced by £12,500 to £34,371.

WESTRALIANS MORE CHEERFUL—"BEAR" COVERING—HORSESHOES LESS DEPRESSED—GREAT BOULDER RESERVES—THE COMPANY'S STATEMENT—OTHER LEADING SHARES BETTER—DEEP LEADS.

There has been rather more activity in West Australians during the past week, but the business has been of a strictly professional nature and consists almost exclusively of "Bear" covering. As a consequence the general appearance of the market shows considerable improvement, Horseshoes in particular throwing off much of the weakness which has characterised them recently. No explanation is as yet forthcoming in regard to the severance of Messrs. Bewick, Moreing's connection with the property, and until this is made known it is improbable that the shares will be considered as altogether above suspicion. Helped by a little buying from Paris and "Bear" repurchases, they spurted higher than 6½, and though a slight reaction occurred subsequently, they show a good improvement on the week. Considerable interest has also been manifested in Great Boulders, as a result of the directors' circular concerning the position of the mine, which, although refuting the wild stories current a short time ago, does not give complete satisfaction. In regard to the question of reserve, concerning which the rumours were particularly unpleasant, it is stated that after treatment of 55,172 tons during the first six months of this year the ore reserves at June 30 were computed at 373,922 tons, containing 494,865 ounces, averaging 26.4 dwt.; "but in order to make assurance doubly sure the manager proposes to allow 15 per cent. for contingencies, thereby reducing these figures to 317,834 tons, containing 420,636 ounces of gold, and as a further precaution to allow 3 dwt. for the difference between the average value of the reserves and the actual mill results, making the net figures 317,834 tons for 372,962 ounces of fine gold. This estimate is for ore blocked out on three sides above the 1,600-foot level, and excludes the ore known to exist between the 1,600-foot and 1,900-foot levels, as well as the ore body proved in the northern lease, in which the new shaft is being sunk." There has been considerable discussion in market circles in regard to the allowance of 15 per cent. "for contingencies," it being argued that with this provision the statement does seem to be unconvincing. For my part, I cannot appreciate the reasoning. On the whole, the shares have been rather firmer, some Colonial buying towards the close bringing the price fractionally above 20s. The other leading shares in the section presented a better appearance, Associated, Oroyas, and Kalgurlis hardening to a slight extent, while Perseverance came in for more attention. The deep leads in this section were assisted upwards by a couple of favourable reports, which seem to show that the water is being coped with more successfully, but the interest was only half-hearted, and towards the close a set-back was brought about by profit-taking. The "Little Kangaroos" remain quite neglected, though a little unimportant buying of Hannan's Stars was in evidence at one time. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept. 26, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3⅜	4½	1⅞	1½	1½	1⅞
Brownhill Ext.	3⅜	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/9	6/9	7/-
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/9	7	6⅞	6⅞	6
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	18/9	20/6	20/9
Do. Main Reef	2¼	1½	8/6	4/-	4/3	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1⅜	1½	10/9	11/-	10/9
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅝	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅝	9⅛	5⅞	7⅛	7½	7½
Hainault	1⅞	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅜	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/-	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10/	6⅜	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅜	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2⅛	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅜	1⅜	¼	8/6	8/6	⅜
North Kalgurli	1⅜	10/-	4/-	5/3	5/-	4/9
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3⅛	3⅛	3½
Peak Hill	5⅜	2⅛	⅛	⅛	¼	¼
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅝	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	¼	1	1⅛	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅜	⅜	½	⅝	⅝

RHODESIANS DULL—THE NEW CHARTERED ISSUE—THE COMPANY'S EXCUSE FOR THE ADDITION—THE INCREDIBLE UNDERWRITING ARRANGEMENTS—TROUBLE BREWING—"SHOP" SUPPORT FOR BANKET SHARES—COPPER DESCRIPTIONS STEADY.

Owing to the Company's announcement during the week of its intention to increase the capital by a fresh issue of £1,000,000 in £1 shares, Chartereds have come in for more attention than usual. That the concern has been in a bad way for some time past was well known, and it was generally expected that it would endeavour to raise more money in one way or another before long. With the creation of these million new shares the total capital is brought up to £6,000,000, not to speak of the £1,250,000 in debentures. That the fresh issue is an absolute necessity for the prevention of the Company itself is obvious, but notwithstanding that by a very curious concatenation of circumstances the last two monthly gold returns have constituted "records," and that very wonderful results are expected to be obtained from the "banket"—facetiously termed "wet blanket" by the irreverent—discovery, it is rather questionable whether the optimism of the directors in regard to the country is altogether justified. The board is convinced that the further outlay of capital is "fully warranted" because of "the important results already achieved in mining and agriculture, and the encouraging mineral discoveries which have lately been made, and the probability of the early development of profitable industries in tobacco and other agricultural products;" and they believe that the future prosperity of the country "is assured." That, however, is a question about which there are many different opinions, and which time alone will answer. But there is another phase of the matter, and one which has caused more uncomplimentary remarks than even the new capital itself, and that is the method adopted of underwriting the shares. This threatens to develop into very serious trouble for the board itself, a number of leading shareholders being intent upon cancelling the agreement with the underwriters if they possibly can, on the ground that their interests have been wantonly jeopardised. It seems that when the underwriters had the option of 500,000 of the shares at 21s. (less 9d. commission and 3d. brokerage) the price of the existing shares was 32s. 6d., and these gentry were able to take advantage of their position as "covered" "Bears," to depress the market the whole time, to the detriment of genuine holders. If the whisperings contain any truth whatever the action of the board in thus ignoring the interests of existing shareholders is likely to occasion much unpleasantness when the meeting is called upon to sanction the increase of capital. As regards the rest of the market, this development has naturally been without any favourable influence, and dulness has been the outstanding feature, though Chartered shares have for the most part hovered about 1¼, at which figure there have been buyers and sellers alternately. Dealings in Explorations and Lomagundas have been of quite moderate proportions, an improvement being manifested towards the close on "shop" support for both shares. Copper shares and Tanganyikas and Zambesias have

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

been relatively steady. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Sept 26, 1904.
	Autho-rised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior(Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅝	⅝
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1	1
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4¼	1⅝	1⅝
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅝	⅝
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅞	¼	¼
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅜	⅜
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p	2⅞	½	½
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	½	½
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Lomagunda Dev	250.000	260,000	1	f.p	6½	2⅜	2⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p	3⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Matabele G.R.(New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4¼	⅝	⅝
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	2¾	2¾
Rhodesia, Ltd.....	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	11⅜	11 -	11 -
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	2¼	1⅜	1⅜
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	½	½
Rice Hamilton.....	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8⅜	2	2
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	⅛	⅛
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p	26½	3⅜	3⅜
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	¼
United Rhodesia.....	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	¾	3/-	3/-
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅛	1⅛	1⅛

"Weekly Speculative Accounts."

Some time ago I drew attention to the reprehensible practice of one of our South Coast municipalities in permitting the advertisement of a notorious bucket-shop to appear on the tickets of the tram-lines under its control. I find that the Birkenhead Corporation is permitting the same thing, and, as I cannot for a moment believe that the Council is aware of the fact, I just mention it here in order that it may give early instructions for the advertisement to be removed. Tram-tickets are usually a poor vehicle for advertisement, but the words "How to Make Money (post free)" stand out so prominently on the back of the Birkenhead Tramway's pieces of paper that they command attention, and when one reads further that £10 may be invested and return £2 10s. weekly, without hazardous risk or speculation, there is a distinct temptation to write for the wonderful pamphlet. Like lovely woman, the man who hesitates in connection with a bucket-shop is lost. The concern which offers to put strangers into the way of making £130 in a year out of £10 placed with it, is known as Howard Marshall and Co., and its address is 104-106, Leadenhall-street, E.C. The Birkenhead correspondent who sends me the tramway ticket wrote to Howard Marshall and Co. for details, and he received their "How to Make Money," and a covering circular (made to look as much like a typewritten letter as possible) from which I take the following extracts:—

We would particularly draw your attention to the circular setting forth the advantages of taking short profits on the constant fluctuations in the prices of Stock Exchange securities, and would point out to you that we are not recommending anything of an experimental nature, but a method which has been for years a favourite one of cautious speculators. The great advantage of this method is that a profit once made, cannot afterwards be lost by subsequent fluctuations. In fact, the prudence and wisdom of this plan must be apparent to every one, for it is very rarely that prices move several points at a time, whereas it is seldom a week passes without some small fluctuation which can be taken advantage of. Surely, therefore, it is better to secure that and make it a certainty, than run the risk of not getting any profit at all.

My Birkenhead reader failed to see the wisdom of Howard Marshall's plan, but probably there are in Birkenhead and elsewhere some people so grossly deluded as to suppose that the concern is in business to benefit them, and I think it advisable to warn them that this is not the case. If the so-called Marshall were really in possession of a method giving results such as are indicated in this extract, he would take mighty good care to derive all the possible profit for himself, and would let the British public go hang. No method can be devised which will give such results—certainly not through a bucket-shop, which, when it recommends a wide-priced stock which is likely to fall, does nothing but wait for the margin to run off, and, in the case of a stock whose movements are less certain, "runs" the account against the client and trusts to the wide price and the tape to do the rest. The concern is great in counsels of perfection, as, for instance:—

There is no secret in successful speculation, the keynote to success is to take advantage of every favourable fluctuation the moment it presents itself. The reason why a speculator who takes small profits frequently is more successful than one who waits for a big rise, is that the current values of stocks being continually on the upward and downward movement, by taking the small profit, say ⅛ or ¼, immediately this is practicable, a profit is secured which cannot be lost by subsequent fluctuations.

But all this takes no account of the possibility of a fall in prices, which is what people like Howard Marshall and Co. want, because they make their profit out of margins which have run off, and these they too frequently help by a little noisy selling on their own account, while they are supposed to be looking after the "Bull" commitments of the poor fools whom they call their clients.

The "Fortnightly Investment System."

A number of correspondents in various parts of the country have obliged me with copies of a circular issued by the London and New York Exchange, which rejoices in two addresses—Dacre House, Victoria-street, S.W., and 6, Denman-street, London Bridge—and is managed by a gentleman calling himself D. Drummond. I do not seem to have come across the name before, but the style of the concern's literature is quite familiar, and it is a fair inference that one of my old bucket-shop friends has (as is the way of the race when one style begins to stink too much in the nostrils) taken unto himself another sounding cognomen. I gather that the London and New York Exchange is the originator of the "fortnightly dividend system"—but from what I can make out from the circulars before me, the word "dividend" is used a trifle loosely, and is designed to represent the profit said to be derived from the imaginary operations of the Company. You plank down £5, and lo! within a fortnight you are treated to a "dividend" of over 20 per cent., or, say, a trifle of 2,000 per cent. per annum. Writing under date of September 13, the London and New York Exchange assures the world that—

We are exceedingly gratified at being able to announce the highly satisfactory fortnightly dividend of £1 4s. 9d. per £5 share. The markets have been very unsettled, but acting promptly and with our customary caution, we were enabled to realise the splendid gross gain of £27 10s. upon each £100 deposit. When we first inaugurated our system of dealing in certain stocks by opening a "Bull" and "Bear" simultaneously we were not without our detractors, but time, we think, has shewn the soundness of our argument, and the regularity of the return every fortnight given sufficient proof of the reliability of this system of operating. We most heartily thank clients for the many flattering expressions of opinion we have received relating thereto and to assure them that we reciprocate their kind wishes.

The idea of making profits for strangers by opening "Bull" and "Bear" operations simultaneously is so preposterous that I cannot imagine a hydrocephalic idiot being taken in by it. I should like to learn something about how the bucket-shop does it, and should also like an unbiassed statement of the reported fortnightly returns which are supposed to have given "sufficient proof of the reliability" of a system which is from its very nature foredoomed to failure—from the client's point of view. A fancy balance-sheet is submitted showing the result of operations in Southern Pacifics, Atchisons—the bucket-shop calls them Aitchisons—Metropolitan Districts, Union Pacifics, and Great Westerns between September 5 and September 9, and this looks very nice and convincing until it is examined closely. But the figures clearly do not represent real transactions. Take Districts, for instance. The supposititious account represents the stock to have been bought on September 5 at 38⅛ and sold on September 7 at 38⅞. On the first date the only transactions listed on the Official List were at 38¼ and 38½, and on the second date

the only marking was at 38¾, and it would appear that this stock was bought at ⅛ less than the lowest price and sold at ⅛ above the highest. Which, as Euclid said once upon a time, is absurd. For outrageous impudence I have not come across the equal of the following for a very long time:—

In order to command success, it is absolutely essential that all capital should not be laid out—to "Bull" or "Bear"—one particular stock, as, however well based the calculations are, an unexpected contingency may occur to cause the movements to fluctuate in an adverse direction. Under our system this is quite impossible. In the first place, the capital is divided equally between five active stocks, and a "Bull" and "Bear" is opened simultaneously in different quarters in each one, on a ½ per cent. margin. Therefore, whichever way the fluctuations vary more than half per cent., a profit must of necessity accrue. Equally so it becomes almost a matter of impossibility to lose the entire capital, as the greater the fluctuation, either up or down, the larger the profit.

It will be manifest on the least reflection that a "Bull" success would mean a "Bear" failure, and a "Bear" success a "Bull" failure, the one counterbalancing the other. In either case the miserable client has no look in.

A BANK TOUT.

TRUTH has at various times called attention to the methods of the London City and Midland Bank regarding their touting for business. The last occasion had special reference to a circular order from the head office to the branches to the effect that the introduction of business by the staff would be a factor in considering their promotion. From various provincial brokers I have received complaints that the bank is touting for stockbroking business and of using unfair methods in its procedure. I am told that the branch managers are continually recommending their customers to "buy a few of their shares, as they are certain to go up," but seeing that the price during the past two years has gradually fallen from 52¾ to 47¾ the advice has not, so far, proved advantageous. What the brokers complain of, however, is that when a customer agrees to purchase a few shares, and informs the branch manager that he will instruct his own broker to buy them, the branch manager tells him that "our London brokers can do much better than a local broker." Now, this is not quite true, especially when one recognises that a brokerage has to be provided for the bank. A broker in Yorkshire writes that, "in a case which occurred last week, a solicitor was in communication with one of the bank's branch managers respecting a deceased estate, which comprised various stocks. The branch manager asked the solicitor if the stocks would be realised, and was informed that a certain broker had made the valuation, and would naturally expect to be instructed to sell the stocks, but even this was not sufficient to prevent the banker from persisting in touting for the business, making the untrue statement that their London brokers could do it better than a local broker." This sort of procedure on the part of a big bank is not at all commendable, and a stop should be put to it if possible. The branch managers are instructed by circular order to send all their Stock Exchange transactions through the London office, thus depriving provincial brokers of their legitimate business. The brokers during the past two years have had anything but a rosy time, and it is galling to have the local bankers poaching on their preserves, at all events by unfair means. The bank does not hesitate to make use of the brokers for obtaining Stock Exchange information. The London City and Midland is a big concern, and has to fight to hold its own. But that necessity scarcely justifies its present methods of seeking business.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

"TRUTH" LETTER BOX.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Samba.—1. Argentine Funding bonds ought to be kept. 2. The Japanese Sixes are desirable enough, the interest being secured upon the Customs revenue. 3. Keep the Uruguays, which ought to have a further recovery now that the insurrection is at an end. *H. Y., Bury.*—Irish Land and London County stock would meet your requirements if a return of about 3⅛-3¼ per cent. will be sufficient. *Sussex.*—1. I do not believe in the concern. 2. Consols are likely to go to the figure at which you bought, but not for some time to come. If you decide to sell you might buy Canadian Government Four per Cent. stock, guaranteed by the Imperial Government. This will bring in 3⅝ per cent. The National War Loan returns 3⅝ per cent., allowing for redemption at par in 1910. 3. I am not able to advise you, as I do not know the Company, which is unknown also to the usual works of reference. *Iso.*—Egyptian State Domain stock is a good investment, and will bring in 4⅛ per cent. You can obtain 4 per cent. on some Colonial issues, but not on any Home Government stock. Consols are safe for an ultimate recovery to somewhere near par, but politics and various new gilt-edged loans which are impending are against them just at present. *John.*—The stock was not marked ex-dividend until the 14th inst, and as you sold on the 9th the dividend goes to the buyer. The increased deduction is due, probably, to the Russian Government tax.

RAILWAYS.

Pentre.—There are very few dealings in Festiniog Railway stock, which stands at 30. I should be inclined to hold. Barry Deferred is worth buying. *C. H., Walsall.*—Speculatively, Grand Trunk Ordinary stock is promising, because the Company appears to have turned the corner, and there is good buying from the Continent, especially from Berlin. To put away for, it may be, some years, the stock is one of the most promising in all the railway market. *J. F. T.*—As the Canadian Pacific First Mortgage bonds are not redeemable until 1915 I see no reason why they should be sold at present, unless you have particular reasons of your own for making a transfer. In that event Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Guaranteed stock would suit. It is fairly safe, and should be good for a rise of several points within a year or so. *B. R., Leeds.*—The Home Railway relapse is quite natural. Last week's buying was at the instance of professional dealers, who thought they saw a public inquiry looming. So far there has been no inquiry, and profit-taking quite sufficiently explains the reaction. *St. Stephen's.*—Hold on to the Grand Trunk Third Preference stock. You might even buy more to average. *Cestrian (A.-on-M.).*—I am afraid you have lost the amount of your option. I see no prospect whatever of a rise to 62 in the immediate future. *S. M.*—I would recommend an investment in North-Western and Great Western Railway Ordinary, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and Argentine Great Western Preference stocks.

MINES.

Ignoramus.—I should hold on to the Transvaal Estates and Development Company. If you prefer to sell, choose Simmer and Jack or Transvaal Goldfields. *A. H. R.*—Niekerks are a fair speculative purchase for a further rise of a few shillings, but do not try to hold on to the very top. *Bob.*—There is not much prospect of an early revival in West Africans. The market is in a bad way. *Henley-in-Arden.*—Kalgurlis and Oroyas would suit. Do not sell the Great Boulder Props. *Chelts.*—Scottish Mashonalands are quite promising, in view of the banket reef discovery, and you should keep the shares, and not allow yourself to be frightened by unreliable advisers. *Northern Investor.*—1. My thanks for the budget of bucket-shop literature. 2. The Barberton Exploring and Development Company is a reconstruction of the Minerals Assets Company, Ltd., and was formed in the early part of last year. Its 10s. shares (9s. paid up) stand at 2s., and are very undesirable. *J. H.*—You can hardly look for much advance in the present condition of the Money Market. But I will emphasise the points you raise. *Excelsior.*—Rio Tintos have had a good rise recently, and as you have a respectable profit, why not take it, especially as the copper market is by no means so impressed with the outlook as some holders of copper shares? *Q. E. D.*—On the subject of a dividend this year I cannot speak with authority, but having regard to the depression in the Kaffir market, it would not be surprising to find the Directors preferring

to husband their resources until better times. But East Rands should be in the front of the revival, which is so long overdue. *Rifleman.*—Orova Brownhills, Ivanhoes, Robinson Gold, Wit Townships, and May Consolidated. *Glenlivet.*—1. There is no liability, but the shares are not cheap, even at 6d. each. 2. The Company is being reconstructed. 3. You have got the hang of the liability matter quite accurately. 4 and 5. There are no means of ascertaining the "life" of either of the mines. *Tennant.*—Both shares should be held for better conditions in the Kaffir market, when they will give you a profit. *W. F. A.*—The Directors of Henderson's Transvaal Estates have stated definitely that there is no truth in the report as to an issue of new shares. On the subject of a dividend this year I am not in a position to say anything. *Seaforth.*—1. The Company has disappeared, and I cannot trace it. 2. Niekerks for a quick, small profit. *Bridge.*—The life of the Henry Nourse mine is estimated officially at about thirteen years, irrespective of any value which may attach to the separate deep level claims. In making a purchase, you have got to consider whether there is any prospect of getting your capital back in the end, with a fair return upon it in the meantime. *G. C.*—Better hold on to the Buffelsdoorn Estates, which ought to have a respectable appreciation on a better market. *Burma.*—The new shares will be worth buying at the issue price. *Stone, Belfast.*—1. Luipaard's Vleis are a promising speculative holding, and should be kept for a more active market. 2. I should get out of Gold Coast Investments. *W. B.*—May Consolidated and New Primrose.

Mixed Investments.

Medicomentum.—1. Robinsons, Wit Townships, Simmer and Jacks, Roodepoort United, and May Consolidated. 2. No, do not average, but keep the bonds you have. *R. D.*—1. Canadian Pacifics are a good holding. 2. North-Western and Great Western stocks are likely to be in the front on any real revival in Home Railways. Both make good purchases, yielding at current figures close upon 4 per cent. 3. Frontino and Bolivia and Brilliant and St. George shares are both more than a little speculative. I should select the second if I had to make a choice. *C. H. B., Cheltenham.*—The best of those suggested are Canadian Northern Railway Debentures, County of London Electric Supply Second Debentures and John Barker Preference shares. *E. E. D.*—1. I should not buy Barrett's Brewery and Bottling shares. 2. Daimler Motors are unattractive. 3. Canada Company shares are quite a good holding. 4. San Paulo Railway Ordinary is a fairly desirable stock, also Rio Claro Sao Paulo Ordinary. On the first you can obtain close upon 7 per cent. and on the second over 5¾ per cent. *Only Son.*—Your best plan would be to keep the Grand Trunk Guaranteed, Chinese Fives (1896), Egyptian Unified, and Brazilian Funding. I do not care for Spiers and Ponds Preference, and it might be advantageous to sell the Japanese Fours and place the proceeds in the new Sixes. In place of Spiers and Ponds try Westminster Electric Supply Ordinary shares, which will give 5 per cent. yield. *Ajax.*—I should select Grand Trunk Four per Cent. Debentures, Cape Town stock, Cape of Good Hope Three and a Half per Cent. stock, Guinness Six per Cent. Preference, and North-Eastern Railway Preference. But the whole list is a good one. *Carlos.*—1. The course of Japanese Fours depends, as you are aware, upon the progress of the war. I should not buy them at present in view of further requirements. The Chinese Railway and Brazilian Rescission bonds are good to buy; also Buenos Ayres Water, Argentine Funding, and Argentine North Central Railway bonds. Grand Trunk Second Preference is not so good, the year's dividend being in some jeopardy. You can find a better investment than Rhodesia Railway Debentures: I suggest Canadian Pacific First Mortgage bonds, which will yield 3 15-16 per cent. Hold the mine shares, and you might buy more Langlaagte Estates and New Primrose. Grand Trunk Guaranteed would be more suitable than the First Preference for the lady. *Evelyn.*—Your West Africans are very unattractive, and the others ought also to be sold, with the exception, perhaps, of Waring and Gillows, although I do not reckon them highly as an investment. A purchase of South Africans with the proceeds might help you to redeem your losses in a few months—say General Mining, Transvaal Estates, and Barneys, but the best plan would be to place the money in a good industrial—a telegraph or electric lighting stock. *K. O. C.* 1-4. Four very attractive industrials. 5. The Railway Debenture ought to recover to par in the wake of Consols.

Miscellaneous

Textile.—1. There is a good chance of the shareholders receiving a bonus this year. 2. I cannot say. *Hadley, Cheetham.*—The concern seems to be an offshoot of a London Company which I do not consider to be altogether safe, and I would not care to entrust any money with it. *Shuler, Londonderry.*—I cannot recommend any firm of outside brokers. The concern you mention seems to be in business for philanthropic purposes, and for that reason ought to be avoided. *Pickering, Northampton.*—It is a semi-private Company, consequently not much is known of its position, but it seems to be in a bad way financially. In all probability more capital will be asked for, or liquidation will be agreed upon. *W. F., Kensington.*—I would recommend you to sell the bond if possible. The Birkbeck is reasonably safe, but leave the other alone. *Delta.*—The Bank of Egypt is a progressive concern, and its shares make a good holding. The last dividend was at the rate of 14 per cent. *Miss Flower, Dublin.*—A reply was given you in this column last week, advising you to leave the concern severely alone. *India.*—Thanks for the document. The position of affairs is very unsatisfactory, and I think it would be best to get rid of your holdings. *Suspicion.*—The Company has not fulfilled its promises, and as things in the country generally are not in a good way, it would be advisable to sell the shares. *Uncertain, Belfast.*—There are some good shares in the refreshment class. Aerated Breads, giving a return of nearly 7 per cent. at their present price; Lyons, almost £8 4s. per cent.; British Tea Table, £6 15s. per cent.; and Slater's, £5 5s., are all tolerably safe. James Nelsons are highly speculative, and you ought to leave them alone. *F. F. R., Hants.*—The high rate of interest allowed is not compatible with the security of your principal, and the concern is therefore best avoided. Put the money into some good Industrial or Home Railway stock. *A Northern Investor.*—With the Imperial Stock and Share Exchange I have dealt with previously, but the other seems to be a new concern. You should leave both of them alone. *Elm Dene.*—Stephens and Henderson are very persistent in sending out their circulars, but it is pleasant to hear that you have no inclination to try their wonderful methods. *Chenan, Shanghai.*—I am sending you by post the name of the solicitor who has recovered moneys paid to Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. by readers of Truth. *Mancunian.*—If you refer to Truth of a fortnight ago you will see a list of Nitrate shares, showing the yields they give. *Kay.*—The concern is said to be in a good way, and I think it would be quite safe to renew the debentures. *F. N. G., Manchester.*—I have repeatedly warned readers against indulging in Stephens and Henderson's methods of speculation in cotton "futures." *Royd, Shipley.*—My thanks for the bucket-shop circulars and the comments upon the "unique" methods. The London and New York Exchange is going particularly strong at present, and I am dealing with it in the current issue.

Industrials Quiet and Irregular—Hudson's Bays and Nitrates the Features—Water Board Stock Easier—India Dock Deferred Better—Breweries Idle—Telegraphs Buoyant—Foreign Traction Shares—Aerated Breads Higher—Meat Shares Dull—Sweetmeat Automatics Recover.

The volume of business in the Miscellaneous market continues on a very poor scale, and dealers are still lamenting the indifference shown by the outside public. On the whole, movements have been within narrow limits and somewhat irregular, but two or three bright spots have shown up rather conspicuously, one being Hudson's Bays, which were bid for at one time up to 45, though they reacted slightly on profit-taking, and finish a little under that figure. Nitrates also remain in active demand both on home and Continental account, and the majority of the shares have hardened appreciably, the prospects of the industry being considered brighter than ever. Water issues show little change, but the Water Board stock eased back consistently in sympathy with gilt-edged descriptions, and is now a little under 92½. Among Dock stocks there has been a quiet demand for London and India Deferred at 74, while in the lighting group Gas Light and Coke remained firm. Brewery descriptions have been idly dull, and devoid of interest. Considerable attention still continues to be paid to telegraph issues, and most of the shares are harder, including Eastern, Eastern Extension, Direct U.S. Cable, Commercials, and Globe Trusts. National Telephone Deferred is easier, but the Second Preference gained a full point to 12. Among Traction shares British Electrics have been inquired for, and the price hardened to 9¾; and the announcement of an interim distribution of 3s., with a carry-forward of £34,614, by the Anglo-Argentine Tram Company was responsible for considerable attention to the Company's shares. Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Trams also came into demand, the prospects being regarded with satisfaction. Several other Foreign Traction shares were in request, and for the benefit of my readers I have prepared the following selection of such shares, showing the yield obtainable thereon:—

	Present Price.		Yield per Cent.
Anglo-Argentine Tram Company	6¾		£4 10 0
Do. Preference	54		4 11 0
British Columbia Electric Deferred	98½		6 0 0
Do. Preferred Ordinary	100		5 0 0
Buenos Ayres and Belgrano	8		5 0 0
Do. "A" Cumulative Preference	5¼		5 10 0
Calcutta Trams	7¼		4 6 0
Cape Electric	1¼		8 0 0
City of Buenos Ayres	10		4 0 0

In the Iron and Steel class not much activity has been witnessed, and the tendency on the whole is fairly steady, Pease and Partners, Armstrongs, and Robert Stephenson

Preference all being a little higher. Coats and Calico Printers amongst textiles were marked lower, but Fine Spinners, Bradford Dyers, and the other shares remain firm. "Bunshop" descriptions have been quietly steady, Aerated Breads recovering further; and among hotels, Gordon Preference picked up, but Savoys relapsed. Mazawattee Teas sagged away, and in the meat class Nelsons developed some weakness, being offered as low as 19s. 6d. towards the close, while Eastmans, too, eased off. Cunard Steamship shares were marked higher on the prospects of an early settlement of the rate war, and there was a little demand for P. and O. Second Debentures, which rose a point to 97, while Orient Preference also scored an advance to 6. Gramaphones were a lively market, and spurted up to 26s. 6d., from which figure, however, they subsequently reacted on a desire to indulge in profit-snatching. Oil shares rallied temporarily, and among explosives New Explosives were dealt in at 2½, while Nobel Dynamites were steady at 18⅛. A considerable amount of "Bear" covering brought about a recovery in Sweetmeat Automatic.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE PRINCESS AND HER PAPA.

THE Princess Theresa of Blitzfelt-Sonnenschein was a young woman of extremely advanced ideas. At the age of nineteen, when she had not been a year emancipated from the schoolroom, she was already steeped to her finger-tips in the deepest dye of Radicalism. Existing institutions of every kind, accepted creeds of every description, she viewed with ill-concealed impatience. The distinctions of class she abhorred. The artificial moralities of modern life were an abomination to her.

"Let me return," said she, in a burst of generous enthusiasm, "to the natural condition of the so-called savage—let me revert to the human status of pre-historic mankind. I do not recognise kings and queens, princes and princesses, counts and countesses, barons and baronesses. I only recognise men and women. We are all equal in the sight of Heaven. I take my stand as a woman before my Maker and my fellow-men. Nothing else counts. It is all mere veneer and French polish. Yea! Strip me of my empty title, of my fine clothes. Reduce me to a state of nature——"

"Nay, Theresa. I positively decline to do anything so improper," interrupted her Royal mother, in whose hearing the above tirade had been uttered.

"Oh, my poor hide-bound conventionalist of a mamma. Do you not know that Nature can never be improper?" retorted the young Princess, with a pitying smile. "In the Garden of Eden——"

"The Garden of Eden is not the principality of Blitzfelt-Sonnenschein," interposed her mother, perhaps a trifle obviously.

"How true, my excellent mamma!" rejoined the young Princess. "And how lamentable that we have fallen so far from that ideally natural state; have burdened our lives with a host of unnatural restrictions, and loaded our bodies with a multiplicity of artificial coverings, which Heaven never intended——"

"Stuff!" ejaculated the elder lady. "You will never persuade me, Theresa, that Heaven intended us to go naked. Let me inform you, Miss, that if you had been left in a state of Nature at your birth, instead of being immediately sewed up, as you were, in six yards of the best Saxony flannel, you would not be alive now to talk such God-forsaken nonsense. There! That will do. I refuse to pursue this ridiculous discussion."

It did not matter very much, so long as the Princess Theresa's unfortunate views were limited to academic perorations. Such perorations let off steam and do no great harm, after all. But things became really serious when the Princess conceived an ardent passion, of which she made no secret, for the conductor of the Italian orchestra then engaged at the Kursaal of the principality's capital—a married man with a family of five children.

Her mother was in a great state of mind, and began to hint, menacingly, at convents and lunatic asylums, either one of which institutions is the usual fate, in that principality, of female Royalties who show disposition to kick over the traces.

But in her papa, the Prince Regnant, the Princess Theresa—to her own, and every one else's great astonishment—found an unexpected champion. Moreover, I am sorry to say that his reasons for espousing her cause and professing sympathy with her immoral and Radical views were not such as did him any credit. To put it plainly, H.R.H. Prince Heinrich had himself conceived a secret passion for one far beneath him in rank—to wit, a menial servant—which inspired him with a fellow-feeling for his daughter in her *affaire* with the Italian conductor, and, besides, rendered him peculiarly ready to adopt a creed which altogether rejected the conventional moralities.

Hitherto, the Prince had been careful to observe the external proprieties, and had so studiously kept his low intrigue a secret, that neither his wife, his daughter, nor any of his courtiers was aware of it. But such concealment being irksome, and the Prince's passion every day increasing, he determined, at length, to unbosom himself to his daughter, profess himself a convert to her views, and invite her intelligent sympathy and support in the pursuance of his designs. He, therefore, took the first convenient opportunity for having a chat with the Princess Theresa, and confiding to her the true state of affairs.

"Your mother," said he, by way of broaching the subject, "takes, to my mind, a ridiculously severe view of this little affair of yours. She says that even if you could be married to the Italian fellow, it would be bad enough. But, seeing that he already has a wife and children, and that, therefore, marriage is impossible——"

"Marriage?" cried the young Princess, throwing back her head scornfully. "The merely conventional moralities implied in that term do not appeal to me. He is just a man. I am just a woman. We love. Heaven requires nothing more. Marriage?" she repeated. "Bah! I do not believe in marriage. It is a monstrous institution."

"Do you know," replied the Prince Regnant in a low voice, looking furtively round, to make sure that no one else was within earshot. "I myself am quite disposed to concur in that sentiment, my dearest Theresa."

"Eh?" inquired his daughter, very much surprised by this announcement on the part of her papa, whom she had always supposed a Philistine of the Philistines.

"It is as I say. Your eloquence has converted me, my pet," answered the Prince Regnant.

"Come! Is that really so?" said Princess Theresa, smiling with pleasure to think that her persuasive powers had effected this miracle.

"Really—upon my honour," declared the Prince Regnant.

Again Princess Theresa smiled the smile of self-satisfaction, and affectionately patted her parent's hand.

"Ah, little papa," said she. "It is sweet, very sweet, to know that I have at length brought you over to the natural—*ergo*, the divine—point of view on this subject. Do you remember the words of the English poet about the 'fools who came to scoff' and 'remained to pray.' I now liken you to such an one, little papa."

"Eh! I am a fool?" inquired the Prince Regnant, doubtfully.

"A fool once; but a fool now no longer," said his daughter, gently.

"Ah yes. To be sure. A fool when I married your mamma," assented the Prince Regnant, again looking furtively round him to make sure that no third person was listening.

"Even so, little papa. A fool, you understand me, not in having loved her and made her yours, but in having bound yourself to her by absurd conventional formulas,

when all the ties that Heaven intended were those of mutual affection. Think, if you had just said to her, 'My own, I love you,' and she had just answered, 'My own, and I love you, too.' And then you had just joined hands and lives, like true children of Nature. Ah! How far more simple! How far more beautiful!"

"Very much more simple, most true," admitted the Prince Regnant with a sigh. "And what an easy way out of future complications!"

"What complications?" inquired the Princess Theresa.

"The complications that arise when a third party appears upon the carpet," said the Prince Regnant.

"I do not follow you, papa. How can third parties appear for those whose lives are welded together by the bonds of mutual love?"

"They appear, nevertheless," answered the Prince Regnant.

And again he sighed. Moreover, in his bloodshot eyes there gleamed a languishing, amorous look, which caused his daughter, who noted it, to exclaim, quickly:

"You speak as of a personal experience? Is it so, my papa?"

"Yea, my child," said he. "You and I are now kindred spirits, Theresa. We both agree in rejecting the stupid conventional moralities, and in recognising no law but the law of love. I, therefore, admit the truth to you in full assurance of your intelligent sympathy and support. A third person has already appeared on the carpet for your susceptible papa!"

The amorous look on the Royal features was now still more pronounced. It was not a pleasant look on the face of an elderly married man. Rather did it evoke in the Princess Theresa something like repugnance.

"Who is she?" she demanded, quickly.

"Lottchen, your mother's kitchenmaid," confessed the Prince Regnant, his smile becoming yet more sheepish and amorous.

"What! A kitchen wench—one of your own domestics?" cried his daughter, sharply.

"A kitchen wench, it is true," replied her father. "But what of that? Have not you yourself often said, my dearest child, that Nature knows nothing of these artificial distinctions? I, after all, am just a man. She is just a woman. We love. Heaven requires nothing more—if I may be allowed to borrow your own very apt phraseology."

The amorous smile on her father's face, increasing every moment, made it look at once so silly and so unpleasant that the Princess Theresa's fingers positively itched to scratch it.

"This is nonsense, papa," she cried, angrily. "You ought to be ashamed of yourself."

"Ashamed of myself?" he ejaculated, astonished and indignant. "And why, pray, should I be ashamed of myself, miss, for loving that divine creature——"

"'Divine'! Pah! One who peels potatoes and scrubs greasy saucepans!" she exclaimed, scornfully.

"Love takes no count of peeled potatoes, nor yet of greasy saucepans," he answered, with an ecstatic fervour that sat but very ill upon his podgy, common-place person.

"Still, a slut like that, when you have mamma!"

"My love for your mamma is dead—dead as Canterbury mutton," he answered, emphatically. "And I tell you, my dear Theresa, that it is to Lottchen alone that I now look for my future happiness."

"What? You would neglect mamma, your lawful wife, for the society of that—that creature?" gasped the Princess Theresa, boiling with righteous anger.

"My good Theresa," he answered, irritably. "What on earth has come over you? You know very well that neither you nor I recognise any ties as lawful save those of Nature and love. You have taken your own brave line, in defiance of the conventions, and I heartily applaud you for it. Why cannot you do the same for your papa? If your Italian conductor neglects his wife for you, why may not I neglect my wife for Lottchen? If he may do as he likes with his affections, why should you deny an equal privilege to me? But whether you deny it or not, it will make no difference. The inevitable will happen. There is no resisting the overwhelming claims of Nature and of love!" cried the enamoured Prince Regnant, clasping his hands, and staring up ecstatically at the ceiling.

"All I can say is," declared the Princess Theresa, rising angrily from her seat, "that if you disgrace yourself with Lottchen, I shall certainly quit the palace at once."

"But you would do so in any case," rejoined the Crown Prince, shrugging his fat shoulders. "For you also—as you have so often announced—will surely respond to the divine claims of love, and fly to your devoted Italian, with whom may Heaven grant that you be as happy as I know that I shall be with my incomparable Lottchen."

The Princess Theresa, her cheeks aflame and her bosom heaving, stood fixing a scornful, withering gaze upon her unworthy and shameless parent.

"I shall consider it my duty," she said, in biting tones, "to go and warn poor mamma at once of this pleasant little surprise that you have in store for her."

"Well, she is sure to get wind of it," replied the Crown Prince, with stolid effrontery, "and as well from your lips as from another's."

"Mamma will, of course, discharge that minx, Lottchen, on the spot," said Princess Theresa, venomously.

"Your mother may discharge her from the palace," retorted the infatuated lover, with defiant unconcern. "She cannot, however, discharge her from my affections nor from the principality. I shall see to it that she remains within reach."

"What! You will persist in running after her, when she has been discharged?"

"I shall do what love prompts. I know no other law," said the Crown Prince, doggedly.

The Princess Theresa stalked from the room, slamming the door behind her, and hurried away to communicate to her mother the shameful intelligence.

The elder Princess turned very pale when she heard what Theresa had to tell her. She seemed, however, less surprised than her daughter had anticipated.

"I have suspected this for some months," she said, tremulously, "though I had no positive proof."

Then, covering her face with her hands, she burst into tears.

"Oh! What an unhappy woman I am!" she sobbed. "I have a daughter who contemplates a disgraceful connection with an Italian fiddler, and now my husband has allowed a slut of a kitchen wench to supplant me in his affections! Oh! What have I done that Heaven should punish me thus?"

"Mamma," protested the Princess Theresa. "I wish you would not compare my ennobling love for Eugenio with papa's degrading passion for that slut, Lottchen. The two things are, in reality, as far apart as the poles."

"Are they?" sobbed her unhappy mother. "I cannot see it. You have supplanted the fiddler's wife in his affections. Lottchen has supplanted me in your father's affections. It seems to me that the two cases are precisely similar."

"Mamma! This is ridiculous! To liken me to Lottchen!"

"But I do liken you to Lottchen," cried the Princess Regnant, turning upon her fiercely. "Nay, if anything, your behaviour is the worse. Lottchen is merely an ignorant hussy. But you—you have education and position. You ought to know better. Moreover, this affair of your papa is all your fault. You have infected him by your example—by your persuasions. You are the evil spirit who has talked him round to taste of this accursed fruit. Go, girl! Run off with your fiddling lover, and take with you the consoling reflection that not only have you disgraced yourself, but that you have ruined my home and blasted my happiness."

"Mamma, this is absurdly unjust!" cried the Princess Theresa.

"If the truth is unjust, then what I have said is unjust," answered her mother, now controlling her emotions, and looking, with cold contempt, into the Princess Theresa's face.

At that moment, the Prince Regnant entered the room.

He had evidently come prepared to brazen out the inevitable scene with his wife, and get it over as quickly as possible. But as he met her stern, reproving gaze his courage oozed away, and his face assumed a decidedly hang-dog expression.

However, he attempted to carry it off with an air of bluster.

"Well! Theresa has told you?" he demanded, roughly.

"Yes! Theresa has told me. But I do think you might have looked higher than the scullery," said his wife, with unspeakable bitterness.

"I have succumbed to my fate. There is no use in recrimination," answered the Prince Regnant, sullenly.

"I do not propose to indulge in any," rejoined his wife, coldly. "I have merely to say that unless this creature Lottchen is dismissed from the palace and from your thoughts forthwith, I shall, without fail, take the next train to Berlin, and lay my wrongs before the Kaiser."

"Pish! As if the Kaiser had any status for interfering!" exclaimed the Prince Regnant, turning rather pale at the mention of that august personage, nevertheless.

"The Kaiser is not the man to trouble himself about status. He will interfere—and to some purpose. You see!" said the Princess Regnant, confidently.

"Besides, it is absurd to make such a dust up about such a trifle. Half the princes in Europe have their little friends," muttered her husband. "And anyhow, I do not see why I should give up Lottchen, while Theresa retains her fiddler. Will she abandon that yellow-visaged Italian, or will she not. I ask her that?"

"Never!" cried the Princess Theresa, resolutely.

"Just so," he replied, "I knew it. I know also that I will not give up the divine Lottchen. Ach! I go to her now."

So saying, he strode, or, rather—for he was a fat, ungainly man—waddled, from the room.

The Princess Theresa looked desperately at her mother, who had turned her back upon her, and stood, like a lifeless statue, gazing out of the window.

"Mamma," she cried.

"Do not speak to me," answered the Princess Regnant, frigidly. "You have sent your papa into Lottchen's arms, when a word from you would have recalled him. Even now, perhaps, he is in the scullery making love to her, and all the other domestics tittering—— Faugh! I cannot think of it with patience. Go! Run away with your fiddler, and let me never see your face again."

"But mamma——"

"Go, I say! I cannot breathe the same air with you. You taint it like a miasma."

The Princess Theresa ran suddenly to the door and flung it open.

"Papa!" she cried. "Papa! Come back."

* * * * *

That night, in the privacy of their bedchamber, the Prince Regnant pinched the ear of his wife, smiling at her affectionately.

"Ach! Was not the comedy well played?" said he.

"To the life," she replied. "By the way, I have packed off the divine Lottchen to my sister in Denmark to better herself. And you—you have settled matters with that scoundrel, the fiddler."

"Yes. I have paid him a thousand marks compensation, and sent him, under escort, to the frontier. The sentries have orders, if he attempts to return, to mistake him for a spy, and to shoot him."

"That is good. Yet even if he should return, I do not think that Theresa, having now seen how ugly her conduct looks when presented to her in the person of her own papa, would have any further dealings with him."

"I think not," assented the Prince Regnant. "In fact—to use the phraseology of our homely German proverb—she has been cured of leaving her own ears dirty by having obtruded upon her, for her edification, the dirty ears of a companion."

"It is rather a disgusting proverb," said the Princess Regnant.

"But disgusting ailments need disgusting remedies," answered the Prince Regnant, sententiously.

MUSIC.

THE COMING CONCERT SEASON.

CONSIDERABLE activity seems likely to characterise the coming concert season. Fears to the opposite effect have, indeed, been expressed in some quarters. As a matter of fact, one usually hears the same story about this time from concert agents whose bookings have not come up to their expectations; but in the event it is usually found that their fears were needless. Yet were it otherwise, there would be little cause for regret. In the ordinary way the amount of music supplied in London is ridiculously in excess of that which is required—with results sufficiently melancholy so far as the professional concert-giver is concerned; for no entertainment more dismally depressing than a poorly-attended concert has yet been devised by man. Therefore there would be small occasion for lament if it should turn out that for once in a way concert-givers of the minor sort had learnt wisdom from past experience, and determined to moderate to some extent their claims upon the attention of a long-suffering public. But my faith in the assurance and self-confidence of the second-raters is far too robust to permit of the indulgence in any such pleasing hope as this, and if the coming season should prove in reality any less congested by excess of fixtures than those of previous years I for one shall be agreeably surprised.

So far as concerts of the more important order are concerned, the promise seems excellent enough. The Richters, it is true, will be very few in number, while the future of the "Pops" appears at present to be uncertain; but, in place of the former, there will be the concerts of the newly-formed London Symphony Orchestra, and these should prove at least a good substitute. It may, indeed, be doubted whether the arrangement of having a separate conductor for each concert is one calculated to beget the best results. But the band is such a good one that fine performances may certainly be looked for. In the case of the Queen's Hall symphony concerts, it is rather unfortunate that one of the most attractive of the novelties which had been promised—namely, Richard Strauss's "Sinfonia Domestica," has been dropped, in consequence, as it is explained, of Dr. Strauss being unable to accept any of the dates offered him; though why the presence of the composer was considered essential to the production of his work I do not profess to understand. In any case, the abandonment of the symphony means a great disappointment to many. Nor will all be pleased by the fact that the same composer's "Ein Heldenleben" has been substituted, "in response to numerous requests," in place of his earlier work, "Don Quixote," originally announced. It is a characteristic of all concert-goers, but especially, perhaps, those of this country, to demand the familiar and to shun the unknown, but the tendency is not one to be encouraged, and in the present instance the management would certainly have acted wisely if they had adhered to their original intentions. Otherwise the programmes seem sufficiently attractive. Hugo Wolf's symphonic poem, "Penthesilia," will be an interesting feature of the second concert on November 12, when also Miss Tita Brand is to be heard in Max Schillings' recitation with orchestra, "Das Hexenlied."

One does not usually scan the prospectus of the Royal Choral Society with the expectation of finding many

unfamiliar names, but its programmes for the forthcoming season are at least of a less hackneyed character than usual. Thus Sir A. C. Mackenzie's new cantata, "The Witch's Daughter," which is to obtain its first performance at Leeds next month, will be heard on January 26; Berlioz's "Childhood of Christ" is another work which the society has never done before; Handel's "Acis and Galatea" and "Ode on St. Cecilia's Day" fall within the same somewhat extensive category; while Elgar's "Apostles" is to be repeated. On the whole, quite a revolutionary scheme for Kensington Gore. May it not weary in well-doing! In the case of the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, an attractive series of recitals has been arranged, while interesting programmes are announced in connection with the Dulwich Philharmonic Society, the Alexandra Palace Choral and Orchestral Society, and other suburban organisations. Of chamber music the supply seems likely to be considerable. Thus there will be the Broadwood concerts at the Æolian Hall, most of the seats for which have, it is stated, now been booked; the Barns-Phillips series of concerts will be resumed at Bechstein Hall on November 1—a number of interesting new works being promised in the course of the season; Mr. Frank Thistleton and Miss Grace Sunderland will give six concerts of old English music at Broadwoods' Rooms, beginning on October 25; the Nora Clench Quartet announce three concerts at the Æolian Hall; and Dr. Joachim and his colleagues will pay us another visit in May, finding quarters on this occasion, however, at the Bechstein Hall, instead of in Regent-street, while, in view of the limited capacity of the hall the performances this time will be for private subscription only. As regards ordinary one-man concerts and recitals, the full tale of these has yet, as already noted, to be disclosed, though many noteworthy artists, including Herr Kubelik, Herr Kreisler, Señor Sarasate, Miss Marie Hall, Mr. Mark Hambourg, Mr. Bronslaw Huberman (a violin prodigy of some years since), and Mr. Boris Hambourg (brother of the pianist and a youthful 'cellist of high promise), are among those who will certainly be heard.

The forthcoming season of Italian opera at Covent Garden will be watched with much interest, not only on its own account, but as the possible forerunner of what may follow. It has often enough been pointed out that as matters have hitherto been ordered the best time of the year for opera-going—namely, the autumn and winter months—is a melancholy blank in this respect. For the fashionable world the summer season is well enough, but no one can pretend that June and July represent the ideal months for opera going so far as humbler mortals are concerned. Wherefore it is matter for genuine satisfaction that at length a serious attempt is to be made to run a supplementary season at a more suitable period of the year, and every one will hope that the success of the experiment may be sufficient to warrant its repetition in future years. Doubtless it was going too far to say that the forthcoming season "will eclipse in every way all previous seasons at Covent Garden, either summer or winter." It is indeed difficult to understand what the writer could have been thinking of who penned this statement. But the performances of the San Carlo company will certainly be listened to with interest, and several of the works in which they are to be heard will have the additional advantage of being more or less unfamiliar to most London opera-goers. Giordano's "Andrea Chenier," for one, has only been heard here hitherto in an English version, performed by the Carl Rosa Company. Puccini's "Manon Lescaut," again, has not been given in London since it was produced on the first night of the 1893 season at Covent Garden in Augustus Harris's time; while Cilea's "Adrienne Lecouvreur," which was first performed at Milan last winter, will be an absolute novelty.

A correspondent, writing from Bombay, inquires as to the character of the Trinity College local examinations, and suggests that so far as those held in India are concerned, they might well be made more stringent. "I am able to state," he writes, "that the way their examinations are held presents no better guarantee than the conscience of the examiner; which conscience last year passed *all* the candidates entered. There should be a certain amount of control over the work of an institution, however respectable, which draws a handsome amount of money every year out of a country where the low level of musical knowledge renders abuses easy."

Precisely what amount of justification there may be for my correspondent's observations I am not able to say. But, if it be true, as stated, that all the candidates examined at one centre succeeded in passing it would certainly seem to suggest either that the standard of musical culture in the locality concerned is abnormally high, or, what is perhaps the more plausible alternative, that the tests imposed by the examiners are less rigorous than might be wished. Perhaps, therefore, the Mandeville-place authorities may feel disposed to take notice of a suggestion which is put forward in good part, and give a little information as to the precise manner in which their examinations *in absentiâ* are conducted, and the means which they adopt to secure that a due standard of efficiency is maintained by their local representatives.

However it may be in the case of Trinity College, what is certain is that the examinations of even the most well-meaning institutions too often leave much to be desired. Most experienced teachers would, I fancy, confirm the statement that the possession of even a perfectly bonâ-fide certificate or diploma obtained from a reputable source is too often no guarantee whatever of genuine knowledge on the part of its possessor. Perhaps I may quote in this connection from a letter recently received from one well placed for knowing the facts:—

> We all know the tests are no tests worthy of the name, but when they advertise Cambridge and Oxford Mus. Bacs. and Mus. Docs. as examiners, will any one listen to you if you hint at their incompetency? . . . Nothing but the education of the parents and the nation generally will, in my opinion, prick the examination bubble. When they see that their daughters can't play, although they have passed with honours in all sorts of grades, then, and not till then, will these institutions fail to flourish.

From another source I learn of a pianoforte examiner for an institution whose standing is above suspicion, joining the staff of a well-known and highly-respected teaching establishment, the name of which, however, wild horses shall not drag from me, and afterwards being got rid of for sheer ignorance of the elements of pianoforte teaching—though this did not prevent him from subsequently resuming his functions as an examiner in a position even more important than that which he had formerly occupied. Such instances speak for themselves, and I am afraid that they might be freely multiplied.

From the Indian correspondent above referred to I learn also that the London College of Music, Ltd., and the Victoria College of Music, Ltd., both of which institutions have so often been shown up in these columns and elsewhere as purely commercial undertakings issuing degrees to all and sundry for what they can get out of them, have been pursuing their operations with exceptional activity of late in that quarter of the world—the one in Hyderabad (Deccan) and the other in Bombay. The news is regrettable, but not surprising. As to the Victoria College, my correspondent, who is himself a professor of music, is sanguine enough to think that by the prompt dissemination of information respecting its true character he has succeeded in checking its operations so far as Bombay is concerned, though, knowing rather more perhaps of that seat of learning and its little ways than my correspondent, I have my doubts on this point.

Another institution of the same kind which no amount of exposure seems to kill is the "National University of Chicago," some amusing particulars of whose latest operations in Australia are given in a recent number of *Musical News*. Fortunately the Australian Press seems to have proved fully equal to the occasion, and a good deal of entertainment has been afforded the readers of the local newspapers as a consequence. This institu-

tion spreads a much wider net, of course, than those which confine their operations to the field of music only, so that, as the *Sydney Daily Telegraph* has pointed out, any one with a thirst for alphabetical distinctions, and disposed to lay out the requisite amount, could equip himself with certificates attesting to his learning in every branch of human knowledge. "Here are the degrees," observes my waggish contemporary, which seems to have treated a grave matter in a spirit of deplorable flippancy, "with the prices of same landed dry and in otherwise good condition at the port of Sydney":—

At £15 each: B.A., B.D., B.E., B.Surg., B.Sc., M.A., M.B., Mus.B., Ph.B., Ph.M., B.Lit., M.Lit., S.T.B., Mus.M.
At £20 each: B.D.S., B.Ph., B.C.L., C.C., D.D., D.Lit., D.S., Ph.D., L.L.B., L.L.M., Mus.D., M.E., S.T.D.
At £25 each: D.C.L., L.L.D., M.D., D.V.S., D.D.S.

The degrees at £25, it will be noticed, are a particularly strong line. It is hardly necessary to tell readers of TRUTH that this "National University of Chicago" is an entirely bogus affair, having no sort of connection with the real Chicago University; or to add that its "degrees" are worth considerably less than the paper on which they are inscribed. This is the institution, it may be remembered, of which the so-called Chancellor is (or was) one Harkins, of whom *Punch* once expressed the pious hope that he and his agents "might all grow richer—by degrees."

A correspondent writes in accents of scorn regarding the suggestion that the Sheffield University Fund can possibly derive any benefit from Mr. Manners's undertaking to hand over any receipts over and above £1,000 resulting from his forthcoming week's performances in that city:—

It is perfectly clear to anyone with the least knowledge of the subject (he says) that Mr. Manners is not at all likely to take £1,000 in the seven performances. It may not be an impossibility to take that sum, but it is very far from the bounds of probability. I should like to wager that if he were asked to produce the figures of his takings in Sheffield for the last three visits, they would not average over £700. Under these circumstances it is very easy for Mr. Manners to pose as a philanthropist.

While I hold no brief for Mr. Manners, I do not know that he poses as a philanthropist in the matter at all. I described his agreement with the Sheffield people as "a sort of mutual benefit arrangement," and this is what it seems to be. As to the probability of the Sheffielders getting nothing out of the bargain, I think, with deference to my correspondent, that this is not very likely. Yorkshiremen do not usually favour arrangements of that kind. Personally, I do not see why such a series of performances as those contemplated should not yield considerably more than £1,000. As to the amount of Mr. Manners's previous takings at Sheffield, this is rather beside the point, since, as I understand the matter, his forthcoming performances are to be on a different scale altogether from those which he usually gives—two of his touring companies being combined for this occasion. Naturally this implies more cost than usual, and likewise better performances—wherefore doubtless larger receipts are anticipated. But I daresay, if we knew the truth, these matters have all been quite carefully considered by those immediately concerned.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Bernard de Mandeville's "Fable of the Bees," with its immoral moral that "private vices are public benefits," would have been as apt a *jeu d'esprit* on the life and reign of Elizabeth as it was intended to be upon the politicians of the days of Anne. Certainly England owed her greatness in Elizabeth's reign as much to the coarse coquetry and treacherous trickery of the "Good Queen Bess" as to the cunning of Cecil or the courage and enterprise of such pirates as Drake, Raleigh, and Co. This is brought home to you in every page of Major Hume's most interesting volume "The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth" (1), but particularly, perhaps, in its account of that astute old lady's meretricious encouragement of Alençon. Wishing to bring France and Spain to loggerheads, she made the most passionate love to Alençon, accompanying him to Canterbury on his departure from England, weeping copiously all the way, flinging herself into his arms at their final leave-taking, vowing that "a wound on his little finger would pierce her heart," and renewing her solemn pledges to marry him on his return in six weeks to England. At the same time she sent Leicester with Alençon under the pretence of "showing respect to the person she loved best in the world," but really with secret instructions to Orange to detain the French Prince at all costs in Holland, and ensure that he might never at any time or for any purpose return to England! Leicester was nothing loth. He and Hatton a short time before had instigated one of the Queen's guard to assassinate Alençon's agent, Simier. Simier, in revenge, betrayed to the Queen Leicester's secret marriage to the widowed Countess of Essex, when "her Majesty's fury passed all bounds of decency and decorum; she raged and swore against the 'she-wolf'"—as she called her cousin, the Countess—who had thus been instrumental in wounding her vanity, and kept Leicester under lock and key in a fort in Greenwich Park." By the way, in order to understand what was well within "the bounds of decency and decorum" in those days and with Elizabeth, you should read the passage describing her reception of the French Ambassador:—

When she received the grave French Ambassador, De Maisse, in December, 1597, *she being then nearly sixty-five years of age*, he found her standing in the embrasure of a window, dressed in great magnificence, but to his eyes strangely and with little decorum. Her black silk robe, lined with crimson and with wide gold bands across it, was open down the front like a dressing-gown. Under it was a fine white damask gown opening in the same way, covering a soft lawn chemise also open, the whole of the garment being held together at her waist by a girdle. The Queen's curious habit it was while speaking to throw up her chin, and with both hands cast open the collars of her dress, as if the heat oppressed her. De Maisse thus describes this trick:—"Tellement qu'elle ouvrait souvent cette robe, et lui voyait-on tout l'estomac jusques au nombril, mais elle a cette façon, qu'en rehaussant sa tête, elle met les deux mains à sa robe et l'entre ouvre tellement qu'on lui voit tout l'estomac."

Major Hume, in spite of the many letters he prints, which would lead you to an opposite conclusion, maintains that Elizabeth never, even in her grossest dallyings, transgressed the limits of technical morality. Every one, except Mrs. Grundy, would probably respect her more if she had been more impulsively meretricious. Maeterlinck's latest volume of essays, "The Double Garden" (2) is at once exquisitely poetic and profoundly philosophic. He has the rare art of making you see what you had seen ten thousand times as though you saw it for the first time, and saw it for the first time with the eye of a poet and with the mind of a philosopher. Read, *e.g.*, the first essay in the volume, "On the Death of a Little Dog," and see with what humour and pathos and depth of thought and feeling he describes

Those obstinate questionings
Of sense and outward things,
Falling from us, vanishings,
Blank misgivings of a creature
Moving about in worlds not realised,

of a little dog. I defy anyone, however deep his interest in and love for a dog, to read this exquisite study without regarding his faithfullest friend in a new light and with a new devotion. There is one thing that I have often envied my dog, which Maeterlinck expresses with his usual felicity:—

The dog occupies in the world a pre-eminent position enviable among all. He is the only living being that has found and

(1) "The Courtships of Queen Elizabeth." By Martin Hume. Revised Edition, with New Chapters. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 12s. 6d.)
(2) "The Double Garden." By Maurice Maeterlinck. Translated by by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos. (London: George Allen. 5s. net.)
(3) "The Last Hope." By Henry Seton Merriman. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 6s.)
(4) "Portalone." By C. Ranger-Gull. (London: Greening & Co., Ltd. 6s.)
(5) "Nigel's Vocation." By W. E. Norris. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

recognised an indubitable, tangible, unexceptionable, and definite god. He knows to what to devote the best part of himself. He knows to whom above him to give himself. He has not to seek for a perfect, superior, and infinite power in the darkness, amid successive lies, hypotheses, and dreams. That power is there before him, and he moves in its light.

Or read that suggestive paper on "Universal Suffrage"—written from the text "All that we have obtained so far has been announced, and, so to speak, called forth by those who were accused of looking too high"—and see how it reconciles you to this inevitable "phase of the political evolution of the human polypier," not merely because it is inevitable, but also because it masks some better ideal behind it, accessible only through it. There is not much sympathy with the trend of the age toward universal suffrage in particular, or towards democracy in general, in the late Mr. Seton Merriman's novel, "The Last Hope" (3). He never tires—at the risk and indeed at the cost of tiring his readers—of tirades against the democratic demoralisation of the age. "The Last Hope" has for its hero no less a person than the grandson of Louis XVI., whose father, picked up off the French coast and brought to England, lived all his life as the clockmaker of a little Suffolk village. Though you know from the first that he cannot succeed in either sense of the word, and indeed feel beforehand that he must die a tragic and heroic death, yet your interest in his character and his exploits, and in the tangle of breathless adventures and enterprises of which he is the inspiration and object, never flags for a moment from the start to the sad finish of this fine novel. Its depressing sadness, or rather gloom, is the chief fault I have to find with another fine novel, Mr. Ranger-Gull's "Portalone" (4). Its hero, who loves another man's wife, is murdered in mistake for its villain at the moment when his better nature has conquered his baser; while the villain, one of the most dastardly seducers I have met with in fiction, escapes and prospers. Nothing could be better than Mr. Ranger-Gull's contrasts between the Bohemian artists and the Calvinistic Cornishmen who were as much horrified by their idolatrous paintings as by their reckless dissipation. I do not think Mr. W. E. Norris has ever done better than in his last novel, "Nigel's Vocation" (5), whose hero oscillates between the Church and the world, and finally and wisely decides to cling to the Church, since he is certainly not strong enough to stand alone. Perhaps the most interesting of Mr. Norris's personages is the adventuress, Miss Dallison, who, failing to secure Nigel, blossoms out into that brilliant ornament of New York, Paris, and London society, Mrs. Sol Wharton. Mr. Trenchard also is an admirable study, and now and again you feel as if you had to do with reincarnations of Thackeray's famous folk, the Major, Morgan, and Becky Sharp.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—With a few dishonourable exceptions—a very few—every feminine head in the stalls was unhatted during the matinée of "Beauty and the Barge," last Saturday at the New Theatre. One individual amused us very much. He fumed and fidgeted until the lady sitting before him removed her hat, but when a member of his party pointed in dismay to a huge erection of tulle and yellow ribbons that completely prevented her from seeing the stage he said, "No! no! you must not ask her to remove it!" How was that for selfishness? And so unlike a man, too. I find them paragons of selflessness in such circumstances, always ready to take the worst seat and in every way efface themselves for the ladies they are escorting.

I grudge Cyril Maude to farce, amusing as he is. When I think of Binks in "Second in Command," and Heath Desmond in "Cousin Kate," I quite dislike Captain Barley.

Everyone loves London. Americans sometimes think they like Paris better, but on calmly interrogating their hearts they discover that it is really London they adore. "I love London" said a delightful American to me. "What, better than New York?" I asked. "N'York!" she said. "Well, N'York is just as tolerable for about six weeks in the year, when everybody's there, and sometimes the weather cuts in and spoils even that. No. I like London, fogs and noise and all."

Some Parsee friends of ours write longingly about the dear little village from their home in Bombay. They say: "Do keep on sending us picture postcards of dear London. Our looking at them makes us envy you. I hope it will not be very long now to be there once again. I only wish Irving is on the stage till we see him again. It will be very disappointing otherwise."

Foreheads were in fashion in the days of Chaucer. In "Canterbury Tales" he describes the Prioresse:—

> Ful semely hire wimple ypinched was;
> Hire nose tretis; hire eyen grey as glas;
> Hire mouth ful smale, and thereto soft and red,
> But sikerly she hadde a fayre forehed,
> It was almost a spanne brode, I trowe.

Does broad mean high? I think it does here. It is a long, long time since high foreheads were in, but some one told me the other day that the prettiest are those on which the hair is kept high at one point. This I had often noticed for myself, but without definitely deciding upon it. I asked my informant, a man, to explain himself more clearly. I shall try to tell you, word for word, what he said:

"The soft, curly way you ladies do your hair is very pretty, but many of you cover up too much of the forehead and rob the face of intellectuality. Of course, you *are* intellectual, every one of you, but you hide the bright look of it under quantities of fluffy hair. Now, if you would take a small skewer (he meant hairpin) and lift the little curls away from a point immediately above the left eyebrow you would all look so fascinating, so clever——"

"So clever that men would be afraid to speak to us," broke in Laura.

"So fascinating, so clever," continued our teacher, "that at a dinner party one could not eat for looking at you, and one would never marry because one could not marry you all."

"This—with the exception of the word skewer, is the language of hyperbole," said I. "You pay our intelligence a bad compliment." But Laura actually handed him a hairpin and asked him to give us an object-lesson on her own head! In a frightful state of sudden shyness our poor professor utterly declined the task, and in the midst of a cup of tea suddenly remembered a pressing engagement.

I wonder if it will ever again be the fashion to show the whole forehead undraped with hair. At present it would be almost indecent to do so.

Not the most discontented person in the whole of Ireland could possibly say that the Irish Industries are not well looked after. I doubt if any good work of the kind has ever been so thoroughly and industriously exploited. Not only has there for a decade at least been a sale held in town in the very height of the season, but for the last few years there has always been one in the provinces in autumn as well. Newcastle-on-Tyne is the chosen place for this year, and the dates are Wednesday and Thursday, December 7 and 8.

I saw a toque in a window that would have been perfect had the lines of it been a little less stiff. It was covered with chenille in subtly graduated shades of

LADIES requiring Riding Habits for the coming hunting season are begged to order early, as the pressure of business being so great during October, it is frequently impossible to complete late orders in time.—JOHN BUSVINE & Co., 4, Brook-st., London, W.

REDFERN'S FURS are absolutely a speciality. Skins are bought in the raw state, and prices will compare favourably with any house in the world. Conduit-street and Bond-street.

green and brown. Another, entirely successful, was picture shape, with a wide brim raised on the left side, and completely covered with white and palest grey chenille. The trimming was a lovely big ostrich feather shaded white and grey. This chenille is exquisite in hats. It is so soft and becoming. There is a delicious one in a trellis pattern of black and pale blue with a soft blue marabout for trimming that is very hard to resist.

Grebe is rather hard in effect, but not so much so when combined with pale blue crêpe-de-chine, and a blue velvet chou, the crown of this toque being white satin embroidered in pale blue chenille. Hats are really very attractive this winter, though some of them, on the contrary, are peculiarly and particularly hideous. An "airship" in mustard coloured beaver with dull yellow trimmings, worn by a girl with mahogany complexion was a startling and unpleasant sight in Piccadilly the other morning.

Piccadilly in the morning! It is a little bit thin just now, Amy dear, but very fascinating. The sun shines out, and we saunter along using our eyes most diligently. Sometimes we come on a party of tourists clustered round their guide, who is telling them all about some historic house. Almost always we see a honeymoon couple wrapped up in each other, and with no attention to spare for anything outside themselves. The crossings usually bring them to the surface, however, because they are so anxious about each other. Well set up soldier men in country clothes are always to be seen in Piccadilly, even when half the clubs are being subjected to the necessary annual cleaning. And in the carriages are, even now, many fair ladies, in town for shopping, for a wedding, or merely passing through. A few have the leisure to walk and afford the spectator a view of the latest thing in mid-season fashions. We brought away mental pictures of three such one morning. The first was a tall girl (she looked married) with a lovely figure, wearing a black voile gown ruched the whole way up the skirt. The black silk bolero was stitched down upon the voile bodice, and a high belt of fine black kid was fastened with a steel buckle at the back, but came down in two ends in front which crossed each other under a steel buckle. The sleeves were graduated puffs the whole way down, the smallest being a decided diminuendo at the wrists. With this black gown a hat of bright cherry coloured chiffon was worn, the crown encircled by a garland of black velvet poppies with white centres.

The second was a slight girl with quantities of fair, fluffy hair. She looked about sixteen, and wore blue velvet, or rather corduroy, the skirt all pleated from the waist and very full indeed. It was quite short, and showed almost the tops of a very dainty pair of brown Russian boots. The coat consisted of strips of the blue corduroy alternating with rows of deep string-coloured lace, both corduroy and lace ending in embroidered points finished with blue fringe. This coat was short enough to show the high silk chiné belt at the back, and in front finished in pointed ends on either side of a quantity of the string-coloured lace all embroidered to match that on the coat. On the fair hair was the largest hat I have ever seen, twisted and curved most becomingly, and made of dark blue velvet and pale blue chenille, with a wreath of shaded pink and damask roses resting on the hair under the brim.

And the third picture was that of a sad-looking lady, no longer a girl, and dressed entirely in black cloth made over a white satin skirt, the pleats of cloth separating to show the white. The half-length coat was carried out in the same way, though the amount of white shown was much less than that on the skirt. The coat was collarless, and above it rose folds of white batiste with lace corners turned down upon it. The

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RECEIVED LATE.

Consolidated Main Reef Mines & Estate, LIMITED.

BALANCE SHEET, 30th JUNE, 1904.

Dr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
To Capital—						
800,000 Shares of £1 sterling each	800,000	0	0			
Less 11,946 Shares in reserve	11,946	0	0			
788,054				£788,054	0	0
,, Debenture Redemption Fund—						
Amount set aside out of Funds accruing from realisation of Shares for Redemption of Debentures				240,000	0	0
,, Premium on sale of 76,554 Reserve Shares				120,326	3	4
,, Claim Realisation Fund—						
Amount realised by sale of 75,000 Main Reef Deep, Ltd., Shares	148,124	6	6			
Amount realised by sale of 77,000 Main Reef East, Ltd., Shares	152,570	7	6			
				300,694	14	0
,, Sundry Creditors—						
On Current Account				5,322	10	9
,, Loans at Call—						
Main Reef Deep, Ltd.	13,500	0	0			
Main Reef East, Ltd.	23,000	0	0			
				36,500	0	0
,, National Bank of South Africa, Ltd.—						
Current Account Overdraft				121,741	8	0
Cr.				£1,612,638	16	1

By Property—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Freehold of Farm Paardekraal, No. 42, Township of Maraisburg, Mynpachts, Mining Claims, Water-rights, &c.				392,877	10	6
,, Claim Realisation Account—						
235,327 Main Reef Deep, Ltd., Shares received in payment for 232 6394 mining claims	152,717	0	0			
Less 75,000 Shares realised as per *contra*, leaving						
160,327 Shares						
230,807 Main Reef East, Ltd., Shares received in payment for 230·0824 mining claims	150,324	0	0			
Less 77,000 Shares realised as per *contra*, leaving						
153,807 Shares.				303,041	0	0
,, Redemption of Debentures Account—						
Amount expended in Redemption of Debentures				240,000	0	0
,, Buildings				68,614	6	7
By Machinery and Plant—						
Including 120 stamp Mill, Cyanide and Slimes Plant	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
,, Shafts—				326,923	8	10
East	20,962	7	10			
Central	13,882	2	9			
West	20,755	0	3			
Old West Shaft	257	15	3			
				55,857	15	1
,, Mine Development—						
East	53,384	13	11			
Central	23,890	4	9			
West	64,742	9	8			
				142,018	8	4
,, Dams and Reservoirs	13,088	12	9			
,, Fencing and General Surface Improvements	2,632	1	8			
				15,720	14	5
,, Furniture	800	10	5			
,, Live Stock, Vehicles, and Harness	851	0	0			
				1,651	10	5
,, Shares—						
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Ltd., 600 Shares, 12s. paid up and 26s. per Share deposit for boys	1,110	0	0			
Chamber of Mines Labour Importation Agency, Ltd., 3,000 Shares, 6s. paid up	900	0	0			
				2,010	0	0
,, Bearer Share Warrants	1,248	13	4			
,, Stores on Hand	7,377	1	9			
,, Sundry Debtors	1,419	10	0			
				10,045	5	1
,, Gold in Transit				16,438	3	10
,, Cash—						
Bank of Africa, Ltd., London	303	14	0			
Cash at Mine	2,765	13	5			
				3,069	7	5
,, Balance Appropriation Account				34,571	5	7
				£1,612,638	16	1

W. H. DAWE, Chairman.
A. A. AURET, H. C. BOYD, Directors.
H. G. L. PANCHAUD, Secretary.

We hereby certify that we have examined the books and vouchers of The Consolidated Main Reef Mines and Estate, Ltd., for the year ended 30th June, 1904, and that the Balance-sheet and Appropriation Account represent a true and correct statement of the Company's affairs on that date.

Johannesburg, August 5th, 1904.

J. P. O'REILLY, Incorporated A. AIKEN, Accountants } Auditors.

hat was mushroom shape, carried out in black chiffon, and was trimmed with many black ostrich feathers.

The little coats that were collarless last spring have now sweet little turn-down collars, generally in coloured velvet, and so becoming. Some are rounded, others pointed, and almost all are finished with rows of small ornamental buttons. A very sweet collar on a champagne cloth coat was in chiffon-velvet of the same tint spotted in black. This had a pleated edging of champagne-coloured glacé silk, and the cuffs were finished to match it. In almost every case there is a high batiste collar and the scrappiest possible thing in ties, usually black. A touch of black is so very effective.

Have you ever tasted ox-tongue boiled fresh? By this I mean without having been salted. We found a recipe for this in a useful little book called "Lemco Dishes for All Seasons," by Eva Tuite, and we all approved of it. You will find it on page 48. There are other good recipes. But why is a sauce made with sherry called Madeira sauce? And why is another dish called "boiled fish pie" when it is really baked fish pie? But these are but trivial mistakes. Do not forget to try the recipes for savoury roes, steaks of cod, and curried egg toast.

As seasonable as it is delicious is this chartreuse of partridge:—

Line a charlotte mould with buttered paper, decorate the bottom and sides with cold boiled carrots and turnips, cut into diamond-shaped pieces, or strips, making them fit one in the other. Thoroughly drain a well boiled Savoy cabbage, chop it very finely, and with it make a second lining to the mould. Have ready braised the best parts of a couple of partridges, trim the pieces and pack them in the mould, using some of the cabbage to fill the crevices; cover in with cabbage, twist a buttered paper over all, and steam the mould for three-quarters of an hour. Reduce the liquor from the braise and make it into sauce with a spoonful of potato fécule, season it with salt and pepper and a spoonful of tomato purée, and pour it round the chartreuse when it is turned out.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1449. Vol. LVI. Thursday, October 6, 1904. Price Sixpence.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King is to leave Balmoral on Friday for Buckingham Palace, and on Monday evening his Majesty will proceed to Newmarket, returning to town after the races on Friday.

His Majesty had a few friends staying with him at Balmoral Castle last week, and there were drives for stags in the Royal deer forests of Balmoral, Abergeldie, Whitemonth, and Ballochbuie; and drives for roe from Abergeldie and Birkall woods. On the shooting days the King lunched either at the Danzig Shiel, Queen Victoria's Lodge near the falls of Garrawalt; or at the Glen Gelder Shiel in Balmoral forest, or at Alt-na-Guibhasaich, the Royal lodge near Loch Muich. The tenants' ball took place on Friday night, and went off most successfully. The Prince and Princess of Wales came from Abergeldie Castle, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught from Birkhall House.

The King and Queen of Portugal are to arrive in England on Saturday, November 19, or on Monday, the 21st, on a visit to their Majesties, who will receive their guests at Windsor Castle. The King and Queen of Portugal are to stay in this country for a week. There will be battues on three days in Windsor Great Park, and one day is to be devoted to a visit to London, where their Majesties will be entertained to luncheon by the Lord Mayor and Corporation at the Guildhall. It is probable that the fifth available day will be set apart for a visit to Oxford. The evening entertainments at Windsor Castle will include a state banquet in St. George's Hall, a concert, and a theatrical performance, both of the latter functions taking place in the Waterloo Chamber.

Lord Burton, who has been the tenant of the deer forest of Glenquoich, in West Inverness-shire, for thirty-three years, had intended to give up the place at the end of this season, but he has arranged with Mrs. Ellice, of Invergarry, to take it on again for another year, his extended term of occupation expiring in November, 1905. It is understood in the district that if all is well the King will pay another visit to Lord and Lady Burton at Loch Quoich Lodge in September next.

The Prince of Wales, who left Abergeldie Castle on Monday for the season, is now the guest of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Gordon Castle, Banffshire, where he will stay until Saturday, and is then coming to town. The Prince has gone to Gordon Castle for a few days' salmon fishing on the Spey, the Duke's waters being the best on that river, and the present week is the height of the autumn season. Gordon Castle is an imposing house of four stories, 600ft. in length, and with a square tower 90ft. high, in the centre. There is a large gallery of family portraits in the house and a collection of statuary. The gardens, which extend over twelve acres, are elaborately laid out. The park of thirteen hundred acres is well wooded, but nearly level. Two centuries ago it was a marsh, known as the Bog of Gight. The fir woods contain large numbers of roedeer, for which animals there are usually drives during this month. This is the Prince of Wales' third visit to Gordon Castle.

The last Duke of Gordon of the direct line, who died in 1836, lived at the Castle as a grand Scottish seigneur of the old school in princely state, and left behind him a princely load of encumbrances, which caused a sale of the unentailed estates in the Badenoch and Lochaber districts of Inverness-shire. He was head of the clan Gordon, and representative of the old Marquises of Huntly, "the cocks of the North." The settled estates in Banffshire, Morayshire, Inverness-shire, and Aberdeenshire, comprising 270,000 acres, passed to his nephew, the fifth Duke of Richmond. The property, which has since been managed most judiciously, has vastly increased in value during the last half-century.

There is no truth whatever in the statement that the German Emperor is to pay a visit to England in

November. The Emperor William will not come to this country before next summer, when it is very likely that he will be at Cowes during the regatta week on board the Imperial yacht.

The Dowager Empress of Russia, who had given up her intended visit to Denmark, has suddenly changed her plans, and has joined King Christian at the Château of Bernstorff for a stay of about a fortnight. The Empress Marie, Queen Alexandra, and King George will probably proceed next week from Copenhagen to Ludwigslust, near Hamburg, on a brief visit to the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, but the arrangements of the Danish Court for the next month depend mainly on the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, who were to have arrived at Bernstorff last week; but they appear to have changed their plans. It is understood that the Emperor Francis Joseph and King Christian have been working zealously in order to bring about a reconciliation between the Duke of Cumberland and the Emperor William, and there is reason to believe that their efforts are likely to be crowned with success.

Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, who has been paying visits in Silesia, Lower Austria, and Hungary since he left Kissingen, is now the guest of the Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at Tegern See, in Bavaria. Prince Christian is expected to return to England the week after next, when he will settle at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park, for the winter.

Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who have been in South Africa during the last month, are expected to arrive at Southampton from Cape Town on Saturday, the 22nd, and they will at once proceed to Windsor.

The King's Household in Waiting is to be constituted as follows during this month: Lords of the Bedchamber, Lord Churchill, Lord Erroll, Lord Kintore; Grooms of the Bedchamber, Captain Walter Campbell, Mr. Sidney Greville, Vice-Admiral Sir John Fullerton; Gold Stick, Field-Marshal Viscount Wolseley, Colonel of the Royal Horse Guards; Silver Stick, Lieut.-Colonel Longfield, 2nd Life Guards; Field Officer in Brigade Waiting, Colonel Inigo Jones, Scots Guards; Equerries, Captain Holford and Captain F. G. Ponsonby; Deputy Clerk of the Closet, Rev. W. Rowe Jolley, Rector of Huggate.

Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson, who has received the office of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod from the King, has been retired from the Navy after forty-nine years' service. Sir Henry saw much war service early in his career, as he was in the Black Sea during the last year of the Crimean War. He served during the China War of 1857, and was midshipman in the *Pearl's* naval brigade throughout the Indian Mutiny, when he was several times mentioned in despatches. He was captain of the *Discovery* in the Arctic Expedition of 1875-76, and captain of the *Carysfort* during the Egyptian War of 1882. After his promotion to flag rank in 1890, Sir Henry commanded the Pacific Squadron and the Channel Squadron. He was one of the King's Equerries-in-Ordinary for many years, and has latterly been Principal Aide-de-Camp to his Majesty.

Now that his Majesty has adopted a kilt in Scotland, kilts, one of the newspapers tells me, will probably come into general use, and the paper goes on to explain their advantages—that they are much warmer than trousers, and in many other ways are better fitted for legs. As his Majesty often wore a kilt as Prince of Wales, I do not suppose that his wearing one as King will lead to the adoption of this garb. Nor is it desirable that it should. In the first place, in the eyes of all except a Scot nothing looks more ridiculous than a man arrayed in civilised garb down to his waist, and lower down as a savage. The savage queen when asked whether she felt cold without clothes replied that she was face all over, and if a person habitually goes about with naked knees, I suppose that the knees become face so far as temperature is concerned. But this must be a work of time. So, too, must the sitting down with due regard to decency, just as it was with ladies when crinolines were the fashion.

Judging by what I heard an Irish M.P. say last Session in the course of a speech, I hardly think that the Irish know precisely what a kilt is. A Scotch member who had spoken before him had expressed some sentiments in regard to Ireland that pleased him. "The honourable gentleman, Sir," he said, "is a Scotchman, but he has shown that a warm heart beats beneath his kilt." The House happened to be very empty, and I was one of the few who were privileged to hear this remark.

Lord Dudley, who had been staying at Crom Castle, Lord Erne's residence, in the county of Fermanagh, was joined there last week by Lady Dudley. She is now convalescent, after the prolonged period of delicacy which kept her for so many months at the Viceregal Lodge. Lord and Lady Dudley will not make any very long stay on their holiday out of Ireland. They have already made a public arrangement to open the bazaar at Newry for the hospital, on December 1.

Mr. Wyndham and Lady Grosvenor arrived at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, Phœnix Park last week, where they will chiefly reside for some months. The Chief Secretary's is not a popular residence in autumn if

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 867.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 868.
For Amusements, see page 867.
For Appeals, see page 870.
For Our Puzzles, see page 873.

the weather be damp. It has merits of breeziness, however, and the breezes come from the Dublin mountains, which the house faces, with the wide stretching "Fifteen Acres" as a foreground. No Irish Chief Secretary has an idle time while in Ireland, especially at the season of the year when private enterprise seizes its opportunity to keep things going, as public business is slack. Constitution makers for Ireland are always at hand, and no doubt always will be, so long as the Irish Question remains a problem still wanting a solution. The "multitude of counsellors" has never of late years failed Ireland, but somehow the wisdom to be found in them has yet to come.

In Memoriam:

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT, DIED OCTOBER 1, 1904.

'Tis a great fighter Death has just laid low:
A doughty champion in the classic lists;
And yet so staunch, so true, so frank a foe,
His enemies are now his eulogists.

Seeking the foemen worthy of his steel,
Where blows rained thickest he, be sure, was nigh;
However fared the fight, come woe or weal,
He always held the Party banner high!

He never flinched; where peril was most rife,
His trumpet gave forth no uncertain sound;
And when there was a waning of the strife
Statecraft in him an apt disciple found.

He talked of resting, but until the end
Back to the fray a longing gaze he cast;
And by those qualities we most commend
Still linked the present with a glorious past.

Keen to uphold the House's dignity,
'Twas his its best traditions to maintain;
And, dying, leave a record wholly free
From the small vices that some statesmen stain.

So, though his Party may chief mourners be,
As to the grave their stricken chief they bear;
Bereaved by that same blow of Destiny,
A mourning people will in heart be there.

General Owen Williams was a great favourite in all circles of society from his Eton days onwards. He was most genial in manner, bright in his talk, and full of shrewd common sense. He was an excellent adviser in all kinds of social affairs, and was privately consulted on such matters as frequently as Mr. Charles Greville. He was a man of the highest honour, with a remarkable knowledge of the world. General Williams was an excellent officer, and he proved a most efficient and popular Colonel-in-Command of the Royal Horse Guards. He represented Marlow as a Tory in the Parliament of 1880, and was much liked by his constituents of all parties. General Williams was a fine shot, an expert angler, a straight rider to hounds, and a clever and safe yachtsman. He attended the King (then Prince of Wales) as Aide-de-Camp on his Indian tour of 1875-76, and was a very prominent figure in society for many years. His "week-end" hospitalities at Temple House, his beautiful place on the Thames, above Marlow, were a notable feature in the London season between Whitsuntide and the end of July. Of late years his health had been failing, and he had lived in comparative retirement, but his death will be deeply regretted by many who have retained a pleasant remembrance of him in his brilliant days.

Sir Sidney Dundas of Beechwood, who died at Brighton the other day, was the eldest son of the late Sir David Dundas, and, through his mother, a nephew of George Whyte Melville, the author of "Digby Grand." Sir Sidney Dundas had been a complete invalid for many years, but he took a keen interest in the welfare of his tenants and employees. Sir Sidney owned the fine estate of Dunira, in South Perthshire, which was purchased in 1824 from the second Viscount Melville by Sir Robert Dundas, who was an intimate friend of Sir Walter Scott, and one of his colleagues as Principal Clerk of the Court of Session. A stately house, built from designs by Bryce, replaced the picturesque shooting lodge of Dunira in which Henry Dundas, first Viscount Melville, the intimate friend of Mr. Pitt, spent a great deal of his spare time. Dunira is a most charming place, the scenery combining grand mountains, a pretty valley, and a clear and rapid river (the Earn), with extensive woodlands all round. Major Charles Henry Dundas, who succeeds his brother, has resided for some years in the island of Mull. At one time he occupied a farm on the Dunira estate, and there became well known as a successful breeder of shorthorns.

Lord and Lady Breadalbane are returning this week to Taymouth Castle from Loch Tulla Lodge, where they have been staying for nearly two months for deer stalking in the celebrated Black Mount Forest, which extends over 80,000 acres. Black Mount was leased for more than twenty years by the late Lord Dudley. The Lodge occupies a charming situation on the shore of Loch Tulla, and is surrounded by pine woods.

The Duke of Rutland, who has been residing for nearly two months at Longshaw, his shooting lodge on the Derbyshire moors, will spend the late autumn and winter mostly at Belvoir Castle, the family seat near Grantham.

Lord and Lady Salisbury have returned to Hatfield House from Cranborne Manor, their place in Dorsetshire, where they have been residing since the middle of August.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, who are spending this week at Compton Place, Eastbourne, will return to Newmarket on Monday for the Second October meeting, and are to be there again from the 24th until the 28th for the Houghton meeting. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are to arrive at Chatsworth for the winter early in November, and they will entertain a large house party during Derby races, when the King

will probably be their guest for a few days. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are to pay a visit to their Majesties at Sandringham next month.

A Milliners' Defence Association, I read, is having a Bill drafted to amend the laws relating to married women. The first clause of the Bill provides that money owing in respect of wearing apparel supplied to a married woman is to be a debt for which she shall be held liable, whether her husband be responsible or not; and the other twelve clauses cover every loophole for escape from just debts incurred by married women for apparel. The grounds for such legislation, it is explained, are that fashionable dressmakers at present suffer through giving credit to married ladies, and that they dare not refuse to give credit because to do so means the loss of the customers. I would strongly recommend the association not to waste its time on the preparation of any such bill on any such grounds, for it would either not be passed or it would be altered during the Committee stage in such a manner as to discourage the practice of giving women unlimited credit for clothes, and the *modistes* who indulge in the practice might find their last state worse than their first.

The law now is that if a married woman incurs debt, no matter how foolishly, she has to pay, provided she has money. But in regard to debts owed to fashionable milliners the profit is so outrageous, that it would be desirable that a discretionary power be granted to judges to reduce the total of a bill when it can be shown that the profit is excessive, for many women are positively children in the recklessness with which they order apparel on credit, and the price that they pay for it. Moreover, it would be well that no husband should be liable for more than £200 per annum for debts incurred in this manner by his wife, and for a smaller sum when he can prove that his income does not justify the expenditure. It may perhaps surprise milliners, but public opinion is by no means in favour of husbands being forced to waste more money than they can afford because their wives obtain credit at milliners'.

The other day, I saw published the balance-sheet of a limited liability milliners' establishment. If I remember rightly, the debts unpaid were set down at about £30,000. By the amount of credit in this one establishment, one can judge of the enormous sum owed to all milliners by their customers collectively. It is well known that heavy commissions are offered to ladies who introduce customers, and that many ladies are not above accepting them. It is equally well known that the milliners' bills are often paid by others than the husbands of the customers, presumably for value received. Many women incur liabilities with milliners that they are well aware that they cannot pay, or can only pay by exceeding the amount which the husband is desirous should be spent by his wife. The idea that all this should be encouraged by special legislation to facilitate the collection of milliners' bills could hardly have occurred to any one but a milliner. They will find, however, that to get a Bill through the House of Commons with this object is a good deal more difficult than allowing women to run up bills.

When I am asked to believe that spirits rap out communications from another world when called upon to do so by some individual who dubs himself a medium, or that they materialise themselves at his bidding, I prefer to assume that the medium is a trickster, even though I cannot see through the trick, because the latter hypothesis is far more probable than the former. I feel much the same when asked to believe that a horse called Hans, owned by a certain Von Osten, and abiding in the back yard of a small house in Berlin, is able to reduce vulgar fractions to decimals, do sums of addition and subtraction, knows and can use the German alphabet, and can perform various other mental exercises. The mode in which he answers questions is by striking his hoof against the floor. A committee of experts has reported that all this takes place. In order to show that the horse does not do this, like a learned dog, by watching his master and mechanically obeying signs made by him, the questions were asked—so we were informed—by the master's assistant, and without the master being present. Then the master made his entrance, and told Hans to reply to the question that had been put to him, which the animal at once did correctly!

I should require a good deal more evidence than this before I believed in this horse's mental powers. If there is no trickery, why should all the tests be made in this back yard of the horse's proprietor? I once saw a learned dog do as wonderful things, and I failed entirely—as did others present—to perceive any signs made by his master. But I happened to know the master, and he subsequently explained to me that the sign was made by slightly clicking one nail against the other, although whether the dog heard the click or only perceived the motion, he did not know. Hans is, I suspect, somewhat akin to the "human elephant" owned by some Englishman in India. The elephant could hold conversations with his master. One day he said to him, "I am stronger than you, and you have been my master because you thought yourself more intellectual. But now that I have shown that I am not only your superior in muscle but in mind, it is I that must be your master." "You are mistaken, my friend, in your assumption," replied his owner. "I will prove this by reading to you from a book which I thoroughly understand, and if you can explain what is meant, then alone I will be the servant and allow you to be the master." He read lengthily from Browning, and the elephant confessed that man was his mental superior.

Brockenhurst, New Forest (2 hours London).—Balmer, Lawn Hotel, refurnished, finest position. Central meets, fox-deer hounds, golf, stabling, garage. High-class cuisine. Manager.

Are the newspapers devoted to automobilism justified in publishing notices of "police traps" and in recommending drivers to scatter a particular-coloured confetti on the road whenever they discover such "traps"? A country magistrate invites my opinion on this question and at the same time indicates his own by observing that these warnings "defeat the ends of justice." With all respect to his worship, it seems to me that he is labouring under some misapprehensions as to the duty of the police and the ends of justice. The first duty of the police is to prevent breaches of the law, not to let breaches occur so that they may pounce upon the delinquents, and the ends of justice certainly do not require that people shall be allowed to commit offences in order that magistrates may punish them. There are districts in which police and magistrates not only lose sight of these considerations but become so keen upon making captures that they think that they are being deprived of their legitimate prey when motorists are cautioned against exceeding the statutory limit of speed.

My correspondent assumes that only the class of motorists known as "road hogs" run any risk of being caught in police traps, those who keep within the law having nothing to fear. There would be less objection to the practice if this were so; but unfortunately experience has shown that when rural constables are told off to lie in ambush for offending motorists they are apt to be—well, somewhat over-zealous. They probably think that they will win favour by making a good bag, and this idea has been encouraged by the readiness with which many magistrates have convicted upon palpably untrustworthy evidence in regard to the speed of a car. The motorist who recklessly endangers the safety of other users of the road deserves to be prosecuted and punished with the utmost rigour of the law. But the existence of some motorists of this kind is assuredly no reason why others should be indiscriminately prosecuted and punished, and the system of setting police traps on country roads has been so prolific of cases of injustice that warnings against them are perfectly justifiable.

Mr. J. B. Dunlop, the inventor of the famous pneumatic tyre, has written to me with reference to a recent remark by my sporting contributor that the original tube was designed only to prevent vibration, and not with any notion that speed would be increased. "For the sake of accuracy," Mr. Dunlop writes, "I would like to correct this statement by saying that my sole idea was to increase the speed and ease the propulsion, and in order to obtain these results I considered, amongst other things, that it was necessary to intercept vibration at the ground." The same misconception as to the primary object of the invention is, I believe, widely entertained, and it is interesting to have the point cleared up by Mr. Dunlop himself.

The correspondence over the famous co-operative yachting cruise now published by Dr. H. S. Lunn is painful reading to one who endeavours, as I do, to order himself reverently to all his betters. A company over which Dr. Lunn presides organised this cruise, and invitations to take tickets were issued, with the ceremony proper to such an auspicious occasion, by the Earl of Tankerville—not, of course, that his lordship posted them himself, but that they purported to come from him. This new departure in co-operative travel attracted some notice in the Press, whereupon Lord Tankerville publicly declared through the columns of the *Times* that the invitations had been issued without his knowledge or authority. After some weeks' interval, due, he says, to his desire to allow Lord Tankerville an opportunity for putting himself right, Dr. Lunn now gives the whole story, fortified by documents which put its accuracy beyond question.

The story is perfectly simple. At the end of July, Lord Muskerry, on behalf of the committee organising the cruise, writes to Lord Tankerville enclosing a copy of the proposed invitation, inviting him to become chairman of the committee, intimating that the chairman will have a complimentary state-room placed at his disposal for the cruise, and explaining that in the event of his accepting his name will be placed in the blank space left for the purpose in the invitation form. Lord Tankerville replied by telegram that he was delighted to accept. Negotiations followed with respect to certain details, in the course of which Dr. Lunn suggested that Lady Tankerville might like to have a separate state-room, and his lordship, accepting this kindly suggestion, went on to ask whether ladies' maids were permissible, and whether valets were to be brought. All these matters seem to have been adjusted, and then the invitations were issued, the *Daily Express* got hold of one of them, and forthwith Lord Tankerville disclaimed through the *Times* all knowledge of the business.

After that we have an agreeable picture of Dr. Lunn going down to Northumberland to have it out with the Earl in person, and his lordship playing a sort of game of hide-and-seek with his pursuer round the country. In this game the peer comes off victorious, notwithstanding that his solicitors, after themselves seeing Dr. Lunn, write and ask their noble client to "please see him." When speaking of the affair at an earlier stage, I made the remark that no peer of the realm would do a thing and say that he had not done it, and that evidently the noble lord had published his disclaimer under a misapprehension of facts. To that theory I still cling. But the painful fact now brought to light is that, even if the original mis-statement was inadvertent, Lord Tankerville refuses to withdraw it, which is tantamount to ratifying it, when apprised of his mistake. In

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard st., W. Inspection solicited

the case of a mere commoner one might speak severely about this; in the case of a peer—well, let us draw the veil.

Happily, in these days the peerage is large, and peers are generally forthcoming to suit all requirements. Dr. Lunn should have no trouble in finding another noble chairman ready to accept a state-room, perhaps two, in return for the use of his coronet and title on the invitations. Let us hope that the next one will not feel ashamed of himself when the facts become public. I am sure I do not know why he should be.

THE DEGENERATION OF JOSEPH.

The representative of the *Tailor and Cutter* has been confiding to a *Chronicle* correspondent his poignant regrets that Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is no longer one of the best-dressed men in the House.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain (*loq.*).

"What, oh! what can it be
That has come over me—
This change in appearance so utter?
For what cause, let me ask,
Have I now ceased to bask
In the smiles of the *Tailor and Cutter?*
Why, oh, why, in the pages that praised me so oft,
Am I now as a ruin so cruelly scoff'd?

"But a few months have sped
Since, with rapture, I read
That my 'frock' (with 'American shoulders'),
And with 'skirts' 'rather full,'
Gave me ever the pull
In the eyes of all expert beholders;
Whilst my trousers, whose legs each a deep crease revealed,
Both in colour and cut held completely the field!

"But quite gone are the days
When I revelled in praise,
As I fought in the 'House's' arena;
For my pants, they declare,
Fashioned once with such care,
Now are bagged like an old concertina;
And my well-built frock-coat that of flaw showed no speck,
Is a limp and a shapeless sartorial wreck!

"I repeat—*Why* is this?
Why am I so remiss
As to what was a prized inspiration?
Is it due to the strain
Of my Fiscal Campaign,
That I've earned Mr. Snip's reprobation?
Aye, methinks 'Fiscalitis' it is I must blame
That the *Tailor and Cutter* now puts me to shame!

"For since, as a fact,
By that ailment attack'd,
I have flaunted Protection's old banner,
I have tried to upset
What I used to abet
In a truly remarkable manner—
Pulling down what I 'd aided in building of yore,
And destroying the things that I used to adore.

"Thus at length, when I found,
As disasters closed round,
'Fiscalitis' could have but one ending,
Is it strange I thought less
Of the way that I dress?
Is it strange, with fiasco impending,
I failed on my knees all that care to bestow,
Which the *Tailor and Cutter* deems quite *comme il faut?*"

In reference to what I said a fortnight ago apropos of the election of two new trustees of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, I am told by a Stratford correspondent that both Lord Redesdale and Mr. Hodgson are likely to support the project for pulling down the two cottages near the birthplace. I can hardly believe that this is so, and I sincerely hope that my correspondent is misinformed. As the meeting at which the fate of these cottages is likely to be decided is to be held to-day (October 5), it seems useless to say more on this subject at the moment, but I can only hope that the majority of the trustees will have the sense to resist the destruction of the cottages. The proposal is such a gratuitous piece of vandalism that if the majority of the trustees come to any other decision, it will be a question whether steps should not be taken to eject them from their position, for there is no security that they will not next decide to pull down the birthplace itself.

A few years ago a good deal of attention was devoted in Truth to the Universitas Nationalis Illinoiensis—a Chicago degree factory which used to do a great deal of business in this country through agents, one of whom was the reverend gentleman named Rogers, on whose history I recently threw some light. The Universitas Nationalis seems really to consist of an individual named Harkins, who calls himself the vice-chancellor. For the last few years the Universitas Nationalis has disappeared from England, and I trust that what was said in Truth contributed to that desirable result; but according to a recent article in the *Musical News*, Harkins has lately been operating in Australia. It is stated that "a shabby, elderly man, of partial education," has been hawking degrees in New South Wales, and he appears to have a peculiarly large and choice assortment of this class of goods for sale at very tempting prices. The current market rates are quoted as follows in the *Sydney Daily Telegraph*:—

At £15 each: B.A., B.D., B.E., B.Surg., B.Sc., M.A., M.B., Mus.B., Ph.B., Ph.M., B.Lit., M.Lit., S.T.B., Mus.M.

At £20 each: B.D.S., B.Ph., B.C.L., C.E., D.D., D.Lit., D.S., Ph.D., L.L.B., L.L.M., Mus.D., M.E., S.T.D.

At £25 each: D.C.L., L.L.D., M.D., D.V.S., D.D.S.

It is not stated whether any reduction is allowed on taking a quantity, but apparently, if a customer desired to acquire the whole alphabet, Harkins could execute his order on very reasonable terms.

The Primate and Mrs. Davidson are to leave New York next Wednesday for Liverpool, and on arriving in England they will proceed to Canterbury, where they intend to remain until the middle of January. The Primate is to hold a consecration of Colonial Bishops in St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, the 28th.

The death of the Bishop of St. Helena is greatly regretted. Dr. Holmes was Vicar of St. Philip's, Sydenham, when he was appointed in 1889 to the deanery of Grahamstown. He worked in South Africa with

untiring zeal and conspicuous success for ten years, and then accepted the Bishopric of St. Helena, having well earned a less laborious sphere of employment. He will be long and gratefully remembered in South Africa for his great kindness to the Boer prisoners, his thorough knowledge of their country rendering him a friend who could appreciate their troubles and disappointments.

The Bishop of Stepney has returned to England from Germany in much improved health, but he is not yet strong enough to officiate during the month as canon-in-residence at St. Paul's Cathedral. The duty is therefore being undertaken for Dr. Lang by Prebendary Reynolds.

Mrs. W. H. Gladstone, as guardian of her son, the heir to the Hawarden estates, has presented the Rev. Douglas R. Pelly, curate of Feckenham, to the vicarage of Buckley, vacant by the preferment of Canon Drew to the rectory of Hawarden.

The Bishop of Durham has presented the Rev. P. A. Derry, vicar of Norbiton, Surrey, to the important living of Gateshead, vacant by the preferment of the Rev. J. A. Kempthorne to the rectory of Liverpool, in succession to Canon Stewart. Mr. Derry was prepared for Holy Orders by Bishop Lightfoot at Auckland Castle, and was ordained by him in 1882 to the curacy of Holy Trinity, Stockton-on-Tees.

The Paris correspondent of the *Daily Mail* was the other day allowed to devote about half a column of, doubtless, valuable space to recording the statements of the Rev. J. P. Sandlands, Vicar of Brigstock, respecting "a discovery which ought to revolutionise the theory and practice of medicine." Apparently this reverend gentleman believes himself to have discovered a means of curing paralysis in all shapes, and expects that his treatment will be equally efficacious in the case of "cancer, consumption, rheumatism, and diseases generally." A country vicar may easily believe that he has discovered all this, but it is very characteristic of the age that his statements to a journalist should be at once trumpeted forth in the most widely circulated newspaper of the day, as though there was some evidence in support of them beyond the gentleman's own assertion.

In consequence of this advertisement in the *Daily Mail* (for such it really is) I have had several inquiries about Mr. Sandlands. It appears from the *Daily Mail* that he has been for years "a specialist in voice-production and restoration," and I have before me one of his circulars, in which it is explained that he receives voice patients at Brigstock Vicarage, Thrapston, for a fortnight's course at a charge of ten guineas. In a recent letter written to an inquirer, he states that he is beginning a course on September 26, and another on October 10. This implies that Mr. Sandlands is regularly practising as a medical specialist, and apparently he is pretty busy. It is perfectly right that the cure of souls should be combined with the cure of bodies, but while Mr. Sandlands is occupied with the resident patients whom he imports into the parish for treatment at the Vicarage, I am curious to know who is looking after the spiritual and bodily welfare of the native parishioners. This is a legitimate subject for inquiry, seeing that the Vicar receives £228 a year, and a house, for the performance of his pastoral duties in Brigstock.

A woman was going about on Newmarket racecourse last week collecting money for "St. Mary's Protestant Home for Orphan Girls," etc., St. Mary's-square, Kennington. I suppose it is found that when turfites have had the luck to find a winner they are very open-handed with their cash and ready to bestow a trifle on the first charity-monger they come across. Probably it is not much use suggesting to a betting man that he should be careful what he does with his money. But if there are any sportsmen who are really desirous of doing something for orphan girls, Protestant or otherwise, they may easily find objects more deserving of their charity than the above-mentioned home. This concern is an enterprise carried on by two women named Allen and Eagles, and it is one of those charities that exist primarily for the benefit of the promoters, the children only coming in as part of the stock-in-trade of the business. There is no committee, or other responsible person behind these two females. Allen has appointed Eagles "honorary secretary," and Eagles has appointed Allen "honorary treasurer." The collectors who go about with boxes at Newmarket or elsewhere, are of course earning their own living thereby, in the same way as the two ladies at the head of the business.

The brainless folly of the "chain letter" or "snowball" system of raising money for charity is again exemplified by an appeal now in circulation in the name of "Mrs. Joy, The Rectory, Sutford." This letter recites that a sum of about £50 is urgently needed to send a poor man crippled with rheumatism to a specialist in Scotland, who has made "many marvellous cures"—probably some quack, of whom the poor man's friends have read in the newspapers. The letter asks each recipient to forward 6d. to Mrs. Joy, and send two copies of the appeal to friends, and the appeal is to be reduplicated in this way till the thirtieth series is reached. If every party appealed to responded as desired, the result would be a subscription of many millions sterling to send this old man to Scotland. This, however, is only a speculative sort of objection. A more

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

PARIS.—MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile. Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Situated in healthiest and most select quarter. Luxuriously furnished.

practical one is that there is no such place in existence as Sutford Rectory. As always happens in these cases, by the time the letter has been re-copied half a dozen times or so, the address has got mangled beyond recognition, and every schoolgirl or adult idiot who continues the chain after that point is merely directing a remittance of 6d. to the Dead Letter Office.

A few months back I published a letter from the Honourable Mrs. Campion, of Danny, Hassocks, Sussex, appealing for subscriptions to a convalescent home which she has established at Hurstpierpoint. I have now received a letter from Mrs. Campion in which she states that the result of that appeal was some £66 in subscriptions and donations, for which she is very grateful; but at the same time she wishes me to make known to my readers that further funds are urgently needed. The home in question is a small cottage home, excellently managed, which receives poor women who have undergone operations in the London hospitals, and who need skilful nursing and good food to restore them to health. The fact that the home is only a small one makes it the more acceptable to such patients. Its eight beds are always full, and the women invariably derive great benefit from their stay there. I sincerely hope, therefore, that some of my benevolent readers will again come to Mrs. Campion's assistance, especially by becoming regular subscribers. Mrs. Campion desires me to say that she will send a full report of the charity to anyone who may apply for it.

I am asked to mention that the annual medical service in St. Paul's Cathedral organised by the Guild of St. Luke will be held on October 24 at 7.30 p.m. The Bishop of Southwark will preach, and the music will be rendered by a choir of 300 voices provided by the London Gregorian Association. Admission to the dome will be by tickets only, which can be obtained from the Registrar of the Guild, 83, Bridge-road, Hammersmith, W.

An appeal was made in TRUTH some time ago for the Bishop of Madras' Soldiers' Institute Fund, with particular reference to an institute in course of erection at Secunderabad. The Rev. Canon Brittain, of Madras, now writes that the Secunderabad Institute is to be opened on October 19, and that funds are now being raised for a similar one at St. Thomas's Mount. The appeal is warmly endorsed by Lord Kitchener, and I trust that all who are interested in the welfare of soldiers—particularly in India, where there is so much need of institutions of this class—will continue their support. Subscriptions to the fund may be sent to Canon Brittain, at St. Thomas's Mount, Madras.

I have received the following amounts towards Lady Jeune's Holiday Fund:—Gerald, 10s.; F. S. Hamilton, £5.

A year or so ago several references were made in TRUTH to the damage property-owners at Aldershot were sustaining from the passage along the roads of heavy traction engines, hauling heavily laden trucks, belonging to the military authorities. The protests that were made brought about an abatement of the nuisance at the time, but it has lately been renewed, and houses in St. George's, St. Michael's, and Grosvenor roads have suffered severely from the vibration caused by this traffic. The law affords no remedy against the Crown in such a matter. That, however, is no reason why the owners and occupiers of property should be injured and annoyed by the use of these heavy engines on roads which are quite unsuited for the purpose, more especially as there is no real necessity for doing so.

In reference to a paragraph in last week's TRUTH commenting upon the number of men of upwards of twenty-one years' service serving in one infantry depot, a Service correspondent points out that a warrant officer cannot earn his full pension until he has served for thirty years, and that it is, therefore, inaccurate to speak of two sergeant-majors as having "extended their service beyond twenty-one years," although qualified for a full pension. What was evidently meant was that the men had earned full N.C.O.'s pensions. The point of the paragraph, however, was not the retention of one or two senior men beyond their twenty-one years, but the fact that the staff of this depot contains upwards of half a dozen such men, and that several of them have never done any foreign service, while at least one man has never been outside the depot at all. As I said only a week or two ago, I quite recognise that a man has a reasonable claim to serve on for at least the minimum period at which he becomes entitled to the full pension of his rank; but that is a different question.

I referred, in last week's TRUTH, to the scanty provision made for the recreation of soldiers in India. One need not, however, go to India for cases of that kind. Apropos of this particular paragraph, I am told that the recreation room at the Citadel, Plymouth, contains the following provision for games: a billiard table, a ping-pong table, one set of chessmen, two sets of draughts, one pack of cards, one set of dominoes, and one cribbage-board. At the outside this would not furnish amusement for a dozen men simultaneously. At the same time it is stated that there are in the Citadel, besides the R.G.A. Depot, two companies of R.G.A. and a number of Militia recruits. Not only is the means of recreation supplied evidently quite inadequate, but the whole of these men are subscribing towards a games fund, and they may well ask, as one of them does, where the money goes to. It certainly does not go to the provision of indoor recreation.

It seemed hardly possible that the Indian Subordinate Medical Department could cherish any grievance which had not been ventilated in TRUTH, but I am informed

that I have not yet alluded to one which, though it turns upon a matter of sentiment, is felt as keenly as those relating to questions of pay, allowances, etc. Why should this branch of the Indian Medical Service be officially styled "subordinate?" Of course, its officers are subordinates, but there are also subordinates in every Army department, and this is the only one in which they are so classed and labelled. The honorary commissioned, warrant, and non-commissioned officers of the Ordnance Department, for example, are not grouped into a Subordinate Ordnance Department. It is said that the distinction is made because the I.S.M.D. has among its members many Eurasians. The insufficiency of this reason, however, is shown by the fact that in the Indian Medical Service itself commissions are held by a number of Eurasians and natives. There could be no difficulty in clearly denoting a medical officer's rank without the use of the word "subordinate"; and, even if the Indian Government cannot see its way to give more adequate pay to the I.S.M.D., it might very well remove this little grievance.

A good deal of curiosity is felt in Allahabad and the United Provinces as to the upshot of certain allegations which are known to have been made a year or so ago against the Subordinate Judge at Saharanpur; and the issue is one of much more than local interest. The matter arose out of an appeal from the above-mentioned native Judge to Mr. G. A. Paterson, Additional Judge at Saharanpur. On the hearing of this appeal, Mr. Vansittart, counsel for the appellant, made direct charges against the Subordinate Judge of having been influenced by corrupt motives in his conduct of the case and in his decision. In the ordinary course of things Mr. Paterson, had he considered these charges unfounded, would, for the sake of his subordinate, have said so in unmistakable terms, and have administered a suitable rebuke to the barrister who made them. He did nothing of the sort. On the contrary, he reversed the native Judge's decision, and commented on the proceedings in the case in a way which suggested that he considered that functionary to have been guilty of improper conduct. There can, in fact, be no question as to Mr. Paterson's opinion, for, apart from the natural inference from his judgment, it is known that he laid the facts before the District Judge, who in his turn reported them to the High Court at Allahabad.

Whatever has happened since then has happened behind the scenes. All that is publicly known is this: (1) that under orders from the High Court no appeals from the Subordinate Judge at Saharanpur have since then been allowed to go to Mr. Paterson, but have been heard by another judge; (2) that no other public consequences have followed. It is believed that the response of the High Court to the official report of the circumstances was in the nature of a censure upon Mr. Paterson, and this is almost implied in the fact that that gentleman has not been allowed to take any more appeals from the native Judge. It is, however, generally understood that Mr. Vansittart was called upon by the High Court to substantiate his allegations; that he made his reply; that nothing further followed; and that he subsequently laid the facts before the Governor, apparently also without result.

However this may be, the case as it stands wears all the appearance of a very ugly scandal. A native Judge has been publicly accused of corruption by an English barrister of good standing. The charge has been virtually endorsed by the appellate Judge before whom it was made. The facts have been officially reported to the High Court. Yet no official inquiry has been held, no public action of any kind taken. The whole thing has been hushed up, except for one proceeding which implies that the High Court, though without having made any inquiry, is disposed, if anything, to support the native Judge against his local superiors. Such a way of dealing with the gravest kind of charges that can be made against a public official is not calculated to keep the administration of justice pure, or to inspire confidence among natives in the integrity of British rule. It behoves the Governor of the United Provinces to abate such a scandal promptly, and if he does not see the necessity for doing so, he should be called to account by higher authority.

I have been asked by a gentleman connected with the North Borneo Company to publish a reply to the recent observations in TRUTH upon the dispute between the Directors and Mr. Hubback, their late Superintendent of Public Works. Having no desire to do any injustice to the Board, I cheerfully comply, and the letter will be found below. I must, however, point out that this matter has been disposed of in a court of justice, where it has been held that Mr. Hubback was improperly dismissed. The jury, dealing with the case on its merits, gave Mr. Hubback £781 damages. The Court of Appeal reduced that verdict, as I understand it, merely on the technical ground that the terms of Mr. Hubback's agreement did not entitle him to so much compensation as the jury had given him; but that does not affect the merits of the case. Mr. Hubback accepted the post on the express understanding that he was to have a furlough at the end of two years, the fact being that he had already been serving in another tropical colony for several years. The Directors may think that Mr. Birch, the Governor, ought not to have made such an arrangement; but it is to be presumed that he made it in the interest of the Company, and the result of the action implies that it was within the scope of his authority to do so. With all respect for the Directors, I cannot see, under these circumstances, that anything said in TRUTH as to Mr. Hubback's grievance against the Company went beyond the mark:—

In a short note, before his departure for England to take up his appointment as Governor of British North Borneo, Mr. E. W. Birch, at his special request, was authorised to engage Mr. T. R. Hubback as Superintendent of Public Works, at a certain fixed salary per

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South*." Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

mensem. In giving Mr. Birch that authority the Court of Directors very naturally expected he would stipulate that in other respects Mr. Hubback would be subject to the rules of the service, which include the following provisions as to leave, etc:—

"Vacation leave six weeks annually on full pay; and twelve months' furlough leave after five years with £100 for passage to England and return to Borneo. Notice to be given in case of dismissal, three months or three months' pay in lieu of notice."

Shortly after Mr. Hubback's arrival in Borneo he was entrusted by Mr. Birch with the consolidation and upkeep of a portion of the Company's railway, in reporting on which he gravely reflected on the Company's Principal Resident Engineer, Mr. A. J. West. On receipt of this report by the Directors they at once requested Mr. Birch by telegram to supply Mr. West with a copy of Mr. Hubback's report, as they desired to have his comments thereon. On the receipt of these comments, together with a communication from Mr. Hubback, in which he stated that unless we were prepared to be guided by those on the spot we had better send out some one to take his place, the Court of Directors telegraphed to Mr. Birch that they refused to discharge Mr. West, and requested him to terminate immediately Mr. Hubback's engagement.

It was found from a subsequent telegram that Mr. Hubback had left the Colony on six months' leave (which parenthetically I may say had not been sanctioned by the Directors, but which had been granted to him in fulfilment of the terms of an extraordinary and unauthorised agreement Mr. Birch had made with him on our behalf) and that therefore he could not be communicated with. Ultimately he was found, and, at the instance of Mr. Birch, acting in accordance with the rule in the matter, he was tendered by our Singapore agents three months' pay in lieu of notice. This Mr. Hubback declined, and when he came home he demanded treble the amount, plus £124 for passage money. On his demand being refused he placed the matter in the hands of his solicitors, Messrs. Brandon and Nicholson. On an action being commenced, the Company paid £500 into Court. This sum Mr. Hubback could then have taken up, but he declined to budge from the extravagant figure he had named, and the jury awarded him £781, plus costs. On appeal by the Company that amount was reduced to £365 (defendant to pay costs); and the Court in giving its decision stated that the jury's decision had left the Directors no option but to appeal in the matter. I hope you now think so too.

THE NEW SONG AT SIXPENCE.

Sell a Song at Sixpence!
That's the plan to try,
If the Gutter Pirate
You'd henceforth defy.
Promptly on the market
Cheap new ballads bring!
That will "boom" your business
More than anything!

The Author, quite contented,
Will make a lot of money;
The Corsair of the Kerb-stone
Will cease to gather honey:
The public of new music
Will get a boundless store;
And even Mr. Caldwell
Won't grumble any more!

An official in the Secretary's Office, G.P.O., sends me a circular which was directed to him there by a usurer's tout named A. Brooker, of 19, Selhurst-road, South Norwood. I do not recollect having heard of A. Brooker before, but his impudence in addressing such circulars to a public office is in itself pretty good evidence of the sort of harpy he must be. Only the most disreputable and dangerous members of the money-lending fraternity seek victims in such quarters, and anybody in a responsible position who falls into their clutches is usually bled in the most unprincipled way under threats of exposure to his superiors.

In case of difficulty in bringing the G.P.O. to reason—such difficulties do arise sometimes—the following incident may be worth placing on record. Last Easter a gentleman sent a postal order for £1 from London to the country which failed to reach its destination. The consignee complained, and eventually learned that a postman had been dismissed in connection with the incident, though he was not prosecuted. The consignor also complained and suggested that the G.P.O. should repay the money, they having practically admitted that their own servant was at fault. The G.P.O., however, did not even answer his letters. After some months had elapsed the sender of the letter intimated his intention of bringing the matter before a certain Cabinet Minister with whom he was acquainted. The £1 was almost immediately refunded. *Verb. sap.*

The misfortunes of Reigate in connection with its municipal administration have not yet ceased. The latest scandal has arisen over the execution of a £20,000 contract at the sewage disposal farm, allegations being made that much of the work has been done in a defective and unsatisfactory manner. It would seem, from a discussion by the Council last week, that one party is disposed to throw all the blame upon the surveyor, while another contends that the committee in charge of the job are primarily responsible, because they decided for the sake of economy to dispense with a clerk of the works. However this may be, one thing is quite certain, and that is that the ratepayers will, as usual, have the privilege of bearing the burden of the mistakes that have been made.

A most interesting discussion on the canal question took place at the Manchester meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce. The feeling in favour of the resuscitation and development of our canal system, and releasing them from the control of the railway companies, seems to have been unanimous; and a resolution in favour of the nationalisation of canals was actually carried by sixty-one to forty. The resolution was inoperative owing to a rule that a resolution should be carried by a two-thirds majority; but this does not detract from the significance of such an expression of opinion, more especially when it is borne in mind that the forty dissentients to the resolution were merely opposed to the principle of nationalisation, and fully agreed with the other side as to the importance of rescuing the inland water-ways from their present condition. Mr. Parkes, M.P., who expressed himself favourable to national control, and moved an amendment proposing the appointment of a committee of inquiry, observed that "the present Government were not likely to devote any attention to the question." Then business men throughout the country should make a point of seeing that the next Government does.

The Chailey Rural Council appears to have behaved very unreasonably in connection with Mr. Justice Grantham's cottage-building enterprise. The acuteness of the housing difficulty in many country places is notorious. It is constantly put forward as

one of the principal causes of the migration of the rural population to the large towns, and landowners are perpetually urged to do something to stem this movement by providing larger and more up-to-date cottages. As a landowner, Sir William Grantham has set an excellent example in this way, and in the provision of allotments for the cottagers, the establishment of a village club, and so on. It is admitted that the cottages he has already built are attractive in appearance, give good accommodation, and are in every respect well constructed. Yet, upon some pettifogging technical ground, plans for another cottage were unceremoniously rejected, the Council appearing rather pleased than otherwise to place obstacles in the way of the building of such dwellings. If the action of these Bumbles is a fair example of the attitude of such bodies towards landowners engaged in cottage-building it is easy to understand the reluctance of landlords to embark upon such undertakings.

Wisbech has been treated to a rich display of aldermanic humour of the unconscious variety—which is generally the best. The occasion was the appointment of a Town Clerk, and Alderman Farrow was the performer. He nominated Mr. C. E. F. Copeman for the office on the ground that his father and mother, his grandfather and grandmother, were all highly respectable people. The Council, he said, would be wise to choose a candidate with "such a pedigree." In order, however, that it might not be supposed that his pedigree made him haughty, the worthy alderman went on to explain that Mr. Copeman was a very affable and approachable man: "if any ratepayer stopped him and asked him anything in the street he would answer him." "Some people," he continued, "had an objection to going to a solicitor's office to ask questions, and that would not be necessary if Mr. Copeman were appointed." Mr. Copeman was appointed, and no doubt he has more important qualifications for the post than those on which his sponsor dilated. But, for the sake of the rest of the lawyers in Wisbech, it is to be hoped that the alderman is mistaken in supposing that the new Town Clerk will allow the ratepayers to consult him in the street "free, gratis, and for nothing."

Talking of Town Clerkships, an extremely audacious job has just been attempted at Weymouth. Sir Richard Howard, the present Town Clerk, lately intimated that he would resign his office in March, 1905, whereupon it was immediately proposed that Mr. H. A. Huxtable should be appointed to the office. A few years ago Mr. Huxtable, who resides at Dorchester, was jobbed into the position of Assistant Town Clerk of Weymouth, and it seemed to be thought that he could be just as easily jobbed into the Town Clerkship. But, accustomed as they are to such proceedings, this proposal was a little too barefaced for the ratepayers, more especially as it transpired that even if he succeeded to the Town Clerkship Mr. Huxtable would not become a resident in the borough or devote all his time to the duties. It was, moreover, obviously impossible for the Council legally to fill up now an office which will not become vacant till six months hence, and though an effort was made to evade this difficulty by restricting the resolution to an expression of opinion that it was "advisable" that Mr. Huxtable should be appointed, an accrimonious discussion resulted in the withdrawal of the proposal pending the report of a committee. No doubt the near approach of the November elections has had a wholesome influence on the Council.

On July 21 last there appeared in Truth some comments upon a nursing home kept by a Mrs. Virginia Mortimer at 122, Bedford-hill, Balham, based upon remarks made by Coroner Troutbeck at an inquest held upon a female lunatic who had died in the Wandsworth and Clapham Infirmary. The deceased had, prior to her removal to the infirmary, been for some weeks under treatment in Mrs. Mortimer's home, which, from the Coroner's summing-up, would seem to have been an unlicensed and incompetently managed establishment of the type which I have consistently denounced in these columns. The statements were made that the doctor had been misled when he placed his patient under Mrs. Mortimer's charge, that in order to restrain her violence sleeping draughts were "poured down her throat," and that the whole course of treatment adopted was "extraordinary." Ultimately the case was brought before the Lunacy Commissioners, and a summons was issued against Mrs. Mortimer for keeping a lunatic without a licence. When, however, the case was heard at the South-Western Police-court, the evidence for the prosecution was of such a nature as to completely exonerate Mrs. Mortimer, and the magistrate dismissed the summons without calling for the defence. Since these proceedings Mrs. Mortimer's solicitors have laid before me the full particulars of the evidence, and I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that Mr. Troutbeck's remarks, though sound in their general application to unlicensed homes, were not justified in this particular instance.

The patient, it appears, supplied an example of one of those "borderland" cases which doctors naturally feel some hesitation about certifying. Her home environment did not permit of proper attention, and the doctor arranged for her reception in Mrs. Mortimer's establishment, where he attended her regularly. His action seemed justified, for she speedily became convalescent. Eventually, however, the patient suffered from a relapse, and the doctor, having no longer any hesitation about the condition of her mind, certified her as a lunatic, and she was removed to the infirmary, where she died. The whole of her treatment in the home at Balham was in strict accordance with the doctor's instructions, and it is clear that her death was in no way accelerated by it. Under these circumstances it seems a pity that Mr. Troutbeck should not have summed-up the case to the jury in a more judicial spirit, for what between his rhetoric and the desire of the reporters for sensational copy, a good deal of unwarranted odium has been incurred by Mrs. Mortimer in connection with the case.

Some horrible evidence in regard to quack treatment was given last week at an inquest held at Dewsbury upon a woman who had died in the Union Infirmary. The deceased had fallen into the hands of the Dr. Curry Cancer Cure Co., of Lebanon, Ohio, a quack firm some of whose proceedings were criticised in TRUTH only a fortnight ago. The woman had not actually died of cancer, but of shock caused by a fall. Medical evidence, however, showed that she was suffering badly from cancer at the time of her death. Her husband gave an account of the result of the "Curry" treatment, which is too disgusting to reproduce, and his statement that his wife "suffered agony" from it was quite superfluous. One of the worst features in this particular swindle is that the treatment is held out to the unfortunate victims as more or less painless. For torturing the poor woman in this useless manner the Curry Co. charged £6, promising at the same time to cure her in thirteen days, as in the case mentioned in TRUTH of September 22. Prior to her dealings with the American company the woman had been under the treatment of English doctors, who, according to her husband, had pronounced her incurable.

It seems to me time that the attention of those in authority over us was seriously given to the robbery and other mischief perpetrated with impunity every day by quackery in the above and other forms. It is obvious that the existing Medical Acts are utterly worthless for any practical purpose as long as this sort of business can be carried on without interference. Seeing the interest of the medical profession in the matter, it is a wonder to me that the professional authorities have never moved to get the law amended. Their interest, however, is insignificant beside that of the public, and if they do not think it their business to take any action, the Government ought to do so of its own accord. The Statute Book is at present loaded with laws for the protection of the ignorant or foolish against knavery of one kind and another, and it is preposterous, therefore, that the law should be blind to one of the most mischievous forms that swindling can assume. What can be more absurd than that people should be fined or sent to prison almost every week for "telling fortunes" for fools by means of cards or palmistry, while any rascal, at home or abroad, is at liberty, not only to rob them of their money, but possibly cause them serious suffering and injury, with bogus "cures" for cancer, tuberculosis, deafness, or what not?

Whenever this matter is dealt with by legislation, I trust that adequate measures will be taken to deal with newspapers which publish these quack advertisements. The "Curry" advertisement, for instance, is to be seen to-day in dozens of newspapers and magazines. There is not one publisher of such advertisements who does not know as well as I do that what he is publishing is mischievous and dishonest. This is not one of those cases in which there can be any question about the character of the advertisement. Everybody knows that the cure of cancer has of late years occupied the attention of the ablest and most experienced physicians in all countries; and any journal which, under these circumstances, announces in its columns that an American trading company will cure any cancer painlessly in a fortnight can only be regarded as deliberately perpetrating, for its own profit, a cruel fraud upon the more ignorant class of its readers.

There have been some ugly disclosures in the winding up of the affairs of the late Mr. G. L. Fulford, an Okehampton solicitor well known throughout that part of Devonshire, being Town Clerk, Registrar of the County Court, and Clerk to the Local Guardians and Magistrates. It seems that for years he had been in the habit of receiving money from clients for investment, and had misapplied it in the way in which so many a solicitor, equally trusted, has done. It is stated in a local paper that the estate is insolvent, the deficiency amounting to thousands of pounds, many of the creditors being, as usual, people of small means to whom their loss is disastrous. By the light of these disclosures, a panegyric of the deceased in the *Exeter Diocesan Magazine* reads almost like a piece of malicious irony:—

> The Church in the Diocese is the poorer for the loss of George Langdon Fulford. . . . He had been to the re-dedication service of the restored bells at the little church of Jacobstowe, giving his services in the choir there, and one of the hymns he helped to sing, "We love the place of God," was touchingly significant, for George Fulford was an excellent type of a godly layman who loved his Church. No doubt he had his enthusiasm for other things, but he kept the best of it for the Church. . . .
>
> It is surely something to be able to say of him that he was never known to miss an early Eucharist on the Lord's Day, and was frequently present in the week as well, etc., etc.

With reference to my paragraphs last week upon the conviction of Mr. Walter Tatham at Ripon for travelling on the North-Eastern Railway without paying his fare the chief passenger agent of the company writes:—

> It seems to me that you have not been made aware of the fact that proceedings were commenced long ago, and that it was entirely in consequence of a telegram from Mr. Tatham's solicitor on the 5th September, asking for the hearing of the case to be adjourned, that the subsequent delay has taken place. Under these circumstances, I think you will probably agree that the remarks made are unjustifiable.

The point mentioned does not in any way affect my comments upon the case. Beyond a passing remark that the alleged offence occurred "so long ago as August 2," I made no allusion to the delay that had taken place. I did comment, however, upon the fact that a summons was not issued by the company till they had been threatened with an action for damages for the wrongful arrest of the defendant at the railway station; and this fact is undisputed. It was admitted at the hearing of the summons, and, what is more, one of the company's witnesses refused to say whether any report was made to the company with a view to a prosecution before the receipt of the letter threatening the action for damages. I may add that since my paragraphs of last week were written I have received fuller particulars of the case, which show more clearly than ever that the conviction of this defendant was a disgraceful miscarriage of justice. The evidence of his innocence would have been conclusive to any competent tribunal, and the majority of the Ripon City Bench who voted for the conviction must be some of the muddiest-minded dolts ever entrusted with the administration of justice.

My Legal Pillory this week contains some flagrant examples of magisterial ineptitude in dealing with offences against the person. A couple of Salopian Shallows at Newport allowed a defendant to escape with a trumpery fine for an assault of so savage and serious character that they considered "he should be thankful that he did not kill the man." Women-beaters at Nottingham, Warrington, and Chorley have been treated with similar misapplied indulgence; but perhaps the most amazing of all the cases on this side of the list are those at Lincoln, King's Heath, and Derby, where policemen were the victims of the violence of drunken ruffians. Each of the accused had a formidable record of previous convictions which would inevitably have secured him a sharp sentence of imprisonment if he had been charged with poaching, petty larceny, or sleeping out; but as he had only been guilty of knocking about a constable, he was let off with a fine. In contrast to the thirty-four previous convictions against the defendant at King's Heath and the twenty-seven against the defendant at Lincoln, two were proved against a young fellow summoned for poaching at Romsey, whereupon the Bench committed him to gaol for fourteen days, with the remark that "it was no use fining him":—

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. G. Frost, J. E. Russell, and W. Hall. Edward Stevenson, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting a policeman by striking him and kicking him. There were several previous convictions against the defendant for assaults on the police. Fined 5s. for the first offence and 40s. and costs for the second.

Nottingham County Police-court. John Eddyshaw, charged with assaulting Jane Straw. After giving the woman several violent blows in the face, defendant knocked her down and kicked her. She was rendered unconscious, and she was still under medical treatment. Fined 21s.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. C. Wood, J. Kirkman, J. H. Gillett, and C. G. Jackson. Edward Bolton, charged with being drunk and disorderly, with assaulting his wife, and with assaulting a policeman. He knocked his wife down and was thrashing her when the policeman pulled him away. Defendant then attacked the officer, throwing him to the ground and kicking him. Fined 5s. for drunkenness and 40s. for each assault.

Lincoln Police-court. John Wright, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a constable by striking him with a poker. There were twenty-seven previous convictions. Fined 10s. on each summons.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Henry Cooper and Tom Ward, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Blandford County Petty Sessions. Before Lieutenant-Colonel A. Parry Okeden, the Rev. F. Salmon, and Mr. F. H. Gibb. William Cheeseman and Frederick Moore, charged with poaching. One month each.

Ystradgynlais Police-court. Before Messrs. H. Lloyd, R. S. Hodgson, E. Benthal, H. Walters, and Baron Cederstrom. Wm. Lewis and George Ellis, charged with poaching. Fined £2 each.

Midhurst Police-court. Before Mr. R. C. Fisher. Thomas Way and William Brown, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

Shrewsbury Police-court. Before the Mayor, and Messrs. H. R. H. Southam, J. A. Lea, and J. Kent. Martha Ann Logie, charged with sleeping-out. Twenty-one days.

Shaftesbury Petty Sessions. Before Lord Wynford and Mr. J. Burbidge. Harry Harris, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits. Fined £4 9s. 6d.; in default one month.

Leighton Buzzard Petty Sessions. Before Major Haines, Lieutenant-Colonel Finlay, Dr. W. H. Square, and Messrs. A. A. Buckmaster and G. Payne. Twidell Robinson and William Woolhead, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined 40s. each.

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. G. F. Lyndon and J. J. Tomson. Henry Davis, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a constable. Upon being arrested he became very violent, and struck the constable in the face. This was his thirty-fifth appearance before the magistrates. Fined 20s. and costs for each offence.

Newport (Salop) Petty Sessions. Before Sir T. Boughey and Colonel Leeke. Martin Macrone, charged with assaulting Frederick Hill by striking him on the head with a champagne bottle. Hill received a severe wound and was rendered unconscious. The magistrates said it was a cruel assault, and defendant should be thankful that he did not kill the man. Fined £1 15s.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent, Captain Montgomerie, and Messrs. A. N. C. Hemsworth and H. T. Partridge, Thomas Pawsey, charged with assaulting Horace Murton by knocking him down and kicking him in the face. A witness said the complainant was shamefully maltreated. Fined £1 17s., including costs.

Warrington Police-court. John Little, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her, kicking her, and throwing her down the stairs. She had been repeatedly ill-treated, and a separation order was made. Fined 10s. and costs.

Stonehouse Police-court. Before Messrs. W. H. Jennings and Isaac Pearce. Walter Howat, charged with cruelty to a dog. He threw the dog from a fourth-story window, injuring it so shockingly that it had to be killed. Fined 5s. and costs.

Romsey County Police-court. Before Colonel Griffiths and Captain Dalgety. James Tongs jun., aged 18, charged with poaching. There were two previous convictions against the defendant, and the chairman said it was no use fining him Fourteen days.

Bingley Police-court. John Goldsborough, charged with stealing two hens. Three months.

Southend Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Berry, A. Martin, A. Prevost, and E. Van. Herbert Morris and Arthur Johnson charged with stealing a pair of boots. One month each.

The same Court. Before Messrs. J. Francis and H. Cleveland Smith. Alfred Ralph, aged 18, and John Ralph, aged 15, charged with stealing eight pears. One month each.

Perth Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Wilson. John Milfern, Patrick Milfern, and William Davidson, charged with poaching. One month each.

Lichfield City Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Fowler, T. Walmsley, and G. Haynes Ellen Keenan and Maria Plimmer, charged with sleeping-out. Fourteen days each.

Belper Police-court. George Hall, James Meakin, and Elliott Twigg, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found with nets for taking game in their possession. Fined £5 each and costs; in default two months.

Cerne Abbas Petty Sessions Before Colonel J. M. Batten, the Rev. F. W. Brandreth, and Mr T. W. Dampier-Bide. Samuel Willis charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 11s. 6d.

Dolgelly Police-court. Before Mr. E. Griffiths and other magistrates. Wm. Wallace, tramp, charged with refusing to perform his allotted task at the workhouse. He said that as he was already partially blind he refused to break stones unless he was supplied with blinkers to protect his eyes. Fourteen days.

There was a good story in connection with the Spanish Prisoner swindle in a recent article in a Madrid newspaper. It seems that in consequence of the representations of an ambassador the authorities in Madrid made inquiries, which showed that some of the letters leading up to the usual fraud were actually being sent out from a certain prison. The Governor was ordered to discover the culprit, and his investigations resulted in a confession by one of the prisoners. This prisoner was an old man condemned (as sometimes happens in Spain) to a series of consecutive sentences, which meant his incarceration for life—indeed, it would have taken two or three ordinary lives to work them out. On his confession he was convicted and condemned, as a matter of form, to yet another term of imprisonment, while the Governor was commended and decorated for his astuteness and diligence in effecting this triumph of justice.

But, unfortunately, complaints were soon afterwards received that the swindle was still being carried

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

on from the same prison. The convicted man was haled before the Governor and threatened with condign punishment for breaking his promise to give up his evil ways. He replied that, to tell the truth, he had had nothing to do either with this second affair or the first. "Why, then, did you accuse yourself?" asked the Governor. "Well," said the old man, "you have always been a father to me. I am content with my treatment in this gaol, and I know I can never finish my various sentences. I was told that if the culprit was found you would probably benefit by it, so as one good turn deserves another, I confessed. But, on the honour of my mother, I know nothing at all about it." This little tale is instructive as well as amusing—it gives one such a pleasant glimpse of prison life in Spain. It is surely there, if anywhere, that stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.

My suggestion that this particular fraud at the expense of credulous foreigners is regarded very indulgently in Spain is borne out by an English resident there. He says he finds that Spaniards generally take the view that, although it is a reprehensible and regrettable business, yet the victims deserve no sympathy or assistance, inasmuch as they are themselves ready to become parties to a fraud. There is, however, no longer the force in this excuse that there used to be, for in most of the current versions of his letters the Prisoner drops the old explanation that his hidden fortune was acquired by embezzlement.

By the way, the Prisoner calling himself "Agustin Lafuente" is getting rather careless. In March last he entered into the customary correspondence with a resident of Stoke-on-Trent, the third letter from "Agustin Lafuente" being followed by one from the "honourable chaplain" of the gaol, the "Rev. Mateo Rios," who conveyed the sad tidings of "Agustin's" death, and enclosed the usual bogus death certificate and newspaper record of the event. Apparently the swindler forgot to tick off this Stoke-on-Trent resident in the directory as one who had been unsuccessfully baited. At any rate, "Agustin Lafuente" has now resurrected himself and opened fire again on the same party with a letter identical with the first of the series received in March.

By a recent post I had an inquiry from the neighbourhood of Dorking respecting the Right Rev. Bishop McLaglen, D.D., LL.D., etc., etc., and his Gordon Memorial Day Nursery for Little Children. It seems that McLaglen has had a collector at work in that neighbourhood, by name E. Hicks, and what sort of an interest E. Hicks has in the collection readers of TRUTH had an opportunity of seeing in the facts published two of three weeks back. As I dealt with this right reverend impostor and his agents so recently, it is unnecessary to say much more about him now; but I would earnestly warn all residents in the neighbourhood above-mentioned to beware of McLaglen and his collectors, and it would be a good thing if any of those who have given money to the collector would put the police on to his track, and come forward to give evidence. It is quite time that this swindle was stopped, but there is little chance of that, I fear, until some of the victims will show sufficient public spirit to initiate a prosecution.

The familiar advertisement of "Rheumatoid Arthritis successfully treated" has lately been appearing in the *Standard*, the lady who desires to divulge the process by which she has been cured in three days being in this case Mrs. Baker, 13, Brown Hill-road, Catford, Kent. The advertisement, of course, emanates from that irrepressible rascal "Charles Montague, Specialist," of 14, County-chambers, Martineau-street, Birmingham, and the trick played on those who answer the advertisement is the same one which has been so frequently described in TRUTH. Those who write to Mrs. Baker receive forthwith a case containing a packet of medicine from Montague, accompanied or followed by a bill for 16s. 4d., and after that Montague puts in operation his various dodges for attempting to frighten the victims into payment. Those who fall into this rascal's clutches would do well to understand that his threats are pure bluff, whether uttered in his own name or in one of the aliases under which he pretends to collect his own debts. I trust that this matter will be brought to the notice of the managers of the *Standard*, for I am quite sure that the advertisement has only appeared in that paper by an oversight.

Apropos of a recent paragraph, the special attention the circularising bookmakers devote to officers in the Army is ascribed by one of the latter to the inadequacy of their pay. His ingenious theory is that the "bookie," being aware that many officers have a difficulty in making both ends meet, judges that they will be all the more disposed to gamble in the hope of improving their position. I fancy the explanation is somewhat simpler. What the bookmaker counts upon is, first of all, the fact that most young men in the Service like to back a horse now and then, and secondly the fact that they are safe customers because on the one hand they are not likely to take legal proceedings if they are welshed, and, on the other hand, they can easily be subjected to pressure if they attempt, even with good cause, to repudiate a gambling debt.

Here is an illustration of the intimidation which is practised on officers by some of the bookmaking fraternity. An officer wired a bet to one Charles Read, 21, Haymarket, with whom he had had an account. It turned out that the amount invested was beyond Read's limit for the time at which the telegram was despatched, and, according to his own rules, bets in such cases are

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns Country. Descriptive tariff free.

not accepted; but, nevertheless, when the horse was beaten, he promptly debited the backer with the smaller sum of £2 which the time limit would have permitted him to invest. The backer having refused to pay, Read wrote to him as follows:—

21, Haymarket, London, S.W.,
September 27, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—As you have not the courtesy to reply to my numerous applications for payment of your account, I now write to inform you that unless I receive immediate settlement I shall communicate with ——— (your commanding officer), and place the facts fully before him.—Yours truly, CHAS. READ.

Read's complaint that the officer had not replied to his applications was incorrect, for there had been some correspondence between them regarding the proper interpretation of the time limit rule. Whether the backer or the bookmaker was right on that question is really not of much consequence. By addressing the above letter to a customer (one from whom he had, by the way, drawn nearly £100 this year), Read shows himself to be little better than a blackmailer, and Army officers will evidently be well advised to give him and others of his kidney a wide berth.

To show the persistence with which Army officers are pursued by touting bookmakers, a subscriber tells me that during the last two months he has received no fewer than ten letters soliciting his patronage for an individual calling himself "Charles Marsh." There can be no doubt that these incitements to gambling are productive of a great deal of harm, particularly among youngsters just joined. Not only is the distribution of such circulars objectionable on this ground, but in the vast majority of cases they emanate from sharps whose betting is conducted on the principle of "heads I win, tails you lose."

Charles Newton, 4, Featherstone-buildings, W.C., appears to be one of these "heads I win, tails you lose" betting agents. On August 24 he accepted a bet from a client in the Army. On August 31 he wrote to this client:—

DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that I have placed £20 to your credit, being your winnings on Hammerkop in the Ebor Handicap. Any starting price commissions you may favour me with shall receive my prompt attention.—Yours faithfully,
CHARLES NEWTON.

The backer naturally asked for his money, but all his applications for it have been coolly ignored by Newton. It is, of course, one of the commonest dodges of these starting price welshers to pretend to place winnings to your credit in the hope that if you are mug enough to accept this arrangement your winnings will speedily be converted into losings.

The money-lending concern styling itself "Carrington's, Limited," which is really carried on by two Hebrews named Manoy, sent a circular the other day to a youth of 18, who has a commission in a London Yeomanry regiment. The circular was addressed to him at his regimental depot. I am asked by the youth's father whether the law permits the sending of such documents to minors. The reply, of course, is that the Betting and Loans (Infants) Act of 1892 makes the senders liable to heavy penalties, and if this youth's father will place the matter in the hands of the Public Prosecutor, or, better still, himself take proceedings against Carrington's, Limited, he will be rendering a public service.

All harpies of this kind now state in their circulars that they cannot do business with persons under age, but though they seem to think so, this does not exculpate them when they direct circulars to such persons. Nor does it avail a money-lender to say that he did not know the person addressed was a minor. By a very useful amendment of the original Act, which was embodied in the Money-lenders' Act of 1900, it is provided that the sender of the circular shall be deemed to have known that he was sending it to an infant "unless he proves that he had reasonable ground for believing the infant to be of full age." In the present instance it would be manifestly impossible for Carrington's, Limited to prove this—indeed, as practically every regiment has officers under age, they must have known that the person addressed might be an infant.

Everything comes to him who can wait, and in the fulness of time I have received an intimation from Mr. G. R. Hatton that he will be glad to have particulars of my life for "Men of the Day." I appreciate the compliment as it deserves, my worthy Hatton, but if you desire to add me to your collection of noodles you must collect the necessary information from other sources. I give my consent to the publication on one condition, and that is that you incorporate in your biographical notice all that I have written respecting yourself and "Men of the Day," and other publications with which you have been associated. If you comply with this condition, the particular issue of "Men of the Day" in which this biography appears will at any rate serve to enlighten the other distinguished individuals beside whom I shall find myself enshrined. I have noted your change of address to Ormond, Hythe, Kent, and you may rest assured that I shall keep my eye upon you.

An inquiry was made in TRUTH a fortnight ago respecting a firm calling itself the Pearl Camera Company, of Maiden-lane, Strand. I had had a complaint from the Colonies that a remittance in response to one of this firm's advertisements had led to no result, and that no satisfactory explanation could be obtained. On attempt-

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—Mr. S. T. Charles, of Vassall-road, writes as follows:—"When I first saw Dr. Alabone in 1891 my condition was very critical, and was pronounced by *eight* physicians to be incurable, and that my only chance of adding a few months to my life was to go to Australia. I did not know what to do, and was recommended to consult Dr. Alabone. I am glad to say I did so, and in a short time I began to get better. I am now quite well. I was unable to follow my occupation for fifteen months, but I have been back again since without showing any symptons of a return of the disease." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

ing to interview the "Company" I was unable to find him at home. However, the paragraph in Truth brought him round to me with full explanations and apologies for the inconvenience he had caused. He assured me that the non-arrival of the goods was due to some accident, for which he was not responsible, and to remove all doubt on the subject he now tells me that he has forwarded another parcel.

Communications respecting the "National Old Age Pension Trust" continue to pour in upon me, some from people who have seen my previous remarks on the subject, some from people who have not. The latter I must refer to Truth of September 22, and though one or two of my correspondents are desirous of a more detailed examination of the scheme, I am afraid that I cannot usefully add anything to what I said on that occasion. Only a professional actuary can say positively whether the premiums charged are or are not commensurate with the benefits promised. One of the daily papers has already given actuarial opinion that the premiums are insufficient, in other words, that the scheme is financially unsound. As this is precisely the opinion which I had arrived at myself, I see no occasion to obtain other expert advice on the point—all the less seeing that the promoters themselves do not venture to say that the scheme is designed on purely business principles, but rely for its eventual solvency on the contributions of subscribers who will not themselves draw benefits. This makes the scheme a charitable rather than a business one, and I do not believe in this mixture of principles. If people like to support the scheme from benevolent motives by all means let them; but I should strongly advise anyone against subscribing in the expectation of assuring to himself an old age pension.

I have received the following letter with reference to the Hospital Penny Fund. I did not suppose when dealing with this concern that either Sir Anthony Thornhill or Sir Edward Walker had personal interest in it. That is really why I blame them, because their position on the Committee gives an air of respectability to the undertaking which it would not otherwise possess:—

Shotover Lodge, Oxford,
October 3, 1904.

The Editor, Truth, Carteret-street.

Sir—My attention has just been called to an article in your issue of the 29th ult. concerning the "Hospital Penny Fund."

It is not my intention to reply to the criticism which you level at the scheme, but simply to state that so far as I am concerned I have no financial interest in this business, and I joined the Committee at the request of a friend simply to look after his interests and to see on his behalf that the money which was ear-marked for distribution to the hospitals was properly administered.—Yours faithfully, Anthony Compton Thornhill.

Mr. F. G. Scale, who appears to be the principal in the firm of Scale and Co., of Stockport, whose "money-making plan" was noticed in last week's Truth, writes me a long letter, the effect of which, I understand to be that the object of his advertisement was not to obtain cash for instructing people how to start as guides to visitors in large towns, but to obtain from them any ideas they might have on the subject of money-making plans, and to utilise these ideas in a book which he is about to publish on the valuable art of "Money-making." This explanation is of interest from the point of view of money-making; but from my point of view I cannot see that the scheme as Mr. Scale describes it has any practical advantage over the scheme as I described it last week. Mr. Scale offered to divulge for a remittance of sixpence a plan by which any one might easily earn £2 a week. What he now says, unless I misunderstand him, is that this was all gammon, and that his real object was, not to give the subscribers the benefit of his ideas, but to obtain for himself the benefit of theirs.

In the meantime I have come across another money-making plan of Mr. Scale's. It is headed "Occupations on a liner—Stewards, Stewardesses, Officers' Servants, Bell Boys, Buglers, Cooks, Butchers, Bakers, Storekeepers, Purser's Clerks, Printers, Bandsmen, Hairdressers, Carpenters, Engineers, Electricians, Stokers, Trimmers, etc."; and the effect of it is that for a remittance of one shilling Scale and Co. will instruct those who covet any one of these berths how to obtain one; in fact, they seem to possess the sole rights in some patent process for securing such employment, for they say "the course we shall instruct you to follow is the *only one* by which you can become engaged." I am curious to know whether Mr. Scale evolved this money-making plan by his own unaided genius for money-making, or whether it is one of the plans that he has obtained second-hand by the method he himself describes. If the latter, it occurs to me that he may possibly have got the idea from one Forshaw, of Bolton, who has been obtaining shillings in this way for a long time past. I have already indicated that I regard Forshaw's money-making plan as no better than a swindle, and it will only be a kindness, therefore, to Mr. Scale to warn him against borrowing (still more buying) Forshaw's ideas.

The reference in Truth of the 8th ult. to the emigration agency business of Courtney and Co., of West-street, Finsbury Circus, has brought me a long rejoinder from the Mr. Bunbury therein mentioned, who, most unreasonably, calls upon me to print it *in extenso*. The proper person to answer criticism of Mr. Courtney's business is Mr. Courtney himself. Mr. Bunbury was only referred to in my remarks as the recipient of a private letter from Lord Roberts, which was used by Courtney and Co. as an advertisement of their business. This use of his letter Lord Roberts objected to when it came to his knowledge. Mr. Bunbury's justification

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Sold everywhere.

of himself on this point is contained in the following extract, and when I have given this I have given all that he personally is entitled to ask for:—

When I asked Lord Roberts to write me a letter which should serve to show parents that their sons would be in reputable hands in Canada, I not only set forth fully the general features of Messrs. Courtney's scheme, but I enclosed a copy of their circular. There is not, therefore, the slightest justification for the terms in which you describe the incident. It was the malicious officiousness of Mr. T. W. E. Preston, the Emigration Commissioner in London of the Canadian Government then seized upon Messrs. Courtenay's circular as a temporary weapon to attack those who belong to the party of his political opponents. In a recent debate in the Dominion Parliament at Ottawa Mr. Preston was spoken of by more than one member in language which, out of Parliament, would have been luridly libellous. . . .

That a man has been spoken of in Parliament in terms which, used outside, would be luridly libellous, reflects solely upon the party who has abused Parliamentary privilege in that way. But as it is evident that Mr. Bunbury has only brought Mr. Preston into the scene in the character of a "red herring," I will say no more on that point. The observation of which Mr. Bunbury complains was that the use made of Lord Roberts' letter to him was one of certain "questionable dodges" for advertising Courtney and Co.'s business. The justification for that remark was that on learning the use that was being made of his letter Lord Roberts requested that it should be stopped; and that justification is in no way affected by what Mr. Bunbury now says. If, however, it is any comfort to Mr. Bunbury, I will say at once that I do not impute any personal blame to him in the matter.

Although I feel under no obligation to notice the rest of Mr. Bunbury's lengthy epistle, the substance of it is worth notice in connection with the general merits of the emigration agency, which Mr. Bunbury defends. His contentions are all practically contained in the following passages:—

My youngest son went out with Messrs. Courtney's party in February, 1903. He was barely eighteen then, and his mother would not have allowed him to go out, except in that way, nor would the lad himself have gone in the ordinary herd, consigned to the tender mercies of the Government Agent. I mention this because I know there are many mothers and fathers who would take the same stand. You may think them foolish to pay more than in your opinion is necessary, but they do it with their eyes open—Messrs. Courtney never disguised the fact that you need only pay the passage if you followed the Government plan—and there is no ground, therefore, for stigmatising the arrangement as a swindle. If one tailor charges five guineas for a suit which another offers for three, do you accuse the first one of obtaining money under false pretences? As to the usefulness of the agents in Canada who look after the young men sent out by Messrs. Courtney, I can speak from personal experience. . . . The agents here stand practically *in loco parentis* towards their charges. That is a position which the Government emigration official in Canada cannot possibly fill. . . .

The whole point of this lies in the assertion that parents pay the agents' charges with their eyes open. If they do, I should be the last to bother myself about as to whether they are wise or otherwise. But all my experience—and it extends over something like twenty years—is that people pay the agents without the slightest notion of what the cost of a passage to Canada really is, or what the Government is ready to do *gratis* for emigrants. Mr. Bunbury says that "Messrs. Courtney never disguised the fact," etc. Their never disguising it is not enough. Do they ever take any steps to make the fact known? I have seen a large quantity of their literature, but never a hint of this most important fact. I therefore conclude that, like most other agents who thrive on this class of business, they thrive largely upon the ignorance of their customers. If that is so, it is not necessary to discuss whether the services of the local representatives of Courtney and Co., or any other firm, are worth the money paid for them.

At this time of the year one looks naturally to the columns of the *Lancet* for the latest explanation of the reason why the man who returns physically "fit" from his annual holiday should immediately catch cold or develop some minor ailment which leads him to doubt whether his holiday has benefited him in any marked degree. In the current issue my learned contemporary obligingly prefaces the latest medical theory on the subject with a digest of the two explanations which did duty in the preceding two autumns. In 1902 we were medically assured that the excessive athleticism of the holiday-maker was the key which opened the door to the invasion of disease. The pet theory of 1903 was that the germ-free atmosphere of health resorts robbed him of the laboriously acquired immunity which the richly endowed air of the town imparts to those who breathe it. This year the thousands of sufferers from after-the-holiday fever are assured that in their descent from the platform of physical superiority they have attained during their holidays, they are subjected to an involution of organs and muscles, and that this process, following the general laws which govern all involuting organs or organisms, imposes upon them a lower standard of vitality and a feebler resistance to disease. I wonder what theory will be in favour next year!

A friend of mine, who owns land in Sussex, mentioned to me the other day an experience which seems to have its bearing upon agricultural depression. "I was in London a few days back," he said, "and I was surprised to see in various West End shops that the current retail price of apples is 3d. or 4d. a pound. Now I have on my hands at the present moment upwards of 100 bushels of really good sorts. I desired to dispose of them, but the highest bid I have had is 1s. per bushel, and that not on the trees, but picked and put on the rail four miles off, which, as you will easily see, reduces my shilling per bushel very considerably." A bushel, it will be noted, is 56 lb.; the retail price, therefore, of my friend's apples in London is anything from 12s. to 19s. 8d. per bushel. He gets for them

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

something considerably less than 1s. a bushel on the trees. It follows that on every bushel of apples there is a margin of at least 11s. and possibly 18s. to cover the carriage between Sussex and London and the profits of middlemen.

The result in my friend's case is also interesting. He does not care for the trouble of getting his apples picked, and putting them on the rail at 1s. a bushel, so he is giving them away, or leaving them to rot. If he could afford it, he says, he would have a few parties of poor children down from London, and give them the run of his orchards. As it is, he has sent a few bushels of apples to children's institutions in London, and he has, of course, to pay the carriage, besides giving the apples. I presume that this case is not peculiar, and one wonders how many thousands of bushels of apples in the whole of England are kept off the town markets by the fact that middlemen's and carrier's profits add anything up to 1,800 per cent. to the price obtained by the grower.

Surely the state of things indicated by my friend's figures requires the urgent attention of the Government of this country. Apples in themselves are one of the most valuable articles of food with which the bounty of Nature provides us. This country can grow them in almost unlimited quantity. Nevertheless, we import them by shiploads from the United States and Canada. The Transatlantic grower can put them on the London market at a profit, while a grower fifty miles from London can not, or, at any rate, his profit is so insignificant that only a man in a very small way of business would think it worth the trouble of taking. Mr. Chamberlain holds out the benefits of his scheme to the fruit-grower among other home agricultural producers; but what is his proposal? To tax the American apple (though not the Canadian) off the market, in the hope of raising the market price. In the face of the above facts, what earthly prospect is there of the British grower getting any benefit from this policy? Even if the market price were raised—which it will not be permanently if the Canadian grower is to be exempted from the tax—the facts above-mentioned show clearly that the increased profit would go, not to the grower, but to the middlemen and the carriers.

What is true of apples is more or less true of all home-grown agricultural and horticultural produce. Only the other day we heard similar statements from the Lincolnshire potato growers. Their complaint is that by the operation of high railway rates their produce is kept off the London market in favour of that of the Continental growers. On the one hand you see produce, in regard to which this country could easily be self-supporting, either left to rot or sold at an inadequate remuneration to the grower; on the other hand you see foreign produce of the same character placed upon the market in unlimited quantities. The reason is as obvious as the facts themselves—namely, that the British grower is handicapped and all but extinguished by the cost of transport and marketing. When it is proposed to remedy this state of things, not by removing the handicap upon the home grower, but by putting taxes upon the foreign produce, it seems to me that you have reached the *ne plus ultra* of political quackery.

For the hundredth time I repeat that it is the business of the Liberal Party to take up this question. It is a question of transport and markets. I have dealt with the transport question quite recently, and I will say no more about it now. But the market question must also be considered. A year or two ago I had the market question brought before me by the experience of a farmer, also in Sussex, who was sending about 200 gallons of milk to market daily. For a long time he consigned his milk to some salesman in London. The salesman, not content with the normal profit on the milk, huge as it was, was constantly inflating it by pretending that the milk could not be sold, and was left on his hands. Having tried one or two salesmen with very similar results, the farmer gave up the business, and the London consumer lost that much milk.

In order to guard against this state of things, which occurs in one shape or another in regard to many other kinds of produce than milk, it is necessary, under modern conditions, to have a sufficiency of markets under municipal control, with official salesmen, to whom produce can be consigned with a certainty that it will be fairly and honestly disposed of at the current market rates. There is no city in the world so inadequately supplied with markets as London, and none so absolutely at the mercy of market rings. We sometimes hear protests against the prevailing condition of things from the point of view of the consumer, but it is essential to remember that the producer suffers equally. The plain fact at present is that the railway company and the middlemen are masters of the situation, and the agriculturist and the consumer suffer equally from their greed and tyranny. Reform in this direction is the first need of British agriculture. Even land-law reform, which I spoke of last week in comparing the position of agriculture in Denmark and in Great Britain, will be ineffectual unless means are taken to reduce the tolls at present paid on all produce before it reaches our town markets.

Lord Morley intends to resign the office of Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords when Parliament meets in consequence of his failing health. He has filled the office most efficiently for fifteen years. The salary is £2,500 a year. It is expected that Lord Balfour of Burleigh will succeed Lord Morley, and his appointment would meet with general approval.

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

WHERE DO *WE* COME IN?

"Just look!" the men who 'd tax our food persistently declare,
"Australia is all agog our Preference to share."
Quite so; her sons are glad indeed to take all we 'd bestow,
As long as for our various "*quids*" they have to give no "*quo*."
Aye, the Ballarat bakers,
And candlestick-makers;
The Wallaroo growers of beet;
The astute Wagga-Waggans
Who sell wine in flagons;
The Bendigo "boomers," of meat;
The deep Wooloomoolans,
At bargains such cool 'uns,
Are eager our favours to win!
But though *we* pay dearly,
One doesn't see clearly
Where it is that we English come in!

Our loaf is bound to rise in price—so much we 're frankly told,
But will Australian wool to us be any cheaper sold?
No! for the Empire's sake we must pay higher rates all round,
Even our frozen chops won't be a farthing less per pound!
Bourke tradesmen are shouting
For Joseph; no doubting
McMudgee's Town Council distracts;
The squatters up country,
With brazen effront'ry,
Will judge us, they say, by our acts.
Ringarooma wirepullers—
Those ardent John Bull-ers—
Ask: "Why don't old Johnny begin?"
But *we*, who pay dearly,
Still fail to see clearly
Where it is that we English come in!

The F.C.U.C.M.A.A.* seeks Joseph to provoke
To Fiscal daring by brave words recalling General Choke.
The Bonded Butchers' Bowling Club, cabling from Bangagong
To Australasia's staunchest friend, hopes now he *won't* be long!
Politicians at Sydney
And men of that kidney,
Declare, for Old England's dear sake,
That whatever she offers
T'wards filling their coffers,
They are loyally willing to take.
'Mongst the sons of the Lion
There's scarcely a scion
Not ready old Leo to skin;
But, though we are weary
Of putting the query,
No one tells us where *we* shall come in!

No wonder that Australia tries a bargain to obtain
In which she stands to nothing lose, but everything to gain.
No wonder that from South to North, from Bass to Torres Strait,
Each man who has an axe to grind can't think why John need wait.
Queensland planters, uniting,
Are letters inditing;
Murrumbidgee declares, to a man,
That it shares the elation
Of Bucking-horse Station
In welcoming warmly Joe's plan;
But, great though the stress is
Of Austral addresses,
The bargain seems rather too "thin";
For, despite kinship's tether,
We fail altogether
To see where it is WE *come in!*

* "The Federal Council of the United Chambers of the Manufacturers of All Australia."

Mr. Chamberlain, supported by Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Chaplin, and other Protectionists, is still endeavouring to persuade the British public that our Colonies are prepared to enter into a fiscal tariff treaty with us, based upon equality of advantage to each side. In proof of this we are called upon to note that the Federal Council of the United Manufacturers of Australia has passed a resolution to unanimously support Mr. Chamberlain and many trade organisations have passed similar resolutions. Of course they have. The question, however, is—How do our Colonial manufacturers understand the proposal? In this fashion: The Colonies are to keep up their system of duties on manufactured goods, sufficient to protect their own manufactures against all external competition. The duties are to be less in regard to British manufactured goods, but not so much less as would enable us to compete in the Colony with the goods manufactured locally. Against this we are not only to let all Colonial products enter the United Kingdom free of all duty, but we are to charge a duty on all such products coming from abroad.

Obviously, the Canadian or Australian manufacturer would not object to this. Why should he? His command of the local market would be assured by the duty charged against us and by the higher duty charged against foreign importers. The fact would not affect him that we should have a preference over the latter. At the same time, he would benefit by his fellow-citizens having a protected market for colonial agricultural products and all raw material, and consequently the fund wherewith they would be able to purchase his protected manufactured goods would be greater.

There is, however, another advantage that the colonial manufacturer would secure. In the Colonies there are Free Traders. A treaty stereotyping high import duties for all time would render it impossible for Free Trade ever to be adopted by the Colonies, for they would be pledged in perpetuity to give us a preference, which, of course, would be impossible were there no duties. I, therefore, have never doubted that Colonial manufacturers, who are all convinced Protectionists, would jump at Mr. Chamberlain's proposal. They would be as foolish to refuse it as they would be were we to offer to exchange our pounds for their shillings. Indeed, Canada already gives us a preference without any *quid pro quo* from us—so little does it affect the Protection secured by the Canadian tariff to Canadian manufactured goods. I note, however, that Mr. Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Finance, has seized the opportunity of a dinner being given to Sir Howard Vincent to assure him that, whether or not we adopt the preferential system, the loyalty of the Dominion to the Empire will be in no way altered. What, then, becomes of Mr. Chamberlain's repeated assurances that our Colonies will cut the painter if we do not?

C

It is a sure sign that things are going badly with a political party when its members take to quarrelling, not only on politics, but on the rival personal merits of its leaders and its candidates. The Unionists (what a misnomer!) disagree entirely upon the main issue that they would submit to the country. They disagree whether they are to fight under the banner of Mr. Chamberlain or of Mr. Balfour. And now, in the Isle of Thanet, one section of them are vowing that Mr. Marks is the man most fitted to represent them on personal grounds, whilst another is denouncing him as the most unfit. This difference of opinion seems to be shared by M.P.s, for whilst some are offering to make affidavits that the late respected Member, Mr. Lowther, confided to them that his last moments were cheered by the thought that Mr. Marks would be his successor, others assert that he died deeply regretting this possibility. In the meantime the *Times* calls on the Unionist electors rather to vote for a "Little Englander," a Free Trader, and a Liberal, whilst the other Unionist organs urge that Mr. Marks should be loyally supported.

This domestic quarrel is no affair of mine. In a general way I am averse to the importation of purely personal issues into political contests, and in this particular instance I only know one side of the case. But I object on strong political grounds to any Unionist being returned to Parliament—whether the individual be good, bad, or indifferent in his private character—for I believe that they one and all entertain views on our home and foreign policy which, if carried out, will wreck the Empire and ruin the United Kingdom, and this is quite enough to make me hope that Mr. Marks will not be returned, whether in all else than politics he is an angel of light or of darkness.

The Thanet election turns on the votes of the numerous seaside resorts that it contains. A good season at these places means prosperity to the Isle. It would seem that this year, the numerous lodging house keepers have found that they have had to reduce the rents that they charged visitors, and that money was not so freely spent as heretofore. This is no wonder. The seaside resorts are greatly patronised by decent families from London, mainly belonging to the class of small, but, under ordinary circumstances, fairly well-to-do shopkeepers and clerks. They have felt the pinch resulting from the country being under the rule of a party which squandered hundreds of millions in South Africa, and has to raise taxes at home to meet this profligate waste, and piles armament on armament in order to enable it to indulge in future follies of a like character. Economy is needed to produce private prosperity. High taxes mean less money to spend in holidays. The stagnation in trade that has set in will not be mended by traders not knowing for years under what fiscal scheme they are henceforth to transact their business.

Mr. Chamberlain and the Unionist organisations that he has captured do not pretend that they will win the next General Election. They will therefore still further trouble the waters, if Free Traders and Protectionists are to wrangle for a lengthy period, and—even assuming that after a long fight the latter will triumph, although this does not seem probable—stagnation will continue to grow worse, during which time the inhabitants of the Thanet seaside resorts will suffer. These considerations—apart from the respective personal merits of the two candidates—should lead the electors of the Isle of Thanet to send to Parliament a man who desires economy in high places, and would relegate to limbo the Protectionist crusade that is being preached by Mr. Chamberlain and by Mr. Marks.

When no important fighting is going on between the two armies facing each other in Manchuria, and the public is entirely bored at the contradictory rumours as to what is transpiring at Port Arthur, newspapers invent some story about intervention. This is usually done by one newspaper evolving from its inner consciousness that this or that Great Power is discussing a scheme of bringing the war to a close with one or more other Powers. The ball is thus set rolling, and is diligently kicked backwards and forwards from one journal to another. Some have reason to believe that the story of intervention is quite correct, although not exactly as stated by their contemporary. Others have it from a source on which they can rely, but which they are not at liberty to state, that the story is absolutely incorrect. Articles follow, discussing whether there ought to be arbitration; what, if there be, will be the views of each of the arbitrators, etc., etc. After this has gone on for a week or so, the subject is dismissed, and once more we are treated to telegrams from the Far East, more or less mythical, and to strategical essays based on them.

In this sort of game the Press has its own way, for it alone can circulate "facts" and draw conclusions from them every day. In the competition for first news, its "facts" are usually imaginative, and the opinions that it ascribes to statesmen and diplomatists are merely those of the newspaper men themselves. What amuses me is the sort of conspiracy amongst all newspapers to take each other seriously, and to recognise that each of them is entitled to a sort of respect as forming part of a priestly caste, charged with the mission to represent various phases of public opinion. My amusement, I suspect, largely arises from my happening to know pretty well who the priests are, for, knowing it, I can appreciate the impudence of their pretensions.

Whenever a great war is going on, newspaper readers would do well to distrust any sensational information that appears in a newspaper. They are all competing for "first news," and, generally speaking, the paper that first publishes a "fact," is to be specially distrusted. Readers should also remember that newspaper proprietors are a small class of individuals, and are no more able to gauge public opinion than any one of their readers. They have to keep themselves well in public view. Not only do they live by the advertisements of

others, but by advertising themselves, and they find that the best way to do the latter is to publish sensational information on current events, which may occasionally be true, but which generally is not, and to lay down the law as though they had some special right and qualification to do so.

THE PRUDENT PUBLICAN.

Once on a time, the Story runs,
Bill Brown was pestered sore by Duns,
Who Day by Day besieged his Door
With Writs and Summonses galore.
But just when Things most desperate grew
His failing Hopes revived anew,
For Ikey King came forward and
Proffered a timely helping Hand.
(This Ikey—it should p'raps be said—
Was Landlord of the Tiger's Head.)
Then Ikey's Patrons, when they're told
He'd helped th' indebted Brown with Gold,
Exclaimed, "Well, one Thing's sure, by Jove!
Old Ike, he ain't done this for Love."
But what's his Game? Why 's Brown selected
For Charity so unexpected—
A Man who always takes his Grog,
Not here, but at the Spotted Dog?
"By Jupiter! it looks," they said,
"As Ike were going off his Head."
Old Ike, who heard 'em, standing nigh,
Winked, then delivered this Reply:
"Mad as my Kindness seems to be,
There's Method in it still," said he.
"A little Help accorded Brown
Will save the Chap from going down;
And if I keep him on his Legs,
I get his Custom—sure as Eggs.
In future—mark—he'll take his Beer,
Not at the Spotted Dog, but here.
So while, secured, he swigs my Ale,
I'll bless the Sprat that caught the Whale!"

Moral.

'Tis not for Love that wily Prussia
Grows suddenly so kind to Russia.

SCRUTATOR.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT.

THE genuine and universal grief evoked among Liberals by the death of Sir William Harcourt, ought, it seems to me, to be tinged by not a little self-reproach. Now that he is dead it is admitted on all sides that as a Statesman and a Parliamentarian he was the foremost man of his party. Had the fact been recognised ten years ago it would have been better for the party as well as for him. It is no disrespect to any of his comrades in the front rank of Liberalism to say that in the qualities that go to make up a party leader he was a head and shoulders above them. I am not blind to his shortcomings. His instincts were not intensely democratic. There was a good deal of the old Whig about him, though, contrary to the usual course of nature in politicians, he put it off more and more as he grew older. The gifts which gave him so commanding a place in Parliament were not those which appeal the most effectively to the masses. He had not the art or the eloquence, or, perhaps one might say, the individuality of character, to impress the imagination and excite the enthusiasm of his countrymen as did Disraeli or Gladstone. But as a Parliamentary debater he came next in his own generation to those two heroes. He possessed eminently all the tactical resources of the old Parliamentary hand. He could hold his own on the platform against any antagonist. He was a born fighter, and never happier than when the battle was fiercest. Above all, he had a firm grip of the essential principles of Liberalism, in foreign not less than domestic politics; he knew his own mind, and how to give effect to his own opinions. These qualities, added to his long experience in Parliament and in office, marked him out as the natural successor of Mr. Gladstone in the Liberal leadership. While the grave is yet open it is not the time for recriminations or personal reflections. But everybody knows that he aspired to the leadership, as he was entitled to do, and that the loss of that honour was a bitter disappointment to him. Wherever else the blame may lie, the chief share of it rests with the party which failed to recognise his paramount claims, and to support him effectually when they were disputed. The misfortunes that have dogged the Party during the last ten years have been mainly due to that failure, and to that extent they have been well deserved.

Although he missed the Premiership in his brief term of office, as Chancellor of the Exchequer he left his mark upon the history of our time. I said just now that his instincts were not very democratic; but the Finance Act of 1894 was one of the most radical and progressive legislative achievements of recent years, and it shows that, whatever his personal instincts or predilections may have been, Sir William Harcourt could be counted upon to march in the van of democratic progress. It is well that the country should remember to-day the work of the last Liberal Chancellor of the Exchequer. When he gave up his stewardship the national expenditure was £89,000,000 per annum. In the interval it has grown to £140,000,000—an increase of over 55 per cent. in nine years. The new sources of revenue which Sir William Harcourt tapped by the death duties were designed to redress the balance of taxation between the richer and poorer classes; but his Unionist successors have used the money as an instrument for carrying out their Jingo policy, and revenue which should have been devoted to the betterment of the condition of the people has been swallowed up in the reckless augmentation of our expenditure on war and preparations for war. To the last Sir William Harcourt never ceased to protest against this squandering of our national resources, nor against the policy which has been at the bottom of it; and his achievements when in office testify that had the opportunity been given him he would have saved the country from the burden of taxation under which it is now staggering. No front-bench Liberal of our time adhered more steadfastly to the good old watchwords of "Peace,

CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL, W.C., CONVALESCENT HOME, Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources. Contributions urgently solicited.

Retrenchment, and Reform." A few years ago a certain section of Liberals were disposed to regard this formula as an ancient and obsolete shibboleth. But the country is learning by bitter experience that it stands for principles which are at the bottom of national prosperity and progress; and the Liberal party ought to feel grateful to men like Sir William Harcourt, who have held resolutely to the old faith through good and through evil report.

Personally, Sir William was the cheeriest and best-hearted of men, full of wit, epigram, and brilliant repartee, and always delightful company. His Parliamentary manner was not that of the present day, and after the disappearance of Mr. Gladstone it gave him somewhat the character of a survival from a bygone generation—a generation which cultivated style for its own sake, and did not regard reading and scholarship as candles to be hidden under bushels. The contrast between the old manner and the new was not wholly in favour of the present generation. Perhaps it was due to the polish of his style that the wounds Sir William Harcourt inflicted—and no man could strike harder or deeper—did not generally rankle. His opponents might feel, like the French swordsman, that it was a pleasure to be run through by a gentleman who handled his weapon so artistically. At any rate, some of his best friends were to be found among the ranks of his adversaries, and if he had enemies they were to be looked for in other directions. He passes away amid a universal feeling that he was a man of whom the country may be proud, that he played his part in public life without reproach, and maintained unfailingly the best traditions of English politics.

THE WHOLE DUTY OF UNIONISTS.

Lord Rosebery rightly pointed out in his last speech that, although it is true that the present Government ought to be turned out on the fiscal issue irrespective of all others, they would merit the same fate had it never been raised. The Unionists are fond of adjuring their friends not to vote against their party, however strong their objections may be to Protection. The duty of a Unionist is, they affirm, to support his party, and Mr. Balfour is alone entitled to say what its political faith is upon fiscal questions as upon all others. Men like the Duke of Devonshire may have withdrawn from the party because they are Free Traders. He and they are despicable traitors whose example no Unionist with any sense of honour should follow. This attitude has been adopted by some churches towards its flocks, but it is new in the field of politics, for it reduces electors to the position of the Chinese serfs slaving in South African mines, and it is specially absurd on the part of the Unionists, for had the Liberal Unionists acted upon it when they declined to follow Mr. Gladstone in his policy of Home Rule to Ireland the Unionist Party would never have come into existence. Fortunately for the country, and unfortunately for the Unionist Party, there are too many honourable men in it who have shown that although they may prefer a Unionist to a Liberal Government, they are not prepared to carry this preference so far as to accept a fiscal policy which, in their opinion, spells ruin to the United Kingdom and disintegration to the Empire. But the curious thing in this call to Unionists to receive as a revelation from Heaven any policy that Mr. Balfour may proclaim is that, if we are to believe him, he is not at one with Mr. Chamberlain. The programme of the latter is taxation of food, and Mr. Balfour asserts that this is not his programme or that of his Party. To say that it is, therefore, is to say that Mr. Balfour is not to be believed, and that he is in reality with Mr. Chamberlain, although he does not dare openly to admit it. That this is the state of things, I believe; but, if it is, the attitude of Mr. Balfour does not compare favourably with that of the Duke of Devonshire, and is unworthy of a British Prime Minister. Indeed, on this view of his position, even assuming that Protection be desirable, Mr. Balfour can inspire confidence neither in Protectionists nor Free Traders, and, apart entirely from the question of the fiscal issue, no man who respects the best traditions of public life in England should be in favour of granting him a new lease of power.

With the Premiership Mr. Balfour inherited the Cabinet of Lord Salisbury. Aided secretly by Mr. Chamberlain, he managed by trickery and concealment to force its leading members to resign, because he was aware that they would not support him in the tortuous game of pretending to differ from Mr. Chamberlain, while in reality aiding and abetting him. They have not concealed their opinion of the way in which they were treated. If Mr. Balfour cannot be trusted by his own friends, is this a reason for the country at large trusting him?

Does the Administration evolved by this process consist of men of such exceptional ability that on this score it ought to be supported? Notoriously never has nepotism been carried so far in political appointments. It has sufficed to be either a relative of the leading coterie or to belong to the aristocracy, to become a Cabinet Minister, or to occupy an administrative post outside the Cabinet. So far as the Executive is concerned, the selection has not been of the fittest, but has been prompted by family influence or the belief that those classes who have least in common with the majority of the nation, and who represent neither its intelligence nor its business capacity, are best fitted to rule it. The ablest men of Lord Salisbury's Cabinet have left it. The Cabinet is now the residuum of cousins and grandees, with a few hacks added to them of no political importance. Can the Liberals, it is impudently asked by this rump Cabinet and their friends, form a Government? Have they men whom the country can trust? My own conviction is that, if the names of all the Liberals now in Parliament were put into a bag, and offices distributed to those first drawn, so far as intelligence and business capacity are concerned, we should have a decidedly better Administration than that now in office.

Now let us look at the performances of Ministers. I think that pretty well all will admit that the

South African war, on which they specially pride themselves, was a costly mistake. Ministers themselves, indeed, would not have entered into it had they had the slightest idea of what would be its duration or its cost. Even the mine owners, for whose sake we have spent 250 millions, curse the day when they induced their friends in the Government to take up the cudgels to enable them to add to their wealth, for they are by no means so prosperous as they were before the war. The Government has allowed them to import Chinese coolies under contract to work in their mines. The importation has been permitted in defiance of popular opinion in the United Kingdom and of the Colonies. Official protests have been received from the latter, the by-elections have registered the protests at home. The Transvaal itself is well-nigh ruined. Mr. Chamberlain, when still a member of the Cabinet, induced us to guarantee a loan of thirty millions, on condition that the mine owners would themselves lend a further thirty five millions to this dependency. His successor has allowed them to shirk the payment of this *quid pro quo*. We were told during this South African war that the speculation—however costly—would prove a sound one, because it would give a vast impetus to trade. Has it? On this question any one engaged in trade can form his own conclusion.

And how about our finances? This Heaven-born Government has managed to reduce our credit by about 20 per cent. It has added enormously to our national debt. It has increased the normal Budget of the year by some fifty millions, the bulk of which is being expended upon armaments. In order to meet this unremunerative outlay, the war taxes have not only been continued, but augmented. Nor has this money been well spent, even supposing that it was necessary to increase our armaments. Every two or three years, a new scheme of army organisation has been launched because the former one had proved a failure. The only result is that the Army has been pulled to pieces, and up to the present the Ministerial reformers have been unable to put it together again. Some of our ablest and most experienced generals have been bundled out of the War Office with less ceremony than is used in dismissing a butler or coachman, to make room for others who have done nothing whatever to prove their superiority to their predecessors. The latest Ministerial reorganiser makes no secret that he would like to get rid of the Militia and Volunteers, but that he is afraid to do so. The supreme control of the Navy and Army has been taken out of the hands of the Admiralty and the War Office, and transferred to a sort of Cabinet committee, presided over by Mr. Balfour, whose toadies and henchmen have discovered in him the highest genius for strategy by land and sea. Chaos reigns everywhere, and yet we are asked to keep the present Government in office because they alone can properly organise our land and sea forces!

Look next at the Foreign Office. We have been treated by this Department to a war in Somaliland. We slew a number of Somalis, and we spent a good deal of money, but we have had to give up the mad attempt to hunt down a Mullah who entertained the wicked notion that Somaliland was not our property. The Mullah appears stronger than he ever was in the dreary and waterless deserts over which he holds sway, and the sole reward of the expedition is that the British taxpayer has to pay for it. In Tibet, too, we have been active. There was a dispute about a frontier, and Tibetan goats strayed over on to our territory. At the same time the Tibetans declined to enter into trade relations with us, because these singularly disagreeable fanatics preferred isolation. By law, no Indian troops can cross our frontier for any hostile object without the approval of Parliament. In order to evade the law our rulers sent what they termed a peaceful expedition into Tibet which slaughtered the Tibetan forces that opposed its advance. We have now occupied Lhassa, and concluded a treaty with some one there. This treaty allows no foreign Power to meddle in Tibetan affairs except ourselves. We are to have the exclusive right of working the mines, and we are to occupy a portion of Tibetan territory for a term of years, and only to withdraw at its termination, if we are paid a heavy indemnity to cover the cost of the peaceful expedition. All this has been done in the face of the pledge given by Mr. Balfour that we would annex no territory, and would absolutely and entirely withdraw from all intervention in Tibetan affairs. I see nothing in this peaceful expedition, or in the violation of law and Ministerial pledges, to lead us to be thankful that we have such Ministers. A good deal of capital is being made by the Government of having concluded a treaty with France which has brought about an *entente cordiale* between the two countries. The Radicals have been urging such a treaty for years. As a matter of fact, the *entente cordiale* was due to the action of the King, and not to his Ministers. Not infrequently I see that Unionist M.P.s, in their addresses to their bewildered electors, declare that it would be almost a national crime to change Ministers whilst a war is raging in the East. Why? The aim of Liberals is to keep out of the war. The Unionist Ministers are always being twitted by their supporters with not adopting a sufficiently firm attitude towards Russia. Many of the party would once more play the game of a foreign war in the hopes of diverting attention from home matters. If, consequently, our main object is peace, that end is more likely to be attained, as it seems to me, under a Liberal than under a Unionist Administration.

In view of its results, have we to thank the Government for its Education Act? The Party wanted to pay the Church of England for its support at the last General Election with a view to that support being continued at the next one. It therefore handed over the entire education of children in agricultural parishes, and partially so in towns, to the Church of England. Teachers in most of our schools are only to be appointed if they are Churchmen. Rates are to be levied in the expenditure of which those contributing are to have no voice. Sir John Gorst was Minister of Education when the Bill was brought in. As he was not sufficiently

whole-hearted in this scheme of sectarian bribery, he was not allowed to conduct the debate; this was done by the Premier. Since then Sir John has been improved out of the Administration. The Act has raised a hornets' nest in England. Wales is in open rebellion against it. The Nonconformists present a united front in their determined opposition to it, and many members of the Church of England deplore its passage. A more signal instance of folly than passing this Bill cannot well be conceived on the part of men whose one aim is to retain office. In bribing some they have alienated many more.

In Ireland they have been as unfortunate as in Great Britain. They had persistently resisted Home Rule. Their Party, indeed, consisted of Conservatives and Liberals pledged to die in the last ditch rather than concede it. Although Mr. Gladstone had failed to obtain Home Rule, he had carried a Bill which recognised the double ownership of the landlord and the tenant in Irish land. The landlords said that they had been robbed, for they had long made their greed the measure of the rents that they exacted. The tenants said that in many cases they were still obliged to pay a rent which exceeded all justice. The Unionists up to last year governed by coercion. Last year, however, an Act was carried which, whilst it conceded much to the tenants, did not satisfy their legitimate demands, and the landlords were placated by being given a bonus of twelve millions from the inexhaustible pocket of the British taxpayer. What has been the outcome? The tenants still demand Home Rule, and the landlords ask for it also under the specious alias of devolution. If this devolution be granted, it is a stepping stone towards an Irish Parliament. With all our experience of a Unionist Administration in its relations with Ireland, can any sane being hold that, no matter what errors they may have committed in the past, or contemplate for the future, they ought to be retained in power, because they regard Home Rule as tantamount to the disintegration of the Empire? In regard to this, as in regard to everything else, they would sacrifice principle to their personal interests.

Abroad and at home, in Great Britain and in Ireland, the present Ministry has shown itself unfit to rule. Its best men have left it. Most of its followers declare, on the one hand, that never will they consent to the taxation of food, and, on the other hand, that Mr. Chamberlain is their true leader because he insists on it. Never yet in our history has there been a more despicable chapter than the Session lately over. Never yet has a Ministry so weak in intelligence retained office. Never yet has a Premier shown himself so regardless of the honour of his high position. Never yet has there been a Chamberlain behind the scenes so defiantly the master of the nominal Ministers. For a year, bye-election after bye-election has shown that the country has no confidence in its rulers. The country is right. Not one single ground can be shown for the continuation of a régime which has failed in every department of government, degraded British politics, and reduced a great Party to humiliation and impotence.

THE BOLOGNA MURDER MYSTERY.

Some two years ago I gave an account in Truth of what was then known respecting a murder that had been committed in Bologna, because it struck me that the story was as curious as any that had been imagined by Gaboriau. The steps of justice in Italy are not always sure, but they are invariably slow. For two years witnesses have been heard before the investigating magistrate in private, and in a week or so the trial is to take place in Turin of those suspected of the murder. This is how matters stand.

In a villa close by Bologna resides Professor Murri, who is regarded as the greatest physician in Italy. He is married, and he has a son called Tullio and a daughter named Theodolinda, but called Linda. The professor is a Freethinker; Tullio is by way of being a Socialist, and as a Socialist he was elected a member of the Municipal Council of Bologna, and subsequently became its Secretary. Linda married a certain Count Buonmartini, the head of an old family of Padua, and fairly well off. The Count had rented a palace at Bologna, where he has lived since his marriage. Public opinion was under the impression that the Count ill-treated his wife, and she was regarded in Bolognese "high life" as a suffering angel. Not long after the marriage the pair decided to live separately, but under the same roof, in order to avoid open scandal and for the sake of their two children. In 1898, however, they agreed to come together again, owing to the conciliatory counsels of the Cardinal Archbishop of Bologna.

Linda had gone in August, 1902, to Venice with the children. On the afternoon of August 28 the Count returned to Bologna from a country house where he had been staying. Nothing further was heard of him for some days, and Linda telegraphed from Venice to friends in Rome and other places asking them if they knew where he was, and also to her father and brother.

On September 2 some of the tenants in the Buonmartini house informed Professor Murri that there was a pestilential odour in it, and suggested that it might be well to discover if it proceeded from the apartments occupied by his son-in-law. The Professor on this applied to the police, and police agents were sent to break open the door leading into the apartment of the Count. They were accompanied by Tullio, as the Secretary of the Municipal Council, for this was legally obligatory. No sooner was the door broken down than the corpse of the Count in a state of semi-putrefaction was discovered in the entrance-hall. His death had been clearly a violent one, for the body was stabbed in more than twelve places. By his side were his umbrella and his travelling-bag, which seemed to have fallen from his hands. On penetrating into the room a strange spectacle was disclosed. In the Count's bedroom a trunk and a wardrobe had been broken open. On a table, before which two chairs had been placed, there were the remains of a supper and a champagne bottle almost empty. The bed was disturbed, and on it was thrown a pair of silk drawers obviously belonging to a woman. On a writing-table there was a letter, apparently written by a woman, promising to pay a

visit secretly to the Count during the night of August 29. In the Countess's bedroom a wardrobe had been broken open, and in the bedroom of the two children the beds had been occupied. The conclusion arrived at was that the woman of the drawers had introduced two thieves with her, and that the three, after having robbed the Count, had killed him and then decamped. Tullio on this left for Venice to break to his sister the terrible news, and the Press and the public expressed their sympathy with Linda, and hinted that the dissipated husband had only met the fate that he merited. A few days later, Linda returned to her father's house, and the Professor, his wife, Linda, and Tullio, started for Switzerland. In the meantime the police received anonymous letters advising them to look after a certain Rosina Bonetti if they wanted to learn who had committed the crime. Bonetti was interrogated, and her statements, coupled with other evidence, led the police to suspect that Tullio himself might have been concerned in the murder. The Professor, his wife, and Linda did not remain long in Switzerland. In a few days they returned, but without Tullio.

The next event in this strange drama was that Professor Murri himself denounced his son as having killed his brother-in-law, and a few days later Tullio re-entered Italy and was at once arrested. His account to the investigating magistrate of what had occurred was as follows: He had been brought up with his sister, for whom he had always had a strong affection. Her husband was a scoundrel, always persecuting her, and perpetually engaged in low intrigues. This had rendered her so ill that he was convinced that she would lose her life if the persecution continued. During August the Count had announced to Linda that he contemplated removing to Padua with the children. She would not, as he knew, separate herself from them, and consequently she would have to accompany them. In Padua, away from her family, she was sure to die. Knowing that the Count would return to Bologna for one night, on August 28, he had concealed himself in the apartment, having entered it by means of a false key that he had had manufactured in order to be able to visit his sister when he liked without ringing the bell. When the Count entered, Tullio had reviled him for not consenting to make Bologna any longer his residence. The Count had replied that he claimed to be master in his own house. This so angered him that he had given him a blow with his fist. On this the Count had drawn a knife. In self-defence he had tried to seize this knife, and in the struggle for it the Count had been stabbed to the heart. Fearing that he might be accused of having murdered him, he had written the letter from a woman, he had broken open the wardrobes and the trunks; he had arranged the table with the half-eaten supper and the half-consumed bottle of champagne, and he had inflicted a number of wounds on the corpse, all with a view to lead to the supposition that there had been a robbery by the woman of the letter and the men she had brought with her.

The police did not believe this story, and after further investigations the Public Prosecutor ordered the arrest of Linda, Rosina Bonetti, a Dr. Secchi, and a Dr. Naldi, and they, with Tullio, are to be tried for murder at Turin during the present month. A large number of telegrams and letters passing between them, or addressed to others, have been unearthed, as has a private diary kept by the murdered Count, and the prisoners have been examined and re-examined by the investigating magistrate.

The *acte d'accusation* of the Public Prosecutor, with all the evidence on which it is based, has been published. If that official is correct, this is how the murder was committed, under what circumstances, and by whom. Linda on marrying was in love, or thought that she was, with her husband, who, far from being the cruel and dissipated character that she and her family pretended, was a quiet and kindly person, who asked for nothing better than to live on affectionate terms with his wife and his children. In 1898, however, she became the mistress of a Dr. Secchi, who had been an assistant of her father, and with whom she had already had a secret intrigue before she was married. The pair had managed to meet occasionally in Switzerland and in Germany, and they secretly used to do so in the house of a procuress in Bologna. Rosina Bonetti was the mistress of Tullio, and Linda was on intimate terms with her. The professor, judging by his letters, had been aware of his daughter's relations with Secchi, for he promised her to receive him in a friendly spirit, and explained to her that, if really she could not live without him, it would be perhaps conducive to her good spirits that she should live with him. Tullio and his mistress, Bonetti, were well aware, too, of the intrigue. When travelling in Germany with Secchi, in the early summer of 1902, on the plea of having been ordered to take the waters at a German spa, an active correspondence took place between Tullio and Linda as to the best means of killing the Count without being discovered. Secchi, who was in the secret, suggested kurare (the poison in which the Indians of the Amazon Valley plunge their arrows). The two therefore purchased some kurare in Darmstadt, and a syringe wherewith to apply it later. On their return to Bologna Secchi and Tullio experimented with the kurare on a lamb. After this Linda went to Venice for sea-bathing with her children and with Rosina Bonetti, whom she had taken into her service under a feigned name. There Tullio visited her, and he and the two women commenced the plan of campaign against the life of the Count. Their first idea was that the Count should be asked to come to Venice, where Tullio should challenge him to a friendly wrestling match some evening whilst the four were together, and that, having thrown him, one or other of the women should inject kurare into his arm or leg with the syringe. This plan, however, was not adopted. They all knew that the Count would return to Bologna for a night on the 28th of August. It was, therefore, eventually decided that he should be despatched then, in his own house.

Rosina was then sent back to Bologna with the key of the door of the apartment, but was to lodge in her own house. Tullio, thinking that two men could more easily

kill another than one, on his return to Bologna explained the situation to a certain Naldi, who for 3,000 frs., which were provided by Secchi, agreed to take part in the assassination. During the night of the 27th Rosina let Tullio and Naldi into the Buonmartini apartment, and later on brought them supper and the pair of drawers. They passed the rest of the night and the subsequent day there. At about 5 p.m. of the 28th the Count reached his house in a fiacre from the station, and on entering his apartment, was killed by them, the position of the wounds and other details showing that the murder must have been committed by two men, and that a desperate struggle had taken place between the murderers and their victim. So soon as the Count had been killed, Naldi left the house, went to the room in which he lived, changed his clothes, for those that he had been wearing were stained with blood, drove to the station, caught a train that was leaving for Florence, and thence betook himself to Genoa. When it was quite dark Rosina returned to the scene of the murder, the trunks were broken open, and everything in the apartment was arranged so as to give the idea of a robbery by a woman and by two or more men. Tullio and Rosina betook themselves to Rosina's room, for Tullio had been stabbed in the arm by the Count during the struggle, and Secchi was called in there to dress the wound.

As a matter of fact, although robbery had not been the motive of the crime, the Count had been robbed of about 3,000 fr. which he had had in his pocket when he was killed, the chief part of this being taken by Tullio, and the smaller part by Naldi. The Public Prosecutor, in his summing-up of the case, seems to consider Linda to have been the most guilty. She, whilst posing as a suffering saint in Bologna society, deliberately calumniated her husband, and really did persuade her father and her brother that, unless an end in some way was put to her marriage, and she were left with her children, she would succumb to the nervous affection that was undermining her constitution. Her objection to go to Padua was mainly, according to the Public Prosecutor, that she would be unable to continue her relations with Secchi. Her letters to him show that she is an exceptionally depraved neurotic degenerate. Tullio frequently borrowed money of her to play at Monte Carlo, or to give to his mistress, or otherwise to divert himself. If the murder had not been brought home to its authors, she would have had the spending of her husband's income, and Tullio would no doubt have aided her in doing so. This, probably even more than fraternal affection, led him to commit murder. As for the Professor, he, too, seems to have thought that, if the Count were to die, all would be for the best, although there is no evidence to prove that he was actually privy to the plan of campaign. The evidence that Linda was privy to it is overwhelming, although Secchi, Tullio, and Bonetti deny that she was. Altogether the Murri family seems to have been a peculiar one. As the Professor and his son were Freethinkers, and the latter a Socialist, whilst the murdered Count was a devout Catholic, the Socialists, therefore, are somewhat inclined to side with the Murris, whilst the Catholics are all on the side of the Count.

In Italy there seems to be no rule against discussing a matter *sub judice*. The newspapers discuss the facts, real and assumed, and express their opinions on the guilt or innocence of the accused parties without any fear of contempt of court. So strong is party spirit in Italy that if the jury had to be unanimous in their verdict, as with us, I doubt whether any of the accused would be found guilty. As, however, the verdict is that of a majority, probably Tullio, Rosina, Secchi, and Naldi will be found guilty, and very possibly Linda also. Such a curious light does the whole affair throw upon the secret history of a family heretofore regarded as exceptionally respectable, so cynically immoral have its members shown themselves in their letters, and so ruthless in their action, whilst at the same time apparently animated by the strongest affection for each other, that I would recommend some dramatist of the decadent school to study the case carefully with a view to found a play on it.

THE THEATRES.

Wanted—A "*Théâtre Lucille.*"

There is no occasion now to criticise "The Golden Light" at the Savoy. That amazingly inept production is dead, and had best be forgotten, together with all the fatuous talk about emotional dresses and "chiffonery" which preceded it; but the occasion will serve for a few remarks on two or three relevant matters. In the first place, I would like to suggest that, as to a certain number of people the costuming of a play is vastly more important than the play itself, would it not be well to settle the thing once and for all by having a "*Théâtre Lucile,*" whither could go all those who take a passionate interest in the dressmaker's art, while lovers of the drama could look for plays elsewhere. Any one could write for the "*Théâtre Lucile.*" The only qualifications necessary would be an abysmal ignorance of human nature and a mind well stored with knowledge of life as set forth in the back numbers of the *Family Herald* and the current numbers of *Forget-Me-Not*. I have always understood that women make hairpins serve an infinite variety of purposes, but this is the first play I have come across which suggests that it was written with a hairpin. It would be easy, too, to get together a good company of actresses who, unable to express emotion by acting, could portray the growth of hate in a crescendo of hats and the waning of love in lace and *lingerie*. It is an outrage, though, on the average playgoer to lure him into a theatre on the pretence of seeing a play and offer him instead such a farrago of inanities as "The Golden Light;" and it is almost tragic to see actors who really do understand their business—such as Mr. Abingdon and Mr. Gilbert Hare—struggling to play men in a world of semi-imbeciles and dressmakers' models. With a management which produces such nonsense I have no sympathy. Many people say that it is tragic to see a

production fail on which so much money has been lavished. It would be more tragic to me to see a "Golden Light" succeed. Then I should, indeed, feel that the state of the drama in England was hopeless. The sorry fact is that we are incurably a nation of amateurs, and the appalling folly of allowing a theatre (which is a business enterprise) to be run by an amateur with no knowledge of business is continually producing disastrous consequences. I have no sort of pity for Mrs. Brown-Potter, or her sister, who, I understand, wrote the play; they can presumably afford to lose the money, and any one with any experience could have told them, if they had chosen to ask, that the play was a futile thing; but I have very great sympathy with the company they engaged. It is cruelly hard on a number of people to engage them for a play such as this—to rehearse them for five or six weeks, and then turn them away with three or six nights' salary. If folly only hurt the original perpetrator, it would not matter, but, unfortunately, life is more complicated than that. I know it is difficult to forecast which plays will succeed and which fail, but any one who predicted success for "The Golden Light" should at once see his or her medical attendant.

"His Highness my Husband," at the Comedy.

Mr. William Boosey's "fantastic comedy," adapted from the French of Chancel and Xanrof, is a problem play, with the real problem burked at the finish. In the original, I believe it was very Gallic, but the improprieties have been very cleverly eliminated, and the result is a delightful light comedy, well played and well staged, though the underlying motive is not comedy but tragedy. Miss Miriam Clements (why has no one annexed Miss Clements for leading lady before? she is not great, but very competent and charming) is the queen of a country which has its prototype on the map of Europe. She marries Mr. Eric Lewis's son, and as Mr. Eric Lewis, ex-King of Ingra, is a sort of King Milan, it need not be said that he is a delightful character. Unfortunately this son, Mr. Leonard Boyne, is a young man of spirit, and when he fully realises the monstrous indignities which hedge a Prince Consort, he tries to rough-hew himself a way out. Like poor Freddie Tatton in "The Liars," he learns that Court ministers, and even his charming, high-spirited young Queen, intend him to be merely a cipher in his wife's home, and he rebels with much more success than the unfortunate Mr. Tatton. He may love his Queen, and she may love him, but his duties are merely to dance attendance on her. He is necessary, in short, because the country requires an heir to the throne, and the enviable state of a man in his position is shown almost tragically, though it has its ridiculous side. It is really a problem play, dealt with in a fantastic spirit; so when the Queen is made to feel the degradations under which her husband suffers, she shatters the Constitution to bits, and re-models it nearer to her heart's desire. Henceforward she and her consort will rule together. This is where the fantasy comes in. On the map of Europe Constitutions are tougher and less easily re-modelled. The degradation of an individual is but a fly on their iron wheels. The part of the Prince is one which Mr. Alexander might have taken. Mr. Leonard Boyne, though admirable in his one big scene, seemed to me to miss the right note in his playing of the devoted, high-spirited young lover. He is not quite the youthful, distinguished Prince in the way that Miss Clements is the youthful Queen. Miss Clements is usually rather handicapped by a chronic smile, but she shows here that she can emancipate herself from it, and she gave us real feeling and withal never lost her distinction. She was always the Queen. Miss Lottie Venne as the Queen Mother played Miss Lottie Venne delightfully, and I never wish to see her play any one else. Whether making love to a magnificent young guardsman or flinging herself into the arms of the ex-King of Ingra, she was richly humorous, and of Mr. Lewis I have already spoken. He is always subtle, restrained, and finished. Comedy in his hands is invariably safe. When the curtain falls we are given to understand very plainly that there will soon be a hundred and one guns fired in Corconia, and I sincerely trust, for the sake of the happiness of the ruling house, that the salute will be this number—and nothing less. The last act, in which the problem is solved, is the least satisfactory of the three, but "His Highness my Husband," is quite the most amusing contribution to the Handicap of Marriage discussion which I have come across, and I should be very pleased to renew its acquaintance any evening. In the words of old Peggotty, "I can't say no fairer than that."

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At the Imperial Theatre to-morrow night Mr. Lewis Waller will produce "His Majesty's Servant," by Sarah Barnwell Elliott and Maud Hosford. The cast includes Mr. H. V. Esmond, Mr. Norman McKinnel, Mr. Frank Dyall, Mr. John Beauchamp, Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Pollie Emery, Miss Darragh, Miss Evelyn Millard, and, of course, Mr. Waller, who will play Geoffrey Mohun, the actor.

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I have so many old and pleasant associations with Hengler's Circus, in Argyll-street, that I was glad to revive old memories the other evening by visiting the Royal Italian Circus, which, controlled by Mr. Horace Livermore and Signor B. Volpi, is so admirably carrying on the old tradition. There is a truly wonderful collection of perfectly-trained animals, including ponies, bears, dogs, monkeys, and goats, and, though I am not an enthusiast about animal performers, I was both fascinated and amused. They are mummers, too, are some of these animals, and their intelligence is remarkable; indeed, I am not at all sure that something might not be learned from them by a few of our human performers. The whole entertainment is carried through with a dash and spirit which puts out of court any idea of dulness, and those who will go Argyll-street way will certainly not regret it.

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The production of Mr. Pinero's new play at Wyndham's, "A Wife Without a Smile," has now been definitely fixed for Wednesday next week.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

PARISIAN CELESTIALS.

THE Chinese Minister has lived in a glass house in the Avenue Hoche. He supplemented this residence with a villa near the west end of the Bois, where he gave birthday parties to his compatriots, not in Paris merely, but in other parts of Europe. These fêtes had Celestial colour, with which European was combined. The ladies stood near the door of the second salon close to the Minister to receive the company. They had Chinese coiffures and wore pink or light yellow or white satin robes, bright with embroidered flowers that looked as if just culled in the garden. Complexions must have seemed dingy in contrast with the high lights of the satin if art had not been used to make them harmonise. The pigments with which this object had been effected had the vivid colour of enamel, and, with the dark, oblique little eyes, the small, smiling mouths, touched up with vermilion, really embellished in a strange, exotic way. A portrait of the Emperor on a silk panel reaching from floor to ceiling, and bordered with peacocks' feathers, hung in the room where the Minister and his family remained until guests ceased to flow in. At a buffet *à l'Européen* one could have black dragon tea made in metal teacups, tea in teapots—a fearful barbarism—and champagne. The black dragon tea is not in the market. It is grown for the special use of the Emperor and of grandees and officials to whom he, according to custom, sends as presents boxes of this tea. The servant puts a pinch into a cup, which he covers with a peculiarly shaped saucer. When it is sufficiently infused, one drinks out of the cup, holding with one's thumb the saucer down on it. In this way the leaves do not pass into the mouth. The taste is a little bitter, but the bouquet is delicious. Young Celestials studying in European schools and faculties came in swallow-tailed coats and white cravats, and felt, I dare say, miserable in their patent leather boots. These boots martyrise Asiatics, whether yellow or brown. A Chinese assured me that among the reasons why the Japanese did not wish special correspondents to see them campaigning was their fear of being laughed at for marching barefoot. They go into battle with their military shoes on. In marching they keep their shoes slung on their rifles, and in this way avoid being foot-sore, when the ground is not stony. It is not allowable for a Chinese youth to lay aside his Celestial garments in this country without a dispensation from the Emperor.

The Chinese Minister shifts the Imperial flag to a detached house or pavilion, well hidden from the public gaze, in the quietest part of Paris—the Rue Babylone. This street is remarkable for its sequestered air. It is to the rest of Paris what Moscow is to St. Petersburg. There is a great continuity of arboreal shade behind the walls that bound the street and enclose the gardens of convents, asylums, and old-fashioned private houses. Eugène Sue found in the Rue Babylone a luxurious and mysterious residence for one of his heroines, Adrienne de Cardoville, who used to receive there Djalma, the Indian Prince. Among the adjacent gardens are those of the Austrian Embassy, of the Palace of the Archbishop of Paris, of the school convent of Les Oiseaux for the daughters of gilt-edged aristocrats, and the wide-reaching grounds of the private hospital of the Brethren of St. Jean de Dieu in the Rue Oudinot. I often hear nightingales sing in the Rue Babylone. Roses flourish in the gardens there, the air has such country purity. Taine for many years lived close by, in the Rue de Vaneau. The garden behind the house of Mr. and Mrs. Harris Phelps in that street could boast of a rookery in its fine old trees.

The Chinese Minister will be the tenant of a Mme. Morin, a wealthy person whose fortune, I believe, had a business source. She lives in a large detached house which screens the new Legation, to which there is an independent entrance. The grounds of the landlady and tenant are separated by a high railing, mantled with ivy, which hides a screen of sheet iron. The ladies of the family will enjoy all the privacy they can wish for, and will not be disturbed by street noises. Just now the Minister wants to be out of the reach of prying eyes. The instructions from Pekin may be thus summed up—watchfulness and prudence more requisite than ever.

The division of Kuropatkin's army into two halves (for it comes to that) disconcerts us. A member of the General Staff at the French War Office, who has furnished us with a daily summary of military events in Manchuria, has thrown aside his pen in annoyance. We are reminded that at the beginning of the 1870 campaign there was an army of the Rhine under MacMahon and an army of Metz under Bazaine, and that the two were at sixes and sevens. If the Czar knew human nature he would have shrunk from a measure that must belittle Kuropatkin. All the time-servers under him will set their watches according to Gripenberg's. In cases of conflict, or even the merest differences of opinion, they will, so far as they can, side with Gripenberg. He has been the last in touch with the Imperial Master, and he has the Court at his back. Two years ago he had an attack of apoplexy, and he is sixty-six. We know much less of him here than of Alexeieff, Kuropatkin, and Dragomiroff. Gripenberg, however, was as a shuttle between St. Petersburg and Paris in the early years of the alliance and in the preparatory period. He is not a German, but a Swede of Livonia; is looked up to as at once a theorist and a "strong man" who will get out of soldiers and regimental officers all they can be expected to give. A Lutheran, he will have less faith in icons than Kuropatkin, who is sincerely pious and has the tenderness of heart of one brought up among good-natured village moujiks.

A Grand Duke is to act as buffer between the two Commanders-in-Chief. The Grand Duke Nicholas Nicolaievitch is spoken of. He is said to be the only member of the Imperial Family qualified to act as standing umpire. I should not wonder if the Japanese are reining themselves in to see what the *remue-ménage* just accomplished may bring forth. Nicholas Nicolaie-

vitch's father commanded, and not with brilliant results, on the Danube in 1877. Speculators in army stores made golden harvests. Grieg, the Finance Minister, denounced to Alexander II. two colossal jobs in which the Roumanian branch of a Vienna firm and certain agents of the Grand Duke made £6,000,000. The upshot of Grieg's intervention was the exile of the Grand Duke to his country place. He obtained leave to come here, and resided in the circular street surrounding the Place de l'Etoile. An attack of cancer in the mouth recommended him to the lenity of Alexander III. He saw him a victim of sharks who found their opportunity to job in his unsuspecting temper. The late Czar allowed him to settle again in St. Petersburg, where he died soon after he left Paris. His son, who is spoken of as a kind of moderator over Alexeieff and the two Generals-in-Chief, is Inspector-General of Cavalry. He is forty-eight, and the only Grand Duke who has remained a bachelor so ripe an age. His only brother, Peter, is a son-in-law of the Prince of Montenegro.

The French professor of Prince Henry of Prussia one day read to him the following exercise for translation: "Sovereign ladies have not merely an air of majesty, but a gracious deportment peculiar to them." The Prince laid down his pen, and raised his hand. "Have you any remark to make?" asked the teacher. "Only this: do you or do you not wish to teach me to be truthful?" "Certainly, I wish to teach you truthfulness." "Let me tell you, then, that I have known sovereign ladies all my life, and never noticed in them any majesty, or peculiar grace of deportment. Quite the contrary. Ought we not, therefore, to omit the phrase you have just read?" The professor said that he respected the scruples of his pupil. He could not, however, correct an exercise book which had been carefully inspected before being set down on the list for study. Besides, the taste of a boy of twelve differed from that of an adult. He might hereafter see majesty and grace where he now sees none. Henry took up his pen and wrote out the phrase in French. He then uttered a groan and observed: "It's an awful shame to foist such books upon us."

Apparently the German Crown Prince received a similar impression when told to select a wife from a list of princesses submitted to him. He had the option of preliminary inspection before making a choice. He had seen less taking qualities at the German Courts than on the lyric stage. A Miss Farren, of the Berlin Opera House, for some time held his attention. Miss, or Fräulein, Frizi Scheff next exerted an enthralling spell. She is now the foremost star in comic opera at the Illinois Theatre, Chicago, where she is nightly pelted with bouquets by an enthusiastic public. Her part is that of Rose Decourcelles, in an adaptation on French lines of "She Stoops to Conquer." A single criticism is offered: She would be perfect if she did not gargle her ch's and drop her r's. Carré thinks seriously of making her an offer for November next year. He has read in an American paper that recalls are so numerous at the Illinois Theatre that the management have to do their utmost to restrain the encore fiend out of justice to the other singers. We may soon see her photo for sale on the Boulevards along with that of Duchess Cecilie. Miss Frizi Scheff is fair, has finely-cut features, and a complexion in which the rose and lily are finely fused.

It is fortunate for the charming singer that romantic literature no longer holds the minds of novel readers. When Victor Hugo, old Dumas, and George Sand wrote, the belief prevailed that for every loving heart there was one of the opposite sex. These two hearts when they met exercised an irresistible attraction. When they failed to meet there were vague unsatisfied longings that made for matrimonial misery. Romance of this sort is now dead, save at the old-fashioned Court of Austria. There the influence of romantic literature and its sub-products is yet active. Hence the plunges in the Imperial family into morganatic matrimony, elopements, suicides, and undignified tragedy. A vulgar fight before the law courts now goes on between Clotilde, youngest morganatic daughter of the late Archduke Ernest, and Imperial aunts, uncles, and cousins, who want to keep the civil heritage she claims. They have failed to set aside the morganatic marriage of Ernest and Laura Stublitz, and have resorted to unworthy subterfuges to keep his private fortune. Four children came of the marriage of Ernest and Laura. The eldest was placed for some years in a school near Paris for children of "slow development." She there learned to feed herself and to button her own boots. The eldest son, named Ernest after his archducal father, also spent some years in a French school to prepare him for the army, which he entered from the Theresa Military College. He ran deeply into debt, was cashiered, and fell from low to lower social grade until he had used up his influence, and became an omnibus driver. Steam trams driving him from this situation, he lived as he could by copying plays for theatres. Here progress again pressed on him cruelly, in the shape of the typewriter. Bereft of employment, he fell ill from despair and want, and, dying, left a number of children. His second brother studied law to qualify him for a post in the judicature, and might have done well had not tuberculosis lain in wait for him. He avoided a lingering death by suicide. Clotilde, the fourth child of the morganatic marriage, is now at law with her Imperial aunts and uncles for her father's private property, and seems likely to win her suit. She is in poor health. The Empress Elizabeth used to show her kindness, and thought she had the pluck requisite for the calling she most admired—that of circus rider. Pluck, however, without a sound physique is as the sharp sword that soon wears out the scabbard.

That whilom star of the café concert, Theresa, has recovered from a long illness, and is again able to attend to her farm, which embraces sixty acres of pasture and ninety of arable land. She lives in a snugly-appointed and quite unpretending villa of Les Lauriers, near farm buildings walled in, and giving

evidence of rural wealth and good husbandry. Members of her own and her husband's family are always coming and going as visitors. Her æsthetic tastes find satisfaction in the neighbouring forest of Perseigne, and in the high breeds of her cattle and poultry. As age creeps on she lets her acres more and more to graziers and peasants, but still keeps on her dairy and poultry yard. Her visits to Paris are few and far between. She finds herself lost in the *monde* that has arisen since a Court carriage used to be sent to fetch her to the Tuileries. The sunset of her career is serene and quietly happy. The parish priest esteems her. She devoted the lace flounces of a former concert-room dress to an altar of St. Joseph, her favourite saint, in his church, and supplies his church every third Sunday with brioche for *pain bénit*. Thérésa had the genius of diction. I only heard Miss Cushman when she had grown decrepit and almost voiceless from old age. Still, she retained enough of her former power to impress me as a sister spirit of Thérésa, with, however, less artistic sensibility. I can conceive nothing more perfect than Thérésa in her peculiar line, either in low comedy songs or in songs intended to make nerves quiver and blood run cold. She could be grand with simplicity, noble with ease, or *la canaille*, as if she passed her whole life among the *voyoucratie* of the Place Maubert. I believe she was the only woman ever invited to the dinners of Le Caveau. The authors of songs and sonnets who met there felt almost awestruck by her modesty, and, as it seemed to them, innate distinction. I saw her a few years ago at her farm. She was then just *la bonne fermière* who stands well with her banker and owes nobody a grudge. Edmond About hailed her in her early days as "the granddaughter of Rabelais." She tried to live up to the title, but is not sure she deserved it. She, however, lets herself be called *la mère de la chanson*. No country but the pleasant land of France could produce a Thérésa.

I heard four persons describe Talma, whose statue was unveiled last week at Poix du Nord. They were the Comtesse d'Agould, mother of the first Mme. Emile Ollivier, Victor Hugo, Philibert Audebrand, and an aged Comte or Marquis, brother-in-law of Massenet, and a member of Louis XVIII.'s household. All agreed in their estimate of his grand personality and his thoroughly emancipated genius. He had a fine figure, and a face that lent itself to deep thought, noble emotions, the varied play of a brilliant as well as a capacious mind. He had graduated in a unique conservatoire—the French Revolution—had watched the by-play of history in action, been the friend of heroes, and been supplanted by one of them—Napoleon—with an actress whom he passionately loved. In private life Talma was all goodness, and sweetly noble and unexpectedly original in a bland way. He liked to *faire des heureux*. The passion of his later years was gardening at his country place at Brunoy. He had a poor idea of monarchs born in the purple from having seen them at Erfurt and behind the scenes at the Français. Alexander I. struck him as a giant stuffed with bran. Talma bore no trace of his very humble origin. His father was a valet. Growing sick of a menial life he became a dentist. Dentistry meant chiefly tooth-drawing in his time. The son also took up this business. He went to London to perfect himself, saw Garrick, in whom he found almost a countryman, became enamoured of Shakespeare, grew stage-struck, and, to his father's deep grief, became an actor. He pressed Victor Hugo, when the latter consulted him about his drama of "Cromwell," to keep close to Shakespeare in being of his age and in following personal inspiration. To be constantly well-inspired he must seek not merely to be plausible and to write the truth, but to be true. Veneer was as ugly in an author as in furniture. A grand feature of the Empire, which had fallen seven years previously, was the absence at the cabinet-maker's and everywhere else of veneer. The bulletins of Napoleon sometimes lied so far as the letter went; beneath the surface they were true. Talma borrowed from Garrick his way of dressing Greek and Roman personages in the costumes of their time and country. He had a specially-made wig for Sylla and Augustus Cæsar copied from their statues. It remained among the properties of the Français. Got used to wear it in acting the funny, corpulent little abbé in "Il ne faut jurer de rien." This priest is a rural character. The hairdresser of the theatre in a few turns of the wrist and twists of the comb completely altered the style of the Roman tyrant's wig.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

MILLIONAIRES and Morals, dear Lady Betty, is an important subject, for, if the influence of the former on the latter has as yet had no other obviously serious consequences, it is mainly due to it that we are entitled to describe the modern English gentleman as possessing the manners of the costermonger and the morals of the convict.

There have never been so many irregularly-made millionaires in this country as there are at the moment: men who, having risen in an instant from the gutter, may fall in another to the gaol. It is commonly insisted that several of them have acquired their fortunes discreditably, and it is generally maintained that there are even a multitude of skeletons in some of those millionaire cupboards.

Many of them are conspicuously unrefined men, the carthorses of the race, and for the first time in England since barbarous days the human carthorse dominates and the human racehorse ranks as his inferior. The thought may be more clearly conveyed by means of the following conversation:—

The Racehorse:—"I have the instincts of my breed, refinement, education, and imagination. Ever since the first signs of civilisation appeared I have been accounted your superior, and I am."

The Carthorse:—"A fig for your correct instincts and attainments, for your education and indignation! Who dare call money illiterate now? I have the house in Mayfair, and the million in the funds, and the leaders in the community are my allies and admirers. Bury your principles and accomplishments, and employ your imagination in devising colossal crimes, for the racehorse days in this country are over. The English on the decline have decided that wealth, however made and by whomsoever possessed, is to be preferred to principle, education, refinement, and imagination."

The Racehorse *(despondingly)*:—"It is as you say: I must be brutalised; I, too, must toil on the fields and on the roads, and must abandon the aspirations which inspired me, and were formerly so greatly esteemed. The process has been reversed now—it is from the shafts to the saddle!

The orator becomes a "debater," he hits viciously, is quick at retort, and is a cunning and an unscrupulous manipulator of men and events; the clergyman preaches without conviction, for the discreditable record of the millionaire squire has unsettled his faith; the artist at his easel is distracted by visions of illusory gold-mines; the doctor cannot conscientiously attend to the case, for his mind is in the "City"; and the poet cultivates the muse negligently, for it is money, not inspiration, that now secures fame!

Meanwhile the attitude assumed by those who are leaders in the community recalls a memorable reply uttered by Lord Thurlow. A deputation of Nonconformists described their grievances to him. After attending to the matter for a while, he interrupted the address, and said: "I am an upholder of the Established Church; not that I care for the Established Church, but I uphold it, because it is the Established Church. Get your d——d sect established in its place, and then I will uphold that. I wish you good morning." Our leaders now say in effect: "I am a supporter of the millionaire; not that I care for him, but because he is a millionaire. Get the d——d promoter convicted, and then I will denounce him, as you do!"

When the thoughtful and impartial approach death they say to themselves: "These, those, and the other virtues, defects, and peculiarities have shaped the course of my life. Circumstances may appear on the surface to have directed it, but my virtues, defects, or peculiarities have generally caused the circumstances—for good or evil—to arise, and, when for the latter, have made my efforts to overcome them unsuccessful." The individual has the career that he deserves; the nation, the history that it deserves. Does England deserve the decay in a multitude of directions which is attributed to her, when, as in our generation, millions may thrive without morals, and morals and merit may not without millions?

* * * * *

He whose happiness depends on that which others think must necessarily be unhappy, for there is nothing so unsettled as criticism.

. . . . .

The Army and the Navy may make a nation large; it is the thinkers and toilers alone that make it great.

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The museum formed by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, which is one of the most curious collections ever gathered together, appears to have entirely escaped the notice of the Press and the public. The museum contains the "cow" which was associated with the phantom "three acres;" the "round-table," at which no business was transacted; the "long spoon," which almost plunged us into a war with Russia; the "hour-glass," which helped to involve us in an unnecessary war with the Transvaal; the "parrot," which was for a time a prominent contributor to the *Daily Express*, and died of mortification; and the "loaf" that was as hollow as are the arguments advanced in favour of Protection. Those are the "properties" Mr. Chamberlain has used during a long political career in his persistent endeavours to become Prime Minister of England. Historians do not inform us that any other British or foreign statesman has ever employed such a curious assortment. Most of the former, however, and, indeed, the vast majority of men and women who have attained celebrity, have bequeathed to posterity a number of memorable and illuminating phrases and expressions, for great minds must necessarily think great thoughts. The shot-gun was not made for the shell.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT was stated last week by a daily paper that disappointment had been caused at Newmarket in consequence of the King not attending the First October meeting. This is the purest of inventions, for the King never entertained any idea of being at Newmarket last week, nor was his Majesty expected, as he has never attended this meeting. The First October is generally regarded as being the off-week of the three autumn meetings, but the sport is usually of considerable interest, while the fields are fully up to the average.

The Great Foal Stakes brought out half a dozen starters, and there was heavy and close betting between St. Denis, Lochryan, and St. Amant. The infatuated backers of Mr. L. de Rothschild's colt must surely have been unaware of the fact that he has latterly shown a great deal of temper in his gallops, and he appears also to have become a perfect savage. Even, however, if St. Amant had been giving satisfaction in his work it was impossible to conceive him being capable of giving 22 lb. to St. Denis and 17 lb. to Lochryan over this course (A.F.), and, as all reasonable people expected, he had no chance with this pair. The defeat of St. Denis by such a moderate colt as Lochryan (who, moreover, was giving 5 lb.) proves the correctness of the view of Mr. Joel's animal which was expressed in Truth after the Derby, and confirmed my opinion as to the fatuity and absurdity of the ganders who cackled about the probability that he would be able to win the Jockey Club Stakes. There was a most exciting finish for the Great Foal Stakes, there being practically only two in the race during the last half-mile.

Almscliff would have found no difficulty in winning the three-year-old heat of the Triennial but for his having apparently been indulged. A less game colt would probably have been beaten by Leucadia, a mare that is "stones" behind Pretty Polly. Almscliff ought to train on into a very useful four-year-old, and as he is a sound, honest colt, and a good stayer, he should win some good races for Lord Harewood next season. His only engagement is the four-year-old heat of the Newmarket Triennial, but if all goes well he will no doubt be entered for the Gold Vase at Ascot and for the Alexandra Plate.

Mintagon was for some days a strong tip for whichever of his Newmarket engagements he should fulfil—the Great Foal Stakes or the Jockey Club Stakes—but the colt did not leave Beckhampton, so I suppose that either he was beaten in his trial or he went amiss. It was the general talk at Newmarket that he would be the most dangerous opponent of Rock Sand on Thursday. Mintagon is entered for both the big races at Gatwick the week after next—the Gatwick Stakes of £5,000 (one mile and a half) and the Surrey Stakes of £2,500 (seven furlongs)—and if he is worth keeping in training he certainly ought to be able to win the former race if he can stay the course, as he will have much the best of the weights with Rydal Head, Henry the First, William Rufus, Lancashire, Darley Dale, and St. Amant, which are the best of the lot left in. St. Denis looks very dangerous unless Mintagon is good enough to defeat him at even weights, and he ought to have been put aside for this engagement after his race on Tuesday. This race would have been a certainty for John o' Gaunt if all had gone well with him.

I have always maintained that the Jockey Club Stakes must be a good thing for Rock Sand so long as he kept well, as the breeding allowance which he was so ridiculously and unfairly allowed gave him an advantage which none of his opponents could hope to overcome. It is in the greatest degree preposterous that a horse which has won the Two Thousand, Derby, and St. Leger should be permitted as a four-year-old and as a five-year-old to go on claiming a breeding allowance, and the sooner such buffooneries are stopped the better it will be. Rock Sand utterly squabashed all interest in this year's Princess of Wales's Stakes, and, thanks to his ridiculous breeding

allowance, next season's race also appears to be an absolute certainty for him. The first news which greeted people on arriving at Newmarket was the announcement that Rock Sand had been stopped in his work for three days, and that his action had been most faulty in a slow gallop on Monday morning, so he was generally supposed to be lame, and the cackle all over the place was that he would not start for the Jockey Club Stakes, and that if he did go to the post he would break down in the race. As a matter of fact, he would probably have remained in his stable but for rain falling heavily on Wednesday. Sir James Miller's horse certainly appeared to be lame before he went to the post, but the race did him good, for he seemed all right afterwards, and walked about as if he were perfectly sound. It is not the first time that Rock Sand has thus caused great anxiety to his trainer. He won easily at the finish, and it is difficult to estimate the amount of weight which he had in hand. He is a lazy horse, and so curiously slovenly in his manner of running a race until he is called upon in earnest that he has appeared to be beaten over and over again, but has afterwards won all right. Rock Sand very much resembles Isinglass, who had the same peculiarity, but not to so considerable an extent. Rock Sand is evidently as much superior to this season's three-year-old colts as he was inferior twelve months ago to Sceptre and Ard Patrick. He has been a very lucky horse on the Turf, as his defeats by Sceptre at Newmarket as a three-year-old and by Zinfandel at Epsom as a four-year-old prove conclusively that he cannot be regarded as a flyer of the highest class.

Henry the First, who started an equal favourite with Rock Sand (on whom odds would have been betted but for the unfavourable reports respecting his condition), was the general tip for this race, and carried the money of most of the clever people, while the public supported Sir James Miller's horse. Henry the First and William Rufus had both been doing very well since Doncaster, and as both horses have been at various times unfortunate it was satisfactory to see Mr. Musker garnering in the extravagant sum which was deducted from the advertised value of the stake for second and third. Foundling, however, was distinctly third best, but I cannot think that the form represented a satisfactory Cesarewitch trial. No doubt Foundling will be well suited by the extra distance next week, but he is a horse that requires a great deal of riding, and in the Cesarewitch his jockey will have all his work cut out for him. St. Amant ran very badly, but he has no pretension to stay a severe mile and three-quarters, and Mr. de Rothschild would have done very much better if he had taken the advice which was given to him in Truth and had withdrawn the Derby winner from his Newmarket engagements in order that he might be kept fresh for the valuable seven furlongs race at Gatwick on the 19th. Rydal Head's performance was deplorable, and the excuse about his being unable to stay the course was all moonshine, inasmuch as he had proved that he possesses stamina by his victory in the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Ascot. Lochryan and St. Denis, who had finished first and second on Tuesday for the Great Foal Stakes, were among the beaten lot. It was a *bêtise* to start St. Denis for this race after his defeat on Tuesday, as, on that running, he could not have had the ghost of the shadow of a chance of even gaining a place, and the colt would have been very much the better for a rest.

The race for the Jockey Club Stakes has never yet resulted in a really exciting finish, but there has usually been a field of high class, the list of winners during the last eleven years including Isinglass, Persimmon, Cyllene, Flying Fox, and Sceptre. Rock Sand cannot fairly claim such a high place in the equine temple of fame as those animals, but he is considerably superior in class to other winners of this race, notably the American horse Disguise II., Laveno, Love Wisely, Pietermaritzburg, and Rising Glass. If Rock Sand is kept in training for another year he may repeat his victory twelve months hence if only he can defeat M. E. Blanc's candidate. As to next year's Prince of Wales's Stakes, which will again be a race of £10,000, the value not being reduced to £6,000 until 1907, Rock Sand will meet Henry the First, William Rufus, St. Amant, and other animals which finished behind him last Thursday on precisely the same terms, and the only possible danger would seem to be a resurrection of John o' Gaunt, who, when well, is no doubt the best of the English three-year-old colts. It is, however, questionable whether John o' Gaunt could defeat Rock Sand with an advantage of only 5 lb. in the weights. Rock Sand has now run in twenty races, of which he has won sixteen, his defeats being in the Middle Park Plate, the Eclipse Stakes, the Jockey Club Stakes of 1903, and the Coronation Cup at Epsom. The horse has won £48,082 in stakes, so Sir James Miller can afford to find a failure in Rock Sand's own brother, San Roque, who has never started, and who was actually written up early in the spring by some mooncalves as a promising Derby outsider. Truth then warned the speculative public that San Roque was never likely to prove of much value as a racer, and the colt has already forfeited nearly forty engagements, including many heavy events, so there must be a large deficit in his stake account. If Rock Sand is kept in training for another season, and all goes well with him, he ought to reach the first place in the list of horses with large winnings. At present he stands third, Isinglass being first with £57,456, and Donovan second with £55,154. Flying Fox, who comes fourth with £40,096, would have won over £60,000 if the late Duke of Westminster had lived for another year, as all three of the "£10,000" races of 1900 were at his mercy, and also the Ascot Cup.

There will be a very large attendance at Newmarket next week, as both the King and the Prince of Wales are to be down, and there is the prospect of some excellent racing.

On Tuesday the Champion Stakes of £1,000 appears likely to turn out another good thing for that most fortunate horse Rock Sand, in the absence of Sceptre and Pretty Polly. I cannot conceive why Zinfandel was not entered for this race, which would be a good thing for him on the Epsom running. The distance is too far for St. Amant, and Rock Sand holds William Rufus safe enough on public running. The Royal Stakes may be left to Henry the First. The Newmarket Oaks would have been as good as a walk-over for Pretty Polly, but she will not run at Newmarket. Leucadia ought to be able to win this stake for Mr. D. Baird. The Lowther Stakes is another race from which Zinfandel has been strangely omitted, for he could not have lost, considering the dreadfully moderate lot of animals which are engaged. Wild Oats may be the winner.

There are thirty-four entries for the Clearwell Stakes, and Shah Jehan may win for Sir Edgar Vincent. The Cheveley Park Stakes (fifty-three entries) looks well for Mr. E. Dresden's Galantine, who is now in excellent form.

There are ninety-one entries for the Middle Park Plate, which will be the most interesting race of the week, and the best public form is represented by Shah Jehan, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell's Brother Bill, Duke of Portland's Pamflete, Mr. Raphael's Graceful, Mr. Neumann's Llangibby, Chev. Ginistrelli's Signorino, Mr. Faber's Queen of the Earth, Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Sir J. Thursby's Standen, Lord Derby's Verdiana, and Lord Crewe's Polymelus. Full Cry is the best of this lot, as she was not up to the mark at Doncaster, so her running in the Champagne Stakes should be ignored. The dark lot includes Sir D. Cooper's Fleta, half-sister, by St. Simon, to Flotsam (who will probably run at Kempton Park on Friday); Major Loder's Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly; and the Duke of Westminster's Tankard, half-brother, by Orme, to Goblet. The field may also include Mr. de Rothschild's Monarda, half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant, but she is no flyer. I shall give a most unhesitating plumper for M. E. Blanc's representative, which can be either Jardy, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces (winner of the Oaks in 1898), or Val d'Or, by Flying Fox out of Wandora (dam of Vinicius). These colts

have won very easily all the races for which they have been started in France, and they appear to be as greatly superior to the best of the English lot as is Pretty Polly to the other three-year-olds of this season. M. E. Blanc won the Middle Park Plate of 1890 with Gouverneur, who in the following year finished second to Common for the Derby.

The rich Buckenham Stakes on Tuesday was generally regarded as a good thing for the Duke of Portland's filly Pamflete, except by the Newmarket people, who backed Atlas on the strength of his having won a high trial with the King's filly Rosemarket and other animals in the Egerton House stable. Pamflete was so unlucky as to twist a plate, and was very easily beaten by Sir E. Cassel's colt Prudent King, by Love Wisely out of St. Reine, who was not a bit fancied by his stable, and he must have come on considerably of late. Either there must have been egregious blundering about Atlas's gallop or he is a rogue, as he ran fast for nearly half a mile, and then collapsed hopelessly. This is the second occasion on which Atlas has seriously disappointed his stable. On Wednesday Pamflete compensated her owner for her defeat in the Buckenham Stakes by cantering away with the Boscawen Stakes, for which race Egypt was the hope of Newmarket, but he had no chance with the Kingsclere filly. There was some gambling between Verdiana and Galantine for the Hopeful Stakes, but Lord Derby's sister to Volodyovski behaved very badly at the post, and her antics must have considerably prejudiced her chance of success. Verdiana got away in front, whereas Galantine was by no means favoured at the start, but Mr. Dresden's filly won easily at the finish from Lord Falmouth's Galeas, a colt that will do better a little later on. It is clear after this running that Galantine ought to have won the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. Signorino, a dark colt by Best Man out of the celebrated Signorina, was made favourite for the Triennial, and Floramour also carried a great deal of money. Signorino got off well, made all the running, and won in a canter. Everybody was pleased to see the Chevalier Ginistrelli's colours to the fore on so smart a colt, as Signorina has been barren year after year, to the infinite disappointment and heavy loss of her owner, who refused a bonâ-fide offer of £20,000 for this mare after she had won the Middle Park Plate. Signorino is apparently a good colt, and he greatly resembles his sire. He will probably start for the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park on Friday, and we shall then see how he gets on with Cicero, who has to give him 8 lb. Signorino is also engaged in the Middle Park Plate. The Rous Memorial on Friday was a mere exercise canter for Polymelus, who won in a trot, his performance being indeed a prodigious improvement on his exhibition at York, which caused Galangal and Standen to start better favourites than Lord Crewe's colt.

Among the starters for a Maiden Plate was the Duke of Westminster's Wetaria, own sister to Flying Fox, and as she was said to have been well galloped before leaving Kingsclere she was heavily backed. Wetaria, however, ran very badly. She is a small filly, but a good mover. Stadtholder started favourite for the race, and it was afterwards asserted that he would have won if he had got off well. On Friday, however, Lord Stanley's colt had no chance for the Rous Memorial, although he had 5 lb. the better of the weights with Polymelus.

The runaway victory of Wild Oats in the Beaufort Plate shows that Sir James Miller made another fortunate purchase when he gave 3,500 gs. for this horse at the sale of Mr. Brassey's racehorses. Wild Oats, who is by Bay Ronald, must have a first-rate chance of winning the Cambridgeshire with 8 st. 5 lb. on his back.

The late Mr. Whitney's breeding stud was sold on Wednesday, the highest price being 1,800 gs., which was paid for Jeunesse Dorée, by Isinglass, which goes to France. Mr. Whitney had paid 3,500 gs. for this mare at the sale of the late Colonel McCalmont's stud. Santa Stella, by St. Simon, was also bought for France, the price being 1,350 gs. Rambling Katie, by Hampton, who cost her late owner 4,000 gs., was purchased for 1,750 gs. by the Duke of Devonshire.

The sale of Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's racehorses was a farce, as far as the two-year-olds were concerned. It was preposterous to place a reserve of 6,000 gs on the colt by Ladas out of St Ia, as nobody would have been in the least degree likely to bid half of that sum. If this colt should start at Newmarket next week for the Clearwell Stakes it will be interesting to see how he gets on, in view of his owner's high estimate of his value.

Lord Bradford has leased Sir Hugo, who won the Derby of 1892, to Mr. Pallin, of the Athgarvan Stud, so this horse will stand in Ireland next season.

Mr. George Faber, despairing of Duke of Westminster achieving any important success on the Turf, has turned this horse out of training, and he will stand next season at Newmarket. Duke of Westminster, who is by Orme out of Gantlet, was never of much value for racing after his two-year-old career, and it is truly amazing to remember that he actually started an even favourite with Sceptre for the Two Thousand of 1902. It must have frequently exasperated Mr. Faber to reflect that, when he paid £20,000 for Duke of Westminster about three years ago, he could actually have purchased Sceptre for less money, but he was advised to take the colt.

I shall not attempt a prediction on the Cesarewitch, as the market is chaotic and untrustworthy, and some dangerous stables are not likely to show their hands until the latest possible moment. Roe O'Neill went an uncommonly good gallop on Thursday with Water Chute over two miles and a quarter. The admirers of Rondeau had better leave her alone until the day of the race, as if the going is heavy she is not likely to stay the course. It is rumoured that Gahzal will be the best of the French lot, and that she is likely to be very dangerous. She is sure to stay the course, which is more than can be said of fully half of the probable starters, and she was backed quietly last week as if the French hoped to win this race for the first time since the victory of Ténébreuse in 1888.

THE RUGBY GAME AND GATE-MONEY.

Rugby football players in the Metropolis are always complaining that the Press does not sufficiently notice their doings or appreciate their worth. They have had no reason to complain during the past week, when they have been much in evidence. For this they have to thank Mr. Hamish Stuart, of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and the writer of these notes, who took very different views of the future of the game. I considered that so far from Rugby becoming the game of the classes and Association the code of the masses—as Mr. Stuart suggested—all the indications were in a contrary direction. I said that good social class amateur clubs can and would pay their way at the Association game, while Rugby clubs with decreasing gates would go to the wall. Discussion has been started, and I am highly amused at what Major Philip Trevor, who writes as "Dux," in the *Sportsman*, says in the *Daily Mail*:—

> Decadence is conspicuous by its absence. Big gates have never been a feature of Rugby Union football. No specious attempts to secure them have ever been made by those who control affairs, and whose interest in their work lies solely in the love of the game itself. Practical solvency has represented their moderate and modest desires, and practical solvency exists.

This is the high falutin' balderdash that is written and that is accepted by the average Metropolitan players as being the gospel of the game. They pat one another on their backs and thank heaven that they are not as men who play under other codes. They play the game for its own sake. And so they think nothing of starting half an hour late, of providing no accommodation for the spectators, and of playing on meadows uncut, unlevelled, and undrained. In the first place let me point out that the game can only be played properly on a decent ground. That a ground may be in proper

condition requires capital expenditure. To secure the return of this money it is necessary to get gate-money. Subscriptions will not suffice. To get gate-money spectators require some attention to be paid to their personal comforts. They do not want to catch cold, and so they expect boards or trestles to stand on. They desire to see the game, they do not like the rope stretched straight down the ground. They hope the rope will be in crescent form. Then, if they are invited to be present and their money is taken they have a right to say that the game ought to begin punctually. Playing the game for its own sake is an excuse that has been used for beginning late, for not providing for the comfort of the public, and for playing on grounds that are little better than ploughed fields just laid down to grass. If to attempt to remedy these evils be specious, then the game is in a rotten condition. Most unfortunately the majority of Metropolitan players swallow the rubbish that I have referred to. They regard these evils as being the true tests of their motto, which is: "We play the game for its own sake." An attempt has been made to start a ridiculous correspondence on a stupid subject in the silly season. A lady made a nonsensical remark to the effect that the best athletes are the biggest fools. This does not apply to Rugby footballers in London. The leading men know very well that these tests are not true tests. They know very well that players and public require a good ground and decent accommodation and punctuality. If these elements of satisfaction are present, then there will be decent gates and strong teams. Now Richmond and Blackheath satisfy these requirements. No wonder, then, that players from all round the country gravitate towards them, and that rising players of minor London clubs prefer to throw in their lot with them. These tests are fictions that flourish for the benefit of Blackheath and Richmond. As soon as the average London player realises their absurdity the better for the interests of the game. Then the prospect of levelling up the play will increase. Rugby is in a really flourishing condition as a game where big gates abound. In Wales, in the Midlands, and in the West Country there are big crowds to see matches. There the ground is good, stand accommodation is provided for spectators, and punctuality is observed. But the average London footballer is proud that he is not as these players, who are not of his class, and who feed the semi-professional ranks of the Northern Union. So it is wrong to cite these instances. However, I find that at the Universities of Oxford and of Cambridge the merits of gate-money are not entirely despised. Gate-money has enabled the Cambridge men to secure their new ground. And from the same source, namely, the gate at the Inter-University match, come funds that enable football tours to be undertaken. That action and reaction are equal and opposite is a physical law. In football the similar law is the better the gate the better the club, and the contrary proposition is equally true. If public attention is not drawn to the game it will eventually go under. I have no wish that it should do so. It is far too fine a game. But it is a game that a man gives up earlier in life than Association football, and he can play neither so long as he can play hockey. I note with satisfaction that the Rugby Union is at last proposing to secure a ground of its own in the Metropolis. I wonder if gate-money will be a feature of the matches played there? At all events, it is to be bought out of the proceeds of gate-money. As to specious attempts to get gate-money, I wonder under what category Major Philip Trevor will put the method of selling tickets at half price before the day of the match. It is an ingenious method of securing gate-money. Apparently the Rugby Union does not suffer from the moral qualms that affect its followers. Of means that may be taken by adopting the league system to improve the prospects of the game I shall write another week.

Heartiest congratulations to the Old Leysians. They have beaten the Blackheath team with the newly-imported Dillon from the Harlequins. Blackheath had not their best halves playing, and so long as they import players they will never train on their second or A team men. Similar congratulations to the Harlequins, who, despite their losses, met and drew with Richmond, who were playing the old Streatham and international half Butcher. I do like to see clubs that do not lay themselves out for importations succeeding in this way. The Old Merchant Taylors were easily beaten by Newport.

Andrew Kirkaldy may be regarded as the representative of the school of professional golf at St. Andrew's. He has been beaten in a 36-hole match on his own links by five up and four to play. The winner was Arnaud Massey, the Frenchman, who learned his golf as a caddie on the links at Biarritz. On this theme the writer of the golf notes in the *Field* has made some very interesting observations, which I commend to the earnest attention of every Scotch golfer who takes the least pride in the part the great professional Scotch players have played in the history of the royal and ancient game. The writer points out that the old professional school of Musselburgh is, from economic reasons, dead and gone. At St. Andrew's a similar state of affairs exists. The local clubs have no professionals. These old school golfers were caddies first and players afterwards. Who shall revive them?

With reference to my remarks last week on the way in which visitors to links in the summer months cut up the greens and ruin the turf, I am told that at Felixstowe the proposed remedy is to put on a green fee of 10s. a day. Now, I earnestly hope that this course will not be adopted. It will do nothing to check the nuisance, while it will prevent the sound golfer of moderate means from enjoying his holiday golf. No golf club, I am sure, wishes to ostracise the genuine player who is as keen about the etiquette and amenities of the game as the home player. Felixstowe men, if visiting other clubs, would probably think such a fee an imposition. The wealthy novice will soon do his ten shillings' worth of damage. If green fees are taken, let them be moderate. The rule might well be that only members of recognised clubs with handicaps should be admitted. But, as I have said, the ruthless player should be as ruthlessly expelled from the links. To such folk I would give short sharp shrift.

Writers on golf always preach the importance of good putting, and the soundness of their advice was never more clearly demonstrated than in the two championships at Sandwich this year. The handbook on "The Art of Putting," by Mr. Travis and Jack White, which has just been published by Macmillan and Co., is, therefore, sure to be widely read by golfers anxious to improve their game on the green. It is illustrated by Mr. G. W. Beldam, after the manner of his "Great Golfers," with a series of action photographs of the two champions.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Improve—More Confidence and More Business—Following upon More Money—Cheap Cash and Investment Buying—Speculative Prospects.

On the Stock Exchange there is a growing condition of confidence, a distinct broadening out of markets, with an unmistakable sign of the more public interest. Business improves slowly, and there are still influences—the war in the East is the most important—which tell against unbroken buoyancy and activity. But the fact remains that dealings are increasing, and there is no mistaking the improvement in the general tone. As a nation we are still suffering from the after effects of the Boer war. You cannot abstract over a couple of hundred millions from the financial resources even of this country without interfering with the smooth course of trade. But we appear to be getting over that little, but highly expensive, luxury. Money is more plentiful, and while we do not all feel the benefit immediately, it is a fact that Lombard-street is easy, and is looking

for no appreciable hardening of rates between now and the turn of the year, despite the autumn drain to Egypt, South America, and elsewhere to pay for the moving of the crops. It is a long time since the market was able to do what it has done this year—get over the end of the September quarter without borrowing more than a million from the Bank of England; and it is a further proof of the changed condition of things that the announcement of a new issue of Exchequer bonds to the amount of £6,000,000 should have strengthened the gilt-edged market instead of weakening it. Cheap money is an essential prelude to market activity, and that being assured, I look for a steady, if slow, improvement in all branches of the Stock Exchange—in investment descriptions first perhaps but afterwards, should nothing very untoward happen, in the more speculative departments, although the present briskness in South Africans is very striking. No doubt low rates will encourage the army of gilt-edged borrowers who were so badly snubbed three months ago to hold up their heads again; but a few new issues of a good sort would make little difference, although it would be best to give the older ones a chance of benefiting by the improved conditions.

MONEY EASY—A RECORD SEPTEMBER—GOLD FROM INDIA—THE AUTUMN DEMANDS—POSITION OF THE BANK—NEW EXCHEQUER BONDS.

Throughout the week money has been fairly easy, and with the turn of the month very low rates are ruling. Some pressure occurred at one time, the payment for the last series of Treasury bills (which disturbed floating balances notwithstanding that a similar amount matured) coinciding with the calling in of loans by some of the joint stock banks for window-dressing purposes, and also with the Stock Exchange settlement requirements. But it was a striking testimony to the well-provided state of the market that it should have been found necessary to borrow no more than a million from the Bank of England. It is a considerable time since the September quarter was turned with so little disturbance; and thanks to the strength of the Bank's reserve, to the gold on the way from India, and to the prospect of a material proportion of the gold now on the way to this country remaining with us, the outlook is quite bright. By present indications, it will not be found necessary to advance the Bank rate above 3 per cent. this side of Christmas, and there will be less necessity than ever to do so on the other side. The drain of gold to Egypt will no doubt be considerable, but probably the withdrawals for Argentina will be much smaller than usual, partly because some portion of the demand will be met from New York and partly because Buenos Ayres has been a big buyer of Argentine securities during the current year. In spite of the demand for gold in anticipation of quarter day, the position of the Bank is almost as strong as ever. The gold stock increased during the week by £531,000, but as the note circulation expanded by £566,000, the reserve is £35,500 lower. But it remains at the high level of £28,969,468, and to this ought rightly to be added the gold on the way from India; besides which the cash taken into the interior will in due course filter back to London again. The announcement of an issue of Exchequer bonds to the amount of £6,000,000 has had practically no effect on the market, and that is the best possible proof that in the most authoritative circles easy money is anticipated during the remainder of the year.

CONSOLS FIRMER—EASY MONEY STILL OPERATING—MORE PUBLIC ATTENTION TO GILT-EDGED DESCRIPTIONS—FOREIGNERS LESS ACTIVE—TENDENCY GOOD ON THE WHOLE — JAPANESE SLIGHTLY BETTER — PERUVIANS STRONG.

The continuation of the easy monetary situation and hopes of its prolongation for some time to come have exercised a beneficial effect upon Stock markets generally, and in the absence of any disturbing factor in the shape of political rumours, the gilt-edged section has not failed to respond to the better influences. The feeling on the whole is very sanguine, and, despite the announcement made towards the close of an issue of Exchequer bonds to the amount of six millions, the tendency has been persistently upwards. The effect of the improvement in the outlook is not perhaps so marked in Consols as in many other Government securities, but nevertheless the undertone is good, and after starting below 88¼ they finish strong at 88½ for the account. It is very satisfactory to notice, also, that more outside interest is manifested in high-class issues such as Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, Irish Land stock, and India Threes, for investment purposes, in most cases the inducement being the higher yield obtainable with security as good as it is possible to have. Colonial stocks, too, have come in for more attention, particularly Johannesburg Fours. Among Foreigners the activity has not been very great, though on the whole the stocks have exhibited a fairly satisfactory tendency. Prior to the settlement in Paris there was some offering from that quarter of such of its favourites as Spanish Turks, and Portuguese, which served to bring about slightly lower values here and there; but this was only temporary, and a recovery ensued before the close. Argentine descriptions received good support, and Brazilians were not overlooked. Among the "war" stocks Japanese derived some benefit from a rumour concerning the fall of Port Arthur, and though this proved to be erroneous, the Fours, Fives, and New Sixes, keep tolerably steady while Russians have been quietly firm. Chinese bonds have been more active, and show fairly substantial appreciation. Peruvian Corporation issues are active, and though they reacted sharply at one time on profit-taking, they quickly recovered on renewed interest from the Continental bourses. Urguguays, too, have been favourably influenced by the better prospects of peace.

HOME RAILWAYS BETTER AGAIN—CHEAP MONEY AND FAIR TRAFFICS—MORE INVESTMENT INQUIRY—LITTLE STOCK ABOUT—YORK DEFERRED—SCOTCH RAILWAYS STRONG—BUYING OF UNDERGROUNDS — METROPOLITAN PRIOR-CHARGE ISSUES.

The reactionary movement to which I referred last week in the Home Railway market has given place to better conditions again. There is not much public support for anything in the whole department—certainly there is not much speculation at the instance of the outsiders, though some improvement is noticeable in investment buying, especially in small lots. The easy state of the Money Market is a great stimulus; the traffics, while anything but brilliant, look fairly encouraging, and trade is expected to improve appreciably during the last three months of the year. Prices being at a quite moderate level, and cheap money being expected for some time to come, it is not unreasonable to look for a little more public interest in Home Railways with the distribution of the September dividends. For, as I have pointed out before, the present yield of about 4 per cent.—even more in some cases—on the stocks of the leading Companies is more than can be commanded when normal conditions are fully restored in the Money Market. Recognition of this fact has brought in the buyers, and has encouraged the dealers to lay in stock for the demand which they foresee. The advance is rather out of proportion to the extent of the dealings, but that arises out of "Bear" anxiety to repurchase and the small quantity of floating stock, and is in reality an indication of an inherently healthy condition. Speculators may not be numerous or venturesome, but real investors have refused to part with their stocks, recognising that in the wake of the Funds a recovery

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in values is assured, while they have fair dividends to be going on with in the meantime. The stocks of the "Heavy" lines show improvement, with North-Westerns leading, this stock being bought, in company with "Leeds," on better trade reports from Lancashire; and even another bad traffic (which brings the adverse total for the half-year to date to £126,563, and which points to the tapping of the Midland traffic preserves by some other Company) has failed to hold back the stocks of the Midland Railway. Great Northern Deferred has been bought by a clique, and the recovery has been helped by the disclosure of an increased "Bear" account in the stock. It is pointed out in connection with this Company that the potato crop will bring in much more traffic this year than last, and, as compared with Dover "A," the stock is very cheap, since it receives a dividend—small, to be sure, but still a dividend—which will not come the way of the other stock for at least a year or two, and is about 17 points lower. The decline in earnings, however, is a rather disquieting circumstance. For the past week the decline was close upon £5,000, and so far during the half-year the adverse total is £37,547; and as the loss is mostly in passenger traffic, it looks as though the competition of the electric tramways in North London is eating into the earnings. Still, the Company is in a moderately strong position; traffic is worked very economically, and there is no longer the renewal suspense account to absorb big sums every year. The Scotch Companies' stocks have been steadily bought from the North, and by the look of the market, these descriptions ought to be good for a respectable appreciation in the course of the next few weeks—with set-backs, of course, from profit-taking. Southern issues are not very strong. Though the earnings are satisfactory, there is the lurking suspicion that the Brighton Company will require to make a fresh issue of capital before long, and this affects the other lines sympathetically. There is quite a lot of buying of Metropolitan and District stocks. More electrification talk and the example of better results on the Mersey Railway are responsible for the support. The buying of Districts comes mainly from the Syndicate, which can play with the stock pretty much as it chooses. At the same time there should be a good future for the line when the conversion shall have been completed; and although the Syndicate may be expected to get out in due course, there is a very big margin between the current quotation and the profit they look for. The buying of Metropolitans has been stimulated by the belief that electric traction will be in operation on the Circle and the Harrow line by the end of the year. Scoffers say that the sailing of the Russian Baltic fleet for the East will synchronise with electrical working of the railway, but that is too rough on the railway, which is giving evidence of rapid progress with the work. Metropolitan Surplus Lands stock has hardened a couple of points to 75, the idea being that a cleaner system will mean higher rents. The same Company, in order to make its Debenture and Preference stocks more marketable, is placing all the issues of each sort upon one basis. Powers were obtained last year, and the Royal assent having now been given, a circular has been sent out to holders stating that they will receive such an amount of new stock as will yield at the rate of 3½ per cent. the same annual return as at present. The Debentures existing at the time of the separation of the surplus lands from the general railway undertaking will be known as Metropolitan Three and a Half per Cent. Debentures, and those created subsequently as the Three and a Half per Cent. "A" Debentures. A similar classification will be made of the various Preference issues, and the result ought to be to make the stocks more marketable. City and South London stock has made a further recovery. My table below shows the extent of the fluctuations on the week:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Price, Sept. 24.	Last Make-up.	Price, Oct. 1.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	75xd	75	75½	+ ½
Do. Def.	31	29½	29⅞	31¼	+1½
City and S. London	57	47	48	49	+1
Central London	96	86	86	87	+1
Great Central '94 Pref.	43¼	43½	—	43½	—
Do. "B"	21½	24	24¼	24½	—
Do. "A"	13⅞	13⅞	14	14	—
Great Eastern	59½	87	87¾	88	+ ¼
Great Northern Pref.	100	101	101	102	+1
Do. Def	39¼	39⅞	40⅜	41½	+ ⅝
Great Western	134⅜	136½	137½	138	+ ½
Hull and Barnsley	41	35⅞	36	36	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	99	99	103	+4
London and Brighton "A"	111½	117	117½	118½	+1
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅝	15½	15⅜	15⅝	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	91	97	97	97	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	56½	63	63	62	-1
London and North-Western	155½	147	147⅜	150½	+2⅜
London and South-Western Def.	53	51	51	53	+2
Metropolitan Consolidated	81½	94½	95½	97½	+2
Metropolitan District	32	38¼	40	43½	+3½
Midland Pref.	68½	67	66⅜	67	+ ⅛
Do. Def.	65½	63	63½	64	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	77	76½	76½	75½ xd	-1
Do. Def.	44⅜	44½	44⅝	44¼ xd	- ⅜
North-Eastern Consolidated	140½	136	136½	137	+ ½
South-Eastern "A"	52½	57⅜	58¼	58⅝	+ ⅜

Practically all the more active Home Railway stocks are now well below the best of the current year, and still more below the highest figures of 1903. With easy money ahead, and a prospect of more outside support, there seems room for more activity, and a recovery of several points in the leading descriptions within the next month or two. My traffic table is printed below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,521	— 888	+ 10,713
Caledonian	+ 664	+ 931	- 6,421
Great Central	+ 206	+ 2,529	+ 3,125
Great Eastern	+ 1,400	— 3,000	+ 3,400
Great Northern	— 4,915	+ 3,974	— 37,547
Great Western	+ 3,900	— 500	- 2,500
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 3,091	- 691	+ 19,346
London and North-Western	- 3,000	- 3,000	— 62,000
London and South-Western	+ 600	— 1,700	+ 2,900
Midland	- 7,988	+ 2,365	- 126,563
North British	+ 2,062	+ 3,207	- 5,345
North-Eastern	- 4,188	— 1,091	- 18,553
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 2,483	+ 541	+ 17,547

Americans Higher—"Bull" Pools Still Active—American Public Responds—Who Will "Nurse the Baby"?—Northern Securities' Dividend—Ontario Finance.

In Yankees the conditions remain much as they were when I wrote last week. That is to say, the market has been very firm except for some uncertainty on one or two days, and it will be seen from my table below that a further advance has been scored in values. So far as the English people are concerned, the interest continues to be of the sentimental sort; the artificial nature of the situation is recognised, and, there being other markets which afford speculative chances without anything like the same risk, we are content to watch the game and wonder when it will come to an end. In a special article below I show the real nature of the movement, which has been in progress for the past couple of months or more, and, having read that it is for the English speculator to say for himself whether he will or will not oblige the New York pools by relieving them of stocks which have been advanced much higher than is warranted by sheer merits. The American public, it would appear, is being drawn slowly into the vortex, and speculators in Berlin—who ought to know better after being left to "nurse the baby" last time—are also helping. I do not know any market which will give one such fine excitement for one's money, and to the man who does not mind facing the prospect of a big loss should the luck be adverse I would say, as I have said before, try Yankees by all means. But, speaking generally, I do not recommend dealings in any market unless it is possible to appraise the position with some degree

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of confidence, and as the move in Americans has been brought about in the face of half a dozen adverse factors, it is quite out of the question to argue for a rise on merits. The whole movement is due to the masterful activity of half a dozen financial groups on the other side, determined to leave no stone unturned in the effort to unload upon the public, and aided by the scarcity of stock, much of which is in their own hands. The past week has been distinguished in the same way as preceding weeks by manipulation of the old familiar sort and by demonstrations in particular stocks, with the object of covering realisations in others. Perhaps the most consistently strong stock has been that of the Northern Securities Corporation, which has been advanced several points on the declaration of another dividend and talk of an agreement with the Harriman interests regarding the dissolution of the concern. The Corporation is debarred at present from distributing the dividends which it may declare, but it has to be mentioned in favour of the shares that they now carry three dividends of $1¼ each in the price. Steel shares have been helped by the Morgan group, and it would appear that a big "Bear" squeeze has been in progress. It is not possible to account for the jump in the price of the Preferred—much less of the Deferred—by the state of trade. Ontarios were at one time quite actively dealt in on the declaration of a dividend of 3 per cent. on the Common stock, entailing the dissolution of the Voting Trust, but the distribution is conditional on the stockholders sanctioning a bond issue of $12,000,000, and as this addition to the fixed charges is equal to the entire earnings on the Common stock it is not surprising that the shares should have had a relapse. American Railroad finance is a strange and fearsome thing, and this latest manifestation is not the least strange. My table is below:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price. Sept. 16, 1904.	Closing Price. Sept. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56	84½	84¾	85½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅝	88⅜	101	102	103½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	91¼	90⅞	93⅜
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28½	43¾	42¾	46
Denver	43¾	18⅜	29¼	29¾	30⅜
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	83¼	84½	84½
Erie	43 7/16	23½	32½	31¼	32⅜
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	69⅔	68⅜	70
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	127⅛	127½	130½
Milwaukee	187½	137½	162	161½	161½
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30¼	16 7/16	25	24½	25⅛
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	92	92½	92½
Do. Common	78⅛	55¼	70⅝	70	71¼
New York Central	158	116⅜	131½	129½	131
Ontario	36	19½	34⅛	35¼	36⅞
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	67⅜	67	68¼
Reading	35½	20	33⅛	34	35¾
Do. First Pref.	45½	36⅜	44	43½	44
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	34¼	33½	34½
Do. Pref.	97 13/16	73½	98¼	98	97½
Southern Pacific	69¾	39⅞	57⅜	58¼	59⅛
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	100⅝	103½	105⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	95½	95	96
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	43½	42½	43½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	67½	66	68
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	17½	17½	19⅜
Do. Pref.	—	—	69	69⅛	76¼

Manipulating the Yankee Market.

If one thing more than another is quite certain in connection with the recent activity in Americans it is that the movement has not been aided by the speculating public on either side of the Atlantic. For my part, I have failed to see any justification for it on the basis of actual conditions and prospects, and while I have pointed out that the Wall Street leaders would do their level best to create a summer boom towards the end that they might pass on a portion at least of their holdings to the unsophisticated outsider, I have emphasised the danger of the whole situation, and have advised those who prefer security to excitement to try their chances elsewhere. The whole game, in fact, has been professional, and the New York *Times* prints an article, from which I am tempted to make some extracts, showing how it has been played. In the early summer it was found that money was so plentiful that it could be borrowed at merely nominal rates. This being an essential necessity preliminary to any bull campaign, further examination of conditions revealed the fact that the Presidential election for once would not prove a disturbing factor, that general conditions had improved, and that their continuance seemed assured because of the expectation of good crops. Some of these anticipations have been falsified, but that is a detail of not much consequence with the ball well started and the necessity of keeping things cheerful more and more apparent. On the basis of cheap money and the other influences enumerated those big interests which had been hampered in many schemes of development by the decline in the stock markets and the impossibility of selling securities at reasonable prices, decided it was an auspicious time to make a market. Thereupon came the first step in the preparation of the upward movement, and this was the formation of pools in various stocks. Each pool took from fifty to one hundred thousand and more shares out of the market, accumulating them very quietly if they had not been previously purchased. A pool in a stock involves an agreement among the members not to sell except when the word is given by the manager, for every pool has its operating head, who is something of an autocrat, and does what he thinks best to secure an advance in his stock. The formation of the pool having been completed, the pool manager began to buy openly, making no secret of the purchases, but taking pains to disguise the identity of the purchaser, for a little mystery is desirable, as it makes things more attractive. By employing brokers who have generally been identified with those in control of the property, or brokers of some big interests which might want to control the property, this object is accomplished. Of course, the big buying movement requires some explanation, and so the rumour mills are started up, and they grind out stories of acquisition by other companies, increased dividends, rights to shareholders, large earnings, new big orders, acquisition of some other valuable property, and a score of varied reports all calculated to make the higher quotations appear plausible and yet not definite enough to invite absolute denials from the management, a possibility which is further circumvented by the taking into the pool of some influential member of the Board of Directors. While thus advancing the market through open purchases, the wise manager also sells as much as possible in order to avoid the accumulation of the entire capital stock in the endeavours to advance the market price. This selling, however, is carried on with as much secrecy as the buying is public, and although every professional in the street knows that this is being done, yet everyone permits himself to be deceived by the belief that the pool's object has not been accomplished, and that prices will advance further.

The way in which the purchases are managed is described by the New York *Times* as follows:—

The pool manager distributes orders to a series of brokers. To one of them he gives an order to buy a large lot, say, ten thousand shares at the best, that is, at the lowest price he can get. Then he distributes stop orders, that is, orders which must be executed when the market reaches a given price, or at as nearly that price as possible. If the stock is quoted at 40, he gives an order to the first broker to stop 500 shares at ⅛, to another at ¼, to a third at ⅜, and so on up to the price which it is desired to establish for the day. The broker with the 10,000 share order begins to bid, and gets his first lot of perhaps a thousand shares at 40. Not getting any more, he bids ⅛, and, of course, is at once joined by the broker with the stop order at that price. Perhaps 1,000 shares more are purchased at that price, when the first bidder raises the bid to ¼, and at this figure the third broker joins in the bidding, and so the price gradually advances, the first broker bidding all the time and the stop-order brokers falling in line, until half a dozen men are bidding for the stock. This lively bidding is sure to attract a following from the traders on the floor who want to get a share of the profits in the advance, and very soon there is an active market established. After this reasonably heavy buying has lasted a few days, long enough to charm the speculative community, much as the pied piper charmed the children, they begin to sell more

than they buy. This, of course, would be impossible were it not for the fact that a big, broad market had been created in the previous days' transactions, with the public and the speculators eager to buy, and in which many thousand shares could be sold without overfeeding the demand. To prevent the market from selling off in such a way as to frighten the speculators, buying orders are put in every time a declining tendency develops. In such a market the buying by one broker of several thousand shares will be generally sufficient to offset the selling of three times that amount in small lots by other brokers not identified with the upward movement. The selling in small lots will make it appear as if there were "short" selling by outsiders operating on the theory of a decline, and this impression is further strengthened by the pool operator actually borrowing stock for delivery. This apparent short selling encourages real short selling by speculators, and these are then squeezed and driven in the next day by a few vigorous buying orders. The stocks borrowed for delivery by the pool can be, of course, returned out of the holdings of the pool, without the necessity of buying it in, while the outside shorts will have to bid for the stock, and thus help running up the price.

Thus the merry game goes on until the pool has sold out at a handsome profit. Then gradually the activity will diminish. Those who have been landed with the stock will sell and lower the price, thus enabling the pool, or some other pool, to start all over again should it feel so inclined. A good part of the stock, however, will have been bought for investment, on the strength of the many favourable rumours, and this will probably be held for some time before it finds its way back to the market, for the investor is slow to take losses, and prefers to wait until his stock advances again. Naturally, it is impossible to call attention to all the tricks used to influence prices. Often buying orders are put in to advance one stock for the express purpose of detracting attention from the simultaneous selling of some other issue. Often stocks are purposely depressed to permit accumulation. It fact, in the variety of its moves the market resembles those of the chessboard; the combinations possible to achieve the end are as varied as those of the cards in whist, and the nerve, bluffing qualities, and practices of deception of the operator are as essential as they are to a good poker player. Since the advance of recent weeks has been brought about in spite of the absence of the public, it seems a fair inference that it has been brought about by manipulation of the sort referred to.

Canadian Pacifics Strong—Some Guaranteed Stocks—Grand Trunks Improve—August Statement and the Meeting — Mexican Rails Harden — Interoceanic Preference Shares—Argentine Railways—Rosario Report.

Canadian Pacifics have enjoyed a further appreciation as a result of buying prompted by the very excellent crop returns, the continuance of good earnings, and the generally bright prospects. The latest traffic shows another big increase on top of a large "take" last year, and the August revenue statement is satisfactory. The outbreak of a strike among a section of the workmen on the system occasioned a slight setback, but it was not regarded seriously, and the trouble is now over. "Canadas" make a very good investment purchase even at the present price, although the man who benefits most is the one who bought the shares when I was recommending them for a purchase between 112 and 120. At the present price the shares bring in 4½ per cent. Among the issues guaranteed by the Canadian Pacific which are deserving of the attention of investors are the Ordinary stock of the Atlantic and North-Western, upon which rather more than 4 per cent. is obtainable, and the debentures of the Calgary and Edmonton, which give over 3¾ per cent. Grand Trunks have been a firm market throughout the week. The August revenue statement shows a gross decrease of £19,000, but the savings have been so considerable that there is in net an increase of £3,300, and if we leave out the western branch, in which the Company's interest is indirect, there is a net improvement for the two months of £5,800. It does not look particularly handsome, to be sure, but the actual sum of earnings is large, because last year the Grand Trunk enjoyed phenomenal prosperity, and now that the line has turned the corner in the matter of gross earnings there seems room for much improvement for the last four months of the year, especially having regard to the capacity of economy of which the Company is capable. Interest is now concentrated upon Seconds and the junior stocks, the first-named receiving the most attention because they are (from the dividend point of view, the most interesting. The measure of movements in Colonial and Foreign railways during the week will be seen from my table below:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Oct. 1.
Canadian Pacific	123½	132	135
" 4 per cent. Preference	104	—	101
Grand Trunks	18⅞	15¾	17⅞
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	100	97½	98¾
" 1st Preference	111	102	104
" 2nd "	99	89½	91¾
" 3rd "	47	41½	43½
Bengal and North-West	129	140	142½
Bombay Baroda	161	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	128	125	126½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101	105¾	106
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	96	121	121½
" " 1st Preference	96½	105¼	105½
" " 2nd "	86	95½	95
" Great Southern	133	136	136½
" Western	127½	128	129¼
Entre Rios Railway Preference	52	62½	65
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	82½	96½	95¾
Costa Rica Railway	2	1⅝	2
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	95	94½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	88	81	80
Mexican Railway	18¾	19½	19¾
" 1st Preference	73	88	89
" 2nd "	27	32	33½
Nitrate Rails	8½	7⅜	7⅜

A good advance in the price of silver was a helping influence upon Mexican Railways, but an indifferent traffic caused some set-back. Firsts might be bought speculatively on any moderate reaction, because the dividend will be announced before very long, and, having regard to the earnings for the June half of the year, and the higher average price of silver, it ought to be very satisfactory. At all events, the activity which always precedes the announcement will give the opportunity of a profit. For a lock up, Interoceanic Preference shares are worth looking at. The earnings for the year to June should suffice to pay the full 7 per cent. on the "B" Debentures, and as it is probable that this stock will be retired before long by the substitution of debentures carrying a lower rate of interest, the chances of a distribution on the Preference shares are not altogether remote. They are of the denomination of £10, and stand at 4¾, and, being cumulative, they carry 9 per cent. arrears of dividend, for which the Company may compound by the issue of income bonds. Argentine Railways have been quietly firm. So far as Great Southerns and Rosarios are concerned, there is not much to go for speculatively now that the dividends have been announced; and in regard to Pacifics and Westerns, there is a lull pending the declarations. The last-named will probably receive the same rate as last time, but there is room for more than a little conjecture in connection with the Pacific, though I would recommend operators not to look for the 10 per cent. prophesied in some quarters and to be content with 7 or 8 per cent. The Argentine Great Western Railway, although it enjoyed a good year in company with the other lines, will pay no more than 6 per cent. for the twelve months. The Entre Rios does better than last time. There is a net balance of £52,076 as compared with £37,110, and a portion of the increase is utilised in advancing the Preference dividend from 2 to 2½ per cent., and £5,000 is transferred to reserve and renewal, whereas at this time last year no such allocation was made. The carry forward amounts to £5,838, as against £4,119. The Rosario report for the half-year states that gross receipts amounted to £1,941,224, an increase of £273,029, and working expenses to £980,655, an increase of £185,497, leaving net receipts £960,569, increase £87,532. The gross weight of goods carried was 3,100,361 tons, increase 341,326 tons, and there was also an increase of 265,107 in the number of passengers. The net revenue account of the combined systems shows net receipts for the half-

year (as above), £960,568; interest on investments, registration fees, etc., £4,088; together, £964,656; less interest on debenture stocks, £149,374; western section annuity, £45,394; general interest, bill stamps, etc., £2,785; together £197,553; leaving £767,103. After paying the interim dividend on the Consolidated Ordinary stock at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum the sum of £242,443 is left to be carried forward. Prospects for the current half-year are quite encouraging. To date there is an increase in gross receipts of £369,284, and the president of the local committee states that there still exist at outside stations large stocks of cereals to be transported to points of embarkation, which, together with the increased traffic in general produced by the more flourishing state of commerce resulting in a great measure from the last two harvests, will keep the rolling stock fully occupied until the end of the current year, when the harvesting of the new crop will be in progress. It is too early yet to make a forecast of the new crop, but sowing has been carried on actively for some time past, and should there be nothing to lament in the shape of bad weather, locusts, or other contingencies Mr. White sees no reason why the production should not be greater next season than last.

West Africans Idle and Generally Dull—No Business—Ashanti Goldfields Lower—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Copper Descriptions Still Good—Broken Hills Better—Indians Quietly Steady.

The customary inactivity and dulness have been witnessed in the Jungle during the past week, and as a consequence there are no features of interest to record. The professional business shows no indication of being anything but small, and while outside interest, if it exists at all, remains merely passive there is naturally very little hope of any change in the general condition. For some reason which it is difficult to ascertain, Ashanti Goldfields have sagged away persistently, but Amalgamated, on the other hand, scored a slight advance, and Taquah and Abosso, too, were marked higher, while Wassaus remained firm. Beyond these there are no developments worthy of attention. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅝	1 5/16
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	¼ dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	¼	¼
Attasi Mines.....	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/-	4.6
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1	1
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	7/8	7/8
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16
HimanConcessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	6/6	6/6
ObbutassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅜	⅜
Presten Mines ..	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	8/6	8/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	5/8	⅝
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	¾	¾
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16

In the Miscellaneous Mining market there has not been much activity, though Copper descriptions came in for a little attention towards the end, and Capes, Mason and Barry, Tharsis, and one or two others of the better class gained some ground, while Paris gave consistent support for Tintos, and they close well up on the week. In the British Columbian section Camp Birds displayed some dulness, but Le Roi kept fairly steady. Mount Lyells advanced, and Etruscans were slightly more cheerful at one time, though they subsequently eased away again in the absence of support. The advance in the price of silver induced some attention towards Broken Hill Props, and they remain fairly steady at the higher level attained, and there has also been a quiet demand for Briseis Tins. On the strength of the statement made at the meeting that it might not be necessary to increase the capital of the concern, Mount Morgans became more confident, but in the Charters Towers group Queen's Cross Reefs show no sign of recovery from their recent dullness. Apart from Ooregums, which displayed an inclination to ease back, Indian Gold Mining descriptions have been quietly firm. Here is my customary table:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 28.	Closing Price, Oct. 1.
Anaconda Copper	7⅛	3⅜	—	4¼
Balaghat Gold	1⅛	14/-	15/3	1⅛
Broken Hill Props.	1¼	1¼	39/6	40/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	4
Champion Reef	7	5⅛	31/-	31/-
Le Roi	4⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Mason and Barry	4¼	2½	—	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	9/9	11/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5⅛	6⅞	6⅞
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	3	3
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅛	36/6	1⅛
Ooregum	2¼	21/9	16/3	16
Rio Tinto	53⅞	38½	—	56¼
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅛	3⅛	—	4⅛
Waihi Gold	6⅛	4⅛	5⅞	5⅞

Kaffirs Improve After a Poor Start—Goldfields Rumours—A Vigorous Denial—"Bear" Covering All Round—Labour Position—Will the Improvement Last?—Rhodesian Sympathy—A Healthy Situation—Premier Diamonds—Some Advice to Speculators—Deep Levels.

In the Kaffir market the week started badly and ends well. The public support was on a very small scale, the reasons being that the good outsiders are already rather heavily loaded up with shares, upon which they are waiting for a profit, and that they would rather not come in with more support until they see things moving cheerfully and prices 50 per cent. higher than at present. Some selling from Paris, attributed to the rumoured fall of Port Arthur, but referable in reality to the imminence of the monthly settlement on that bourse, made the professionals here think twice before giving the new account the usual good send off; and persistent rumours of a fresh issue of capital by the Goldfields Company were circulated—for market purposes, of course—despite the official denials. In the circumstances the announcement that another 2,000 coolies had sailed for South Africa left the market practically unmoved, although Princess shares had a mild spurt on the statement that one-half of this consignment is to be allocated to the mine. Lord Harris's letter on the subject of the Goldfields' position was the turning point of the market. He denied the new capital rumour "as flatly as possible," and added that "the annual report will be circulated in about a month's time, and it will show that the financial position of the Company is so satisfactory that a further issue of new capital is quite unnecessary. The Board has not had at any time since the last issue of Ordinary shares in 1898, and has not now, the remotest intention of issuing any fresh capital of any description, or Debentures." Coming from the Chairman of the Company, there could be no gainsaying this categorical and emphatic contradiction, and the "Bears," who had sold heavily on the strength of the rumours, began to cover. They found that there was little stock on the market, and their task was not easy. Consequently there has been a sharp rebound in the price of Goldfields. Other leading shares—East Rands, Rand Mines, and others—had been freely sold, and these, too, had to be bought back, and in these, also, it was not found easy to do this because of the scarcity. The buoyancy of the Rhodesian banket shares communicated itself to the neighbouring market; even the Chartered report had a good effect; and, as I write, the whole South African market is in a more cheerful mood than for a considerable time past. It must be allowed that the activity arises mainly from the buying back by "Bears," and that of fresh outside support there is little enough. It remains to be seen whether the strength of the market will be maintained after the "Bears" have finished covering, and, anyway, I would caution speculators against expecting a very rapid and unbroken recovery. At the same time the brokers report some increase in clients' orders, and a gradual broadening out of business is the most that ought to be

expected, having regard to the depletion of the national savings through our own little war, and to the already big stake which the public have in Kaffirs. People are willing to average in order to bring a profit nearer, but they are not likely to go in heavily until they see some unmistakable signs of buoyancy accompanied by strong support at the instance of the market leaders. The tenacity with which shares have been held during the long period of depression is a very striking evidence of the general belief in the future of Kaffirs, and there is no doubt that, the public being more heavily committed in these descriptions than in any other, a recovery would do much to encourage confidence and activity in the general markets. My table below will show that all the leading shares and many of the less active ones have had a respectable improvement on the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sep. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.
Angelo	7¾	9⅛	6	6⅞	6⅞	6⅞
Anglo-French	7⅛	5⅜	3⅜	3⅝	3⅝	3⅝
Aurora West	3⅞	2	⅝	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅞	¾	¾	¾
Bantjes	7¾	2¼	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2¾	2¼	2¼	2¼
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¾	5⅜	5⅞	6¼	6⅛
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	1⅛	4⅜	6⅜	6⅞	6⅜
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12¾	18¼	10½	14¼	14⅜	15
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	15½	18⅝	18⅝	18⅝
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18¾	18⅝	18⅝
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4¾	4¾	4¾
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6¼	5¼	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛xd
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	1⅞	1⅞
East Rands	12	10⅝	6⅜	8	8	8
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¼	⅝	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Ferreira	22	26	18	20¼	20⅜	20⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅛	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	6⅜	6⅞	6⅞
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4¾	3	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Goch (New)	3¾	4¾	2⅜	3⅛	3	2⅞
Geldenhuis Estate	7¼	7⅜	5⅜	5¼	5⅛	5¼
,, Main Reef	1⅜	¾	¼	½	½	½
Glencairn	4⅜	2¾	1¼	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2¼	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8½	7⅞	8
Heriot	12½	8¼	3⅜	3	3⅛	3⅛
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27⅛	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1⅝	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	5¼	5⅛	5⅛
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3¼	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	2⅜	3⅛	3¼	3⅛
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¼	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
May Consolidated	4¾	5⅜	2¼	4	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6¼	4¼	5⅜	5¼	5⅜
Modderfontein (£4)	17½	14⅜	7½	9⅛	8⅜	8⅜
Mozambique	3⅛	2¾	1½	1⅜	1¼	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18·	7·6	16·	15·6	16·6
Nigel	8½	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Comet	4½	4	2	2	2⅛	2⅛
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2¼	2¼	2¼
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2½	1⅛	1⅛	1¼	1⅛
Oceana Mineral	—	1¼	½	⅝	⅝	⅝
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅛	⅜	¾	¾	¾
Primrose (New)	8½	5⅞	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Princess Estate	4½	2	½	1	1	1⅛
Rand Mines (5/-)	11½	12⅜	8⅛	10⅜	10⅛	10⅛
Randfontein	4⅜	4¼	2¼	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Randfontein Porges	3⅜	3⅜	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2⅛	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, North	—	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9¼	9¼	9¼	9¼
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3¼	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	1¼	⅝	¾	¾	¾
S. A. Gold Trust	12½	9¾	4⅜	5⅜	5	5⅛
Sheba	2⅜	1⅜	11/3	—	—	3/6
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1¼	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	2/-	12/-	11/9	11/3	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3¼	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2½	2⅞	24/-	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	¼	⅜	6/3	6/6
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅞	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	5	6¼	4½	3⅜	3⅜	4
United African Lands	—	2·	1·	1/3	1/2	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4¼	2½	4	4	4
Village Main Reef	9½	9¼	7⅛	6½	6½	6½
Violet	—	3¼	2	3	2⅝	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1½	1⅛	1⅛
Welgedacht	—	8¼	6½	6⅜	6½	6½
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	11	10½	10½
W. Rand Central	—	1¼	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅞
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅝	3⅝	3⅝
Worcester	6½	3¼	1½	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞

* £5 shares.

There is not much particular feature to draw attention to. The favourable developments have left their mark upon the whole market, and if only the leaders will supplement the "Bear" re-purchases with real support—which, I take it, is to the best interests of themselves as well as the rest of us—we shall soon have active and buoyant conditions. The mining industry is returning rapidly to the normal; the recruiting of coolies is being accelerated, and there are already enough on the goldfields and on the way thither to make a decided impression upon the gold production before the end of the year. There is no longer any need to worry for a sufficiency of labour. That is assured, and it is only a question of allowing a reasonable time for the labourers to arrive and to be distributed among the mines. For these reasons I again recommend a purchase of Kaffirs to the man who can pay outright for what he buys and is in no immediate hurry to realise, but can wait for two or three months for his 30 or 40 per cent. profit. At the same time I know that this advice of mine will not be generally followed, because the good outside speculator will not do much save on an active market—the time when those who have taken advantage of the depression will be thinking of getting out. In the Diamond group there have been few movements. Jagers are firm on the dividend announcement, and Premiers are recovering after their recent fit of weakness. A Johannesburg cable states that the Chairman of the Premier Company, interviewed regarding the fall in the value of the shares, could only attribute it to forced sales by weak holders. In the mine a borehole is stated to have revealed diamonds at a depth of 500 ft. in blue ground. Deep Levels are on the up grade again in company with the outcrop and land shares. My table shows the movements during the week:—

—	1900. Highest.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sept 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6¾	3¾	1⅝	1½	1½
Cent Nigel Deep	⅝	1	½	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2¼	2⅛	2⅛
Crown Deep	12⅜	15¼	12	12⅜	12⅜	12⅜
Durb Rood Deep	4½	4¾	2	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3¼	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12¾	8⅜	11	11	11
Jumpers Deep	3¼	6¼	3½	4⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Knight's Deep	4½	5⅜	3¼	3	3	3
Knight's Central Deep	3¾	4⅞	2¼	2⅛	2	2⅛
Lancaster	3¾	3⅞	2	2⅛	2	2
Do. West	2⅜	3	1¾	3⅛	2¼	2¼
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2¼	4¼	2	2⅛
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3¼	3	4¼	4¼
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅝	¾	⅞	⅞
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅜	2¾	2⅛	2¼	2¼
Robinson Deep	5⅛	6⅜	4¼	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do Cent Deep	4¼	5⅛	2¼	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6¾	8⅛	8⅛	8⅛
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅜	3¼	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4¼	2	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	2¼	2	1⅛	1⅛
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅛	2¼	3⅛	3	2⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2¼	1⅜	¾	¾	¾
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅛	4⅛	2⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛

Rhodesians More Buoyant—The Chartered Report—Gold-mining Prospects—The Unsatisfactory Labour Position—Chartered Higher—Further Attention to "Banket" Descriptions—Rice Hamiltons Active.

Not unnaturally the appearance of the Chartered Company's report occasioned a little excitement in the Rhodesian section during the past week, and, as it is regarded with some sort of satisfaction, the effect has been beneficial. On the whole it is about up to expectation, and nothing more, and perhaps its most encouraging feature is the approximation of revenue and expenditure for the year to March, 1904 and 1905, which seems to show, provided, of course, that no unfore-

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seen circumstances crop up to add materially to the expenses, or to bring about a reduction in the receipts, that the deficit is being gradually lessened. Up to March 31, 1903, the actual receipts from all sources totalled £497,782, as against outgoings to the amount of £798,712, leaving a net loss of £300,930; but for the year to 1904 it is estimated that this deficit will be reduced to £225,897, while for 1904-1905 it is expected that this will be further reduced to £142,787. Beyond these figures there is not much in the report which can be described as exceptionally interesting, for the reason that the document generally only covers the year 1903; but in regard to the mining industry there are some remarks of Mr. Montagu, the Secretary for Mines in Southern Rhodesia, which might be mentioned. After referring to the South African financial depression, it is stated that, despite this adverse factor,

a considerable amount of work was completed, resulting in the proving of value of some excellent propositions and bringing others to the crushing stage, and the gold production has not only been maintained, but increased, and coal, silver, and lead have been declared for the first time in any quantity. The depression has, it seems, been the means of bringing home to some companies the fact that, being unable to secure working capital to deal with their properties on a large scale, it is better to do so on a more economical and smaller basis than leave them alone; and crushing with small batteries or leasing their claims on tribute to those who can erect small batteries, has been considered and carried out by some large claim holders. There is little doubt that the class of small workers is increasing, and there is every prospect that in many cases handsome returns will be secured, as the expenses can be kept down to a very low figure. The completion of the railway line to the Wankie Coal Fields has been the means of obviating the difficulty previously experienced on many mines over the fuel question, as most excellent coal can now be procured. The railways to the Gwanda and Selukwe Districts have proved a great boon to companies working claims in those districts, and transport arrangements from railway depots to the mines have returned to a normal basis.

In regard to other minerals, very little is said beyond that copper, lead, and zinc mining has been carried on in the northern portion of the country with "most satisfactory results," an expression which cannot be used in connection with the question of native labour. The labour problem must be solved before Rhodesia can make satisfactory progress. This severely hampers the mining industry, and although, as the report says, labour of the raw class can at times be procured, it is not a "regular supply of skilled workmen which is so much desired." The short periods for which natives will only engage themselves is a constant worry to those in charge of mining propositions, for the native's time expires when he is growing proficient, and, after a lengthy visit to his kraal, he appears to have forgotten most of what he had previously learnt. So much for the Chartered report; now for the market itself. A cheerful disposition has been noticeable throughout the week, Chartereds being particularly firm, and being actively bid for, and eventually closing at above 1 7-16. On a rumour that a private message from the engineers was of a distinctly favourable nature, the shares of the Companies interested in the banket discovery spurted higher still, Explorations finishing not far short of a point better at 5 7-16, while Lomagundas were bid for at 2 15-16. On the strength of the decision to amalgamate the three concerns, the results of which are expected to be very hopeful from the dividend point of view, Rice Hamiltons, Sabiwa Proprietary, and Sabiwa Centrals have come in for a great deal of attention with a consequent advance in the quotations, while the shares of Rhodesia Ltd., which is interested in the three Companies, were in request and hardened slightly. The rest of the market had a firmer appearance in sympathy, and on the week advances preponderate, as will be seen from my table:—

	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up, Sept 28, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1/4	3/8	3/8
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2/-	1	1 1/8
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,432,919	1	f.p.	4/-	1 1/8	1 1/8
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	3/8	3/8
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194,028	1	f.p.	1/2	3/8	3/8
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	1/2	1/2
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	1/4	1/4
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 1/2	1/4	5/16
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	1/2	1/2
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 3/8	1 1/4	1 1/4
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6 1/2	2 1/8	2 1/8
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 7/8	1 1/4	1 1/4
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4/-	1/8	1/8
N'rth'rn Copper (E.S.A.)	250,000	160,560	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2 1/2	2
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	600,000	1	f.p..	11 3/8	11	11 3/8
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9 1/2	4 1/2	5 1/2
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	1/8	1/8
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2	2 1/8
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/2	1/2
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	2 3/8	2 1/8	2 1/8
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/2	1/2
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/8	1/8
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	3/4	3/16	3/16
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	1/2	5/8
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 3/8	1 1/8	1 1/8

Westralians Firm—A Little "Bear" Squeeze in Oroyas—The Result—Horseshoes React, but Recover—Associated Rumours—Lake View Dividend Satisfactory—"Little Kangaroos" Idle.

The outstanding feature in the Westralian market during the week has been the little "Bear" squeeze in Oroyas, it being said that at the carry-over these gentry were attempting to borrow something like 100,000 shares in order to cover themselves. They have probably learned a good lesson by this time, for the "backwardation" drawn out of their pockets increased from 1s. to more than 1s. 6d. per share. Beyond the nasty rumours they put into circulation for their own profit, there is nothing authoritative known to the market which could be construed into an adverse point for the property, or which should cause any serious apprehension. The Iron Duke lode shows no signs of petering out for some years to come, and although the "Bear" party, when their banging process was in full swing, made some sort of an impression in disputing the accuracy of the estimated ore reserves, they seem to be becoming more tractable in regard to this matter, and on the whole it is not altogether improbable that this salutary defeat will improve the position of Westralians by making the "Bears" more cautious in the future. The shares finished firm at 3¼, ex dividend, allowing for which the appreciation on the week is substantial. Horseshoes reacted sharply as the result of "Bear" attention induced by the absence of any explanation of the rupture between the board and the mine managers, but they picked up again. Real holders, however, ought not to be unduly alarmed on that score, for there is nothing authentic known concerning the property itself, which would give the impression that there is something radically wrong, although there is no gainsaying that the reticence of the management does not make for absolute confidence. Colonial selling brought about a relapse in Associated, and later on rumour had it that a change of management was impending, presumably having reference to the control at the mine. If a little reform could be introduced into the management at this side the change would be altogether beneficial. There has been a little inquiry for Perseverance and Ivanhoes, while considerable interest has been manifested in Lake Views on the strength of the dividend announcement of 1s. 6d. per share for the year to June. This is the first distribution since 1901, and is regarded with particular satisfaction because, owing to good management, the diminished working expenses allow of a profit being secured from a very low grade ore. Apart from a little activity in Hannan's Stars occasioned by Colonial bidding the

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"Little Kangaroos" have been altogether idle and devoid of interest. My usual table is appended.

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 12, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅛	1	1⅛	1⅜	1⅛
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3⅛	4½	1/6	1½	1⅝	1½
Brownhill Ext.	8⅞	1⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/9	6/9	7/3
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅛	7	6⅜	6⅜	6⅛
GoldenLink	3⅛	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	3/9
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	19/9	20/6	19/9xd
Do. Main Reef	2⅞	1⅛	8/6	4/-	4/3	4/-
Do. Perseverance	18½	1⅛	1⅛	10/9	11/-	12/3
Do. South	3⅛	1⅛	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅛	9⅛	5⅛	7⅞	7⅛	7⅞
Hainault	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅜	⅜
Jda H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	6/-	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10⅛	6⅛	7⅜	7⅛	7½
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅛	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Kalgurli	9⅛	4½	2⅛	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	5⅛	6⅜	1⅛	1⅞	1⅛	1½
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅛	1⅜	⅛	8/6	8/6	⅝
North Kalgurli	1⅛	10/-	4/-	6/3	6/-	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3⅜	3½	3⅝xd
Peak Hill	5⅛	2⅞	⅛	⅜	½	½
Sons of Gwalia	6⅜	2⅜	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
South Kalgurli	6½	2⅞	½	1	1⅛	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅛	⅛	½	⅛	½

Bank Touting.

Last week I made reference to the practice of the London City and Midland Bank in touting for stockbroking business to the especial detriment of brokers in the provinces, who, during the last couple of years or so, have had anything but a rosy time. I have received several letters confirming the statements made to me by a broker in Yorkshire. I have not the space for them all, but a correspondent in Blackburn writes that on the counters of many of the Lancashire branches may be found the investment list of a London firm, and he adds that one of the members of this firm is a relative of a prominent official of the bank. I am not in a position to confirm this, because I do not happen to be intimate with the genealogy of the bank officials. But I am with my Blackburn correspondent when he says that "most of the reputable banks prohibit their managers from touting for business from customers, and it is manifestly unfair and galling to local brokers to find their business taken from them, and passed on to London firms by managers of the City and Midland branch banks." The following letter from Manchester shows that the branch managers do not confine their energies to stocks and shares, but do a little in the way of insurance agency when the occasion offers:—

I was very much interested in your article *re* London City and Midland Bank, and as a county broker I can confirm the practice alluded to. Not only does it apply to stockbroking, but also to the insurance business as well. All the bank managers are agents, and they have no hesitation at all in using the information they have before them, in competition with legitimate agents or brokers. They take half a broker's commissions on stockbroking business, or advise their customers to go elsewhere, and they give half the insurance commission away to their customers in order to get their insurances. I wonder the Directors of Banks allow their paid servants to use the time that should be devoted to the bank's business in touting for insurances.

It will not surprise me to learn that the branch managers of the London City and Midland Bank are encouraged to tout for other business besides that in stocks and shares and insurance.

From Far Kirkcaldy.

My old friend, Mr. John Lornie, of Kirkcaldy, N.B., appears to have suspended activities during the summer months—at least I infer as much since during that period not one of those correspondents who are solicitous to see that I do not miss any specimen of the share pushing business passed any of his circulars on to me. But it is evident that after his summer rest Mr. Lornie has come back to business with renewed energy; for from several quarters, widely scattered, I have received copies of his latest circular. Mr. Lornie is still offering an allotment at 87½ per cent. of "Railway 6 per cent. 1st Debentures for £100 fully paid, with a bonus in addition of 50 per cent. in Railway 5 per cent. shares, which will pay interest as soon as the addition to the railway, now being made, is completed." The name of the railway is not stated in the circular; presumably it is only given if you show a disposition to bite. I believe from past experience, however, that the debentures and the shares are those of the Colombian National Railway Company. It will be manifest that this estimable gentleman in Kirkcaldy, N.B., is in a particularly happy position to advise strangers concerning the merits of a railway undertaking in a Central American State whose two most regular crops are revolutions and volcanic eruptions. For my part, I don't mind confessing that I regard the debentures of the Colombian National Railway as of quite second rate quality. Mr. Lornie speaks of the investment as "absolutely safe"—implying, without stating as much, that these railway debentures are on the whole more desirable than Consols, since not even Consols are "absolutely" safe, seeing that they depend upon the continuance of the British Empire. Says Mr. Lornie, in addition:—

One correspondent is so pleased, after getting full particulars, that he has not only taken his allotment of £400 debentures and £200 shares, all for £350, but he wishes similar amounts for a friend; I wish, however my old correspondents to benefit in the first instance, and any not taken up by them I will give to friends, as the amount I have for disposal is limited, so I would most *strongly* advise you to reply in course. If in six months you should require your money otherwise, I will undertake to get you a *profit* on what you now pay, as these terms are the very best *underwriting* terms, which only a few firms have been able to secure. I may add that so safe do I consider the investment that I have taken a substantial interest for myself on the very same terms as now offered to you, which I will keep permanently.

If Mr. Lornie will confine his recommendations to his friends and will not endeavour to plant his precious railway debentures among strangers, there will be no cause for complaint, for to judge by the testimonials he offers, his friends know his worth.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Gib.—Chinese Fives make a remarkably good investment purchase, but I think you might defer buying Japanese Fours until it becomes possible to forecast the issue of the war with Russia. Even though there be no question of default, you are likely to buy them at a lower price than at present—assuming, as seems very likely, that hostilities will be continued for some time to come. *Investor, Gloster.*—For your purpose the Irish Land and Local Loans stocks are to be preferred to Consols. They are a trifle less liquid but that should not affect you, and they make you a return of 3½ per cent., whereas Consols yield about £2 17s. per cent. With easy money and the end of the war, the last should be good for a gradual recovery to the neighbourhood of par, but you will realise that a full recovery is not likely to be brought about just at present. *W. W.*—1. Bank of Ireland stock brings in 3½ per cent., and Bank of England stock barely 3 per cent. 2. India Three and a Half per Cent. stock may be recommended; yield, 3½ per cent. *Tarso.*—See reply to "Gib." above. *R. H., Reading.*—I see no reason, as the return is satisfactory, why you should sell your Victoria stock at present. Though Colonials are not in great favour for the moment, they are safe, and will have a moderate improvement with other gilt edged descriptions. *Sceptic.*—The recent advance in Peruvian Corporation Preference stock is due to support induced by the belief that (because it is in need of more money for railway construction and other purposes) the Government is at length about to arrange its long outstanding questions with the Corporation. *C. T. R.*—City of Buenos Ayres stock is worth keeping. *Amy.*—1. Consols for choice. 2. Keep the Argentine bonds for the unification scheme which is coming. *Investor, Newcastle.*—Egyptian Unified, Chinese Fives, and Mexican Fives would suit.

Railways.

H. G. W.—By distributing the amount over Canadian Pacific First Debentures, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and London and North-Western Railway Ordinary stocks you can secure almost 4 per cent. *Ticker.*—1. I look for a moderate recovery in Home Railways during the next few weeks, and your best plan would be to hold on to your Brighton A and York Deferred. 2. With the Metropolitan's prospects I deal this week. 3. Grand Trunk Thirds ought to recover under the influence of improving earnings and reduced expenditure. Concerning a dividend in respect of the present year, it is not possible to speak at present, but indications are not particularly favourable. In relation to the Grand Trunk junior stocks, you have to remember that the set-back has been occasioned by the extraordinarily severe winter, that net earnings are on a good scale, and that the great trouble just now is the necessity of earning the full twelve months' dividends during the second half of the year on the First and Second Preference stocks. If, as seems probable, the Company continues to do this, it will have achieved a good deal. *T. A. P.*—Be content if you see a 5 points rise within the next six months in the two stocks. "Leeds" has gained 3 already above your buying price. Both are promising. *H. G.*—Costa Rica Railway Ordinary shares are likely to have a moderate improvement if you care to hold on. The industrial is good of its class, but the shares stand at a rather high premium. *Puzzled.*—The Mashonaland Railway Debentures are quite reasonably safe. *H. H.*—I do not care much for either of the industrials, but Great Central 1881 Preference stock makes a good purchase. *A. E. W., Fazakerley.*—Grand Trunk Ordinary and Mexican Interoceanic Preference make good lock-up purchases. *S. Morris.*—Spread the money over Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary, Argentine Great Western Preference, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, Canadian Pacific First Mortgage bonds, and Brighton Preferred Ordinary, which will give you an average return of 4½ per cent.

Mines.

P. V. E., Bristol.—1. You might average. 2. I cannot say anything as to a dividend, but probably none will be declared this year. 3. Buy before the meeting if you must buy at all. *C. P.*—Oroyas are right to keep. The "Bears" have been badly beaten and are being gently squeezed. The shares, on the basis of the profit in sight, are worth more than £4. Buy more Great Boulders. *T. W. R., Norwich.*—Rand Collieries make a promising purchase; also St. George's Coal and Estates. *Shuler.*—I should not average. Turn your attention rather to the banket descriptions. *Madge.*—I do not think well of West Australian Goldfields as a speculation. *Onlooker.*—1. Niekirks are the better speculation of the two, but do not look upon them as anything more than a gamble, and be content with a moderate profit if you see one. 2. Klerksdorp Props. are not very promising. 3. All these are now worth considering for an option. *A. E. K.*—You might take up one hundred of the new shares. *Selby.*—1 and 2. I do not anticipate much recovery in the near future in Le Rois or Le Roi No. 2. Sell, and put the money into a South African or good Westralian. 3. Chartered might be kept. 4. Do not join the reconstruction. *Ness.*—1. You cannot command high rates and at the same time have full security for your money. 2. Rhodesia Land might be kept in the hope of a rise now that there is activity in the market. The other is not desirable. 3. The Company has not yet declared any dividend this year. The last was 2s. per share in December last. *D. M. J.*—The prices charged were correct, and both General Mining and Rand Collieries should have a respectable appreciation on a more cheerful market, which seems to be coming. *Disgusted, Sheffield.*—It would be a pity to clear out of your Randfonteins now that the South African market looks like going ahead. The shares are quite good, but progress on the part of the Company's subsidiaries has been retarded owing to the Boer war and the subsequent scarcity of labour. *I. M. P., Margate.*—I am obliged for the circular. Kent Coal would be a very poor catch, and I should not care to buy them, even at the present knock-out price. *J. Sawyer.*—Natal Navigation Collieries and Rand Coal Trusts are worth keeping. *R. E.*—Hainaults are fairly promising. A dividend is promised in December. *Roper.*—You had better sell your Talismans and Stratton's Independence, and place the proceeds into something more hopeful, of which the Kaffir and Westralian sections offer you a sufficiency. *Lex, York.*—You might do better by holding on to your Nile Valleys. Probably there will be some activity in Egyptians before long. *B. R.*—Briseis Tins are a fair "spec.," and nothing more. *St. John's.*—If you have a good profit on your Rhodesia Explorations, why not take it?

Mixed Investments.

Perth.—1. I cannot recommend outside brokers. 2. Timber corporations are an indifferent purchase. 3. I should recommend neither Nile River Syndicates nor Barberton Minings. *X. X. X.*—1. Although Hudson's Bays give a profit on the recent rise, I think you might very well hold the shares for dividends. 2. Great Central 1891 Preference, Grand Trunk Ordinary, and Mexican Interoceanic Preference shares are worth buying to lock up. 3. Hold the Oroya Brownhills. The "Bears" admit defeat, and the shares are worth a good £4. 4. Distillers' shares are worth buying. At the present figure the return is 6½ per cent. *Milly.*—1. I do not care for Anglo-American Brewery shares as a group. I should certainly not buy City of Chicagos. 2. Industrial and General Trust Unified stock is reasonably safe. *Pilvac.*—1. Associated Cements are hopeful at the present price, as you are willing to hold them for a time. 2. Nile Valleys are a decent speculation. They are likely to be taken in hand as soon as more activity develops in mines generally. *Luis.*—I do not care much for Beyer Peacocks, but London United Trams Preference are well worth buying. They give nearly 4¾ per cent. at the current price. *Veritas.*—1. I should recommend Argentine Great Western Railway Participating Preference, Great Western Railway Ordinary, and Brighton Railway Preferred Ordinary. 2. Hold the mines for a little improvement on a more lively market, then sell, and do not wait to get out at the figure at which you bought. 3. Baku Oil prospects are indifferent. The shares scarcely suit you. *Anxious.*—1. Lyons prospects seem bright enough, and the new place in Piccadilly will mean increased business. 2. Bodegas will no doubt recover when general trade is better. 3. I should hold Slaters. 4. I can obtain no quotation for most of your West African shares. African Estates and Mining are quoted at about 1s., Birnim Valleys at 4s. 6d., Ebenezers at 6d., and Gold Coast Proprietaries at 1s. 3d. *Vacuus Viator.*—1. I look for improving conditions in the South African mining market, and you should hold on. 2. Fine Spinners and Coats are worth buying, but I doubt if the improvement in trade of which we are told from Lancashire will bring the English Sewing Cotton Company much nearer than at present to a dividend. 3. The colonial stocks are safe enough for most men, and the fact that they are not in much favour should not bother you.

Miscellaneous.

Dromore.—1. Quite unreliable. 2. Of course; the buyer takes his own risk in the matter of forged bonds. *Radium.*—National Provincial Bank of England. *J. M. B.*—I thank you for the circular. The concern, I gather, thinks the gentler sex more gullible than men, hence the careful attention. It would be advisable to leave it severely alone. *J. F. Brown, Trowbridge.*—I am sorry to say that my opinion of the Company is not a very good one. *Luie, Sydenham.*—A very small office, and you might leave it alone. There are many stronger institutions offering terms equally good. *Ubique, Newport.*—Glad you realise that it is a bucket-shop of the lowest order, and are acting accordingly. My thanks for the circular. *J. P. M., Poole.*—I am afraid your question dealing with the magnetic pole is altogether out of my province. *Bell, Sunderland.*—The concern is not to be trusted, because its methods are not "conscientiously carried out," and you will benefit by ignoring its optimistic literature. *Cantavarus.*—Royal Exchange, Royal, Northern Assurance, Liverpool, London, and Globe, or North British and Mercantile. *Gallovidian.*—Advise your client to refuse to pay any assessment and to let the matter drop absolutely, in order that no more good money may follow the bad. *Malta.*—I dealt at length with the bucket-shop alluded to a fortnight ago, and from it you will gather that the unique method is more than a trifle unreliable, to say nothing else. *H. A., Birkenhead.*—My thanks for the documents. *S. G. D., Dudley.*—Under the circumstances, it might be advisable to continue the payments with the object in view. *H. H., Twickenham.*—Not of the highest class, but as industrials go they are fairly good, and give a return of more than 12½ per cent. at the present price. *J. G. H., Worthing.*—I am obliged for the document. I gave some prominence to the concern and its methods a week or two ago. *Scrutator.*—Yes, it is just what you describe, and nothing more. The literature is attractive, and perhaps, as you say, impressive; but it is not reliable. *Okedinatshi.*—I would not recommend you to have any dealings with the concern. Many of the bonds are safe enough, though you must remember that the majority bear no interest, the attraction, of course, being the lottery, in which the odds are much against you. *Scrutiny, Higher Broughton.*—1 and 2. Being in the armament class, the Company ought to derive some benefit from the present war. 3. An explanation is desirable, and would, perhaps, be obtainable on request. *Belfry.*—1. The present rise is due entirely to "Bear" covering, and as the prospects are not particularly brilliant there will be a relapse shortly, consequently I do not advise a purchase. 2. Fairly good industrial. *A. B., Crosshills.*—The Keighley Borough Loan is a fairly desirable investment. Leave the other alone. *W. Kington.*—The only information I can give—I have given it scores of times already—is that you leave both the Storey Cotton Company and Stephens and Henderson to their own devices. *Worthing.*—I can quite believe what you say, as it is quite in accordance with their general practice to do as they have done. The chances of being able to dispose of the bond are very small. *Dundee.*—A very small concern which is not particularly strong, and you must not forget that the high interest offered is not compatible with the security of your principal. *P. W., Sheffield.*—If Stephens and Henderson and the Storey Cotton Company are so confident about making such wonderful profits, why do they not play the game on the quiet to their own pecuniary benefit, instead of touting for trivial amounts throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles? Leave both alone. *Jackson.*—The shares are worthless. *Giltedge.*—If you communicate with N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., they will probably be able to help you. *McD.*—Many thanks for the latest of Stephens and Henderson's circulars. *T. Eley.*—The attention to London and India Docks Deferred is based on the assumption that it will receive the full 4 per cent. for the present year in the event of which the yield on the present price is almost 5⅜ per cent. *Searle.*—Will you favour me with your name, in strict privacy?

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

Industrials Still Inactive—Gas Light and Cokes Better—Breweries Neglected and Generally Dullish—Telegraphs Firm—London and India Dock Deferred—Iron and Steel Shares Quiet—Lyons in Request—Royal Mail Relapse—Textiles Buoyant—Hudson's Bays—Sweetmeats Harder.

Apart from exceptional interest in one or two specialties occasioned by recent developments, the Miscellaneous market has not witnessed any marked activity during the past week, and there are as yet no indications of a renewal of outside interest on any important scale. The Water Board stock moved upwards in sympathy with gilt-edged descriptions, but there has been a little offering of Southwark and Vauxhall issues with the result that the price receded 3 points to 274½. Beyond this Water issues maintain their ground, and in the Lighting group Gas Light and Cokes have come in for more attention at the hands of investors, while South Metropolitan Gas has not been neglected, though on balance it is unchanged at 126. Breweries continue idle and neglected by public and professionals alike, and though movements have been irregular those in a downward direction easily preponderate, and, everything considered, the tendency cannot be described as very good. Telegraph descriptions have not been quite so lively, and apart from a slight gain in Great Northerns, most of the stocks remain unaltered, but National Telephone Deferred picked up after a temporary reaction brought about by profit-taking, and continues firm. London and India Dock Deferred has been in fair request, and shows an appreciation of a point to 75. Armstrongs, Vickers-Maxims, Pease and Partners, and the majority of other Iron and Steel shares keep steady and Dorman Long Debentures hardened slightly. Rather more activity than usual has been manifested in the "bun-shops," Lyons being especially sought after on gossip concerning better prospects, and British Tea Tables made a little headway, but, on the other hand, Aerated Breads developed marked weakness as a result of big offerings, accompanied by the adverse rumours on the subject of bonus shares, while Slaters are not particularly firm. Spiers and Ponds developed renewed dulness, and Mazawattee Teas are still being freely offered. Meat shares are idle and dull, but without change of any consequence. In the Traction group Road Cars recovered to 5¾ on the strength of a little inquiry, and British Electric Tractions maintain their ground, while Anglo-Argentines and Buenos Ayres and Belgian Trams keep firm. Among Shipping shares Royal Mails relapsed on large offerings induced by the calling of a meeting to sanction the raising of the £600,000 more capital mentioned in the supplementary charter recently granted to the Company. The Textile group has been one of the brightest spots in the whole market as a result of the better prospects for the cotton industry, and stimulated by the demand from the North, Fine Spinners, Calico Printers, Sewing Cottons, and many others hardened appreciably. More hopeful reports concerning the position of the concern also led to a slight revival in the shares of the British Cotton and Wool Dyers. Although a reaction became noticeable towards the end in consequence of some desire to snatch profits, Hudson's Bays keep fairly buoyant, and remain one of the features of the market. A continuance of "Bear" covering has led to a further advance in Sweetmeat Automatics, which finish at 17s. 6d., an appreciation of almost 3s. on the week. There are more encouraging rumours in circulation regarding an agreement with the Austrian Company, and Welsbachs have sharply responded to this influence, and are quite buoyant. Not so much activity has been evinced in the Nitrate group, but there is still a great deal of optimism indulged in as to the good prospects of the industry, and most of the shares keep steady.

VIGILANT.

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

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QUEER STORY.

THE LUCK OF THE NEWCOURTS.

For many generations, persistent ill-luck had dogged the footsteps of the Newcourt family. At one time large landed proprietors, wealthy, distinguished, and of consequence, they had gradually dwindled both in wealth and influence, until not an acre of land or a penny of capital remained to them. Indeed, Tom Newcourt, the present head of the family, upon the demise of his father, some fifteen years ago, found himself the legatee of nothing more considerable than a few personal effects and a bundle or two of old papers relating to the family history, which his deceased parent had collected and treasured—interesting, of course, as a family record, but having no intrinsic or marketable value.

Tom was not disappointed at the barren nature of his inheritance, for he had expected nothing else. Newcourts and money had now been so long dissociated that the very name might safely be taken as evidence of impecuniosity. Yet, truth to tell, this unfortunate state of affairs had not been brought about by dissipation or extravagance, but (as has been intimated above) by sheer persistent ill-luck. Misfortune hung like a blight over the family and all its members. There seemed to be no fighting against it.

This blight, or curse, or whatever you may choose to call it, dated more than two and a half centuries back, and began with the marriage of Thomas Newcourt, of Courtfield Bishop, Bucks, Esquire, to Margaret Ponty, only daughter of Roger Ponty, yeoman, of the same village, in the last year of James I.

By some, the ill-luck which, from that time forward, haunted the Newcourts, was regarded as a just retribution for the *mésalliance*; by others, as a punishment for the moral levity of the yeoman's daughter, who subsequently became a lady of fashion at Charles I.'s Court, and there comported herself as too many ladies of fashion then did. But, however you may explain it, the undeniable fact remains that the downfall of the Newcourt family began from the time when Margaret Ponty was introduced into it, and continued with a fatal certainty ever since.

Among the bundles of family papers to which I have referred were a couple of quaint old letters, bearing date 1630, the one from Margaret Newcourt at Ye Palace of Whyte-Halle to her husband, Thomas Newcourt, at Courtfield Bishop, Bucks, and the other, Thomas Newcourt's reply to the same.

From this correspondence, it appeared that Mistress Margaret had had her portrait painted by Rubens in the character of Venus, and desired her husband to remit fifty guineas wherewith she might pay the artist.

Thomas Newcourt's reply was to the effect that he regarded it as disgraceful in a lady, on whom he had conferred his hand and name, that she should be painted in the character of a shameless heathen goddess, and have her undraped charms exposed on canvas to the eyes of all and sundry. But, since the portrait had been painted, he would pay the fifty guineas for it, and make it his own, if only to save it from being publicly exhibited.

"For lette me telle you, my ladie" (concluded this quaint epistle) "that I shall moste certainlie bring thatte pourtrayt all to Courtfield Bishop and hang itte in an attick, with ittes face to ye walle, where no eyes of menne shall ever beholde itte.

"From your angrie and sorrowful husbande,

"Thos. Newcourt."

Of the portrait itself, save for this correspondence, there was neither trace nor record, from which the obvious conclusion to be drawn was that Thomas Newcourt had improved upon his threat of hanging it "in an attick, with ittes face to ye walle," to prevent the eyes of men from beholding it, by burning, or otherwise destroying, the obnoxious picture.

It was one night a few weeks after his father's death that young Tom Newcourt, briefless barrister and pot-boiling journalist, happened to peruse these old family

papers. He found them so diverting and interesting that he continued to pore over them into the small hours. Presently he looked up, and in the half-gloom, beyond the focus of his reading-lamp, he descried something that caused him to start with intense amazement.

What he saw was this—a woman, in young middle life, her face wonderfully beautiful, yet withal something bold and pert, and her figure richly attired in brocade and velvet, draped after the fashion with which we are familiar on the canvases of Van Dyk.

As his eye met hers, she made him a curtsey in the grand manner, yet with a spice of sauciness imparted, and then remarked:

"You do not know me, young sir?"

The astonished Tom shook his head.

"I am your ancestress, Margaret Newcourt (born Ponty)," said she.

Tom said nothing. He could only rub his eyes and stare at her.

"It is imputed to me," she went on, "that I am the cause of all the misfortune that, now for two centuries, has pursued your ill-starred family. You have heard this?"

Tom nodded. He was still too much bewildered for words.

"Listen, my young relative," said she. "Having brought such ill-luck upon you Newcourts, I am now about to make atonement to the family in your person, and to put you in the way of becoming rich and famous. Mark well what I say. There is a talisman—a talisman of luck—concealed upon me. If you will carefully remove my stomacher, you will find that talisman here" (she laid her hand upon her heart), "just beneath my breast, on the left side——"

Bang! A coal fell noisily from the grate into the fender, and Tom awoke with a start. He rubbed his eyes. He looked about him. No sign of his ancestress, Margaret Newcourt. This interesting little interview had been only a dream.

And yet there had been a vividness about it not exactly dream-like, either. The whole scene—the pretty, bold-faced little woman, her stately curtsey, her formal old-world speech, her mysterious hints at a talisman of luck that she carried—all these remained impressed upon Tom's mind with extraordinary clearness. And somehow he could not get rid of the feeling that he had really seen and spoken with his notorious ancestress.

But such subjective visions of sleep, however vivid and impressive, soon fade and pass from the memory, unless something objective happens afterwards to recall them. And doubtless Tom's dream would have suffered the same fate, had it not been that, within a week, it was brought back to him in a very remarkable manner.

Among his father's effects were a few old curios, which Tom, who wanted money, commissioned a well-known firm of art auctioneers in the West End to sell for him.

He attended the sale to see what his curios fetched, and was somewhat disappointed by the small prices realised. He was just leaving the sale-room (his lots having been disposed of), when a couple of pictures were put up—"Portrait of a gentleman, unknown, after Van Dyck, artist unknown;" "Portrait of a lady unknown, after Rubens, artist unknown."

The auctioneer's man brought them into the ring, where they were handed round and inspected, with contemptuous indifference, apparently, by the dealers there seated.

"Now, gentlemen, what shall we say for these? Five guineas the pair? Any one bid five guineas?"

"One guinea," said some one.

"Guinea and a half," said some one else.

"Two guineas."

"Two and a half."

It was at this moment that the auctioneer's man happened to turn the portrait of the lady unknown in Tom's direction.

An intense thrill of excitement shot through him as his eye fell upon it. Why, here was the counterfeit presentment, the living likeness, of the pretty little lady of whom he had dreamed the other night. It was the same smile, the same bold expression—yea, even the same dress down to the smallest detail.

"Two and a half guineas, gentlemen—the pair going for TWO AND A HALF GUINEAS!"

"Three guineas," said Tom, hardly knowing what he was saying, so excited was he.

"Three and a half guineas."

"Four guineas," said Tom.

"Four guineas, gentlemen—the pair going at FOUR GUINEAS!" proclaimed the sonorous voice of the auctioneer.

"For FOUR GUINEAS!" he repeated.

Then the hammer fell.

And at this reasonable figure Tom Newcourt unexpectedly became the possessor of a portrait of his notorious ancestress (for he could not doubt but that it was she), by an unknown artist, after Rubens, with the portrait of a gentleman, unknown, after Van Dyck, thrown in.

Next day he went and fetched the pictures away, and hung them in his rooms.

Whoever the unknown artist and imitator of Rubens who portrayed his ancestress may have been, the picture was certainly very well painted, and it possessed that feature characteristic of all good pictures—namely, that the eyes followed you and looked at you from whatever position you regarded them.

Tom remarked this, and found himself always catching—so to speak—the eye of Margaret Newcourt, and every time he did so, her mysterious words came back to him:—

"If you will carefully remove my stomacher, you will find the talisman here—just beneath my breast, on the left side."

"Now I wonder what the deuce you meant by that, great-great-great-great-grandmother?" Tom was constantly asking himself. "I wish to Heaven you would condescend to open those red lips of yours, and explain. Goodness knows, I need the talisman badly enough. Don't suppose I shall ever find it, though. Such strokes of luck don't come in the way of us Newcourts."

The picture had been hanging in Tom's room for about three months, when, one morning, a friend of his father's, an eminent Q.C., looked in upon him, to ask him to dinner—as a stop-gap at the last moment, in fact—though, of course, he did not mention this circumstance.

Now it happened that the distinguished counsel rather valued himself as a connoisseur of pictures, and, his eye falling upon Mistress Margaret's portrait, he exclaimed:—

"I say, that's an uncommonly nice picture you have there, Newcourt. Has the appearance of a Rubens. Where did you get it?"

Tom told him, giving him at the same time a graphic account of his dream and of the extraordinary coincidence that had led to his buying the picture.

The Q.C. was much interested. He put on his glasses and went and inspected the picture at close quarters.

"Umph!" said he, "well, if this is an imitation, it's a precious good one. Of course, as is well known, Rubens had a host of pupils and disciples, many of whom caught his style very nearly. And I presume that this is by one of them. Still, even so, it was ridiculously cheap at four guineas. I'd give you twenty for it, with the greatest pleasure."

"Thank you. I don't think I'll sell it," answered Tom. "The family history attached to it, and that extraordinary dream and coincidence of which I told you, invest it with an interest in my eyes that would make me loth to part with it."

"I quite understand, Newcourt, and certainly the coincidence was most remarkable," answered the Q.C., still regarding the picture through his pince-nez.

Then, after a moment's reflection, he exclaimed, suddenly:—

"I say! Those old family papers relating to your ancestors—are they here? May I have a look at them?"

"Of course," replied Tom.

And he took the bundle from his desk and, selecting the papers required, handed them to his visitor.

The latter perused them in thoughtful silence.

"Umph!" he presently observed; "the lady *did* have a portrait of herself painted by Rubens, in the character of an undraped Venus, though. So this cannot be that one. Is it possible, I wonder, that he may have painted a second portrait of the lady? But, then, the work would doubtless have been signed by him, which this is not. It is very odd. And that mysterious allusion to a talisman of luck hidden beneath her stomacher, of which, in your dream, she made mention. By Jehoshaphat!" cried the Q.C., his face lighting up with a sudden, eager excitement, "I wonder—can it be possible?—I do believe I have the clue. Yes, yes! it is worth investigating, anyway. You must obey the lady's directions, Newcourt, and carefully remove her stomacher—you must, indeed."

"I beg your pardon. I don't quite understand you," answered the bewildered Tom. "How am I to remove the stomacher from an apparition?"

"Oh, I don't mean that. It is this you must remove —*this*," said the Q.C., laying his finger on the velvet and brocaded article in the picture; "or, rather, you must have it removed by a competent expert——"

"But why?"

"'Why,' man? Can't you see? Let us assume now that your ancestor, the lady's husband, objecting (as he evidently did) to his wife's unclothed charms being exhibited on canvas, but not caring to destroy a genuine Rubens, commissioned some other artist to put some clothes on her, and——"

"Oh, I say!" interposed Tom, in his turn full of excitement, as the Q.C.'s idea began to dawn upon him, "You mean that perhaps this *is* the Venus portrait with a stomacher painted over it, in deference to my ancestor's susceptibilities."

"Precisely; that is my notion. Don't you think it well worth investigating?"

It only remains to add that Tom, acting on his friend's advice, submitted the portrait to a well-known picture restorer, who carefully removed the stomacher, and found beneath the lady's bust, plump, white, shapely, as Nature made it.

Then the mystery of the talisman was cleared up, for just below the lady's left breast, across the corner of the canvas, appeared the magic signature, "Peter Paul Rubens."

Tom Newcourt sold the picture at Christie's for £10,000, and, with this comfortable nest-egg at his back, was enabled to make his way at the Bar, of which he is now one of the most distinguished ornaments, with a silk gown and a practice that runs annually into five figures.

ART NOTES.

THE "R.P.S.," ETC.

THE Exhibition of "The Salon," which in the photographic world occupies the position that the Grosvenor Gallery was originally started to fill in the world of picture-painting, has been followed, as usual, by that of "The Royal Photographic Society," which may be considered the Royal Academy of the photographic year. And yet the suggested parallelism is not, perhaps, quite a fair one, for the attitude of the "R.P.S." towards new methods and progressive developments in Photography has never been characterised by unreasonable antagonism and mere professional prejudice. The older society has, in fact, been most willing to assimilate much of the teaching of the "Members of the Linked Ring," and its present exhibition at the New Gallery shows in many ways how potent "Salonic" influences have been in raising Photography to a higher plane and tempering its more mechanical and conventional features with those individualistic and informing qualities which make for art. On the other hand, the "R.P.S." has very discreetly refused to follow "The Salon" into the wilderness—or American prairie, one might more aptly call it—of illimitable obscurity and gloom into which its ill-advised pioneers have of late been leading it. It has refused, very wisely, to accept as a satisfactory portrait a casual patch of gleaming white teeth, a luminous ear-tip, and the hazy suggestion of a shadowy face looming out of a more or less formless void of enigmatic opacity. Intimate acquaintances may be able to recognise a sitter from such fragmentary physiognomical hints. But any one who would establish a person's identity by such means has assuredly (as in the case of Mr. Chevalier's "Bill Scroggins") "got to know him fust." I am glad to note, therefore, that the American heresy, which declares that the artistic value of a photograph varies inversely as the square of its obscurity, finds no credence at the New Gallery. In a word, the "R.P.S." wastes no wall space in exhibiting as specimens of advanced photography mere impertinent attempts at the apotheosis of the Cimmerian smear and the glorification of the inspissated blur!

But of all the real and legitimate developments of Photography admirable specimens may be found at the New Gallery, which is filled with an almost bewildering collection of the endless applications of the various photographic processes. Thus Radiography comes specially to the front this year, and it will be noticed that one of the Society's medals is given to Mr. C. Thurston Holland for his X-Ray renderings of bones, a series at once highly interesting and of the greatest practical value. Telephotography, microphotography, photo-engraving, orthochromatic photography, three-colour printing photography—all these phases of the camera's activity are represented. But, with regret it must be chronicled, that we are apparently as far as ever from the discovery—which will be epoch-making when it comes—of how to take photographs in colour direct from Nature. A German scientist, it is true, has just claimed to have solved the problem, but experience teaches us that scientific discoveries "made in Germany" must be accepted with a similar sceptical deliberation to that which we accord to many of the startling statements with emanate "from Sheffield." Dr. Kœnig, the scientist in question, has promised full details, and these will be awaited with eagerness considerably tempered with incredulity.

My general impression, after seeing the two chief exhibitions of the year, is that Photography on the whole shows a decided upward tendency. That some of its most enthusiastic pioneers should have lost their way *en route* by deviating into by-paths which have landed them in a sort of Stygian bog, is a regrettable rather than a surprising fact. Such diversions and deviations are associated with all onward movements, and at worst only slightly delay the general advance. This much is certain—never before in its history has Photography occupied more worthily the high position which the labour and energy and enthusiasm of its followers have combined to gain for it. The time has passed when it could with any show of reason be called the Cinderella-like drudge of its proud and contemptuous sisters, Painting and Sculpture. It can now fairly be considered the appreciated handmaid of the Arts.

The late Mr. Walter Severn was not only President for many years of the Dudley Gallery Art Society, but was a prolific contributor of water-colours to its exhibitions. For my part, I found him at his artistic best when he was depicting the clouds and lakes and mountains of that Wordsworthian country, which later became the home of Professor Ruskin. He, so to put it, "felt" the scenes he painted with such subtle skill, and was able so successfully to invest with a luminous atmosphere. Many of his best remembered drawings are also associated with Venice—though, as he was often heard laughingly to recall, there was a period in his career when he could not paint what he called his "rose pictures" quickly enough to satisfy an appreciative public. Most people have forgotten that the late Mr. Severn was in his early years, like Matthew Arnold, an Inspector in the service of the Public Education Department. That was before he came more directly under the influence of Ruskin, whose cousin and ward, Miss Joan Ruskin Agnew, was the wife of his surviving brother Arthur. He was, in fact, a many-sided man, for

he not only painted water-colours, and illustrated books, but was one of the first of the Pre-Raphaelites; a pioneer in the artistic furniture movement, and a persistent worker with those who essayed to revivify the ancient craft of Art Embroidery. His intimate friends will remember him as a delightful *raconteur*, and, as the son of Joseph Severn, the devoted friend of Keats, his reminiscences of Rome, where he was, in fact, born in 1830, were full of literary interest. Those who best know the comprehensive interest of his conversations will, in fact, most sincerely hope that rumour is justified in anticipating a posthumous volume of personal recollections from his pen.

MUSIC.

THE VICISSITUDES OF ENGLISH OPERA.

LAST week the Moody-Manners Company gave a week's performances of opera in English at the Coronet Theatre, Notting-hill, and played to crowded houses every night. This week they are appearing at Deptford, where they are probably doing quite as well. Yet when they gave much better performances at Drury Lane last summer and at Covent Garden the year before they lost thousands. Why is this? Why is it that the public, which flocks so gladly to grand opera in the suburbs, fights so singularly shy of the same form of entertainment when it is given in Central London. As regards last summer's venture at Drury Lane, there was, no doubt, the rather important fact to be borne in mind that Covent Garden was also competing for favour at the same time, and though at higher prices, was doing this by means of performances necessarily surpassing anything that Mr. Manners could hope to accomplish. Also, it must be remembered that the height of the summer is not an ideal season in which to appeal to suburban opera-goers, most of whom prefer to spend their evenings after a hard day's work in town in the open air—playing tennis, or cycling, or watering the back garden, as the case may be. Yet, again, last summer was a particularly hot one, and quite the worst which has been known for many years from the theatrical point of view. On these and other grounds, therefore, it was not altogether surprising that Drury Lane was not absolutely packed night after night to hear "Faust," "Martha," "Maritana," and the rest, in English. At the same time, I believe it is a fact that even more money was lost during the Covent Garden season in the preceding autumn, when the conditions might have been thought in many respects more favourable. In spite of the competition of the fashionable season over the way, a hot summer, and a theatrical "frost," the Drury Lane venture actually realised more money—or, perhaps, it would be more accurate to say lost less—than that which had been given at Covent Garden under circumstances apparently more hopeful. But, even so, it was merely a case of bad and worse as between the two enterprises. Neither season paid. Yet in Deptford or Bayswater, in Camberwell or Camden Town, it is just the other way about. In these cases crowded houses and enthusiastic audiences are the rule, and the company goes on its way rejoicing.

This is certainly a rather curious state of things, and Mr. Manners does well to ask what the interpretation of the mystery may be. Perhaps, however, it is not altogether so difficult of explanation as he seems to think. No doubt the popularity of the suburban theatre has not a little to do with the matter for one thing. Suburban music lovers will go to a local playhouse which lies just round the corner when they would not dream of making the weary pilgrimage back to the city, from which they have just returned, and if they are bent on an evening's dissipation even the fact that the entertainment happens to be grand opera will not deter them. Then again, your local theatre has no immediate rivals. It is a case of that or nothing; so that if opera be the fare of the week, it is opera which must perforce be patronised. But there is, I think, an even more important consideration to be borne in mind, and this is the fact that so much less is expected from a local performance than from one given at Drury Lane or Covent Garden. Performances which would not be tolerated in London proper go down well enough in the suburbs, where it is recognised that the same standard of excellence must not be expected. Nothing has told more against the Moody-Manners performances in Central London that the suspicion of cheapness and mediocrity which is attached to them. It has not been Mr. Manners' fault, of course. No one, it is safe to say, would do things in better style if he had the means and obtained the amount of support which would justify a more lavish policy. As he often told his audiences at Drury Lane—in those confidential little speeches which Mme. Moody, exercising a spouse's rights, compelled him to stop delivering—the shows which he gives are nothing to those which he would like to put on. But unfortunately this is just the one fatal drawback to the enterprise from the standpoint of the average London theatre-goer, who will tolerate nothing but the first-rate, be the particular kind of entertainment what it may. Whether it be opera, tragedy, farce, or musical comedy, the thing must be well done—well staged, well cast, and well mounted, if it is to obtain support at a West End theatre. Some day I hope to see a season of English opera in Central London put on in every way as well as Mr. George Edwardes mounts his pieces at Daly's or the Gaiety, with the best possible artists, fine scenery, handsome dresses, and everything else in keeping. Perhaps it is Mr. George Edwardes himself, or Mr. George Edwardes working in conjunction with Mr. Manners, who will do this thing. Why not? It would be an excellent combination, and great results might follow therefrom. At any rate, it would be highly interesting to see the experiment attempted. Till then I am afraid English opera must remain satisfied, so far as London is concerned, with the patronage and encouragement of the suburbs.

By the way, Mr. T. Walter Hall, representing the promoters of the scheme concerned, writes from Sheffield to bear out the accuracy of the views which I ventured to express last week respecting the forthcoming "Sheffield University Opera Week." Mr. Hall, after pointing out that under their agreement with Mr. Manners the members of the local committee stand to lose nothing but their time and trouble, and at the same time have a very fair prospect of making something for the University Fund, goes on to say, in reply to the letter with which I dealt last week:—

> The members of the local committee have *promoted* this scheme and *pressed* it upon Mr. Manners, because his visits to Sheffield in the past have always been unprofitable, and in a business community like Sheffield it was soon realised that the public had the remedy in its own hands, and that co-operation was better than waiting for musical subsidies. . . . They are anxious that the venture should prove profitable to Mr. Manners, and they entirely adopt your view that this scheme is "a mutual benefit arrangement" and not pure philanthropy.

Another circumstance which Mr. Hall refers to is worth noting:—

> It may be of interest to you to know that the greatest difficulty we have to contend with is the refusal of "star" artists to sing the principal parts of Wagner's operas *in English*, and this is a real difficulty at the present time.

It is, I believe, a fact that some of the most eminent of living English-speaking operatic artists were approached with a view to securing their services in connection with the forthcoming performances, but without result in every instance. Apparently vocalists who have appeared in the grand season at Covent Garden consider it beneath their dignity to take part in provincial performances in English, though I venture to suggest that this is taking a very foolish and short-sighted view of the matter. The high reputation enjoyed by such artists as Miss Zelie de Lussan and Mr. Joseph O'Mara, who have not been deterred by such silly vanity from appearing regularly for Mr. Manners, might suffice, indeed, to prove the entire absurdity of any such fears, if, as there is reason to believe, they are actually entertained. It is manifest that until the finest available

talent is employed, opera in the vernacular will never enjoy that position which it ought to occupy. Meanwhile, there is much to be said for this co-operative principle which is being adopted in Sheffield, and, in view of the possibility of the same thing being attempted elsewhere, the outcome of the experiment will be watched with no little interest.

The Leeds Festival, which begins to-day (Wednesday), is the chief musical event of the current week, and by all accounts it should yield some interesting performances. Some years ago Sir A. C. Mackenzie, who is a Scotchman, registered a solemn vow that he would execute no more festival commissions unless more satisfactory terms were forthcoming than those then current. I hope therefore that the committee are treating him with proper liberality in respect of his new cantata, "The Witch's Daughter," which is to be heard for the first time this evening. Other new works from British pens to be introduced are Dr. Walford Davies's setting of "Everyman"—not an exactly rollicking subject for musical treatment; "A Ballad of Dundee," by Dr Charles Wood; a "Poem for Orchestra and Chorus," entitled "Queen Mab," by Mr. Josef Holbrooke (of Finsbury Park, as he likes to be described); and a new concerto for violin and orchestra by Sir Charles Stanford, in which Herr Kreisler is to play. Herr Kreisler, who is the only instrumental soloist of the Festival, is also to be heard in Brahms's violin concerto; while other notable works to be given include, besides such old familiar friends as "Elijah" and "The Golden Legend," Sir Edward Elgar's concert overture (with which we have still to become familiar in London), "In the South," Brahms's "Schicksalslied," Parry's "Voces Clamantium," Glazounow's sixth symphony, and the inevitable Wagnerian selections without which no modern provincial festival can be considered to be complete.

New works have not been very numerous at the Promenades lately, though the excellence of the programmes has been otherwise maintained, and the audiences attracted have likewise been all that could be wished. A so-called "lyric overture," by Mr. Napier Miles, entitled "From the West Country," might have been identified with equal fitness with the north, the south, the east, or the Midlands so far as concerned the ordinary hearer of the work, which proved, in truth, a more or less pale and colourless essay in the style of Brahms. An unfamiliar but effective aria from Tschaikowsky's "Dame de Pique," given in excellent style by Mr. William Higley, was more acceptable. In this connection, by the way, there is an interesting article in the *Contemporary Review* for October by A. E. Keeton dealing with Tschaikowsky's ballet music, most of which is entirely unknown in this country, though one may well believe the statement that it is full of grace and charm. Portions of one, that named "The Nut-cracker Man," are known, of course, as the "Casse Noisette" suite, which the composer himself put into concert form; but others, such as "The Sleeping Beauty" and "The Snow Maiden," said to be no less attractive, are quite unfamiliar. What are the Empire and the Alhambra about to neglect their opportunities in this way?

Apropos of the Promenades, a complaint reaches me to the effect that the walls of the Queen's Hall concert room are not sufficiently sound-proof. The grievance is felt, especially, I understand, by certain of the critics, who, when conversing in the corridor outside while the concert is proceeding, are hardly able at times to hear themselves speak in consequence of the noise going on within. When it is a comparatively quiet piece which is being played, such as the Good Friday Music from "Parsifal," or the Siegfried Idyll, the annoyance is not so marked, but when one of the more strepitous numbers, the "Walkürenritt," say, or the "1812" overture, is being given, the discomfort is intolerable, so that in these cases there is simply nothing for it but to retire either to the vestibule which is unpleasantly draughty, or to the refreshment room, where other perils lurk. But even this is not all, for some querulous individuals have made matters worse by actually complaining that these corridor chats interfere with the comfort and enjoyment of those listening to the music within. This, however, obviously represents an entirely one-sided view of the matter. My sympathies are naturally with my colleagues.

The Sunday Afternoon Concerts at Queen's Hall have been resumed and will be continued without break until March. Few concerts are more popular or better attended than these, and the reason is not far to seek, seeing that, while the prices are so moderate—a balcony seat for the twenty-six concerts can be obtained for a guinea—the programmes and performances are of such unexceptionable excellence. The thanks of all Londoners are due indeed to the Society which runs these concerts, which the Sabbatarians, it will be remembered, once made determined efforts to suppress. How grossly they misinterpreted thereby the feelings of the public at large is realised acutely enough by any one coming late to one of these performances in the expectation of getting a seat. Another series of excellent concerts, devoted to chamber music in this case, which help to beguile the tedium of the middle-class Londoner's Sunday, are those given at South-place, Finsbury, which have also been resumed. These concerts are "supported entirely by voluntary contributions," and the fact that it has been possible to keep them going so long—they are now in their nineteenth season—testifies to the excellent way in which they are managed.

That long lost Strad again! "Romance of a Fiddle," I read in a headline. A labourer bought it this time, it appears, for 6s., but, "fortunately for him, the labourer knew something of the value of fiddles" (which is more than can be said for the writer of the paragraph), and so, "a few days later, sold his treasure to a dealer in curios for £600." And now, concludes this veracious paragraph, "the latter has sold the fiddle for £1,600." Name! name! Who is this open-handed purchaser? Many dealers would certainly be glad to make his acquaintance; but possibly if he has been making inquiries as to the market value of his "treasure," he is a sadder and a wiser man by this time. At the sale of a collection of a well-known fancier last year, the highest price secured for a Strad—a real one this time—of 1717 was £480, at which sum it was knocked down to Mr. Hill, of Bond-street. It was said to be a very fine example, and yet it went for less than a third of the amount which this canny North-country purchaser—the paragraph comes from Cumberland—is reported to have paid. That fiddle "without strings, bridge, or pegs, and laden with dust and cobwebs" should be put into a museum along with our old friend the piano, "property of a lady with handsomely carved rosewood legs."

Mr. Ashton Ellis's "Life of Wagner," the fourth volume of which has just been published by Kegan Paul, Trench, and Co., is growing out of all reason. It contains some interesting matter, but there is far too much of it. Only two years—1853 to 1855—are covered by this huge volume of over five hundred pages, so that if the remaining years of the master's life are dealt with on a similar scale we may expect another fourteen volumes before the biography is completed. Mr. Ellis does not seem to understand that the business of the biographer is not to dump down upon his readers every scrap of information on which he can lay his hands, but to spare them the winnowing process by himself selecting the important from the unessential. The period of the composing of "Rheingold" and "Die Walkure," which is that dealt with in this volume, was doubtless an important one in Wagner's life, as Mr. Ellis insists, but this is no justification for dealing with it at such extravagant length. I suppose it is a case of the dyer's hand being subdued to what it works in. Mr. Ellis has dwelt so long among his long-winded Teutonic authorities that he has become himself more German than the Germans. Indeed, his work now promises to eclipse in bulk that of Herr Glasenapp himself, for whereas the

latter's fourth volume takes him to 1872, Mr. Ellis brings us, as I have said, no further than 1855. It is, in fact, no longer a translation, or even an expansion, of Glasenapp upon which Mr. Ellis is now engaged, but an altogether new and independent life of the master; and, while Mr. Ellis's qualifications for the task are in many respects all that could be wished, it is certainly to be regretted that he does not know how to temper his enthusiasm with discretion.

One or two amusing anecdotes are contained in Mr. E. M. Oakeley's pleasantly-written biography of his brother, the late Sir Herbert Stanley Oakeley, (George Allen). Of the great Dr. Wesley, for example, a characteristic story is told. The composer of "The Wilderness" had a rooted objection to unauthorised embellishments of classical texts, and on the occasion in question was accompanying a singer who was giving in Winchester Cathedral "The people that walked in darkness"—Oakeley being seated beside him in the organ loft. At the passage "Have seen a great Light" the soloist, thinking to improve Handel, introduced an elaborate turn of his own. Whereupon Dr. Wesley, taking his hands off the keys, whispered to his companion: "Ha, ha! my friend, all very fine; but one *bad* turn deserves another," and left the abashed singer all alone to walk in darkness for a good part of the rest of the piece. Of Liszt, whom Oakeley met in Rome, and his fabulous virtuosity, a graphic account is given:

Then he persuaded our hostess to sing "The Last" (but ever-recurring) "Rose of Summer," during each verse of which he improvised a gradually-developed accompaniment. In the last verse there occurred a passage of sixths, *pianissimo e prestissimo*, where the wonderful hands went together up and down the keyboard with the most astonishing equality and rapidity; suggesting Briareus with his hundred hands, the player meanwhile looking anywhere but at his fingers, and smiling at the astonishment of his audience at the alteration of harmony and improvement to the melody in its new and gorgeous attire, and at the surprise of the singer, who pluckily maintained her *canto fermo*, notwithstanding the total change of accompaniment and colour of her tune at every recurrence of the first phrase, which, by the way, comes no less than six times in each verse. The memory of that recital will never perish!

Sir Herbert Oakeley died, it will be remembered, last year.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"My Memory of Gladstone" (1) does not keep the apparent promise of its title by giving you such intimate glimpses of its subject as only Mr. Goldwin Smith could supply. Indeed, the only personal reminiscence of importance recalled by Mr. Goldwin Smith testifies to the one universally known and admitted fact about Gladstone—his powers of work:—

His powers of work were enormous. He once called me to him to help in settling the details of a University Bill. He told me that he had been up over the Bill late at night. We worked at it together from ten in the morning till six in the afternoon, saving an hour and a half which he spent at a Privy Council, leaving me with the Bill. When we parted he went down to the House, where he spoke at one o'clock the next morning.

For the rest, the only thing in the book which cannot be found in any and every life of Gladstone, from Mr. Morley's down, is Mr. Goldwin Smith's view that Gladstone, in his Irish crusade, was "morally insane." But, then, Mr. Goldwin Smith's judgment is here so prejudiced that he maintains "there was no serious bribery of a pecuniary kind" practised by Pitt in carrying the Union, and that the *Times* still exercises to-day the political power it wielded in the days of the ten-pound householder. "The stoutest opposition, and that which did most to save the integrity of the United Kingdom was made, as I shall always hold, by the *Times*. The error into which it fell with regard to the Parnell letters was a trifling matter compared with the memorable service which it rendered on the whole to the Unionist cause." I ought to say that Mr. Goldwin Smith seems to admit that Gladstone's moral insanity was temporary only; since, in all the matters and measures in which he was on the side of Mr. Goldwin Smith, Gladstone always stood for righteousness. "As an embodiment of some great qualities, especially of loyalty to righteousness, Gladstone has left no equal behind him," and he justly contrasts him here with his great rival Disraeli, "who gave his mind almost entirely to the game of party and the struggle for power, whose grand game was that of setting two classes, the highest and the lowest, against the third." Mr. Goldwin Smith's Unionist prejudices are "as moonlight unto sunlight, and as water unto wine" compared with Mr. Swinburne's. I have just been reading his "A Channel Passage, and Other Poems" (2), hoping to find in them the old thrill which stirred the pulses of my youth; but the hope was vain. Perhaps the fault was in me. *Non sum qualis eram.* However, the command of words and of metres rhythmical and resounding as the league long rollers of the Atlantic still remain to Mr. Swinburne, and the command also of virulent and anile vituperation. Here is his view of Gladstone's Irish crusade:—

What are these that howl and hiss across the strait of westward water?
Who is he who floods our ears with speech in flood?
See the long tongue lick the dripping hand that smokes and reeks of slaughter!
See the man of words embrace the man of blood!

. . . . . .

No; the lust of life, the thirst for work and days with work to do it in,
Drove and drives him down the road of splendid shame;
All is well, if o'er the monument recording England's ruin
Time shall read, inscribed in triumph, Gladstone's name.

Thieves and murderers, hands yet red with blood and tongues yet black with lies,
Clap and clamour, "Parnell spurs his Gladstone well"!
Truth, unscared and undeluded by their praise or blame, replies,
"Is the goal of fraud and bloodshed heaven or hell?"

Perhaps Mr. Swinburne, in this new volume, is at his best in his "Burns: An Ode," though here also *facit indignatio versus*, since his preference of Burns' satirical poems to his lyrical is obviously inspired by his sympathy with the author of "Holy Willie's Prayer." Here is a verse or two of this fine ode:—

The joyous lightning found its voice
And bade the heart of wrath rejoice
And scorn uplift a song to voice
The imperial hate.
That smote the God of base men's choice
At God's own gate.

The servants of the lord of hell,
As though their lord had blessed them, fell
Foaming at mouth for fear, so well
They knew the lie
Wherewith they sought to scan and spell
The unsounded sky.

And Calvin, night's prophetic bird,
Out of his home in hell was heard
Shrieking; and all the fens were stirred
Whence plague is bred;
Can God endure the scoffer's word?
But God was dead.

The God they made them in despite
Of man and woman, love and light,
Strong sundawn and the starry night,
The lie supreme,
Shot through with song, stood forth to sight,
A devil's dream.

The central incident of Mr. Anthony Hope's fine novel, "Double Harness" (3), is staggering. The hero, having overtaken his eloping wife and her lover, threatens to shoot himself and his and her son, if she refuses to return with him. She knows he means it, and yet, though she loves her boy, she can calmly contemplate these frightful crimes, and would, indeed, have consented to their commission, if her lover had not recoiled from

(1) "My Memory of Gladstone." By Goldwin Smith. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 2s. 6d.)
(2) "A Channel Passage and Other Poems." By Algernon Charles Swinburne. (London: Chatto & Windus. 7s.)
(3) "Double Harness." By Anthony Hope. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)
(4) "A Ladder of Swords." A Tale of Love, Laughter and Tears. By Gilbert Parker. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)
(5) "The Tyrants of North Hyben." By Frank Dilnot. (London: John Lane, 6s.)

that appalling abyss. In truth, her greatest friend took her measure precisely when she charged her with assuming that "your husband, your son, the whole world, were made for your emotions to go sprawling over." Indeed, hero and heroine remind me of a shrewd saying of Swift's: "Selfish men complain most of selfishness in others, just as a fat man in a crowd complains most of the crush to which he contributes most." If you are somewhat disenchanted at times with both hero and heroine, you have a vast number of other couples to interest you deeply in Mr. Anthony's Hope's crowded canvas. I cannot forgive Sir Gilbert Parker for gratuitously slaying his hero and heroine at the close of "A Ladder of Swords"(4). Of course, there are stories artistically foredoomed to a tragic close; but everything in "A Ladder of Swords" led you to expect, as well as to hope, for a happy ending. However, the best drawn and most delightful character in the novel is not the hero or heroine but their chivalrous champion, the Seigneur of Rozel, whose vanity, simplicity, audacity, and magnanimity are admirably described. Queen Elizabeth, too, that strange compound of despicable weakness and formidable strength, really lives in Sir Gilbert's pages, and plays, with Leicester, a characteristic part in making or marring the fortunes of the humbler personages. Mary Queen of Scots also plays an indirect part in a striking scene. After the birth of her son, she sends Elizabeth a palfrey, the pommel of whose saddle is anointed with a poison so deadly that she who touched it and thereafter touched with the same hand or glove her lips or nostrils died on the spot. Elizabeth, warned by the heroine of her danger, first thoroughly rubbed the poison into the back of her glove, which she then presented to the poisoner to kiss, and this he had to do and die, "hoist with his own petar." Altogether "A Ladder of Swords" has its fact and fiction interwoven with a skill not often found in historical novels. On a very much lower plane is a simple village story, Mr. Frank Dilnot's "The Tyrants of North Hyben" (5). The tyrants are the village blacksmiths, whose tyranny in the hero's case went no farther than a refusal to shoe his horse, and even for this they made honourable amends by exonerating him from a charge of theft. Such are the simple incidents of the story, which, nevertheless, interests you deeply through its truth to village life and character.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—We have just got back from trying to help the Closes to settle into their new flat. Our share of helping consisted chiefly in sharing an excellent luncheon with them in the Savoy Restaurant. Outsiders never can help, no matter how anxious they may be to try, and this occasion was no exception to the general rule. But, after all, there was but little to do except admire the flat. This we did without difficulty and with all our hearts. In fact, I am afraid we covet it, or one like it. It is a corner flat in Savoy-court. A large window looks out on the river, and the lovely sunshine poured in when we were there. And the quiet of this position is simply restful. The rooms are large, and the walls and ceilings are decorated in the Adams style. Occupants have the run of the hotel, with its pleasant sitting-rooms, reading-rooms, and so on, so luxurious and comfortable. For meals they have the restaurant or Simpson's the historic.

You can imagine how the cares of housekeeping and servants disappear in such a plan of life as this. It is simply ideal, and, in its way, ideally simple. No rates and taxes, but a stated sum for rent, and there you are! The corridors are all warmed, and there are telephones for the use of dwellers in this Utopia. I think the Closes told us that they can regulate the temperature of their rooms by means of some contrivance which is found in each. Their pink carpets and paler pink curtains look perfectly delicious against the white walls, and the teak furniture in the dining-room never looked so well before. A large lobby inside their own particular hall door makes the whole flat seem airy and roomy, as in truth it is. The outlook on the river made us envious, Bee and me. We have always longed to live on Adelphi Terrace because we love the river, partly because it is a river, but chiefly for the glorious colour of cloud and sky and the water itself. But, alas! Adelphi Terrace is given up to offices and flats for men. Men really get the best of everything, and I am not going to be so Uriah Heep-ish is to say that they deserve it. They sometimes do, but not—shall I write "always" or "often" here?

Why is it that as soon as we return from our summer jaunts we begin to buy winter clothes furiously, as though there were a snow-storm round the corner and a nor'-easter over the way? I believe if we came back in the beginning of August we should immediately start arranging our autumn and winter garments just the same. Perhaps it is because the mind feminine undeniably finds that to be occupied with clothes is very pleasant. I should enjoy it as much as anybody, only for the necessity for unceasingly guarding Bee from wasting her entire substance on hats, and leaving herself no garments with which to wear them. In walking down Bond-street I usually try to make a détour up Brook-street and back through Conduit-street, because Bee's favourite hat-shop comes between these thoroughfares, and if she once catches sight of it I know that, as a steel to a magnet, so Bee to that establishment flies and clings.

I followed her in the other day, by no means unwillingly, and saw some of the smart new autumn hats. The only picture-shape at present much in demand is the Romney mushroom, raised from the hair by a bandeau and most becoming, both in straw and moufflon. We saw one in scarlet straw, trimmed with velvet and wings, which was very smart indeed, and can be had in any colour with equal effect. Jam-pot crowns are, we are told, on the wane. We shall be loth to part from them. You should have seen one brown felt shape, with a high crown surrounded by upstanding quillings of cream moiré ribbon, the brim held up at the left side with a huge rosette and cockade-ends of the same ribbon. Torpedo toques in moufflon—which is *the* material just now—we admired very much, both in black and colours, particularly one in that very fashionable hue which is somewhere between tomato, old rose, and ruby, trimmed with dusky asters and cerise velvet; and another in brown with an orange rose at either side. Another was in réséda green, trimmed with shaded grapes so natural in look as to make one quite thirsty. A big brown Breton felt had an orange velvet crown, turned up sharply with shaded dahlias—flowers much in request at present. Very festive is a dainty white fur toque, with a chiffon crown, and a bunch of white and green velvet plums at one side, with a little foliage. It at once suggests a "going-away hat." A white felt, too, attracted us, trimmed with a novel rosette of twisted velvet in orange, réséda, and olive tints. Smartest of the smart was a little Directoire three-cornered hat, in brown velvet, particularly successful on the present style of hair-dressing. The brim was held up by brown velvet bows, and over the left side nod three plums, shaded from brown to cream.

The gowns in "The Golden Light," which was so soon extinguished, at the Savoy, were intended to express mood and temperament, and did so with an intensity that almost amounted to crudeness; another instance of extremes meeting. In the first act a wonderful sweeping garment of bright, light green with borderings of gold azure and white helped Mrs. Brown-Potter to portray an up-to-date edition of the *femme incomprise*. Her husband was writing away with apparently ill-made

REDFERN'S FURS are absolutely a speciality. Skins are bought in the raw state, and prices will compare favourably with any house in the world. Conduit-street and Bond-street.

pens (long quills, if you please!) while she shed chapters of lamentations. The meaning of the vivid green became more apparent when she began to take a deep interest in a cousin just home from India. The next frock was a really lovely conception, skilfully carried out. It was a ball gown of white silk muslin with a little yellow introduced, and led up to in the deftest way, so that there was nothing sudden about it. Under the outer veil of chiffon the skirt was embroidered here and there with silver marguerites, lit up with some kind of jewelling that glittered pleasantly through the chiffon.

Then came a gown which we thought must certainly mean either suicide or impending insanity. Over long, lurid lines of brightest mauve pink hung masses of pall-like purple chiffon with weirdest effect, intensified by a belt of metallic green that seemed to wink a wicked eye at the audience. Above all this, and entirely hiding the wonderful auburn hair was an immense black hat with unrelieved black lace hanging from it all round, the whole composition suggesting a first-class funeral. Now, do you not think that we were justified in supposing that this strange get-up meant either a lunatic asylum or a coroner's verdict? However, the meaning was that the lover made a declaration, and that the husband discovered all, and, realising that he loved his wife directly he found that another man did so, fell stricken to the floor.

The last gown was very clever. Outside it was all grey chiffon. Inside it was brightest rose pink. The grey meant impending widowhood, the rose a happy future with George. The background of dim blue sea (off Ajaccio) gave this pretty gown an added charm.

We saw some original and poetic needlework at 52, New Bond-street. It consists of pictures worked out by the needle by Florence Jessie Hösel, decorative artist, who has exhibited a number of embroideries in the Hohenzollern Museum, and has an order to decorate a room in the German colours, black, white, and red, for the Crown Prince and his bride. The most striking of those in Bond-street is a table-cover, the design of which is divided into four sections, each representing a season of the year. The colouring is in itself representative of the season presented—the chill grey gloom of winter, the vivid green of spring with the blithe brightness of flowers breaking through it, the glory of summer, and the splendour of autumn. Though there is something of the impressionist in these needlework pictures, there is also an immense amount of industry. The whole of the material is covered with stitchery. At the end of the month the exhibition will consist of artistic evening gowns and wraps, embellished with needlework, and in November there is to be a children's room, with articles suitable for Christmas gifts, ready for orders or purchasers.

Brenda's wedding came off on Saturday, such a pretty one, and so absolutely free from fuss or flourish of any kind that we all voted it quite the nicest we had ever been at. The bride looked very pretty in her white satin (train just long enough and not too long), trimmed with lovely old Brussels point, and her veil, of exquisite Limerick, was calculated to bring one into conflict with the Tenth Commandment. It was beautifully arranged, too, and she looked a graceful creature as she stood at the altar with the chosen of her heart. He would not confess to feeling nervous, but we suspected him of a hidden tremolo, though he would not let it appear in his voice. He has such a nice voice, too, so manly and yet so gentle. Do you not think that women are more attracted by a sympathetic voice than a handsome appearance? Jim said the responses as if he meant them. The usual bridegroom says them like a badly-learned lesson. The clergyman cut them into very short lengths, as, for instance: "And thereto—I plight thee my troth." I suppose this is necessary, as the ordinary bridegroom gets so fluttered that he would make curious mistakes if trusted with a whole sentence at a time. Usually, too, the bridegroom makes his vows to the clergyman, not to the bride, promising to love and cherish him and to endow him with all his worldly goods. Not so Jim. He turned and looked at Brenda very steadfastly, and made his vows most unmistakably to her.

It was Jim's idea to have soft music played during the whole of the ceremony, and the organist managed this beautifully. The three bridesmaids were all tall and all handsome, and their dresses were perfect pictures, white glacé silk gowns, with Romney bodices folded across, above a high silk belt with three large brown buttons on either side. The large mushroom hats were made of gathered brown tulle, ruched with tulle round the crown, and bordered with brown velvet. A little creamy lace relieved the brown under the brim. These sweetly pretty hats were fastened on with lace, which began under rosettes of lace at each side of the brim just above the ears, and was then folded twice round the neck and fastened under the chin with a pearl and gold lace pin, the bridegroom's gift. Long stoles and large muffs of brown marabout completed costumes that earned for their wearers the title of the Three Graces.

Instead of rice or the vulgarised confetti, handfuls of flower petals were thrown after the happy pair, and some one was wicked enough to tie a Cinderella shoe—white satin, embroidered in silver and crystal—on the harness under the horses' necks.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Poor indeed was the heart that did not rejoice in the late spell of fine weather. September was very benignant with us over here as the day of parting drew near. Delicious evenings—although with the suspicion of gentle frost—followed clear, sunny days. We forgot to regret the shortening days in the glory of the sunsets which brought them to a close. Autumn is essentially the season of sunsets, and of sunrises, too, but most of us have to take the latter more on trust, and not, like the former, as personal experiences. Staying in the country last week, we threw ourselves into the enjoyment of what was practically, as regarded out-door pastimes, a lingering summer. The croquet ground was again in requisition. The gardens did all they knew to profit of the sunshine while they had it. Once more they were things of beauty in the second bloom of the roses and the fuller bloom of asters, dahlias, and the daisies which are the glory of Michaelmas. By the way, how curious is the association of the goose with the festival of "St. Michael and all the Angels," like that of the turkey with Christmas! And no doubt the reason is the same in both cases. A common utilitarian, prose one.—No poetic legend associates the goose with archangel or angel, although the custom of eating goose at Michaelmas is a very old one. It just happened that the festival of the Angels was observed as a real feast day in early times, and the goose was at its best for supplying banquets at the time of the festival. Perhaps there may be some more interesting and less commonplace way of accounting for the goose custom at Michaelmas. I have not been able to discover it. I wonder if your knowledge on the subject is greater. The weather was favourable to every form of wheeling, and the forms indeed are many in these times. The world has entered on an era of wheels, and will possibly go on to one of wings. Meanwhile there is much that is very unpleasing in the development of motoring, and one great imperfection. Motors ought to have their own special roads, whereon they could have their own special pace. They are a very disturbing and anxious innovation in those haunts of ancient peace, the old roadways. The wonder is how quickly the nerves of horses are getting accustomed to them. Quicker than ours, for that matter. But then horses evidently reason, after a few personal experiences, that the motors will not hurt them, whereas the daily casualty list of the daily newspapers does not allow us to enjoy any such fancied security. Curiously enough, in this country of the horse, motoring—as bicycling did before it—has "caught on" most vigorously; yet the mere Irish are not supposed to be a progressive race! Of late the Dublin magistrates have been busily engaged in fining the many over-energetic motorists with which the capital and its neighbourhood abound. How much walking has gone out of fashion, and after all what a delightful mode of progression it is, especially at this season, on a bright, fine day, when we get our nearest approach to wings through the way in which the keen air seems to lift us up and lighten our steps. The coming generations will have to see to it that whatever special muscles walking develops do not suffer from disuse. Imagine human legs degenerating into the kind of fins or things on which sea-lions waddle about when on land.

Dublin is gradually filling, the houses opening and the shops beginning to look to the future instead of still harking back to the past in the matter of summer bargains. The difficulties of dressing in a fine October are great. The sunshine tempts us to retain our summer gauds, which do not suit the chill evening air or the brisk breezes. And how draggled a mixture of summer and winter in our attire is capable of looking! The "tailor-made" is the really happy resource of the season.

Lady Dudley was able to leave the Viceregal Lodge last week after a very prolonged stay in it, ever since the end of the Castle season early in March. She and Lord Dudley will take a well-earned holiday now, but already they are making public engagements to be fulfilled later on. One engagement is the opening of the Newry Hospital bazaar, in which all the leading people of the neighbourhood, with Lady Kilmorey at their head, are taking an active part. Newry is a town of historic interest, and, if not absolutely picturesque itself, is near the beautiful Mourne country and Rostrevor. It has had the misfortune to be described unfavourably in the immortal verse of Dean Swift as a town of "High church, low steeple, dirty streets, and proud people." Lord and Lady Dudley were staying last week at Crom Castle, Lord Erne's place on Lough Erne, which is very picturesque. The neighbourhood abounds in rivers and smaller lakes, which are happy sporting places for fishers, and no doubt there are other things to kill besides fish at this season of killing. Lady Evelyn Ward, Lord Dudley's sister-in-law, is a daughter of Lord Erne. She and her husband live much in Ireland. Lady Grosvenor and Mr. Wyndham are now in the Phœnix Park, and Lord and Lady Grenfell at the Royal Hospital, where Lady M. Majendie, Lady Grenfell's mother, arrived last week to stay for some time. The new Lord and Lady Powerscourt have settled at Powerscourt House, which is one of the most picturesque places in Ireland. The late Lord Powerscourt made many improvements in the house and the demesne. The great storm of last year wrought much havoc with woods and plantations, which were Lord Powerscourt's great care. Lord Meath, while staying at Kilruddery, near Bray, has been busy with philanthropic matters as usual. Lord Meath is the owner of the greater portion of Bray Head, which adjoins the Kilruddery demesne. One cannot but wonder over the future of all these great places and demesnes in Ireland when the properties surrounding them have passed from their owners' hands. The king left with his castle and nothing else. What will he do with it?—Yours ever, CLARE.

This is a very good way of dressing kidneys, and is called tomatoes farcies aux rognons:—

Mince three or four sheeps' kidneys very finely and toss them in flour, pepper, salt, and chopped parsley. Cook them with butter in a covered stewpan until turning brown, then mix in a gill of gravy, and when it boils mix in the yolks of two eggs. Take seven or eight smooth, ripe tomatoes, cut off the stalk end, take out the seeds, and fill them with the prepared kidney. Turn them, cut side downwards, on to as many fried croûtes of bread and bake them about half an hour. Serve the tomatoes with brown sauce poured round them.

This bombe à la Melba is perfectly delicious:—

Make a pint of vanilla ice cream and set it in a bombe mould with the tube cover. Embed the mould in ice and salt for at least an hour, then remove the tube and fill the cavity with slices of perfectly ripe peaches that are mixed with whipped cream, sugar, and a few drops of vanilla essence; cover the mould with the plain lid and again embed the mould for an hour. Serve the bombe on a round piece of genoese, larger than the mould, and arrange a border of halves of ripe peaches, dressed in syrup, and sprinkle chopped pistachios over all.

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NOTICE.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King devoted a day last week to trout-fishing in Lock Muick, which is reached from Balmoral by a private road through the Royal deer forests. On the other days there were deer drives in Ballochbuie, Balmoral, and Whitemonth Forests, and from the extensive woods on the Birkhall estate. Excellent sport was obtained by the Royal party. On Wednesday the King, the Duke of Connaught, and Prince Arthur and Prince Francis of Teck, were the guests of Mr. Neumann, the tenant of Invercauld, and there was a successful deer drive over one of the beats in Mr. Farquharson's forest.

His Majesty has presented a splendid specimen of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic writing to the British Museum. It consists of the first half of the hieroglyphic copy of the Book of the Dead, and the period is 1040 B.C. The second half of this papyrus is in the Louvre.

A morning paper announced last week that "the King will not pay his expected visit to Holyrood this year." There has been no expectation in any responsible quarter that the King would visit Edinburgh during the present year. I understand, however, that the King and Queen are likely to spend four or five days at Edinburgh next spring, probably during the last week in April or the first week in May. In this case Holyrood House will be the residence of their Majesties during their stay in Edinburgh.

According to present arrangements, the King and Queen of Portugal will travel by special Royal train from Lisbon to Cherbourg. They will embark there on board the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* for conveyance to Portsmouth, where they are to be met by the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught. The King and Queen of Portugal will proceed direct from Portsmouth Harbour to Windsor, and their stay at the Castle will extend over four or five days. Their Majesties are to return to Lisbon by the same route, the *Victoria and Albert* conveying them from Portsmouth to Cherbourg. Either Tuesday, November 15, or Monday, the 21st, will probably be the day of their arrival in England.

The Prince of Wales obtained some excellent salmon fishing in the Spey last week during his visit to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Gordon Castle. H.R.H. arrived at the Castle from Abergeldie on Monday evening, and left on Saturday afternoon for London. The Princess of Wales arrived at Marlborough House on Wednesday morning from Abergeldie, and leaves town to-day (Wednesday) for Sandringham. The Prince goes to-day to Rufford Abbey on a visit to Lord and Lady Savile, and will proceed thence to Sandringham on Saturday. The Prince and Princess will remove from Sandringham to Windsor for a fortnight about the middle of November.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught have left Birkhall House, the King's place near Ballater, after a stay of three weeks, and are spending a few days with Lord and Lady Wemyss at Gosford House, Haddingtonshire. On their way south the Duke and Duchess of Connaught will reside at Bagshot Park until the end of January.

The Duchess Marie of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who has left Rosenau, her seat in the Thuringian Forest, for Tegernsee, near Munich, where she has a villa, will return to Coburg towards the end of November. The Duchess Marie is going to the Riviera early in January, accompanied by her daughters, the Grand Duchess of

Hesse and the Hereditary Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, for a stay of about four months at the Château de Fabron, her property near Nice.

The King of Denmark's family party at the Château of Bernstorff includes the Empress Marie, Queen Alexandra and Princess Victoria, King George, and Prince Hans of Glücksburg. Prince and Princess Waldemar have left Bernstorff for Copenhagen where they reside at the Yellow Palace. Prince George of Greece, who arrived in Denmark on the 1st from Russia, is staying at the Swedish Villa in the Royal park. King Christian will reside at Bernstorff until he returns to Copenhagen for the winter, the intended sojourn of the Court at Fredensborg Castle having been abandoned. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark are residing at the neighbouring Castle of Charlottenlund, and Prince and Princess Charles are at Copenhagen, where they occupy a flat in King George's palace.

The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, who were to have arrived at Copenhagen a fortnight ago, have been detained at their country seat near Gmunden by the illness of their eldest son, Prince George William of Hanover, who has been ordered to spend the winter in Egypt, and he will leave Vienna next week on his way to Cairo, attended by Captain von Wersebe. It is understood that the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland will themselves proceed to Egypt about the end of January, and that they propose to visit Khartoum, accompanied by Prince George William and by the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

A weekly contemporary announces that the King has "lent" apartments in Hampton Court Palace to Lady Palliser. This is quite wrong. The apartment has not been "lent," but has been granted by warrant for the life of the beneficiary. The fact that Lady Palliser had been granted an apartment at Hampton Court was announced in Truth on July 7. My contemporary is also mistaken in stating that there is now a vacant apartment at the Palace in consequence of the departure of Lady Catherine Loftus. The residence in question was given by the King nearly a month ago to Lady Biddulph, as was notified in Truth on September 22.

Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck, who have occupied the Royal Pavilion in Aldershot Camp during the last five months, will take up their residence in a week or two at Henry III.'s Tower, Windsor Castle, which has been lent to them by the King. This house, which was for many years the residence of the late Lady Biddulph (widow of Sir Thomas Biddulph, Keeper of the Privy Purse to Queen Victoria), has been redecorated and generally renovated during the summer.

A Paris paper, much given to romancing, announced the other day that the betrothal of the King of Spain to the Duchess Marie Antoinette of Mecklenburg-Schwerin would shortly be notified. Only the fact that we are still in the silly season can account for the fatuity of a number of English journals accepting this nonsense as correct, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* actually made the alleged engagement the subject of a leading article entitled "A Spanish Match." The betrothal of the King of Spain to a Lutheran Princess would obviously be impossible, and the couple with whose names such liberties have been taken have never seen each other. It is generally understood that King Alphonso will presently seek a bride in Austria or Bavaria, but the most popular match for him in Spain would be Princesse Louise d'Orléans, youngest daughter of the Comtesse de Paris, and sister of the Queen of Portugal and the Duchess of Aosta.

The Chief Secretary and Lady Grosvenor have been entertaining visitors at the Chief Secretary's Lodge. Lord and Lady Shaftesbury were staying there, Lord Shaftesbury being now convalescent after his long illness. The Commander of the Forces has been staying at the Royal Hospital, though paying frequent visits to various parts of Ireland on his military inspection duties. The Royal Hospital has this year, like the Viceregal Lodge, to record an event rare in its annals. The birth of Lady Grenfell's daughter took place at the Royal Hospital, a portion of which fine building is the residence of the Commander of the Forces in Ireland.

The Duke and Duchess Albert of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, who have been the guests of the Queen Dowager of the Netherlands at Soestdijk, near Utrecht, since they left Germany, are now paying a few visits in England and Scotland, and during the last few days they have been the guests of Lord and Lady Reay at Laidlawstiel, Selkirkshire; of Sir George Douglas at Springwood Park, Roxburghshire; and of Sir Hubert Jerningham at Longridge Towers, Northumberland.

Lord and Lady Zetland, who have been residing for more than two months at Letterewe House, Rosshire, will spend the hunting season at Aske Hall, the family seat in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Two or three years ago Lord Zetland purchased the celebrated deer forest of Fisherfield and Letterewe (about 45,000 acres) from Mrs. Bankes. They afford first-rate and varied sport, and scenery is magnificent. Letterewe House is beautifully situated on the shore of Loch Maree.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 932.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 933.
For Amusements, see page 931.
For Appeals, see page 932.
For Our Puzzles, see page 937.

Letterewe was formerly owned by a branch of the Mackenzie family, while Fisherfield formed a part of the large property of the Davidsons of Tulloch.

The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, who have been down in Scotland for two months, will entertain some shooting parties during the next two months at Arundel Castle. The Angmering and Arundel Park preserves and the home covers afford heavy bags of pheasants. The Duke and Duchess of Norfolk have been visiting Lord Bute and Lady Margaret Crichton Stuart at Dumfries House, Lord and Lady Loudoun at Loudoun Castle, and Lord and Lady Herries at Kinharvie.

Lord and Lady Dudley left Ireland early last week for North Berwick, taking their route for Scotland viâ Belfast. Their holiday will last until the end of next month.

Mr. John Morley will leave England for the United States on Friday, and he is likely to be away for about two months.

The death of Lady Ashton is deeply and universally lamented in the Lancaster district, where she was a familiar figure, and she was greatly beloved. Lady Ashton's charities were munificent, and many local institutions will feel her loss severely. She took a warm interest in the various philanthropic enterprises which have been started by Lord Ashton, who resides at Ashton Hall, a fine domain on the Lune, which was formerly a seat of the Dukes of Hamilton.

Lord Alington has sold Alington House, South Audley-street, to Lord Londesborough, and will continue to reside at his present house in Portman-square.

A contemporary stated last week that it is understood that Mr. Leonard Brassey intends to sell Preston Hall, his place in Kent. My contemporary is obviously unaware of the fact that Preston Hall has been advertised for sale for several weeks past, and that Messrs. Walton and Lee will offer the estate by auction at Maidstone on Thursday, the 20th, in twenty-two lots. The estate is not a large one, the extent of the whole being under twelve hundred acres, of which the house, park, and grounds take up one hundred and twenty-one, and the home farm and the stud farm extend over two hundred and seven acres. There are about three hundred and twenty acres of woodlands. Preston Hall, which is in the valley of the Medway below Maidstone, was formerly the seat of the Colepepers. The estate was purchased by the late Mr. Betts, who rebuilt the house in the Tudor style, and he laid out the gardens and grounds, which are very attractive. The park commands extensive views, and is well wooded with fine old trees.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION. — The following has been received by the Editor of the *Christian World*, and should be read by all sufferers from consumption: — "SIR, — I was under the professional treatment of Dr. Alabone, and during that time received the greatest benefit from it. I was placed on the retired list as unfit for further service, owing to phthisis. Thanks to Dr. Alabone's treatment, I have been able to resume the practice of my profession, and have now been actively engaged in practice for six months in good health.—Yours faithfully, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. London."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, London, N.

"CALF-LOVE" *VERSUS* TROUSERS.

Whilst Women, with their trailing skirts,
  Would hide their legs from observation,
Men seem inclined to show *their* calves
  With some attempt at ostentation.
Thus, whilst some bucks try hard to make
  Knee-breeches once again the passion;
Others, still bolder, for the kilt
  Affect an inappropriate passion:
In short, it widely is assumed
That, in "smart" sets, the trouser 's doomed!

"Down with it!" cry the "smart" young men
  Who yearn to live the life æsthetic,
"Knee-breeches" are the only wear,
  For men with temperaments poetic.
Shall we, with shapely nether limbs,
  Grudge with fit settings to provide them?
Shall we, with "Patterne" legs, consent
  In shapeless cylinders to hide them?
We stand by Nature, since no art
Can ever make the trouser "smart."

So say the gay young bloods who give
  Their calf-love such extreme expression;
But what of those—a countless host—
  Whose legs are *not* a proud possession?
What of the youths whose calves are lean?—
  Are they with cotton-wool to pad them?
Or, if they have no calves at all,
  Are they, by artifice, to add them?
Because, if this is acting square,
How, pray, does Nature come in there?

So, too, ere we upon the kilt
  A fervid welcome are bestowing,
Let us be sure that what it shows
  In every case is worth the showing;
For in itself, we cannot think
  So draughty, incomplete a garment
Can ever be, in days like these,
  For general use, both near and far, meant.
Nay, rather would we have it willed
That what is "Scotched" should now be killed!

For, notwithstanding all that 's said
  By these eccentric fad-espousers,
Kilts won't encircle English waists,
  Nor will knee-breeches checkmate trousers.
No, no! Mankind will not its taste
  For bifurcated tubes abandon;
Trousers can never be o'erthrown—
  They have too many legs to stand on.
"Kilters," "knee-breechers"—these will yield;
But "Trouserites" will hold the field!

A volume of reminiscences by Professor Knight, entitled "Retrospects," is to be published shortly by Smith, Elder, and Co. Gladstone, Tennyson, Carlyle, Matthew Arnold, Robert Browning, "A. K. H. B.," and F. D. Maurice were among the author's personal acquaintances.

THE CARLTON RESTAURANT, PALL MALL, LONDON, S.W.—*The* Restaurant of London. Telephone 1600 Gerrard. Telegrams, "Carlton Hotel, London." C. RITZ, General Manager.

It is a good time since I derived so much amusement from a new work of fiction as I have from Mr. Hilaire Belloc's "Emmanuel Burden." Perhaps I ought to add, lest I should deceive the ordinary novel reader, that the book is not a novel of the ordinary type; very far from it. It is a satire upon a certain phase of the "high finance" of the day, and "Empire-building" of the money-grubbing sort. From the purely literary point of view it is a piece of highly-finished and well-sustained irony; from the political, it is a well-timed and well-aimed satire, with just enough of the spirit of burlesque to make it amusing as well as instructive. The only fault I find with it is that the reader who needs the instruction most is very likely to take the author seriously, just as he would the Barnetts and Benthorpes of real life. But there is always this danger with irony of the highest order.

With reference to the statement made by a correspondent in a recent issue of Truth, to the effect that at one of the recent examinations of Trinity College, London, held at Bombay, all the candidates passed, I am now informed that, as a matter of fact, fifty-nine were entered for the examination, and of these five failed to satisfy the examiners. But, while pleased to correct my correspondent's inaccuracy it still seems to me that the percentage of passes is an abnormally high one. Of course, it may be that the candidates happened to be on this occasion exceptionally well trained, but at the same time there is the possibility of the local examiners taking a too lenient view of their responsibilities, and it was for this reason that I thought it well to call the attention of the Trinity College authorities to the matter.

I am interested to see that one J. E. Roscoe was before the Chester Bench last week on a charge of obtaining money by false pretences in connection with a bogus musical examination. During the past twelve months or so several references have been made in Truth to the remarkably impudent proceedings of this individual as a distributer of bogus degrees purporting to emanate from various mythical "schools," "guilds," and "institutes." "The Royal Institute of Tuners," "The German School of Composers, Critics, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists," "The Royal Guild of Musicians," "The Ries School of Music," and "The Royal British School of Music, London," are some of the high-sounding titles Roscoe has assumed, and in the character of "principal" or "secretary" he has been in the habit of conferring unsolicited "fellowships" or other "honours" upon music teachers and music sellers, and then asking them to pay him a fee of one guinea for the "diploma." Roscoe, who is an illiterate person, dubbed himself "Mus.D.," and also "L.Mus. London," although London University has no such degree.

In this case at Chester—the city which he has made the headquarters of his numerous enterprises—Roscoe induced the verger at a local church to pay 18s. as a fee for a certificate of "The Royal British School of Music," representing that his daughter had passed "the second division of pianoforte playing." "The Royal British School of Music" is to all intents and purposes a non-existent institution, like the rest of Roscoe's titular progeny, and the examination which the verger's daughter passed was a perfect farce. However, the Bench came to the conclusion that "whatever they might think of the case, the evidence was not sufficient to justify them in convicting," and the charge against Roscoe was accordingly dismissed. It is not difficult to guess what the magistrates really thought about Roscoe, and although he does not seem to have brought himself technically within the reach of the law, he owes his escape more to his luck than to his deserts. The prosecution ought, at any rate, to be of some service in showing the public in Chester and the district that the musical "degrees" and "certificates" that he issues are a rank imposition, if not an actual swindle in the eye of the law.

The meeting of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trustees, originally fixed for last Wednesday, was after all postponed till to-day, when a decision will be taken on the proposal to pull down the two ancient cottages near the birthplace. It is reported in Stratford that most of the local trustees—chiefly tradesmen, with a medical man at their head—will vote in favour of the proposal, and an idea prevails that not the least potent of their motives is a desire to defeat and vex Miss Marie Corelli, who has wounded the dignity of some of these worthies in her spirited fight for the preservation of the cottages. They must be very muddle-headed, however, if they do not perceive that this would be the clearest possible vindication of the justice of Miss Corelli's estimate of their pettiness and unfitness for membership of what is really a national trust. The demolition of these Shakespearean relics would be a stupid and irreparable piece of vandalism, and it is to be hoped that, after all, a majority of the trustees will be found to be opposed to it.

The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church have presented the Rev. Edward Parry Liddon, curate of Buckland St. Mary, near Chard, to the vicarage of Staverton, Northamptonshire. This living was formerly worth about £800 a year, and it is still a benefice of good value as times go. Staverton was held for many years by that celebrated pluralist Dr. Bull, who died in 1855, and who was at the same time Canon of Christ Church, Prebendary of York, Canon of Exeter, and Vicar of Staverton, the income of his united preferments being estimated at over £4,000 a year, with three excellent residences.

The death of Chancellor Parish is much and widely regretted in East Sussex. He had held the vicarage of

Jeffrey & Co.'s Artistic Wall Papers now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st, W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

Selmeston for forty-one years, and had filled the office of Chancellor of Chichester Cathedral since 1877. He was an excellent parish clergyman, and was greatly beloved and most highly esteemed by his neighbours of all classes. Chancellor Parish was an accomplished scholar and a learned antiquary. He was all his life an enthusiastic promoter of popular education. He was an acknowledged authority on old English script, and his "Dictionary of the Sussex Dialect" is an admirable piece of work, which has been very highly praised by competent critics.

By way of reply to certain remarks in last week's issue, on the subject of his reported discoveries in medical science, the Rev. J. P. Sandlands, Vicar of Brigstock, writes to me in a somewhat excited tone. The substance of his communication is that I should come and see his patients and his parish. He is very pressing:—

> Come and see! Come and see! Come and see! Man alive, you are not the only honest man going. There are others. . . . I'll put you up, pay your expenses, and show you hospitality too. What more can I do? I do not promise, notwithstanding, that you will see me take any beef, beer, or bacca.

No doubt, as Mr. Sandlands says, "there are others." It never entered my head that he himself is not one of them, and if he will kindly refer again to my paragraph, he will see that it contains no such insinuation. I expressed scepticism about the alleged discovery by Mr. Sandlands of a treatment which would cure paralysis in all shapes, and be equally efficacious for "cancer, consumption, rheumatism, and diseases generally"; but I was careful to add at the same time that Mr. Sandlands himself might easily believe in the discovery. The more important question, who looks after the cure of souls at Brigstock while the Vicar is receiving patients for courses of treatment at the vicarage, Mr. Sandlands does not answer, beyond telling me that "it should occur to any thinking mind that the importation of new blood into a place should mean the importation of new ideas." Possibly; but I should hardly have thought that the new ideas which the parish may receive from the Vicar's paying guests would be accepted as a substitute for the ideas they are expected to get from their spiritual pastor. Did circumstances permit, I should like nothing better than to "come and see" how this method of benefiting a rural parish works out. The invitation is tempting, and I would not object to the absence of beef and beer if the Vicar would allow me to bring my own "bacca." But at the moment, unfortunately, circumstances do *not* permit.

I have received the following amounts towards the Toy Fund:—A. C., £2; Two Lads, £1 10s.; In Memory of Boy Coy, £2 2s. I have also received £1 from C. J. Farley, and 5s. from Florence and Emma towards Lady Jeune's Fund.

Major-General Gough has been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey in the place of Major-General Abadie, who had held the position for four years.

Colonel Ricardo, Grenadier Guards, is in temporary command of the Home District during the absence of Major-General Oliphant, who has gone abroad for a few weeks on leave.

Sir William Butler is to remain at Devonport, in command of the Western District, until January 1, when he will be retired from the Service.

I quoted a letter in a paragraph last week which Mr. Charles Read, betting agent, 21, Haymarket, had addressed to an officer in the Army, threatening to communicate with his commanding officer if he did not immediately settle Read's account against him. Mr. Read has since called here to explain that his account against the officer included a substantial amount in addition to the disputed item of £2 to which I referred. A portion of this further amount was also in respect of a disputed bet, but it would seem that the officer was liable, and that he has since practically acknowledged this by promising to send a cheque "as soon as convenient." In justice to Mr. Read, I think it right to mention these facts, although I remain of the opinion I have often expressed in reference to attempts to enforce such claims against officers by threatening to report them to their superiors. To my mind, it is regrettable that commanding officers should countenance this practice. No commanding officer should consent to act as debt-collector for a bookmaker, and if bookmakers found it unavailing to employ these menaces against their military customers, many young fellows in the Service would be deprived, much to their advantage, of their present opportunities for backing horses on credit.

In a battalion stationed at Malta it has been ordered by the president of the sergeants' mess that an asterisk shall be placed in the "consumption book" against the name of any member who orders more than a shilling's worth of liquor on one occasion. The asterisk may not mean much, but it is an invidious sort of mark, which a man careful of his reputation would not desire to incur. Now, Malta is a place where a good deal of hospitality is exchanged between the Army and the Fleet. It may easily happen, for instance, that an N.C.O. desires to entertain a party of naval friends whose united requirements in the shape of refreshment will exceed a shilling; and it is natural, therefore, that the asterisk regulation should be resented. It seems to me that this is one of those rules more suitable for

HAVANA CIGARS.—"The 'BOLIVAR' is the FINEST CIGAR I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the GOOD OLD CROPS of BACK YEARS."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor, and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

schoolboys than grown men, which can do no particular good, and are bound to create irritation and discontent.

I was told the other day by a man in the R.A.M.C. that after being stationed at Netley Hospital for over twelve months, he had never been able to obtain any information about the amount and disposition of the canteen funds, and could find no one any wiser than himself. I have not a copy of the Canteen Regulations by me, and I cannot remember at the moment what the rules are about the publication of accounts; but it is a great pity that more stringent measures are not taken to ensure that soldiers shall be made acquainted with the state of all funds in which they are interested. At Netley, for instance, there is a detachment about 300 strong, which implies considerable canteen profits, and it is only in human nature that the men should wonder what becomes of the money, and harbour all sorts of sinister suspicions when they are kept in the dark.

This applies not only to canteen accounts. At Netley every one of these 300 men pays 6d. a month to a games fund. Here is about £90 a year subscribed directly by the men, but how the money is spent not one of them knows. Even if this were not unwise, it would be inexcusably unbusinesslike.

A statement made with reference to the canteen above-mentioned bears directly on what I have been saying of late as to the gratuitous disregard of the ordinary decencies and amenities of life in barrack management. Men can obtain a cup of tea or coffee at the coffee-bar the first thing in the morning, but if they are not among the first-comers they cannot have a clean cup. The reason is that the waiters do not wash cups before breakfast. This is really no excuse for such a dirty practice, because if the cups cannot be washed, enough should be provided to go round. A working man going to a street coffee stall in the morning would expect to be served with a clean cup, and make a pretty row if he did not get one. Why should a soldier be forced to drink out of another man's cup—except on the pernicious principle that any dirty arrangement is good enough for a soldier? It may seem a small matter, but it is these little things that tell when they mount up all day long.

Apropos of recent observations on sergeant-majors' pensions, a correspondent points out that what is true of warrant officers is equally of N.C.O.s, as neither a quartermaster-sergeant, colour-sergeant, nor sergeant can obtain the maximum pension of the rank at less than thirty years' service. The suggestion, I suppose, is that if one man is retained in the Service beyond twenty-one years for the sake of pension, another ought to be, if he desires it, and *vice versâ*. There are great difficulties about this question. My own view is that the maximum pension ought to be within the reach of everybody, with ordinary luck and merit; and that it is a mistake to give a very limited number of men the opportunity of increasing their pensions by serving beyond the normal period, and thereby retarding the promotion and possibly curtailing the pensions of other men. Not only does it mean that one man gains at another man's expense, but it may often result in a C.O. allowing a man to extend his service from benevolent motives, and without regard to the public interest.

In certain remarks which appeared in TRUTH a few weeks back respecting the contract for the tenancy of the canteen at the Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, it was mentioned that one of the tenders which had been rejected, though lower than that which was accepted, was that of "Messrs. Whicher, of Chatham." I have been asked by Messrs. Whicher and Co., of 1, Queen-street, Portsea, to state that they are not, as seems to have been supposed locally, the firm referred to, and that they did not tender for this contract. They add that they cannot find in the directory any firm of the same name in this line of business at Chatham. I presume that there was some mistake about the name, but there was none in regard to the main facts of the case, and I do not, therefore, think it worth while to go in search of the alleged Whicher of Chatham. The main fact was that the business had been handed over to a contractor without reference to the committee which is officially entrusted with the management of the canteen, and that the Commander who took this step accepted the tender which was higher by several hundred pounds per annum than any of the others which were sent in.

From time to time during the last five years references have been made in TRUTH to the begging letters written by one Aubrey Fauvel, a retired assistant paymaster, R.N., but I am continually being asked for information about this individual by naval officers. Fauvel is a typical begging-letter writer. He recites a long story of misfortunes, on the strength of which he appeals to the charity of his brother officers, and, no doubt, appeals successfully in a large number of instances, seeing how long and how persistently he has carried on the game. It may be that there is an element of truth in some of his statements, but it is quite certain that he is an adept in the art of making capital out of them. For instance, in an appeal for help written about a year ago, he harrowed the feelings of the reader by telling how one of his daughters had died of consumption, while his son was ill and out of work. In a letter written the other day he still makes use of the death of the daughter from consumption, but drags in, to replace the son, another daughter prostrated with that fashionable complaint, appendicitis. It seems to me

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W. FLATS FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

that people are very foolish to encourage mendicants of this type; at any rate, it is desirable that everybody who receives the appeals should know that the writer is simply a professional beggar.

"You are right in supposing that lotteries are illegal in India as they are in England," says one of my readers at Simla, "but the practice is winked at in more ways than one." There was an instance of this at a recent Y.W.C.A. bazaar under distinguished patronage in Simla, when it was decreed that no raffling should be allowed, but all the same a genuine gamble was provided in the shape of a "lucky bag," with tickets at one rupee each, which offered a chance of drawing valuable prizes. I am not one of those who look upon a little gamble at a bazaar as sinful or harmful. What strikes me as likely to be really harmful, however, is the hypocrisy of those who pretend that a gamble is not a gamble when it is called by some other name.

By the way, the same correspondent encloses a ticket for a St. Leger sweep which was run by an association at Simla whose object, according to the statement on the ticket, "is to encourage thrift"! Racing lotteries in aid of religious and charitable institutions (usually of a more or less shady character) have long been common in India, but to invite the public "to encourage thrift" by joining in a huge gamble on the St. Leger is a distinctly novel and precious idea.

The point brought out by Sir William Grantham's dispute with the Chailey District Council is discussed, I see, in a forcible article by Mr. Wilfrid Blunt in the current number of the *Nineteenth Century*, and also in a letter which Mr. Loe Strachey has written to the *County Gentleman*. The point is that the dearth of habitable cottages is mainly attributable to the disparity between the cost of building and the rents that labourers can pay, and this cost is aggravated by irrational building by-laws. Mr. Strachey's observations on these by-laws are worth quoting:—

> The adoption of these ill-considered, and coercive rules and regulations has not only prevented cheaper cottages being erected, but has also checked the application to the manufacture of building materials of the inventive ingenuity and scientific knowledge which, had there been a free field in cottage-building, would certainly have been applied to the solving of the cottage problem . . . These by-laws, since they prevent cottages being erected of other materials than brick or stone, in effect insist that the man who can only afford to pay for a cheap house must have it built, not cheaply, but in the most expensive way yet devised by man.

I devoted some space to this question a year or two ago, apropos of some evidence given by a lady who found it absolutely impossible to obtain house-room for her gardener and coachman in a certain district in the Midlands, where she had rented a house for herself. It was shown then how the same cause contributed to the depopulation of the district. One landlord in the neighbourhood was a peer of well-known Liberal and progressive instincts, who owns property in London, and has shown himself fully alive to the duty of landlords in regard to the housing question. But his country agent pointed out that, at the present cost of building, the erection of cottages, if they are to be let at any rents which the people can afford to pay, must be a work of philanthropy, not of business. Some of the figures which Mr. Strachey gives prove how true this contention was. He estimates the cost of fencing a small garden and building an ordinary labourer's cottage, with water laid on and up-to-date sanitary fittings, at £250, and the most, on an average, that the ordinary labourer can afford to pay is 3s. a week, or about £8 a year. Allowing £2 a year for rates and insurance, and saying nothing about repairs, the landlord is thus left with a return of £6 per annum on an investment of £250, and that without any rent for his land. As he can get more than this in Consols at the present price, not to mention other investments, without any of the troubles incidental to the management of house property, it is contrary to reason to expect that he will spend money on building cottages.

It is very difficult to say how this problem is to be solved, but solved it will have to be if the depopulation of the rural districts is to be arrested. All intelligent observers seem to agree that the difficulty of obtaining decent house-room has more than anything else to do with the migration of the labourers to the towns. Of course, it is not the only cause, but it is one of the most effective. My own impression is that the only practical way out of the difficulty is to be found in the erection of cottages by local authorities, or by advances from such authorities to landlords for building purposes.

Both Mr. Blunt and Mr. Strachey look for the solution of the difficulty in the introduction of cheaper building materials, concurrently with the relaxation of the by-laws which at present inflate artificially the cost of building. Mr. Blunt speaks in high praise of iron cottages, which he himself has tried, but been compelled to pull down in deference to the objections of the local authorities. It is quite certain that some of the provisions of the local by-laws are unnecessary, and the attitude of the Chailey Bumbles towards Sir William Grantham's cottages shows that the rules are applied by some at least of the local authorities without the slightest intelligence or discrimination. It is possible that in some cases, as Mr. Blunt suggests, the rural councils may be inspired by interested motives. At any rate, many of their rules are based on those of urban authorities, and, however justifiable in towns, are far less so in the country. Even if the by-laws were above criticism, it is a manifest absurdity to make rules designed to improve the housing of the people, which

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
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have the effect of leaving the people with no houses at all.

Last week a party of fifteen Erith District Councillors, with the clerk and other officials, were touring the provinces with the object of inspecting the tramway systems in a number of towns. There was a rumour in Erith that the tourists were doing themselves very well, and, as it appears that their travelling and hotel expenses will be paid by the ratepayers, I have no doubt that rumour spoke truly. Councillors of the most economical tendencies in private life exhibit a surprising taste for luxuries on occasions of this kind. The ratepayers of the district can hardly be blamed if they look upon this outing of their representatives as a gross waste of public money. There might have been some justification perhaps for sending the surveyor or engineer and two or three councillors specially acquainted with the business to see the working of the tramways elsewhere prior to the adoption of a system for Erith; but it is nonsense to suppose that this big excursion was necessary or that it will serve any purpose other than the purpose of enabling the party to enjoy a holiday at the cost of their constituents. The latter would do well to bring the bill under the notice of the Local Government Board auditor when he next audits the Council's accounts.

At the Glasgow Corporation Labour Bureau the following advertisement was lately exhibited:—

Wanted, asylum attendants; age, 21 to 27; not under 5 ft. 9 in. Unmarried; Protestant. Ex-policemen, discharged soldiers, or former asylum attendants or Irishmen not eligible. Wages, £28.

"No Irish need apply" used to be a familiar intimation in some advertisements; but this puts it quite into the shade. According to the *Glasgow Observer* the advertisement (which was withdrawn from the municipal bureau the moment its contents were noticed) came from the Bute and Argyll Asylum at Lochgilphead, which is presumably a public institution supported by public funds. From this extraordinary display of their religious bigotry and their stupid objection to ex-soldiers, ex-policemen, ex-asylum attendants, and Irishmen, I fancy the managers of this asylum must be as mad as the patients.

The Local Government Board has, I see, acted upon the opinion I expressed some time ago with regard to the conduct of the master of the Walsingham Workhouse in prosecuting a little pauper girl of twelve years for disobedient and disorderly behaviour, notwithstanding the instructions to the contrary which he had received from the Guardians. My opinion was that his vindictiveness towards the child proved that this Bumble was unfit to be in charge of a workhouse; and the Local Government Board have now shown that they are of the same way of thinking by demanding his resignation. It is a pity that the magistrates who committed the little girl to prison for fourteen days cannot also be called upon to resign.

In the recent discussion on the Beck case a good deal was said about the methods that are adopted by the police for securing the identification of prisoners. It was pointed out that it is a farce which may easily end in a tragedy for a prisoner bearing some resemblance, however general, to the culprit to be placed for this purpose among a row of people not in the least degree like him. Suppose, for instance, that the crime has been committed by an elderly man with a grey moustache, and that such a man is arrested and paraded for identification before a witness who has perhaps a very hazy recollection of the criminal but full confidence in the sagacity of the police. In these circumstances it is not at all surprising that the witness picks out the only elderly man with a grey moustache from the rest of the men with whom he stands for inspection.

Bad as it is, however, this is by no means the worst of the methods which lead to cases of mistaken identity. In a trial at Bradford Quarter Sessions last week it transpired that the prosecutrix, an old woman, was fetched to the police-station to identify the prisoner, who was charged with assaulting her. On the way there a police-sergeant talked to her about the affair, asked her if she did not know a family named Robinson, and so led her to remark: "Why, it is Jim Robinson's lad," whereupon the officer replied, "Yes." After this she identified "Jim Robinson's lad" as her assailant; but, fortunately, the preliminary hint that she had thus received was disclosed at the trial, with the result that the Recorder very properly advised the jury not to convict, and severely censured the sergeant for what he stigmatised as most grossly negligent conduct. "Negligent" hardly seems the correct epithet. I am afraid that it is not at all an unprecedented thing for hints of this kind to be given to witnesses. Only the other day I heard of a case in which a householder, who was going to the police-station to see if he could identify a man arrested for burglary, told the constable that he did not think he should know the criminal again. "Oh, that will be all right," said the constable; "he will be the one wearing a blue cloth cap."

The country magistrate whose query in regard to "police traps" for motorists I noticed last week returns to the subject in another letter. He agrees with me that there is a temptation to over-zeal on the part of the police, but while personally he detests the system of "traps," he does not see how under the present Motor Act a conviction for furious driving is to be got without them. No doubt the timing of cars is necessary if the statutory speed limit is to be enforced; but, putting aside the question of the advisability of fixing such a limit—my own view is that it would be better to rely solely upon a law against driving to the actual dis-

ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

comfort and danger of the public—I still think that these "traps" have become a source of injustice.

In many districts the evidence of "Dogberry and the Waterbury" is treated as absolutely infallible. Dogberry may give his evidence quite honestly, but in the timing of a car over a quarter of a mile of road an error of a few seconds may make an enormous difference in the calculation of the pace at which it was travelling. As the rural constables are not expert time-keepers, and the stop-watches with which they are provided are by no means above suspicion, the possibility of such mistakes occurring is manifest. There are magistrates, however, who refuse to recognise the existence of this possibility, every motorist summoned as the outcome of a police trap being convicted as a matter of course, regardless of the strength of the evidence for the defence.

Apropos of "police traps," another correspondent draws my attention to the disclosures in some betting prosecutions at St. Albans the other day, when two licensed victuallers and a hairdresser were convicted of allowing their premises to be used for the purpose of betting. The principal witness for the prosecution was a constable who, under instructions, visited the defendants' houses and made bets there in the character of a labourer. As it was clearly proved that there was constant betting in these houses with other persons besides the constable, I consider that the defendants were rightly convicted. There are many offenders who could never be brought to book without the practice of some amount of deception on the part of detectives, and I am not, therefore, disposed to condemn the constable engaged in these cases because he prevaricated in telling the defendants that he was a labourer, or because he took part in the betting that went on. At the same time, such methods of obtaining evidence ought to be employed by the police only as a last resort; and magistrates should certainly never convict unless there is some satisfactory corroboration of the evidence so obtained.

One of the Ripon J.P.s whom I stigmatised as muddy-minded dolts has written to me in reference to the recent conviction of Walter Tatham for travelling on the railway without paying his fare. My opinion that this conviction was a miscarriage of justice was formed upon a consideration of the evidence, and his worship's suggestion that I must have been influenced by "necessarily biased" information is quite unfounded. On the other hand, this letter reveals a very palpable prejudice against the defendant in the mind of the writer. In support of the conviction, he first of all mentions that though Tatham was described as a fruiterer, he "owned up" that the business was in his wife's name, and "as far as could be gathered, his own business or amusement was attending races." Neither statement has any direct bearing on the question of the defendant's guilt or innocence, and, moreover, the idea that he made a business of attending races was "gathered" in defiance of his own denial and in the absence of any proof of the fact. With more fairness it might be "gathered" from this J.P.'s letter that he looks upon a person who visits a race-course as unworthy of credence, if not undeserving of justice. Throughout he accepts the evidence of the ticket collectors as "official evidence," and disparages the testimony of the defendant and his three witnesses as that of "racing excursionists."

It may be remembered that Tatham, who was accused of giving up an out-of-date ticket, produced half of a return ticket of the proper date and asserted that it was the other half of this ticket which he handed to the collector. The railway company admitted that this other half was collected. There was a conflict of evidence as to whether the defendant produced the half ticket the moment he was arrested after passing through the barrier, or only when he had been taken to the inspector's office. My correspondent assumes that the version of the prosecution was correct, and adds:—

Of course, the presumption is that a kind friend furnished the accused with the half-ticket on his passage through the crowd from the barrier to the luggage room.

Why presumption? There is no presumption of this kind, unless you first assume that the defendant was guilty and a liar. The only presumption known to English law is that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty. The presumption which exists in the magisterial mind is not only a gratuitous presumption of guilt, but contrary to the evidence of the defendant and his witnesses. The railway constable who held the defendant in custody all the time did not venture to suggest that such a thing occurred; yet, on this mere presumption on the part of the Bench, the defendant—a man, by the way, who had never previously been in trouble—was convicted.

In his letter the J.P. remarks that "travelling with wrong tickets is surely not an unusual sporting event." Perhaps not; but this is no reason why a person charged with such an offence should be "presumed" to be guilty. Even this J.P's own one-sided account of the case shows that there was a doubt of which the defendant ought to have had the benefit. Some of the magistrates themselves were so far conscious of this that there was actually a retirement from the court to consider whether the summons should not be dismissed without hearing witnesses for the defence, and the final decision to convict was only carried, after twenty minutes' discussion, by a majority of the Bench. I am sorry to have to use strong language, but my opinion that this majority acted as muddy-minded dolts is not in the least degree modified by the letter I have received.

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns Country. Descriptive tariff free.

There are several illustrations in my Legal Pillory this week of the absurd and pernicious leniency of the Great Unpaid in dealing with offences of violence. I do not suppose that they approve of the practice of wife-beating, yet wife-beaters are almost invariably let off with trumpery fines instead of receiving a well-merited sentence of imprisonment. The latter is the only punishment that is likely to act as a deterrent to ruffians of this class. They care nothing for the payment of a penalty of twenty shillings or so, but more often than not continue to indulge in their favourite week-end diversions of getting drunk and thrashing their wives. Nor is it only the wife-beater who gets this indulgent treatment at the hands of the magistracy, for, as will be seen from the following list, similarly inadequate pecuniary penalties are inflicted for other brutal and cowardly assaults. By way of contrast to these cases, I give various examples of the sentences of hard labour which are habitually passed for petty thefts, poaching, and sleeping out:—

Exeter Police-court. Thomas Coles, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, beat his wife, and "smashed up all the things." There was a bad record against the defendant. Ordered to find a surety in £2 for his good behaviour for six months.

Poole Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. G. Curtis, J. J. Norton, and C. J. Woodford. Arthur Maple, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her on the head and knocked her down, inflicting wounds which she had to have dressed at the hospital. Fined 20s.

Harewood Police-court. Before Sir James Rankin and Mr. T. Preece. William Jones, charged with assaulting Frederick Francis. Without any provocation, defendant struck the complainant on the head with a pint cup, inflicting a severe wound. Complainant was rendered unconscious, and had to be removed to the hospital. Fined 10s. and costs.

Market Rasen Police-court. Before Lieut.-Colonel Conway Gordon, and Messrs. C. Holdershaw, R. W. Pindar, and G. J. Young. Joseph Searby, charged with assaulting Frances Mary Bett, a married woman. The magistrates said the assault was a cowardly one. Fined 20s. and costs.

Hastings Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Mr. S. T. P. Vores, Dr. Gray, and Alderman Tuppenney. James Smith and Ruth Puttick, charged with assaulting Thomas Williams. Complainant was so severely knocked about that he was unconscious for several hours. Fined 10s. each and costs.

Exeter Police-court. Wm. Moore, charged with refusing to do his allotted task in the casual ward at the city workhouse. Twenty-one days.

Saxmundham Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. Kendall Brooke and Captain Price. Charles Callum, charged with stealing ferns, value sixpence. One month.

Norwich County Police-court. Before Mr. G. F. Buxton. John Jackson, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Oakham Petty Sessions. Before Sir A. J. Fludyer and other magistrates. Charles Fred Taylor, charged with stealing bread, value fourpence. Fourteen days.

East Norton Police-court. Before Colonel Palmer and other magistrates. John Cable, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits. Fined £3.

Glasgow Sheriff Criminal-court. Before Sheriff Boyd. Murdoch M'Lennan, charged with stealing a saw. Four months.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Alderman A. Pyatt and Mr. F. J. Bradley. Joseph Wildgust, Harry Frith, and Albert Howley, charged with stealing potatoes from a garden. One month each.

Coatbridge Sheriff-court. Michael Dunn and John Wilson, charged with poaching. Forty days each.

Romsey County Police-court. Before Colonel Griffiths and Captain Suckling. John Simmonds, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £1 10s.

Pontefract Police-court. Michael Cardiff, charged with stealing a jacket from outside a shop. Six weeks.

St. Rollox Police-court, Glasgow. Before Bailie Alexander. John Devine, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a can. A nasty wound was inflicted. Fined 21s.

Aberdeen Police-court. Before Bailie Coutts. James Knox, charged with assaulting a policeman by beating and kicking him on the head, compressing his throat and attempting to choke him; also with assaulting a soldier by kicking him on the face and head. Fined 30s.

Wareham County Petty Sessions. Before Captain J. W. T. Fyler, Messrs. G. D. Bond, R. Slater, J. B. Dugdale, F. C. Bentinck, G. T. Young, and F. G. A. Lane. Samuel Charles Cobb, charged with cruelty, by causing a horse to be worked whilst in an unfit condition. The animal was very lame, and quite unfit for work. There was a long list of previous convictions against the defendant. Fined £1 7s. 6d., including costs.

Southampton Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. J. E. Le Feuvre, E. Whittaker, L. Bolton, M. Emanuel, and other magistrates. William Silco, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Twenty-one days.

Wellingborough Police-court. Before Messrs. E. Sharman, G. Lawrence, E. B. Randall, J. S. Clipson, Dr. W. W. Clark, and the Rev. T. Richards. John White, charged with stealing a pair of men's boots from outside a shop. Twenty-one days.

Dumbarton Sheriff-court. James and Charles Green, convicted of poaching. Four months each.

Bourne Police-court. Before Colonel de Bourton and Mr. T. W. Mayo. Fred Richardson, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Twenty-one days.

Needham Market Police-court. Before Mr. H. W. Callum. John Lawrence and Arthur Brundish, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

I quite sympathise with Sir Alfred Harmsworth's feeling that it is a scandal that poor people should be prosecuted up and down the country for obtaining sixpences for telling fortunes, while professors of the same black art are left free to earn guineas by the same trick in the West End of London. This has been said in Truth over and over again, and I have always been at a loss to understand the attitude of the police towards the West End necromancers. At the same time, I myself would not spend a penny or stir a finger to bring any of this fraternity to justice. It seems to me one of the most innocent forms that fraud can possibly assume. Very often there is no fraud about it, for many people honestly believe in their ability to read the future from the stars or the creases in human skin; and if the oracle believes in his own art, and the consultant believes in it too, it is quite clear that the first element of fraud is absent. Even when the faith is all on the side of the consultant, and the party who works the oracle is deliberately imposing upon this foolish credulity, I cannot see that any harm is done sufficiently serious to call for the interference of the law. The victim really deceives herself, or himself, in this case; and all that the magician—palmist, astrologer, fortune-teller, or whatever he calls himself—does is to play up to this deception. Why we should pay policemen, magistrates, and judges to protect fools against themselves I really do not understand.

In other relations of life deceptions which stand on precisely the same footing are every day perpetrated with impunity. When an old woman, who imagines herself to be constantly suffering from some fresh ailment, goes to consult a doctor, we do not prosecute the doctor because he gives her a bread pill and takes her fee. We do not prosecute the lawyer who takes up

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as waste paper.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

a case for a foolish or obstinate client, perfectly well knowing that the case is a bad one and that the client is bound to lose his money. The truth is that the laws against fortune-telling are survivals of mediæval persecution of witchcraft rather than rational legislation for the repression of crime. I should like to see them all swept away, along with the Lottery Acts, the Sabbath Observance Acts, and other such anachronisms, in order that the police may be left free to turn their attention to crime in more serious and mischievous shapes.

For instance, look at the systematic frauds which are every week exposed in the columns of Truth, and which, either through the indifference of the police or the defects of the law, go on year after year unchecked. In another column of this issue I have spoken about the swindling employment agency or registry office, by means of which hundreds of women are victimised in London every day. Look, again, at the home employment swindles. Only last week a gentleman sent me particulars of the experiences of his daughter with two individuals in this line. One of them calls himself the "Home Industrial Art Supply Co.," of Great James-street, W.C.; the other the "Imperial Art Supply Co.," of 21, Essex-street, Strand, with a branch office at 17, Ranelagh-avenue, Fulham.

Both of these gentry play exactly the same game—I say both, though for anything that appears to the contrary, they might easily be one and the same individual. They advertise in the newspapers, offering women light and artistic work in their own homes, at good remuneration. They inform them that they have a market for hand-coloured prints and photographs, and, judging from their own statements, they can employ any number at this business. They offer an "outfit" free, but at the same time they require a deposit as a security against dishonesty, returnable at some future date, which is, of course, never likely to arrive. The woman pays her money, goes to work, and finds that she can produce nothing that will give satisfaction—even though, as in many cases that have come under my knowledge, she may be a person of artistic education. Sooner or later, of course, she realises that the offer of home employment is a pure fraud, the only object being to obtain her money for a box of materials.

This game has been carried on to my knowledge, from the same address in Great James-street, for at least five or six years. The individual calling himself the Imperial Art Supply Company was also at work in the same line in Maiden-lane for two or three years, before he moved into Essex-street. It is no exaggeration to say that the victims of these two harpies must be numbered by thousands; but the law and its officers care for none of these things. In point of gravity, there is no comparison between the offence of robbing a poor girl or woman under pretence of giving her remunerative employment, and that of taking a fee from some fool who believes that any person can reveal the secrets of the future, and is ready to pay money to learn these secrets. The law strains at gnats while swallowing camels. I hope Sir Alfred Harmsworth will not do the same thing. I hope, too, that he will support me in urging that where these frauds are perpetrated through the medium of newspaper advertisements, the newspaper should be held equally responsible with the advertiser—unless he convinces the jury that he, or his business representatives, had good reason to believe the advertisement to be an honest one.

An interesting variation of an old trick is being worked by somebody calling himself the "Kew Trading Association," of 16, Victoria-parade, Kew, W. The trick consists in advertising that a beautiful carved clock will be bestowed free upon every fifth person who sends a postcard asking for the firm's illustrated catalogue, and telling every applicant that as his postcard is the fifth he is entitled to the clock, conditionally upon his ordering goods to the value of 6s. 3d. or upwards from the catalogue. The catalogue offers a variety of cheap jewellery, field-glasses, and other such goods, in which firms of this class deal, every article being represented as sold at about half the usual price, or less, and terms being quoted for payment in weekly instalments. When the purchaser elects to pay on the instalment system, he finds out after he has sent his first instalment that neither the free clock nor the other article he has bought will be sent until the whole sum is paid. He is thus doubly humbugged—first, by the suggestion that he is going to get a clock for nothing; secondly, by the suggestion that so many weeks' credit will be given. At the same time, I am bound to add that if anybody is caught by this dodge, the fault rests chiefly with himself.

Being desirous of testing for himself the quality of the racing prophecies in the *Midland Referee*, a correspondent invested the other day in a copy of that notorious publication. It contained thirty-six tips headed "The Spotter's Latest," and eighteen headed "The Colonel's Finals." "The Spotter" managed to spot just thirty losers or non-starters, while the half-dozen winners that he chanced to mention were all favourites starting at very short odds. Even this ignominious performance was beaten by "The Colonel," for not a single one of his eighteen tips came off.

No doubt Beston, the many-aliased rascal who runs the *Midland Referee* at Birmingham, concluded that after this my correspondent was hardly likely to become a subscriber to that sheet, and he accordingly favoured him with a free specimen number of the shilling circular which he calls the *Racing Champion*, and issues from another address. The specimen number was posted at Birmingham on a

Thursday night, but purported to have been published on the previous Monday. It is easy to prophesy when you know, and nobody acquainted with Beston's methods will be surprised to learn that this number of the *Champion* gave a series of wonderfully successful tips for the week's races up till Thursday night, or that there was a sad falling off in those for Friday and Saturday.

The same correspondent also received, unsolicited, a copy of the *Secret Special*, in which Beston masquerades as "Captain George Somerville," and I expect that in due course he will also get circulars from this Protean trickster under the aliases of "Miss Flossie Beresford," "Dan Bruce," "E. Allsopp," "Walter Hooley," "Percy Macdonald," "John Bull," "Jupiter," "Lucky Joe," "Fred. A. Black," "The Major," "Stewart Guy Manton," "Lionel G. Milton," "Walter Owen," "James Brown," etc. The tribe of touting tipsters includes many mendacious and unprincipled rogues, but in these characteristics none of them can hold a candle to E. W. Beston.

In forwarding a money-lending circular with which he has been favoured by "Gerald Chesney" (the present alias of the notorious Pockett), a correspondent mentions that it was sent to him in an open envelope with a halfpenny stamp. "Could people like Chesney be prosecuted," he asks, "for damaging one's credit? I am living in a flat, and my letters go through the hands of the servants of the mansions before reaching me." The open envelope is an aggravation of the annoyance caused by such pests as Chesney, but I am afraid that there is no remedy for it.

Several harpies in the same line of business as Pockett have been commended to my notice during the past few days, among them being "W. H. Smith," "Charles Angus" (Taunton), "Messrs. Edwards and Co.," "Thomas Sandy," "Geo. Foster," and "S. Bassett." One correspondent apparently thinks that "W. H. Smith" is an alias. It is, of course, an old dodge for usurers and usurers' touts to assume well-known names, but in this instance "Smith" happens to be the man's not uncommon patronymic, and "W.H." are his initials. On the other hand, "Messrs. Edwards and Co." is an alias, hiding the identity of Lionel Hart and Bella Lawrence. Bella is described in the official register as a widow, and Mr. Weller's advice to beware of widows applies with double force to one who is a moneylender. Needless to say, my own advice is that people should give a wide berth to all professional usurers, whether male or female, Jew or Gentile.

Many of my readers will doubtless remember the "Armadale Company, Limited," which was shown up in Truth last February. The Company, under the pretence of supplying capital to business men in need of that desirable commodity, had carried on a highly elaborate version of the preliminary fee trick, long familiar in the hands of bogus money-lenders. The seeker after capital was persuaded to allow the Armadale people to convert his business into a company. He executed an agreement with them under which he became liable for considerable payments for legal expenses, printing, etc., without any security that the company would ever be floated. Needless to say, it never was. Subsequent to the Truth exposure, two of the parties to this swindle, rejoicing in the classic name of Abraham, seceded from Mr. H. A. Ashton, the head of the business, and started on their own account another swindle called the Merchants' Legal Aid Society, of which full accounts have been given in Truth. The Armadale Company then disappeared.

It appears, however, that business has been re-started under the name of "The Mercantile Syndicate, Limited," at the address Coventry House, South-place, Finsbury, and I shall be surprised if Mr. Ashton is not again in it. I have before me a lengthy correspondence between this syndicate and an unsuspecting individual who went to them in search of money to extend his business. The business was an insignificant one, and the idea of turning it into a company is absurd on the face of it, but that is what the proprietor was gammoned into agreeing to. It is not worth while to discuss the transaction in detail, for the *modus operandi* is precisely identical with what I have described in the case of the Armadale Company.

As before, the stock-in-trade seems to consist of a printed memorandum and articles of association in common form. The type for printing these is, no doubt, kept standing, as it used to be by the Armadale Company, so that with a few trifling verbal alterations a proof can be struck off suitable to each new case that comes in; and on being supplied with this proof the dupe is expected to pay £20 for drafting, revising, and printing the same, and "preparing and printing all necessary documents for registration." When he is backward in paying up, he learns from Messrs. Minton Slater and Co., solicitors, 4, Bond-court, Wallbrook, that unless he pays the amount, together with their charges, within two days, legal proceedings will be taken against him for the recovery thereof. Messrs. Minton Slater and Co. appeared in certain transactions connected with the old Armadale Company, and can hardly be unaware of what was shown in Truth as to its proceedings. I cannot help thinking that they would be acting more kindly towards their present client, whether it is Mr. Ashton or not, if they were to dissuade him from continuing this business.

Apropos of the old Armadale gang I would once more warn all whom it may concern against the operations of the Merchants' Legal Aid Society. I hear of this concern again from a gentleman who got into communication with it through an advertisement which

appeared in the *Ironmonger* of September 17. It was a similar advertisement to others that have been noticed in Truth, intimating that a gentleman was required to act as local district manager for a London company, that he would be required to invest £100, and that he might expect to make £4 a week in commissions. The correspondence which follows on answering this advertisement is also of the usual character, the whole object of course being to unload a certain quantity of waste paper, in the shape of the Merchants' Legal Aid Society's shares, upon the prospective district secretary. This game has now been going on for a good many months, and it is time that newspaper managers began to be on their guard against Mr. Abraham's advertisements.

Mrs. (or Mr.) Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road, has lost two more relatives within the last few weeks, and received thereby a further addition to her collection of interesting old family portraits. One relative left "a most beautiful engraving" of the portrait of Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, K.G.; the other left "a most beautiful engraving" of the portrait of Major George S. Tudor, V.D. The deceased relatives, like the many hundreds of others which Day has lost during the last ten years highly prized both these pictures; but Day has resolved to part with them to relieve her personal necessities. If the dead have any power of venting their displeasure upon the living, it will go badly with Day yet, for, at a rough calculation, I should say she has disposed up to now of something like 1,000 portraits, all left by deceased relatives, who highly prized them, and evidently wished that they should not go out of the family.

It appears that the Rheumatoid Arthritis advertisement of "Mrs. Baker," 13, Brown Hill-road, Catford, referred to in last week's Truth, has been appearing lately in the *Daily Telegraph* as well as in the *Standard*. Mrs. Baker, it may be remembered, acts as a "bonnet" for that old-established "specialist" — specialist in swindling of course—Charles Montague, of Birmingham. During the last week I have heard from several other victims who have been trapped through the *Daily Telegraph* advertisement, and are now being dunned and threatened by Montague for payment of his charges for his remedy—sent in all cases without any order. I can only tell them again that their best course is to throw all communications from Montague or any bogus debt-collecting agency whose name he employs into the waste-paper basket. The only way of stopping this rascal's game is to stick to his remedies until he chooses to come and fetch them away, and to encourage him to spend all the money he will on writing useless letters. I must add, however, that it is time that newspaper advertisement managers who know their business were on their guard against the Rheumatoid Arthritis advertisement, which has been appearing practically in the same form from different addresses for six or eight years past, if not longer.

There still seems to be a deplorable amount of ignorance in the Press concerning Mr. Bowden Green and his "movements." Paragraphs appeared in sundry papers last week reporting a meeting of the Street Noise Abatement Committee, held at 1, Finsbury-circus. The principal item of business transacted at this meeting seems to have been the announcement of the honorary secretary—Bowden Green, to wit—that a memorial to the Home Secretary on the subject of "A Quieter Metropolis" was in course of preparation. The Street Noise Abatement Committee is, I presume, an offshoot of Bowden Green's Betterment of London Association. Should the memorial referred to ever reach the Home Secretary, I trust that he will acquaint himself with the past record of Mr. Bowden Green and his "movements," before playing into that gentleman's hands by taking any official notice of the document.

With reference to the National Old Age Pension Trust, I have received from Mr. William Taverner, "Founder and International Secretary" of the Trust, a letter complaining that I have "indulged in some very foolish and absurd remarks." The only remark I have made is that I entertain grave doubts as to the financial soundness of the scheme. Certain statements that Mr. Taverner makes in his letter tend rather to confirm me in that view than to convert me. This may possibly be my fault, possibly Mr. Taverner's. But as I do not wish to do either that gentleman or the Trust any injustice, I think it better under the circumstances to do no more at present than record his protest, and invite him to explain to me somewhat more clearly why my views are so foolish and absurd.

It will be interesting to see the result of the attempt Messrs. Lyons and Co. are making to exclude the tipping system from the new Popular Café in Piccadilly. To the man who submits to the system grudgingly, regarding a waiter's tip as a sort of forced benevolence, its abolition seems to be an easy matter. Experience, however, has shown that this is by no means the case. There are some people who will insist upon giving tips in spite of any rules to the contrary, and there are a great many more who, though they might otherwise manage to repress their bounty, yet feel bound to follow suit, lest they should be deemed parsimonious. As a consequence efforts to suppress the practice of tipping in hotels and restaurants have generally failed. However, the present is the most important experiment in this direction that has been made so far, and the management of the café may be relied upon to do everything in their power to make it a success. All the waiters are engaged on the distinct understanding that they are not to expect gratuities, and it will be the fault of the customers themselves if this arrangement is broken down.

Apart from the tipping question, the Popular Café marks a new departure in London restaurants. It is true that eighteenpenny table d'hôte luncheons and half-crown dinners are no longer novelties even outside Soho; but with a few exceptions these cheap meals are

likewise nasty, ill-cooked and ill-served, in dull and dingy, and sometimes dirty, rooms. The new café is a really palatial and luxurious establishment, where a couple of thousand guests can lunch or dine or sup or take afternoon tea, listening the while to an excellent band. The four-course luncheon is one and sixpence, the seven-course dinner half-a-crown, and the à la carte service is at correspondingly low prices, while quarter bottles of wine are supplied at equally moderate charges. The reputation of the firm is a guarantee that there will be good food, good cooking, and good service, and with diners-out of limited means or economical tendencies the café is certain to justify its name by becoming popular.

JOSEPH AMONG THE DUKES.

Ah! how well we remember the days,
Not so very far back from the present,
When none but true *popular* praise
To our Citizen Joseph was pleasant;
When, heartily hating the drone,
'Mongst the workers he found his enjoyment,
And the hands that he clasped in his own
Were right horny, forsooth, from employment!

For the people prepared to contend,
No qualms could his principles smother;
Hodge then was his intimate friend,
Jack Cade he esteemed as a brother:
Nay, the skilled and advanced artisan,
When he quaffed from his beady and bubbly can,
As his toast gave "The Birmingham man
With the views that are *almost* Republican!"

This phase of his life, though, was brief,
For already it's quite an old story
How this gushing young Radical chief
Soon became an encrusted old Tory.
"How, no longer" (he vauntingly said)
"In a crowd of low Liberals lonely,
He in future would hold up his head
'Mongst the country's fine gentlemen only!"

But now even *this* fails to sate
Mr. Joseph's inordinate notions;
Even gentlemen wholly of late
Fail to tickle his jaded emotions.
Mere new Barons and Earls he rebukes,
Should they try as his comrades to close up,
Aye, at anything lower than Dukes,
Now he turns his superlative nose up!

And thus, as we've recently seen,
Dukes, to lighten the troubles that irk us,
Mr. Joseph, in rivalry keen,
Have been trotting around like a circus;
Now at Welbeck, to underground seats,
And anon in a shanty at Luton,
Trying hard to perform fiscal feats
That would soften the brain of a Newton!

For a time of the shows thus begun,
There may be, it is true, some assuagement,
But our Joseph, his holiday done,
Will renew, without doubt, his engagement;
And although to the Dukes he affords
Some mild fun by his fiscal gyration,
He will find himself hissed from the boards,
When he gets face to face with the Nation!

It is a very curious fact that in spite of the outcry heard on all sides respecting the badness of trade and the dearth of money, the Board of Trade returns continue to show increases in our exports and imports. It is pretty evident that at the present time we are passing through a severe period of commercial depression. On the other hand, there is on the surface every sign that all this time our foreign trade is thriving. This is particularly true of exports. Although 1903 was a record year in our export trade, the exports for the first nine months of the present year show a further increase of nearly four millions. For the month of September the increase on the corresponding month of the previous year, in exports of home produce alone, is over 2½ millions and more than 11 per cent. The imports for the last month showed a falling off, but nevertheless there is an increase of imports for the whole nine months of the present year. In the course of the fiscal controversy I have from time to time pointed out that the condition of foreign trade is not a conclusive test of the general industrial condition of the country. Surely what we have seen during the last year or two proves this most conclusively.

What is the explanation of the phenomenon? It seems to me pretty obvious, that in looking at foreign trade, what you have to consider is not the bulk of your transactions, whether measured in quantity or value, but the profit that you are making on them. It stands to reason that when trade is bad at home, manufacturers are likely to have more surplus goods for export, and will be ready to sell them abroad at lower prices—in other words, to "dump." We have seen this proved in the case of Germany. The export trade of that country showed no diminution during the acute depression experienced a few years ago, and it was during this time that the "dumping" of German goods on the British market reached dimensions which excited horror and alarm among some of our manufacturers and politicians. We have seen the same thing when trade has been bad in the United States.

On this view of the matter, the mere volume of foreign trade is no certain test of domestic prosperity, and may even be a sign of depression. The important matter to know is, not how much stuff you are exporting, but what profit you are making on it. In order to judge this, you must look at what you receive in exchange for what you sell. Looking at the recent trade returns by this test, what do we find? In September there was a decline of 5 per cent. in imports, that is to say in our returns for what we sold, although the cash value of what we sold showed an increase of over 11 per cent. This extraordinary disparity is, of course, exceptional and accidental, but looking at the whole nine months we find that though both exports and imports have increased considerably, the percentage of increase is lower in the case of imports than in that of exports. The difference is not much, but it is enough to indicate that the increase of the export trade has not been done at the usual rate of profit. This is what might be expected when the increase of export trade coincides with depression in domestic trade.

If this argument is sound, and it seems to me to be nothing but elementary common sense, it is interesting to read the comment of the *Daily Mail*, as a leading

Chamberlainite organ, upon the September trade returns:—

> The Board of Trade returns for British exports and imports in the month of September are, on the whole, satisfactory. They show a marked decrease in the imports and an increase of over £2,600,000 in the exports, as compared with the same month in 1903. *Since the exports represent the credit side in the national ledger, and the imports our outgoings, this is all to the good.*

In other words, the less you get in exchange for your goods the greater your profit. Here you have the issue between the Free Trader and the Protectionist in a nutshell. It seems to me that the view of international exchanges presented in the above passage is self-evident nonsense. But if I am wrong, there should be no difficulty in proving it. A great deal of the fiscal controversy deals with matters on which it is very difficult to bring the two sides to a close test. But surely it is possible to decide by reason and experience the elementary question whether in the international exchange of goods profit arises from giving more than you receive, or *vice versâ*. At any rate for the present, the fact stands out clearly that, throughout long years of prosperity, the excess of our imports over our exports has continually tended to increase, while to-day when the evidence of industrial depression meets us on every side, exports increase in a faster ratio than imports.

Apropos of apples, a correspondent corroborates from his own experience the facts mentioned in last week's Truth. When living in Somersetshire, a friend twenty miles off offered him as many apples from his orchard as he liked to take. On going into the matter, however, he found that the carriage by railway over the intervening distance would actually cost him more per lb. than he was paying in his own town for American apples. He was compelled, therefore, to decline his friend's apples, even at a gift. You can hardly have a stronger example than this of the first of the evils from which British agriculture is suffering.

The same gentleman makes another interesting statement. Discussing prices with his wine-merchant, the latter told him that the carriage of a case of wine to the same Somerset town from Bordeaux cost less than the carriage of the same case from the London agent of the Bordeaux firm, although, if imported from Bordeaux, the case would come through London. He adds what seems to me the true moral: "If Chamberlain wants our children to arise and call him blessed, let him fight the railways. That is where English trade is being strangled."

Let us not be undiscriminating, however, even in abuse of railway companies. A point which should not be lost sight of was made the other day, apropos of the fact that American or Canadian meat is conveyed from Liverpool to London more cheaply than meat from Cheshire or other neighbouring districts. The point is, that the railway rates are uniform—as, I believe, by law they must be. But the rate is lower for large quantities consigned in bulk. Consequently a ship-load of foreign meat arriving at Liverpool is carried to London at a lower rate than small parcels consigned by local farmers.

This is perfectly reasonable, because the railway expenditure in handling the goods is relatively lower in the former case; for a shipload of foreign meat can be put on the train and unloaded in London at far less cost than the same quantity of meat consigned at different times and loaded in small consignments at different stations. If it were practicable for farmers to combine and forward large consignments conjointly, they could obtain the same terms from the railway companies as their Transatlantic competitors. Economies of this kind are essential to profitable trade, and no doubt British agriculture needs organisation to effect such economies. It would be equally necessary that this lesson should be learned, even if a Socialistic State took over the railways to-morrow, and undertook to convey produce to market free of charge.

I have never understood how the popular idea arose—now many years ago—that Sir William Harcourt was a disagreeable man. I knew him for some fifty years, and I always found him, not only excellent company, but essentially good-natured. Occasionally he conveyed to a friend his impression that the friend was an ass, but this harmed no one. He must have hinted to me this estimate of myself many a time, in more or less emphatic terms. I naturally did not agree with him, but these little outbursts never weakened my sincere friendship towards him, nor my appreciation of his sterling qualities. A great many people are very vain, and very possibly he may have a little trodden on a few tender toes. He himself had no such failing, and was by no means prone to take offence.

As a leader he had many valuable qualities. His faults were over-good nature, and not insisting sufficiently strongly on having his own way. He was, I think, too much dominated by the traditions of the House of Commons when dealing with those who ignored them. In regard to the succession to the leadership on the retirement of Mr. Gladstone, he was very unfairly treated. He had manfully fought the party battle, and on Mr. Gladstone's resignation he was far the best debater on the Treasury Bench, and he had every right to the Premiership. This was the opinion of the large majority of the Liberal M.P.s. I suppose, however, that he had hinted to a good many of his colleagues that he did not always regard them as exceptionally wise. A section, therefore, combined together to prevent his becoming their chief.

To meet this conspiracy, the Liberals decided to invite him to a dinner, at which he would have been acclaimed as Mr. Gladstone's first lieutenant, which, as Mr. Gladstone had already announced his intended resignation, would have meant his successor. The session of the previous year had been prolonged until far into February of the succeeding year. On its conclusion, Parliament was prorogued for a few days before the

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

commencement of the next session. It was during this interval, when most of the Liberals had left London, and consequently were unable to take united action, that Lord Rosebery's leadership was sprung upon the party. Thus the Cabinet intrigue, supported by a very small number of members of the House of Commons not in the Administration, succeeded. I do not think that the Liberals had any personal objection to Lord Rosebery, but they disapproved on general principles of a Liberal Premier not being in the House of Commons, and they thought that Sir William had been unfairly passed over.

In Mr. Morley's "Life of Gladstone" he expresses the opinion that Mr. Gladstone would, had he been consulted, have advised the selection of Lord Spencer. Possibly he might have done so, for he knew of the existence of the Cabinet intrigue—and although he might have thought that Sir William Harcourt was the man best fitted for the post, he also knew that his appointment as Premier would very probably have led to a Cabinet crisis. Queen Victoria had a habit of indirectly seeking information from her Premiers by sending her secretary to make a private visit to them, when he would endeavour to find out what they thought of the matter which interested her. The story goes that the secretary called on Mr. Gladstone shortly before his actual resignation, and asked him who he thought should be his successor. "Do you ask me this from the Queen?" said Mr. Gladstone. "No," answered the secretary; "her Majesty has not authorised me to consult you on the matter." "Then," said Mr. Gladstone, "I think that I will reserve my opinion until her Majesty asks me for it."

Be this as it may, Sir William did not allow his disappointment to affect his public conduct. During the Rosebery Government he was true to his chief, and he ably supported his policy. After the General Election, when the Liberal Party became the Opposition, Lord Rosebery announced to him that he must decline any longer to act with him, and this rendered his position exceedingly difficult in the House of Commons. But he made the best of it, and manfully upheld the Liberal cause in that branch of the Legislature. When Lord Rosebery withdrew publicly from the Leadership of the Party and from the Party itself, Sir William became *de facto* the Liberal Leader. He was, however, subjected to continuous intrigues on the part of Lord Rosebery's adherents in the House of Commons. These for some time he bore patiently, but finally he resigned the leadership on account of them. I do not think that Lord Rosebery was himself a party to these intrigues of his henchmen—for generally henchmen are more royalist than the king, as the saying is. After this Sir William heartily supported his successor in the leadership, though during the last two Sessions he did not take a very frequent part in debate. His speeches were as clear and trenchant as ever, but his voice somewhat failed him, and it was difficult for those not near him to catch all that he said. He remained, however, the most popular man in the House of Commons. The Liberals swore by him, and the Unionists respected him as a fair—if powerful—foe.

Sir William was not an ultra-Radical. I remember a good many years ago making in the House some uncomplimentary observations in regard to Whigs. He happened to rise after me, when he rebuked me for my observations, and said that he gloried in being a Whig. The fact, however, is that the term Whig is not now used in its historic sense, but to signify a little clique of gentlemen who call themselves Liberals, but who, in all except the name, are Conservatives. To do them justice, they have a very pretty talent for intrigue, and they generally manage to be so largely represented in a Liberal Cabinet that they are able to put spokes in the wheel of the car of progress. With these gentlemen Sir William had no more sympathy than Mr. Gladstone had had. If not an ultra-Radical, he was a sterling Liberal of an advanced type. His fiscal policy whilst Chancellor of the Exchequer was Radical. Not only did he set his foot on wild expenditure on armaments and call for economy in all the departments, but he carried a Budget which has enabled us to collect annually 14 millions from dead men's wealth instead of from live men's necessities.

It is difficult to conceive the Liberal Party without Sir William Harcourt. But it was equally difficult to conceive it without Mr. Gladstone until time and habit accustomed us to his loss. So I suppose it has always been when some man whose name has long been a household word leaves this globe. This planet, according to reasonable probability, will remain the abode of man above a million years, and I sometimes wonder how much of our history will form part of a liberal education when this period has elapsed. People sometimes think what they would like best. I should like best to go to sleep for a million years, and then to awake and take a look round, for everything will be altered. There will be new ideals, new superstitions, new developments of the resources of nature, and new habits and modes of thought. When Li Hung Chang was in England he was asked what he thought of our civilisation. He replied that he regarded it as a curious experiment, but that it was impossible to decide whether it was a successful one until it has been tested for two or three thousand years. The Chinaman was in the right. In comparison with the lifetime of the human race a few thousand years count as nothing, and there is no material difference between the life of an octogenarian and that of a fly.

When Archbishop Harcourt died in 1847, at the age of ninety-one, Mr. Charles Greville wrote in his journal; "He was in no way remarkable except for the wonderful felicity of his whole life from first to last. It would, perhaps, be difficult to find a greater example of uninterrupted prosperity." Archbishop Harcourt commenced life with an adequate fortune, and his wife, who was a sister of the first Duke of Sutherland, brought him a

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

large dowry. He was under forty when Mr. Pitt promoted him to the See of Carlisle, and at the age of fifty he became Archbishop of York. In 1830 he succeeded his kinsman, Earl Harcourt, in the large family estates. The Archbishop's heir was his eldest son, Mr. Granville Harcourt, who was the third husband of Frances, Countess Waldegrave, and for many years one of the members for Oxfordshire. He died in 1861.

Sir William Harcourt's father, who then succeeded his brother in the estates, was the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt, Canon of York and Rector of Bolton Percy, an ecclesiastic distinguished for both his scholarship and his scientific attainments. Canon Harcourt was an intimate friend of Sydney Smith.

The Manor of Nuneham, which was owned for centuries by the Courtenays, was purchased during the reign of Queen Anne by Lord Chancellor Harcourt. The house, which is well situated on a hill, consists of two blocks with wings, and it is more remarkable for the comfort and convenience of the internal arrangements than for any architectural merit. The principal rooms are fine, and there is a gallery of valuable pictures. The house contains a splendid collection of china, principally Sèvres, which was presented by Louis XV. to the Earl Harcourt, who was Ambassador in Paris for many years. There is also a choice library. The deer park of fourteen hundred acres is picturesque, diversified, and well-timbered. The hanging woods along the bank of the Thames are very beautiful. The gardens round the house were laid out by "Capability" Brown, but the greater part of the demesne was wisely left in the uncontrolled wildness of nature. One of the sights at Nuneham is Otho Nicholson's famous conduit, which was removed thither from Oxford about 1787.

Horace Walpole several times visited Nuneham, of which he wrote in 1773:—

> Nuneham astonished me with the first *coup d'œil* of its ugliness, and the next day charmed me. It is as rough as a bear, but capable of being made a most noble scene. There is a fine apartment, some few very good pictures, the part of a temple acted by a church, and a flower garden that would keep all the maccaronia in nosegays.

THE UNIONISTS' DILEMMA.

Retaliation is vexation;
  Protection is as bad;
The Rule of Two will never do—
  It drives the Party mad.

The Italian Parliamentary position is an interesting one. Zanardelli was the Liberal Premier. Giolitti was a member of his Cabinet, but he withdrew because he professed to be more Liberal than his colleagues. On Zanardelli's retirement, owing to ill-health, the King charged Giolitti with the formation of a Cabinet. He sought to do so by distributing the Ministries between Liberals and Socialists. The latter, however, declined all offers made to them. Since then the Premier has retained a Parliamentary majority, sometimes by the aid of the Socialists, and sometimes by that of the section of the Conservatives who recognise Rudini as their leader.

The recent troubles in many of the large cities have led to a breach between the Socialists and Giolitti. Certain labour strikes, which led to disorder and pillage, took place in two or three comparatively small towns. The troops were called in to maintain order, and in one or two cases strikers were shot down. On this the Chamber of Labour ordered a suspension of all work for twenty-four hours, as a demonstration against the employment of armed force in disputes between labour and capital. It became in Milan and some other towns a demonstration in favour of an immediate dissolution of Parliament. The Socialist members met, and invited the Chairman of the Legislative Chamber at once to call Parliament together in order to give them an opportunity to force dissolution by means of obstruction. This the President refused to do, at the same time expressing his doubt whether such action on his part would be in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution, although by its letter he possessed the legal power.

Parliament normally meets at the commencement of November. The present Parliament must legally be dissolved next June, if not before. The General Election can, however, be deferred until October. Whether Parliament will meet before November, and whether it will be dissolved before June is being hotly contested, but does not appear to be definitely settled. It is also by no means clear whether, when it does meet, Giolitti will retain his majority. If he does, it will be by a split amongst the Socialist deputies, or by the support of a section of the Conservatives.

What the result of a General Election will be is equally in the dark. At present the Socialists have injured themselves in public opinion by the strike. If the election took place at once, it might well happen that the Moderates might secure a majority over both Giolitti and the Socialists. If it is deferred, and if Giolitti knocks under to the Socialists, they might be largely strengthened in the Chamber, for they would be strengthened by Giolitt's surrender, as in nowhere more than in Italy does the appearance of strength rally support.

I have not very great confidence in the telegrams of the *Times* from Russia, although their chief correspondent in Manchuria seems a trustworthy man, and understands how to describe clearly what he sees. The *Times* Russian telegrams bear the trace of the *Times* politics and of its indignation at one of its correspondents having been ordered out of the country before the war, which it seems to have regarded as a sort of *lèse majesté*. Its Odessa correspondent, I think, exaggerates the feeling against the reservists having been called out for active service, and the endeavours of many to avoid it, as proof of the unpopularity of the war. I sincerely trust that a day will come when all wars of aggression are unpopular, and primarily the occupation of Manchuria was an act of aggression. But to suppose that in any case recruits under a system of conscription are ever desirous to serve is a mistake, unless it be to defend their country from actual invasion, and this

applies also to reservists when they are called out. In every country where those called out are selected by ballot the men on whom the selection falls regard themselves as victims, and this feeling is generally shared by their relatives. After they have joined the colours, and have become accustomed to serving, they accept their fate, however, generally with equanimity.

Reservists are often married, and often they have secured situations in which they are well contented. Naturally the Russian reservists of this description bitterly regret having to go to Manchuria with a very considerable probability of never returning from it, and a good many try to escape from their fate by running away or concealing themselves. In France during the Napoleonic wars, the price of a substitute rose to a very large sum, but all who could afford it paid it. As the conscription became more exacting, the number of deserters increased. It had reached very formidable proportions during the Leipsic campaign, and when the allied armies entered France, the number of *réfractiaires*, as they were called, was enormous.

Generally speaking, the most ardent supporters of a war are not those who risk their skins. They are vicariously brave. This was largely the case during our Transvaal war. Of our annual recruits, about one-third are men who really have a passion for military service. The rest only enlist because they are forced to this by need. A difficulty in getting recruits by voluntary enlistment is the best proof of the prosperity of a country. It is all very well preaching the patriotic duty of becoming soldiers; but such preaching does not alter the fact, whilst, as a rule, the preachers themselves do not practise what they preach.

I believe that there is sufficient patriotism in our population to fill the ranks of an Army were an invasion to happen or even to be threatened. But why should a sensible, hard-working Englishman give up civil employment in order to risk his life in adding to the Empire some spot in Africa or in bullying some Llama in Thibet? Those who do so do not seem to me to be exceptionally intelligent.

THE ASTUTE AGENT.

The Agent for an Earl's Estate,
Whose Habits weren't exactly straight,
His Lordship's Cash Accounts had got
Into what 's called a Gordian Knot.
At length, the Earl, suspicious growing,
Ran down to see how Things were going.
The Agent knew his desp'rate Case,
Marked Ruin staring in his Face,
Conscious, if once his Lord should see
The Books—why, then, 'twas all U.P.
So racked his Brains for some Invention
To draw therefrom the Earl's Attention.
But while he sought, in abject Fear,
To find a Way, the Way flashed clear.
It happened that he'd had a Breeze
With Farmer Jones, of Summerleas
(A stiff-necked, contumacious Wight),
About some Point of Tenant's Right
And Jones, with righteous Wrath imbued,
Had writ him Letters passing rude,
Denouncing, in impulsive Phrase,
All bloated Tyrants and their Ways.
Now greets his lord, the Agent bland,
With Jones's Letters in his Hand:
"So glad you 've come, my Lord," cries he,
"You're just the Man I wished to see.
Peruse these cheeky Letters, please,
From Farmer Jones, of Summerleas.
Nought with the Scoundrel can I do,
So needs must pass him on to you."
His Lordship read; his Visage lowered;
With apoplectic Rage he glowered:
"Mark how the Villain me defies!
Flings in my Face insulting Lies.
By Pluto! But I'll find a Way
To make th' abusive Rascal pay."
On, then, he stormed, half-mad with Ire.
The cunning Agent fanned the Fire;
'Till nought the Earl, that livelong Day,
Could think of but to make Jones pay.
So while to this, engrossed, he looks,
He quite forgot to check the Books!

Moral.

When Jingo Statesmen see, with Fear,
That Things at Home are looking queer,
Abroad they timely Trouble find,
Just to distract the public Mind.

SCRUTATOR.

FISCAL AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

MR. BALFOUR'S Edinburgh speech was an attempt to restore union in the Unionist ranks by once more airing the vague and plausible generalities of his Sheffield oration. He is more or less right in saying that no one has ever taken the trouble to contest his Sheffield policy. The reason for that is that the Sheffield speech contained neither a policy nor a profession of fiscal faith; and he has himself shown that it would be waste of time to treat it seriously, for when the main principle of the speech was embodied by one of his own followers in a resolution to be submitted to the House of Commons, the resolution was withdrawn in deference to the objections of Mr. Chamberlain and his friends. However, Mr. Balfour now tells us that he is strongly in favour of Free Trade—so strongly that, if his party were to declare itself Protectionist, he would not lead it, although he adds that he would not leave it for that reason. Protection, according to him, is supporting or creating home industries by raising home prices, and if duties are imposed on foreign goods with this object, he will have no part in it. But if such duties are imposed in order to oblige foreign countries to open their markets to us, this, he thinks, is justifiable, because the aim is to increase the area of Free Trade. The tax would be paid by the foreigner until he has opened his markets to us, and, "therefore," British prices would not be raised to the consumer. It is wicked for any one to use our self-governing Colonies as counters in a political game; there should therefore be a conference between us, the self-governing colonies, and India to see whether some fiscal scheme might not be evolved which would be to the advantage of all, for just now we are in a dangerous *impasse*. As the present

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

Parliament has no mandate to change our existing fiscal policy, he thinks it ought not to be called upon even to discuss such a change; though, on the other hand, speeches by members of the Cabinet, either in favour of Protection or of Free Trade, are not harmful; in fact, those who denounced them as an evidence of Unionist differences wasted their breath, as a Cabinet was never yet formed that agreed upon everything.

These arguments appear to me to involve a good deal of the *non sequitur*, and to be based upon an absolute ignorance of the most elementary principles of political economy. No one before Mr. Balfour has ever yet been bold enough to assert that a duty on foreign imports is entirely paid by the foreigner, and that the price of the article taxed is not raised to the consumer of the country imposing the duty. Mr. Balfour, however, seems to be under the impression that the effect of a tax is entirely dependent upon the motive that has led to its imposition, which is as absurd as to suppose that if a lunatic believes that a dose of prussic acid will benefit the health, it will not poison any one to whom he administers it. Although a staunch Free Trader, he would impose duties on the products of any foreign country that treats us unfairly by its tariff, provided that this declaration of fiscal war can be shown to be more to our advantage than to our disadvantage. No one would for a moment deny that this would be a sound policy. The real question is, however, whether, except in the rarest cases, it could be shown that the advantages would outweigh the disadvantages. Amongst the latter must be reckoned the strong probability that no foreign country acting at present on the belief that its present fiscal system is sound will be coerced into altering it, and the difficulty that we should find in settling which of its products is to be taxed as a means to oblige it to lower its duties on some one of our exports. Nothing is more certain than that Mr. Balfour's scheme, be it good or bad, is not that of Mr. Chamberlain. The latter, at least, does not play with words. He believes—or professes to believe—in the imposition of import duties in order to protect our home industries, nor is he so foolish as to deny that the result would be that our manufacturers and producers would be able to get more for their goods from the home consumer were such duties imposed.

I do not attach much importance to Mr. Balfour's declaration that he would not lead his party, if the party adopted Mr. Chamberlain's scheme of finance. There is too much of the *nolo episcopari* about it. Mr. Chamberlain, of course, will be ready to take him at his word, but Mr. Balfour has always shown himself a very adaptable politician. He has already submitted to much humiliation in his efforts to run with the Chamberlain hare and hunt with the Free Trade Unionist hounds. It has been said that the Edinburgh speech was purposely arranged to give Mr. Balfour an opportunity of delivering an ultimatum prior to Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Luton. There is, however, not much of the ultimatum about the Premier's declarations. The most important of his utterances was his suggestion for a conference between the United Kingdom, India, and the self-governing colonies. It is characteristic of his facing-both-ways attitude that when the conference idea was first propounded he rejected it. Now he comes round to it, but with an important qualification. The conference is not to take place until after the next General Election, and its decisions are then to be submitted to the country at the next dissolution. The object of this is obvious. It is to prevent any definite project of fiscal reform being put before the country at the next election, and, in fact, shunt the whole question indefinitely, while at the same time throwing a sop to the Chamberlainites, and giving them a pretext for supporting the Government at the polls. All Mr. Balfour's manœuvres during the last twelve months have been directed to gaining time. When the Chamberlain policy was first sprung upon the country he had recourse to the idea of an official inquiry into the operation of our fiscal system in order to burke discussion for a time in Parliament and enable him to tide over the Session. In the same way he has recourse to the idea of an Imperial conference in order to tide him over what is left of the lifetime of the present Parliament and the subsequent dissolution.

It would have surprised me very much had Mr. Chamberlain fallen in with this suggestion. His speech on Thursday indicated, politely but firmly, that he does not intend to do so. He made it perfectly clear that he does not approve of the notion of having one General Election on the question whether there shall be a colonial conference, and a second, as much later as possible, on the question whether the proposals of that conference shall be carried into effect in the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom. For this no one can blame him. So far as the merits of the fiscal question are concerned, it was the same old speech which has been repeated *ad nauseam* during the last twelve months. Mr. Chamberlain's facts have been already shown again and again to be efforts of his imagination. We are to accept it on his authority, and that of a few "specialists" in the pay of the Tariff Reform League, that if we do not accept his revelation we shall be ruined, and that the Empire will split up into its component parts. The acceptance of these dogmas is to be an act of faith, not of reason. The Luton speech was specially rich in promises to the working classes, who are to be assured of regular employment with higher wages by means of tariff reform. This also is to be accepted on trust, without paying any regard to the awkward fact that the proportion of unemployed workers in this country is lower, and wages in all the principal trades higher, than in any Protectionist country in Europe. It is not surprising that the working classes prefer to be guided by these facts, and by their knowledge of what their forefathers endured under Protection, rather than by the dogmatic declarations of Mr. Chamberlain; and almost at the moment when he was preaching this gospel from the ducal platform at Luton to an enthusiastic audience of alleged working men, gathered together at so much a head, the acknowledged representatives of Labour in this country were declaring to their comrades in Australia the unshaken adherence of the British working classes to Free Trade, and

appealing to the Labour party of Australia for sympathy and support. Mr. Chamberlain is, in fact, only making his promises to the working classes ridiculous by reiterating them at every opportunity in the face of the emphatic declaration of the working classes that they will not have his policy at any price. The only novelty introduced into the Luton speech, so far as I can see, was a reference to the fall in the value of agricultural land. This is said to have been received with cheers. It was probably intended for the nobility and gentry on the platform, and I should imagine that the cheers proceeded from that quarter. At any rate, if the audience were inspired to enthusiasm by the prospect of having their rents raised, it seems a pretty safe inference that there were very few genuine labourers or farmers among them. I am quite ready to believe that Mr. Chamberlain's policy would put up the price of agricultural land—as it would put up the price of a great many other things; and the dukes who patronise the movement are no doubt wise in their generation. But it is a little too thin to claim that the policy which will have this effect will at the same time benefit the rest of the community. The mere organisation of this meeting by a duke, and the expenditure of such vast sums of money upon it, should be enough to teach the humbler classes of the community the true bearings of the movement.

The autumn manœuvres of the great twin brethren of Unionism only concern me indirectly; but if I might express an opinion without being deemed guilty of impertinence, I should say that Mr. Balfour would have done better to put his foot down on the Chamberlain crusade a little more firmly. It is solely his fault that it has attained any serious dimensions. He took refuge at Edinburgh in the convenient doctrine that Protection has always been treated as an open question by the Conservatives. In one sense, but one sense only, that is true. It has been an open question just so long as it has been an academic one. On the only previous occasion, now twenty years ago, when a section of the party made an attempt to bring back Protection into the field of practical politics under the name of "Fair Trade," the leaders of the party did not hesitate to damp down the movement. If Mr. Balfour had shown equal courage, Protection would still have remained a "pious opinion." For lack of backbone, or for fear of Mr. Chamberlain, he did not do so. He not only refused to give his party a lead, but declared that he had no settled convictions, and took refuge in equivocation and *finesse* with a view, apparently, of shunting the question. The natural result of his attitude is that the movement has grown. The question has become the burning one of the day, and can no longer be treated as an open one. Then, seeing that the movement is not only breaking up the party, but bringing it to disaster at the polls, Mr. Balfour suddenly declares that all this time he *has* settled convictions, and very strong ones, so strong that he will resign the leadership rather than renounce them. This would seem to convict him of duplicity in his previous utterances, as well as shuffling and temporising in his conduct. It is calculated to encourage the Free Trade section of his followers, but without discouraging the Chamberlainites; indeed, the latter are very likely to think that on the whole the retirement of such a leader from the leadership would be an advantage. Their man, at any rate, knows his own mind and speaks it—the first qualification for leadership. To make matters worse, Mr. Balfour's last declaration, and the "ultimatum," are accompanied by a number of sophistical reservations and qualifications, which greatly weaken their effect. Indeed, during the last week each section of the party has been interpreting the Edinburgh speech to its own complete satisfaction. On the whole, therefore, I do not think that the last speech will either enhance Mr. Balfour's reputation, or be of any benefit to the party. He ought long ago to have declared himself unequivocally one way or the other, and if any section of his followers revolted, to have appealed to the country. To all appearance the longer he puts off that step the worse it will be both for him and his followers.

WALES AND THE EDUCATION ACT.

The proceedings of the Welsh National Convention last week must have been a rude awakening to Mr. Balfour. He has from the first egregiously under-rated the strength of the feeling against the Education Act which he forced through Parliament at the behest of the Bishops. The Act was a wanton provocation of the hostility of all who believe in religious equality and in public control over the spending of public money. It carries us back to the days when religious tests were imposed on civil servants, and its object is to maintain, as far as is possible, the hold of the Church of England on the education of the rising generation. The Unionist Party was not actuated by religious or educational zeal in passing the Act. It was simply paying a Party debt of gratitude to the Church—gratitude for past support at the polls, including, of course, an expectation of similar favours to come—just as the Licensing Act has since discharged at the national expense a similar Party obligation to the brewers. Mr. Balfour pooh-poohed the opposition of English Nonconformists to the Education Act, and thought that the Defaulting Authorities Act would frustrate the policy of the Welsh County Councils. The latter insisted upon a strict fulfilment of the provisions of the Education Act itself by refusing to support inefficient or unsanitary schools until they were made efficient and sanitary. It has never been shown that the Councils in any way exceeded their powers, but the course they took did not suit the book of the managers of inefficient Church schools, and it was really to relieve them from the requirements of the law that the so-called Defaulting Authorities Act was passed. But the plan of campaign which Mr. Lloyd-George has devised, and which the National Convention adopted last week, will completely knock the bottom out of this Act. There is not the least doubt that this plan will be faithfully carried out if the Board of Education makes an attempt to put the Defaulting Authorities Act in operation; and as in that event such an attempt is

certain to be a ludicrous failure, it seems probable that the Act will be quietly shelved. "Gallant Little Wales" is not to be so easily coerced.

I am bound to say that outrageous as was the Education Act, and right as were the Nonconformists to oppose it, I had very little sympathy with them in the manner of their opposition in Parliament. This seemed to me mainly based upon their sectarian antagonism to the Church of England. When any one during the debates on the Bill suggested that the principle should be recognised that the functions of the State are limited to secular teaching, they indignantly replied that the Bible ought to be read and explained each day in every State school, provided always that the explanation were not sectarian. Thus they gave away the strongest argument against the Bill, and reduced their opposition to a mere squabble between rival sects. What is the Bible? The Nonconformist would reply that it is a divine revelation vouchsafed to mankind; that its moral code must be blindly accepted because of its source; and that its dogmas are true because they are contained in it. Unfortunately, however, for them, there is no unity of interpretation of these dogmas amongst Christian sects. So radical, indeed, are the differences between them that millions of persons have been slain in what are termed religious wars, and thousands on thousands have been imprisoned, tortured, and burnt by one sect so soon as it has become the secular master over the others. A teacher cannot explain the Bible without coming into contact with some of these differences. "The Bible must be read in all State-supported schools," I heard a Nonconformist say in the House of Commons, "as recognition that we are a Christian country." Of what possible benefit to religion can be such a recognition? I should rather have thought that it reduces Christianity to a mere form, and that children who read the Bible and hear it explained under such conditions will not be rendered better Christians, but worse.

The strongest opponent of Christianity could not deny the excellence of its moral precepts. But these precepts are to be found in many other books. The Christian religion renders them obligatory on all, not on account of their excellence, but as a divine code binding on man. But the teacher in a State school, according to the view of the Nonconformists, must carefully abstain from giving this reason for these being obeyed. He might do this without the Bible being read. He ought, indeed, to do it as part of secular education. The existence of a State presupposes an agreement amongst its citizens to obey rules of conduct without which the State could not exist, and which are essential to all social welfare. Children in a civilised State come into the world as they are made by the long evolution from protoplasmic mud to the human being of to-day. They have emotions and instincts which make for their recognition of certain moral obligations. These require to be developed by education, and they can be developed by it, whatever may be the religious dogmas that they believe or disbelieve. To suppose, therefore, that the inculcation of morality ought not to form a part of all secular education is as absurd as it is to suppose that a person cannot be moral without a theological foundation for his morality. In regard to some of the moral rules, the criminal law of a well-ordered State punishes their violation; there are however, others, equally valuable, to which no punishment is attached by the law. These it is the special duty of the State to impress upon its children. As for dogmas, religious practices, and interpretations of the Bible, or even its authority as a divine revelation, all this should be left outside of all State teaching. Were there no State Church, no one would dream of a State educational religion. The one is the outcome of the other. Religious toleration means absolute equality between all religions, and that equality cannot exist if the State is officially to declare itself a believer in any one. The difference between torturing a person because he does not believe in certain dogmas, and obliging him to pay for the teaching of any particular dogma in which he does not believe, is only one of degree. Once accept the principle of a State Church, and little can be logically said against its tenets being taught by the State, and once accept the principle that these tenets or any other religious tenets ought to be taught in public schools, and the door is opened to all the wretched squabbles between contending sects that have been so great a curse to the world, and that have so long with us stood in the way of a sound scheme of State education. Nonconformists, and all friends of education, should unite to force to the fore the disendowment and the disestablishment of the Church of England. Its own members should help them in this effort. What can be more absurd than a Church claiming a divine service, submitting its dogmas and its practice to a legal court? Were I a member of the Church of England, I should prefer spiritual independence to such golden fetters.

Every one has a moral right to refuse to obey the Education Act, for the Parliament which has passed it was elected merely to enable the Unionists to finish the South African war, and under a pledge that no important domestic legislation should be undertaken. Not only has the pledge been violated, but the majority thus brought into existence refuse to consult the nation because they admit that the nation is against them. I regard the present Government rather as a band of evil-doers who got into the fortress of the Constitution by false pretences, and decline to evacuate it though bid to do so by the nation. Laws made by such men cannot have any binding effect. But, no matter what the injustice may be which they have forced on the country as law, they cannot, fortunately, defy the national will for more than a couple of years at most. What Liberals have just now to do is to see that their majority in the next Parliament will be an overwhelming one, and that their leaders will be equal to the occasion. What Nonconformists have to do is to profit by the object lesson that is now being given to them, and in future never trust a Unionist, nor ever vote for a Tory Administration because they are smitten with a craze for armaments and annexations. Let us

hope that when the Liberals come into office their policy will be thorough, and that they will carry out the aspirations of the Radicals in regard to State churches, education, economy, and all else.

EMPLOYMENT AGENCY HARPIES.

Since referring in Truth of September 22 to "Madame Suckfull's World-Renowned High-Class International Ladies' Companion and Family Agency," 213, Regent-street, I have received one or two additional items of information concerning this business. By far the most interesting of them came from "Monsieur Suckfull" himself. It was mentioned in my article that, on my sending a representative to make inquiries respecting the extraordinary advertisements the agency had been publishing in the *Morning Post*, "M. Suckfull" declined to give any information respecting his distinguished clients. After the article had gone to press, however, he returned the call. I did not see him myself; there was no reason why I should do so. But the member of my staff who interviewed him reported that he was in a lachrymose vein. Apparently his object was to at once excite my sympathy and convince me of his good faith by describing the honest and industrious life that he had been leading for many years, prior to taking up the employment agency business. This honest and industrious life was that of a waiter. He had worked in that capacity both on the Continent and in various hotels and restaurants in England until about fifteen months ago, when he started the Regent-street business. He explained that while engaged in the humble, but useful, business of handing plates and dishes and looking out for tips, he had been privileged to make the acquaintance of many of the aristocracy and plutocracy, who had patronised him afterwards, when he turned his attention to supplying lady companions for their wives and daughters. Hence the imposing clientele displayed in the *Morning Post* advertisements. I am sorry to say that I was unable to swallow this explanation, partly on account of its inherent improbability, and partly because Suckfull did not appear to have been privileged to minister in establishments much frequented by the aristocracy, whether of birth or money. All that I have since learned confirms me in this scepticism. Some of this information is of a confidential nature, but there is no breach of confidence in stating that, prior to the reference to the agency in Truth, the police had had their attention called to it, and had themselves interviewed Suckfull. It is significant that after that interview had taken place, the agency had not found occasion to notify in the *Morning Post* that any more wealthy American ladies or Continental nobles were desirous of finding English lady companions at £200 or £300 a year. All this satisfies me that the Suckfull agency ought to be shut up. Probably this could be done effectually, if more of those who have been victimised by the advertisements would come forward. I hope that they will do so.

Nothing can be more instructive than this story of an intelligent German waiter—Suckfull is, I believe, an Austrian by birth—taking an office in Regent-street, blossoming out as Madame So-and-So's World-Renowned High-Class Agency, and obtaining hundreds, and probably thousands, of fees from poor and struggling women, by dangling before them lucrative posts in the families of mythical grand-dukes or millionaires. It is as simple a swindle as can possibly be devised. Little capital and even less brains are required to work it. The profits are enormous. Suckfull himself has stated to people whose fees he has taken that one of his advertisements brought him 180 applicants, and there is nothing incredible in the statement when one remembers the numbers of women who are always on the look-out for employment of this kind in London, and the extraordinnary attraction of the berths which Suckfull pretended to offer them. From every one of these women a fee of 5s. is obtained, as a condition of putting her name forward for the particular post advertised, and giving her the benefit of being on the books of the agency when the next prize of the same kind is to be disposed of. The swindle is almost beyond the reach of the law. The individual victim has no means of proving that the advertisement on the strength of which she paid her money was fraudulent, and if she had, she has no money to spend on prosecuting the advertiser. The police have no *locus standi*, unless some victim is ready to come forward. Moreover, it is as difficult for the police as for the private individual to prove that any fraud has been perpetrated. The difficulty which meets them is that of proving a negative. Only by raiding the office, and seizing all the books and correspondence is it possible to prove that some particular post advertised by the agency had no existence. A certain amount of genuine business is nearly always done by such agencies, and their ability to prove this increases the difficulty of bringing home any specific charges of fraud against them. Provided the fraudulent agent exercises sufficient restraint and artfulness in his advertisements, he may carry on this game for years, not only with impunity, but almost without attracting suspicion. The truth of this has been proved over and over again in the servants' registry office business.

This state of things is a genuine scandal, and one which is very widely felt. In the case of the servants' agency, it has very greatly aggravated the difficulty of the domestic servant problem, as well as leading to the wholesale robbery of ladies in search of servants. In the case of the agency of the Suckfull type, it means that thousands of girls and women of limited means are exposed, without any protection or remedy, to the tender mercies of any rascal who thinks it worth while to plunder them of a few shillings. I see only one remedy for this state of things, and that is that all employment agencies should be licensed, and placed under the supervision either of the police, or of the municipal authorities. The London County Council has made its own proposals for dealing with the evil on these lines in London, and there is no reason why

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

similar measures should not be taken in other towns. Such a reform would be of the greatest utility, and all those who suffer from the rapacity of the employment agency harpy should exert themselves to get it carried out.

PAROLE *V.* PRISON.

A very interesting account of the American system of releasing prisoners on parole was given the other day by Mr. Edward Grubb, of the Howard Association. The system prevails in several States, of which Indiana may be taken as a typical example. The Prisons Board of that State has power to release prisoners on parole at discretion, acting on the advice of a local committee, of which the governor and chaplain of the prison are members. The prisoner, who is, apparently, assumed to have a definite prospect of obtaining employment, executes an agreement under which he binds himself to conform to certain rules of conduct, including abstinence from strong drink, and to send in a written report once a month, signed by his employer, testifying to his good conduct. In the event of his breaking his parole he is of course relegated to prison. "Parole Officers" are also appointed, whose business it is to interest themselves generally on behalf of the prisoners as well as merely "policing" them, and every effort is made to impress upon prisoners that the Prisons Board is concerned for their welfare, and is desirous of giving them every opportunity of rehabilitating themselves in society. The system appears to work well. In a given period 53 per cent. gained full liberty, only 20 per cent. violated their parole, and the remainder were still under supervision.

There is no reason whatever why this arrangement should not be adopted in England. The principle is, of course, similar to that of the ticket-of-leave, but in practice the two things differ *toto cælo*. The cardinal feature of the American system is that the released prisoner is not under the direct supervision of the police. How mischievous such supervision is, everybody who has ever looked into the question knows. It is no reproach to the police that the system works badly. The point is that police officers are not, as a rule, fitted for the delicate duty which proper supervision requires, and that the mere fact of a man being under police supervision is too often a fatal obstacle to his obtaining respectable employment and retrieving his character, however good his intentions may be. The American parole officer is essentially different from a policeman. He understands that his first business is to help the prisoner, not to handicap him, and the supervision which he exercises is therefore vastly more beneficial to the prisoner, and quite as effective from the mere police point of view.

I regard the reform of our penal system as one of the most important questions awaiting the attention of the first really Progressive government that comes into office in this country. No doubt many necessary reforms have been effected during the last two or three generations—say, since Charles Reade wrote "It is Never Too Late to Mend"—but they have merely attacked incidental evils and abuses. The system remains at bottom stupid and vicious. It is still dominated by the old idea that the essential object of a sentence of imprisonment is punishment, whereas its primary purpose should be reformatory. The prospect of punishment no doubt has a certain deterrent effect upon adults of criminal tendency, as it has upon children, but in the vast majority of cases, as all experience shows, the criminal disposition is not to be eradicated by mere punishment. There may be cases here and there where a criminal is morally benefited by imprisonment; but against these must be set the other cases—probably by far the larger number—where he is morally worse for it. The principle I would apply to the treatment of criminals is to divide the reclaimable from the irreclaimable, dealing with them on wholly different lines. No man should be regarded as irreclaimable until he has himself proved beyond all doubt that he is so. When a man first falls into the clutches of the law, his case should be diagnosed by experts, his antecedents should be investigated, and the course of treatment to which he is to be subjected should be prescribed accordingly. Every means that wisdom and experience suggest should be devoted to curing him of his vice and enabling him to retrieve his character. The whole course of prison treatment should be graded and varied to meet each case, the one object in view being to put the prisoner on his legs again, and to make a respectable citizen of him. On the other hand, when the system has done all it knows, when the prisoner has been released on probation once or twice and relapsed, or when after earning his full liberty he falls again and again into the clutches of the law, then he should be classed as irreclaimable. His liberty should be permanently restricted. If he is not kept for the rest of his days in a penal institution, he should at least be permanently on parole and under supervision. Above all, when he has reached this stage he should be made self-supporting. If he cannot earn his own living while out on parole, he should be made to earn it under a system of penal servitude. The idea that the State should spend money on individuals who are merely enemies of society is irrational.

It seems to me to follow that in an intelligent penal system the part played by the judge or the magistrate in determining the sentence should be very considerably restricted. The system should, in fact, be automatic. A prisoner who is committed from any criminal court for a certain offence will be dealt with in a certain way. How long he shall be kept in prison, how he shall be treated, under what terms he shall be released, should be purely a matter for the prison authority. A fresh crime committed by a prisoner who had served his sentence should only involve a fresh trial in the event of his disputing his guilt, and when this was determined he would be dealt with in accordance with certain fixed rules and principles.

Although a scientific reform of the prison system would involve at the outset considerable national expenditure, I believe in the long run it would be a great economy.

The present system is as costly as it is stupid and useless. To reform it on rational principles would necessitate the creation of numerous establishments of a very different character from our present prisons, and the formation of a staff of officers of a much higher order of intelligence and education than the existing prison staffs. But, as against this, the general adoption of the parole system would effect an enormous reduction in our present prison population; the principle of making the irreclaimable prisoner self-supporting would relieve us of a great part of the cost of convict prions; if the system justified its existence, the work of the police would be greatly lightened; and the heavy expenditure now incurred by the continual re-arrest and re-trial of habitual offenders would be saved. Looking at the matter merely from the financial point of view, there is, therefore, every prospect that the money spent on reforming the system would be speedily recouped—probably with some balance to the good. The main advantage to be looked for, however, from prison reform is the moral and material gain to society generally from the reduction of crime and the conversion of the useless and mischievous members of the community into law-abiding and self-supporting citizens.

THE THEATRES.

Imperial Melodrama.

Many years ago I remember that the late Mr. Grant Allen explained, with the honesty of a scientific man, that his literary wares were of two classes—the purely artistic, produced for the good of his soul, and the purely commercial, produced for the good of his pocket. Remembering this, it seems reasonable to speculate whether many another writer, if equally honest, would not make a similar confession. I would unhesitatingly take the burden of honesty upon myself and say "Yes." I dealt with this subject a long time since, but still I find myself crying alone in the wilderness for a much-needed revolution. If authors—dramatic authors in particular—would only admit that a considerable proportion of their goods were prepared for the popular market as frankly as Messrs. X. Y. Z.'s cotton goods, critics could start two standards of criticism. Every newspaper would have two critics, one—gifted with intelligence if possible—to criticise ambitious plays, and one—without intelligence preferably—to deal with commercial wares. I know that the man who lives in advance of his period usually spends his time in producing something which exasperates the world. It is no good saying that the pit and gallery needs must love the highest when they see it; if they are not educated up to the right point, so far from loving it, they often hate it and get excited about it. But let us frankly admit that the commercial drama is not to be judged on artistic grounds. Any appreciation of the finest in art or literature has to be acquired slowly, and the public resents being hustled. Sensible Mr. Smith knows this. He provides literary beef, so to speak, and bread and beer, or even champagne and caviare, but does not try to ram the flesh of some new beast or a wine from a weird fruit through the clenched teeth and down the throat of a conservative world. He leaves this to Mr. Brown, who gratifies his inner promptings, not in opening up new fields for his plays, and adding another 10 per cent. to his royalties, but in starving on half rations of hope in order that he may produce something which the public will only appreciate in another ten or twenty years. There is no need to claim any pity for Brown. He has chosen one road and Smith another. Smith finds pleasure in his bankbook, and Brown finds pleasure in self-denial. It is purely a question of temperament. But when it comes to results, the one may bring forth a work of art—at least he produces something which should be judged from that standpoint—while the other excellent man is merely turning out a sound or a shoddy commodity according to whether he is painstaking or whether, scamping his work, he falls lower still and places himself on a par with the grocer who sands his sugar. Is it not, then, obviously unfair that both men should be judged by the standard of the masters of literature? Mmes. Sarah Barnwell Elliott and Maud Hosford have produced in "His Majesty's Servant," a play which stands in the same relation to the best work of a serious dramatist as a Wardour-street concoction does to a fine sample of Chippendale, Mainwaring, or Adams, but the suburbs like Wardour-street imitations, and I know no reason why they should not possess them. I know a hundred reasons, though, why it is futile to criticise them. I remember suggesting once that publishers should be as frank as Mr. Grant Allen, and advertise their novelties in a business-like way. A wine or a tea merchant's catalogue furnishes excellent adjectives. Advertisements such as these would tell would-be purchasers all they wanted to know:—

"The Man with the Single Spat." By Polson Korneflower. Full colour. Stimulating. Specially commended for invalids.

"The Crockett on the Hearth." By the Rev. Stickit Minster. Medium, soft and dry.

"A Woman All Over." By Pansy. Light, soft; fair body.

"Jasper's Good Angel." By Brenda Fitzgibbon. Pure. Sound. A good clean brand.

"Unpublished Stories from the Heptameron." Choice, old, and nutty. These brands require to be kept lying in the dark place, otherwise they will lose their sparkling character.

"Verselets and Sonnetlings." By Augustus Montevideo Ginx. Light, soft, and delicate.

"Phantom Blood." By Hyly Pademan. Full-bodied, rich, and high-coloured.

"Memoirs, Diary, and Correspondence of Joseph Stikkithemud." Vol. XIX. First quality, dry perfection.

"The Surprising Adventures of a Gentleman of Quality at the Court of St. Peter." Generous, fruity, mature.

"The Bushranger's Boots": A True Story. By Golf Underwood. Ferruginous; Big Lie Brand.

And if publishers, why not theatrical managers? Then we should see announced in the "Under the Clock" column:—

"His Majesty's Servant." A good crusted Restoration melodrama. Genuine Wardour Street dialect, with Yankee finish. Full-bodied episodes. Historical outrages guaranteed. Sound domestic heroine. Genuine vicious villainness. Persecuted hero of the most approved pattern. King Charles II. (with wit) in real oak tree. Full Imperial company. Waller stamped on every act. None other genuine.

Frankly, criticism has no place in connection with plays of this class, and yet "His Majesty's Servant" will be popular, and I know no reason why it should not be popular any more than I know any reason why

there should not be a wide demand for twopenny cigars. Because I do not care about melodramatic, incomprehensible villainesses, who wave accusing forefingers, or speak with thrilling intensity, I would not wipe them off the face of the earth, and yet I cannot help feeling inclined to weep or sleep when I see that excellent actor Mr. Norman McKinnel as a Cromwellian soldier giving away secrets of the utmost importance to the wicked Miss Darragh, and saying, first, "I trust thee, wench." There is no occasion to trust the wench; no man of any sense would do so. Her dresses alone tell any earnest student of the drama that she is steeped in viciousness, but every one thrusts confidences upon her, and is, of course, betrayed and "undone." Mrs Brown Potter wore "green with a grumble in it." Miss Darragh wears the most immoral green I ever saw. Mr. Waller is an excellent actor; he makes love, and swaggers with all due effect. Indeed, his fine personality breaks through the absurdities of the play like the sun through a cloud. Miss Evelyn Millard is a very charming "little maid," but Mr. Esmond's King Charles does not at all realise my ideal. In the last act, when General Monk makes a bold bid for sympathy while turning his coat, the Merry Monarch reminded me of nothing so much as of an impudent boy interpolating rude remarks. The thing that amused me most in the whole play was when Charles II. is trapped by the Commonwealth soldiers at Holland House. He has to escape by the usual secret way, and there is not a moment to be lost; so Lady Holland imperils her Sovereign's safety by explaining at great length to Mr. Waller that she knows now that he did not molest Miss Darragh nine years before. Indeed, I thought, Lady Holland took the whole episode of Miss Darragh's naughty accusation far too seriously. Any woman of the world, I am quite sure, would have first glanced at Miss Darragh's green dress, and then said, "I don't believe you, and, even if it is true, I am sure it was your fault." Miss Darragh made a great hit a short time since, and in certain parts is an admirable actress; but she is not a "heavy" villainess. It is a thousand pities to see her talents thus wasted. I need only add that the production is beautifully staged, and is an undoubted commercial success.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE CASA RIERA ROMANCE.

YOU may have noticed my silence on the Casa Riera affair, and perhaps wondered at it. My reasons for saying nothing were these: The syndicate behind the "Claimant," "Pedro Riera," and its leading men did not command my confidence. To say the least, they were men of poor judgment, inclined to take their wishes for realities and followed the lead of a curious ecclesiastic, the Abbé Gouverd. Nobody could say exactly how this Abbé stood in the diocese of Paris or at the Vatican. Whoever he may be, he had the ear of the Archbishop of Paris, who now tells him to keep quiet, and he had a right to wear a violet sash above his cassock. He had been tutor to some Orleans Prince, and closed his eyes when life had fled. One heard of him as having entered behind another Prince into the very arcana of the Vatican, and of obtaining audiences out of his turn there. He is not a man to pass unnoticed in a crowd. Picture to yourself a tall, gaunt cleric, not nearly so lean, however, as he strikes you, who takes long steps and presses forward as if his life depended on his speed in walking. He had besides the violet sash the distinguished title of *chorévêque*. Other priests resented his enterprise and activity. Some of them called him ironically the Archbishop of Timbuctoo. He had the name of a successful *marieur*, or matchmaker. Ambitious parents could always by applying to him in the right way secure for their babies god-fathers and god-mothers of high rank. The Abbé Gouverd had volubility, and he could be plausible and winning. Whence he came, it would have been hard to say. Of course, he had graduated in a seminary, but it seemed doubtful whether he had ever been engaged in parochial work. In short, he stood to the parochial clergy in the relation that the *courtier marron* at the Bourse stands to the brokers in *la corbeille*.

The Abbé Gouverd placed his syndicate from the first on a business basis. Dumas fils could not have more clearly seen *que les affaires sont l'argent des autres*. In the company he formed to work the Casa Riera romance figured the Marquis de Dion, the Nationalist Deputies, Paulmier and Firmai Faure, and M. de Marcay, Paulmier's son-in-law. At first sight the Claimant's case seemed to stand on fairly firm ground. It perplexed some of the papers and any number of their readers. As a *roman feuilleton* it afforded good reading, and, compared with the many romances in real life that we have been witnessing, remained within the bounds of probability.

The case of Pedro Riera, blacksmith, and far-off cousin of the late Marquis Casa Riera, is this. The Marquis, when blind and crippled from old age, had been circumvented by his secretary, Medrano. This person palmed off on him his own nephew for Alexander, nephew of his patron. The real Alexander predeceased the old Marquis. Nobody at the Hôtel de Casa Riera, in the Rue de Berry, had known either of the nephews. This facilitated substitution, as did the blindness and deafness of the aged multi-millionaire.

The marquis now in possession and owner of the house and millions of the uncle is an unassuming, gentlemanly Spaniard, fond of a quiet life, and looking, until the Abbé Gouverd's bomb exploded, twenty years younger than his age. Great hopes were built on this fact. The real Alexander, born in 1823, would be now eighty-one. Medrano's nephew, born in 1843, would be sixty-one. An easy temper could account for the marquis seeming so much younger than his age, as his recent great annoyances might explain his sudden plunge into senility. He went almost out of his mind on reading in the papers that he was not he but an amazingly clever impostor and comedian. To think, with the load

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of eighty years on his shoulders, of his still acting his part so well!

The bomb thrown by the Abbé Gouverd and his syndicate could not have been entirely unexpected. Ten years ago the blacksmith, Pedro Riera, then employed in a forge near Paris, brought a suit to recover his heritage against the Marquis Alexander Casa Riera. The object of the suitor or those behind him would have been to bar prescription. As no proof of the suitor's case was adduced, the Court dismissed it.

What struck me a few weeks ago when the *roman feuilleton* burst on the world was that renewed proceedings so quickly followed Queen Isabella's death. She had known the late Marquis from childhood. Her mother had been his benefactress, and never lost sight of him. He often appeared in her circle when she resided in the Champs Elysées. He lent Isabella large sums of money and subscribed liberally to a fund to restore her son to the throne. She had known his nephew, the present Marquis, all the years he remained with his uncle in the Rue de Berry, and continued to see him often to the end of her life, before and after the old uncle's death, and often asked loans of his box at the Opera for herself and her children. The last time she went to the Opera she sat in the Casa Riera box with her daughters Paz and Eulalie and the Bavarian Prince her son-in-law. The Marquis, as usual, met her at the door of his box to instal her and her company, and then went away. Nearly all his Madrid school mates are dead. One of them, the late Señor Sagasta, had him elected a Senator for Barcelona, the natal city of the Marquis, where he lived until the age of fourteen, and has still property, left by his father, a dealer in jewellery. As he preferred a quiet life and his daily walks in the Champs Elysées to the Senate at Madrid, he at once resigned—a circumstance brought against him by the syndicate. They saw in the resignation shyness to show himself at Madrid. "Had he taken his seat in the Senate his imposture must have come to light." The possibility of this charge being maintained has been cut at the root by the correspondence between Casa Riera and Sagasta.

The true story of the first Marquis Casa Riera is only believable because in our time truth has so often been stranger that falsehood. He started as a miller's assistant in some out-of-the-way part of Catalonia, near, however, the high road to Madrid. Born in 1794, he had witnessed the French invasion of Spain, the Liberal or Constitutional rising early in the twenties, and had almost attained a quarter of a century when fortune opened to him a wider field. The second bride of King Ferdinand, Amelia of Saxony, passed on her way to her proxy spouse. Near the mill her carriage broke down. The miller's assistant set things right, and offered to take the bride and her party by a better road. At every inn where they halted his remarkably handsome face and fine figure made an impression on the royal lady. She had to pass through a disturbed country, and expressed her desire that the Catalonian should remain the whole way in attendance. He did not ask better. A situation was found for him in the Customs department at the end of the journey. When a third royal bride came to share Ferdinand's throne, Riera rose higher in the world. She and her sister Carlotta, Duchess of Seville, found him capable and trustworthy. They could with safety seek his advice and aid in the game they played against the Duke and Duchess of Cadiz. Riera became a necessary man to the Regent Christina, who had but little knowledge of Spain, and mistrusted all the politicians round her. In payment for his great services, she afforded him unlimited opportunities to make a rapid fortune. He improved his position under Isabella. Growing tired of the life he led as the darling of the court ladies, he married for love a beautiful person of eighteen. He had previously obtained the title of Marquis, and had bought a palace in Madrid. Every one there knew him to be wealthy beyond the dreams of avarice, and the bride was thought to have won an enviable position. The Queen sent him a negro valet imported from the royal domain of Cuba. He had learned to serve at the toilet of one of her great uncles who had exacting ways and suffered no slackness in his attendants. Polycarp, the name of this black, had no match as an *épileur*, or in applying rejuvenating arts at the dressing-table. What better recommendation could he have to a rich old beau whose hair and whiskers had begun to whiten? Polycarp's services were in daily demand to weed the grey hairs that sprouted on his master's scalp. The gratitude of the Marquis to the Queen for his treasure he expressed in fitting terms.

All went well for nearly a year, when the birth of an heir took place. The baby had an extremely red face. It looked as if covered with a wine-stain. As all babies are red, this intensity of complexion was at first overlooked. The Marquis felt differently as the red became a yellowish dark brown. Could the heir be a mulatto? he wondered. As the darkness of the skin became deeper, he became gloomy and his temper sometimes grew savage. The young wife did not know what to think—or rather knew too well. But her thoughts ran into reproaches. She had often begged the Marquis not to keep Polycarp so much before her eyes during the expectant period before the birth. This lashed the moody husband into a state of fury. Madrid one day learned that Casa Riera had been to the Palace and the Minister of Justice to confess himself a threefold murderer. The bodies of his heir, his wife, and of Polycarp lay in a room where he had stabbed them. The crime accomplished, he locked the doors and brought away the keys. The Minister advised him to take refuge abroad. This he did. He first resided in a house between a garden and courtyard in the Rue Blanche, a street almost out of town in the time of Louis Philippe. That King wished to oblige the Court of Madrid. The police pretended not to see the refugee. The Royal family of Spain favoured him through the Second Republic, and he had under the Second Empire a powerful friend in the Countess de Montijo. His palace in Madrid remained locked up, and

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I believe it is still uninhabited. At any rate, members of the Abbé Gouverd's syndicate received information to that effect at Madrid. The present Marquis stated to the *juge d'instruction* who examined him last week that he never remembered the Casa Riera Palace unless empty and locked up. He has left it as he found it after his uncle's death, giving orders merely for necessary repairs.

In his examination the Marquis Alexander said nothing of the black baby, Polycarp, or the "Othello"-like tragedy. The witness in his own defence stated, showing letters in support, that he came to Paris in 1849 at his uncle's bidding to perfect himself in French and learn commission business. From Paris he went to London to familiarise himself with banking and investing. He moved about the capitals of Europe to complete his business experience, and came to stay permanently at the Rue de Berry in 1865. Although then blind, the uncle had retained his amazing head for business. His phenomenal talent for mental arithmetic survived general senile decay. The nephew came into 14,000,000 fr. in French securities, and the house and grounds. The rest of the fortune was invested in other countries. He retained every one of the uncle's servants. They were welcome to live on the premises and to pensions when too old to work. Some of them are still alive. They knew Medrano and his nephew.

I knew Bartholdi, the sculptor, when his reduced copy of "Liberty Lighting the World" was the lion of one of our universal exhibitions. I then lost sight of him, to meet him again at a dinner at which French and Americans met to fraternise against Spain. I sat beside him, had much agreeable conversation, and he invited me to his studio to continue the talk. He had nothing then on hand, but proposed to show me casts of Martin Schoen's sculptures. Schoen, a fifteenth-century artist, is the pride of Colmar, Bartholdi's native town. I knew nothing of him until Bartholdi called my attention to his works. He stands on the same plane as Durer. Bartholdi had been the Old Mortality of Schoen. He collected Schoen's works, and arranged them in the museum of the old Unterlinden Convent at Colmar, to which he presented a fountain for the courtyard, surmounted by a statue by himself of Schoen. We had many common acquaintances. Alsatians like Bartholdi. He lighted up in talking of them, showed me *pochades* they had given him, presentation copies of books they had written, sketches he had made of them, and then a portfolio with views of Colmar. It contained drawings of his birthplace, the house where he served his apprenticeship to an architect, and streets that had served Gustave Doré as models in illustrating "Les Contes Drôlatiques" of Balzac. Bartholdi underwent what he spoke of as the painful pleasure of visiting Colmar every summer. He believed that Alsatians only before the German conquest knew what *la douceur de la vie* meant. Their healthy idealism and their sweet sincerity, he thought, should give them a place by themselves among the nations.

Bartholdi studied painting under Ary Scheffer, the late Mme. Renan's uncle. His father had allowed him to come to Paris to perfect himself as an architect. The rule and compass not affording him the freedom of fancy he craved for, he threw them aside to take up the paintbrush. Painting not giving him full satisfaction, he determined to be a sculptor. There he found what he wanted. He never passed through any State school, but with Gérôme made a tour in Greece and Egypt. Bartholdi felt as if he had found his ancestors in the Egyptian temples. He had an inborn sense of grandeur, like the sculptors of ancient Egypt. One sees this in his "Liberty Lighting the World," in the Lion of Belfort, in the fountain of the Saone at Lyons, and many other works. In this kinship with the sculptors of Egyptian colossi he is unique among moderns. He produced his grand effects without effort—at any rate when he set to work. The hard work he got through in long meditations in the Luxemburg Gardens, in some forest near Paris, in the Vosges, and Seine steamers, and very often on the top of an omnibus.

Bartholdi had an imposing presence, free, however, from anything put on. He struck one as powerfully strong, look at him as one might—strong in probity, in will, in idealism, in creative originality; and with this he remained a good fellow and a simple-hearted Alsatian. He had a dark, massive Olympian head, and a frame to match. Among Parisians he seemed almost a giant. I thought I perceived in him traits of the St. Bernard dog, which is all generosity and devotion. The name of Bartholdi is Italian. He did not strike me as having a Jewish cross. A Freethinker in a way, he loved Lutheranism as practised in his childhood in Alsace. His family, he believed, had been Lutherans time out of mind. Had the Republic succumbed to the Ducal conspiracy under MacMahon he would have become a citizen of the United States, or of Geneva. From Geneva he could easily run to Colmar. The United States had a sense of bigness with which he sympathised. "If they keep their hearts big in spite of Wall Street, they will be the pride of the universe," was a memorable sentence that I heard from his lips.

The incredible marriage of M. Arthur Meyer, of the *Gaulois*, and Mlle. de Turenne took place on Saturday in the Church of St. Clotilde, preceded the day before at Versailles by the civil marriage. No invitations having been issued, the bride's parents and the witnesses alone attended at both ceremonies. The Duc de St. James and Vicomte de Panouse, a nephew or great-nephew of Marshal MacMahon, stood by the bride, and the poet Coppée and his colleague of the Academy, M. Mezières, by the bridegroom. Mayor and cure spent little time on compliments. The religious wedding was to have followed, at Versailles, the civil. At the last moment the Turenne family decided to change the scene to St. Clotilde's. The age of M. Meyer, declared at the mayoralty, is sixty-eight, and that of Mlle. de Turenne twenty. She has a dowry of 1,000,000 fr. What is unusual, indeed, the papers for the last three weeks have been publishing her portraits. Have you ever read About's "Mariages de Paris"?

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

BE orthodox, dear Lady Betty, be orthodox; but be prepared to change in an instant, for there is nothing so unsettled as the orthodox.

Fashion is the orthodox in dress; it is also the "Authorised Version" of morals, and manners, in this country, for the ordinary English man or woman submits to authority without inquiry, and is convinced that those who do otherwise are either bad or mad. Physical courage we English undoubtedly have, but moral courage we have not.

The thought may be most clearly conveyed by providing examples which more or less agree with the experiences of all.

Twenty years ago, B——, a well-known man, continually rode on a bicycle. One afternoon he leaned the machine against the railings of his club whilst he rested indoors and read the newspapers. That week the committee addressed a letter to him, in which he was requested not to repeat the proceeding, for the bicycle in those days had not yet been adopted by the fashionable world. Now almost every member of the committee possesses a bicycle, but the distrust attendant on unorthodoxy still attaches to B—— on account of his premature performance.

C. and D. have been friends for thirty years. E. happens to say to the first: "Horrid fellow, D.; how can you be seen with him?" When C. meets D. again he avoids his late friend. Presently, however, F. says to C.: "Capital fellow, D.; I wish I knew him." Then C. revives his former friendship with increased cordiality.

Inherited position and title are extravagantly respected, but every inch that ability strives to cover before it is acknowledged as orthodox, is fiercely disputed. Unfortunately many of our greatest men and women have not been "authorised" until after their death. It appears not to have occurred to any writer before to recall the abusive names which have been bestowed on our literary celebrities.

Shakespeare, "Poor poet ape."
Dryden, "Ignoramus." "Poet squab."
Johnson, "The blaspheming doctor."
Marlowe, "That atheist Tamburlan."
Massinger, "A sot."
Milton, "Black-mouthed Zoilus." "The trader in faction."
Moore, "That piperly poet of Green Erin."
Pope, "The ape." "The empty flask." "The portentous cub."
Steele, "A twopenny author."
Southey, "Mouthy."
Wordsworth, "The blockhead." "The poetical parasite."
Tennyson, "Schoolmiss Alfred."

The names which were conferred on our kings and queens will provide the necessary contrast:—

Henry V., "The English Alexander."
Elizabeth, "The Virgin Queen." "The world's wonder."
James I., "The English Solomon."
William III., "Old Glorious."
George II., "The Great Patron of Mankind."
George III., "The Solomon of Great Britain."
George IV., "The greatest Prince in Christendom." "The Prince of Princes."

. . . . .

Are we in a condition of intellectual destitution? In the reviews, in the magazines, and in the newspapers we are repeatedly told that we have no great thinkers, writers, or artists. The publishers are filling the booksellers' shelves with reprints of the works by old authors; and our rich are hunting eagerly for pictures and prints by dead artists, and are paying unexampled prices for the produce of their buried brains and hands. Is it to be believed that of the hundreds of English artists who are laboriously toiling at the moment there are not a few whose work is worth preserving? Is it not more probable that want of moral courage prevents our rich collectors from buying the works of living men who have not yet been accepted as "orthodox"? "Give me a name," cry the English publisher, theatrical manager, and dealer. "Have you a title?" asks the magazine editor, "or has your name become familiar with the public by being associated with a divorce suit, a 'society' scandal, or a criminal action? It is not matter we principally want, it is name." A new invention is placed on the market; the British purchaser ignores it until it has come into general use on the Continent or in the United States. The motor-car only became popular in England after it had become common in every other civilised country, and it took two years for the picture-postcard craze to reach us from abroad.

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Meanwhile the old fetishes are venerated with unabated devotion. The members of a learned body meet to discuss some abstruse matters. Is it the most distinguished professor who occupies the chair? No. A half-imbecile peer is set in the centre of the platform, and he, having mouthed some indistinct sentences at the beginning and end of the proceedings, the most distinguished professor appeals to the meeting to record its thanks to "our noble chairman, whose admirable remarks will be treasured by us all so long as memory lasts!" In the City it is not the most experienced financier who presides at the Board, but a youthful peer, whose knowledge of business is limited to inventing excuses for not paying his debts. Even the clergy must set up a fetish peer in the centre of the platform when they meet to discuss matters of doctrine!

* * * * *

The express-paragraph is alone suited for our time, for the generation that reads in a hurry. As it is a generation that also forgets in a hurry, it may be useful to repeat some lines from "Glenaveril," a poem published by Lord Lytton in 1885. "Casca," it is known, was intended for Mr. Joseph Chamberlain:—

"A later, leaner demagogue behold
In envious Casca. Scorning argument,
His manner of persuading is to scold;
His mode of proving, to misrepresent;
By no restraints of courtesy controlled,
His words the rancour of a lifetime vent;
And, if the art of speech be to provoke,
Far better Casca speaks than Tully spoke."

That is the opinion of Mr. Chamberlain which the Conservatives entertained twenty years ago. As the Radicals now describe his methods in exactly the same language, it is obvious that it is only his principles that have altered. He has turned his coat, but has not changed his character, this hero of a hundred policies.

. . . . .

Lord Rosebery should be described as the Dowager Premier.

* * * * *

The Mayor, Mr. Walter Emden, has produced, for private circulation, a collection of drawings of the parish churches of the City of Westminster. The drawings, which are exquisite, are by Mr. Howard Penton, and the Dean of Westminster and others connected with these churches have contributed short accounts of them to accompany the plates. "The Parish Churches of Westminster" is a book which collectors will prize in future times, and it is an admirable companion to "Picturesque Westminster" and "Thames Bridges," which Mr. Walter Emden had previously caused to be published.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

GENERAL OWEN WILLIAMS was an owner of racehorses for about eighteen years, and his colours were last seen during the season of 1898. He was elected to the Jockey Club in 1880, and was more than once requested to serve the office of Steward. General Williams never owned a really first-class horse, nor did he ever win a great race. The best animal which ran for him was The Bard, and he owned that horse in partnership with Robert Peck. The Bard, who was bred by the late Lord Wolverton in 1883, was purchased as a yearling for 650 gs. He won the Brocklesby Stakes at Lincoln and fifteen other races during the season of 1885, and he was never beaten as a two-year-old. He was not so much indebted for this series of successes to his own superlative merits as to the exceeding cleverness of Peck in "placing" him. Peck himself entertained no illusions on the subject of The Bard, as he had tried another two-year-old in his stable to be considerably superior to that colt. This was Philosophy, who won one or two races in brilliant style, and then she went all to pieces. This filly was the highest tried two-year-old which had passed through Peck's hands. The Bard's pretensions to be regarded as a veritable flyer were shattered when he came to meet Ormonde in the Derby, as the Duke of Westminster's famous horse defeated him easily. General Williams was perfectly infatuated about The Bard, and he lost heavily by the colt's defeat at Epsom, as he would not listen to Peck's warning that their candidate was about to meet a good horse for the first time, and that this opponent was "a smasher." Peck "placed" The Bard so judiciously after his Epsom defeat that he won six races, including the Doncaster Cup, after his failure in the Derby. He was then sold for a large sum to go to France, where he proved a most successful sire. General Williams was always exuberantly sanguine about his horses, and his disposition to over-estimate them proved very costly to him on several occasions. He certainly had not the best of luck on the Turf, but his colours would have been more often successful if he could have had the benefit of the advice of such a past-master in the art of "placing" animals as Robert Peck throughout his racing career, and not only in the case of The Bard, than which there never was a more sagaciously managed horse.

General Owen Williams succeeded his father, Colonel Williams, as a partner in the Williams's Old Bank at Chester, a large and flourishing concern, which was absorbed by Lloyds Bank in 1897. General Williams retired from the bank in 1880, the remaining partners, Messrs. Platt and Tomkinson, undertaking to pay him an annuity of £8,000 for life. This annuity, which was paid for twenty-four years, now lapses, so that Lloyds Bank benefits considerably by the death of General Williams.

The Criterion Nursery Handicap, on Friday in the Houghton meeting, is in future to be run over the Dewhurst Plate course. The Criterion Stakes, however, will have to be run over the old course, the last six furlongs of the Ancaster Mile. This will be the last race decided over that famous track, and the decision of the Jockey Club to abandon it altogether is much to be regretted.

There are fifty entries for the Liverpool Autumn Cup of £1,200, as compared with fifty-five last year, and fifty-nine in 1902. The managers of the meeting have done their muddling best to spoil this handicap by the crazy arrangement of bringing out the weights on the 20th, although the race is not run until November 11. Of course, these weights should have been withheld until after the Cambridgeshire has been run. Anything more utterly absurd and idiotic in this line it would be difficult to imagine, but the stupidity of many race managers is boundless and bottomless. The best of the old horses are Mr. Alexander's Throwaway, Mr. Perkins's Clifton-hall, Mr. Goodchild's Scullion, Mr. Polehampton's Thunderbolt, Sir E. Cassel's Love Charm, Mr. Joel's Bachelor's Button, Mr. Prentice's General Cronjé, Lord Carnarvon's St. Emilion, Lord Ellesmere's Kroonstad, Major Loder's Hammerkop, and Mr. King's Whistling Crow. Among the three-year-olds are Mr. Henning's Foundling, Mr. Buchanan's Lancashire, Mr. Hill's Barbette, Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head, M. Caillault's Gahzal, Mr. de Rothschild's Catgut, Mr. Joel's Dean Swift, and Mr. Alexander's Bitters. At one time the Liverpool Autumn Cup was one of the heaviest betting handicaps of the season, and a very large stake could be won over it, but now there is no real speculation on this race until the day of running.

M. E. Blanc, who is provided with a superabundance of sires, has sold Masqué, by Tyrant, winner of the Ascot Stakes in 1897, and many other races. Masqué, who is now ten years old, was a really good stayer, and he appears likely to turn out a most successful sire. He is the sire of that very smart but desperately unlucky horse Vinicius, who, with ordinary luck, would have beaten Rock Sand for last year's Derby.

The Sandown Park authorities stipulated for three hundred entries for the Eclipse Stakes of 1907, and the race did not fill when it originally closed on August 2. The stake having been reopened obtained one hundred and seventy-eight entries, and the managers of the meeting have acted with both liberality and wisdom in accepting that number. It would have been a heavy blow to Sandown Park if what is generally regarded as the great race of the year at this meeting had been allowed to collapse. The King has entered two yearlings and five foals, one of the latter being a colt by Isinglass out of Amphora. The mare was in foal with this colt when she was purchased for his Majesty for 3,000 gs. at the sale of the late Colonel McCalmont's breeding stud. Lord Rosebery is the largest subscriber, with ten entries—five yearlings and five foals. Among the yearlings are colts by Persimmon out of Chelàndry and by Ladas out of Seabreeze, and the foals include a half-brother, by Velasquez, to Cicero, colt by Cyllene out of Corposant, and colt by Ayrshire out of Chelàndry. The Duke of Portland has eight entries, and Sir James Miller has the same number, while the Duke of Westminster, Mr. Arthur James, and Lord Howard de Walden have seven each. One of Sir James Miller's yearlings is a half-brother, by Ladas, to Rock Sand, and the foal out of Roquebrune is a filly by Chaleureux. Another foal is a half-brother, by Sainfoin, to Amitié. One of Mr. A. James's foals is an own sister to Rabelais, and another is half-brother, by St. Simon, to Huntly. The Duke of Westminster's foals include an own brother to Flying Fox and a colt by Isinglass out of Gantlet, dam of Duke of Westminster. The managers of the Eaton Stud are exceedingly ill advised in sending Vampire year after year to Orme, instead of giving her a change. This is the same blunder which the late Duke of Westminster committed with Lily Agnes after she had produced Ormonde, the mare being sent every season to Bend Or. M. E. Blanc, M. Michel Ephrussi, M. Halbronn, and Baron de Rothschild are the only French owners who have patronised this race, and Mr. Whitney has entered six yearlings bred in the United States. Lord Wolverton, Mr. L. de Rothschild, Mr. W. Bass, Lord Derby, and Mr. Houldsworth have each five entries, and the Duke of Devonshire, Mr. J. Robinson, and Mr. Musker have four each. The Duke of Devonshire's lot includes a yearling half-brother, by Marco, to Full Cry, and Mr. Musker has a foal that is own brother to Henry the First. The public breeders have not patronised the race, in spite of the bait of £500 for the nominator of the winner. These "heavy" races have usually been well supported by Sir Tatton Sykes and Major Platt. Among the notable miscellaneous entries are Major Loder's couple of yearlings, Admirable Crichton, half-brother, by Isinglass, to Pretty Polly, and Zadkiel, by Gallinule out of Astrology; and Mr. Neumann's filly foal by Gallinule out of Clarehaven,

and Sir Daniel Cooper's colt foal by St. Simon out of Glare.

A writer in the *Sportsman* takes a great deal of credit to himself for predicting long ago that John o' Gaunt and Henry the First would in due course discover themselves to be the best three-year-old colts of the season. How this conclusion is now arrived at I do not understand, for St. Amant defeated John o' Gaunt easily enough at Epsom, and I never heard any excuse advanced on behalf of Sir John Thursby's colt, who has been extravagantly puffed ever since he made his début on the Turf. The fact is that sensible people will not indulge in any crack brained rant about the colts, having regard to the melancholy fact that the best of them is fully a stone behind a filly of the same age. They are a wretchedly bad lot, and Ajax would have walked away from them all if he had started for the St. Leger. If Gouvernant had been sent to Doncaster, and had been disposed to give his best running, he would have beaten all the English colts without any trouble whatever.

The *Sportsman* writer asserts that William Rufus was the second best three-year-old of 1903. This seems to me to be a most asinine opinion. Zinfandel easily defeated Rock Sand when they met at Epsom last summer, and Sir James Miller's horse always walked away from William Rufus. Then again, there is Flotsam, who finished far in front of William Rufus in the Two Thousand. Moreover, Quintessence must not be forgotten, as she was never beaten, and she won all her races easily. It is much to be regretted that Quintessence never met Rock Sand, as there is no line between the pair, and it is quite possible that Lord Falmouth's mare was as much in front of last season's colts as Pretty Polly is superior to the despicable lot which have been running during the present year. The fact is that all the sounding of brasses and tinkling of cymbals in exaltation of John o' Gaunt is really due to the fact that he was a high-priced yearling, and he resembles the great majority of such purchases in being a dreadful failure from the investment point of view. He cost 3,000 gs. at Doncaster in September, 1902, and he has so far won a single race value £585, besides taking £550 as second money in the Derby and in the Newmarket Stakes. His stake winnings will about pay training and racing expenses and interest on the purchase money. No hocus-pocus by ingenious scribes can make La Flèche out to be a success as a brood mare, except from the pecuniary point of view. Her yearlings realise preposterous prices, but they do not prove successes on the Turf. All that can be said is that she is not such an abject failure at the stud as her sister Memoir. If John o' Gaunt had been privately bred there would not have been such persistent gasconading about his supposed merits as a racer.

The week between the Second October and Houghton meetings has hitherto been an "off" period during which there was no racing of much general interest, but this year there is a change. On Tuesday the Gatwick Stakes of £5,000 will be run for the first time. This is a race for three and four year olds, distance one mile and a half. There were 154 entries when the race closed on November 5, 1901, and when the final forfeit had been declared on January 5, forty-seven horses were left in. It is a fortunate circumstance for the managers of the meeting that Rock Sand is not entered, as his 9 lb. breeding allowance would have effectually smashed the race. Fully half the horses which have accepted must have been left in by mistake. The field may include Mr. Joel's St. Denis (3 years, 7 st., 13 lb.), Mr. Buchanan's Lancashire (3 years, 8 st. 10 lb.), Mr. Musker's Henry the First (3 years, 8 st. 10 lb.) or William Rufus (4 years, 9 st. 4 lb.), Mr. L. de Rothschild's St. Amant (3 years, 9 st. 2 lb.), Mr. Darling's Mintagon (3 years, 7 st. 13 lb.), and the Duke of Westminster's Grey Goblin (3 years, 7 st. 9 lb.) or Rydal Head (3 years, 8 st. 10 lb.). I have not included John o' Gaunt or Darley Dale, because neither horse is likely to be in a condition to start. If Mintagon has any pretension to respectable form he ought to win this race easily, and in his absence St. Denis should be successful, as he can surely beat Grey Goblin, and Henry the First cannot give the weight away. There are two French horses in the list, but I do not suppose that either will be sent over, although this rich stake certainly will not take much winning. It is unfortunate that Lochryan should have been withdrawn from the race, as he had a 9 lb. breeding allowance, and on the Great Foal Stakes running Mr. Houldsworth's colt would probably have won, as he was bound to beat St. Denis.

On Wednesday there is the Surrey Stakes of £2,500, for two and three year olds, distance seven furlongs. There were 221 entries for this race when it closed nearly three years ago, and sixty-nine horses were left in when the final forfeit had been declared on March 29. The King is represented by a couple of two-year-olds (Ortolan and Perchant), which are terribly moderate animals, and that disappointing colt Atlas will no doubt represent Egerton House. Mr. James's colt will have 9 lb. the better of the weights with the Duke of Portland's smart filly Pamflete, but I shall expect her to beat him. Among the two-year-olds are Sir J. Miller's Amitié, who has the benefit of a 9 lb. breeding allowance; Lord Stanley's Stadtholder, 3 lb. allowed; and the Duke of Westminster's Wetaria, own sister to Flying Fox. Both Stadtholder and Wetaria are said to have been well galloped, but they disappointed their friends at Newmarket during the First October meeting. I should fancy that Pamflete will find no difficulty in giving Lord Stanley's colt 12 lb. Of the three-year-olds, the possible starters are Mr. Musker's Henry the First or Admiral Breeze, Mr. Darling's Mintagon, Duke of Westminster's Rydal Head, Mr. G. Faber's Bobrinski, and Mr. L. de Rothschild's St. Amant. Over this course St. Amant has only to give his best running and he will win in a canter.

Fifty-five two-year-olds are left in for the Great Sapling Plate of £1,000 at Sandown Park on Friday, and Galantine and Standen are the best public performers. This is the race in which Clonmell defeated Santry last year, and was consequently backed by the gullish herd for the Derby, the fact having apparently been overlooked that Lord Carnarvon's horse had 15 lb. the worst of the weights, and, besides, he was not believed to be at his best.

All interest in the £3,000 two-year-old stake at Kempton Park evaporated when Cicero was unexpectedly withdrawn from this race, for which he had received a special preparation, and he had been going remarkably well in his gallops. According to one story, Cicero went amiss, while it is also asserted that he had been beaten in a trial. It is maintained by some good judges at Newmarket that Cicero will not "train on," and that even if all does go well with Lord Rosebery's colt he will turn out next season to be deficient in stamina. Vedas and Orator started favourites, but neither colt had anything to do with the finish, for Khammurabi made all the running and won in a canter. There was nothing worthy of special commendation in the performance, as Mr. de Rothschild's colt was receiving 15 lb. from Shah Jehan (who finished second), 10 lb. from Orator, 20 lb. from Vedas, Polymelus, and Galangal, and 12 lb. from Signorino. The backers of the penalised colts must have been perfectly infatuated, for it was difficult to conceive Vedas or Polymelus being capable of giving away such an amount of weight to any animal that is worth keeping in training. Khammurabi is a big, backward, slashing colt, and he may train on into a very useful three-year-old, as he is capable of immense improvement. The son of Lactantius and Utica is engaged in the Craven Stakes at the Newmarket Craven meeting, and in the Derby, but he is not entered for the Two Thousand. Sir Daniel Cooper's Lilla, by St. Simon out of Melody, who cost 2,000 gs. as a yearling, had been beaten in her trial, and she ran badly, but this good-looking filly wants time, and next season she is quite likely to defeat everything that ran in Friday's race. Signorino and Hellène have both been overrated. It is amazing that Khammurabi did not start favourite, considering his great advantage in the weights, for on Monday, the 3rd, he easily won his trial at Newmarket, and the gallop

was good enough to make this race appear tolerably certain to fall to him. This colt will never show to advantage when the ground is hard.

Robert le Diable's performance on Saturday was an excellent one, and it is always satisfactory to see a handicap won by the top-weight. The class of the field was not high. The Duke of York Stakes, indeed, has excited very little interest this year. Pharisee was greatly fancied at Newmarket, as he had done well in a trial, and Flower Seller was confidently expected to run well. Cerisier may do better in some race next month. Love Charm had been galloped with Nabot, and Fermoyle was another starter with many friends, but I fancy the distance was not quite far enough for Mr. Faber's horse. Robert le Diable's running on Saturday was the more creditable inasmuch as the ground was exceedingly soft, which was all against a heavily weighted horse.

Caius will probably be sent over from France to run for the Cambridgeshire, and M. E. Blanc's horse is likely to show prominently in that race if he is in his best form on the 26th.

The Middle Park Plate was literally at the mercy of M. E. Blanc, who could have won this race with either Jardy or Val d'Or, but he has decided not to send either colt to Newmarket. This may be a prudent policy, considering how heavily engaged these animals are, for it is risky work to send racehorses across the Channel at this period of the year. If the Middle Park Plate is left to the English lot, this race will be contested by as bad a field as has ever started for it, and Llangibby may be able to win for Mr. Neumann in spite of his 7 lb. penalty, unless Full Cry has recovered her summer form, which she had certainly lost when she ran at Doncaster, in which case she ought to win for the Duke of Devonshire, whose colours were victorious in this race some years ago on Dieudonné.

The defeat of Pretty Polly by so moderate a colt as Presto II. makes it clear enough that Major Loder's mare did not give her best running at Longchamps. It is probable that she had not fully recovered from the effects of her passage across the Channel, which was a rough one. It is a great pity that Pretty Polly was not sent back to Newmarket from Folkestone when the sea was found to be rough, but when it was first decided to send her to France she ought to have been allowed an interval of ten days to recover herself after the journey, instead of her departure from England being foolishly put off until the latest possible day. It may be, also, that Maher waited too long with Pretty Polly, being under the impression that he had only Zinfandel to beat, and that Presto II. would not last out the distance, but would come back to the English pair.

The opening of the hunting season finds a number of packs with new Masters, but very few of the changes are of general interest. There have been, however, two important changes in the Mastership of Yorkshire packs since the close of the last hunting season. The Duke of Leeds has been replaced in the Bedale country by Mr. J. J. Moubray, with Captain Reynard as Deputy Master, and Lord Helmsley has succeeded Mr. Penn G. Sherbrooke as Master of the Sinnington Hunt.

In the North Staffordshire country Colonel Dobson and Mr. J. W. Philips, who replaced the Duke of Sutherland and Major Stamer twelve months ago, have retired in favour of Lord Huntingdon, who acted as huntsman of the pack last season. In Lincolnshire, Mr. Edgar Lubbock has succeeded Lord Londesborough and Mr. N. C. Cockburn as Master of the Blankney Hunt.

Last week on the Mid-Surrey golf-course at Richmond were held the final rounds for the *News of the World* tournament, which is open to members of the Professional Golfers' Association. The chief object of that organisation is the promotion of a benevolent fund. The generous prizes offered by the proprietors of the above-mentioned paper, coupled with the admirable system under which the competition is organised, give to the Association an active existence, and offer an attraction to new members. Now, as I watched the play I could not help thinking that the rapid growth of the great game was epitomised in that tournament. The players in the final used American balls, which have revolutionised the most historic links; one of the players, Toogood, had an American putter, with which an American had triumphed in the Amateur Championship; the leading tournament of the season was being played on a Metropolitan course, and neither of the players was a Scotchman. Such is a brief summary of the strides the game has made in less than twenty years. In addition there is the fact that newspaper proprietors find in the game a philanthropic advertisement. Nor are the fascinations of golf to the general public less pronounced. There were all sorts and conditions of men present. Parsons, doctors, lawyers, railway porters, and working men were in the crowd of 2,000 people. The Cockney accent was predominant. The Scotchman was only heard here and there. Ladies, too, enthusiastically followed the play with Kodaks. For the benefit of the followers of the games, let me make a few observations. It may be stated as a general proposition that the etiquette of golf should prevail as well amongst the spectators as the players. Under the system of etiquette for spectators, the following maxims are to be observed. Camp stools and shooting stools are not to be used, even by ladies. Greens are not to be walked upon, even if the walker is dressed up as a golfer or is a ribbon-decked committee man with a walking stick. Walking sticks do not improve putting-greens. The guards to bunkers are neither grand stands nor pulpits, as certain parsons do falsely think. It is recommended that people with short sight should stand behind the players. They will not then have to make excuses if a ball hits them, as one of Herd's balls did hit a spectator, and rolled on to the green, instead of going off to the right into the rough at the twelfth hole.

Certainly the play in the semi-final was most interesting. Toogood went out with a phenomenally low score, and Hepburn was unfortunate to meet him when he was at the top of his game. But Hepburn will advance to highest honours before very long. Herd had hard fights with Braid and Vardon before he met Taylor. That was a great game. They were all square at the seventeenth for Herd only halved the hole as he missed a foot-put. The final hole was the whole game of golf concentrated in one brief moment. To win that hole meant going into the final with every chance of winning the match. The first prize was worth £100; the money to the loser of that game £10. Two good drives were made. Then Herd played into the bunker on the left with his second. Taylor's approach with a cleek or driving mashie some 150 yards off was twelve feet from the pin and hole. All the spectators were dumb when Herd got out of the bunker, and laid himself stone dead. On Taylor's stroke hung £90. His put was not an easy one. He had to go along the side of a valley over the crest of a hill, and down into a hole. He did it. It was a joy never to be forgotten to see that ball curl down the mountain's side, and drop into the deep ravine. The final was played on a rough day. In the heavy wind Toogood went all to pieces, and Taylor was six up at the ninth hole. At the eighteenth he was seven up. In the end Toogood was beaten by five up and three to play, so that he made a splendid fight after the first quarter of the game. In the high wind Taylor is always a dangerous player. He plays then with his forearm, the dimensions of which would have aroused the envy of Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith." Singularly enough, this is the first success that Taylor has had on his own course, where he does not often play. He is nervous when playing before his own crowd. It is a comfort to think that even a Taylor may pull a ball badly, or even miss a short put. Therein lie the chances and fascinations of golf.

A committee of the Football Association has been inquiring into the methods of certain of the clubs engaged in the Football League. The Association has practically become the tool of that League, and at the instance of that organisation it has established rules regulating the maximum wages to professional players and forbidding bonus payments. In addition, it has drawn a draconic code regulating the transfer of players. To be brief, the Association has been captured by a trade trust, and in consequence its machinery has been utilised to enforce the behest of that trust. The trust organisers, like those in other trades, have overleaped themselves. Their regulations have been such as to invite infraction. I have always said that their observance could never be properly enforced. I am quite convinced that the revelations which the Committee has made are but the fringe of the whole matter. That the inquiry was outside the true functions of the Association, except in one respect, I am equally certain. The payments that are to be made to players and the regulations as to transfer are to my mind a matter primarily for employer and employed, represented, if you please, by unions on both sides. I must candidly confess that when I hear politicians talk of slavery on the Rand, I often wonder what they would say if they knew the terms under which white men are bound who play for the amusement of thousands of free citizens every Saturday for eight months out of the twelve. Now events show that there has been a revolt against the tyranny of the trust. For the present the trust is powerful because it has the authority of the Association behind. But, just as those who politically revolt, show themselves careless of the lives of their rulers and resort to the meanest and foulest of devices to achieve their ends, so those under the rod of the Football Association have been guilty of the grossest misconduct to achieve their end, which was to evade the rules of the Association. The Committee find that a forged receipt was produced, that wilful attempts were made to deceive the Committee, that one false document was produced, and another was attempted to be procured. Banking accounts and cash books were kept to prevent irregularities and violations of rules being discovered. It is a miserable tale of moral debasement. The fear of the tyrant is the beginning of forgery. Who, under such circumstances, can talk of the ennobling influence of sport? If the offenders had candidly said, "Yes, we have broken rules which are oppressive and tyrannical. We have paid no heed to your regulations, which are made in the interest of certain folk, and which hinder the development of our trade," then I could have appreciated and applauded their position. But these revelations make the name of League football stink in the nostrils of all honest folk. And yet it is what might be expected when one recalls how those who forced on professional football have trumpeted their exploits in evading the inquiries which once took place as to the existence of professionalism.

There is, as I have said, only one matter into which the Association was, as I conceive its duties, entitles to inquire, and that was the fact that one club, Glossop, was paying certain members posing as amateurs for broken time. Now this is a thing which cannot be excused. To what extent the professional rules and regulations to which I have taken exception are the cause of such surreptitious payments I do not know. But in the interest of the paid players it is grossly unfair that men should accept payments in this way and yet pose as amateurs. It is bound to tell against those men who are earning their living at the game. It is equally bad for amateurism, which must be maintained in purity at all costs. Of one thing I am very certain, and that is that the penalties inflicted would not have been nearly so severe if only the broken-time payments had been involved. The clubs so far affected are Glossop, Sunderland, and Manchester City, and it is in connection with the last-named club that the false and forged documents are found to have been utilised. A most regrettable chapter in professional football history has been opened, and it is not yet finished. Naturally, people are wondering whether other clubs are infringing the rules. It is rather difficult to believe that the regulations are not being regularly evaded, although with more skill than has been shown in the case of the clubs that are discovered. Smugglers were always heroes until they were found out. Then they had to pay the penalty.

The Otter Swimming Club had another most pleasant meeting at the St. George's Baths, Westminster, where their annual entertainment took place. I was very sorry to see that the race for the De Mancha Challenge Shield for rowing clubs did not attract more entries. London and Thames of course competed. They are the mainstay of Metropolitan rowing. The London team won by half a length. Surely Molesey and Kingston might patronise this race. The 150 yards race for the London Championship was a very close event. Harvey just managed to get home by a touch from Parvin, who was just that distance ahead of Faircloth. I congratulate the Otters on a most successful evening.

Lawn tennis players must look to their laurels. The Covered Court Championship has been won by M. Max Décugis, the French player whom our representatives have so often met in Paris. He is to be warmly congratulated on his success. He and other leading French players have done so much to promote the game in that country by inviting our players over to Paris that the efforts to raise the standard of French play have at last met their due reward. In the preliminary rounds Ritchie created a great sensation by beating H. L. Doherty, the open champion, by three sets to two. This match told on him and he was beaten by Gore (the holder) in the semi-final, who, in his turn, was defeated after a splendid match by Décugis by three sets to two.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets More Active—Firm Undertone—Some Profit-taking — Easy Money and the Markets — The War as a Factor—Inherent Conditions Promising —Better Trade.

TOWARDS the end of the week there has been some reaction in prices on the Stock Exchange, but as it arises from the very natural desire to take a little of the profit induced by the activity of the earlier portion of the account, the movement is quite a healthy one, and is not due to any unfavourable developments. The position of the markets as a whole is, in fact, very satisfactory, and it is gratifying to notice a decided improvement in the volume of business on outside account. The distribution of a number of millions sterling in the shape of interest on Government and other securities has increased the floating supply of cash until money is almost a drug, and, as usual, a respectable proportion of it is being reinvested in gilt-edged, Home Railway, and other stocks. Possibly the investment movement may not outlast the placing of this surplus, but in all probability it will, because there are clear indications that money is more plentiful, and in spite of the autumn drain of gold to Egypt and South America, we are likely to get over the end of the year without any of the stringency which has been more or less marked for some years past. Moreover, inherent conditions are promising. The Russo-Japanese war drags its slow course along, but it has ceased to have much effect upon values, operators having more in the way of legitimate business to occupy their attention, without worrying themselves about the possible effect upon the Paris bourse of this or that indecisive engagement. No doubt the war operates in restraint of speculative dealings, but only to an insignificant extent, and now that Russia has given up the practice of privateering, we ourselves are not likely to become involved. At the same time the prospect of a prolongation of hostilities

for a couple of years or more—Count Okuma told the Japanese nation the other day to be prepared for this—is not altogether consoling, though having good influences of our own we ought to go through it all with the minimum of inconvenience. A good feature of the situation is the improvement of the general trade of the country, as shown by the Board of Trade returns.

Money Plentiful and Easy—Government Dividend Disbursements—New Issues Impending—County Council New Issue—Water Board Stock—Gold Withdrawals for Abroad—Bank Position—Exchequer Bonds.

The supply of money in the open market has been very abundant since the turn of the month, and call loans have been arranged at between ¾ and 1¼ per cent., and fixtures for a week at 1¼-1½ per cent. I remarked last week that it is quite a number of years since the market was able to get over the September quarter so easily, and if further evidence of ease and confidence were needed, it might be found in the fact that Exchequer bonds to the amount of £6,000,000 were announced and placed without affecting the market in the least degree, and that the market views with equanimity the issue of other gilt-edged stocks, including those of the London County Council (for a loan to Marylebone in connection with the acquisition of the electric light undertaking) and of the Water Board, which has to place about £2,000,000 for which proprietors of the Water undertakings acquired failed to make application. It is probable that rates have about bottomed by this time. There is no reason to anticipate any appreciable hardening for the present, but the autumn demands for Egypt and Argentina will keep the market from being flooded for any length of time with unusable capital, and some gold will be taken for America. Germany, too, is again in the market for gold. The Bank return shows a loss of £1,286,000 in the reserve, but this is entirely attributable to the provincial requirements incidental to quarter-day, and it remains that the stock of gold is large, and that the whole position is unusually strong, enabling the Bank to look forward to the coming drain without misgivings. Discount business is quiet, and rates were at one time very weak consequent upon the plethora of cash and the buying of bills on Continental account, though they are now hardening slightly. The Exchequer bonds for £6,000,000 above referred to went off at an average rate of £98 16s. per cent. The discount brokers tendered between £98 9s. and £98 13s. per cent., but a Stock Exchange syndicate applied for something like £4,000,000 at £98 14s. 6d., and received 49 per cent. of the amount applied for—somewhat to its disgust.

Consols More Buoyant—Cheap Money the Influence—The New Issues Bogey—Slight Dulness at the Close—Foreigners Firm—Argentine and Brazilians in Favour with Paris—Japanese Depressed—Perus Active.

Easy money continues to exert a favourable influence upon gilt-edged descriptions, and a further stimulus was given to Consols by the ability to carry over the stock at the settlement on easier terms than had been generally anticipated. The rate, after opening at 2⅝-⅞ per cent., fell away to 2⅞-2⅝ per cent. The plethora of money, however, was an important factor in the situation, and, despite the whisperings of fresh issues, the tone continued confident and the tendency persistently upwards until towards the close, when some dulness became noticeable, as a result of the allotments of £6,000,000 Exchequer bonds, it being understood that a House syndicate, who had secured rather more than had been expected, offered the securities rather freely, and the natural effect was not favourable, especially when the London County Council came into the market in connection with the Marylebone electric lighting undertaking. Moreover, the new City of Cape Town loan for £368,550 in Four per Cent. bonds, the issue price being 98½, was also in the air, and gossip had it that more Local Loans stock would soon make its appearance, though it is far more probable that this will be forestalled by new Water Board stock to the amount of about two millions, being the balance not absorbed by the proprietors of the Water Companies. Notwithstanding these developments, the Funds lost but little ground. Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, the War Loan, County Council Threes, and the other high-grade stocks which had participated in the improvement also receded slightly, though on balance they are well up. There has also been a better demand for many Colonial stocks, particularly Johannesburg Fours, which, however, reacted on profit-taking, and Cape Threes were supported, and Sierra Leone, New Zealand, and some Australian bonds hardened. In the Foreign section, the tendency has been good on the whole, Paris giving persistent support for many Argentine and Brazilian descriptions, and Chilians came in for more attention; and, in anticipation of being quoted on the French bourse, the new Cuban bonds hardened to 6¼ premium, though a slight set-back ensued. Turkish Unified and Portuguese, as well as Russian Fours, gained a little ground, but Japanese issues developed rather marked weakness as a result of Count Okuma's utterances regarding the cost and duration of the war, while the continued absence of any favourable news from Manchuria served to heighten the depression. Considerable speculative business continues to be done both on home and Continental account in Peruvian Corporation issues, the September traffic showing a good increase, and movements have been violent throughout, quotations falling away appreciably on the slightest indication of profit-snatching. Among less important descriptions, Paraguayan bonds came into demand, and Costa Ricas manifested more activity, though they slumped away eventually. Venezuelans and Colombians continue quite lifeless.

Home Railways Harden—Some Reaction on Profit-taking—"Leeds" Spurt—Great Central Issues—Chatham Seconds—Public More Confident—Central Londons Harden—Dover "A" and Cunard Rumours.

In the earlier part of the week the general sentiment in the Home Railway market was strong, and an improved public demand was reported. A stock which was especially favoured was that of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. There was some good buying from Manchester, and in London the Jewish division gave much support. Great Westerns were adversely affected by the accident in South Wales, but only to a slight extent, and the "heavies" as a whole were good. Great Centrals came into favour for the same reason as "Leeds"—the prospect of better trade in the cotton and iron industries; and the A and B stocks were raised ½ and ¾ respectively. Attention was drawn also to the merits of York Deferred, especially in contrast to Dover A, and the stock spurted to 42¼. Great Easterns hardened; bidding for Scotch stocks came from the North; Southern descriptions improved with the rest, Chatham Seconds in particular being taken in hand after a considerable period of neglect; and while the Undergrounds were disposed to rest after their recent activity, Central Londons developed strength. During the latter part of the week the tendency has been reactionary, and while the undertone is kept good by the cheapness of money, and the improved outside inquiry, values generally are well below the best. After all, the public is not buying freely; it is displaying more confidence, and the distribution of the quarterly dividends on the Funds has brought some investment money into the market, but much of the recent rise was engineered by professionals in anticipation of an active

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public inquiry, and was out of all proportion to the amount of dealing, as measured by normal standards, because of the shortage of stock. Those who saw profits—and in some instances they were attractive enough—thought it the part of wisdom to take them, and they did not realise without upsetting prices. They were the more tempted to this course because of the nearness of another settlement. "Leeds," after touching 106, as against a making-up price a fortnight ago of 99, have reacted to 105; North Westerns and the other "heavies" (including Midlands, which were bid for vigorously at one time) have gone back from the best, though they have still some fair gains to show on balance; York Deferred has gone off to 42, but Great Easterns are tolerably strong still; and the good people in Glasgow are selling where they were buying a few days earlier. The Undergrounds are easier, especially Districts, but Central Londons hold their ground. Southern issues have eased off along with the rest, Dover A and Chatham Preference not excepted, in spite of a rumour that the Cunard Company intends to make Dover a port of call. The traffics are not very interesting, as may be seen from my table:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,026	— 13	+ 11,739
Caledonian	— 1,433	— 249	— 7,904
Great Central	— 577	+ 3,742	+ 7,548
Great Eastern	— 1 800	+ 100	+ 1,600
Great Northern	— 1,879	— 1,860	— 39,426
Great Western	+ 2,100	+ 4,000	— 400
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 4,870	— 5,586	+ 24,216
London and North-Western	— 2,000	— 4,000	— 70,000
London and South-Western	+ 2,800	+ 3,600	+ 5,700
Midland	— 2,395	— 77	— 128 958
North British	+ 3,018	+ 897	— 2,387
North-Eastern	— 926	+ 3,103	— 19,479
South-Eastern and Chatham	—12,607	— 876	+ 4,740

The decrease of the South Eastern and Chatham is explained by the market on the ground that the Continental and other sweepings are not included. They ought to figure in the current week's total, and the other Companies will no doubt show up better by the inclusion of season tickets and other sweepings. With trade improving in Lancashire and other parts of the country, the outlook for railways as a whole is more encouraging, and, as money is growing more plentiful, there is likely to be an increase in the public buying of stocks within the next few months, followed by a higher range of prices; for it will be understood, of course, that a continuance of easy money will make it impossible to acquire the best class of Home Railway stocks to return up to 4 per cent. or more. Movements on balance during the week are shown in my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Oct. 1.	Price, Oct. 8.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	75	75½	76	+ ½
Do. Def.	30½	29¾	31½	31½	+ ½
City and S. London	57	48	49	48	−1
Central London	94	86	87	89	+2
Great Central '94 Pref.	44½	—	43¼	43¼	—
Do. "B"	25⅛	24¼	24¼	26¼	+2
Do. "A"	13⅜	14	14	14⅜	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	90	87⅞	88	89½	+1½
Great Northern Pref.	99	101	102	102	—
Do. Def	40¼	40⅜	41½	42	+ ½
Great Western	136½	137½	138	138	—
Hull and Barnsley	42	36	36	37	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	102	99	103	105	+2
London and Brighton "A"	111¼	117½	118¼	120	+1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14½	15⅝	15⅝	15⅝	+ ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	93	97	97	97½	+ ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	58	63	62	65	+3
London and North-Western	155½	147¾	150¼	151½	+1
London and South-Western Def.	54	51	53	53¼	+ ¼
Metropolitan Consolidated	81	95½	97½	98	+ ½
Metropolitan District	31	40	43½	42	−1½
Midland Pref.	69	66¾	67	68	+1
Do. Def.	67½	63½	64	64½	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	78	76¼	75¼ xd	75¼	
Do. Def.	44⅜	44½	44½ xd	44¾	+ ¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	142	136½	137	138	+1
South-Eastern "A"	58½	58½	58⅜	59¼	+ ⅜

Holders of Central London stocks ought not to allow themselves to be frightened by the talk—much of it inspired—about the effect upon the system of electrified Undergrounds, though at the same time the latter are deserving of respectful attention in view of the change in conditions—more traffic moved at less expense. I regard Metropolitans as particularly promising. For a lock-up the junior issues of the Great Central Company will take a lot of beating, and the Preference issues may with confidence be recommended, as the Company is not likely to go back. Here is a list of them:—

Name.	Per Cent.	Amount.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
		£		£ s. d
Great Central Perpetual Preference	5	1,008,000	155	3 14 3
Do. Preference	4	1,100,000	103	3 14 3
Do. Convertible Pref., 1872	5	1,000 000	132	3 16 0
Do. do. do. 1874	5	1,080,000	130	3 17 0
Do. do. do. 1876	5	1,500,000	128	3 18 3
Do. do. do. 1879	5 yr 5	1,000,000	126	3 19 6
Do. do. 5 p.c., 1881	1½ yr.	1,380,000	110	1 7 3
Do. Preference, 1889	4	1,500 000	76	—
Do. do. 1891	4	2,230 000	55	—
Do. do. 1894	5	3,100,000	45	—

For the current year the full 5 per cent. ought to be paid on the 1881 stock, and something may be left for that of 1889.

AMERICANS ACTIVE — DEALINGS STILL PROFESSIONAL — DISTRUST OF THE "BOSSES"—A DANGEROUS MARKET—MILWAUKEES SPURT—BIDDING FOR SPECIALTIES—STEELS PROMINENT.

The American market has again been lively, and the interest has again been confined to the professionals, especially those of New York. The English public resolutely resists the temptation to take a hand in the game, and the American puplic appears to be of the same mind, the show of outside interest to which I drew attention last week having died away. The neglect of the market by speculators on this side might be explained by lack of funds, apart from distrust, but the good American is not short of funds, not having had to go through an exhausting war very recently, and his refusal to come into Wall Street—though his fingers are itching badly to handle the tape—is very eloquent evidence of his opinion of the movement and of the men behind it. The play is between the big people in New York, with the rank-and-file of Wall Street for orchestra as well as audience. We on this side may be all wrong in the view which we take of Yankees, but the market is really a great deal too dangerous—we are permitted to see not a single move until the purposes of the wire-pullers have been served, and any deal in which we may venture is a sheer gamble, even when the best things in the list are concerned. For instance, Milwaukees had a jump of 8 or 9 points in one day this past week, the aggressive bidding being accompanied by half a score of rumours, the least reckless being that the Company was about to issue new capital, with "rights" to existing holders, and that the Harriman interests were buying for control with the object of frustrating the building of a competitive line to the Pacific. And yet we are told on good authority from the other side that the trading was "transparently fictitious"; from which it is a fair inference that one of the pools whose operations I detailed last week took the stock in hand to give it a run. Regarding the market as a whole, it may be said that the week opened undecided and dull, the Associated Bank's statement not making for confidence; that it recovered under the influence of vigorous bidding for specialties, Readings, Southern Pacifics, Eries, Missouris, and Norfolks being especially prominent; and that it went off again towards the end, the liquidation under cover of the manipulation of specialties being more than the market could stand without moving back. The fact is that the "Bull" position is greatly inflated, and the "short" interest almost completely shaken out, and the traders who are carrying heavy lines of stock are finding the weight of it a trifle burdensome. So long as money is very cheap in New York they will be able to struggle along, but obviously they would prefer to unload a portion at least, and it looks as though they will have only one

another upon whom to do so. Quite a feature of the week has been the activity in Steel issues as a result of bidding by the Morgan group. There is nothing in the condition of trade in America to warrant a rise in these stocks, and it says much for the hollowness of the whole situation that manipulation of Steels should have been thought good enough to warrant a twisting up of railroad prices. The Company may pay the Preferred dividend for the September quarter, but it is doubtful if it earned the requisite amount of money, and I see precious little merit in the stock. As for the Common, its position is quite hopeless. My table follows:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest.	Closing Price, Sept. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 8, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	84⅞	85½	87⅜
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	102	103½	103½
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	90⅞	93⅜	93¼
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	42⅝	46	45¼
Denver	43⅞	18¾	29⅞	30⅜	29⅜
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	84½	84½	83½
Erie	43 9/16	22½	31⅛	32⅜	34¼
Do. First Pref.	75½	64¼	68⅝	70	71¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	127½	130½	131½
Milwaukee	187½	137¼	161½	161½	170½xd
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30¾	16 7/16	24⅛	25¼	26½
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	92½	92½	93½
Do. Common	78⅛	55¾	70	71⅜	74
New York Central	158	116⅜	129½	131	132½
Ontario	36	19¾	35¼	36⅞	35⅜
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	67	68⅛	68⅛
Reading.....	35½	20	34	35¾	36⅞
Do. First Pref.....	45½	36¾	43½	44	44¼
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅞	33½	34½	33⅜
Do. Pref.	97 5/8	73½	98	97½	96½xd
Southern Pacific	69⅛	39⅞	58½	59½	60⅜
Union Pacific	107 3/8	69 1/16	103½	105⅝	106⅝
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	95	96	95½
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	42½	43½	42⅝
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	66	68	67½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	17¼	19⅜	18½
Do. Pref.	—	—	69½	76¼	77

CANADIAN PACIFICS STRONG—NEW CAPITAL BONUS—THE ANNUAL MEETING—GRAND TRUNK OUTLOOK—ARGENTINE RAILWAYS FIRM—B.A. GREAT SOUTHERN AND B.A. WESTERN RESULTS.

Helped by a continuance of good earnings, the very satisfactory reports concerning the crops, the statements made at the meeting, and the firm tone of markets generally, Canadian Pacifics have been strong throughout the week, and end somewhere near the top. There is buying of them on New York and Montreal as well as home account, and if there does not seem room for much further appreciation, there is no valid reason why they should react at present. But a further upward movement may quite conceivably be registered, if the activity in Americans continues. The latest traffic shows an increase of $51,000 following upon $64,000 up a year ago, and for three months the Company has a gross increase of $1,034,000, which is highly encouraging. At the meeting in Montreal on Wednesday sanction was given to increase the capital by $25,500,000, the shareholders having no doubt as to the ability of the Directors to expend the sum, which is to be raised as required, to the immediate and lasting advantage of the Company. It is the intention of the Directors to offer to the proprietors $16,900,000 of this stock at par, being equivalent to one share in five, and as the price is now 136⅜, there is a pretty little bonus in this allotment. The President was enabled to say pleasant and highly encouraging things to the shareholders. He has recently made an extended inspection of the western lines, and he found that

the conditions prevailing in the country served are generally very gratifying. Progress and thrift are apparent in every direction, and the result of the harvest in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, while it will not meet the anticipation of the early summer, will be quite satisfactory, and the return to producers will, by reason of the enhanced price of wheat, be considerably larger than a year ago. The works of improvement on the different sections of the railway which have been in progress for the past three years are practically completed, and, with few exceptions, are now utilised to our great convenience and to advantage. For some reasons it is unfortunate that so much important work had to be crowded into so short a period, but the directors are convinced that a prudent policy of postponing large capital expenditures until the revenue is established upon a basis that would warrant them is the best in your interest and will meet with your approval.

The outlook for Grand Trunks is less satisfactory. The system will of course benefit from the good harvest and the general prosperity, and for the last quarter of the year the gross earnings ought to be on a better scale and ought to show up well, because the comparison henceforward is, if we except two or three individual weeks, with relatively small figures last year. It was this expectation that led to vigorous buying, much of it from Germany, in the early part of the week. But the traffic for the last nine days of September was regarded as disappointing. It showed a decrease of £2,681, whereas the market had expected £3,000 increase. How it could have looked for so much in face of an increase of £17,878 last year, it is difficult to see, but the fact is that it did, and as a consequence the stocks have since been pretty steadily offered, and nearly the whole of the ground gained has been lost again. The market has been expecting too much. The Grand Trunk is turning the corner, and that cannot be done immediately. Until it has done so, there cannot be much inducement for the outside public to deal, especially as Firsts and Seconds are tolerably high and Thirds are likely to be left out in the cold when it comes to declaring dividends for the year. There is a good deal of leeway to be made up before the position even of the Second Preference is assured. But there is much speculative interest in Trunks, and any evidence of improvement in traffics is sure to be reflected in higher values. My table below shows movements on the week:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Oct. 1.
Canadian Pacific	123½	132	136⅛
,, 4 per cent. Preference ..	104	—	102
Grand Trunks	16¾	15¾	16 4/8
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	103	97½	99
,, 1st Preference	111⅜	102	104⅜
,, 2nd ,, ...	100¼	89½	92
,, 3rd ,, ...	48	41¼	43¼
Bengal and North-West.....	130	140	144½
Bombay Baroda.....	155	154	154
Madras Railway 5 per cent.....	127	125	126
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101¼	105½	107
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	94½	121	122½
,, ,, ,, 1st Preference..	96½	105¼	105⅝
,, ,, 2nd ,, ..	86	95½	95½
,, Great Southern.....	133¼	136	137⅞
,, Western	129½	128	130⅜
Entre Rios Railway Preference	51½	62¼	63
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	82½	96¾	95
Costa Rica Railway.....	2	1 15/16	2⅝
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	102	95	92½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	87	81	80
Mexican Railway	18½	19½	19½
,, 1st Preference	71⅞	83	83¼
,, 2nd ,, ...	27½	32	32⅜
Nitrate Rails	7 3/16	7⅜	7⅜

Argentine Railways are not over active, but they are very firm, being helped by some good buying and by satisfactory earnings. The Rosario has an increase of £15,277 on top of £13,400 gain last year, and the Great Southern £14,192, following upon a decrease of £173. The Buenos Ayres Western £2,585 increase is looked upon as satisfactory, and the Argentine Great Western's £1,713 is all right. The Pacific figure is only £1,003 up, which is not liked, although the Company's stock is very firm on support induced by dividend expectations, the announcement being about due. Rosarios are favoured on the ground that the revenue is very good, the Company having a gross increase for the year to date of £384,561; and Great Southerns on the report, which makes very satisfactory reading. The earnings increased by £316,879 and the expenses by £130,392, showing a net improvement of £186,487, which is equal to 13.79 per cent. The Ordinary dividend is at the rate of 7 per cent., the same as for 1902-3, but the amount carried forward is £125,179, as against £96,425. The working expenses show an appreciable reduction, amounting to 46.07 per cent. of the gross receipts, as compared with

46.69 per cent., a decrease of 0.62 per cent. The Directors in their report state that the year was an exceptionally favourable one, especially in regard to railways, which derived considerable benefit from the abnormally productive season which the country had the good fortune to enjoy. They add that so far the prospects of the current year are equally favourable, but they are careful to qualify this statement by the remark that "this must not be taken as an indication that this course of prosperity is certain to continue without interruption, and provision must be made for the occurrence of the less favourable conditions." The Company is deriving great benefit from the capital recently expended on additional rolling stock and improved terminal facilities, by which it is enabled to handle economically and efficiently the largely increased traffic offering. With the view of furthering the development of the Company's traffic resources, as well as of encouraging new industries, some important reductions have been made in certain of the tariffs during the year, and the general revision of these tariffs is now having careful consideration, so that the Company's rates may be placed upon the lowest reasonable basis. The Buenos Ayres Western has also declared its balance dividend of 4 per cent., making 7 per cent. for the twelve months, and has published its report, showing that earnings rose by £204,517 and working expenses by £104,745, leaving the net increase £99,772, which is equal to 16.13 per cent. The ratio of expenses was 48.16 per cent., as compared with 47.63 per cent. One-half of the addition to expenses arose from special charges and the other half from increased wages and materials. The Directors state that the succession of good harvests of the past few years, and the consequent increase in the general prosperity of the country, have enabled them not only to show a good return on the capital invested and to maintain the property in a state of efficiency, but also to effect many improvements which will assist in economical working in the future and to make provision for less prosperous years. There is a disposable total for the year of £457,221, out of which it is proposed to transfer £120,000 to the general reserve fund, £20,000 to the fire insurance fund, £10,000 to the staff pension fund, £5,000 to the benevolent fund, and, after paying the 7 per cent. on the Ordinary stock, over £82,000 is left to go forward, as compared with £28,000. It is proposed to increase the capital by a million in order to make provision for expanding traffics.

KAFFIRS HARDEN—REACTION ON PROFIT-TAKING—RECUPERATIVE PROCESS SHOW—WANTED! A LEADER—BETTER LABOUR POSITION—STOCK WELL HELD AND SUPPLY SHORT—DEEP LEVELS.

In South Africans, as in more than one other department of the House, the week started well and ended indifferently. While the chief activity was displayed by Rhodesian specialties, business was of a more general character, and in Kaffirs there were distinct signs of an awakening of public interest. To see Kaffirs strengthened by affinity with Rhodesians rather suggested the spectacle of the tail wagging the dog, but for the moment Rhodesians have it, being bidden for energetically—certain of them, at least—on the strength of the banket reef discovery, whereas in Kaffirs the recuperative process is only gradual, in the absence of striking developments and a leader with powerful initiative. It was encouraging to notice the increase in public dealings, but, as usual, that stimulated the professionals a trifle unduly, and on top of the advance there came a stream of realisations, which caused values to recede again, so that on the week movements are for the most part against holders, though only to a trifling extent, while on the account they are well in their favour. Not much support has come along from any quarter during the last day or two. Paris, like London, has been inclined to snatch profits, especially with the settlement approaching. Setbacks are no bad things in themselves, as they serve to keep the "Bull" account within reasonable proportions, but in the present condition of the market, only recovering slowly from the shocks and the disillusionments of the past couple of years or more, they retard confidence, and that is why the market wants a leader who will take matters in hand with a strong will. For the new account the outlook is fairly bright. The September output was slightly larger than that for August, which had one working day more. A considerable improvement has occurred during the past few weeks, but the better trading is only a preliminary indication of what the pace will be when the market gets well under weigh. Remember that stocks are well held, that the "Bear" account is still an inherent source of strength, that the labour situation is rapidly being improved, and that the whole aspect of affairs is being transformed. The market, for these reasons, has a strong undertone, in spite of the restricted business in the new and the old speculative favourites. The native recruitings for September, we are told, will show an increase upon those of any previous month, and the shipments of coolies from China are being expedited. Towards this end, the number of vessels engaged in the service has been brought up to ten, and in the shiping circles engaged in the trade, it is estimated that 10,000 will be shipped from China to Durban during the present month, and that during November an even larger number will sail. From the *Financial News* I reproduce the following tabular statement, which will show the position at a glance:—

Name of Ship.	Date of Sailing.	Number of Coolies shipped.	Date of Arrival at Durban.	Mine allotted to.
Tweeddale	May 25	1,049	June 18	All New Comet.
Ikbal	June 28	1,969	July 27	1,200 Van Ryn. 270 Aurora W. 500 N. and Cen. Geduld.
Swanley	July 8	1,998	Aug. 1	N. Randfontn.
Courtfield	Aug. 2	2,155	Sept. 1	1,850 Glen Deep. 350 S. Nourse.
Ascot	Aug. 18	1,977	Sept. 22	1,500 Witwatersrand Deep. 500 Roodepoort Gold.
Tweeddale	Aug. 30	1,407	Oct. 7	All French Rd.
Lothian	Sept 16	453	—	—
Ikbal	Sept. 16	2,220	—	All Simmer and Jack.
Swanley	Sept. 23	2,250	—	—
Inkuni	*Sept. —	*2,150	—	—
Cranley	*Sept. 30	*2,300	—	—
Courtfield	*Oct. —	*2,200	—	—
Sikh	*Oct. —	*1,950	—	—
Catherine Peck	—	—	—	—

* Approximate.

Down to the end of last month nearly 20,000 Chinese had left the Flowery Land, and by the end of the year between 55,000 and 60,000 will represent the number available, irrespective of any further increase which may occur in the domestic supply. All that is needed to bring about a return of the *status quo ante bellum* is a sufficiency of labour. By the end of this year the mines will have, say, 30,000 hands more than on the outbreak of the Boer war, and it can then—the labour being on the whole far more efficient—be only a matter of a short time when the gold production will be in excess of the record figure of August, 1899, and when the output will be mounting month by month. For the gold is there, and whether its recovery be expedited by the use of tube mills or by the adoption of the electrical crushing process, it is all a question of having the machinery and the labour necessary for its extraction. The stamps crushing represent about two-thirds of the present milling capacity, and only the assurance of an adequate supply of unskilled labour—which will give employment to more whites—is required to cause all those existing to be dropped and more to be added to the number. Furthermore, it will be possible to proceed with the exploitation of the newer properties on which work is suspended or only partially carried on in the outlying parts of the Rand to the east and to the west. I see an almost infinite capacity of expansion of work in South Africa with the provision of a sufficiency of labour, and, therefore, I am hopeful of the prospects of the market in the shares of the various companies. You may not see a fancy profit on a purchase within the next fortnight, but if you buy to hold for the active

conditions which cannot but be induced by the prospects, you are reasonably safe for a 40 or 50 per cent. appreciation, and even should you go in now for a "spec," you have the inherent strength of the market in your power, and will probably be able to sell to advantage. My table below shows the movements on balance during the past week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Sep. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 10, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9½	6	6½	6⅜	6⅜
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	⅛	1⅛	1½	1½
Barnato Consols	5½	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¾	5½	5½	5⅜	5½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10¼	4⅜	6⅛	6⅜	6⅜
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	14	1⅝	1⅝
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	14½	15½	15½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅜	18½	18½
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18⅜	18⅜	18⅜
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅛	6½	5½	5½	5⅜	5⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	1⅛	2	2
East Rands	12	10⅝	6⅜	8	1⅜	8⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	⅜	1/-	2/-	2/-
Ferreira	22	26	18	20⅜	20½	20⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1¼	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2½	3	3⅛	3⅛
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅜	7¾	5⅜	5⅞	5⅜	5⅜
,, Main Reef	1⅜	¾	¼	⅝	⅝	⅝
Glencairn	4⅜	2¾	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Henderson	6⅜	2⅜	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10¼	7⅜	7⅛	8	8
Heriot	12½	8½	3½	2⅜	3	3
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27½	27½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅜	2½	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Jubilee	12½	7¼	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2½	2½	2½
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Knight's	11¼	9⅜	4⅜	5⅛	6	6⅛
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅜	⅜	¾	⅛	⅛
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅞	3⅜	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3¼	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¾	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅞	2⅜	4	4	3⅝
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅜	5½	5⅛	5⅛
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14⅜	7½	8½	9⅛	9½
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1½	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Nickerk	—	18/-	7/6	15/6	—	17/3
Nigel	8⅞	4	2⅜	2⅝	2⅜	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2½	2⅜	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Oceana Mineral	—	1⅜	⅞	⅞	⅞	⅞
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅜	1	1½	1½
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	10½	10⅜	10⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	2⅜	3	3
Randfontein Porges	3⅜	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2⅛	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, North	—	2⅜	1½	1½	1⅜	2
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9⅜	9⅜	9½
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2½	3½	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅞	6½	7½	8	8
S. A. Gold Trust	12½	9¾	4⅜	5	5⅜	5⅜
Sheba	2⅜	1⅜	11/3	—	—	6/3
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/3	11/9	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/3	1/6	—
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2⅜	24/-	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	¼	6/3	6/6	6/6
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2½
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	3⅜	4⅜	4
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Van Ryn	11	4½	2½	4	4	4⅛
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅛	6½	6½	6½
Violet	—	3⅜	2	2⅜	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1½	1½	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6½	6½	6½	6⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅜	10½	10½
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜

* £5 shares.

Diamond shares have been quieter than the rest of the market, and towards the end De Beers have shown some dulness. Premiers fell away again, but have since recovered. The fall is explained by the return for September, which gives 89,655 carats as against 102,968 carats for August. Deep Levels have been uninteresting, with an easier tendency towards the end. My table is appended:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 10, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅜	3⅞	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅛	1	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Crown Deep	12½	18½	12	12½	12½	12½
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅜	2	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8⅜	5	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6⅜	3½	4⅜	4½	4½
Geldenhuis Deep	10½	12½	8⅜	11	11½	11½
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6½	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5⅜	3¼	3	3	3⅛
Knight's Central Deep	3¼	4⅜	2½	2	2½	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2	2⅛	2½
Do. West	2½	3	1⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2½	5⅛	2½	3	3⅛	3⅛
Nourse Deep	5¼	6⅜	3½	4½	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅜	⅞	⅞	⅞
Rand Victoria	3⅛	4⅜	2⅜	2½	2½	2½
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10½	6⅜	8⅜	8½	8½
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅜	1½	1½	1½
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Geld. Deep	2¾	4⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	3½	1⅜	2	2
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅞	2⅜	3	3⅛	3⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	¾	⅝	⅝
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅛	4⅛	2⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛

Rhodesians Buoyant—Banket Descriptions Active—The New Company—Consulting Engineer's Report—Ayrshires Infected—Chartered Lower on the Meeting—"Rubbishy" Shares in Request.

The banket reef descriptions continue to monopolise the greater part of the attention in the Rhodesian market, and although the occasional indulgence in profit-taking brought with it a natural reaction, this has not been very marked. The tendency on the whole may be described as very satisfactory, despite these temporary set-backs, and in view of the early flotation of the "Banket Reef" Company to work the strike, there is every chance of higher levels being attained. This new concern, so it is said, will be capitalised at £300,000, of which £100,000 will be working capital, and the purchase price of £200,000 will be wholly taken in shares by the Rhodesia Exploration, Lomagunda Development, the Scottish Mashonaland, and a couple of other smaller Companies. In regard to the reef itself, the opinions of the consulting engineer based on the results so far achieved have been made public. He repeats that the new line of reef, with its long strike, its numerous ancient workings, and the good ore, which has been proved on the Eldorado claims, seems to be a more than usually promising mining venture. He expresses the belief, too, that the reef is a true sedimentary conglomerate, or "banket," and it has been actually proved for a "distance of three miles by means of outcrops and ancient workings, while there is considered to be a strong probability that it will be traced for a much further distance." All this may seem not too fresh, but it is rather interesting to learn that the suspicions of the engineers were justified a couple of years ago, after some failures, by some vigorous development work on the Eldorado claims, where, at a depth of 130 ft. from the surface, a conglomerate formation, giving a value of 12½ dwt. over 3 ft. 4 in. was discovered. The engineer also says that "although the banket is as a whole impregnated with gold for its width of at least 90 ft., the actual pay shute, so far as it is known at present, is only 6 ft. thick, the widest point up to now being 13 ft." There has also been a great deal of activity manifested in the shares of the Ayrshire Mine and Lomagunda Railway on the strength of the proposal to increase the mileage slightly in order to communicate with the Banket Reef Mine. It is also proposed that the Ayrshire Company should treat all the ore from the latter property. With regard to other shares in the Rhodesian section, Chartered were firm down to the meeting, when they weakened on the rejec-

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tion of the underwriting proposals. There has also been some demand for the "rubbishy" half-crown shares, induced, of course, by hopes that the buoyancy of the market will bring about better values. Most of these are practically worthless, but there is some possibility of their eventually being twisted 20 per cent. or perhaps 30 per cent. higher. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up. Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 10, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior(Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/2	1/4
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2	1 7/16	1 7/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/16
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	6/-	6/-
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1/2	1/16	3/16
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	3/8	3/8
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	3/16	3/16
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/4	7/16	8/6
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 3/4	1/2	3/8
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
Lomagunda Dev	250 000	250,000	1	f.p	6 1/2	3 5/16	3
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/8	1 7/16	1 3/16
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p	4 1/2	1/2	1/2
N'rth'rn Copper(B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 3/4	3 1/4	3 3/8
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	2 1/8	15/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p	9 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/8
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	7/16	3/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/2	2 1/2	2 5/8
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1 1/8	1 1/16
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1	3 1/2	3 1/2
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	3/8	3/8
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	9/-	9/-
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	3/4	7/-	7/-
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	6/6	6/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 1/16	1 1/4	1 1/16

A Story without a Moral.

In order to confound the miserable scoffers who persist in saying that the discovery of a banket reef in Rhodesia was made with the especial object of enabling the Directors of the Chartered Company to meet the shareholders this week with something encouraging after the "facer" of an issue of 1,000,000 new shares, some big chunks of the actual reef have been put on exhibition at the Company's offices, and the other day a large crowd of City men and journalists inspected the samples and nodded their heads wisely over them, as who should say, "Here you have the real thing, and no deception." There was no "free gold visible," which was a circumstance in its favour; but the stuff looked exactly like dirty pudding-stone, and probably not one in fifty of those who surveyed it critically had the remotest idea of its geological character, or could have told you what was meant by the matrix and why the pebbles were granite. But the sight of the samples recalled an old story which is worth retailing. A syndicate which had acquired an option on a Westralian property about which the owner said extraordinarily enthusiastic things—a way owners have—sent out an engineer to make an examination. In due course that gentleman reported that the reef was up to expectations—that it assayed about 150 oz. to the ton, and that the "mother lode" could not be far away. A company was formed, the syndicate sold out its rights at a fancy profit, the market caught the infection, and on the strength of estimates of the gold which was to be produced with a 200-stamp mill, the shares went from £1 somewhere into the neighbourhood of £25. The mill was sent out and erected, but for some inexplicable reason the manager seemed to be in no hurry to start operations. So a cable was sent out to him asking "Why don't you commence crushing?" His answer came back promptly, "How can I commence crushing unless you send back the reef?"

This story has probably been heard before by some of my readers. But there is one pathetic phase of the whole business which is not generally known. The engineer had a brother who, acting upon information received, as the policemen say in the witness-box, bought 500 of the shares when the Company was floated. It happened that this brother was sent in a hurry to prospect a property in South America, and was out of England when the "rig" was being worked. But he was dutifully advised by cable by the man on the spot, and he sent an urgent wire to his wife at home, who held his proxy, to sell his shares at 25. The good lady, reading in the papers all the nice things which were being said about the mine, and thinking that her estimable lord up in the Peruvian Andes could not possibly be aware of the real position, not only did not sell, but bought 100 more shares at about the top price. Thus it happened that, instead of selling at 25 500 shares bought at par, and thereby realising a clear profit of £12,000 with his capital returned, the poor engineer had to face a serious loss, and the result was very nearly a domestic tragedy.

I would have it plainly understood that in relating these little anecdotes, I am drawing no analogy between the incidents and the exhibition of Rhodesian banket in Finsbury-circus.

West Africans Active Again—Professional Manœuvring—Changes Insignificant—Bibiani Report—Wassaus—Miscellaneous Mines Inactive—Copper Shares Firm—Mysores Better—Queen's Cross Reefs Weak—A Revival in Egyptians.

One of those intermittent spasms of activity which become noticeable in the Jungle after a prolonged period of depression has again been in evidence during the past week, but, as usual, there are no indications of the movement being sustained. With the outside public callously indifferent to all the charms supposed to exist in the market, the professionals have, as usual, the run of the whole show, and they are working heroically in their attempts to alter the lugubrious appearance of things generally. On the whole, changes are quite insignificant and unimportant, though Bibianis were hoisted up to 1½ at one time on the strength of persistent rumours relating to a good return for last month. Hopes in this direction, however, have been entirely falsified, for notwithstanding that a greater quantity of ore was treated the yield of the precious metal is appreciably smaller than for the preceding month, and the shares suffered in consequence. On the other hand, the Wassau crushing proved to be less disappointing, the average yield per ton being slightly better, and there is an office note appended stating that the sinking of the shaft is progressing well. What one would like to know, however, is whether the mine is making profits or working at a loss. Amalgamated rallied somewhat, and some of the shares of the dredging concerns hardened slightly, but Ashanti Goldfields keep dullish. Below is appended my usual table of prices:—

—	Capital. Autho-rised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up. Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 10, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 7/16	1 7/16
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	4/6 dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	1/2	1/2
Attasi Mines..	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	4/3	4/6
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	1 1/8	1 1/8
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	7/8	1/2
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	2 3/8
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	1/2
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	7/8	1 7/8
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	10/-	10/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120.000	1	f p.	3/8	1/2
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1	1 1/8
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1 1/8

Inactivity has again been the outstanding feature in the Miscellaneous Mining market. Among Copper descriptions Capes strengthened on a little Colonial demand, but finished below the best, and Mount Lyells spurted upwards, and continue firm. Etruscans remain on offer and have lost further ground. Camp Birds, in the British Columbian section, keep steady. Among Indians, Mysores hardened on the news of rather satisfactory development work at what is so far the lowest

point touched in the Kolar Field, but Ooregums continue dullish, and Nundydroogs have relapsed. Among Silver shares, Broken Hill Props exhibit a good tendency; but in the Charter Towers group, Queen's Cross Reefs show no signs of recovery in view of the persistent Colonial selling. Briseis Tins have been in better request, and Egyptians have come in for more attention, interest being chiefly centred in Nile Valleys and United African Explorations.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Make-up. Oct. 10.	Closing Price, Oct. 10.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3 7/8	—	6 3/4
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	15/3	15/6
Broken Hill Props.	1 1/8	1 1/4	39/6	40/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	4
Champion Reef	7	5 3/8	30/9	31 -
Le Roi	4 3/8	3/8	3/4	3/4
Mason and Barry	4 1/4	3 1/8	—	2
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/4	2	11/9	12/
Mysore Gold	7 1/8	5 1/2	6 1/16	6 1/4
Namaqua Copper	4 1/8	2 1/4	3	3
Nundydroog	2 5/16	1 1/8	35/6	1 3/4
Ooregum	2 3/4	21/9	15/-	15/-
Rio Tinto	53 3/8	38 3/4	—	57 1/2
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 1/8	3 3/8	—	4 1/8
Waihi Gold	6 1/4	4 15/16	5 1/2	6 1/8

WESTRALIANS RATHER ACTIVE—OROYAS AND THE "BEARS"—ASSOCIATED BETTER—SPURT IN PERSEVERANCE AND A REACTION—HORSESHOES FIRM—"LITTLE KANGAROOS" QUIETLY FIRM—HAINAULTS.

A considerale amount of activity has been noticeable among West Australian shares during the past week, with Oroyas, perhaps, the most interesting spot, as a result of the desperate efforts of the "Bears" to cover themselves prior to the carry-over. The "Bears," it will be remembered, received a nice little squeezing at the last settlement, and ever since they have been endeavouring to make some impression in order to extricate themselves. They met with a little temporary success, but on the whole it seems that the task undertaken is too great, and there is every probability of a little more hugging taking place when the carry-over is being arranged, though there is no doubt whatever that the "Bear" commitments have been wisely reduced in the interval. Associated picked up materially on a message from the property, stating that at the No. 12 level the ore body is 20 ft. wide, and possesses an average value of 21 dwt., and the shares keep very firm. There has also been a renewal of activity in Perseverance on the strength of a rumour pointing to a new chairman; but although this was maintained for some considerable time, the publication of the September returns brought about a relapse, the estimated value being £40,273, as against £46,176 for August. It must not be forgotten, however, that this lower figure is more in accordance with the mine managers' suggestion (made at the time of the recent disclosures) concerning the reduction of output pending the augmentation of the reserves, and for that reason the shrinkage is not perhaps of much consequence. Great Boulders have displayed a rather see-saw movement, picking up and relapsing alternately; but there has been consistent support for Horseshoes, and consequently the shares keep firm. South Kalgurlis and Associated Northern Blocks have been better supported, and show slight appreciations on the week. Among the "Little Kangaroos," Boulder Deeps and Hannan's Stars keep quite inactive in the absence of support from any quarter; but Bellevues picked up slightly, as a result of rather more encouraging developments, though this improvement was not sustained. On the other hand, Hainaults strengthened persistently after the publication of the report, which gives hope of a dividend in December next. My usual table of movements may be seen below:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 10, 1904
Associated G.M.	7 1/8	3 3/4	1	1 1/2	1 1/2	1 1/2
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3 3/4	4 1/2	1 7/16	1 7/16	1 1/2	1 1/2
Brownhill Ext.	3 1/4	1 1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/3	6/3	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/3	7	6 7/8	6 7/8	6 1/2
Golden Link	2 1/4	15/3	6/-	2/6	4/-	3/6
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	50/-	17/9	19/6	20/6	19/9
Do. Main Reef	2 3/4	1 1/4	8/6	4/3	4/3	4/-
Do. Perseverance	13 1/4	1 15/16	1 1/4	13/-	11/-	12 -
Do. South	2 1/4	1 3/8	3/8	—	—	-
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 1/16	9 15/16	5 11/16	7 3/4	7 1/4	7 1/2
Hainault	1 3/8	3/4	1/4	1/2	3/8	3/8
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	2/6	5/	4/9	5/
Ivanhoe (£5)	15 1/4	10	6 1/4	7 1/8	7 1/8	7 1/8
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4 1/4	1 1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2
Kalgurli	9 3/8	4 1/2	2 1/16	5 1/4	5 1/8	5 1/8
Lake View Consols	5 3/8	6 3/4	1 3/8	1 7/16	1 1/2	1 1/2
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/16	1 3/8	1/2	8/9	8/6	7/-
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5	5/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4 1/4	2	3 1/2	3 1/4	3 1/4
Peak Hill	5 3/4	2 3/8	3/8	1/2	1/2	1/2
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/8	2 1/4	1	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
South Kalgurli	6 1/4	2 7/16	1/2	1 7/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 1/16	7/8	7/8	7/8	7/8

THE WAY OF THE PHILANTHROPIST.

The ways of the city philanthropist are many and varied. A week or two ago I referred to the sublime impudence of one institution which professed to have discovered a method of ensuring certain profits for its clients by simultaneous "Bull" and "Bear" operations, and I have only too much reason to believe that some hundreds of people were deluded into parting with their money to what they ought to have recognised as a transparent and gross swindle. This week comes the Industrial Share Exchange, of Victoria Mansions, S.W. (whom the London and County Bank has the honour of ranking among its clients), to tell all and sundry of another excellent way. It starts off with a weary old platitude—that "a high rate of interest often means bad security"; and follows it up with another, "but there are exceptions to every rule"; and it proceeds to remark that it has hitherto shown clients how their incomes can be increased by timely and judicious employment of capital, and that it will now "demonstrate to the most sceptical how over 60 per cent. can be secured within a few months without risk." It is the business as well as the privilege of the Industrial Share Exchange to make its clients aware of the way and the opportunities for doubling their capital. I should like to see my own little capital doubled every few months, but I doubt if the method of the Industrial Share Exchange is at all an infallible one—it does not strike one as even plausible. But let the Exchange speak for itself:—

It seems an anomaly that shares of a company in liquidation are worth buying, but on reflection it will be seen that now and again this can be done with absolute safety and a very big profit. Our position and the careful inquiries we make, enable us to demonstrate how this desired result can be attained. It is common knowledge that when a company goes into liquidation, ninety-nine out of every hundred regard their shares as valueless, and are nearly always prepared to accept a few pence per share for their holding. This, of course, is usually accepted in ignorance of what the assets of the company are, and indifference as to what the future may bring. We can now particularise two undertakings at the present moment in liquidation, where the amount to be distributed before the end of the year among the shareholders will be 2s. 6d. a share, and these shares we can now buy at 1s. 6d. a share, so that one has to wait even six months to be the recipient of 2s. 6d. for what now rests at the outside 1s. 6d.

The Exchange is so positive as to the results of a joint participation in the control of these shares that it is "willing to guarantee the repayment of principal and profit on an investment" made through it. The ordinary uncharitable and coarse individual would ask why in thunder the Industrial Share Exchange—all communications to be addressed to the manager, A. Fardell—should want to play the philanthropic racket for the benefit of strangers when it could scoop up the whole

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profit for itself. But he takes no account of the motive. Is not the concern in business for the advantage of others? Anticipating the scoffer, the Exchange points out that it would take mighty good care to keep the business in its own hands, "if capital permitted." Furthermore, its business is "purely (impurely, surely?) that of commission brokers"—meaning that it is taking no risks if it knows it. I hate to throw doubts upon the motives of the Christian—more frequently he is a Jew—philanthropist who writes from obscure addresses to do you a service, but as business and philanthropy do not mix any better than water and oil, I think it would be best to leave the Industrial Share Exchange alone, and to pass its circular on to Scotland Yard, with the suggestion that it is deserving the attention of the authorities there.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

A. J. S.—You are entitled to the October dividend. *Meta.*—India Three and a Half per Cent. stock and the National War Loan would suit. The return on each is 3¼ per cent. *Amateur.*—Of the stocks named I prefer Johannesburg Fours, giving a yield of 4 3-16 per cent.; Cape Town Fours, giving a good 4 per cent.; and Egyptian State Domains, giving 4⅛ per cent. *Punjabi.*—I suggest Egyptian Unified, which will bring in over 3¾ per cent., and Chinese Fives (1896), yielding almost a full 5 per cent. *X. X.*—Turkish Defence stock is secured on the Egyptian Tribute, and is quite a desirable holding. *Wallaby.*—The time is not auspicious for a purchase of Japanese. I have nothing to say against the stocks, but the country has a big task in front of it, and it will require much more money. Count Okuma foreshadowed further borrowings only the other day, and if the war is to continue for a couple of years or more the cost will be enormous, and existing Japanese stocks must depreciate greatly. *James Manners.*—I do not think you are unwise in the matter. Egypt is well governed and its stocks are good. *Caius.*—Argentine Rescission bonds are worth keeping. *Gilt-edged.*—It is unfortunate for Consols that they should have against them the competition of other Government issues, equally safe while yielding more, and there is no doubt that the small investor has forsaken them for the others. But they have special merits of their own, and should ultimately recover to somewhere about par.

Railways.

Lyne, Blackheath.—I recommend Qu'Appelle Railway bonds for a lock-up investment. Others which are desirable in the same way are Grand Trunk Thirds and Cordoba Central Income bonds. *Investor, Belfast.*—Great Western, North-Eastern, and Brighton Railway Preferred Ordinary would suit. The improvement in the general trade of the country ought to be reflected in better conditions in the railway market. *Curious.*—The railway returns for 1903 give the coal brought to London by railway in 1903 as 7,102,000 tons, and the additional penny now being charged would, therefore, amount to about £29,000 a year, to be distributed amongst about six companies. *W. B.*—Hold on to the Buenos Ayres Western stock. *Weston.*—Grand Trunk Seconds are an interesting purchase now. *J. W. R.*—Cordoba and Rosario Preference ought to have a further recovery, and Cordoba Central Income bonds seem good for a higher level. *Colonial.*—Canadian Pacifics are worth holding as an investment. *A. H., Preston.*—Entre Rios Preference are a promising speculative purchase in view of a probable agreement with the other Companies. *Devon.*—Cordoba Central Income bonds ought to go higher. The conditions of these second-rate Argentine undertakings has improved enormously in the last year or so, and the fact is only just now being realised.

Mines.

R. H. C.—Broken Hill Props make a promising purchase. *Willie.*—Associated should be held. The property is a good one, and it is only the management that is indifferent, and that is likely to be changed before long. *B. W.*—Hold on to the Kaffirs, which are of the most promising sort. *Tuan.*—I should not buy the shares. They have been on the down grade recently, and when Queensland takes to selling its own mining shares, the rest of the world would do well to look on and refrain from participating. The system of hand-to-mouth mining is the great drawback to the purchase of Queensland mine shares. *Chim.*—It is unlikely that the Barnato Consolidated Company will declare any dividend at an early date, but the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company has just announced a dividend of 10 per cent. *W. A.*—I can obtain no quotation whatever for your West Africans. I fear the prospects are hopeless. *Lyne, Blackheath.*—The shares you hold are worth keeping for more active conditions in the South African market, when you should realise a good profit. Of the others named I prefer Modders, Transvaal Goldfields, Randfonteins, and Goldfields Deferred. *Grains.*—General Mining and Finance and Johnnies. *M. E.*—Keep the shares, and you might take up the new issue. *Gullible.*—1. The shares are not very attractive. A Queensland mine on the down grade owing to sales from Queensland may very well be left alone by the man in this country. 2. There are several firms of outside brokers which have the reputation of being honest. The two named by you are not in that list, and for the rest your observations are very amateurish and fatuous. *Monmoor.*—As you say, a sorry lot, but keep the Kaffirs for better times, but sell the others, which are hopeless. *Yang Kung Ping.*—The offer of Otto's Kopjes by the outside broker at 1s. 3d. is a mighty poor bargain for the buyer since the shares are quoted at 6d.—1s. Resist the temptation to buy. *Mason.*—Your best plan is to keep the Kaffirs for a better market, which seems to be not far off. *Amateur.*—Niekirks are a useful "spec." for a probable advance of a couple of shillings or so, but do not regard them in any other light. *R. H.*—Oroyas seem, on the basis of the ore actually in sight, to be worth over £4. The "Bears" made a bad mistake over the mine, and they practically admit as much. *New Street.*—The present price of Mount Lyell Comstock Copper shares is about 4½d. Fanti Mines are quoted at 2s. 6d. *Expectant.*—The Company has not recently declared a dividend. *M. S. R.*—The rise in Tintos and other copper shares is based upon an expected increase in the consumption with the revival of trade in the United States. Supplies are not plentiful, and they show a tendency to lag behind consumption. *"Spec.," Wisbeach.*—Ayrshire mine shares ought to go higher in connection with the proposals for working the banket reef. They are talked up to 2, but be content to get out somewhere short of that figure. *Disgusted.*—Ebenezers are quoted at 6d., and Ednapriems at 2s. I can find no quotation for the others, which are a very sorry looking lot. *Roker.*—Transvaal Goldfields, S. A. Gold Trusts, and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. *Father.*—Rhodesia Mines are quoted at about 3s. 6d. They are not a very promising holding. Otto's Kopje Diamonds are also a poor spec. Great Boulders and Camp Birds are both worth buying. Keep the industrial. *Midas.*—1. The Company seems to have disappeared. At all events I cannot trace it among the standard works of reference. 2 to 5. These are fairly good speculative holdings which should harden on an active market. *Lex.*—Fairly promising; but I should prefer Ayrshire Mines or Transvaal Estates.

Miscellaneous.

J. J. B., Carlisle.—I would strongly recommend you to leave both concerns severely alone. *Verophilus.*—I have a poor opinion of the speculative value of the bonds in question, and in any case you ought to ignore the delusive literature of the concern mentioned, as you can purchase the tickets at a saving of 30 per cent. in London. *W. S. T., Aberdeen.*—I have drawn attention to the concern on many occasions. The public ought to realise that if they are offered such a high rate of interest for their money they take exceptionally great risk in the matter of security of the money involved. *Insured.*—Sound and very genuine. *Alfa.*—1. Cannot be considered very safe. 2. Frauds, swindles, and everything else of that nature, and consequently best avoided. *Prior.*—I do not recommend dealings with either. *Delta.*—The concern in question seems to be working your country energetically, and I may reiterate what I have already said scores of times, that the high rate of interest allowed is not compatible with the security of your principal. *A. J.*—I have frequently warned readers against dealing with Stephens and Henderson, of Liverpool. *H. Levick.*—The concern has disappeared, and I am unable to trace anything of it. *Ozonian.*—Your best plan would be to hold on. *Herbert, Egremont.*—Ought to be left severely alone. *Cockney.*—I have a very poor opinion of the German lotteries, and see no great catch in the Hessian-Thuringian States affair. *Marsh, Blackpool.*—I am sending you the address of a reliable firm, who will be able to enlighten you in the matter of the Panama bonds. *Gunter.*—British Insulated and Helsby are a fairly good industrial, and at the present price of 5⅞ return slightly more than 6½ per cent. *Mancunian.*—It must not be forgotten that the concern suffers acutely from over-capitalisation, and it is questionable whether the revival in the cotton trade will materially assist it towards the dividend stage. *Knott, Lee.*—I have not a good opinion of the concern named. Try the Scottish Temperance. *Hyam, Colchester.*—The recent activity in Nitrate shares is traceable to speculative buying induced by reports, which seem to indicate better prospects for the industry. *J. E. Player.*—Your discretion in not applying for the "handsome illustrated pamphlet describing how 100 per cent. can be easily earned without risk" is commendable. Strange to say, there are people who believe the stuff. *Yak, Prestwich.*—It is anything but safe, and quite unreliable, and if you value your cash leave the concern alone. *A. E. C., Berks.*—Many thanks for the interesting

cutting. *H. W. Cox.*—I have more than once given prominence to the artful concern, and will do so again before long. *Mac!.*—The published returns are by no means encouraging, but it is thought in some quarters that the profit derived from other sources may appreciably lessen the deficit. *Dromore.*—Probably they will pay up next settling day, as your business with them is not of the speculative order. If not, you have an easy remedy, but I cannot recommend a solicitor. *Jack, Exeter.*—The five stocks are worth holding on to. I look for higher prices for Nos. 2 and 3.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Sigers.—1. Canadian Pacifics, North-Western, Great Western, and Argentine Great Western Preference. 2. S.A. Gold Mines, General Mining and Finance, Simmer and Jack, and Langlaagte Estates among South Africans, and Oroyas, Ivanhoes, and Kalgurlis among Westralians. *Seer.*—1. As you have held the Grand Trunk Thirds for so long, you might still keep them, there being promise of more activity and higher prices before the end of the year. 2. Lyons shares are all right to hold. The new popular café ought to bring in much additional profit. 3. B.A. and Valparaiso Transandine Preference shares are no doubt risky, but they make a good speculative holding. *Solus.*—Rand Mines, Goldfields Deferred, Johnnies, Langlaagte Estates, South African Gold Trusts, and South African Gold Mines. I wish you luck such as you have had on your Railway purchases. 2. Canadian Pacifics are not likely to have much more of a rise at present, and if you do not care to hold as an investment you ought to take your profit. 3. Lancashire and Yorkshire stock has also had a good advance since you bought, and you might realise. 4. The Japanese Sixes are all right as an investment, but I do not look for much advance in the price just now. More borrowing will be necessary, and that will not help the existing stocks. *Bengali.*—I recommend Egyptian State Domains, City of London Electric Lighting First Debentures, Edmundson's Electricity Debentures, and Guest Keen and Nettlefold Debentures. These will average about 4 per cent. *Clubman, Alderley Edge.*—Trade is improving slowly, and the Preference shares are worth holding, but the outlook for the Ordinary is not bright. I should sell the latter, therefore, and put the money into something of more promise. 2. Sell Transvaal Developments if you see a profit of £1. 3. Barneys and Johnnies will move briskly enough when they start, and your best plan would be to go in and out on smart movements. The Johnnies Company announced a dividend of 10 per cent. the other day. *McLean.*—I should hold the West India and Panama Telegraph Preference shares now that the arrears of interest are being paid off. Royal Mails are doubtful, but the new charter ought to mean another era of prosperity for the Company. Interoceanic Preference, B.A. and Valparaiso Preference, London General Omnibus, and Cape Coppers ought to be held. 2. Mason and Barrys are a fair purchase; the price of copper is likely to keep going high. 3. Argentine Great Western Railway Ordinary stock will give nearly 5⅞ per cent., and Great Western of Brazil 6½ per cent. *Malta.*—1 and 2. I do not care to recommend outside brokers. 3. Alabama Midland Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold bonds are a safe holding. 4. White Feather Rewards are not of much account. 5. Mexican Central Railway bonds should be held. 6, 7, and 8. These are all right.

MISCELLANEOUS MARKET FAIRLY ACTIVE—HUDSON'S BAYS HIGHER—TEXTILES REACT—TELEGRAPH ISSUES—DOCK STOCKS BUOYANT—WATER BOARD STOCK FIRM—IRON AND STEEL SHARES—RECOVERY IN SHIPPINGS—ACTIVITY AMONGST ARGENTINE LAND DESCRIPTIONS.

A fair amount of activity has been witnessed in the Industrial market during the past week, though to a great extent it has been confined to specialties such as Hudson's Bays, Telegraph descriptions, Textile shares, and Dock stocks, and it would seem that business is gradually expanding, though the process is very slow. Hudson's Bays have undoubtedly been the outstanding feature, and after a little reaction occasioned by profit taking, the shares finished with an appreciation of 3 points to 48, on balance, the inducement to all the activity being, as I have said before, very favourable reports concerning the Company's position. In Textile shares the buying from the North occasioned by the better prospects of the cotton industry showed signs of diminishing before the close, and many of the principal shares, including Fine Spinners, Coats, Sewing Cottons, Calico Printers, and Bradford Dyers, did not finish at the best. There has been a fair amount of investment buying of Telegraph stocks such as Easterns and Eastern Extensions, which both hardened appreciably, and Anglo-American issues strengthened, and were unaffected by the dividend announcement at the rate of 12s. 6d. per cent. for the Michaelmas quarter, despite the fact that this compares with 15s. per cent. for the corresponding period of last year, and is the lowest paid since 1896. So far the distributions for the year to date only total 37s. 6d., as against 45s., and it is not thought that the Company will be enabled to increase the rate for the current quarter in order to equalise the distribution with last year's figures. Among Dock stocks both India Deferred and Preferred have been in request, the tonnage entering the docks during the last quarter showing a substantial increase over the corresponding period of last year. The chances of the Deferred receiving the full 4 per cent. for the twelve months, therefore, seem better than ever, and the stock, responding to this influence, improved to 76, and the Preferred finished a couple of points better at 101, while Millwall Four and a Half per Cent. Preference also spurted 2 to 69½. Brewery issues continue very inactive, with a rather dullish tendency, Salt Debentures and one or two Allsopp descriptions falling away slightly. Sympathising with the gilt-edged class the Water Board stock moved upwards, seeming to ignore the probable issue of the balance of stock, but Southwark and Vauxhall lost some more ground. Firmness has marked the Iron and Steel group, Pease and Partners and Ebbw Vales participating, while Vickers Maxims and John Browns hardened also, though, on the other hand, South Durham Debentures and Richardson Westgarths show slight losses. In the Shipping class Royal Mails recovered from the dulness brought about by the new capital proposals, and Cunard improved on the better outlook for the Company, while Orient Preference, and Elder Dempster and Anchor Line Debentures hardened. Lyons, amongst "Bunshop" descriptions have been bought on the opening of the new "Popular Café," and Aerated Breads recovered to 8⅞, while Spiers and Ponds rallied somewhat. Meat shares, after being idle and depressed, picked up a little towards the close, Nelsons registering a fair improvement, though River Plates remained without change. Traction shares continue in moderate request, more especially British Electrics, and Anglo-Argentine and Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Trams show a further improvement. Among the more miscellaneous descriptions in this section there has been a fair demand for Argentine Land shares on reports of improved prospects. Argentine Colonisation and Lands, Land and Investments, River Plates, and Santa Fés have participated in the general upward movement. Some attention has also been paid to Salt Union issues, and Welsbachs hardened, though they reacted slightly later on.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A CRASHING CESAREWITCH.

OF all the gamblers that ever frequented a racecourse or sat down to a card-table, Sir Cyril Hitchcock, of Hitchcock Hall, near Newmarket, was the most inveterate. He lived in a perpetual state of putting his money on this or that chance—a horse for choice, but he was not particular. When he lacked a race to bet upon, he would make shift with the turn of a card, the fortunes of a boxing match, the sex of an expected foal, the number of marriage announcements in to-morrow's *Times*, or how often the parson would use his favourite expression, "my dear brethren," in his next Sunday's sermon. Nothing was either too important or too trivial to form the subject of his wagers. I have known him while away a whole evening with a boon companion in the engaging occupation of spinning tops against him for £50 a spin.

It will readily, therefore, be understood how it was that Sir Cyril—who, when he succeeded to the title and estates at the age of twenty-five, came in for a handsome fortune—in the course of a few years had frittered almost the whole of it away.

But in addition to the drain made upon his resources

by betting and gambling losses, Sir Cyril indulged in other fancies that stood him in for a lot of money. *Item*, he kept open house at Hitchcock Hall, entertaining with lavish magnificence. *Item* he had a racing stud, which he managed on the most expensive and unbusiness-like lines; paying but very slight regard to the shrewd, practical advice with which he was, from time to time, favoured by Duncan McHoggany, his trainer.

Now, this McHoggany, as his name implies, was a Scotsman, and steeped to the core with all the Scotsman's hatred of pecuniary extravagance. Not, mind you, that he grudged the spending of money freely enough when such outlay was sound business, and promised a lucrative return. But he hated to see good cash wasted, and in the management of his horses, as in everything else, Sir Cyril wasted it in the most sinful manner.

For example: He was always buying yearlings at exorbitant prices, and even when they proved disastrous failures, as they almost invariably did, instead of weeding them out of his stud and cutting his loss, he would retain them, both in his stable and in their engagements, incurring thereby a ruinous annual cost in the shape of subscriptions and forfeits.

"If we go on running so and so long enough, he'll pull off a good thing one of these days, and we shall see our money back," he would say to his trainer. "A sprat to catch a whale, you know, McHoggany."

And McHoggany, rubbing his chin with his fingers in a thoughtful manner, would shake his head and reply: "Eh, mon, but we shall soon hae laid oot mair in sprats than the whale 'll be worth, I'm thinking, even if we ever catch him."

"Hang you, McHoggany, for a mean-spirited, calculating old miser," would rejoin the baronet, in his genial, bantering way. "There's no fun in being on the Turf unless one takes a few sporting chances now and then."

"Oo aye. I'm not avairse mysel' to a chance that is a reasonable chance, Sir Cyril. But, in ma opeenion, it's nae sport to spend dollars on the off-chance of winning shillings. It reminds me o' a fule o' a friend o' mine, who once made a buke on the Derby, on which, wi' the worst luck, he stood to lose a monkey, and, wi' the best, couldna come oot less than a pony to the bad. If that sort o' thing is sport, Sir Cyril, then I guess that Tooncan McHoggany has nae ambeetion to be considered a sportsman."

And McHoggany would turn away and go off, with his shoulders lifted almost to his ears (a gesture by which he always expressed his futile disgust), muttering to himself:

"I dinna ken hoo lang this fule's game can last; but sooner or later it spells ruination, and, by Heaven, it'll spell it sooner rather than later, in ma opeenion."

Then, shaking his head, scornfully, he would continue:

"Eh, but it's a question in ma mind which 'll gie oot first—his pocket, or his constitution. Leading the rackety life he does, and seeing that he's pretty well wrecked his health a'ready, I'm not mysel' gieing him mair nor twa year. Happen he may stave off bankruptcy for those twa year, and happen he mayna. I shouldna like to say. It 'll be a near thing, onyhoo."

McHoggany's verdict upon Sir Cyril's health was, in truth, but too well founded. In his youth, the baronet had drawn, so to speak, any number of post-dated cheques upon the banking account of his constitution. These were now ruthlessly maturing, and, their amount being heavily increased by the current drafts of the present, promised, at no distant date, to exhaust that account altogether. In short, to drop metaphor and speak in plain language, his hollow eye, his sunken cheek, his wasted frame showed but too plainly that consumption had laid on him its fatal hand; and the life that he continued to lead—in reckless defiance of his doctors—abetted, rather than deterred the devasting march of that pitiless enemy.

If Sir Cyril's wife had lived, it might have been otherwise. During the one brief year of their married life, his devotion to her had weaned him awhile from his dissipated habits. But, unhappily, she had fallen a victim to the claims of motherhood, within twelvemonths of their union, bequeathing to him a last pledge of their affections in the shape of a baby girl.

The shock of his wife's death drove the baronet again to seek consolation and forgetfulness in vicious courses, into which he plunged more and more recklessly every day. As for the child, who was named Myra, he could never quite forgive her for being the innocent occasion of her mother's death, and although he was too good-natured a man to treat her unkindly, yet he neglected her, and left her entirely to the care of nurses and servants.

At the time when the present story opens, she was about six years old, and a pretty, sweet, quaint little thing. Every one, except her father, who remained indifferent, took to the child instinctively. But she struck up a particular friendship with Duncan McHoggany—or "Moggany," as she called him.

Scarcely a day passed, but she spent some hours of it in the stables with the trainer. It was rather amusing to see them together—the child trotting or standing at his side, with her hand in his, artless, confidential, prattling to him of all that was in her mind; McHoggany, his wooden face, as always, quite imperturbable, listening, as grave as a judge, to her infantile talk and now and then replying, solemnly, to her childish questions.

McHoggany never laughed. I doubt whether he had the faculty. He never even smiled. His nearest approach to expressed amusement was a peculiar twinkle that, on rare occasions, lit up his impassive eye. Such a twinkle, in the eye of McHoggany, meant more than peals of side-splitting laughter in the diaphragm of an ordinary man. It implied that you had touched the central spring of his humorous instincts. It was a triumph that conscious wit very seldom achieved. To set yourself to provoke amusement in McHoggany was usually to court a puzzled and rather contemptuous stare, which plainly invited you to explain the point of what he presumed from your manner—though he would not otherwise have guessed it—had been intended for a facetious observation.

But the unconscious humour of the child frequently succeeded with him where all the funniest grown persons in the universe would have failed, and often and often would that stolid eye of his break into scintillating twinkles at this or that artless remark.

"Moggany," said she to him one morning early in a certain eventful October, as she trotted by his side round the stables. "Please, where's Queer Street?"

"Queer Street? Eh? Somewhere where I'm hoping you'll never find yoursel', my dear," replied the trainer, looking down at her, thoughtfully.

"Please, do you think you'll ever find yourself there, Moggany?"

"Not if I know it," he answered, grimly.

"Daddy says that p'raps he'll find hisself there before he's much older," pursued the child, with the air of one making an important announcement. "He made a face when he said it, too. Please is Queer Street a nasty place, Moggany?"

"Aweel; there's nicer aboot, ye ken," answered the trainer, drily.

"And please is it near here, Moggany?"

"There's a gude mony find it a varra easy journey fro' Newmarket," he answered in his impassive way.

"Please do you think daddy will take me with him? I hope he won't, if it's a nasty place," said the child

At these words, a troubled look passed across McHoggany's usually immovable face.

"I canna tell," he answered, curtly.

Then he diverted the conversation into other channels. The subject was evidently fraught with painful associations for him.

Presently Sir Cyril himself made his appearance in the stables. He greeted McHoggany with a genial "good morning." The only notice he took of Myra was to pat her head carelessly, as he might have patted that

of one of his dogs. This gesture of easy indifference did not escape the trainer, in whose face Sir Cyril, had he had an eye for such things—which he had not—might have detected a disapproving frown.

"Well, McHoggany, how's Hiawatha this morning?" inquired Sir Cyril, with keen interest.

"'Teed and the colt's varra fit," was the rejoinder.

"Think you'll deliver him at the post in his best trim on Wednesday—eh?"

"He'll be trained to the hour," answered McHoggany, with confidence

"And what price his chance of getting home—eh?"

"I'm nae a prophet," was the laconic answer.

"I know that, dash you! You don't suppose I take you for an Elijah or a Daniel, do you? I merely asked for your opinion."

"In ma opeenion," replied McHoggany, "the colt will gie a gude account o' hissel'; and whatever beats him 'll be a flyer."

"Ah! that coming from you, you guarded old beggar, is as good as saying he's a dead cert."

"There are nae dead certs—on the Turf," replied McHoggany, sententiously.

"Well, I regard Hiawatha as a dead cert for Wednesday's race, anyway," answered Sir Cyril, laughing. "I'm on to him pretty well up to my last shilling; and if he gets home, as I'm confident he will, I shall be reimbursed at one swoop for all the facers I've experienced this season. Yes, McHoggany, I don't mind telling you, I've backed the colt to win me £20,000."

"Oo, aye! That's reet enough, if he gets hame," answered McHoggany, grimly. "But what if he dinna?"

"Why, then, I guess there'll be an almighty smash," replied Sir Cyril, with a reckless laugh, "and the mortgagees of Hitchcock Hall will foreclose, and I shall be left without a roof over my head. But there," he added, in his sanguine way, "the colt must win. He can't be beaten."

"Tut! tut! So you've mortgaged the ould place, Sir Cyril, which has been in your family for sae mony generations?" inquired McHoggany, eyeing the baronet with sorrowful displeasure.

"Couldn't help it," answered the baronet, in whose nature it was not to make any secret of his personal affairs. "I had to raise money last autumn, and it was the only security left."

"It's a peety," said McHoggany, shaking his head.

"Dare say," rejoined Sir Cyril, carelessly; "but beggars, you see, can't be choosers. Of course, if I had been of a saving, penurious turn of mind, like yourself, McHoggany, I needn't have come to such straits. But I'm not that sort. When I have money, I must spend it. A short life and a merry one's my ticket. And, after all, why not get one's fun out of one's money in one's lifetime? It's no use afterwards, is it?"

To this McHoggany made no verbal reply. He just looked down at little Myra with a glance that spoke volumes. Sir Cyril flushed, and an expression, half-shame-faced, half-defiant, swept across his wasted countenance.

"Come, come!" he said, irritably, "you are a very good trainer, McHoggany, but you are not my spiritual adviser——"

"I'm glad, I'm nae, Sir Cyril; I shouldna like the responsibility."

"There, that will do!" remarked the baronet, in impatient tones. "Let's go and have a look at Hiawatha."

Shortly afterwards, Sir Cyril left the stables, taking his little girl with him.

Duncan McHoggany, shaking his head mournfully, watched the retreating pair.

"If he wull na think o' hissel'," he muttered, "he ought to think o' the bairn—oo aye! he ought to think o' the bairn."

It was Tuesday night—the eve of the Cesarewitch—and Duncan McHoggany himself was on night duty in Hiawatha's box.

The trainer's face was unusually agitated. It showed plain signs of some powerful and perplexing emotion.

"Wull ye get hame the morrow?" he said, addressing the splendid colt, as it might have been a human being. "Wull ye, beauty? I mun say I dinna ken hwat's to stop ye. And if ye do, and Sir Cyril lands his twenty thousand—hwat then? Wull he pay off those mortgages, d'ye think, or wull he settle any o't on the bairn? Not he! We ken him better than that, dinna we, beauty? He'll just toss the twenty thoosand aboot, in reckless indulgence. It'll be gane in a month, and he'll be in worse straits than iver. Oo aye! that's hwat he'll do wi' it. You and I ken Sir Cyril, dinna we, beauty? Oo aye! we ken him fine. He'll jest squander his winnings, and he'll dee bankrupt. And then hwat's to become o' the bairn? Aye! tell me that, beauty! Hwat's to become o' the bairn?"

The colt's eyes were fixed upon McHoggany in a curious, half-inquiring gaze. The trainer was not in the habit of making long orations to him, and doubtless the intelligent creature wondered what he was up to. In fact, it needed no great effort of imagination to read this question in Hiawatha's inquiring eyes:

"What's the matter? I've never seen you taken this way before. I hope you're not going off your chump. But, 'pon my sam, you look rather like it."

McHoggany came nearer, and softly patted the colt's glossy neck.

"Beauty," said he, "if ye get hame the morrow, and Sir Cyril wins his twenty thoosand, ye'll be doing nae gude—nae gude, I'm saying, either to him or to the bairn. . . . Beauty, ye munna get hame the morrow."

Then, with a sudden burst of passionate energy: "Beauty, ye shanna get hame the morrow."

* * * * *

Late on the evening of the next day—that day which had witnessed Hiawatha's tragic overthrow in the Cesarewitch and the ruin of all his owner's sanguine hopes—Duncan McHoggany called at Hitchcock Hall to see his employer.

He was shown into the dining-room, where he found Sir Cyril alone at the table drowning his sorrows in a magnum of champagne.

"Hilloa! You, McHoggany?" he exclaimed, in a rather thick voice, as the trainer entered. "Well, we have had a facer this afternoon. Eh? What? But never mind. I'm not the one to cry over spilt milk or to tuck my tail between my legs, like a cur, just because I've had a hard knock. I flatter myself I've got too much pluck for that. Better luck next time. Never say die. That's my motto."

And the baronet added to the plentiful supply of Dutch courage he had already imbibed by tossing off another bumper of that inspiriting fluid.

"Sit down, man! Don't stand staring at me there like an owl with the pip," continued Sir Cyril, in his boisterous way. "What the devil's the matter with you that you look so glum? If you'd plunged on the colt as I have, and lost pretty well your last sixpence, there might be some excuse for you. But, as it is, I don't suppose you're a penny out of pocket over the race—for you never bet. Eh? What?

"That's reet eneugh, Sir Cyril," replied Duncan McHoggany, deliberately, as he seated himself, regarding the baronet with a queer look of his shrewd eyes. "'Teed, so far frae being oot o' pocket ower the race, I'm a gude bit in pocket. And that's the truth."

"In pocket? Eh? What the devil do you mean?" demanded Sir Cyril, staring at the trainer in fuddled perplexity. "D——n it, man, can it be that this Moscow campaign has turned you barmy on the crumpet?"

Duncan McHoggany shook his head

"I'm nae barmy," he replied, fixing his keen eyes full upon Sir Cyril's flushed face. "Like Paul of old, I speak the words of truth and soberness."

"Oh, hang it all! Don't drag Paul into the matter," interjected the baronet, again replenishing his glass. "Get to the point, will you, and have done with it."

"Oo, aye. I'll get to the point," answered McHoggany. "But first I'll trouble ye to answer me one question, Sir Cyril Hitchcock. S'pose ye'd landed that twenty thoosand, hwat wad ye hae done wi 'it, noo?"

"Done with it? Oh! I'd have found plenty to do with it, you bet," replied Sir Cyril, with a hoarse laugh.

"Aye, aye! I'm nae dooting that. Ye'd hae squandered it a' in dicing an' drinkin' and dissipatin'! In a few weeks there'd hae been nane o't left. But as for pittin' by a penny o't to mak proveesion for the bairn, sic a thout wad never hae entered your head, Sir Cyril—aye, though ye are a deein' mon, and in a month or twa ye'll be leavin' her alone i' the world, sic a thought, I'm sayin', wad never hae entered your selfish head."

McHoggany spoke with repressed indignation. A fierce light burned in his pale blue eyes. "Isna what I'm sayin' the truth?" he demanded.

"I dare say it is, curse you," was the angry rejoinder. "But, d——d if I see what business it is of yours, you interfering old fool."

"I hae made it ma business," replied McHoggany, quietly. "Noo, jest gie me your attention a wee while, Sir Cyril. Ye got your money on wi' Tommy Trott, the buke-maker, didna ye, noo? Weel, Tommy Trott's the feegurehead i' that business; but the capital that's at the back o' him is the capital o' your humble sairvant, Toonean McHoggany."

"Eh?" gasped the dumbfounded baronet.

"It's Gospel truth. I pit nearly a' the money into Tommy's business, and I dra' nearly a' the profits. If Hiawatha had got hame the afternoon, it's me who hae had to pay ye that twenty thoosand."

Sir Cyril still sat staring at him in fuddled, speechless stupefaction.

"But if I'd hae had to pay ye twenty thoosand pounds, it wad hae been out o' my power to settle that sum upon the bairn, as I mean to do the morrow. *So I took care that I shouldna hae to pay ye twenty thoosand pounds.* Noo, are ye understanding me, Sir Cyril?"

"By God! You scoundrel! Do you mean to tell me that you—you tampered with the colt and prevented his winning?" cried the baronet, starting from his chair, pale with fury and trembling in every limb.

Duncan McHoggany's gaze met the baronet's calmly, without flinching.

"I'm no deneein' it," he said. "'Teed, and I glory in the act, Sir Cyril Hitchcock."

MUSIC.

A COMPLAINT WITHOUT CAUSE.

THIS is a period of the year when all sorts of quaint opinions find their way into the papers, and such a one is certainly that of the gentleman who, having made the distressing discovery that "the whole English people is destitute of songs of any merit," has invoked the aid of the millionaire philanthropist to put matters right. Really, that oft-desiderated "music-loving Carnegie" would have an expensive time of it if he responded to all the appeals which have recently been addressed to him. The other day it was National Opera which he was invited to endow; then the urgent need of a new metropolitan concert room which should be relieved of the painful necessity of paying its way was pressed upon his notice; later he was invited to assist in the establishment of musical circulating libraries; while now here is yet another "cause" confided to his care. Under the circumstances, is it really any wonder that one from whom so much is expected prefers to remain in hiding? I am afraid, at all events, that he will not be drawn by this latest appeal. Nor is there, perhaps, very much occasion to regret this. Seeing, indeed, that we are *ex hypothesi* destitute at present of songs of any merit, it is not quite clear how all the efforts of all the Carnegies and Pierpont Morgans put together could save the situation—unless the idea is to set poets and musicians to work to supply our needs in this regard without further delay; and even the adoption of that heroic course might conceivably fail, I am afraid, to achieve the results desired. It is, to be feared, therefore, that we shall have to rub on with the songs which we possess already, and after all these really do not make quite such a bad show as has been implied.

"Songs" is of course an elastic term, and certainly one would not, in order to refute the justice of the complaint referred to, rely exclusively upon such examples of their class as "Bill Bailey" or "All Round the 'Ouses." We may include also in our purview not only such songs as a dozen or so composers still living have written and are still writing, but in addition at least one or two derived from an earlier day. As to the former of these classes, it may be that our land has yet to produce a Schubert, a Schumann, or a Brahms. It is, indeed, singular that, much as we admire an "Erl König," an "Ich Grolle Nicht," or a "Meine Liebe ist Grün," when they come to us from Germany, none of our native masters seems even to attempt the creation of like works, while, just to carry on the tradition, here is Richard Strauss in his turn producing works in this same line which are possibly even further removed than the works of his predecessors from anything we have to show. But going farther back there is much less cause to fear comparison. In such things as "Bid Me Discourse" and "Should He Upbraid" of Bishop, "Where the Bee Sucks" and "Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind" of Arne, "I Attempt from Love's Sickness" and "Come unto these Yellow Sands" of Purcell, and innumerable others whose origin is doubtful or entirely unknown, such as "The Bailiff's Daughter," "I Am a Friar of Orders Grey," "The Leather Bottel," "Sally in Our Alley," and so on, the genius of English song has declared itself in no equivocal manner. But in the case of songs of this class the intervention of our millionaire friend is certainly not required, since they are already accessible in various collections which in point of cheapness are all that could be wished.

This is not to say, however, that a good deal more might not be done than has already been accomplished in the collection and preservation of the countless old ditties scattered up and down the countryside which have not been gathered hitherto into any of the recognised collections, and whose very existence was almost entirely unknown until within comparatively recent years. Yet, thanks to the labours of the Folk Song Society and many private workers, much has been done of late years in this direction, and many old ballads of the rarest charm have thus been rescued from certain oblivion—certain oblivion, because it is literally a case of "now or never" so far as this particular work is concerned, and this simply because in another ten years or so all the old people will have died off from whom alone these precious examples of old English music are now to be obtained. So long as they were being handed down, as in the past, from father to son and mother to daughter, the need for action was, at any rate, less urgent, but this is no longer being done. The rising generation prefer the latest "comic" of the music-halls to the really beautiful and characteristic ditties of their forefathers, while the old people themselves are often as not as ignorant as their children in this respect. Vast, therefore, as is the store of traditional music of the folk song order which we already possess, it would be incomparably richer if all those examples had been preserved and noted down which deserve to be included in any representative collection.

Mr. Sydney Herbert, who advertises his attainments in the columns of the *Brixton Free Press*, is clearly a musician of no ordinary gifts. To begin with, he is a P.L.S.M.—meaning, as I interpret these mystic initials, a Professor of the London School of Music. Now, this in itself might not be regarded as conclusively establishing the point. But other evidence is available. In

these days of specialisation, when most musicians are satisfied if they can master for teaching purposes a single branch of the art (even if they do not go so far as the pianist who proposed to confine his attentions exclusively to the key of C major) it is refreshing to find one who is prepared to give instruction at one and the same time and on the most moderate terms in half a dozen. Voice production and solo singing, the pianoforte and the violin, theory, harmony, and composition—these are only some of the subjects in which Mr. Herbert is prepared to impart instruction. Nor do even these exhaust the range of Mr. Herbert's activities, for from the announcement which follows it will be perceived that, besides imparting instruction in theory, harmony, and composition on the ridiculously easy terms of one guinea for twelve lessons, he is prepared also to grant "certificates and diplomas . . . in all grades at a nominal fee."

Theory, harmony, and composition. Private lessons or in class. Term of 12 lessons, 1 guinea; class of 2 friends, 13s. each. Certificates and diplomas granted in all grades at a nominal fee.—Address Mr. Sydney Herbert, L.A.M., A. Mus. L.C.M., etc.

If, therefore, Brixton does not speedily attain renown for the number of its inhabitants certified as learned in the art of music, it will clearly not be for lack of the requisite facilities. Who would submit to the tiresome and expensive requirements of the old-fashioned degree-conferring bodies when certificates and diplomas are to be obtained in all grades and on nominal terms at the cost of a trip to Brixton? To ask such a question is to answer it. In which connection I may cite perhaps yet another advertisement culled from the columns of the self-same local paper:—

Miss Marie Arrigoni, A. Mus. L.S.M., receives and visits pupils. Pianoforte and violin. Terms 15s. per quarter, payable at and from date of commencing.—Address 230, Brixton Hill, also at the South London School of Music, Finstock, 14, Gresham Road, Brixton.

Miss Arrigoni, it will be noticed, boasts the proud distinction conveyed by the letters A.Mus.L.S.M., though whether this diploma was one of those granted "at a nominal fee" by "Professor" Herbert, it would be ungallant to inquire. What is perhaps matter for surprise is that, unlike Mr. Herbert, Miss Arrigoni does not also grant certificates and diplomas, since, it is hardly necessary to point out, that she has just as much right to distribute these distinctions as that eminent and versatile musician—or the nearest crossing-sweeper round the corner.

A preposterous example of musical puffery is that which finds shape in an egregious broad-sheet, got up in the style of a newspaper, and rejoicing in the title of the "Reuter Express," which is devoted to extolling the genius and proclaiming the transcendent merits of that precocious youth Master Florizel von Reuter. Some of the rubbish printed in these pages passes belief—in particular, a couple of articles in which the world is given to understand that the talents of the youthful musician in question are due in the main to the determination of his mother before the birth of the child that he should excel in this manner:—

For fully seven or eight months before he was born [it is supposed to be Mrs. von Reuter who speaks] I devoted myself to the study of music. I read about the lives of all the greatest composers, and concentrated my attention almost entirely on violinists, for the violin is my favourite instrument, and I wanted Florizel to play it. I attended concerts, music halls, and operas, why — I even went a thousand miles by rail on one occasion to hear an opera. At each concert I attended I followed every instrument and kept time with my foot [!]

And so on to the extent of two or three columns. I should apologise, perhaps, for inflicting such arrant bosh upon my readers, but the fact that it has been found worth while to print and distribute matter of this description is really a rather startling illustration of one aspect of the prodigy mania, though whether it does credit to "L. Rainbow, Sole Agent, 23, Margaret-street, London, W.," who proudly proclaims himself the Editor of this precious production, is a matter which I will not trouble to discuss. The question has often been asked, of what mental calibre can those be who are always ready to make such unlimited fools of themselves in the concert room whenever prodigies appear. Such a production as this "Reuter Express" helps to enlighten one on the point.

"Mr. Mark Hambourg," I read, "has been spending a considerable amount of time in endeavouring to discover new works for the pianoforte by British composers, and as the result of his labours he has been successful in securing a large number of these novelties. Mr. Mark Hambourg has been so favourably impressed that he has included a group of them in each of the programmes of his forthcoming recitals, both in England and on the Continent." When the late Mr. W. H. Smith was sent to Dublin Castle some years ago he was reported to have wired back to his colleagues, "Discovered Ireland, and find it to be an island." There is perhaps just a touch of this about Mr. Hambourg's *naïf* announcement; but no one will be disposed to cavil at such an excellent move on this score. Pieces by Arthur Hervey and Percy Pitt, to be heard at his recital next Saturday, represent, I notice, Mr. Hambourg's first selection. Mr. Hervey's is entitled, "Esquisse en forme de Valse," and Mr. Pitts' "Etude Mignon." Why, the curious may be tempted to inquire, these French titles for English pieces? But that is, of course, a very old story, and foolish as the practice seems on the face of it, there is, I am afraid, only too much justification in many instances for its adoption. It is unfortunately a fact that works published under foreign titles sell better in England than those suggesting a frankly British origin, and a good deal of amusing evidence might be given under this head. Just as many an honest British heart beats beneath the uniform of a "Hungarian" band (Red, White, or Blue, as the case may be), so the number of drawing-room pieces is not small, whose "foreign" composers hail from no further afield than Kensington or Hampstead. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true, but the fact remains, and if British composers writing, not for posterity, but to pay their way, are forced to recognise it, the circumstance can hardly be matter for surprise.

Something like 160 bands, totalling over 4,000 instrumentalists, competed at the recent Brass Band Festival at the Crystal Palace for prizes valued at over £1,750. This is really a fact worth pondering over. The superior person is apt to scoff at the brass band and brass band festivals, but this is really to ignore the significance of what is in truth a very extraordinary sign of the times. These splendidly-trained bands, composed of miners, factory operatives, and the like, and the prodigious amount of interest with which their performances are followed, certainly offer a striking commentary upon the allegation that the masses are unmusical. The only regret is that our leading composers have hitherto held so studiously aloof from a movement deserving every possible encouragement. Most of the works played by these bands are in the nature of "selections" and "arrangements." "Gems from Mendelssohn" was, for example, the test piece at the recent festival. Such pieces are well enough in their way, no doubt, but original compositions would manifestly be much better, and if some of our young composers who waste their time in writing symphonic poems for full orchestra which never get a hearing would turn their attention to the opportunities afforded by these splendid organisations of the North, there would be gain on both sides.

Further particulars are now available concerning the season of Italian opera at Covent Garden which is to begin next Monday. Credit where credit is due. It was Mr. Henry Russell and his Neapolitan syndicate who originated this enterprise, and not Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth, who are merely letting the theatre to the former. To them accordingly the glory—and, as it may be hoped, the profits. For the rest, I notice that "Aida," "Barbiere di Seviglia," "L'Amico Fritz," and "Orfeo" are among the operas which may be heard in addition to those which have been previously referred to. As regards the singers, Caruso, Anselmi, Dani, Vignas, and

Miss Alice Nielson are among those engaged who have been with us before, but most will be newcomers. Several of the latter, however, enjoy favourable Continental reputations, and altogether there seems every reason to anticipate some very interesting performances.

Concerts in plenty continue to be arranged for the forthcoming season, and those who anticipated any falling off in this regard must have long since changed their views. At the Bechstein Hall twenty concerts of the Curtius Concert Club will be given. Well-known vocal and instrumental soloists will appear, while the Barns-Philips and other chamber-music organisations will also be heard. As these concerts are to be held on Saturday afternoons, they will, to some extent, take the place of the "Pops," now apparently to be reckoned as things of the past. The price of the tickets, if a subscription be taken for the whole season, works out at the reasonable rate of 3s. or 2s. 6d. a concert. Mme. Blanche Marchesi, Miss Marie Brema, Signor Busoni, and Mr. Lamond are among the artists to be heard before Christmas. "The Dream of Gerontius," "The Apostles," and Dr. Walford Davies's setting of "Everyman" are among the works promised by the London Choral Society during the forthcoming season. The customary concerts of the Mozart Society, of which Herr J. H. Bonawitz is the leading spirit, are announced to be held as usual at the Portman Rooms, beginning with an historical pianoforte recital by Herr Bonawitz on October 15, showing the development of dance music from the sixteenth century to the present day.

Some capital programmes are announced in connection with the concerts of the Glasgow Choral and Orchestral Union, which, with its guarantee fund of nearly £4,000, General Committee including Dukes and Earls and others of high degree, and so forth, is evidently a highly flourishing organisation. "The Apostles" and "The Dream of Gerontius" are among the choral works to be given, I notice, while the programmes of the orchestral concerts, comprising works by Brahms, César Frank, Goldmark, Saint-Saëns, Goetz, Borodine, and other modern masters, besides those of an earlier period, are at once high class and up to date. Dr. Cowen will again be the conductor save as to three concerts which will be conducted by M. Colonne, Herr Steinbach, and Mr. Henschel, who was the conductor of the Scottish orchestra, it may be remembered, from 1893 to 1895.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—In his preface to "The Truth about Morocco" (1) Mr. Cunninghame Graham contrasts books on strange lands written by those who know their subjects well with those written by the presumptuous but picturesque globe-trotter, and by flinging the weight of Mr. Aflalo's work into the scale, he makes the pretentious traveller's sketch-book lightly kick the beam. But there is often another contrast which Mr. Cunninghame Graham leaves out of account—that between the brightness of the light book and the dulness of the weighty book. Much of this heaviness in the case of Mr. Aflalo's book is due, no doubt, to the weight of the facts he adduces, but much also is due to the unskilled treatment and arrangement of these facts. Nevertheless, the facts are there in overpowering profusion to prove two things: first, the varied and inexhaustible riches of Morocco, and, secondly, the folly of England in making these riches over to France without adequate return. As regards this uncalculating generosity of England, may I say that it seems to me of the kind thus aptly defined by Mr. Cunninghame Graham?

> Some wags have said renunciation is the act of giving up that which a man has no desire to do. If that is so, then generosity may be defined as giving up to some one that which the giver has no title to bestow—and so of France, of England, and the Moors. England has given up to France that which was never hers to give, and France has gratefully received it as a "fence" receives the swag from the swellmobsman's hand, when all the police are down the areas or drunk.

However, from the point of view of "Jonathan Wild the Great"—*i.e.*, from the point of view of international morality—there seems little doubt that, as Mr. Aflalo puts it, "there is not in all the archives of the Foreign Office a more painful evidence of incompetence than this Anglo-French agreement in so far as it relates to Morocco." Indeed, Mr. Aflalo presses with indomitable hopefulness for the reopening of the whole question, and the revision of the ill-advised treaty. And here I cannot resist quoting again from the ever-delightful Mr. Cunninghame Graham, who "wears his wisdom lightly, like the fruit which in our winter woodlands seems a flowers":—

> Surely the very word revision seems to imply a doubt as to the infallibility of statesmen, a thing far worse than witchcraft, and which dubs the man who uses it as a mere Little Englander, a doubter of the law of five per cent., which fell from heaven; a giber at Park Lane and all its coruscations of the clearest brilliants, sweated out from the mud of Kimberley and set in purest gold fresh from Johannesburg.

I have just been reading an interesting and well-illustrated history of the Devil in art, folk-lore, etc., Mr. Charles Wall's "Devils" (2), and have found in it a trial that took place only yesterday in Russia, which should give those people pause who think the political enfranchisement of that country imminent. A father charged his son with the theft of a cow and the sale of the animal for the purchase of a devil who would work for him day and night without rest and without pay. The salesman of the devil went into his yard to bring the fiend in, when, as the man explained at his trial, "judging by the infernal noise that went on outside, I was afraid he had been carried off like many a rash man before him." After a great amount of shouting and swearing, the vendor came back to say he had been talking to a number of devils, but not one of them would consent to serve a mortal for a sum so paltry. At double the price, however, a serviceable devil was bought, who engaged to begin work in a fortnight. Meanwhile the father of the purchaser taxed his son with the theft of the cow; but on hearing how profitably the money was invested, he not only forgave his son, but entrusted him with two more cows to sell and buy with the proceeds two lusty devils for the service of the farmer himself. As neither the original devil nor the two subsequent investments turned up when due, the father prosecuted the son for "being concerned in the illegal sale of devils." The story reminds you of "Little Klaus and Big Klaus." In England, as perhaps you might expect, devils were much cheaper when they were in the market. Here is a faithful transcript and translation of a case recorded in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Hatfield, near the Isle of Axholme, Yorkshire, in the year 1329:—

> Robert de Roderham appeared against John de Ithon for that he had not kept the agreement made between them, and therefore, complains that on a certain day and year, at Thorne, there was an agreement between the aforesaid Robert and John, whereby the said John sold to the said Robert the devil, bound in a certain bond, for threepence farthing; and thereupon the said Robert delivered to the said John one farthing as earnest money, by which the property of the said devil rested in the person of the said Robert to have livery of the said devil on the

(1) "The Truth about Morocco." By M. Aflalo. With a Preface by R. B. Cunninghame Graham. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

(2) "Devils." By J. Charles Wall. With fifty illustrations. (London: Methuen & Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

(3) "Japan by the Japanese." A Survey by its Highest Authorities. Edited by Alfred Stead. (London: William Heinemann. 20s. net.)

(4) "Maria Edgeworth." By the Hon. Emily Lawless. English Men of Letters. (London: Macmillan & Co. 2s. net.)

(5) "Hobbes." By Sir Leslie Stephen. English Men of Letters. (London: Macmillan & Co. 2s. net.)

(6) "The Extraordinary Confessions of Diana Please." By Bernard Capes. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(7) "Lindley Kays." By Barry Pain. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(8) "Tommy & Co." By Jerome K. Jerome. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(9) "The Bright Face of Danger." By Robert Neilson Stephens. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

(10) "A Bachelor in Arcady." By Halliwell Sutcliffe. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

fourth day next following, at which day the said Robert came to the afore-mentioned John and asked livery of the said devil according to the agreement between them made. But the said John refused to deliver the said devil, nor has he yet done it, to the grievous damage of the said Robert to the amount of sixty shillings; and he has therefore brought this suit. The said John came, and did not deny the said agreement; and because it appeared to the court that such a suit ought not to subsist among Christians, the aforesaid parties are therefore adjourned to the infernal regions, there to hear their judgment; and both parties were amerced by William de Scargell, Seneschal.

A great journalist said once in my hearing that, on the eve of a journalistic visit to Ireland, he had consulted the Chief Secretary of that country, who summed up his own Irish experience thus: "When I was a month in that country I thought that I knew all about everything; after a year's experience of it, I knew that I knew nothing about anything." That, I fancy, is still more applicable to Japan, of which the profoundest knowledge attainable by an European is the knowledge of his profound ignorance. This is the conclusion Mr. Alfred Stead seems to suggest in his interesting and opportune "Japan by the Japanese" (3). "It is most difficult for any foreigner to speak authoritatively of Japan. I may have some little knowledge and some little understanding of the Japanese people, but I certainly could not write authoritatively on Japan. I may have succeeded in acquiring a certain amount of Japanese atmosphere, and a deep sympathy may enable me to see many things and understand many things Japanese which others do not; but for that very reason I know better than anyone else how absurd it would be for me or any European to write such a book on Japan as this." In a word, Mr. Alfred Stead's knowledge of Japan is the Socratic wisdom of knowing his own ignorance:—

> In parts superior what advantage lies?
> Tell (for you can) what is it to be wise?
> 'Tis but to know how little can be known;
> To see all others' faults, and feel your own.

For Mr. Stead proceeds then to censure such preposterous estimates of the Japanese as Pierre Loti's "Madame Chrysanthème" and a hundred other superficial and impertinent impressions of condescending globe-trotters, and to contrast with them this "record of a country's progress written by the men who are now guiding her destinies." In reading, however, these interesting and instructive papers by supreme Japanese experts upon Japan, you must keep continually in mind two considerations: First, that these experts are under the corresponding disadvantage to that of the globe-trotter—the disadvantage of ignorance of the European point of view. "When I went to Holland," says Goldsmith, "to teach the Dutch English, I completely forgot that, in order to teach them English, I ought myself to know Dutch." But, secondly, these papers are, for the most part, rather cases stated by advocates than judicial pronouncements. Their writers generally and naturally describe the institutions of Japan as they wish them to appear to Europeans rather than as they really are. If you keep continually in mind these two considerations, you will find "Japan by the Japanese" incomparably the most instructive work on that fascinating people that has yet appeared in English in a popular form. I should like, by the way, to quote for you the Japanese, which is probably the universal eastern, view of our Christianity:—

> Christianity, by which I do not mean what Jesus of Nazareth taught, but a mongrel moral system, a concoction of a little obsolete Judaism, of Egyptian asceticism, of Greek sublimity, of Roman arrogance, of Teutonic superstitions, and, in fact, of anything and everything that tends to make sublunary existence easy by sanctioning the wholesale slaughter of weaker races.

I must call your attention to the latest, and I might almost say the best, additions yet made to Messrs. Macmillan's admirable "English Men of Letters" series, Miss Lawless's "Maria Edgeworth" (4) and Sir Leslie Stephen's "Hobbes" (5). I wish I had space to quote to you from the new letters of Maria Edgeworth, which Miss Lawless has been so fortunate as to procure from Mrs. Arthur Butler. They are delightful, and suggest to you how light and bright her stories would have been had her didactic father not guided her hand as she wrote. His Procrustean training of her pen seems symbolised by the torture to which her childhood was subjected to increase her height.

> She was now fourteen years of age, and her shortness was observed with no litle disapproval by her family circle. To obviate this defect, not only were the ordinary calisthenic exercises of back-boards, iron collars, and dumb-bells resorted to, but also one which Miss Edgeworth herself characterises as "unusual," that namely of "being swung by the neck to draw out the muscles, and so increase the growth."

This, I think, must have been suggested by the family adviser, Thomas Day, the author of "Sandford and Merton," who, you will remember, sat in the stocks for eight hours a day to take the knock out of his knock-knees in order to win a lady who objected to this personal defect. For the wretched Maria had not only her father to "back-board" her, but also this supreme prig, Thomas Day. In her memoir of her step-daughter Mrs. Edgeworth assures you that "the icy strength of Mr. Day's system came at the right moment for annealing Maria's principles." "Hobbes" was written by Sir Leslie Stephen upon a painful death-bed, and yet it is as clear, fresh, vigorous, and interesting as anything this manliest of writers has left to us. Hobbes's central idea was "that there was but one real thing in the world, the basis of all we falsely take to be things, and which are mere phantasms of the brain. The one reality is motion, and to study the modes of motion, therefore, is the necessary condition of all researches in science." Men were mere automata, and self-love was the mainspring of all our acts. "Pity," he observes, with superlative calmness, "is imagination or fiction of future calamity to ourselves." Here, however, is one of Aubrey's anecdotes of the philosopher, which suggests qualification of this cynicism:—

> He was very charitable to those who were true objects of his bounty. He gave sixpence one day to a poor beggar in the Strand. Whereupon a divine asked him, "Would you have done this, if it had not been Christ's command?" "Yea," said he. "Why?" quoth the other. "Because," saith he, "I was in pain to consider the miserable condition of the old man, and now my alms, giving him some relief, doth also ease me."

Talking of cynicism, can you imagine a female "Barry Lyndon," who justifies to herself and to you the most atrocious immoralities and treacheries, and yet interests and even fascinates you from the first page to the last? Then you will have an adequate idea of the strength of Mr. Bernard Capes's "Diana Please" (6). Indeed, Diana is, as you would expect, since "lilies that fester smell far worse than weeds," a more remorseless villain even than the Irish adventurer. But the story grips you with a kind of brute force till you cannot skip even the horrors of the mad-house, into which Diana betrays her dearest friend and benefactor. By the way, I think the introduction of the magic "duck-stone," which, enabling Diana to float in air, saved her in this mad-house from suicide, seems a gratuitous strain upon your credulity. Mr. Barry Pain's "Lindley Kays" (7) grips you strongly at first, but relaxes its hold more and more as its hero becomes more and more prosperous. The experiences of his boyhood are excellently described, and so, indeed, are all the characters with whom he has then to do, especially his narrow and tyrannous father. But the story somehow seems to go to pieces after the hero gets to Cambridge, where the undergraduate talk is far more flippant than humorous, and even the advent of the heroine hardly pulls it together again. She marries a drunken baronet in the vain hope of reforming him, and, after his long-foreseen death, makes the hero happy. On the whole, "Lindley Kays" gives you the impression that Mr. Barry Pain got more and more tired of his characters as the story progressed. As you read and laugh over Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's somewhat farcical stories in "Tommy and Co." (8) you cannot help wishing that he had interwoven them together into a coherent novel with "Miss Ramsbotham" as its central figure. There is more unadulterated and unexaggerated human nature in this tale of a clever and

genial old maid's infatuation with a stupid and selfish young cad, and of her magnanimity towards him and her rival, which degenerated into a grotesque revenge, than in all the other stories together. But the other stories are all interesting, while most of the other personages—especially, perhaps, "Tommy" herself, who on her first appearance couldn't tell whether she was a boy or girl—are either humorous themselves or the occasion of humour. Certainly the humour is at times, as in "Joey Loveredge," forced into incredible farce; but the Bohemians masquerading as peers to win the friendship of the snobbish Mrs. Loveredge amuse if they do not convince you. I fear I am not of the age to appreciate the incredible heroisms of the hero of "The Bright Face of Danger" (9), nor to forgive, for the sake of her loveliness and wretchedness, the shilly-shally silliness of its heroine. The hero, having slain in a duel the heroine's original champion, volunteers to take his place, and thus lets himself in for dangers and difficulties, fights, flights, alarums, and excursions of the thrilling kind dear to the heart of youth. Indeed, a youth to whom I lent the book could hardly tear himself away from it even for his meals. On the other hand, "A Bachelor in Arcady" (10), which had no charms for this gentleman, seemed to me delightful in its pictures of country sights and sounds, birds and beasts, and men and women, too, though I was hardly as much interested in one or two of the latter as the author intended his readers to be. Tom Lad, however, is perfect, and so also is the wayward and winsome heroine. Altogether Mr. Halliwell Sutcliffe's last story seems to me his best.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Who is it who arranges how our heads shall be dressed? Is it really the hairdressers who meet at the Portman Rooms and experiment upon living models? Or do they merely follow the bidding of some mysterious tribunal which orders our coiffures? I am asking a question that I know you cannot answer. Nobody can; so do not feel guiltily ignorant. Such a state of mind is far from pleasant.

I have just been reading an account of the hairdressers' conference. It seems that it resulted in favour of a low coiffure and of a "casque" style. This mysterious kind of coiffure is explained as being "a roll in the hair from the nape of the neck to meet the dressing on the crown." The description of the competition leaves no doubt that the tongs are still to be used as much as ever, and the "torpedo" roll on the forehead is to remain among us.

It is a mistake to have the hair dressed both high and low. We noticed a girl at the theatre the other evening whose hair began at her eyebrows and ended in a catogan some four inches below the nape of her neck. Such a coiffure as this, all thick and all solid, would need a giantess to carry it off.

It appears that waviness of the hair is this season to be suggested rather than asserted. This is a relief, for a look of over-elaboration is ruinous to a plain face and injurious to a pretty one. But a soft crinkliness is always to be encouraged. The prize coiffure had orange tulle arranged from a bow in front to the nape of the neck. Avoid orange this winter, Amy. It is being fearfully overdone. A good third of the hats in every window are trimmed with this colour, and both costumes and evening gowns are treated with the same splendid tint. It is quite a rage. Try black tulle in your pretty fair hair, or even chiffon; but remember that the transparency of it—whether tulle or chiffon—must be kept well in evidence, otherwise the effect will be lost.

Some of the enamelled combs are so pretty that it seems a pity that the fashion should be overdone. On a carefully coiffé head I saw lately there was a large blue and metal-grey enamelled comb at the back. At either side, pushing out the puffed hair, was a diamond comb, and across the top of the head was a band of green leaves held by a pearl butterfly. On another head were a wreath of pink roses, a wide diamond and gold cob, and a diamond and amber slide. Good taste must have gone to join truth down that well.

You ask me what sort of veil is fashionable now. Not the floppy drapery ones that so few women can manage to wear without looking eccentric. Droops of lace at the sides and tails of lace down the back have practically disappeared from the society called polite. One day last week, it is true, I saw in Bond-street a beautiful and high-bred face framed in a quantity of falling lace, but this was quite exceptional. The smart veil of the moment is very fine, spotted with small dots and arranged to completely cover the face without being in folds under the chin or round the neck. And it is so arranged as to show the pretty hair at the back without even so much of covering as a fold of the veil would afford.

Harriet came in to see us the day after her brother's wedding. She is not devotedly attached to her new sister-in-law, I think, being far too proud of George to believe that any woman is worthy of him. When we asked her how the bride behaved she said: "Oh, beautifully. Most correct. Came in eyes down; went out eyes up. Came in pale; went out flushed. Said 'obey' distinctly. Knew where to find the bridesmaid who took the bouquet. Had her glove off in time. Looked at no one on her way up the aisle; smiled at everybody on the way down. *Most* correct!" By the *staccato* style of this we gathered that Harriet thought the bride's orthodox behaviour savoured too much of diligent rehearsal. There are so many manners and so few occasions for being married that I suppose a bride may be pardoned for selecting with some care the expression she likes best for the unique occasion. It is easy to observe at other people's weddings the things one should not do. I saw one bride whose small pages dragged at her train so like drivers holding in a "sperrity" horse that she had a backward curve in her figure all the way up the aisle, strongly suggestive of suppressed cake-walk that might break out at any moment. Another craned her neck forward in a wild anxiety to see if the bridegroom were there—a point which convention demanded that she should at least appear to take as a matter of course, even if she felt some inward uncertainty. A third fixed her eyes (nice eyes, of course) on the east window, and glided slowly up the aisle with a rapt expression like Mercia's in "The Sign of the Cross." She came down after the ceremony with exactly the same look (on the west window this time), and at the same funereal pace, to the obvious perplexity of her bridegroom, a nice young soldier, who wanted to beam with joy, but evidently felt as though he had married a cathedral and dare not. Kate, whom you used to call "Kate, Esq.," on account of her mannish ways—she bellowed her responses in such a stentorian tone that at her first "I will" the poor old clergyman started and turned quite pink with fright. I suppose he was not used to hearing such hearty "I wills" from the white-satin portion of the ceremony. On the other hand, Molly was so shy that the clergyman had to bend right down to hear her at all, and there they stood whispering into each other's ears, while the bridegroom tried to look as though he were concerned in the ceremony, and failed. Joyce behaved quite perfectly. When I asked her how she did it, she said she thought of her mother all the way up the aisle, and of John all the way down, when she was radiant.

There are many kinds of brides, but one of the most curious I ever heard of is the young woman who was in the papers the other day. When the wedding party

Redfern's Furs are absolutely a speciality. Skins are bought in the raw state, and prices will compare favourably with any house in the world. Conduit-street and Bond-street.

was all assembled in church, the bride could not be found, and a search party discovered her at a hairdresser's having herself coiffée for the great occasion. The marriage had to be postponed till the afternoon.

Miss Elsie Fogerty is going to lecture on "Voice Makers and Voice Breakers" on Saturday afternoon at the Albert Hall. There should be plenty to say on the subject, and no lack of instances of voices having been ruined by so-called training. I know of more than one girl who came to London full of hope and with a fine natural voice that was utterly ruined in a very short time by the person who took charge of it. One of these girls had no ear whatever. A distinguished professor told her that a course of training would construct for her an artificial ear. The training cost her a couple of hundreds, and nearly ruined her health. In fact, she has never had a strong throat since, and that is some years ago. The artificial ear never arrived!

There is so much irresponsibility about this voice-training that the more attention is directed to the matter the better. Miss Fogerty is to make a suggestion with regard to the possibility of developing a national system of voice and speech training, and the establishment of some standard or test for those who profess to give lessons. In view of the development of stage training the whole matter has a special interest just now. We are going to hear the lecture.

London is very nice in this golden October weather. The shops are interesting, with all the autumn-winter fashions displayed, and on fine afternoons one has to go out in the roadway to get past the crowd of gazers at hats and blouses. Our friends are coming back by slow degrees, all looking their best and handsomest after the holidays, and they all have something interesting to tell us. It was nice to turn into the Empress Club yesterday and find it humming, the great dining-room full of people lunching. We had Jack with us. He had never been there before, and declared that no man's club in London could compare with our Empress. We are proposing his bride as a member, and he was agreeably surprised at the amount of entrance and subscription fees. Eva wants to use it a good deal when up for the day from Aldershot. Her widowed sister almost lives there, and would do so entirely if she could permanently have a bedroom, but they are too much in request to be spared.

What we think so lovable about the Empress Club is the becoming way in which the lights are arranged at the dinner tables. Everybody looks nice, and the consciousness makes us all good-tempered. Do men have pink-shaded lights and flowers on the dinner tables at their clubs? Do you happen to know? I should not fancy that they do.

The Sunday after-dinner concerts have begun at Prince's Restaurant, and the Thursday concert-dinners at the Cecil began last week, so the autumnal season has made a brilliant start. Do you not wish you were, like us, in the midst of it all?

Apropos to good eating and nice drinking, here is the recipe (given in the *Westminster Gazette*) of the Kaiser's favourite preparation when he goes out hunting:—

White beer, sugar, citron peel, ginger, spices, the yolk of at least a dozen eggs, Rhine wine, Madeira, old Santa Cruz rum. All this, after being thoroughly stirred, is placed on the fire and slowly heated, several large pats of butter being added to the concoction while it is warm.

It would be so interesting to know whether this is a dish or a drink.

The Begonias came to see us on Sunday, and told us all about the brother who has married a Neapolitan flower-girl. She is perfectly lovely, but equally impossible, with a passionate temper and manners rich in surprises. The girls called on her to oblige their brother, and conversation was a little difficult, the new member of the family knowing about six words of English and the girls' Italian being strictly limited in quantity and doubtful of quality. Something that Louise said, with the most amiable intentions, must have carried a different meaning from that intended, for the bride's eyes flashed, her colour rose, and she actually snapped her fingers in poor Louise's face, pouring forth a flood of language that sounded far from affectionate. Walter tried to explain, but she turned on him, and, only that he caught her hand, would have struck him.

The girls were half-laughing, half-crying, when they told us this. Ada says she never saw anyone so handsome as the bride was in her rage, but she thinks that if Walter ever gives an admiring look to any other woman his handsome wife will certainly do something melodramatic with cutlery in it, or perhaps a bare bodkin.

Here is a nice little problem for the family. I wonder what they will all do. Walter is tremendously in love at present, but when the glamour fades and he no longer sees the beautiful face, but merely the illiterate, ill-mannered vixen he has married, how will he feel? However, she may have some fine qualities by which she may climb to somewhere near his level. At present she is nothing more than an extremely naughty child.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE.—The fool who "putteth to" his strength has everything as he wishes in these times; the wise man who considereth the way is just simply thrust aside and left to his considerations. No one has time to think or to pause—all strength is put into hurry. Hurry for the sake of hurry. The way matters nothing, but only the pace at which it is rushed. The things to be done are of small concern compared to the pace at which they are done. Whether or not "'twere well 'twere done," decidedly "'twere well 'twere done quickly." The motorist gives this feeling its fullest expression, does he not? The rich idler, that is, who has no particular reason for being in any one place more than any other, and who is doing little good to himself or to any one else wherever he may be. The rushing motorist, whose only thought is pace is one of the most extraordinary examples of what the sane part of the world will suffer from the mad one. It is difficult to suffer such fools gladly. They seem to use a very defective reasoning in defending their life-endangering speed on public roads—for instance, that railway trains frightened every one at first by their speed. Railway trains would still be objects of terror if not on their own railways but on the public roads. Surely any mode of progression on a public road at even twenty miles an hour is dangerous, in what may be called the mixed kind of use that is made of roads. Imagine if all the horses were galloping and every one on the footways racing at full speed, what a mad world we should have! Had motors their own special tracks it would be all right—at least for non-motorers. Are you given to motoring? In moderation its attractions are great; but for those hampered with the disabilities of an old-fashioned bringing-up entailing consideration for others, the pace which the average chauffeur thinks necessary for "style" is very destructive to pleasure. The hairbreadth 'scapes, the might-have-beens of disaster all along the road are very nerve-trying. And it is such a joke in country village neighbourhoods to slay hens or even dogs. Well for my part I do not like to "wade through slaughter," even of hens or dogs to my amusements.

Lord and Lady Dudley have at last taken their long-deferred holiday and left Ireland for the bracing air of North Berwick, where Lord Dudley also finds recreation in golf. They went from Crom Castle, without returning to Dublin by one of the northern sea routes to Scotland. Lord Dudley's brother, Mr. G. Ward, who is married to Lord Erne's daughter, has taken a residence in Fermanagh, in the Lough Erne country. He has evidently been favourably impressed with his wife's country-people. Perhaps it will become a fashion with those of other countries to take the residences of those of the landlord class who mean to sever their connection altogether with Ireland. Many fine places will possibly be for sale, and Ireland may have a "villaggiatura" future yet. Whilst properties are being sold throughout the country, much villa building is going on in the neighbourhood of Dublin. Our capital is, you know, remarkable for its picturesque environs, especially to the north and south. Within four or five miles of Dublin one can live in the enjoy-

"LA SAMOTHRACE."—Every corset of the LONDON CORSET CO., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

ment of the most perfect sea or mountain air, or of both combined. There is quite a craze for building villas, and certainly it is a fascinating one. Sir Horace Plunkett is now building a house at Foxrock, within reach of the Dublin mountain air, and of moderate renown for its golf links. Sir H. Plunkett has long been a motorist, and Foxrock is within a short (legal) distance of Dublin. His nephew, Lord Dunsany, with Lady Dunsany, have come to Ireland, where Lady Dunsany is being introduced to her Irish home in Meath. Her sister is married to Lord Longford, who lives in the adjoining county of Westmeath; no doubt Lady Dunsany has already made acquaintance with her new country.

Lady Grenfell's mother, Lady M. Majendie, has been staying with her at the Royal Hospital. The new baby at the Royal Hospital was quite an interesting arrival there, where history does not record, so far as one knows, a birth in the family of a Commander of the Forces for many long years, or perhaps, ever. The Viceregal baby, Lady Alexandra Patricia Ward, was not the first whose birth at the Viceregal Lodge is on record. Over fifty years had elapsed, however, since a birth had taken place at the Viceregal Lodge, where Lord Clarendon's brother, the late Colonel George Villiers, was born during their father's Viceroyalty. He, too, was named after St. Patrick to commemorate his birth in Ireland.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Are you in the mood for recipes? Try this galantine of pheasant and tell me how you like it. The bird should not be hung more than twenty-four hours, and must be in good condition:—

Split a nice pheasant open down the back and take out all the bones, cutting off the legs and wings, draw the cut part inside, season it with salt and pepper, and spread the inside with a coating of forcemeat, on which lay slices of truffle and of red tongue; rub two hard-boiled yolks of eggs on the forcemeat and sprinkle it with chopped pistachios. Put the remainder of the farce on the garnish, then draw the bird together and sew it up its length with needle and thread. Wring a napkin first out of hot, then cold, water, spread it with butter, sew the galantine in it, secure the ends and braise it with stock herbs, and vegetables for two hours and a half, allow it to cool in the liquor, then remove it from the cloth, draw out the cotton, absorb the moisture in a cloth, and brush it over with glaze. Dish it garnished with aspic jelly.

To make the farce:—Fry the livers of three or four fowls, with the liver of the pheasant, a sliced shalot, and 2 oz. of butter, pound them and pass them through a hair sieve. Pound 10oz. of scraped white veal, add 6oz. of scraped fat bacon, 4oz. of butter, pepper and salt to taste, and the passed livers, work in two eggs, and pound again until it is thoroughly amalgamated, when it will be ready for use.

This recipe for pheasant à la Montmorency should prove a success:—

Having plucked and drawn a couple of pheasants, remove the breast-bone from each. Stuff the birds with the undermentioned farce, truss them into shape, lard the breasts with strips of bacon, and braise them with stock and vegetables. When they are done, draw off the liquor, remove the grease, and make it into sauce in this way:—Fry a minced onion, a slice of minced lean bacon, a stem or two of celery, and a teaspoonful of herbs, with an ounce of butter in a stewpan till they brown, mix in two spoonfuls of flour and the strained stock, stir till it boils, simmer it fifteen minutes, then squeeze it through the tammy. Return the sauce to the stewpan to warm, season it with a dash of cayenne, a tablespoonful of blanched parsley, and salt and pepper to taste. Glaze the pheasants and serve them with the sauce poured round them.

To make the farce:—Pound the breast of an old hen or half a pound of white veal, add 4oz. of scraped, fat bacon, a cold braised sweetbread, 4oz. of butter, and the yolks of four eggs; season the farce with salt and pepper and rub it through a wire sieve. Work the farce with a wooden spoon in a basin, introducing two spoonfuls each of chopped truffle and chopped parsley.

Galantine d'agneau is an excellent luncheon dish:—

Procure a nice breast of lamb, cut within three inches of the cutlet part, with a small knife take out all the bones, season the inside and spread it with veal quenelle, sprinkle it with passed hard-boiled yolk of egg, chopped truffle and parsley, spread the garnish with another layer of forcemeat, roll the lamb tightly and bind it with tape. Sew the galantine in a cloth, previously wrung out of hot, then cold, water, and spread with butter. Sew the cloth, secure the ends, and braise it in good stock for two hours. Leave it to cool in the liquor. Then, having absorbed the moisture in a cloth, brush it over with glaze and dish it garnished with aspic jelly.

To make the forcemeat:—Pound 8 oz. of scraped white veal, add 4 oz. of scraped fat bacon, 4 oz. of butter, two whole eggs and two yolks, and season all with salt and pepper.

Riz à la Marquise is a dainty luncheon sweet:—

Shower 3 oz. of Carolina rice into a pint and a half of boiling milk and simmer it with a bay leaf until soft. Then remove the bay leaf, strain the rice, and make the milk into custard with four yolks of eggs and 2 oz. of sugar, adding half an ounce of gelatine and the boiled rice. Mix in a gill and a half of whipped cream, and divide it into two portions. Colour one portion pink and leave the other white. Decorate a plain mould with glacé cherries, and set it first with white, then with the pink cream. When it is turned out, serve the following sauce round it:—Boil 6 oz. of loaf sugar with a gill of water until it is a thin syrup, whisk it on the beaten yolks of two eggs, and continue whisking it, at intervals, until it is cold. Then mix in two tablespoonfuls of whipped cream and a little maraschino to flavour.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King left Balmoral just in time to escape winter, for there was a sudden and sharp change in the weather on Deeside last week. The hills are nearly all covered with snow to their bases, and there has been a general stampede south of the occupants of shooting lodges, and the tenants of the various salmon fishings in the Dee.

His Majesty, who returned to town on Monday from Sandringham, will hold a Council during his present stay at Buckingham Palace, when Parliament is to be again prorogued.

The King has decided to carry out further and extensive improvements at Balmoral Castle, and Sir Rowland Anderson, the architect who is to be employed, had an audience of his Majesty on the 7th, when the plans for the proposed work were discussed. His Majesty intends also to build a sanatorium for the benefit of the tenants and employees on the Royal estate, and a variety of other alterations and improvements are to be carried out. It is probable that in future years the autumn residence of the Court at Balmoral will be of considerably longer duration. This season the King has spent four weeks in Scotland, three of which were passed at Balmoral.

During the King's residence at Balmoral ninety-two stags were killed in the Royal deer-forests of Ballochbuie, Whitemonth, Abergeldie, and Balmoral, and some fine heads were secured. It is probable that some stags from the Royal herd in Windsor Great Park will be turned out into the Royal forests on Deeside, in order to improve the breed of red-deer. The Royal shooting parties at Balmoral are now very comfortably arranged, as there is a commodious luncheon house in each forest. At Ballochbuie the King lunches at the Danzig Shiel, a cottage near the Dee, which was built by Queen Victoria, and it is surrounded by pines and firs, and is within a short distance of the beautiful Falls of Garb-alt. In Abergeldie Forest there is a similar cottage known as the Glen Gelder Shiel. For Balmoral Forest and Birkhall Woods there is either the Glassalt Shiel on Lock Muick or the "hut" of Alt-na-guisach, near the top of Glen Muick.

The King is to pay a visit to Chatham on Friday, travelling by special train from Victoria. His Majesty's visit is to be private, and he will lunch at the Royal Engineers' mess, with Sir R. C. Hart and the officers of the corps. This will be the King's first visit to the Royal Engineers since he become Colonel-in-Chief of the corps. The King is to drive down to Woolwich to-day, where he will inspect the garrison, visit the Royal Military Academy, and lunch at the Royal Artillery mess.

The Prince of Wales, who was last week on a visit to Lord and Lady [illegible]vile at Rufford Abbey, Notts, arrived on Saturday at Sandringham, whither the Princess had proceeded from town last Wednesday. The Prince had three days' partridge driving in the extensive preserves on the Rufford estate, which are now among the best in the Midland Counties, after those on the adjoining estates of Clipstone and Welbeck, which belong to the Duke of Portland. The Prince and Princess of Wales are expected at Windsor on Monday, November 14, when they will reside for about a fortnight at Frogmore Lodge.

The Prince is to be the guest of Lord Lathom at Lathom House, his historic old seat in Lancashire, near Ormskirk, during the fourth week in November. H.R.H. will arrive at Lathom from Windsor on Monday, November 21, for a stay of three days.

The Duke of Connaught's unfortunate accident prevented him from joining the Duchess and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia at Gosford House, Haddingtonshire, where they had been

staying since Tuesday on a visit to Lord and Lady Wemyss. The house party at Gosford included Mr. Balfour, Mr. Brodrick, and Mr. and Mrs. Asquith.

The Duke of Connaught appears to have narrowly escaped a horrible and tragic death last week, and everybody rejoices at his escape, for he is universally popular, both in his own profession and among civilians of all classes. The accident has a direct bearing on the controversy that has recently raged over the alleged crimes of motorists, for it shows in a very striking way that they are sinned against, as well as sinning. The most obvious moral of it is that all vehicles on the roads in these days should be compelled to carry lights at night.

The Scottish local authorities may be forgiven for not yet having made by-laws to that effect, for the Act empowering them to do so has only been a few months in force, and, besides, it only applies to the boroughs. But a similar Act has been in force in England for several years; yet there are still many County Councils which have not acted upon it. Let them do so at once. A motorist has the same right to use the roads as any other citizen, but he can only do so by night at the risk of his life, so long as he may meet at any moment a lumbering country cart with the driver asleep, and has no chance of seeing it until his own lamps apprise him of the danger.

Prince Arthur of Connaught was last week on a visit to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon at Gordon Castle, and he had four days' salmon fishing in the Spey, and obtained excellent sport. The Prince of Wales killed nine salmon during his stay at Gordon Castle, average weight, 19 lb

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It is now settled that the King and Queen of Portugal are to leave Lisbon by special train for Cherbourg on Sunday, November 13. Their Majesties will embark at Cherbourg on board the *Victoria and Albert*, and halfway across Channel the Royal yacht is to be met by a number of warships, which will escort her into Portsmouth Harbour. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Connaught are to meet the King and Queen of Portugal at Portsmouth, and they will travel to Windsor with their Majesties, who are to be received by the King and Queen at the Sovereign's Entrance to Windsor Castle. The length of the Royal visit has not yet been settled, but it will probably extend over four or five days, one of which is to be occupied with a visit to London and a Corporation luncheon at the Guildhall. On leaving England, the King and Queen of Portugal will proceed to Paris, where they are to stay for a week before returning to Lisbon.

The Duke and Duchess of Fife are expected to arrive in Portman-square next week from Mar Lodge, where they have been residing since the beginning of August. The Duke and Duchess, who will stay in town for a short time before going to Brighton for the winter, are to be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Portugal, and they will spend Christmas at Sandringham Hall.

The announcement of a contemporary that the King and Queen of Portugal are to be the guests of their Majesties at Sandringham is incorrect, as they are to stay at Windsor Castle. The King of Portugal stayed at Sandringham during his last visit to England. The Queen of Portugal is not paying her first visit to this country, as has been absurdly stated. She is the eldest daughter of the Comte and Comtesse de Paris, and passed several years of her early life in this country. The Queen of Portugal is as clever a shot as her mother, the Comtesse de Paris, and British methods of sport are familiar to her, as she has been out on Perthshire grouse moors with her parents, and has joined in battues at Wood Norton, near Evesham, when that place belonged to the late Duc d'Aumale.

The King of Denmark's family party breaks up this week, and last Wednesday his Majesty left Bernstorff for Copenhagen. Queen Alexandra's return has been delayed by the illness of the Empress Alexander. The Empress Marie is returning to St. Petersburg, and King George has left Copenhagen for Paris, on his way to Vienna. The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Denmark are leaving Charlottenlund Castle for Schwerin, Gmunden, Vienna, and Paris, and will be away for several weeks.

Prince Charles of Denmark has left Copenhagen on a four months' cruise in the Mediterranean in a Danish man-of-war, of which he is second in command. Princess Charles, who has been residing in Denmark during the last eight months, is coming to England to spend the winter at Appleton House, on the Sandringham estate, which has been enlarged during the past autumn, and a variety of improvements have been carried out. Appleton was at one time a seat of the Pastons, but after the place was added to the Sandringham estate towards the close of the eighteenth century it became a farm. The present house was built early in the sixties. The windows command fine views of the Sandringham heath and the Royal pine woods.

Sir Gerald Strickland, of Sizergh Castle, Westmorland, who is to be the new Governor of Tasmania, is the head of a very old Roman Catholic family. The Stricklands have been settled in Westmorland since the reign of King John, and Sir Gerald is also Count Della Catena in the Island of Malta, having succeeded his maternal

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For the Truth Hotel List, see page 994.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 995.
For Amusements, see page 996.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1,001.

grand-uncle in this title, which dates from 1745. Sir Gerald, who owns property in Malta, held various Government offices in that island between 1888 and 1902, when he was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands.

Mr. C. H. Hopwood, K.C., whose death occurred last week, will be remembered for the courage and persistence with which, in the face of much hostile criticism, he gave effect to his views on the punishment of criminals. At the time of his appointment as Recorder of Liverpool, nearly twenty years ago, offences against property were habitually punished with a ferocity which public opinion would not tolerate nowadays. Mr. Hopwood firmly believed that heavy sentences for comparatively trifling offences tended to convert into hardened criminals many men who might otherwise become law-abiding citizens. The example of his more lenient methods, though greatly derided, undoubtedly did much to bring about the general abatement of the severities of justice, particularly in dealing with beginners in crime, which has since taken place. It may be that Mr. Hopwood was sometimes too tender-hearted towards incorrigible criminals; but, after all, if a judge errs at all, it is better that he should do so on the side of mercy.

The late Colonel Anstruther Thomson, of Charleton, was one of the most popular and most highly respected "lairds" in Scotland, and he was well known throughout Great Britain as having been a brilliantly successful M.F.H. Colonel Anstruther Thomson's father, who assumed the name of Thomson on succeeding to the Charleton estates, was Colonel of the Fife Yeomanry and Master of the Fife Foxhounds, and he married the only daughter of the celebrated William Adam, of Blairadam, the intimate friend of George the Fourth, Sir Walter Scott, Charles Lane-Fox, Henry Brougham, and Earl Grey. Colonel Anstruther Thomson served in early life in the 9th Lancers for five years, and in the 13th Light Dragoons for six years. He was successively Master of the Atherstone, Bicester, Pytchley, and Fife Foxhounds between 1847 and 1888. The great Waterloo run, which is still well remembered in Northamptonshire, took place in January, 1866, during his Mastership of the Pytchley. This run lasted five hours and a half, and only the Master saw the finish.

Mr. Heywood Johnstone, whose unexpected death is widely regretted, belonged to the old Scotch family of Johnstone of Alva. He inherited the Bignor Park estates from his uncle, Mr. Heywood Hawkins, and he had recently come into a large property in Cornwall by the death of Mr. Henry Hawkins. Mr. Heywood Johnstone had sat for the Horsham Division of Sussex since 1893. He was a recognised authority on agricultural affairs and in all details of local government administration, of which subjects he had much practical and technical knowledge. He did a great deal of good work on Select Committees. Mr. Heywood Johnstone had been for fifteen years a very prominent and most valuable member of the West Sussex County Council, and he was very popular among his constituents.

Lord and Lady Herries have returned to Everingham Park, their seat in the East Riding of Yorkshire, after a residence of nearly three months at Kinharvie, their charming place near Dumfries, where they have entertained a series of small house parties. Lord and Lady Herries will spend the hunting season at Everingham, and next month they are to pay a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk at Arundel Castle.

The Duke and Duchess of Westminster have returned to Eaton Hall, Cheshire, for the hunting season, after spending two months at Reay Forest, Sutherland. The Duke of Westminster succeeded his grandfather in the tenancy of over 100,000 acres of shootings on the Duke of Sutherland's Reay estate in the North-west of Sutherland.

Mr. Balfour is to arrive in town next Monday from Whittingehame House, Haddingtonshire, but will return to Scotland on Saturday, the 29th.

Sir Henry and Lady Campbell-Bannerman, who have been abroad since the beginning of August, are expected to arrive this week at Belmont Castle, their place in Perthshire, and will stay there for some time to come. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has this season rented the Myreside shootings, in the neighbourhood of Belmont Castle, from Sir Alexander Henderson.

Lord Lansdowne has joined Lady Lansdowne at Bowood Park, Wiltshire, after having spent a week in Scotland. Lord Lansdowne fished a beat of Lord Ancaster's Stobhall water in the Tay during his stay in the North, and he killed several salmon and grilse.

Lord and Lady Cadogan, who spent last week at Newmarket, have returned to Culford Hall, their place near Bury St. Edmunds, where they are now entertaining a small shooting party. Lord and Lady Cadogan will be again at Newmarket next week, and next month they are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Derby at Knowsley for the Liverpool races at Aintree and of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth for the Derby meeting. The King and Queen are to arrive at Culford Hall from Sandringham on Monday, December 12, for a stay of three days.

The Duke and Duchess John Albert of Mecklenburg-Schwerin have been the guests of Lord and Lady Stratheden and Campbell at Hartrigge House, near Jedburgh, since the termination of their visit to Lord and Lady Reay at Lauderdale, Selkirkshire.

Merton Hall, Lord Walsingham's picturesque old seat in Norfolk, near Watton, has been let for the shooting season to Sir John Kelk. There is some of the best shooting in East Anglia on the Merton estate. The King

(then Prince of Wales) was more than once a guest at Merton Hall when the place was rented by the late Baron Hirsch.

The famous herd of shorthorns owned by the late Mr. W. S. Marr, of Uppermill, Aberdeenshire, was sold off last week at the farm, and very high prices were obtained. The herd realised an average of £154 6s. for 113 lots. One bull, Bapton Favourite, was bought for 1,200 gs. to go to South America, and two bull calves fetched 600 gs. and 620 gs. respectively. Breeders and agents from all parts of the world attended this sale, which was the most successful that has been held anywhere in Great Britain for many years past.

It is satisfactory to learn that the meeting of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trustees last week resulted in the rejection of the proposal to demolish the two ancient cottages near the birthplace. Not only was this proposal defeated by ten votes against eight, but at the instance of Mr. Sidney Lee, the chairman of the executive committee, it was resolved to spend a sum not exceeding £400 in placing the cottages in a state of thorough repair, so that they may be permanently preserved. Now that the matter has been decided it is perhaps hardly worth while to say much more about it; but a word of congratulation is certainly due to Miss Marie Corelli on the success of her public-spirited efforts to avert what would have been a most lamentable act of vandalism. A misleading remark in the *Times* report of the meeting last week virtually credited the late Mr. Edgar Flower with the saving of the cottages. As a matter of fact, the late Mr. Flower, though he subsequently changed his mind, was at the outset on the side of those who desired the destruction of the cottages. It was Miss Corelli who first protested against that outrageous scheme, and every one who has followed the discussion is aware that if it had not been for her persistent opposition the cottages would have been long since pulled down.

The following letter seems to me an interesting contribution to the late controversy over fortune-telling. As the writer observes, I know her, and have no doubt of the accuracy of her statements. Indeed, they claim credit on the same ground as lawyers claim it for the admissions of witnesses made against their own interest. The concluding remarks in the letter, which I have omitted, merely deal with the recent palmistry prosecutions, and are to much the same effect as what I myself said last week:—

Dear Truth,—You have known me for some time in connection with doll-dressing, etc.

Being a plain, uninteresting kind of woman, and no musician, where was I at evening parties, etc.? Why, nowhere. So I taught myself a system of fortune telling, by which, in spite of my plain exterior, I was always surrounded by an attentive and admiring circle.

Well, on one occasion, what I twaddled about made such impression on the party I was talking to, and proved so advantageous, that you may judge of my astonishment when I one day received a fee which ran into three figures. This was a great lift up for me, so away I came to London and took this house, where I have carried on a nursing home for seven years. But people worried me so much to tell their fortunes that I decided to advertise, and have got on splendidly. All the people come back again and again. . . .

The lady goes on to ask why the law should interfere with her. I confess I do not know. She affords people a vast amount of amusement, which seems to me foolish, but which they enjoy vastly, and are ready to pay large sums for. The law might as well make it a crime to produce a bad play or a stupid variety entertainment. Indeed, I think that would be more justifiable.

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

OUR PESSIMISTIC POET LAUREATE.

In a protracted Jeremiad at Leeds, Mr. Alfred Austin has been complaining that everything is for the worst in the most unsatisfactory of worlds.—*Yorkshire Mercury.*

Poor, poor Mr. Austin! His feelings
Are almost too sad to be borne.
So-called modern progress
He reckons an ogress
By which our life's vitals are torn.
The days of the era he lives in
He stoutly and sternly indicts;
Though we can't but remember
He yearns, each November,
Himself to be one of its *Knights!*

All is wrong in this ill-arranged cosmos—
Education, the Army, the Press:
In short, Mr. Austin
Amazement is lost in
Whilst scanning the general mess.
Our Empire is speeding to ruin
Because it Conscription taboos;
"Oh, why don't we muster?"
He shouts in a fluster,
Such weakness he will not excuse.

It would seem that he fails to remember
How, when we of soldiers had need,
Tens of thousands enlisted
And bravely assisted
To do what the Empire decreed.
Nay, more, in that passion for panic
To which he such prominence gives,
He's forgotten entirely,
Whilst ranting so direly,
That 'tis in an island he lives!

But worse than the state of the Army,
Of which a black picture he paints,
Is the Muses' condition—
A sad exhibition
He makes with his whining complaints.
True, Musicians and Painters, he tells us,
Push onwards with blatant conceit,
But, oh, the poor Poet!—
He's good cause to know it—
Has to take an extremely back seat!

Perhaps *that* is the reason our Laureate
A rôle so despairing assumes.
Scarce a critic will heed him,
The public won't read him—
No wonder he fusses and fumes!
All the faults that he sees in the cosmos
Are observed with a much-jaundiced eye!
There are no saving features
In short-sighted creatures
Who rush not his poems to buy!

The Americans are indeed an enterprising race. On September 1 there appeared in Truth a Queer Story under the title of "Unwelcome Attentions." On September 25 the same story re-appears in the *Sunday*

Telegraph of New York, reprinted word for word, and garnished with a series of striking illustrations. That is fairly sharp work. Without suggesting for one moment that either an English author or an English publisher has any right to object to this sort of thing, I must say I think our American relatives, when they borrow our wares in this manner, might acknowledge the source to which they are indebted. By the way, it is rather an odd thing that in a high protectionist country like the United States, the dumping of foreign goods, imported not merely below the cost of production, but at no cost at all, is allowed to go on unchecked. I wonder that American authors and journalists do not combine to obtain the same measure of protection from their Government that other industries enjoy.

Until I glanced the other day at the official statement issued by the Inland Revenue Department for the year ending March 31 last, I had no idea of the extent to which my fellow-countrymen indulged in the pleasant habit of drugging themselves. In the year in question Somerset House issued no less than 39,810,247 patent medicine stamps, each of which is attached to some sovereign remedy. In round figures this means that a box of pills or a bottle of medicine is purchased by every man, woman, and child in the United Kingdom, and, as it is obvious that there are a considerable proportion who do not indulge their taste for pills and potions, the degree to which some persons must become slaves to the pill habit is appalling. I calculate that on the gratification of this strange taste they expend over £3,000,000 per annum of their hard-earned savings, but this monetary loss must be trifling in comparison with the physical effects produced. Here, surely, is a question which needs investigation by the Committee on Physical Deterioration, even if it does not demand a new temperance crusade.

It is rather interesting to see how that delicate organ the Nonconformist Conscience regards the question of quack advertisements. I have before me some correspondence which has passed between a Methodist newspaper and a man who has paid upwards of £18 to a pharmaceutical chemist in Belfast. The latter advertises a remarkable cure for fits, "which has never yet failed, though it has been tried to my knowledge in some hundreds of cases." A customer ordered this remedy for his son, paying 10s. a bottle for it—the price of a high-class champagne—and although no visible result followed from its use, he persevered, having been told at starting that in some cases it took two years to effect a cure. As he went on buying the remedy for upwards of three years, by which time the son had imbibed thirty-six bottles of the infallible medicine, it cannot be said that he did not give it a fair chance.

At the end of that time the deluded parent communicated with the newspaper in which he had seen the advertisement. After making inquiries, the editor, or his representative, informed him that they had been shown by the chemist some hundreds of testimonials, and that they proposed to consult a London physician with regard to the matter. This sounds fair enough, and I do not doubt that my Nonconformist contemprary is sincerely desirous of doing the right thing. But common sense should tell anybody that if an infallible cure for epilepsy existed, the knowledge of it would not be confined to a chemist in Belfast, and that the advertisement, therefore, bears the impress of humbug on the face of it. Seeing that the object of this humbug is to make sufferers from epilepsy go on spending their money month after month for the space of two years or more upon this stuff at 10s. a bottle I think that the advertisement is not one which any newspaper is justified in publishing. But, as I have said before, I am not a Nonconformist.

The United States Post Office, I understand, has just made a most effective onslaught upon the more prominent of the fraudulent quack advertisers, with whom that country is infested. It has used the salutary powers with which it is armed to confiscate all their mails, and thereby practically stop their business. Among the parties thus dealt with are several to whom attention has been from time to time paid in Truth, including Dr. Ferris, of Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. Knapp, of Detroit; and the Derk P. Yonkerman Company, of Kalamazoo. Possibly this fact may explain the recent alarming outburst of activity on the part of all these gentry on this side of the Atlantic, to the great advantage of a certain portion of the English Press. The United States Post Office, I suppose, thinks it has done its duty when it has protected citizens of the Republic against these frauds, and does not think it necessary to interfere with their correspondence when they are merely preying upon foreigners. Or it may be that the advertisers, as in the case of Yonkerman, evade the Post Office measures by establishing depots over here.

The situation thus created has an interesting bearing upon the practice of "dumping," of which we heard so much when Mr. Chamberlain first went on the war path. It comes to this, that the American Government having stopped the domestic trade in fraudulent quack remedies, the American tradesman who suffers thereby is discharging his surplus and unsaleable stock upon our shores. Dumping could hardly take a more pernicious form. It is specially interesting, therefore, to find, as I did one day last week, a half-column advertisement of the Derk P. Yonkerman consumption cure, adorned with a portentous portrait of Derk P. Yonkerman himself in the patriotic and protectionist columns of the *Daily Express*. The *Daily Express*, as many of my readers are aware, is under the control of Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, one of the high priests of the Tariff Reform League, and specially claimed by Mr. Chamberlain as the champion "hustler" of the movement.

I would once again suggest to Mr. Pearson, and other journalists of the same way of thinking, that if the importation of foreign goods is

so mischievous as they profess to think—in this case there can be no doubt about the mischief—they are somewhat inconsistent in allowing their papers to be used as a medium through which foreigners of the class of Derk P. Yonkerman gain a footing in the British market. Mr. C. Arthur Pearson has it in his power, if he chooses, to hustle the whole of the Derk P. Yonkerman fraternity out of the columns of a dozen or more widely-circulated British newspapers and magazines to-morrow, without waiting for any tariff reform, and by doing this he would not only be serving the interests of hundreds of British doctors and chemists, but of many thousands of unfortunate victims of American quack advertisements. If he believes in his own creed, why does he not do it?

A volume of reminiscences, entitled "After Work: Fragment from the Workshop of an Old Publisher," by Mr. Edward Marston, was published last week by Mr. Heinemann. This book includes notices of Dickens, Thackeray, Wilkie Collins, Mrs. Beecher-Stowe, Lord Lytton, Charles Reade, William Black, Sir W. H. Russell, Sir H. M. Stanley, Mr. Thomas Hardy, and many other literary celebrities.

Mr. Lapsley, who has been elected to a Fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge, is a distinguished American scholar, who is coming from the United States to fill the place of Mr. Leathes as Fellow and Lecturer in History.

It was stated in last week's Truth that Dr. Bull, the famous pluralist Vicar of Staverton, died in 1855. An Oxford veteran, who was present at his funeral, writes to say that the date was 1858. He reminds me at the same time of the following old Oxford epigram, which is interesting enough to reprint. It was attributed to another Oxford character, famous in his day, old Mr. Charles Neate, of Oriel, who was for a short time M.P. for Oxford:—

In a coach with Will Whip, ere the use of the rail,
To town I once travelled: and inside the mail
Sat a Canon of Exeter: on the same perch
Sat a Canon of Oxford's Episcopal Church.
Next came one who held (I own the thing's small)
In the Minster of York a Prebendal Stall;
And last came a Vicar, all comely and fair,
With a Vicarage snug and some hundreds a year.
Now, good reader, you'll think that that coach was quite full—
No, there was but one traveller, Dr. John Bull!

I am asked to mention that at the annual service of the Guild of St. Luke's at St. Paul's on Monday evening next, the sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Southwark.

Sir Audley Neeld has presented the Rev. H. A. Darnell, Chaplain to the Forces at Canterbury, to the Rectory of Leigh Delamere, Wiltshire, vacant by the preferment of the late incumbent. Mr. Darnell has been employed for twenty-seven years as an Army chaplain.

Lady Wantage has presented the Rev. T. L. Jones, Vicar of St. John's, Peterborough, to the important living of All Saints', Northampton, vacant by the preferment of the late incumbent—the Rev. F. N. Thicknesse—to the rectory of Hornsey, on the presentation of the Bishop of London.

The Primate and Mrs. Davidson are expected to arrive at Lambeth Palace on Friday or Saturday next from New York, and they will stay in town until Saturday, the 29th, when they are going to Canterbury until the middle of January. There is to be a private meeting of the Bishops at Lambeth next week, and on Friday, the 28th, the Primate will hold a consecration of Colonial Bishops in St. Paul's Cathedral. The Primate and Mrs. Davidson are to be week-end guests at Sandringham during their Majesty's residence at the Hall next month, and his Grace will preach on the Sunday morning in the parish church.

I have had another letter from the Rev. J. P. Sandlands, of Brigstock, enclosing certificates from two of his parishioners, one of whom states that the Vicar cured her of two cancers in six weeks, after she had been treated ineffectually in a hospital, and the other that the Vicar cured him in ten days of some ailment which made his arm so bad that he could not lift the commonest domestic utensil. These testimonials are quite equal to those of any advertising healer on my list, and this evidence makes me more sorry than before that I cannot find the time to run down to Brigstock and see what his reverence is doing. On the other hand, I have had yet another letter from Mr. Sandlands in which he tells me that if I understood the action of smoking on the nerve fluids, I should give it up; also that smoking is self-indulgency, and that religion, as he understands it, forbids this. This diminishes my regret at not being able to visit Brigstock, for I feel sure that the Vicar and I should quarrel. I have been smoking now for more years than I care to think of, and I have never yet noticed anything wrong with my nerve fluids. If there is, these disorganised fluids do not occasion me any inconvenience. Also, I think that on the question of religion and self-indulgence, Mr. Sandlands and I would be likely to differ as seriously as on the subject of nerve fluids.

Subsequently to the appearance of the article "A Clerical Adventurer" in Truth of September 22, I learned that the gentleman there dealt with, Mr. Donkin, otherwise Monsignor Count Donkin, Bishop of Santa Croce in Antiochia, and Vicar Apostolic of the Independent Roman Catholic Church in Southern Switzerland, had commenced an action for libel against the Rev. Vernon Herford, of the Church of the Divine Love, Cowley St. John, Oxford, who is, I believe, a Bishop of the Syro-Chaldean or Nestorian Church. The origin of this action, from what I have just learned, has an interesting

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bearing on the TRUTH article. It would seem that Mr. Donkin introduced himself to Mr. Herford, mentioning the names of mutual friends, and asking if he might pay him a visit. He went to Oxford accordingly, and made himself very intimate with Mr. Herford, who went so far as to allow him to preach in his church. Some of the facts, however, that have been mentioned in TRUTH came to Mr. Herford's knowledge, and he then wrote to the *Church Times* and the *Oxford Chronicle*, mentioning what he had learned, and citing the letter which appeared in the *Catholic Times* in 1896, and which was set out in my acticle. Thereupon Mr. Donkin commenced the action above mentioned.

The fact that this action has been commenced precludes, of course, for the moment any public comment upon Mr. Donkin personally, and I mention this for the benefit of various correspondents who have written in the meantime with reference to that gentleman. I think, however, I am entitled to say publicly that no answer has been offered of any kind to the TRUTH article, either by Mr. Donkin, or any one on his behalf. It is open, of course, to Mr. Donkin to say that he thinks he can sufficiently vindicate himself by the action he has taken against Mr. Herford. How far this is so, the reader can judge for himself.

Years ago I noticed the remarkable work in the cause of charity which was being done by the Minnehaha Amateur Minstrels, Manchester. From the twenty-fifth annual report, which the hon. secretary has just forwarded, I am glad to see that the society still flourishes and continues its useful career. Its performances last year raised for charitable purposes the sum of £821, making a total since the formation of the society of no less than £19,426. Such a splendid record should be a stimulus to amateur dramatic and musical societies elsewhere to make similar efforts for the assistance of local charities.

On August 25 I called attention to the merits and claims of a home for crippled children at Margate, conducted, in connection with the Ragged School Union, by Mrs. Ashby. But I am sorry to say that I inadvertently described the lady as Miss Ashby, and gave her address as La Casa Sarina, Northdown-road, Margate, whereas the correct address is Northdown-avenue. Mrs. Ashby tells me that she has only received one contribution of £5 in consequence of the TRUTH paragraph, and that came by the last mail from a gentleman in India. She thinks that possibly owing to this description of her name and address some other contributions may have gone astray. If this is so, any contributors who have not received acknowledgments had better communicate with me or Mrs. Ashby. It may be, however, that owing to the paragraph having appeared in the holiday season it did not attract as much attention as it otherwise might have done. I therefore take this opportunity of calling attention to the excellent work this lady is doing in providing crippled London children with all the benefit of a comfortable home and Margate air, and her need of further support in this work.

With reference to paragraphs that appeared in the last two issues of TRUTH, commenting upon certain correspondence between Mr. Charles Read, of 21, Haymarket, and an officer in the Army, I am sorry to learn that Mr. Read considers that an imputation was made upon him in the first of these paragraphs, which was not satisfactorily withdrawn in the second. I have no wish to do Mr. Read any injustice. It was suggested in my original paragraph that, having a dispute with an officer over a bet, he had no right to threaten to communicate with his client's commanding officer. That was said on the assumption that he was wrong in the dispute. I endeavoured to convey last week that he had convinced me that he was right in the dispute, and if that was so, I cannot question his right to communicate with the commanding officer. My intention was to negative any imputation that had been made upon Mr. Read, and if this was not done satisfactorily last week, I hope that it is done now.

I suspect, however, that Mr. Read's dissatisfaction may be connected with what I went on to say as to the duty of commanding officers in regard to complaints made to them by bookmakers of officers not having discharged their obligations. What I said on this point, however, I must adhere to. It is one thing to say that when an officer has not paid a betting debt the bookmaker has a right to complain to his colonel; it is another to say that the colonel is bound to notice the complaint. That commanding officers often do so I am well aware. This is probably because they consider themselves bound to take cognisance of failure to discharge anything which is technically known as a debt of honour. As a general principle this may be right enough; but this particular class of debts is productive of so much mischief that, as a matter of expediency, I consider that a C.O. is justified in refusing to give any assistance in recovering them.

It used to be the rule at the War Office—I do not know whether it continues under the new dispensation—to refuse any assistance to a tradesman who desired to get hold of a defaulter in the Service. Such refusal could only be defended on the ground of policy—that is to say, the War Office objected to tradesmen allowing officers to get into debt, and it therefore refused to assist them in putting the law in motion against their debtors. If this principle is officially applied to ordinary trade debts, recoverable in a law court, *a fortiori* it should be applied to debts contracted with betting men. Not so very long ago, when a regiment took up its quarters in a town, there used to be performed the ceremony known as "crying down credit"—that is to say, warning tradespeople against allowing soldiers to run up debts. It might have a very salutary effect, if the War Office went through the ceremony of "crying down" the credit of officers with bookmakers.

As a postscript to the recent TRUTH articles on the hindrances to recruiting, I have received a letter from an officer who points out that it is not only necessary

to improve barracks from the structural point of view, but also in regard to furniture. He refers especially to the need of chairs in place of benches; some sort of easy chairs in recreation, if not in barrack rooms; better bedsteads and more comfortable bedding; and similar improvements all round, even down to such trifles as pokers and shovels. I may say that this officer speaks with personal experience of recruiting, and he says that he has no doubt that the ideas of fathers and mothers need to be considered quite as much as those of recruits themselves, and that one of the chief causes of their objection to military service for their sons is the sordid and comfortless—he also uses the term "gaol-like"—appurtenances and appointments of soldiers' quarters. In all which I have no doubt he is perfectly right.

Another matter mentioned by the same correspondent is an increase in the number of commissions from the ranks. No doubt there is room for this, and I should like to see a certain number of commissions in every regiment expressly reserved for warrant or non-commissioned officers who could pass the necessary tests. This I say because I think it would have a good effect on the officering of the Army, and tend to mitigate class distinctions which do not exist in other professions, and are becoming obsolete everywhere. But I cannot say that I have much belief in the effect of such a step on recruiting. The remote prospect of gaining a commission is not likely to influence lads in enlisting, or to weigh much with their fathers and mothers. For the average working-class lad the chance of reaching the highest non-commissioned or warrant rank, and retiring at forty or five-and-forty with a life pension ranging from 15s. to 28s. a week, ought to be sufficiently attractive. Infinitely more important than the off-chance of a "field-marshal's baton" is the certainty that a few years of Army service will lead to permanent employment under the State, and not to being cast adrift at five or six and twenty, with no hope of admission to the ranks of highly-paid labour.

It is laid down in Paragraph 1,853, King's Regulations, as amended by an Army Order of March 10, 1903, that no N.C.O. shall be posted to the permanent staff direct from a depot, or until a year has elapsed since his last tour of depot service. This rule would seem to have been violated recently in the case of an orderly-room sergeant of the 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, who was sent to the permanent staff of the 4th Battalion after completing his tour of depot service, instead of being sent, as he ought to have been, to the service battalion at Fermoy. The continued violation of regulations dealing with depot administration does not seem to have been checked by any Army reform carried out at present.

Another example of the same sort of thing is seen in the case of a colour-sergeant attached to a volunteer battalion of the West Riding Regiment. This N.C.O., although he has served twelve years on the permanent staff of the Auxiliary Forces, has recently been permitted to prolong his service in his present capacity, although it seems to be laid down in the regulations that he ought under these circumstances to return to regimental duty. The War Office has lately been so active in stirring N.C.O.s out of the regimental depots after two years' service, that it is difficult to understand on what principle a man should be allowed to serve with Volunteers for this time.

Is it not rather an unusual thing to require all sergeants to show their kit once a month? An order to this effect has recently been promulgated at one of the infantry depots, and it has already had a tragic result in the case of one sergeant. The victim was a man of seventeen years' service. He did not like having to show his kit in company with Militia and Line recruits, some of them just joined, and asked to be excused. Possibly he stated his objections more strongly than the C.O. deemed fitting. At any rate, that officer made him a prisoner for insolence, and in due course awarded him a severe reprimand. This does not look like a judicious or considerate way of handling senior N.C.O.s. It also shows again the perils that beset the soldier's character down to the last day of his service, and the trumpery reasons that may lead to a black mark on his record in spite of years of irreproachable conduct.

Much dissatisfaction has been caused in the Royal Marines by the promotion of a colour-sergeant from the Portsmouth Division to a sergeant-majorship in the depot at Walmer, at the expense of twenty-five quartermaster-sergeants and four barrack sergeants of fifteen years' service and upwards. The colour-sergeant thus favoured left the corps some years ago, to serve as an instructor in one of the colonies, where the work is very light and the pay very handsome. Through having held this appointment he has escaped all sea service. When he returned to England he was selected as sergeant-major for a line infantry regiment—a matter which, if I remember rightly, was commented on in Truth—but on the present Army Council coming into power, the appointment was vetoed. Apparently the Walmer appointment has been given to him as a consolation for this disappointment; but, looking at the length of time that this N.C.O. has been absent from the corps, the appointment seems a most unjustifiable one, and, taken in conjuncion with the man's good fortune in being selected for a sergeant-major's appointment in the Army, it suggests that he must have something more than personal merit to back him.

I have no objection to publish the following letter which I have received from Portsmouth, though the correction comes somewhat late in the day, and for reasons which I will give presently I am disposed to think that my correspondent's contradictions are much too sweeping. As to the "error" referred to in the opening sentence, it was merely a verbal one, due to the mis-reading of a name in manuscript, and I have now

heard that the name of the firm which was given as "Whicher and Co." should have been Winch and Co.:—

Royal Naval Barracks, Portsmouth,
October 12, 1904.

The Editor of TRUTH,—As in your issue of October 13 you admit one error in your remarks a fortnight ago, relative to the selection of Messrs. Dickeson as tenants of the canteen of this depot, may I, as one of the Committee of Inquiry into the contract of the canteen in question, ask you now to contradict the whole of the three paragraphs you inserted, relative to the action of the Commander. There was not a word of truth in your statements of the amounts offered by the tenderers, and your correspondent must have written to you with no knowledge of the actual state of affairs.

May I add that I have no connection with the accepted firm, who, from my knowledge, appear to be running the canteen very satisfactorily. I was, however, one of the three who submitted that this firm should be accepted as tenant of the canteen, and the Commander had nothing whatever to do with the matter.

I am now in a position to supplement my previous statement on this matter, and I shall be curious to hear whether the writer of the above letter will say that there is not a word of truth in this either. A fortnight or so ago the Commander ordered a muster of petty officers and leading mess hands of the canteen in question, and explained to them that, after having consulted the Commander-in-Chief and the Admiralty, as to what would be a fair profit for the contractor to hand over, he had approached the tenants, and had agreed to reduce the rental from £3,600 to £2,400 on condition that the contractors would make reductions in the price of beer, bread, and potatoes. This statement was made to such a large number of men that I can hardly suppose there is any room for doubt about it.

Here, then, we have the Commander himself stating that Messrs. Dickeson's original contract price under their tender was £3,600, the precise figure mentioned in TRUTH. The only point, therefore, in my original statement remaining open to correction relates to the remaining tenders, which were alleged to have been higher than Messrs. Dickeson's. My present correspondent would have made his contradiction more convincing had he stated more specifically the amounts of the other tenders. But even if it were the fact that Messrs. Dickeson's original tender was the highest, it seems a very strange and unbusinesslike proceeding to reopen the contract and revise the terms on both sides after it had been concluded, and the other contractors who tendered have every right to protest against such a course.

Several more letters have reached me from Simla in regard to the complaints against the municipality, which were noticed a short time back. To some extent the writers confirm and emphasise what has already been said. One mentions, for example, that a number of householders not only have to pay a rate for a water supply which has not been laid on to their houses, but, to add insult to injury, they are also charged a tax on the bhisti who has to be employed in carrying water, owing to the default of the municipality. On two points, however, my present correspondents take up the cudgels for the authorities. The first is the letting of the theatre in the town hall to an amateur dramatic company—an arrangement which is defended on the ground that the amateurs provide Simla with very good performances during the months when there are no professional companies worth seeing on tour in India. The best professional companies only go out in the winter, when Simla is empty. "In the hot season," says one of my correspondents, "practically the only touring companies are parties of barn-stormers. I saw such a party in 'Charley's Aunt'; the Aunt was an actor about the size of the late Herbert Campbell!"

As to the exclusion of natives from the Mall, I am told that the regulation is only in force for four hours each afternoon, and that it does not apply to all natives, but only to certain classes, mostly coolies and mechanics, whose disgusting habits and malodorous condition would drive away everybody else. "Though I am a confirmed Radical," says a correspondent, "I still agree that these classes should be excluded at times, really on the same principle that a brewer's dray is forbidden to use the Row in Hyde Park." I think myself that any mere colour test would be indefensible, but a rule directed against unclean and unsavoury persons is, of course, quite another matter.

TO OUR GUINEA-PIGGING PEERAGE.

The *Kreuz Zeitung*, in an article addressed to the German Nobility, calls on them to take to heart the awful example furnished by the money-grubbing Peerage of Great Britain, and to avoid the mammon worship which has brought the latter to such a despicable condition.

There, there, my lords, are you content
To be a warning made for others—
The text on which the German Press
Appeals to your Teutonic brothers?
Now, you can see to what excess
Your trips to Mammon's shrine have sped you;
Now, it is clear to what sore lengths
Your greed for Guinea-pigging 's led you!

We warned you when you first set out,
Bent on the City's exploitation,
That you were risking over much
In your gold-seeking exploration.
We warned you all when Citywards
Your sordid yearnings first inclined you,
That for the gold you brought away
You 'd have to leave too much behind you.

Well, what has your experience been?
Granted, you 've borne away some plunder,
What did you leave, pray, as its price?
Have you computed *that*, we wonder?
Dignity, honour, self-respect,
Friendship, good faith—ah! more's the pity,
These are but samples of the things
You 've left behind you in the City.

Thus, as your German critics see,
And as your countrymen see clearly,
You, for the extra wealth obtained,
Have paid in many ways too dearly.
Your Treasure-Hunt inspired a greed
Which seemed on lunacy to border;
Digging for gold, you 've undermined
The fabric of your ancient order.

And all for what?—Not even for
The sake of shares still paying readily,
Since most of those "good things" you bought
Have now for years been "slumping" steadily.
For what, then?—Why, to give a point
To Teuton's journalistic sermons,
To serve as dire examples to
All sordid, title-bearing Germans!

The following observations on building by-laws in rural districts come from a gentleman who is not only a practical man, but has had extensive official experience of the question:—

The view you take is correct, except that you are wrong in suggesting that the remedy is in the hands of the local authorities. The by-laws in any district must not only be approved by the Local Government Board, but must be based upon the Board's own "model" by-laws. These model by-laws would appear to have been framed by some one with a slight knowledge of the laws of hygiene, and a keen solicitude for the prevention of fire; but there is throughout an entire absence of knowledge of scientific construction.

I could give you a list of absurdities in these by-laws that would fill a page, but I will only, with your permission, mention two.

1. The thickness of walls is defined with no reference to what they have to carry, or for what purpose they are built; nor is the important matter of material considered. For instance, substantial buildings have recently been constructed outside the jurisdiction of these by-laws, with walls of steel and concrete, 9 inches in thickness. Under the by-laws they would be required to be 27 inches thick. Nine-inch walls, so constructed, are fully as strong as ordinary brick walls, and much more sanitary.

2. Where there is no drainage system, and cesspools are necessary, the cesspools are required to be impervious and to have *no overflow*. The full absurdity of this can only be realised when it is put into force. Of course, it is of importance that the soil should not be contaminated with sewage, especially if there is a live well within measurable distance; but the difficulty of pumping up and carrying away sewage every few days, and subsequently disposing of it, which this requirement involves, is a much worse nuisance, and quite as likely to endanger health and contaminate the soil. Cesspools may be constructed so that they may be unobjectionable; but the art of so constructing them lies in the disposal of the overflow, not in making impracticable conditions.

As you say, these by-laws are checking the housing problem in every district, and it is time that Mr. Justice Grantham's protest should be supported.

By the way, I see that in this week's *Spectator* a correspondent gives some figures in regard to the cost of cottages somewhat at variance with those which Mr. Strachey gave in the *County Gentleman*. He states that he has built five cottages in a row (two bedrooms each) for £550, or £110 apiece, renting them for £4 a year, which is a fairly good return on the money. He has also built a pair on a larger scale, with three bedrooms, for £320, or £160 piece, and they are let for £6. He attributes this cheapness to making his own plans, buying his own materials, contracting for the labour only. This, of course, means that the builder's profit is saved, but there are very few landlords who would feel equal to adopting this course. There is another interesting letter, pointing out the necessity for three-bedroom cottages, and no doubt this is a most important requirement for labourers with families. On the other hand, old people can get on very well with one bedroom, and, indeed, with a couple of living rooms; and it seems to me that any landlord who attempts to grapple seriously with the housing problems should bear this in mind and provide for the varying needs of the population at different stages of life.

It is to be hoped that no time will be lost in carrying out the proposals that were adopted at the Conference of Poor Law Guardians last week for dealing with the exceptional distress that already prevails in London, and is certain to become more acute during the winter. Any measures that can be taken now will perforce have to be hurried, and there would have been a better chance of grappling with the "unemployed" problem successfully if it had been considered when it was first seen to be impending months ago. But the proposed formation of joint poor law and municipal committees in every metropolitan borough, acting under the supervision of a central committee and co-operating as far as possible with charitable agencies, should, at any rate, prevent the overlapping and conflict of methods which have caused so much waste and mischief in previous emergencies of the same kind.

The conference seems to have strongly favoured the establishment of labour colonies in the country to which unemployed men can be sent. Unfortunately legislation will be required before any efficient scheme on these lines can be carried out with public funds, though a good deal may be done by voluntary organisations, and one offer of land for the purpose of such a colony was announced at the further conference at Islington on Monday. For the present I should say that the solution of the difficulty will mainly depend upon the action of the municipal authorities. It is in their power to put in progress in almost every London borough public works, which would not only act as a relief to men otherwise unable to obtain employment, but also prove ultimately an advantage to the community.

Apropos of this question, I have had a letter suggesting that some good might be done by the systematic spreading of information as to the economic value of certain cheap and nourishing foods—*e.g.*, cheese and pulses—which are at present much neglected in favour of meat, tinned fish, etc. The writer adds that if some wealthy philanthropist would start restaurants in poor districts, where simple foods, decently cooked, could be obtained at low prices, or on the presentation of tickets distributed through charitable agencies, many poor people would receive much enlightenment as well as physical benefit. Of course, little could be accomplished for the relief of the existing destitution by any movement of this kind; but what my correspondent says is perfectly true. Very often the people who have the least money to spend on food are the most ignorant of the ways in which it can be spent to the best advantage, and so their miseries are needlessly aggravated when hard times come.

The Local Government Board have invited delegates of the Sandgate Urban District Council to a conference in regard to an application by the latter body that pulmonary tuberculosis shall be made a notifiable disease in their district. The holding of the conference is satisfactory in so far as it indicates some official awakening, tardy though it be, to the scandal and the danger arising from the existence of the Jones Homes at Sandgate. But I confess that I am not sanguine as to the results. The Council has always exhibited the greatest

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reluctance to interfere with the Jones Homes, and it is not by any means clear that the scheduling of consumption as a notifiable disease in Sandgate will do anything effective towards the suppression of these ill-managed establishments.

Some edifying extracts from the accounts of the Liverpool Corporation are placed before the ratepayers in the annual report of the city elective auditor, Mr. Morrissey. As usual, the most piquant items are those showing the Gargantuan capacity of aldermen and councillors for gorging and guzzling whenever they can devise an excuse for doing so at the expense of the public. A trip by a party of thirteen to the Vyrnwy Waterworks cost £129 (hotel bill £87 11s. 7d., wines and spirits £17 1s. 6d.), but as they were away four days the expenditure was moderate in comparison with that incurred on a one-day visit to the Rivington Waterworks. The latter party numbered twenty, and the bill of £60 18s. included £10 10s. for luncheons at 10s. 6d. a head, £19 19s. 9d. for wines and spirits, and £4 1s. 3d. for cigarettes and cigars, besides such trifles as £1 for fruit, 15s. for sandwiches, and 10s. 6d. for afternoon teas. According to the details of the bill this party of twenty were supplied during the day with no less than sixty-three bottles of Scotch whisky in addition to a dozen bottles of champagne and some odd bottles of sherry, claret, and hock!

In an account for a river picnic, described as "inspection of hopper *Beta*," a sum of 4s. 6d. is charged for packs of cards. I suppose that it was only through an oversight that those who lost at bridge, or poker, or whatever the game was, were not re-imbursed out of the city funds. Such a payment would be quite as legitimate as many others that have been made in connection with these municipal junketings.

Another part of the auditors' report deals with the expenditure of £11,791 upon an abortive attempt of the Liverpool Corporation to annex the borough of Bootle. The manufacture of "public opinion" in support of the proposal was carried on regardless of expense. One individual received £54 and another £75 for advocating the scheme at meetings of ratepayers, "and getting resolutions passed in favour thereof." Others were paid for procuring signatures to petitions. Ratepayers' Associations were established with the object of appearing before the Parliamentary Committee in support of the scheme, on the understanding that all the expenses, including solicitors' costs and counsel's fees amounting to hundreds of pounds, would be defrayed by the Corporation. I do not know whether the case for the Liverpool Corporation was on its merits a good or a bad one, but in view of the disclosures as to the means by which it was got up it is a matter for satisfaction that it failed.

The small borough of Chard has, by the way, just had an instructive experience of the manner in which the costs of proceedings before Parliamentary Committees are piled up. The Town Council were the promoters of a Bill, and it has now been found that the heavy expenditure which has to be met included a fee of ten guineas each to various members of the Council who came up to London to give evidence. This fee was in addition to the payment of their travelling and hotel expenses, and the Town Clerk stated that it was allowed in conformity with "the usual Parliamentary procedure." It may be the usual procedure, but such payments to members of a municipal corporation are manifestly wrong.

At the recent Middlesex Sessions Robert Wood, aged 52, described as a carpenter, of Chiswick, was indicted for being an incorrigible rogue and vagabond, deserting his three children, and leaving them chargeable to the Brentford Union. The Chairman, Sir Ralph Littler, told him that he would be remanded to the next sessions in order that the prison doctor might certify whether he was physically "fit to be flogged." If he were fit he would be flogged, and in addition he would have to undergo twelve months' hard labour. Of course, a man who is able to maintain his family ought not to be allowed to shift the burden on to the ratepayers, and if he is proved to be persistently lazy or vicious I would have no hesitation in subjecting him to a longer term of imprisonment than twelve months with the object of reforming him. I venture to doubt, however, whether a flogging is likely to have any reformative effect in such a case.

But is Robert Wood actually such a rogue and vagabond as the Bumbles of the Brentford Union represented him to be? It is true that he has been four times convicted for deserting his children, and the prosecution alleged that when he comes out of prison he makes no attempt to support them. The latter statement, however, appears to be open to question, in view of the information that I have received from two credible witnesses who have inquired into the man's case. It may be that he was in fault when the children went into the workhouse after his wife's death and the breaking up of his home about four years ago, but it is asserted that ever since his first sentence of imprisonment, though willing enough to work, he has only been able to get odd jobs, and so has never been in a position to get a home together for his children, let alone pay the heavy claim the Brentford Guardians make against him for their maintenance. I would suggest that, before passing the promised sentence at the next sessions, Sir Ralph Littler should make some independent inquiries into the case, with the object of ascertaining whether the poor-law authorities have ever really given this man a fair chance to retrieve his position and provide for his family.

The Cure of Consumption.—In respect to this subject, which has been much commented upon in the public press, the Rev. V. J. Charlesworth, referring to a case of an inmate of Spurgeon's Orphanage which seemed hopeless, states:—"It is a cause for devout thanksgiving that she is now able to take a situation and to earn her own living. When I sent her to Dr. Alabone she was in a state of collapse. From the cases which have come under my own observation, I can bear testimony to the immense value of this special treatment of consumptives, and my name is at liberty to be used."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give two amazing examples of misplaced leniency towards a wife-beater and an animal-torturer respectively in Midlothian. The decision of the J.P. Court in the case of the farmer convicted of cruelty was sufficiently bad as a travesty of justice, but, after all, one is accustomed to such performances on the part of the Great Unpaid. Infinitely worse from every point of view was the travesty of justice which Sheriff Orphoot perpetrated in the case of the Midlothian miner convicted at Edinburgh of an exceptionally ferocious and dastardly assault upon his wife. Instead of being let off with a paltry fine this drunken savage should have received at least six months' imprisonment—indeed, six months would have been a comparatively mild sentence for such brutality. Imprisonment without the option of a fine ought also to have been the portion of the defendants at Wem and at Chester; but many of our intelligent magistracy apparently consider that this is a form of punishment which should be reserved for such crimes as poaching, petty larceny, and sleeping out:—

Nottingham Police - court. George Denman, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a constable. He created a disturbance in the street, refused to go away, and struck and kicked the officer. Fined 20s. for drunkenness and 20s. for the assault.

Walsall Police-court. John Faulkner, convicted of assaulting Lucy Teece. The woman received a nasty wound on the head from a blow with a buckle ring. Fined 10s. and costs.

Edinburgh Sheriff Summary Court. Before Sheriff Orphoot. Robert Ross, miner, Gorebridge, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and after thrashing two collie pups turned his attention to his wife. Although she was enceinte, he belaboured her about the body with an ash plant, punched her about the head with his fists, and then knocked her down and kicked her. The woman and her little children eventually got away from the house, but the accused followed them into a field close by, and after brutally ill-treating one of the children, aged five years, he again attacked his wife with the ash plant, threw her on the ground, and kicked her. Fined £1, or, in default, ten days.

Midlothian J.P. Court. Before Mr. Tait Burton and other magistrates. Robert Haig, farmer, charged with cruelty to a cow. The cow, which had been ailing for some months, was turned out in a field, where it lay for days without attention, food or water. When found by the police the animal was in a dreadfully emaciated condition from starvation and suffering from large sores on its side due to its struggles to rise from the ground. Haig had been recently convicted of cruelty to a horse. Fined 10s., including costs.

Nottingham Police - court. Thomas Adams, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

Stratton Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Treleven and P. Stacey. Samuel Collins and Ann Collins, charged with sleeping out. Seven days each.

Colchester Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Arthur Williams, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Clitheroe County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. B. Trappes, W. A. Winstanley, and W. Hardacre and Colonel Parker. Richard Buller, charged with poaching. Three months, and a further six months in default of finding sureties that he would not so offend again for two years.

Grangemouth Police-court. Before Bailie Weston. Joseph Mercer, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with using obscene language. The Bailie said such language was too prevalent, and a determined effort would be made to put it down. Twenty-one days without the option of a fine.

Wellington (Somerset) Police-court. Thomas Marks, charged with stealing a fowl. Three months.

Hamilton Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Thomson. Samuel M'Murray, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits which he was suspected of having obtained by trespassing. He was riding in a public omnibus when stopped and searched by the police. Fined £5.

Langport Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. W. Valentine and other magistrates. George Allen, charged with stealing coal, value 9d., from a heap at the railway station. Three months.

Scarborough County Petty Sessions. Isaac Anderson pleaded guilty to cruelty by working a horse in an unfit condition. The animal, which was very emaciated, lame, and suffering from a large sore on its back, fell down exhausted in the road. Fined 5s. and costs.

Chester Police-court. Robert Lewtas, charged with assaulting Jane Povey. He struck her about the face and knocked her down, causing injuries for which she had to be attended by a doctor. Lewtas was also charged with assaulting the woman's husband, John Povey. It appeared that when he found that proceedings were being taken against him for his assault on the woman, defendant made a violent and unprovoked attack on her husband, throwing him to the ground and kicking him on the head. Povey received a serious wound near the temple. Fined 40s. and costs for each assault.

Wem Petty Sessions. Before Captain Dickin and Lieutenant-Colonel Fell. Joseph Gwilliam, charged with cruelty to a dog. Having been told by his employer to kill the dog, defendant attached a rope to the animal's collar and suspended it from a beam in the stable. He then belaboured the dog about the head with a broomstick, inflicting shocking injuries, but failing to kill the animal, which was eventually put out of its misery by drowning. The magistrates said it was a horrible case of cruelty. Fined £2 and costs.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Woodiwiss and G. Frost. Charles Shaw and Henry Rogers, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of eleven rabbits. Fined £3 8s. 6d. each; in default, one month.

Preston County Police-court. James Myerscough, charged with poaching. Three months.

Preston Borough Police-court. John Parkinson, a weaver, 70 years of age, charged with sleeping in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Ironbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. F. G. Beddoes and other magistrates. Richard Williams, Wm. York, and Henry Potts, charged with stealing a quantity of onions, value 1s. 3d., from a garden. Williams three months, the others two months each.

East Harling Petty Sessions. Before Sir E. C. Nugent, Major Edwards, Captain Montgomerie, and Messrs. H. T. Partridge, A. N. C. Hemsworth, O. R. Dunell, and S. Morris. Richard Woods, charged with killing a pheasant on a Sunday, and Frank Smith, charged with aiding and abetting him. It was alleged that they shot the sacred bird from the highway. Fined £4 1s. 6d. each; in default, one month.

Bakewell Police-court. Before Messrs. G. J. Marples and A. Payne Gallwey. George Hobson, charged with stealing two fowls. Two months.

In my comments upon the Tatham case at Ripon, I mentioned that the summons charging the defendant with travelling on the North-Eastern Railway without paying his fare was not taken out until after the company had been threatened with an action for damages for his wrongful arrest by the station officials. Mr. E. L. Davis, chief passenger agent of the company, now writes that he has no wish to enter upon a discussion as to the justice of the conviction, but that "it is right that your readers should know that Mr. Tatham's journey, which gave rise to the prosecution, took place on August 2, and his solicitor's letter was written on August 3." While complying with Mr. Davis's desire that I should state this fact, I feel bound to say that it would have been more interesting if he had explained why the company's principal witness refused to swear whether he made any report with a view to the prosecution of the defendant prior to the receipt of the solicitor's letter. In any event, however, the question whether the threatened action by the defendant and the prosecution by the company stood in the relation of cause and effect has only an indirect bearing upon the case. It certainly cannot alter the fact that in convicting Mr. Tatham the Ripon Bench perpetrated a gross miscarriage of justice.

In July last, as some of my readers may remember, the man Todd, otherwise "Leicester and Co.," of Twickenham, was fined £20 and £10 costs at Brentford, for pretending to act as a solicitor. The offence was committed in one of his letters, written in the course

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as waste paper.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

of his usual business of frightening money out of servant girls who have been swindled by his travellers. Evidently as a result of this untoward incident, Todd is now employing a solicitor to discharge "penny frighteners" at the girls in such cases. In a case that came under my notice a few days ago, where an exceptionally gross deception had been employed to inveigle a girl into buying Todd's jewellery at five times its true value, there appears on the scene a Mr. C. Almond, solicitor, commissioner for oaths, of Victoria Chambers, York-street, Twickenham, and at Market-place, Brentford. His business is to notify that unless the amount claimed by Leicester and Co., "together with 3s. 6d. my charges," is paid within seven days, he will issue process. The latest *Law List* I have at hand is last year's (1903). In it there is no such name as that of Mr. C. Almond, either at Twickenham or Brentford, or in London. I gather from this that the man of law is a beginner in the profession, and I am sorry I cannot congratulate him on his beginning.

This reminds me of another solicitor who was acting for Todd a little time back—Mr. Samuel Watson, of Hanley. Todd, it may be remembered, was prosecuted at Newcastle-under-Lyme in conjunction with one of his agents, for frauds of the usual character on which the firm of Leicester and Co. lives. But the fraud, of course, is committed by the agent, and no one is more surprised than the innocent Todd, when it is suggested that his business is a swindling one. It consequently happened in this case that while the agent, a man named Williams, was convicted and sentenced to three months' imprisonment, the principal, Todd, was acquitted. Thereupon Mr. Samuel Watson wrote to the servant girl in whose name the proceedings had been taken, demanding on behalf of Todd £50 compensation, under threat of legal proceedings, "without further notice." The £50 was not paid, and I am curious to know how the legal proceedings are getting on. Of course, a solicitor, who is a member of an honourable profession, as well as an officer of the High Court, would not use a threat of this kind to a servant girl if he was not going to carry it out.

In several of the current versions of his old familiar swindle, the Spanish Prisoner drops the pretence that he is offering you a share of his own fortune or of a fortune that he has embezzled, nor does he any longer beg you to accept the guardianship of his dear daughter. One of his latest stories, for example, is to represent himself as an anarchist who some years ago escaped from Barcelona, and settled in Buenos Ayres. An irresistible longing to see his beloved mother once more caused him to venture back to Barcelona, and on the voyage he became fast friends with an Englishman named John Browne. The latter fell ill, and just before his death at sea he entrusted the anarchist with a sealed packet containing his will and £8,000 in bank notes, requesting him to come to England and deliver the packet to you. It is indicated, of course, that Browne singled you out as the most trustworthy and deserving of all the men he had ever known. The anarchist intended to fulfil this sacred trust, but, unfortunately, he was clapped into gaol when he reached Barcelona, and so he now writes to propose that he shall have forwarded to you a trunk of his, in a secret drawer of which the precious packet is hidden.

It is almost superfluous to say that the rest of the game is played in the usual way, the Prisoner eventually finding that the trunk which he left at his lodgings has been seized for debt, and that he cannot get it sent on to you unless you remit the sum of £20 (or whatever the amount may be that he fixes) for its redemption. This John Browne story seems very preposterous, but no doubt it answers its purpose—indeed, experience shows that no story can be too preposterous for the credulous and greedy fools on whom this fraud is practised.

Mention was made in TRUTH a few weeks back of the arrest at Havre of two men named Blouin and Hunter for frauds in connection with the sale of knitting machines, and I suggested at the time that this Hunter was probably identical with the Hunter who is associated with Albert Bennett, under the style of the Hardy Machine and Woollen Co., of Manchester. I have since learned that there is no doubt as to Hunter's identity. His associate Blouin called himself "directeur" of the "Compagnie 'La Ruche.'" The company's circulars were very similar to those which have been used in connection with Hunter and Bennett's businesses over here. They are adorned with a picture of the familiar knitting machine, and such legends as "On demande des personnes des deux sexes pour faire des tricots sans couture"; "Du travail pour tous"; "Aucune expérience n'est nécessaire," etc.; and at the foot appears the important announcement, "Tous mandats ou valeurs doivent être payables à J. H. Hunter." I have not heard how the prosecution of Blouin and Hunter is progressing, but I see that the advertisements of the Manchester branch of the concern, the Hardy Machine and Woollen Co., are still appearing in English papers, and it is time that this business was stopped in England as it has been in France. It would conduce to this end if those who have been victimised by the Hardy Machine and Woollen Co.—and they are numerous—would invoke the assistance of the Chief Constable of Manchester.

Cards soliciting commissions on the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire having been circulated by G. H. Chardson, a self-styled "turf accountant," of 25, Wellington-street, W.C., I was asked the other day to publish a warning against him on the ground that he has not yet discharged his liabilities over the Derby. In view of his continued pursuit of the guileless backer, it may perhaps be useful to comply with this request. At the

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns Country. Descriptive tariff free.

same time, I must point out that those backers who mark what they read in TRUTH ought not to require such a warning, for over and over again Chardson has been posted in these columns as a defaulter.

W. Westbrook, 19, George-street, Portman-square, W., is another circularising bookmaker of whom I have lately heard unfavourable reports. His rules state that his accounts are "made up to Fridays." Recently he sent a backer an account in which by a palpable error a winning balance for the week was converted into a loss. The backer naturally pointed out this, whereupon Westbrook at once forwarded a second account correcting this error, but including two losing bets on the Saturday which should have come into the following week's account, and which had the effect of wiping out the winnings up till the Friday, except for the small sum of 3s. 3d. He added the impertinent and obviously superfluous intimation that he did not want "any further business" with the backer, but failed to remit even the 3s. 3d. that he admitted to be due to him. Another instance of Westbrook's omission to pay up has also been brought under my notice, and I have likewise received a complaint showing that his circulars are sometimes addressed to young fellows under age. In the latter case it is a pity that the parents or guardians do not institute a prosecution under Lord Herschell's Act.

The latest notion for extracting money from the pockets of fools by means of a so-called betting system has been evolved by some harpies giving the name of "F. Raymond Lambert and Co.," and the address, 15, Pleydell-avenue, Crystal Palace, London. They have the impudence to describe themselves as "Crystal Palace Caterers," though I am quite sure that they have no connection whatever with the Crystal Palace beyond the fact that they have taken up their quarters in the neighbourhood. Raymond and Co. entitle their system the "Two-in-One System," and state that its "whole essence . . . . is to back for every race each day all horses that start at the same price in two's." The prospectus is filled with jargon of that sort, and though this precious system is a self-evident absurdity, I suppose that some greenhorns are beguiled into parting with their cash in the hope of getting the promised profit of £5 per week on each £1 of capital. It does not seem to me that these dupes deserve much sympathy, though their folly is, of course, no justification for the roguery of F. Raymond Lambert and Co.

In consequence of a recent statement in TRUTH that Army officers were being pestered with circulars from "Charles Marsh," a touting bookmaker, Mr. Charles March, of 147a, Sloane-street, put himself in communication with me for the purpose of showing that he was not the individual in question. In order to remove any misconception that may have arisen from the similarity of the names, I think it is due to Mr. Charles March to say that he has satisfied me that he does not send out cards or circulars indiscriminately, but only to persons who have already done business with him.

"Can you suggest why these moneylending pests are so persistent just now?" The query is put by a sufferer from the plague of usurers' circulars which has certainly raged with abnormal virulence during the past two or three months. The answer is simple. Nobody is quicker than Shylock to make hay while the sun shines, and, of course, it shines for him when the rest of the community are under a cloud. The financial depression which is being so generally experienced provides him with a golden opportunity. He knows that at such a juncture his benevolent offers of cash accommodation will prove peculiarly tempting, and hence the lavish distribution of circulars which is now taking place.

In addition to "Gerald Chesney" (alias Pockett) and the other bloodsuckers whom I pilloried last week, "Carrington's, Limited" (otherwise two Hebrews named Manoy), "B. S. Thomas" (alias C. Samuel), "W. Robertson" (alias Troostwyk), "B. L. Challoner," and "R. Leslie" have become extremely active in the pursuit of their prey. I notice that "R. Leslie," whose real name is Katie Levene, has taken a leaf out of the book of the notorious "S. Bassett" by issuing a special circular to the medical profession, in which she announces her readiness to advance any sum from £50 to £10,000. Doctors are among the first to feel the pinch of hard times, for people generally seem to think that the doctor's bill should be the last to be paid. Katie's kind proposal to come to the rescue must, therefore, be extremely alluring to many an embarrassed practitioner, but, if they take my advice, they will turn a deaf ear to this charmer and all others of the same species.

Apropos of the home employment advertisements, to which I have lately given a good deal of attention, I have received an inquiry about the Albion Show Card Co., of 203, Strand. The *modus operandi* of this firm is precisely identical with others which I described last week. They profess to have a large market for tradesmen's show cards, price tickets, etc., and they offer work in illuminating such cards with materials supplied by them, charging 5s. for the outfit. The pay offered is "from 5s. per dozen upwards." I do not know anything about this particular firm beyond their advertisements and circulars, but my advice to all in search of home work is to avoid all parties offering work on such terms, and this particular trick of illuminating show cards has been for years one of the favourite stalking horses of the home-employment harpy.

Much the same thing may be said of another firm to which my attention has again been called—Golding and Co., of 75, Melbourne-grove, East Dulwich. They have often been mentioned in TRUTH. Their specialty

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

is to offer employment in cutting stencils, and they require a remittance of 1s. 8d. for supplying the stencil cards for this work. Like others in this line, they profess to be able to show that they have paid money to many people for doing the work, but I have no doubt that the number who have recouped their original expenditure of 1s. 8d. is insignificant beside the number who have paid their money for nothing.

I was rather amused the other day at receiving an inquiry about a home employment business from a lunatic asylum. The inquiry did not come from a patient, but from one of the asylum officials, who had found the circulars which he forwarded in the possession of a patient. In this instance the article dealt in was our old friend the rubber stamp, and a Mr. E. M. Richford, of Snow Hill, was offering a "free sample" rubber stamp, with a view to the lunatic setting up an agency for the sale of these stamps. Judging from his stationery and the imposing picture of his premises on Snow Hill, not to mention the other addresses of the firm, Mr. Richford must be in a large way of business, and it seems to me odd that any firm of which this can be said should be looking for agents in a lunatic asylum. But in these days of acute trade competition I suppose one ought to be surprised at nothing.

Apropos of the recent remarks in Truth on the notorious Charles Montague, of Birmingham, and his rheumatoid arthritis advertisement, a lady who fell into this trap narrates a characteristic example of his impudence. She seems to have received considerable quantities of his remedies, though many of them were returned unused; and eventually he ran up a bill for about £14. The lady refused to pay, partly on the ground that she had not derived a particle of benefit from the treatment, and partly because she had never had a considerable portion of the goods charged for. At the same time, she wrote to the party in whose name the rheumatoid arthritis advertisement appeared, who described herself as Mrs. Edwards, of 149, Ladywell-road, Lewisham, telling her that the remedy was useless.

Upon this follows a letter from Montague in a bullying strain, telling the lady that it was her own fault that she was not cured, and intimating that he should hold her responsible for slandering him, though he does not wish to take action unless compelled. Eventually the patient tenders £7 in settlement, which Montague accepts with thanks. He then proceeds to suggest to this same lady, who has refused to pay his bill, and declares that she had derived no benefit whatever from his drugs, that she should recommend him to other persons afflicted with rheumatism, adding, "of course, if you care to accept a little commission, I should be pleased to pay you same." This last sentence throws a most valuable light upon the testimonials from previous patients with which Montague catches new victims.

During the last two or three months, I have received many inquiries about a concern called the "Midland Counties Photo Company, Limited," of County-chambers A, Corporation-street, Birmingham. It is noteworthy that the premises bear the same name as those occupied by the man Montague, mentioned in the last paragraph; but I do not know whether this is any more than an accidental coincidence. This concern has been, and still is, advertising in all parts of the country, for "ladies and gents (young)" to learn portrait-painting and photography at a premium of £10, and also for managers and manageresses for London and provincial centres, who are to qualify by investing £100 in shares.

Hitherto I have been unable to give any definite information about these advertisements, though they belong to a class which should always be regarded with suspicion. Last week, however, the Midland Counties Photo Company, in the person of Henry Spencer, its managing director, came before the Birmingham bench as a complainant against a man named Sage, who had threatened to horsewhip the aforesaid Spencer, and had travelled from Belfast to Birmingham with the intention, as the complainant alleged, of putting his threat into execution. Sage denied that he had any such intention, though he admitted having written the threatening letter, and averred that he went to Spencer's office in a peaceable way in connection with a matter in dispute. He was bound over to keep the peace.

I have since received from Mr. Sage an account of his experiences with the Midland Counties Photo Company, and it is hardly of a nature to encourage investments in this concern, either by managers of branches, or premium paying pupils. It appears that Mr. Sage was engaged to go to Belfast to work under a local manager of the firm there, presumably one of those who have paid their £100 for such an appointment. From his description of the condition of things at the Belfast premises, there would seem to have been little or no possibility of doing any profitable business there; and it was under the irritation produced by his experiences at Belfast that he wrote his ill-advised threat to come to Birmingham to horsewhip Mr. Spencer. This narrative makes one curious to know how the other branch managers, who have paid their £100 to the company, are getting on, and whether they are disposed to recommend the shares as an investment.

Nearly a year ago I commented upon an offer of 20 per cent. commission upon the sales of a proprietary gout specific made broadcast to the clergy by an enterprising Bournemouth drug company. The specific in question was called "Dr. Auzona's Remedy for Gout." The *Pharmaceutical Journal* has since had the specific analysed, and in its current issue publishes the result. It may be of interest, therefore, to the clergy who have been getting 20 per cent. upon the value of the specific supplied to gouty members of their flock whose name they have supplied to the Bournemouth firm to l

that this cure for gout "consists principally of syrup of buckthorn with the addition of a considerable proportion of citric acid." As for the value of citric acid and syrup of buckthorn as a remedy for gout, I must refer all inquirers to their usual medical attendant. Personally, even if the necessity should arise, I would rather not try the effects on myself.

From Freetown, Sierra Leone, a correspondent sends me a circular and batch of lottery tickets which he has received from the Convent of Mercy, Callan, county Kilkenny. The lottery, which is in aid of the convent chapel, is being promoted by the Sisters of Mercy, the Bishop of Ossory has given it his patronage, and the Pope has presented a prize. I am invited to say whether such a lottery is legal in Ireland, and, if not, why it is allowed. The answer is that the law in Ireland prohibits lotteries, but provides no really effective method of enforcing the prohibition, an omission of which the Catholic Church takes full advantage. Whether it is creditable to a Bishop to appear as patron of this law-breaking enterprise is a matter upon which everybody can form his own opinion.

The following letter on the subject of marketing home grown fruit, contains one or two useful hints. The writer dates from Gloucestershire, and evidently has practical acquaintance with the subject:—

> Your article on the experience of a fruit-grower in Sussex is timely, and many have similar experience at the present time. But I have come to the conclusion lately that it is little use blaming either the railway companies or the middlemen. As regards the railway companies, the best plan is to arrange for quantities to be sent at one time, when a fairly cheap rate can be obtained; and as regards the middleman, the best plan is to do without him, as is done by co-operative societies.
>
> The fault of the class of growers you mention is that they have no one about them who understands what is meant by "growing for market," that is, the selection of the best sorts to grow, the grading and packing of the produce, and, above all, growing sufficient quantities of different sorts to make it worth while to employ skilled hands for this work.
>
> We know that these conditions and others are understood by the Canadian and Californian growers, and that is one of the chief reasons of their success in the English market. The class of English growers who send their surplus produce to market usually manage this part of their business very badly.

I have no doubt there is a great deal of truth in this, but the transport question is of vital importance, and under existing conditions, it is no use telling the isolated country producer that he should do without the middleman. What seems to be wanted is some sort of organisation which would take in hand the business of "grading," packing, and transport, and no doubt such an organisation would be best constructed on co-operative lines.

It is worthy of note how often this question of packing comes up, in connection with all branches of British trade and industry. In reports of British Consuls and others, one constantly hears of the advantage which the Germans get from superior knowledge of the art of packing goods in a convenient and attractive manner, and the Americans also cultivate this art with great success. A few months ago, a tobacconist in a large way of business was talking to me about the success of a new brand of cigarettes that had come into great vogue, and he put it down entirely to the attractiveness of the packing. I do not know whether our technical schools make this a special branch of study, but it is quite certain that they would do so with advantage.

The last annual report of the Superintendent of Prisons in Trinidad shows a lurid light on the treatment of the coolies imported from India to be "indentured" to the sugar planters. Having mentioned that during the year no fewer than 1,745 coolies were sent to prison for "breach of immigration ordinance," the Superintendent says:—

> Many of the indentured immigrants on their commitment are in a very wretched state of health, and have to be taken at once into the infirmary; many were admitted with large sores and in a state unfit for work.

It is for the offence of refusing or failing to work that the vast majority of these unfortunate coolies, actually incapacitated by their "very wretched state of health," are prosecuted and punished. The object of the prosecutions is explained by a Trinidad newspaper. As the immigration law requires the planters to provide hospital accommodation and medical attendance for the indentured labourers on their estates, they save money by getting sick coolies sent to gaol, where they are treated in the infirmary at the expense of the taxpayers. By this dodge, therefore, an illicit addition is made to the share of the cost of the immigration system with which the public at large have been saddled for the benefit of the sugar growers.

It is said that the coolies are as well off in the gaol infirmaries as they would be in the estate hospitals. Very likely, but this does not alter the fact that they are wrongly imprisoned, and though their employers evidently do not credit them with any such sensitiveness, it is probable that these unfortunate coolies feel an injustice as keenly as other people. The most serious feature of the matter, however, is not the conduct of the planters but the conduct of the authorities entrusted with the administration of the immigration ordinance. When magistrates are found to be habitually imprisoning sick coolies at the instance of the planters, what reliance can be placed upon their impartiality in other cases—such, for instance, as disputes in regard to the payment of the statutory minimum wage—where the interests of coolies and planters come into conflict? What is one to think, moreover, of the Protector of Immigrants? That official and his staff have often been accused of protecting the employers rather than the immigrants, and it looks as if there were some truth in the accusation.

The Colonial Secretary is so enamoured of the indentured labour system that I fear it would be useless to call his attention to this report. I trust, however, that it will produce some action on the part of the Indian Government, seeing that it discloses a shameful violation of one of the conditions on which the recruiting of the coolies in India is sanctioned.

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

Every one must have a certain measure of sympathy with Mr. Victor Cavendish. He is, as he says, a sincere and convinced Free Trader. By a mere accident he joined the Balfour Administration just after the Sheffield speech. The Duke of Devonshire, on thinking over that speech, felt that he could not, as a Free Trader, remain in the Cabinet, but his nephew, having joined it after the speech, could not well withdraw. He finds himself like the young Casabianca on the deck of a ship with whose crew he has no sympathy, and which he knows is doomed to destruction. Under these circumstances he tries to believe that Mr. Balfour is really a Free Trader, and that, if necessary, he is prepared to take the field against Mr. Chamberlain.

This does more credit to his heart than to his head. Retaliation, he labours to convince himself, is not Protection, unless it "covers ulterior designs." The best proof that it does, and necessarily must, is that Mr. Chamberlain commenced his crusade by advocating retaliation, and those who were silly enough to suppose that it could be practised without protection of local interests for protection's sake, are now, with their leader, full-blown Protectionists. Mr. Cavendish is still for a conference on the ground that if it can effect no good, it can do no harm. The harm that it does is that by implication we declare ourselves prepared to tax food and raw material from all sources, except the Colonies, in consideration of their only taxing our products sufficiently high to protect their manufactures from our competition. This, even assuming that under any circumstances we would tax either food or raw material, would be as absurd as for us to enter a conference to consider whether we are prepared to exchange with the Colonies an entire suit of clothes, including a serviceable great-coat, for a pair of gloves.

Mr. Cavendish suggests that we are bound to make some monetary sacrifice to the Colonies in view of the valuable aid that they gave us during the South African war. What was that aid? They sent us some soldiers on consideration that we added enough to their pay to ensure them better terms than we granted to our own men. Without wishing to be disagreeable to our Colonies, it is full time that this transaction should be clearly understood. I was a member of our Legation at Washington during the Crimean war. We received orders to recruit soldiers, if possible, and I was sent to New York to arrange this. America's sympathies were on the side of Russia, but I could have got as many recruits as I liked by paying for them. I got a few before the United States Government discovered what was going on, and, but for this discovery, a vast number of likely men, actuated partly by a love of adventure and partly by the good pay, would have been ready to enlist either under the English or the Russian flag.

Such is always the case in every country. The Swiss have been for ages very independent, with a keen sense of liberty and country. But no foreign country ever had any difficulty in obtaining Swiss soldiers, and often they fought on both sides in a war. So it was with the mercenary bands of the Middle Ages. They hired themselves out to any State that would employ them without knowing or caring on which side right was. Why, then, are we to suppose that matters happened differently in our Colonies, or that human nature is not the same there as it has ever been elsewhere? The notion that we are eternally to tax our foodstuffs to reward our Colonies because some of their citizens enlisted for a brief term of service under the British flag is really the very climax of folly.

I see that our Labour leaders are in communication with Mr. Watson, the ex-Premier and leader of the Labour Party in Victoria, on the fiscal question. Mr. Watson has telegraphed that any official fiscal conference between us and the Colony should be preceded by an expression of opinion on the general principle, which, if favourable, would allow of an immediate practical outcome. Call it general principle or by any other name, it might be well to understand what the Labour Party in Victoria is itself prepared to accept from us, and what it is prepared to give us in return. On what articles from foreign countries would they have us impose a duty, and on what articles of foreign source would they impose a duty? What, too, is to be the amount of such duties? Our working men—as now advised—are not prepared to allow their food to be made dearer by any duty on foreign imports. But, as it is always well to know what is clearly meant by a general principle, it might be well that our Labour leaders should ask the Labour leaders of Victoria what would be the *quid pro quo* if they changed their minds. So far as I understand the present position, the Colonies, including Victoria, would claim to be allowed such a duty on foreign goods as would effectively protect their own industries. I think that a very brief correspondence would show that the working men of Victoria would think our men fools if they deemed this a fair and acceptable bargain.

From the very first moment that the Government of the day granted a charter to certain speculators who had become possessed of a concession from Lobengula in Matabeleland, I have protested. I was fully convinced that the Government had no right to hold out, as it practically did by such a charter, a sort of official guarantee of the soundness of an investment in which the public were to be invited to take shares. The concessions I thought of little real value, and Lobengula complained that he had been swindled by means of forgery. The British public and I, however, were not at one in this matter. The £1 shares of this Chartered Company, many of which had been acquired for nothing by the concessionaires and their friends, went up to £8, and it seemed to be thought that they would go considerably higher, for they were manipulated by those wishing for the rise on the Stock Exchange in a fashion that would have done credit to the directo of the old South Sea Bubble.

Now at length the unfortunate shareholders have turned upon their directors—who consist mainly of those connected with the original concession and of noblemen who apparently hold their posts because they are noblemen. The shares have fallen to a little above par, and one million more have to be issued to keep the Company from bankruptcy. The territory of the Chartered Company covers 750,000 square miles. Railways have been built under guarantees which the Company cannot meet without fresh capital. Loans have been made to mining companies which also have to be met, whilst each year the administration costs a good deal more than can be obtained by taxation. The natives have to pay a hut tax of £1 per annum. The Company proposed to double it, but this, with good reason, was forbidden by the Imperial Government, as the imposition of £1 had led to a rebellion. There are a trifle more than 12,000 white men in the entire domains of the Company—or, probably, after deducting those connected with the Company, about 9,000. Enormous fortunes have been made by several of the South African cosmopolitan speculators. But every farthing that they have gained has come out of the pockets of the dupes who bought the shares of the Company at a huge premium.

What, then, does the Duke of Abercorn, who was created the permanent Chairman of the Company by the charter, propose? It is this. That the sparse white men in the territory should take over £7,500,000 of the capital expenditure of the Company, two-thirds of this to be given to the Company, and one-third entrusted to it to administer for public utility. Naturally the whites have demurred to this. The proposal, indeed, is farcical, for of course the whites could not pay interest on such an amount. At the riotous meeting of the Company last week his Grace, however, explained what he meant by the proposal. This was that the long-suffering British taxpayer should accept the obligation. The Empire is to be asked to lend its credit to the Company. The Company is entitled to receive back a large portion of its capital expenditure, "not as a favour, but as a right."

There was a time when possibly some taxpayers would have recognised this "right." Fortunately the time has passed and is not likely to recur. The speculation has proved a rotten one to the shareholders. If it had proved the reverse they would have gained. This idea of "heads I win, tails you lose," provided that the player professes that he has been actuated by Imperial patriotism, is no longer in the ascendant. Were the concessionaires and the manipulators of the Company's shares to return to the shareholders all that they have made, the shareholders would somewhat profit; but even were this done, I doubt if the shares would have any value, for it has entered into a vast number of liabilities that it cannot meet, and never, according to all reasonable probability, will be able to meet.

After the revelations of the mode in which the Company was conducted before the Committee of Investigation into the Jameson Raid, the charter ought to have been forfeited. If the Company cannot meet its obligations, it ought to lose its charter. To suppose that it will be relieved of the obligations in regard to administration that it undertook, and left with its assets, is to suppose that the Government is so entirely in the hands of the South African gang that it is prepared to rob the British taxpayer to any amount for their benefit. Judging by the past, the present Government would not hesitate to do this. But probably just now it does not dare.

What has led the Russians to accept war with Japan, and will lead them to fight it out to a finish, is probably this. They are an Asiatic as well as a European Power, far more than we are, for about one-third of Asia forms an integral part of their Empire. It is essentian to their commercial development that they should have a free exit to the Pacific, at any rate if they are forbidden to approach either the Indian Ocean or the Mediterranean. Eastern Siberia is far removed from the centre of their military strength, and to maintain a formidable naval force in the Pacific would not only be very expensive, but the fleet could with difficulty be reinforced from the Baltic, owing to want of coaling stations on the route and other reasons. Were Japan to secure Korea and Manchuria, not only would Russia be confined to one Pacific port, ice-bound in winter, but would find herself always in presence of an aggressive and ambitious nation, well armed and strongly patriotic, which could always attack her with the advantage of position and close vicinity to its resources. This mere fact would greatly weaken Russia as a Great Power elsewhere, and were she involved in a European war, she would always have to count with the possibility of Japan joining her foe or foes.

Politically, therefore, I do not blame the Russians for their determination at all costs to secure the victory over Japan. Under similar circumstances we should, I think, do the same—indeed, we have done the same where the danger was not as great to our Empire. What was the argument urged for our Transvaal war? That the Boers would become a powerful nation, and would seize some occasion of our being at war in some other part of the world to attack us and drive us out of South Africa. To hinder this it was said that we should always have to keep a huge garrison in South Africa owing to its distance from our military centre. The same argument has been used to justify our "peaceful mission" to Tibet. Yet it is obvious that neither the independence of the Boers nor of the Tibetans could have ever been as serious a danger to us as the possession of Korea and Manchuria to Russia; and our alliance with Japan must have brought home to the Russians this danger.

In thus explaining the grounds that Russia had for taking up the glove thrown down by Japan, I by no means would imply that I trust that she will come out of the struggle victorious. Those who entertain the view that Asiatics only exist for the sake of Europe, and that their rights never can be permitted

to conflict with what we are pleased to regard as European exigencies, ought to hope that victory will rest with Russia. I, however, am not one of these. Just as I am for Europe for Europeans, so am I for Asia for Asiatics. They have just as much right to govern themselves as we have. They should be recognised as within the area of the international law that regulates the relations between European and American States. As it is, a perpetual struggle is going on between the so-called civilised States to grab territory and to establish spheres of influence in Asia.

To my thinking, Russia has done more for Asia than England. We have been long in possession of India. We have established there a *Pax Britannica*, we have maintained order, and we have fairly administered our possessions. But the gulf between Europeans and natives is as great as it was before. We rule rather by brute force than by popular will, and we have trained Mohammedans and Hindus to be our soldiers. The millions of natives, although civilised Asiatics, and many of them able and learned men, are all regarded as an inferior race, and treated as such. Our supremacy is bound up in this doctrine of inequality, and all advances in self-government are steadily resisted, unless it be permitted on sufferance, and natives are only allowed to occupy the lower grades in the Administration. It is much the same thing in Egypt. The land is better governed than it was under Mohammedan rule, and the people are better off. But our plea to remain there was that we were to prepare the people to govern themselves, and in this we have made no progress. Russia adopts a different course in Asia. An Asiatic and a Russian trader or peasant have the same rights. Whatever liberty is possessed by the one is possessed by the other. An able Asiatic can, and often does, rise to the highest grade in the Army or the Civil Service, and every effort is made to amalgamate the two races.

General Kuropatkin's reputation, which has been steadily rising in England since the Japanese entered Manchuria, has been somewhat eclipsed by the events of the last week. A fortnight ago it looked as if he still held the winning cards in the game. The Japanese apparently hesitated to advance further, and no doubt for good reasons. The Russians had probably suffered less from their retreats than the Japanese from their victories. Every stage that they fell back strengthened their position and rendered that of the Japanese more dangerous. The former seemed to have everything to gain and nothing to lose by further retirement if the enemy ventured to press them. Why, under these circumstances, the Russian general should have changed his tactics and turned upon the enemy is a mystery difficult to understand.

It is generally supposed that this disastrous move was forced upon Kuropatkin from St. Petersburg or by the pressure of political and personal considerations. But if a general considers that a particular course of strategy is the only one that will save the situation it is his duty to adhere to it, regardless of the consequences to himself, and to accept disgrace rather than consent to a course which he believes will end in disaster. That applies equally whether his Government dictates to him what he is to do or whether he is merely actuated by the fear of being recalled or superseded. If Kuropatkin is really the man he has shown himself up to now, he would refuse to be moved by any but military considerations. That means that he really believed that the time had come when he could smash his enemy. In that case he has miscalculated hopelessly and failed dismally, and his failure is accentuated by the bombastic proclamation in which he attempted to rally his army to victory. After this no one can blame his countrymen if they hold him responsible for the disaster. Marlborough, when intrigues against him at home became troublesome, and the peace party was getting the upper hand, used to turn the tables by marching out and gaining another crushing victory. That is an admirable example for any general in a similar position—provided he is sure of his victory. Otherwise it is likely to make matters worse.

There has been, as usual, a disposition in the English Press to exaggerate the extent of the Japanese victory. So far as can be seen at present, the Russians are still fighting with desperate valour and stubbornness, though it is pretty clear that they have quite lost their hold on Manchuria for the present. The most horrible feature of the situation is that no victory of the Japanese brings the prospect of peace any nearer. So far as one can judge from the newspapers, the carnage now going on in Manchuria is on a scale unprecedented in the bloodiest wars in history, and never before has there been so little prospect of any decisive result from it. This is indeed a spectacle to "stagger humanity."

THE CHUB, THE PERCH, AND THE ROACH.

A Quarrel once, as Fishes tell,
Betwixt the Chub and Perch befell;
And Roach, who loved the Perch beyond
All other Fishes in the Pond,
Expressed his Sympathy, and made
Of moral Help a great Parade.
"Go it, dear Perch. Bravo!" he cries,
"And give him 'Artificial Flies.'"
(Which Phrase in piscine Parlance means
What Humans would express by "Beans.")
"He 's big, 'tis true—a hulking Lout,
But has no Stomach for the Bout.
Go in, and soon you' ll knock him out."
Encouraged thus, the Perch went in,
And charged the Chub with spiky Fin.
But Chub, his pond'rous Tail he flaps,
And answers Perch with sounding Slaps.
Which, even though no Blood they drew,
The Perch's Ribs made black and blue.
But Roach still cries: "Have, Perch, no Fear!
Nor heed the Slaps he gives you, Dear.
You 'll lick him, if you persevere."
At this, a Dace, who 'd watched the Fight,
Said to the Roach, "You stump me quite.
'Tis plain to me, and plain to you,
That Chub, if slow, is stubborn, too:
Eke that he 'll never flinch nor quail,
While still a Flap 's left in his Tail
What follows? If the Perch, your Friend,
Will fight him to the bitter End,

The Chub he 'll cripple sore. That 's so;
But how about himself, you know?
Why, mauled and smashed, in sorry Plight,
He 'll quit, at length, this desp'rate Fight,
With battered Ribs, with mangled Fin,
Nor one whole Bone in all his Skin.
And yet this Perch, whom Friend you're calling,
You urge to court that Fate appalling!"
The Roach, he winked his artful Eye,
And thus, sardonic, made Reply:
"Sweet Dace, I always use my Friends
To serve my own ulterior Ends.
So now, I use the Perch to rub
Off *my* old Scores against the Chub.
Besides—th' unvarnished Truth to speak—
I'd rather see my Allies weak.
For, strong, they get too proud and free;
But, weakened, they depend on me.
Thus 'tisn't only Perch, my Friend,
Who 's serving now my private End;
But serves it, too, the Chub, my Foe,
Each Time he deals the Perch a Blow;
For when they 're crippled both," cried he,
"Who 's left to boss the Pond but me?"

Moral.

The Moral hits no special Nation,
But is of world-wide Application,
Pointing, impartially, to those
Who play their Friends against their Foes.

SCRUTATOR.

THE CASE FOR DISSOLUTION.

IT is no safe rule in estimating the probabilities of any individual taking a particular course to assume that it will be that which best suits his interests, and still less so when the matter concerns the action of a political party. We can only estimate what the Unionist Party will do, by what they have done, and on this assumption it is more likely that their counsels will be foolish than wise.

My own firm conviction is that Mr. Chamberlain, on his return from his visit to South Africa, had fully realised that his policy in the Transvaal had been a mistake, and that a reaction had set in against his wild Imperialism. He was too much bound to the party in which he had taken service with a view to lead it for him to desert it; nor could he openly recant "Imperialism," as he had made himself its apostle. He therefore sought to discover some new departure which would occupy men's minds to the exclusion of the Conservative creed at home, whilst he might be able to say that he was still as much an Imperialist as ever. He had been a Radical, and he had turned a Tory; why, then, should he not, he thought, from Free Trader become a Protectionist? As a Protectionist he still would curse "Little Englanders," still profess to weld together the Empire, and still denounce the wicked foreigner. He knew that a considerable number of the most stupid of what is still the stupid party secretly clung to Protection, and that many of our capitalists and manufacturers, who had acclaimed him already as their patron saint, would be eager to declare themselves Protectionists, if only Protection could be brought within the area of practical politics. Of the respective merits of Free Trade and Protection he knew little, except that whilst we held by the one economic creed most other countries held by the other. A man with a ready tongue could, he felt convinced, argue as plausibly for the one as for the other, and with the experience before him of the facility with which he had fooled his countrymen into accepting his Imperialism, he fancied that he could rally them to Protection if he only came forward as its prophet. Whether these were the real grounds for his suddenly declaring himself a Protectionist, or whether he really deluded himself into the belief that we should do well to revert to that exploded heresy, may be a disputed point. The fact remains that he virtually declared himself a Protectionist, and as usual denounced all those as unpatriotic who declined to follow his example.

Mr. Balfour's position, as laid down in his last speech, is not by any means the same as that of Mr. Chamberlain. He declares that he is so strongly opposed to the imposition of duties on foreign imports in order to protect our home industries, that, rather than agree to it, he would withdraw from the Premiership. Nor would he levy an import duty on food or other raw material in order to be able to exempt our colonies from the obligation to pay it. So far as I understand him, his agreement with Mr. Chamberlain does not go further than an abstract opinion that, if at any time it can be shown that some country is treating us unfairly in the matter of tariffs, and we clearly perceive that retaliation would be more profitable to us than leaving things alone, we might possibly be wise in adopting the former course—an opinion which the strongest Free Trader would hardly controvert, beyond expressing the view that in all probability a case in which we can act on the doctrine with advantage to ourselves will never occur. In respect to colonial preference, the Premier has no strong convictions. He, therefore, suggests that the constituencies should be invited to give him a majority at the next General Election, in order that he should be empowered to propose to the Colonies and India to join us in a conference, to discover whether any scheme of fiscal union is possible, to the joint advantage of all, and commanding the assent of all the parties concerned. If the conference does evolve such a scheme, then it is to be submitted to Parliament after a second General Election has taken place. To say that the pair are in agreement is, therefore, an absurdity. Their difference is not alone one of detail, but of principle. Mr. Chamberlain, to do him justice, has a policy. To Mr. Balfour the old lines are applicable.

> "He coins new phrases,
> And vends them forth as knaves vend gilded counters,
> Which wise men scorn, and fools accept in payment."

The Unionist party has—apart from the fiscal question—lost ground in the country, whilst on that question it is rent in twain. Many of its leading men, in whose solid common sense a large portion of the electorate had confidence, have left it. The Cabinet has become a mere rump, representing only a section of the

Party. Its Associations have been captured by Mr. Chamberlain, but—if we are to believe many prominent Unionists—the rank and file do not hold with the Associations. Each section is ostracising the Parliamentary candidates of the other. Its two chiefs are playing a game against each other for the Premiership, and the differences between them are so fundamental, and of such paramount importance to the entire future of the country, that they cannot be bridged over by any form of words, or by any assurances of mutual love and respect. Under these circumstances, both chiefs and both sections agree that the Party will be beaten at the next General Election, and both console themselves with the hope that the victorious Liberals will soon fall out with each other, and that, during their brief tenure of office, the Unionists will somehow all fall into line, and thus return to power at a second General Election. This can only be proved by the event. At present the important question is, When will the present Parliament be dissolved?

Looking at this question from the standpoint of the national interest, the dissolution ought already to have taken place, and in any case ought not any longer to be deferred. It cannot be said that the electorate has not had a full opportunity to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest the arguments urged for and against Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal proposals. It can serve no good purpose to leave our traders and manufacturers in doubt under what conditions they are henceforth to carry on their operations, for the necessary consequence must be a continuation of the stagnation and absence of enterprise that has followed an expensive and unremunerative war. It is difficult to understand what patriotic grounds can be urged against an immediate dissolution. One swallow does not make a summer. But the turnover in votes in every constituency in which there has been a by-election tells its own tale, and is, indeed, fully admitted by the Unionists as well as by the Liberals. During the last Session, little attention was paid to the debates in Parliament, and the House of Commons was practically *functus officii*. The only legislative enactment of the Government was an Act regarding the sale of spirituous liquors, which almost avowedly was introduced to meet the imperious demands of the liquor sellers. If the present Parliament lasts for another Session, its condition will be that of a man on his deathbed. No Parliament can be influential unless it represents the opinion of the country, and dares to act as its representative. All else is at variance with constitutional government, and lowering the authority of the great Council of the Nation is a public danger. The present Parliament can neither act as the guardian of the rights of the people, nor as a controlling force on the Executive.

But Party tactics cannot be ignored, however we may regret that sometimes they are not identical with patriotism. We must take things as they are rather than as they ought to be. I fail, however, to see what the Unionist Party has to gain by putting off the election. It seems to me that the fiscal differences between the two sections are not likely to be healed by delay, but more likely to be aggravated. The more closely the divergencies are looked into, the more serious will they appear. At any moment they may assume such a form that the split will render united action impossible. With two Kings of Brentford in the field, each wanting to smell the rose, with one section Protectionist and the other wedded to Free Trade, and with the issue kept well to the front, it is self-evident that the Party is doomed to defeat at the next General Election. This defeat will be more disastrous if it be thought that the Party is clinging on to power by a refusal to submit itself to the verdict of the country. To the practical man sufficient for the day is the General Election thereof. If the Unionists really think that their defeat will be merely temporary, and that a year or two later they will find themselves once more in office supported by a Parliamentary majority, common sense points to taking the first step to ultimate victory, and not allowing their internal squabbles to be still further developed by delay. Nothing is more harmful to a Government in public estimation than impotence—nothing less conducive to electoral success than for a Government to be reduced to the condition of merely marking time; nothing more dangerous to a Party than divided councils. When Mr. Gladstone's contemplated resignation was impending after he had been defeated in the House of Lords on Home Rule and other issues, that experienced Party leader offered to remain Premier provided that his colleagues would agree to a dissolution. They refused, and the Liberal Administration of Lord Rosebery that succeeded him sank into ridicule and contempt. The Unionists would do well to take this experience to heart.

Alike, then, in the interests of their country and of their Party, the Unionists would do well at once to announce an immediate General Election. Were Mr. Balfour a strong statesman he would have done so long ago. But he is little more than a clever amateur politician tickled with the Premiership, and desirous to retain the post as long as possible, incapable of bold, resolute action, and ever hoping to save himself from disaster by trickery and chicanery. Mr. Chamberlain dares boldly if he resolves recklessly. Probably he is at heart in favour of an immediate dissolution, but he hesitates to force one on in the face of the disapproval of Mr. Balfour. As for the Parliamentary rank and file of the Party, they—or, rather, most of them—would put it off, because each individual fears that he would lose his election, and they collectively hope against hope that, if delayed, something may possibly weigh down the balance a little more in their favour. My own conviction is that, should the present Parliament be once more called together in session, there should be an amendment to the King's Speech, declaring that an immediate dissolution is necessary for the public welfare, and that if this amendment, as is probable, be defeated, the entire Liberal Party should decline to take any further part in the Session. I know that the Unionists would profess to rejoice at such a decision, but they would very soon find that this passive resistance would make a dissolution inevitable. Nothing is to be gained by the Liberal M.P.s attending the proceedings of the House. It is

true that they could make speeches there, but these speeches would be more usefully made on platforms throughout the country. Were this plan adopted, I am as certain as I am of my own existence, that the present Parliament would disappear before next Easter, and that an additional impetus would be given to the Opposition to the present Government by the latter having done its utmost to prolong unconstitutionally and improperly its official existence, and having failed in the attempt.

EXPLOITING THE HOSPITALS.

Some interesting additional light is thrown upon the Hospital Penny Fund by an article in last Saturday's *Hospital*. In the first place it is pointed out that the promoters of the scheme are not accurate in saying that 75 per cent. of the receipts will go to the hospitals and 25 per cent. to the payment of "expenses," *i.e.*, to the promoters and those who have a business interest in the undertaking. The *Hospital* asserts that the paper running the scheme obtains for itself an additional $6\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. on the money derived from the sale of the stamps, which would bring the total percentage secured by those interested in the scheme to $31\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. I understand this calculation to be based on the fact that those who buy the stamps have to apply for them on a coupon printed in *Public Opinion*. The cost of this paper being twopence, every half-crown's worth of stamps really costs the purchaser 2s. 8d. In addition, therefore, to the 25 per cent. reserved for expenses, twopence for every 2s. 6d. spent goes to the proprietor of the newspaper which is running the scheme. Mr. Goldman, the secretary, has written to the papers contradicting the allegation in the *Hospital*; but as the facts seem to be quite clear, he must have done this without taking the trouble to ascertain what he was contradicting. It may be said, of course, that in calculating the 25 per cent., the profits of *Public Opinion* are not reckoned. That may be so, but the profits are made, and have therefore to be taken into consideration if the true bearings of this scheme are to be properly understood. The point made by the *Hospital* merely reduces to arithmetic what I said myself a few weeks ago, viz., that the paper running the scheme is obviously doing it for its own benefit, like everybody else connected with this egregious charitable movement.

The other point brought out in the *Hospital* article is that, out of ten hospitals included in the first list of institutions to be benefited all but one—the St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin—have more or less decisively denied having authorised the use of their names in connection with the scheme. Out of the ten included in the second list, which was only published a week before the *Hospital* dealt with the matter, seven, these being all that had answered inquiries up to the time that the article went to press, gave a similar denial. The disclaimers are more emphatic in some cases than in others, and it would appear that some of the hospitals were at first disposed to entertain the scheme, but afterwards altered their minds. In many cases, however, the names of the hospitals are being used in defiance of their clearly expressed wishes. The secretary of St. Mary's Hospital writes that the matter was considered by the Finance Committee, who "decided to have nothing to do with the concern." The secretary of Guy's forwards correspondence showing that the use of the name of that hospital was unauthorised. The Governors of Middlesex Hospital had "declined to entertain the scheme." Perhaps the worst case is that of St. Bartholomew's. So far back as March 31 the Clerk informed Mr. Rawson that they would have nothing to do with the scheme, and begged that the circulation of stamps bearing a view of the hospital might be stopped. On May 2 he wrote again asking what steps had been taken, and Mr. Rawson wrote a reply which, if it means anything, means that St. Bartholomew's could not be represented as having any interest in the scheme. Nevertheless, the name of St. Bartholomew's appears in the second list of hospitals published in *Public Opinion* of October 7, and it is explained at the same time that each of these hospitals have booklets of stamps specially devoted to them. From these facts every reader can see for himself whether the hospitals are being exploited with their consent or not.

The facts of this disreputable enterprise are so clear that it seems waste of time to argue about them. But I may say a word in regard to a reply that was offered, or attempted, to my last article on this subject. In that reply it was asked "whether Truth could mention any philanthropic scheme which is administered on less than or as little as 25 per cent. of its receipts." The question is utterly wide of the point, and could only have been put in this form for the purpose of obscuring the issue. The administration of a charity is a part of the business of the charity. In this particular case there is no charity to be administered. The administration will only begin when the money is handed over to the hospitals. What we have to look at in the Hospital Penny scheme is that 25 per cent. is sweated out of the money before it is applied to any charitable purpose, administrative or otherwise. The Penny Fund is merely a collecting agency. What I have said in relation to this particular scheme was that a charity which spent 25 per cent. of its receipts on the business of collecting money would stand self-condemned. There are dozens of dishonest burlesques of charities now in the field run on this 25 per cent. basis; that is to say, on the basis that 5s. out of every sovereign collected goes into the pockets of the collectors. The 25 per cent. basis is the badge of the lowest form of charity-mongering. In the same paragraph from which I take this argument I am asked to inform my readers who inspired my attack, and the sage writer goes on to add that he can make a shrewd guess, and that if his guess is right, "the explanation is simplicity itself." I do not know what his guess may be, but he is perfectly right about the explanation. My attention was called to the Hospital Penny Fund last spring by the managers of hospitals who had received circulars inviting their co-operation. I was blessed with just sufficient common-sense to be able to gather the drift of the scheme from the statements of the promoters. My most recent information came in the same way from various hospitals, chiefly

in the provinces, which had received further circulars from the Fund accompanied by extracts from *Public Opinion*, and I deciphered this literature by the same process as that which preceded it. In other words, my "attack" has been "inspired" by the scheme itself, and my knowledge of it is derived from the statements of those who promoted and are running it.

In a letter which Mr. H. J. Drane has written to the Press, he refers to my last article as containing a "venomous attack" on Mr. Rawson. I have made no attack on Mr. Rawson beyond what is involved in his position as the chief originator of the scheme. Incidentally, I have referred to certain matters—such as his position as an adherent of Christian Science—which suggests that he is not the most likely man living to organise a disinterested movement on behalf of the hospitals; but the whole point of my criticism has been that nobody connected with the scheme is disinterested. They are all "on the make"—with the exception of the two titled gentlemen whose names adorn the committee—and one of these, Sir Anthony Compton Thornhill, has himself written to inform me that he went on to the committee to look after the interests of a friend. I have made no "attack," therefore, on Mr. Rawson other than I have made on all those who have been associated with him in grinding their own axes under the pretence of organising a great philanthropic movement. Mr. Rawson has now written to the papers to say that he has dissociated himself from the scheme. I think he is wise, though he would have been wiser had he never set it in motion.

There is really no room for two opinions about this undertaking. If there had been, it would not have been left to an almost unknown journal of limited circulation to take it up. No one can suppose that the promoters gave the job to *Public Opinion* until they had satisfied themselves that more influential and widely-read papers were not disposed to identify themselves with it. The scheme is not inspired by charitable motives in the promoters, and does not appeal to such motives in the subscribers, except by a side wind; and the only justification that could possibly be shown for its existence is removed by what has now transpired as to the attitude of the hospitals themselves towards it. If I were to open a fund for the benefit of Mr. Henry J. Drane, proposing to retain 25 per cent. of the receipts for myself to cover my expenses in collecting the money, and if I were to take this step and set about getting in the money without obtaining Mr. Drane's sanction to my proceedings, I take it that he would regard this movement on my part as a gross impertinence, and possibly feel somewhat angry about it. The movement which his journal is promoting stands precisely on the same footing. Had the hospitals after full consideration decided to identify themselves with this scheme, whatever one might think of the good sense of their decision, the promoters could, to a certain extent, have taken shelter behind it. But the organisation of such a collection without the fullest and most cordial approval and co-operation on the part of all the principal institutions concerned can only be accurately called, as I called it in my last article, an outrage on charity. It seems to me to be the duty of the hospitals now to take some joint action for the purpose of repudiating the scheme, and to notify their repudiation throughout the country in such a way that the public can be under no misapprehension about it. It may be, of course, that the scheme will fail ignominiously. I hope it will. But it is calculated to bring so much discredit upon the cause represented by the hospitals that these institutions, both in London and in the provinces owe it to themselves to define their attitude towards it unmistakably.

A NOVELTY IN COUNTY COURT PRACTICE.

About a year ago, a good deal of attention was devoted in Truth to the business carried on by Mr. J. G. Graves, of Sheffield. The business was, and, I dare say, still is, a very large one. It is a retail business, conducted by post, and maintained by means of attractive advertisements, published broadcast in the cheaper class of magazines and newspapers. The criticism which it incurred in Truth was founded upon the fact, that, unlike the majority of businesses run in this way, it is a credit business, and the objections raised had reference to the methods adopted by Mr. Graves for putting the screw upon his numerous debtors. It is an entire novelty, and not a very pleasing one, for a firm to offer to supply watches, jewellery, and other goods in immense variety to any one who likes to order them, and undertakes to pay for them by instalments. The business is as risky as it is novel. A large proportion of the customers, as might be expected, are working-class people, clerks, or others of exiguous incomes, and who are not, as a rule, able to buy on credit. A large business is also done with the rank and file of the Army, and the lower decks of H.M. ships. In order to put pressure on such customers when behindhand with their payments, Mr. Graves adopts various dodges. One is to write to their employers for particulars of their wages, enclosing at the same time an affidavit to be sworn for the purpose of County Court proceedings. In order to encourage the employer to make the affidavit, it is pointed out to him that, unless he complies, Graves will be under the disagreeable necessity of enforcing his attendance at Sheffield by a subpœna. Another favourite course of procedure is to invite a police officer in the neighbourhood to make inquiries about the debtor, a small fee being remitted to pay him for his trouble, the object, of course, being to frighten the man, and use the police as means of stimulating him to payment of the debt. In the case of men in the Army and Navy it was, and still is, Graves' practice to write to the commanding officer with a view of getting him to act as a sort of debt collector. In short, after giving credit recklessly and in a way that no ordinary business man would do, Graves invents a variety of illegitimate methods of recovering the debts, which he has tempted people to contract. From every point of view, therefore, the business is mischievous and objectionable.

I recall and repeat this criticism now, in view of an extraordinary document, a copy of which I have received from a firm of solicitors in the provinces. The solicitors in question had received it from clients of theirs, to whom it was in the first instance addressed. It is of so much public interest that I give it below verbatim, merely omitting the official reference numbers, and the names of the defendant and the firm to whom the communication is addressed:—

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF YORKSHIRE, HOLDEN AT SHEFFIELD.

No. of Plaint ———
No. of Judgment Summons ———

BETWEEN

JOHN GEORGE GRAVES, *Plaintiff.*

and

——— *Defendant.*

A judgment summons having been issued against the above-named defendant, who is stated to be in your employ as a ———
I have to ask you, for the information of the Court, to fill up the statement of wages at the foot hereof, and return the same to me before the 30th September, 1904, in the enclosed stamped envelope.

A compliance with this request may save the inconvenience of your personal attendance in Court, as the plaintiff is entitled to issue a subpœna for that purpose.

This statement will not be permitted to be used for any purpose whatever other than for the information of the Court on the hearing of the summons.

Joseph Binney, Registrar.

Messrs. ———.
Weekly average, £

I certify that the following are the actual weekly earnings of the above defendant for the last six weeks:—

£ s. d.

Week ending
ditto
ditto
ditto
ditto
ditto

(Signature of employer, manager, cashier, or wages clerk) ———
Dated the day of 190
Postal Order 2s. enclosed.

This document is a new and improved version of Mr. Graves' old trick of writing personally to the employer, and requesting him to make an affidavit as to the means of the defaulting debtor, under pain of being summoned to Sheffield on subpœna. Instead of doing this work himself, or employing his own salaried solicitor to do it, Mr. Graves is apparently now able to command the services of the Registrar of the County Court for this purpose. I do not blame him for using the Registrar if he can, but the Registrar's position in the matter seems to be open to very unfavourable remark. The firm of solicitors who send me the document say that they are unaware of any Rule of Court or other authority which empowers a County Court Registrar to undertake such work as this on behalf of a plaintiff in the Court. From such inquiries as I have made on the subject, other lawyers are equally in the dark about this new departure in County Court practice. It comes to this, that the staff of the Court are employed in obtaining for a plaintiff the evidence which he requires in order to prove his case, and so far as I am aware there is no precedent for such procedure in any English court of justice. Moreover, my legal advisers are at a loss to know how the issue of such documents is paid for. Even assuming, as we must, that the Registrar performs this work for Mr. Graves free of charge, and that Mr. Graves supplies him with the postal orders which he encloses with the document, there remain such items as stationery, postage, and the services of the staff who are employed in writing or typing such notices. Are these supposed to be covered by the Court fees incidental to Mr. Graves' huge County Court business? Or does the Registrar make out a bill for special services rendered by the Court, and send it in to Mr. Graves? If he does that, does he charge anything for his own services? The whole thing is manifestly irregular, and the irregularity is aggravated by the fact, that it is committed on behalf of a business which is essentially of an objectionable character. When attention was first drawn to Mr. Graves' business through a libel action tried in August, 1903, it was mentioned, among other interesting particulars, that upwards of 7,000 plaints had been entered by him in the Sheffield County Court in the space of one year; that over 7,000 executions had been issued on his behalf; and that over 7,000 commitments had been made against people whom he had encouraged to get into his debt. It is a significant fact that the particular County Court whose turnover (and possibly profits) have been so vastly inflated by Mr. Graves' business, should be the one in which such unusual assistance is accorded by the Registrar to the plaintiff in the preparation of his cases. It is a very open question whether, as a matter of public policy, courts of law should be maintained at the public expense for the purpose of being used on this scale as debt-collecting agencies. At any rate, no tradesman who makes it his business to create indebtedness on a huge scale all over the country ought to receive from the Court the slightest degree of assistance beyond what the law requires. The Judge of the Sheffield County Court will doubtless recognise this. It is to be hoped that he will not content himself with merely stopping the practice, but hold a careful inquiry into the relations of the staff of the Court with the firm of Graves.

THEATRE *v.* MUSIC-HALL.

The recent decision at Marlborough-street in the matter of the Oxford Music-hall sketch, "The Belle of the Orient," brings to a head once more a controversy which has been suffered to drag on far too long without legislative action; and, for the present, it would seem that the theatrical managers have distinctly scored. Merely obtaining the decision that the sketch in question constituted a stage-play was not, of course, much in itself, for any one could have foretold this conclusion beforehand. Practically speaking, all such sketches are, in a strictly legal sense, contraventions of the Act, and are known to be such. Even a "Pepper's Ghost" performance has been so construed in days gone by, and dealt with accordingly. It was, however, another matter altogether to obtain such heavy penalties as those imposed by Mr. Kennedy—namely, £5 for each performance, or £120 in all—and it is not surprising to learn that the music-hall people propose to take the opinion of a higher authority upon a decision of such importance. For it is plain that such a judgment, if upheld, and followed up by others of a similar kind, would mean nothing less than the total extinction of what has come to be of recent years one of the most attractive features of the average variety enter-

tainment. Since, however, it is known that the theatrical managers have no such drastic aim as this in view, it is probable that the upshot will be an understanding between the two parties which will establish a *modus vivendi* until such time as Parliament in its wisdom finds an opportunity to put the whole matter on a satisfactory footing. And there is the more reason to anticipate this as the terms of such a compromise which would satisfy all concerned have long since been laid down in black and white. The origin of the trouble will be known to most by this time. The whole thing is a beautiful illustration of that national capacity for legislative muddling in which we excel.

As the law stands at present, the theatres are licensed by the Lord Chamberlain and the music-halls by the County Council. At the same time, under the Theatres Act of 1843 a stage play may not be produced in any place without a licence from the former official. When, therefore, music-halls produce sketches which can be classed as stage plays they commit a breach of the law. If it be asked why the halls cannot obtain the necessary licences from the Lord Chamberlain, the answer is that that functionary would refuse at once any such application from bodies responsible not to him but to the L.C.C. There are, indeed, those who contend that in the strict interpretation of the law the Lord Chamberlain should control the music-halls as well as the theatres. The County Council took over, it is true, the powers formerly exercised by the justices in connection with music and dancing licences, but these powers, it is argued, related originally not to places of entertainment such as the variety theatre of to-day, but simply to public dancing-rooms. The contention is, that is to say, that the control of the existing music-halls by the L.C.C. is based upon an absolute misconception of the law. This view of the matter has, however, never got itself accepted, and thus it has come about that the Lord Chamberlain's authority, so far as music-halls are concerned, relates only to the production of stage plays. At the same time, to make confusion worse confounded, that official has neither machinery nor funds with which to enforce his decrees when these are infringed. Wherefore, if matters ended here, the music-halls might continue to break the law with impunity by producing stage plays without fee or licence, and go on their way rejoicing. But this naturally would not suit the book of the theatrical managers, who consider that their special rights are infringed by these performances, and hence it is at their instance, though without the sanction and co-operation of the Lord Chamberlain, that the recent prosecution, like previous ones, has been instituted.

The attitude of the theatres in the matter is, of course, obvious enough. They maintain that the halls, by producing sketches, which, in point of fact, amount to young plays, cut unfairly into their business, and trench on their privileges. They have to produce their plays, it is argued, under the strictest censorship and regulation, and therefore to allow the music-halls, privileged as the latter are in various ways already as compared with the theatres, to compete without licence, censorship, or regulation in the less restricted sphere involves a manifest injustice. On æsthetic grounds also the claims of the halls are opposed. Actors and acting alike must suffer, it is argued, from the encroachment of the sketch, more and more the theatre will tend to be supplanted by the hall, less and less will it be possible for the superior branch of the profession to withstand the competition of the lower, and so on and so on. At the same time the theatres are prepared to meet the music-halls in the matter on the basis of the suggestion of the Select Committee of the House of Commons of 1892, which ran as follows:—

> We recommend that in that class of music halls referred to as theatres of varieties it be made lawful, without the possession of a licence for stage plays, publicly to present ballet, ballet divertissement, or ballet of action, and those performances commonly called sketches, if the duration of each such performance shall not exceed forty minutes, no more than six principal performers take part therein, and if there shall be an interval of at least thirty minutes between any two such sketches, and no two such sketches performed on the same evening at such place of public entertainment shall have a connected plot.

I believe, indeed, that a compromise on these terms was on the point of being ratified just before the present trouble arose, but broke down on the comparatively unimportant question of supers. Now that they have gained the day in the Oxford case, it is possible that the theatrical managers may be inclined to raise their terms, though in doing this, I think they would hardly be wise. There is little doubt that public opinion generally sides with the music-halls in this dispute.

It may be annoying for the theatres to have the latter producing these sketches and playlets, but why should they not do so? After all, the rights of the public are to be considered in this matter also, though the theatrical managers are too often disposed to overlook this. If people frequenting music-halls like to have sketches why should they be denied them? It is incontestable that these sketches are very popular; that they are at least as elevating and refined as the "turns" which would otherwise occupy their places; and that, though they are unlicensed by the Lord Chamberlain, the existing powers of the L.C.C. are amply sufficient to ensure their proper regulation. In a word, the only serious argument advanced against them is that they cut into the business of the regular stage, and that is a plea over which the general public can hardly be expected to grow very excited. As a matter of fact, I doubt if they really injure the theatres at all. On the contrary, it is at least a plausible supposition that they benefit rather than harm them by cultivating among music-hall audiences a taste for the drama in its higher forms. But, however this may be, no case can be established for the protection of the theatres at the expense alike of the music-halls and of the public. If, however, the theatres claim in exchange the privileges of the halls, the latter would offer no opposition. If Mr. George Alexander wished to start a bar in the auditorium of the St. James's Theatre and a promenade round the dress circle, and to allow smoking in all parts, neither the Palace nor the Empire would, I imagine, say him nay. In a word, the music-halls in this matter stand for free trade all round, as against the restriction and protection which the theatres advocate; and little doubt can exist

as to which policy is likely to give the best results in the long run alike to the theatre and to the halls. Let all parties compose their differences, therefore, on the basis of the terms suggested by the Select Committee of 1892, and cease in future to bore the public with a dispute of which at the end of sixty years or so, it is beginning to get a trifle weary.

THE THEATRES.

"A Wife Without a Smile," at Wyndham's.

Mrs. Rippingill, the youthful wife of a middle-aged and retired Government official, fails to appreciate that humour which, in her husband's opinion, radiates from himself. With a view to stimulating the risible reaction for which he yearns, Mr. Rippingill imports a cargo of toys—inflatable pigs made of bladder, guaranteed to squeak; and the homely likenesses of dogs, elephants, and other mammals which form the joy of the nursery. In these he has less confidence for the achievement of his purpose than in the Japanese doll, whose antics have, I think, already been described and discussed with more than sufficient fulness in the daily papers. The device of the string-suspended doll is also the main string of Mr. Pinero's new play, described, as I see on the programme, as "a comedy in disguise." Disguised it is so well that I should prefer to call this comedy a farce *in puris naturalibus*. For although upon the failure of even the dancing doll to elicit appreciative applause from Mrs. Rippingill, her husband has recourse to the services of his friend, Mr. Pullinger, whom he consults as to the best method of achieving his slender aim, and hits at last and most unintentionally upon a successful method, yet we are not interested in any of the characters, because they, too, are dancing dolls, manipulated by Mr. Pinero. This able dramatist has not here intended to present us with living people, but with figments of his ingenious brain. They are stuffed with a great deal of bran and some *bons mots* which arrest one's attention as they pass, and would serve well in a genuine comedy. But these are spritely squibs and crackers; the main *feu d'artifice* does not go off; the Catherine wheel refuses to turn. "A Wife without a Smile" is for some considerable period of its playing mated to an audience without one, and personally I was throughout inclined to feel rather with Mrs., than with Mr., Rippingill.

Of the players it may be said that all did well their duty. Mr. Pinero expects it of every doll. Mr. Dion Boucicault played Seymour Rippingill with a forced rather than with a forcible hilarity and, in the later moods of that puppet, with sufficient dolorousness. But the part, such as it is, must have been made to fit Mr. Weedon Grossmith, and, painstaking as were the efforts of Mr. Boucicault, he could not move us to that especial mirth which dwells with Mr. Grossmith alone in his theatrical dilemmas. Mr. C. M. Lowne and Miss Dorothy Grimston as the honeymooning couple, Mr. J. M. Graham as the blazered flirt of Mrs. Rippingill, Miss Marie Illington as the female and Mr. Henry Kemble as the male adviser to Mr. Rippingill exerted themselves to amuse us in their respective parts. If they did not succeed, others would not have surpassed them." There remains the winsome figure of Miss Lettice Fairfax, and to her fell the theatrical honours of the evening. Her transition from the wife without a smile to the maiden made of laughter when she finds that she is not the legal wife of Rippingill, owing to his failure to have his decree made absolute, was a fine piece of acting.

* * * * *

The benefit matinée for Mrs. Edmund Phelps on Friday, November 25, has already received the support of the names of many of our leading actor-managers, and there can be little doubt that when that afternoon arrives there will be but few places vacant at His Majesty's.

* * * * *

The renovated Court Theatre is entering this week upon a new and, I hope, a brilliant existence. Mrs. Gilbert Murray's translation of "The Hippolytus" of Euripides is the first play to be produced there, and those who enjoy the Attic drama will do well to witness this one, which has already earned a claim to the attention of those who are capable of attention. I have already referred in these columns to the peculiar facilities offered under the auspices of Mr. J. H. Leigh for the production of plays at this theatre. I trust that this ingenious scheme will procure for us the sight of some good modern work by living dramatists, which is said to exist, but to wander like a spirit without a body from playhouse to playhouse. Here is the playhouse, and now, sir ghosts of genius, pray take visible shape with all possible rapidity.

* * * * *

Miss Madge Lessing, having been transferred by cable from the triumphs in "Wang" at the Lyric Theatre, New York, to the custody of "Sergeant Brue" at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, London, where she plays the part originally entrusted to Miss Olive Morrell, has already proved a success. New numbers, including a duet with Mr. Farren Soutar, have been added to the play, and in the singing of this duet, entitled "Joseph, James, and John," Miss Madge Lessing has equalled her former successes in "Beauty and the Beast" at Drury Lane.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

MATINÉE HAT REFORM.

THE grave question of ladies' hats in theatres seems on the verge of a solution. You must know from experience how a lovely picture hat spoils the evening of a playgoer who has to sit behind it. Hint to the wearer that it screens the stage, and, though she be an angel, she at once grows tart. She has paid for her place, and perseveres in sitting bolt upright. If she paid for the back place, the attitude would be excusable. This idea, however, does not cross her mind. To find

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

fault with her hat is to find fault with herself, and this she cannot have. If the ticket-taker tells her that she cannot enter the pit with a hat on she takes offence, and walks off, drawing her husband or her friend along with her. She is persuaded that the picture hat is too small to hide the stage from the spectator on a higher seat than hers. Were she miserly in holding fast her sous, she pays the *ouvreuse* well not to oblige her to take off the hat, and sit in her hair merely through the play. The unfortunate husband, when he attends her to a pit seat, feels as if on the verge of a duel. Husbands fond of the play and married to ladies fond of picture hats must learn with joy of the war made on these head-dresses by the Syndical Chambre de la Fantaisie pour Modes. This body do not require ladies to go to the theatre with bare heads. They propose a return to the close cap or béguin worn in the sixteenth century by Italian ladies. The béguin has come down to us as the infants' close-fitting, borderless cap. It never, when worn by adults, advanced so far as the hair line of the forehead. In one of Vandyck's paintings of the family of Charles I., two of the children —the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, who is not yet further dressed—wear béguins. The Syndical Chamber of Modes does not see why the béguin should not become a marvel of elegance. The béguin may, as in the Renaissance time, be an article of jewellery. It may be in gold or silver lace or gimp studded with *cabochons*, or in lace or daintily embroidered muslin, Indian or Swiss, or specially woven brocade. The hair can be prettily arranged as a border in a small roll. If the wearer's face be at all young, the béguin will make it seem younger, and may probably impart an air of innocence, in which the coquette will find her advantage.

M. Taffoneau, the President of the Fancies for Modes Chamber, called on most of the theatrical ladies, the managers, the society leaders, to submit to them his idea. He also submitted to them designs for béguins, some of which had low horse-shoe cauls, and others left the coil of hair at the back unconfined. There is no reason why the béguin might not become a close little bonnet with a small and elegant tuft of feathers or a jaunty bow at the side. All the beautiful and attractive persons or personages to whom he showed his béguins expressed themselves delighted. He explained to hairdressers, just to prevent hostility, that Marguerite in "Faust" wears, at any rate on the German stage, a béguin and two long fair braids. A mass of rich golden hair escaping from a béguin would be like the conventional river of the sculptor, flowing from a vase. The contrast between the confinement of a skull cap and the loose hair bursting away could not fail to be attractive, and good for traders in borrowed tresses. Jewellers see a way to furnish béguins of extraordinary chic and magnificence. Sarah Bernhardt promises not to lag in the rear when the time comes to inaugurate the coming mode. The fights between her ticket-takers, *ouvreuses*, and ladies devoted to screening hats are one of her most wearing worries.

Mme. Sarah Bernhardt will give in the early winter six representations at the Royal Theatre, Athens, and three at the Piræus, to gratify Damala, the mayor of that seaport. He is a relation of her late husband, and he and she are good friends. She will take Trieste and Venice on the way, and return by Pera and the Danube.

Madame Sarah is in her latest photo represented on a rock at Belleisle. She gazes in rapt admiration on the broad Atlantic. None the less, the *droits de la coquetterie* assert themselves. The feet are encased in a pair of elegant Louis XV. boots. The pair of *espadrille* canvas shoes she cast aside before posing lie at the foot of the rock.

The revolving house of Dr. Pellegrin, designed by M. Petit, a Parisian architect, and honoured a short time ago with a notice in the *Lancet*, is no novelty. The originator, Verestchagin, applied the rotary principle to a studio, in combination with which he had living rooms in the forest of Maison Lafitte. I saw his immense panorama-like paintings of the Himalaya Mountains in that studio in the autumn of 1885. Owing to the width and height of the wooden walls on which they hung, they had not the reel in the bottle appearance of vast pictures in studios of ordinary size. I so well remember Verestchagin's light, tripping step as he advanced towards me from a distant side door, and his small feet shod in easy and elegantly-made boots. He half-slid, half-tripped, over the brightly-waxed oak floor. The painter explained to me the mechanism of his revolving house, which, he said, had cost him about 40,000 fr., not including the hire of the land, which he had taken on lease. At first he used horse traction, and, finding it inconvenient, resorted to a small steam engine, which he coupled to one of the supporting shafts on which the structure stood. The idea originated in this way. A great-uncle near Novgorod, whom Verestchagin sometimes visited in his vacations, had an old-fashioned threshing machine in a barn. The motive power came from a rotatory annexe in the farmyard, where four horses tackled to the ends of two cross shafts furnished it. The poor beasts went round and round from morning to night in the threshing time. A huge cage, made in the manner of the Venetian blind by a village carpenter, rested on the cross shafts. This structure serves as a house for the poultry. They had in it air and light, and were out of the reach of wild animals. In winter they covered it with straw mats, and found means to heat it, and the hens laid, being well fed, all the year round. Verestchagin could follow the sun from dawn to evening. I suppose he sold his revolving studio before he went to witness the Russo-Japanese War. Had not Queen Victoria a revolving hut at Balmoral?

Anatole takes attention from the battle in Manchuria. You will wonder who Anatole can be—a hairdresser? the

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inventor of a new *plat?* a freshly-discovered star of the music-hall? No; Anatole is a horse. He is Anglo-French, which ought just now to be in his favour. The dam, a Tarbes barb, gave this victor in the Paris Bordeaux match staying power, toughness, compactness; from the other side he drew a certain elegance, lightness of legs, a wide, deep chest, compact loins able to bear great loads, and a head that is, it must be owned, a little coarse. Anatole drew a somewhat heavy dog-cart and his owner, M. Bordes, a stout person, and trotted the whole way from Bordeaux to Paris viâ La Rochelle, going at the rate, without flagging, of 14 kilometres 800 metres an hour, and covering a total distance of 744 kilos in 50 hr. 40 min. They spent 60 hr. 10 min. in resting. A cyclist followed the dog-cart to attend to the stabling of Anatole, and broke down at Chevreuse. It was calculated that he would reach Limours, the last station on the way to Versailles at 6 a.m. He trotted in two hours earlier, and reached the winning-post on the Sceaux road, Versailles, at 5 a.m. M. Bordes paid 300 fr. a few years ago for his valuable little roadster, which is now worth 10,000 fr., and has brought him 5,000 fr. in gaining a first prize. He wins 40,000 fr. in bets. This match is interesting as a set off against that autocrat of the road—the hateful and hated motor.

We are in dire distress at the news of those fresh Japanese successes. Personally, I feel sorry for Kuropatkin. He is the victim of Court intrigues and jealousy. The wonder should be that he did so well, receiving orders from St. Petersburg and feeling insecure there. With a weight of anxiety that might have broken down an Atlas, he had to contend against bitterness of heart on learning how Imperial wisdom had ordained that he should henceforth be one of twin commanders-in-chief, with a generalissimo to couple them and to act as a moderator and court of appeal if they differed. I met Kuropatkin at Skobeleff's ground floor lodging in the Faubourg St. Honoré. His resemblance in face, figure, and manner to General Grant I thought striking. He appeared as concentrated and compact as his chief was the reverse. I should imagine he is of a slow mind. So was Grant. But Grant belonged to the freest and most wide-awake people on the face of the earth, and to a stimulating country. Kuropatkin, I should also think entirely free from vanity. He would have been a man rather to command confidence for plodding, persevering, straight-forward work than to arouse enthusiasm. He was to Skobeleff as Sancho was to Don Quixote, but without a grain of "low" comedy, or so much as comicality. The resemblance to Sancho lay in matter-of-factness not devoid of Russian sentiment. When War Minister he often went back to see his old mother in his native village. His continued ill-fortune in this war is a sad close of a most honourable career. At the same time, it will prove, I cannot doubt, a blessing in disguise for Russia.

Why am I not a betting person? If I were, it would have been easy to coin money by backing with a wager a prediction I ventured to make on the eve of the present war. It took the form of a parallel between Blunderbore and Jack the Giant Killer as represented by Russia and Japan. In the "Notes" published a week after this comparison appeared I stated my reasons for seeing a giant killer in Japan. They still hold good, and will continue to do so as long as the Empire of the Czar is the prison of 129,000,000 people with 1,000,000 of gaolers. Great size never yet secured ultimate victory. If it did, the planet would still belong to the saurians, ichthyosaurians, and those four-footed colossi that we see, as skeletons, in museums. The folk-lore stories of giants and dwarfs, of Poucets and child-eating ogres, are still true. The Greeks, in their time, set at rest the superstitious and craven belief in big empires. We too much forgot the lesson. The Japs have revived it, for, let us hope, our benefit.

The Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg has been well advised in naming Maître Albert Clémenceau to be her advocate. He has Bar and outside influence. His father-in-law, Me. Paul Meurice, is the dramatic author, and for sixty-seven years has been the devoted disciple of Victor Hugo. Me. Albert Clémenceau's brother Paul is son-in-law of Herr Zeps, of Vienna, who founded the *Wiener Tagblatt*, and M. Georges Clémenceau, the eldest brother, is the incomparable orator and polemist. This backing is highly important in a case that depends more on public opinion than on law. Me. Albert Clémenceau has charming manners, a taking, gentle wit, and the right sort of scepticism, it being delicate in its manifestation and making for charity. He distinguished himself on the same side as Me. Labori at the trials of Zola, connected with the Dreyfus affair. This accomplished advocate is against, when it can be helped, thrusting the sword into the enemy's loins. In the present instance he is for accepting gracefully or graciously the concessions of the Court of Vienna. The Princess has gained her main point in being, under Me. Clémenceau's advice, allowed to choose the physicians who are to examine into her mental state.

We now walk in seven league boots. Only a year ago some prominent members of the Academy of Fine Arts raised their voices against M. Chaumié's proposal to admit young ladies to compete for the Prix de Rome. They consoled themselves in thinking that the intended change in the rules were too impracticable to take effect. No feminine candidate, these wise heads predicted, could ever win a Rome prize for music. They now come round to M. Chaumié. They even see in Mdlle. Fleury's prize "an effort that promises an eminent career." But they cannot yet see that to obtain the prize is a reason for opening the Villa Medici to the fair lauréate.

Might not their objections on the score of decorum be removed by making the wife of the principal the

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard st., W. Inspection solicited

directress, and giving her capitations on feminine pupils? The architect could settle other details. A part of the ground should be reserved for the girls. There, with the sanction of the directress, they could cultivate the social arts at little teas and receptions and garden parties. The Villa Medici (founded by Colbert on the advice of Lebrun) has been hotly attacked with the supremacy of Rome in religion. There were at the time of its foundation good grounds for sending young artists to Rome. These reasons hardly exist now. The grand patron of art in the seventeenth century, Louis XIV., ranked as the Most Christian King, Catholic being implied if not expressed. The Jew replaced the monarch as a patron of art, and the American multi-millionaire is now eclipsing the Jew. He may belong to the Baptist, New Methodist, Wesleyan connections, to the Episcopal body, or to the particular church or tabernacle of some stirring preacher. Religion has no part in the formation of his gallery. He buys pictures as he buys jewellery for his wife.

We have been hearing that Latour, Gérôme, Bartholdi, Cormon, and Bonnat did not go through the School of Rome. These artists had fairly well-off parents, who could send them to Greece, Egypt, Spain, and the Netherlands to stimulate the sense of vision and arouse their æsthetic faculties. The great argument for the Villa Medici is that it is in Italy. Italy is a highly evolved country, the land of handsomeness, harmony, and true balance. Rome may be cosmopolite; still, she has a penetrating majesty of her own. On any one who takes it in it has the effect of a new birth. This is of the highest importance for young artists of humble birth. The villa and its surroundings helps to de-vulgarise them and their pencils. It clears away the *canaillerie* of the slum suburb where they lived before they came to Rome. I do not believe that it robs them of originality. All it robs them of is crudity, and it harmonises their faculties. It is as Oxford was to poor scholars, but with an almost maternal kindness.

Not much to say about the Autumn Salon in the Grand Palais. A group of painters there seem bent on obtaining orders for pictorial advertisements from cabinet-makers, upholsterers, and dealers in curios. Their pictures have every possible technical quality. If they conveyed the spirit of the home, or suggested joys or sorrows, they would be perfect. Carrière gives us too much of the domestic side of life in sending Mme. Carrière and the young folks round her. This Salon is a protest of *les jeunes* against *les vieilles perruques*. The lions of the sculpture section are two foreigners, Medardo Rosso, from Milan, and Prince Paul Troubetskoi, a Russian living in Italy. I spoke of the bronzes he sent to the 1900 Exhibition four years ago. Under all circumstances he works as the spirit moves him, and it is ever an original and a vigorous spirit finding in itself its own law. His Tolstoi on horseback of the figurine size is now at the Luxemburg. He gives us this autumn a deeply interesting bust of Tolstoi. Rosso's "Marchande de Légumes" produces the effects of colour. This sculptor is like Time in his revelation of the inner man, in a few deep-graven lines of the face. Time tells with terrible conciseness and unflinching severity the story of a life in a face, and so can Rosso.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

MARRIAGE, dear Lady Betty, is in its infancy. It is, however, time that it should no longer be allowed to be insufferably troublesome.

To woman, marriage is an occupation; to man, an entertainment. In her endeavours to reverse those conditions, woman has made it almost intolerable to both.

On the tombstone of many a buried husband should be inscribed this epitaph:—

I Was Single;
I Wished To Be Married;
And
Here I Am.

Marriage At Home and Marriage In Public differ indescribably!

The subject must be treated shortly, clearly, and fairly, and to attain those objects must be divided into three parts:—

1. How the ordinary woman approaches marriage.
2. How the ordinary man does.
3. How marriage may be remodelled.

1. The ordinary woman is trained to catch a man, not to keep a husband. As a girl she dances much, sings more, dresses simply but attractively, smiles when it is to her interest to do so, and is apparently devoted to home. That conduct implies cheerfulness, economy, and contentment. It is, however, only her ante-nuptial manner. Many a man could describe his experience six months after marriage in these words: "My wife is a parcel of assorted follies and failings, enclosed in a decorative wrapper and labelled 'Mixed Chocolates,' but after marriage I discovered it to be a packet of acid drops."

Would an ordinary commercial transaction conducted on these lines be considered honest?

2. The ordinary man expects to obtain by marriage:—

A toy.
A wife.
A submissive companion.
A useful ally.
A housekeeper.
A nurse.
A devoted mother for his children.
An angel in alpaca.

The last material is especially mentioned to show that he expects her to be economical.

He wishes woman to have all the virtues, and, for private use, some of the vices.

The ordinary man selects the woman who is to be his wife when his mind is as much confused by the fumes of love as that of a drunken person is by those of wine. When the fumes evaporate, he discovers that his imagination has conferred upon her a hundred and one qualities she does not possess.

There is deliberate deceit on one side, there is self-deception on the other. Would an ordinary contract completed under these conditions be expected by any sane man or woman to be satisfactory?

3. Registration of the Unmarried.—The properly qualified man who wishes to vote at a Parliamentary election is compelled to enter his name on the local register. Men and women who are willing to marry should be compelled to enter their names on the matri-

monial register of the district. They should be required to give, on oath, a correct description of themselves, and to produce the sworn declarations of two substantial references that they are that which they represent themselves to be.

Thus a woman would swear that her golden hair is not dyed; that her teeth are those which nature provided for her personal use; that her figure is not materially improved by artificial assistance; that she is healthy, good-tempered, and possesses other qualities, accomplishments, or advantages. The references—her parents, guardians, friends, or employers—should declare that they have reasonable cause to believe that her description of herself is correct.

A man would declare that he is healthy, good-tempered, sober, industrious, and regular in his habits, and his references would bear witness to the truth of his statements.

Were it discovered after marriage that either had substantially misrepresented his or her condition or character, the contract could be annulled by the Court expeditiously, inexpensively, and with no more publicity than would be necessary to inform the world that in consequence of error on the part of the man or woman they had ceased to be husband and wife.

The slight costs, and the care of the child—if there were one—would be inflicted on the offending person, or, failing him or her, on his or her references. That would compel parents to abandon the habit of assisting their daughters to deceive unmarried men.

Why should dishonesty be permitted at the altar, and perjury in the Divorce Court?

Matrimonial Advisers.—Many a man who requires a bracing obtains a relaxing wife; and many a woman who requires a relaxing secures a bracing husband. The matrimonial adviser, when consulted, might prescribe as follows:—"Sir,—You are a weak-willed man, and it is necessary for you to marry a bracing woman, who will rule you with a firm, but gentle, hand. Were you united to a relaxing woman, you would probably both be wretched."

Professional Pacifiers.—There are many women who are eagerly endeavouring to obtain employment. Some of them should immediately undertake to be professional pacifiers. A severe dispute has broken out at home, and it is feared that complications may develop. The husband, or wife, calls through the telephone for a professional pacifier, who hurries to the house, investigates the case, administers sedative advice, and recommends great care and cheerful diet. The inflammatory symptoms diminish under treatment, and the cause of irritation is eventually removed. For those services the pacifier receives a guinea a visit. Is it not cheaper to pay that fee than to let ill-nature run its course, or to part with twenty guineas for a conciliatory costume, the price the ordinary husband frequently has to pay to cure an outbreak of matrimonial discontent?

* * * * *

Few men make a fortune until they employ others to work for them; and fewer acquire a reputation until they get others to fight for them. The following should be taught to every child in the kingdom with the ordinary tables of weights and measures.

Interest Table.

Ability ensures	Obscurity
Industry	Neglect.
Honesty	Contempt.
Interest	Appointments.
A pretty wife	Promotion.
Insistence	Distinctions.
Money	Respect.
More money	Popularity and Power.
Very much money	Peerage.
Advertisement	Celebrity.

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Cesarewitch has excited very little public interest this year, and it is probable that a more moderate field has never started for this handicap. Twelve months ago the starting of Zinfandel, who was maintained by many good judges to be the best three-year-old of the season, redeemed the character of the field to some extent, but last week the list of runners did not include a single horse of really good class. I doubt much whether in any previous season for many years back the handicap horses have been so bad, putting aside Ypsilanti and Robert le Diable. The Newmarket stables are deplorably weak, for they have been defeated by country-trained horses over and over again this season. When the entries for the Cesarewitch were published, I pointed out that the majority of the horses engaged in this handicap really had no pretensions to stay the course. Wargrave has good stamina, and he is indebted for his victory last week to this quality, for he fairly outstayed his opponents. Wargrave's recent running at Hurst Park showed him to be in form, and he was heavily backed at the finish. There is nothing to excite a particle of enthusiasm in any rational being when a handicap of this importance is won by a six-year-old carrying such a weight as 7 st. 4 lb., and the honours of the race fairly belong to Rondeau, who was giving Wargrave a year and a stone. Wargrave ran for the Cesarewitch in 1901 as a three-year-old, when he was unplaced with 6 st. 10 lb. on his back, Balsarroch being the winner. He was also included in the field in 1902, when he was again unplaced, carrying 8 st. 5 lb. After winning the Great Ebor Handicap, he was borrowed to try Sceptre for the Leger, and his performance in that gallop was so unexpectedly superior that the commission to back the mare for the Doncaster race was considerably reduced. After Sceptre had cantered away with the St. Leger the Cesarewitch appeared to be a good thing for Wargrave, who was backed for a lot of money. However, the horse went amiss, and he had to be stopped in his work for several days, which settled his chance for the Newmarket race, which was won by Black Sand. Wargrave ran so prominently that it was quite on the cards that he might have won, if his preparation had been an uninterrupted one. Last year Wargrave was more or less groggy, and he was not once seen on a racecourse. It is a rare, if not an unprecedented, piece of good fortune to win a big handicap with a six-year-old that was generally believed to have finished his Turf career at the close of his four-year-old season. The race was run at a very slow pace, and there had been none of the usual tailing off when the field reached the R.M. starting-post, for they were then still all together. The proof of the contemptible class of the field was afforded by the fact that the heaviest weight was only 8 st. 5 lb., which was carried by the ex-hurdle-racer Mark Time. Wargrave had been treated by the handicapper with ridiculous and unjustifiable lenity, but the pernicious practice of calculating a horse's weight on his worst form instead of on his best is not to be overcome. Rondeau was greatly fancied at Newmarket, but her more judicious friends deferred backing her until the day, as she is a much better mare on firm ground. Wargrave held Rondeau perfectly safe, taking a line through Bellivor Tor. Roe O'Neill failed to stay the course. This horse was said to have been well tried with Hammerkop, but it was asking him a great deal when he was expected to beat Wargrave over this course when giving 9 lb. The French candidate Gahzal, who carried good money, was done with at the Bushes, and St. Patrick's Day, who was the particular pick of many clever people, never showed prominently. There were wondrous tales about this colt's trial with Robert le Diable. Admiral Breeze had made an excellent impression on the observers of his later gallops, and he was a great place tip, but he could not stay home. Foundling's performance in the Jockey Club Stakes, about which

there was so much braying, seemed to me simply to settle his Cesarewitch chance altogether, but many people were perfectly infatuated about this horse down to the last. War Wolf appeared certain to be dangerous on the York running, and he ran well. This horse was all behind at the Bushes, and he made up his ground very fast indeed. Dean Swift ran prominently for nearly a mile and a half, and he is, therefore, much fancied for the Cambridgeshire. Cerisier ran no better than at Kempton Park, and this horse has been extravagantly overrated all the season.

A writer in the *Sportsman* gushes over Wargrave's victory as affording another instance "of the remarkably good lot of horses which ran in Volodyovski's Derby." Rhapsodies over the victory of a six-year-old with a light weight on his back appear both absurd and idiotic, and especially considering the abject class of the Cesarewitch field. There was a great deal of utter rubbish in the Derby field of 1901, the winner, William the Third, St. Maclou, and Doricles being the pick of the lot.

The Champion Stakes was at one time expected to produce one of the most interesting races of the season, as the entry included Sceptre, Rock Sand, and Pretty Polly. In the end they were all withdrawn from this event, which, however, turned out a good betting race, as there was some heavy gambling between Bachelor's Button, William Rufus, and St. Amant. The five-year-old won in a common trot, William Rufus having no chance with him. The course was too far for St. Amant, who ought to have been reserved exclusively for short-distance races during the autumn.

Henry the First had nothing to beat in the Royal Post Stakes, his only opponent being Pomegranate, and odds of 33 to 1 were betted on him. Mr. Musker has now won this race two years in succession, for twelve months ago William Rufus was successful, when odds of 3 to 1 were laid on him. This race seldom results in an interesting contest, but these old-fashioned "heavy" stakes are well worth winning, and Mr. Musker pocketed £1,820 by his two victories in the Royal Stakes.

There was a general collapse in the weight-for-age races last week. The Select Stakes was reduced to a match, Delaunay winning with odds of 40 to 1 betted on him. There was the same falling-off in the Kennett Plate, when Sundridge defeated three moderate opponents with 20 to 1 laid on him. The Lowther Stakes, with twenty entries, was left to Wargrave and Chatsworth, and the Cesarewitch winner was defeated by twenty lengths! After his race on Wednesday Wargrave might surely have been allowed a rest, but if this astounding exhibition is to be regarded as his true running, what are we to think of the Cesarewitch form? Wargrave was giving Chatsworth only 7 lb. more than weight for age, and the three-year-old's public running proves him to be an exceedingly moderate colt.

There was a lot of gambling between Delaunay and Sundridge in the Challenge Stakes, but the old horse never had a chance with the three-year-old, and he has probably trained off. The few people who had closely watched Sundridge's race on Wednesday, and who had the wits to apprehend the significance of what they saw, profited considerably on Thursday. Mr. Joel's horse had appeared to run in a somewhat shifty fashion, and it seemed as if it took him all his time to get rid of Opera.

I plumped for Shah Jehan for the Clearwell Stakes and for Galantine for the Cheveley Park Stakes, and both animals won. Shah Jehan was able to beat the colt by Ladas out of St. Ia, who was reserved at 5,000 gs. when Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's two-year-olds were put up for sale during the First October week, and after this performance he would not seem cheap at half of that exorbitant price. Verdiana gave a great deal of trouble before the start for the Cheveley Park Stakes, but Lord Derby's filly got off well in front, so there was no excuse for her hollow defeat by Galantine. The latter is a very smart filly, and this was a highly creditable performance, as she lost some lengths when the start took place. The Bretby Post Stakes was reduced to a match, and Pamflete lost Lord Derby's grandly-bred filly by Persimmon out of Canterbury Pilgrim. She is by the Derby winner of 1896 out of the Oaks winner of the same year. Mozart, the Doncaster failure, was backed against the field for the Prendergast Stakes, but Sir James Miller's colt is no flyer, as he could only just win from Galangal and Khammurabi, and he was receiving 9 lb. from the filly and 4 lb. from the colt. Lord Howard de Walden's two-year-olds appear to be a bad lot, but the Bedford Cottage stable has been altogether out of form for some time past. Lord Howard de Walden is leaving England shortly to hunt big game in East and Central Africa.

A writer, discoursing on Chatsworth, predicts that he may do better as a four-year-old than his own brother Mead. He need not go far to "do better" next season than Mead, who as a four-year-old has simply done nothing at all. However, no nonsensical eulogies can make Chatsworth out to be a smart colt, and the cackle about his turning out "a Cup horse" is all trash and rubbish. Chatsworth is an improving horse, and if he trains on all right he ought to win some races next season, if he is cleverly placed. Of his future engagements, next year's Goodwood Cup is the only one which appears at all hopeful.

I gave a plumper for Leucadia for the Newmarket Oaks, and she won cleverly from Piari, who had 9 lb. the better of the weights. The race would have been a certainty for Pretty Polly on public form.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught will probably be among the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth next month during Derby race week, in which case they will be present at the meeting on the Wednesday and on the Thursday.

The King is to be again at Newmarket next week, and the Prince of Wales will probably be at the races on Wednesday and on Thursday. The King is to arrive on Monday evening, and he will stay until Friday afternoon. His Majesty intends to occupy Grafton House during the First Spring meeting, by which time a variety of improvements which have been decided on will have been carried out, and the house will have been refurnished. The Prince of Wales will then stay at the Jockey Club, in the rooms now occupied by his Majesty during his visits to Newmarket.

It was maintained in TRUTH during the summer that Ajax would win the St. Leger if he came to the post at Doncaster fit and well. The sporting papers were generally convinced that Pretty Polly would be able to defeat M. Blanc's horse at Doncaster, and a few muddy-minded enthusiasts were so crazy as to stand on St. Amant against Ajax. After the defeat of Pretty Polly by Presto II. at Longchamps, it is clear enough that Ajax would have beaten Major Loder's mare over the St. Leger course, and over a distance of ground M. Blanc's horse was no doubt the best three-year-old in Europe. Pretty Polly will be greatly benefited by a long rest, and she will probably be prepared for the Ascot Cup, but I should fancy that the Coronation Cup at Epsom will be her first race as a four-year-old.

Lord Falmouth has decided to sell Fiancée, and this mare will be put up at Newmarket next week. Fiancée, by St. Frusquin out of Wise Virgin, won three races as a two-year-old, and she was never beaten at that age. This season she has achieved nothing, and she appears to have trained off hopelessly, being of no use for racing over any course whatever. A brilliant three-year-old career was anticipated for her, and twelve months ago she was regarded by good judges as being quite likely to win the Derby, and she was backed for a considerable amount of money for that race during the winter and early spring months. The collapse of Fiancée is the more disappointing to Lord Falmouth after the failure of Quintessence to stand a four-year-old preparation, as if all had gone well with that mare she would have won some important races during the past season.

Jardy's victory in the Middle Park Plate was in accordance with my expectations, and I have never referred to this race without expressing the opinion that it would be a good thing for whichever colt (Val d'Or or Jardy) represented M. E. Blanc. It was only at the last moment that M. E. Blanc decided to send Jardy to England, as he had quite made up his mind that the colt should miss his Newmarket engagement. Jardy carried 7 lb. extra and won in a common canter. It was as easy a victory as that of Pretty Polly last year. Jardy is one of the three sons of Flying Fox which have been carrying M. E. Blanc's colours to victory since the French two-year-olds began to run on August 1. They have won ten races, and have done so on each occasion with extreme ease. Jardy, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces, is said to be inferior to both Adam, own brother to Ajax, and to Val d'Or, by Flying Fox out of Wandora, but these reports may be mere Arabian tales. He is unquestionably a very smart colt, and one apparently capable of great improvement. He is a nice easy mover, and his action as he cantered down to the starting-post was very much admired. I recently expressed the opinion that the Middle Park Plate was only a question of health for one of M. E. Blanc's colts, and the same may certainly be said of next year's Two Thousand, and probably of the Derby also. There is a deal of clacking about Cicero, but I fancy it will turn out that we have already seen the best of Lord Rosebery's colt on the Turf. It must also be remembered that Cicero has been lucky in meeting opponents of exceedingly moderate class in all his races.

Comedian is probably the best of the English two-year-old colts, putting aside Cicero. His performance in winning the Suffolk Nursery was a very good one, as he carried 9 st., and Orator, who finished second (beaten two lengths!), had 9 lb. the better of the weights. Comedian is both a smart and game colt, and a great credit to Orme, and it is much to be regretted that he is not more heavily engaged. Comedian was withdrawn from the Derby when the minor forfeit was declared, a truly tragical blunder. He is in the Newmarket Stakes next May, and that race is also the first important three-year-old engagement of Cicero. Comedian is entered for the St. Leger, and that race will give him his first chance of meeting the French colts.

The fields last week, taken as a whole, were not up to the average of the Second October meeting, but they will probably be larger next week. Many horses are now reserved for the principal "back end" meetings, notably Liverpool, Derby, and Manchester, but not many years ago these animals would have been seen out at Newmarket. The fact is that the programmes at the Jockey Club meetings have long been in urgent need of drastic reform, and it may be hoped that before next season at least a few of the obviously desirable changes will have been carried out.

There are thirty-nine entries for the Criterion Stakes, the best of the lot being Lord Crewe's Polymelus, Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Sir J. Miller's Mozart, and Mr. Faber's Queen of the Earth. With the exception of Mozart, all these animals are engaged in the Dewhurst Plate, and they may very likely be kept for that more valuable race, which will not take much winning this season. The Criterion will be interesting, and also melancholy, as being the last race to be run over the famous course at the top of the town. There are forty-seven entries for the Moulton Stakes on Wednesday, including Chev. Ginistrelli's Signorino and Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's colt by Ladas out of St. Ia, of which pair I prefer the latter. Seventy-one horses are engaged in the Dewhurst Plate, including Polymelus, Full Cry, Queen of the Earth, Signorino, Mr. E. Dresden's Galangal, Mr. A. James's Atlas, Mr. Neumann's Llangibby, Sir John Thursby's Standen, and Lord Stanley's Stadtholder. This race can be better dealt with next week.

Special Notice.—A 10s. 6d. Dinner is now served daily at Princes', Piccadilly, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

It is lucky for the wretched English lot that Jardy is not entered. Mozart and Captain Orr Ewing's Thrush are probably the best of the lot in the Houghton Stakes, the course for this race being the R.M., which is a great deal too severe for any two-year-old.

There are twenty-nine entries for the Limekiln Stakes, and Zinfandel ought to win.

There are only nine acceptances for the Free Handicap for three-year-olds, the list being headed by Pretty Polly and St. Amant, each having 9 st. 4lb. to carry, and neither is likely to start. Rydal Head surely ought to be able to win.

There are twelve entries for the Jockey Club Cup, a race in which there are neither penalties nor allowances. The list includes St. Amant, Bachelor's Button, Chatsworth, Sceptre, and Wild Oats. There are the materials here for a most interesting race, but it is to be feared that the field will dwindle down into a very small affair. Zinfandel should be the winner.

Delaunay is likely to start a very hot favourite for the Cambridgeshire, as he figures in numerous double-event bets along with Wargrave for the Cesarewitch, and speculation has been pretty well paralysed during the past few days. There was not a particle of merit in Delaunay's victories last week, as he had nothing to beat in the Select Stakes, and as to the Challenge Stakes, Sundridge was all to pieces, so that a donkey could have beaten him. It seems to me that Delaunay has been exalted to a very false position in the betting. We have yet to learn that he can stay the course, and it is not good business to trust a very speedy horse over the distance (and probably in heavy ground) unless he has been galloped in a satisfactory manner. It will not surprise me if Delaunay is done with at the Bushes. There are sure to be numerous and important developments during the next few days, when the heroics about Delaunay have subsided. I expect that Caius will win the Cambridgeshire, and Hackler's Pride will run very prominently if she is all right.

The revelations of misconduct on the part of leading Association football clubs have aroused comment beyond the immediate confines of those engaged in the sport itself—indeed, the affair teaches a lesson which is of considerable importance to politicians, local and otherwise. In most admirably concrete form it exemplifies the lesson that ill-conceived legislation is bound to provoke rebellion. Referring to the methods of legislation adopted by the Football Association, the *Field* says that nothing could be better devised to foster greedy and unscrupulous competition and to suppress generous feelings than the Association's rules. Now that, as I said last week, was precisely the effect that I anticipated when the rules were first promulgated. Unfortunately, sufficient attention was not paid to this view. Of course, if the Association were not a close borough, the powers that be would be cleared out. They have shown themselves utterly incapable as legislators. They have quite failed to handle a difficult problem. They adopted a course doomed to failure at the outset. But although their legislation was ill-conceived, even the most bitter antagonist of the system could not have imagined that any man engaged in any honourable vocation in life would have descended to such debased and disgraceful methods as those which the officials of certain clubs employed. These persons are apparently devoid of any sense of honour or commercial decency. The reason for this attitude, which these very folk would no doubt detect in the ordinary vocations of their life, is that in football circles there is no social stigma attaching to such misconduct. It is a great pity that all the affairs connected with these professional clubs are not regarded as business pure and simple. There is no element of sport in these organisations. The play is simply a money-making show. The teams are run for that purpose. The club managers, like music hall managers, should protect themselves by proper contracts with their players. The

Association should not be called upon to interfere in such matters. Then, if the arrangements were left on a pure business basis, these schemes of fraud and deceit would have no reason for existing. No sympathy can be expressed with those who have offended. Nothing can palliate their conduct. They have disgraced British sport and business. And yet some of these men have been in authority on the Council of the Football Association, and have made laws that they have set themselves to evade fraudulently.

Taking a line by the form that the Harlequins have been showing in their London matches, Cambridge University must be taken to give good promise of turning out a fairly strong Rugby team, as they scored a well-merited victory in their first match of the season. The Old Merchant Taylors fairly avenged the defeat that Richmond gave them last year by winning their match after an excellent game. Indeed, if the halves had played anything like the game the Saturday before, Blackheath would not have scored a narrow victory. The Heathens are to be congratulated on their victory over Moseley. Old boys' clubs are growing in numbers. Their matches when they meet each other are naturally keen. The Old Alleynians are coming to the fore. They have beaten the London Scottish. The Old Leysians have defeated Blackheath, and the Marlborough Nomads have walked over Rosslyn Park. Then there are the old Mill Hillians and University school teams. I hope the Christ Hospital boys will start a team. Naturally certain Rugby clubs which I need not now specificially mention find that such clubs limit their recruiting areas. But it is by such clubs that the Rugby game will be kept alive. I am very glad to see that Mr. George Harnett is so strongly advocating the League system. No man is keener on the game for its own sake. But he recognises the necessity of advancing with the times. The club system must be organised in order that the public may be able to follow the matches. I cannot see where the objection comes in. There is nothing necessarily demoralising in a League competition.

If, on the day of a great golf club meeting, say, in the autumn or spring, you see in the afternoon a man in the smoking room to all intents and purposes indifferent to what is going on in the world, but anxiously raising his eyes every time a fresh man comes in from the course, you may be pretty sure that he has good hopes that he will be declared the winner. As eventide draws near, his face becomes drawn and anxious. He prowls round the premises in an affectedly listless manner. With avidity he picks up the gossip of the course. Jones at the turn was one up on bogey, and playing splendidly. He meditates that he was foolish to go out and play so early when the wind was high. Under these circumstances his score, all square, with bogey was very good. Now the wind has gone, and Jones will not be punished over the second half as he was. Finally he is resigned to his fate. Jones is all square at the seventeenth, and has a stroke. He has a whiskey and soda, and thinks about changing and getting home. But darkness has come on suddenly, and Jones loses his ball at the last hole. And so he was justified in playing off his round early, and golf is really a most satisfactory game, and in the fulness of his heart he commiserates feelingly with Jones on his bad luck. Jones knows his handicap will be taken down, and he is not so blithe.

At the Irvine Club professional tournament at Bogside, Ayrshire, there was a record piece of play between W. Fernie and Braid. They halved their round, and so played on to arrive at a definite issue. The next eight holes were halved, and at the ninth Fernie was successful. The final was divided between Vardon and Taylor, who halved the match, and divided the first two prizes.

I am told of an interesting incident that took place during the recent professional golf competition at Richmond. A discussion was going on between several gentlemen and players as to the need for keeping the eye on the ball. No one, it was stated, could drive a ball with his eyes shut. Vardon expressed the opinion that the action in the case of those who played frequently was mechanical. He made the experiment. He addressed the ball, and then, shutting his eyes, drove a beauty from the first tee. Sayers did likewise. If it is supposed that these men's eyes were not properly shut, I can only say that it would be much more difficult for a man to drive his ball with his eyes to all appearance tightly closed.

Oxford is this term being invaded by the first instalment of the Rhodes scholars. I am told that there is an American who can do even time for the sprint, and I presume that divers Germans will be prepared to prick the Cambridge men to pieces with the foils. I have no doubt that the Cambridge men will face these intellectual athletic afflictions with equanimity. If international rivalry is engendered the athletic youth of Great Britain will favour Cambridge. These men who come up to the University on these endowments should be classed as post-graduate students. They should be there for study and not for sport. Cambridge will watch the invasion with interest. She will not have to advertise that chips or chunks of college may not be collected as mementoes, nor warn the stranger that the grimiest colleges are not necessarily the oldest.

Judging by what has appeared in the Press it looks as though the new rules as to certain strokes and sticks which the Hockey Association has made will rather affect the game. Now, I do hope the authorities will not spoil the game by over-legislation. Hockey has made enormous strides in popularity, and it is played by a class of players who really do play the game for its own sake. At the same time I cannot help thinking that when, as in London, there are a great number of clubs, the league system might be adopted. The uninitiated would then be able to follow the game with interest and amongst the clubs a definite spirit of emulation would be encouraged.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets More Active—Mostly Good—The Funds and Germany—The War Factor—Railway Stocks to the Front — Mexican Rails Dividend — Mines on the Up-grade.

GILT-EDGED stocks have been kept back during the week by the condition of affairs on the Continent, the transfer of much French money from London to Berlin, and the feared withdrawals of sovereigns for the same destination. The reasons for this keen inquiry for gold on German account are explained in detail below; and the other markets, recognising that the influence is extraordinary and only temporary in its operation, and that money here will be fairly abundant and rates relatively low down to the end of the year and beyond, have developed a very marked degree of activity. The fact is, as I have pointed out before, that there is more money about and confidence is being restored, as a result of which there is a distinct increase in the public interest in markets. Besides, the trade of the country is improving. The war is not a factor of much consequence, and it is unlikely that Paris or any other Continental centre will develop fright over the Japanese successes. The only fear is that hostilities may be prolonged for another year or more, and that would not be a good thing for business, although at the same time it need not interfere seriously with the recovery in our markets, which have their own particular influences to help them. The war, however, must be kept in mind as a potential element for evil, for in this kind of thing you never know what is going to happen next. It may be expected, therefore, to act in

restriction of speculative enterprise, though not—other factors being favourable—to any appreciable extent. At present hostilities are going the right way to a speedier termination. This is a help, and as a sympathetic influence it is aiding the revival of business. Dealings are still somewhat partial, but the aspect of things is as different as possible from that of a couple of months ago. There is no lack of public support for railway issues—for the better sort of Home Railway stocks as well as for Argentines and Mexican Railways. The striking feature of the week is the jump in the latter descriptions, consequent upon the unexpectedly early and unexpectedly good dividend on the first Preference stocks. Americans have been jumping about, but the appearance of big buying on our market is due to manipulation from New York. In mines, if one excepts the Rhodesian "banket" companies' shares, not much interest is shown, either by outsiders or professionals, but Kaffirs have a very strong undertone, due to the improving condition of labour, the satisfactory gold output figures, and the shortage of stock on the market. Kaffirs should have their turn next, and an improvement in them will do more than anything else, perhaps, to bring about a general improvement in business.

Money Abundant and Cheap—Berlin Bank Rate Raised—Why Gold Goes to Germany—Discounts Harder—Bank of England's Position.

Floating supplies of cash are very abundant, and call loans have been obtainable throughout the week at 1 per cent. or little more—in some instances at rather less—while weekly fixtures have commanded no more than 1¼-1½ per cent. The requirements of the Stock Exchange settlement, the instalment on the new Exchequer bonds (which, allowing for the amount paid up in full under allotment absorbed about a couple of millions), and the tenders for London County Bills for nearly a million and a-half made virtually no impression, and caused no hardening of rates. For some time discounts were unable to withstand the influence of easy money, but the weakness of the French Exchange and the persistent inquiry for gold for Berlin brought about a hardening of rates. The stringency in Berlin incidental to the September quarter is all the more pronounced in this year of grace by the issue of Imperial and Prussian Treasury Bills, and the activity in trade—stimulated by orders for the Russian Government—in addition to the speculative position on the Bourse, and consequently Germany is in need of considerably more cash. Rates in both Paris and Berlin, being higher than in London, it is only natural that some of the French credits on our market should be diverted. Apparently we are not yet at the end of the German buying, but happily the Bank of England is in a very strong position, and it was not found necessary to advance the rate of discount following the example of Berlin this week. A further reduction is shown in the reserve, the decrease being £584,000, due to the shipment of £852,000 in gold to the country and abroad, which was only partially offset by a contraction of £268,000 on the note circulation. The ratio to liabilities, however, is 1.70 higher at 54.90 per cent.

Consols Heavy—Continental Developments—Gilt-edged Descriptions Sympathise—Irish Land Stock and London Threes Steady—Foreigners Fairly Active—Paris and the War News—Russians Dull—Japanese Recover—South American Stocks.

Heaviness has characterised the gilt-edged section as a result of developments on the Continent, the chief factor operating adversely being the persistent demand for gold on German account and the advance in the Berlin bank rate from 4 to 5 per cent., while the continuous fall in the French exchange served to accentuate the feeling. Consols sagged away gradually until at the close they show a loss of ¼ to 88¼ for the account. Other gilt-edged issues sympathised more or less, not excepting Transvaal Threes and the War Loan, but on the other hand the Irish Land Stock and London County Threes kept tolerably steady on a moderate investment inquiry. Colonial stocks are rather inactive, though Johannesburg Fours came in for renewed attention, and the New Cape Town Loan advanced to ¾ premium. Among Foreigners not much animation has been noticeable, the war exercising a detrimental influence upon the Continental bourses. When we heard of the great Russian advance those centres seemed more confident. Russian Fours, as a consequence, made a little headway, and Japanese issues receded; but when it became manifest that the Muscovites were having anything but their own way, the aspect changed entirely, Japanese stocks jumping up quite rapidly, and Russians falling away. Paris digested the news rather badly, and was inclined to offer most of its specialties, such as Spanish, Portuguese, and Egyptian, while the buying from that quarter of South American descriptions also ceased. In this latter group, however, other support was forthcoming for Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas, as well as the Fours of 1900, Rescissions, and B.A. Waterworks induced no doubt by the utterances of the new President on the question of improving the country's credit abroad. Chinese stocks remained on offer, and the Cuban Loan eased back further to 5½ per cent. premium, while Chilians suffered from some realisations and closed lower. Uruguays, however, improved further on the brighter prospects of peace, and Peruvian Corporation stocks displayed a fair amount of activity, though fluctuations in prices were somewhat less violent than the market has grown accustomed to within recent times. The "rubbishy" bonds in this section still exhibit few indications of life.

Home Railways Active and Buoyant—Great Centrals Strong—Position of the Junior Stocks—Easy Money and Investment Buying—Brighton A—Underground Electrification Progress—Central Londons—Great Northern and the Tubes.

Great Central stocks, to whose merits for speculative investment I drew attention last week, have been the most prominent of all railway issues during the past week. They have been bought from Manchester, and, while the well-established and the junior Preference stocks have not been neglected, most attention has been devoted to the Preferred and Deferred Ordinary. These are a long way from the dividend stage, and (assuming that the 1881 receives its full 5 per cent. for the current year) there are the 1889, 1891, and 1894 Preference stocks ranking before them, and net profits will need to advance by rather more than £300,000 before the last of these receives its full due. Any buying of the Company's stocks other than those on which dividends are being paid, ought to be done with a view to a gradual appreciation in capital values pending the arrival of the happy day when all the proprietors will be receiving some return upon their investments. It will obviously be a long time before the Ordinary descriptions arrive at the dividend stage, but the Great Central has a good future before it, and I know of few more hopeful lock-ups than these and the junior Preference issues. Lancashire and Yorkshire stock has also been in favour, the support coming again from Manchester, where there are clear signs of better trade in the textile industry, and where there is a good deal of money lying idle. The whole of the Railway market has continued buoyant almost throughout the week. The closing days of the account will most probably witness a reaction, since the professionals may be expected to take their profits and begin afresh for the new time. But there is a very confident tone, and the outlook for railways as a whole between now and the end of the year appears quite satisfactory. Money is easy, and not likely to become very tight, even at the end of the year; better trade conditions are manifesting themselves all round;

and decidedly more interest is shown in the market by the investing public, who recognise that cheap money will before long reduce the yield at present obtainable on Railway stocks by advancing the quotations for them. All the "Heavy" stocks show improvement, and in the Southern group Brighton A has received the most support by way of a change from Dover A and Chathams, over both of which it possesses great advantages, not the least being that it gives a good return upon one's investment. South-Western issues are not neglected, but, in view of the traffic position for the half-year to date, it is doubtful if they are receiving the attention which they deserve. Great Easterns, as a healthy speculative venture, have been bought, but more on professional than public account. The Undergrounds, after a short rest, are on the upgrade again, but Metropolitans are the most favoured, as they are easily the most attractive. In relation to the District, the report of the Underground Electric Railways of London is of interest. It is not definitely stated when the new conditions will come into operation on the District, but the work has made such progress that there is reasonable expectation of the system being worked by electricity early in the new year. "The principal construction work is nearly finished; all the cable ducts have been laid, the brackets and troughs for the cables on the sides of the tunnels are mostly installed, and a large portion of the cables drawn in and connected. The conductor rails have been laid, and the bonding completed. The sub-stations are well advanced, and in some cases the machinery installed. The work of replacing the station platforms by concrete instead of the present wood is proceeding rapidly, the change being made without disturbing the traffic." It is expected that tests of the machinery of the power-house at Chelsea, which is to supply the energy for the operation of the District, the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton, the Baker-street and Waterloo, and the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railways, will be made during this month and November. Central London stock, which gained 2½ on the last account, is firm, and holders continue to ignore the inspired talk about the injury which is to be worked to the line when the Undergrounds shall have been converted. The North London is still feeling the effects of goods traffic diversion and loss of passengers, owing largely to the competition of the Great Northern and City tube—which, by the way, appears to be responsible, jointly with the electric trams in North London, for the indifferent earnings that are being reported by the Great Northern Company. It will be seen from my table below that the showing of this Company for the past week is very poor; most of the others look good because they go against decreases last year:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,501	− 92	+ 13,240
Caledonian	+ 1,469	− 1,702	− 6,435
Great Central	+ 4,857	− 2,958	+ 12,405
Great Eastern	+ 3,900	− 3,300	+ 5,500
Great Northern	− 244	− 5,101	− 39,670
Great Western	+ 1,300	− 900	+ 900
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 5,326	− 5,328	+ 29,542
London and North-Western	+ 2,000	− 6,000	− 68,000
London and South-Western	+ 400	− 800	+ 6,100
Midland	+11,905	−21,237	−117,053
North British	+ 5,432	− 710	+ 3,105
North-Eastern	+ 1,324	− 2,603	− 18,155
South-Eastern and Chatham	+13,009	+ 24	+ 17,749

Scotch stocks, after some uncertainty, have followed in the wake of the rest of the market. Reports from trade circles in the North are more encouraging, and the threatened strike of engineers appears to have been averted. The Highland Railway's announcement of an issue of Three and a Half per Cent. Second debentures to the amount of £250,000 has had no adverse effect upon the Company's stocks. My Home Railway table is appended:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Oct. 8.	Price, Oct. 15	Move-ment.
Caledonian Pref.	76	75¾	76	76	—
Do. Def.	39	38¼	39¼	39½	+ ¼
City and S. London	48	47	47½	47½	—
Central London	94	88¾	89	90	+ 1
Great Central '94 Pref.	4¾	—	4¾	4¾	—
Do. "B"	94	96	96¾	97	+ ⅛
Do. "A"	13¾	14⅜	14¼	14½	+ ⅛
Great Eastern	86¼	89¾	89	90½	+ 1½
Great Northern Pref.	100	100	100	100	—
Do. Def	39½	41¾	42	42½	+ ½
Great Western	126	128	128	129	+1
Hull and Barnsley	41¼	40¾	41	41¼	+ ¼
Lancashire and Yorkshire	105	105	105	105	—
London and Brighton "A"	109¾	120	120	120¾	+ ¾
London, Chatham, and Dover	14¼	15⅝	15¾	16⅛	+ ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	97½	97	97¼	97	+2
Do. 2nd Pref.	56	64	65	66	+1
London and North-Western	150	151	151¼	152	+1¼
London and South-Western Def.	54	52¾	53¼	53½	+1
Metropolitan Consolidated	80¼	97¾	98	99¼	+1½
Metropolitan District	40	42½	42	43	+1
Midland Pref.	69	67¾	68	68	—
Do. Def.	67¼	64	64¾	66¼	+2
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	77	75¾	75¾	76	+1¼
Do. Def.	43¼	44¾	44¾	45¾	+1
North-Eastern Consolidated	141¼	137	138	139	+1
South-Eastern "A"	51¼	58	59¼	59½	+ ¼

AMERICANS GOING STRONG—"BULL" POOLS PERSEVERE—MANIPULATION AND REALISATIONS—BETTER CROP NEWS—UNION PACIFIC'S NEW DIRECTORS—THE DANGEROUS ELEMENT—BETTER TRADE—STEEL TRUSTS.

Regardless of the unconcern of the public, English and American, the "Bull" pools in Wall Street have again been very active, and though there was at one time a somewhat pronounced reactionary tendency, it gave way to a forward movement once more under the influence of further aggressive support at the instance of the big Wall Street financiers, who are putting forth greater and greater efforts to create a strong public interest in their various wares. The advance in the Berlin Bank rate, accompanied by selling from that centre, was quickly neutralised by the favourable crop report and by bidding of the old sort for specialties. Under cover of advances in these, heavy realisations took place in other stocks, creating irregularity, though, as I have said, the general tendency has been towards higher levels. Union Pacifics were at one time very strong consequent upon the election of Messrs. Frick and W. Rockefeller to the Board, thereby bringing the much-talked-of community of interest one step nearer realisation. Just now they are resting after their exertions. Louisvilles and Southern Railroad stocks were taken in hand by the Gates crowd, helped by the Morgans, and Atchisons and Southern Pacifics have also been prominent. Missouris were bought freely on the annual report. Prices are talked much higher all along the line, but the manipulation of the market does not indicate much inherent strength, and the big people will not go on twisting up prices for an indefinite period. Although the advance has brought in a few English speculators, most of the buying here is on American account, and is part of the game. My objection to the Yankee market is that we on this side have no chance whatever of obtaining an idea of the game that is in progress, and that as a consequence operations—so far as we are concerned, I mean—are reduced to the level of a mere gamble. I object to playing in the dark, and if it is a speculation you want, there are several other markets which furnish all the essentials for that and allow you to appraise the situation and the chances, to some extent at least. When it comes to an exciting run for your money, Yankees furnish it, and with luck you will make a big profit; but, on the other hand, the odds are much against you, and it has been pathetic to observe how persistently the tips circulated this week have failed to come off. If trade is to improve rapidly after the Presidential election—and it may be allowed that that event is disturbing business less than some previous elections which can be recalled—then there ought to be a higher level of

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values. That is just the doubtful point. The crops are not good enough to ensure a fresh and rapid outbreak of industrial activity, and while there are signs of improvement, it is certain that they are grossly exaggerated to serve the purposes of Wall Street, and it is a question whether the rise since August has not discounted any trade revival which may be brought about within, say, the next six months. At the same time, it may be allowed that iron trade reports are more favourable, and though the *Iron Age* says there is "not very much to brag of in the buying movement yet," that journal allows that "the railroads are buying somewhat more freely." Another point which ought not to be neglected is that latest prospects indicate a larger yield of spring wheat and corn than was foreshadowed by the September averages of condition. The New York *Chronicle* says the market is recovering after the millionaires' panic of last year, and it adds:—

> On that occasion there was literally no market, and values dropped below the lowest possible estimate of worth. This was a natural eventuality of the belief then held in almost all business circles of the instability of financial affairs, threatened, as they apparently were, by the insolvency of many leading banks and bankers. Who would want to purchase a security at a time like that? We need not enlarge upon the marvellous change in tone and character of business affairs that has since occurred. Not only has the then existing distrust passed away and been almost forgotten, but, as we showed a week ago, no little buoyancy has filled its place. Indeed, a free and rampant bond-buying movement has been a feature for many weeks, not only removing the prominent cause of the deep distrust—the undigested securities in bankers' hands—but has pushed on to other fields for investment. All this does not indicate that there will be no backsets from time to time in Wall Street's recovery; confidence is of a discriminating character; it has not as yet reached the reckless stage. Promiscuous advances without regard to current and prospective earnings invite just such experiences, and so far as they occur they are likely to induce a general, though temporary, retrograde movement. But the daily developments are of so encouraging a nature that properties with good promise will continue to feel the restorative influence.

On the strength of the talk of the better iron trade outlook and of inspired statements that the full dividend has been earned for the September quarter, U.S. Steel issues have been bought vigorously. I do not believe in the Corporation because it is absurdly over-capitalised, because soon or late the excessive import duty will have to be modified, because then it will be unable to maintain prices of steel rails at anything like the present figure of $28 per ton, and because the position of the Preferred must always be precarious, while that of the Common is almost hopeless. My table is appended:—

—	1903. Highest	1903. Lowest	Closing Price, Oct. 1, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 15, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56¼	85⅛	85⅜	88
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅝	88⅜	103⅛	103¼	103¾
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	93⅜	93¼	97⅛
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	46	45⅜	46⅛
Denver	43⅜	18⅜	30⅜	29⅜	30½
Do. Pref.	93¼	66⅜	84½	83¼	84⅞
Erie	43⅞	23⅛	32⅜	34¼	34½
Do. First Pref.....	75¼	64¼	70	71½	71½
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	130½	131⅛	136
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	161½	170½xd	174
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	25¼	26⅛	29½
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	92½	93⅜	93
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅝	71¾	74	75
New York Central	158	116⅞	131	132½	138¼xd
Ontario	36	19⅜	36⅞	35⅝	36¾
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	68¼	68⅜	69⅛
Reading.....	35½	20	35¾	36⅛	37⅜
Do. First Pref.....	45¼	36⅜	44	44¼	44½
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	34⅛	33⅜	35⅜
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73¼	97½	96½xd	97
Southern Pacific	69½	39⅞	59¼	60¾	62¾
Union Pacific	107⅞	69½	105⅝	106½	110⅝
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	96	95½	97
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	43½	42½	44
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	68	67½	68½
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	19⅜	18½	21⅝
Do. Pref.	—	—	76¼	77	82⅜

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CANADIAN PACIFICS EASIER—A SPELL OF PROFIT-TAKING—TERMS OF THE NEW ISSUE—GRAND TRUNKS STILL TURNING THE CORNER—POSITION OF THE SECOND PREFERENCE—MEXICAN RAILWAY'S GOOD DIVIDEND—ARGENTINE RAILWAYS FIRM—ROSARIOS BOUGHT—B.A. AND PACIFIC DIVIDEND—MINOR RAILWAYS IMPROVING—SAN PAULOS.

Canadian Pacific Railway shares are rather easier as a result of profit-taking, and the market is having a rest after the exertions of the last few weeks. The earnings continue on a most encouraging scale, the latest traffic showing an increase of $75,000, following upon $119,000 a year ago, and bringing the aggregate improvement since the beginning of July to $1,109,000 on an increased mileage of 327. There is reason, with a big harvest, to anticipate a maintenance of satisfactory announcements, and if, after their 25 points recovery from the lowest of the current year, there does not seem to be room for much further advance, there is no reason for anticipating a material set-back. Sales by the people who bought to secure the bonus there may be, but good support is likely to be soon forthcoming again, and if Americans keep on the up grade "Canadas" will go ahead further out of sympathy. But the shares are worth keeping as an investment. When the Company derives the full benefit from the liberal but judicious expenditures now being made out of capital and revenue, the dividend will be increased, and a much higher range of values will be registered. Grand Trunks are still turning the corner. This week we have an increase in the gross earnings—£2,338—which is not really poor, since it goes on top of £10.315 last year, and the aggregate of earnings for the week is £143.586, which is good. But the market had looked for from £5,000 to £7,000 up, and in its disappointment it banged prices. For the moment it was helped by the stiffer rates at the settlement, but it soon became evident that the "Bears" had oversold, and there has since been a substantial recovery, especially in Seconds and Thirds. The First Preference is assured of its full 5 per cent. for the year, notwithstanding that the interim dividend was passed, and should be good for an advance of 5 or 6 points between now and the actual announcement. There is no valid reason why it should not go again to the highest of this year, which was still 3¼ below the highest of 1903. Seconds are in a less certain position, and if they are not to receive 5 per cent. for the year they are not cheap at the current price. But it is probable that they also will obtain their due, and Thirds and the Ordinary will go to higher prices than those now ruling as the situation brightens. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Oct. 15.
Canadian Pacific	121	136	136½
" 4 per cent. Preference ..	103	—	102
Grand Trunks	15⅞	16¾	16⅞
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	102¼	99	97¼xd
" 1st Preference	109	101⅞	105¼
" 2nd "	97½	93¾	93¾
" 3rd "	45⅝	43	44⅛
Bengal and North-West.....	130½	144½	144½
Bombay Baroda.....	155	154½	145½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.....	127	126	127
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101	106¼	107
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	96	121¼	123
" " 1st Preference..	96½	106	105½
" " 2nd " ..	87	95	95
" Great Southern.....	133	137¼	138
" Western	129	130½	131
Entre Rios Railway Preference	51	67¼	68½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	81½	95	97¼
Costa Rica Railway.....	1⅞	2⅜	2⅛
Moshonaland Railway Debentures	101	92½	91¼
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	87	81	81½
Mexican Railway	17	19⅝	22
" 1st Preference.....	69¼	89½	93½
" 2nd "	26¼	33	40
Nitrate Rails	8⅛	7⅞	7 11/16

Mexican Railway stocks have had a very sharp jump on the dividend, which is at the rate of 6 per cent. on the First Preference stock, as against 1⅞ per cent.; and Firsts and Seconds have advanced eight or nine points. More public attention is being paid to these issues, and also to those of the Interoceanic, the "B" debentures

of this latter line hardening to 102½, and the Preference also being bought, in anticipation of a distribution on the stock with the retirement of the "B" debentures and their replacement by bonds carrying a lower rate of interest. The leading Argentine Railways have been firm, the traffics being a material help to the Rosario, the Great Southern, and, in lesser degree, to the Pacific and the Argentine Great Western, while the Western has withstood another decrease. The balance dividend disclosed by the Pacific Company is 4 per cent. actual, making 7 per cent. for the twelve months to June, which brings the Company into line with the Great Southern and the Western. It was possible to argue for 10 per cent., or even very much more, and at one time estimates ran mad. But what the Company could do and what it would do were vastly different matters, and in discussing the dividend prospects some little time ago, I advised purchasers to be content with 7 per cent., or at the most 8 per cent. It is true that the earnings were on a huge scale, but the Directors have to meet the interest on the last debenture issue, and there is also in prospect the new Ordinary capital to rank; in addition to which it is necessary to strengthen the reserves and to improve the equipment. It is only two years since it was found impossible to pay anything at all on the Ordinary stock, small though the total was, and it would be poor discretion to pay out up to the hilt now, with lean years ahead. The prosperity in Argentina has made a great difference to the position and prospects of the minor railways, and a feature of the recent dealings in the market has been the buying of these descriptions, with which I deal separately below. Uruguay Railway issues have also continued in request. Midland of Uruguay debentures rose a point to 67, while Central of Monte Video Six per Cent. debentures advanced to 97, and Uruguay Northern Preferred added a point at 16. Antofagasta Ordinary gained 1 at 120. San Paulos are on the up grade; the earnings are very satisfactory, the last increase of £4,595 leaving the Company £63,318 to the good so far for the year. Leopoldinas, on the other hand, are depressed, the persistent succession of decreases—the aggregate fall to date is £35,450—not being encouraging.

Lesser Argentine Rails—Some Promising Purchases.

During the past couple of years, when the general markets have been more or less stagnant, it has been noted that long-neglected South American, and particularly Argentine, railway issues have commanded attention. The stocks of the more important lines have for long been in demand, but this year the securities of the lesser lines have been in great request, and prices to-day are generally much higher than they were when the year opened. Three years of good crops have put the Argentine Republic into such a flourishing condition that vast sums of money have been used in London for the purchase of Argentine Government bonds and railway stock for account of Buenos Ayres, and this shows every sign of continuing. The smart rises of the last few weeks have been helped by large buying orders from the other side, especially of the issues of the Cordoba lines. Owing to the prospects of a larger wheat crop this year than last, it is certain that a still further augmentation of prices will be seen. The report of the Cordoba and Rosario Railway for 1903-4 will shortly be issued, and will show the net earnings to have been sufficient to pay in full the interest upon the First, Second, and Income debentures, with the half-year's interest on the First Preference and New Second Preference stock. The First Preference stock of this line holds the record amongst Argentine Railway issues of having risen 60 points, from 40 to 100, this year, and a further big rise within the next six months would cause no surprise. From July 1 to date, the line has a traffic increase of £15,395, of which probably £10,000 will be net gain. If the net receipts improve by a further £10,000 to £12,000 during the nine months from now to the end of next June, the full interest will be earned on the First and Second Preference stock, with £14,000 to reserve. This should be easily accomplished, and would, I think, justify the Six per Cent. First Preference stock being at par, with about 60 for the Second. In liquidation of accumulative arrears of interest, the First Preference will shortly receive £72 of New Second Preference, worth, say, £40. It is obvious, therefore, that the First are worth 140 at least, instead of par, as at present price. This Company's other issues must also advance. The position of the Cordoba Central is, perhaps, not quite so good; but the First Preference, which will probably get 7 per cent. this year, should go higher, while the Income bonds at 57 are a good speculative purchase, with immense possibilities in front of them. The Entre Rios Railway is about to bring forward a scheme for liquidating arrears of interest in the Preference stock, which will advance quotations, while the Argentine North-Eastern and East Argentine will shortly amalgamate upon terms which must advance prices, especially of the former's Preference stock and bearer debentures. The Villa Maria and Rufino Railway will make a larger distribution this year on its Second debentures, and sooner or later will be taken over by the Buenos Ayres and Pacific, which concern at present works the Villa Maria. To sum up, the next six months will probably see higher prices all round, but the pick just now would be Cordoba and Rosario First Preference stock and Second debentures; Cordoba Central First Preference stock and Income bonds, Argentine North-Eastern Preference stock, and Villa Maria and Rufino Preference stock, in the order named. Below is a table showing the rise during the current year:—

—	Oct. 15, 1903.	Jan. 1, 1904.	Present Price.	Rise or Fall this Year.
Argentine North Eastern Pref. Stock...	11	12	22	+10
Do. Do. 5 p.c. Prior Lien Debs	85	86	93	+ 7
Do. Do. Bearer Debs.	28	32	42	+10
East Argentine Ordinary Stock	62	70	66	- 4
Do. 4 p.c. Debs.	85	83	86	+ 3
Entre Rios Ordinary Stock	11	15	22	+ 7
Do. Do. 5 p.c. Prefs.	51	60	68	+ 8
Villa Maria and Rufino Prefs.	36	49	55	+ 6
Do. Do. Second Debs	67	77	89	+12
Cordoba and Rosario Pref. Stock	26	40	100	+60
Do. Do. First Debs	80	83	90	+ 7
Do. Do. Second Debs....	66	82	100	+18
Do. Do. Income Bonds	36	49	69	+20
Cordoba Central First Prefs.	77	82	106	+24
Do. Do. Income Bonds.	33	41	57	+16

Westralians Rather Inactive—Tendency Fairly Steady—Reduced "Bear" Position in Oroyas—Horseshoes—Other Leading Shares Quietly Firm—Sons of Gwalia in Request—"Little Kangaroos" Idle—Bellevues React.

The past week has not witnessed much activity in the West Australian section, and there has been an absence of the sensational fluctuations in prices which have been so prevalent recently. The tone generally has been by no means brilliant, but considerable interest continues to be evinced in Oroyas, occasioned by the "Bear" squeeze in these shares. At the settlement it was manifest that the commitments of these gentry had been discreetly reduced, as a result of the lesson given at the previous account, and the "backwardation" exacted after starting at fractionally below 6d., only stiffened to 1s. when some belated members attempted to cover themselves. This was a favourable factor, and the shares developed some strength; but it was not sustained, and, though comparatively firm, they finish well below the best. Despite the absence of any further particulars regarding the severance of Messrs. Bewick Moreing's connection with the property and the publication of a development report signed by that firm for the month of August—it may be the last, of course—Golden Horseshoes keep quietly firm, without any appreciable change in price; but even the Board must have recognised ere this that it is high time some authoritative explanation on this point became known to the proprietors. The tendency of Associated has not

been particularly pleasant, dulness predominating throughout; but the loss on balance is small. Renewed attention has been paid to Great Boulders and Perseverance, and both shares appreciated, though they reacted again subsequently. Fingalls, Ivanhoes, and Kalgurlis keep rather cheerful, and there has been considerable bidding for Sons of Gwalia on the strength of the report, which seems to show that the mine is earning from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. per annum, and is in every way a satisfactory document. Among the less important shares, Bellevues reacted sharply on the poor return, occasioned to a great extent by some temporary difficulty encountered at the mine; but for the rest the "Little Kangaroos" have been quite lifeless, no support being forthcoming from any quarter. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 15, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅜	3⅜	1	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 3/16	1 7/16	1 5/16	1⅜
Brownhill Ext.	3⅜	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/3	6/9	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11/3	7	6⅜	6⅜	6½
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	3/6	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	19/6	20/6	19/6
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	4/3	4/3	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 13/16	1½	13/-	11/-	12/9
Do. South	3½	1⅝	⅜	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 13/16	9 15/16	5 1/16	7⅜	7½	7⅜
Hainault	1⅝	⅜	¼	⅜	⅜	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	5/-	4/9	5/-xd
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10/-	6⅜	7 1/16	7 1/16	7⅜
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	1/16	1/16	1/16	1/16
Kalgurli	9⅛	4½	2⅜	5 1/16	5 1/16	5⅛xd
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1 1/16	1½	1½
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/16	1 3/16	½	8/0	8/6	⅞
North Kalgurli	1 11/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/-	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3 3/16	3½	3½
Peak Hill	5⅜	2⅜	¾	⅝	½	1 1/16
Sons of Gwalia	6 7/16	2 9/16	1	1 13/16	1⅞	1 1/16
South Kalgurli	6½	2 1/16	¾	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 11/16	⅞	⅝	⅝	⅝

RHODESIANS FIRM AT THE CLOSE—THE CHARTERED MEETING AND THE NEW CAPITAL ISSUE—SEE-SAW MOVEMENTS—BANKET DESCRIPTIONS ACTIVE—ANOTHER REPORT—AYRSHIRES AND THE RAILWAY EXTENSION—GLOBE AND PHŒNIX—ANOTHER GOLD RECORD—TANGANYIKAS.

As was generally expected, the shareholders, when they gathered together at the Chartered Company's meeting last week, expressed their dissatisfaction at the unequitable and unbusinesslike arrangements made in connection with the underwriting of the new capital, and after a not too edifying discussion the provisional agreement with the underwriters was vetoed. The effect upon the market was only slight, however, and the prognostications made in some quarters that the quashing of the agreement would probably result in a little "Bear" squeezing did not prove to be true, since at the settlement matters went off smoothly enough. The Company announced that in deference to the wishes of the proprietors the new shares would be issued *pro rata* to existing holders, who will also have the option of taking any further shares not applied for; so that the affair is now settled satisfactorily, and it seems improbable that the new issue will prove abortive. Notwithstanding that there have been a good many see-saw movements, the tendency of the market on the whole may be described as good, though Chartered finish slightly below the best, and a shade down on balance. At one time, too, it appeared as though the backbone of the boomlet in "banket" descriptions had been seriously affected, but this turned out to be only a temporary set-back, for there was vigorous bidding for these things later on as a result of a further report from the property, which seems to imply that developments on the Eldorado claim are of a very satisfactory nature. The main shaft is down 264 ft., and the drive at the second level is in 12 ft., which gives a panning value of 2 oz. across 5 ft., and will probably prove better with a fine assay. So confident is the engineer in regard to this that he asserts the value will be no less than 2 oz. This gentleman is equally optimistic concerning the No. 1 west winze, and seemingly this report made up for the reticence of the Chartered Board, who uttered nothing of importance in regard to the banket formation, though it was confidently expected that they would at the meeting. After sagging away to 5 5-16, Exploration smartly recovered, and finished at the best, being nearly a full point higher, and Lomagundas, after accompanying them downwards, show an appreciation of 5-16 at 3 5-16 at the close. Ayrshires also developed some dulness at one time, rumours ascribing this to new capital requirements in order to complete the railway to the Eldorado property, but this was subsequently denied, it being asserted that the Company had ample funds in hand for the purpose, and the shares picked up sharply. The other smaller shares interested in the reef came in for a moderate amount of attention, and Rice Hamilton were also actively bid for. The report of the Globe and Phœnix says that advantage has been taken of the unprecedented supply of native labour during the half-year to proceed rapidly with development. Cost of development amounted to £22,635, but this large expenditure out of profits (necessitated by the conditions of labour under which work has been carried on from the beginning) has put the mine in such a condition as to ensure the continuous running of the mill, even during the approaching season of minimum labour. About £4,000 is to be expended on extra plant, but this, it is hoped, will be rapidly recouped through the greater efficiency, and owing to the forward condition of development the general position is much improved. The Rhodesian gold output for last month constitutes another record, the total being 26,029 oz., as against the previous record for the preceding month of 24,669 oz.. To a great extent this is due to increased production of a couple of mines, the Ayrshire output being 953 oz. greater at 4,003, and the Wanderer 2,075 oz. as compared with 1,475 oz. for August, the returns of the others being more or less normal. I give below a table to show the return since January, 1900:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	5,242	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,360
February	6,233	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673
March	6,286	14,289	16,391	19,626	17,776
April	5,456	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862
May	6,554	14,469	19,598	22,137	19,424
June	6,185	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402
July	5,737	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339
August	10,137	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669
September	10,718	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,290
October	10,725	14,503	16,849	17,918	—
November	9,170	16,487	15,923	15,714	—
December	9,373	15,174	16,210	18,750	—
Total	91,816	172,150	194,168	231,872	188,534

And I also append a list of individual returns for the six months to September:—

—	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Antenior	†200	1,115	747	777	805	869
Ayrshire	—	1,027	2,160	3,038	3,050	4,003
Bechuanaland Exploration	—	—	—	46	—	—
Bonsor	—	—	333	50	—	—
Dumbleton	447	508	408	445	405	425
Dunraven	—	—	—	515	—	—
Eagle-Vulture	513	†306	—	—	—	—
Empress	690	1,010	1,205	1,154	1,220	—
Globe and Phœnix	3,411	3,394	3,029	3,792	3,599	3,368
Imani	382	—	382	—	—	—
Mashonaland Consolidated	324	314	259	259	277	411
Matabele Sheba	441	383	308	497	—	—
Morven	701	712	703	701	731	715
North Bonsor	—	—	—	1,297	—	—
Penhalonga Proprietary	985	1,290	*1,047	1,142	*1,147	*1,183
Red and White Rose	274	449	303	—	—	—
Rezende	977	1,057	1,240	1,819	1,181	*1,084
Rhodesia Consolidated	—	—	—	—	—	300
Selukwe	3,116	2,504	2,334	2,810	2,773	2,831
Surprise	1,020	1,021	1,005	1,406	1,715	1,475
Tanganyika	349	417	420	544	512	—
Wanderer	2,080	1,645	1,431	1,588	1,475	2,075
Wareleigh	496	605	730	367	387	—
Zambesia Exploration	—	26	17	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1,456	1,041	2,341	2,092	—	—
Official total	17,862	19,424	20,402	24,339	24,669	26,029

* Fine Gold. † Cyanite treatment only, owing to scarcity of labour. ‡ Mill shut down May 21.

Among the Northern descriptions not much activity has been witnessed, apart from a rather easier tendency in Tanganyikas, which finish lower, apart from which the shares have been quietly steady. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 17, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	¼	¼
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2	1½	1½
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,010	1	f.p.	4¼	1¼	1⅛
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	6/-	⅝
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194,623	1	f.p.	⅞	⅝	¾
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅝	⅝
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2/6	2/-	2/-
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅞	9/-
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1	1
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5/6	1⅛	1⅛
Lonagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6¼	3/6	3/6
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3½	1⅛	1⅛
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4⅜	⅛	⅛
North'n Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	3¼	3¼
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅞	2/-	14/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	5/6	6/6
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2½	⅝	⅝
Rio de Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2½	2½
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1⅛	1⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	20½	8⅛	8⅛
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅝	⅝	⅝
United Rhodesia.....	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	8/9	8/9
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	7/-	7/-
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	920,000	1	f.p.	1½	6/6	6/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅛	1¼	1⅜

KAFFIRS IMPROVE—OUTSIDE INTEREST INCREASING—MORE CHINESE—NATIVE LABOUR RETURNS—SEPTEMBER GOLD YIELD—RANDFONTEIN GROUP—MR. ALBU ON THE COOLIE—MERITS OF GOLDFIELDS—DE BEERS SOLD FROM PARIS—EASTERN RAND DESCRIPTIONS—A DESIRABLE DEPARTURE—DEEP LEVELS.

In the South African market the week has witnessed a fair improvement in the volume of business done. There is nothing like wild activity, of course, and public support is still more than a little meagre. All the same, the outside interest is increasing, and that is encouraging. On the whole, the tendency has been towards higher prices throughout, the only conspicuous exception being the steady offering of De Beers from Paris. The unexpected outcome of the Chartered Company's meeting caused a slight dulness among all South Africans, but that was only momentary, and operators inside and outside alike turned to contemplate the outlook on the basis of the labour returns. The reported retirement of Lord Milner left the market unmoved. No man is indispensable in South Africa or elsewhere, and while Lord Milner's services were not minimised, it was recognised that, whether he remained or whether he left, the policy would undergo no change. The stranding of the *Swanley* and the temporary marooning of its two thousand coolies meant nothing more than a delay of a fortnight or so, and even Knights (to which mine these particular Chinese have been allocated) scarcely moved a fraction. In accordance with forecasts, the native labour recruitings for September were large—the number distributed to the mines was 9,529; but, on the other hand, wastage was 6,832, so that the net gain was no more than 2,697, bringing the aggregate to 68,545. Still, it was good, for a change, to have an increase after the rather long succession of decreases, and as the increase in the number of Celestials was 4,092 the total gain was 6,789, which is really encouraging. Moreover, the month will witness the arrival of more coolies, and it is stated that during the first eleven days of this month 4,000 natives were enrolled. It is likely, therefore, that for October the gain will be greater than that of last month. The number of stamps in operation is now 5,045, as against 4,580 at the end of the year and 4,490 twelve months ago, and it is not unreasonable to expect that as soon as ever the supply of labour permits many more will be dropped. The latest mine to commence crushing is the North Randfontein, which will begin operations during the current week. In an interview Mr. Leopold Albu, who has just arrived from South Africa, stated that by the end of the year about 40,000 coolies will be at work on the Rand and probably regular fortnightly importations of them will by that time have been assured. The gentleman spoke of the coolie experiment as "an unqualified success." He does not seem to allow the report that the Chinese were all engaged in disorderly, and he added that "the best proof of the success of the experiment is the fact that we are eager to have as many more as we can get, in spite of the tremendous outlay of capital involved." I doubt if it would pay me to put the matter on any higher plane to all those readers who cost £20 a head to import. It will be seen from my table below that slight improvements on the week are fairly well distributed:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make up Sep. 26, 1904.	Make up Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Oct. 17, 1904.
Angelo	7½	9/-	6	6⅜	6	6⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅛	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Aurora West	3¼	2	⅝	1⅛	1	1
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅜	—	⅛	⅛
Bantjes	7⅜	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1	1⅛
Bantjes Consols	5⅛	4⅜	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
City & Suburban (£4)	⅜	⅞	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cons. Goldfields Def.	10⅜	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cons. Main Reef	—	⅜	⅛	1	1	1⅛
Crown Reef	10⅜	15⅛	10⅜	14⅜	14⅝	15⅛
De Beers Pref.	—	2/6	1/3	1/-	1/-	1/-
Do. Def.	—	2/1	1/-	18/	1/-	1/-
Driefontein	4⅜	6⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6⅛	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
East Rand Ext.	—	⅞	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
East Rands	12	10⅞	6⅜	8	8⅛	8⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est....	—	⅜	⅛	⅛	—	—
Ferreira	22	29⅜	18⅜	20⅜	20⅜	20⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Geduld	—	6⅜	⅝	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Ginsberg (New)	2⅜	4	3	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅛	2⅜	3	3⅛	3⅛
Goldenhuis Estate	7⅜	7⅛	5⅜	5⅞	5⅞	5⅞
,, Main Reef.....	1⅜	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1	1	1
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	⅜	⅜	1⅛	1⅛
Henderson	5⅛	2⅛	1	1⅛	1	1⅛
Henry Nourse	8⅛	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Heriot	12⅛	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	26⅛	27⅛	27⅛
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1⅛	1	1⅛	1⅛ sd
,, Goldfields..	-	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Jubilee.....	12⅛	7⅛	4⅛	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers.....	8⅜	6⅛	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood.....	4⅛	2	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Knight's	11⅛	9⅜	4⅜	5	5	5⅛
Langlaagte, Block "B" ..	3⅜	1⅜	⅜	⅛	⅛	⅛
Langlaagte Estate	7⅛	5⅛	3⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	⅜	⅛	⅛	—	—
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅛	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅛	3⅜	4	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8⅛	6⅜	4⅜	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Modderfontein (£1)	17⅛	14⅜	7⅜	9⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Niekerk	—	1⅜	7/6	1/3	1⅜	1⅜
Nigel.....	8⅛	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3⅛	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Oceana Mineral	—	1⅛	⅞	⅞	⅞	⅞
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅜	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate.....	4⅛	2	⅝	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4⅛	2⅜	3	3	3
Randfontein Porges	3⅛	3⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson.....	2⅜	2⅜	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, North ..	—	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Randfontein Block "A"..	—	2	⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Mynpacht ...	-	-	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11⅛	12	8⅛	9⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Roodepoort United	8⅛	4⅛	2⅛	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
S. A. Gold Mines	-	14⅜	6⅛	8⅛	8⅛	8⅛
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅜	9⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Shebu	2⅜	1⅜	11/3	—	—	—
Simmer and Jack.....	3⅜	2⅜	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	1/-	11/9	11/9
South Afr. Terriers	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands ..	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development ..	2⅛	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Transvaal Exping.	—	1⅜	⅝	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅛	3⅛	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury.....	5⅜	6⅜	4⅜	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
United African Lands	—	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	3⅜	4	4	4
Village Main Reef	9⅛	9⅜	7⅛	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜
Violet	—	3⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Vogelstruis	6⅜	9⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Welgedacht	-	8⅜	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Wemmer	13⅜	18⅜	9⅛	11⅜	11⅜	11⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Wolhuter	12	6⅛	3⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Worcester	6⅛	3⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜

* £5 shares.

Goldfields have been prominent, and have marked a

good rise on balance, some dealers having been caught short. These shares have been depressed unduly by the now-exploded reports of an impending issue of fresh capital, and ought to stand a couple of points higher before coming level with the other leading shares for the upward race, which cannot be far away. There is no reason, for instance, why they should stand lower than East Rands. The Randfontein group has also received attention, the commencement of crushing by the North Randfontein coming as a reminder that on this group development work is being proceeded with in a quiet but rapid manner. Far Eastern Rand shares are likely to be taken in hand soon, and therefore Welgedachts, Geduldes, East Rand Mining Estates, and the others in this district are worth picking up speculatively. Apex shares have advanced on the favourable development announced this week. Western Rand shares should also be bought. There are always the "investment" shares which give dividends, and will follow the upward course of the rest of the market, but they have not the speculative possibilities of the more moderate priced shares. One of the "heavies," the Henry Nourse, has made a departure which the others ought to follow. It is generally possible to estimate the ore possibilities of the better-known Kaffirs, but the officials are not so solicitous as they might be to send out early information concerning their development position, wherein they contrast badly with the leading Westralian mines, and the management of the Henry Nourse is to be complimented upon furnishing a detailed statement so soon after the termination of its financial year. The ore opened up in this property on June 30, after deducting 15 per cent. for sorting, amounted to 490,054 milling tons, of an extraction value of 10.885 dwt., or 46s. 3d. sterling per ton. On the basis of last year's working costs, and allowing, say, 4s. per ton for depreciation and the Transvaal profits tax, the "profit in sight" on the above tonnage would work out at about £2 10s. per share, equivalent to practically 30 per cent. of the present market value of the shares. Rather more attention has been paid to Deep Levels on home as well as Paris account, this last market betraying during the week a more active interest all round in Kaffirs. My table is appended:—

—	1900.. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest	Make-up, Sept. 26, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 15, 1904.
Bonanza	4¼	6¾	3⅞	1¼	1 3/16	1 3/16
Cent. Nigel Deep	1/16	1	½	5/16	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2 7/16	2 7/16	2 7/16
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12½	12¾	12¾
Dunb. Rood Deep	4½	4 3/16	2	2 1/16	2⅞	2 15/16
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅜	5⅜	5½
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3½	4 3/16	4½	4 5/16
Geldenhuis Deep	10¾	12½	8⅞	11	11½	11⅝
Jumpers Deep	5½	6¾	3½	4 5/16	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3	3	3 1/16
Knight's Central Deep	3 5/16	4 7/16	2½	2	2½	2½
Lancaster	3⅜	3 3/16	2	2	2 1/16	2½
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅞	2¼	2 5/16	2½
New Steyn Estates	2 1/16	5 1/16	2½		3 1/16	3½
Nourse Deep	5⅞	6¾	3½		4⅜	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1 15/16	9/16	17/32	9/16	9/16
Rand Victoria	3 3/16	4¾	2⅜		2½	2 3/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 3/16	4½	5 5/16	5 5/16	5⅜
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 5/16	2⅝	4 1/16	4 3/16	4 7/16
Rose Deep	10	10⅝	6¾		8 5/16	8¾
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅝	21/32	1 1/16	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅝	4½	2	1 13/32	1 15/16	1 15/16
South Geld. Deep	3⅞	4⅝	2 3/16	2½	2⅜	2 3/16
Simmer and Jack East	3 5/16	4 1/16	2½	1⅞	2	2½
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 5/16	2⅝		3 1/16	3¼
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅝	2¾	1⅛	7/16	15/16	7/8
Witwatersrand Deep	2 15/16	4 1/8	2 1/16	3 1/8	3 1/8	4

Below will be found a table, showing the production of gold for September, as compared with previous months. The increase on August is just 9 oz., but, allowing for the fact that there was one working day less, the showing is considered very satisfactory, the extra day being equivalent to about 9,000 oz.:—

—	1899. Bullion. oz.	1901. Fine. oz.	1902. Fine. oz.	1903. Fine. oz.	1904. Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	404,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,502
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	308,242
April	439,111	—	119,588	227,871	305,946
May	444,933	7,478	138,602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219
July	456,474	25,900	149,179	251,643	307,840
August	459,709	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,277
September	411,762	31,956	170,802	276,197	312,236
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	—
November	55,941	39,075	187,375	279,813	—
December	68,525	52,897	196,023	286,061	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	2,747,616

The value of the output is indicated in my next table:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846 489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,726
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329
April	1,639,340	—	507,980	987,936	1,299,576
May	1,658,268	31 271	588,746	994 505	1 335,826
June	1,665,715	84,014	696,493	1,012,322	1,309,231
July	1,711,447	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621
August	1,720,907	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326,506
October	1,028,057	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	—
November		165,906	795.922	1,188,571	—
December		224,692	832,052	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	11,671,129

West Africans Somewhat Less Inactive — Business Strictly Professional—Smart Drop in Amalgamated —A General Recovery — Wassaus — Miscellaneous Mines — Lively Egyptians — Copper Descriptions Firm—Indian Mines—Mysore Dividend—Etruscans Weak.

A moderate amount of animation has been in evidence in the Jungle throughout the past week, but, needless to say, this has been occasioned entirely by the professionals themselves, and not by any awakening of outside interest in the market's wares. Amalgamated, however, at one time suffered very acutely from the effects of attempted realisations and sharply reacted, a good number of other shares accompanying them in their downward movement; but a recovery became noticeable later on, and changes on balance are few and quite insignificant. Insiders gave persistent support for Bibianis for some reason difficult to ascertain, though one may surmise that they did not wish the shares to fall away, and Wassaus received a little attention on the strength of a rumour that working costs are being appreciably reduced. In neither case is the effect upon the price of the shares very important. Some of the smaller descriptions, particularly dredging concerns, advanced slightly. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up. Oct 10, 1904.	Closing Price. Oct. 15, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	4/6 dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	¼	¼
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	4 3	4/6
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	1⅜	1 1/16
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	⅞	⅞
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	7/16	½
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2¼	2¼
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	7/10
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Prestea Mines	250,000	250.000	1	f.p.	10/-	5/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120 000	1	f p.	5/8	½
Taquah & Obosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1	1 1/16
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1 3/32	1⅛

The feature in the Miscellaneous Mining market has been the buoyancy of Egyptians on support from various

Corpulence is an Unpardonable Sin in society. It is so regarded since the well-known specialist, F. C. Russell, has demonstrated that it can be cured by use of pure vegetable preparation without interference with ordinary habits. Russell's system reduces fat by pounds per week—as weighing machine proves—while it increases appetite and vigour, and restores the graces of youth to both sexes. Recipe in his "Corpulency and the Cure" (256 pages), sent post free on receipt of three penny stamps, from Woburn House, Store-street, London, W.C.

quarters, including, it is said, Cairo and from home, and the course of Nile Valleys and United Africans has been persistently upwards, both finishing with gains on balance, while the other shares in the market moved up in sympathy. Copper shares, too, continue to exhibit a good tendency, the position and outlook for the metal being a material aid. Rio Tintos, despite the disatisfaction expressed in some quarters over the recent distribution and the unsettled state of the Paris bourse, continue on the up-grade. It may be mentioned, however, that towards the close indications of a slight reaction in Anacondas (by reason of a relapse in Wall Street), as well as Tharsis, Mason and Barry, and a couple of others, were in evidence. Although the Mysore dividend announcement of 4s. 6d. per share, making 90 per cent. for the year to date as against 80 per cent. for 1903, exercised a beneficial influence upon Indian gold mining shares, the effect soon passed away, and a rather easier tendency developed and continues in evidence. Etruscans relapsed smartly to 5s., being a significant drop on the week, and the fortnightly report dealing with the output did not help matters, the shares remaining on offer. They are not helped by the proposal to issue 100,000 Twenty per Cent. Preference shares to provide more working capital. Mount Lyells continue to be rather pressed for sale, and Charters Towers descriptions, especially Queen Cross Reefs, have receded further in the absence of support Among British Columbians Le Roi No. 2 derived a little favourable influence from a report that the Company had secured an option over new mining claims near its present property, and in the New Zealand group Waihis and Waihi Grand Junctions have been rather firm. Among Silver shares, Broken Hill Props show a fair amount of strength, the price of the metal being still good.

	1902–3. Highest.	1902–3. Lowest	Make-up, Oct. 10.	Closing Price, Oct. 15.
Anaconda Copper	7 7/8	3 3/8	5 3/8	5 1/4
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	15/3	15/-
Broken Hill Props.	1 7/8	1 1/4	39 6	41/-
Cape Copper	5	2	4	4 1/4
Champion Reef	7	5 3/4	30/9	31 6
Le Roi	4 3/8	3/8	3/4	3/4
Mason and Barry	4 1/4	3 1/4	2 15/16	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/4	2	11/9	11/6
Mysore Gold	7 1/8	5 1/8	6 1/2	6 3/8
Namaqua Copper	4 3/8	2 1/4	3	3
Nundydroog	2 13/16	1 3/8	35/6	1 3/4
Ooregum	2 7/8	21/9	15/-	14/6
Rio Tinto	58 3/8	38 1/4	57	57 1/2
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 3/8	3 3/8	4 5/8	4 1/4
Waihi Gold	6 1/4	4 15/16	5 1/16	5 3/4

Moments with the Bucket Shops.

That very egregious concern, the London and New York Exchange, of Dacre House, Victoria-street, S.W., and 6, Denman-street, London Bridge, announces "another good fortnightly return," this time amounting to £1 0s. 3d. net dividend upon each £5 deposit. It may be remembered that I referred to this undertaking, which has behind it an individual who is more notorious than notable, a couple of weeks ago in connection with its boast that it was able to ensure a certain profit by simultaneous "Bull" and "Bear" operations. This fatuity on the face of it should be sufficient to put people on their guard against the concern and the "fortnight dividend system" which it claims to have originated. Says the London and New York Exchange:—

When we first inaugurated our method of dealing in certain stocks by opening a "Bull" and "Bear" simultaneously, we operated in a small way for ourselves and a few friends and clients, but finding the system so successful, we extended it and found that the co-operation of further capital enabled us to deal larger and obtain closer prices in important centres at almost the same working expenses, while there was the addition of a remunerative commission and the valued general Stock Exchange business of many clients whose custom we should not like to lose now. Our system has not been without its detractors, but time, we think, has shown the soundness of our argument, and the regularity of the return every fortnight given sufficient proof of the reliability of this method of operating. Our public notice and advertisement of the selected stocks and shares before commencement of operations, etc.

To say that this wonderful system is not without its detractors is to speak very mildly of the criticism which the concern's circulars has evoked. I notice that among the unsolicited testimonials said to have been received from grateful subscribers is one from "Miss M. O. G.," of Clacton, Essex. The correct initials should surely be "M. U. G."

It is quite a considerable time since I heard anything about my old friends Mayward, Grant, and Co., and I have been wondering if the stress of city philanthropy has been too much for them. I am reminded of them now by the receipt of a circular issued by people calling themselves Currie and Crisp, of 79, Queen-street, E.C., and passed on to me by a number of Truth readers, who have my cordial thanks for the little attention. C. and C.s paper heading suggests that of M., G., and Co., and still more close is the resemblance between the matter of their circulars. Who, for instance, of those who received the literature of the latter company will forget the following, which is reproduced literally in the circular of the newer concern?—

We are daily expecting some further valuable information, about a well-known railway stock, which we feel sure will have a good rise, and shall be pleased to wire you immediately the news comes to hand the name of the stock, if you will post the enclosed postcard, appending your name and address, or better still, send us your instructions on the enclosed order form, together with remittance, so that there may be no possible chance of your missing the market. The information is most reliable for a good and quick profit, and we feel sure, should you act upon it, you will be so pleased with the result, that we shall retain you as a permanent client. We therefore hope you will avail yourself of the opportunity of taking a substantial interest in the deal.

Every disreputable bucket-shop that makes its appearance professes to have its own special method of speculation, "on the principle of limiting your liability," and that of Currie and Crisp is called "the twentieth century limited liability system." So far as I have ever been able to ascertain the real nature of these precious systems, it is simplicity itself, but it is not designed for the benefit of the million. It consists in tipping for a rise the stocks which are likely to have a fall, and all that the noble bucket-shop does is to take your money, and sit still until the fall occurs, and then to send an urgent wire, shrieking for another £10 as "cover" to protect the elusive deal. In the event of the stock rising, the noble bucket-shop oftener than not refuses to pay, and when prosecuted pleads the Gaming Act. Currie and Crisp claim that their system "produces results which, to the inexperienced, might appear astonishing, if not incredible." No doubt they are astonishing to the poor fools who part with their £10 to £50, but that they are incredible is not to be believed by the man who knows what the bucket-shop is in business for.

The Imperial Stock and Share Exchange, of 19-21, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., whose telephonic address is "Pondweed," has developed activity with the return of the autumn, and has initiated another series of "special stock deals"—a system started with "the object of enabling those who were at the disadvantage of living at a distance, as well as those unacquainted with the intricacies of Stock Exchange business, to participate in the many opportunities of making money by dealing in stocks and shares." Originally only clients were permitted a chance of benefiting, but—and here is where the philanthropic intent comes in—the success was so great that it was decided to give the public an opportunity of joining, "trusting thereby to extend our business connections, and at the same time proving to them the possibility of making handsome profits with a moderate outlay." It seems that No. 1 special stock deal (new series) closed at the end of August at a net cash profit of £16 on every £10 subscribed; No. 2 deal at a net cash profit of £10; and No. 3 at a net cash profit of £18. It is not always possible, says our friend Pondweed, to secure the same uniform profit, as so much depends upon the state of the markets at the time of operating, but "we always make it a rule to secure 100 per cent. profit as quickly as possible, thinking it better to be satisfied with a moderate gain rather

than run any undue risk, and this principle is always appreciated by our subscribers." And yet there are cynics who say that business and philanthropy do not mix.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication: cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Worried, King's Lynn.—The annuities are redeemable next year; in other words, the Government will repay the amount of your holding, and you will be at liberty to put the money into some other security—Irish Land or Local Loans stocks, both carrying the Government's guarantee. *Stephen.*—I see no reason why your Japanese stock should be sold, but I should not buy more at present, because it does not appear, even after the latest events, that the war is anywhere near its end, and Japan will require to raise more loans, which will have a depressing effect upon the existing securities. The most attractive are the new Sixes, but it is quite on the cards that they may be picked up lower later on. It will be possible, I believe, to make a lot of profit by buying Japanese at or about the right moment. The present does not seem to be that moment. *Traveller.*—Little risk attaches to a purchase of Indian Rupee Paper, as the Government may be expected to keep the rupee at 1s. 4d. The yield is over 3½ per cent., or ¼ per cent. more than is obtainable on the Three and a Half per Cent. Sterling Loans. *W. H. J.*—Argentine Provincial Cedulas are not for the man who wants "security and a good return." You must have made a mistake. Try Argentine Government bonds—the Funding Loan, for instance—which are worth buying in view of the forthcoming unification proposals. *Security.*—I suggest the National War Loan, Turkish Guaranteed, and Egyptian Unified, which will average over 3½ per cent. *Credo.*—Chinese Fives are a reasonably safe investment—one of the safest in the Foreign market for a 5 per cent. yield. *A. H., Coventry.*—Cuban bonds are quite fair. *James Hill.*—Cape of Good Hope Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed stock makes a good investment, and would suit your purpose very well.

Railways.

Exon.—North British Railway Preferred Ordinary and Grand Trunk Guaranteed stocks would meet your requirements. *H. B.*—Cordoba and Rosario Preference and Cordoba Central Income bonds give promise of a further rise. Cordoba and Rosario Debentures are more secure, and they, too, should be good for an improvement. *Alick.*—1. London and Tilbury is a good stock, returning 4 3-16 per cent. 2. Taff Vales and Barry stocks would meet the case, yielding nearly 5¼ per cent. *H. B., Hampton.*—Great Central Preferred Ordinary might still be bought for a lock-up, though, had you bought when I recommended the stock, you would have come in on much more favourable terms. *Dominion.*—Canadian Pacifics are good to hold for investment. It does not seem probable that the shares will go much higher at present, although the earnings are extremely satisfactory. There has been a good advance in the last couple of months. *Gaucho.*—Read my article this week on the minor Argentine railway stocks. *Medico, Gloucester.*—I look for higher prices for Home Railways, as trade is improving, money is likely to keep fairly cheap, and the present yield on the best Home Railway stocks is high. You can scarcely improve upon the "heavy" stocks—North-Westerns, Great Westerns, Midlands, and North-Easterns. "Leeds" may go higher, especially if trade in Lancashire goes on improving. Among the others I should select North British Ordinary, Brighton Preferred, and South-Western Preferred. The first gives nearly 4½ per cent., the second a fraction under 4 per cent., and the third 3⅞ per cent.

Mines.

P. B.—The shares of the La Fiesta Gold Mining Company do not strike me as particularly desirable. *Puzzled.*—Copper is likely to keep up within the next few months, but I doubt if that fact will have very much effect upon the price of Mount Lyells. I think you might sell within the next few weeks. As you say, by waiting one may experience a fall from the present price and then find buyers shy. *M. B.*—Selukwes and St. George's Coals are worth holding for the present. *A. G. C.*—Keep your Bibianis. The Company is one of the few promising Jungle ventures, and an earnest endeavour is being made to put things better in that market. African Estates are worth about 1s. each, and I should call them undesirable. *Jimmy.*—The shares are so low that they might be kept in the hope of something turning up, especially as Rhodesians are very much to the front just now. *X. Y. Z.*—I see no reason why Champion Reefs and Mysores should be disposed of. *Music.*—Vereeniging Estates and Oceana Consolidated are hopeful purchases. The other might be left alone, unless you care to buy it as a gamble. *P. J. M., Penzance.*—I should not be disposed to have a deal in Crown Reefs under the auspices of Hamilton, Smith, and Co. The firm's reasoning lacks conviction. *Gasne.*—Hold the South Citys for a better market, when they should give you a profit. *Norfolk.*—If your Rhodesia Explorations give you a profit you would be well advised to take it. There may be a reaction shortly after the introduction of the new banket reef Company. The others should be kept for a better market. They are all good for a moderate appreciation on a more active market. *Anxious, Reading.*—The chances of getting your own back before Christmas are all in your favour. Wait for another month, at all events, before deciding. *Holy Isle.*—1. Langlaagte Estates, Simmer and Jack, and Kleinfontein New. 2. Attractive as a speculation, but not to be regarded as an investment in the proper sense of that word. *The Boo.*—Sell if they go up a few shillings, and do not wait for a return to anything like the price at which you bought. *Spectator, Greenock.*—I believe the concern is trustworthy. 2. All three should have a good rise within the next three months. *West.*—Camp Birds are worth buying for dividends and some appreciation; Randfonteins for an advance on a better Kaffir market. You might distribute the money over these and Johannesburg Consolidated, which are safe for a good rise when conditions in the South African market become active.

Mixed Investments.

Police.—1. I suggest Chinese Fives, Mexican Fives, Argentine Great Western Participating Preferred, B. A. Great Southern Railway stock, and Argentine Four and a Half per Cent. Sterling bonds. But it is difficult to make a selection of "non-speculative sound securities giving 5 per cent. to 6 per cent." 2. Goldfields Deferred, South African Gold Trust, General Mining and Finance, Johnnies, and Rhodesia Explorations. 3. Simmer and Jack, Robinson Gold, and Randfonteins among South Africans; Orovas, Ivanhoes, and Kalgulis among Westralians. *Vic.*—1. The position of the debenture-holders in the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board is strong and well secured. 2. London and India Docks A and B Debentures are quite good holdings. The first returns about £3 9s. per cent. and the second £3 11s. 6d. per cent. *Extra.*—1. You can find better a brewery stock than Watney, Combe, Reid Deferred Ordinary with nearly as good a yield. Newcastle Ordinary shares bring in nearly 6¼ per cent., and Camden Preference 6¾ per cent. 2. The Telegraph Construction shares are all right to hold. This class of Company is doing well and likely to make further progress. 3. Great Central 1872 Convertible Preference might be bought; yield nearly 3⅝ per cent. *Bucolic, Dorchester.*—Consols and other gilt-edged stocks, including Colonial Government and Municipality stocks; in Home Railways, North-Westerns, Great Westerns, and the other "heavies," Brighton "A," Great Easterns, and Scotch stocks; among Foreigners, Argentines and Peruvians; and among mines, Kaffirs and Rhodesians. *J. K.*—North British Railway, Canadian Pacifics, City of London Electric Preference, Kensington and Knightsbridge Electric Ordinary, Hudson's Bays, Lyons, Preference, and Fine Cotton Spinners Preference. 2. Argentine Great Western Preference, Lyons Ordinary, and Borax Consolidated are worth buying. 3. Your Kaffirs are of the good speculative sort, and should have a substantial rise with the more favourable conditions which are approaching. *City.*—1. The building society is a good one, and your money would, I should say, be safe. 2. Johannesburg Waterworks Debentures are all right. 3. Scarcely suitable for an investment; these Russian oil shares are subject to very violent fluctuations with the state of the trade and American competition. *Gnat.*—1. Robert Stephenson Preference shares are a fairly promising lock-up at the present price. 2. You might hold, but do not buy, more. If you have any spare cash for South Africans try something else. *Miles.*—1. They are distributed by arrangement among the members of the Chamber of Mines, who have contributed to the organisation which imports the men. 2. Harvey Steels are a fair industrial. 3. Frank Smith's Diamonds are not especially attractive, but they may harden on further development and with the Kaffir market. *J. P. S.*—I should not sell Jays, and Lyons and Portsmouth Water ought to be held. For Millar's Karri I do not care much. *Stafford.*—1. Cuba Submarines are worth buying at the current figure. 2. Colonial Banks are fair. 3. Because the profits have not kept up, I suppose. 4 and 5. Both bank shares ought to appreciate in value. *C. N. P.*—1 South Metropolitan Electric Debentures make a good purchase. 2. Hovis Breads are a fair industrial. 3. Army and Navy Stores shares are all right at the current price. 4. I should not buy William Griffiths Ordinary. 5. Leave James Nelsons alone. 6. You might buy London Road Cars. 7. Buy Lyons. *Poor Man.*—Grand Trunk Guaranteed ranks before the First Preference. 2. Guaranteed on the net earnings—provided they are sufficient after meeting Debenture charges. 3. Japanese Sixes would suit you.

Miscellaneous.

Rifleman.—I have not a very high opinion of the Ordinary shares, and do not consider the Debentures very attractive. *Snooks.*—Not genuine; leave it alone. *Searle.*—Should like your

address. *Cautavarus.*—The terms may appear better but the British concerns are far safer. *Faversham.*—I thank you for the German lottery circular. Seeing that such affairs are illegal in the eyes of the law it is a great pity the Post Office do not act as they ought to do, especially when the misleading literature is posted on this side, and refuse to accept the letter. *Okedinatshio.*—The great objection to Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., is that they charge exhorbitantly for the bonds, in many cases 40 per cent. or more than they could be procured elsewhere. Some of them are fairly good; many are rotten. You must understand that they are merely dealers in the bonds and nothing beyond that. If you wish to look through drawings, communicate with Messrs. N. Kiezer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. *Belfast.*—A low-down bucket-shop who have pleaded the Gaming Act successfully on more than one occasion, therefore it would be discreet to leave them severely alone. *Edgbaston.*—I note your request. Why they do not keep and benefit themselves by their wonderful system is pretty obvious. They want your money, and do not worry about refunding it. *A. A. A.*—Temperance Permanent Building Society, 4, Ludgate Hill, E.C. *Inquirer.*—The wonderful system of "philanthropy" practised is that of taking your money and keeping it informing you with many regrets that for "an exception" the speculation (which probably never existed in reality) had not been successful. The address is quite correct, but you would do well to leave the concern alone. *Angular Velocity.*—Yes; I have had occasion to warn readers of TRUTH scores of times to leave the concern to its own devices. This wonderful "Guide" is as misleading as possible. *Spes, Co. Dublin.*—A swindle with which I hope to deal shortly. *Roxboro.*—The Company is in low water, and the alarming reports are true. The Directors were asked to vindicate the charges, but have not done so. *Northwich.*—Your inference is correct, it is "too good to be true," especially as the gentlemen who run the concern have a particularly bad past. *Clara.*—Rather too showy, and you will find you can do better with an old-established English concern, which is far safer. *Highgate Bars.*—Many thanks. Personally, I cannot see where Alison, Gardner, and Co.'s bargain of Jay's shares at £2 comes in, especially as they are procurable at about 33s. in the open market *Buns.*—Jas. Lyons shares are fairly desirable as the business seems very progressive, and it is probable that the unsatisfactory system of giving away bonuses in the shape of new shares is to be discontinued, making the position better. *Doctor.*—They cannot insist upon payment of any further instalments, because the law of this country has it that the lotteries are illegal. You can, however, recover the money paid if you wish, through perhaps it would not be worth the trouble. *Hoskins.*—The recent activity in Gramophones has been of a strictly professional character. You can do far better with other industrials, which possess more inherent strength. *Hammond, Seacombe.*—Meat shares, more particularly James Nelson, are too highly speculative to be worthy of your attention. 2. Bovrils, at their present price, return nearly 7 per cent. 3. Henley's Telegraphs make a fairly good holding, and yield about 6 per cent. *H. B., Sheffield.*—The Hamburg Lottery does not appeal to me as being very attractive, and the chances are five thousand to one against you. *F. G. B.*—Duguid's "Stock Exchange," price 2s. 6d. net (Methuen) is a good and explicit guide to the subject.

INDUSTRIALS LESS INACTIVE — MORE PUBLIC INTEREST—AERATED BREAD SLUMP THE FEATURE—HUDSON'S BAYS STILL STRONG—WATER BOARD STOCK BETTER—DOCKS STEADY—GAS ISSUES ACTIVE—TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES IN REQUEST—BREWERIES DULL GENERALLY—IRON AND STEEL SHARES QUIETLY FIRM — TEXTILES BUOYANT—SOME ARGENTINE INDUSTRIALS.

Although it is not particularly marked, there are, nevertheless, unmistakable indications of a revival of public interest in this section, and in view of the many decent bargains procurable therein, it is commendable that the outsiders should at last have regained sufficient confidence to pick and choose. The process of expansion in the volume of business may be very slow, and perhaps wearying to the professional element; still it is apparent, and has been in evidence during the past week. The outstanding feature has been the remarkable slump in Aerated Bread shares as an outcome of the dividend announcement at the rate of 3s. per share, making 30 per cent. for the year, as against 42½ per cent. a year ago. This is one of the Companies which distribute bonuses in the shape of shares, thereby eating its own head, so to speak, but it was pretty generally recognised that on this occasion there would be no such bonus presented; consequently the keen disappointment cannot be attributed to this source. The market, however, did anticipate a favourable disbursement in the shape of dividend proper; its hopes were not fulfilled, and, moreover, the rate announced is frankly bad, and it seems a clear inference that the Company has keenly felt the pinch of depression. The shares slumped almost three full points at the first shock, and, though they recovered slightly, they still continue weak and well down on balance. It may be remarked, however, that one's sympathy is not extended to the market operators, for they ought to have realised what would eventually happen in a case of this kind, but rather towards the small investors, who were allured into a purchase a year or two ago, when prices were at the top. Another outstanding feature, but rather of strength than of weakness, has been Hudson's Bays, which, despite a temporary set-back occasioned by profit-taking, hardened further to 49½, after being 47¼ at one time, the support being still induced by the Company's bright prospects. The Water Board stock keeps creeping upwards, notwithstanding the announcement concerning the early issue of the balance not absorbed by the proprietors of the Companies taken over, and in the Dock class there has been further buying of London and India Deferred, induced by the Company's increasing revenue, while the Preferred has been in request for investment, and Millwall Preference finishes with a slight gain, though for an exception Surreys have been rather dullish. In the Lighting group, Gas Light and Coke Ordinary and Preference came in for more attention, and a demand has sprung up for Imperial Continental Gas, which has improved 4 points to 209½. Telegraphs continue to be actively dealt in, Anglo-American issues being conspicuous, with Easterns and Eastern Extensions following closely behind, and there have been many investment purchases of National Telephone stocks, which have hardened. Considerable attention has also been given to banking shares, National Provincial, Union of London, Parrs, London County, and many others appreciating in consequence; while Standard of South Africa has been actively bid for, the better prospect of the mining industry probably accounting for this. For the benefit of those readers who like such descriptions, and do not mind the slight risk involved in the uncalled capital, I have prepared the following table:—

Name.	Share.	Paid up.	Present Price.	Yield per cent.
	£	£		
African Banking	10	5	4¾	6
Anglo-Californian	20	10	17	4½
Bank of Africa	18¾	6¼	12¾	6½
Bank of British North America	50	50	64	4⅜
British West Africa	10	4	5½	5⅝
Bank of Egypt	25	12½	31	5¾
Canadian Bank of Commerce	$50	$50	154	4
London and Brazilian	20	10	17½	5⅞
Natal	10	5	11	6½
Do.	10	2½	5½	6⅔
National of Mexico	$100	$100	30	6½
National of New Zealand	7½	2½	5	5⅞
National of South Africa	10	10	15½	5
Standard of South Africa	100	25	83	5⅜
Union of Australia	75	25	45½	4⅝

The tendency in the Brewery section has been anything but brilliant, the latest reports dealing with the hop crop not being inspiring, and movements generally have been in a downward direction, Allsopps, Ind Coope B Debentures, Salt B Debentures, and Benskin First Debentures, together with a few other stocks, all losing ground. On the other hand, Bieckert issues have advanced almost 9 points in the case of the Preference stock and 7 points in the case of the Ordinary, and there has been appreciation in St. Louis issues. Iron and Steel shares have been quietly steady, and are without change, apart from slight gains in Armstrongs and Pease and Partners. The Aerated Bread dividend alluded to at the outset had little effect upon other "Bunshop" issues, which continue firm, further improvement having occurred in Lyons, in connection with which concern I may mention that it is probable, judging from the remarks made at the last meeting that bonuses in the shape of shares will no longer be made. Textiles continue very active, Coats coming in for a great deal of attention from an influential quarter, which removed a large block of shares from the market, while there have

been further inquiries from the North for Fine Spinners, Sewing Cottons, Calico Printers, and American Threads, in addition to other less important descriptions. In the Traction group Road Cars and General Omnibus are unaltered, while among shipping descriptions Royal Mail shares recovered further and Union of New Zealand are marked higher. Amongst the more miscellaneous things in this section there has been a moderate inquiry for Linotype issues, all of which show gains on balance; and amongst the Explosives, Nationals, after falling flat on the passing of the dividend, picked up again subsequently, and Nobesl Dynamites were inquired for. Nitrate shares developed some dulness, but before the close this feeling became less marked. It is only natural that industrial concerns such as tramways and gas companies should benefit from the continual prosperity of the Argentine Republic, and the prospects of better dividends are putting up quotations. The Trust companies, such as the River Plate Trust and Mortgage Company of the River Plate will gain from the greatly enhanced value of land, while the former will also benefit from the better value of South American securities which it holds. On the other hand, money has been of less value for the last year than was before the case, so that the latter in particular will lose by not being able to command so high a rate of interest upon mortgages as used to be the case. Of land companies the Santa Fé Land, and the Santa Fé and Cordoba Great Southern Land Companies are both doing well, and their issues will undoubtedly go higher in the near future. Practically all Buenos Ayres tramway issues are worthy of purchase just now, but particularly the Ordinary shares of the Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Electric Trams, which, together with Anglo-Argentine and City of Buenos Ayres Trams, continue in active demand. The Belgrano Company paid its first Ordinary dividend of 3 per cent. last spring, and has just paid its first interim dividend at the same rate. In the first six months of 1904 this tramway had a gross traffic increase of £4,626, and with a slight fall in the working expenses was able to show a net gain of £4,717. In the third quarter of the year there has been a further gross gain of £2,807, so that a 5 per cent. dividend for 1904 looks assured. Obviously the £5 shares at 4 are a good purchase, and should shortly advance to par, for the outlook for the future of this concern is very promising. The £5 fully-paid Ordinary shares of the Primitiva Gas Company of Buenos Ayres have recently been in great demand, and have advanced from 4, when this year opened, to 5¼, and ought to go much higher. The last dividend was 5 per cent. per annum, and the next is certain to be more, while if the concession which this Company is asking the authorities to grant should be given—it has already been favourably reported upon—it will practically guarantee 8 per cent. dividends for the future, and should make the shares advance in price to fully 8. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE PHILOSOPHIC CONSCIENCE.

(From the Latin.)

TRAJAN the Emperor was an ardent patron of the sports in the Circus Maximus, but especially of the chariot races which were there held at frequent intervals. Indeed, this Imperial Prince, not content merely with seeing the horses of others compete, would himself take the arena, with a chariot and team of his own—a terrestrial Phaethon; aye, and as often as not pilot them home to victory, amid the wild cheers of the assembled throng. For, you must know, that Trajan's personal participation in the public games was highly popular with the multitude, who ever appreciate and applaud a sporting and genial spirit in their rulers, and like, above all things, to see Emperors unbend (1).

So, then, with hoarse throats, they cheered the Imperial charioteer to the echo. But some few frowned, and shook their heads in acid disapproval. These were the men, a small class, but obtrusive, who called themselves the philosophers.

For at Rome, at that time, had arisen a school of moralists, who regarded themselves as the sole repository (2) of philosophic wisdom, from whose judgment lay no appeal. This school bore no resemblance to the school of Plato, Aristotle, or Zeno, still less to that of Epicurus, for its distinctive feature was a stern intolerance of pleasure or pastime in any shape, so that whatever was agreeable was by that very fact vicious (3) and displeasing to the immortal gods.

Wherefore it was the practice of these philosophers both to deny enjoyment to themselves and to condemn it in others; and their gloomy demeanour so marked them off (4) from the other citizens that when a man was seen in the streets with a countenance more than ordinarily morose (5) there was no need to make any inquiries concerning him, but all the people cried out at once:

"See! There goes a philosopher!"

Now the founder of the school was one Manlius Severus, a Roman of equestrian family, who had, in his youth, drunk deep of the cup of pleasure; but at length he reached the dregs, and found them nauseous (6), so he became a philosopher, attaching himself first to the Cynic School; but, soon finding even that too lenient in its attitude towards the pleasures of life, he set up a school and system of his own in which pleasure had no place, but the only way to win the favour of the gods was by the perpetual performance of unnecessarily disagreeable and irksome tasks (7). In this school even to look cheerful was a misdemeanour; to laugh was a crime; to attend the games in the Circus Maximus was instant Tartarus (8).

Nevertheless, not a few sought unto Severus, and were enrolled his disciples—for the most part those who, like himself, being jaded with pleasure, were now bitter and venomous against it (even as the cloyed lover loathes the mistress of whom he is weary), thus mistaking for righteous abstinence what was but the morbid lassitude of sated indulgence.

But they spoke of a changed character and an awakened conscience (9), using the latter word so often that it became, as it were, the watchword of their school; and when the citizens wished to describe one who set his face against gaiety of all kinds and groaned miserably at the mere mention of wine, women, or the games in the Circus, they referred to that man as possessing the Philosophic Conscience.

But while all the games in the circus were for an abomination to Severus and his disciples, it was against chariot-racing that the Philosophic Conscience did (if I may use an equestrian metaphor) especially jib (10). For not only was the horse and all connected with that animal detestable to the philosophers, but also the fact that these chariot races were made the occasion of winning and losing money was unspeakably obnoxious

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(1) Quæ semper ingenium geniale ac circense in principibus laudat que et æstimat, neque ulli magis studet quam ut desipientes in loco imperatores spectentur.

(2) Horreum.

(3) Si quid jucundum, ob id ipsum sceleratum.

(4) Sejunxit.

(5) Vultu præter solitum tristi.

(6) Qui, voluptatibus ad imum exhaustis, fæces tandem amarissimas invenit.

(7) Multa sibi gravia atque molesta, nullo postulante, suscipere.

(8) Apud quos lætus videri, culpa; ridere, scelus; sed circensibus interesse, Avernus ipse.

(9) Mutatos mores, excitatam conscientiam.

(10) Recalcitravit.

to them. And here I would say that, in the eyes of Severus and his school, the mere fact of staking money on a future chance, whether by way of hazard or skill, was a crime comparable only with murder. Nay, among themselves, they often spoke of gamblers as murderers; so that when they happened upon a group of little boys in the Forum, or on the Aventine, playing *pila* for *quadrantes*, they would frequently exclaim:

"Surely the gods will visit with terrible punishment those little murderers!"

Now, at length, Manlius Severus, being prompted, as he said, by a vision from Jupiter (11), dared a most daring deed. He waylaid (12) Trajan himself in the Suburra, as that Imperial Phaethon was driving back his chariot from the Circus to the Palatium. But, as the Emperor passed along, moving slowly—for his horses were weary—Severus planted himself in the road, and, holding up his hands, cried, in the voice of a Stentor:

"Stop!"

Then Trajan's charioteer, astonished and incensed by such audacity, inquired of the Emperor:

"Have I your divine permission to put a javelin through this insolent philosopher?" (13).

"Nay," replied Trajan; "let me first hear what he wants. Wherefore do you stop me, O Manlius Serverus?"

"I stop you for your own sake, illustrious Prince. I cannot stand by and see you drive headlong to Tartarus."

"But I am merely driving to the Palatium," said the Emperor.

"Nevertheless, Tartarus is the goal of all who drive chariots in the Circus Maximus," (14) answered Manlius Severus.

"Whence learned you this? Are you in the secrets of Æacus?" demanded Trajan (15).

"My eyes have been opened by Jupiter," made answer Manlius Severus.

"How comes it, I wonder," says the Emperor, "that Jupiter has opened your eyes alone, but has left the rest of the world blind?" (16).

"Jupiter has appointed men seers in all ages," responded Manlius Severus. "He has appointed me a seer in this."

"With what credentials (17), then, has he furnished you?" inquired Trajan.

"With a changed nature and an aroused conscience. These are my credentials," replied Manlius Severus.

"You are welcome to your changed nature, also to your aroused conscience," answered Trajan. "I have nothing to say against them—in you. But I see not wherefore you should try to unload them on me. I have no use for such luxuries" (18).

Then Manlius Severus, his eyes burning with a fanatical glow, exclaimed:

"He whose conscience Jupiter has awakened cannot rest until he has awakened also the conscience of his fellows. I must—I will awaken your conscience, O mighty Trajan!"

"It is very happy, as it is—asleep," (19) said the Emperor, smiling ironically.

"I doubt it not. Therefore it becomes my duty to awaken it, and make it miserable."

"But why should you make it miserable, poor thing?" inquired the Emperor, rather amused than angry. "It has never done you any injury."

"Because the more a man's conscience tortures itself, the more pleasing it is to the immortal gods (20). Human nature needs that stimulus of pain (even as the ox needs the stimulus of the goad) to urge it into the right path, if it is astray therefrom, or to keep it in the right path if it is already walking therein."

"And to whether of the two classes do I belong—that which walks in the right path, or that which is astray?" inquired Trajan.

"That which is astray, O Prince. Yea, that which is far astray. For do you not drive a chariot in the races of the Circus Maximus? And, worse, do you not hazard money on the chance of victory—a practice than which Tartarus itself knows nothing more wicked and abandoned?"

"Can you prove this to me, O Manlius Severus?" inquired Trajan, smiling a curious smile upon the philosopher.

"I can," said Manlius Severus. "For, in the first place——"

"Stay," says Trajan, interrupting him; "at present I am hungry with exercise and thirsty from the dust of the Circus. Come to me, after a while, at the Palatium, when I have dined, and I will then listen attentively to your arguments."

"I will not fail to come, O Prince," answered Severus, exulting much to have prospered so far.

"Then I shall await you," said the Emperor, as he urged his team forward.

But his charioteer, who had heard all these things with hardly repressed impatience, exclaimed:—

"Wherefore waste time and attention, O Prince, in listening to that crazy fellow's drivel?"

"Perchance if I use reason with him, I shall make him see the folly of his contentions," answered Trajan.

"O Pig's Legs!" (21) cried the charioteer (which is the common people's phrase to express contemptuous incredulity). "As if any one could drill reason into the head of a philosopher!"

"But I will try," says Trajan.

"If you succeed, O Prince," replied the charioteer, "it will be a greater miracle than your Istrian Bridge." (22)

"This shall be a bridge for asses—to borrow a phrase from the learned Euclides," said the Emperor, facetiously.

"Say, rather, O Prince, a bridge for mules, since asses are obstinate only by nature, but mules through sheer perversity." (23)

But now the crowded traffic demanded all the Emperor's attention, so he drove in silence to the door of the Palatium.

Presently, when Trajan had dined, Manlius Severus came, and was ushered into the Imperial presence, while all the slaves wondered and exclaimed:—

"Has Camarina, then, come to Agrigentum?"

But Trajan dismissed them, saying that he wished to speak with the philosopher alone; so they withdrew, astonished, whispering among themselves, with dismayed looks:—

"May the gods forbid that our Imperial master be converted to philosophy; for then, assuredly, would life in the Palace be no longer worth living."

Now, when they had withdrawn, and Severus, at the Emperor's request, had occupied a couch adjacent to him, Trajan said:—

"Prove to me now, as you undertook, that to hazard money on a wager (24) is displeasing to the immortal gods."

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(11) Jove ab ipso per somnium instigatus.

(12) Subsedit.

(13) Da mihi divinam tuam veniam hujus insolentis jaculo transfigendi.

(14) Omnium tamen, qui per Circum Maximum curru vehuntur, carcer est Tartarus.

(15) Es-ne Æaci conscius?

(16) Quare Jupiter tuos solum oculos aperuit, ceterorum cæcos reliquit?

(17) Signa auctoritatis.

(18) Talibus deliciis nullus mihi usus.

(19) Dormiens, ut est, bene habet.

(20) Quo magis conscientia hominis se cruciat, eo magis dis immortalibus placet.

(21) O Porci crura!

(22) Majus portentum etiam Istrio tuo ponte erit.

(23) Asini enim naturâ, sed mulae ipsa perversitate, pervicaces.

(24) Nummos in casum sponsionis jactitare.

Then Severus began, and he held forth, without interruption, for an hour by the water-clock, so that, as the Greeks say, he might well have talked Xanthippe herself to a standstill (25).

Trajan listened thoughtfully to the end; then he said:—

"Do you know, O Severus, that you have more than half persuaded me, so that I begin to see the iniquity of participating in the chariot races of the Circus Maximus, and particularly of staking money on the chance of victory."

But Severus, very jubilant at his success, replied:—

"Will you, then, O Prince, continue to pursue a practice of which you more than half admit the iniquity?" (26)

"After to-morrow," said Trajan, "I will seriously consider the question of discontinuing it; but to-morrow I must needs drive my team once again in the Circus Maximus, since I have made a match against the team of Ælius Blandus for a million sesterces." (27)

But when it heard this, the Philosophic Conscience was sorely perturbed, and its owner groaned aloud:—

"Risk a million sesterces upon a chariot race!" he cried. "May the gods pardon such abandoned wickedness!"

"Amen to that, as the Judæans say," answered Trajan. "Yet must I, of necessity, indulge in the abandoned wickedness just this once more. For let me tell you, O Severus, that I urgently require those million sesterces. (28) Moreover, I shall gain them."

"You are no less likely to lose them," said Manlius Severus.

"Nay," replied Trajan, confidently; "but I happen to know that I shall win them."

"Doubtless, also, Ælius Blandus has an equally confident opinion on his side," rejoined Manlius Severus.

"It is highly probable. But I have information which is not in the possession of Blandus. (29) It came to me through my charioteer, Milo (30), to whom, some nights since, when his wings were wet (31), the charioteer of Blandus unconsciously betrayed himself. What that information is I need not specify. Let it suffice to say that my victory in to-morrow's race is thereby assured. You must swear, however, not to divulge this secret, which I have merely told you in order to make it clear to you why—even if I never race in the Circus Maximus again—I cannot forego the certain opportunity of victory to-morrow. Will you swear?"

"By the waters of the Styx, I swear," answered Manlius Severus. "But will you, in turn, swear, O Prince, that after to-morrow you will never compete in these wicked contests more?"

"Is there no other way to please the blessed gods?" inquired the Emperor.

"None," said the philosopher.

"Then, if it must be so, it must," (32) answered Trajan, while he sighed deeply; "so mightily have your arguments prevailed to awaken in me the Philosophic Conscience, O Manlius Severus."

By which pinch of salt upon his tail (as the common people say) was the philosopher easily caught (33); for he realised not that his arguments had been no arguments, but only objurgation, nor that the divine Trajan was merely (as, again, the common people have it) tickling his little toe. (34)

So, believing that he had converted the Emperor, this philosopher made no concealment of his vanity and self-appraisement, but presently left the Palatium, strutting and airing himself like a Juno's bird.

But when he reached home, he went straight to his money chest and taking therefrom a good round sum in hard cash, handed it to a trusty slave, bidding him run secretly to the house of one Terentius Birra, near the Circus Maximus, and do an errand for him there.

Then, having celebrated his triumph over the Emperor in four cups of Falernian, he repaired to the Philosophers' School, where many of his followers were assembled.

But there, being flushed with his success and rendered garrulous by the wine—a condition which the old proverb well describes as "Falernian eloquence"—he boasted of his triumph to all his followers; yea, and was so indiscreet as to betray to them that secret which he had sworn to Trajan that he would not divulge.

The effect of which revelation was remarkable, for within the briefest space of time the school was emptied, and the philosophers ran each to his home on various pretexts, but all were confused not long afterwards by meeting each other again at the house of Terentius Birra.

But next day the team of Trajan was defeated in the Circus Maximus by the team of Ælius Blandus, and there were bitter searchings of heart in the school of the philosophers, so that, in their righteous indignation, they fell upon their leader, Severus, and beat him half-dead with sticks for having beguiled them into wickedness. (35) So terrible a thing, when aroused, is the Philosophic Conscience.

But Trajan, who had heard something from Birra, reclined on his couch in the Palatium, pouring copious libations and thanking the gods for many things, but most of all for having prospered him in his sinister design for tickling the little toes of the philosophers.

(25) Adeo ut—quod Græci aiunt—ipsam Xanthippen victam et tacitam superaturus esset.

(26) Vis-ne igitur, O princeps, in eo persistere cujus scelus in majore parte, si non in toto, ipse confiteris?

(27) Cum Aelii Blandi equis equos meos, HS decem centenis, commisi.

(28) Horum decem centenorum mihi est dira necessitas.

(29) De re quadam, Blando ignotâ, certior factus sum.

(30) Milo, ille auriga meus, detulit.

(31) Madidis alis.

(32) Si ita erit, erit.

(33) Quo sale (ut plebs ait) in caudâ ultimâ tanquam passeris deposito, philosophus expedite captus est.

(34) Nihil aliud agere quam digitulum titillare.

(35) Tantæ apud philosophos et tam acerbæ perturbationes ut, ira justissimâ commoti, ducem suum Severum—propterea quod in vitium illexisset—baculis semianimem flagellarent.

MUSIC.

THE SAN CARLO COMPANY.

THE so-called San Carlo Opera Company—its claim to this particular title has been questioned, though the point is not one of much importance—has made a capital start at Covent Garden. The nature of the undertaking, of which Mr. Henry Russell is the director for a Neapolitan syndicate, co-operating with Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth, has already been referred to here, so it may suffice on the present occasion to record that the opening performance on Monday evening went off in excellent style. Puccini's "Manon Lescaut" was the opera, and it was given exceedingly well. The work has not been heard in London since it opened the season of 1894 in the spacious days of great Augustus; but there is really no particular reason why it should have been shelved so long. It is not a great work, but it is quite good of its kind, and in its way sufficiently effective. The libretto is founded, of course, on Prévost's celebrated, if not particularly edifying, novel. Two composers at least, Auber and Massenet, have tried their hands at the same story before. Puccini, therefore, makes the third who has been enamoured of its operatic possibilities, though his version of the narrative differs in many respects from those which have met the needs of his predecessors.

The chief feature of Monday's performance was naturally the appearance of Caruso in the part of Des Grieux, the very considerable opportunities of which he turned to splendid account. It is indeed seldom that Caruso has let himself go more unsparingly than he does in this part, though it was observed that he had not brought

himself to the point of making the sacrifice of his moustache. Mme. Giachetti, a newcomer, made a favourable impression in the title-part alike as vocalist and actress, while Signor Arimondi, in the rôle of the aged voluptuary, Geronte, which he took ten years ago, re-scored an old success. Signor Companini was a thoroughly efficient conductor, while the mounting and *ensemble* were all that could be wished. But perhaps an even greater triumph from the managerial point of view than the doings on the stage was the appearance of the auditorium, which, with the Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll in the Royal box, and any number of other big people also to be seen in stalls and boxes, was hardly distinguishable from that which it presents in the height of the grand season. Here was an achievement if you like. For Tuesday night "Aïda" was announced, with Signor Vignas as Radames and Mmes. De Cisneros and Buoninsegna as the principal ladies. This evening (Wednesday) "La Tosca" will be mounted, with Mme. Giachetti in the title-part, and another newcomer, Signor Sammarco, as Scarpia; to-morrow will bring "Rigoletto," with Miss Alice Nielsen as Gilda and Signor Dani as the Duke; while "Carmen," on Friday, will have for its chief feature the Don José of Signor Caruso.

The concert season is fairly started now, and promises to grow busier with each succeeding week. At the Queen's Hall on Saturday Mr. Mark Hambourg had a splendid audience for his pianoforte recital, and played, as he always does, with prodigious power and vigour, though not without extravagance and excess of energy at times. He was at his best, perhaps, in the "Waldstein" sonata, and certain of the Brahms variations on a theme of Handel; a group of smaller pieces, including a graceful "Esquisse en forme de Valse" by Mr. Arthur Hervey, and an effective "Etude Mignonne" by Mr. Percy Pitt, were given also in telling fashion. At the Crystal Palace on the same afternoon Miss Muriel Foster was the vocalist, and despite the handicap of a severe cold, delighted her hearers in a number of well-chosen songs, Miss Polyxena Fletcher contributing pianoforte solos which were not less heartily appreciated. Next Saturday Kubelik is to be the bright particular star at Sydenham, while Sarasate is to be heard at Bechstein Hall, and the first of the Chappell Ballad Concerts will invite attention at Queen's Hall.

A Sheffield correspondent sends me a long letter to explain why, in his judgment, opera in English has never flourished in that city. His explanation is engagingly simple. English opera has never paid in Sheffield because "the upper classes of Sheffield do not as a rule support opera"—which is doubtless true, though it does not carry us much further. The question is, Why don't they? And this is one which is, I imagine, more difficult to answer. The truth is that town and town often differ quite inexplicably in this respect. In one place a company will always have good houses and a successful week, while in another, perhaps close by and apparently of just the same general character, its experience will be precisely the reverse. Glasgow, for instance, is, I believe, a wretched place from the operatic point of view, while Edinburgh is particularly good. One might have thought that it would have been just the other way about—Glasgow being so much bigger and richer than its rival. Yet, in fact, a company which would starve in the one gets back all its losses and a good deal more besides in the other—and this not once in a way, but always, and as a matter of course. Why should this be? It is next to impossible to say.

I have, indeed, heard it suggested that where Nonconformity is strongest there opera obtains least support—though I will not make myself responsible for an assertion reflecting so sorrily on Nonconformity's good sense and taste. But, however this may be, the fact remains. Sheffield may or may not be a stronghold of Nonconformity—I have no information on this subject—but it is certainly one of the "bad" towns from the operatic manager's point of view, and this though it is situated in the midst of musical Yorkshire, and supports one of our finest festivals. In regard to the forthcoming performances my correspondent takes exception to the raising of the prices on this occasion, and asks whether, if the attendances were inadequate at the lower rates, they are likely to be improved by charging more. But, as it has been explained before, the higher charges are necessitated by the largely increased cost of the performances which are to be given, while it is hoped to better the attendances through the efforts of the local committee which is co-operating with Mr. Manners. When he criticises the proposed performances of single acts from "Lohengrin," "Die Walküre," and "Siegfried" on one and the same evening my correspondent is perhaps on firmer ground. A triple bill of this kind seems certainly a singularly barbarous arrangement. But I suppose the Sheffielders know best what they want.

No "novelties" are announced in connection with the first two of the London Symphony Orchestra's concerts, to be directed respectively by Dr. Cowen and Herr Nikisch, but the programmes are otherwise attractive enough. Herr Nikisch, I notice, is to repeat his performance of Tschaikowsky's fifth symphony, of which he provided such a memorable interpretation on the occasion of his last visit to London. Mr. Payne and his colleagues are certainly going to work in a business-like way. I understand that one of their aims at present is to accumulate a substantial reserve fund, so as to ensure the financial stability and independence of their organisation. This is a wise move. The report has been denied by the way that the orchestra is to give a series of promenade concerts at the Queen's Hall next year, but it may be found that such a denial is rather premature. Nothing has yet been finally settled, I believe, in regard to this matter. Those running the existing promenades, it may be pointed out, have only a yearly tenancy of Queen's Hall from Messrs. Chappell, and as the promenade concert business has now become an exceedingly paying game, it is quite on the cards that the latter may be disposed to have a larger share of the profits for themselves next year. In this connection it may not be generally known that it was at one time in contemplation by the London Symphony Orchestra to give a series of promenade concerts at St. James's Hall this autumn, though, wisely I think, the project was eventually abandoned. This is not to say, however, that something of the sort may not be arranged next season.

The *Musical Courier*—which, though it has its critics, is always readable and well-informed—has been perpetrating a wicked joke at the expense of its journalistic rivals, and in a recent issue tells with glee of the success with which it was attended. The jest took the form of the following news paragraph:—

> The Moscow composer Sihtelotsew has finished a curious new musical work, which is one-third opera, one-third symphony, and one-third oratorio. The opus is called "Croumorf Rethei" ("The Rise of the World"), and takes over five hours in performance.

This was reproduced far and wide, for the most part without acknowledgment, and now the *Courier* is gently pointing out that the name of the aforesaid Moscow musician, read backwards, spells the incriminating words "We stole this," while the title of his epoch-making work, similarly treated, yields the additional information "From the *Courier*." Mercifully, the names are withheld of those who fell into the trap, but we are told of a daily paper not a thousand miles from Chicago which adorned the paragraph with a date and heading and printed the whole as a cable despatch from Moscow, while a London journal which reproduced the item added the jocose prediction:—"It is more than likely that with the avidness of our musical public for everything Russian London will soon hear this triple-jointed invention." The *Courier* has certainly scored. But worse remains to tell. Every one knows that oft-told

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

anecdote of Elgar—how the composer as a schoolboy was asked his name, replied "Edward Elgar," was told to "add the sir," and promptly answered back again, "Sir Edward Elgar." Will it be credited that the audacious *Courier* claims this merry story also as the offspring of its own imagining? "Springes to catch woodcocks," indeed! Who could have resisted a trap so cleverly baited? But the *Courier* can hardly suppose that so excellent a story will now be withdrawn from currency. On the contrary, it will be told against Sir Edward to the end of his days—even as Dr. Johnson will get the credit to the crack of doom for that apocryphal observation, "Sir, let us take a walk down Fleet-street," which George Augustus Sala placed in his mouth.

An Eisteddfod Gadeiriol is to be held at the Royal Albert Hall, Llundain—I quote from the prospectus which has been sent me—on Chwefror 23 ain. 1905—otherwise February 23, when Welshmen and others are expected to assemble in their thousands to compete for pelf and glory. Among other prizes, one of a hundred guineas is offered, I notice, to male choirs for the best rendering of a prescribed chorus, and already it is whispered that the Manchester Orpheus Prize Glee Society is girding up its loins to wipe out the defeat which it sustained the other day at Rhyl at the hands—or, rather, the throats—of the Cardiff Male Voice Choir—as the latter, in their turn, are collecting all their energies to retain the laurels which they won on that occasion. Handsome prizes are also offered to amateur vocalists and pianists, while, in addition, there will be the usual Welsh literary competitions. Further particulars may be obtained from the Ysgrifenydd Cyffredinol (otherwise the Hon. General Secretary), Mr. David R. Hughes, 49, Hailsham-avenue, Streatham-hill, S.W.

Musical degrees, as readers of these columns are aware, are of very various kinds and values, but so far as those of the genuine as distinguished from the bogus order are concerned, attention may be directed to the excellent course of free lectures which some anonymous benefactor has arranged for the benefit of students aiming at such distinctions. These lectures are not designed, of course, to take the place of individual teaching. Their purpose seems rather to furnish a general survey of the ground to be covered; and since such well-known authorities as Sir Frederick Bridge, Dr. W. H. Cummings, Dr. Markham Lee, and others, are among those who will be heard, they should certainly prove of value. Further particulars may be obtained at the Guildhall School of Music.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Paris is coming to the rescue of the mournful matineer with a pretty and becoming theatre capote, which is sure to become the fashion very quickly. What a relief to be saved the alternative of seeing nothing of the play or asking a favour of a stranger who may not be blessed with an amiable disposition. I told you, did I not, about little Rose who, one day, said to a very large woman in the street: "Excuse me, your fur is falling off. You will lose it." The large woman turned round, snapped out, "Mind your own business!" drew her fur on, and left poor Rose very pink and troubled. So long as there are cross-grained, cantankerous persons like this in the world, it will be disagreeable to ask a favour, even if the granting it be no more than justice.

I have seen two or three specimens of the new capote. One is little more than a wreath of shaded cherries with a few green leaves. It is raised in the centre in a sabot shape and is very becoming. Another is made of Maltese lace in a deep tone of cream colour with flat bows of pastel blue velvet and an enamelled dragonfly glittering in the midst. A third is in black and white chiffon deftly mixed, with an addition of black velvet poppies and scarlet velvet blossoms of the same order. A fourth is our old friend, the Alsatian bow. It is rather a dangerous shape, for it has a liability to jut out at the sides in a manner only too likely to interfere with the line of sight of any one sitting behind it.

For evening wear they are made of jewelled lace, or coloured silk or velvet. One of these, in wired lace with long, pointed ears, made in orange-tan velvet bordered with small smoked pearls is quite absurdly becoming. If these evening theatre-caps catch on, it will be bad for the cabmen of London, for thousands of women would go to the theatre by tube or rail if the difficulty of headgear were solved. Times are so hard that cab-fares are quite an item to be considered in the evening's amusement. If one tries to escape them by going by train in evening dress it is necessary to wear lace or something on the head, and this almost always disarranges the hair, which is decidedly annoying. But with a pretty and becoming cap and a warm coat one might comfortably go by train. West Kensington, I am told, always does its theatre-going in this way. It is not every one who can afford to roll luxuriously from home to theatre in a satin-lined, scented brougham. Very delightful it must be to have at command all that is easy and pleasant, but the majority of human beings are better without it.

Apropos of luxury, do you know any one who loves very dainty things, exquisitely made and finished? I know a French lady, recently widowed and left in very poor circumstances, who turns out the most perfect blouses in silk, satin, chiffon, or lace, pretty saut-de-lits, tea-gowns, and so on, at a much lower price than is usually charged for them. Do get some of your rich friends to send me some orders for her, but do not recommend my poor friend to any one who will not pay ready money. Are you not sorry for people who have money worries? They wake up in the night and think money, begin the day with thoughts of money, and eat their food with a running accompaniment of calculations in £ s. d.

People are crowding back to town. We were in two blocks in Piccadilly on Thursday afternoon. That evening we dined at the Cecil, and our table was between that of a Prince and Princess and a celebrity from far Venezuela. A large wedding party had another table, and at a fourth sat a lady with a wonderful fair coiffure and splendid diamonds. Her dog-collar had ruby slides and in her high-dressed hair was a ruby and diamond aigrette. The friends we are showing round London were highly pleased with all these interesting items—dare one call a Princess an item?—and also with the music, particularly a very young girl-harpist. She broke a string, poor child, just as she had begun, and we felt sorry for her.

When we take our country friends round London we have a sort of proprietary feeling in it, a kind of egoistic ownership in all the things we show. This extends to even St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey; such presumption! I am sending you a perfectly lovely postcard with a picture of St. Paul's by moonlight on it. It is the prettiest I have seen, and there are many lovely ones. What a craze it is! Do you collect them? Bee does. She has had from India much better colour-printed cards than the general run of coloured cards over here. But the question is: Where is the colour-printing done? There is nothing on the cards to show. They may be printed in Bavaria. Germany pokes her commercial nose into everything.

This reminds me to tell you something I heard about British silks the other day. Though Englishwomen will not take the trouble to buy them, they meet a ready sale in France and Germany, where they are highly appreciated as being pure silk, durable for that reason, and beautiful in colour as well as texture. If you want

REDFERN'S FURS are absolutely a speciality. Skins are bought in the raw state, and prices will compare favourably with any house in the world. Conduit-street and Bond-street.

to try some for yourself, write for patterns and designs of blouses and gowns to 12, Rose-street, Newgate-street, E.C. The chiné silk blouses and picture frocks are extremely pretty, and good in cut, and all are guaranteed British silks.

I find it very difficult to say the words "turtle soap." They nearly always pronounce themselves "turtle soup," and even when I say them correctly my friends remark, "You mean turtle soup, do you not?" But I do not. I have been recommending turtle soap to everybody. We only lately made its acquaintance, but it is the nicest I have ever used. It makes a very fine lather, and gives the skin a delightful feeling of freshness and softness. I believe the real name to be "turtle oil soap," and it is made from those portions of the turtle that are rejected in the manufacture of soup by the Turtle Company, Bury-street, E.C. We came across it when ordering some turtle jelly for the pater when he had an attack that left him very weak. The doctor ordered him both turtle soup and jelly, and we have ordered ourselves the soap. With winter coming on it is nice to know of something that keeps the skin soft and pliable.

Among new inventions is a vegetable butter, made from the oil of the cocoanut. Vegetarians will be glad of it. I wonder if it is really nice?

Problems of etiquette disturb the servants' hall as well as the mansion. In *The Table* of last week the following question appeared:—

Will any kind reader tell Hope which should take precedence, head kitchen-maid or stillroom-maid; four kept in kitchen and two in stillroom?

The answer appeared this week:—

The kitchen-maid takes precedence of the stillroom-maid always, even were she single-handed kitchen-maid; and, of course, the second kitchen-maid precedes the second stillroom-maid.

Think what an infinity of small problems vexes the world! And what heartburnings there are over things of nought. How we waste ourselves, we humans! But even the bees have rules of precedence, so Maeterlinck and Lubbock (Lord Avebury, rather) tell us; and the cows and sheep elect a leader; so do the wild geese. Do swallows fly by rules of precedence on their journeys south and back again?

Miss Elsie Fogerty gave us an interesting lecture on voice-making and voice-breaking at the Albert Hall on Saturday. She told us of so many ways of ruining the voice for which high fees are charged that she left us wondering that any good voices are left. Her delightful sense of humour irradiated the lecture for us. Never obtruded, it was like the cream in a méringue.

Since writing to you some weeks ago about things I want to put in our riverside garden, I have added to the list. I want to devote a sunny patch to growing green corn, about which a friend enthuses. I also want to grow the new coreless apples. Think of the trouble these would save in the cookery department. And what a justification of *Punch's* greedy boy story which ends with, "There ain't goin' to be no core." The new discovery makes the anecdote prophetic.

And another thing we are going to try is the Brazilian beet. Do you know it?

E. N. writes:—

In Truth of October 6 "Clare" asks the origin of the goose custom at Michaelmas. History tells us that Queen Elizabeth was dining from goose on Michaelmas Day, when the news of the defeat of the Spanish Armada reached her. She said that to commemorate that victory a goose should be served to her on that day in the future.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Autumn is in especial a time for thought, to those who give in to the old-fashioned habit of thinking. The operations of Nature, particularly if we are in the country, force themselves on our observation and sometimes make us, whether we will or not, "think most awfully," as the boy said of the impressive sermon. Nature's hands are never fuller than in October, and the variety of her works and of her methods of working is infinite. The gales and rains of the month are not things to pass by unnoticed, we cannot but listen to them in the "dead, unhappy night," nor can we shut our eyes to the changes in Nature's face by day, and then the sudden alternation of her moods from rude, destructive roughness, to gentle graciousness. The sunshine of October is delicious, and how it glorifies the tints of decay so that the decay is forgotten in the glory. The appeal of the sunsets is irresistible, too, the wonder of their colours so striking in our grey climes. Whilst all these things arouse our attention, we cannot but begin wondering what it is all about. Once such a train of thought is started, who can tell to where it will lead? To everything in Heaven and Earth, that is dreamt of by all the Philosophies, perhaps. Thought cannot be so assertive in the cheerful haunts of men; the modern rush of life in big places, like your great capital, entirely gets the better of it. Since thought has fallen on such bad times, Bishop Berkeley's dictum hardly now applies: "There is a cast of thought in the complexion of an Englishman, which renders him the most unsuccessful rake in the world." What do you think?

Dublin is now beginning to wake up after its season of inertness, when only the motors, from afar and near, made a stir in the streets. Already the residents are returning from their various holidays, and by November all the houses in the chief streets and squares will again be full. The country people and those who come for the "season," will not appear, as a general rule, until after Christmas. It is early for the social prophets to make any forecast regarding the next "season" in Dublin, but much is expected of the Royal Hospital under the new regime. Lord Grenfell having been so popular and entertained so much in Malta. Lady Dudley will, it is hoped, be quite well and able to bear the fatigues of Viceregal entertaining. She was very brave in getting through the last Castle season, but it must have been a trying ordeal. How truly grievous festivities are which we have to go through in a sad and sorry state, and still more so if we have to play a leading part in them; life then, indeed, does seem intolerable in its amusements. It comes to most of us in our turn to have "to grin and bear it." By the way, is this an old or a new phrase, and what is the origin? No doubt it lives through its expressiveness and because the experience of its use is a very general one.

Lady Grosvenor left the Chief Secretary's Lodge last week to pay some family visits in England. On her return to the Phœnix Park the usual entertaining during the winter months will be done at the Chief Secretary's Lodge. Of late years balls have been little given there, perhaps because politics and official work became more serious, and the Irish Question developed more or less acute phases. Or it may be that dancing declined in favour and went out of fashion in some degree. The Lord Chancellor and Lady Ashbourne have not returned to Dublin yet, the Lord Chancellor with his family being still in the enjoyment of country life, whilst Lady Ashbourne is abroad with one of her sons. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord O'Brien, with Lady O'Brien and his daughters, returned to Ireland at the beginning of the month. All the legal luminaries will be in Dublin for the beginning of the approaching term. This season is especially one of preparation, of looking to the future, with all classes. The mighty hunter is busy with horse and hound; our sex can indulge little in idleness while the great question of wherewithal we are to be clothed for the winter season gives such occupation to mind and—one may well say—body. Is there anything more tiring in its own way than "fitting on"? What a happiness for those who happen to have "stock" figures. Only think of the delight of being able to array oneself fitly with no more wear and tear to mind and body than if one were just sitting by to see some one else being fitted!

Many country houses are full just now. Lord and Lady Carysfort had a large shooting party at Glenart in the county of Wicklow. Lord Wicklow has been at Shelton Abbey. Lord and Lady Longford are at Pakenham Hall in Westmeath, and Lord and Lady Dunsany at Dunsany, in Meath. Much visiting throughout the length and breadth of the land is done in motors. The accident to the Duke of Connaught was much regretted by his many friends in Ireland. He motored much over here, and happily never had any mischance on the Irish roads. What a shock the Duchess and the Princesses must have got, and how nervous it will make them for some time to come. Shocks have such a way of stimulating the imagination and making one fearful. —Yours ever,

Clare.

Escoffier has just brought out some new and delicious sauces, each of them flavoured to suit the particular palate preferences of certain countries, though with a basis of somewhat similar materials. They are called Catalane, Provençale, Tyrolienne, and Portugaise. I have secured a recipe for filleted sole with Catalane sauce, which will, I know, please you:—

Take the fillets from two medium-sized soles, trim them, fold in two, place in a flat stew-pan, slightly salt them, add three or four tablespoonfuls of water (or dry white wine may be used instead of water), six tablespoonfuls of Catalane sauce and one teaspoonful of chopped parsley; put the lid on the stewpan and cook for about twelve minutes. Arrange the fillets on a serving dish at once, add to the sauce 2 oz of fresh butter and a squeeze of lemon juice, shake the stewpan, so that the sauce is well mixed, pour over the fillets, and serve at once. Turbot, brill, fresh cod, whiting, and salmon are prepared in the same way; the flesh of the fish is cut in pieces or in small fillets or scalloped.

All the sauces can be served with any kind of roast, grilled, or sauté meats, whether beef, veal, lamb, mutton, venison, or poultry; and can also be used in preparations of eggs and fish:—

For meat sauté, noisettes of mutton and lamb, tournedos, etc., after seasoning the meat with salt and pepper, cook it in butter in a flat stewpan; directly it is done, arrange it in a dish. Then remove from the stewpan half the butter used in the cooking and pour in a little of the sauce; let it boil two minutes, and pour it over the dish. A spoonful of finely-chopped parsley may be added.

I am glad you liked last week's recipes. Try these croûtes de cervelles. They are very good indeed:—

Soak a set of calves' brains in water for an hour, then stew them in stock slightly acidulated with French vinegar, adding a few peppercorns and a blade of mace. Cut the brains in neat slices and put them into a stewpan with a little of the sauce. Meanwhile, cut rounds of bread two inches in diameter, make an incision with a cutter two sizes smaller and fry them in butter. Take out the centre piece and scoop out the soft interior. Place a slice of the brains on each of the croûtes, sprinkle them thickly with grated Parmesan cheese and place them in a hot oven for five minutes. Dish the croûtes on a hot dish and pour the following sauce round them. Reduce half a wineglassful of French vinegar with an ounce of minced lean ham and a couple of chopped shalots in a stewpan, add a gill of good brown sauce and boil it for ten minutes, then rub it through the tammy. Return the sauce to the stewpan, adding a spoonful of chopped parsley, a small piece of anchovy butter, and a tiny piece of glaze.

Bouchées à la Royale are an appetising savoury:—

Make half a pint of milk into custard with two eggs and a yolk, adding half an ounce of gelatine and salt and pepper to taste; when it is cold, mix in a tablespoonful of chopped shrimps, a couple of chopped gherkins, and a gill of whipped cream, then with it fill seven or eight small bouchée moulds. Drain as many artichoke bottoms as there are moulds, season them with salt, pepper, oil, and vinegar. Turn the moulds out on the artichokes and garnish them round the edges with finely chopped tomato, duly seasoned. Place each one on a round croûte of fried bread that has been spread with butter and shrimp paste mixed together, and dish them garnished with small cress.

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· TRUTH ·

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

ALL readers of Truth will be pleased to hear that Mr. Hilton Carter and the Council of the Royal Albert Hall have once more granted the use of the hall at a nominal rent for the Truth Doll and Toy Show, which will be held, as usual, the week before Christmas. There is no building in London more suitable for purposes of this kind than the Albert Hall, and the use of it on "easy terms" is in every way of great assistance to the Toy Fund. The best acknowledgments of all interested in the Fund—and they are numbered by tens of thousands—are therefore due to the Council for their kindness in this matter.

As Christmas will now very soon be upon us, I take this opportunity of inviting the readers of Truth to unite in making the forthcoming show a success, and in supplying the needs of the ever-increasing army of London children to whose pleasure the Toy Fund ministers. As regards the supply of dolls, I am glad to be able to say that the whole stock of small dolls, to whose deplorable condition I recently called attention, are now in the hands of kind-hearted ladies who have undertaken to dress them suitably for an appearance at the Albert Hall. I have still, however, a dozen or so of large dolls on hand arrayed only in the scanty garments in which their makers send them out into the world. The large dolls are not merely one of the most attractive features in the show, but in the long run they afford more pleasure to the children in the hospitals and infirmaries than any of the others. I therefore earnestly appeal for twelve ladies who will take them in hand at once and provide them with suitable garments between now and Christmas. As regards the rest of the toys, judging by past experience, I expect that I shall receive applications this year for something like 30,000, and nothing short of £1,000 will enable me to meet that demand. I will only add that it is most important that the bulk of that amount should be in my hands as soon as possible.

In the meantime I have received during the week the following contributions to the Toy Fund:—A. B. P., £5; Fredk. Gorringe, £5 5s.; Major John C. Harris, late R.E., £2 2s.; André Hugo, £1 1s.; A. W. B., £1.

The King and Queen will entertain house parties at Sandringham Hall from Saturday, November 5, until Monday, the 14th, and from Saturday, December 3, until Monday, the 12th. The first big shoot at Sandringham is to commence on Tuesday, November 8, and will extend over four days. Their Majesties are to remove on Monday, November 14, from Sandringham to Windsor Castle, for a stay of about ten days.

The Queen's departure from Copenhagen was twice postponed last week, and her Majesty finally arrived at Buckingham Palace on Sunday evening from Flushing, accompanied by Princess Victoria and Princess Charles of Denmark. The Queen has since gone to Sandringham, and will be joined there on Saturday evening by the King, when he leaves Newmarket after a day's shooting at Chippenham Park.

The King and Queen are to leave Windsor Castle on Monday, November 21, on a visit to Mr. and Mrs. William James at West Dean Park, near Chichester, where their Majesties are to stay until Friday, the 25th, when they will return to Sandringham.

The King contemplates holding a Chapter of the Order of the Garter at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King of Portugal, who received his blue ribbon in 1895 from Queen Victoria. It will be remembered that a Chapter was to have been held at Windsor last February, but it was given up because the King of Wurtemberg (who was to have been invested by his Majesty) was unable to come to England through illness. If it is finally arranged to hold a Chapter, the King and Queen will afterwards give a full-dress banquet to the Knights of the Garter in St. George's Hall. Only the Knight Companions who are in England will be summoned, and

the clergy of the Order—the Bishops of Winchester and Oxford and the Dean of Windsor. There has not been a Chapter of the Garter for forty-nine years.

The *World* announced last Tuesday that the King and Queen of Portugal are to cross the Channel next month "in a Portuguese war-ship." They will cross from Cherbourg to Portsmouth in the Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert*. Another fiction concerning the Royal visit is the statement in several daily papers that halfway across Channel "the Portuguese sovereign will be met by a British squadron, with King Edward as admiral in command." The Royal yacht is to be met by several ships of war, as was stated in TRUTH last week, but King Edward certainly will not be in command of the squadron. His Majesty and the Queen will receive their Royal guests at the Sovereign's Entrance to Windsor Castle, in accordance with the etiquette of our Court.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to pay a visit early in December to Lord and Lady Pembroke, at Wilton House, near Salisbury. Wilton is one of the finest country seats in the South of England, and the house contains a magnificent collection of pictures. The gardens are beautiful, and the park is extensive, well wooded, and much diversified. The Wilton estate affords first-rate shooting, and there will be battues in the principal preserves on three days during the Royal visit. Lord Pembroke, who has been suffering from muscular rheumatism in the legs, is now staying at Bath for a course of the waters.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to pay a visit next month to Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder at Hartham Park, Wiltshire, where Mr. Balfour will be included in the house party. Hartham is a very fine place between Chippenham and Bath, with beautiful gardens, and the estate, which is well wooded, affords first-rate shooting.

It is unlikely that the Duke and Duchess of Connaught will be able to leave Edinburgh for Bagshot Park until the beginning of next week. The Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia have arrived at Bagshot from Gosford, the seat of Lord and Lady Wemyss, in Haddingtonshire.

Prince Arthur of Connaught obtained remarkably good sport in the Spey during his visit to the Duke of Richmond at Gordon Castle, his catch including a salmon of 42 lb., which is the heaviest fish that has been taken from this river during the past season. Prince Arthur landed this salmon from the famous Braehead pool.

Princess Henry of Battenberg, who has been residing at Osborne Cottage since the end of July, has come to town from the Isle of Wight to spend about a month at Kensington Palace. H.R.H. will be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle to meet the King and Queen of Portugal. Princess Henry is going to the south of Europe in January, and she will join her recently-purchased yacht *Sheila*, which is a large, well-arranged vessel, at Genoa or Gibraltar for a three or four months' cruise in the Mediterranean.

Prince Louis of Battenberg has returned to London from Heiligenberg, and Princess Louis is to join him shortly. They have taken 70, Cadogan-square for six months. Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece have left Heiligenberg for Corfu on their way to Athens.

Prince Christian, who has been abroad during the last nine weeks, is returning to Windsor from Berlin in time to meet Princess Christian and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, who are due to arrive at Southampton on Saturday from Cape Town. Prince Christian has been paying family visits in Saxony, Silesia, and Bavaria, and at Coburg since he left Kissingen. H.R.H. represented the King at the funeral of the late King of Saxony, which took place at Dresden on Thursday night. The Duke of Connaught would have attended if he had been able to travel.

Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck have left the Royal Pavilion, Aldershot, where they have been staying for about five months. They were last week on a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales at York Cottage, Sandringham.

The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland are staying at Florence, having proceeded thither from Gmunden with their eldest son, Prince George of Hanover, who is on his way to Cairo, and is to spend six months in Egypt for the benefit of his health. The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland were unable to pay their intended autumn visit to Denmark, much to the disappointment of King Christian, the Empress Marie, and Queen Alexandra.

Sir Antony MacDonnell is not the first official in high place in Ireland who has fallen foul of the Ascendency party, through applying reason and common sense to Irish affairs. Let it be granted that all King Edward's subjects in Ireland have equal rights as subjects, that every Irishman, like every Briton, is entitled to hold whatever religious belief he chooses to adopt, it necessarily follows that the State should show to every man of every creed the same fair field and no favour. Sir Antony MacDonnell's advocacy of absolute equality for all creeds in Ireland, strictly in line with the policy of the disestablishment of the Irish Protestant Church, has brought on him the rancour of the monopolists, who, notwithstanding disestablishment, still managed to maintain an ascendency over the majority of their countrymen. As a matter of fact, Ireland has no State Church; all churches in the country are legally on an equality; the Archbishops and Bishops of the Catholic and Protestant churches take precedence amongst each other according to seniority of appointment. During

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1063.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1062.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1057.
For APPEALS, see page 1061.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1069.

Lord Plunkett's lifetime the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin took precedence of the Catholic; now, Archbishop Walsh, being the senior, precedes the Protestant Archbishop Peacocke.

A LADY IN THE CASE.

The Legal Council of Federated Australia has made a strong protest to the Imperial Government against the way in which Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister is held to be illegal in the Mother Country.—*The Times.*

It always has been clear, of course,
To those who show discrimination,
That we must pay a stiffish price
To get Imperial Federation.
For instance, with Australian wines
We must wash down New Zealand mutton;
Whilst for our "preferential rates"
We know the Colonist 's a glutton!

We must surrender principles
For which we have displayed affection;
To welcome many things we've shunned,
We must no longer show objection;
But surely 'tis a bit too bad
That, as "Imperial Federalisters,"
We must be ready, right away,
To marry our Deceased Wife's Sisters?

After fulfilling his political engagement at Southampton, Mr. Balfour will proceed to Beaulieu House, in the New Forest, on a week-end visit to Lord Montagu. Mr. Balfour, who will probably return to Whittingehame on Monday night, is to be among the guests of their Majesties at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Portugal.

The death of Colonel Mackie of Wakefield, is much regretted in the West Riding, and particularly by the members of the Liberal Party in the county, of which he was one of the most zealous and popular leaders. He belonged to a family of prosperous corn factors, the business having been established more than a century ago by his father. Colonel Mackie was several times requested to stand for Wakefield, but he always declined these requests. His eldest brother, Mr. R. B. Mackie, was Liberal member for the city in the Parliament of 1880. Colonel Mackie retired from business ten years ago, and has since made Scarborough his principal residence, but he still remained an active member of the West Riding County Council. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Volunteer movement, and a keen sportsman of the old school.

Vice-Admiral Vansittart, who died last week at Worthing at the age of eighty-six, was employed in the East for many years, and he frequently distinguished himself, and was more than once mentioned in despatches. He did good service in suppressing piracy, and was thanked by the Chinese Government. Vice-Admiral Vansittart escorted the King (then Prince of Wales) to Canada and back in 1860, while in command of the *Ariadne*; and in 1873 he was second in command of the Channel Squadron for a short time, and attended officially the Coronation of the present King of Sweden and Norway at Drontheim.

The early and unexpected death of Sir George Elliot is much regretted in the neighbourhood of Rackheath Hall, the Norfolk seat of the Stracey family, which he had rented for some years past. He was most hospitable, and very kind and generous to the poor of the district, and he will be much missed. Sir George was the third baronet, the title having been created in 1874. His grandfather, who was originally a miner, rose to the position of a large and wealthy colliery proprietor, and sat for some years in the House of Commons as Tory member for one of the divisions of the County of Durham. The first Sir George Elliot was a wonderfully sagacious and far-sighted man of business.

The Duke and Duchess of Leeds are leaving Hornby Castle, the family seat in the North Riding of Yorkshire, to spend the winter and early spring months at Bordighera, where the Duke has recently built a large villa, which is beautifully situated on the heights above the town.

Lord and Lady Bute and Lady Margaret Crichton Stuart have arrived at Mount Stuart, the family place on the coast near Rothesay, for a stay of several weeks. The old house at Mount Stuart was burnt in 1876, and the present magnificent house was then built in the Gothic style. The internal decorations are very fine. The house contains some good pictures, and it is beautifully situated.

Lord and Lady Ancaster and the Ladies Drummond-Willoughby left Drummond Castle, Perthshire, on Thursday for the South after a residence of nearly three months. Excellent sport has been obtained on Lord Ancaster's extensive grouse moors, and Lord Willoughby de Eresby and his friends have shot fifty-eight stags in the deer forest of Glenartney, which was an ancient hunting domain of the Kings of Scotland. Lord and Lady Ancaster will reside until nearly Christmas at Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire, the stately old seat of the Berties, Dukes of Ancaster, and they are to spend the winter and spring months at Normanton Park, their place in Rutlandshire.

During the past season 131 stags have been killed in the deer forest of Glenquoich, Inverness-shire, which is rented by Lord Burton from Mrs. Ellice of Invergarry. Seventy-seven stags were killed on the five beats of the north forest, average weight 14 st. 7 lb.; and fifty-four on the three beats of the south forest, average weight 14 st. There were seventeen stags of over 16 st. Lord Burton killed twenty-three, Mr. Baillie of Dochfour sixteen, Mr. William Bass fifteen, Lord Harlech twelve, and Mr. F. Mildmay eleven. The other successful rifles were the King, the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch, Lord Savile, Sir Schomberg McDonnell, Captain Seymour Fortescue, Mr. Henry Stonor, Major Gordon Wilson, Mr. Arthur James, Mr. George Malcolm, and Dr. Scott. Lord Burton has renewed his tenancy of Glenquoich for another year, greatly to the satisfaction of all the inhabitants of the district.

An idea has got about in England that, owing to the expulsion of the Chartreux monks from France, and the seizure of the trade mark and label of their liqueur

by the Government, "Grande Chartreuse" is about to be put on the market in vast quantities at a reduced price, and will shortly become as common as "old Scotch." An announcement which has been sent to the Press by Messrs. Rivière and Co., the English agents of the Pères Chartreux, will disappoint any liqueur drinkers who have cherished that idea. Although the liquidator appointed by the French Government has taken possession of the legal rights in the label and disposed of it to another firm, the good Fathers maintain that the secret of their famous process still remains in their sole possession, and they are going to carry on business as before in their new retreat in Spain. Those, therefore, who desire to drink pure chartreuse and undefiled, whether of green or yellow hue, must still go to the ancient fountain head. This should teach us that, though the State may disestablish a church or confiscate its temporal goods, it has no power over the spiritual mysteries

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PHYLLIS AND THE BEAUTY DOCTOR.

(Suggested by a recent application at Marylebone Police-court).

"Phyllis *was* my only joy,
When, because a 'crow's foot' shocked her,
She determined to employ,
For her face, a beauty-doctor.
Off she hurried to a dame,
Who, 'twas said, could wrinkles line out,
And from pimples, all aflame,
Take the inconvenient shine out.
Lured by promises like these,
Phyllis vowed she *still* would please!

"When I called on Phyllis next,
She, poor pet, upset immensely,
Told me she was sorely vex't—
So, in fact, was I, intensely—
For the face that then I saw,
Smeared, meantime, by some strong ointment,
Was too much like steak, half-raw,
Not to cause me disappointment.
Yes, though she had paid high fees,
Phyllis *somehow* failed to please!

"'Wait!' she cried, 'the expert's task
Is not thus to be eluded.
I have *now* to wear a mask
Till my "cure" is *quite* concluded.'
For a week that girl of mine
Moulds of jelly kept her face in;
Till, smooth, fat, without a line,
It recalled a pudding basin!
But, despite such facts as these,
Still she *somehow* failed to please!

"She'd no wrinkles—for a week—
Thanks to her prolonged endeavour;
Then, by Fate's ironic freak,
They returned—*much worse than ever!*
And when last I saw her face,
Back again in life's arena,
It was cockled like the case
Of a baggy concertina!
So, as every one agrees,
Still my Phyllis fails to please!

"Ladies, then, who heedlessly
Seek immunity from pimples,
And imagine warts can be
Artfully transformed to dimples—
Ladies, whatsoe'er your name,
Chloe, Sylvia, Amaryllis,
Take the warning I proclaim
In this sorry fate of Phyllis;
Lest, like her, you pay big fees,
And, like her, *still* fail to please."

An officer writes from Khartoum:—

Your readers may be interested in the following particulars of a breakfast supplied to two of us in the so-called train-de-luxe between Cairo and Luxoor. The items supplied to us included four scraps of indifferently fresh fish, about two inches square, for which we paid 5s. Coffee, bread and butter, and marmalade came to 3s 4d. more. One can get an excellent breakfast, including a fresh sole, at the Hotel Continental, Cairo, for 8 piastres, or 1s. 8d. I may add that the dinner supplied to us in the train the night before was equally expensive and bad. I believe that the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits buy their food from a contractor in Cairo and there seems to be no reason why their meals should not compare favourably in quality, if not in price, to those that can be obtained at Cairo hotels.

Of course, every one expects to pay something extra for the convenience of obtaining meals in a train; but the prices above mentioned are obviously out of all reason, unless the Company wishes it to be understood that the dining car service in Egypt is only intended for millionaires. Even if that be the policy, I should imagine it is a short-sighted one.

The Duke of Cambridge's library is to be sold early in December at Sotheby's. The collection of presentation copies has been withdrawn from the sale. It includes a copy of the privately printed volume of Prince Albert's speeches, which was a gift from Queen Victoria to the Duke, who also received from her late Majesty a copy of her journals in the Highlands, the special edition, largely illustrated, which was printed for private circulation, to give away to relatives and friends. The Duke of Cambridge possessed some remarkably fine illustrated books on the military costumes of the Armies of Europe, and a very large collection of old plays.

About a hundred unpublished letters by Prosper Mérimée have just been discovered in Paris. They deal with the daily events of French society. Mérimée was as delightful a letter writer as Horace Walpole.

On Thursday last Princess Louise unveiled a memorial to Queen Victoria in Kensington High-street. Being herself a lady of artistic tastes, her Royal Highness must have experienced a painful shock when she saw what she had done; indeed, it is difficult to conceive that anybody who knew what was behind—with the possible exception of the designer—would have consented to the veil being withdrawn, even temporarily. It ought to be put back at the earliest possible moment. The monument is a cruel outrage upon the memory of the late Queen, and a wicked addition to the number of hideous monstrosities with which the streets of London are disfigured. Had it been erected by the people of Balls Pond or Peckham Rye, it might have been excused; but in the "Royal Borough" of Kensington it is beyond forgiveness.

By a misprint in my article last week, "Theatres *v.* Music-halls," it was stated that the recent prosecutions by the Theatrical Managers' Association on account of the performance of music-hall "sketches" were under-

In deference to the wishes of numerous patrons, the Directors of the Hotel Bristol, Beaulieu, Riviera, announce the opening early in November of the charming "Pavillon Bristol," for the accommodation of Visitors during the early Season. Moderate charges. Apply Coburg Hotel, London.

taken "without" (instead of "with") the sanction of the Lord Chamberlain. I am not sorry, however, that the mistake occurred, for it has brought me an interesting letter from Mr. Cecil Raleigh. It is certainly amusing to learn that performances of Shakespearian plays are illegal so long as the plays are unlicensed by the Lord Chamberlain. My own view is that the censorship ought to be abolished, and nothing would be so effective in hastening its abolition as a prosecution, say, of Mr. Tree for producing "The Tempest" without a licence. Let us hope, therefore, that the Lord Chamberlain may be spurred on to take proceedings in his or some similar case. After quoting the opinion expressed by Mr. Hopkins, the magistrate who heard the first case, that these prosecutions by the Theatrical Managers' Association were "prompted by trade jealousy," and the statement in the more recent case before Mr. Kennedy that the proceedings had been taken with the sanction of the Lord Chamberlain, Mr. Raleigh writes:—

With the view of obtaining the views of the Lord Chamberlain—with the view of trying to discover whether he meant to accept the view of Mr. Hopkins—the music-hall managers have, through Mr. Henri Gros, tried to obtain access to the Lord Chamberlain. Mr. Henri Gros informs me that the Lord Chamberlain replied only last week, declining to see them, and adding that he "had nothing to do with music-halls."

Yet he assists a trade body in its prosecution of trade rivals, while leaving his own houses in disorder. Mr. Tree's version of "The Tempest," when first produced at His Majesty's Theatre, was not licensed. Mr. George Gray, of the Sketch Artists' Association, obtained this information direct from the Chamberlain's Office about a fortnight after production. At this moment, I believe, "The Tempest" remains still unlicensed. I do not believe that any Shakespearian play ever has been licensed, in view of which fact I wonder what the Lord Chamberlain would think about a production of "Pericles, Prince of Tyre" as originally written. What would he say to the Restoration Dramatists? What would he say to Beaumont and Fletcher? Does he hold that plays written before the institution of the censorship are immune? If he does, we may have lots of fun in the coming years. If he does not, why does he allow Shakespeare's plays to be performed without a licence? Legally, they ought to be licensed, but if the Chamberlain does not insist upon the letter of the law in theatres under his control, why does he pursue immaterial infractions of the law in music-halls, with which, as he himself says, "he has nothing whatever to do"?

Surely, sir, it is time that the whole thing were reformed, and we had one law, and one licence for all places of amusement, the abolition of the censorship, and the law that is sufficient to restrain nasty books left to restrain, as it most adequately could, the very rare production of anything that could be called a nasty play.

Apropos of the question of building by-laws, a gentleman of my acquaintance vouches for the truth of the following story. In a certain district a house was being enlarged by building a wing to accommodate the servants. The wing had a gabled roof, in which was a servant's bedroom. It was an exceptionally spacious room for the purpose; but the height of the ceiling did not bear the proportion to the floor area prescribed by the local by-laws. On this objection being raised by the local authorities, the architect retorted, "Then, if I bring in the walls so many feet, in order to reduce the floor area, and fill in the intermediate space with rubbish, you will pass the plan?" The answer was in the affirmative, as, of course, it was bound to be. My informant adds that in this case the inspector was a sensible man, and saw the absurdity to which the by-law led, and he eventually winked at the proposed breach. Had it not been for this, the effect of the by-law would simply have been to reduce the cubic space of the room, without adding anything to its loftiness.

Some of the papers, in referring to the Rhodes scholars at Oxford, have been gushing over the arrival of so many clever young men "from our Colonies." As a matter of fact, out of seventy-two Rhodes scholars only twenty-four come from "our Colonies." There are no fewer than forty-three from the United States, and the total number is made up by five scholars from Germany.

The Archdeacon of London is to be the Canon-in-Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during November, replacing the Bishop of Stepney.

The Archdeacon of Winchester has instituted the Rev. Gilbert Heathcote, Fellow of Winchester College, to the Vicarage of Hursley, Hants, on the presentation of Sir William Heathcote. Hursley is the benefice which was held for nearly forty years by John Keble.

Much surprise has been expressed in Yorkshire Church circles at the unexampled delay in filling up the vacant canonry in Ripon Cathedral, and the unaccountable inaction of the Bishop has been severely criticised. Several months have elapsed since the death of Canon Gibbons, and it is impossible to understand why his successor was not appointed, as is customary, within a few weeks of the stall being vacated. The "residence" arrangements of the canons have been thrown into complete confusion. Archdeacon Waugh, who should have gone out of residence on October 1, is still on duty; while Archdeacon Danks, who ought to begin his duty on January 1, is coming into residence about November 15.

The Secretary of the Hospital Penny Fund forwards me a copy of Mr. George Herring's letter expressing general approval of that scheme, and giving his opinion that its opponents have treated the project unfairly. As Mr. Herring's letter appeared some days ago in nearly all the daily papers, it is not necessary to reprint it again. Mr. George Herring has shown himself so true and generous a friend of the cause of the London hospitals that everything coming from him is entitled to respect; but granting him all such respect, I cannot agree with him in this matter. In justifying the charge of 25 per cent. which the promoters of the Hospital Penny Fund are making for expenses, he appeals to the example of charity bazaars, where he says that "upwards of 50 per cent. is frequently deducted for expenses." This may be so, but there are also bazaars in which all concerned are heavily out of pocket, and the greater part of the receipts are handed over to the object in view. At the same time, I think that bazaars are generally regarded as a wasteful and objectionable way of raising money, with very little of real charity about them; and a bazaar which absorbed in expenses upwards of 50 per cent. of the receipts would be properly open to severe criticism.

I have known amateur theatricals, promoted for charitable purposes, in which the expenses have stood to the receipts in the ratio of upwards of 100 per cent. Such enterprises as these have no right to be called "charities." The promoters are simply engaged in

amusing themselves or advertising themselves, and the name of charity is simply used as an excuse, and as a means of disposing of any profits that may be left over when the incidental expenses of the amusement have been paid. Mr. Herring's illustration, therefore, does not do much for the Hospital Penny Fund. He goes on to argue that, seeing the risk they run, they are justified in working the thing on a 25 per cent. basis. This argument again reduces the thing to the level of any commercial undertaking. Of course, it is open to any business man to do a stroke of business for himself under cover of raising money for charity; but the whole question at issue in regard to the Hospital Penny movement is the expediency of allowing the hospitals to be exploited in this way for profit-making ends. The case is in principle practically identical with that of the abortive Hospital Shopping Day, organised last year for the King's Fund, with the exception that in that instance the initiative came from the fund itself, not from the tradesmen who shared in the benefit of the movement. It was pretty generally agreed at the time that this attempt to combine business and charity was open to the gravest objections, and the objections to the idea in its new shape are not less strong.

Even if Mr. Herring's argument were sounder, there would still remain the weighty objection to the Hospital Penny Fund on the ground of the liberties that have been taken by the promoters with the names of the various hospitals. In this week's *Hospital* some further evidence is given as to the use of the names of particular hospitals without their consent. This proceeding is simply unpardonable, and, as I said last week, it removes the only justification that could possibly have been offered for this undertaking. As I write, I hear that a meeting of representatives of some of the principal London hospitals is about to be held to consider this matter; and it is to be hoped, if only for the sake of the hospitals themselves, that the result will be an emphatic repudiation of the scheme.

If the *Daily Mail* is correctly informed, the great appeal of St. Bartholomew's Hospital has woefully miscarried, and may fairly be described as a fiasco. It will be remembered that something like £600,000 was required for the rebuilding of "Bart's," and, according to the *Daily Mail*, only £35,000 has been subscribed up to the present time, beyond the £40,000 which had been already promised when the scheme was launched at the Mansion House. I cannot profess to be surprised at this result, for the proposal to rebuild and enlarge the hospital on its present site was condemned from the first in these columns, and, even had the proposal been beyond criticism, the time when it was launched was singularly ill-chosen. The response made to the appeal is simply an endorsement by the public of this criticism.

At the same time, the position in which St. Bartholomew's finds itself is truly deplorable. After I had expressed my views on the rebuilding question, I was invited by Sir Ernest Flower and Mr. Cross to meet them, inspect the hospital, and reconsider my opinion. I accepted the invitation, and explored the existing hospital in every department. Sir Ernest Flower and Mr. Cross failed to convince me that the proposed scheme, involving an appeal to the public for at least £600,000, and probably more, was the only one possible; and for this reason, in spite of my visit, I have never seen my way to commend the appeal to readers of TRUTH. But I am bound to say that the necessity for doing something, and doing it promptly, was most forcibly impressed upon me. Without professing to be an expert in hospital management, I could see almost at a glance that the present premises are quite unfit, judged by modern standards, for what should be the premier hospital of London, and the out-patients' department, in particular, is a disgrace to the metropolis. It seems to me, therefore, incumbent upon the managers to reconsider their plans, and devise at once some means of dealing with the situation with which they are faced through the failure of their appeal.

At this juncture the resignation is announced of Mr. Cross, who has been so long the chief administrative official of the hospital, and Sir Trevor Lawrence, the treasurer, under whom the rebuilding scheme has been prepared and launched. Both gentlemen have rendered in their day good service to the charity. But now that their places are vacant, it is to be hoped that gentlemen will be forthcoming to fill them who are capable of dealing with the position of great difficulty in which the hospital finds itself.

Apropos of hospital finances, I have had a letter suggesting that in some cases at least the resources of such institutions are not utilised to the best advantage. In the early part of September my correspondent inspected a vacant shop and house in South London belonging to the Middlesex Hospital, and wrote to the solicitor to the hospital offering to take the premises. After some difficulty he obtained an interview with the solicitor, and gave him unimpeachable references. Nothing further having been heard from the solicitor, a reminder was sent to him on September 22, with an intimation that the writer had inspected other premises which would suit him if he could not have those belonging to the hospital. This letter was not answered, and another was forwarded on October 9. Some days elapsed, and the solicitor then replied that, as the would-be tenant had said that he had inspected other premises which would suit him, no further action had been taken in the matter. My correspondent wrote again, pointing out that he had never had a definite answer to his application, but still no answer was vouchsafed, and when he at length got another interview with the solicitor, he was met with the question whether he would be prepared to pay twelve months' rent in advance for the premises. He said that he certainly should not do so, but that he would, if required, supply a satisfactory guarantee for the rent. The solicitor said that he did not take guarantees, and there the matter ended. The shop and house which were the subject of these negotiations have been unoccupied for a considerable time, and are still to let, though many persons are said to have offered themselves

as tenants. This is not at all surprising, if my correspondent's experience is a fair example of the unbusinesslike manner in which such offers are dealt with.

The Committee of the Gentlewomen's Self-Help Society, to which I have once or twice called the attention of my readers, write to say that the Society is now specially in need of "more customers." This is a want which there ought to be no difficulty in supplying, for it makes no great demand on the generosity of ladies to ask them to send orders for needlework, fancy goods, bookbinding, dairy produce, and such-like commodities to one establishment rather than another. Those who are ready to help poor gentlewomen—the most distressful of all distressed classes—in this way, should communicate with the manageress at the depot of the Society, which has now been removed to 20-22, Maddox-street, W.

I am asked to mention that the Suffolk County Ball will take place at the Athenæum, Bury St. Edmunds, on Tuesday, January 5, 1905, and that tickets may be obtained from Mr. E. Arnold Crack at the Athenæum.

A ball is shortly to be given in Dublin—the date will be more definitely announced in due course—in aid of the fund for providing a club-house for Army and Navy veterans. The ball will be under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant and Countess Dudley, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Chief Secretary for Ireland and Countess Grosvenor, Lord and Lady Grenfell, and nearly all the leaders of Irish society.

I hear from the President of the Union Jack Club, Sir Edward Ward, that the funds promised or received now exceed £36,000. The last list of subscriptions published contains numbers of handsome donations given by individuals or regiments as memorials of deceased relatives or comrades, and such memorials, more especially in relation to the South African war, can hardly take a more sensible shape. The Union Jack Club will be a most useful institution to the Services, and it is to be hoped that the whole of the funds required will soon be in hand.

Let me again call the attention of my readers—especially my lady readers—to the work of the Westminster Needlework Society, an association which meets every week during the winter at 55, Palace-street, Westminster, to make garments for the poor of the neighbourhood. Much useful assistance is given by these means every winter to women and children in this city who greatly need it. Those who are not at liberty to attend the meetings can assist by doing work at their own homes, or by donations of clothing and materials, or, lastly, by assistance in cash. Mrs. Langston, who has for so long been president of the society, has now resigned, but Miss Northcote of 52, Lower Sloane-street, S.W., remains the honorary secretary.

Messrs. H. S. Persse, Ltd., have been exclusively commissioned to supply their pure pot still Whiskey to Lyons' Popular Cafe, Piccadilly.

Among all military men with whom I have come in contact during the last few days, the impression seems to prevail that the new regulation on the subject of recruiting portends another transformation of Mr. Arrold-Forster's Army Reform scheme. In explaining his proposals in Parliament last July, the Secretary of State certainly did not convey the impression that he intended to introduce a general system of enlistment for nine years with the colours and three in the reserve; and this arrangement is obviously inconsistent with his scheme of a short service home army. So far as the home army is concerned, therefore, we are evidently as far from finality as ever in the process of army reform. How it can possibly be expected, after all the difficulty that has been experienced in getting men to extend their service under the pre-existing system, that the requisite supply of recruits will be obtained on the basis of nine years' colour service, I fail to see. But the event will prove.

Much sardonic comment has been provoked in Service circles by the recent promotion of the junior major in a Lancer regiment as second-in-command of another Cavalry regiment, the fact being that the officer in question bears the same name, and is nearly related to a distinguished member of the Committee of Selection I have no hesitation in saying that the appointment is worthy of the worst traditions of the War Office, and though no one can speak confidently of what goes on before that august Committee, I believe I am right in saying that the appointment was made in express opposition to the opinion of the Inspector-General of Cavalry. I do not blame the one member of the Committee for the promotion of his relative, for I do not think that he would use his influence to procure an appointment which he did not think was for the public interest, and it is only human nature that a man should favour one whom he knows, and is personally interested in. The fault lies with the remaining members of the Committee. Moreover, I do not suppose that it will ever be possible to entirely prevent the operation of influence of this kind in the public service to the detriment of the public interest and the interest of more deserving candidates for promotion. But at least it could be, and ought to be, arranged that when a name of an officer related to a member of the Committee comes forward for consideration, a totally different Committee should be constituted to deal with that case.

Another interesting promotion was gazetted a few days ago—that of a Militia lieutenant to the rank of captain. The officer in question served with the battalion down to the time of the war. Immediately before the embodiment of the battalion he suddenly resigned. After peace was restored he rejoined. He is now promoted—of course, on his merits. Let us hope there will be no more wars to interrupt his martial career.

Bolivar is the very best and most reliable brand of Havana Cigars. Delicious nutty flavour, "like the good old crops of back years." From all good retailers.

The rules on the subject of wearing plain clothes are now in the most chaotic condition, and the greatest diversity of practice exists on different stations. I suppose that this is owing to too much being left to the discretion of individual officers; but, however this may be, it is necessarily productive of much heart-burning and dissatisfaction. For instance, I heard the other day from the Citadel, Plymouth, that all ranks of bandsmen are allowed to walk out in plain clothes, while this privilege is denied to N.C.O.s up to the rank of staff-sergeant. There cannot be the slightest justification for granting this privilege to bandsmen merely as bandsmen. At the same station an order has been published at the guard-room that men are only to be allowed to go out cycling in khaki serge, blue clothing being forbidden. This is probably only an eccentricity of some subordinate officer, and appears to be quite irrational.

Another example of the inconsistencies of the present rules comes from Victoria, B.C. The Royal Engineers of all ranks can obtain passes allowing them to wear plain clothes for recreation purposes, with the result that they almost always wear them when not on duty. No such rule prevails in the Artillery, and the commanding officer even refuses the privilege to sergeants. A sergeant in one corps is therefore on a different footing in this matter, to a private in another. Obviously this wants looking into.

Last November I commented upon the curious fact that a pensioned quarter master-sergeant of the Royal Field Artillery, who is a tenant of a large fully licensed public house in Gosport should be employed as clerk at the Discharge Depot at Gosport at 28s. a week. The impropriety of employing a publican doing a good trade and already drawing a pension of 2s. 6d. a day, to the exclusion of many pensioners with far smaller incomes, seems to have been appreciated by some one in authority, for shortly after my comments the publican-pensioner was discharged. I now hear, however, that he has been reinstated in his clerkship, and I am curious to know why, since, so far as I can ascertain, his circumstances have not in any way altered. It is the more remarkable since both in the Dockyard and at the Gun Wharf there is a rule in force excluding persons engaged in the liquor trade from employment. The employment of a publican in the Discharge Depot is surely open to just the same objection as it would be in either of these other departments.

In one of the articles on the recruiting question which appeared in Truth during September a passage was quoted from an article in the *United Service Gazette*, which strongly condemned the principle of denominational Soldiers' Institutes, Church of England or otherwise; and the writer was strongly of opinion that soldiers as a rule do not appreciate the religious element in these institutions. I have since been receiving from different parts of the world protests against these remarks, and the latest of my correspondents forwards a report of a speech delivered by Sir John French a few weeks ago at the opening of a Church of England Soldiers' and Sailors' Institution at Borden Camp. When reproducing the observations referred to, I was careful not to adopt them myself, and the responsibility must rest on the writer. I have not the slightest doubt that the Church of England Institutes are most useful, and highly appreciated; and I dare say that Sir John French was right in the course of the speech abovementioned in stating that some men attach special value to the religious element. From my knowledge of soldiers, however, and indeed young men generally, I should think that these are a somewhat small minority; and I am struck by the fact that when the value of the religious element is praised it is generally by officers—mostly very senior officers. No soldier has written as yet to protest against the passage which was quoted in Truth. Personally, however, I have no very strong opinion on the subject, beyond the general one that it is a pity that denominational and sectarian differences should be introduced into such useful work as this.

For the benefit of other unwary travellers, a correspondent asks me to relate an instructive experience which he has had in connection with the through bookings from Australia and New Zealand to London which are offered by the Oceanic Steamship Company, of San Francisco. A special feature is made of these through bookings in the circulars and pamphlets issued by the company, which is known as the A. and A. Line. My correspondent paid the company £39 odd for a ticket entitling him to travel second class by an A. and A. steamer from New Zealand to San Francisco, second class thence by railway to New York, and second class again by an Atlantic liner to London. The advertised schedule of fares included the distinct undertaking "second class Atlantic," but in some details below there appeared the words "Atlantic berth valued at £6 10s."

On reaching New York, however, the passenger was coolly informed that he could not have a second-class berth to London unless he paid an additional nine dollars. He pointed out to the company's agent that he had been booked second class, but the only reply was that the £6 10s. allocated for the Atlantic passage was not at that time sufficient to procure a second-class cabin. In other words, the company declined to fulfil the engagement into which it had entered, because it found that "second class Atlantic" would cost more than was calculated when it fixed the amount of the through fare and took the passenger's money. Such a

The New Forest is now very beautiful. Stay at the Balmer Lawn Hotel, Brockenhurst. Hire a car from the Hampshire Motor Works, Lyndhurst, you will be satisfied.

Whitehall Court, S.W. Flats furnished or unfurnished. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

violation of the company's contract deserves to be made known, so that second-class passengers may be on their guard against these so-called through bookings.

With reference to the contradiction which a naval officer offered in last week's Truth to previous statements regarding the tenders and the contract for the canteen at the Naval Barracks, Portsmouth, my original informant, as I anticipated, flatly contradicts the contradiction, and adheres to his original statements. This conflict of evidence places me in some difficulty; but as I said last week, I am quite satisfied in view of what has since happened in regard to the contract, that my original statement as to the tender which was accepted was accurate. The contradiction was, therefore, wrong as regards this point, and is consequently somewhat discredited as regards the others. However, if the officer who sent this contradiction will state specifically what the amounts of the various tenders were, I am, of course, ready to accept his statement. I am told that when I last week attributed the decision in the matter to the "commander," I should have said the captain; but that is a mere detail.

The public in Ceylon have been much exercised over the fantastic course which justice has taken in the case of Tilliyampalam Namasivayam *v.* T. S. Thorpe. Both the parties were in the employ of the same firm at Colombo, the native being a clerk in the storekeeper's office, while Thorpe held what is described as "a slightly higher position." The former states that Thorpe asked him for a 6½ in. spanner from the stores, and that he replied that there were none of that size. This was correct, but Thorpe was incredulous, and, after striking T. Namasivayam on the chest, he ordered him to look again for the spanner. The native turned round to do so, and then Thorpe helped him along with a kick. It was admitted that neither the blow nor the kick left any mark, but T. Namasivayam affirmed that he suffered considerable bodily pain, and also "great pain of mind," from the disgrace of being so treated in the presence of several persons. He laid an information before the Police Magistrate of Colombo, who happened to be a brother of the accused, and his worship made this order:—

> The accused [this was an obvious slip of the pen for "the complainant"] has no marks whatever to show, and I do not issue process unless the alleged assault is sufficiently grave to leave at least some marks. However, in this case, the accused being my brother, I send the case to the additional police magistrates for orders.

It will be observed that though Mr. Thorpe, the magistrate, very properly referred the complainant to another magistrate he very improperly threw out a hint that the charge should not be entertained. The hint was accepted, the additional police magistrate declining to issue process "on the ground that the harm caused, if any, was exceedingly slight." T. Namasivayam then applied to the Supreme Court for a mandamus to compel the magistrate to inquire into and adjudicate upon his complaint. The judgment in which the Acting Chief Justice refused this application is one of the drollest judicial deliverances I have ever read. Said his Lordship:—

> It does not seem to me that the act of the accused was meant as an assault. The accused indulged in what I may call an unwarranted familiarity—a familiarity in which he had no right to indulge except with a person with whom he had acquaintance sufficient to justify what he did. I can quite imagine his putting his hand out on the complainant's chest, and as he went away his putting his foot out and touching him on the hind quarters. . . . It is an unseemly act, and if it were repeated on the person of an employee who objected to it, and with whom the accused had no right to take such liberties, I have no hesitation in saying that some remedy would be open to the complainant. As, however, the alleged act admits of the meaning which I have put upon it, and the complainant himself admitted that there were no marks upon his body, I think I ought not to grant this rule.

Valuable, indeed, are the lessons that may be derived from this judgment. First of all, hitting a man on his chest and kicking him on the other side only amounts to a familiarity—a sort of friendly salutation, though it should not be indulged in except between intimate acquaintances. (It would perhaps have been more helpful if the learned Judge had explained from his own practice and experience exactly what he considers an acquaintanceship "sufficient to justify" this delicate attention.) Secondly, one learns that an employee must submit to this treatment once, but that if it is repeated in spite of his objection some remedy may be open to him. Apparently, however, this possible remedy would not be a summons for assault, for the Acting Chief Justice adopts the singular ruling of the magistrates that a blow and a kick do not constitute an assault when there are "no marks."

It is a comic case, but not without a serious side. Confidence in British justice in Ceylon rests upon the assumption that it makes no distinction of class or colour. Everybody knows, however, that this assault would not have been deemed too trifling to come within the purview of the law if the position of the parties had been reversed, and the decision of the Supreme Court has consequently produced a very unfavourable impression among the native community.

As might be expected, the City Fathers of Liverpool are furious over the revelations in the elective auditor's report, which I noticed last week. It has been indignantly denied that the party of twenty Aldermen and Councillors who made the annual inspection of the Rivington Waterworks consumed during the day sixty-three bottles of whisky, to say nothing of wines. Of course, it was obvious that this quantity of liquor could not have been actually drunk in a single day, even by a score of the most seasoned topers; and the explanation is now offered that the bulk of it was purchased to be put into stock at the Corporation house at Rivington. Why, then, was it charged in the day's accounts, and why, too, is a stock of wines and spirits kept at the waterworks? Is it in order that thirsty aldermen and

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

councillors may supply themselves with free drinks whenever they pay a casual visit to Rivington? Such an arrangement is, if possible, more indefensible than the extravagant expenditure on the occasion of the annual inspection.

A "deputation" of a dozen Aldermen and Councillors of Portsmouth lately enjoyed a trip to the North of England for which the ratepayers will have the privilege of paying a bill of over £100. The object in view would have been served equally well by sending a party of three practical men—if it was really necessary to send anybody at all—and the ratepayers are naturally growling at the waste of money involved in the presence on the "deputation" of various individuals whose opinions on what they saw and heard are not worth a potato-peeling. Really, however, the ratepayers are themselves to blame for such extravagances. Every town gets the municipal administration it deserves, and if people will choose representatives of the sort who want free feeds and free excursions they must put up with the consequences.

With strangely perverted sympathies, some of the Walsingham Guardians are now anxious to screen the master of the workhouse from the consequences of his scandalous conduct in the case of little Anna Bond. It may be remembered that whilst arrangements were being made for the removal of this poor child from the workhouse to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, the master succeeded, thanks to the complaisance of a pudding-headed magistrate, in getting her committed to gaol for fourteen days on a charge of insubordination, which was supported by trumped-up and ridiculously exaggerated evidence. This prosecution was rushed through in deliberate defiance of the instructions of the Guardians in regard to the child, and the master's action was so manifestly harsh and vindictive that the Local Government Board have, as I lately mentioned, called for his resignation. But at the meeting of the Guardians last week it came out that the resignation had not yet been tendered, and the Chairman and other members expressed the opinion that it would be "very hard" on the master to deprive him of his situation.

It seems to me that Guardians who would still leave the inmates of the workhouse, young and old, to the tender mercies of such a Bumble are as little fitted for their office as he is for his. The case of Anna Bond alone fully justifies the master's dismissal, and I trust that the Local Government Board will stick to its decision. But if the Board have any doubt in the matter, I believe that it would be speedily removed by a few inquiries into the treatment this little girl received for months prior to her committal to prison, and into the general treatment of the children and adult paupers as well in the Walsingham Workhouse.

JEFFREY & Co.'s ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

THE LAST STRAW.

BY A TAXPAYING CAMEL.

Much excitement has been caused amongst income taxpayers by the publication of the "Private Circular" recently issued to Collectors, inciting them to greater promptitude in the collection of the income tax, and virtually abolishing the weeks of grace hitherto allowed to taxpayers in January.—*Westminster Gazette*

"Oh, Austen, Austen, can this be?
I am *indeed* disgusted,
After the way that your papa
Through thick and thin I've trusted!
That *you* should do this shabby thing,
Gives to your "Circular" its sting.

"From what your clever father said,
When first you were promoted,
Upon your chance of doing us
A turn, I fairly gloated!
But now my spirits have gone down,
For you have simply done us brown!

"You've added to the Tax on which
You promised a deduction;
And *now* you've furtively sent out
This sinister "Instruction,"
Which bids your myrmidons efface
Your victims' much-prized weeks of grace!

"Protection was to do great things;
Meanwhile, though, we, dejected,
From our protectors find that we
Require to be 'protected'!
We, in the onslaught that impends,
Need to be saved from so-called friends!

"Extended on the rack full long
We tremblingly have waited,
Hoping the tension soon might be
In some degree abated;
Fancy our feelings, then, when *you*
For a fresh turn adapt the screw!"

The need for the Beck inquiry has been abundantly demonstrated by the evidence which has been given before the Master of the Rolls and his colleagues during the past week. After reading these amazing revelations one ceases to wonder that the unfortunate Beck was twice the victim of a gross miscarriage of justice. The South African War Committee gave us a remarkable picture of the confusion and conflict and muddling among different departments of the War Office. Things seem to be equally bad in connection with the administration of the criminal law. On questions of the most vital importance in the interests of justice the Home Office and the prison authorities, the police, and the Treasury appear to have been all at sixes and sevens. A good deal will have to be said on these matters when the report of the Committee is published. Meanwhile, however, one point that has been clearly brought out by the inquiry is the absolute necessity for the establishment of a Criminal Court of Appeal.

At Epsom Petty Sessions last week an applicant for a certificate of exemption under the conscientious objection clause of the Vaccination Act was informed by Mr. Braithwaite, J.P., that he was setting up his opinion against all the scientists of the world! This is a fair example of the nonsense that magistrates talk on this subject. The statement is absurd; but even if it were

correct it would not affect the fact that the law entitles a conscientious objector to a certificate of exemption. In this instance the applicant stated in answer to a question that he had suffered all his life from a complaint which he contracted through vaccination, and though the Bench were incredulous, this only showed their ignorance of facts frankly admitted in the Report of the Royal Commission. Finally, the certificate was refused with the remark that the Bench did not think the applicant's ground of objection "a reasonable one." These Epsom J.P.s evidently know nothing of the law which they sit to administer, for the "reasonableness" or otherwise of an objection is absolutely immaterial. So long as a man conscientiously believes that vaccination will be prejudicial to the health of his child, it is the duty of the magistrates to grant him a certificate, however irrational they may deem his belief.

The case known as "the Sparkhill birching scandal," which came under the consideration of the Worcestershire Standing Joint Committee on Saturday, must raise very serious misgivings with regard to the methods of the police in that county. In July last four boys were arrested at Sparkhill on a charge of breaking into a shop. Two of these boys, named Heekes, aged sixteen, and Taylor, aged seventeen (the latter being the son of the shopkeeper), alleged that while they were in custody at the police-station they were stripped and birched by Superintendent Pitt, with the object of extorting confessions and statements from them concerning the robbery. Superintendent Pitt denied that he had birched Taylor. He admitted that he birched Heekes, but said they did not do so in order to obtain any information from him. Pitt's explanation of the incident was that Heekes, while in custody at Sparkhill, confessed to some petty thefts in the neighbouring city of Birmingham, and begged him (the superintendent) to give him a birching instead of handing him over to the Birmingham police. Superintendent Pitt declared that it was solely in compliance with this request that he birched Heekes, and that he treated the matter "more as a joke than anything else"!

The Chief Constable of Worcestershire, Colonel Walker, invited the Standing Joint Committee to hold an inquiry into the affair, and Mr. R. H. Amphlett, K.C., Mr. J. S. Pritchett, another barrister, and Mr. C. P. Lane, J.P., were appointed to do so. After an exhaustive investigation, Mr. Amphlett and Mr. Pritchett, presented a report, in which they came to the conclusion that both boys were actually birched by Superintendent Pitt, as they had alleged, for the purpose of compelling them to make incriminating statements in regard to the robbery. In effect, this meant that Mr. Amphlett and Mr. Pritchett felt obliged to reject as unworthy of credence the superintendent's denial of the birching of Taylor and his version of the birching of Heekes, and also the evidence of certain constables. Mr. Lane was "not satisfied" that the allegations against the superintendent were "conclusively proved," but in such a matter his opinion carries less weight than the judgment of experienced lawyers like Mr. Amphlett and Mr. Pritchett; and I think, moreover, that a perusal of the evidence and the report will convince most people that their conclusions were fully justified.

This damaging report was answered by the Chief Constable in a circular to the Standing Joint Committee, in which, after making a most impertinent and unwarranted accusation of bias against Messrs. Amphlett and Pritchett, he urged that the acceptance of their findings would be a gross injustice to the police officers affected, and disastrous to the efficiency and discipline of the whole force. In this state of things the Committee have seized upon a suggestion that the parents of the boys may yet bring actions for damages against Superintendent Pitt as an excuse for shelving the report for three months. It is assuredly to be hoped that such actions will be brought. In the meantime, however, it is obvious that, apart from the question of the birchings, the methods of the police in Worcestershire require serious attention. Mr. Willis Bund, K.C., who is Chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions, as well as of the Standing Joint Committee, stated that he had for some years felt very strongly that the main idea of the police in this country was to get convictions, that they improperly arrested persons without warrants (as happened in the case of these boys), that they wrongly opposed bail when it ought to be granted, and finally that untried prisoners were treated "in a way that they ought not to be treated." These are grave charges against the police, and in the interests of a proper administration of justice they should be thoroughly investigated.

Sundry letters have been addressed to me in reference to the remarks of Mr. Eliot Howard, J.P., at Stratford Police Court last week, when a costermonger was summoned by the R.S.P.C.A. for working a spavined and saddle-sore horse. It was clearly cruelty to work the horse, but, because of the defendant's poverty, his worship practically censured the society for prosecuting. "There could be no greater excuse," he said, "than if the man and the beast were working and suffering together." One or two correspondents endorse this view, while others think that its general adoption would have very unfortunate consequences. I think so myself. In such a case as this at Stratford a man's poverty may properly be taken into consideration in fixing the penalty for his offence, but to suggest that it should save him from being prosecuted at all is a very different thing. In spite of the admirable work of the R.S.P.C.A., cruelty to animals is common enough as it is, and it would become a great deal more common if the poverty of the owner were accepted as a reason for permitting him to work a diseased and worn-out horse. I wonder whether Mr. Eliot Howard would extend the principle he laid down to other offences. Would he, for example, hold that poverty was an excuse for poaching a rabbit or stealing a loaf of bread?

In my Legal Pillory this week two contrasted sentences from the West Riding Quarter Sessions make a striking illustration of magisterial views with regard to the relative heinousness of offences against the person and offences against property. Six months' imprisonment for an outrage on a little girl; seven years' penal servitude for the theft of a pair of trousers! Possibly the latter prisoner was an old offender, but it is difficult to conceive any record of previous convictions which would justify the infliction of seven years' penal servitude for a petty theft. Besides, as I have frequently pointed out, magistrates stultify themselves by practically ignoring previous convictions against persons charged with offences of cruelty and violence. There was a long list of convictions against the prisoners charged with brutally assaulting a policeman at Wakefield, but they were nevertheless let off with such sentences as are constantly passed upon first offenders for petty larceny. At Cumnock, again, a wife-beater who had been before the Court on several occasions was merely called upon to pay a fine once more, while at the same time a poacher at Cupar, having been in trouble for a similar offence six years ago, was, as a matter of course, committed to gaol for forty days:—

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Wakefield. Edward George Neighbour, convicted of assaulting a little girl six years of age. Six months.

Wakefield Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Luke Martin and Mary Ann Ward, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a policeman. The officer was knocked down and kicked by both the prisoners. There were thirty convictions against Ward, and twenty-seven against Martin, including five years' penal servitude for robbery with violence. They were fined 16s. each for drunkenness, and Ward was committed for one month and Martin for two months for the assault.

Blackburn Police-court. Fred Green, charged with committing an aggravated assault upon his wife by striking her in the face and kicking her about the body. Fined 10s. and costs.

Lincoln Police-court. Before Messrs. R. Watson and B. Vickers. Thomas Gill, convicted of assaulting his wife by knocking her down and kicking her. The woman said that during the six years she had been married "she had never been free from black flesh" owing to the defendant's ill-usage. Fined 20s., including costs.

Cumnock Burgh Court. Before Bailie Galbraith. Francis Carr, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her with his fist to the effusion of blood, pulling her about by the hair of her head, throwing her down, and kicking her. There were previous convictions against him. Fined £3.

West Riding Quarter Sessions, Wakefield. John Smith, convicted of stealing a pair of trousers. Seven years' penal servitude.

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Before Lord Hatherton and other magistrates. Charles Wardle, charged with stealing a pair of stockings. Twelve months.

Lancaster Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. T. F. Fenwick. Thomas Harrison, charged with stealing a pair of shoes. Twelve months.

Worcestershire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. J. W. Willis Bund. Thomas White, charged with stealing two bottles of gin. Twelve months.

Scarborough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Charles Whittaker, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway in possession of a rabbit net. Fined 40s.

Haywards Heath Police-court. Before Major Moberly and Mr. A. Weekes. John Nicholls, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Huntingdonshire Quarter Sessions. Before Mr. J. M. Heathcote and other magistrates. John Owen, charged with stealing a tin of pineapple from a shop. Three months.

Cupar Sheriff Court. Before Hon. Sheriff Honeyman. James Walter, charged with poaching. It was stated that the accused had been previously convicted six years ago. Forty days.

Newquay Police-court. Before Mr. R. Cardell. Wm. Johnson, charged with sleeping out. Fourteen days.

Leith Police-court. Before Bailie Smith. Joseph Adams, charged with assaulting his wife by knocking her down and kicking her. He said he would "kick her to pieces and finish her." Fined 20s.

St. Helens Police-court. John Greenall, charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife. He kicked her in the stomach and cut her head open by a blow with a poker. After telling the defendant that "he would be hanged if he did not stop it," the magistrates bound him over to keep the peace for six months, and on a further summons for persistent cruelty, a separation order was granted.

Lydney Police-court. Before Sir William Marling. Henry Ashman, Herbert Eastwood, and Wm. Tucker, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days each.

Runcorn Police-court. Charles Stubbs, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 10s. 6d., and in default of payment, committed for one month.

Downham Market Police-court. Before Mr. Henry Pope. Charles Pegram, charged with sleeping in the open air and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Angus Smart, jun., Alexander Mason, and George Bruce, jun., three young miners, charged with assaulting two elderly men named Robert Hunter and Wm. Hugh. Hunter was attacked on the highway, the accused knocking him down and kicking him about the body, and when Hugh went to his assistance he was similarly treated. The magistrate said it was an unprovoked and brutal assault. Smart fined 30s., Mason 25s., and Bruce 15s.

As many of my readers have doubtless gathered from their daily papers, Peter Paul Suckfull, the sole proprietor of "Madame Suckfull's World-Renowned High-class International Ladies' Companion and Family Agency," was last week brought up on a warrant at Marlborough-street Police Station. As he is now under remand, the time has not arrived for making any further observations on his case, but I may at least congratulate the police on having acted so promptly on the information lately given in TRUTH. I think I may also add that it would be a good thing if some more of the ladies who have complaints against Suckfull would communicate with the police, or with me, for a case of this kind cannot be made too strong. By the way, I was amused to read that Suckfull wept copiously while he was before Mr. Plowden. As already mentioned, he was in much the same condition when he visited this office a few weeks ago.

There was a remarkable episode last week at the Devon Quarter Sessions, held at Exeter. At the close of the second day's sitting only one case was left for trial, which was that of a labourer—one Samuel Baker—charged with obtaining a bicycle by false pretences at Kingsbridge. Just as the Court was about to adjourn it was intimated that the prosecution would be withdrawn, as the evidence would not justify the parties in proceeding to a trial. The prisoner had been committed for trial by the local magistrates, and had been kept in prison at Exeter for three months, and a true bill had been found by the grand jury! If the evidence was tardily discovered to be insufficient, how came the magistrates to decide that a primâ-facie case had been made out, and why did the grand jury return a true bill? The unfortunate prisoner might well ask who was going to compensate him for being kept three months in prison awaiting a trial which was never to take place.

The following experience of a correspondent with one of the largest advertisers of Yankee quack remedies is instructive. My correspondent happened to be suffering from an attack of rheumatism when the advertisement of "Kinlo's Foot Drafts" caught his eye, offering a "free"

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

trial of the remedy. He applied for the treatment, and in due course received a pair of the plasters with instructions for their use, accompanied by a circular stating that the price of the remedy was 2s. 9d., which he was expected to remit at the end of the week provided they had shown a tendency to relieve his ailment. But if the drafts proved valueless the "Good Health Alliance," under which euphemistic title the proprietor of "Kinlo's Foot Drafts" trades, offered to wipe the charge off its ledger on receipt of three penny stamps to cover the cost of the patent medicine stamp.

My correspondent gave the foot-drafts a trial, and finding at the end of the week that his rheumatism was rather worse, he determined to take no notice of the conditions which had been sprung upon him in the circular accompanying the "free" trial of the remedy. Within a day or two of the end of the week he received a second circular, reminding him that he had not forwarded the 2s. 9d., and as he again took no notice, he received a few days later a third communication threatening to place the matter in the hands of a solicitor unless the 2s. 9d. was sent by return of post, this communication, like the others, being a printed circular in the form of a type-written letter. Thus having by means of a plausible advertisement succeeded in getting a sufferer to apply for a trial treatment of their quack remedy, the "Good Health Alliance" endeavours to bounce him into paying for it by threats of legal proceedings. Of course, such threats are not worth the paper they are printed upon, but the bulk of those who receive them can hardly be aware of the fact, and the mere fact that such circulars are kept in common form is sufficient evidence to prove that the "Good Health Alliance" finds the game of extorting payment for their "free" treatment a profitable one.

A collection of advertisements from Cape Town newspapers, which one of my readers there has forwarded, seems to indicate that if nothing else is booming in South Africa quackery at least is doing so. What chiefly interests me in these advertisements is the discovery that South Africa is not dependent upon American or British importations, but has set up its own quack establishments. There is, for instance, a treatment for deafness by a concern at Johannesburg which has apparently been modelled on the Drouet Institute, and an electric belt business at Cape Town, which bears a strong resemblance to the one rendered notorious here by a prosecution at Bow-street; while there is also a South Africa Viavi Company, which, judging from an announcement of "illustrated addresses to ladies," works on the usual lines. It would be more creditable to the Press in South Africa (as in England) if it warned the public against these humbugs, instead of aiding and abetting them by the publication of their advertisements.

More than once I have warned backers against a betting agent named Fred. Hylton, of 12, Wyndham-Street, W., who claims that he was "for many years one of the Leviathans of the Australian Turf." Whatever he may have been there, he has become a welsher here. One week, a short time since, a gentleman who only bets occasionally became entitled to a winning balance of 10s. from Hylton, and the latter suggested that, as the amount was so small, it should be placed to his credit in the next account. In the next account the backer became entitled to a further sum of £1 17s. 6d., and as Hylton did not pay up on settling day, he applied for the £2 7s. 6d. then due. "Kindly continue your commissions to £5," was Hylton's answer, "and we will then have a settlement." The backer prudently refused to do this, and, although he has been unable to get his £2 7s. 6d., he is probably better off than if he had continued to do business with Hylton on the latter's plan of "Heads I win, tails you lose." A bookmaker who will not settle an account for £2 7s. 6d. is obviously not likely to pay up a larger amount, and as a matter of fact in the last case that I noticed Hylton had similarly welshed a backer to the tune of £42.

Justice has at last overtaken Donald Mackenzie and his accomplices in the system of swindling by means of racing and football coupon competitions and racing sweepstakes which was exposed in Truth nearly a year ago. In August, 1903, Mackenzie had become the proprietor of a paper called *Sporting Luck* and of a racing lottery business carried on under the name of "Dormice and Co." at Middelburg. Although an illegal business so far as this country was concerned, it seems to have been honestly conducted till Mackenzie took it over. He had for years borne a shady reputation in connection with similar businesses, and I very soon received information that under his management the "Dormice and Co." competitions and sweepstakes were essentially fraudulent, the most common of his tricks being the publication of the names and addresses of bogus prize-winners. The profitable nature of the frauds may be judged from the fact that over one sweepstakes alone he netted £3,800, which ought to have been distributed among the *bona fide* subscribers. At the Old Bailey last week Mackenzie was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, his manager to three months, and five persons who had fraudulently allowed their names to be used as prize-winners to one month each. It is to be hoped that their fate will be a warning to the rest of the gentry still engaged in practising the same kind of swindlers from Middleburg and other towns in Holland, though the game is so lucrative that it will not easily be suppressed.

A Yorkshire J.P. forwards a circular with which he has been favoured by a West End bookmaker named C. F. T. H. Chapman. "A few weeks ago," Chapman writes, "I addressed a communication to you with regard to your racing business, but not having heard from you with reference to the matter, I trust you will pardon this reminder, for I shall be pleased to entertain any proposal you may make for opening an account." It is bad enough that one should be pestered with any kind of unsolicited communications from touting bookmakers, but this follow-up letter, addressed to a gentleman who has never made a bet in his life with such gentry, displays an unusual degree of impudence.

Some months ago I alluded to a fee-snatching dodge which was being practised upon persons in search of employment by an individual giving the name and address of "W. Breakell, Birkdale, Southport." I find that he is still carrying on the same game. By means of advertisements in the newspapers persons desirous of becoming stewards, bakers, stokers, etc., on ocean liners are invited to apply for information to Breakell, and on doing so they receive a circular requesting the remittance of a fee of 2s. for advice and instructions "how to go about to get such employment." This circular is ingeniously worded with an eye to the law against obtaining money by false pretences, but its delusive character is pretty evident, and as a matter of fact all that Breakell supplies for the 2s. is another circular containing information which any intelligent person already possesses. It is noteworthy that the circulars issued by Breakell are virtually copies of those used by the notorious Forshaw, of Bolton. I do not know whether there is any connection between these two harpies, or whether one has plagiarised the other's circulars; but, be this as it may, the Birkdale and the Bolton businesses are both of the same nature.

A gentleman in the North of London sent me, the other day, some correspondence that he had had with Mr. J. G. Graves, of Sheffield, with regard to a notification appearing in a pawnbroker's window to the effect that Graves's fifty-shilling watches were to be obtained there for 25s. In view of what was said in this correspondence, I thought it worth while to interview the pawnbroker in question, Mr. F. J. Newman, of 289, Caledonian-road, and the result is rather interesting. From what Mr. Newman tells me, there is no doubt that he is, as he says, able to sell Graves's fifty-shilling watches, practically "in new condition," at about half price, and the reason of this is that a large number of these watches, practically unused, come into the market—apparently through pawnbrokers in the first instance—and can be bought for re-sale in the above way at a good trade profit. The fact, of course, has an important bearing upon the working of Mr. Graves's system of trade, for it shows most convincingly that a considerable portion of the people who are tempted by the terms he offers to buy goods from him on credit, are unable to keep up their instalments, and obliged to dispose of the goods before they have even paid for them.

The pawnbroker above mentioned gave my representative some further information in regard to this class of business. He stated that it is a common practice for working-class people, when in temporary need of a sum in cash beyond the reach of their current means, to obtain one or other of the articles that are offered to them on the instalment system of payment, and immediately pledge it with a pawnbroker. The most common occasion for resorting to this method of raising money is the necessity of meeting funeral expenses. For instance, a working-class woman who loses her husband, and has not the money to bury him, will obtain a sewing machine on credit and pledge it. One can hardly condemn this proceeding as dishonest; it is simply a desperate expedient forced upon the woman by dire necessity. And she herself is the worst sufferer from it, for she saddles herself with the payment of instalments for an article which is of no use to her, as well as with the payment of interest on the loan to the pawnbroker. It is a pitiable condition of things, and shows to what lengths even the poorest will go in order to avoid the stigma of pauperism, especially in connection with death.

On the other hand, there may be cases where loans are raised in this way without so good an excuse as the above, and the readiness with which the credit system and the tally-man business lend themselves to such abuses strengthens the more obvious objections to trade in this shape. It is bad enough that people of limited means should be tempted by indiscriminate offers of credit to buy goods which they cannot pay for, and which they might easily do without. But the evil becomes several degrees worse when the temptation is at the same time offered to such people of raising money on terms quite as ruinous as would be extorted by the worst class of blood-sucking usurer. There is, of course, no means of preventing any firm offering credit in this indiscriminate fashion; but the moral I desire to point is that the law should give the minimum of assistance to creditors for the recovery of this class of debts.

To go back for a moment to Mr. Graves, at the interview above mentioned, Mr. Newman handed to my representative a letter, which he had received so long ago as last March, from Mr. Broughton-Rouse, Mr. Graves's salaried solicitor. In this letter, after mentioning that Mr. Graves's attention had been called to the way in which Mr. Newman was selling his watches, Mr. Broughton-Rouse went on to say:—

> By your proceeding you are leading the public to suppose that you can sell my client's noted Express English Lever watches for 25s. less than he himself does, and you are undoubtedly committing a distinct fraud upon my client.
>
> Unless I at once receive your written assurance that this advertisement shall be at once withdrawn, and will not be repeated, I shall forthwith take proceedings against you, without any further notice.

To this letter, after traversing Mr. Broughton-Rouse's statement of the facts, Mr. Newman replied that he should not take the ticket out of his window, and that Mr. Broughton-Rouse would please address any further communications to his solicitor. He has heard nothing more from Mr. Graves or his solicitor, and, as I have said, the announcement still remains in his window. I mention this, as another example of the system of bluff adopted in connection with this business, and not applied, it appears, to debtors only.

The letter printed below affords another example of the "bluffing" tactics which seem to be essential to this class of trade. The writer in this case is Mr. J. N. Masters, of Rye, or his clerical representative, Mr. Masters having, I see, converted himself into a limited company. Masters, of Rye, carries on a very similar business to that of Graves, of Sheffield, but specially cultivates the Army and Navy, and when he has induced

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Sold everywhere.

a soldier or sailor to buy his goods, on credit which he cannot pay for, this is the way he applies a little pressure to the defaulting debtor:—

Hope House, Rye, Sussex,
August 17, 1904.

Sir,—We shall *not* tolerate your dishonest conduct any longer. Unless we have a satisfactory letter and remittance by return mail we shall be compelled to forward copy of the long overdue account to the War Office, and request that the paymaster be instructed to stop 6d. a day from your pay, and remit same to us. For J. N. Masters, Ltd.
A. H.

The threat is, of course, a foolish and futile one. Nobody knows better than Masters that he will get no assistance from the War Office. And that, to my thinking, only makes the use of such a threat the more unjustifiable. I may say that the letter was addressed to a soldier in a regiment in India, but there is no such man in the regiment, and the letter was returned to me by the sergeant-major, who thinks that it deserves publicity in the interest of soldiers, in which I entirely agree with him.

It was mentioned in Truth two or three weeks back that a female collector had been at work on Newmarket racecourse picking up contributions from turfites in aid of the "St. Mary's Protestant Home for Orphan Girls, and Crippled Children's Mission," which is carried on at St. Mary's-square, Kennington, S.E. This home, as I have already explained, is really the home of two ladies named Allen and Eagles, who live there and carry on a very profitable business, keeping a certain number of orphan girls, Protestant or otherwise, as their stock-in-trade. I am glad, therefore, to hear from the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire that the lady above mentioned has been "warned off" Newmarket Heath.

It would be well if similar steps were taken in other directions. A friend of mine who went down to the Crystal Palace to hear Kubelik last Saturday told me that another female agent of Mesdames Allen and Eagles was standing at the entrance to the High Level railway station, and brandishing her money-box under the noses of the crowd coming away from the concert. Fortunately, my friend, having his Truth at his finger-ends, was able to identify the St. Mary's Protestant Home, etc., but others were less well-informed, and the collector was doing a good business. I take it that a collector could not be in this position without the permission of the railway company, or at any rate some of its local officials, and it would be well if those gentlemen exercised a little more discretion in granting favours of this kind.

It was pointed out last week that in the grievances of agriculturists against railway rates the fault often lies as much with the lack of method in organisation among the consignors as with the actual charges of the companies. A railway official who seems to have had experience on several lines gives me some interesting evidence on this point:—

What is required is some collecting agency which will consign the goods in bulk, and thereby gain the advantage of the tonnage rates. Your farmer, however, is a Conservative in more ways than one. Some few years ago I was a stationmaster in Somerset. A complaint was lodged by a poultry society against the rates for conveying goods to London, which, if my memory serves me right, amounted to about ½d. per lb. for packages of about 40 lb. each, by express goods train, with free delivery in London. With the consent of the goods manager I offered to attend a meeting of the society and explain how the consignments could be bulked and sent as one lot from the society to its agents in London, the consignments to be split in London. I also suggest that the same agency should collect meat, vegetables, butter, and agricultural produce generally. The society, however, would not even give me a hearing.

There was existing in the same district a butter factory which collected butter from the farmers, put it on the butter table to extract the moisture—butter from farms always has an excess of moisture—packed it in neat square boxes, and forwarded the same to London in 2, 4, and 6 ton lots, filling up the rest of the truck, a meat van, with meat. The rates were moderate, and we had no complaints. The packages, being of uniform size, were easily handled, and the truck properly filled. Side by side a truck was loaded by farmers. It consisted of various small packages and weights, each addressed to a different consignee, and the total weight of the load rarely exceeded from 20 to 30 cwt., so it will be seen that the factory sent up a full load, which was profitable to the company, whereas the farmers' traffic of less than half-loads would be unprofitable.

There seems to me room for a company, or more than one, worked by big capital, to start milk and butter factories, collect in bulk agricultural produce of all kinds in the country, and sell the same in London. It is no use starting the business with a small capital; the thing must be done on a large scale, and it would be well that the company should have its own salesman in London.

Whatever may be the truth about railway rates, there can be no question as to the necessity for this and all other measures which make for economy in the transport of produce between producer and consumer.

By the way, the same correspondent tells me that there must be some mistake in the statement given to me the other day as to the cost of conveying apples from one part of Somerset to another exceeding the price at which American apples could be bought by the consumer. He says that apples can now be sent from Somersetshire to London by passenger train, at owner's risk, at ½d. per lb., which would include delivery in London. I think there is no doubt that my original informant made some miscalculation, or else that his facts are entirely out of date, for it is not long ago since I noticed in Truth the arrangements which the Great Western Railway Company has lately made for carrying all kinds of agricultural produce direct from the individual grower to the individual consumer in London; and the rates for this traffic are, I think, quite inconsistent with the story about the American apples. I know by experience that it is not easy to get at the exact truth in these matters. My present correspondent gives some particulars of the rates for fruit between various Kentish towns and London by the South-Eastern Railway, and I am bound to say that they seem to be very moderate.

IN VINO VERITAS.

Bacchus, a monthly organ of the licensed victuallers, published in its last number a Cartoon in which a Bung in football attire, presenting Mr. Balfour with a magnificent cup marked "Thanet," exclaims, "*Less than 200 votes turned the balance at Thanet. It may therefore safely be surmised that the Licensed Trade support secured the Government victory.*"

Mr. Balfour, no doubt, makes but light
Of the numerous foes that attack him,
But he surely must curse the hard spite
That has *Bacchus* persuaded to back him;
For this paper, in which, it would seem,
Mr. Bung's latest views are recorded,
Makes no secret of that high esteem,
Which it has to its champion awarded.

Poor, poor Mr. Balfour! He must
Have perused with the strongest objection,
How this *Bacchus* the doings discussed
Of the "Bungs" at the Thanet Election.

Alfred B. Pearce, 39, Ludgate Hill, London, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

It was only the truth, we're aware,
That the Publicans' organ asserted,
But it often induces a scare
When the truth is thus crudely out-blurted.

And although the Prime Minister knows
What the Licensing Act came to light for—
That the "Bungs," when the time came for blows,
Might the Government gallantly fight for—
Though he knows he these facts can't disown,
Yet it must with annoyance be teeming,
Thus to have his arrangements made known
By a half-tipsy *Bacchus's* screaming!

The Italian elections will show what is the numerical force of the extreme Socialists, who are so convinced that the present social and political conditions of existence are utterly rotten that they decline even to amend them, but would sweep them away. Practically they are Anarchists as well as Socialists, Anarchy being, in their opinion, the necessary step to secure Socialism. There is no country where Socialism is stronger and more widely spread than Italy. The Socialists are, however, weakened by their Party being divided between those who would attain their end by degrees, and are prepared to act with the Radicals in anything which they deem to the advantage of the working class, and the Social Anarchists. The former are by far the more numerous; the latter the more resolute and the better organised.

The late demonstrations in Milan, Genoa, Venice, and other large town were due to the action of the Social Anarchists. The strike was intended as a protest against the existing state of things, and was rather political than a dispute between Capital and Labour. Not only did the strikers refuse to work, but they forced all others to do the same, and all shops and places of business to be closed. In Milan they obliged the authorities to lower the national flag on the public buildings. These proceedings have been repudiated by the moderate section of the Socialists, by the majority of the Socialist Deputies in the Chamber that has just been dissolved, and by the extreme Radicals. On the other hand, the Conservatives complain of Giolitti not having taken immediate action to put down such high-handed proceedings. The Conservatives, however, are themselves divided into two sections—the extremists and the moderates, and the latter have given a qualified support up to now to the Giolitti Cabinet.

Giolitti therefore appeals to the country to support him as a Monarchist, and as one prepared to strengthen the hands of the Executive against Anarchy, by any legislative enactments that may be deemed requisite. The Anarchists have a considerable number of candidates. In every case in which only a Conservative and an Anarchist are standing the Government will throw its interest on the side of the former. Where a constitutional Socialist is opposed to a Radical, it will support the former, but apparently where there are only a Conservative and a moderate Socialist its influence will go to the latter.

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd, 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

What the outcome of all this will be no one seems precisely to know. The extreme men have frightened the country by the late political strike, but the moderates in Italy take little part in politics, and act without unity. It seems, however, improbable that the Giolitti Cabinet will long survive the election, but will fall between two stools. The Social Anarchists are not likely to secure a majority, but they will have a good many members in the new Chamber. Their votes will go against Giolitti, or against any Government that may be formed. The Conservatives, if they are strong, will be inclined to use their votes with their own to turn him out, as they have no love for him.

The Giolitti Cabinet has a majority in Parliament, but it is urged that it does not possess the confidence of the country, whilst on certain industrial issues that have arisen since the last General Election, the present Parliament is without a popular mandate. Signor Giolitti has recognised that the demand by the Opposition for a General Election is, under the circumstances, reasonable, and has advised the King to dissolve the Chamber, and decree an immediate General Election. Very different therefore has been the conduct of the Italian Premier to that of our Premier under somewhat similar circumstances. I would recommend to Mr. Balfour the following statement of Signor Giolitti in his letter to the King advising a dissolution:—

> The Ministry had been of opinion that the Chamber might have legislated upon the two great problems of treaties of commerce and the railroad question (this is whether the railroads are to be worked by the State or by private enterprise), but the country has been disturbed by disorders, provoked especially without due cause. This has created a state of things which does not ensure to the Chamber the calmness needed to discuss vital problems, on the decision of which the economic future of Italy will depend for a lengthy period. Under these circumstances, the Ministry believes it to be its duty to advise your Majesty to consult the country, after it has been fairly put in possession of the course that your Ministers intend to follow, so that their proposed action—if supported by the electorate—will have the force which the gravity of the issues to be decided demands. In order that the electorate shall be able to form its opinion without any possibility of equivocation, we deem it necessary to state clearly the general lines of our programme.

Signor Giolitti then proceeds, fully and without any Balfourian equivocations, to tell the country what the action of the Cabinet will be on the economic issues to which he has already referred, and on all others which seem likely to be raised in the Parliament that is to be elected. I believe that there is no doubt that the Cabinet would have had a majority in the present Parliament, for it would have been able to hold its own in case of defections on its own side with the help of the support of some of the Moderates. It is to be congratulated, therefore, whatever its fate may be at the coming election, on its readiness to risk a fall rather than remain in office without power by the trickery and chicanery through which our estimable Cabinet prolongs its dishonoured existence at the cost of truth, principle, respect for the will of the nation, and regard to the nation's interests.

It need hardly be said that the statements of the South African mining correspondents, and of their subsidised Press, in regard to Chinese labour in the Transvaal, are about as trustworthy as would have been those of the Spanish adventurers who conquered Cuba, Mexico, and Peru respecting the

happy lot of the natives of those lands who were assigned to them to work in their mines. I trust, therefore, that the articles of the *Daily Chronicle* headed "The Truth about Chinese Labour" will be published and circulated throughout the country. The *Daily Chronicle* has done good service in sending out to the Transvaal a special commissioner to investigate things on the spot. Instead of there being a scarcity of Kaffir labour, it would seem that it is fairly plentiful, provided that the mine owners are prepared to pay a fair price for it. Equally incorrect is it that mines earning a profit of 10s. per ton could not earn a fair dividend if white labour were employed on them at a fair wage. The Chinese labourers themselves are, according to the commissioner, the very refuse of China, very obstinate, very stupid, very lazy, and utterly loathing their work —so lazy, indeed, are they, that the bosses are beginning themselves to find out that they cost considerably more than Kaffirs.

All this is not surprising. The Chinese Government entered into a Peruvian contract now a considerable number of years ago. Chinese were crimped, and the Chinese local governors gave criminals under sentence the choice of being executed and becoming "free labourers" in the Chincha guano islands. So horrible were the iniquities that took place owing to this contract, that our own Government induced the Chinese Government to bring it to an end. Under the present contract recruitment takes place on much the same lines. Our "serfs" have already found themselves in conflict with the Transvaal police, and all sorts of dangers and difficulties may arise when the 100,000 that are expected arrive.

Even those who know little technically of war can at least realise that Kuropatkin has been outgeneralled by Marshal Oyama. Possibly the former subordinated his own views to orders from St. Petersburg, as suggested by our journalistic strategists. The Emperor of Russia was never intended by Nature to be an autocrat. He seems to be a poor weak creature, distrustful of his own abilities, and easily swayed by those around him. In Russia there are a vast number of Grand Dukes. Probably those least dangerous to their country are those who squander money in leading a fast and disreputable life in Paris and in other resorts of idle fools, and the most dangerous are those who play the part of political and military advisers to the head of their family at home. These latter are usually intent on making money corruptly, and even if they were honest, they do not seem to be endowed with superabundant intelligence. The Grand Dukes, one or two spiritualist seers, and a few favourites, seem to be just now the rulers of the Russian Empire.

Whether, however, Kuropatkin accepts his strategy from this crew, or acts on his own initiative, is unimportant. He himself proclaimed ostentatiously that he had troops enough to drive the Japanese out of Manchuria. Then he proceeded to try to do it, and the attempt has proved a failure, for, though the fight has been long and desperate, almost beyond precedent, he has been hopelessly defeated and driven back.

It has always surprised me how few generals of genius the world has produced considering the number who have engaged in war. Those whose genius really commanded success can almost be counted on the fingers, and, what is more curious, several of these have not shown ability in anything but war. Generally speaking, generals know something of their trade, but they do not rise above the military par of intelligence. One is about as good a commander as another. To the uninitiated, it would seem that in modern war, the first essential is to have cannon that carry far, that have perfect missiles which work havoc on the enemy, and that are well served. Since the Boer war our military guides—often civilians—have insisted upon teaching our soldiers to aim straight. I always doubted whether too much stress was not being laid on this, for soldiers, whether they can shoot straight or not, usually in a great battle fire without aiming. What is occurring in Manchuria seems to show that good artillery counts for more than accurate musketry fire.

Of late years the tendency has been to devise international agreements that may render wars less harmful to those engaged in them. I remember hearing John Stuart Mill, replying in 1865 or '66 to such well-intended suggestions in the House of Commons. Far from mitigating the horrors of war, he would, he said, aggravate them, and include civilians amongst those to suffer from them. This view struck me at first as somewhat startling, but I have come to the conclusion that it is sound. The greater the misery occasioned by war, the less likely will nations be to engage in them. When battles become massacres, even soldiers will not prefer war to peace. Soldiers, however, are not those who provoke wars. This is usually the work of ambitious statesmen, Jingo journalists, and the sort of patriots who got drunk in the streets of London to celebrate the relief of Mafeking, and who, whenever peace was suggested, vowed that it concerned our honour to fight it out to the bitter end.

During the late South African war, I frequently saw articles in our Jingo Press lauding wars as creative of a manly spirit, and explaining that a nation is apt to degenerate if it does not undergo occasionally this healthy remedy. Even now there are associations to encourage the waving of flags on certain specified days, with addresses in our public schools celebrating the deeds of national heroes of our wars. In this way alone, it is suggested, can the demoralising effect of trade and commerce, and of base mechanical labour, be counteracted. All this seems to me going back to the days when armed ruffians in armour of proof went about slaying decent citizens, and when a baneful crew of loafers calling themselves bards sang their praises and celebrated their exploits.

As a humanitarian, I desire as much as anyone that the massacres of Japanese and Russians, both equally brave, should cease. But I do not agree with those who would have Europe officially take steps to bring this about. When the European nations urged arbitration on us during the South African war, and expressed their willingness to act as peacemakers, we received the suggestion with indignation, and begged them not to meddle in what did not concern them. *A fortiori*, the Russians will decline to listen to like suggestions, for they have been defeated. If it were proposed that the two nations should go back to the *status quo ante*, this might find favour with Russia, but is it likely that the Japanese would assent?

What neutrals have to do when two States are at war is to keep well out of all meddling with them, and to do their utmost to localise the war. In this Far Eastern war, pretty well every Great Power has its own axe to grind, and its own interests to look after, and this militates against any one of them, or all of them collectively, being likely to act with that independence of judgment which is needed in an arbitration. It is a good sign that not only the Russians, but also the Japanese, are beginning to be aghast at the loss of life, and it may be that before long they will agree upon some reasonable *modus vivendi*. But they are far more likely to do this of their own accord than if other Powers seek to impose upon them peace.

THE FARMER AND THE WEAZEL.

One, Giles, by Rats was much distressed,
Which *would* his Poultry-House infest;
Nor could he find effective Way
To "out" them, as the Vulgar say.
These seasoned Poachers, old and tried,
Our Farmer's utmost Wiles defied;
They shunned his Traps; refused to taste
His Strychnine or his Phosphorus Paste,
But still complacently pursued
Their Rapine on his feathered Brood.
'Twas just when Giles was desperate made,
That Weasel came with proffered Aid.
Kind was Mustela's Speech; his Air,
Insinuating, bland, and fair;
In fact, you might have sworn his Breast
No single other Thought possessed,
Save how to serve the Farmer best.
"Good Giles," in feeling Tones, said he,
"You have my deepest Sympathy.
But see in me the trusty Friend,
Who 'll bring your Troubles to an End,
And stop those Rats from any more
Raiding your Roost as heretofore.
Come! Let *me* guard your Roost, dear Giles;
I'm up to Rats and all their Wiles;
Can track 'em with unerring Scent,
And follow whereso'er they 're bent.
Yea! Safety none from me they know,
On Tiles above, in Drains below.
I'm worth a dozen Dogs or Cats.
Leave it to me to 'out' your Rats!"
He spoke. And honest Giles, who heard,
Trusting, too credulous, his Word,
The Weasel in the Fowl-House locks,
To guard from Rats his Hens and Cocks.

Thither next morning Giles repaired
To see Mustela how he'd fared.
"Weasel!" he cried. Came back no Sound.
A death-like Silence reigned around.
Anxious, he opened, then, the Door,
And stood upon the Fowl-House Floor.
What there he saw made Giles turn blue;
Weasel, the Rats had "outed," true;
He 'd "outed" all the Poultry, too!"

Moral.

If Debts you have and can't defray 'em,
Don't have recourse to Jews to pay 'em.
In helping you, those crafty Elves,
To all you've got will help—themselves.

GLASGOW. ST. ENOCH HOTEL (facing St. Enoch-square). Most convenient. The Station Hotels at AYR and DUMFRIES are charming centres for Tourists & Burns Country. Descriptive tariff free.

SCRUTATOR.

MR. WINKLE AT SEA.

THE Russian attack on the Hull fishing fleet is naturally calculated to provoke the keenest indignation in every Briton. The proceeding is essentially "outrageous," and much less violent outrages have in past times involved nations in war. But that such a result should follow in the present instance is simply inconceivable. Whatever theory is adopted, the incident is at present almost inexplicable; but of all possible theories the most improbable is that it was deliberately planned with the object of provoking this country into hostilities. If the Russian Government cherished any such design—and even for that it would be difficult to discover an adequate motive—there are plenty of means of carrying it into execution without resorting to piratical outrages on peaceful civilians which must place the Government committing them almost outside the pale of civilisation. We are bound, therefore, to assume that, whatever the explanation of the affair may be, the Russian Government is innocent of any complicity in it, and that it will, therefore, take the earliest opportunity of apologising for the outrage, and making full reparation to all who have suffered by it. It is to be hoped that by the time these remarks are published this will have been done, or at least promised. At the moment of writing all the indications point in that direction.

Assuming for the moment that the affair is not likely to develop any of the elements of a *casus belli*, it still remains one of the most astonishing and disgraceful incidents that have ever occurred between two nations. The most plausible theory is that the act was simply an explosion of wild, unreasoning panic, prompted by the idiotic "yarns," with which Russian officers and seamen have been stuffed, of deep schemes laid by the Japanese for scuttling the fleet on its passage into or through the North Sea. The Russian Embassy has given its *imprimatur* to this hypothesis, but one more humiliating to the Russian nation and its navy can hardly be conceived. It implies that the Russian Government has been quite bereft of its senses by the performances of the Japanese in the East, and is ready to credit them, on the strength of any cock-and-bull story reported to it, with almost superhuman cunning and resources. It shows us the invincible Armada, which has gone forth to restore Russian supremacy in the Pacific, creeping

along on the threshold of its enterprise like a nursery maid in a dark churchyard, pursued by bogeys of her own imagination, quaking at every object in the landscape, and ready to shriek and run if a bat flaps its wings or a neighbouring donkey brays. But the situation is worse than ridiculous. Although it may easily be that the extent of the firing from the Russian ships on our helpless fishing boats has been exaggerated, the officers must eventually have discovered that the alarm was a false one, and that they had probably done considerable damage. It is almost incredible that they did not see that they had sunk one of the boats, if not more, and if there is any truth in the statement that one of their ships was left in the neighbourhood till daybreak, any doubt on these points should then have been removed. Their conduct in sailing away under these circumstances, without making any attempt to save the drowning men or help the wounded, points either to the most callous brutality or the grossest stupidity and ignorance of their own business. Perhaps the most amazing thing of all is their subsequent failure to communicate with any British port and give information of what had occurred, to say nothing of tendering explanations or apologies, notwithstanding that they were for the next day or two in sight of the English coast. It really looks as if they had opened fire on these unfortunate boats in complete ignorance of the fact that they were passing through a frequented fishing ground; blazed away blindly without taking the trouble to see whether they had hit anybody; and gone on their way blissfully unconscious that they had done anything inconsistent with the usual practice of warships when navigating the high seas in the neighbourhood of friendly Powers.

It is natural that the cry should be heard on all sides that a fleet managed in this fashion, and manned and officered by seamen in such a condition of nerves and understanding, is a public danger, and that steps of some kind should be taken to limit its powers for mischief during its imposing progress round the world. One feels towards it much as Mr. Pickwick did when he insisted that Mr. Winkle should carry his gun with the muzzle downwards. But what particularly impresses me at the moment is that this is the chief unit of the navy which has served for years as one of the principal bugbears of our domestic alarmists. When a long-suffering British taxpayer asks why he is to-day paying over forty millions per annum for his navy, whereas ten years ago less than half that sum was considered by all competent authority sufficient for the purpose, he is told that it is because it has been found necessary to adopt the "two-Power standard" of naval strength. When he proceeds to inquire into the necessity for this standard, he learns that it arose out of the Franco-Russian alliance. Our wise men saw nothing in that combination but a sinister design of uniting the French and Russian navies for the subjugation of the British Empire, so we had to prepare ourselves for that contingency, to the tune, eventually, of over twenty millions sterling per annum. During the whole interval the Russian fleet has loomed large in all the two-Power calculations of our amateur and professional advisers. Did our Government lay down a new battleship, the Navy League was always ready to show that the Russian Government was laying down one which could blow her out of the water, and that we must have two at least to save us from this monster. The doings in the Russian yards, the new departures in Russian cruisers or torpedo boats, the immeasurable superiority of new Russian naval guns to our own, have been the stock-in-trade of all the Jeremiahs whose business it is to preach to us the imminence of the dreadful day when Britannia shall cease to rule the waves. We have been bidden to quake before the Russian bogey, in conjunction with others, like the Russian officers themselves before the terrible and ubiquitous Japanese, sowing their deadly mines in the Baltic and the Sound as easily as if it were the entrance to Port Arthur. We have danced to this tune and piled up our naval expenditure by millions on millions annually. And now we see this particular bogey at close quarters—the turnip, the candle, and the whole mechanism. The truth about the Russian navy is written large enough to be read by the veriest simpleton. Its men have fought nobly and heroically, as Russian men seem always to do. Its ships and its guns may have been all that the most eloquent Navy League pamphleteer could paint them. But in all that goes to make success in maritime warfare—and the whole of it may be summed up, to my mind, in the magic word seamanship—it stands revealed as hopelessly lacking. From the fatal night when the Japanese first caught the enemy at their mercy outside Port Arthur, down to this last serio-comic onslaught on the North Sea fishing-boats, it is one long, unvarying story of irredeemable incompetence; nothing done that ought to have been done, everything done that ought not to be done. If we are wise we shall ponder these things, and learn to our profit that the strength of a nation at sea is not to be measured on paper or bought with money. Our own history tells us that it has never been so in the past, and the Russians have taught us, despite all the babbling of our amateur wiseacres about the changes that science has wrought in naval warfare, that it is not so to-day.

A WILD-CAT PENSION SCHEME.

Since the last reference in Truth to the National Old-Age Pension Trust I have received two letters from Mr. W. Taverner, who is the founder and the moving spirit of the organisation, and I have also had a lengthy personal interview with that gentleman. As I am constantly receiving from all parts of the kingdom and all sorts and conditions of men inquiries respecting this scheme, and as the subject is obviously one of considerable public interest, I will now endeavour to give the result of my communication with the secretary. Broadly speaking, what the Trust offers to its members is an old-age pension, which may be as much as 10s. a week, on reaching the age of sixty, and a payment, which may be as much as £100, in the event of death before reaching that age. The founders claim to have solved the old-age pension question, and if they are right, they have done more than that, for they hold out to their subscribers not only a pension, but a substantial life insurance as

well. Partly owing to its intrinsic attractiveness, and partly owing to the auspices under which the scheme has been started, it has attracted widespread attention. It was desired, in the first place, to enrol 8,000 foundation members, and Mr. Taverner tells me that this number was obtained almost immediately, and that all classes of the community are represented among them. It is highly probable that if the thing goes on as it is going hundreds of thousands of people—the majority, of course, being working men or others of small means—will soon be subscribing to the fund. It is therefore of great importance that the question whether the scheme is sound or unsound should be settled decisively.

In order that the reader may understand the bearing of what I am about to say, it will be convenient, in the first place, to state the main features of the scheme. They are as follow:—

1. Membership is open to every British-born subject over 16 years of age. There is no other definite age limit for entry, but the rules give the Trustees power to suspend the enrolment of new members over 54 until "the requisite majority" of younger members is forthcoming." What this means is more precisely shown by a statement on the back of the proposal form, which explains that "the working basis of the scheme is that eleven persons under the age of 60 must always be maintained on the books for each member over that age." There is no medical test for admission to membership.

2. There are two classes of members. "honorary" and "beneficiary"; the former paying not less than £2 10s. in any given year, as a "gift," the latter paying a variable sum, to be determined every quarter by the trustees, subject to a minimum quarterly payment of 6s. 6d., and a maximum of 13s. That is to say, the payment is to be from 6d. to 1s. per week.

3. The administrative expenses are limited to 2s. per annum per beneficiary member.

4. The pension, according to Rule IV., is to be 10s. per week on attaining the age of 60. But it would appear that this amount is conditional entirely upon the financial position of the Trust for the time being, and that the trustees have power to vary the pension rate from quarter to quarter. But a member joining after the age of 30, must continue his subscription permanently after he begins to draw pension; in other words, his pension, in this case, is subject to a deduction, which may be as much as 1s. per week; and further, members continuing their employment after the age of 60, are only entitled to half pension, *i.e.*, a maximum of 5s.

5. In the event of death before the age of 60, a member, provided he has subscribed for three years, is entitled, through his representatives, to a sum based on the current rate of pension, one year's pension being given for the first ten years' membership, and an additional year's pension for each subsequent five years' membership, up to a maximum of £100, *e.g.*, if pensions were being paid at the rate of 10s. per week, a member dying after subscribing for four years would be entitled to £26; on dying after subscribing for 25 years, he would be entitled to £100. In order, however, to entitle them to this payment, the representatives of the deceased must be themselves members of the Trust; otherwise they only receive half these benefits.

6. Six months' pension money is also payable to the representatives of a pensioner on his death.

7. A Reserve Fund is to be formed by the accumulation of the general subscriptions during the first three years which have to elapse before any liabilities to members fall due, and to be increased subsequently by carrying to it annually 20 per cent. of the subscriptions of honorary members, and the first year's subscriptions of all beneficiary members. The income of this fund is available for the current purposes of the Trust; but the principal is reserved exclusively to meet liabilities in the event of the Trust being for any reason wound up.

There are, of course, a great many minor provisions and regulations; but the above are the cardinal features of the scheme.

On looking at this scheme it struck me at once that the benefits offered were out of all proportion to the payments, and I was confirmed in this view by criticism in other papers, purporting to be based on actuarial calculations. I also found in an account of the starting of the scheme, in a publication called the *Spurgeon Memorial Record*, the following passage:—

> This is not an insurance society; it is partly a benevolent society, and the man who is trying to prove that this is an unsound scheme, on an insurance basis, is giving himself a great deal of unnecessary trouble. We are not ashamed of printing in bold type, that this scheme is Absolutely Rotten to the Core, if it is to be looked upon as a society where the payments are to be in proportion to the benefits.

It should be explained that the *Spurgeon Memorial Record*, in which this passage appears, is the organ of the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society, an organisation for distributing the sermons of the late Mr. C. H. Spurgeon. Mr. Taverner is the secretary of this society, and among the trustees are the Rev. W. Cuff, of Shoreditch Tabernacle, and the Rev. F. G. Wheeler, of Thornton Heath, who are also trustees of the Old Age Pension Trust. All the communications that I have received from Mr. Taverner on the subject of the Trust are written upon the stationery of the Spurgeon Memorial Sermon Society. It will be seen, therefore, that the Society and the Trust are closely mixed up together, and the above statement in the *Record* may be regarded as official. In point of fact, Mr. Taverner has admitted to me that he himself wrote the article from which the above passage is taken. Taking this declaration that the Trust is "partly a benevolent society," with the provision for "gifts" from subscriptions by honorary members, I said in Truth, in my original references to this scheme, that the founders themselves appeared to be conscious of the financial shortcomings of the scheme, and defended it as of a philanthropic rather than a business character.

The reader will now be in a position to appreciate the following letter, which I received from Mr. Taverner by way of protest against this criticism:—

Re The National Old-Age Pension Trust.

The Editor of Truth.

October 7, 1904.

My Dear Sir,—I am sorry to see that some contributor to your paper has again indulged in some very foolish and absurd remarks. I do not wish to use any discourteous language, but I think that one Actuary's opinion ought to receive as much respect as another if they are both members of the same Institute. Our Actuary in his report, which has been specially drawn up for one of the London Evening Papers, says that without counting a single penny piece in the shape of Honorary Members' subscriptions, or that any pensioners would only claim half benefits through not ceasing from employment, and for the first 12 years of our own self-supporting basis work, we shall have a quarter of a million pounds surplus. He has also, by special request, reckoned the mortality with the highest possible rate, namely, on the 3rd, English Life Table of 1841-51.

At the end of 12 years, there is a deficiency of a quarter of a million pounds a year, but on the figures he has worked out, there would be nearly 250,000 pensioners. Thus, if they each were curtailed a matter of 10s. a year, giving a pension of £25 10s.—instead of the full maximum, £26, and each death benefit was curtailed 10s., as it is provided for in the Rules, this quarter of a million deficiency would be made (up), and no greater deficiency would be possible for a good many years ahead. But, let me again repeat this, that that is on our own self-supporting basis, and is it too much to assume that as many pensioners only claiming 5s. instead of 10s., and with Honorary Members' help, that from the 12th year onwards, we might reasonably hope to have many hundreds of thousands of pounds surplus?

I am very much afraid that your contributor saw an article in the London *Daily News*, written by a man who has acted in a most underhand manner, and who has been severely censured for his sharp practices by the officials of the paper. Several other papers fell into the trap that he had laid for them, but for you, as a responsible Editor, taking for granted that another paper has since regretted the printing seems to me utterly incomprehensible. I am not altogether sure whether your last sentence does not exceed the bounds of fair newspaper criticism. We are prepared to make an affidavit in any court of law that there will be pensions paid in 1907, and I think you will see that you have

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

stated a very positive contradiction to this. However, Sir, I sincerely hope that these actuarial facts will enlighten you.

The Actuary's report concludes as follows:—"I must strongly recommend a thorough investigation into the possibilities of the Rules."—Yours very truly WILLIAM TAVERNER. for Trustees.

Have you *carefully examined* the Rules yourself? Some papers actually have said we give £100 at Death. Think of the fallacy of that alone when compared with rule 24.

This letter speaks for itself so plainly that comment upon it is almost unnecessary. It unequivocally admits that an actuarial report on the scheme has been obtained, which shows that at the end of twelve years there will be a deficiency of £250,000 per annum. In an airy way Mr. Taverner goes on to explain how easily this deficiency can be met by reducing the pensions by 10s. a year; and when this has been done, he tells us that there will not be any further deficiency for "a good number of years ahead." It is true he also adds that this calculation assumes that all members will draw full pensions, and leaves out of account the subscriptions of honorary members. This may or may not amount to much—I will say something more on the point presently—but the fact remains that the letter admits, as unequivocally as Mr. Taverner's own words in the *Spurgeon Memorial Record*, "that this scheme is absolutely rotten to the core, if it is looked at as a society where the payments are to be in proportion to the benefit."

It seemed to me so difficult to believe that any man would launch a scheme of this character and magnitude knowing that he had no guarantee for its solvency for more than twelve years, that, in fairness to Mr. Taverner, I thought it better to communicate with him before publishing his letter, in case he had failed to convey precisely what he meant. I suggested at the same time that he should come and see me personally, and in his letter accepting this invitation he wrote as follows:—

Yes, I fully intended making the statement that at the end of twelve succeeding years, at our present rate of progress, there would be a deficiency of quarter of a million pounds per annum, but did I not qualify that statement? This particular report has been drawn up for one of the evening papers, the editor of which is very warmly drawn to our scheme, but he wished for two questions to be answered, and this particular report only deals with those two questions. To answer them, the editor and the trustee expressly desired the actuary to assume that not a single individual would apply for half pension, and that not a penny piece would be received from any honorary members, and that the interest on the reserve funds never exceed 3 per cent. Now, we know for a *definite certainty*, that there will be a fair proportion of our members who will never ask for a full pension. We have hundreds of well-to-do tradesmen on our books, and I think you will see at once, that a tradesman is not going to sell a lucrative business to take up a pension. Yet, you will remember, that by the terms of the Rules, a member is bound to absolutely cease from employment of every description. Therefore, our argument is this: If for the first twelve years, the critical period, we have a quarter of a million surplus, still assuming that no one asks for a half pension, we say that this quarter of a million surplus may change into half a million surplus, and that the assumed deficiency of the twelfth and succeeding years (*sic*) will also turn at least into a fully sufficient sum, even if it does not yield a surplus. This is on the self-supporting basis of the scheme; but if out of, say, 200,000 pensioners, 100,000 only ask for a half pension, and we get a moderate support from honorary members, surely the most sceptical will admit that the scheme has a fair chance of being more than an overwhelming success.

I quote these words partly because they save a repetition of much that Mr. Taverner said at our interview, and partly because they show in the most striking way the loose style of argument upon which this gentleman's conclusions are built. He has at present hundreds of well-to-do tradesmen on the books—a thing natural enough, seeing the class to whom a movement started by a Nonconformist society naturally appeals in the first place. From these hundreds of tradesmen he proceeds to extract, purely by guesswork, a quarter of a million sterling, with which he wipes out the annual deficiency of £250,000, which, it is admitted, will have to be faced after the twelfth year. Not content with this, he goes on, still by pure guesswork, to surmise that, "say," 100,000 out of 200,000 persons entitled will only draw half-pensions. Then, throwing in an unknown quantity of equally nebulous honorary members, he invites "even the most sceptical" to admit the prospect of "more than an overwhelming success."

It was after these preliminaries that Mr. Taverner called at this office on Friday last. He is one of the most voluble gentlemen that I have ever encountered. I say this not disrespectfully, but in order to explain the impossibility of giving his *ipsissima verba* on any of the matters discussed. I think he would have staggered a champion shorthand-writer, and it was only with great difficulty that I now and again checked the torrent of his eloquence sufficiently to obtain some definite idea of what he was driving at. The substance of what I gathered is this: The scheme is absolutely Mr. Taverner's own invention. He was formerly secretary to a Member of Parliament, and in that way became familiar with the subject of old-age pensions when—about the time of a General Election—it was supposed to be within the sphere of practical politics. When the Royal Commission sat to consider the subject, Mr. Taverner himself was in America, but he forwarded a sketch of his scheme to Mr. Walter Long, M.P., with a view to its being considered by the Commission. Whether the Commission ever heard anything of it he does not know, but it would seem that either Mr. Long or the Commission did not consider the proposal worthy of serious consideration. Mr. Taverner himself is not an actuary, in which respect he and I meet on equal terms. Our positions, however, differ in this, that Mr. Taverner is floating this scheme, and I am merely criticising it. It is therefore a most material fact that Mr. Taverner never consulted any recognised actuarial authority before drawing up his scheme and putting it into operation. Unless I entirely misunderstood him, he has never taken any actuarial advice, except under the circumstances mentioned in his first letter to me, namely, for the purpose of answering two questions propounded by the editor of some evening paper, the name of which he did not think himself justified at present in mentioning.

Having cleared up the history of the project, I questioned Mr. Taverner as to the passage quoted above from his proposal form, that "the working basis of the scheme is that eleven persons under the age of sixty must always be maintained on the books for each person over that age." He adhered absolutely to this statement. I

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put to him that on this basis, in order to pay a pension to one member, the Society has to undertake a future liability for the payment of eleven other pensions, and that when these eleven other members come upon the fund, in order to pay their pensions a further future liability must be entered into for 132 more, who in their turn would require 1,452 to support them, and so on *ad infinitum*. I asked him whether he seriously contemplated that it would be possible to go on in this way extending the membership indefinitely in a geometrical ratio. He replied that this had been fully thought out. He contemplated, he said, having the whole adult population of the United Kingdom on the books, and a competent expert had drawn up a calculation, showing exactly what would be the position of the fund when this state of things was arrived at. Of course, this statement showed that the fund would still be solvent, subject to the trifling qualifications which are to be seen in his two letters to me quoted above. We discussed this point at some length, though the discussion was mostly on Mr. Taverner's side, and we failed to shake his belief in the soundness of this "working basis" of the pension scheme.

To my mind the whole idea is a self-evident absurdity. Apart from any question of the limits of the population, and consequently of the possibility of extending the membership to the requisite degree, the whole scheme rests on the assumption that it will always be possible to enrol eleven subscribers below the age of sixty for every pensioner on the fund. This is a pure assumption, unsupported either by evidence or *a priori* reasoning. For instance, in the actuarial calculation mentioned in Mr. Taverner's first letter, we are told that at the end of twelve years there will be "nearly 250,000" pensioners on the fund. On the "working basis" of eleven subscribers to one pensioner, there must be by that time about 2,750,000 paying members to support the 250,000 pensioners. Is there any reasonable probability that this number of subscribers will be obtained, the scheme being what it is? Such an expectation is obviously most extravagant, but Mr. Taverner has persuaded himself that the thing is practically certain. My City Editor, who was present at the interview, pointed out to him that all schemes of this class appeal primarily to men of middle age, and that it would be contrary to all experience to expect that the whole population above sixteen will be attracted towards membership; but the fact that he has already enrolled numbers of young men seemed to satisfy Mr. Taverner that he can always rely on doing so, though the circumstances under which the scheme has been started are quite exceptional, and afford no warrant for the assumption that the process of enrolling young men can be continued indefinitely. When he found us sceptical on this point, Mr. Taverner fell back on the argument that large numbers of the members will never take more than half pensions, and that the available pension fund will be further increased by the honorary subscriptions. But here again his argument is still pure assumption. He finds all classes of people, including tradesmen and professional men, among his first batch of subscribers, and he assumes that he can rely indefinitely on these classes supporting the scheme and drawing only half pensions; but he takes no account of the fact that the scheme, launched as it is under the auspices of an important religious denomination, naturally appeals in the first instance to all members of that denomination, regardless of age or social position. This clearly affords no justification for the inference that the well-to-do classes outside the limits with which Mr. Taverner is able to exert a special influence, can be relied on to continually furnish fresh relays of subscribers. A point which he made incidentally in this branch of the argument shows most significantly the fallacies on which Mr. Taverner builds. Pointing to the rule which requires that in order to draw the full death benefits, the representatives of a deceased member must themselves be members, he urged that this affords a most potent inducement for extending membership. Every member's wife could be relied on to subscribe in order to make sure of obtaining full benefit in the event of her husband's death. But he seemed never to have taken account of the fact that the wife would be a liability as well as an asset, that her pension would have to be provided for, and the insurance money also in the event of her death, and he seemed quite surprised when it was suggested that the life of a young married woman may carry, from the insurance point of view, a heavier liability than that of her husband. When further pressed, he argued that the trustees, if they found that the "working basis" of one pensioner to eleven paying members was not strong enough, could strengthen it by increasing the proportion to one to twelve, or even one to thirteen. But the answer is obvious. Every step taken in that direction must increase the difficulty of finding the necessary number of subscribers, this difficulty also multiplying itself in geometrical ratio. If the scheme looks absurd when worked out on the basis of one to eleven, it only becomes more so on the basis of one to twelve, or one to thirteen. In a word, nothing that Mr. Taverner had to say diminished in the slightest degree the preposterous character which the pension scheme wears on the face of it. On the contrary, his arguments only accentuated the hare-brained and delusive nature of the calculations and reasoning on which the whole thing is founded.

The subject was also discussed at our interview with particular reference to the death benefit. Setting aside any question as to the possibility of increasing membership indefinitely in the ratio of eleven subscribers to every pensioner, Mr. Taverner was asked to look at the following calculations. For each group of twelve people on this "working basis" the fund receives, at 1s. a week subscription, the sum of £31 4s. per annum. To the one pensioner out of the twelve it pays, at 10s. a week £26 per annum, leaving a balance in hand of £5 4s. For each member, however, 2s. per annum is allowed for administration expenses, or £1 4s. for each group of twelve. This leaves a net balance of £4 per annum to the fund from the group of twelve, or 6s. 8d. per annum from each member. For these payments of 6s. 8d. per annum, it is proposed to insure each subscriber's life

for an amount ranging from £26 to £100, setting aside, of course, any question as to payment for pension. Mr. Taverner was asked whether he had any actuarial authority for considering that these sums could be insured for a premium of 6s. 8d. per annum or practically 1½d. a week. He replied that the matter had never been considered from that point of view. Any one who will look for himself at the ordinary rates of premium in life assurances offices will see in a moment that the idea of granting the proposed death benefits on a premium of this amount is utterly preposterous. Taking the Prudential as a fair example of a sound industrial insurance office, I find that the annual premium for an insurance of £100 at the age of twenty-one is £1 18s. 10d., and rises to £5 15s. 4d. at the age of fifty-five. As twenty-five years' membership is required to insure £100 in Mr. Taverner's scheme, and as the maximum insurance is reduced to £13 in the event of the subscriber surviving to the age of sixty, the member must have joined before the age of thirty-five in order to obtain the full benefit. Assuming that he joined at the age of thirty, his annual premium for £100 on the Prudential scale would be £2 9s. 6d. It is true that this premium is chargeable with heavy administration expenses, which we have taken off in Mr. Taverner's case; and also that the £100 is insured for the whole life, whereas in Mr. Taverner's case it is reduced to £13 at the age of sixty. But after making full allowance for these two points, the disparity between £2 11s. 6d. and 6s. 8d. is obviously beyond all reason, and for all practical purposes the disparity is as great at whatever age the test is applied. Moreover, it has also to be taken into consideration that, unlike the generality of insurance offices, Mr. Taverner is accepting lives without any medical examination—a method of conducting business which is bound to swamp the fund with bad lives—a consideration which also helps to vitiate the pension branch of the business, for it will inevitably add to the difficulty of keeping upon the books the requisite proportion of non-pensioners to pensioners. Looking, however, at the death benefits alone, and leaving the question of pensions entirely out of consideration, it is clear to my mind that this Trust is offering what no business man would for a moment dream of offering, and what it has no probability of ever being able to carry out. It seems to me that when you take these calculations and compare them with Mr. Taverner's admission in this office, that the question of the death benefits has never been looked at from that point of view, the whole scheme stands hopelessly self-condemned.

Other points arose in the course of my conversation with Mr. Taverner. Others arise on the various rules by which the Trust is to be governed. To consider them further, however, at the present time would only obscure the main issue. In my judgment, in order to test the practicability of this scheme, it is necessary to concentrate attention upon two points: (1) the "working basis" of the pension fund as described by the promoters; (2) the actuarial basis of the proposed death benefits. What I have now said will enable the reader to judge how the argument stands, for and against the Trust, on each of these points. Mr. Taverner himself tells us that the Trust is not an insurance society, but "partly a benevolent society," and that "the scheme is absolutely rotten to the core if it is looked upon as a society where the payments are to be in proportion to the benefits." He goes on to talk about "leaving the old worn rut of ordinary insurance, in which a man has got to pay so much more because he happens to be less capable of doing so than his neighbour." All these phrases indicate the unpractical spirit in which the scheme is conceived. Mr. Taverner has evidently persuaded himself, and persuaded those with whom he is associated, that purely business considerations may be safely disregarded, because the scheme is "partly benevolent." His attitude towards purely actuarial arguments implies a firm conviction that though the scheme may fail when looked at from a business point of view, it will yet be saved by its "benevolent" character. This assumption, when examined, is as purely gratuitous as every other assumption on which his arguments rest. Where does the "benevolent" element come in? Solely in the anticipated "gifts" of honorary members, and the anticipated enrolment of a large proportion of members who will only draw half pensions on reaching the age of sixty. I have already discussed both these expectations, and it is not necessary to say more about them. The truth is that the scheme will neither hold water as a business proposition nor a benevolent one. The more closely it is examined the more evident it becomes that it must eventually fall between the two stools, as in one of my earlier observations upon it I suggested would be the case.

It is no pleasure to me to condemn this project, and I have been most desirous to do the fullest justice to Mr. Taverner and those associated with him. The desire of "solving the Old Age Pension problem"—which these gentlemen triumphantly proclaim that they have done—is a worthy and honourable one. I have not the slightest doubt of the perfect sincerity and good faith of Mr. Taverner and his colleagues. But if the scheme is foredoomed to fail, neither sympathy with the object nor respect for the promoters should restrain one from saying so unequivocally. And I am bound to add that to launch a scheme of this character and magnitude, if it is foredoomed to failure, must necessarily expose the promoters to the heaviest condemnation, however disinterested and exalted their aims and motives may be. What is to be thought of the position of a number of gentlemen who invite all classes of the community, but especially the poor and needy, to become life members of a "purely benevolent" organisation on such a scale that at the end of twelve years they hope to have 2¾ millions of people on the books, and at the same time deliberately contemplate that when this point is reached their fund will be in the first stage of insolvency, with nothing better to look to for its salvation than Mr. Taverner's nebulous anticipations of honorary subscribers and multitudes of well-to-do pensioners who will only draw half of what they are entitled to? What is to be thought of gentlemen—mere amateurs in such

business—who launch a "national" scheme on this basis without thinking it necessary to obtain before starting the opinion of any competent professional actuary as to how the thing is likely to work out? To credit them with the best intentions, remembering at the same time the wholesale disappointment and cruel loss in which the failure of the scheme must involve thousands upon thousands of indigent victims, only recalls the familiar proverb, touching the materials of which the pavement of Hell is constructed. The fact that these well-intentioned enthusiasts comprise two well-known Nonconformist ministers, and the presiding genius of a widely extended society bearing the honoured name of Mr. C. H. Spurgeon, only aggravates the blame that rests on them. It is just the appearance of such names in connection with it that commends the project to vast numbers of people who have not the experience or sense to analyse its merits for themselves, and consequently extends the area of mischief when the inevitable collapse occurs. Of Mr. Taverner's share in the business, I find it difficult to speak with patience. He is a gentleman who professes to have studied the old-age pension question deeply, and must consequently be familiar with all its difficulties; but he has allowed himself to become absolutely intoxicated with enthusiasm for his idea, and his reasoning faculties appear to be paralysed by his affection for the cranky offspring of his own brain. My City Editor, after listening to him for an hour, told him in this room that there was only one way in which he could put himself right—namely, by obtaining at once the best actuarial opinion available upon the financial basis of his scheme, and acting on that opinion when obtained. I now repeat that advice to him publicly, and I extend it to his co-trustees and committee-men. Whether the scheme stands on a business or a "benevolent" footing, to proceed with it for a single day without some definite guarantee for its permanent success is, to my mind, little short of criminal. Such a guarantee can only be offered by authoritative expert advice; and whether I, personally, am right or wrong in my estimate of this Trust, the trustees have no right to take another shilling from a subscriber until such advice has been obtained.

THE THEATRES.

"The Master of Kingsgift," at the Avenue.

This is one of the plays which come as a kind of backwash to the flood of the two Nell Gwynne plays which held the boards of London for so considerable a time. And at the Imperial Mr. Lewis Waller continues, as we know, in the same sense. Knowing some little of the period of the Restoration through its history, but far more through its dramatic literature, I was not among those who derived satisfaction from the Nell Gwynne plays, and I vaguely hoped that the vein of the Restoration had been worked out and that its worthies, or perhaps unworthies is a better expression, would be left alone to ruffle it in the St. James's of the past. But that has not been the case, and here we have a "new romantic drama" by Mrs. Tom Kelly, a feast of intellect to which Nell and the Duchess of Portsmouth, it is true, are not invited, but the Merry Monarch is dragged forth again from his cosy limbo, and the Earl of Chesterfield and the Duke of Buckingham are in attendance.

Every one knows the famous epigram by the latter on Charles II., but had one no document beyond Mrs. Kelly's reading of his character to go upon one would have been tempted to an emendation on the last couplet of Buckingham's text:

> He never says a witty thing,
> Why don't he do a wise one?

I will not descend into the arena of Mrs. Kelly's construction. I will not follow the astonishing Lord de Bellingham in his love affair with Rosamund Charlton nor flash light upon the marvellous impossibilities of the second act, where the Governor of Bellingham Castle hands over a suspected spy to be gently persuaded by a maiden of seventeen. It is all so confused, so improbable, that really nothing is to be gained by dwelling upon the adventures of Rupert Charlton and his mistress. Mrs. Kelly has wanted to make a stirring romance out of the scission between Royalists and Puritans, and with that object in view has started by throwing overboard all ballast in the shape of coherence or probability, and by making all the characters say exactly what an uneducated reader of fiction would like them to say on every occasion.

As to the acting, I am of those who hold that the artist, whether in words, paint, stone, or life—and the actor is an artist in the expression of life—must have some solid material wherewith to build his picture, his story, or his character. If that is lacking, if there is not present that electric communication between the interior and the exterior worlds, his edifice will crumble into dust before our eyes. That, then, is the reason why, in criticising productions such as this, whereof the foundations are in the shifting sands of random chance, I am always on my guard lest I attribute my dislike of the actor's work to the wrong cause, to his lack of ability rather than to his lack of material. Having prefaced so much, then, I can only say that Mr. Edward O'Neill, as Charles II., struck me as wrong in his diction and pronunciation and the reverse of kingly, for Charles II. had certainly a kingly elegance in his immoralities of deed and word; that Mr. Conway Tearle, as Rupert Charlton, seemed to me to over-act and over-emphasise; and that Miss Lillah McCarthy, as his mother, Rosamund Charlton, sinned in a similar way. Miss Dora Barton, on the other hand, played the ingénue very agreeably, but one cannot gain much pleasure when one is being constantly confronted with a dead wall of improbability over which one is expected to vault in the agile company of the authoress. Mr. Frank Cooper, as Lord de Bellingham, showed, in spite of the strange things he has to do, that he remains in the right tradition for romantic comedy; and Mr. Walter Maclean, whose name is unfamiliar to me, might have been good with a good opportunity. But his parade up and down the lawn in the first act, that he might be ready to marry the young couple off-hand, scattered such illusions.

A true historic comedy, which shall combine the

qualities of synthesis and of characterisation with a thorough knowledge of the period, is one of the most difficult of achievements, and one which should be left alone by all but the few who combine the rare gifts of patient year-long study with insight and the powers of the true dramatist. Others should be content with our own time, which is sufficiently diverse in its modes to provide ample material—and then they avoid the uncomfortable necessity of going to the British Museum.

"The Hippolytus," at the Court.

Euripides was born B.C.—but I will spare you that valuable piece of information writ large upon the programme of Professor Murray's translation. The Greek lives yet, and after a successful performance of this work at the Lyric Theatre, he has repeated that success at the Court. A success of esteem it certainly was. The stage was well arranged for the performance of the play, which takes place before Theseus' Castle in Trozen. The Hellenic columns of the castle face the audience, and the statues of Aphrodite and of Artemis, those rivals, are prophetic of the coming woe. Mr. Granville Barker, whose work I have always admired, combined on this occasion the duties of stage manager with the part of the henchman, and his abilities shone clearly in both spheres. Miss Edyth Olive spoke well and distilled much emotion into the part of Phædra. Miss Rosina Filippi, on the other hand, seemed to me out of tune and over-modern as the nurse, but Miss Tita Brand maintained her well-deserved reputation as leader of the chorus. Mr. Ben Webster's Hippolytus I did not care for. He was emphatic without being convincing, and the artifice of the modern stage showed too clearly through the art of the Greek.

This entertainment is well adapted for the enjoyment of students of the Greek drama, but I am not inclined to join in the ardent recommendations of some of my colleagues, who would have all schoolboys and girls taken to see it for educational purposes. I had almost said medicinal, for so it would seem to them, poor little things, with scarce an idea above a cricket match or a tea-party. One of the great banes of education as it is carried on seems to me to be the putting of the great and difficult masterpieces of the greatest minds before minds altogether immature and incapable of grasping much easier things. My belief is that children should be educated on the easier works, should be put on the road, as it were, to the greater and more difficult. Then afterwards, if they have the love of things beautiful and difficult, they will find their own way to them, free of all the horrible association of caning for an unconstrued chorus of Euripides. Take the children to the Pantomime—or to Mr. Tree's "Tempest."

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Mrs. Brown-Potter is determined that we shall not forget her and the delightful "Golden Light," and has wisely enough selected "Forget-me-not" for that useful purpose. Mr. Herman Merivale's and Mr. F. C. Groves's old-fashioned comedy runs pleasantly to the ear, and the writers of the bad English which floods the stage in so many melodramatic productions of the day might do worse than sit through an evening of Herman Merivale clinched with "Cavalleria Rusticana." The attention of these, however, should be chiefly directed to the language, for, Mr. Frederick Kerr set aside, they will not gain much by the study of the acting. Mr. Kerr did not play the part of Sir Horace Welby with much gusto—one felt that it was collar work—and Mr. Hubert Dansey's Prince Malleotti was too Satanic for words.

But these and other characters were as chaff in the wind before the purple presence of Stephanie, Marquise de Mohrivart. Mrs. Brown-Potter played the Marquise with a magnificence of gesture and of emphasis only equalled by her performance of Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana." Occasionally her emotion so completely overmastered this fair lady that she apparently forgot all about poor Sir Horace, with whom she was understood to be having a heated altercation, and, facing the audience, she confided to us how wicked and yet how beautiful, how fascinating, an American she is (she remains Transatlantic in the play by reason of her pronunciation), and we all felt that indeed she was beautiful and fascinating, and why should a middle-aged horror like Sir Horace bar her way to happiness, or to the front row of the stalls? Why, indeed? Why not have done with him and Prince Malleotti, and that abominable ex-convict, Barrato? Why not clear them all off the stage and let us enjoy Mrs. Brown-Potter alone in her purple dress and her deciduous tresses? But the poor things would remain at their posts to answer the heroine. It was heroic all round.

"Cavalleria Rusticana," prefaced by selections from Mascagni, was also an agreeable adventure in the arts of recitation. And Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw and Mr. Lawson Butt acted very well the parts of Macca and of Alfio, and Miss Sarah de Groot that of Lola, the rival of Santuzza. And Santuzza? She was the Marquise de Mohrivart declined from the purple to the peasantry.

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I am glad to announce the sixth season of the German plays at the Great Queen-street Theatre, under the management of Messrs. Hans Andersen and Max Behrend. Among the recent German plays acquired are the tragi-comedy, "Traumulus," the success of the season at the Lessing Theatre in Berlin, and "Rose Berndt," the latest play by Gerhard Hauptmann.

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"The Chevaleer," at the Garrick, will be performed for the last time next Saturday. Its place will be taken by a modern comedy by Mr. Sutro, entitled "The Walls of Jericho." I understand that Mr. Sutro does not deal with that remarkable mode of battery which is recounted in Holy Writ. He proposes rather to reveal to us the arcana of Mayfair. I trust his trumpet will again work the miracle.

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November 8 has been selected for the matinée at the Palace in aid of the Charles Morton Commemoration Fund. It is almost needless to refer to the debt which all frequenters of the variety theatres owe to the late Mr. Morton. He transformed a "coal hole" into a palace, and made the cigar and cigarette free of the

domain of good singing and playing and the best of those other entertainments which go to make up our programmes at such pleasant places as the Empire and the Alhambra. This debt of gratitude can be paid by those many who feel it due, on November 8. The box-office is now open for the sale of seats, and those who do not care to make a separate donation may here be reminded that to the modest price of their seats they can add an increment of those golden hours which so many millions have enjoyed, thanks to the talent and enterprise of Mr. Morton.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE JAPANESE CAVALRY LEADER.

NAMES familiar to us crop up in the reports of the battles round those Manchurian cities. We now hear of an old favourite of Parisian society as leading on the Mikado's cavalry there. I mean Prince Kanin Kotchito, cousin of the Emperor he so well serves. Kanin came here a youth to study military science in its different branches. He particularly devoted himself to cavalry, and spent some years at Saumur studying horses, horsey people, and cavalry tactics. A vet. who was attached to the cavalry school during the period of Prince Kanin's initiation tells me that he used to pay the closest attention to the diseases of horses, and had special instruction in them both at Saumur and the Alfort and Lyons schools. In his vacations he went to Tarbes with officers who had remount business to transact, and to the remount centres of Germany and Hungary. Says the vet: "Prince Kanin had the name of being careful of his money and yet more parsimonious of his time. But he could let out in his expenditure when dignity had to be kept up, and he did not think it waste of time to go to stag hunts or on visits to the grand châteaux near Saumur." At the time he studied cavalry tactics the Royalists seemed to gain strength in politics, and he might have been urged by other motives than fondness for their society in keeping company with them. He was too intelligent to have cared for companionship with the young fellows at the school. French cavalry officers differ from infantry and artillery in being generally tall, of noble birth, and numskulls.

When Prince Kanin had learned all that Saumur could give him, he came to reside in Paris, went to scientific lectures, and plunged into the amusements of brilliant society. He drove the neatest phaëton and pair in the Bois, and visited the boxes most fashionable at the Opéra and the Français on subscription nights. He at one time thought of making a military tour in Madagascar, but gave it up for the sake of a romantic attachment. The lady thought him a feather in her cap, and felt flattered whenever she heard of his name being coupled with hers. A hero of Disraeli could not have led an apparently more brilliant or trivial life. Behind the scenes it would have been a life that satisfied ambition, patriotism, and self-respect, an overweening quality in most Japanese. Kanin's oblique eyes and obliquer eyebrows declared his Far Eastern blood. The rest of the face was massive, an Imperial Japanese characteristic, but without harshness. It seemed a strange cross between the Mikado's and that of the great bronze image of Buddha in the Cernuschi museum.

Not wishing to drink the cup of Parisian enchantments to the dregs, Kanin suddenly returned to Japan and married a lady connected with the Imperial family. We heard no more of him until the Mikado sent him as his representative to the opening of the 1900 Exhibition. When he arrived the bewitchment of the Russian alliance had not subsided, and the official world saw Japan through Russian eyes. This led to a curious incident at the opening of that never-to-be-forgotten show. The Russian Government had hinted to the French that it hoped Kanin would not be assimilated to a Grand Duke at any official ceremony. At the time such a hint was thought natural. The Director of the Protocol, on being consulted, proposed to save the dignity of the Japanese Prince in this strange way: He was to be placed in the tribune of the official ladies, instead of in that of the President of France; the country of chivalry could not honour Kanin more than in seating him between Mmes. Fallières and Waldeck-Rousseau. The former, as wife of the President of the Senate, ranked with Mme. Loubet. What could be more civil than to set the Mikado's cousin between her and the wife of the Prime Minister? Yes, if the ceremony had taken place at the Elysée or the Petit Luxembourg. As it happened, those ladies, known as official, have no protocolar rank out-of-doors. Kanin knew this. As the "Marseillaise" hailed M. Loubet, the Prince from Japan rose and departed. He left for London by the next Calais express to return to his own country without revisiting Paris. This "tempête dans un verre d'eau" may have facilitated the Anglo-Japanese treaty of alliance.

We had a grand Orthodox ceremony last week at the Rue Daru church in honour of St. Alexis and the Imperial nurseling bearing his name. The Russian Ambassador and his staff, of course, attended in gala uniforms. Neither the President nor M. Delcassé *sent* a proxy. General Pendezac, head of the General Staff at the War Office, and Captain Fournier, naval aide-de-camp of M. Loubet, came, but as if to pay a personal attention to the friend and ally. As all stand through an Orthodox ceremony, one cannot speak of any one being shown to a front or a back seat. However, the very grand personages are placed immediately in front of the iconostase, where the general and captain did not figure this time. The official world just now is nervously afraid of any apparent departure from strict neutrality for the benefit of Russia. Peter of Servia, who is *de miche* with Nicholas, sent a representative to this festival of innocence and high hope.

The King of Saxony and the Princess of the Asturias passed last week from life to death, he at the age of seventy-three, and she at that of twenty-two. George of Saxony passed through Bonn. His school vacations were spent at the Saxon country place of his aunt,

Queen Elizabeth of Prussia, whilst her elder brother Albert passed his in Austria with the Archduke Francis Joseph, now Emperor. The late King married a Portuguese Saxe-Coburg, devoted himself to soldiering, and commanded the army corps stationed at Margency during the siege of Paris. He became there quite a patron of Archibald Forbes, who had leave to use his horses and to ride about with a Saxon escort. As Prince George, he warmly defended the private soldier against the brutal cruelty of his officers. A thoughtful, conscientious man, he took care as King not to let his private chaplain or certain members of his family turn him in a course that might offend his Protestant subjects. Nothing vexed him more than the free hand of the German Emperor in spending Empire money, and his importunity in calling for fresh supplies. He spoke publicly in strong terms against such expenditure. If devoted to Germanic union, he bristled up whenever William forgot that he is a "mere chairman of a confederation of independent princes." The outbursts of ill-humour had no marked effects on the relations between Dresden and Berlin. One of the great virtues of the Emperor is readiness to recoil when he finds he has gone beyond the verge of what is safe. No false pride then stands in his way. Policy comes in, and finds a cure for any harm his impulsiveness may have done. Had we not the other day an example of this in the flowers of eulogistic eloquence which he heaped on the tomb of the late Emperor Frederick?

The Princess of the Asturias died from a too copious meal of chestnuts and those sweet acorns that grow on the cork-oak. They are to our acorns as edible chestnuts are to horse chestnuts, and are as large as those fat Spanish olives. One might gather sacks of them without risk of being treated as a trespasser in the cork woods behind Algeciras. The want of healthy excitement to which Queen Christina condemned her children made them hearty eaters. The King often suffers from the effects of too great relish for the pleasures of the table. Queen Isabella objected vehemently to the marriage of the late Princess with a Bourbon of Naples. She never knew an Italian Bourbon, her own mother included, who had not an evil eye. In a way her granddaughter married for love. She had been cooped up in the narrowest family and Court circle in that magnificent, but dreary, palace of Madrid. Religious formalism, or pretence, and an Austrian etiquette reign there. When the Neapolitan Prince Charles presented himself as a suitor the King's tutor and the Queen's confessor, both Jesuits, favoured him because his family are hostile to united Italy. The Princess became violently enamoured. They opposed the marriage in the Cortes and in the Press. Queen Christina, however, carried it through with *hauteur*. Prince Charles began his military career as an aide-de-camp of Don Carlos, a fairly good reason for dynastic Spaniards of a Liberal shade to object to him. His father, the Count of Caserta, holds himself to be *de jure* King of Naples, and lives at Cannes with eight children, the three others being married. His having so many mouths to feed and little feet to shoe ought to have tranquillised the Court of Italy and the Spanish Liberals. The latter found other objections in the marriage of Ferdinand, eldest brother of Charles, with Ludwiga, daughter of "Mary III." The "legitimacy" of the connection chimed in with the feelings of Queen Christina, who before her marriage used to subscribe to the Carlist War Fund. I suppose she wanted to convince her own relatives that if she must be constitutional in Spain she is in heart on the right side.

The late Princess of the Asturias came out for the first time in a long gown at the royal reception of the Medical Congress that met in Madrid in 1898. As a Daughter of the Virgin she wore nothing but blue, from the ribbons in her hair to her shoes and stockings. One of the congressional doctors, in giving an account of the function, spoke of her as very tall, of a willowy figure and a perfectly round face. The cheeks struck him as almost babyish in their fulness. She resembled her mother, but, *en mieux*, her eyes being really interesting and her smile gracious, if a little sad. The reception took place when Spain and the United States were at war. The Princess of the Asturias had from her birth the 250,000 pesetas a year from the Asturias allowance fund created by the last King Ferdinand for the benefit of his second daughter. It will revert to her eldest son. The widower will have the capital that accumulated in her minority. He and she went on a motor tour last summer from San Sebastian to Munich. Near that city they met with an accident, in which she nearly lost her life, and received serious injuries in the head. It may be that but for these hurts, the chestnuts and acorns would not have disagreed with her.

It ill becomes the German Emperor to quarrel on a point of genealogy with the Diet of Lippe-Detmold and Prince Leopold of Lippe-Biesterfeld. The State of Lippe is one big horse farm, with a population of 139,000 inhabitants. The late Prince Waldemar supported all public burdens, such being his good pleasure. He died nine years ago, leaving a mad heir, and naming in his will Prince George of Schaumburg-Lippe, William's brother-in-law, and a distant relative of his own, to be Regent. The Diet disregarded this appointment. After some bickering they agreed to submit the matter to the arbitration of the late King of Saxony. He decided in favour of a nearer cousin of the mad Prince, Ernest of Lippe-Biesterfeld. Ernest dying this year, his son, Leopold, claims to succeed him as Regent. He has the arbitral decision in his favour and the goodwill of the Diet. The Lippen cannot endure the idea of being Prussianised by Prince George of Schaumburg-Lippe, who opposes Leopold on the pretence of his not being *ebenbürtig*. George has discovered that a great-great-grandmother of Leopold had no right to a nobiliary status. Her father, a General Unruh, adventurer and imposter, ennobled himself and his children. The marriage of a Lippe-Biesterfeld with his daughter has attainted their blood, and placed them outside of the family pale. He acts as if the French Revolution had never swept over Lippe, a State that formed for nine

years a Department of the French Empire. Leopold retorts with the "you're another" argument. Nobody could ever fling a stone at the Baroness Unruh, who commanded general respect. Can as much be said for the non-born Fräulein Freihausen, an ancestress of the Schaumburg-Lippes? Has she not a too conspicuous place in the scandalous chronicles of the eighteenth century? Leopold can confidently appeal to the most learned genealogists in Germany. It is not his fault if he tears from her grave a Magdalen who never wore the white sheet. The Bundesrath to which the German Emperor would appeal has no concern in the matter.

The Court of Prussia in 1848 refused to admit the father of the present Empress to the *Ebenbürtigkeit* standing. Genealogists did not need then to go farther back than to 1820, in which year his father married the Countess of Danskjold-Samsöe. She had, and at no far-back period, a pharmaceutical chemist in her line. Her sister became in 1829 the first wife of the Duke Christian Augustus's brother, Prince Frederick, of whom the Countess of Waldersee was the second wife. Prince and Countess had an only son, Count von Noer. He died in 1870 without ever being admitted into the *ebenbürtig* class. The Court of Prussia felt scandalised when a Hohenlohe-Langenburg became the wife of the late Duke of Augustenburg. A Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen married early in the last century a French girl of base birth, Antoinette Murat. Wanting to pay court to Napoleon, he asked him to provide him with a wife. The Emperor thought of Murat's niece. When the messenger reached the inn in the Tarn, where she had been hired as a farm help, he found her with a pitchfork bedding cows. The innkeeper's wife gave her a summary scrubbing, and sent her on to Paris, Josephine provided her with a befitting trousseau, and warned her to leave off eating rank cheese and garlic. Antoinette quickly adapted herself to her new situation, and became the ancestress of the King of Roumania and the Comtesse de Flandre. The *fiancée* of the German Crown Prince has on her family tree the by no means *ebenbürtig* Pauline Geyer. Pauline's name comes into the story of Caspar Hauser. Legally, however, her descendants are all right. She stood up against the Grand Duchesse Stéphanie, *née* Beauharnais, when Napoleon's fortune waned. This secured for her the favour of the Congress of Vienna, which gave an international rank to her descendants.

The surfeit they have given us of Ibsen bears its fruits. Public favour has returned to the opérette, a style that has been out of fashion, and one might have thought dead, these last twenty years. I attended the revival, at the Variétés theatre, of Charles Lecocq's world-famed play "Madame Angot," and found myself taking a keen delight in this old friend of thirty years ago. I will not say it is as young as ever, for music has been revolutionised in the interval; no—but it has bloomed forth into a second youth. Time is a severe test for all human works. No writer for the stage was more popular ten or fifteen years ago than Sardou, and among his most famous dramas was "Theodora." Mme. Sarah Bernhard revived it last year, and I was pained and disappointed to see how old-fashioned the work had become.

"Madame Angot" depends a good deal for its success on its setting. The plot is of the flimsiest, the music is very light indeed, it belongs to the digestive order after a heavy dinner, but its charm lies in the scenes and dresses.

I know of no more romantic period in the world's history than the great French Revolution. "Madame Angot," as put on the stage by that most successful of managers, M. Samuel, whom his friends call "Samuel the Magnificent," shows a wonderfully coloured picture of Paris under the Directoire, with its fishwives, its "merveilleuses," its "muscadins" or dandies, the soldiers of Augereau, and the coming kings, who had risen from the ranks. The scenes in the second and third acts are the finest things M. Jusseaume ever painted. The former reminds me of those rooms in Napoleon's Malmaison residence which M. Osiris has given to the State after restoring them at lavish expense. The second, a view of Paris at night, is also worthy of its author's great name.

Count Leo Tolstoy *fils* has lost a fine opportunity to hold his tongue. His article in the *Figaro* preaching war to a clean finish is made up of poor platitudes. Count Leo *fils* is ashamed of his father's doctrines, but half hesitates to attack them. He reminds me of General Ducrot in his "mort ou victoire" proclamation. His heroism, however, is more vicarious than that of Ducrot, who risked death, if he failed to be brought back dead.

Tolstoy the Great divided his real estate between his five sons before setting out on his reforming mission. In this way he protected it from confiscation in the event of exile. A mine has been found on the estate of Leo which makes him the richest member of the family. None of the brothers resembles the old Count. In Paris they follow the lead of Grand Dukes. One of them served as an officer in the war. They all like to belong to the heavy-swell class. There is nothing to be said against them. It is not given to every one to take up his cross and follow Tolstoy.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Angel Actress, dear Lady Betty, is a special product of the day, and of this country. There are still some narrow-minded English men and women who imagine that an actress has a second-class soul in a first-class skin, and that her complexion is more precious to her than her character.

A popular young actress has writen the following letter, which it is to be hoped will enlighten them:—

"Should Actors and Actresses Avoid Society?

"Sir,—Until recent times the most important patrons of the stage in England were the dissolute old and young men of the upper class. If they admired the cleverness or the beauty of an actress, or associated their name with hers, she obtained notoriety, a condition which was then next door to celebrity.

"The most important patrons of the stage in England to-day are the men and women of the middle class, and of the general public. They do not admire actors and actresses merely because the latter are handsome or pretty, expensively dressed, or clever, but expect us to be good men and women, and high-minded off the stage

as we frequently represent ourselves to be on the boards. Notoriety now we must especially avoid.

"English actresses now are generally of respectable parentage, and have been carefully educated. Many of them have married rich middle-class men, and others are admired members of suburban society. It is, therefore, especially important to us in these days that our reputation should be irreproachable.

"In those altogether altered circumstances is it wise of us to associate with the men and women in fashionable English society? The unbecoming life many of them lead, the scandalous stories that—rightly or wrongly—are told of some of them, and the belief which generally exists that many are little else than chartered criminals make them discreditable acquaintances. If we associate with them the public may imagine that we resemble them, and respectable and rich middle-class men who might marry us may avoid us, suspecting that our character has been affected by the connection.

"That is one objection; here is another: Many of us have with much trouble, and at great expense, learnt to represent the most refined attitudes of the mind. We have diligently studied the magnificent characters which history and literature provide, and have learnt to reproduce accurately the manners, voice, and gentleness of expression which well-bred men or women should possess. If we associate with the men and women in fashionable English society to-day, who are hard-eyed, who talk loud, laugh loud, behave without dignity or consideration, and whose conversation is most amiably described as unedifying, are we not endangering the attitude of mind which we have with so much trouble acquired?

"That brings me to the most important stage of the argument. What is the condition of the actor and actress in England at the moment, and what is that of many of the fashionable men and women in English 'society'?

"Most of the actors and actresses in England to-day are highly educated, live respectably in the continual light of publicity, and in moderate and appropriate luxury. There are thousands of theatre-goers who know each of us by sight, where we live, our tastes and habits, and are influenced by our example. We read much, and the best authors; we take an intelligent interest in interesting things; and many of us are connected with important movements, and great charitable institutions.

"Many of the fashionable men and women in English 'society' to-day are almost illiterate, are unintelligent, mainly read French novels and objectionable books, are recklessly extravagant, live for pleasure, crave for notoriety, and have—rightly or wrongly—distressing stories attached to their names.

"The actor and actress in England, therefore, are more or less in the condition which the fashionable men and women were formerly, and many of the latter, in the condition which we were in the past! Off the stage we are that which they should be; on the boards we reproduce their follies and vices. In private life many of them are that which we were—or were supposed to be—a hundred years ago.

"That is a curious reversal of the conditions of two prominent sections of the community. It is not discoverable in history that it has even occurred before in another country, and it is strange that this development has apparently not yet been noticed by any of our moralists or critics.

"In the circumstance, is it advisable that we should associate with 'society'?—Faithfully yours.

"Sophonisba Sniggers
"(Helena de Vere Courtenay-Howard)."

It has often been discussed whether "society" should avoid the stage; it is singular that the stage should now discuss whether it should avoid "society."

* * * * *

Preach to the English, rant to the French, argue with the Germans, for the Germans are philosophical, the French are excitable, and the English are always prepared to convert, or reform, everybody—but themselves.

. . . . . .

Almost every Englishman imagines that he is moral because he objects to immorality—in others.

* * * * *

The following conversation between an American and an Englishman deserves to be repeated:—

American: "You are, sir, a Baronet?"

Englishman: "No."

American: "A Knight?"

Englishman: "No."

American: "Ah, of course, a K.C.M.G.?"

Englishman: "Not even that."

American: "Then you must have the D.S.O.?"

Englishman: "Indeed, I have not."

American: "Have you a commission in the Army?"

Englishman: "Not in the Army; but I have a commission in everything else."

American: "I am delighted to have made your acquaintance, sir. You must be a gentleman, for almost every English gentleman now lives on commissions."

Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

I POINTED out in the summer that the Jockey Club is in urgent need of working members—*i.e.*, individuals who are willing to take an active part in the business, and who are competent to render such assistance. It is utterly useless in the present debilitated condition of the Club to add merely ornamental members to its numbers. There are more than enough of them already. The new members who were elected in July do not appear likely to be of any practical service to the Club. The fact is that the machine will stop before long unless the Jockey Club is enlarged by the addition of members who have some practical knowledge of racing affairs, and who are sensible and acute men of business, with a disposition to render themselves useful. The difficulty of obtaining a fresh Steward of the Jockey Club every spring has been very great of late years, and increases every season. The work is now too heavy to be scrambled through in odd half-hours, and a member who accepts the office of Steward must be prepared for three years to devote a considerable amount of time to the business of the Club. Lord Durham is now the man at the wheel, and when he retires in April next who is there to take his place? The Duke of Richmond and Gordon would earn the gratitude of racing men generally, and his fellow-members of the Jockey Club in particular, if he would consent again to undertake the office. There never was a better Steward. He was as thoroughly satisfactory a ruler of the Turf as the late Mr. James Lowther, and it would be impossible to say more in his praise. I suppose, however, that the Duke's private affairs are too engrossing to allow of his again serving the Jockey Club thus, and it is the same with Lord Derby, another admirably qualified member. Lord Stanley would make a most excellent Steward, and whenever the Government go out of office he will have leisure to undertake the Newmarket work. Sir Daniel Cooper has been mentioned as likely to be named suc-

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cessor to Lord Durham. It would be a decided advantage for many reasons to have a Steward who is constantly resident at Newmarket, where Jockey Club methods of administration have been severely criticised of late, and some of the officials appear to be exceedingly unpopular with the trainers and other persons with whom they have business relations.

The Derby meeting has been favoured with a marvellously successful resurrection, for, after having been absolutely extinguished for a number of years, it was revived with so much enterprise, cleverness, and judicious liberality that it soon became one of the most important of the second-class fixtures. Of late, however, there has been a manifest and very stupid disposition towards parsimony in the management, which under any circumstances would be singularly unseasonable, and which is an unexcusable folly in the case of a flourishing meeting. The value of the Derby Cup has been gradually reduced from £2,000 to £1,000, with the result (which any one of experience in such affairs would expect) that the number of entries has considerably declined. Only forty-eight horses have been engaged for the race which is to be run on November 17, as compared with sixty-three last year and sixty-five in 1902. The pick of the older horses are Mr. Prentice's Dumbarton Castle and General Cronjé (this animal was unquestionably second best to Robert le Diable in the Duke of York Handicap at Kempton Park), Lord Westbury's Cerisier, Mr. Keswick's Csardas, (winner of the Royal Hunt Cup), Mr. Buchanan's Surbiton, Duke of Devonshire's Simony, Sir E. Vincent's Nabot, Captain Forester's Hackler's Pride, and Sir J. Miller's Pharisee. There is a larger entry than usual of three-year-olds, including the Duke of Westminster's Grey Plume, Lord Carnarvon's Santry (who cannot stay this course), Mr. Luscombe's Sansovino, Mr. Hill's Barbette, Mr. L. de Rothschild's Bass Rock and Catgut, Mr. Stedall's Marsden (who won at Derby in September), Mr. Kerne's Newsboy and Melayr (winner of the Stewards' Cup), Lord Stanley's Flamma, and Sir J. Miller's Housewife.

Sixty-six two-year-olds have been entered for the Chesterfield Nursery of £1,000, which is the most important race of this class during the season. If judged by their public running they are a dreadfully bad lot, the best being the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry, Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx, Lord Carnarvon's Grandiflora, Lord Durham's Orator, Mr. King's Comedian (who will of course be top-weight after his recent excellent performance at Newmarket), Mr. Neumann's absurdly-named Petit Bleu, Mr. Fenton's Vedas, Lord Hamilton of Dalzell's Brother Bill, and Sir John Thursby's Standen.

It is not often that French animals are engaged in this race, but Comte de Bresson has entered two—Pacha and La Crinière. The handicapper will have considerable difficulty in adjusting the weights for the Chesterfield Nursery, as the performances of most of the two-year-olds entered have been of the most contemptible character.

Seventy-four two-year-olds are entered for the Friary Nursery of £200, which is run over the same course as the richer race. Owners and trainers certainly do move in mysterious ways in the matter of engaging their horses. There are sixty entries for the Osmaston Nursery of £500, distance seven furlongs, including many animals in the Chesterfield Nursery, with the addition of Mr. de Rothschild's Khammurabi (winner of the £3,000 stake at Kempton Park) and Mr. Joel's Lancaster Gate.

Lord and Lady Derby will receive a large party at Knowsley Park during Liverpool race week, and Lord and Lady Sefton will entertain a number of guests at Croxteth Hall.

A writer in the *Sportsman* embellishes the columns of that journal with an amazing tale of Sir John Thursby having refused to listen to an offer of less than 20,000 gs. for John o' Gaunt, "if even he would listen to that." Only a lunatic would ever dream of offering even one-fourth of the extravagantly crazy price quoted in the *Sportsman*. Pretty Polly has twice "lost" St. Amant, and St. Amant has twice beaten John o' Gaunt without the slightest effort. If John o' Gaunt is valued by Sir John Thursby at 20,000 gs., one would vastly like to know the price at which Major Loder's mare would be estimated, and how very badly sold Sceptre was when Mr. Sievier disposed of her to Mr. Bass! It is hard upon Sir John Thursby that he should be credited with such imbecile absurdities. He may exclaim to the *Sportsman* enthusiast, like Louis XVIII. to M. de Blacas: "Pour l'amour de Dieu, monsieur, ne me rendez pas ridicule." The *Sportsman* writer is always in a state of burning enthusiasm when dealing with yearlings which have been purchased at auction sales, which elevation of his critical temperature is in remarkable contrast to his singularly chilly comments on the achievements of home-bred animals. Of late he has been voiding the vials of depreciation upon Pretty Polly, but it is beyond the wit of mortal man to make out a plausible case for this season's colts. They are a very much worse lot than were those of last year, both being decidedly bad.

The same writer, referring to Silvio, states that he did not run up to his trial with Skylark in either the Newmarket Biennial or the Two Thousand, but "he did the trick all right on the Derby Day." Now, here is really a flagrant example of the *suppressio veri*. Silvio won the Derby only because Chamant, who had cantered away with the Two Thousand, had fallen lame, and could not start at Epsom. Lord Falmouth, with characteristic candour, admitted that his horse would have stood no chance against Chamant, whom he estimated to be at least 10 lb. superior to Silvio. I have no prejudice against Silvio, for I gave him a plumper for the Derby in Truth, but a more moderate horse has never won that stake and the St. Leger. Silvio's pretensions to be regarded as a flyer were rudely and irretrievably shattered when he met Verneuil in the Ascot Cup as a four-year-old, and as a three-year-old he showed himself to be considerably inferior to Springfield.

An insanely silly paragraph has been going round the papers which states that M. E. Blanc has arranged to purchase Pretty Polly for a "huge" price, the mare to be delivered after she has won "another £20,000 in stakes in England." M. E. Blanc has made no "overtures" whatever for the purchase of Pretty Polly, and Major Loder has no idea of selling his mare. How Pretty Polly could win "another £20,000 in stakes in England" it is impossible to understand, inasmuch as she is not entered for any of next year's "£10,000 stakes," her only engagement, indeed, being the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, a race of the value of about £900.

The mooncalf who invented the tale concludes by announcing that M. E. Blanc will probably take over Pretty Polly "after the decision of the Ascot Gold Cup." It would be interesting to learn how Pretty Polly is to win £20,000 in stakes between Lincoln and Ascot. She would not win more than one-fifth of that amount even if she carried off both the Coronation Cup at Epsom and the Ascot Cup. M. E. Blanc, being a practical man, knows very well that it is by no means a matter of course that a mare which has been a flyer on the Turf is to be a corresponding success at the stud. It is really amazing that serious newspapers can print such balderdash as this romance about the sale of Pretty Polly without commenting upon its glaring and palpable absurdity.

Jardy and Cicero (9 st. each) head the official handicap of the two-year-olds, which was published in last week's *Calendar*. There is no line between the pair, but Jardy has beaten much better animals than Cicero has ever met, and I expect he would find no difficulty in giving Lord Rosebery's colt 5 lb. over the Middle Park Plate course. I am glad to see Cyanean is so highly estimated, having maintained in the summer that she is one of the very smartest two-year-olds of the season. Taking the sex allowance into account, Cyanean, with 8 st. 9 lb., is placed only 2 lb. behind the two best colts,

and she is assumed to be 4 lb. better than Comedian (8 st. 8 lb.), and 6 lb. better than Galantine (8 st. 3 lb.), who has the same weight as Thrush, while next come Vedas (8 st. 2 lb.), Désirée (8 st. 1 lb.), Shah Jehan, and Shanid Aboo (8 st. each). Polymelus, who was not long ago extolled by some muddy-minded fanatics as being really the best two-year-old of the season after Cicero, has 7 st. 11 lb., being placed 2 lb. below Llangibby, and he is estimated to be 3 lb. behind Rievaulx. Amitié seems harshly treated, for she receives only 1 lb. from Full Cry, who beat her very easily indeed at Goodwood. I suppose Full Cry has been handicapped on her autumn running, which has been grievously bad, but the Duke of Devonshire's filly has been amiss, and her work since Goodwood has been frequently interrupted. Mozart is by no means overburdened with 7 st. 4 lb., for he appeared to have a good deal in hand when he won the Prendergast Stakes. Pamflete is another animal that has been treated with remarkable lenity, the Duke of Portland's filly having only 7 st. 3 lb. to carry. This is a Free Handicap of £100 each, £25 forfeit, to run on Friday over the Bretby Stakes course. There ought to be a considerable number of acceptances.

Next Tuesday is one of the principal nomination days of the year, and no fewer than nineteen races will then close at Newmarket. The pecuniary conditions of nearly all of these events are singularly unattractive, and they could easily be made very much more inviting to owners without any additional outlay from the fund. The principal stakes are next year's Middle Park Plate and Dewhurst Plate, and the Two Thousand Guineas and the One Thousand for 1906. The Middle Park Plate is a sweepstakes of £30 each, £20 forfeit, with £500 nominally added, but this sum is usually recovered by means of an entrance of £5. The liability of each entry for this race is therefore £25. Considering the comparatively small value of the Middle Park Plate, which has lost nearly all its old prestige, owing to the hidebound parsimony of the Jockey Club, it is preposterous that £300 should be subtracted from the stake for second and third horses. The Dewhurst Plate is a paltry event, being of the value of only £300, added to a sweepstakes of £25 each, £15 forfeit, and an entrance of £3 gets back most of the money which is nominally given to this race. The Two Thousand and the One Thousand have the same meagre pecuniary conditions as of old, each being a sweepstakes of £100 each, half forfeit, and not a penny is added to either race, even on paper.

One looks in vain for any indications of the long and much needed revision of the Ascot programme. Here are the same events just as they have been for many years past. For next year there is the New Stakes, with £1,000 added. There is so much money to be disposed of at Ascot that the added money both to the New Stakes and to the Coventry Stakes might surely have been doubled. For 1906 there are the Prince of Wales's Stakes (£1,000 added) and the Ascot Derby (£500 added), and the Hardwicke Stakes, with £2,000 added. This last race ought to have an endowment of £5,000, as it has been pretty well destroyed by the establishment of the more valuable events of the same class at the Newmarket First July meeting, and at Sandown Park.

At Goodwood there are the Lavant Stakes and the Mclecomb Stakes for next year, and the Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes and the Nassau Stakes for 1906. The Prince of Wales's Stakes, which is usually the most interesting two-year-old race at Goodwood, is an event which can only be kept going briskly by a systematic canvass for entries during the race week. At one time the present Duke of Richmond and Gordon (then Lord March) was busy thus in looking up owners, and the sooner such activities are resumed by some member of the family the better it will be for the meeting.

Like so many other valuable races of the same class during the past season, the Gatwick Stakes of £5,000 proved a direful failure, there being only eight starters, and they were so poor a team that odds were laid on Henry the First, who won cleverly from his stable companion William Rufus. The way was cleared for Mr. Musker's pair by the withdrawal of the maidens Mintagon and St. Denis, either of whom must have won this race if worth keeping in training. St. Amant has been woefully mismanaged since the St. Leger, having been repeatedly raced out of his course, a *bêtise* which could not do the Derby winner any good. If St. Amant had been kept for the £2,500 race at Gatwick (distance seven furlongs), he would probably have won it, but the result of the fatuous policy which has been pursued was his defeat by Sansovino, who was receiving 17 lb. from the favourite, so there was assuredly nothing brilliant about the form. Bobrinski, purchased by Mr. G. Faber for 5,000 gs. at the sale of Mr. Keene's racehorses last December, ran very badly, and is apparently unable to stay more than five furlongs.

There were very large fields at Sandown Park on Thursday and Friday, but again there was a collapse in a valuable weight-for-age race, the Sandown Stakes of £1,000 being reduced to a match, and Zinfandel gave 20 lb. to Leucadia and cantered away from her. It would have been a wiser policy to have withdrawn Comedian from the Orleans Nursery, as he could not be reasonably expected to win with 9 st. 7 lb., a tremendous weight for a two-year-old to carry over this course. Brother Bill defeated Whistling Rufus by a head, and was generally regarded as a lucky winner. Galantine was made a "boiling" favourite for the Great Sapling Plate, but she got off very badly, and was never in the race. Filippo, who was not backed for a penny, and whose previous form was contemptible, won cleverly, to the consternation of plungers, all the money being on the favourite and Rouge Croix. Stadtholder was favourite for the Hook Plate, but Bishopscourt beat him by a head. This colt, who is by Persimmon out of Iernor, cost 1,700 gs. at Doncaster last year. He is still backward, and it may be hoped that he will do better as a three-year-old than his half-brother Clonmell. There were fourteen starters for this race, but only three were really backed, and they were the placed animals.

The Dewhurst Plate will probably be won by Plum-centre, who was bred by the late Lord Alington, and he is nominated for this and other races by Sir Frederick Johnstone, who, by the way, is leaving Monte Carlo this week on a six months' cruise to the West Indies in the Duke of Bedford's yacht *Sapphire*, which he has chartered. Plum-centre, who is by Persimmon out of Fuse, is a dark colt, and he has been highly tried at Kingsclere. If there was no mistake in his gallop, and if only he runs up to his private form, the Dewhurst Plate should be a good thing for Plum-centre. The public lot in this race are miserably moderate.

Next week the "back-end" period begins with meetings at Birmingham and at Lingfield, but at neither place is the sport likely to be of much general interest.

The changes in connection with London University may affect the athletic position of medical students. Those hospitals that draw their men from Oxford and Cambridge will no longer get such a great advantage in the various athletic cup ties. It has been to the advantage of a hospital to get the services for five years of a man who has already done his medical studies as far as his physiology and anatomy at the university. Presumably, when the new regulations come into force, this advantage will cease. The embryonic general practitioner will register as a medical student. He will do all his preliminary work, including his physiology and anatomy, at one of the educational centres under the auspices of the London University. And then, like the Oxford and Cambridge men, he will select his hospital. Under these circumstances the qualification for cricket

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and football will probably be limited to four years. Chronics even in athletics are not to be encouraged.

The Rugby Union referees, in a recent discussion, mooted an alteration in the rules of scoring. The penalty goal was to score less than a try, and the dropped goal was not to be more than a try. That is a suggestion that has been formally made. Now I cannot see why the penalty goal score should be diminished. A penalty is of little force unless it has considerable scoring value. There are certain provincial, and even metropolitan, clubs which require to be kept in order. If a penalty goal only scored two points, I am perfectly sure that a certain class of player would prefer that such a punishment should be endured, and a certain try should be prevented. I can well imagine that a team with a goal and a try against a goal would certainly prevent their opponents from getting a try, and leave them to the chances of a penalty goal in the last few minutes. Even if the game is played for its own sake it would be the thing to do. Then with regard to the dropped goal, I cannot see why this part of the game should be so depreciated. I know those that never drop a goal think that it is fluking. An irate captain generally vents his rage on the half-back who ventures to have a shot at goal and misses. The four three-quarter game has undoubtedly stopped the development of drop-kicking. And yet how valuable is a skilled player who can bring off such kicks! He is a terror to the other side, who often waste opportunities of attack in their desire to give him no chance of bringing off a kick. Especially should forwards learn to drop goals. I remember the Irish captain in an International match at Blackheath kicking a lovely goal. I think it was Fulton; at all events, he was playing forward. He picked up the ball in the middle of a brilliant rush, and scored a lovely goal. I have often thought how dangerous a team would be if four of the forwards were decent drop kicks. But so long as drop-kicked goals are not viewed with pleasure by the powers that be, it is not likely that drop kicking will receive the attention that it deserves.

Croydon, not many years ago, supported a most promising Rugby club. The local interest in the game was considerable. But it has died away. Association clubs reign in its stead. Now it is proposed to start a professional team there. Will those who are so sure that Rugby is not dying out explain the lamentable extinction of such a club in a town of over one hundred thousand inhabitants?

The newly imported Blackheath cadet, E. W. Dillon, goes wild with delight in the *Daily Mail* at the success of Blackheath over Newport. When Rugby is played for its own sake it seems to create a very simple enthusiasm in the breast of its supporters. It is just as easy to change one's joy or one's club as it is one's clothes at Rugby football. Naturally, Metropolitan players will be pleased that even Blackheath has been successful in Wales by two goals to a penalty goal and a try. It is high time that Blackheath did something beside accepting the services of players from other clubs. Their success is all the more gratifying as they have not shown themselves overwhelmingly superior to other London clubs. I was pleased, too, to see the success of Richmond over Cambridge. There were nearly a thousand spectators on the ground. In the presence of such a record gate it would be idle to pretend that Rugby football is not in the most flourishing condition. The International halves quite outplayed the Cantabs and so the University attack had but little chance. At the same time I am sure they will improve and be a very different team before Christmas. Mammoth mid-week scores against hospitals mean nothing. Oxford have the makings of a good team. They beat the Scottish easily. At the same time, they clearly need to get together in order to finish off their work properly.

Even in the May term Midsummer Common is not a beautiful place. To the freshman who first goes down to the river to be tubbed the actual position of the river as he passes Jesus funnel must be a matter of doubt. It is not so doubtful as it used to be before the new bridge was built. That stately span indicates that there must be a cutting of some sort. It might be a canal or an electric railway. As a matter of fact, it is one of the chiefest rivers in the kingdom, which flows backwards when the wind blows eastwards, as it generally does in the October and Lent terms. It is pleasant to see the freshmen going down to the river. Nowadays they go by motors and bicycles. Not many years ago they were wont to walk. But then there was no bridge, and there were no pneumatic tyres. There were only grinds. The grinds are still there. The tubs are still there. The freshers remain, and so do those who tub. They grapple the rudder lines as firmly as of yore. They bellow or warble their incomprehensible jargon to the bewildered oarsman as ever they did. Warned as to the condition of his nether garments, the fresher is told to get forward, ready, paddle. The oar blades are skied, the depths of the Cam are eviscerated. The stench is not so bad as it used to be. The fresher eights go out—a source of danger to many good men. The eights roll and reel in a way that would startle even a Caister lifeboat man who never goes back—and the fresher has to get back. And as one looks at the youngsters at their toil one hopes that they will stick to the river. It is so much easier to take up footer or hockey or lacrosse, or even golf. But there is no honour like that of the river. The fresher cannot yet know the joy of being blooded in the Lents when the first bump is made and his oar may be won. Then on to the Mays and to Henley; the 'Varsity trials, and the blue for Putney to Mortlake—and any strong, healthy fresher who shows any aptitude for the river may win his blue even more easily than the Napoleonic private earned his baton. Men who have rowed a few years of life's course know that the rowing friendships are those that last through life. Those are the friendships of college days that never break. The old days are taken up so easily again. Each man, with his little failings and eccentricities, is so well remembered that thirty or forty years afterwards incidents as though of yesterday are easily recalled. Only last summer I was staying with a veteran oarsman who had taken a place by the river. His wife said that So-and-So had called and would go out in a pair with him. The face and form of him who had not been seen for more than a quarter of a century was recalled. His photograph was produced. His boy at Eton was remembered. He was turning out a most promising oar. The boy must come over as well. As my friend said, "We two went out in a pair, and —— was as good as ever. I sent the youngster out sculling. He will do, too." To young fellows just going up this may seem like the garrulous twaddle of senility. But it is not so. These friendships and recollections are treasures for life. The river is a strict mistress. She is to be obeyed. There are others who would entice the freshman away, but the temptresses must be resisted. That the river may win in the struggle, it is necessary that those who coach should be intelligible and, above all, punctual. Nothing is more annoying than to be kept kicking one's heels about for an hour on the bank of the Cam in an October drizzle.

Following the example of the Bar, a number of London Pressmen have formed a golfing society to hold an annual competition for a handsome challenge cup and the customary medals. The first competition will take place next month, and the qualifying round will be by strokes under handicap, the players returning the eight lowest net scores becoming eligible for the ensuing stage under match play. I am asked to mention that particulars as to membership of the society may be obtained from the hon. secretary, Mr. Arthur Porritt, the Press Club, Wine Office-court, E.C.

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MAMMON.

Improving Business in Stocks—Better Trade and More Money—Restoration of Confidence—Low Prices Attract Buyers—Foreign Capital in London—Its Advantages and Disadvantages—The World's Cheapest Money Market—Dawn of a Brighter Era.

FOR some weeks past I have drawn attention to the fact that trade generally, and along with it business on the Stock Exchange, is improving. The conviction is growing, and this week we have had the halfpenny Press screaming over the alteration, and the more staid and respectable penny Press discussing the position with gravity and judgment. In the Stock market there is distinctly more activity, accompanied by an all-round confidence of tone which gives the assurance of still better conditions. People are realising that in the course of the downward movement which resulted from the depletion of the nation's savings, the reaction in trade, and the dark political outlook, prices had been brought down to a very low level from which a sharp rebound was inevitable on any favourable development of a marked character. The aftermath of the Boer War has been gathered in, and we are free to go ahead once more. Money in the open market is so plentiful that the removal of four and a-half millions in connection with the last Exchequer bonds issue left no impression whatever behind it, and the transfer of French balances from London to Berlin because more profitable employment can be found for them there is regarded with very philosophical equanimity. We have returned, in short, to our old position as the cheapest money market in the world, and on the whole it says much for our recuperative power that we should have done it so soon. We are a wealthy people, but you cannot take away—blow away in smoke—over a couple of hundred millions from the savings even of a wealthy people without leaving an impression behind. In some quarters there is nervousness over the withdrawal of foreign money from our market. So far from regretting the step, I think it is one upon which we have reason to congratulate ourselves cordially. French money was of much use to us during the recuperative process following our South African War, and the French were glad enough to lend it because they could not find profitable employment for it at home, so that the benefit was mutual. But it was always a menace. With the ally of France engaged in a costly war in Manchuria, who could say what might not happen to necessitate the recall of the whole amount, especially as there were chances of political complications? This possibility overhung the market and left it in a condition of nervous tension. Thanks to our foreign trade profits and the enhanced output of gold in South Africa and elsewhere, the menace is now removed; capital is more plentiful; trade is better, not in Lancashire only, but in the various iron and steel, and other centres; and the Stock market outlook has correspondingly improved. It is beginning to dawn upon the people at large that prices are on the upward way, and those who took my advice and bought when markets were dull and quotations low, have the satisfaction of contemplating more or less handsome profits, especially in Home and Argentine Railways.

Since the above was written the world has been astonished by the inexplicable outrage by the Russian fleet upon the Hull fishing fleet in the North Sea, but the effect upon the stock markets has been slight. At first on Monday the dealers put prices lower, but that was only as a precautionary measure, and as profit-taking prior to the settlement had about come to an end, and as no stock came on offer, there was a quick recovery. The incident is very unfortunate, and untimely, since it is calculated to check the growing feeling of confidence which has been reflected in more active and cheerful markets during the past few weeks; but no one believes that it was anything more than the act of panicky men who had never been out of the Baltic before, or that Russia will delay in making reparation. In a few days, therefore, the markets should go better again.

Money Superabundant — Exchequer Bonds Payment—Foreign Balances Here — State of the Foreign Exchanges—Germany and Gold—The Autumn Drain.

Money in the open market is superabundant, and loans have been obtainable at 1-1¼ per cent. for the night and 1½ per cent. for a week. It would be impossible to find a better proof of the inherent ease of the market than the fact that the transfer of about £4,250,000 to the Bank of England in connection with the new Exchequer Bonds issue had no effect upon rates. The week has seen other important financial operations—the payment of the last call on the Transvaal Threes, as well as of £1,463,000 on London County bills; and rates at the end are about as easy as at the beginning. There is still a considerable amount of foreign money employed in our market, in spite of the transfer of a portion of the French balances, and unless better inducements are offered than at present more of this may go away. On the other hand, domestic supplies are larger, and it is probable that we shall continue to scramble through the autumn and winter demands on our own resources if called upon without feeling any great pinch. It is improbable that any abnormal calls will be made upon them. The German need of gold is less keen, and will be satisfied—probably more than satisfied—by the arrivals from abroad; and while the requirements of Egypt will be considerable, the shipments of bullion to Argentina are likely to be relatively small because of the heavy purchases of Argentine Government bonds and railway stocks on account of Buenos Ayres, added to which it may be found more profitable to send gold from New York than from London. Discount rates have been maintained throughout the week, the condition of the French and German exchanges being adverse.

Consols Harden Gradually — Finish Higher — Other Gilt-edged Descriptions Sympathise — Colonials — Foreigners Active — Argentine and Brazilian Buoyant on Good News—Chilians and the Treaty—Paris Specialties Tolerably Firm — Peruvians — Preference Prominent—Uruguays Harder Still.

After consistently ignoring the more buoyant tendency exhibited by the majority of other markets during the past week or two, gilt-edged descriptions have at last thrown off some of the heaviness which has characterised them recently, and, despite some pessimistic utterances concerning the maintenance of the easy monetary position, the general trend of values has been upwards This has not been very marked, perhaps, but on the whole it is a satisfactory sign, and the movement became somewhat accelerated on more favourable changes in the foreign exchanges, while Lombard-street also became more confident, and that bogey, the new Water Board issue, to which a good deal has been attributed, has also been removed. Starting at 88 3-16 for the account, the Funds gradually picked up to 88⅝, to experience a slight set-back to 88⅜ at the close; and the rest of the market, including Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, the War stock, London County Threes, and the Irish Land stock, hardened in sympathy, and show satisfactory gains on balance. Colonial issues remain quiet and unchanged, apart from Johannesburg Fours, Sierra Leone Fours, and Cape Threes, which all show appreciations, the latter finishing at 95½. It will be remembered that this last proved a fiasco when placed upon the market, the underwriters being saddled with the bulk of the issue, but it seems that this fraternity have at last cleared themselves. The news from the Far East has exercised an influence upon the "War" stocks, Japanese issues sagging away and Russian creeping upwards to a slight extent, but changes are not very significant on balance. In the South American group Brazilians were momentarily

affected by rumours emanating from Paris of serious riots in Rio de Janeiro, but they picked up again in sympathy with Argentine descriptions, which derived considerable benefit from the announcement that a decree had been signed ordering the Treasury to refund to the Conversion Fund gold piastres to the number of almost 12,000,000, withdrawn urgently in 1901 in order to buy armaments. This stimulated buying from the Continent, and Rescissions, Four per Cent. Loan of 1900, Six per Cent. Funding, B.A. Waterworks, together with the rest of the country's stocks, jumped up smartly, while Brazilians scored advances of from ¼ to more than a point. Mexicans displayed more buoyancy, the high price at which the new External Loan had been placed being satisfactory, and some strength was imparted to Chilian stocks by the signing of a treaty of peace between that nation and Bolivia. Among Paris specialities, Portuguese reacted on the resignation of the Ministry, and Spanish eased away also, though they recovered towards the close. Egyptian Unified advanced slightly, the outlook for the country being brighter, and Chinese Bonds have come into better demand. There has been an absence of sensational fluctuations in Peruvian Corporation issues, but, as a result of consistent support from Amsterdam, which takes a keen interest in them, the stocks have been good when not affected by spasmodic profit-taking, the Preference being most prominent, on the general expectation of a 25s. dividend. Uruguays continue on the upgrade, but the "rubbishy" bonds in this market have kept well in the background.

Home Railways Cheerful—More Investment Buying—Improving Trade—A New Line in the North—Great Western and Barry—Scotch Stocks in Favour—A "Tap on" in Dover "A"—Metropolitan and Great Central Settlement — Coal Rates — York Deferred.

While somewhat irregular in tendency, the Home Railway market has continued good on the whole, as a result, to a large extent, of investment buying, induced by the reports about improving trade. The halfpenny papers, as is their way, have been talking about an impending boom. There is no boom anywhere save in Yankees, and the British public is not participating in that to any extent, and I see no reason to anticipate such a development, which is always the outcome of recklessness, engendered by a superfluity of savings. The people of this country are not in a reckless mood—rather they are singularly cautious, because of the war in the East and the many disappointments following upon our own little affair in South Africa, and consequent upon this last also they are not cursed with too much money to burn. But it would appear from the monetary situation and from general trade indications that things are on the mend, and investors having a little more cash than they have been able to command for three or four years past, and being convinced that the improvement will continue, they display a growing desire to pick up the bargains which had perforce to be neglected when funds were small. At current prices the Home Railway market is attractive, and if there be no unexpected developments, prices, which are already well above the lowest of the current year, should enjoy a further appreciation. Better trade will mean higher dividends, so that the direct return upon an investment made now will increase, and there will be further consolation in the shape of enhanced capital value. Hence the attention which discriminating investors are paying to the more attractive stocks in the market, and as these move upwards the speculative descriptions follow. There has been good buying during the week of the "Heavy" stocks, and as a result prices show substantial gains, although "Leeds" and North-Easterns have not been unaffected by the reported movement for the construction of a new line in the North of England, the proposed route being from Barrow to Sunderland, and a direct line from Sunderland to Darlington. North-Westerns have been picked up quite briskly, and Great Westerns are higher on support, partly induced by the rumour that it proposes to acquire the Barry Railway, which would further strengthen its position in South Wales. Barry stocks have naturally improved on the report, but they are worth considering apart from any contemplated amalgamation. Great Easterns and Great Northern issues are in favour, and there has been considerable support for Scotch stocks, especially from the North, which professed to be impressed with the traffics, but values have gone off again towards the end on profit-taking. Southern stocks are fairly good, Brighton A and Chatham issues being bought; but Dover A, which has lagged for some time past, fails to improve its position; which seems to show that a tap is turned on in the stock whenever the price reaches a certain level—probably it is turned on at the instance of one of those confiding people who bought on the assurance that the stock was going to 75. While at all times speculatively interesting (though for the moment under a cloud), Dover A is not to be recommended to the investor when there are so many better and dividend-paying stocks to be obtained far more cheaply. The Underground issues were inclined to slip back at one time, the statement at the meeting of the Underground Electric Railways that the substitution of electricity for steam would be a gradual matter causing some "Bulls" to get out and some "Bears" to come in; but Metropolitans have since developed much strength on the announcement that the difficulty with the Great Central had been adjusted amicably and to the mutual advantage. The terms are not available, but market report has it that the Metropolitan has the best of the bargain, which includes the right to run trains into Marylebone, thereby facilitating the traffic with Aylesbury. But one may take it that the Great Central has not been "left," and I may again draw the attention of investors to the good prospects of this Company's stocks. Its earnings continue very satisfactory; it is drawing traffic away from its rivals, especially from the Midland; and a further diversion is possible, since a number of coalowners in the North are dissatisfied with the rates charged by the Midland, and are combining in the hope of securing better terms from the Great Central. It will be seen from my comparative table of earnings below that this line is doing better, relatively, than most Companies in the matter of traffics:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,018	− 2,272	+ 14,253
Caledonian	+ 2,695	− 2,280	− 3,730
Great Central	+ 2,236	− 308	+ 14,641
Great Eastern	+ 1,200	− 6,100	+ 6,700
Great Northern	+ 1,566	− 5,701	− 35,104
Great Western	+ 2,100	− 200	+ 3,000
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 6,475	− 7,156	+ 36,017
London and North-Western	− 1,000	+ 2,000	− 69,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,800	+ 300	+ 7,400
Midland	+ 7,819	− 15,746	− 109 234
North British	+ 5,467	− 1,862	+ 8,572
North-Eastern	+10,106	− 15,314	− 8,049
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 2,573	− 2,928	+ 20,322

With the exception of the Midland and the North-Western, the line with the largest loss in traffic to date is the Great Northern. As I have before explained, the decrease is referable partly to the competition of the new tube and the electric tramways in North London, and probably the Great Central is hurting it in other directions. It is worth while pointing out, however, that the Company starts with £59,000 to the good, inasmuch as the appropriation of £40,000 in 1903 to the renewal of permanent way, etc., entirely wiped out this item, while £19,000 extra was brought in for the current period, and for the year the Company should pay at the

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rate of 1¾ per cent. on the Deferred as against 1 per cent. for 1903. Movements during the week will be seen from my usual table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Oct. 15	Price, Oct. 22.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	76½	75¼	76	76¼	+ ¼
Do. Def.	29	31¼	32⅜	33¼	+ ⅞
City and S. London	51	48	47½	47½	—
Central London	96	88½	91	93	+2
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	48¼	51¼	+3
Do. "B"	24½	26	29⅞	29⅞	—
Do. "A"	13½	14⅜	16½	16½	+ ½
Great Eastern	85½	89½	91⅜	92	+ ½
Great Northern Pref.	99½	102	102	102	—
Do. Def.	39⅜	41½	42¼	42⅝	+ ⅜
Great Western	135½	138	139	140	+1
Hull and Barnsley	41½	36⅞	37½	38½	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	105	106	107	+1
London and Brighton "A"	104	120	123¼	124½	+ ⅜
London, Chatham, and Dover	13⅜	15½	16⅜	16⅜	— ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	91	98	99⅝	101½	+2
Do. 2nd Pref.	55	64	66	67	+1
London and North-Western	154½	151	153	156	+2
London and South-Western Def.	54	52½	53½	54	+ ½
Metropolitan Consolidated	80	97⅞	99⅜	100½	+ ⅜
Metropolitan District	30½	42½	43	42½	- ½
Midland Pref.	69½	67⅞	68	68	—
Do. Def.	66½	64	66¼	66½	—
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	75½	76⅜	76½	- ⅛
Do. Def.	42½	44⅝	45⅝	47⅜	+ ⅝
North-Eastern Consolidated	140½	137½	139	140	+1
South-Eastern "A"	48½	58½	59¼	59¼	- ½

CANADIAN RAILWAYS—GRAND TRUNK'S EARNINGS—THE JUNIOR ISSUES—CANADIAN PACIFICS—MEXICAN RAILWAYS STILL PROMINENT — ARGENTINE RAILWAYS — CORDOBA AND ROSARIO.

The market in Canadian and Foreign rails is participating in the general recovery of business, and prices are firm. Grand Trunk issues had some set-back on the traffic, which showed a decrease of £4,524, whereas anticipations—whose basis it is impossible to ascertain—had run from £1,000 down to "even." A year ago the second week of October witnessed an increase of £15,489, so that the present showing is not bad, the actual total being £144,669. The decrease to date is £77,003 in contrast with an improvement of £328,729 for the corresponding period of last year, and it depends upon the early moving of the abundant harvest whether the Company is to finish its year with a reduction in gross earnings. The Second Preference stock is at a level which indicates that in knowing quarters it is confidently believed that this stock will receive its full 5 per cent.; and the other stocks, those in front of it and those behind, have now got over the traffic and are well up on the week. There are speculative investors about who are sufficiently satisfied with the prospects of the Company that they are induced to pick up the junior stocks to put away for a period when comparisons will not be with such big increases as at present, and it is a good feature of the situation that there is no superabundance of stock about. Grand Trunk Guaranteed and First Preference stocks seem to me to be good to buy at current quotations. There is necessarily some risk attaching to a purchase of Seconds if the full dividend for the current year is the object aimed at, but none that I know of, if it be desired to hold them until they reach par again. The yield obtainable on the Company's prior charge stocks is shown in the table appended:—

—	Amount.	Price.	Yield per Cent.
	£		£ s d.
Grand Trunk Perpetual Debenture... Stk	4,270,375	122	3 16 6
Do. do. do. 2d Stk	15,134,731	106	3 15 6
Do. Gt. Western Perp. Deb. Stk	2,723,080	120	3 17 6
Do. N. of Can. Perp. Deb. ... Stk	347,000	105	3 16 3
Do. Mid. of Can. 1st Mt. 1908 100	426,000	104	4 3 3
Do. do. 1st Mt. Bds. 1912 100	1,016,500	105	4 4 6

Canadian Pacifics continue a very firm market round about 137½. The latest traffic is not impressive since it shows an increase of only $5,000, but last year's figure was large, and it remains that with every prospect of big earnings during the coming months the Company is already $1,114,000 in hand for the period since July 1. Mexican Railways are well up on the week, and for a change the Ordinary stock has come in for attention. It may be pointed out that this stock is not very far away from a dividend, since for the first half of the year 7 per cent. was earned on the First Preference, and the total of Second Preference stock is little more than a million. The Argentine Railway market has kept tolerably firm, though less active. But Cordobas and Rosario Preferred, to which I drew attention last week, has a further spurt.

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price Oct. 22.
Canadian Pacific	136	136	137
,, 4 per cent. Preference ..	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	15⅛	16¾	16¾
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	99	98
,, 1st Preference	109½	103¾	103¾
,, 2nd ,,	97½	94⅞	95⅜
,, 3rd ,,	45½	42	43⅜
Bengal and North-West	143	144½	145
Bombay Baroda	155	154½	147½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	127	126	127
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101	106¾	106½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	96	121½	121½
,, ,, 1st Preference..	96½	106	106½
,, ,, 2nd ,, ..	87	95	95
,, Great Southern	132	137½	138½
,, Western	129	129½	129½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	49	67½	67½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	80	95	97
Costa Rica Railway	1⅞	2⅜	3⅛
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	101	92½	92
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	87	81	81½
Mexican Railway	16½	19⅝	23½
,, 1st Preference	68½	89½	90½
,, 2nd ,,	25½	32	44½
Nitrate Rails	8½	7⅞	8¼

AMERICANS STILL ACTIVE—BETTER AGAIN AFTER A SHAKE-OUT — A ONE-SIDED "BOOM" — IS THE MARKET BROADENING? — MORE MANIPULATION — LOUISVILLE RUMOURS — COALERS TO THE FRONT — THE "BULL" POINTS IN THE SITUATION.

There was a considerable shake-out in Americans on Thursday, but down to then movements were violently upwards, particularly in specialties such as Southern Pacifics (which changed hands in parcels of 10,000 shares or more) and Steel Corporation issues, but after the reaction the market gathered strength, and is now going ahead once more, being helped by a relatively good Banks statement, by the ease of money in New York, and by the aggressive tactics of the Wall Street "Bulls." It may be said literally that a boom is proceeding in the market, but it differs from the usual run of booms in that the public shows no inclination to hold the baby, and is keeping away, leaving the whole thing to the professionals. And, so far as London is concerned, the professionals are acting with excessive caution, most of the big transactions reported in order to astonish the world being sent from New York with the idea of creating the impression that the market is really broadening and that people are coming to realise very tardily the superlative merits of Yankees. The deals in Southern Pacifics and Steels, for instance, were of this sort; and the Germans, who appear to like being "left" at the top, have been encouraged to bid by a few big purchases made on New York account, although this fact was not publicly announced. Again, there have been large realisations under cover of sharp bidding for specialties. Ontarios and Missouris have been among the instruments selected for this purpose, and in the case of both the usual yarns about fights for control and the like have been put in circulation. Among the consistently strong spots in the market are Milwaukees and, in a less marked degree, Union Pacifics. Louisvilles, a sound security, have been helped along by reports of an intended increase in the dividend and of an acquisition of control of the Louisville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis. Eries are high enough on merits, or lack of them, but the shares have been helped by the news that the President of the First National Bank has been elected to the Board. The Morgan group and their satellites have been supporting these shares as well as Steels. Other Coalers besides Eries have been somewhat prominent, and Baltimores, Norfolks, Penn-

sylvanias, and Readings have advanced. My table below shows the measure of movements since I wrote last week:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price, Oct 8, 1904.	Closing Price Oct. 15, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 22, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56¼	85⅞	88	88⅞
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	103¼	103⅜	105
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	93¼	97⅛	98⅛
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28½	45½	46½	47
Denver	43¾	18¼	29⅜	30½	32¼
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	83½	84⅝	86
Erie	43⅜	23½	34¾	34½	38¼
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	71¼	71½	75
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	131½	136	139⅜
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	170½xd	174	177
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30¾	16⅞	26⅝	29½	31⅝
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	93⅜	93	94
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	74	75	75½
New York Central	158	116⅜	132½	138¼xd	138¼xd
Ontario	36	19¾	35⅛	3o¾	44
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	68⅜	69½	70⅜
Reading	35¼	20	36⅛	37⅜	40⅛
Do. First Pref.	45¼	36⅜	44¼	44½	45
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	33⅛	35⅜	36⅜
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	96½xd	97	98
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	60⅜	62¾	64
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅝	106¼	110⅜	110½
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	95½	97	97½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	42½	44	45½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	67½	68½	70
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	18½	21⅝	21½
Do. Pref.	—	—	77	82⅞	83⅛

I see no reason to modify my frequently reiterated view that Americans are not the market for the English speculator who desires to see something of the game he is playing. It is all right for punters, especially those who neglect to pay up when the luck goes against them; but I have no concern with the punter, and I say again that there are other markets—Home and Argentine Railways, and South African, and even Westralian mines—which give promise of profits as good between now and the end of the year, with not a fiftieth part of the risk. The English people realise this, for they are leaving Yankees alone, and are paying attention to these other markets. Still, there are people who do not object to the big risk—who are prepared to meet losses should losses be incurred, and to smile afterwards. For them I may enumerate the good features of the situation. Easy money, which has made possible the sustained operations of the "Bull" pools in New York, is likely to be maintained. Cash is returning earlier than usual from the interior, gold is coming in from Japan, the Yukon, and elsewhere, and the domestic output is large and increasing. Concurrently with this there has been a rapid expansion of bank-note circulation until the supply of money in actual use exceeds $31 per head. The rapidity with which the circulating medium has increased may be indicated by merely stating that ten years ago the per capita circulation was only $24.52, while in 1900 it was but $26.94. It is in such figures that explanation is to be found for the persistent disregard which Wall Street professes towards declining bank reserves. Sterling exchange is within a cent of the point where gold importations would permit of discussion, and in view of the enormous shipments of cotton, it is quite possible that a very modest advance in the Money market would send exchange down to a point which would avert stringency by commencing gold imports. The surplus reserve has decreased at so rapid a rate as to call for conservatism in stock market operations, but with the crop-moving season already well advanced there is no longer need for alarm over money market prospects. Though nothing very remarkable, the crops will be fair or good, with the exception of wheat, and the gross railroad earnings are satisfactory again. The Companies are placing orders for rails and other material more freely, and the iron and steel trade is picking up once more. The possibility that the Presidential campaign would exert the adverse effect which is commonly, though not altogether correctly, attached to it, operated at first to check outward expression, in the stock market, of the more hopeful undertone of sentiment. The disturbing influence of the election, however, was practically set at rest by the stupidity of the St. Louis Convention in refusing to abandon unsound financial principles, and Wall Street almost instantly recorded its judgment against a party which persisted in thus trifling with one of the most vital issues of national policy. The political campaign was, therefore, eliminated to an extent which virtually robbed it of disturbing import. This in turn reacted upon industrial interests and undoubtedly hastened the expansion in trade.

Kaffirs in More Favour—Less Disposition to Snatch Profits—Public Buying—Labour Outlook Good—More Employment for Whites—Tube Mill Economies—Diamond Shares—Goldfields Strong—A New Kaffir—Deep Levels.

There is more public inquiry for South African Mining shares, and though values have to some extent moved irregularly, it will be seen from my table below that the tendency has easily been towards higher values. This is especially significant since we have another settlement on, and the usual course for a long time past has been for values to recede with the approach of a settlement as a natural result of profit-taking. The fresh business being largely professional, it was only to be expected that people who have recently not been too much in the habit of seeing profits should betray an inclination to snatch those which came along. Preceding this present settlement there has been profit-taking, hence the irregularity; but it has been almost completely counteracted by a continuance of support from outsiders impressed with the speculative possibilities of the market. The plain fact is that the public is increasing its holding of Kaffirs. Some people are averaging on shares bought at higher prices, and others are coming in for the first time, or are placing more eggs in their individual baskets; and the strength of the undertone is increased by the fact that stock is not very plentiful, and by the satisfactory reports on the subject of labour as well as on the subject of more economical working by the adoption of tube mills on a number of properties. It is not yet all plain sailing without a single squall. Some of the last consignment of coolies are suffering from beri-beri, and it appears that there was a row between the Chinese on one mine and the authorities, with much jabbering of strange tongues and throwing of stones. As to the first, it is satisfactory to know that all coolies suffering from beri-beri are to be sent back; as to the second, seeing that all groups of workmen—here at home, for instance—suffer occasionally from "imaginary grievances," what is to be gained by making a sort of national affair of a small kick-up among a group of coolies? The incontestable facts are that the Chinese are efficient, that they are arriving in goodly numbers, that the recruitings are satisfactory, that the natives are coming along more freely, and that more employment is being found for white persons. It will probably come as a surprise to most people to learn that, thanks to Asiatic labour, there are more white persons employed to-day in the mines on the Rand than at any time in the history of the industry. Large, fresh construction works, it is added, are in progress on new or closed-down mines, while development work on the deep-levels is greatly on the increase. Under ordinary circumstances the ratio of employment of white labour to black is as one to seven, and the rapid accumulation of labour on the Rand is therefore gratifying, if only from the fact that the distress in Johannesburg is thus greatly lessened. At the meeting of the Standard Bank of South Africa last week the Chairman put forward some particulars in regard to the progress of the mines in the Transvaal, referring especially to the question of unskilled labour and the expected advantages from the introduction of tube mills. Speaking at the meetings of the Glen Deep and Nourse Deep Companies, Mr. Raymond Schumacher stated that

tube mills were to be ordered for nearly all the mines belonging to the Wernher-Beit-Eckstein group, and would be primarily used for obtaining a higher gold extraction, estimated at 2s. per ton, at a small initial outlay. There would still remain all the chances for largely increasing the tonnage later on when money was obtainable and mine developments had been prepared; but, Mr. Schumacher declared, it must be understood that doubling the present capacity of batteries would in any case involve a heavy expenditure even with tube mills. Under present conditions, from 85 to 90 per cent. of the gold contents of the ore on the leading mines is saved. But from tests carried out in August, Mr. Schumacher states that from ore of the value of 10.4 dwts. per ton it was estimated that 95 per cent. of the gold contents can be extracted with the aid of the tube mills, the improvement as against a 90 per cent. extraction being equivalent to 2s. per ton. The Chairman of the Langlaagte Deep mine states that by the end of June next 50,000 Chinese would be working at the mines—a by no means excessive estimate, seeing that more than half that number will be on the Rand or on the way thither by the end of December next. It is the realisation of the labour and gold extraction possibilities that has helped to revive interest in the South African mining industry and the shares of the Companies engaged therein, and but for the pre-settlement realisations the effect upon prices would have been still more marked. Movements on balance during the past week are shown in my table below:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 24, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	6 13/16	6⅞	6 15/16
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3⅜	3⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Bultfelsdoorn	—	1⅜	7/16	1/4	¾	¼
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1/16	1¼	1 5/16	1⅜
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅝	2⅛	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7¼	5⅛	5 3/16	5¼	5¼
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅝	10¼	4 5/16	6⅜	7	7 1/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
Crown Reef	12⅝	18½	16½	15½	16	16
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅝	18¼	18⅛
Do. Def.	—	26½	18⅝	18⅝	18	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4 3/16	4⅛	4 1/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 15/16	6⅜	5½	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	2¼	2 1/16
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	1 9/16	8 1/16	8½
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¼	3/16	2/-	2/-	2/-
Ferreira	22	26	18	20¼	21	21½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	1⅝	2 3/16	2 1/16
Geduld	—	9 13/16	5	6 5/16	6⅜	6⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2⅜	2 1/16	2¼
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅞	2¼	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5½	5 5/16	5 5/16
,, Main Reef	1 5/16	⅝	¼	7/16	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅜	2¼	1¼	1 5/16	1⅜	1 1/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 1/16	2 5/16	2 7/16	3	3
Henderson	5⅜	2⅞	1	1⅜	1 5/16	1 1/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10¼	7⅜	8	8¼	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8⅜	3½	3	3 1/16	3⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27	27
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4 3/16	2⅜	2¼	2 5/16	2⅜
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1¼	1 5/16	1¼	1¼
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Jubilee	12½	7¼	4½	4 3/16	4½	4 5/16
Jumpers	8½	6⅜	2⅜	2½	3	3
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1 13/16	1 15/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅜	2 1/16	2¼	2¼
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6	6⅜	6 1/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅞	⅜	⅝	¾	¾
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3½	2 5/16	2¼	2¼
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¼	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 5/16	2
May Consolidated	4⅜	5 1/16	2⅜	4	4	4 1/16
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6⅜	4⅜	5 1/16	5¼	5¼
Modderfontein (£4)	17½	14 5/16	7 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 1/16
Niekerk	—	18½	7/6	3	17/-	17/6
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2 5/16	2 7/16	2 5/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 1/16	1½	1 7/16	1 3/16	1 1/16
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¼	1½	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 1/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1¼	⅛	1/16	⅛	⅛
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Princess Estate	4¼	2	⅜	1¼	1¼	1¼
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10 1/16	10 1/16	10 1/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2¼	3	3 1/16	3 1/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	2¼	1/16	1 1/16	1⅜	1 1/16
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1¼	1⅜	2 1/16	2 1/16
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 1/16	1⅜	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9 1/16	9 1/16	9 1/16
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅜	2½	3 1/16	2 15/16	3 1/16
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	8	8	8 1/16
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9 1/16	4⅜	5 1/16	5 1/16	5 1/16
Sheba	2¼	1 15/16	11/3	—	—	6 9

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 24, 1904
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/	11/9	11/6	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	3 3/16	3 1/16	3⅛
Transvaal Development	2⅛	2 5/16	24/-	1/3	1/3	1/3
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	¼	6/6	6/9	6/9
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅛	3½	2⅜	2⅝	2½	2⅝
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4/	4 1/16	4⅛
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4⅛	2⅛	4	4 1/16	4 1/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅜	7⅛	6⅛	6⅜	6⅜
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6⅛	6⅛	6 1/16	6⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9⅛	10⅛	10⅛	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1⅛	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	1⅛

* £5 shares.

There are exceptions to the general tendency. Coronation Syndicates have weakened to 2¾ from about 4; De Beers have fallen further on sales from Paris; and Premier Diamonds, after rising to 43 on talk of share splitting and a dividend at the modest rate of 300 per cent., have receded to 41¾; Transvaal Consolidated Lands have been weak in connection with the new issue of shares; and Apex have gone back: the cable from Johannesburg in regard to the Main Reef recently intersected in the borehole "L" at a depth of 2,378 ft. states that it is about 2 ft. 6 in. wide, not well defined, and of a very low assay value. Among the shares which have been strong are Goldfields, to whose relative cheapness I drew attention last week. Bidding for these has been accompanied by talk of a dividend, but whether the Company does or does not decide to make a distribution now is not of much account. Improving conditions, a considerable "Bear" position, and intrinsic merits should carry the shares considerably higher with the rest of the Kaffir market. In the wake of Goldfields have followed Gold Trusts, and the other leading shares have been affected sympathetically—East Rands, Rand Mines, Modders, and others. Eastern Rand descriptions have been bought; and Western Rand Estates have improved, although the Company has received no news confirming the rumour that it was interested in the reef strike reported by one agency. New South Rands, a share recently introduced, have been supported by the good people interested in finding a market for them; and cables on the subject of important strikes on the Farm Witpoort belonging to the Goerz Company have been followed by the official announcement that a Company has been formed to work the ground. It is called the Van Dyk Proprietary Mines, and it has a capital of £650,000 in £1 shares. The property, says the statement which accompanies the form of application for shares, constitutes one of the last portions of the main reef ground on the Rand proper, containing the reef at a moderate depth and not yet brought to the flotation stage. Some years ago Messrs. Goerz conceived the idea that the reef in their ground would lie at a comparatively shallow depth and that there was every probability of its value being satisfactory. Five different boreholes were sunk, and the main reef was struck in all of them at depths varying from 1,473 ft. to 2,301 ft.; the average thickness was shown to be 26 in., and the average assay 18.8 dwt. per ton. Of the total number of shares, 325,000 have been issued as fully paid to Messrs. Goerz in payment for the freehold of 2,701 morgen, and all mining and other rights attached thereto (the mining area covers 972 claims); and the same Company has subscribed for 175,000 shares at 35s. each for working capital; while 150,000 shares are held in reserve, subject to an option in favour of Messrs. Goerz to purchase them during two years from the registration of the Company at 45s. per share. By this arrangement the Van Dyk is equipped with £306,250 of working capital, and if the option is exercised it will receive £337,500 more, the amount of cash thus provided being approximately equal to the nominal capital. Of the 175,000 shares now issued 132,500 are offered to shareholders in A. Goerz

and Co. at cost price—a departure in Rand mining finance which ought not to go unrewarded. The remarks above referred to on the subject of tube mills have been a helping influence to Deep Levels, which have been firm throughout the week. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 24, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Cent. Nigel Deep	1/16	1	¼	5/16	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2¼	2⅛	2¼
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12½	12½	12½
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4½	2	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅛	5⅜	5⅜
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3⅛	4⅜	4½	4⅞
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11⅜	11½	11⅜
Jumpers Deep	5½	6½	3½	4 7/16	4⅜	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3⅞	3	3⅜
Knight's Central Deep	3½	4⅞	2½	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅞	2	2¼	2⅛	2½
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2⅜	2⅝	2½
New Steyn Estates	2½	5⅛	2½	3⅛	3⅛	3⅜
Nourse Deep	5⅞	6⅞	3½	4½	4½	4½
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	9/16	5/8	5/8	5/8
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅞	2⅜	2⅞	2⅛	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅝	4½	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝
Do. Cent Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅜	4⅞	4⅜	4⅞
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8 7/16	8 1/16	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅜	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2	1⅞	2⅛
South Geld. Deep	3⅞	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4⅜	2½	2⅛	2	2⅛
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅛	2⅜	3⅛	3 1/16	3⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2 1/16	4⅞	2 1/16	3 1/16	3⅛	3⅛

Rhodesians Less Active—Chartered Firm—The New Shares — Banket Descriptions Erratic — Another Postponement Causes Nervousness—A Fresh Cable—Ayrshires and Scottish Mashonalands Steady—Rice Hamiltons Dull—Other Leading Shares—Northern Descriptions.

This section has presented only a moderately animated appearance throughout the past week, and there has been an absence of the violent fluctuations in price to which we have grown accustomed recently, though the tendency on the whole may be described as fairly satisfactory. At one time Chartered developed some dulness as a result of rather free selling, but this did not last for long, and the shares picked up again, finishing somewhat steadier at a slight advance in the price. In large measure this offering was induced by the pending issue of the new shares, which were quoted 1 5-16 to 1⅜ for the special settlement, while the allotment letters figured at 5s. 6d., with a fair number of buyers about. The movements in "banket" shares have been erratic, a rather large amount of profit-taking being induced by another postponement, ascribed to some alterations in the original plans, of the placing of the Banket Company's shares on the market. This not unnaturally caused some disappointment and a slight nervousness, and Explorations and Lomagundas suffered in consequence, though they survived it all, receiving a little assistance from another cable sent by the Exploration Company's manager to the effect that along 15 ft., at the No. 2 level in the west drive, the ore assays 3 oz. 10 dwt., a similar value being also obtained in 20 ft. of the east drive. Ayrshires and Scottish Mashonalands continue fairly steady, the support, however, being almost entirely professional, but the dilatoriness of those concerned in publishing any exhaustive report on the "wonderful" banket is not calculated to inspire confidence, and manifestations of impatience, exemplified by the frequent profit-snatching, are altogether too general. The next date arranged for the appearance of the Banket Company is fixed for Tuesday of this week, and it is said that the £1 shares will be placed on the market at £2, which, if it proves to be true, will considerably lessen their speculative value, and incidentally I may say that reports seem to indicate the indiscriminate pegging out of claims in the vicinity of the Eldorado workings. If these be true, these other concerns may come into existence to trade on their sentimental affinity with the banket. With the exception of Rice Hamiltons, which have been inclined to droop after their recent activity, the other shares continue fairly steady, including Globe and Phœnix and Selukwes; while among the Northern descriptions the tone has not been quite so satisfactory, though Zambesias finish with a slight gain on balance. Nothing of great importance transpired at the Tanganyika meeting beyond that the utterances generally were of an optimistic character. My usual table of prices follows:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up. Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price. Oct. 24, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	¼	¼
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1 3/16	1¼
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4¼	1⅜	1⅜
Buluwayo Explorat'n.	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	5/8	9/8
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	6/8	6/8
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅜	⅜
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅝	⅝
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	¼	⅜
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	21	⅜	⅜
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅛	1⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2½	2⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Matabele G. R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	⅝	⅝
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	3½	3
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	18/6	14/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	6½	6⅜
Rhodesia Gld's (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅞	⅞
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2½	2⅜
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	—	1⅛
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1⅛	1⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3½	3½
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅛	5/32
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/32	1/32
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	⅜	⅛	5/-
Willoughby Con.	1,000 000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	6/3	6/3
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅞	1⅛	1⅛

Westralians Active and Buoyant — Horseshoes the Feature—The Dividend and Developments—Associated Better—Fingalls Cheerful—Oroyas and the "Bears"—Other Leading Shares Firm—Perseverance—A Remedy for Westralianism.

Considerably more activity has been witnessed in the Westralian section during the past week, and the tendency throughout has been strong, in some cases as the result of covering by the "Shorts" prior to the settlement, in others as a consequence of satisfactory developments reported from the properties. These latter, it may be remarked, have served more than anything else to discredit the "Bears" and their dismal utterances, and are calculated to inspire more confidence in the market generally. The outstanding feature has been Golden Horseshoes, which spurted quickly and are almost a point up on balance as a result of the third interim dividend of 6s. per share and the stimulus given by the cable announcing that at the No. 3 level the lode has improved in width and value. Expenses, too, are expected to be reduced appreciably before long, and this, if at all reliable, augurs well; while a further incentive to the buoyancy was the receipt of another cable, stating that at the Nos. 7, 9, and 11 levels the assay values fluctuate between 1 oz. 8 dwt. and 4 oz. per ton. All these seem to indicate that the prospects of the mines are quite satisfactory, but there is a matter outstanding which is sure to detract from general confidence, and that is the reticence of the management in regard to termination of the agreement with the former engineers, and until something authoritative is made known on this point there will always be a stick for the "Bears" to work with in order to disturb the equanimity of holders. Associated also came in for more attention, more gossip relating to a pending change of management having a favourable influence, though a cable mentioning that the Australian East lode had been cut in at the No. 14 level exercised a greater effect. The assay value of the ore there is given at 21 dwt. per ton, which is fairly satisfactory, and the shares continue on the up-grade. A spurt also occurred in Great Fingalls as a consequence of the announcement of the cutting of the reef at a depth of 1,258 ft., though nothing is said of the value of the ore, while Oroyas have been more buoyant on further covering by the "Bears," who had such a rueful experience with the shares at the

last settlement, and who have ever since been making desperate efforts to extricate themselves from their intolerable position. Though they have succeeded in considerably reducing their commitments is rather manifest, they are still heavily committed, and have to pay a "back" of 6d. per share at the current settlement. The rest of the leading shares maintain a cheerful disposition, Kalgurlis in particular, which are well up on balance, while Ivanhoes, Sons of Gwalia, Great Boulders, and one or two others scored slight advances. Perseverance were unaffected by the announcement of Mr. Frank Gardner's resignation, as well as the change of secretaryship, and among the "Little Kangaroos" the only feature has been general idleness with small and unimportant changes almost equally distributed between rises and falls, but as the latest flagrant instance of "Westralianism" occurred in one of these properties, I should like to second Mr. Govett's remarks on the subject made at the Lake View meeting. He spoke truly when at the outset he said that it is a lamentable fact that, in spite of the many examples which exist of mines being managed with scrupulous honesty and with great ability, a stigma, and an exceedingly unpleasant one too, which it is impossible to remove, rests on the industry in general. Generally the scandals have consisted in erroneous statements of ore reserves, a matter which can be avoided by a simple system of checks as adopted on the Ivanhoe mine. The Government ought to exercise some surveillance, and in any case of fraud deal with the guilty ones according to their deserts, offering a high reward for King's evidence. My usual table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 24, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅝	3⅜	1	1⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Assoc Nth Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 7/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1 5/16
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	1⅞	⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/3	7/-	7/-
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	6⅝	7⅛	7⅛
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	3/6	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17 9	19/6	20/-	20/3
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	4/3	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	12½	1 15/16	1⅛	13/-	12,9	13/-
Do. South	2½	1⅜	⅜	—	—	
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅜	9⅜	5 1/16	7⅞	8 7/16	8½
Hainault	1¾	⅜	⅛	⅛	3/32	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	5/-	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (2S)	15½	10⅜	6¾	7 5/16	7 11/16	7⅜
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/2	⅜	11/32	5/32	11/32
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2 3/8	5 5/16	5⅜	5 11/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1 3/16	1¼	1¼
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 5/16	1 3/16	¼	8/0	8/6	8/6
North Kalgurli	1 5/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5 9	6/-
Orova Brownhill	—	4½	2	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜
Peak Hill	5⅜	2⅞	⅜	3/32	4/6	5/32
Sons of Gwalia	6 3/8	2⅜	1	1 1/32	2	2
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¾	1 1/16	1 3/16	1 5/32
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 15/16	⅜	⅜	5/32	⅜

West Africans More Active—Gold Coast Governor's Utterances Help — Abosso Expected to Start Crushing — Miscellaneous Mines — Copper Shares Active—Anaconda Relapse—Camp Birds Better—Etruscan Slump—Charters Towers Dull—Indians Firm—Egyptians Active.

Further indications of life have been manifested in the Jungle, but the interest still remains strictly professional, the public still looking on and awaiting an opportunity to attempt to rid themselves of some of the holdings obtained at fancy figures when the boom was in full swing. The animation has been rather exceptional and the tendency ostensibly good, as a result of the manipulations of the insiders, who thought they perceived a "Bull" point in the utterances of the Governor of the Gold Coast to the Legislative Council concerning the satisfactory progress of the mining industry and the proposed reduction of rates by the railway company. A better system of surveillance at the mines was also considered as quite a desirable and helpful reform; while, coupled with the short supply of stock and the benefit derived from the rumour that crushing will be commenced at the Abosso early next year, the process of making the market appear healthier became quite a simple affair, though it is very questionable whether the appearance of this department will deceive outsiders into evincing any interest except as sellers. Ashanti Goldfields, Amalgamated, and one or two others picked up under the prevailing influences, while Taquah and Abossos came in for attention because of the interest in Abossos, and even Wassaus scored a slight advance, despite the absence of confirmation regarding the reduction of working costs. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 24, 1904.
	£		£			
Ashanti Gldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅞	1⅞
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	4/6 dis
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/6	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 7/16	1⅜
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1½	1½
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	1
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	1 1/32
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Presten Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/6	12/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120.000	1	f.p.	5/32	¼
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1½	1½
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¾	1 11/16

The tendency in the Miscellaneous Mining market has been somewhat irregular, but Copper shares continue tolerably active and strong, being helped by the last statistics; and Rio Tintos show a fair appreciation on buying from Paris; while Tharsis, Mason and Barry, and Tyees keep steady. For an exception, however, Anacondas relapsed on New York selling, and Capes show a slight loss. Mount Lyells weakened on a cable stating that at the 600 ft. level, on the North Mount Lyell mine, the ore body had again disappeared, after driving 40 ft. east and 2 ft. west. Etruscans slumped badly on the proposal to create 100,000 Preference shares entitled to 20 per cent., and the price went to 3s. The later scheme for reconstruction has not been a helpful influence. The Charters Tower group have not been unaffected by the disastrous fire, and Queen Cross Reefs developed further weakness as a result of the announcement that the usual dividend declaration is to be postponed for another fortnight in consequence of the conflagration. Indian gold mines continue firm, the Nundydroog dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, making 2s. 9d. for the eight months, being a good influence; and Ooregums sharply recovered from their recent depression. A fair amount of activity has again been displayed among Egyptians, and Nile Valleys hardened on the announcement that the water had been cleared out of the No. 1 shaft. Broken Hill Props. hardened slightly on the better price of lead; and among New Zealanders, Waihis strengthened further.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up. Oct. 24.	Closing Price. Oct. 24.
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	2 1/8	—	5 1/16
Balaghat Gold	1 3/8	14/-	15 10½	16/6
Broken Hill Props.	1¾	1½	42/-	42/-
Cape Copper	6	2	—	4 3/4
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	11⅜	32/6
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	¾	¾
Mason and Barry	4½	3½	—	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	10/3	10/-
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5 1/8	6⅜	6⅜
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	3⅜	3½
Nundydroog	2 3/8	1⅜	35/6	1/-
Ooregum	24/-	21/9	17 3	18/6
Rio Tinto	58 3/8	38¾	—	58¼
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	—	5
Waihi Gold	6¾	4 3/16	5¼	5 5/16

The American Exploration Company.

Some weeks ago I took occasion to warn readers of Truth to leave alone the American Exploration Company, which is established in elaborate offices at Hotel Cecil Chambers, Strand, on the ground that there is no lack of capital in California and other parts of the United States for the de-

velopment of any gold mining ground of promise. At the same time I offered the concern the hospitality of the columns of TRUTH if it cared to justify its invitation to English people to take up the shares of the various mining companies fathered by it. In due course I received a lengthy communication from the London manager, who was authorised by the general manager, a gentleman named Gammon, to state the case, although, as Mr. Gammon was in this country at the time, and as he himself appears to be virtually the American Exploration Company, it might have been more appropriate and convincing had he put his own signature to the document. I have delayed the publication of the letter because I have been making inquiries, and, much as I should like to oblige by printing the whole of the communication, I find myself unable to do so by reason of its inordinate length. Stated in its own words, the American Exploration Company "obtains options on promising mining 'prospects,' buys those it proves good, and transfers them to the syndicates at exact first cost. Four per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares in the syndicates are then offered for subscription, carrying therewith a bonus of an equal number of Ordinary shares, and a further like number of Ordinary shares is received by the American Exploration Company for its remuneration. The par value of the Preference shares must be repaid in full, with interest, before any dividends are paid on the Ordinary shares—the Preference shares are then retired, and until this is effected the American Exploration Company does not make one penny of profit. The issue of 10,000 to 15,000 Preference shares will, as a rule, be sufficient to finance a syndicate—this being a very small capitalisation compared with mining companies as usually organised." I explain this in order that the London manager's reply may be the more readily understood. That gentleman says:—

Our system of financing mining enterprises is essentially fair to investors, especially when compared with the plan usual in many mining companies, where in some instances as much as nine-tenths of the capital goes to the vendors and promoters, either in cash or shares—leaving one-tenth only to equip and operate the mine. We make no profit in any way until shareholders in our syndicates have been repaid the whole of their investment (or rather the par value of their preference shares) plus interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum—after which we share in the profits *pro rata* with investors. The properties acquired by the syndicates—after having been carefully selected and proven by us—are transferred to the syndicates at the *exact amount* they have cost us. All the shares in the syndicates are placed in the treasury for working capital, *i.e.*, the entire authorised share capital is set aside to obtain and provide working capital, but the cost (including literature, advertising, commission, etc., etc.) of obtaining the necessary capital must in no event exceed 33⅓ per cent. of the cash price of the Preference Shares—if the cost comes out at less than the 33⅓ per cent., the syndicates obtain the benefit; but if *more*, then the parent company is the loser. The directors of the parent company and syndicates do not receive either salaries or fees.

We register our syndicates in Arizona, U.S.A., because the laws of this territory are favourable to shareholders, because they escape heavy taxes, and because we do not only place capital in *this* country (there are from 1,200 to 1,500 names of investors in our London books) but have just as many shareholders in California, and are steadily extending our organisation in other countries, on the lines of *all* international corporations. The more syndicates we are able to finance, the greater will our profits *eventually* be. There are no mining men more expert than Californians; the standing of our consulting engineer can easily be confirmed, as well as the *bona fides* of the directors of the parent company and of its subsidiary syndicates, and granted that the aforementioned are honest men, who know their business, we do not consider it *essential* that each and every country in which we are placing capital should be represented each by its own mining engineer and directors, although, with the increase of our business, arrangements in this direction will probably be made. As soon as crushing starts on either of the properties—which it will do shortly—monthly reports will be regularly sent out.

It should be understood that the parent company is quite distinct from its subsidiary syndicates, for whom—in addition to its other business—it sells shares on the terms before-mentioned.

The enclosed reports, etc., substantiate the fact that we are prosecuting valuable work on the properties, and as a considerable number of those who applied for shares on the instalment plan, are showing their confidence in us by now paying up in full (*re* our letter of the 5th inst. herewith), crushing should, as stated previously, start in the near future.

As compared with what ordinary mining (and other) finance in this country has so often been, our system and methods may *not* be orthodox, but this fact only strengthens our contention, that the American Exploration Company's system is an absolutely fair and equitable one in its relation to investors: when honestly and skilfully conducted, it must be admitted that there is no industry more profitable than mining, and we further claim that our business, which is that of developing "prospects," is by far the most profitable branch of mining.

I understand that as a result of the energetic distribution of the Exploration Company's literature, many thousands of pounds have been obtained from people up and down this country. The above letter states expressly that the Company makes no profit in any way until shareholders in the syndicates have been repaid the whole of their investment, plus interest, when both share *pro rata* in the profits. How can that be the case when, by the admission of the London manager, it is allowed to take 33⅓ per cent. of the capital subscribed for the syndicates? Either this is inaccurate or the American Exploration Company has been raising money on the strength of a deliberate misstatement, which might prove awkward in the end for Mr. Gammon and his friends. Every Preference share sold carries a bonus of one Ordinary share, and the other Ordinary share issued is given to the American Exploration Company, "as its remuneration for having sold the Preference share," but is it a fact that the American Exploration Company always buys one Ordinary share in each subsidiary Company, which, with the shares received, as above, give it control of the management of each of these subsidiary Companies or "syndicates"? The voting power of each of these "syndicates" is under the control of the majority of the Ordinary shareholders through a board of Directors appointed by the majority stockholder (that is, the American Exploration Company) or stockholders. A clause in the articles of incorporation of each of these subsidiary Companies provide that shares *may be issued for services rendered*. Therefore, if by the barest possibility a paying mining property was secured and actually developed to any extent, sufficient to show it to be really good mining property, the majority stockholder could issue any number of shares to itself "for services rendered," thus reducing to insignificance the shares sold and the bonus of Ordinary shares carried with them. It would be interesting if Mr. Gammon were to furnish me with something more exhaustive concerning the personnel of the parent Company itself. Ungenerous people say that he is the Company, and that the young men who fill the offices of vice-president, secretary, etc., are merely his nominees. The paid-up capital is not stated, but I believe I am right in saying that it is small—$10,000—and on the strength of this it opens elaborate and expensive offices, the upkeep of which is paid for of course by the people who buy the shares of the syndicates. The secretary, I am told, is a clerk in a bookseller's shop in San Francisco, and my own inquiries in that city show that the concern is not one of good standing. I hear, in fact, that one reason why Mr. Gammon thought it wise to transfer his activities from the United States to London was the danger of the Post Office authorities there denying him and his Company the use of the mail—which would be fatal to his purpose. No doubt he was influenced also by the consideration that there are more fools in this country than in America. The formation of subsidiary Companies appears to have been designed to make the American Exploration Company a mere share-selling or brokerage concern, thus relieving it of legal responsibility in respect of the holes in the ground which are honoured by the title of gold mines. I can very well believe that in the circumstances the Directors of the parent Company and the syndicates receive neither salaries nor fees. As offshoots of the Exploration Company they are all managed by the creatures of Mr. Gammon. The reason why the syndicates are registered in Arizona is not because the laws of that territory are favourable to shareholders, but because it allows promoters almost any

privilege and hinders their operations with scarcely any restriction. As to another point raised in the letter above quoted—the standing of the Exploration Company's consulting engineer—I must confess that I remain unconvinced. He may be all that the Company claims, but I decline to accept the words of "one of the leading Californian attorneys" and of a San Francisco coal importer on the point. Further, I maintain that no Englishman should put his money into any mining venture in California or elsewhere, whether it be under the auspices of the American Exploration Company or any other organisation, until an English engineer of known reputation and capacity has examined the property. I am not questioning the honesty of the consulting engineer, but he is quite unknown here. It will be seen that the point I raised is evaded in the letter above. I said nothing about this country being represented by its own mining engineer and directors. I merely asked for an independent examination of the properties whose shares are being peddled up and down Europe—with much success, I fear, as regards the United Kingdom, for a great number of prominent people have been roped in; with very little, I gather, as regards Germany, where the authorities (who do not neglect the people utterly) are understood to be averse to Mr. Gammon and his mission there.

Concerning the La Fiesta and Eclipse mines, the two syndicates which have been floated as gold mines, I propose to speak next week.

United Realisation Company.

There are a number of sufferers by the Liberator frauds who are waiting—whether patiently or not I cannot say—for the realisation of the assets of that and the other Jabez Balfour Companies. If they would follow the example of the writer of the appended letter, addressed to the Secretary, and would unite for concerted action, they might hope to force the Directors of the United Realisation Company into some action. It may be explained here that the Company was formed in 1895 as a result of the Official Receiver's and Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams's labours in investigating the Liberator frauds, depositors in the Liberator Company receiving a dividend of 4s. 10d. in the £1, payable not in cash but in shares of the United Realisation Company. A Board of Directors with secretary and office staff and set of offices was set up, costing now about £3,000 a year, formerly much more, but not a penny or any indication of such has reached the unfortunate people who had been defrauded, and it is apparent that the people now in possession do not intend to turn out of their nice little nest if they can help it. It seems highly probable that matters will go on as they are now until all is nearly exhausted, and then a dividend of perhaps a few pence will be paid, unless a stir is made. The letter is appended:—

September 20, 1904.

Dear Sir,—Referring to your letter to me of January 6 last accompanying Report and Balance Sheet of the above Company, I beg to say that it is excessively unsatisfactory to the sufferers by the Liberator frauds to be thus put off year after year with apparently no prospect of receiving any money. It is now twelve years since the Liberator Company failed, and nine years in July last since the formation of the United Realisation Company, and surely that is long enough in all conscience to have realised all the properties, if such had been the earnest intention of the directors and others. I beg to remind you that by the Scheme of Arrangement, Clause 13, it is stated that "The Debentures shall be repayable on the June 30, 1899, or earlier," and I should like to know why this has not been done—it was evidently the intention of those who floated the company that it was to be only a temporary affair.

The time is now approaching for the publication of another Balance Sheet and the General Meeting, and with that in view I wish to urge that the matter of actual realisation be taken in hand forthwith. I am the more induced to urge this by the fact that the cost of administration, as shown on the Balance Sheets, is a heavy and wasteful expense, and is yearly eating up what remains. I will say nothing about these items for 1896, as the company was then newly formed, but in the last three years those items have been as follows:—

1901	£2,994	9 8
1902	£2,821	6 8
1903	£2,804	12 1
	£8,620	8 5

I feel sure it was not the intention of those who formed the company that the remaining assets should be wasted in this very unsatisfactory manner, and I therefore respectfully ask for an explanation as to why something more has not been done before now to wind up the affairs and distribute their shares to the shareholders, and if you can let me know when it is expected that event will take place.—I remain, Sir, respectfully yours, William Tite.

The Secretary of the Company in acknowledging the receipt of the letter, stated that it would be placed before the Directors at their next full Board meeting. Naturally, my correspondent has heard nothing more, and I do not mind telling him, apropos of the last sentence of his letter above, that the ambition of the Directors probably is that the wind-up of affairs shall coincide with the arrival of the Greek Kalends. It is for the shareholders to frustrate this desire.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Woodstock.—1. I see no attraction whatever in a purchase of Guatemala or Costa Rica bonds. 2. Cuban Fives are attractive. At the current figure they return 4⅝ per cent., which is not poor, seeing that the United States will keep its eye on the young republic. *Cylinder.*—1. Consols will go ultimately to about par, no doubt, but there are several factors operating against such a recovery this year. 2. The Government is not likely to raise the rate of interest, if that is what you mean. 3. The buyer would, of course, take the higher rate, but, as I have just said, there is little likelihood of any advance. 4. Consols have the special merit of being the finest security in the world. Another merit is that they are virtually a ready-money security. *Petrel.*—The terms upon which the Waterworks will be taken over by the Corporation are certain to be satisfactory; hence the recent rise. Stick to your holding. *Northerner.*—The Chinese Five per Cent. Gold Loan of 1896 would suit with Mexican Fives and Argentine Funding. *Tomtit.*—You might sell after the fall of Port Arthur if you are bent upon realising, provided that event be not long delayed. If it is, you may have your Fives adversely affected by a new loan, for which, I understand, negotiations have been set on foot. You might get some of your own back if you buy some Japanese stock again when the war looks like coming to an end—provided, of course, the advantage be not with Russia. *Kerry No. 2.*—The Irish Land stock is virtually as safe as Consols and returns more. In the circumstances, your best plan would be to stick to Government stocks.

Railways.

North Sea.—North-Western, Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and Buenos Ayres Rosario Preference stocks may be recommended. *T. T. A.*—Cordoba and Rosario Preference stock looks good for a still further rise—at least 120. Buenos Ayres Pacific Second Preference is a reasonably good holding, and Argentine Great Western Participating Preference stock should be kept. *N. G.*—North British stock is one of the cheapest in the Home Railway market. *In Deserto.*—American railroad gold bonds are likely to hold their ground, and even to go higher. I should recommend Pennsylvania Four and a Half per Cent. bonds. Louisville First Mortgage Trust bonds, and Atchison Adjustment bonds, which will average close upon 4 per cent. *Sussex.*—Leopoldina Railway Debentures might be bought; the yield would work out at about 4⅝ per cent. Or Argentine Great Western Irredeemable Second Debentures would suit, the return on this stock being 4⅝ per cent. *Stuart.*—The Interoceanic B Debentures are redeemable at six months' notice at 120, and that is the sum which you would receive in surrendering your holding. You had better stick to the stock, therefore. *Nix.*—Since the electrifica-

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tion of the line the Mersey Railway has done distinctly better, and it appears to have a decent future. The British Westinghouse Company guaranteed the interest on the new Four per Cent. First Perpetual Debentures and on the Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures until the completion of the works, and the same Company undertook to provide by June last the sum required for the redemption of the first Four and a Half per Cent. Debentures.

MINES.

Charter.—1. The Chartered Company is interested in the banket reef discovery, since it will receive a royalty on the gold output. 2. I am unable to say exactly what is the value of the concessions, but it is certainly considerable. *Eques.*—Kalgurlis and Oroyas are both worth buying. The latter, obtainable at 3⅞, has over £4 worth of ore in sight, and even the "Bears" have come to allow that there is no mistake about this calculation. *A. M. E.*—I doubt if the Johannesburg Consolidated stands to lose much money by the fall in Coronations. *Fortior.*—Bibianis, Himons, and Presteas might be held, but the public will not come again into the Jungle for a considerable time, and it might be advisable to realise and transfer into the South African or Westralian market. *A Victim.*—Send me further details, including the name of the concern, and then I will advise you. But it seems doubtful if ever the shares were actually bought, and in that event the outside broker cannot recover. *Inca.*—Walhuters are a fairly promising speculation. The Company has not declared a dividend since 1898, operations having been interfered with by the war and afterwards. *Shuler.*—The concern is assured of a considerable life by the acquisition of the deep level ground adjoining, but one has no data upon which to make a definite estimate. There is no reason for alarm for the present. *P. Z.*—I should not join the reconstruction. *Northwood.*—The gentleman is quite honest, but his views are pessimistic on most things—especially upon South Africans. Keep your shares, and they will give you a good profit before long. *Joe.*—Rhodesia Mines is not the same Company as Rhodesia, Limited. The shares of the former are worth about 4s. *Inkpot.*—1. Bonanzas are not worth buying, as the mine's life has only about another year to run. 2. Great Fingalls ought to recover, probably to the figure you name. The only difficulty is that outside speculators are not attracted to Westralians just now. *Melville.*—Consolidated Langlaagtes should be held for a moderate improvement. *Ilex.*—Both are worth keeping, since South Africans are on the up grade. *Grams.*—On any fall, you might buy more New Primrose, Meyer and Charltons, New Africans, and East Rands. Hold all the rest, as the list is an attractive one. I doubt if Paris will develop much weakness on the fall of Port Arthur—judging from recent experience that Bourse may show strength, because the event should bring the end of the war appreciably nearer. *H. W. L.*—Keep the Rhodesians, as well as the Transvaal Goldfields and "Johnnies." Sell the others. *G. M. N.*—You are entitled to the dividend. *Carleton.*—Keep the Johannesburg Waterworks and Johnnies. The other two are not attractive, though South-West Africans may strengthen (but scarcely to your figure) on a better market. Bonanzas should be left alone, as the mine has only about another year of "life" before it. *H. R.*—Rand Klipfonteins are a good holding, and you should keep them. Rand Collieries are a hopeful purchase. *S. S.*—Your West Africans strike me as hopeless. Kumassi Syndicates are quoted at 9d. and British S. W. African Land and Mining at 7½d. *Wien.*—Goldfields are good for a further recovery. You might also buy Randfonteins and East Rands.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Ajax.—1. My only objection to the Japanese Sixes is that they are likely to be adversely affected by new loans, which are unavoidable if the war is to be continued much longer—in fact another loan is now, I understand, being negotiated. On the score of security I see nothing to complain of. 2. I should not buy Aerated Breads until I saw evidences of greater enterprise on the part of the directors. *Amateur, Darlington.*—1. Westminster Electrics would suit; the yield is about 5 per cent. 2. I see no reason why Jungle shares should be bought now. Public interest has died out and is not likely to revive until the gold mining industry has made better progress. The recent advance has been brought about by the professional element, incited to bid by the contagious influence of the surrounding markets. 3. Canadian Pacifics are a good holding, and 4. Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock is reasonably safe. 5. Great Westerns should have a further appreciation. *G. W. W., Dublin.*—Hudson's Bays are worth keeping for good dividends and a further appreciation in the course of the next few years. I have seen estimates which show that the real value of the shares is more like 100 than 48½; but while they are to some extent hypothetical, there is no doubt that they are intrinsically worth more than the current figure. 2. Take your profit on the Argentine bonds when the unification scheme is announced. 3. Hold the Chartered, but do not buy any more. *Vincent.*—1. Sell out and place the proceeds in something with better prospects. 2. Tyne Improvement stock is safe, and the yield is satisfactory—3¾ per cent. The present is a good time to buy Home Railway stocks. I suggest North Westerns, Brighton "A," North British. *Belfast.*—1. I do not know the company. 2. Fine Spinners Ordinary shares are a very fair industry. 3. The shares of the Bank of New South Wales are worth buying. They give over 5 per cent. upon an investment. *Rexo.*—1. I am sorry that I cannot give you the name of the solicitor, for the simple reason that I cannot ascertain it. 2. Niekerks are a promising speculation for a few shillings, but on present indications I should not care to hold on for £2. The option should prove satisfactory. 3. Hold for 110. *Dare.*—1. Brighton "A" and Lomagundas are good; Exploration Land and Minerals are a fair speculation. 2. I do not think so. 3. I understand that the concern does the fair thing by its clients, but I can say nothing more.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Marshall.—Many thanks for the documents. I dealt with the concern in question and its preposterous statements a short time ago, but on their face alone the circulars are so plausible that it is remarkable that anybody is taken in. *Careful.*—I have a very poor opinion of the concern and its methods, and am sure you could do infinitely better elsewhere. *St. John's Wood.*—It is very questionable whether any of my readers are philanthropic enough to avail themselves of your kind offer. *S. B.*—Quite safe, I think. *Thocious.*—You have only their word for all the wonderful results, and I consider it would be absolutely unsafe to entrust the concern with any of your money. If they could make such a good turnover as they say, they would be chary of seeking outside assistance. *Ouvrier.*—It is a second-rate Industrial, and therefore somewhat risky. There are safer things of the same type. *Music, Bradford.*—I consider the concern a very undesirable one to have any dealings with. *Diopter, Deal.*—It would be cheaper in the long run to sacrifice what you have already paid and discontinue payments. *Cautious, Egremont.*—The liability in respect of uncalled capital may seem rather remote, but still it exists, and therefore lessens the value. If you care to take the risk, there are National and Provincial, London and Westminster, Parr's, and Lloyd's, yielding from 4 to 5 per cent. *Neptune.*—A safe and good office, but you had better confirm your impression regarding the surrender value. *Morrison.*—I am afraid there is no help for you. I am not aware that a list of shareholders is obtainable, but the promoter to whom the Company owes its birth is at present being interviewed by the law. *Crow.*—I do not recommend dealings with outside brokers. If you write again, letting me know the nature of your proposed investment, I shall willingly oblige you with my advice. *Woolwich.*—Judging from the document, I should say it is not a safe investment. *Scottie.*—They have moved upwards pretty rapidly and substantially of late, and I do not, therefore, recommend them for a quick profit, though they are a sound investment purchase. *Dexter.*—A fair Industrial holding which yields about 7 per cent. at its present level. 2. The hotel feels the prevailing depression very keenly, and this together with severe competition resulting in a falling off of £25,000 in the trading profits, has necessitated the passing of the final Preference dividend. General conditions seem to be brightening, but nevertheless I think you could do better. *L. L. B.*—Neither is desirable. The former slumped badly as a result of the recent poor showing, while the latter, judging from the persistent falling off in the receipts, is not in a good position. I prefer J. Lyons Preference and A. W. Gamage Preference, averaging about 5 per cent. *F. D. P.*—A good Industrial worthy of attention, but as it has been on the upgrade recently the speculative possibilities are not great. *Widow.*—Quite safe enough for investment purposes, I cannot recommend it for speculation, which you ought to avoid. *Knickeen.*—They are genuine enough in themselves, but I would not vouch for the respectability of the so-called agents. Such affairs are illegal in this country, and you must not forget that your chance is twenty thousand to one, to put it modestly. *D'ton, Darlington.*—My opinion of the concern is a very poor one. The circular makes "interesting reading," so that the gullible may be attracted. Leave it severely alone. *N. C., Newcastle.*—I am not sufficiently acquainted with the individual's reputation to say whether he is to be trusted, but you must never lose sight of the fact that your liability is not confined to the sixpence for which he asks. *Coreopsis, Rugby.*—Yes, fairly safe. *Vinter.*—The shares are very speculative. *Halahan.*—I consider London and India Dock Deferred a good purchase at the present price, because there is a good chance of the stock receiving the full 4 per cent. for the year, in which case the return would be more than 5¼ per cent.

INDUSTRIALS MORE CHEERFUL—BUSINESS EXPANDING—WATER BOARD STOCK—TELEPHONES IN REQUEST—TEXTILES STEADY—GAS ISSUES ON THE ASCENDANT—BREWERIES DEPRESSED—DEMAND FOR TRUST STOCKS—"BUNSHOPS" HOTEL CECILS WEAK—MEAT SHARES ACTIVE—SET BACK IN HUDSON'S BAYS.

Further indications of an expansion in the volume of business transacted in the miscellaneous market have not been wanting during the past week, and in the absence of any serious hindrance the general tendency continues quite satisfactory. That the outsiders are evincing a very welcome interest in the wares it possesses is pretty generally allowed, and this renewal is all the more welcome because they have held aloof with such stolid indifference for so long. The Water Board stock remains firm and finishes slightly higher at 93½ on rather good buying, despite the announcement of an

issue of £1,500,000, the remainder of the stock. This will receive 3 per cent. and will be tendered for at a minimum figure of 92½ per cent. It has been dealt in at 1¼ premium. There has also been a good demand for National Telephone stocks for investment purposes, the Deferred hardening three points as a consequence to 97, the Preferred also coming in for attention. Textiles continue to feel the benefit of the improved outlook for the cotton industry, and have manifested considerable activity, though Coats were freely offered when it was rumoured that there would be no bonus distribution. They picked up again, however, on more favourable gossip, and with Fine Spinners, Bradford Dyers, and Sewing Cottons, keep firm, while Calico Printers exhibit some dulness. Iron and Steel shares have been in better demand, Pease and Partners, Ebbw Vale, John Browns, Pearson and Knowles, and Armstrongs, together with Robert Stephenson debentures improving, while Westinghouse issues are more buoyant. India Dock stocks continue quietly firm, but Surrey Commercial has reacted a further four points to 116½, and Millwall has lost ½ to 32. In the lighting group, Imperial Continental Gas maintained its upward movement, and finished three points higher at 212½, and there has been a steady investment demand for South Metropolitan Gas, while Gas Light and Coke issues have not been altogether neglected. Brewery descriptions show no signs of throwing off the depression which has characterised them for some time past, the realising of a deceased account during the past week not helping matters, and movements generally were downwards. The debentures of Watney Combe Reid, Ind Coope, Allsopps, Barclay Perkins, Colchester, Huggins, as well as others, lost ground, and Camden and Watney Combe Reid Preference were marked lower, while a reaction also occurred in Bieckert issues, which were prominent a short time ago, and American issues generally were dullish. A good demand has recently sprung up for trust stocks, which as a consequence have been rather active, and advances are scored by International Investment Preferred, London General Investment, London Trust, Anglo-American Debenture Corporation, Bankers' Investment, British Investment Trust, Merchants' Trust. In the refreshment class, Lyons remain in favour, and Aerated Breads have recovered somewhat, together with Harrods. Slaters and Spiers and Ponds hold their ground, but British Tea Tables manifest a sagging tendency. Savoy Hotels keep firm, and Frederick Hotels are steady, but Cecil issues relapsed on the poor report, showing a falling off in trading of something like £25,000, which necessitates the passing of the final Preference dividend, these shares being now no better than 3. Meat shares strengthened, James Nelsons spurting to 22s. 6d., it being rumoured that the concern's shops would materially benefit from the improvement in Lancashire's staple industry, though they reacted slightly later on, and River Plates hardened on support from houses with Argentine connections. Imperial Cold Storage picked up in sympathy, but Liptons remain dullish. Schweppes came in for more attention, and Bovril issues were bought. In the traction group, Road Cars, after being neglected and somewhat dullish, scored a slight advance towards the close, and British Electric Preference improved, the Ordinary keeping steady. There was a fair demand for Anglo-Argentine and Buenos Ayres and Belgrano Trams, but Cape Electrics developed some weakness. Shipping shares remained steady, without much movement, apart from a further recovery in Royal Mails; and the Nitrate group was less active, though firm for choice. Hudson's Bays experienced a relapse as the result of incessant profit-taking, and the shares finish well down at 48¼, though it seems only a temporary set-back. Pekin Syndicate hardened on good general buying, and Deccans, after moving irregularly, finish with a slight improvement on balance. Argentine Land shares remain buoyant, and Oil shares have exhibited a better tendency. Welsbachs are firmer, but Sweetmeat Automatics declined further on another unsatisfactory return. The report of the Yokohama Specie Bank for the half year to June states that the net profit, with the amount brought in, amounts to 1,907,000 yen. The directors propose that 200,000 yen be added to the reserve fund, and that 100,000 yen be placed to the silver funds. From the remainder they recommend a dividend at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum, which will leave 527,000 yen to be carried forward.

VIGILANT.

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

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QUEER STORY.

SIR JESMOND BRITT'S ENTANGLEMENT.

FROM the *Morning Post*, June 2, 189—:—

> The marriage arranged between Miss Gladys Pilbeam and Sir Jesmond Britt will take place on the 27th inst., at St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens.

On the day after that on which this announcement appeared, little Algie FitzJohn happened to find himself seated in the next armchair to Sir Jesmond Britt in the smoking-room of the Bachelors'.

I suppose that everybody who is anybody knows, and is known to, Algie FitzJohn—that well-connected, well-bred, well-dressed, good-natured, fussy, garrulous, and rather empty-headed little exquisite, whom you will find described in the Peerage under six formidable Christian names as second son of the Earl of Baxtair. Britt, however, he knew but slightly as an occasional club acquaintance, for the good reason that the baronet, being something of a student and a recluse, for the most part shunned society, and was seldom to be met in those circles which FitzJohn and his set frequented.

On this particular afternoon Algie FitzJohn noticed Sir Jesmond Britt's presence in the next chair to him before the latter looked his way. The little man, who had just finished skimming half a dozen particularly dull evening papers, and was now yawning and looking about him with an air of languid boredom, had his roving gaze arrested by the peculiar expression of Sir Jesmond's face. The baronet sat with his chin resting on his hand, staring moodily before him, evidently immersed in thought and lost to his present surroundings. Nor, it was apparent, were his reflections of a pleasing or cheerful character. On the contrary, if ever the expression of a face indicated worry, perplexity, and even desperation, the expression of Sir Jesmond Britt's face unconsciously indicated them then.

"By Jove!" thought little Algie FitzJohn. "Looks like a man undergoing the day-time equivalent of nightmare. And he just going to be married, too, as I see in the papers. Ahem! perhaps that accounts for it," he reflected, with a cynical grin.

At that moment, Sir Jesmond Britt, unconsciously conscious, perhaps, that he was being observed, came to himself with a start, and, turning his head, caught Algie FitzJohn's inquisitive eye.

"Ah, how do, Britt?" said the little man, in his languidly affable way. "What the dooce have you been doing with yourself all this while? Seems an age since I saw you last."

"I've been very much occupied for some months now," answered Sir Jesmond, flushing slightly as he spoke.

"Ah, yes, to be sure," murmured FitzJohn, with a meaning smile. "Engaged man, and all that sort of thing, eh? By the way, I don't think I've ever congratulated you. Let me take the opportunity of doing so now."

"Thank you—thank you," answered Sir Jesmond, with a confused and rather distressed air that Algie FitzJohn's keen, curious eyes did not fail to remark.

"Seems as though the subject was rather painful to him. Wonder what the trouble is," he reflected, inquisitively. Aloud he said:

"I see in the papers that the happy event is fixed for the end of this month."

"For the 27th," replied Sir Jesmond, with the same distressed air.

"Something's up," thought FitzJohn. "Screw loose somewhere. Wonder what it means. See if I can't ferret it out of him."

He merely said, however:

"From what I hear Miss Pilbeam is a charming girl. You are a lucky man, Britt."

"More lucky than I deserve," answered the baronet, an involuntary sigh escaping him as he spoke.

"Hem! Believe that's his way of saying that he repents his bargain. Rather interesting this. I must certainly lead him on to talk," reflected the inquisitive FitzJohn.

"Dash it, Britt, don't say that," he said. "I'm sure you deserve luck in matrimony, if anybody does."

"I wish I did," answered Sir Jesmond, with rather a bitter laugh.

Now, curiosity, as I have already suggested, was Algie FitzJohn's ruling passion. Like the immortal Richard Swiveller, he had been born with a note of interrogation on him; and his desire to ferret out what hitch there was in Sir Jesmond's matrimonial affairs grew keener and keener every moment. If it should prove to be something improper, so much the better. There was nothing he enjoyed more than licking his lips over some new and spicy bit of scandal.

He said, therefore, with an air of general moralisation, though with "leading" purpose, as the lawyers would express it:

"Of course, we are none of us saints, Britt. Girls don't expect it of us. And I doubt whether they'd like us any the better for it, if we were."

"Saints? No, indeed," replied Sir Jesmond, gloomily. "Most of us go astray in our youthful days, and some of us have to pay bitterly for it afterwards.

Algie FitzJohn pricked his ears in eager anticipation of more specific revelations.

"True, true, very true," he murmured. Then, drawing a bow at a venture, he added, with an air of perfect understanding. "Jolly sorry for you, Britt, over this entanglement, 'pon my soul I am."

"What? You have heard?" cried the baronet, turning upon him quite fiercely.

Algie FitzJohn rejoiced to see that his chance shot had hit the bull's-eye.

"Well, one does hear things, you know," he answered, with literal truthfulness, but mendacious implication, meaning to convey to Sir Jesmond that he need not hesitate to speak unreservedly of his troubles to one who knew about them already.

"By Heaven! And I thought that my miserable secret was hidden from all the world," ejaculated the baronet.

"It's wonderful how things do get about," murmured FitzJohn, sententiously. "And these clubs are regular hot-beds of scandal, don't you know. But no one blames you, Britt. They're all jolly sorry for you, they are, upon my sam!"

For a moment or two Sir Jesmond was silent; then, bending forward and speaking in a low, nervous voice, he said:

"Since you already know so much, FitzJohn, there can be no object in my concealing the full particulars from you. In fact, I'd like to consult you in confidence—for you're a man of the world, and I'm not—as to what is the best course for me to adopt under the terrible circumstances in which I'm placed. That woman—you know whom I mean——"

FitzJohn nodded, though, of course, beyond the fact that he had guessed a woman to be the cause of the trouble, he did not know whom Sir Jesmond meant in the very least.

"Well, she's turned nasty about my marriage. She won't listen to reason, or accept any terms. She has simply made up her mind to spite me—to pay me out. And she swears she'll come to my wedding, and make a public disturbance in the church——"

"The devil! What a vixen!" exclaimed Algie FitzJohn, inwardly conscious of a sense of pleasant titillation at this spicy and sensational piece of intelligence.

"Yes, she is simply mad with rage and jealousy. And women in that condition will go to any lengths. I wish to Heaven I'd known what a fury she was before I had anything to do with her. But it is too late to think of that now," said poor Sir Jesmond, hardly stifling a groan. "I have to face the situation my own folly has created. And the question is, how would you, FitzJohn, as an experienced man of the world, advise me to deal with it?"

Algie FitzJohn twirled his moustaches, and a gleam of conscious importance shone in his pale eyes. It was not often that he found himself in the position of having his superior experience appealed to by any of his fellow-creatures, and this novel *rôle*, implying as it did a flattering tribute to his sagacity, made him feel rather well pleased with himself.

"Can't you buy her off? Presumably the woman has her price," he suggested, with a knowing air.

Sir Jesmond shook his head.

"It's no use," he said, "I've offered her money—a large sum, in fact. But she won't look at it. She vows that she'll revenge herself on me in the way I've told you, and that nothing shall stop her."

"Umph!" said Algie FitzJohn. "This is awkward, Britt—this is devilish awkward. Has—has Miss Pilbeam any inkling of it, may I ask?"

"Good Heavens, no! Nor her people, either. That is what makes the position of affairs so terrible. Imagine the shock it will be to them when the truth is publicly and scandalously forced upon their knowledge by that she-fiend before all the wedding guests. By Heaven, FitzJohn, do you know, unless I can see some way of stopping the woman's mouth, I shall never dare to put in an appearance at church on the 27th, but I shall have to run away somewhere and hide myself!"

"Tut, tut. Not that, Britt. Never do to leave your bride-elect in the lurch at the altar. Hardly form, you know. Eh, what?" answered Algie FitzJohn, shaking his head very decidedly.

"Form! As if a man in my position could think of a trivial thing like form!" cried Sir Jesmond, with reckless bitterness.

Algie FitzJohn was quite aghast at this heretical pronouncement.

"Form a trivial thing!" he ejaculated. "Why, it is *the* most essential thing in life. A man who maintains good form will come through any number of scrapes and scandals with unimpaired social prestige. But let him once show bad form, and all the right people drop him like a hot potato."

"Let them drop me. I don't care," replied the baronet, with desperate indifference.

"My dear fellow," exclaimed FitzJohn, very much scandalised. "You can hardly realise what you are saying. Nothing worse in life can happen to a man than to be dropped by the right people."

"Pish! What is that, by comparison with having to stand up and be made the victim of a sordid public scandal, in the presence of my bride and all the assembled guests. I can't face that, FitzJohn. It is impossible, I tell you. If only it had been a quiet wedding," he went on, wretchedly; "if only they had fallen in with my suggestion that we should be married somewhere in the country, without fuss or function (I hinted that I should prefer that sort of thing; though, of course, I couldn't tell them the reason) then that accursed woman might never have heard of it until it was all over. But Mrs. Pilbeam wouldn't listen to such a proposal. She must have the ceremony performed in style, at a fashionable London church, with a dozen bridesmaids, some hundreds of guests, and all the rest of it——"

"Yes, yes. Just so," interrupted Algie FitzJohn. "Women like a little pomp and display on these occasions, don't you know. It is part of the fun of having a daughter married; and, Miss Pilbeam being an only child, her mother is very naturally anxious to make the most of her one opportunity."

"She is making the most of it with a vengeance," replied Sir Jesmond, gloomily. "I understand that she is issuing four hundred invitations."

"The deuce! You don't say so! I should not have thought that Mrs. Pilbeam knew four hundred people—that is, *recognisable* people, don't you know—in all London. I beg your pardon, Britt! Pray forgive me. I forgot for the moment that I was speaking of your prospective mother-in-law."

"You needn't apologise," said the baronet, with gloomy indifference. "My regard for Gladys, who is the sweetest girl in the world, does not, by any means, extend to Mrs. Pilbeam, who is far too much the social campaigner for my taste. I mean, she has a habit of pushing herself, and rather forcing her acquaintance on smart people——But, there! I need not say more on this point; for I see that you are as fully aware of her little weakness as I am."

"Umph! Well, perhaps I am," answered Algie FitzJohn. "She has certainly surprised me more than once by sending me invitations to her parties, although I have but the slightest acquaintance with her. I don't suppose she meant anything by it. But that sort of thing is not form, don't you know, and a good many people would take offence at it."

"I shouldn't be surprised at her sending you a card for the wedding," remarked Sir Jesmond, half-shuddering as he referred to that dreaded ceremony. "Gladys told me she was sending cards to a number of smart people who are almost strangers to her, and she vainly tried to dissuade her. Gladys dislikes that sort of pushfulness as much as I do. But Mrs. Pilbeam will have her own way."

"It's not wise," said FitzJohn, sagely. "People don't like being rushed. It only puts 'em off. Not that I am referring to myself," he hastened to add. "If I should get a card for the wedding, of course, I should accept it with the greatest pleasure, because it's your wedding, don't you know, Britt, and I have a personal regard for you."

"Thanks," rejoined Sir Jesmond, with perhaps a suggestion of irony. "I should be glad to see you at my wedding, FitzJohn—if it ever takes place. But it's more than probable that, in view of that infernal woman's vindictive resolve to make a scene, I shall run away and cut the whole thing. Only I—I love Gladys so, and I can't bear the thought of—of giving her up and appearing to behave badly to her—and, God help me! I—I am more than half tempted to put an end to myself," cried poor Sir Jesmond, in a sudden access of passionate misery.

"Oh! I say. Not that," answered Algie FitzJohn, quickly. "Suicide—shocking thing, my dear fellow. Involves an inquest and paragraphs in the papers, and all sorts of unpleasant consequences. No, no! That will never do. We must find a way to bring this spiteful vixen to her senses and make her listen to reason. And if she won't—well, we must give the police a hint to look out for her, and see that she does not get into the church."

"But will they do that? Have they the power to stop her?" demanded Sir Jesmond, with anxious interest.

"I don't quite know the legal position," replied FitzJohn, "but I do know that the police will always stretch a point for a man who has money and social influence against a woman of that description who has neither. Dare say they'd run her in for causing an obstruction, or being drunk, or find some other convenient pretext for sitting on her. Splendidly resourceful body of men, our Metropolitan Police."

"Ah! It is worth thinking about. The police had not occurred to me," said Sir Jesmond, with an expression of renewed hope on his face. "If they would take her into custody only for an hour——"

"Just so. And then find they'd made a mistake, and let her go again. It's an old dodge. It has often been done before. Bless you, Britt, you're not the only unfortunate Johnny who has had to circumvent a vixen of this sort, and prevent her making a scene at his wedding. I've known heaps of cases."

"Well, I'm awfully obliged to you, FitzJohn, for putting me on to the idea of the police. It certainly seems the best way of dealing with the woman, if I can get them into line. I shall call to-morrow morning at Scotland Yard and see what they say."

"Yes. That's the ticket," nodded Algie FitzJohn.

The result of the foregoing conversation was that Sir Jesmond Britt left the club that night looking sensibly relieved; and he appeared very glad that he had confided his difficulties to FitzJohn, and enlisted the little man's worldly experience in his behalf.

If, however, he had known what an indiscreet, gossipy little scandalmonger FitzJohn was, it is probable that his satisfaction would have been considerably discounted. For, truth to tell, Algie FitzJohn was a man constitutionally incapable of keeping a secret or of refraining from the pleasure of retailing the latest bit of scandal he had heard to all his friends. For instance, next afternoon he happened to call upon the Dowager Countess of Banstead about tea-time, and to find her at home. The subject of the Britt-Pilbeam wedding came up, through her ladyship remarking:

"What do you think, Algie? That Pilbeam woman has had the cheek to send me a card for her daughter's wedding, though I have hardly spoken six words to her in my life."

"Beastly impudence. Just like her," replied FitzJohn. "You have refused, of course."

"No. She is not worth wasting a penny stamp upon. I shall simply ignore the invitation."

"I had a card, too, this morning," said Algie. "But it's different for me. You see, I know Britt pretty well at the club, and I'm not sure but what I shall go and see him turned off. By the way, there's something rather funny in connection with this wedding—I really must tell you. But swear you won't let it go any further——"

"All right, you can trust me. What is it?" exclaimed the Countess, pricking her ears.

"Britt told me himself. So I know it's true. Fact is, he had got into a previous entanglement, and there's every prospect of rather lively doings at the church on the occasion of his marriage."

"Dear, dear, Algie! You don't say so! It's a woman, of course?"

"Yes, it's a woman. And—though Britt didn't tell me this in so many words—I should imagine that, in addition, it's rather more than likely there's a—— Eh? What?" said Algie, with Kiplingesque allusion, winking at the Countess.

"Sure to be. More than one, in all probability," nodded her ladyship. "And I suppose she'll bring the little things with her to the church—eh, Algie?"

"Shouldn't wonder. She's coming herself, anyhow, on purpose to make a scene. Britt is in a blue funk about it. Consulted me as to what he'd better do. I referred him to the police."

"But can the police do anything in such a case?"

"Don't know, I'm sure. Suppose they can arrest her for brawling. Rather sensational, though, to see a couple of bobbies lugging her out by the scruff of her neck, and the bride and all the rest of 'em looking on. Adelphi melodrama in real life. Damme if I don't take my opera-glasses to the church! Eh? What?" sniggered Algie FitzJohn, appreciatively.

You will observe that Algie FitzJohn and the Countess, between them, had already added some embroidery, in the shape of one or two "little things," to the original story. In course of further repetition among their friends, the number was increased to six, two boys and four girls, and presently a seventh, an infant in arms, was added. All these were to be brought by their ill-used mother (the four elder walking, the three younger in a mail-cart) to St. Peter's Church on June 27. Had the interval been a little longer, I doubt not that Sir Jesmond Britt would have been credited with a round dozen, at least, and full Christian names attached in detail.

* * * * *

The eventful day arrived. St. Peter's Church was thronged with guests, the majority of whom, as they

sat waiting prior to the ceremony, passed the time in whispering with one another and looking perpetually over their shoulders towards the door with glances full of excited anticipation. Would that creature and her seven children come? Or would she think better of it? Or would she, perhaps, be frightened away by the police, four of whom (as the guests had noticed) were standing alert and watchful outside the entrance?

A confused sound. A murmur. Ah! 'twas she. No, it was merely the bride, who had just arrived, and presently came slowly up the aisle, leaning on her father's arm, and followed by her cortège of bridesmaids. Sir Jesmond had already taken his place at the chancel steps. The guests remarked that he looked pale, worried, apprehensive, and no wonder, poor man, considering the circumstances. Indeed, knowing what he had to fear, it showed no small nerve on his part to have faced the music at all.

The service proceeded. By and by an infant in the free seats began to cry. A flutter of intense excitement swept through the whole congregation. Her infant! But, no! The child was quieted, and nothing further happened to justify that surmise. The ceremony went on, and was, at length, concluded without interruption.

Soon the guests found themselves re-entering their carriages to proceed to the reception held at Bailey's Hotel by the bride's mother. They looked eagerly about them. No sign of any disturbance outside. Either the woman had thought better of it, or the police had well earned the lavish gratuity with which Sir Jesmond had doubtless taken care to ensure their effective co-operation.

Anyhow, the wedding passed off without a hitch, and the bridegroom, very palpably relieved now that the terrible strain was over, passed from his condition of nervous tension to state of almost jubilant hilarity.

As he drove with his newly-made wife to Charing Cross, *en route* for their honeymoon trip on the Continent, he remarked:

"Well, Glad, darling, so your gloomy forecasts were not realised! And the smart set condescended to turn up, and lend the light of their countenance to our wedding, after all!"

"Yes. And I am very glad, because mamma must have been so pleased. But I confess I never thought they would come as they did, after always showing us the cold shoulder. What can have happened, Jesmond, to make them turn round so completly?"

Then Sir Jesmond told her the whole story of his mythical entanglement, and how he had made an unconscious catspaw of that gossipy little scandal-monger, Algie FitzJohn.

ART NOTES.

"THE R.S.B.A."

AFTER a respite which, to the long-suffering critics, seems only too brief, the winter epidemic of Picture Shows has set in with its accustomed severity. The Institute has, so to speak, nailed its banner to its outer walls; the One-Man Show is rampant in Bond-street, whilst the Exhibition of the Royal Society of British Artists is again reminding the hardened private-viewer of the existence of that mysterious *cul-de-sac* which is misleadingly known as Suffolk-street. For me a visit to the last-named Show is always an occasion of melancholy interest. Just as Oxford has been called the home of lost causes so may Suffolk-street be considered the asylum of obsolete art methods. It is the last lair of the British Artistic Philistine. Here, animated with the desperate valour of a Forlorn Hope, the conventional stock studio models of the mid-Victorian period still present a bold, if attenuated, front to the foe. But they are fighting in what virtually is their last-remaining ditch. Shoulder to shoulder they stand in incongruous array, the corrugated old salt and grandpa's "darling," the wrinkled Chelsea pensioner and the pet poodle, the anxious fishwife and the comic fox-hunter! And even at Suffolk-street these conventional types are being gradually relegated to the back rooms. Even at Suffolk-street there are signs that the younger exhibitors are betaking themselves—timorously and tentatively, in most cases, it is true—to new methods.

The present Exhibition is saved in an artistic sense by the landscapes contributed by Mr. Moulton Foweraker and Mr. Tom Robertson, Mr. Frank Spenlove and Mr. George Haité. It is in figure painting and what are called subject pictures that it is so lamentably weak. Even Mr. Cayley Robinson, to whose work one turns with such hopeful promptitude, has apparently been amusing himself by caricaturing his own previous productions. "To Pastures New" (No. 257) is incomprehensible save as a burlesque. There may be some allegorical meaning attaching to the rudderless, oarless, sailless boat in which a number of Noah's Ark sheep and "old-man" Noah himself are being shipped as passengers; but I failed to discover it. In fact, the presence of a Burne-Jones damosel feeding an infant with pap, in the stern of the boat; and of a sort of pre-Raphaelite limekiln on the shore in the background, only served to intensify my mystification. Utterly incomprehensible also, save as a burlesque of the canvases of Mr. Wilson Steer and the New English "vibratists," is Mr. Fred Foottet's extraordinary work of art representing the Hours footing it round a glorified May-pole. If it is his intention to prove that by a considerable exercise of ingenuity a painting in oils can be made to suggest the technique of a Mirzapore hearth-rug and the general fluffiness of a wool-mat, then has he succeeded, without the shadow of a doubt. As a painted satire of Claude Monet, too, Mr. Foottet's mauve St. Martin's Church (No. 231) is not without point. It is as jokes, likewise, that I am inclined to view Mr. Fergusson's pictures, such as Nos. 2, 200, and 205, for example. The first of these suggests that a precocious boy of tender age must have been left alone in Mr. Fergusson's studio with free access to his palette.

One of the admirable landscapes already referred to is Mr. Spenlove's "Whispering Twilight" (No. 24), a canvas which is pleasantly suggestive of Corot. Attractive for very different qualities are Mr. Foweraker's Malaga pictures (Nos. 64 and 76). In these one finds strong and virile treatment of well-chosen scenes, though the absence of atmosphere is to be regretted. For his evening scene (No. 33) Mr. E. Borough Johnson has appropriated that well-known luminary the "Stott" moon. But, as we are so often told, one swallow does not make a summer, and the presence of the very fullest and most effulgent "Stott" moon does not unfortunately make a "Stott" picture. Mr. Borough Johnson's efforts suggests, indeed, the work of an understudy, and it is as understudies that not a few of the exhibitors at Suffolk-street are content to appear.

Thus I look at Mr. L. Watts's "Addio" (No. 63), and I find myself murmuring "Ah, yes, an understudy of Mr. Abbey's, no doubt." In a similar way Mr. Percy Wild has in No. 39 only too evidently followed his "Leader." Again, Mr. Swinstead's portrait study (No. 72) makes one wonder if its artist was ever an understudy of Sir John Millais; whilst Mr. Sheard's elaborate "Jumble Sale" (No. 224) shows us in a cruder form the not altogether admirable art method of the "Bushey Professor." Mr. A. Stewart's "White Cockade" (No. 374) is, I suppose, some kind of recondite Scotch joke. I had almost called Mr. Sydney Lee's "Old Mill" (No. 34) a piece of English facetiousness; but this aggressively ugly canvas, with its recumbent human figure, made, apparently, of mud, is really beyond a joke. "Au Café" (No. 43) shows us what inefficient understudies M. Dégas may have. "Au Café," forsooth, prompts the distressed spectator to expostulatingly exclaim, "Oh! Dewhurst!" And, by way of a serious conclusion, let me ask Sir Wyke Bayliss what, both as a President and a British Artist, he really thinks of "A Dream of Heaven" (No. 77)? Does he, can he, will he, maintain that the interests of Art are in any way served by the public exhibition of such pic-

tures? Or can he deny that it is cruelly hard on a Society which should be, above all things, self-respecting, that such works should be shown under its patronage and sanction.

MUSIC.

BOARD-SCHOOL VIOLINS AGAIN.

THE absurd business of supplying board-school youngsters with guinea violins and endeavouring to instruct them in the art of Joachim and Sarasate in twenty threepenny lessons continues to flourish amazingly. Here is the sort of paragraph, for instance, which is constantly appearing in reference to the movement:—

> Fiddlers will soon be plentiful at Pudsey, and Kubelik's remarks about the alleged apathy towards orchestral music in Leeds will soon lose their application. About sixty boys and girls attending the two public elementary schools have been supplied with violins, for which they are paying in instalments. . . . For the present the children are being taught how to draw the bow and play the open strings. Before long it is hoped to introduce piccolos, and if all goes well a 'cello or two and a few clarinets may also be secured.

Elsewhere I find the statement that violin classes on the Maidstone plan, as this scheme is known, are now in operation in 1,300 schools, to which it is added that in Sheffield alone there are 1,000 scholars who are being taught in this fashion. And this was some months ago. The number is doubtless now much greater. From all of which it will be readily gathered that the firm of piano and organ manufacturers who proudly proclaim themselves the "originators of the great scheme," the "pioneers of orchestral classes in elementary schools," and so forth, must be making an uncommonly good thing out of the business. Whether the parents who have to pay for these thousands of guinea fiddles are equally entitled to congratulation, and whether the scheme can otherwise be regarded as worthy of commendation, are matters concerning which pretty decided opinions have been expressed more than once in these columns. As to the value, or uselessness, of the scheme from the purely musical standpoint there is no doubt room for legitimate differences of opinion. But for my own part, I cannot conceive that the slightest good can come from exercises of this kind.

For a beginning the violin is of all instruments, perhaps, the one least adapted to be taught in this wholesale, undiscriminating fashion. Not only is it one of the most difficult to play properly, but it requires of its performer a perfect ear and in addition necessitates incessant practice. As to the former qualification, some notion of the sort of ears, considered musically, which are actually possessed by these juvenile Kubeliks and Marie Halls of the board schools may be gathered from a delicious statement in one of the leaflets which have been issued on the subject. This is to the effect that the violins are carefully put away after use, and tuned once a week! Regarding the second point, it is only necessary to recall what a small proportion of even leisured and cultivated amateurs "keep up" their violin playing as the years roll on in order to realise how few of these humbler students are likely to persevere after the novelty has worn off, and their parents have ceased to find the melancholy scraping of scales and arpeggios an agreeable addition to the delights of home. No doubt the youngsters themselves have taken to the scheme readily enough, for naturally any boy or girl offered the chance is glad to become the owner of a violin, whether or not possessed of any musical talent whatever. In some cases, as it will have been gathered, piccolos, 'cellos, and other instruments are added to the violins—in fact, I understand that the piccolo is already promising remarkably well from the point of view of sales. These instruments, "made of cocos wood, with six plated keys . . . . well finished and easy to blow," are, it appears, supplied at 12s. 6d., and, according to one enthusiast, "the effect of 300 boys' voices, supplemented by a large band of violins and piccolos, is one not easy to forget"—a statement which I can readily believe. But whether the slightest real benefit is likely to result from this wholesale blowing and scraping, I take leave entirely to doubt. But be this as it may, and putting aside the purely musical aspect of the matter, another question altogether, regarding which there is far less room for controversy, is that involved in the prices paid for these instruments by the parents, and the manner in which the whole business is managed.

The nature of the arrangement has been explained here more than once before. The parents pay 21s.—and in some instances apparently 25s.—by weekly instalments of 1s., 9d., or even 6d., as the case may be, for the instruments and 3d. a week for tuition, of which 2d. goes to the instructor and 1d. towards accessories, such as instruction books, music stands, etc. Of that guinea, however, no less than 25 per cent. goes into the pockets of the teachers in the shape of commission, and it is here that there is ground for criticism. No wonder the masters are pleased by the extension of the system and write glowing testimonials to the firm which is working it. A commission of 5s. 3d. on every violin sold in this way may well stimulate enthusiasm in the breasts of the least musical, though whether the arrangement is a desirable one from the parents' point of view is another matter altogether. In plain English, if these violin classes are desirable at all, then instruments suitable for them might well be obtained at far less than 21s. each. Seeing that perfectly sound instruments can be bought for 7s. 6d. or 10s. apiece, or even less, from makers of repute, it is manifest that those required by the thousand in this way should cost nothing like so much as a guinea, whether paid for by instalments or otherwise. And in the same way I imagine that a perfectly useful piccolo could be obtained for very much less than 12s. 6d.—an amount which is doubtless swollen again by these objectionable "loadings," in the shape of commissions and other charges, which go to run up the cost of the violins. Most of those who pay for these instruments are poor people who can ill afford the expenditure. In many instances, doubtless, they go in for the thing under the impression that it is part of the prescribed routine, and quite unaware of the fact that it is in reality a purely private venture on the part of a clever music firm working in conjunction with the masters. Therefore all possible precautions should be taken by the higher authorities to ensure, in the first place, that the real bearings of the matter are properly understood by the parents; and, secondly, that they are not called on to pay twice as much as is necessary for the instruments supplied. In view of the extent to which the scheme is being taken up, and the enormous dimensions which it is destined, apparently, to attain, the matter is clearly one to which the authorities in Whitehall should give attention.

The San Carlo company continues to give an excellent account of itself at Covent Garden, and if their season is not a success financially, it will simply mean that the London public has proved itself indifferent, not for the first time, to very exceptional opportunities. It is not too much to say that many of these Italian performances are actually superior to those of the grand season—and this though the prices charged are 50 per cent. less. So far the most noteworthy performance given, perhaps, has been that of "La Tosca," in which the Tosca of Mme. Giachetti and the Scarpia of Signor Sammarco were both performances of the highest excellence. The later especially is a splendid artist, and both, it may be hoped, will be heard at Covent Garden on future occasions. In "Aida," which was given as a whole in particularly good style, the chief honours fell to Mme. de Cisneros and Mme. Buoninsegna as Amneris and Aida respectively, the former especially winning golden opinions, while Signor Vignas was a very sound Radames. Then in "Carmen" Caruso has been heard as Don José, and this in itself was something of an event, for he had never taken the part before

at Covent Garden. Needless to say, he sang the music perfectly, even though, as one observer euphemistically put it, he may not be quite the right shape for an ideal *beau sabreur*. But then where is the singer of repute who would not be the better for a course of Banting? "Rigoletto," with Anselmi and Sammarco in the chief male parts and Miss Alice Nielson as a rather inadequate Gilda, completed, with repetitions, the opening week's doings, and no further novelties are announced until this evening (Wednesday), when "Un Ballo in Maschera" is to be heard. This, with Mme. de Cisneros as Ulrica and Signor Sammarco as Renato, ought to go particularly well. Regarding the future, the latest report talks of Giulia Ravogli reappearing in "Orfeo," and all admirers of that great artist, who has been too long absent from Covent Garden, will hope that it may prove true.

Another season of Promenades has come and gone, and congratulations are due to all concerned on the amount of success with which it has been attended. I am told, however, that from the financial point of view the results have been by no means so favourable as has been assumed. But if this be the case, the conclusion can only be that the whole enterprise must be conceived on a radically unsound basis, for if the concerts have not paid this season with the excellent audiences which they have obtained, not once in a way, but night after night and week after week, then it is difficult to understand how they could be expected to do so. Meanwhile every one is hoping, of course, that they may be resumed as heretofore next year, though it would seem that a good deal of uncertainty prevails at present on this point.

As to the new band, they have improved in many ways, as was only to be expected, since the beginning of the season, but it would be idle to pretend that they are at present all that could be wished. One ingenious critic has, indeed, found a source of interest in their very deficiencies—it has given Mr. Wood such splendid opportunities to display his exceptional talents. But this is a view of the matter which the average concert-goer can hardly be expected to take. In other words, Mr. Wood will be well advised if he endeavours to improve the raw material of his forces in certain respects. There is no need to go into details. No one knows better, probably, than Mr. Wood himself where the weakness lies. It is all very well to talk of improvement coming in due course, but it does not apply in this case. Practice will do much in improving the ensemble of an orchestra, but it will not make fine players out of poor ones.

As regards other recent concerts, the most noteworthy appearance, perhaps, has been that of M. Huberman, who will be remembered as a prodigy of some ten or twelve years since; he now reappears as a full-blown musician who, even in these days of brilliant violinists, can stand comparison with the best. Perhaps the highest praise which can be accorded him is that, although a virtuoso, he remains an artist—though this may tell, I fear, against his success with the crowd. Sarasate has also been with us again, and was heard at his best, perhaps, in a suite of Goldmark. But for those who like his Bach playing he gave a couple of pieces of that master, and a third by way of encore, in brilliant style. At the first of the Chappell "Ballads" on Saturday new songs by Frank Lambert, Noel Johnson, and G. H. Clutsam all found a certain amount of favour, though Mr. W. H. Squire carried off the palm in this respect with a nautical ditty of the "Yo-ho" order, "Three for Jack," which Mr. Kennerley Rumford gave with much spirit. Otherwise the concert ran on sufficiently familiar lines—which is only another way of saying, *inter alia*, that the encores were as much of a nuisance as usual. On Monday evening the London Choral Society, under Mr. Arthur Fagge, and with Miss Marie Brema, Mr. Gervase Elwes, and Mr. Ffrangcon-Davies in the solo parts, repeated their excellent performance of "The Dream of Gerontius," giving Elgar's trying music once again in capital style; while to-morrow (Thursday) we shall have the first of the London Symphony Orchestra's concerts, with Dr. Cowen "up," to be quickly followed by that of the "old firm," under Mr. Wood as usual, on Saturday.

Mr. Harold Bauer, the brilliant pianist, who is also a fine violinist, seems to ply further, like Moritz Rosenthal, a clever pen. I judge this from a very witty and amusing letter which, it seems, he addressed to the *Buenos Ayres Herald* after a recent visit to that city. It is reproduced in the *Musical Courier*, and makes excellent reading—though I am not surprised to learn that Mr. Bauer waited until he had reached another city before dispatching it. It seems that the capital of the Argentine Republic boasts over sixty conservatoires and schools—whence Mr. Bauer dubs it "Conservatropolis"—but the results are seemingly disappointing:—

> At our first concert we had a somewhat trying adventure. In the midst of a first movement of a Beethoven sonata for piano and violincello we were suddenly startled out of our seats by a flash and a roar, and recovered our presence of mind only a moment later to see a photographer rapidly disappearing midst clouds of smoke at the back of the hall with his camera and magnesium apparatus tucked under his arm. It transpired subsequently that he had been sent by the editor of an illustrated paper entitled *Caras y Caretas* (Masks and Faces), with orders to take the artists in the act. . . . On another occasion we were compelled to stop playing abruptly in the middle of a movement on account of the disturbance in the hall caused by late comers (mostly our distinguished colleagues) clambering over seats and running about blithely to exchange greetings with friends and arrange to sit together. Hearty applause followed our action, and it was only after having risen to bow several times that we were able to comprehend that this manifestation, instead of showing sympathy for our sign of disappointment, as we had imagined, signified that the audience was under the impression that the work had come to a conclusion.

"We were in Conservatropolis," adds Mr. Bauer, "but alas! we had forgotten it."

According to report, Mascagni having been reproached by some Italian journals for undertaking to compose music to a French "book," invited recently libretti from his fellow countrymen, and received in return precisely 283. The truth of the story may be doubted, however, for Mascagni knows too much of the librettist and his little ways already to ask for more specimens of his work than he receives in the usual way. A few years ago, indeed, he wrote an article on the subject, in which he estimated that over 1,500 libretti are written in Italy every year, and of these about 200 had been submitted to him. Libretti from men in all vocations are included in Mascagni's collection. Among them are a railway porter, a sailor, a shoemaker, and a veterinary surgeon. One libretto dealt with Italian unity, the *dramatis personæ* including Garibaldi as a baritone, the Pope as a basso, and Victor Emanuel as a tenor. Another libretto, entitled "May Day," dealt with a strike, and boasted an elaborate chorus, "We want an eight-hour day"; while a third brought Signor Crispi on the stage disguised as a Pierrot in a carnival scene.

The arrangements of the Concert-Goers' Club for the coming season comprise a club dinner some time in December, at which some prominent composer will be entertained and meetings at which papers will be read by Mr. B. W. Findon (on "The Disabilities of English Musicians"), Dr. Cummings (on "Old English Songs"), Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland (on "Distinction in Music"), and Dr. Shinn (on "Ear Training"). In view of the difficulty which some of us experienced in catching the remarks of one of the lecturers last season, who addressed himself chiefly to his boots, Dr. Shinn's address should prove particularly useful. Otherwise I do not know that the subject of any of these lectures is likely to prove an absolutely irresistible lure, so far as the average concert-goer, who loves his own fireside on a winter evening, is concerned.

I am asked to call attention to the intrepidity of the Blackheath Conservatoire of Music in tackling such a stiff work as Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius" at one of its forthcoming concerts, and gladly do so. "Gerontius" is certainly a big undertaking for a local choir—it has proved too much on many occasions for societies of the first repute. But faith and enthusiasm conquer mountains, and Blackheath clearly possesses these qualities.

The *Musical Home Journal*, a penny weekly issued by Cassell and Co., is the latest attempt to fight the pirates with their own weapons. Half a dozen copyright

pieces for a penny is certainly giving value for the money, in point of quantity at all events, though I should have thought that the inclusion of at least a certain proportion of pieces of greater value than those contained in the first number issued would have been a wise move—especially seeing that such can be had in endless numbers for nothing at all. The artistic value of an entirely worthless composition is not increased by the fact that it happens to be "copyright." Theo. Bonheur, J. Stein, and F. Adlam may be names to conjure with for all I know to the contrary; but surely Beethoven, Mozart, and Schubert have their votaries also, even among the class of amateurs appealed to by a publication of this order?

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Davenport in "China from Within: A Study of Opium Fallacies and Missionary Mistakes" (1) has an easy task in showing that missionary societies, papers, and preachers make emotional appeals based upon statements either unsupported or extravagant. But surely even the most feminine and fatuous missionary Chadbands never went on some of the assumptions Mr. Arthur Davenport is at such pains to demolish:—

It is assumed that the Chinese were by nature without fault or corruption, retained their original righteousness, and were not of their own nature inclined to evil; when suddenly British merchants, like the serpent in the garden in Eden, brought the forbidden fruit in the shape of opium into China, and betrayed and deceived the natives to their great debauchment and impoverishment. It is assumed that opium was solely imported from China into India under the protection, favour, and patronage of the British Government.

The other assumptions Mr. Davenport deals with are also mostly missionary, and therefore so extravagant that he seems sometimes to be demolishing with a battering-ram a house of cards. By the way, he adduces strong evidence to prove that opium in China dispossessed another fiend no less foul:—

About the year 1130 B.C. the most famous statesman of antiquity, the Duke of Chow, issued his announcement about drunkenness, suggesting a death punishment in consequence of the great predominance of this vice. Upwards of two thousand years afterwards the celebrated statesman, poet, and philosopher, Su Tung Po, wrote:—"Spirits are what men will not do without. To prohibit them and secure a total absinence from them is beyond the power even of the Sages." To-day, owing to the general use of tobacco and opium, the Chinese have become a very sober nation. M. Pierre Beaulieu, writing in 1899, says, "L'intempérance, au contraire, est rare, et l'on fait un usage restraint des boissons alcooliques. Ceux qui seraient des ivrognes en Europe, me disait à Pekin Mgr. Favier, sont ici fumeurs d'opium, et il évaluait à un cinquième de la population de villes le nombre de ceux qui se livrent à cette abrutissante passion; dans les campagnes la proportion serait beaucoup plus faible, peut-être dix fois moindre."

It is possible too, suggests Mr. Davenport, that if the missionary societies succeeded in exorcising the Indian opium fiend, its place would be fully filled by the Chinese drug. The late German Minister, who from his long residence in Pekin, is acknowledged to speak with unusual authority declared "that the net result of the Anti-Opium agitation in China had been, apart from the increase to the Chinese revenue, the stimulation of the cultivation of the poppy in China." Mr. Davenport's advice to the missionaries is, that they should become naturalised, renouncing their treaty privileges and status; that they should learn and teach trades and leave, like the early Jesuits, the work of evangelisation to their native associates. How Mr. Davenport reconciles his continual and enthusiastic tributes to the work and success of the early Jesuit missionaries with his statement in another chapter that "the ghastly dogma of transubstantiation was one of the chief obstacles to the spread of Christianity in China," I do not know. The doctrine "manducat Dominum pauper, servus et humilis" is, he says, at once revolting and terrible to the Chinese, who infer from it that Christians feast on murdered native children:—

In the early summer of 1870, before the massacre, grown-up men shut themselves up for weeks in their houses at Tientsin, being afraid to venture into the streets in broad daylight through fear of being kidnapped by the native agents of foreign priests and sisters.

While on the subject of missionaries and China, let me say that you will find much at once to interest and instruct you in "Ordered to China" (2), the letters of the late Mr. Wilbur J. Chamberlain, written for the New York *Sun* during the Boxer uprising of 1900 and the international complications which followed. Certainly these letters seem to justify the testimony of the paper for which they were written to the service of Mr. Chamberlain as "one of the best reporters that ever served the *Sun* and its readers." Mr. Chamberlain did not like what he saw of the missionaries in Pekin. "Neither Russians, nor Sikhs, nor French have been worse looters than so-called Christian missionaries, and the worst of it is that these so-called Christians have no shame about it." Amongst the instances of the rapacity of these missionaries he gives, this rather amused me. A missionary finding six American soldiers digging for treasure, frightened them off by the threat of reporting them to their officers, who had strictly forbidden looting. Half an hour later the soldiers stole back in the hope that the exemplary priest might be out of the way. He was. He had just driven off with the treasure he had himself exhumed! Of the frightful brutalities committed on the march to Pekin Mr. Chamberlain says:—

"I don't suppose the horrors of that march will ever be more than generalised in print. Think of jabbing a human being just to see him jump, and of shooting at a poor fleeing devil just to see if you can hit him on the run. These are pictures of the French, the Russian, and in some cases of the English. . . . . We Americans are condemned by the missionaries because we have been lenient. They say, "Chaffee is chicken-hearted. Why don't he kill a lot of these devils and teach them a lesson?" They demand blood, always blood, and they point us to Germany as an example of what should be done!

And certainly the barbarities perpetrated by the Germans warranted these missionaries in holding them up as burning and shining lights to the "chicken-hearted" Americans. In "A Lost Eden" (3) Miss Braddon has hardly succeeded in her daring attempt to make you believe in a nineteenth century Lovelace. He is an artist who abducts the heroine to force her into a marriage to which she would have eagerly consented but for an earlier experience she has had of his gallantry. He carries her off to commit her to what is practically a private mad-house, from which she escapes by persuading the daughter of her keeper of her sanity. Her prudish and niminy-piminy reluctance to explain the episode to the hero delays improbably the happy denouement. Not less improbable is the hero's marriage to her and desertion of her on her wedding day. Indeed, the childish way in which hero and heroine play hide and seek with each other rather estranges your sympathies from both. In Miss Winifred Crispe's maiden novel, "Snares" (4), a hypnotist doctor plays through his art a malign providence to all the leading characters. He inspires hypnotically with a mutual passion the heroine and her friend's husband, in order that the latter's wife should be set free through divorce to marry himself. He had already wronged this lady by hypnotically influencing her father to disinherit her because of her refusal to marry him. This introduction of hypnotism to sway every one and account for everything is, I venture to think, unfortunate, since it interferes with the natural evolution of character and development of plot. Nevertheless, for a first novel "Snares" is interesting and of promise. Mr. Guy Boothby's "A Bride from the Sea" (5) is a bewildering succession of incoherent improbabilities which begin by amusing, but end by irritating you. "Ex uno disce omnia." In order to steal an important letter from his

(1) "China from Within: A Study of Opium Fallacies and Missionary Mistakes." (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)

(2) "Ordered to China." Letters of Wilbur J. Chamberlain. (London: Methuen & Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

(3) "A Lost Eden." By M. E. Braddon. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Snares." By Winifred Crispe. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(5) "A Bride from the Sea." By Guy Boothby. With Eight Illustrations by A. T. Smith. (London: John Long. 6s.)

host the hero affects to have colic in the night. For the cure of the colic his host hurried down to get some mulled wine, and in his absence the hero hurried to his room to search it everywhere for the letter. Having found it at last he sat down to make a copy of it, though it was of great length and though he was, as he takes care to tell you, a slow writer. As, however, only a single short sentence in it was pertinent and important, you are at a loss to understand why he should copy it at length at the risk—in real life the certainty—of being caught in the act.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—Have you seen the new clocks that mark off the end of each minute and introduce the next with a little shudder? Brenda had one for a wedding present, and we were all fascinated by it when at tea with her the other day. It makes one quite nervous to watch for the sliding of the little shutter that hides the next figure, and counting the seconds results in merely increasing the absurd little agitation one feels. The good point about the clock is that one can see the time quite a long way off, instead of having to get up and peer interrogatively into the face of the timepiece that happens to be nearest, as most people have to do.

By the way, can we ever thank enough the inventor of the watch bracelet? It is so beautifully easy to see the time when one carries it on one's wrist. And not only for timing our frivolous concerns is it valuable. Generals and other officers on the field of battle have found the wristlet watch so indispensable, that they always wear it. I wanted to give Richard one last Christmas, but he thinks it effeminate!

"Select your own skins" is a bit of advice that stared me in the face from the pages of a ladies' paper just now. If we only could, what would become of all the beauty-doctors? But, alas! it refers to furs only, and is part of the advertisement of a furrier. Lower down on the same page is an advertisement that at least shows us how to select the colour of our hair. But we must beware of strange experiences in this direction. Did not Bella wake up one morning with a tinge of green saddening the orange-bronze of her hyacinthine locks? She hid herself in the recesses of her brougham and rushed off to her coiffeur, thinking out the whole way strong things to say to him in his own Continental tongue. He worked her up to such a lovely tone of auburn-brown that she went straight off to her milliner, bought a new hat that was so constructed as to show plenty of hair, and not only lunched at Prince's, but started off afterwards on a round of calls. She came to us, among others, and immediately claimed our admiration for the glorious russet of her locks. We freely gave it, but said nothing about its effect on her complexion. Only those who have this reddish hair by nature can really wear it without detriment to their colouring. Bella's temples had almost a livid look, and about the setting of the eyes there were touches of a similar sort. Her hair is naturally a rather insipid brown, but she would look much nicer if she were to content herself with it as it is. It suits her complexion.

What enormous quantities of hair Miss Miriam Clements has! We noticed it again at the Comedy the other evening. She wears it in a very wide, thick, solid plait round her head. But why that hard line on the forehead? It does not at all accord with the delicious softness of her voice. She wears a lovely white and gold gown that must have made many want one like it. There was nothing harsh or metallic about the embroidery. It was as soft as the delicate silk gauze it was sewn upon. I prophesy a great vogue for white and gold evening gowns during the winter.

In the same play, "His Highness My Husband," Miss Lottie Venne careers about the stage like a nice little motor, in sweet frocks. One especially, a prawn-pink velvet embroidered in gold and crystal and made very full and long, is intensely becoming.

Mrs. Brown-Potter makes a wonderful snaky effect in the second act of "Forget-me-not," with a dull-tinted sable boa, which coils round her in a manner that just suits Stéphanie, the adroit and cunning adventuress. No one else on earth could wear the accompanying Medusa head-dress, also fur, with three pendant tails at the back. Her gowns are lovely. A very striking one is in velvet of a shade between magenta and ruby, and the bodice is daringly trimmed with brightest rose velvet leaves and little pink velvet bows. They look very innocent in company with the bolder colours. A perfectly lovely gown is worn in the first act, Henri Quatre striped blue and white silk over a lace petticoat. The last act sees Stéphanie bold, triumphant, then thoroughly routed and desperate, in orange silk elaborately trimmed with lace and diamond buttons. With each of her velvet gowns Mrs. Potter wears velvet shoes to match, with big paste buckles.

All this magnificence is in great contrast with the well thought-out shabbiness of her attire as Santuzza in "Cavalleria Rusticana."

Velvet, you know, is to be *the* winter material for evening and afternoons, weddings, Prince's skating-rink, and so on. And the colours are lovely. Velveteen is being a good deal worn in Paris, but more for forenoon frocks in checks and tartan patterns. Brocade is coming in fast for evening gowns and is used in combination with the lovely new shot silks in mother-o'-pearl and flower tints artistically mingled. The Louis XVI. gowns have these shots down the front, while the bodice, sleeves, and overskirt are in brocade. And please note that no brocades are lovelier than the English. Patterns from Liberty's will soon convince you of that.

Soft satins are greatly worn in the evening and almost all have full skirts gathered at the waist and finished with a belt that very slightly rises in the middle of the back and comes down in a point in front.

A man who had been in hospital six weeks under treatment for appendicitis and had escaped death by the merest shave, told me that it had been caused by having hurried meals with people waiting to see him in the next room. This so interfered with the process of digestion as to set up favourable conditions for appendicitis, of which that dangerous ailment was not slow to avail itself. In Sir William McEwan's Huxley lecture the other day he deprecated arguments or heated discussions at the dinner-table, family quarrels, unpleasant topics, business matters, or anything that mentally engrosses the diner, and consequently interferes with the digestive processes. He even included brilliant conversation, since it necessarily exercises the brain. In such circumstances, Sir William thinks, food should be very sparingly taken. But what, then, becomes of the dinner party? If we may not talk our liveliest, who will invite us again? And it has always been held that cheerful conversation helps our food to do us good. That is why it seems such a shame that in workhouses the rule of silence should prevail at meals. It seems most arbitrary and unjust. The poor inmates are treated like convicts in this respect.

A Derby magistrate expressed himself to this effect from the Bench a few weeks since. Being a humane man, he asked: "Why should not conversation be allowed at meals in the workhouse? The inmates are not criminals." A great lady of the neighbourhood wrote to him immediately upon this utterance having been published in the local paper. She disapproved of what he had said. Why should talking be allowed at

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meals in the workhouse, she asked, when it is forbidden in the servants' hall?

Such a rule must be a relic of feudalism, and seems quite inappropriate to modern times. It is one of the many ways in which the great ones of the earth actually manufacture socialism. No such rule exists in the King's household. So long as order is maintained no check to proper conversation is imposed.

Do you want any house linen just now? If so, get it at Hampton's. They have acquired the entire business, including factories, warehouses, and show-rooms, of a hundred-year-old Irish damask and linen manufactory, and are now devoting a considerable portion of their Pall Mall premises to a special display of hand-woven table damasks and household napery. The sale will be over on the 29th, so you must "hustle," as our American cousins say. Some very inexpensive table linen will be sold, with beautiful designs. The clematis makes a lovely tablecloth; the orange-grove is very quaint and curious. There is also store of Irish linen sheets at moderate prices.

Hampton and Sons can have table-linen woven in any design, or device, coats-of-arms, badges, etc. They prepare sketches and estimates free of charge. Their down quilts and blankets look attractive now that dear summer has lingeringly left us.

The Italian opera—real Italian, every voice of it!—is a great embellishment to beloved London's autumn season. We were there on the Tosca night, when the enthusiasm of the audience ran high. We heard Italian spoken all round us, and enjoyed this living lesson in a delightful language. We were so glad, too, to see a crowded house. It would seem so ungrateful not to be appreciative of the San Carlo Company, which has come all the way from Naples and brought with them tons upon tons of accessories.

It was really touching to hear the enthusiastic applause that floated down from the gallery. Evidently the exiles from sunny Italy had mustered in their strength, and rejoiced to hear the music of their native land rendered by singers of the beloved *patria*.

In my last letter I forgot to tell you that we took our country friends to the Savoy on Sunday, which is the smart night there. We heard that nearly one hundred persons were unable to get tables, though quite thirty or forty parties were dining in the great vestibule on the other side of the glass doors. It is pretty to see the various parties come sauntering down the pretty vestibule with its white walls and crimson carpet. At a table near ours were Lord and Lady Vivian, the lady wearing a lovely diamond crescent, with her white frock trimmed with pink chiffon roses. A foreign duc and duchesse sat near, her lovely lace gown a most covetable item. Magnificent diamond bows trimmed the gown, and matchless pearls the neck of a lady in slate-grey, with a panel of purple—a very tall and graceful woman. In creamy lace was the young Duchess of Manchester, who with the Duke had a party there. A perfectly sweet soft pink satin gown was worn by the Comtesse Schaffgotsch, who was with the Comte. A Marie Antoinette fichu added grace to a graceful gown. The Honble. Mrs. Keppel was in grey lace and point d'esprit, and some exquisite turquoises were the adornments of a foreign lady in white, who was addressed as Madame la Comtesse. After dinner, when every one troops into the great vestibule for coffee and cigarettes, the scene is a very pretty one, and enchanted our rural friends. They said it was like something in a play, and it really is so, for one looks past the gaily-clad crowd and sees beyond it all the lights on the river and on Rennie's masterpiece, the bridge that architects come from the ends of the world to see.

Saturday's mail brought letters from friends in Bombay, Madras, and Ceylon. It made us feel as though we belonged to an Intelligence Department. The first, however, is rather sad:—

The monsoon (rainy season) is over here. We had a very scarce one. We have usually eighty-two inches, but it was not half this time. It is so bad for the crops, and famine in several villages has been threatened. Oh, you should see the poor cultivators anxiously waiting and watching for the rains, and the disappointment when there is none. By this mail I send you a postcard depicting these famine-stricken people. You could nearly see their ribs, and could even count them. They looked so haggard! Although Government at this critical time does much for these people—starts famine works and funds—yet thousands die of hunger. Fortunately the weather here is not like the English climate, otherwise the cold would sweep away no end of these poor starving ones. Yes, I do wish you would visit our poor India.

The postcard shows the unfortunate creatures in an incredible state of emaciation, and here are we in Britain, most of us eating too much every day of our lives!

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

Dearest Madge,—Next week we shall be in November, which is probably the most unpopular month of the year. No wonder either, for be the weather good or bad, November is, when all is said and done, the month above everything of decay—of the active progress of it, too, in the most public and ruthless way. Nature draws no veil over her work and makes no allowance for delicate susceptibilities; she consigns vegetation to destruction before our eyes—not swiftly either, but with a slow, lingering decay, damp, dank, depressing to look at. We see her operations less in town than in country; for which reason November is best spent in the former, except, of course, in the case of those whose time is given up to animal pursuits, hunting, shooting, and so on, whose intentness on their own destructiveness makes them notice little and care less for the sad and sorry state of field and tree and countryside in general. November in town may be fruitfully given up to human interests, to setting our houses in order, as well as our toilets. What scope for work our homes give us after long absences from them! Is there any mistress of a house who does not know the disastrous fortnight or so which follows the return home after some months of absence, during which the house has been shut and wrapped up? The wear and tear of use is nothing to that of disuse. How everything goes out of order: windows, blinds, locks, gas, electricity, water, etc. As if resentful of neglect, gas and water-pipes burst, as the chords of the Harp of Tara broke "indignant," just to show feeling for neglect. The glass and china, too, seem to have devoted their long vacation to cracking. The ingratitude of the kitchen range and boiler is simply colossal, in developing all sorts of uncomfortable and threatening ways after their long rest. And then the "fresh eye" with which we return to familiar surroundings, how keen it is, what direful discoveries it makes! Unsuspected flaws reveal themselves on all sides. Cracks, stains, signs of wear of which we had been so blissfully unconscious; the curtains which we had never suspected of looking like a past, the carpets that we had fondly imagined to be wearing their years so well. The fresh eye finds them all out, just as we are ourselves found out by old friends after long absences.

Dublin is now going through the process of putting its house in order. It is essentially the dull season, so far as the pleasures of society are concerned. The shutters are up at Dublin Castle and the Viceregal Lodge. The Chief Secretary has been in the Phœnix Park, but Lady Grosvenor left Ireland some time ago to visit her daughter, Lady Beauchamp, with whom she is still staying. Sir Antony MacDonnell is at the Under-Secretary's Lodge, where he has been a very constant resident since he took office in Ireland. The residence is a comfortable and commodious, if not magnificent, one; a strong contrast, indeed, to the great palaces in which, in viceregal state, Sir Antony administered British rule in India. By the way, another Irishman is now his successor out there, Sir James La Touche, the descendant of a Huguenot family who settled in Ireland at the time of the Huguenot exodus from France. Lady Grenfell is convalescent at the Royal Hospital, where her mother is still staying with her. The Royal Hospital, like the Viceregal and Chief Secretary's Lodges, enjoys the distinction of having a visitors' book, which means, as a rule, that all who are desirous of being entertained by those in high places inscribe their names in the book. It does not, however, mean that all are entertained, for, alas! in this crowded world, the number who desire things is always sadly in excess of those who get them, or, for that matter, could possibly get them. The Lord Chancellor, with his family, has returned to his resi-

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dence in Merrion-square; the Lord Chancellor and Lord Justice FitzGibbon are the Lords Justices for governing Ireland during the absence of the Lord Lieutenant from the country. The Government of Ireland is a very peculiar one, and one wonders if there is any one who rightly understands it. Women, of course, do not understand these things, but it seems strange that Lord Ashbourne and Lord Justice FitzGibbon should be subordinate to Lord Dudley in the Government of Ireland. But I suppose it gets one dangerously near to Home Rule views to think that clever Irishmen would govern their own country better than even the most honest and best-intentioned British nobleman, whose knowledge of Ireland only begins with his holding the highest office in it. The rumour of the resignation of the Master of the Rolls is supposed to be a case of the wish being father to the thought. No judge on the Irish Bench has a higher reputation than Sir Andrew Porter, and his resignation would be a matter of regret to the public. Sir Andrew Porter has quite recovered from his severe illness of some months ago.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

Medical men are looking for the cause of the increase of cancer among us. I wonder if it has occurred to any of them to investigate the quantities of soda absorbed by some individuals of the community. I tasted some soda water the other day that simply reeked of bi-carbonate of soda. It must be a very injurious beverage. And this is not the only form in which a quantity of it is absorbed into the system. What about the over-use of baking powder? Soda is the principal ingredient in this. It is all very well if used in moderation, but what do you think of such a recipe for making scones as appeared in a daily paper last Saturday? "To half a pound of flour add a heaped-up teaspoonful of baking powder." The correct quantity would be a very small salt-spoonful. What havoc some cooks would make of the human constitution but for the providential safeguard of the palate. Such a scone would be very bitter of flavour.

Ballotines of pigeon à la Bruxelles are a delicate entrée:—

Take three or four boned pigeons, cut them in halves, trim away the ends, and garnish the inside part with delicate quenelle of chicken, put a round piece of truffle on each, gather the ends together, tie them round with thread forming a ball. Place them, smooth side upwards, in a stewpan with a small plate and a 2lb. weight to keep them a little flat, add vegetables, stock, and a slice or two of fat bacon and braise them for an hour or longer. Then strain the braise, remove the fat, and make it into white sauce with the addition of a squeeze of lemon juice and a little cream. Remove the thread from the ballotines, dry them for five minutes in the oven, then brush them with glaze. Dish each one on a small croûte of fried bread, which fix to the dish with a very little mashed potato. Garnish the centre with tiny quenelles, slices of truffle, scallops of tongue and button mushrooms, all heated in a little of the sauce. Pour the remainder of the sauce round the dish.

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ENTRE NOUS.

WEDNESDAY, December 14, and Thursday, December 15, have now been fixed as the dates of the Truth Doll and Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall. I would specially call the attention of ladies who are dressing dolls to these dates, as they are somewhat earlier than usual. I am glad to be able to report that, as the result of the appeal I made last week, the last dozen large dolls were at once taken off my hands. The whole of the dolls provided are now in the hands of the ladies who have so kindly undertaken to dress them, and I regret that it is out of my power to comply with any further applications. The early date at which the doll-dressers have gone to work this year promises well for the success of the show, and I hope that the result will speedily be placed beyond doubt by the contribution of the money needed for the rest of the toys—something like 25,000.

In the meantime I have to acknowledge the following amounts towards the Toy Fund:—G. A. T., £10; Mrs. Alexandra E. Rodocanachi, £2 2s.; S. Cheselden, Kent, 10s.; A. E., £1.

The King, who is now in town for a few days before going to Sandringham, spent all last week at Newmarket. His Majesty had a day's shooting on Saturday at Chippenham Park, the seat of Mr. Tharp, when nine guns killed 552 partridges, 49 pheasants, and 29 hares in a few hours. Luncheon was served in a marquee, which had been erected in the park, and the King drank tea at the house before driving back to Newmarket, whence he proceeded to town by special train. Lord Savile, Lord Chelsea, Major-General Paget, Rear-Admiral Lambton, and Sir Daniel Cooper were included in the party. Chippenham was visited by Charles I. several times when staying at Newmarket for the purpose of playing bowls, and George I. was a guest there in 1719. The place then belonged to the Russells.

His Majesty held a Council at Buckingham Palace last week, when Parliament was prorogued until December 20. The next Council will be held by the King about December 16, when Parliament is to be summoned to meet for the despatch of business. The day at present mentioned for the opening of the Session is Tuesday, February 7.

It was stated in Truth last week that the King and Queen will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. William James at West Dean Park, Sussex, from Monday the 21st, until Friday, the 25th. Pheasant shooting is the object of the Royal visit. The house party at West Dean to meet their Majesties will include (besides the suite) Count Albert Mensdorff, Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. de Soveral, Lord and Lady Dudley, Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley, Lord and Lady St. Oswald, Lord and Lady Wolverton, Lord and Lady Savile, Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur James, and Mr. F. Mildmay. The King and Queen will travel direct from Windsor to Singleton, which is the nearest station to West Dean, the Royal train being transferred at Clapham Junction from the South-Western line to the Brighton Company.

This will be the fourth visit of the King to West Dean Park, and the Queen (then Princess of Wales) stayed there for several days about eight years ago. The West Dean estate, which lies between Chichester and Midhurst, comprises about nine thousand acres, and it was purchased by Mr. William James from Mr. F. Bowen. The house, which is remarkably well situated, was built just a hundred years ago by Lord Selsey in what was then supposed to be the true "Gothic" style. The principal front is handsome, and the interior has been splendidly redecorated and refurnished since the place was purchased by Mr. James, who has carried out all kinds of improvements. The gardens are fine, and there is a celebrated arboretum, which is one of the sights of the district during the summer. The park, which is large, undulating, and well wooded, runs up to within a short distance of Goodwood racecourse.

The country all round West Dean is remarkably picturesque, the principal features being downs, woods, low rounded hills, and coppices.

The King's Household-in-Waiting will be constituted as follows during this month:—Lords of the Bedchamber: Lord Kintore, Lord Kenyon, Lord Suffield; Grooms of the Bedchamber: Vice-Admiral Sir John Fullerton; Sir Alexander Condie Stephen, Mr. Sidney Greville; Equerries: Colonel Arthur Davidson and Mr. John Ward; Gold Stick: General Lord de Ros, Colonel of the 1st Life Guards; Silver Stick: Lieutenant-Colonel Bingham, 1st Life Guards; Field Officer in Brigade Waiting: Colonel Vesey Dawson, Irish Guards; Deputy Clerk of the Closet: Rev. W. Rowe Jolly, Rector of Huggate.

The King and Queen of Portugal are to arrive at Windsor Castle from Cherbourg, by way of Portsmouth, on the evening of Tuesday, November 15, when their Majesties will give a family dinner party in the Oak Room. On two other nights of the Royal visit there will be large dinner parties in the State Dining Room, and a full-dress banquet in St. George's Hall on the fourth night. The King and Queen of Portugal will probably take their departure from England on Saturday, November 19, but it is possible that they may leave Windsor on that day and spend the week-end at Buckingham Palace. In this case King Carlos and Queen Amélie will proceed from London to Paris on Monday, the 21st.

The King of Portugal will be attended to England by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and by a suite of four persons. The Queen is to be attended only by a lady in waiting and an equerry. Several members of the Household will be appointed to be in special attendance on their Majesties during their stay in England. Queen Amélie has not visited this country since her husband's accession to the throne, except when she came over privately for a few days on the occasion of the death of her father, the Comte de Paris, and then she was travelling in the strictest incognito.

The Prince of Wales is on a visit to Lord and Lady Iveagh at Elveden Hall, Suffolk, and the Princess has been staying in town for a few days. The Prince will return to Sandringham on Friday, and the Princess will previously have rejoined her children at York Cottage.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to pay a visit next month to Lord and Lady Ilchester at Melbury Park, near Yeovil, and will probably proceed thither after their intended visit to Lord and Lady Pembroke at Wilton House, which was announced last week in TRUTH. The handsome and remarkably picturesque house at Melbury was principally built during the reign of Henry VIII. by Sir Giles Strangeways, but it has been several times enlarged. The east front dates from the reign of Queen Anne, and the fine library, with an open timber roof, was added by the present Lord Ilchester. The internal decorations are very rich, and there are some good pictures, principally Old Masters. A sloping lawn descends from the house to the lake, with its wooded banks. The scenery of the park is very beautiful, and there are groves and avenues of grand old trees, notably sycamores, oaks, limes, and chestnuts. The views from the higher grounds are very extensive.

Lord and Lady Ilchester are now entertaining their annual series of shooting parties at Abbotsbury Castle, their place on the coast near Weymouth. The gardens belonging to this place are remarkably beautiful, and adjoin the interesting ruins of the ancient abbey, above which is the picturesque Chapel of St. Catherine, from which there is one of the finest views in Dorsetshire. The great feature at Abbotsbury is Lord Ilchester's famous decoy and swannery, which is the home of immense numbers of wildfowl, and it forms a unique scene. On the other side of the River Fleet is one of the largest rabbit warrens in England. It is probable that the Prince and Princess of Wales will spend a day at Abbotsbury during their stay at Melbury, travelling by special train from Evershot station and back.

It was announced in TRUTH several weeks ago that the Duke of Connaught would pay a visit to the Duke of Atholl in Perthshire during the autumn. The Duke was to have arrived at Dunkeld House on Monday, but his visit has now been postponed for twelve months.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught are to arrive at Hartham Park, near Chippenham, on Saturday, the 12th, on a visit to Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder. It is expected that on Sunday afternoon (the 13th) T.R.H. will drive over to Corsham Court, to visit Lord and Lady Methuen.

The Grand Duchess Marie has returned to Coburg after a stay of several weeks at Tegernsee, in Bavaria, and she will reside at her palace in the town until the beginning of January, when she goes to the Riviera for a residence of four months at the Château de Fabron. The Grand Duchess of Hesse and Princess Beatrice are staying with their mother.

It is probable that the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans will be invited by their Majesties to Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Portugal. Queen Amélie is the eldest sister of the Duc d'Orléans. The Emperor Francis Joseph has been particularly anxious for the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans to be again placed on friendly relations with the Court. The Emperor is of course thinking of the position of the Duchesse d'Orléans, who is a daughter of the Archduke Joseph and the Archduchess Clotilde, and a granddaughter of the Princess Clémentine d'Orléans. The Duchesse d'Orléans has arrived at Wood Norton,

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For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1131.
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near Evesham, from Vienna, en route from her father's country seat in Hungary. The Duc d'Orléans is expected to arrive in England this week from Italy.

The Comtesse de Paris, who is now residing at the Château de Randan, her seat in the Puy de Dôme, will come to England next week, and is to be included in their Majesties' house party at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Portugal. On leaving England, the Comtesse de Paris will proceed to Spain for a residence of five months at Villamanrique, her beautiful estate in Andalusia, where the extensive forests afford abundant shooting.

The *World* stated last week that "it is expected at Berlin that the engagement of the Grand Duke Cyril to the former Grand Duchess of Hesse will shortly be announced." As a matter of fact, the report of this engagement has just been officially contradicted in most unqualified terms both at Berlin and at St. Petersburg. The Grand Duke Cyril, who is staying at Coburg on a visit to his aunt, the Grand Duchess Marie, is about to proceed to Naples for the benefit of his health, and if all goes well he will return to Eastern Asia in January.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who has been residing at Gordon Castle, Banffshire, since the beginning of August, came up to town last week, and will spend the winter at Goodwood Park, Sussex. Except the Prince of Wales and Prince Arthur of Connaught, there have been no guests at Gordon Castle during the past autumn beyond members of the family, and the deer forest of Glenfiddich, and the Blackwater Moors were let for the season to Lord Durham.

Sir Percival and Lady Radcliffe have been entertaining a large family party at Rudding Park, their seat in the West Riding of Yorkshire, for the celebration of their golden wedding. The festivities extended over a week, and included several entertainments to the Lancashire and Yorkshire tenantry, and to the employees, tradespeople, cottagers, and school children, and a county ball. The Pope has conferred the Order of St. Gregory the Great upon Sir Percival Radcliffe, who was invested with this decoration at Rudding Park by the Bishop of Leeds.

The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch, who have been staying at Langholm Lodge, Dumfriesshire, during the grouse shooting season, will spend the next six weeks at Drumlanrig Castle, the magnificent old seat of the Dukes of Queensberry, near Thornhill, after which they are to remove to Dalkeith Palace, near Edinburgh, for the winter. Drumlanrig is one of the finest domains in Scotland, but it is a place out of the beat of tourists. The stately house, which is well situated on a hill, was built during the reign of James II. It is a quadrangular château of red stone, and has some very fine rooms. The forest scenery of the large park is very picturesque, but the great feature of the place is the terraced garden, which fills the slope between the house and the wooded banks of the Nith.

Lady Dilke deserves to be remembered among the most distinguished women of her day. She was a woman of much strength and individuality of character, uniting great natural gifts with deep culture, many accomplishments, and wide sympathies. Her life is a record of versatility. As the wife of the late Mark Pattison, she was for many years one of the most conspicuous figures in Oxford society and the most brilliant of a brilliant academic circle. Later on she gained distinction as an art critic, writing with equal facility in French and English. She produced two volumes of fiction, which were at least highly-finished literary achievements. Finally, after her marriage with Sir Charles Dilke, she threw herself with enthusiasm into political and social work, and rendered great service to the labour movement of the last fifteen years from the point of view of women workers. Her death is as deplorable as it is sudden and unexpected, and universal sympathy will be felt with Sir Charles Dilke in his bereavement.

Miss Edmonstone, who died last week at Edinburgh, was the only survivor of the ancient Perthshire family of Edmonstone of Camwallace, whose estates were sold nearly a century ago to the then Earl of Moray. The old house of Camwallace, which is one of the seats of Lord Moray, has long been known as Doune Lodge.

Mrs. Goddart, who died the other day at Highworth, Wiltshire, at the age of eighty-nine, was the eldest daughter of Mr. Edward Ayshford Sanford, of Nynehead Court, Somersetshire, and the widow of Mr. Ambrose Goddart, lord of the manor of Swindon, who for over thirty years represented the Cricklade Division of Wiltshire in the House of Commons.

The Duke and Duchess of Northumberland are entertaining a series of house parties at Alnwick Castle, where they intend to reside until they come to town for the meeting of Parliament, after which they are going to Albury Park until the beginning of May.

The Duke and Duchess of Portland have returned to Welbeck Abbey, after a stay of more than ten weeks at Langwell, their place on the east coast of Caithness. The Duke's deer-forests and grouse-moors of Braemore and Langwell extend over about 50,000 acres, and they afford excellent and varied sport. There was a small party at Welbeck last week for partridge driving, including Lord and Lady Dudley, Lord Clarendon, and Lord de Grey.

A Scottish correspondent writes:—

Rod fishing on the Tay has closed after an average season for salmon, but there has been a great falling off in the take of grilse. The river has usually been very low since the nets went off in August, so that the shoals of fish in the estuary could not ascend to the higher waters.

During the autumn season 267 salmon and 216 grilse have been

CANNES. — GRAND HOTEL, CANNES. — First class. Proprietor, H. MENGE (late of Savoy and Claridge's Hotels.)

taken from the fifteen most important beats. Lord Ancaster's Stobhall water (upper and lower beats) yielded 137 fish. The heaviest salmon of the year weighed 45 lb., and it was caught at Kinfauns, below Perth, by Mr. A. G. Campbell.

Among the successful anglers were Lord Lansdowne, Lord Clanwilliam, Lord Hardwicke, Lord and Lady Chesterfield, Lord Cairns, the Bishop of London, Lord Blythswood, Sir John Wolfe-Barry, Major-General Baden-Powell, Messrs. Coats, General Campbell, Mr. Paget, Messrs. Beddington, Mr. Ernest Moon, Mr. Robert Ward, Mr. and Mrs. Martin, Mr. T. Birkin, Mr. W. T. Crawshay, Mr. P. D. Malloch, Captain Sandeman, Mr. C. A. Murray, Miss Drummond, Miss Savile, and Miss Maxwell Lyte.

The other day I called attention to the credit given by fashionable dressmakers, and ridiculed the idea which had been put forward that the Legislature would in any way aid in extending the responsibility of husband for the debts run up by their wives with these traders. There was an instructive trial the other day over a debt of this class. An action was brought by Paquin, Limited, to recover £246 from a lady, and the jury was discharged without agreeing on a verdict. The books of the firm seem to have been in the hands of the prosecuting counsel, who asked some questions in regard to the modes of payment by some clients, which appeared to have taken the form of cheques signed by divers persons. The representative of the firm appears to have declined to explain. But what is the probable explanation? That these clients, having got into debt, run about amongst their male acquaintances imploring them to come to their rescue, and thus enable them to get further credit for more finery. Of course, there are very rich women, or wives of very rich men, who can fool away any amount of money in dress. But this is not the case with most of the ladies who constitute the "smart set" or who emulate its extravagance.

If women would only realise that no one thinks better of them for being over-dressed, this would be one step to a reform. Dressmakers always try to vary the fashions each year in order to oblige those that insist upon being up to date when purchasing new clothes. Generally speaking, the fashion is a gross exaggeration of good taste. A dress is charged above double its cost price although in some cases a considerable deduction is made in consideration of the wearer recommending the dressmaker. If credit be given, of course the charge is far higher.

Paquin, Limited, is a company. It therefore has to present its accounts annually to its shareholders. The accounts at the last meeting for 1903 showed that the "profit" was £70,141, and that the outstanding book debts were £220,545. These, the directors declared, were a good asset. They may be so, although I should doubt whether they could be sold for anything like that sum. But if they are, it would be an interesting study of modern manners to know by whom they will be paid, and what is the average income of the debtor for each outstanding debt.

It has come to my knowledge that a man named Boult has lately been going about London representing himself as a member of the staff of TRUTH, and taking great liberties on the strength of that fiction. One of his recent exploits was to call on a firm in the City, stating that he had come for the purpose of investigating their methods of business. The firm accordingly allowed him to look over their books, with which he was kind enough to express himself satisfied. As I am told that he presented a card bearing his own name, with that of TRUTH added in the corner, it is probable that other people besides this firm have received visits from him. I believe that I know the individual; at any rate, a party of the same name came to this office recently with some information which did not stand investigation. What the object of his present operations may be I do not know, but it certainly cannot be an honest one, and I therefore take the opportunity of warning all whom it may concern against the enterprising Boult. In the event of a visit from him taking the form of a request for money on any ground, he should be at once handed over to the nearest policeman.

A third series of the journal of Henry Greville is to be published by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. in a few weeks. Lady Strafford, who is editing her uncle's journal, also prepared the former volumes for publication. Henry Greville was the younger brother of Charles Greville, and a very popular and highly accomplished man. He was a great favourite in society, both at home and abroad. For many years he was in the diplomatic service, and was for some time attached to the Paris Embassy, under both Lord Granville and the first Lord Cowley. He afterwards held a permanent post at Court. He was an excellent amateur actor and an accomplished musician, and was well acquainted with a host of interesting people.

Judges' reminiscences are generally more interesting than those of ordinary people, but no book of this class was ever so full of delightful reading as the "Reminiscences" of Lord Brampton, just published by Mr. Edward Arnold. Every chapter of the two volumes sparkles with characteristic touches, stories comic or tragic, or anecdotes of one well-known character or another who figured in the Law Courts during the Victorian era, whether on the Bench or at the Bar, in the witness-box or in the dock. To those who have known the Judge personally the book is doubly interesting, for it is stamped throughout with the charms of his own personality, his inexhaustible knowledge of the world, his shrewdness and humour, and his thorough kindness of heart.

Looking through these reminiscences, I wondered how the writer ever came to have the truculent reputation of a "hanging judge." Only, I suppose, because he was a hater of villainy in every shape, and knew too much to be imposed upon by any sophistry spun in defence of a criminal. At the very outset of his reminiscences, Lord Brampton recalls the life-long impression of horror made upon him, while yet a schoolboy, by seeing the body of a lad who had been hanged for firing a corn-stack removed from Bedford Gaol; and one of the most characteristic of his stories relates how he devoted himself, while on the bench, to saving the life of a poor girl guilty of infanticide, refused to put on the black cap, told the girl not to

mind what he was about to say, and mumbled the death sentence so that she should not hear it. Nobody ever sat on a bench with a keener sense of justice, to innocent and guilty alike, and what higher tribute can possibly be paid to a judge?

THE THREE ALFREDS.

(With apologies to Dryden.)

ALFRED AUSTIN—ALFRED LYTTELTON—ALFRED MILNER.

Three Alfreds, in the same great epoch born,
One richly-dowered country still adorn.
The first in Jingoism 's unsurpass'd,
The next in pedantry; in both the last.
The force of Nature nothing more could do,
To make the third she join'd the other two.

I was agreeably surprised with Mr. Edwin Abbey's enormous Coronation picture, which is now on view at the Hanover Gallery. It is not an artistic masterpiece—these ceremonial canvases never are and never can be. But it is by no means an unmitigated failure, such as these pictures too often prove to be when considered as works of art, and it is pleasant to be able to congratulate its artist on the comparative success he has achieved. The difficulties of his task were indeed colossal, and he has surmounted many of them with marked skill and ingenuity. There were, for instance, upwards of one hundred and thirty portraits to be introduced, and it is not strange that the likenesses vary greatly in excellence. Fortunately that of the King is one of the best; painted with rare dignity and restraint.

It was the members of the House of Lords who, not for the first time, proved the most unspeakable difficulty of all. One noble Lord in State robes, which made him look like a mediæval washerwoman, and waving excitedly that ridiculous cross between a Twelfth Night cake and a glorified pin-cushion which constitutes a Peer's coronet, is a bad enough blot, speaking artistically; but fancy having to paint scores of our hereditary legislators, all dressed similarly and all industriously doing ditto! It must have been heart-breaking for poor Mr. Abbey. But good may come out of evil, and I should not be at all astonished if the British Peer in his State robes has not now made wellnigh his very last appearance in our national ceremonials.

The hope that the somewhat acrimonious controversy over the ancient cottages near Shakespeare's Birthplace would be terminated by the recent decision of the Trustees has not been fulfilled. Sir Theodore Martin distinguished himself at the meeting as the most ardent and uncompromising of the vandals, and he seems to have been filled with indignation at the refusal of the majority of the Trustees to pull down these interesting relics of Shakespeare's times. In a long letter, which has been published at Stratford-on-Avon, he solemnly declines to undertake any responsibility in connection with the preservation of the cottages. Nobody wants him to do so—indeed, it is obvious that he relieved himself of any such responsibility, or, as I should prefer to put it, any such credit, by speaking and voting against the proposal. As to his contention that the action of the Trustees is illegal, it appears to be nothing less than nonsensical.

It may be remembered that some time ago Sir Theodore Martin wished to erect a monument to his late wife, an eminent Shakespearian actress, in a conspicuous position in the church where the bard lies buried, and for this purpose an existing memorial there was to have been ruthlessly removed. It was largely through the instrumentality of Miss Marie Corelli that this project was defeated. As everybody is aware, it is mainly owing to the same lady's efforts that the destruction of the cottages in Henley-street has been averted. Can it be that an element of personal feeling has accentuated the bitterness of Sir Theodore's disappointment at the decision of his fellow Trustees?

The annual conferring of the degrees of the Royal University of Ireland took place in Dublin last week. Lord Meath, the Chancellor of the University, presiding on the occasion. Somebody blundered; the authorities showed a want of tact and of understanding of the fact that proverbial phrases are usually based on eternal truths. The fact that "boys will be boys," especially if any one tries to prevent them being so, was fully demonstrated by a turbulent party of undergraduates. Lord Meath was unable to deliver the customary speech of the Chancellor of the University on the occasion, and the proceedings were marked by much disorder.

The Bishop of Worcester is to preach at Oxford, "before the University," on Sunday, the 13th. Bishop Gore leaves his diocese for a well-earned holiday on December 21. It appears to be generally understood that Bishop Gore will be the first Bishop of Birmingham, so it will fall to Mr. Balfour next year to appoint a new Bishop of Worcester. The income of the See of Worcester is £5,000 a year, but Bishop Perowne, who resigned in 1901, after an episcopate of ten years, draws a pension of £2,000 a year. While Dr. Perowne survives the next Bishop's stipend will be only £2,200 a year, as £800 is to be diverted towards the endowment of the new See of Birmingham.

The resignation of Bishop Ellicott is to take place at Lady-day, when he will retire with a pension of £2,000 a year. Dr. Ellicott held the living of Pilton, Rutlandshire, for thirteen years, and for a short time he was Hulsean Professor of Divinity at Cambridge. Lord Palmerston gave him the Deanery of Exeter in 1861, and towards the close of 1862 he was promoted to the see of Gloucester and Bristol, in succession to Dr. Thomson, who had been translated to York. The Bishops of Wakefield and Bangor will be entitled to take their seats in the House of Lords when Parliament meets, and Bishop Ellicott's retirement will give a place on the Episcopal Bench to the Bishop of Liverpool.

The Rev. Russell Day, who died last Thursday, was for twenty-three years a very popular and well-known assistant master at Eton. He left the school in 1874 on accepting a country living in Dorsetshire, and since

1881 he had been vicar of Horstead, Norfolk, a benefice in the gift of King's College, Cambridge. Mr. Day's death is much regretted by his neighbours.

There has been a great deal of anxious speculation in the diocese of Bath and Wells respecting the new appointment to the important living of Bathwick, Bath, vacant by the resignation of Prebendary Tugwell, who was presented to this benefice by the late Duke of Cleveland in 1871. Captain Forester, who is now the patron, has presented the Rev. Charles Hylton Stewart, Vicar of New Brighton, Cheshire, and formerly Precentor of Chester Cathedral. St. Mary's, Bathwick, has long been noted for its crowded congregations, its large offertories, its frequent and well-conducted services, and its excellent music, besides the admirable sermons of the late Vicar.

When in December last the Rev. Ravenscroft Stewart was appointed to succeed the late Canon Ainger in his stall at Bristol, the appointment was condemned in these columns as an abuse of patronage, Mr. Stewart having no connection with Bristol diocese, and no personal claim to such preferment beyond the fact that he was Lord Halsbury's spiritual pastor in London. The Bishop of Bristol, however, has now capped the Lord Chancellor's performance by appointing Canon Stewart to the Archdeaconry of Bristol. Apart from any question of rewarding long service, personal experience in the diocese and knowledge of the clergy are essential in an archdeacon, and the Bishop should be the first to recognise this. Nor has he any excuse for the appointment in the lack of better qualified men; on the contrary, he has disregarded the claims of more than one man universally esteemed and qualified for the post by long years of work in the diocese. The appointment has created the keenest dissatisfaction among all concerned, and will certainly not improve the sentiments with which the Bishop is generally regarded.

An amazing meeting took place in the parish church of Healing, near Grimsby, on the afternoon of last Sunday week, when the Rector, the Rev. J. G. Surman, who has frequently in the past been the subject of notice in TRUTH, met his parishioners, in order to confer with them respecting the appointment of a permanent locum-tenens of the living. During the past nine months in the Rectors' absence no less than nine different curates had attempted to carry on the work of the parish, and in view of the prospect of the Rector's continued absence from the sphere of his duties, the matter had been reported to the Bishop of the diocese, with the result that the absentee Rector apparently thought it advisable to meet his parishioners. He suggested that the Rev. R. Rigden should be appointed as his deputy, and no exception seems to have been taken to this gentleman, though there was a great deal of plain speaking upon the Rector's proposal to pay his locum-tenens a salary of £100 a year, the general impression being that the man who did the work of the parish should receive the full stipend, which it was stated amounted to about £264 a year.

The pleasant Sunday afternoon having resulted in no agreement between the parishioners and their Rector, the matter was brought before the Bishop, and it is regrettable, to say the least, that his Lordship should seem to acquiesce by his decision in the Rev. J. G. Surman's proposal to hold fast to his temporalities while divesting himself of his responsibilities, by appointing as his deputy the Rev. R. Rigden, at a salary of £100 per annum, and the use of the furnished rectory. The Bishop's attitude in the matter is all the more remarkable in view of the Rev. J. G. Surman's past history. In 1899 he came into collision with the ecclesiastical authorities through absenting himself from his parish while discharging the military duties of musketry instructor to a Volunteer regiment in which in some mysterious manner he had obtained a commission. A year later he had to pay his housekeeper damages in a libel action, when it appeared that besides carrying on a sort of patent agent's business from an accommodation address at Grimsby, he was an inventor of sights for rifles and guns, submarine boats, a safety stirrup and safety saddle. In 1902 he was advertising for pupils as an Army coach from the Rectory, Healing.

This by no means, however, exhausts the list of the versatile Rector of Healing's ventures. In May last, I came across him under the guise of the Locum Tenency Society, of 42, Temple-chambers, Temple-avenue, when he was offering to provide jobbing parsons with situations at a commission of 33⅓ per cent. upon the stipend paid. One of the berths which he was thus offering was the sole charge of the parish of Healing at a salary of £2 a week, to be paid weekly, and of which amount, I take it, 33⅓ per cent. would return to his pocket through the good offices of the Locum Tenency Society. Under all these circumstances, it is nothing short of scandalous that the Rector should be permitted to continue to draw a profit rental from the living. He is, of course, within his legal rights in doing so, but I should have at least expected the ecclesiastical authorities to have discountenanced such flagrant trafficking with mammon.

I am glad to co-operate once again in calling attention to the excellent fund for supplying crippled London children with "Christmas hampers," which is under the management of Sir William Treloar. The idea of this distribution is that on the same day when the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs entertain some 1,200 Ragged School children, those whose infirmities prevent their being present should receive one of these hampers at home, and as the work of distribution is carried out in conjunction with the Ragged School Union, there is perfect certainty of the hampers only getting into deserving hands. Something like 600 were distributed last year, and, as in the case of all work of this kind, the calls upon the fund are constantly growing. Those who desire to help should send their donations to Sir William Treloar, addressed, Little Cripples Christmas Hamper Fund, 69, Ludgate Hill, E.C.

A judgment which appears to be bad on the face of it was recently given by a court-martial at the School of Musketry, Hythe. The prisoner was Sergeant-Major Instructor Paterson, and he was charged with (1) drunkenness, (2) escaping and breaking barracks while under arrest. The court-martial acquitted him on the first charge, but found him guilty on the second. The two findings appear to me to be absolutely inconsistent, and it is somewhat surprising that the judgment of the court-martial should ever have been confirmed.

The facts of this case are somewhat peculiar. At 9.30 p.m. on September 30, Paterson was noticed by one of his comrades to be strange in his manner. One of them took him twice to his room, and at 10 p.m. reported what he had observed to the sergeant-major, who, at 10.30 placed him under arrest, in charge of another sergeant. During the night—there is no definite evidence as to the exact time—Paterson disappeared, and nothing more was seen of him till the following evening, when he returned to barracks, and reported himself. His own evidence, as given at the court-martial, was that his memory was a complete blank as to all the circumstances of the previous evening, subsequently to some little "tiff" he had had with his wife. He had no recollection of being placed under arrest, or of leaving barracks, or of anything else until about five o'clock on the following morning, when he found himself on the beach at Folkestone, several miles off, covered with mud, drenched to the skin, and with his hands bleeding. He explained that rather than be seen walking back to Hythe in this condition, he remained concealed at Folkestone during the day, and returned after dark. His wife gave evidence that on previous occasions he had suffered from temporary lapses of memory in the same way.

Now, as already mentioned, the court acquitted Paterson on the charge of drunkenness, and, looking at the evidence, there can be no reasonable doubt that they were right. In explanation of his condition it was shown that he had received a shell wound at Elandslaagte. His wife also gave evidence that he had on previous occasions, since he had received this wound, suffered from temporary lapses of memory. In acquitting him of drunkenness, therefore, the court must be taken to have held that the man was suffering from mental aberration produced by some other cause than drink. In that case, what conceivable justification can there be for finding him guilty of escaping when under arrest, and inflicting upon him a very heavy punishment?

This decision is so palpably absurd that, as I have said, it is difficult to understand how the findings of the court could ever have been officially ratified. I understand that a petition has been addressed on Paterson's behalf to the Secretary of State, or whoever may be the proper authority for that purpose under the new *régime*, and, for the present at any rate, one must take for granted that the sentence and the punishment will be rescinded. But the mere fact that a court-martial could come to such an illogical conclusion, and that its findings could be officially confirmed, is certainly not calculated to raise one's opinion of the principles on which "justice" is administered in the Army.

Owing to a heavy fog on the river a fortnight or so ago, the ferry-boat service at Woolwich was stopped, and in consequence a soldier of the garrison, who had been spending the evening with friends at North Woolwich, was unable to get back to barracks before midnight, having to wait until one of the River Police volunteered to row him and others across. He eventually got into barracks at 12.35 a.m. His excuse was disregarded, and his permanent pass was withdrawn, and instructions given that he was not to receive another. The man had eight years' service, with no entry against him since his first year. I mention these incidents as a further corroboration of what has lately been said in TRUTH respecting the frivolous grounds on which soldiers are liable to be punished, and have their characters more or less irretrievably damaged. This is a matter which has an immediate and obvious bearing upon the recruiting question, and it is quite time that the Army Council gave serious attention to it.

Since writing the above, I have heard of another incident, which bears both upon the character question and others. A corporal of the Warwickshire Regiment, who has been about ten months at the depot, desired to extend his colour service. The commanding officer, however, refused his application on the ground that his character was not good enough, and sent him to the reserve with the character "fair." Needless to say, this character must be a fatal obstacle to the man in obtaining civil employment, even if such employment were more easily obtained that it is at present.

Now, my information about this case comes, not from the man himself, but from the regiment in which he had served for nearly seven years before going to the depot. It would appear that during his service as a private he had incurred several entries for drunkenness; but since his promotion to corporal two years ago, he has only incurred one entry—namely, a reprimand for neglect of duty, and he has gained the reputation of being a useful and trustworthy non-commissioned officer. Apart from the injustice which is done to the man under these circumstances by sending him back to civil life with an unsatisfactory report from the Army, it is incomprehensible to the civilian mind why any officer should desire to eject such a man from the Service, when he himself desires to remain in it

PARIS.—MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile. Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Situated in healthiest and most select quarter. Luxuriously furnished.

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

If the fact of a young man having got drunk half a dozen times in as many years disqualifies him to serve his country as a soldier, let this fact be known, and let all men who occasionally imbibe too freely, whatever their rank, be promptly ejected from the Service. If an army of total abstainers is what we want, let us proceed with our army reforms on that basis. But it does seem preposterous that if a private is promoted, notwithstanding that he has this shocking record of inebriety, and if, in this position of greater responsibility he behaves himself irreproachably for two years, he should be told at the end of that time that he is unfit to continue in the Army on account of his unsatisfactory character.

In the face of an incident like this, it seems to me obvious that it does not do to leave it absolutely in the discretion of one commanding officer to pronounce final judgment upon a man's character when he takes his discharge. There ought, as I said recently, to be some appeal open to a man when injustice has evidently been done to him in the assessment of his character, and the whole system on which characters are assessed ought to be reconsidered. From the mere point of view of the military authorities themselves, who are at their wits' end at the present moment to obtain long-service soldiers, it also seems to follow from incidents like this that it is inexpedient to leave the question whether a man shall or shall not extend his service to the decision of his commanding officer.

The establishment of the Warwickshire depot above mentioned was about eighteen months ago raised from four to eight companies. The operation, however, was merely performed on paper, and the new companies have never been formed, presumably because there are no men to form them with. The chief practical result of this measure is that four additional colour-sergeants have to be drafted to the depot from the service battalions, on the theory that there are four additional companies at the depot for them to take charge of; but when they get there they have to be employed in drilling small squadrons of Militia recruits and other work that could be performed by any competent lance-corporal. At the same time, of course, they lose their shilling a day, which they have been drawing while with their battalions, for their pay duties. To all intents and purposes, therefore, the sending of one of these supernumerary colour-sergeants to the depot—of course, they only go on compulsion—is equivalent to a temporary reduction of rank, and the whole proceeding seems supremely stupid.

There is much resentment in the ranks of the 2nd Dorsetshire Regiment at Colchester, in consequence of the men having been turned out of the regimental institute on the evening of October 21, in order that the various rooms might be used for the purpose of a sergeants' dance. It is so long since I heard any complaint on this subject that I thought the practice had been stopped. N.C.O.s' dances are perfectly legitimate institutions, and all reasonable facilities for holding them ought to be granted, but to deprive all the privates of the regiment of the opportunity of getting supper, and using their recreation and reading rooms for one evening, in order that the N.C.O.s may enjoy themselves is not reasonable, and is calculated to produce bad feeling, as it has done in this instance. If the sergeants' mess buildings are not suitable for the purpose of a dance—though I am told that in this case they are—the least that ought to be done is to allow the men the use of the sergeants' rooms, while the sergeants are using theirs.

The grievance in the above case seems to have been aggravated by the fact that men were employed turning out the rooms, and subsequently restoring them to their usual condition, as a fatigue. Even if the sergeants were entitled to the use of the rooms, they have certainly no right to the benefit of the men's labour free of charge.

An illustration of the financial straits to which many Volunteer corps are reduced is afforded by the promotion of a lottery with threepenny tickets, to clear off the debt on the drill-hall of the G Co., 6th V.B. The Royal Scots at Musselburgh. The lottery is being run officially from the headquarters of the company, and books of tickets are being sent out for sale among English Volunteers. No doubt it is only as a last resort that the Musselburgh Volunteers have adopted this method of raising the wind, but even the difficulty in which they are placed is scarcely a justification for the breach of the law which the scheme involves.

Is it not rather an unusual thing for a local bootmaker to hold a contract for supplying a regiment with boots? This arrangement seems to be in force in the case of the 2nd Somersetshire Light Infantry, now at Crownhill, near Plymouth. Considerable dissatisfaction exists, both with the price and quality of the boots, and also with the same bootmaker's charge for repairs. A civilian who, like myself, devotes any amount of attention to Army matters, is always finding some fresh cause for astonishment. Until I heard this complaint, I always imagined that Army boots were procured by Government, on a definite specification, from large manufacturers, and, as the shoeing of an army is a matter of vital importance to its efficiency, I should have thought that that was the only arrangement that ought to be allowed.

A letter which I received from the Mediterranean station should cause joy in certain circles at Whitehall, for it contains nothing less than a proposal for a radical change in the headgear of the Navy. As the writer points out, the Army has had things too much its own way in this direction of late years, and the Admiralty must be burning for an opportunity of distinguishing itself. In default of a better opening, "my Lords" have, as we know, been employing their mighty minds on the width of the gold lace on officers' sleeves. This is at

The New Forest is now very beautiful. Stay at the BALMER LAWN HOTEL, Brockenhurst. Hire a car from the Hampshire Motor Works, Lyndhurst, you will be satisfied.

best a poor kind of business by comparison with designing new hats for the whole Service. My correspondent objects strongly to the Service white straw hat, which he says, is inconvenient in many ways, constantly liable to damage, and to being lost overboard when worn in boats. He looks with admiration at the canvas hat or helmet of the American Navy, which, besides being free from these disadvantages, and capable of being folded up and put in the pocket, costs about a third of the price of the Navy straw. It is not a matter on which I can express any opinion myself, but I am sure there are gentlemen at headquarters who will be delighted to devote their attention to it.

A passenger who landed at Southampton recently from India, sends me some correspondence he has had with Messrs. Pickford over the charges for taking his baggage from the ship to the station. The principal item in dispute appears to be a charge of 3s. 6d. for "opening for Customs seven packages." Incidentally the passenger asserts that he only had four, but his chief objection to the charge is that all that Pickford's man did was to take two screws out of one box for the Customs' inspection. He did not open the other boxes, and did not have the keys in his possession. The passenger, therefore, claims a refund of 3s. out of the 3s. 6d. charged under this head. Messrs. Pickford's reply, apart from the dispute over the number is that "we are authorised to charge 6d. per package for this service." This allegation makes the dispute of interest to all passengers arriving at Southampton, for it implies that Messrs. Pickford are authorised to levy a toll of 6d. upon every package carried by them through the Customs House. Perhaps they would like to inform me who invested them with this authority.

WHAT THE ADMIRAL SAW.

(With Apologies to Lewis Carroll.)

I thought I saw a jelly-fish
Adrift upon the brine.
I looked again, and found it was
A wicked floating mine.
"There's Togo somewhere near," said I,
"And this is *his* design."

I thought I saw a porpoise roll
Upon the ocean green.
I looked again, and found it was
An ugly submarine.
"A dose of six-inch shell," I said,
"Will settle that machine!"

I thought I saw a fishing fleet
Bearing sou'-west by sou'.
I looked again, and saw the Japs
Upon my starboard bow.
"Just sink the lot of them," I said,
"And never mind the row!"

I thought I saw my Fleet approach,
Their plaudits to accord.
I looked again, and found it was
Lord Charlie Beresford!
"Well, no," said I, "upon the whole,
I do *not* think I've scored!"

Whitehall Court, S.W. Flats furnished or unfurnished. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

With reference to what has been said in Truth lately, as to the need of organisations for collecting agricultural produce and conveying it to the London or other markets, I have received a letter from Mr. J. Nugent Harris, secretary of the Agricultural Organisation Society, Dacre House, Westminster, who desires to call attention to the work which that Society is doing in organising local associations for this purpose, on co-operative lines. He states that there are now upwards of ninety affiliated associations in all parts of the country, embracing nearly every branch of agricultural industry, and he refers especially to the Evesham Growers' Association, Limited, the success of which, he says, "has exceeded our most sanguine expectations." I have also had a letter from Evesham, pointing to this association as an object-lesson in the way organisations of this kind should be formed and conducted. Those who desire further information on this subject would do well to apply to Mr. Harris.

There is, however, one passage in Mr. Harris's letter as to which I should like to say a word, for it seems to imply a complete misunderstanding of a previous remark in Truth:—

> With regard to the remedy which you suggest, I think it will be generally agreed that it is extremely problematical whether municipalities will add to their increasingly heavy duties by becoming purveyors of agricultural produce. At all events it is likely to be a very long time before they extend their activities in this direction.

I have said nothing about municipalities becoming purveyors of agricultural produce. The only suggestion of the kind I have made is that there is great need in London of markets under municipal control, with official salesmen, to whom produce can be consigned with the certainty of its being honestly disposed of. There is nothing problematical about this suggestion. Throughout England and in all Continental countries the establishment and management of markets has been recognised from time immemorial as one of the first duties of a municipality. Mr. Harris, I presume, knows this as well as I do. Even the City of London has its own markets, and very useful they are, though one hears complaints occasionally against the management. But London has long since outgrown the accommodation provided by the City markets, enlarged though they have been, and the same thing is true of Covent Garden. London presents a unique spectacle in the civilised world, among towns of its size, in having only one great fruit and vegetable market, and that in private hands. The inconvenience and expense caused to retail tradesmen by having to go to market from the most distant parts of the town to Smithfield, Billingsgate, or Covent Garden are simply incalculable. There ought to be markets on a suitable scale in every one of the Metropolitan boroughs, and there is not the slightest reason why the Metropolitan boroughs should not undertake such work.

Mr. John Burns touched upon an undoubted evil last week in his frank criticism of certain forms of philanthropic activity. He suggested that loafers and criminals and all sorts of disreputable characters are practically encouraged in their modes of life by the indiscri-

minate manner in which various organisations distribute food and provide shelter intended for deserving homeless and destitute persons. I do not think that it can be questioned that this is the case; but it is, of course, only an argument for greater care, not for any slackening of effort, in the dispensation of such relief. There was equal force in Mr. Burns's protest against the proposal of the L.C.C. to erect a lodging house, with accommodation for 700 men, at the corner of Kemble-street and Drury-lane. But, even apart from what he said as to the social dangers arising from these huge establishments for "celibate vagrants," this scheme is open to the strongest objection. It is neither desirable nor necessary that another lodging house of the kind should be provided in this particular quarter. Within a few yards of the site that has been chosen there is already an up-to-date lodging house under the control of the L.C.C.; yet so small is the demand for such accommodation that lately from thirty to sixty beds have been unlet every night.

It would seem that this proposal of the L.C.C. was virtually adopted two years ago as part of the scheme for re-housing persons displaced by the Holborn-Strand clearance. This, however, is no reason why it should not be abandoned if it is found to be mistaken, and in spite of the decision last week, it is to be hoped that the Council will not proceed with what seems to be a very ill-advised project.

"A young man of eminently respectable appearance," according to the reporter, pleaded guilty at Glasgow Sheriff Court last week, to a charge of breaking into a house in the fashionable suburb of Pollokshields, and stealing a number of valuable articles. The house entered was that of a gentleman absent on his honeymoon, and the booty included the more valuable portion of the wedding presents. For the defence it was explained that the youth of eminently respectable appearance had served in a Lancer regiment in South Africa, and that on this occasion he had got drunk and imbibed with his liquor the idea that he was still in South Africa, and had been ordered to loot the house of a Boer. He had accordingly entered the house by one of the windows, and packed up in a blanket all the articles he could lay hands on, when the police happened to interfere. The report adds that "Sheriff Davidson was impressed by the genuineness of the story, and gave the man the benefit of the First Offenders Act." The impression created on the worthy Sheriff is hardly flattering to our Army at large, or to the Lancers in particular, for it seems to imply that it was customary for orders to be given to soldiers to enter Boers' houses by the windows, and remove all portable articles in blankets. Neither is the Sheriff's impression of the genuineness of the story particularly creditable to his own intelligence, if, as I am told, there have been other burglaries of a similar character in the same district. Does his Worship suspect that there are other ex-Lancers about, who are in the habit of getting drunk, and supposing themselves to have received orders to loot the Boer houses in the neighbourhood?

The Chief Constable of Worcestershire, Colonel Walker, must now regret his intemperate reflections upon the impartiality of the committee which inquired into the Sparkhill birching scandal. Since my reference to the matter last week the justice of the committee's report has been vindicated by Superintendent Pitt's confession that he did flog both the boys, Heekes and Taylor, though he denies that he had "any idea of extorting evidence." Pitt, who on this confession was summarily dismissed from the force, expressed a hope that mercy would be shown to his subordinates, who "felt bound to obey his orders." The orders which these men obeyed were orders to tell lies in corroboration of those told by the superintendent himself, and though their evidence at the inquiry was not taken on oath, that fact makes no moral difference to the seriousness of their offence. It is, therefore, incumbent upon the Chief Constable to deal with them in a manner which will convince the rest of the force that their duty is to speak the truth, whatever hints or instructions they may receive from a superior officer or anybody else.

The judgment of the Court of Appeal on Saturday in the case of Poncione *v.* Higgins is satisfactory as showing that the Moneylenders' Act, though it has proved abortive in many ways, still has its uses. In this case Mr. Justice Kekewich had held that certain transactions between the plaintiff and the defendant were "harsh and unconscionable" on the part of the latter, and that the former was therefore entitled to relief in respect thereof under the Act. Higgins, who is a usurer at 222, Strand, exacted interest at the rate of 300 per cent. per annum on a loan of £220 for fourteen days, and at the rate of 75 per cent. for three months, and 20 per cent. afterwards on a loan of £314, although ample security was given by Mrs. Poncione, a widow with a life interest in property producing several hundred pounds a year. Mr. Justice Kekewich refused to interfere with two payments amounting to £150 which Higgins obtained from the lady for "services rendered" in connection with the settlement of claims made against her by other moneylenders; but his lordship reduced the interest on the two loans of £220 and £314 to 5 per cent., and his decision has now been upheld by the Court of Appeal. John T. Higgins has been frequently exposed in TRUTH as an unprincipled bloodsucker, and this is not the first time the law has compelled him to disgorge some of his plunder.

The Merchants' Legal Aid Society made another appearance in the law courts last week, in an appeal against the decision of Mr. Justice Joyce, directing the removal of the name of a Mr. Robert Halstead from the register of shareholders in the company. Mr. Halstead was one of the applicants for the post of local superintendent manager who had been inveigled by the Abrahams' advertisement into making application for £250 of shares in the company by way of qualifying himself for employment. Fortunately, he received warning from TRUTH before he parted with his money, and withdrew his application. These proceedings were successful, Mr. Justice Joyce holding that

there had never been an unqualified acceptance of the application for shares before it was withdrawn by the applicant. Against this decision the Merchants' Legal Aid Society thought fit to appeal, with the result that the Lords Justices Vaughan-Williams, Romer, and Cozens-Hardy dismissed the appeal with costs.

The case is an interesting one, in view of the known fact that the judges are very chary of acceding to applications to remove the names of shareholders from company registers. It differed, too, from the case of Mr. Flamsteed, with which I dealt on May 26 last, inasmuch as the question of personal misstatements made by J. C. Abraham, the secretary of the company, did not enter into the issue. Nevertheless, I cannot help thinking that the comments of Mr. Justice Joyce in giving judgment in the Flamsteed case must have helped the Court of Appeal in coming to a decision. Mr. Justice Joyce said that, though he was not called upon to decide whether the Merchants' Legal Aid Society was a vulgar swindle or not, yet he had a strong suspicion that it was, and I should not be surprised to find that suspicion is equally shared by the Lords Justices of Appeal.

Some interesting disclosures were made at Newport Pagnell County Court the other day, when the Rev. W. Rice, Rector of Simpson, was sued for damages for breaking into a house occupied by Miss Fawcett, the organist at his church. He made a counter-claim against the lady for £3 2s. 6d., a quarter's rent of the house, and for £5 damages for breach of her contract as organist. It appeared from Miss Fawcett's evidence that the Rector called upon her and complained of the damage her chickens were doing in the garden. In the discussion of this trivial matter he seemed to lose control of himself, and, being afraid that he would strike her, the lady shut the door and bolted it, whereupon his reverence burst it open and ran after her into the house. However she shut herself in the dining-room, and though the defendant tried to burst open another door, he did not succeed.

The Rector contradicted this story, and denied the soft impeachment that he had an ungovernable temper, but in cross-examination he admitted that he had been fined for assault and also mulcted in £10 damages for trespass. The Judge accepted Miss Fawcett's version of the affair in preference to the Rector's, awarded her £5 damages and costs, and dismissed the counter-claim with the exception of the portion for the rent. The lady, his Honour held, was quite justified in refusing to act as organist after the Rector's conduct towards her. Judging from what transpired in this case, it looks somewhat desirable that the Bishop of Oxford should make some inquiry concerning the state of things in this parish.

Seven magistrates heard a charge of assault at Walsall last week. They retired to put their heads together, and on returning to the court the Mayor announced that as "they were equally divided in opinion" no decision would be given. Walsall is within the Birmingham sphere of influence, and this equal division may be a development of Mr. Chamberlain's new system of arithmetic, which has already taught us that two and two make five. Or it may be—and this is perhaps more likely—that one of the seven was a cipher.

The police at Cavan have for the last sixteen months practised an extraordinary system of espionage upon a public-house in that town, kept by Mr. Martin Tierney. Besides being the holder of the licence for this house, Mr. Tierney is the managing clerk to a local solicitor. Up till June, 1903, he was on friendly terms with the police, many of whom were his customers. He then had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of the Head Constable, and since that time he has been subjected to the most persistent annoyance. The house has been repeatedly searched after closing time, even when the inmates have all gone to bed, and policemen have kept the place under the closest supervision during the day, sometimes standing just outside the door or watching through the windows from morning till night. The business has always been well conducted, and no charge of any kind has ever been preferred against Mr. Tierney.

The conduct of the police has been so noticeable and so unjustifiable that a short time back a memorial protesting against it was signed by four magistrates, the Chairman of the Council, five clergymen, several solicitors, doctors, and bank managers, and many other inhabitants of the town. According to the *Cavan Weekly News*, however, the only reply of the Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary was that the Head Constable possessed the full confidence of his superiors. I trust that the matter will now receive more sympathetic attention at the hands of Mr. Wyndham or Sir Antony MacDonnell. Head constables have no right to use their powers of surveillance over licensed houses merely to cause injury and annoyance to the licensees, and it is quite obvious that this is what is being done in this instance.

In a letter on the leniency which is shown towards wife-beaters, a magisterial correspondent remarks that "what these brutes want is a good hiding; one week's imprisonment, with twelve strokes of the cat (well laid on) on the day of entry and the same on the day of exit." There is certainly a strong temptation to regard a good hiding as suitable treatment for wife-beaters; but, while I have never been an out-and-out opponent of corporal punishment, I cannot say that I have much faith in it as a cure for brutality, and even if the efficacy of the remedy were beyond doubt, it would still be futile to advocate its adoption in these cases. Putting aside any other objections, it would be quite impossible to entrust Petty Sessional Shallows with power to order the use of "the cat" upon an offender.

I believe myself that an effective check would be put upon the practice of wife-beating if magistrates would pass more sentences of imprisonment instead of almost

invariably allowing the defendants to escape with pecuniary penalties. The above-mentioned correspondent urges the familiar excuse that when the man is imprisoned the wife and children are left destitute. Occasionally this may be true, but very frequently the wife-beater is an idle and drunken vagabond who does little or nothing for the maintenance of his family, and the latter really suffer more from the payment of a fine than they would do from his retirement to gaol for fourteen days or a month. Men are continually being let off with trumpery fines for gross assaults even when there is no pretence whatever that their imprisonment would result in any hardship to their families. Besides, this stock argument about the wife-beaters' families would come with more weight from the magistracy if they were in the habit of exhibiting the same tender solicitude for the families of men accused of offences against property or against the cult of the sacred birds.

Apropos of a recent allusion to "the Dogberry and the Waterbury," a correspondent draws my attention to a prosecution of a motorist before the West Riding J.P.s at Osgoldcross Petty Sessions. The motorist was summoned for driving in excess of the statutory speed-limit of twenty miles an hour, and it appeared that two police officers timed him with stop-watches over a measured furlong. The police asserted that he covered the furlong in 17¼ seconds, which would work out at a speed of twenty-six miles an hour. In cross-examination, however, it was elicited that one of the stop-watches was a cheap, second-hand instrument which had not been tested before it was used on this occasion, but which had been tested since "because it had not gone very well." The other watch was of a different make, and the two had not been examined together to see whether they kept the same time. In view of these admissions and of the evidence for the defence that the speed of the car was under twenty miles an hour, the Bench dismissed the summons.

Considering that convictions have often been obtained on equally worthless evidence of speed, I suppose that this motorist ought to deem himself fortunate. Still, the fact remains that he was put to a heavy expense in coming with his witnesses from Edinburgh to Yorkshire to defend himself from a charge which clearly ought never to have been made. It is doubtful whether two policemen with no experience or training as time-keepers would be capable of timing a car over a distance of a furlong with the perfect accuracy that is necessary if the speed is to be correctly estimated, and it is, in any event, utterly ridiculous that they should attempt to do such a thing with untested and untrustworthy watches.

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—In a letter to the Editor of *The Christian World*, T. S., M.A., writes as follows:—"Five years ago my wife was very ill, and our family doctor declared the malady to be Consumption, adding emphatically and repeatedly that unless she went to reside in a warmer climate *she could never be well again*. She however placed herself in the hands of Dr. Alabone, and for many months persevered with his treatment, the effect of which was marvellous. The result was that all sign of the disease disappeared, *and has never returned*, and she is now living as busy a life as most pastor's wives."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

In my Legal Pillory this week I record an exceptionally interesting case under the Game Laws at Albrighton. The poacher turned keeper is a more familiar character than the keeper turned poacher. In this instance the keeper not only caught rabbits on land which he had no right to enter, but—*horribile dictu*—set his snares "in a manner dangerous to foxes." He was let off with a fine of twenty shillings, including costs. I wonder what the penalty would have been if this actual poacher and potential vulpicide had been a farm labourer instead of a gamekeeper? The Bench would certainly have punished him with the utmost rigour of the law, which they would probably have deemed all too merciful for such a villain. How heavily magistrates come down upon poachers who are not gamekeepers, even when they have not added to the enormity of their crime by jeopardising the lives of foxes, may be seen from various sentences in the following list. In common with sleeping out and petty larceny, poaching appears, in fact, to be regarded as an infinitely more heinous offence than a brutal assault:—

Doncaster West Riding Police-court. Wm. Hopkinson, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a constable. He was exceedingly violent, kicking the officer and struggling with him for half an hour. Fined 30s. and costs for the two offences.

Derby Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Woodiwiss, G. Frost, and F. P. Copestake. Alfred Garner, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a policeman. Whilst the officer had another man in his custody he was violently struck and kicked by Garner, with the result that the first prisoner escaped. Fined 25s. and costs for the two offences.

Shrewsbury Borough Police-court. Before Messrs. T. Corbett, H. R. H. Soulham, J. A. Lea, T. P. Deakin, R. E. Jones, and H. Done. Felix Hanlon, convicted of assaulting James James. As complainant was going home he was suddenly attacked by Hanlon and other men, who knocked him down and "kicked him about like a football." No provocation had been given. Fined 20s. and costs.

Wishaw Police-court. Three Poles, calling themselves Matthew Butler, Matthew Pokestus, and Matthew Millar, convicted of assaulting another Pole named Joseph Savage. They attacked Savage with bricks, knocked him down, belaboured him with a poker, and otherwise severely maltreated him till he became insensible. Fined £2 each.

Rutherglen Police-court. Before Provost Rodger. James Dool, hammerman, charged with assaulting his father and mother. The father had been severely kicked. Fined 21s.

Doncaster West Riding Police-court. George Johnson, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and costs.

Preston County Police-court. Wm. Parkinson, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Derby County Police-court. Before Major-General Talbot Coke, and Messrs. W. Mallalieu, E. S. Milnes, and J. Borough. Edward Johnson, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of seven rabbits. Fined £3 and costs; in default, one month.

Chippenham Police-court. Before the Mayor. John Salter, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Branksome Petty Sessions. Before Sir Richard Glyn, Sir John Hanham, Colonel Lambert, Captain Williams, and Messrs. A. Pontifex, W. Llewellin, and J. Lawford. Wm. George Ruffell and Harry Foster, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nine rabbits. Fined £5 each and costs; in default, two months.

Snaith Police-court. Wm. Fairbairns, Henry Burton, Albert Tomlin, and Henry Broadhead, charged with poaching. Fairbairns and Burton three months each; Tomlin and Broadhead two months each, and a further six months each in default of finding sureties not to so offend again for one year.

Wellingborough Police-court. Before Mr. C. J. K. Woolston and Dr. W. W. Clark. Frederick Sharp and Wm. Kelly, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days each.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

Mansfield Police court. Samuel James Pegg, charged with assaulting his wife. He dealt her three violent blows in the face, rendering her unconscious, and causing injuries for which she had to be attended by a doctor. Fined 15s.

Blandford County Petty Sessions. Before Colonel U. E. Parry-Okeden, the Rev. F. Salmon, and Mr. A. H. Percy. Thomas Brown and Wm. Mabey, charged with assaulting Charles Way. It was a cowardly and brutal assault, complainant being repeatedly knocked down and kicked on the face and side. Brown was also charged with assaulting Way's wife by knocking her down. There were previous convictions against the defendants. Brown fined 29s., and Mabey 15s., including costs.

Albrighton Divisional Petty Session. Before Messrs. R. Purcell Llewellin and Thomas Corbett. James Aldridge, described as a gamekeeper, pleaded guilty to a charge of trespassing in pursuit of conies on land in the occupation of Mr. Nelson. A witness for the prosecution said "he found a number of snares set in a manner dangerous to foxes in an osier bed. He watched the snares, and caught the defendant in the act of taking rabbits from them." Defendant admitted that he was doing wrong in setting the snares there. Fined 20s., including costs.

Epworth Police-court. Before Messrs. S. H. C. Ashlin and W. Standing. James Higgins, charged with stealing an old boot. The prosecution alleged that he took the boot from the parcel office at the railway station and threw it away. One month.

Hamilton Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Thomson. James Reid and Thomas Hughes, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of nets and pegs for taking game. Fined £5 each; in default, one month.

Plymouth Police-court. Before Messrs. A. S. Harris and E. Roseveare. George Wallser and Wm. O'Connor, aged fifteen and fourteen years respectively, charged with stealing thirty bananas from a store. One month each.

Buxton Police-court. Before Mr. H. A. Hubbersty and other magistrates. James Maclachlan and Peter Maclachlan, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of two grouse. Fined £3 each.

The Wolverhampton Bench have adopted an extraordinary course in the case of a youth of eighteen who was convicted of embezzlement and bound over under the Probation of First Offenders Act to come up for judgment if called upon within six months. It was stated at the time that the moneys, amounting to about £21, that he embezzled would be refunded, and that he intended to go abroad. The six months have nearly elapsed, and the other day the prosecutors asked the Bench to deal with the defendant on the ground that he had not refunded the £21 or gone abroad. On behalf of the defendant his solicitor and his guardian informed the Court that they had tried to persuade him to leave the country, but that he thought that he could do better at home, and that as a matter of fact he was now in a good situation and remarkably well-conducted. As to the money, the solicitor said that it should be paid to the prosecutors, and he ascribed the latter's unusual action to the fact that the defendant was now engaged in a competing business.

In these circumstances the Bench told the defendant that the matter would be adjourned for a fortnight to enable him to leave the country, and he would "most assuredly go to prison unless he cleared out." So far as the money is concerned, it is not one of the functions of a criminal court to act as a debt-collecting agency. As to the defendant's failure to fulfil his friends' undertaking that he should go abroad, it is certainly not the business of the magistrates to enforce his departure purely as a punitive measure. The only object of the First Offenders Act is to give a first offender the chance of redeeming his character and turning over a new leaf without suffering the life-long stigma of imprisonment. In this youth's case, it was not pretended that there had been any relapse into crime, and, seeing that he was doing so well, it is, to my mind, an unwarrantable and vindictive proceeding to bundle him out of the country under a threat of imprisonment.

The man Todd, of Twickenham, otherwise Leicester and Co., had another unpleasant experience the other day in Brentford County Court. He had brought an action against a servant girl, on whom one of his precious Bibles had been foisted by the old trick of representing that the agent was acting for some religious society, and that the distribution of the Bibles was being conducted by special desire of the King. This fraud was perpetrated at Congleton, and the unfortunate victim had to come all the way to Brentford to defend Todd's claim. It was frankly admitted by Todd's clerk, who appeared to prove the claim, that this particular fraud was perpetrated by the same man who is still serving a term of imprisonment for similar frauds on other girls. That Todd should seek to enforce his claim notwithstanding the wholesale frauds that have been proved against that particular man, affords the clearest proof, if proof were needed, that the principals in this business connive at the frauds of their agents, and are ready to profit by them. The Judge, I am glad to say, found for the defendant, and marked his sense of Todd's conduct in bringing the girl from Congleton under such circumstances by awarding her costs on the highest scale. It is satisfactory to know that the judge of Brentford County Court understands Leicester and Co.'s business so well.

For some reason unknown, an eruption of free-portrait dodgers has just broken out all over this country. Mention has already been made of several such establishments, and I have just heard of another, carrying on business at Glasgow, under the style of the Empire Art Company. Like all the new firms in this line of business, this one operates through canvassers, who go round offering to supply free enlargements of photographs, for the purpose of advertisement. In due course the victims learn that a frame has to be paid for. In order to get their photographs back, people are sometimes induced to comply with the demand, although they see how they have been had. In the case I have heard of at Glasgow, the price paid for the frame is 16s.

When the notorious Mr. Tanquerey first started the free portrait trick in this country, now a good many years ago, the police got up a case against him. He was prosecuted at Folkestone and had to transfer himself and his business to the other side of the Channel, where he has ever since carried it on, upon a scale of which he is justly proud. His great success has

SCRUBB & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of SCRUBB & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

evidently inspired the numerous imitators now engaged in the same game in different parts of the country, and it seems time that the attention of the various police authorities was again called to the business.

In a letter complaining that a circularising bookmaker styling himself J. R. Rowsen and Co., 18, Old Burlington-street, W., has failed to settle a winning account of over £20, an Army officer expresses the opinion that it is not fair to the public that this kind of thing should be allowed to go on. But it is really difficult to see how this kind of thing is to be stopped so long as backers of horses are foolish enough to trust any stranger who sends out a circular offering to open a betting account with them. I suppose that the majority of them would hesitate to let a man in any other walk of life run into their debt unless they knew something about his position and reputation; yet they are quite ready to do so in the case of a starting-price bookmaker merely on the strength of what he chooses to say about himself in a circular. For years I have pointed out the folly of such a practice, giving almost every week some concrete example of the disappointment and loss to which it leads. But the supply of greenhorns is practically inexhaustible, and harpies will never be lacking to plunder them.

By the way, I wish I could dispel the idea that if a betting agent has not been pilloried in TRUTH, or if nothing is known against him in this office, his honesty and financial stability may be taken for granted. The letters that reach me show that many people labour under this delusion, and it is apparently accountable for a suggestion with which I have been favoured for the regular publication of a list of defaulting or doubtful bookmakers. My knowledge of such gentry is, I think, fairly extensive, but I have never pretended that it is exhaustive. Moreover, any list that might be compiled this week would be imperfect and misleading next week, for the simple reason that new welshers are constantly springing up and old ones changing their aliases and addresses.

Sillier even than the simpletons who bet on the credit system with starting-price sharps in London are those who entrust their "commissions," paying cash in advance, to such notorious rogues as Bevan, Son, and Thompson, of Delft, Holland. Not only as welshing bookmakers, but as promoters of bogus "placing contests" and as operators of a fraudulent betting system, this firm have continued to reap a rich harvest from the credulity of the public, despite the many warnings against them that have been published. I suppose that people are to some extent gulled by the pretended "references" to banks, which they do not take the trouble to verify, and by the so-called "Press opinions" on the firm, which consist of puffs originally inserted as advertisements in various obscure and shady journals. But even the greenest of greenhorns ought to be able to see through such a transparent swindle as a "system" of backing "the last horse quoted in the betting returns" of any one of the sporting papers that the "investor" chooses to select—a "system" which cannot possibly be carried out—and those who forward money to Bevan, Son, and Thompson on such pretences fully deserve the lesson that they receive.

Following on my paragraph a fortnight ago, some further information concerning "W. Westbrook," circularising bookmaker, 19, George-street, Portman-square, W., has reached me from a gentleman whom he welshed to the tune of over £20. After a telegram had failed to produce a settlement, the backer got a messenger to call at 19, George-street, and the interesting discovery was then made that Westbrook has no office at that address, but simply a letter-box from which his correspondence is collected two or three times a day. The woman who answered the door told the visitor that it was useless to call to see "Westbrook" as he was never there, nor could she say where he was to be found. There is some reason to believe that "Westbrook" is associated with "Edgar and Co.," another defaulter whom I have pilloried on several occasions; but whether they flock together or not, they are evidently birds of a feather.

On Monday week a tipster named Tom Tower, who issues a diminutive weekly circular under the title of *Racing Gold*, confidently predicted the success of Laveuse in the Cambridgeshire. Laveuse was scratched and the Cambridgeshire was won by Hackler's Pride. Nevertheless, the next day's *Sportsman* contained a flamboyant advertisement by Tower in which he claimed that *Racing Gold* "plumped for Hackler's Pride two weeks ago," which, if true, did not alter the fact that it had plumped for Laveuse two days before the race. One of Tower's dupes, having backed Laveuse, informs me that he is surprised at the appearance of such a deceptive and misleading advertisement. I am not. The surprising thing would be to find a tipster's advertisement that was not deceptive and misleading.

There is a touching exhibition of the fellow-feeling that makes one wondrous kind in a circular which was sent out broadcast last week by Tom Hall, 22, Church-street, Whitby, "owner of Don Paez, Clairetta, and Midshipman, late proprietor of *Dawson's Opinion*, and latterly of Nottingham." "I have had a most wretched season," he says, "and although paying heavily for information, could simply do nothing right. . . . I expect, like myself, you have lost a small fortune this season; hence my desire for you to be in the know this winter." Needless to say, it is by supplying you with "information" in regard to his horses that this altruist proposes to put you "in the know." It was recognised in the

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

case of the notorious Pizzey that the owner-tipster is a pest and a scandal to the Turf that ought not to be tolerated, and I therefore commend Mr. Tom Hall to the attention of the Stewards of the Jockey Club and the National Hunt Committee.

A victim of the usurers trading as Seymour and Whiteman, 32, Walbrook, E.C., is anxious that their rapacity and their sharp practices should be exposed for the benefit of other unwary borrowers. If public exposures were effective, however, this firm would have been long since hounded out of the City. It has been shown that they are not only unconscionable extortioners, but virtually blackmailers who get bank clerks and other employees into their clutches and then put the screw on by threatening to inform their employers. In one case a threat of this kind was used to compel a bank clerk who had obtained a loan at 160 per cent. to sign a fresh bill increasing the interest to 300 per cent. In another case, which was tried in the City of London Court last year, it came out that a clerk in the service of the L.C.C., after paying back £13 14s. 6d. in twelve months for a loan of £7 10s., was similarly intimidated into giving another bill for £15. The persons carrying on the nefarious business of "Seymour and Whiteman" are two brothers named Wm. Herbert Whiteman (of Hazeldene, Camden-road, Holloway) and Arthur George Whiteman (of 59, Penn Road Villas, Holloway), who formerly called themselves "A. Seymour and Co." and "Whiteman and Co." I question whether it would be possible to discover a brace of more unmitigated rascals among the host of money-lenders registered at Somerset House.

In relating his experiences of Seymour and Whiteman, my correspondent mentions that immediately after they issued a writ against him a youthful clerk came to his house to suggest that he might extricate himself from his difficulty by accepting a loan from "Richards and Co.," 39, Lombard-street, E.C. Once bitten, twice shy, and so he prudently rejected this proposal. "Richards and Co." is the registered alias of one Wm. Henry Burgess. It is not at all improbable that he works in co-operation with the Whitemans; but be that as it may, an example of his rapacity which I noticed some time ago showed that he is equally to be avoided.

The impertinence of the average area-gate tout is just about on a par with his rapacity. The other day the occupier of a house in a suburb in the South of London received a cool request to be furnished with the address of a late servant from Messrs. A. S. Russell and Co., of 38, Peckham Park-road. As he was aware that the girl had been induced to purchase a watch for 50s. from these people, which had been valued by a jeweller at 12s. 6d., he thought he would call on Messrs. Russell and Co., and ascertain how they would justify their action. On calling, however, he had barely time to state the object of his visit before he found the door slammed in his face. Like most of their trade, though full of bluster when dealing with servant girls, Messrs. Russell and Co. evidently think discretion the better part of valour when the girl's employer takes a hand in the game.

I have so frequently called attention to the home employment advertisements of Messrs. North and Co., of 6, York Buildings, Adelphi, that it may be of interest to note that the firm has recently changed its address to 28, Elm-road, Mortlake. There is no change, however, in the character of the business. Under the inducement of being thereby enabled to earn a salary of from 1s. to 5s. a day, Messrs. North and Co. seek to sell fountain pens at a charge of 2s. 6d. each to those who are young enough, or credulous enough, to believe in the prospects held out to them. Half-a-crown is not a great deal to pay for experience of the tricks of the home employment advertiser, unless as unfortunately too often happens, the victim has so few half-crowns that he can ill afford to lose one of them.

The Parisian Inventors' Academy is still busily conferring membership "with award of the first-class Diploma, and the Great Gold Medal (gilded)" upon people who patent inventions in this country, the object being, as of yore, to obtain a remittance of £2, "to cover admission, taxes, freight, etc.," upon the diploma and the great gold medal (gilded). It is a long time since I mentioned this concern, and as new generations of inventors arise every day, it may be as well to mention again for their benefit that the Parisian Inventors' Academy is an impudent swindle. The swindle is now carried on by one E. Charon, and his address is 24, Rue Beaurepaire. I see that his circular gives the price of the diploma and great gold medal as "ten dollars or £2," so that it is evidently intended for use on the other side of the Atlantic as well as this; and as inventors are even more plentiful in America than in this country, American papers would do well to call attention to Mr. Charon's little game.

Mr. C. A. Manning Press, "author," is now engaged on another of his "country works." He is dealing this time with "Buckinghamshire Leaders, Social and Political," and he is now at work collecting materials, and three guinea subscriptions, in the manner which has been familiar to readers of TRUTH for many years. In the circulars he issues for this purpose, he states that his undertaking has the support of Lord Rothschild, as well as other influential noblemen in Bucks.

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

SOUTHAMPTON.—SOUTH-WESTERN HOTEL.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

Very possibly this is imaginary, but, if it is accurate, the influential noblemen and gentlemen referred to would do well to acquaint themselves with the past history of Mr. Manning Press's literary operations.

The idea of using the North Sea incident for advertising purposes, even before the victims were buried, is offensive enough, and no respectable firm would do such a thing. One day last week, however, a page of the *Hull Daily Mail* was devoted to a "proclamation," describing how Captain Smith of the *Crane*, who was killed by the Russians, had left as a legacy an object-lesson to his fellow-citizens, inasmuch as eight months ago he advised his wife to purchase tea from the British Widows' Assurance Company, Ltd., with the result that Mrs. Smith has now received her first cheque for the pension thereby secured. As already mentioned, the British Widows' Assurance Company out-Nelsons Nelsons' by granting full pension benefit after twenty-six weeks' insurance by the purchase of tea. Whatever, therefore, has been proved as to the unsoundness of Nelsons' scheme, and the inevitable failure of the Company sooner or later to fulfil its promises to pensioners, applies with double force to this concern. The rottenness of the "British Widows'" pension scheme is, in fact, in keeping with the offensivenesss of its advertisement. Local papers would be much better occupied in warning their readers against such dishonest tricks than taking large sums for roping in fresh victims.

With reference to some observations in TRUTH of the 20th ult., regarding the Midland Counties Photo Company, Birmingham, I have received a letter from Mr. Spencer, managing director of the company, which, I admit at once, puts a different complexion upon the circumstances referred to. At the outset Mr. Spencer states that he knows nothing of the "Rheumatoid Arthritis" swindler, Charles Montagu, who merely occupies another office in the same large block of buildings. With regard to the advertisements for premium paying pupils, Mr. Spencer states that they only appeared for a short time in a few local papers, and that he is now advertising for pupils without premiums, which is satisfactorily proved by samples of his advertisements. With regard to the advertisements for branch managers, who are to invest £100 in the company, Mr. Spencer maintains that the business is a perfectly bonâ-fide one, and that the branch managers are satisfied with their investment, in proof of which he refers me to a number of them. I cheerfully accept his statement that this is so, more especially as one or two of the managers have themselves written to the same effect. As to the dispute at Belfast, which led to my previous paragraph, Mr. Spencer explains at some length the reason for the difficulties that had arisen, and I have no ground for questioning the accuracy of his statement.

The only reason I had for commenting upon Mr. Spencer's advertisements for managers is that they are rather widely distributed, and I have received a great many inquiries about them. As I said before, such advertisements require in these days to be regarded with some suspicion; but if a man is building up a genuine business, and requires additional capital, there is, as Mr. Spencer himself argues, no reason why he should not obtain it in this way. At the same time, I would strongly impress upon everybody the necessity of looking very closely into the merits of any business in which they are asked to invest money as a condition of becoming salaried employees.

The public at home have ceased to take any interest in the sayings and doings of Mr. Seddon, but my correspondence from New Zealand shows that he still manages to keep himself under the limelight on the smaller Colonial stage. He has provoked some particularly plain-spoken criticism by his recent proposal that New Zealand shall be represented in London by a High Commissioner at a salary of £2,500 a year. In the House of Representatives the real object of the proposal was explained with almost brutal frankness. The Premier was told that during the past four years he had spent many thousand pounds of the Colony's money in advertising himself by cablegrams and other means. This was done with a purpose revealed in the efforts that had been successively made to procure his appointment as High Commissioner of the South Sea Islands, as Governor of a South African Colony, and finally as Governor of New Zealand itself. It was simply because all these ambitious designs had failed that he was now going to create a good billet for himself at the expense of the Colony in London. Such was the view expressed by a speaker in the House of Representatives and endorsed by many people in New Zealand. They seem to know their Seddon.

Mr. Balfour gave us on Friday a conspicuous illustration of the truth of the proverb about an ill wind, etc. The trouble with Russia came in the nick of time to provide him with a pretext for shirking a more awkward topic, and he utilised it with his usual dexterity. There was of course no real reason why he should devote the whole of his speech to the North Sea incident—indeed, some of the things that he said to split the ears of the groundlings would have been better left unsaid at such a critical moment—but, as everybody anticipated, he eagerly seized this means of escape from the hopeless and humiliating task of attempting once more to reconcile the irreconcilable and explain the inexplicable in his utterances on the fiscal question. His silence on this subject, however, only adds to the significance of the triumph of the Chaplin-cum-Chamberlain section of the party at Southampton. The Protectionists have completed their capture of the Conservative and Unionist organisations, and if Mr. Balfour still held to what he said at Edinburgh a few weeks ago he would now feel bound to resign. But we shall doubtless find that as usual he has changed his mind. He has only one settled conviction, and that is that he should by hook or by crook remain Premier as long as possible.

THE TIMID TERRIER.

Behind old Farmer Hodges ran
His Dandy-Dinmont Terrier, Fan,
Whose cringing Mien and startled Eye,
Whose Manner, half-alert, half-shy,
Whose sudden, unaccounted Swerves
Betrayed how jumpy were her Nerves.
Now, by and by, the Farmer meets
A Comrade, whom he stops and greets.
The other, hearty, bluff, and bland,
To Hodges straight held out his Hand.
But Fan, poor nervous, frightened Cur,
Thinking his Hand was raised at *her*,
Slunk round and, in her Panic blind,
His Leg bit, sudden, from behind.
Then did she what is called a "Scoot."
"Damn!" he exclaims. "The vicious Brute!
And unprovoked, too! Why the dooce
D' ye let that savage Bitch run loose?"
"Savage?" cried Hodges. "Nay, I wis,
She 's gentleness itself, she is.
'Twas no Ill-temper, Rage, nor Spite,
That prompted Fan your leg to bite;
But just her timid, shrinking Sense
Of over-anxious Self-Defence.
So bit she, not from savage Wildness,
But simply from excess of Mildness."
"Don't care," retorts his Friend, "a Jot,
Whether she bit from Rage or not;
For be it Funk, or be it Spite,
A Bite 's, when all is said, a Bite;
Nor hurts it, sure, one Whit the less
Because it 's done from Nervousness.
Nay, Dogs which snap from senseless Fright
Are worse than Dogs which snap from Spite.
For *these* their Nature clearly show,
And put us on our Guard, you know;
Those, by their very harmless Air,
Delude and bite us unaware."

Moral.

A nervous Woman, with a Gun,
To meet, unarmed, is scarcely Fun;
But even her you 'd better meet
Than Rozhdestvensky's Baltic Fleet.

SCRUTATOR.

CEDANT ARMA TOGÆ.

THAT we are not this moment at war with Russia is certainly not the fault of the Jingo Press of London. Never have the journals of this class exhibited more forcibly their power for mischief than during the last week, and never has there been less excuse for such an outburst. From the first moment when the news of the North Sea outrage arrived, it should have been evident to every sane Englishman that it was one which no civilised government could attempt to justify; and that, the facts being once established, apology and reparation by the Russian Government must follow as a matter of course. Equally clear must it have been that they would not be tendered the minute we demanded them. If my next-door neighbour came to me to complain that one of my servants had thrown a brickbat through his window, and insisted on my immediately apologising, handing him a cheque for the damage, and promising to dismiss the servant, he could not complain if I asked to be allowed to see my servant and inspect the damage for myself before complying. The most that he would have a right to expect would be that I should promise to give him ample satisfaction, provided the facts were as he stated. In the case of the Russian Government it was a foregone conclusion that our allegation would not be instantly accepted and acted upon, for Russian diplomacy is proverbially dilatory in its movements. In point of fact the Russian Government was very much more prompt than is its wont in its first steps to appease our very natural indignation. The Czar sent an apologetic and conciliatory message to the King before there had been any possibility of ascertaining what the Russian Admiral and his colleagues had to say for themselves; there seems to have been no delay on the Russian side beyond what was consistent with their natural right to hear both sides of the case before definitely answering our complaints; and within four days of the delivery of our first protest at St. Petersburg the whole affair was adjusted on terms satisfactory to both Governments. Yet all this time a blatant section of the London Press was assailing the Russian Government with bombastic threats and denunciations, and stirring up the passions of the mob on this side with the most abominable and mendacious misrepresentations of the Russian attitude. Millions of credulous newspaper readers believed by about last Friday that the Russian Government had pooh-poohed our just demands, that our Government had delivered an ultimatum with a "time limit" attached to it, and that when "the sands ran out" the whole Baltic Fleet was to be forthwith annihilated by Lord Charles Beresford. In order to save its own face when these fictions were exposed by the course of events, one of the most truculent of the screamers announced the peaceable arrangement of the difficulty under the heading "Russian Surrender." The best comment on this was furnished by a rival journal which discovered in the very same adjustment a British surrender, and denounced it accordingly.

All this shows the immense power for evil possessed by the feather-headed and irresponsible demagogues of the Press whenever a serious difficulty arises in international relations. Their whole energies are devoted to exaggerating the difficulty, inventing obstacles to a peaceful solution, forcing the hand of the Government, and fanning the spark which may burst into a conflagration involving half the world. To reason in every shape they are blind. They care nothing for the awful consequences of the catastrophe that they are endeavouring to bring about. It matters not to them that a war between England and Russia at the present juncture would be an act of the wildest political folly, that it would ruin the friendly understanding with France, just achieved with so much labour, that it would play into the hands of Germany, whom every Jingo now regards as our most dangerous enemy, and that it would lead to complications the extent of which it is almost impossible to foresee. No consideration of humanity, prudence, or common sense is of the slightest weight against the necessity of immediately hitting someone whom you suppose to have hit you, and blindly avenging on the spur of the moment some supposed contempt of your national dignity.

It is a matter for profound thankfulness that we have escaped, at any rate for the moment, the dangers created by this spirit, and all the more so when we

have a Government in office which is ready to sacrifice any national interest to secure its own popularity, and to appeal to the basest form of "patriotism" for the manufacture of Party capital. If we have been within measurable distance of war during the last week, it is far more because our pressmen and politicians are what they are than because the Russian Government was at all unlikely to make proper reparation for the extraordinary doings of its officers in the North Sea. But undoubtedly there have been in time past many bloody wars with less serious cause of quarrel than this incident, and it is some proof that the world is growing wiser as it grows older, when two nations like England and Russia, with so much bad blood on both sides, can agree to deal with such an incident by rational and peaceable means, instead of forthwith flying at one another's throats. It is a valuable precedent, and a great victory for the *cedant arma togæ* principle in international politics. The fact that one London journal describes the arrangement as a Russian surrender, and another as a British, is the clearest proof that the arrangement is mutually honourable, for only by give and take on both sides can peace possibly be preserved when a serious cause of dispute has arisen. What we have surrendered, so far as I can discover, is only the doctrine that when another party has unintentionally, however seriously, injured you, you are justified in pointing a pistol at him and demanding that he shall go down on his knees before he knows what he has done. What the Russians have surrendered is somewhat more substantial. In a time of great national misfortune, in which we ought to have some sympathy for them, for we have just passed through much the same experience ourselves, they have with great difficulty fitted out this wretched fleet, and sent it forth with a last despairing hope that it is going to save Port Arthur and retrieve their fortunes for them. Almost before it has started on its way, it has got itself into a hopeless mess, and made itself and its country the laughing-stock of the world. The Russians have now further consented to the serious humiliation of delaying the fleet for weeks, and possibly sacrificing all the hopes with which it started, while an international court of justice sits in judgment on its tomfooleries. To find a parallel case we must imagine that the army we were sending to South Africa at the end of 1899 had involved itself in some similar scrape, and that we had been asked to detain it on its way while an international court investigated charges against its officers. While the fate of Ladysmith and Mafeking hung in the balance, should we have consented? I doubt it. It seems to me that this is a melancholy humiliation for a great nation, and that, in assenting to it as readily as they have done, the Russians have made a very substantial sacrifice to the cause of peace, and set an example which will deserve to be remembered to their credit whatever the inquiry now to be held may lead to. I have no sympathy with the Russians in the East. They are in the wrong, and they have brought their troubles on themselves. But that need not prevent one feeling sorry for them in their misfortunes, and of all their misfortunes none is more pitiable than the serio-comic history of the Baltic Fleet down to the present moment. One may recognise this, I trust, without sacrificing our national honour or condoning insults to the British flag. We may also with advantage pay some regard to the position of our newly found friends across the Channel in the face of a quarrel between ourselves and Russia. In the event of war, they would find themselves in the greatest difficulty and embarrassment, and, whatever course they ultimately took, our friendly relations with them would be strained to the breaking-point. By all accounts we owe it to the efforts of the French that a prompt settlement has been arrived at, permanent or not. They have given in that signal proof of their friendship to ourselves as well as to Russia, and we ought to be grateful to them, and to show our gratitude in our future dealings with Russia. There is room yet for great good to come out of this incident, if we can only keep our tempers.

HOW TO FORCE A DISSOLUTION.

In a recent speech Mr. Asquith hazarded the prophecy that a General Election would certainly take place within a year. This possibly may happen, but it is by no means a certainty. At the commencement of last Session most Liberals and Unionists were of opinion that there would be a General Election before Easter, and when Easter had come and gone, they were equally convinced that it was certain before autumn. It is consequently impossible to say when we shall get rid of our limpet Government, for, in the tenacity with which they cling on to their posts, they are, to do them justice, past masters. If they consulted their Party's interest or their own honour, we should have been rid of them already. Their official existence is largely an accident. They are the rump of the Unionist Party. Some of them were bidden to the official table when more respected Unionists had left it in disgust, and Mr. Balfour had to go forth into the highways and byways, like the host of the parable, to induce men to throw in their lot with him. The greater number of those now constituting the Administration had never dreamt of being what they are now. The country has clearly indicated to the gang that their room is more desirable than their company. There is no trickery too contemptible, no equivocation too gross, for them to resort to, rather than risk the loss of one additional day of office. They care as little for the future of their party as they do for the welfare of their country. If they really believed that, although they are certain to be beaten at the next General Election, they will be recalled to power by the electors after an experience of a year or two of Liberal rule, they would dissolve in order to hasten their second advent. But they are well aware that this pleasing prospect is rather a sanguine hope than a certainty. There is, in truth, only one excuse for their tactics. Their position is so desperate that it cannot well become worse. Their defeat, they well know, will be so thorough at the next General Election that it signifies nothing to them if it be rendered more crushing. I therefore see no reason why—so far as they are concerned—they should not stave off a General Election

for two years. With some point they may urge that it is as well to be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb—all the more if in the former case the punishment is deferred. Mr. Balfour is therefore certain of the support of his colleagues in his determination not to dissolve until he is absolutely obliged; and he is so convinced that his presence at the head of affairs is a blessing to the country that he is not likely to hasten the moment when he will cease to direct them.

In the present Parliament the Prime Minister has a majority of about a hundred on which he can depend for support. Mr. Chamberlain may, and probably does, desire a speedy dissolution. A certain number of Unionists would no doubt stand by him were he to endeavour to force a dissolution. But the hundred would remain faithful to Mr. Balfour. Were there a speedy election, most of the Unionist M.P.s dread the result to themselves. The Balfour umbrella may be a very leaky article, but it is better than nothing. It may possibly be that the Premier will be able to shake off the grip that Mr. Chamberlain has on him if he is given time. The unexpected often occurs. Mr. Chamberlain's health may fail him. A war may occur. The air is always thick with straws to the eye of the drowning man. Most of the Parliamentary Unionist rank and file understand as little of political economy as the beasts of the field. If they have a bias, it is probably in favour of Free Trade. But they are obliged to declare themselves Protectionists for fear of Mr. Chamberlain, and yet to profess that they agree with Mr. Balfour by asserting that they are Free Traders. This is so contradictory that they can hardly expect seriously that the dullest clodhopper will credit them, and they hope against hope that before they have to appeal to their constituents they will in some way—they know not exactly how—find an exit from an impossible position. If, therefore, Mr. Balfour be minded to defer the General Election, he will find no opposition either among his colleagues or his Parliamentary majority, whether Mr. Chamberlain be for or against it. Were the latter a younger man this might be different. M.P.s are not quite the guileless lambs that they would have it believed. At sixty-eight Mr. Chamberlain has no lengthy Parliamentary future before him, and I have observed that the older a Leader is, the less is his influence over the members of his own party. This was so with Mr. Gladstone. That personal loyalty to a Leader which is largely based upon a sense of favours to come weakens when the Leader is over sixty-five.

If, therefore, we are to have a speedy General Election, it can only be by the Liberals bringing it about. During the last Session every effort was made by them to secure a snap victory. At first success seemed probable, for the Unionist rank and file were dismayed, and their attendance was very slack. But discipline was restored, and the fortress was safe from sudden onslaughts. I doubt if this plan of campaign would be more successful if it were tried next Session. Moreover, it is by no means certain that Mr. Balfour would accept such a defeat as a definite notice to quit. Ministers seldom do, unless they are themselves more or less playing for a fall. This is why I have urged that the Address should be met by an amendment demanding an immediate dissolution and by withdrawing from all attendance in the House if the amendment were defeated, which it unquestionably would be. The probabilities are that an almost immediate dissolution would take place. Assuming that this would be the result, the question is whether the situation would justify such action. I think that it would not only be justifiable, but that it has become a duty. What will the country gain by another Session of the present House of Commons? Absolutely nothing, so far as legislation is concerned. But such a state of things is not merely a negative evil. During the past Session the House of Commons was moribund. Public interest was elsewhere. I am not in my first Session nor in my first Parliament, and never have I witnessed amongst members such absolute indifference to what went on in the House. The attendance was scanty, even when there was an important debate, and on ordinary occasions the few there seemed more desirous to air their own eloquence than to listen to that of others. Members were in the library, in the smoking-room, on the terrace, and in the lobbies, discussing the possible future, and only congregated in the House when the division-bell rang. All this is injurious to representative government. A Parliament which, under such circumstances, declines to perform the happy despatch, strikes at the very root of the control that the country should exercise over the Executive through its elected representatives. The House of Commons should be the political heart of the nation. Whenever the political centre of gravity is elsewhere, it should renew its youth and its strength by an appeal to the country. To allow another Session to drag through such as the last, if this can be prevented, would be a crime against Parliamentary rule. The bounden duty of the Liberal Party is to stick at no means of rendering this impossible.

The Unionists assert that Parliament cannot deal with the fiscal issue that Mr. Chamberlain has provoked until the country has expressed its opinion in regard to it. At the same time, the Government prevaricates and equivocates as to its attitude towards it, and encourages Mr. Chamberlain to agitate outside. The country suffers from the uncertainty which is the necessary consequence of such a state of things. Trade and commerce cannot recover from the effects of the late war, and from the vast increases in taxation, until our traders and manufacturers know under what conditions they are in future to prosecute their business. The uncertainty affects not only them, but every class, and especially that which lives by manual labour. Already there are ominous signs of the want and misery in which many will be plunged during the coming winter. Were a Liberal Government in office under such conditions, the House of Lords would force a dissolution by throwing out its Bills. With a Conservative Government in office, the House of Lords becomes its subservient instrument. Surely no one can complain if the Liberal Party, supported as it is by the electorate, uses every legal means to bring about what the Lords would bring about were Liberals in office under similar circumstances.

Constitutionally the Liberal M.P.s have a perfect right to decline to take part in the proceedings of the House of Commons.

That they will take this course, however, I greatly doubt, for there are too many weak, hesitating men amongst the so-called Leaders of the Party, and there are too many men in the Party who are under the delusion that their speeches in Parliament are too valuable to be lost even for a time. For my part I am sick of speeches in the House and out of it. Everything that can be said on the respective merits of Free Trade and Protection has been said time and again. Mr. Chamberlain can do no more than once more pledge his personal assurance that we shall be ruined if we do not revert to Protection. Mr. Balfour can do no more than again repeat that he is against Protection, but not against Mr. Chamberlain. Liberals can do no more than tell Mr. Balfour that he is talking nonsense when he asserts that he is at one and the same time a Free Trader and in harmony with Mr. Chamberlain; they can only once more tell Mr. Chamberlain that his personal assurance can no more prove that he is right on a grave fiscal issue than it can prove that two and two make five; they can only repeat to their countrymen that our experience of Free Trade and of Protection conclusively shows that a return to the latter would be fatal to our well-being. The hard fact which dominates the situation is that it is agreed by all that, whether Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal reforms be sound or the reverse, Parliament cannot accept them until they have been ratified by the electorate, and that all delay in obtaining the country's verdict on them is injurious to our trade and commerce, and everything directly or indirectly concerned in it. With all respect to our Liberal orators, the electors want a little less talk and a good deal more resolute action. They have nothing but contempt for the present Parliament, and any step that will force the Government to appeal to the nation to pronounce its verdict on the fiscal question will have the nation's approval.

COUNTY COURTS AND DEBT-COLLECTING.

The following communication, owing to an unfortunate accident, came to hand too late to be referred to in last week's TRUTH:—

Hoole's Chambers,
47, Bank Street,
Sheffield.
October 22, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—I have been consulted by Mr. Joseph Binney, the Registrar of the Sheffield County Court, as to the article appearing in the current issue of TRUTH under the heading of "A Novelty in County Court Practice." This article makes the gravest suggestions and insinuations against my client. If you had thought it right to have made any inquiry from the Registrar or any other person in this district competent to advise you as to the practice to which you refer you would have been able to ascertain the following facts:—

(1.) The procedure mentioned did not originate in the Sheffield County Court but was first brought into use by the judge of another County Court Circuit in exercise of the powers given to him by Section 5 of the Debtors Act, 1869, for the purpose of saving judgment debtors from the excessive cost entailed upon them by subpœnas being issued to their employers to prove their means. Such subpœnas frequently occasion great annoyance to the employers concerned, and not uncommonly result in the discharge of the unfortunate debtor.

(2.) The procedure has been in operation in the Sheffield Court not only in Mr. Graves's cases but in ALL cases where plaintiffs choose to avail themselves of it, for some years, having been introduced with the full approval of His Honour the late Judge and continued with the like approval of His Honour the present Judge.

(3.) That the Registrar does not benefit financially directly or indirectly by the large number of cases entered in his Court by Mr. Graves, which, on the contrary, has entailed upon him considerable additional work.

(4.) That the statements from the employers are required to be returned direct to the Court to prevent them being used for any improper purpose by the plaintiff, and to secure that such information reached the Judge in a reliable form without the risk of being tampered with.

(5.) That the forms in use are issued, as are all other forms used in the County Court, to any suitor asking for the same, and that the staff of the County Court is not employed in writing or typing such notices, nor are the public funds used for postages or any other disbursement in connection with the notices except the cost of printing.

Under the above circumstances I think you will see that you have done the Registrar a serious injustice for which he is entitled to ask for suitable amends.

I shall be glad to hear what you have to propose.—Yours truly,
ARTHUR NEAL.

The observations in the article referred to were directed to a document issued from the Sheffield County Court in the Registrar's name; and in view of the extraordinary and, as I believed and still believe, irregular character of the practice disclosed in that document, I think that my observations were fair comments upon it. It must be remembered that in this document the Registrar occupies the position of an officer of the Court, collecting evidence on behalf of the plaintiff for use in pending litigation. This practice is *primâ facie* irregular, and when commenting upon it I naturally had in my mind two points: (1) that by Section 41 of the County Courts Act, 1888, a registrar or other officer of the Court is forbidden to be "directly or indirectly engaged as solicitor or agent for any party in any proceeding in the said Court," and is liable to a penalty of £50 for every such offence; (2) that by Section 45 of the same Act the salary of a registrar is made dependent, *pro rata*, upon the number of plaints entered in his Court. Assuming, as it was reasonable to assume on the face of the document in question, that the Registrar was personally responsible for its issue, I felt justified under these circumstances in saying that the practice adopted in the Sheffield Court was "open to very unfavourable remark." The above letter, however, places the matter on a very different footing, so far as the Registrar is concerned. The procedure, it now appears, has been adopted with the full approval of the present Judge of the Sheffield County Court and his predecessor. In that case the official responsibility for the procedure rests with the Judge, and the Registrar cannot be officially blamed for it. I say "officially," because it appears from the above letter that personally he approves of and justifies the practice. So long, however, as he acts in this way with the knowledge and sanction of the Judge, he himself has a sufficient answer to any "unfavourable remark" to which the practice is open. If any passage, therefore, in my article imputed blame to him, I at once withdraw it. I must add, however, that the document, standing by itself, appears to be fairly open to such remarks as I made.

While Mr. Neal's letter fully exonerates the Registrar in this way, I cannot say that it is of any avail as a justification of this "novelty in County Court prac-

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tice." Let us look at it a little more closely. From paragraphs 2 and 5 of Mr. Neal's letter I gather that these forms are kept in stock for the use of suitors in the office of the court, and that any plaintiff can obtain as many as he wants on application, free of charge, and fire them off at the employer of any debtor against whom he has issued a judgment summons. Any person, therefore, in the position of an employee against whom a citizen of Sheffield desires to recover a debt is liable to have one of these documents addressed by the alleged creditor to his employer in the name of the Registrar of the Sheffield County Court, and to have this document filled up behind his back, and returned to the Registrar, to be used as evidence for the purpose of obtaining an order against him—probably an order committing him to prison. The objections to this practice need no demonstration. The evidence given is not given on oath; there is no guarantee for its accuracy. When addressed to a firm employing large numbers of men, it is not likely that the employer will fill up the form in person; he is pretty certain to hand it over to a clerk or other employee for this purpose. In fact, the form contemplates this, for it asks for the signature of the "employer, manager, cashier, or wages clerk." A mistake may be made by accident in giving the information; nor is it beyond the bounds of possibility that a misstatement might be made maliciously; at any rate, a power which might easily be abused is thus put into the hands of the party entrusted with the filling up of the order. He is, in fact, in the position of being asked to give evidence against another man, possibly leading to his imprisonment, without any oath for which he can be called to account, without liability to cross-examination. True, the employer may refuse to notice the communication, but this is not likely, seeing that it comes with all the weight of legal process issued from a court of justice; and apart from that, the employer is carefully reminded in the document that if he does not give the information asked for, he will be liable to be called to Sheffield on subpœna—possibly from Land's End or John o' Groats. In view of this plain hint, I do not attach much weight to the suggestion that this procedure may save the issue of a subpœna, which may lead to the discharge of "the unfortunate debtor." The unfortunate debtor has quite as much to fear from one process as the other. The whole thing is wrong and indefensible. It is a method of collecting evidence utterly at variance with English notions of judicial procedure. No court has any right to invent machinery of this kind for the use of one suitor at the expense of another. Further, the practice gives to the creditor an entirely novel means of putting the screw on a debtor; and it is easy to see that by this turn of the screw the creditor may exact payment without having recourse to the ordinary means which the law has provided him with. The knowledge that notice of legal proceedings against him has been conveyed to his employer, or even that it may be conveyed, may induce a man to pay a debt which he does not admit. It is utterly wrong that any other power of putting pressure on a defendant should be placed in the hands of a plaintiff beyond that which is offered by the ordinary process of obtaining judgment and execution.

That is how the case stands as a matter of principle. It may, however, be right enough in law, although in principle wrong. It is suggested in Mr. Neal's letter that this procedure is authorised by Section 5 of the Debtors Act, 1869. I fail to see anything in that section which has such an effect, and I have consulted, and re-consulted, competent lawyers on the subject, who take the same view. There is only one clause in the section referred to which has any bearing upon the point. It is the following clause of Sub-section 2:—

> Proof of the means of the person making default may be given in such manner as the Court thinks just; and for the purposes of such proof, the debtor and any witnesses may be summoned and examined on oath, according to the prescribed rules.

To say that proof may be given in any manner the Court thinks just is obviously very far from authorising the Court to issue notices to witnesses requiring them to furnish specific information. Neither do I think that the second half of the clause, which authorises the examination of witnesses on oath, can be used to read into the first part of the clause a power to take evidence otherwise than on oath. I do not pretend to dogmatise upon the construction of an Act of Parliament, but my legal advisers are confident that very much more clear and specific language than the above would be required to empower the Judge or the Court to adopt a procedure at variance with all precedent in English Courts; to issue to witnesses official forms on which evidence is to be rendered in writing; and to dispense with sworn evidence, and with the witnesses' liability to cross-examination, in a proceeding which may possibly involve the defendant's imprisonment. I may say that among others who advise me that this course is quite unauthorised and irregular there is one County Court Judge of very wide experience. But no great weight of authority seems to me to be required in support of this view of the matter. It is worthy of note that the section of the Debtors Act which is used to justify this procedure is the historical section which abolished imprisonment for debt; and it is indeed preposterous that one County Court Judge, or perhaps two, should have read into this section a power which is at variance with all the principles of English law, and makes the imprisonment of a defaulting debtor almost as much a matter of mechanical routine as it was in the days of the Fleet Prison. I do not know who the judge may have been who is referred to by Mr. Neal as having introduced the practice, but I am quite sure that the Sheffield judges who are subsequently said to have approved of it must have done so with very little consideration. The present Judge would do well to reconsider the matter at once, but in order to ensure his doing so, it seems desirable that the attention of higher legal authorities should be directed to the matter.

As I have before indicated, there is an important social question lying behind this and all other matters arising out of the small debt jurisdiction of the County Courts. I hope it is unnecessary to say that I have no sympathy with defaulting debtors; but there is a large class of cases in which the creditor is as little deserving of sympathy as the debtor; and, generally speaking,

when tradesmen complain about the difficulty of collecting debts, they overlook the fact that the difficulty of collecting them is usually in direct proportion to the easiness of contracting them. When tradesmen build up a rotten business by giving credit needlessly and recklessly, they have very small claim to the assistance of the law in saving them from the consequences of their own imprudence. No doubt there are cases where credit trading is legitimate both from the point of view of buyer and seller; but, as a rule, these cases do not arise in retail trade. Facility for obtaining goods on credit is in the main altogether mischievous for both parties; and the mischief is greatest where the debtor's means are smallest. For these reasons it is undesirable that the law should encourage the giving of credit recklessly and indiscriminately. To what extent it encourages it at present is conspicuously illustrated by the enormous business built up by Mr. Graves, of Sheffield, upon the principle of giving credit to people of the most lifmited means in all parts of the country, without any of the precautions which a tradesman ought to take before supplying goods on such terms. In the course of this business, the Sheffield County Court has been used to such an extent that it might almost be looked upon as a branch office of Mr. Graves' establishment; and it is obvious that but for the County Court, this mischievous business could never have come into existence. The truth is that creditors are already too much favoured in the debt-collecting machinery of the County Courts. At any rate, there is no case for increasing in any degree the efficacy of that machinery, least of all for increasing it by unauthorised improvements, devised by the ingenuity of individual judges.

MR. BOELTER'S BASHFULNESS.

During the last few weeks a great deal of space has been devoted in the Press to the National Registry, Limited, an organisation for establishing co-operative servants' registries throughout the country. Some of these notices have been of a most complimentary description, and in some cases my contemporaries in their enthusiasm have jumped to the conclusion that the great servant problem was about to be solved, by means of this society or company. I did not myself join in the general chorus of approbation which greeted the launching of this scheme, because I like to know a little more about such matters than is contained in the advertisements of the promoters, before commending them to public sympathy and support, especially when the support is expected to take the form of cash, as I understood to be in this instance. The National Registry is fortunate in having as its honorary treasurer Miss Maud Douglas, daughter of a highly esteemed Canon of Worcester Cathedral, and the Canon himself is on the committee of management. This is no doubt good evidence of the laudable motives with which the movement has been started; but, as has been often seen, something more than good intentions is required before a scheme involving public subscriptions can be safely recommended for public support.

I had not to wait long for further knowledge of the scheme. On October 18 I received a letter from the National Registry signed "Cecil Burch, Secretary." It began:—

> Miss Douglas, having seen in TRUTH numbers of articles exposing dishonest employment agencies, etc., desires me to ask you if you would give her or one of our officials an appointment where we may explain to you the scheme of the National Registry.

The letter went on to speak at some length of the advantages both to employers and employed of doing away with dishonest registry offices, and the observations were so admirable that I became anxious to know more of the scheme, and wrote in reply to Mr. Cecil Burch offering an appointment as he had suggested. In due course, Mr. Cecil Burch, as he announced himself, arrived at this office. He indicated to me generally the nature of the scheme of the National Registry, Ltd. I am not going into it now, because my immediate object is to describe an extraordinary incident which has arisen out of this visit.

Some two years ago my attention was called to a concern which had been started at Worcester under the title of the British Employees' Co-operative Society, Limited, registered under the Provident and Industrial Societies Act, 1893. This society was somewhat on the lines of the National Registry, Limited. Its object, as defined by the rules was to carry on the "business of an employment bureau and servants' registry, and general dealers," and the qualification for membership was a subscription for at least two £1 shares. I understood that Mr. William R. Boelter was the secretary of the society, and, from what I heard, it appeared that Mr. Boelter had really been keeping at Worcester a registry office of the ordinary type, and that he was seeking to convert it into a co-operative society, and asking the public to subscribe to the amount above mentioned. I asked in TRUTH the question for what purpose Mr. Boelter's registry office had been registered as a co-operative society. Mr. Boelter replied with some show of indignation, but did not answer the question satisfactorily, nor others which I afterwards put to him. This occurred in November and December, 1902. As the National Registry, Limited, like the British Employees' Co-operative Society, had its origin in Worcester, and Miss Douglas's name had been mentioned in connection with both, it occurred to me as possible that my old friend, Mr. Boelter had something to do with the later of these schemes. At an early stage in our interview, therefore, I mentioned to Mr. Burch the little correspondence that had passed with Mr. Boelter two years ago, and asked if Mr. Boelter had anything to do with the National Registry. Mr. Burch answered at once in the negative. I said nothing more about Mr. Boelter for the moment, but as Mr. Burch proceeded to unfold the programme of the National Registry, a suspicion which had formed in my mind took more definite shape, for I perceived that I was talking to a German—although one with a very complete mastery over our language—and I have never heard of a German of the name of Burch, while the name of Boelter bears evidence of Teutonic origin on the face of it. Before Mr. Burch left, therefore, I again asked him point-blank whether I might take it from him that Mr.

Boelter had no connection with the National Registry in any shape. He answered "Certainly."

Now judge of my surprise when I found in my *Daily Mail* on October 27 an article on the National Registry, Limited, headed "The Servant Problem. Gigantic Registry Scheme to Grapple with It," and containing almost at the outset these words:—

> The National Registry, Limited, founded by Mr. W. R. Boelter, in Worcester, where, under the auspices of Miss M. Douglas, a daughter of Canon Douglas, it has been doing excellent work, is being amalgamated, etc., etc.

At the end of the article was the further information that Miss Douglas, "or Mr. Boelter at the offices of the National Registry," would be pleased to hear from ladies who could afford facilities for drawing-room meetings. On reading this, I at once instructed one of my staff to go up to the office of the National Registry, inquire for Mr. Boelter or, failing him, Mr. Burch, and ascertain how the latter gentleman had come to assure me so emphatically that Mr. Boelter had nothing to do with the National Registry. My representative reports that on inquiring for Mr. Boelter he was shown into that gentleman's room, and at once explained his business. To cut the story short, the gentleman to whom he was introduced as Mr. Boelter was the same individual who had come to this office as Mr. Cecil Burch. My representative taxed him with the fact, and he admitted that he was the party who had come to this office, though he denied that he had given the name of Burch. He also denied that he had stated that Boelter had no connection with the National Registry. He called in, and introduced as Mr. Burch, another gentleman bearing no resemblance to himself. Another gentleman, named Grayston, was present in the room, and my representative gathered that at the moment when he arrived on the scene there had been a difference of opinion between Mr. Boelter and this gentleman. Mr. Boelter eventually brought the conversation to a close by slamming down the folding lid of his desk, and declaring that he resigned the managership. On Monday afternoon Messrs. Grayston and Burch, the true Burch, called at this office, and explained that Mr. Boelter had left London, and gone down to Worcester, presumably to give effect to his resignation.

What motive prompted Mr. Boelter to come to this office under the name of Burch—as to which there is no shadow of doubt, for he gave that name on arrival—and to solemnly repudiate to me all connection with my old friend Boelter—as to which I am prepared to make an affidavit at any minute—I have not the slightest idea. Possibly it was bashfulness. I know nothing against the Mr. Boelter who figured at Worcester two years ago in connection with the British Employees' Co-operative Society beyond the fact that he seemed to be engaged in forming a company, which was not a very promising-looking concern, and in regard to which his explanations were not altogether straightforward. The fact, therefore, of his coming here in the name of somebody else, and repudiating all connection with himself, rather suggests to my mind that he knew more about Boelter than I do. But, however that may be, the trick that he played was a disreputable one, and it is pretty evident that he is conscious of the fact. It appears that he had been appointed by agreement joint manager, with Mr. Grayston, of the National Registry, Limited, and it is very unfortunate for that concern that it should have in this position a gentleman who can be guilty of such duplicity for any reason, and to whom mendacity seems to come so easily. Briefly stated, the National Registry is a co-operative association which proposes to enrol both mistresses and servants as members, and the members are each to take a £1 share. In order to open, as is proposed, four hundred branch registries a great deal of capital will need to be subscribed, and an organisation resting in this way upon a cash basis requires to be under the management of somebody whose honesty and straightforwardness in all respects are beyond question. After the above experience, I hardly think that the National Registry complies with this condition. The scheme may be an excellent one in theory; but under the auspices of Mr. Boelter it has made a somewhat unfortunate start, and, after what has happened, I am glad that I was not so impulsive as some of my contemporaries in hailing this "practical solution of the servant problem."

THE THEATRES.

"Dr. Faustus," at the Court.

The Elizabethan Stage Society has added yet another leaf to its crown of laurels by this performance of Christopher Marlowe's great tragedy. Mr. William Poel, who produced the play, is too well known to the majority of the lovers of our old drama to need more than a passing reference and warm congratulation on his work. The stage represented the old stage of Marlowe's day, and by the very crudeness of its simplicity served as a powerful stimulus to our imaginations, already heated by the majesty of the prologue, admirably delivered by the Chorus (Miss Haidee Gunn). Standing before the red curtains of the little stage within the stage, the Chorus, in her scholarly robes of black, with the black student's cap upon those rebellious curls of youth, was an ideal personage for the office. And when, the red curtains drawn aside, we saw Faustus among his Greek and Latin books, our hearts and minds had been deftly turned to consonance with the greatness of the theme and to the majesty of Marlowe's Muse. Think of it! The play that youthful Shakespeare doubtless pondered and enjoyed line by line; the play without which Goethe's Faust would never have been or have been far otherwise. Surely that is enough to send a thrill through all in whom the spark has not been entirely drowned in modern slush. The plain wooden desk, the bare benches—all were a symbol of this: the material world reduced to a minimum that we might revel more freely in the richer world of thought and emotion.

Mr. Herbert Carter played Faustus with great sympathy, but with unequal success. Occasionally, and especially in the last scenes, he would rise to the tremendous occasion with an admirable spring. At others, and especially in the scene with Helen, I did not care for his delivery of the famous lines, which came from him too faintly. They lacked that

imperial audacity inspired into them by the writer. Mr. George Ingleton's Mephisto was discreetly veiled from view with the friar's heavy hood, and the mystery well became him and gave weight to his terrible words. In those human scenes between Faustus and Mephisto, however, this ever-veiled face of the Evil One rather prevents than increases the intensity. For the good-fellowship of the Devil, his main object once assured, is one of his most attractive qualities. We find him thus portrayed in countless plays and poems before and after Marlowe. I noted also the names of Wagner and the Clown as worthy of praise. Mr. Arthur Curtis made Wagner an amusing personage without risking any ridicule, and Mr. Norman Page brought the Clown well into the picture. The appearance of the Seven Deadly Sins and their weird dances was a pleasant interlude, and the fact that none of these personages, despite their extraordinary appearance, for one moment broke the terrible gravity of the symbolism, speaks volumes in praise both of Mr. Poel and of these ladies' work. I have said enough to indicate this play as worthy of seeing at any inconvenience by all who have any feeling for the beautiful and sublime. And I am glad to say that the readers of this journal not only in London, but all over England—ave and in Scotland, too—will have a chance of making a pilgrimage. For the autumn tour of the Elizabethan Stage Society has a very wide range—from Oxford, for instance, in the south, to Newcastle, and in Scotland from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Aberdeen.

Shakespeare's "Comedie of Errors" will be performed on alternate nights with this play, and as they witness the comedy play-goers may have running in their minds that fine couplet of Mr. Swinburne in his sonnet on Marlowe, and remember that

> On his grave, though there no stone may stand,
> The flower it shows was laid by Shakespeare's hand!

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On Saturday I had the pleasure of revisiting those sunny spaces of song and dance and music which with a dialogue notably enriched since I last heard it go to make up "The Cingalee." If I were asked in what respect Daly's Theatre was differentiated from others of the kind, I should be inclined to say that it was in that note of refinement which pervades alike the house and the performances. Whether it be the antics of Mr. Huntley Wright only interrupted to pour forth torrents of ear-tickling and mirth-compelling "baboo," or Mr. Rutland Barrington enunciating the axioms of a monstrous orientalism with an air of paternal benignity; or Mr. Fred Kaye, with his strange trick of diction and humorous suggestion, the result is never splashed with gutter mud. It remains in one's mind a moment, and then evaporates gracefully like the delicate rings of cigarette smoke. Freshest in my memory among the newer songs are Miss Gracie Leigh's on the different types of girls, Mr. Huntley Wright's "baboo" song, with the amusing interpolation at the end of the second act, where Miss Leigh and Mr. Wright appear as doll and gollywog. Very charming also is the "Make a Fuss of Me" duet between Miss Leigh and Mr. Wright, wherein Miss Leigh grafts the mannerisms of a Mélisande on the bright, pretty form and features of Peggy Sabine. The duet about the birds by this couple could perhaps be dispensed with to advantage. Old favourites like Mr. Wright's "English Pot" (with many new mis-readings) and Mr. Coffin's "Cingalee" gained on a second hearing. Miss Isabel Jay, too, though not perhaps very distinguished as an actress, amply atones for this by her delightful operatic singing.

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"The Way of the World," "The Knight of the Burning Pestle," "The Broken Heart," "The Confederacy," "The Maids' Tragedy," "Bellafront": Congreve, Fletcher, Ford, Vanbrugh, and Dekker. These are the illustrious names which adorn the pages of the Mermaid Society's prospectus. The performances will take place in the order given at the Royalty Theatre, beginning on November 7. Membership gives the right to reduced prices, though tickets can be obtained in the usual way. All dates and details are to be had from Mr. Philip Carr, the President of the Society, 3, Old Palace Chambers, Whitehall.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

TOLSTOY'S TABLE TALK.

ALL that M. Georges Bourdon needs in order to rank as the Boswell of Tolstoy is to have lived at his side for years and to have gone with him on a long and rough excursion. A visit of a fortnight at Yasnaia Poliana does not give the same insight as that tour in the Hebrides, or as might, for instance, bivouacking for four or five months in the same tent in the desert. M. Bourdon's conversations with Tolstoy could not have the same freedom as those of "Bozzy" with his literary idol. It does not do in Russia to wear one's mind upon one's sleeve, whatever one might do with one's heart. Tolstoy now speaks at his table as if in a pulpit. He has long since lost the habit of being natural in conversation with writers or others intending to find in him a mine of "copy." We have not the Tolstoy of his early stories, which ripple on like a brook in uplands, but a Tolstoy in the pulpit, who knows that publishers lie in wait to rush through the press all that may fall from his lips or pen. Theirs is a case of making hay while the sun shines, and preparing a boom for works that may die with his death.

M. Bourdon had the privilege of an invitation to Tolstoy's country place when Nature was in her gentlest mood, and earth and sky in perfect tune. The shooting season, which he abhors as much as his sons delight in it, had not yet begun. But war raged. Young peasants were being drafted off, and a Count Tolstoy, junior, had been ordered to the front. This cast a shadow over the brightness of the old Count's soul which the lively chit-chat of the Countess could not always chase. The sage of Yasnaia Poliana had, when M. Bourdon arrived, just consigned his thoughts on the war to a brochure, which he presented to his guest. The latter brings it into his book "En écoutant Tolstoy," with

many thoughts expressed verbally. Tolstoy was also busy writing three calendars, one for every day in the year, and the others for each week and month. Each would contain the recommendation of a book to read and inwardly digest. The literary reflections of the author in the weekly and monthly issues would be the most extended.

Tolstoy spoke of an article he had penned on Shakespeare as by no means eulogistic. It pained him to see the high pyramid on which Shakespeare had been hoisted by his unreflecting idolaters. If human beings thought seriously on what they read Tolstoy would not have felt called upon to dislodge him from the high pedestal. As things stand, he felt it a duty to humanity to be in this instance an iconoclast. Of all the phenomena the intellectual world presented, the divinisation of Shakespeare struck him as one of the most astounding. Civilised mankind prated about Shakespeare's genius. They did so on the strength of ready-made opinions, accepted as might have been ready-made clothes. "Clear your mind," said Tolstoy, "of all you have heard of Shakespeare, and then read his works carefully. You will rise from them convinced that the reputation for transcendent genius is due to a coalition of folly and moral cowardice. The fact is that hardly any one now reads Shakespeare, though all prate about him. He is talked of as indisputable, eternal, and the perfect intellect. There are any number of other idolatries entirely bred of suggestion, but on a less grandiose scale. It would now be hard to analyse the causes of the Shakespearian idolatry. In later times the Press has been the great sinner—the Jeroboam which makes Israel to sin. The Press is often useful. It is, too, often mischievous. The Press is the cause of that present-day facile enthusiasm for mushroom celebrities. Its power to hypnotise is generally abused, and may lead to a psychical condition of reading nations analogous to general paralysis. The Press, when it wants to hypnotise, begins by suggestionising itself. It grows sincere in its laudation, as they go on. People think they are really admiring when they are only accepting the icons presented them as things to be worshipped. When they get to this point, they grow angry with the sage who tells them that their god is but a poor idol. The former is held to be a liar or a foister-off of paradoxes. Where, in any one respect, is Shakespeare before his time, or on a level with what is best of his time? His works are a crude harlequinade, in which clowns, jesters, heroes, heroines, queens, fine ladies, warriors, and witches are jumbled together without reason, and often without rhyme."

The "genius of Napoleon" is another instance of the prevalence of ready-made opinions. Tolstoy rejoiced to hear that Octave Mirbeau intends to bring Napoleon on the stage, but "an imbecile Napoleon." "To hatch such a chick there must be courage and talent. Fortunately, Mirbeau has both, and in a rare measure. His main qualities, sincerity, strength, and style, will carry all before them. He has also a sympathetic warmth that is truly French. One never tires of admiring him."

Tolstoy expressed himself to M. Bourdon as a thorough admirer of French literature and art. "The French have literary and artistic probity. They try under all circumstances to write or paint in the best manner, no matter what the subject may be. In this respect their morality is high. One never finds poor thought, or mawkish stupidness, in a French novel written for men and women."

Lady Dilke is spoken of with much eulogy by the *Temps* and other French papers. She generally spent her winters at Cape Brun with Sir Charles Dilke until he sold his place there. However, she continued to visit Paris often, twice a year on her way to and from Royat, where she took the waters, and more often for wardrobe purposes and to keep in touch with the literary friends of Sir Charles and herself. They always stayed at the Hotel de Lille et d'Albion, and gave informal teas there every afternoon. Literati of the academical class were always to be found at these gatherings, never very numerous. M. Léon Say was among *les fidèles*. The Duc d'Aumale ceased to pay visits after his gout became troublesome, but had the Dilkes down to Chantilly, where he received them with distinguished hospitality. He used to hand Lady Dilke her coffee and the sugar basin, an honour seldom paid to any one outside of his own caste. She had historical tastes, and, an artist in all her fibres, her conversation never failed to interest him. History is more seriously studied in France than in England by persons who do not set up to be historians. It is treated rather as an intellectual toy in conversation. Lady Dilke had great address in such treatment. She reminded members of her circle here of those eighteenth-century marquises who sat for their portraits to Latour. Her book on French art in the eighteenth century was the fruit of much research. To find "documents" she went to Nancy, Stockholm, Dresden, Berlin, and visited most of the great French collections that had a bearing on the subject.

Lady Dilke belonged to a family that settled in Georgia when it was first colonised. They remained loyal through the War of American Independence, and came back to England rather than live under the Stars and Stripes. She retained the daintiness and graces for which American ladies brought up on Southern plantations were remarkable in Washington's time, and not least Mrs. Custis, who became Mrs. Washington.

Those French traders who have wide business relations with England had a scare last week. Not that they feared being dragged into a war against her by the Rozhdestvensky affair. What they feared was England being caught in a quarrel with Russia and her trade with France suddenly running down. The French Government looked with anxiety at the advance of the Baltic fleet into British waters, because they drink deep in the Russian Navy, and were highly liable to mistake fishing smacks for war behemoths. The

German view of the matter prevails here. You know how alcoholised workmen hit out without being more than half-seas over at the policeman, their wives, or babies, or no matter whom. It is the same with naval officers who habitually imbibe too much champagne or vodka. The French special correspondents at St. Petersburg have sent us not unkind, but still astonishing, accounts of "liquoring ups" at the grand bars at St. Petersburg. Generals and admirals accepted drinks from all good-wishers. I forget what general stayed up till four in the morning at a bar, then rushed to a monastery to perform devotions. When he had discharged this pious duty his orderlies helped him to a sledge and took him to the railway *en route* for Harbin. It was much the same before the Baltic fleet started. More vodka than champagne would have been imbibed at Libau. If admirals and captains had drunk deeply after anxious navigation in the shallow Danish waters, what subordinate would have dared to wake them? They may have slumbered between the Goodwin Sands and Cherbourg—a good reason for making no sign in British waters.

Rozhdestvensky has a thick varnish of polite manners, and speaks English and French well. He ought to know English maritime ways and signals, as he stayed some time in London as naval attaché. Perhaps he went more to lunches, dinners, country houses, and theatres than to seaports, following thus the example that Alexeieff gave in Paris, where he, too, served nine years as naval attaché. Rozhdestvensky has not an even temper. He saw grave objections to the sending of a squadron to the relief of Port Arthur, at the present phase. It would have been another matter were co-operation to be reckoned upon. The wonder is that, with the warning the Russians declare they received about Japanese lying in wait, Rozhdestvensky took the squadron into the comparatively shallow water of the Dogger Bank. If he feared torpedoes he ought to have kept in blue water, as vessels of deep draught nearly always do in the North Sea. Bacchus or bad temper are among the explanations hazarded here. The Russians must know that in the present state of their Far Eastern affairs there could be no French intervention, though Russia and England were at war. M. Berthelot, who is so favourable to Russia, admits this. He had, when Minister for Foreign Affairs, the weakness to countenance that lease of Manchuria that Russia wrung out of China. If they could be so foolish at St. Petersburg as to imagine France might be dragged into a dangerous quarrel with England, then the theory that Rozhdestvensky wanted to hurry on such a crisis would be rational enough.

"The solemn annual assembly of the five Academies"—this sounds very imposing indeed. Just think; the most illustrious representatives of literature, science, arts, medicine, and erudition assemble and meet together in presence of the flower of Parisian and cosmopolitan society. Surely, as a result of the deliberations, the world ought to be somewhat the wiser and better. A person who argued this way would show he knew very little of twentieth-century France. Academies, like other fetishes, are going by the board; they are powerless to originate anything, or even to set a standard of taste. After a lapse of fifty years, the French Academy has been unable to finish its Dictionary, yet the French language was never so perfect an instrument of thought as it is now. Some of the best writers, like M. Octave Mirbeau, scorn its membership. The leading scientist of the country, M. Curie (whose name must be inseparably coupled with that of his wife), does not belong to the Academy of Sciences, and this circumstance leaves him all the more time to continue his investigations on radium.

I attended this week the "solemn annual assembly of the five Academies," and, looking round the amphitheatre filled with well-known "queens" of the hereditary and moneyed aristocracy, it seemed to me that they were the only persons present who believed in the solemnity of the function, while the Academicians themselves, who had donned their green-embroidered uniforms, were inclined to be sceptical as to the importance of the proceedings. I have often before noticed that people who hate to be intellectual on their own account like to rub shoulders with intellectual people and thus get credit for the latter's wit. I could mention a certain Royal, and in fact Imperial, personage who has thus got himself a world-reputation for all-round wisdom.

M. Mascart, the astronomer, who was in the chair, read in a solemn tone a speech which was inclined to be humorous. It amounted to this—that the members of the different Academies had very little to say to one another, and, but that tradition required it, they would never think of meeting. However, as he was expected to deliver a speech, he said something about ancient Greek coins and astronomical tables. M. Gaston Boissier, the ladies' man of the Academy, notwithstanding his seventy odd years, with his smiling face and pink complexion under his white hair, seemed the picture of contentment. M. Berthelot, as usual, was in the clouds. "He is thinking out some grand discovery," whispered to me a neighbour. I believe he was thinking simply of the war, as, a few minutes before the opening, I heard him engaged in a somewhat heated discussion with a colleague, a Jew, who expressed his sympathies for the Japanese. M. Berthelot said that Russia was certainly the more modern of the two States.

M. Mascart having concluded his speech, a very aged, lean, and wrinkled man came forward, whose clean-shaven face was a picture of depression and melancholy. It was M. François Coppée, and there was a hush of admiration among the ladies, who smiled archly towards one another. His conversion at an advanced age to orthodox Catholic and extreme Tory views has made him a favourite with the Faubourg Saint-Germain. In a sing-song voice, he declaimed some verses in favour of the Russians, praying that they might be victorious. It was a rather uncalled-for manifestation. The verses fell flat. They afforded several papers of the day following an excuse to chaff the poet.

They tell me in the Rue de la Paix that the hour-glass waist is coming in again, and that open-air

sports are going out. It has been found that they develop over-much hands and feet. No. 6 gloves are still asked for in the shops. If set down under this figure, they are a size larger than they would have been six or seven years ago. It is the same with shoes. The trailing skirts are a device to hide large feet.

Queen Isabella's palace is still unsold. Her heirs have agreed as to the articles of furniture that are to be reserved for division among them. Among those which are to be kept are an authentic portrait of Isabella the Catholic and some *boule* furniture, made by Boule for Philip of Orleans, the Regent of France. He gave them to his daughter, Mlle. de Montpensier, wife of the only King Louis that ever reigned in Spain, with tapestries and other *objets d'art*. After a reign of two years he died, and she returned to France. Her mother-in-law refused to let her take her beautiful furniture with her, and it went to San Ildefonso. It escaped being classed as Crown property, and Isabella claimed and obtained it after her son mounted the throne. Much of the furniture is ultra-modern, and what one might expect to see in a Turkish palace fitted up in the European manner. One sees garish furniture like this at the Alcazar of Seville. How it does jar with the beautiful Moorish fixtures!

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

A JOURNALIST, dear Lady Betty, has described his position in these words: "When I speak, those who know me do not listen; when I write, those who do not know me tremble." The following gracious message, that has been conveyed to me by telegraph, contains the Eastern view of this Western matter:—

"Marmaduke, peace be with you, friend! I have things of importance to impart, and I am sure you will listen to them with becoming attention.

"The English journalists are great breeders of disturbance. They have become more furious than a Mazanderan lion, and I marvel greatly how of a sudden they are such unsainted dogs. O Allah! Allah! If there were no dying in the case, how those journalists would fight!

"As fast as I hear of one 'crisis' another begins to grunt, and then another, and another, until I fear there is a whole herd of them! And those English—those heavy buffaloes of English—I can see them, with their unshaved heads and empty skulls, believing all the madmen on the Press choose to tell them!

"No, Marmaduke, this will never do; the English must not permit their beards to be laughed at in this manner. I am a *sahib shemshir*, a man of the sword, and you a *sahib calem*, a man of the pen, and I can tell you that this continual irritation of the national temper does not happen without danger.

"You may think what you please, but, for my part, I look upon your situation as precarious, but I advise you, as a general rule, not to put your trust in journalists, be they who or what they may be. So many of those dogs there are now that it is necessary to put one's trust in the mercies of Allah, such is the disturbance they create. 'Necessity,' so the poet sayeth, 'is a strong rider with sharp stirrups, who maketh the sorry jade do that which the strong horse sometimes will not do,' and as the English must have their interest highly excited before they will bring forth pennies, many of your journalists fold up their principles in the napkin of oblivion to obtain the money.

"One of the most remarkable features in the character of the English journalists is their extreme desire to do their country good even against its inclination. That blessing, the British Empire, must be spread throughout the world, even if you have to starve at home, and any Government which stops it here or there will be guilty of the blood of all those lives which might have been spared!

"Do they take the English for animals without understanding, without common sense? Or do they look upon themselves as the men of their day without compare, specially privileged to take the beards of humanity into their hand, and to do what they like with them?

"O world, world! what art thou, and how much more wouldst thou be known if each man were to lift up the veil which hideth his own actions, and show himself as he really is!

"As to those heretics, the Muscovites, what is this, in the name of the Prophet? Whose dogs are they that they should be attacking you? What have you done that you should be made to devour this grief? The Muscovite Admiral, if he ordered the attack, one must believe to be little better than a *Khûr be teshdeed*—i.e., a doubly accented ass. But whether it be one dog or another that did the deed, the end of it is that the King's men and ships have been shelled. That is plain enough, and the offender must be punished, whatever were his intentions or objects. May he enjoy the eternal grills! The English are somebody in the world.

"May the King live for ever! May his shadow never be less, and may he conquer all his enemies! As for yourself, I shall always put up my prayers for your prosperity, and may Allah attend your steps wherever you go!"

* * * * *

The bubble crisis of last week has burst harmlessly, as have many that have been blown before it. The crowds have given their pennies and their halfpennies to the performers, who are probably satisfied with this result; but the traffic of every-day life has been seriously obstructed, and hundreds of thousands of pounds have been lost through the interruption. Bubble-crisis blowing is becoming a practice, and the country cannot afford to have its business continually interrupted by such performances.

The newspapers in England may be divided into two classes. One class resembles the public-houses in poor neighbourhoods at which adulterated drink is sold cheap to meet the requirements of those who wish to get excited quickly and at a moderate cost. Those establishments are the cause of much mischief, but of late years many of the proprietors have prospered so greatly that they have transformed their modest inns into gin palaces—handsome buildings, brilliantly lit, so as to attract customers from far and near, and well advertised. The names even of many of the landlords have become known to a large number of people, and those proprietors have some power.

The other class resembles the old-fashioned wine merchants who sell sound wines and spirits to customers who drink intelligently. Unfortunately, several circumstances have in recent years diminished the number of these customers, and therefore some of the merchants are taking to sell less sound wines at a cheaper cost to attract buyers who are not so fastidious and are less rich.

In the public-houses where "concocted" drink is sold the proprietors are compelled by law to hang in a conspicuous place the announcement, "All Spirits Sold Here Are Adulterated." The proprietors of newspapers which provide "concocted" news should also be compelled to announce on the front sheet, "We Sell News Here That Is Adulterated," for, though unsound spirit may, and does, cause much mischief, unsound news may, and does, cause immeasurably more.—Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

WRITING twenty-four years ago, Lord Beaconsfield denounced the Turf as "a vast engine of national demoralisation." We are constantly reading in the sporting papers about the decline of plunging, and it is certain that the systematic heavy betting of owners and their friends has pretty well disappeared. It would be a mistake, however, to suppose that there is less betting than of old, for the number of small bettors—people who gamble every day on horses without ever seeing a racecourse—has enormously increased, and it was this fact which Lord Beaconsfield had in his mind when he so strongly condemned the Turf in "Endymion," maintaining that the gaming table had been brought into the street. From the beginning of the racing season until the end of it tens of thousands of people who cannot afford to lose one farthing indulge in daily betting, their operations being guided either by the "prophet" of one of the papers or by an advertising tipster, the certain result in either case being ruination. Backers of this kind are not only miserable if they lose, but they are nearly always dissatisfied if they win, for if five shillings has been successfully staked bitter are the regrets that the investment was not doubled in amount. The presumed object of the Turf is to improve the breed of horses, but this is a work which of late has certainly not advanced; indeed, it has retrograded considerably. Exorbitant stallion fees, over-racing of two-year-olds, and breeding from unsound animals are the causes of this unsatisfactory state of affairs. In these days of so-called "£10,000 stakes" a horse of no very high class may happen to carry off one of these rich races, the result being that the winnings of his sire are suddenly raised to a very large sum. This was twice the case last year, when Veles won the Princess of Wales's Stakes, and Cheers, by an arrant fluke, defeated Rising Glass for the Eclipse Stakes. The winning of rich handicaps by a lightly-weighted old horse gives another delusive lift of the same character to the sire. It is satisfactory to find indications that owners are at last becoming alive to the fatuity of paying huge stallion fees, and a general and large reduction of such charges appears inevitable. It is really ludicrous, and at the same time instructive, to remember that in the eighties Isonomy's fee during his first season was 70 gs., while St. Simon retired at a charge of 50 gs. What would have been demanded for such horses last year, considering that 250 gs. was charged for Melton, 200 gs. for Ladas, and 300 gs. was asked for William the Third? Owners are singularly apathetic, considering how ruthlessly they are fleeced. After going to a vast expense in either purchasing or breeding his racers, a man who investigates details must be disgusted to find that in ninety-nine events out of a hundred he is racing only for his own money and the stakes of the other subscribers. The Turf, as matters are at present conducted, could not flourish unless there were a number of wealthy men who are indifferent to the pecuniary returns of their studs, and for some years past it has been favoured with the generous support of a number of plutocrats, who probably find, like Lord Beaconsfield's "Mr. Guy Florencey," that racing "is the only way in which to become fashionable and acquainted with the best men," and they resemble him also "in knowing just enough of the affair not to be ridiculous." Events may easily occur in the course of a few years that will tend to make the Turf less fashionable than it is at present, in which case the patronage of "millionaires" would probably be withdrawn. A rich owner who is keen on winning money, and who gambles on selling races and similar events, is a pernicious pest; but wealthy young men who now go on the Turf are usually given to gambling in horses, rather than to heavy betting in the ring.

The Cambridgeshire has certainly not excited so much attention as usual this year, nor has the betting been upon nearly so heavy a scale as formerly. During the Second October meeting Delaunay was generally regarded as a certainty, but, as was pointed out in TRUTH, there was really no merit in his victories during that week, about which such an elaborate fuss was raised. However, the laudatory hysterics about this colt's form pretty well stopped speculation on the race for several days, and public interest in this handicap has been of a most languid nature. No such stake can have been won last week as has usually been netted by the party connected with the winner. Writing a fortnight ago, when every one was infatuated about Delaunay, I predicted that Caius would win, and that Hackler's Pride would run prominently. Captain Forester's mare won by a neck from Vril, who carried the money of many good judges, while Caius was placed fifth, and at the finish the French horse was so heavily backed that it was difficult to get an offer against him. He could not come down the hill. Hackler's Pride, who is the first animal that has twice won the Cambridgeshire, has now brought off three handicap coups in three successive autumns—the Chesterfield Nursery at Derby as a two-year-old, and the Cambridgeshire as a three-year-old and as a four-year-old. Twelve months ago Hackler's Pride carried 6 st. 10 lb., and last week she was fully weighted up to her best form with 8 st. 10 lb. The last time that this weight was carried successfully was twelve years ago, when La Fleche won as a three-year-old. Only three other winners have got home with as much as 8st. 10lb.—Foxhall, as a three-year-old, in 1881, with 9 st.; Florence, 4 years, 9st. 1 lb., in 1884; and Plaisanterie, 3 years, 8st. 12lb., in 1885. Plaisanterie had previously won the Cesarewitch, and her weight included a penalty of 7 lb. Hackler's Pride, like so many other recent winners of great races, was bred in Ireland. Her running has certainly not been remarkable for consistency, for usually her performances have been exceedingly moderate, but her single victory in each season has been achieved when the stable money has been fairly piled upon her. Lord Carnarvon gave the public backers a very straight tip when he withdrew Laveuse in consequence of his being aware that Vril was better at the weights. The execrative criticisms on the scratching of the mare were not only most unreasonable, but in the greatest degree idiotic and absurd. Caius looked very well indeed, but M. E. Blanc's horse has done a lot of work this year, and it was against him that he was meeting some quite fresh animals. He ran very well, but in the last 200 yards only Hackler's Pride and Vril were really in the race, which was obviously to be won by either the one or the other, and it may be that the French horse was not ridden out when his chance of victory was found to be gone. Nabot passed Delaunay and Caius, and struggled into third place, thereby winning the 1, 2, 3 money for which he had been well backed. Nabot also finished third two years ago to Ballantrae and St. Maclou, when it was perfectly apparent that he had been strongly "doped" for the race, such practices being then permitted on the Turf. On that occasion he carried a great deal of French money. The result of the Cambridgeshire was another severe blow to the Newmarket stables, which this year have experienced a genuine Moscow campaign in the handicaps, the only one which has fallen to them being the Royal Hunt Cup with Csardas.

The performance of Hackler's Pride proves her to be the best four-year-old in training, and she would no doubt defeat Rock Sand if they were to run over the Cambridgeshire Course at 3 lb. Defeating Caius, Delaunay, and Nabot at the weights which these animals respectively carried was doing better than the very tip-top of handicap form. It is greatly to be regretted that Hackler's Pride was not engaged in last year's "classic" stakes, for her case now seems to resemble that of Isonomy, who would assuredly have won the Derby and St. Leger of 1878 if he had been trained for those races instead of being reserved for a handicap coup.

Wild Oats, who was at one time much fancied, has been doing very little work, and it must surely have been

the money of the gullish herd which caused him to start at 10 to 1. It was said, however, that there were a number of heavy covering commissions from the Continent, which were, of course, sent by persons who were ignorant of the horse's lack of condition.

Hackler's Pride's finish was very game, as she ran her race out to the last stride without a suspicion of flinching, after having made her own running. If she were not a thoroughly honest mare she would certainly have been defeated, as Vril was catching her at every stride in the last hundred yards, and if there had been two more lengths to run she would have been beaten.

Delaunay went badly in the betting at the finish, as during the earlier races of the day he gradually drifted out to 5 to 1, at which price there were but few backers. I suspect that the opinion expressed in TRUTH as to Delaunay's lack of stamina is correct, and that this horse cannot really stay one yard beyond a mile, while probably six furlongs is his best course. He has a wonderful turn of speed, and it may be hoped that he will be kept for races within his own distance. If he had come along from the start as fast as he could go he would probably have "chopped" his most dangerous opponents, and he might never have been caught, but this is a risky game to play.

Captain Forester, the owner of Hackler's Pride, is a great-nephew of the late (and last) Duke of Cleveland. It was expected that he would inherit Raby Castle and the immense and very valuable family estates in Durham, Shropshire, and other counties. However, the Duke left the bulk of his vast property to Mr. Henry Vane, who succeeded him in the Barony of Barnard. Captain Forester came in for the Wrington estate in Somersetshire (which he has since sold), and for the valuable urban property at Bath, and he had also the reversion of the Battle Abbey domain (also now sold) after the death of the Duchess of Cleveland. Captain Forester has been exceedingly fortunate with a comparatively small stud of racehorses, and he was very lucky in connecting himself with a stable that is managed with an almost superhuman cleverness.

Gallinule is now certain to head this year's list of winning sires, as he is over £7,000 ahead of Sainfoin, who comes second. Pretty Polly has won upwards of £18,000, out of her sire's total of over £29,000. Gallinule has a couple of smart two-year-olds in Galantine and Galangal, which may win some good stakes for him next season if they train on. Pretty Polly may be counted on as a handsome contributor if she lasts for another season. Sainfoin may thank Rock Sand for his high place, Sir James Miller's horse having contributed £19,719 towards his sire's total of £21,900. Rock Sand's defeat by Zinfandel in the Coronation Cup at Epsom showed clearly enough that he is not entitled to be regarded as a veritable flyer, and his subsequent victories in rich stakes were due either to the fact that he had very moderate opponents to beat, or else to his advantage in the weights, thanks to his breeding allowance, which, most assuredly, is an advantage which ought not to be permitted to continue as a perpetual benefit for a winner of the Two Thousand, Derby, or St. Leger, much less for a horse which has carried off all those races. After the Derby odds would have been betted by the harebrained admirers of St. Amant that St. Frusquin would head the list; but both the Epsom hero and Rydal Head have proved grievous disappointments, and Mr. de Rothschild's horse has not a single two-year-old of any class. St. Simon has a fairly smart two-year-old in the Duke of Portland's Pamflete, but it was only the victory of the moderate Darley Dale in the Eclipse Stakes which saved his sire from an abject collapse this season. Cyllene has done far and away the best of the younger sires, but his chances have been greater than those of Missel Thrush. Cicero and Cyanean are the best of the English two-year-olds, and Polymelus has been a more than respectable representative of his sire among the riff-raff of the season. Ayrshire has over twenty winners, the best being the greatly-improved Robert le Diable, who is now one of the smartest handicap horses in training. Ayrshire has very creditable T.Y.C. representatives in Cossack and Melayr (winner of the Stewards' Cup), but he has no two-year-old of even tolerable form.

When the conditions of the Liverpool Autumn Cup were published in the *Calendar* I animadverted upon the utterly stupid arrangement that the weights were to be published before the race for the Cambridgeshire. There was no object whatever in this senseless speed. These weights have usually been withheld until the Thursday in the Newmarket Houghton meeting, and it is impossible to understand the object of publishing them three weeks before the race is run. If the leather-headed managers of the meeting had desired to ruin their principal handicap they have certainly succeeded in doing so for this year, as Vril appears to be a good thing after his running at Newmarket. Lord Carnarvon's horse would not have been let off with the weight which he now has to carry if the publication of the handicap had been sensibly deferred until Thursday last.

Odds were liberally betted on Mozart for the Criterion Stakes, which race was run for the first time over the Bretby Stakes Course, but Polymelus, who got all the best of an indifferent start, won in a common canter. The colt by Ladas out of St. Ia was a hot favourite for the Moulton Stakes, but he was interfered with at the start, and was never fairly in the race, which was won easily by Reggio. Plum-centre was generally regarded as a really good thing for the Dewhurst Plate, as he had done well in a trial, but, although heavily backed, and by clever people, he was not such a good favourite at the finish as either Signorino or Bishopscourt. Plum-centre is a handsome, racing-like colt, and a fine goer, but he is still very backward, and he was hopelessly done with a long way from home, although he had got away well. Signorino, who had escaped a penalty, started favourite, 9 to 4 being readily accepted about him, but he was out of the race after five furlongs had been traversed. Bishopscourt's merits have been extravagantly overrated, and Galangal is apparently deficient in stamina, while Llangibby is no flyer, and it is amazing that any sane person could be found to back Mr. Neumann's colt with a penalty of 10lb. to carry over this severe course. Atlas, about whose supposed merits there was such a chorus of jargoning in the summer, again ran badly, as also did Monarda, the half-sister to St. Amant, by Florizel II. Rouge Croix, who won very cleverly, is a good stayer, and he was well suited here by the extra distance, as the course at Sandown Park (where he was unplaced in Filippo's race) was not far enough for him. He is a good-looking colt and capable of great improvement, and he is quite likely to turn out the best of the English lot for the Two Thousand and Derby, as he is well endowed with stamina and also has nice speed. Rouge Croix, who is by Bend Or out of Dame Agneta, was bred by Mr. Russell Swanwick, and Mr. Henning bought him last year at Doncaster for 310 gs. Plum-centre, who belongs to Sir Frederick Johnstone, is engaged in the Two Thousand, Derby, St. Leger, and Grand Prix. This colt was entered for only six races as a two-year-old, and he has ten engagements in the future. The English two-year-olds are a dreadfully moderate lot, and they seem to be altogether heads and tails. When two-year-olds keep on beating each other it may safely be assumed that there is not a single really good one among the lot.

The betting on the Jockey Club Cup was simply amazing. It "staggered credibility" that simpletons could be found to back Chatsworth to defeat Zinfandel and Bachelor's Button at weight for age. Zinfandel had showed on Tuesday that he was in form by cantering away with the Limekiln Stakes, and yet 5 to 2 was actually laid against him for Thursday's race, the same price being accepted about Bachelor's Button, and mooncalves were taking 3 to 1 about Chatsworth! Zinfandel waited till the Bushes, and then came along and won in a walk. There has never been a more easily-won race at Newmarket, and Lord Howard de Walden would have won the same race last year

but for the fatuous decision to start St. Maclou instead of Zinfandel. I have always maintained that the result for the Ascot Cup was an arrant fluke, and that Zinfandel would have won easily enough if Cannon had come along with him. The horse ought to have made running from start to finish. He can stay for ever, and he is certainly not deficient in speed. Throwaway was never dangerous on Thursday, and he did not look so well as at Ascot. I hope that Zinfandel will be kept in training for another season, as every one would like to see a race for the Ascot Cup between Lord Howard de Walden's horse and Pretty Polly. The ignominious collapse of Chatsworth ought to put an end to the moonshine about his developing into a Cup horse.

Pretty Polly appeared jaded before the race for the Free Handicap, and she went down to the post in a decidedly listless fashion, but she simply lost her opponents. St. Amant "cut it" palpably when the pinch of the race came, but it is the extremity of folly to go on starting this horse for races which are run out of his proper distance. Except in her disastrous race at Longchamps, Pretty Polly has never once been fairly called upon to exert herself. Every race for which she has started has been won in a canter. It was a good performance to give 19 lb. (taking the sex allowance into account) to Rydal Head.

Lavengro has been one of the most abject failures of the last twenty seasons, for three years ago he was valued at many thousands of pounds, but he had not since won a race until Friday, when he carried off a paltry selling plate, and was afterwards bought in at 240 gs. I dare say this horse will be good to follow at the back-end meetings in events of this class.

Delaunay won the Queensberry Handicap very easily on Friday, after having been most pertinaciously opposed in the ring. The fielding was curiously strong against Mr. Gilpin's horse, although, after his prominent running on Wednesday, this race appeared a good thing for him, especially as the shorter distance would suit him well. Delaunay's class was far superior to that of the other starters. He is no doubt the best three-year-old colt in training, and would make hacks of St. Amant and Henry the First. There has been a deal of gasconading about the by no means remarkable achievements of Mr. Musker's colt lately.

Sceptre is going to the stud next season, and I hear that Mr. Bass has decided to send her to Gallinule.

Lord Carnarvon does not intend to keep Robert le Diable in training for another season, and the horse is going to the stud. Robert le Diable is very well bred, being by Ayrshire out of Rose Bay. He is one of the very best handicap horses in training, but I do not fancy he would have proved capable of defeating either Zinfandel or Pretty Polly for next year's Ascot Cup.

St. Amant has left Newmarket for Chattis Hill, Hampshire, where is to be under the charge of T. Cannon, jun., for a few months. Change of scene and rest may prove beneficial to St. Amant, but as a four-year-old he should be reserved for T.Y.C. races. At present he is a most desperate and determined rogue. Remembering Digby Grand, who very much resembled St. Amant in some respects, one would like to see the Derby winner kept for the City and Suburban, as he might again show to great advantage over the Epsom course, but at Newmarket or Ascot he is of no use beyond six furlongs.

In reading the notes in the Press on Cambridge rowing I am sorry to see that so few crews are entering for the University fours. One rubs one's eyes and imagines it must be a horrible nightmare when one sees that First Trinity and Trinity Hall have no fours out, and yet Selwyn has one on the river. Where, too, are the men of Caius, Christ's, Pembroke, and Emmanuel? Clare generally preferred Rugby football, favouring Fettes and Loretto. No doubt the success of Third in recent years has frightened away opposition. But now let me preach words of wisdom that a couple of old Cambridge presidents have sent to me on this subject. They are alarmed at this state of affairs. They hope that the colleges will make a point of putting on a light four as part of the rowing education of those who have rowed in light boats in the Mays. Let there be no fooling round in clinker boats. Let the men get straight into their light boats. There should be no attempt at plugging, and no hard rowing—simply long, steady paddling. That is all that is required. In this way the crew will learn watermanship to an extent that is almost impossible in an eight. At all events, the knowledge will be acquired in much less time. Then a week before the race some hard work may be tried. But it should never be forgotten that a four is "oiled" rather than "plugged" along. Never mind if the race is a certainty for Third or any other college. There is many a slip. A man may go wrong before the race or something may go wrong in the race itself. And if college captains steadily persevere with their fours they will soon find a great difference in the rowing for the Mays. The men having learned their watermanship will be able to give more attention to their oarsmanship. It will be much more easy to coach them. And very soon the fours will cease to be a certainty for any college.

By the way, I should not be surprised to see Oxford win the next boat race. The evil that men do lives after them; the good too often ceases when they go down. Rowing men are singularly frail beings. They are keen copyists of evil. If a brilliant oarsman has peculiarities of style which are only forgivable in genius, every oarsman considers it his duty to copy that man's fault, and without acquiring any of his good points. Oxford rowing has suffered from the peculiar style of certain oarsmen. Cambridge is now under the influence of Claude Taylor. He was a splendid oar, with practically no swing. He was a class apart in himself. Therefore every oarsman thinks he need not swing. Cambridge rowing is losing its swing. These imitators have not Taylor's leg-drive. They are not built as Taylor is. And the consequence is that there is a good chance of Cambridge rowing getting into a bad groove. Taylor as a coach would be, and is, the last man in the world to teach that a good swing is not necessary. Taylors are born, not made. The ordinary oarsman is made.

College boathouses are very much like new parish churches. They cost a good deal more to build than the undertakers originally intended. It is so with the new boathouse that the Hall men are going to erect in memory of their late Master. Under these circumstances, a meeting of subscribers has been convened in London to consider the position. It is not anticipated that there will be the slightest difficulty in raising the additional funds. There must be many old pupils of the late Master who have not contributed. Those who have not subscribed need not be afraid. Very many guinea subscriptions have been given. Many more will be thankfully received by the Hon. Treasurer of the fund, the Rev. H. Cronin, Trinity Hall. The architect, is an old Hall man, Mr. M. Wheeler.

Nowadays the increase of tramways leads to many troubles for cyclists. The *Field* points out this week the rule of the road that should be adopted in overtaking and passing a tram. There is often some difficulty in overtaking electric trams, owing to their pace. Of course, the usual method is to pass on the near side. Unfortunately, says the writer in the *Field*, it was held in a police-court some few years ago that this was wrong. I would point out that in such a matter a stipendiary is a law unto himself. There is no binding decision on the matter. But in what are known as running-down cases, whether in the High Court or County Court, to pass on the near side is in itself no evidence of negligence. But any vehicles passing on the near side must take cognisance of the fact that passengers get off on that side, and the passengers, too, must look after the state of the traffic. Mutual care is required.

Heartiest congratulations are due to Woolwich Arsenal on the fact that they beat the leaders of the League, Sheffield Wednesday, away from home. Of course, there was the fact that the home team lost a forward early in the game; but this would hardly account for a three-goal win by the Arsenal. After this match the idea that they cannot play away from home should be killed for ever. The Arsenal seemed to have discovered a really first-class centre-forward from among their reserves.

It is very satisfactory to note how the standard of play is developing amongst the really genuine amateurs. There was quite a good friendly game, in which the Caledonians just beat Ealing. It may be as well to say that whether the team be amateur or professional makes no difference to me so long as the game is played in an honourable way and the teams are run on straightforward lines. Fraudulent amateurism or professionalism I detest.

Mr. Bentley is an authority on League football. In an article in a Birmingham paper he indulges in considerable abuse of the present writer because of his views on the scandals which have arisen in certain Football League clubs. It was stated that some of those connected with the scandals had been in authority on the Council of the Football Association. I willingly correct the mistake, in spite of the impertinent manner in which the correction is demanded. It appears that more than one-half of the Council disapprove of the rules that occasion these scandals. These gentlemen need not consent to carry out rules of which they totally disapprove. They can resign. The Council of the Football Association cannot burke responsibility in this way. I am afraid I still consider professional football with a limit of interest of 5 per cent. a money-making concern. It is a comfortable investment. If such scandals are perpetrated for 5 per cent., what would be done if the interest was unlimited? The rest of Mr. Bentley's tirade calls for no comment.

A correspondent kindly writes from Croydon to say that since the Croydon Club was disbanded three or four years ago, the Old Whitgiftian Club has been formed. It now runs three fifteens. This is the class of club that alone has shown any sign of increase in recent years. Old Boys' clubs are certainly the surest recruits for metropolitan football. The youngster leaving school has a direct incentive for a continued interest in the game. The other week I said the Christ Hospital old boys should form a club. I quite forgot, as a gentleman points out, that their club, the Old Blues, has been running for ten years. This season the Old Blues are playing three fifteens. It is a pity that the Old Paulines did not flourish. I believe it has lapsed, except for scratch teams during the Easter vacation. Now, the Old Boys' clubs having had the hard experience of working up the ladder, are always willing to give fresh clubs a leg up. It might be a good idea to start a challenge cup for which they could enter. In the first few years the struggle would probably lie between the Old Merchant Taylors, Old Leysians, Old Alleynians, and Marlborough Nomads. But afterwards the other clubs would get a look in, and those that did well would have a claim on other first-class clubs.

Owing to the flourishing condition of the Rugby game in the metropolis, such clubs as Richmond and Blackheath are advised to go further afield for their first-class games. Then, it is suggested, really good gates would be obtained. Well, these two clubs went to the provinces last Saturday. Richmond went under to Leicester and Blackheath drew with Northampton, a penalty goal apiece. Old Leysians and Old Merchant Taylors fell easy preys to Cambridge and Oxford. The Dark Blue pack greatly improved with the help of Cartwright. The leading game in London was the match between Marlborough Nomads and London Scottish. The methods of arranging first-class matches are so admirable—one week half a dozen and the next week practically none.

MAMMON.

Stocks and the Russian Outrage—An Attack of Nervousness—Reaction in Prices—Now on the Upgrade Again—Investment Buying—Conditions Favourable.

THE Russian outrage in the North Sea, to which reference was made in a footnote to my last article, has been the dominating influence on the Stock Exchange throughout the week. The incident, as a market factor, is now, happily, at an end, the British Government's demands having been conceded. It seemed only reasonable that they would be, but the Russian Government apparently did not at first realise the dangerous nature of the situation, and its delay in making reparation and agreeing to bring the guilty parties to book brought about much weakness in the stock markets. The British people were quite at one with the British Government, and it is undeniable that at one time the outlook was black and the prevailing feeling one of nervousness, which was intensified by the fire-eating swashbucklers of the Press, who called aloud for vengeance, and talked about a time limit, and an ultimatum, and all the rest of it. But there was no panic—no suggestion of a panic, even at the worst moment; and though values receded all along the line, it was mostly done as a precautionary measure by the dealers, and very little actual stock came on to any market. The "Bears" were not slow to embrace the opportunity, but they made little use of it on the whole, and stock generally being in short supply, the removal of the tension has been followed by a sharp rebound, which leaves values in some cases rather higher than at the making-up at the beginning of the week. The menace is not removed entirely. Part of the Russian fleet is to continue on its irresponsible and fated way to the East, and its nerves being in a condition to see Japanese torpedo boats as easily as a dipsomaniac sees rats, it is quite conceivable that it will work more trouble for itself and others before it reaches—if it ever does reach—its destination. This contingency apart, conditions make for good markets. The German inquiry for gold has about come to an end, and I see no reason to anticipate much advance in money rates between now and the end of the year. There is more cash about, trade is improving, and confidence is growing. That the inherent situation is healthy seems a fair inference from the manner in which the markets withstood the Dogger Bank outrage, which might have spelt war in a couple of days had our own Government not acted firmly and promptly. It is a pity that this incident should have arisen to upset confidence, but, as I have said, it has not exercised much effect, and it may now be dismissed.

Money Less Abundant—"Window-dressing"—Increased Demands—Borrowing from the Bank—Discounts Firm—Gold for Germany—Bank's Position.

As usual towards the end of the month, some of the joint-stock banks have been calling in loans in order to make a brave—but wholly misleading—showing of cash in hand in their monthly balance-sheets, and floating credits have been very appreciably reduced. Coincidentally, the inquiry for accommodation has been stimulated by the Stock Exchange settlement, by the payment for London County bills to the amount of £1,463,000, and by the tenders for the £1,500,000 balance of Water Board stock. Consequently it was found necessary to go to the Bank and borrow some millions at 3½ per cent. The current week sees the restoration of easy conditions, call money being obtainable at about 2 per cent. Discount rates hardened with money, but a factor of more consequence was the withdrawal of sovereigns to the amount of £1,000,000 from the Bank of England for Berlin. I explained last week the reason of this keen demand for gold on German account—the active condition of trade, the increase of speculation, the flotation of Imperial and Prussian

Government loans at the most inopportune moment of the year, and the longer credits asked by Russia in connection with purchases from its kindly neighbour. It is probable that this taking of a million will mean the culmination of the German inquiry for gold, and there is a prospect of the Bank of England obtaining the better part of the bullion now on the way to this country from South Africa and elsewhere. It can do with all that comes along, because over a million and a half of its stock of gold has been lost during the past fortnight, and there are the requirements of Egypt and Argentina to provide for. At the same time, it should be remembered that Egypt has already had a large sum, a lot of the sovereigns on the way from India having been diverted to that country; and, while the Argentine crops are large, the purchase of Argentine securities in this market has also been great. The Bank reserve has fallen about half a million during the week, and the ratio, by reason of the increased liabilities, has fallen from 56½ to 53⅞ per cent.

Consols React—The Political Situation—A Recovery All Round—The Unfortunate Water Board Issue—Colonials Still Inactive—Foreigners Move in Sympathy—Japanese Sixes Dull—Peruvians—Venezuelans Steadier.

The political situation has been the one factor at work during the past week, and as it seemed to become more grave the uncertainty as to the outcome of the negotiation was reflected in an unmistakeable fashion in the course of Government securities. At the outset operators recognised the necessity for caution, and discreetly marked Consols a fraction lower on the pre text of harder monetary conditions, but after a while the nervousness was accentuated by impatience, and under-pressure of "Bull" liquidation and "Bear" operations, coupled with the selling of Consols as a hedge against possible losses in other directions, the price relapsed to the extent of more than half a point in one day, the withdrawal of £1,000,000 for Germany making matters worse than they would otherwise have been. Other high-class issues, such as the War Loan, Local Loans, Transvaal, India, and County Council Threes, moved sympathetically, the Irish Land Stock being a particularly weak spot. But the bottom had been touched, and the political horizon becoming clearer, a rally set in, and a good deal of progress was made though not sufficient to cover the entire loss which had occurred. Everything considered, the recovery was on a very satisfactory scale, and, provided that no unforeseen circumstances arise to disturb the equanimity of our relations with the rest of the world, there is every possibility of the lost ground being more than regained within a short time. The results achieved by the Metropolitan Water Board in the matter of its issue of the balance of the stock cannot be described as anything but indifferent. The Russian affair undoubtedly exercised an adverse influence, but whether this was the sole draw back or not cannot, of course, be ascertained. In market circles the expectation was that a premium of about 1⅛ would be secured, but actual results showed that applications at only 1s. above the minimum price of 92½ would receive about 34 per cent. The sum required amounted to £1,500,000, and tenders aggregating slightly more than £3,000,000 were sent in at prices ranging from the minimum up to £97 7s. 6d., the average price obtained being £92 13s. 8d. The occasion could not have been very much more inauspicious, and as a result of the tendency the existing Water Stock developed some dulness, though a fairly substantial recovery ensued. Colonial stocks continue rather inactive, though Sierra Leone Fours have remained firm, and a small demand sprang up for New Zealand issues, which scored a slight improvement, only to succumb to the prevailing influence later on. Canada Threes are slightly harder, but, on the other hand, Natal Threes and New South Wales Three and a Half per Cents. show declines. In the Foreign section movements have been pretty much the same as in other markets, though, thanks to the rather more cheerful attitude assumed by Paris, the dullness was somewhat less marked. The Continental demand for Argentine and Brazilian descriptions, however, ceased almost entirely at what might be described as the most critical juncture, and prices reacted, but recovered again, and show only slight changes on balance. Among the War stocks, Russians moved irregularly, upwards and downwards according to the humour of the moment, and Japanese issues exhibited some dullness, a particularly weak spot being the new Sixes, which were offered rather freely from New York. Although fairly cheerful on the whole, there has been less activity in Peruvian Corporation issues, while Uruguays, after weakening appreciably, started on the up-grade again; and on the strength of more irresponsible gossip concerning an alleged revival of the debt settlement scheme, the tendency of Venezuelans has been steadier.

Home Railways—Lower on the Russian Scare—Now Higher All Round—Investment Brokers Appear—Scarcity of Stock—Metropolitans—Position of Central Londons.

The Russian scare afforded the judiciously enterprising investor an opportunity of buying stocks at bargain prices, and to do the gentleman justice he took advantage of it—so much so, in fact, that on Friday afternoon, before anything definitely favourable was known, but when it seemed probable that the acute stage had passed, all stocks offered were absorbed by investment brokers and the jobbers found themselves practically caught out. Earlier in the week the market had been firm, it not being believed that Russia would endeavour to carry things with a high hand when her Admiral was so palpably in the wrong, and not even an indifferent series of traffics had much depressing effect. And when the situation reached the acute stage the outsiders offered little real stock, and all the lowering of prices was done by the dealers as a precautionary measure. At one time the decline assumed considerable proportions. Brighton "A" dropped to 120½ and left off at 122, a shrinkage of 1, while Dover "A" were finally 1¼ lower at 57, after touching 56⅝. Brighton Preferred was marked down 2, the Ordinary and South-Eastern Ordinary and Preferred 1. Chatham First and Second Prefs receded 1, and Great Eastern finished 1¼ lower at 91, after being quoted at 90⅝. In the "Heavy" division Midland Deferred gave way 2, North-Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire 1½, North-Western 1¼, Great Western 1, Midland Preferred ½. Great Northern "A" fell 1½ the "B" 1, the Deferred and Great Central "A" and Preferred ¾, South-Western Deferred 1. Metropolitan Ordinary touched 98 and left off at 99, a fall of 2, Districts losing 1 at 41½. In the Scotch section Caledonian Ordinary fell 1½, the Deferred 1¼, North British Ordinary ⅞. Barry Deferred marked a solitary advance of 2. Friday started weak with considerable selling on the part of speculators, causing a further shrinkage. It was at this moment that the investment brokers put in an appearance, and, to the surprise of the dealers, promptly took all the stock that was offered. The "Heavy" division led the way, North-Western dropping to 152 and recovering later in the day to 153¼, a rise of ¾, while Great Western marked a similar improvement at 139¼, after having been down to 138¼. Lancashire and Yorkshire rose 2, Midland Deferred ½, ditto Preferred ¼, North-Eastern ½. In the Passenger group Brighton "A" touched 121½, but left off at 122½, a gain of ½, while Dover "A" was finally ¾ to the good at 57¾ and Chatham Ordinary moved up ⅜ to 16¼. Great Eastern, after being quoted at 90¼, rebounded to 91¼—a rise of ¼. Great Central "A" put on ¼, Hull and Barnsley ½, while Great Northern "A" and Deferred recovered 1 and ¾ respectively. The improvement extended to the Scotch section, and the definite statements of Mr. Balfour at Southampton, first made known to the people at large by the papers next morning, caused a further substantial recovery on Saturday, North-

Westerns gaining 1¼, North-Easterns 1½, York Deferred 1¼, and so forth; so that closing prices at the end of the week show insignificant losses on balance as a result of the Russian affair, and those who were adventurous enough to buy during the crisis find themselves well rewarded. The actual volume of dealings is scarcely commensurate perhaps with the rapid advance, but that is because little stock came on to the market, while the "Bear" sales were large, and it was found very difficult to buy back. The movements on balance will be seen from my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Oct. 22.	Price, Oct. 29.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	76¼	76½	76½	75½	−1
Do. Def.	29⅜	33½	33½	33½	− ½
City and S. London	52	47½	47½	47	− ½
Central London	96	93	93	93	
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	51½	51½	—
Do. "B"	24½	29½	29⅞	29⅞	—
Do. "A"	13	16½	16½	16	−½
Great Eastern	88	92½	92	92½	+ ½
Great Northern Pref.	99½	102	102	101½	− ½
Do. Def	38⅜	42½	42⅝	41⅞	− ¾
Great Western	136	139½	140	139½	− ½
Hull and Barnsley	42	38½	38½	38½	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	106½	107	107½	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	106½	124	124½	123½	−1
London, Chatham, and Dover	14	16⅝	16⅝	16½	− ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	90	102	101½	101	− ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	56	66	67	65	−2
London and North-Western	155	154½	155	154½	− ½
London and South-Western Def.	54	53½	54	53	−1
Metropolitan Consolidated	82	100⅜	100½	101	+ ½
Metropolitan District	31½	42½	42½	41½	−1
Midland Pref.	69½	68	68	68	—
Do. Def.	66½	66	66½	66	− ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	76	76½	76½	− ½
Do. Def.	43⅜	47½	47⅝	47⅜	+ ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	141½	139½	140	139	−1
South-Eastern "A"	59½	58½	59½	58½	−1

As an instance of the absorptive capacity of the investor who is on the look-out for bargains, it may be pointed out that £40,000 of Metropolitan stock came on to the market in the crisis, but this only forced the price down a point to 98, and the whole amount was taken up quickly and the figure improved to par, being an improvement of 1 on the day. In Central Londons the market position is rather unsatisfactory, for the reason that the dealers quote very wide prices. They defend themselves by pointing to the change which may come over the position through the electrification of the Metropolitan and District lines early next year, and in this way dealings became very difficult. Personally, I stand by my previous remarks that the Central London will continue to do well because it taps a very populous district untouched by the Undergrounds, and the absolute bareness of the market in its stocks is evidence of belief in the future, whatever the attitude of the dealers may be. Railway earnings generally are not particularly stimulating, and in some cases they are frankly bad. The Great Northern, for instance, goes on reporting considerable decreases, and the Midland's increase is rather small potatoes when contrasted with the exceptionally large falling off a year ago. With improving conditions of trade, however, Home Railway stocks should see a respectable appreciation, and they will be helped by the condition of money.

AMERICANS ERRATIC—STILL SUPPORTED BY THE POOLS—NO PUBLIC, ENGLISH OR AMERICAN—WHY DOES IT KEEP AWAY?—NORTHERN PACIFIC RUMOURS—ONTARIOS AND ERIES.

For a number of weeks past I have pointed out that the sharp advance which has been engineered in the American market was due entirely to the big Wall Street operators, who have been helped by practically no public support, and in one recent issue I gave details of the methods employed to create a public interest in the various wares on offer—methods exceedingly clever, and not for a moment suspected by the man in the street. The obvious purpose of the big professional cliques is, of course, to create confidence and an active outside demand so that they may get out and leave the people to "nurse the baby." From a very eminent New York authority, Mr. J. B. Clews, comes confirmation of my statements about the present onesidedness of the movement. "Never in my entire twenty five years' experience in Wall Street," remarks Mr. Clews, "have I witnessed such a market as the present one. It has been advancing for several months, and yet I know absolutely that the public has not been in the market for weeks. Commission houses in Wall Street are swept practically bare of stocks. All of the commission houses in Wall Street combined are carrying only a small handful of stocks on margin. The public is completely out of the market. The recent buying has been entirely by pools and professional operators. Commission houses are not borrowing any money to amount to anything. Most of them already have more money than they need to carry the small amount of stocks of their customers on margin. This is one of the principal reasons why the Money market continues so easy." Why has the public remained out? The good American is fond of a flutter in Wall Street, and unlike his fellow outsider in this country, he has not been lacking in the wherewithal to indulge his fancy. This being the case, you must look around for a better explanation. The forthcoming Presidential election has helped to choke him off, no doubt; but the uncertain crop outlook, the reactionary trade tendency (now over, apparently), increased operating expenses, and distrust of the men who control the situation, have between them brought him to the conviction that he stands no fair chance; and while he knows that these leaders are able to accomplish a lot by energetic bidding and hanky-panky manipulation, he has preferred to remain out. In the circumstances—and leaving the question of available funds altogether out of the question—it is not to be wondered at that English speculators should also keep away. The man who goes into a blind gamble such as the American market offers deserves no sympathy if he loses, but he is to be congratulated if he comes out all right. From the continuance of aggressive bidding, despite the apathy of the public, it may be not unfairly assumed that the big professionals are now engaged in the pleasant task of fighting one another, and if this goes on much further we may be treated to a repetition of the wild scramble which took place among the millionaires about a year ago. Meantime, movements during the past week can be seen from my table below:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price. Oct. 15, 1904.	Closing Price. Oct. 22, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	88	88⅞	89½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅛	103¾	105	104⅝
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	97⅛	98¼	97
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	46½	47	47⅛
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	30½	32¼	32¾
Do. Pref.	93¼	66⅜	84⅜	86	85½
Erie	43⅛	23⅛	34½	38⅞	41⅜
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	71½	75	75
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	136	139¾	140
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	174	177	178
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	29½	31⅜	33
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	93	94	94
Do. Common	78½	55⅞	75	75½	74¾
New York Central	158	116⅜	138¼xd	138¼xd	138
Ontario	36	19⅜	36¾	44	47
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	69½	70⅜	70⅜
Reading	35½	20	37⅜	40⅛	38½
Do. First Pref.	45½	36⅜	44½	45	45
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	35⅝	36⅝	36½
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	97	98	97½
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅝	62⅜	64	64
Union Pacific	107⅛	69⅞	110⅜	110½	115½
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	97	97½	97½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	44	45½	45
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	68½	70	69
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	21⅛	21½	22
Do. Pref.	—	—	82⅝	83⅜	84⅝

There has been a lot of persistent talk about a settlement of the Northern Securities case, despite a very definite denial from Mr. J. F. Hill, and Unions have been moving about wildly. Towards the end [illegible] another reason for the strength of the shares, it being said that the retirement of the Oregon Short Line bonds

indicates important financing developments. Ontarios hardened appreciably at one time, but they have receded on the rumour that the New York, New Haven, and Hartford has secured control of a majority of the stock, and that the minority shareholders will not be considered, no guarantee being given as to dividends. Eries have been very largely bought consequent upon a report—which so far lacks confirmation—that the system is to be leased to a strong line with a guarantee of 3 per cent. Attention has also been paid to Steel stocks. The Preferred receives the full quarter's dividend in accordance with expectations. But the profits show a big decrease as compared with the corresponding quarter of last year, and a not inconsiderable decrease as compared with the June quarter of this year. The unfulfilled orders also show a large falling off, but the President is said to have stated that during October there has been an increase of 30 per cent.

The American Exploration Company.

Last week I dealt with the constitution and objects of the American Exploration Company, an institution established in this country by an American gentleman rejoicing in the suggestive name of Gammon, and in this issue I propose to say something about the syndicates whose shares it has been busy working off upon foolish people up and down the United Kingdom and elsewhere. It may be desirable to repeat that the ostensible purpose of the American Exploration Company is to obtain options on promising mining prospects, to buy those which it proves to be good, and to transfer them to the syndicates at first cost, standing in to profit, apparently, only with the shareholders of the syndicates when the several properties have been developed, it being stated expressly that the Exploration Company "makes no profit in any way until shareholders in the syndicates have been repaid the whole of their investment plus interest," when both stand in equally. I showed that, as a matter of fact, the Exploration Company exists as a mere share-selling concern in order to relieve itself of responsibility in connection with the syndicates, the officials of which are creatures of the gentleman Gammon (who has so successfully exploited the British public to the extent of £18,000 or more), and that one-third of the money subscribed for the syndicates and the development of their supposititious gold deposits is permitted to go to the parent concern. This week I will deal with the La Fiesta, which is a typical syndicate, a replica being the Eclipse. It is expressly stated that "the whole of the capital subscribed is used for working capital." This is a deliberate mis-statement of fact. How can the whole be employed as working capital when the London manager, in his letter to me last week, acknowledged that 33⅓ per cent. of the proceeds of the Preference shares—the shares which are sold, the Ordinary being thrown in as make-weight—may be taken by the Exploration Company as the cost of obtaining the capital? This fact alone would be sufficient to justify a demand for the return of the money which may have been paid to Mr. Gammon and his creatures. Again, in the balance-sheet as at December 31 last, I find an item of $16,000 for 80,000 shares in the Blaine Electric Mining and Power Company. Is the capital subscribed for the purpose of working the La Fiesta or to permit of the acquisition of shares in other Companies? We are told that the whole capital subscribed is used for working capital, so that this is a second mis-statement. While on the subject of the balance-sheet, will the American Exploration Company permit me to draw attention to the fact that the statement prepared for distribution among the European shareholders is different from that embodied in the report of the proceedings at the annual meeting held on April 5 in San Francisco? This last is signed by Mr. Percy G. Goode, "Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales," and from his copious remarks appended to the certificate I should say that Mr. Goode found his task of auditing anything but an easy one. Here are some extracts:—

> I have verified the vouchers for cash payment, and also the balance at bankers. The books had been closed off at March 31, 1903, by transfers to a profit and loss account. I was instructed to commence my work prior to these closing entries, which I was to ignore. . . . . I had a long conversation with Mr. E. H. Stearns, the secretary, as to the manner of showing in the books the true transactions of the issue of stock. The contract with the American Exploration Company provides that all stock shall be originally sold and issued to them, and that $15 received from them shall purchase one share of Preferred stock and two shares of Common stock. I have accordingly split this up arbitrarily in the cash book by giving credit for $5 to Preferred stock and $10 to Common stock for every $15 received. To bring these figures up to the par value of the stock I have charged the difference to an account called "Bonus stock, commissions, discount, and cost of rolling stock." *In accordance with instructions* I have closed off some of the accounts to a "development account" on each property. *No inventory was taken* at 31st of December, 1903, so that the figures of the balance-sheet represent expenditures to that date. I have not closed off any accounts to a profit and loss account at this period, as the properties are still in the construction or development period, and operating has not yet been commenced. A few tons of ore from the Lizard mine were treated, but I was told that this was in the shape of a mill test, and I have accordingly given "development account" credit for the bullion received.

I sympathise with Mr. Percy G. Goode in the task which he was called upon to execute, and I congratulate him upon the thorough manner in which he fulfilled it.

The La Fiesta Gold Mining Company was incorporated under the laws of Arizona at the end of January, 1901, and the articles of association make up a wonderful document. By virtue of them the Company is permitted to colonise, to lay out towns, to have laws enacted, to carry on any business, to undertake any liability of any person (a highly obliging clause), to borrow money, to mortgage all or any part of the property, to guarantee payments of dividends on any shares, to sell the undertaking "for such consideration, nominal or otherwise, as the Company may see fit," to advance money on "supposed" security or without security on account of the Company, or for account of third parties, to make over "gratuitously or otherwise" to any Company any property of this Company, to enter into contracts of every kind without limit to amount, and so forth. This is the engaging kind of promotion which is permitted—for the sake of registration fees, encouraged—by the Company laws of Arizona. There are other points in this document to which I would draw the attention of the English people who fancy themselves happy in the possession of La Fiesta shares. The Directors are elected by the majority of the Ordinary shareholders, and as the American Exploration Company holds a majority of the Ordinary shares, it follows that the Board must be the creatures of Mr. Gammon, who is the American Exploration Company. Having fixed this little matter, it is provided that the Board shall have absolute discretion to set any amount for working capital, that "holders of Preference shares shall have no power whatsoever on any question, the voting power being vested exclusively and irrevocably in the holders of the Common stock." This is a point upon which English shareholders, who are graciously permitted to apply for Preference shares, would do well to ponder. This, again, is instructive: "The action of the Board of Directors *in the absence of actual fraud* in issuing shares for money, property, or services or other consideration, shall be conclusive and irrevocable, even if issued for money, property, or services or other consideration for less value than the par value of the stock." No shareholder is permitted by the articles of association to inspect the books, save by the authority of the Board, and as I have shown that the constitution of the Board is a matter for Mr. C. W. Gammon alone, the shareholders are quite helpless.

Although the La Fiesta has been in existence for close upon four years, I do not find that it is making much progress in the way of producing gold. In a circular dated July 5 the happy shareholders are informed that, "following upon the work lately carried out at the

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Kanaka mine, the conditions are such that within three months of our being enable to furnish the Syndicate with a further £2,000 to complete the necessary equipment, the ten stamp mill will commence crushing, and dividends should then be only a matter of a few months." At that time it was stated that just under 4,000 Preference shares had been paid for and issued, and that instalment payments for over 4,000 shares were being regularly paid up. This, I take it, means that £20,000 has actually been paid up, and that a similar amount is being contributed by instalments. What has become of all the cash that it should be necessary to wait for a further beggarly £2,000 before starting crushing and making the shareholders happy with dividends. The American Exploration Company, as I have shown, takes up one-third of the money paid on the Syndicate shares. Apparently, Mr. Gammon feels a desire to lay his hands upon as much of the subscription money as he can get hold of at as early a date as possible. The circular alluded to above contains this:—

> We are naturally anxious that there should be the least possible delay in the investor being repaid both his capital and interest, as until this is effected we get no share of the profits ourselves; we have, therefore, decided to offer the same terms to those now paying up in full as were offered to investors paying in full for shares at time of application, viz., a discount at the rate of *10 per cent. per annum* on payments made in advance (in place of the previous allowance of 5 per cent. per annum).

The La Fiesta is interested in two groups of mines—or holes in the ground, which may or may not become mines—the Kanaka, and the Lizard. A Mr. G. M. Andrews, of Forest Gate, went out, we are told, at the request of his British friends to report on the properties. Mr. Andrews considers the position of the Lizard group to be "exceptionally favourable for the discovery of large bodies of high-grade ore"; and the Kanaka group, he says, "is particularly favoured in its situation." In the Kanaka mine there is "a splendid lode proved for nearly 1,000 ft. in length and 900 ft. in depth"; "it varies in width and richness, as all lodes will"; and his assays gave from 7 dwt. 10 gr. to 14 oz. 11 dwt. of gold, to say nothing of silver up to 5½ oz. to the ton. I notice that no dates are given in Mr. Andrews's report, and I should like to know if that gentleman still adheres to his statements. In another document sent out in March last information is given about the Kanaka No. 1, Kanaka No. 2, Indemnity No. 1, Lizard, Lone Star, Mountain Boy, Southern Billie, and other picturesquely named holes. There is practically nothing to say about most of them, but as to Kanaka No. 1—clearly the show-piece of the bunch—the average of all samples was 64.69 dwts. This is the kind of concern that the estimable Mr. Gammon is in Europe to sell to the mere foreigner, regardless of the fact that his own countrymen would be only too pleased to pay handsome prices for anything approaching such a value. Incidentally I may state that the name of the individual responsible for the assays is not given, but Mr. George de Sallier is named as mine manager. Perhaps he is the authority. Not long ago the shareholders were encouraged by a circular telling of the discovery of a big lode in Nevada, the idea being to convey the impression that the La Fiesta was going to benefit. I have before me a letter from the secretary admitting, in reply to a shareholder's question, that the Nevada discovery has not a direct reference to the La Fiesta, "although a large portion of its property, namely, the Wizard group, is situated in that State"—as though that had anything to do with the case.

In the report of the proceedings at the annual meeting in April last are embodied reports of the superintendent. Mr. De Sallier, after referring to the bad condition of the property when he took charge, says this:—"As a proper course of preliminary work to be pursued, I proposed the clearing of the levels, the lowest one especially, not solely to put them in shape for mining work, but more particularly for purpose of investigating and determining existing conditions from a geological standpoint. This will give some idea of the real condition of things." Mr. De Sallier admits that some of the upper levels are totally inaccessible, and I think I am entitled to ask whether the Kanaka is not in reality an abandoned hole which has been picked up for an old song, to be passed on to foolish Englishmen? Mr. J. N. Sears deals with the Lizard, and he allows that "while there is ore showing in the mine at several points, it is impossible to figure on any certain tonnage as being in sight," and that the assessment work on the outside claims did not reveal anything of any value. The gentleman's report shows that mining operations on a fair scale have not been undertaken on the Lizard.

I advise the people who have bought La Fiesta and Eclipse shares through the American Exploration Company to see if they cannot get their money back, the misrepresentations being quite enough to entitle them to do so.

Canadian Railways Relapse and Recover—Canadian Pacific Earnings—Grand Trunk's Improvement—Mexican Railways Buoyant—Argentine Railways—"Bag's" New Debentures.

In company with the rest of the House, the Canadian Railway market suffered a considerable relapse during the state of tension caused by the delay of the Russian Government in agreeing to the English demands, but they are now on the upgrade once more. Canadian Pacifics have now had the rights (equal to 5½) deducted from the price, and the shares look cheap and buyers are again being attracted to them. The Company goes on piling up huge traffics week by week, the increase for the third week of October amounting to $87,000, which follows on top of $77,000 increase a year before, and brings the aggregate gross improvement since July to $1,201,000. The company is paying out of revenue for equipment and betterments generally, but there is every reason to suppose that it will be able to maintain the 6 per cent. dividend on the increased Ordinary capital. The country has enjoyed a very good harvest, and is in a state of considerable prosperity, with a rapidly growing population and an equally rapid expansion of the land under cultivation. The shares are well worth buying for investment, and with a view to appreciation later on. Grand Trunk issues had a sharp improvement on the publication of the traffic, which showed an increase of £6,232, when an "even" figure had been anticipated—the market prophets being again very much out in their calculations. It looks as though the concern had finally turned the corner, but it is well to remember that the figure of the corresponding week last year was unusually moderate, and that the next three traffics will go against a large total again. For the last six weeks of the year, however, the comparison will again be with relatively small figures, and with a good harvest and general prosperity, the Company ought to wind up its year to much better purpose than is shown to date, with its aggregate decrease since July of £70,771, in contrast with £334,831 increase for the same period of 1903. But the total of earnings is still good, and it looks indifferent because of the abnormally big receipts of last year. It remains to be seen what the Company will accomplish in the way of economies of expenditure, for upon these depend the Second Preference stock's chances of a full distribution for the twelve months. Thirds are interesting speculatively, and whether or not they receive a distribution for the current year—the chances are more than a little remote—there is likely to be a good jump in the early months of the coming year, when the earnings will be going against the skeleton figures of the extraordinarily unfavourable early months of this year. This, of course, presupposes a winter less unfavourable than last, and as that was the worst for half a century, one is

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entitled to expect something better. Movements on the week are indicated in my table below:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Oct. 29.
Canadian Pacific	122½	138½	133⅞
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	14 5/16	17⅛	17⅛
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	[illegible]	98
,, 1st Preference	108⅜	106	106
,, 2nd ,,	96½	93¾	94
,, 3rd ,,	44½	44½	45½
Bengal and North-West	131	145	144½
Bombay Baroda	155	150	150½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126	126½	127
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	96	107	103½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	93½	121½	116¾
,, ,, 1st Preference	98	105	105½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	84½	95	93
,, Great Southern	129	138	133¾xd
,, Western	136¾	129½	125
Entre Rios Railway Preference	48½	67	66½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	82¾	96½	66⅞
Costa Rica Railway	1⅜	3 1/16	3
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	101	94½	94
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	87	82½	82½
Mexican Railway	16½	26½	29
,, 1st Preference	68½	100	104
,, 2nd ,,	26	45	48½
Nitrate Rails	7⅞	8¼	8¼

The Argentine Railway earnings are satisfactory, the figures of the Great Southern and the Rosario being especially good, the first having £108,374 increase since June and the second £412,439 since the beginning of the year. But although Argentina has little to lose and much to gain by European complications, the shadow of the Dogger Bank outrage has been over the market, and the fact that dividends have been deducted from the chief stocks, making them look cheap, has not brought in many buyers, while professional "Bears" have been busy here as elsewhere. The Great Southern is increasing its Four per Cent. Debentures by the issue of £500,000 at 105. The lesser-known Argentines have kept rather in the background, political frights not being conducive to speculative activity in them. Cordoba Central Income bonds are rather easier, but Cordoba and Rosario Preferred has held its ground tolerably well. Mexican Railways had a bit of a relapse on the publication of the traffic decrease of $1,500, but as this went against a big increase last year, and as the adjusted statement for September recorded an improvement of $61,800, the market soon became reconciled, and prices hardened until the general set-back, when there was a fine scramble among the "Bulls" to get out. Now they are on the upgrade, and show a big advance on the week. Among other foreign railways, Leopoldinas and Costa Ricas are lower, but Antofagastas have had a good rise, though at 129 they are not at the best of the week.

Promising Mexican Railway Issues.

Without exception, all the Mexican railways have done very badly in the past, for not one—either British or American controlled—has been even remotely successful. Since the opening of the present year their prospects have all very greatly improved, as have also quotations, but, even so, the junior securities of most lines are still some distance from receiving dividends. The line which has given the best results is the Mexican Southern, for it is the only company which has paid anything on its Ordinary stock. The dividends have certainly been very small, but there are many substantial and sufficient reasons for anticipating a better distribution this year, and still more in the near future. For the eight years to the end of 1903 this Company paid an average dividend of just under 2 per cent. per annum, 2½ per cent. being the last distributed. The year which ends in December next should give a total increase in the gross receipts of from $150,000 to $160,000. The average value of the dollar will have been higher than in the previous year, and the ratio of working expenses to receipts should decline considerably so that a 5 per cent. dividend, with something to reserve, seems assured. On this basis the Ordinary stock is cheap at its present price, and should be well over 80 before many months have passed. Another point not to be overlooked is the official announcement that the Mexican Government desires immediately to redeem this Company's holding of $8,000,000 of Six per Cent. Silver Subvention bonds. As Mexico's credit is now on about a 4 per cent. basis, this is not surprising, and as Mexico can only compel redemption (and that not for some years yet) at par, taking the dollar as 36d., this railway may soon receive anything up to £1,200,000, or sufficient to redeem nearly all the Debenture capital. There are also for this line amalgamation possibilities, so that it is not surprising that on the market the Ordinary stock is being talked up to par. A tremendous rise has taken place this year in the quotations of the old Mexican Railway's securities, which has been accentuated by the unexpectedly good dividend announcement a few weeks ago. The current traffic receipts continue to give splendid increases, so that the line appears to be within sight of paying the full 8 per cent. on its First Preference stock. While the Second Preference stockholders must therefore be nearing a distribution, the same cannot be said of the Ordinary stock, which to-day stands quite high enough. I should also not care to recommend the Second Preference stock at 47, but the "Firsts" may reasonably go higher. Its rival line, the Interoceanic, has also been doing remarkably well, and prices have considerably advanced this year. The Seven per Cent. "B" Debentures have jumped from 63 to 102, and a few months back looked like going much higher; but it is now pretty well understood that the full interest will not be paid for 1903-4, much less anything on the Preference shares, as was at one time expected. This line is worked by the National Railroad of Mexico, which has taken the opportunity presented by the comparative prosperity to spend money very freely on the road so that at the most the net earnings will only allow of a 6 per cent. dividend on the "B" Debenture stock with a small sum to be carried forward. The only justification for the present high price of both the "B" Debentures and the Preference shares is based on a rumour that the capital is to be shortly reconstructed. This has, however, only a speculative bearing. The National Railroad of Mexico is really an American concern which has hitherto done badly. It not only works the Inter-Oceanic, but practically also controls that line, and will sooner or later absorb it entirely. Its 4 per cent. gold bonds are fairly secure, and a good holding; but the junior securities are extremely speculative. The Mexican Central Railway is rapidly going ahead, but the "A" and "B" Bonds of the Mexican Central Railway Securities Company are more to be recommended, especially the latter. Both are entitled to 4 per cent. per annum, and they have both always received that amount. The yield on the "B" Debentures is 6⅔ per cent. per annum, and as the railway is improving rapidly they seem a good purchase and likely to advance in price. Apart from earnings the Company has a subsidy fund, out of which this Debenture interest can be met for some years to come, while in 1911 these Debentures mature for repayment at par. The pick of the Mexican railway market at present seems to be Mexican Southern Ordinary stock and the Mexican Central Railway Securities' "B" Debentures.

—	1903. End Oct.	1904. Jan. 1.	1904. Present Price.	Rise or Fall this Year.
Mexican Ordinary Stock	16	15	29	+14
Do. 1st Preference Stock	67	64	104	+40
Do. 2nd Preference Stock	25	23	47	+24
Mexican Southern Ordinary Stock	39	40	68	+28
Do. 4 p.c. 1st Debs.	87	90	97	+ 7
Do. 4 p.c. 2nd Debs.	72	72	84	+12
Inter-Oceanic £10 Pref. Shares	3½	3½	5½	+ 2
Do. 7 p.c. "B" Debs.	63	63	102	+39
Do. 4½ p.c. 2nd Debs.	84	78	91	+13
National 4 p.c. Pref. Stock	41	39	43	+ 4
Do. 4 p.c. Gold Bonds	77	78	82	+ 4
Central Common Stock	11	11	18	+ 7
Do. 4 p.c. Cons. Gold Bonds	74	74	76	+ 2
Central Ry. Securities "A" Bonds	87	87	88	+ 1
Do. 4 p.c. "B" Bonds	61	61	60	- 1

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RHODESIANS FAIRLY STEADY—APPEARANCE OF THE NEW BANKET COMPANY—DETAILS OF THE PROPERTY—THE UNDESIRABLE PREMIUM—MARKET DISPLEASED—EXPLORATIONS LOWER—CHARTERED—OTHER LEADING SHARES STEADY—NORTHERN DESCRIPTIONS FIRM.

The political crisis naturally exercised an adverse influence in the Rhodesian market, which, in the wake of the Kaffir Circus, developed rather marked depression for some time, though a more confident feeling became noticeable towards the end, when values rapidly recovered, in the majority of cases, to about the previous week's closing levels. Being more speculative, the "banket" descriptions suffered acutely from profit-taking, which completely outweighed the demand, and it cannot be said that the new Banket Company, which has at last made its appearance after so many postponements, had a very auspicious birth, for it was first noticed during the darkest period of the political uncertainty. Starting at 2, the minimum figure at which they were to be placed upon the market, the price quickly hardened to 2¼ as the result of interested support, to relapse to 1⅞ almost immediately, though with the rest of the market they picked up again and finished at about 2½. As I have said before, the capital of the concern is £300,000, of which £80,000 is to be set aside for working expenses, and the vendors are to receive 210,000 shares and £10,000 in cash, with an option to take 30,000 more shares at a certain price. Over 900 claims, including the Eldorado, comprise the property, which is supposed to extend laterally between fifteen and twenty miles, and under an agreement entered into with the Exploration Company it becomes possessor of the latter Company's application for a grant of 10,000 acres upon which the Eldorado and adjoining properties are located, while the Exploration Company also undertakes to do its utmost to procure the construction of the requisite railway line to the Ayrshire mine, and also, if required, to get the Ayrshire Mine and Lomagunda Railway to enter into an agreement for the crushing of the ore. Beyond these details, which, by the by, cannot be given as authoritative, nothing is known of the Company, consequently the reprehensible method adopted of making a market in the shares is to be regretted. Responsibility to the public is evaded because a prospectus has been dispensed with, and the mere fact that there is some discontent in market circles, arising out of the premium of 100 per cent. placed upon the shares immediately they were introduced, ought to be sufficient to deter outsiders from meddling with them. Even if the £1 shares are worth £2—and it is exceedingly doubtful if they are, seeing that investigations to date are anything but exhaustive—the practice of introducing them at the fancy premium does not make for confidence, although, on the other hand, there are undoubtedly some misguided individuals who will be attracted solely by the imposition of that charge, believing, somewhat illogically perhaps, that if 100 per cent. was added to their nominal value at the outset they must be worth the money, and all this, too, despite the warnings of the past. Explorations slumped badly, but they contrived to make a little headway before the finish, and only show a loss of about ⅜ on the week. Lomagundas, on the other hand, keep tolerably steady. Chartered eased back slightly on realisations, the new shares being in more favour, but allowing for the deduction of the rights, the change in price is really insignificant. The proposal of the New Banket Company to utilise the Ayrshire for crushing the wonderful ores has led to more interest in shares of the latter concern, and most of the other leading descriptions keep steady. Among the Northern shares Tanganyikas and Zambesias had been in moderate request, and movements during the week have been mostly in favour of holders. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up. Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price. Oct. 29, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1¼	¼	¼
Bechuanaland Ex	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2½	1⅝	1¾
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4¼	1½	1⅝ xr
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	⅝	⅝
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 023	1	f.p.	⅛	6¾	⅝
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅝	⅝
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅞	1	1
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2¾	¼	
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	11⅛	11⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6¼	2⅜	2⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	1⅝	1⅝
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	⅛	⅛
N'rth'n Copper(U.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅝	3¼	3¼
Rhodesia, Ltd.....	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	11⅞	13/6	
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9¼	6¼	6⅛
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅜	⅜
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8¼	2⅝	2¾
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	⅛	⅛
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1⅛	1⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3½	3¾
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅝	¼	¼
United Rhodesia.....	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅜	⅜
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	5/-	
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅞	6/3	6/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅛	1⅜	1⅜

KAFFIRS REACT—A GOOD UNDERTONE AND A QUICK RECOVERY—"BEARS" LESS AGGRESSIVE—PARIS SUPPORTING—MORE PUBLIC BUYING—POINTS FOR PURCHASERS—MEDIUM PRICED SHARES—EASTERN RAND DESCRIPTIONS—GOLDFIELDS REPORT—DEEP LEVELS—THE LABOUR POSITION.

Like other markets Kaffirs started the week well, it not being believed that anything untoward would result from the Russian outrage in the North Sea. When the situation grew serious, there ensued an all-round decline in prices, and when it was announced that Russia had conceded all our demands, matters improved sharply, and are on balance a trifle higher. The period of suspense was brief, and momentarily the losses were considerable. But the undertone was much stronger than might have been inferred from the range of fluctuations. The fact is that there is not much of a "Bull" account open in Kaffirs, and stock is far from plentiful; and on the fall there were keen and adventurous speculators who took advantage of the depression to secure bargains. The "Bears" were less aggressive than usual, and Paris was much more confident of the outcome of the difficulty than a good many people here, and was actually a considerable buyer of the leading Kaffirs as well as of Foreign stocks, buying more at the most acute stage of the crisis than it had sold for fully a month previously. Rand Mines at the start on Friday were offered at 10⅝, and then declined to 10½, improved again to 10 11-16, but only to decline again to the opening price. East Rands began at 8 5-16 sellers, fell to 8¼ offered, and then kept round about 8 9-32. After dropping to 8 3-16 sellers, and hardening again to 8¼, they finished at 8 3-16. For Goldfields at one time there were sellers about at 6 23-32, but later a recovery to 6⅞ was recorded, and at the close the price was 6 27-32. Randfontein were offered at 3 3-32 and left off at 3⅛, and Modderfontein, after touching 9½, were finally quoted at 9⅝. These are typical of the movements throughout the market. On Saturday the recovery was marked all round, and it may be hoped that, now the tension is removed, we shall have a steady improvement and increased activity. More interest is being displayed in the market than has been witnessed for a long time past, and business on public account is growing. A number of good orders are coming from the provinces and the Continent is also a buyer. This is as it should be. For a long time past I have been pointing out the merits of Kaffirs as a speculative medium, on the grounds chiefly that the labour position ensures an early return of full prosperity to all the mines, and permits (or soon will permit) the full exploitation of many properties which have been restrained owing

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to the scarcity of hands, that prices have been reduced to a very tempting level by the disappointments of the last year or more, and that the introduction of tube mills and other devices means increased and more economical production. The leading houses are not giving any support worth speaking of—are, on the contrary, allowing the market to recover by itself without any of their ministering aid. Its recuperative qualities are undeniable, and in the end it may be all the more healthy for being left alone, though a little assistance would give it much encouragement. Whether the "shops" give support or not, Kaffirs are good for a steady improvement—always assuming, of course, that no untoward event arises to upset the whole of the Stock Exchange. My table shows the movements on the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 1/16	6	6 13/16	6⅞	6⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3 5/16	3⅞	4
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1 11/16	1 5/8	1 7/16	1 7/16
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 5/16	7/16	1/2	3/4	1/2
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1⅛	1⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2 3/16	2⅜	2 5/16	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5¼	5 1/16	5¼	5⅜
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅛	4 1/16	6⅜	7	7 1/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 15/16	1 13/16	1 15/16
Crown Reef	12⅞	18½	16¼	15¼	16	16½
De Beers Pref.	—	20¼	18¼	18⅛	18¼	18⅛
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18⅜	18	18¼
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4 15/16	4⅛	4 15/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 15/16	6¼	5¼	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	2⅛	2⅛
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	1 15/16	8 7/16	8¼
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅞	3/16	2/-	2/-	2/-
Ferreira	22	26	18	20⅞	21	21¼
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 1/16	1⅜	2 3/16	2 7/16
Geduld	—	9 13/16	5	6 5/16	6⅜	7
Ginsberg (New)	2¼	4⅜	⅝	2⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
Goch (New)	3¼	4⅜	2¼	3 1/16	3 5/16	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5¼	5 7/16	5⅜
,, Main Reef	1 13/16	⅞	¼	7/16	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1¼	1 1/16	1⅜	1 1/16
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 5/16	2 3/16	3	3 1/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16	1	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10¼	7⅜	8	8¼	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8⅞	3¼	3	3⅜	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27½	27	27
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2½	2¼	2 3/16	2 5/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1¼	1 5/16	1¼	1 5/16
,, Goldfields	—	1⅝	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅞
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4 7/16	4½	4 5/16
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2 5/16	3	3 1/16
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 5/16	1 3/16	1 5/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/8	1⅜	2 5/16	2½	2½
Knight's	11½	9 1/16	4⅜	6	6⅜	6⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 3/16	1⅜	⅝	1/2	¾	1
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 1/16	3⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2⅜	2½	2½
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¾	1 1/16	1⅜	1 15/16	2 1/16
May Consolidated	4 1/16	5 7/16	2¾	4	4	4 1/16
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¾	5 1/16	5¼	5¼
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14 3/16	7 11/16	9½	9¾	10 3/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1¼	1 5/16	1 5/16	1 3/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	7/-	17/-	17/-
Nigel	8 7/16	4	2⅜	2⅜	2 7/16	2 5/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1¼	1 25/32	1 29/32	2
New Comet	4¼	4	2	2⅜	2 25/32	3
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2 3/16	2 5/16	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅞	1 1/16	1 13/16	1 11/16	1⅜
Oceana Mineral	—	1 1/16	½	¾	½	½
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	½	¾	½	½
Primrose (New)	8 1/16	5 7/16	3 5/16	3 5/16	3⅜	3 1/16
Princess Estate	4½	2	15/16	1¼	1½	1 5/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3	3 5/16	3 5/32
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1 13/16	1⅞	1 15/16
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	1 11/16	1 13/16	1 15/16
,, North	—	2 1/16	1½	1⅞	2⅛	2¼
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	9 3/16	9¼	9⅜
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2¼	3 5/16	3⅝	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14 3/4	6½	8	8	8
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/8	9 1/16	4⅝	5 3/16	5 5/16	5 5/32
Sheba	2⅞	1 13/16	11/3	—	—	6/9
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅞	1 15/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/9	11/6	11/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3 1/16	3 5/16	3 1/16	3 3/32
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2 5/16	24/-	1 13/16	1 23/32	1 15/16
Transvaal Explng.	—	⅜	¼	6/6	6/9	7/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4½	4 3/16	4½
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4 1/16	2½	4	4 1/16	4 1/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅛	6½	6⅝	6⅞
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	3	2 15/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1½	1½	1⅝
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6⅜	6½	6 11/16	7⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	13/32	27/32	27/32
,, (New)	—	2⅞	11/16	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 5/16
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅜	3½	3⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1 5/8	1 7/8	1½

* £5 shares.

In addition to the leading shares there has been an upward movement in most of the more moderate priced descriptions, which are worthy of attention on a rising market, because they move more rapidly proportionately than the "heavy weights," even though they be not so quick to respond to generally favourable influences. In this connection my table of medium priced shares is worth repeating:—

—	Record Price.	Highest, 1902.	Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
Anglo French	7⅜	5 13/16	4
Barnato Consolidated	5 1/16	4⅛	2⅝
Comet	4¾	4	3
Ginsberg	4⅜	4⅛	2¾
Goerz & Co.	4 3/16	4 3/16	3 1/16
Glencairn	4⅞	2⅜	1 7/16
Johannesburg Cons. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2 5/32
Langlaagte Estates	7¼	5 1/16	3 1/16
May Consol	6 1/16	5 1/16	4 1/16
New Goch	4⅜	4¾	3 3/16
New Primrose	8 5/16	5 1/16	3 1/16
Oceana	2⅞	2⅜	1⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4⅛	3 3/32
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 15/16
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1 13/16
Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	2⅜
Roodepoort United	8¼	4⅞	3⅜
Simmer and Jack	*24¼	2⅜	1 15/16
Transvaal Est. and Devel.	2 5/16	2 5/16	1 1/16
,, G. Mining Estates	8⅜	3 1/16	2 1/16
,, Goldfields	6⅜	3¼	2⅜
Treasury	6⅜	6⅜	4½
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2¾	1½

* Reconstructed in 1895.

The shares of companies working on the Far Eastern Rand have been in considerable request, especially Welgedachts, T.C.L.s, and Geduldes; and Transvaal Gold Mining Estates are being bought. There is good support also for Van Dyks, which were brought out under the auspices of Messrs. Goerz last week, and another newcomer, New South Rand, has also been favoured. You cannot improve upon the leading shares, of course, and among these Goldfields should be good for a further improvement. The dividend of 2s. 6d. per share, or 12½ per cent. for the year to June, is quite satisfactory, and the fact that anything at all is to be paid in face of a smaller profit than last year, when nothing was distributed, is of good augury. The report is very encouraging. The realised net profit on the year's operations, after deducting Debenture interest and all outgoings, shows a balance of £383,226, out of which the dividend on the Preference shares, income tax, and French Government taxes, have been provided, leaving £282,865, which, with the amount brought forward from last year, viz., £1,976,949, shows a total balance of £2,259,814. After paying the dividend, on the 2,000,000 Ordinary shares, £2,009,814 will remain to be carried forward. In addition to the realised profit, the Company's share investments (apart from any appreciation in value on properties and ventures) show on current market prices a further large unrealised profit. In the matter of capital the Directors are able to assure the shareholders that, whilst some of the sub-companies will need more money, partly owing to the extra initial cost of employing Chinese, to reach the crushing stage than was originally contemplated, they anticipate that those Companies will find no difficulty in providing such additional funds as labour becomes available for economical use. The Directors speak favourably of the Chinese. They say that "The information received as to the Chinese coolies, their industry, their intelligence in adapting themselves to working under what must be to a large majority of them new conditions of labour, their amenability, general good behaviour, and other qualities, is most encouraging. Difficulties which, it was anticipated, might be experienced as regards their intercourse with the Kaffir labourer have not been found to exist, and there is every reason to suppose that Chinaman and Kaffir will work harmoniously together on the same property." In the Diamond group, De Beers have again been dull, but Premiers have been in request, and have risen to 43¾. A comparatively good inquiry has sprung

up for some of the Deep Levels, including Rand Victoria, Jupiter, and Simmer West. This group, which has not received as much attention as the outcrop and land company shares, is likely to be taken in hand soon, and ought to be looked at:—

—	1900.	1902-03.		Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
	High'st.	High.	Lowest.			
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1 13/16	1 15/16	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	1 3/16	1	½	5/16	5/16	5/16
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2 7/16	2½	2½
Crown Deep	13½	18¼	12	12¼	12⅜	12⅜
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 3/16	2	2⅜	2⅜	2 1/16
Ferreira Deep	6⅛	8½	5	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Glen Deep	5	6 7/16	3⅞	4½	4⅜	4 5/16
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅞	12½	8⅜	11½	11⅝	11⅝
Jumpers Deep	5½	6¼	3½	4⅝	4 7/16	4 7/16
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3	3 1/16	3½
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4 7/16	2½	2½	2 5/16	2 7/16
Lancaster	3⅜	3 9/16	2	2 1/16	2⅛	2⅛
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2 5/16	2 5/16	2 5/16
New Steyn Estates	2 11/16	5 1/16	2⅛	3 7/16	3⅛	3 1/16
Nourse Deep	5¼	6¾	3½	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Nigel Deep	⅜	1 13/16	5/16	⅝	⅝	9/16
Rand Victoria	3 3/16	4⅞	2⅜	2½	2 7/16	2 9/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 9/16	4½	5 5/16	5 5/16	5 5/16
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 5/16	2⅜	4 3/16	4 7/16	4½
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¾	8 5/16	8 5/16	8½
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅝	1 15/16	1 15/16	1 15/16
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1 15/16	2	2 1/16
South Geld. Deep	3⅞	4⅜	2 3/16	2½	2 3/16	2 3/16
Simmer and Jack East	3 15/16	4 13/16	3½	2	2 5/16	2 3/8
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5 5/8	2⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅝	2⅜	1⅛	13/16	⅞	⅞
Witwatersrand Deep	2 15/16	4 1/8	2 1/16	3 1/8	3 3/16	3 5/16

In the matter of labour, the Transvaal Chamber of Mines has issued a cablegram from Johannesburg stating that on the 26th ult. 13,000 Chinese coolies were on the Rand, while 6,438 are in transit, and likely to arrive by the 30th November. The *Courtfield*, it was added, had sailed on the 21st ult. to take up the batch of labourers temporarily left on the island of Seraia after the stranding of the *Swanley* on the 3rd inst.

West Africans Dull—Movements Generally Downwards—Ashanti Goldfields Weak—Market Uninteresting—Miscellaneous Mines—Copper Shares Active—British Columbians Firm—Etruscans Slump—Indian Gold Mines—Egyptians Steady.

Dulness has characterised the Jungle during the past week, and although there has been a fair amount of animation, the depression which spread from other sections as a result of the political outlook naturally affected a market which is being obviously manipulated by insiders alone. Prices sagged away slowly in most cases, the exception being Ashanti Goldfields, which reacted sharply, and although there was a pretence at a recovery later on, losses on the week easily preponderate. The somewhat optimistic utterances of the Governor of the Gold Coast, to which I referred last week, have seemingly lost all the importance attached to them by the professional element, and the gentle hint given as a sort of a tonic a short time ago, that the Wassau costs were being considerably reduced, has also ceased to be murmured, so that in default of any interesting developments very little is to be said of the market. My usual table of prices follows:—

—	Capital.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.				
	£		£			
Ashanti Goldfields (4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	4/6 dis
Ashanti Sansu M'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/6	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 3/16	1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1½	1
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	7/8
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16
Hiran Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	9/-
Obuasasi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/6	12/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1½	1½
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1½	1 1/16

In the Miscellaneous section copper shares remain active and buoyant, as a result of a better outlook for the metal, and at the close there is vigorous bidding for Rio Tintos, the price at one time touching 60, though it finally closed at 59¾. Wall Street is still handling Anacondas, and they show a fair appreciation on balance, and Capes have hardened. British Columbians received more support, including Camp Birds and Le Rois. Etruscans have slumped away to as low as 2s. 6d., even at which figure there are more sellers than buyers, and a great deal of interest is being evinced at the outcome of the meeting this week, where a proposal will be put for the reconstruction of the concern. At the start Indian gold-mining shares continued their upward move, but a halt was called later on, and the improvements in prices are consequently only trifling. In the Charters Tower group a rumour that work had been resumed after the stoppage caused by the fire led to an improvement in Brilliant and St. George, and among silver shares Broken Hill Props. are steadier. Egyptian remain firm, Nile Valleys being helped by the announcement that in the No. 1 shaft the vein is 3 ft. wide, and in the winze 2 ft., both showing visible gold, while it is said that the machinery remains efficient, and that the pumps can easily control the water. Among New Zealanders, Waihis were temporarily helped by gossip concerning a better dividend, but, accompanied by Grand Junctions, they weakened towards the close:—

	1902-3.		Make-up, Oct. 24.	Closing Price, Oct. 29.
	Highest.	Lowest.		
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3⅜	5 1/16	5½
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	15/10½	16/6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1½	42/-	43/-
Cape Copper	5	2	4½	4½
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	1 1/16	1 1/16
Le Roi	4⅜	⅝	¾	¾
Mason and Barry	4½	3½	3	3
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	10/3	11/-
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5 1/16	6 7/16	6⅜
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	3 1/16	3½
Nundydroog	2 13/16	1⅜	35/3	36/6
Ooregum	2⅞	21/9	17/3	19/6
Rio Tinto	53 9/16	38¾	58⅞	59¼
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Waihi Gold	6½	4 15/16	5⅛	5 5/16

Westralians Steadier—"Bear" Failure—The Shortage of Oroyas—A Chance of Better Market Conditions—Fingalls Strong—Horseshoes and Ivanhoes Higher—Other Leading Shares Firm—"Little Kangaroos" Idle.

There is still very little public interest manifested in the West Australian mining section, but, making due allowance for the prevailing political influence, the tendency during the past week has been very satisfactory. A shortage of stock at the carry-over resulted in a little "Bear" squeezing and a consequent spurt in values, and, despite some spasmodic profit-taking, nearly all the leading shares show some gain on balance. The failure of a firm of "Bear" operators, brought about by the default of a large colonial client, who had occupied most of his energies in banging Oroyas was not without some slight beneficial effect, and it is thought that this last mistake of the fraternity will improve the market position and act as a deterrent to any reckless selling in the market in the future. House gossip had it that the concern in question was short of over 20,000 Oroyas shares, of which 15,000 were on account of the colonial operator, and in order to show the full significance of the recent attack on the mine it may be remarked that between forty and fifty thousand of the shares had to be bought back during the week previous to the account. It is now thought that the whole campaign has fizzled out, though in some quarters other opinions prevail. Fingalls continue on the upgrade almost consistently, the improvement being helped by advices from the property, which seem to indicate that the developments are progressing satisfactorily, the ore on the No. 11 level averaging about 34 dwt. over 8 ft., while the value of the reef cut in the shaft at the depth of 1,258 ft. is approximated at 7 dwt. Horseshoes hold their ground well, and, despite a slight set-back,

close with a substantial gain; and more attention has been paid to Ivanhoes, which, after experiencing a sharp relapse on profit-taking, turned on the up grade again just as quickly, and are higher than a week ago. Associated keep tolerably steady, and, helped by "Bear" covering, Perseverance and Great Boulders have hardened, while Sons of Gwalia remain fairly buoyant. The "Little Kangaroos" came in for hardly any attention. My usual table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3 High.	1902-3 Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7/9	3⅜	1	1⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 5/16	1 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Brownhill Ext.	3½	1⅞	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/3	7/-	7/3
Golden Horseshoe	15/-	11/3	7	6 13/16	7⅛	7⅛
Golden Link	3⅛	15/3	6/-	3/6	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	19/6	20/-	21/-
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1⅛	8 6	4/3	4/6	5/
Do. Perseverance	18½	1 15/16	1⅛	13/-	12/9	13/6
Do. South	2⅛	1⅛	⅜	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅝	9 3/16	5 1/16	7⅜	8 7/16	8 7/16 xd
Hainault	1⅞	⅞	½	1/2	3/16	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	5/-	4/9	4/6
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10½	6⅛	7⅜	7 15/16	8 xd
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/2	9/16	15/16	21/32	⅝
Kalgurli	9⅜	4½	2 3/16	5 3/16	5⅝	6
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅛	1⅜	1 5/16	1½	1 5/16 xd
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 3/16	1 3/16	¼	8/0	8/6	8 6
North Kalgurli	1 3/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/9	6/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3 1/16	3⅜	3 1/16
Peak Hill	5⅜	2 3/16	⅝	7/16	4/6	5/16
Sons of Gwalia	6 3/16	2 7/16	1	1 15/16	2	2
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¾	1 3/16	1 3/16	1½
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 15/16	⅝	⅝	13/32	⅝

An Echo of Texas Oil Securities.

A concern which calls itself the Financial Investigation Bureau, and says that it is associated with the Burgess Agency, has been writing from 31-32, King William-street, E.C., to the people who were defrauded over the Texas Oil Securities Company and its successor, the Indian Territory Oil Fields, Limited. This investigation Bureau tells the dupes that it has for some time past been engaged in investigating this Texas Oil Securities affair, and is firmly of the opinion that "if it be taken up quickly and the united pressure of all concerned brought to bear upon the principal party responsible, a great part, if not all, of the money expended will be recovered without the expensive and tedious process of an action in the Courts." The Bureau has in its possession the whole facts of the case from its inception, and will be glad to place its service at your disposal. But, first of all, you must become a subscriber at three guineas for the first year, two guineas for the second, and one guinea for the third and each succeeding year. It will be remembered that in the summer I—who also have in my possession the whole facts of the case—dealt at some length with the latest developments of this Texas Oil Securities Swindle, and pointed out, what the Financial Investigation Bureau pointed out sometime later, that the transfer of the undertaking to the Indian Territory Oil Fields was another move in the game for covering up the tracks. The Bureau, actuated possibly by the wish to secure subscription fees, has been persistent in its attentions to the Texas Oil Securities' shareholders, and those who failed to respond to the first invitation to take advantage of its knowledge were approached again later, and urged to join on the ground that it was in a position to give "most valuable information" in regard to the Indian Territory concern, and that it was most desirable that every shareholder should, for his, or her, own protection, take advantage of its offer. The "most valuable information," sent along with a receipt for three guineas to one lady, was that the shares in the Indian Territory Oil Fields are liable to an assessment of 10 per cent. whenever the Directors see fit to levy same, and it was added that if the lady knew of any one disposed to relieve her of her holding, it would be advisable to part with it. On the subject of recovering the money invested, the Bureau has nothing more than this to say: "We are endeavouring to secure the support of all of the shareholders, as our actions will then have much more weight; but if they do not all join, we shall proceed on behalf of those who have, and in this connection, we hope to be able to advise you definitely in a short time." I have advised the lady concerned not to worry about any assessment which may be made by the Directors of the Indian Territory Oil Fields, but to regard her money as lost. The Financial Investigation Bureau may, as it claims, be actuated by the most noble of motives, but I do not regard its advice as worth three guineas, and if it possesses the knowledge which it claims of the affairs of the concern, it must know that there is no chance of getting any money back. The best it can do would be to land in prison the tools of the American adventurer who has swindled the English people out of many thousands of pounds in connection with the Texas Oil Securities, Dominion Oil, and other very bad "ramps."

New Issue.

The following prospectus has been published:—

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.—Issue of £600,000 Five per Cent. Preference stock at par. Besides ranking for 5 per cent. the stock will participate with the Ordinary after the latter has received a similar distribution. For the convenience of subscribers—preference being given to Ordinary shareholders—the instalments will be spread over the next eleven months.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Deesa.—I should choose Cape Three and a Half per Cent., Johannesburg Four per Cent., and Water Board stocks. *M. A. F.*—1. Chinese Fives, Japanese Sixes, Mexican Fives, Chilians, and B.A. Water will meet your requirements. 2. The office you name is a good one. *H. R. J.*—I have before explained that I cannot recommend a purchase of Japanese Fours, for the reason that the country will have to raise more loans for the prosecution of the war, and apart altogether from the question of default (which is quite remote according to present indications) the price of the bonds is likely to go lower. You may as well come in as near the bottom as possible. *Outhray.*—You had better put the money into Egyptian State Domain bonds, Chinese Fives, and Argentine Funding bonds, which will give a reasonably safe 5 per cent. on the average. *Puzzled.*—The brokers are right. The bonds were quoted 67 per cent. paid. *Beaulieu.*—1. Your Argentine stocks should be held at least until details of the unification proposals are published. 2. If the rate of interest be lowered the price of redemption will be higher, so that you cannot very well lose. *Andrew Douglas.*—Cape Town, Johannesburg, or Egyptian State Domain stocks would suit you. The yield is 4 per cent., and you need not worry for the security of your principal. *Lincop.*—You cannot obtain 5 per cent. with absolute safety. The stocks recommended to "Andrew Douglas" above are attractive. If you want 5 per cent. try Chinese and Mexican Fives.

Railways.

Ambulator.—You have a good profit on your Canadian Pacifics, but I hold the shares as worth keeping for investment unless you prefer to realise. In that event try one of the lesser known Argentine railways to which I drew attention a fortnight ago, or one of the Mexicans to which I refer this week. Cordoba and Rosario Preference stock should be good for at least another 10 point rise. It is talked up to 140, and you may have noticed that the directors have, in respect of the first half of this year, set aside the full interest on the Second Preference stock, which is to be distributed among holders of the existing Preference. *Careful.*—Salvador Railway Prior Lien Debentures are fairly good but I do not think Bolivar Railway Preference shares would suit you. *Andrew.*—Invest the proceeds in one of the Mexican railway stocks to which I refer this week. *Rolyat.*—1. Great Westerns

are a good purchase. 2. As you have a good profit on the New York Centrals you had better take it. You should be able to buy again before long at a lower level. *J. Walker.*—Grand Trunk Guaranteed is a reasonably safe stock.

MINES.

Zungeru.—You might hold on to the Rhodesia Explorations until you see your way to get out with a profit. The shares should go to 7 or 7½. Matabele Reefs and Jubilees might be kept for a better Kaffir market. Sell the West African and buy French Rands. *X. L.*—1. No information has come from the property for a year or more. 2. El Oros ought to be kept. 3. I should sell Ymirs, as there is little prospect of an early improvement. *Hillerup.*—S. A. Gold Trusts, Goldfields Deferred, Henry Nourse, and General Mining and Finance are the most promising of those suggested. *H. N. L.*—There is not much interest in Anacondas on this side since the Amalgamated Copper Company secured control. There are more hopeful purchases. *Tommy.*—1. Elandsdrifts are hardly worth keeping, Orova Brownhills are good for a respectable rise. *Widow.*—Transvaal Exploring, Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, and Johannesburg Consolidated Investments. *Glencoe.*—1. Average on Porges, Randfontein, and Hendersons. Boston Coppers are worth holding on to. 2. Cloverfields, British Transvaal Mines, and Transvaal Estates, with Niekirks for profit of a few shillings. *Cigar.*—1 and 2. Hold for 3. You are justified in looking for higher prices along with other Kaffirs. The Company is one of more than a little promise, and is speculatively interesting. 3. Hold for, say, 2. The Company is boring and ought soon to touch the reef. 4. Better get out, and place the proceeds in General Minings and Finance. *Frank.*—I do not advise a purchase of Le Rois, but Camp Birds are an attractive share. *Copper.*—The shares are a promising venture, if you care to hold for a time. *Simla.*—Ivanhoes, Oroyas, and Great Fingalls are good. They give a high yield, and have large reserves. Horseshoes might also be bought. *Hare.*—Tintos should go higher, to the extent of a pound or two. The shares are full of dividend, and the copper trade is very active, while there is no inconsiderable "Bear" account in them. *Walter.*—It would be inadvisable to sell Hendersons at present. The talk of more capital is keeping them back, but the directors have denied publicly that a fresh issue is contemplated, and the shares should go better with other Kaffirs. *W. N. M.*—Everything depends upon the development work. The mine is now in good hands, but the prospects are dubious. I should be inclined to realise and go into Oroyas or Kalgurlis. *Bob.*—Not much is known about the mine here, and I cannot obtain a quotation. *Triton.*—1. Hainaults ought to improve. A dividend has been foreshadowed for about the end of the year. 2. I understand that the concern deals fairly by its clients, but I can say no more. *Elgén.*—1. Do not join the proposed action against the directors; the liability is not limited to 6d. per share. 2. French Rands, Randfonteins, Johnnies, General Mining, and Finance and Gold Trusts. *Myrtle.*—Harmony Props are a fair gamble. *Ajax.*—Hold for some improvement, but if the shares continue to lag behind, exchange into Oroyas. *W. Cunnah.*—Llanglaagte Estates should be kept for a profit with more active conditions in the Kaffir market, which, as you will have seen, is waking up. *Gasne.*—Both shares will give you a profit if you can afford to hold on. *Colchester.*—The Velvet (Rossland) Mine was taken over by the Velvet Portland Mine at the beginning of this year. Write to the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Stearns, 23, Leadenhall-street, E.C. *J. H. B.*—The advice does not come from a reliable source.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sparkbrook.—I have a very poor opinion of the stability of the concern in question, and would recommend you to take no notice of the entreaties of the agents. *P.A.T.*—Your holdings are worth keeping, but I should not advise a further purchase. *Nemo.*—Nothing has appeared in TRUTH against the gentleman alluded to. *Luie, Sydenham.*—Try the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Society. *Dental, Willesden.*—Breweries are out of favour just now, and the American concern mentioned is too highly speculative for you, in any case. *Jones, Rhos.*—You would do much better by leaving the concern alone. Altogether too "showy," and I have repeatedly had occasion to warn readers against entrusting it with their money. *A. C.*—The Corporation ought to have a fairly good future. The 15s. paid Ordinary shares command about ⅝ only. *Kobodah.*—No good; leave it alone, and put your money into some reputable concern. *A Reader of* TRUTH.—If you want the bonds, I would recommend you to communicate with N. Keizer and Co., 20, Threadneedle-street, E.C., rather than either of the two Companies named. *Guarantee.*—Practically safe for both interest and principal. *S. W. H., Bury.*—My best thanks for enclosures. *Binstinct.*—The Century is to be preferred of the two. *Parson, Richmond.*—London and India Deferred stock is the more attractive because the last quarter return of tonnage shows a satisfactory increase, and on the half-yearly showing there is a good chance of the full 4 per cent. being paid, making the yield on present price about 5 per cent. *H. H., Hunstanton.*—No. 1 is worth keeping, and No. 3 is a fairly good industrial, but you ought to get rid of No. 2, as the concern is in a bad way. *Enquiry, Harrogate.*—The society is a reliable one, and the securities offered are quite safe. *Araby.*—I regret I am not in a position to advise you on the subject, as I do not know enough about the concern. *D. G., Londonderry.*—I do not recommend dealings with any outside brokers, and certainly not with the establishment mentioned. *Anxious, Brighton.*—Both are safe enough, but I prefer Robinson and Cleaver. *Gamma.*—I am sending the address of the Paris solicitor who will take up the matter for you. *Monmouth.*—I do not recommend transactions with outside brokers. No. 3 is the best. *John Edward.*—One of the lowest types of bucket-shops, against which I had occasion to deal at length only a fortnight ago. Leave it severely alone if you have any regard for your money. *Inverness-shire.*—Sell No. 1. The second is worth keeping. *Miles.*—It is a pity that you have not the honesty to sign your name to your communication. *Kampfer.*—You would be well advised to leave the concern alone. *Solomon.*—The general opinion is that the Corporation is not built on a sound basis. *Dawes.*—It would not be wise for you to take out the bond as the concern is not a sound one. *Avanti.*—My thanks for the enclosure. Not safe, and you would do well to leave it alone. *Derby.*—I have frequently had occasion to warn readers against Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. Their charges for the bonds are exorbitant, and you can do far better at home. Many of the bonds are practically worthless. N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., will probably oblige you with a price list on request. *Hammond.*—I drew attention to the "wonderful" scheme of the London and New York Exchange only a fortnight ago. Have no dealings with it. *Violette.*—Lyons make a fairly safe holding, and at the present price return about 7¼ per cent.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Ignoramus.—1. You might sell, and buy the Company's Ordinary shares, which are likely to have a rise of 8 or 10 points within the next few months. At the current price the yield is 4½ per cent., and you have the prospect of an improvement in capital value. 2. The shares are worth holding as an investment since they are reasonably safe, and bring in about 5 per cent. *X. Y. X.*—1. National Telephone Deferred stock is worth keeping for dividends and a possible Government purchase. 2. Eastern Telegraphs are to be preferred to Anglo-American Ordinary, and, besides, they yield more. 3. Mexican Southerns are the most attractive. I have a special article in this issue on the subject of these and other Mexicans. 4. India General Navigation Preference shares are all right. *Ebor.*—1. They are a doubtful bargain. 2. Dunderland Iron Ore shares make an attractive purchase. The Company will be producing within a year, and apparently there is a big market for its productions. 3. Australian Pastoral shares do not strike me as attractive. For a speculative investment Dunderlands are to be preferred. *Bayswater.*—1. London United Tramways Ordinary shares are worth holding for higher prices following upon the progress of the undertaking. 2. Beyer Peacock Preference shares are moderately attractive. 3. You obtained the Fine Cotton Spinners at a fair price, and as the cotton industry is improving, the shares should go higher. 4. I can find out nothing about the concern. *H. B. W.*—1. Brighton Preferred Ordinary and Mid land Preferred are attractive. 2. Lyons Preference and Robinson and Cleaver Preference. 3. Edmundson's Electricity Ordinary shares are quite a fair industrial holding, and likely to improve rather than go back. *Cheltenham.*—1. I should be inclined to sell. 2. Southern Railway shares may go to 40 if the big Wall Street operators can keep the game moving briskly, but the risks are considerable. *Parrot.*—1. The philanthropist is one to be avoided. 2. Aerated Breads might be bought on the fall. 3. Martin Earle Debentures seem good to keep. 4. Hold for a further rise. *A. B. C., Bengal.*—I should be inclined to sell the Willans and Robinson shares, but the others are good holdings. *Green.*—I should choose Union Bank of Australia, Standard of South Africa, Natal "A," and Bank of Egypt. *Nikola.*—1-5, I regret that I am not sufficiently acquainted with the concerns to advise you. They are not much known outside Dublin and Belfast. 6. The insurance concern is a new one and doubtful. You can do better. *Birchington.*—1. The shares are unattractive. 2. Ilfords might be bought but not the other. *Juvenis.*—1. Mexican Ordinary have had a big rise already. Try one of the other Mexican Railway stocks referred to by me this week. 2. Barneys and Robinson South African Banks should be held. The other is a mere gamble. 3. I see little attraction in Salisbury Buildings. 4. The Mexican Fives ought to go higher since the recently issued Fours were placed so well. *Dick.*—1-4. These are good, and should reach a higher level. 5. I do not know the concern. *Nemo.*—1. A purchase of Cuban Centrals should turn out well. 2. I should sell rather than buy more to average. *Saxon.*—All three might be held for some recovery in price.

INDUSTRIALS LESS ACTIVE—THE EFFECT OF THE WAR SCARE—TRUST STOCKS KEEP PROMINENT—HUDSON'S BAYS ERRATIC—IRON AND STEEL DESCRIPTIONS FIRM—SPURT IN ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPHS—J. AND P. COATS' RESULTS—JAMES NELSONS HARDEN AND RELAPSE—"BUNSHOPS" IDLE—BREWERIES LESS DEPRESSED—TRACTION SHARES STEADY.

It was only to have been expected that the renewal of public interest in this section which has been gradually increasing week by week recently should receive a temporary check from the disturbing political developments, but although the nervousness was marked, the tendency on the whole cannot be described as having been very unsatisfactory. There has been a lack of bright spots, it is true, but there is no ground for complaint at the steady investment demand for Trust stocks, in which movements have been persistently upwards. Gas, Water, and General Investment Trust

Preferred stock jumped up four points to 67½, and Alliance Investment issues were also in request, while Atlas Debenture hardened a couple of points to 90, and Mercantile Investment, Foreign and Colonial Trust, Anglo-American Debenture Corporation, amongst many others, received a fair amount of attention. Hudson's Bays moved erratically, the inevitable profit-taking causing a rather sharp set-back, but some good buying towards the close brought about an improvement to 48¾. Iron and Steel shares have withstood the prevailing influences rather well, the armament descriptions receiving some stimulus from the possibility of a war, and Vickers and Armstrongs are steadier, though the former is not at the best. Walter Scotts advanced fractionally, and there was some demand for Robert Stephenson issues, all of which are a trifle higher on balance. Weardale Iron and North British Locomotives keep firm, but Pease and Partners, together with Ebbw Vales, have reacted slightly. In the Telegraph division Anglo-American issues spurted upwards, the support being induced by the activity of the American railway market, it being suggested that this would materially add to the profits of the Company, but the whole of the improvement was not maintained. Easterns gained a little ground, and National Telephone Deferred and Preferred were inclined to strengthen on some investment inquiry. Textiles have not been quite so steady apart from J. and P. Coats, in which considerable activity was induced by the anticipated results for the year to June last. These proved to be about equal to market expectations, some allowance having been discreetly made for the depression which has until recently prevailed in the cotton trade, and the shares finish only slightly easier. The net profit aggregated £2,583,100, or just a little more than £100,000 below the earnings for the previous year, and except for the suspense account, to which nothing is added, possibly owing to the shrinkage alluded to, the usual allocations are unaltered, the £700,000 to reserve and the £50,000 to the employés' pension fund being the same as before, while for depreciation the sum of £40,600 is appropriated, as against £37,000, and the carry forward is more than £66,000 better at £486,000. Bradford Dyers keep steady on more buying from the North, but Calico Printers show a slight loss and Fine Spinners are a trifle easier. In the Meat class James Nelsons were prominent at one time, and hardened to 23s., though they subsequently relapsed on the dividend announcement stating that the arrears on the First and Second Preference shares would be paid to the end of 1903, which seems to imply that the Company is achieving better results from its retail shops. Eastmans continue firm, and Imperial Cold Storage keep tolerably steady, but River Plate Meats have experienced a set-back, while Liptons are also easier. "Bunshops" have been mostly idle, Lyons being practically unchanged, but some dulness has been noticeable in Aerated Breads and British Tea Tables. There are still no indications of any changed attitude on the part of outsiders in regard to brewery descriptions, but the pressure to sell stock which has been in evidence recently is less marked, and the tendency is somewhat steadier, though it must be allowed that losses on the week easily preponderate. Ind, Coope B Debentures, and Hoare Debentures lost further ground, and small losses have occurred in City of London Irredeemable Debentures, Benskin's Watford Preference, and Colchester Debentures, while Huggins issues remain a weak spot. On the other hand, there was a slight rally in Watney, Combe, Reid descriptions, and Newcastle Brewery stocks. In the American group Indianapolis and Chicago issues hardened, and Denver United Debentures rose three points to 95½; and while Bieckert stocks, though less active, exhibited a firmer tendency, the prosperity in Argentina being in their favour. Dock stocks were neglected, but India Preferred and Deferred kept tolerably steady, and Millwalls, which have been on the down grade recently, picked up. In the traction group British Electric Debentures came in for some attention, and London General Omnibus scored a slight gain, while support was still forthcoming for Anglo-Argentine Trams, and to a lesser degree for B. A. and Belgrano Preferred. Nitrates displayed a less firm appearance, but movements generally have been within narrow limits. Among the more miscellaneous things in this section Gramophones reacted on the report, but Welsbach issues were inclined to be harder on the announcement that the outstanding Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debentures will be redeemed in February next. Linotypes eased back to their former level, and Sweetmeat Automatics reacted sharply on another unsatisfactory return for last week.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE CALCULATIONS OF THOMAS GODWIT.

THOMAS GODWIT was a clerk in the employ of Greenmead, Jecks, and Co., solicitors, of Old Broad-street, E.C., at a salary of £2 15s. a week.

In appearance he was a remarkably handsome young man. But Nature, which had lavished her gifts so freely on his outward form, had been correspondingly niggard in dealing with his inward character. He was vain, conceited, selfish, cold-blooded, and heartless. Of generosity, in any shape, he was incapable. To do a good turn to any other human being than Thomas Godwit would never have occurred to him; or if it had occurred, would have been instantly rejected. In short, a mean, calculating selfishness was the dominant note in the character of this very unamiable young man. However, he wrote an exceptionally fine copper-plate hand, and could engross against any one. So his employers—who, naturally, only regarded him from the business standpoint—had no reason to be otherwise than perfectly satisfied with him.

His fellow-clerks, however, were unanimous in their dislike of Thomas Godwit. His conceit moved their derision, and his calculating meanness their disgust. He was always ready to accept their hospitality in the shape of a lunch, a drink, or a smoke, but generally managed to evade reciprocating it. Moreover, the advantage which his handsome presence gave him with the lady typists, barmaids, waitresses, and other females of their common acquaintance did not add to his popularity among his fellow-clerks. They were not indeed, more jealous than the average run of young men, but it vexed them to find themselves cut out by a mean worm of a creature like Thomas Godwit, who had nothing whatever to recommend him but his face and figure.

And, in truth, Godwit was successful with the women. Of that there was no doubt. He made many conquests, and was not backward in boasting of them. But here again his cautious, calculating disposition became apparent. No affair of the heart was going to betray him into indiscretion. He was not going to ruin his prospects by any serious entanglement. He would flirt and trifle with any number of female admirers, but give them any handle against himself—no, thank you. He meant to wait until he found a girl with money before he allowed himself to do any serious love-making. Then, if she had enough money, he was perfectly ready to compromise himself; not before. His wife must be a pecuniary acquisition, not a financial burden. As for love in a maisonette, he was not taking any. He did not believe in love, and he thought scorn of maisonettes. The only marriage worth entertaining, in his opinion, was a marriage that secured a fine villa residence, a good establishment of servants, and plenty of spare cash.

So reasoned the handsome Thomas Godwit in his ignominious soul, and, ere long, he was successful in his search. He found Amelia Summerhays. Amelia Summerhays was the daughter of Summerhays, the publisher, a man who occupied a good social

position and was unquestionably well-off. Godwit had precise information of the latter fact, for Summerhays was a client of Greenmead, Jecks, and Co., and to Godwit had fallen the task of engrossing his will. By that document it was apparent that the publisher was worth, at the least, £60,000; and, further, that the bulk of this fortune was devised to his only daughter, Amelia.

From that moment, Godwit resolved within himself to secure Amelia Summerhays, and he managed to make her acquaintance and to steal her affections. Amelia was very young and very simple. So that, in her guileless impulsiveness, she fell the easier victim to the physical attractions of her handsome admirer, They became engaged.

At least, so the young people averred. Summerhays the father denied it. He was, in fact, furiously angry about the whole thing, declaring that Amelia, being still a minor, could not be engaged without his consent; and he would see himself somewhere before he would sanction her engagement to one who was so unequal to her, both in position and fortune, as this designing jackanapes of a solicitor's clerk.

He expressed himself to Godwit in plain terms, and forbade him the house. He commanded Amelia, under pain of his mortal displeasure, to hold no further communication with the fellow. Amelia wept and pleaded. The silly girl was very much in love with Godwit. But Summerhays remained obdurate. And Amelia, I am sorry to say, when she found that she could not gain her father's permission to communicate with Godwit, stooped to deception and disobedience, and carried on a clandestine correspondence with him. She assured him that she would never give him up—never—and Godwit, on his side, professed an equally undying fidelity. Fidelity, you see, in this case conduced to his material interests. So he worked the sentiment for all it was worth.

How matters might have ended I cannot say, had it not been for a paralytic stroke that, about this time, overtook old William Sinkins, the Brondesbury miser. Sinkins lived in a small house in that suburb with his niece, Hannah Jones, who looked after him and kept house for him. A terrible niggard was this Sinkins, who, despite his wealth, which was estimated to run into six figures, denied himself all the luxuries, and most of the comforts, of life in order to gratify his passion for saving money; and this was the more absurd, since he was an old man, with but few years, at the most, to live, and with no near relative in the world to whom to leave his wealth except his niece Hannah, for whom a tithe of his fortune would have been ample and liberal provision.

In point of fact, William Sinkins had not made a will, nor troubled his head at all about the disposal of his money, when, at the age of seventy-six, he had the paralytic stroke just mentioned. Then disturbed, for the first time in his life, by the apprehension of his approaching end, he bethought himself of his testamentary dispositions, and sent for Mr. Jecks (of Greenmead, Jecks, and Co.)—who had acted for him in the few matters in which he had been obliged to incur the expense of legal assistance—to come and make his will.

In compliance with this request, Mr. Jecks went down to Brondesbury, and, having taken a note of his client's instructions, brought the document back to the office to be drafted and engrossed in due form.

To Thomas Godwit, who did most of the firm's engrossing, fell the latter task; and his mouth watered as he wrote out, in his elegant copper-plate hand, the fair copy of William Sinkins' will.

For this one can hardly blame him. The amount of the miser's fortune and the fat legacies which he devised to this or that lucky legatee were enough to make any one's mouth water. It appeared that his total personalty reached a figure little short of £250,000. Of this grand total £50,000 was exhausted by legacies to distant relations; £40,000 by bequests to various charities; while the residue of the estate, after allowing for payment of all duties on legacies, went absolutely to his niece and housekeeper, Hannah.

Thomas Godwit thought a good deal about Hannah for the rest of that day. He wondered what she was like; whether she was young and pretty; and whether she was engaged to be married. He felt that he should very much like to make her acquaintance. She must certainly be a girl worth knowing. And next day, by an unusual stroke of good luck, the opportunity was afforded him.

Mr. Jecks came out of his room into the outer office, where Godwit sat, and said:

"I shall want you to come down with me to Brondesbury this afternoon to witness a will. Have a cab here, please, by three o'clock."

"Very good, sir," replied the clerk, scarcely restraining his delight at this unexpected stroke of good fortune.

So at three o'clock Thomas Godwit, favoured by the fates, drove off with Mr. Jecks to Brondesbury.

Upon their arrival at the miser's humble little villa, Godwit was not a little surprised to see the door opened to them by a girl with a pretty, blond face and fluffy flaxen hair, whom he had known some years ago as a type-writing clerk in the employ of a City firm; with whom, moreover, he had carried on a six months' flirtation, trifling with her affections, and finally throwing her over. The Christian name by which he had then known her was "Tiny." He was unaware that she been baptised "Hannah," while her surname was not sufficiently distinctive to have led him to associate Hannah Jones, the miser's niece, with Tiny Jones, the lady-typist.

Godwit was, therefore, somewhat taken aback. He wished with all his heart that he had not thrown over Tiny Jones so cavalierly. However, it was no good wishing that now. It only remained to do all he knew to efface the memory of that old unpleasantness, and to effect the resumption of cordial relations with Miss Jones.

She, on her part, was evidently surprised to see him. However, to his great relief, she did not show any signs of temper or vindictiveness. She greeted him with civility—indeed with friendliness, and chatted with him in an amicable way in the parlour while Mr. Jecks was upstairs with the sick man.

Thomas Godwit, sensibly encouraged by her manner, ventured to remark at length:

"Do you know, Tiny—at least I suppose I may still call you Tiny——"

"Why not? We are old friends," answered Miss Jones, affably.

"I have been wondering where you were these months past. I did so long to see you again."

Hannah flushed slightly and averted her gaze. She made no reply to this observation.

"The City has been a blank to me ever since you left it, Tiny."

"Well, and I was sorry to leave it, too," she answered. "It has been dreadfully dull here. Only poor Uncle William having no one to look after him——"

"You always were so sweet and unselfish, Tiny," murmured Thomas Godwit, turning his fine eyes upon her in an intense and amorous gaze.

"Oh! As to that, Uncle William has been very kind. I do not wish to pose as a martyr," answered Hannah, deprecatingly.

At this moment, however, Mr. Jecks put his head in at the door and summoned his clerk upstairs to witness William Sinkins' signature.

When the solicitor and his clerk were departing, Godwit, loitering behind a little, managed to get in a last word with Hannah.

"I may come and see you, Tiny?"

"Oh, yes," she answered, softly.

As she spoke she blushed, and her eyelids drooped in momentary confusion. This was not lost upon Godwit. It thrilled him with a sudden sense of elation.

"By George!" he thought to himself, "she cares for

me still. She can't resist me. She's glad to have me back at any price. Thomas Godwit, my boy, you're in a fair way to pull off this good thing."

But our over-calculating young clerk was much too astute a person to throw over Amelia until he was sure of Tiny. The risk of falling between two stools was one that he had no intention of incurring. He felt that it behoved him to walk circumspectly.

On the following Sunday he went to see Tiny, and induced her to take a short walk with him while her uncle was having his afternoon sleep.

During that walk matters were perceptibly advanced. Thomas Godwit made love with well-simulated fervour; and Tiny, though she met his advances with a certain demure coyness, by no means discouraged them. On the contrary, she seemed to like them. When they parted, Godwit kissed her hand.

He went to Brondesbury again one evening during the week, and again on the following Sunday. He then thought it time to broach the fateful question. He did it in his most irresistible manner, and the answer to the question was all that he had hoped for. That evening Thomas Godwit returned to his lodgings engaged to William Sinkins' residuary legatee, and highly delighted he was with himself.

Before he went to bed he wrote a beautifully-worded letter to Mr. Summerhays, in which, adopting a tone of sublime self-abnegation, he owned that, on mature consideration, his conscience had begun to prick him for his dishonourable conduct to that gentleman in respect of his daughter Amelia. He desired now to express his sorrow for such conduct, and to say that, although his love for Amelia was undiminished, he nevertheless felt it incumbent upon him, as a man of honour, to place himself unreservedly in Mr. Summerhays' hands, and to assure him that he would abide loyally by whatever course of action Amelia's father decided to be best for Amelia's welfare.

Mr. Summerhays, knowing, of course, nothing of the true circumstances of the matter, was evidently both surprised and touched by the receipt of this epistle. At any rate, he returned a civil, and even a kind reply, in which he thanked Thomas Godwit for doing the right thing.

"For the present," the letter concluded, "I cannot see my way to sanction any communication between you and my daughter. But if, in a couple of years' time, I find that, in spite of separation, you are both still of the same mind, I think it possible that I may be prepared to take a different view of the matter. In the meanwhile, I rely upon your promise, as a man of honour, to abide by my decision."

Thomas Godwit smiled as he read that letter. A couple of years' time! Long ere that he should be united to Tiny Jones and her £150,000.

When next he saw Tiny, she said to him: "You musn't expect me to marry you just yet—not while Uncle William lives, I mean. I can't leave him, of course, so old and helpless."

"No, darling. I understand that. I am content to wait," answered Godwit.

So he was. He had no intention of supporting the miser's niece on £2 15s. a week. Not he. He meant her to have that £150,000 before he married her. Nor would it be long, by all accounts—perhaps not more than a few months—for old Sinkins was evidently on his last legs.

However, the old miser hung on—as old misers, in such cases, usually do. At the end of a twelvemonth, he was still in the land of the living.

In the meanwhile, Thomas Godwit learned that Amelia Summerhays had consoled herself, and was engaged to be married to the son of a bishop. He did not grudge her her happiness. He could afford to be generous.

"Poor girl," he said to himself. "I'm glad she's going off all right. I was half afraid I might have blighted her life. But there, she was always rather a shallow little thing. Emotional on the surface, but no depth in her. If there had been, she would scarcely have forgotten me so quickly."

Later on, Thomas Godwit had the pleasure of engrossing Amelia Summerhays' marriage settlement.

He had scarcely concluded the job, in his clerkliest copper-plate hand, when the office-boy brought in a note, addressed to Thomas Godwit, Esq., and laid it on his desk.

Godwit opened it with a smile. It was in Tiny's familiar handwriting.

"One of her gushing *billets doux*," he murmured to himself. "Lord! How that girl loves me!"

He opened the letter. His face fell. He turned deadly pale. He gasped. He felt as if he were about to faint. His head swam. His ears buzzed. He did not notice that Mr. Jecks had come out of his office and was addressing him.

"Finished that settlement, Godwit?"

No reply.

Mr. Jecks looked hard at him.

"Bless my soul, Godwit," he remarked. "How green you look. What's the matter. Are you ill?"

"N—no, sir. Only a passing faintness."

"Is that all? Glad it's no worse," answered Mr. Jecks, taking up the settlement from Godwit's desk and returning to his sanctum, with a queer, knowing smile upon his smug face.

He left Thomas Godwit staring blankly at Tiny's "*billet doux*"—a stinging epistle, bristling with merciless home truths, in which she put an end to their engagement.

He looked pretty sick as it was. If he had realised that the engagement had been, from the first, a put-up job, by which Summerhays had designed (with Mr. Jecks' co-operation) to get rid of his daughter's undesirable suitor, and in which also Tiny Jones, burning to punish him for his former treatment of her, had played a willing part—if he had realised all this, I say, the irresistible Thomas Godwit would have looked even sicklier than he did.

MUSIC.

HYMNS ANCIENT AND—MODERNISED.

IN these days when the decline of church-going is so constantly referred to as a sign of the increasing depravity of the age, it is refreshing to find that there are still so many who can be stirred to their depths by the renumbering of a hymn-book and the revision of its contents. Yet from the lively controversy which is being waged over the new edition of "Hymns Ancient and Modern," to be issued this week, the fact does not admit of doubt. To find "A Solicitor" pleading passionately in a letter to the papers for the retention of "Paradise! O Paradise!" is really to restore one's faith in human nature. Incidentally, moreover, the controversy has revealed how widespread is the erroneous belief that "Hymns Ancient and Modern" is in some sort or other an official publication. Of course it is nothing of the kind. On the contrary, it is the private property of the heirs and assigns of the original compilers of the work, who are answerable therefore to no one in any legal or official sense for such changes or modifications in its contents as they choose to introduce from time to time. No doubt the collection has acquired extraordinary popularity. When one reads indeed that the work is used in thirty cathedrals and over 10,000 churches, while it enjoys a sale of something like 1,000,000 copies per annum, it is easy enough to realise how widespread is the interest necessarily aroused by any alteration in its character. But all this does not alter the fact that the book is private property, and until the Church sets herself to acquire an authorised and official hymnal—a task which she is not

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in the least likely to undertake, in view of the enormous difficulties which would attend it—such alterations must be looked for from time to time.

Whether the outcry which has been raised is a just one remains to be seen when further information is forthcoming than that at present available. So far as the revisers have aimed at liturgical accuracy, simplicity of diction, the deletion of false sentiment and mawkish emotionalism, they will undoubtedly enlist general sympathy, though whether their zeal has not occasionally outrun their discretion may be found perhaps open to discussion. It is all very well to explain that—

> Hark! how all the welkin rings,
> Glory to the King of Kings!

and not the familiar—

> Hark! the herald angels sing,
> Glory to the new-born King!

is what Charles Wesley originally wrote, that it is in closer conformity with the scriptural narrative, that welkin is a good old English word, and so on; this does not alter the fact that ninety-nine people out of a hundred will bitterly resent a change for which there seems little real justification. After all, in matters of this kind custom, association, and sentiment count for so much that even an alteration for the better may often be, in another sense a change for the worse. As to the appeal to Wesley's original, this goes for little, since it is quite immaterial what Wesley first wrote if the later form is better. Keats first wrote "A thing of beauty is a constant joy," but no one would propose to revert to this form of the line in place of that which we know.

As to the musical side of the work, little has leaked out so far, though with such men as Parry and Stanford at the head of the committee which has had this portion of the undertaking in hand there should not be much cause for criticism or complaint. At the same time the task of the musical editor in a case of this kind is undoubtedly difficult. To a greater extent even than his literary colleague, he is bound to consider the tastes and susceptibilities of the uncultivated by retaining tunes, even if not of the highest excellence, which by long use and custom have become endeared to them. Unless, therefore, the utmost discretion has been exercised, it is greatly to be feared that much disappointment may be occasioned when the results of the committee's labours become known. Among other things I hear, for instance, of an author of a tune in the existing collection having been approached with the request that he would consent to an alteration of his music in certain respects—the implication being, of course, that in the event of his refusing the tune would be omitted. One may well imagine that an application of that nature would not exactly endear the committee to the composer concerned. Zeal on behalf of musical purism may indeed be carried to excess with fatal readiness under circumstances of this sort. Perhaps the method adopted by Sir F. Bridge in the case of the excellent Wesleyan Hymn Book which he edited is as good a way out of the difficulty as any. While putting what he considered the best tunes in the body of the volume, he at the same time preserved some of the most popular of the others—"tunes venerable and curly," as he humorously described them—in an Appendix for the benefit of those preferring to continue their use. In this way a reasonable compromise was effected between the claims of art and popularity, and the outcome was a compilation at once creditable to its editor and satisfactory to its public. Whether it will be possible to say as much of the new edition of the older collection now on the point of issue I will not attempt to predict.

That enterprising institution, the London College of Music, which has been so often dealt with in these columns, continues evidently to flourish, despite the repeated exposures of its methods and antecedents. A north-country correspondent sends me a cutting from a Newcastle paper describing in glowing terms an "Invitation Concert" at which the Mayoress of Newcastle presented the certificates, diplomas, and prizes recently gained in connection with the Newcastle Centre of this august institution. In the course of the proceedings it was stated that the total increase on last year's number of candidates was 1,718, or an increase of 4,000 during the last three years—which is certainly not a bad showing for an undertaking with such a dubious record as that of this concern. Further, I read that "Now they had three examinations in the year in place of one, and this was a distinct advantage, and kept up the interest of the students." I have no doubt whatever that from the point of view of those who run this establishment, whose main business is the collection of fees, three examinations a year instead of one is a distinctly advantageous arrangement. I only hope for the sake of those examined that the certificates and diplomas which they receive are of more value than those which the "College" has issued in the past. Mr. Walter Harrison, Mus.Bac.Oxon., principal of Beaumont House School, Jersey, threw some interesting light on this subject a few years ago on the strength of some examinations conducted by the "College" in that island—writing to the following effect:—

> Firstly, a holder of the "College" Intermediate Certificate in Piano Playing, who passed, too, within five marks of the "Honours" standard, was, although after several months of extra preparation, nevertheless, plucked in the lowest examination in the same subject held by the Associated Board of the R.A.M. and R.C.M. Secondly, a Teacher, likewise holding the higher certificates of the "College," and who has passed by far the greatest number of pupils through its examinations held in this island, was unable to answer a most elementary question on the length of notes set at one of the Junior Local Examinations held by Trinity College, London. Thirdly, the possessor of the "College" diploma, and privileged to append the letter "A. L. C. M." after his name and to wear the gown and cap of the "College," was, in my presence, unable to play with any degree of correctness a very short and simple figured bass, consisting merely of the three major diatonic chords of the scale of G, and their inversions; Extemporising, too, being entirely out of the question, and as to Transposition, according to his own admission, he was not even tested in that subject by the "College" examiner, and yet the regulations distinctly state that each of these subjects will be required, and, further, that the acquisition of the Diploma in question affords conclusive proof of high musical attainments, and is a valuable mark of meritorious qualification.

Five "diplomas" and 67 "honour certificates" were distributed, I notice, among the lucky Newcastle candidates, of whom in all 346 were "successful" out of a total of 432.

At Covent Garden lately repetitions have been mostly the order of the day, though "Un Ballo in Maschera" has been an addition to the repertory, the performance being noteworthy chiefly for the Renato of Signor Sammarco, who both sang and acted with rare power and distinction. Signor Vignas, without effacing recollections of Caruso (who took the part, it will be remembered, in the summer) made a sound Riccardo, while Mme. Buoninsegna was excellent in Mme. Scalchi's old part of Amelia. "La Bohème," with Miss Alice Neilsen as a bright and pleasing Mimi, and Caruso bringing the house down as usual in the guise of Rodolfo, has also been put on in first-rate style, and was repeated again on Monday in place of "Cavalleria" and "Pagliacci." In this connection, by the way, the rather remarkable fact is worth noting that, with the single exception of Bizet's "Carmen," all of the operas which have been heard so far have been either by Verdi or Puccini. The production of "Cavalleria" and "Pagliacci" (with Caruso as Canio) this evening (Wednesday) will, however, break the spell in this respect. For the rest, splendid houses continue to be attracted, though with Caruso's departure at the end of this week the company will lose its strongest card.

Of recent concerts, the most important have been those of the London Symphony and the Queen's Hall orchestras respectively, though it was a little unfortunate perhaps that they came so near together. As it was, that of the older organisation was much the better

A BEAUTIFUL HOTEL AT BOURNEMOUTH.—The "ROYAL BATH." "*Hôtel de Luxe of the South*" Magnificent sea frontage and private grounds on East Cliff, facing due south. *Only Hotel on East Cliff.*

attended, though it is understood that the London Symphony band is doing exceedingly well in the matter of miscellaneous engagements. At their concert last week they showed once more, under Dr. Cowen, what a fine orchestra they are. Mr. Wood's programme, including, as it did, some of Elgar's "Grania and Diarmid" music and Tschaikowsky's "Manfred" symphony, was, however, the less hackneyed of the two, though I doubt if the latter work is likely to be repeated very soon, since it is preposterously long, and, on the whole, rather tiresome. M. Raoul Pugno's delightful piano-playing in a Mozart concerto was a much more enjoyable feature of the concert. In the way of recitals, Herr Hubermann, the clever young violinist, has been heard again to good advantage, while Miss Rosalind Borowski (who hails from the Royal College and is a pianist of some promise) has made a successful first appearance. At the first of the Wessely Quartet Chamber Concerts Borodine's D major quartet was given, among other things, in capital style.

The much-boomed Sheffield University Opera Week is seemingly going to be a great success. At the end of the first day's bookings, I read, £600 worth of seats had been sold, which, seeing that the total cost of the whole week's performances is covered by the £1,000 guarantee, was obviously an excellent start. "Tristan" seems to have been the first favourite, closely followed by the triple-bill performance of acts from "Lohengrin," "Walküre," and "Siegfried," while "Mignon" and "Carmen" were likewise in exceptional demand. "La Juive" seemingly found less favour, though all the signs go to indicate that when the time arrives very few seats for any of the seven performances to be given will remain unoccupied. In this event a considerable sum should be added to the University fund.

The Bishop of Worcester has been talking about the "tyranny of the Choir." But is there not another side to this question? The despotism of the cleric is at least a pretty constant source of complaint, I fancy. The right allocation of the time available as between the various parts of the service is, in truth, one of those delicate matters regarding which there will always be differences of opinion. Certainly the cleric is too often disposed to belittle the just claims of the musician in this respect—even if he does not adopt the view, which so many of his brethren entertain, that the service proper really begins when he enters the pulpit. Fair play's a jewel, and for a parson to preach for fifty minutes or an hour while reducing the musical and other portions of the service to the narrowest dimensions is a kind of "tyranny" to which too many of those that rule "in choirs and places where they sing" are certainly inclined. It would be interesting to know Bishop Gore's own practice in this respect. Certainly the parsons make a great mistake who, adopting this course, suppose that their attitude commends itself to the majority of their hearers. It must not be forgotten either that a decent choir can never be kept together or be expected to do good work unless it is allowed a fair show.

Once again the aid of that "music-loving Carnegie" has been invoked—this time to establish a fund to publish the works of young British musicians, and keep the latter going pending the recognition of their genius by the world at large. It is a pleasing suggestion, but I fear that once again it is destined to fall on irresponsive ears. Certainly it is not an encouraging picture which Mr. Landon Ronald has been painting of the position in which the young English composer finds himself to-day:—

> Let us assume that he has any amount of luck and that his symphony, or symphonic poem, was performed with great success, and he was accorded the usual "flattering reception." The following morning the daily papers come out with excellent criticisms and prophesy a future for the young man. . . . . The MSS. and parts are duly returned to him by the librarian of the hall—they having cost the composer several pounds out of his pocket—and he very naturally thinks that, his work having been such a success, other conductors will want to perform it. . . . . Days elapse, weeks elapse, months elapse, and never a single performance of the work, which met with such a big reception, is vouchsafed to the poor devil who spent so much time evolving it. In other words, the composition is dead, and probably will never come to life again.

Yet it is hard to suggest any practical remedy. The days of patronage are over. The case of Belaïeff, who founded the famous Russian publishing house of that name, out of pure love of the art and with the single-minded notion of encouraging native talent, constituted an exception, which it is always likely to remain, and youthful composers in this country who look to receive adventitious aid of any such kind cannot realise too soon that they are destined to be disappointed. And, after all, some of the noblest creations of the art have been produced in the teeth of adverse circumstances. Nor is it needful to go back to the achievements of Mozart and Schubert, of Wagner and Berlioz, to illustrate this fact when we have the much more modern instance of Sir Edward Elgar, wherewith to point the self-same moral. In brief, genius, like love, will find out a way—when it really exists.

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Professor Knight's "Retrospects" (First Series) (1) gives you interesting and amiable impressions of Tennyson, Browning, Matthew Arnold, Gladstone, Carlyle, etc. Even Carlyle "coos as gently as a sucking dove," and is described as "a genial Socrates"! In his account of his audience with the late Queen, the "genial Socrates" was certainly more gracious than her most gracious Majesty was in her version of the interview. She seemed to have resented the old man's request that he might be allowed to sit down. "I said to her that I was an old man, and would she permit me to sit down? I think she didn't quite like it; but I could not stand up in that room, like a pump-handle, just to be pumped out." Here is a reminiscence of Carlyle's own which gives you an early glimpse of that real practical kindness of the man which he hid, after the fashion of Goldsmith's "Man in Black," under a mask of cynicism:—

> Speaking of the pious care of his mother and the lessons she had taught him, he said that he was once left alone on a cold, snowy day to take care of the cottage while his parents had gone to the nearest market town to buy provisions. A miserable, half-starved beggar came to the door, and his heart was at once touched by the sight of such abject misery. "I had saved up," said Carlyle, "in a small earthen thrift pot all the pennies that had been given to me, and kept it safely on the high shelf over the fireplace; and I well remember climbing up and getting it down, and breaking it open that I might give all its contents to the poor wretch." He added, "I never knew before what the joy of heaven must be."

It is comforting to find that Browning was as much puzzled as his readers with the cryptic parts of his own poetry. When asked by an admirer the meaning of such a passage, he would reply: "Well! I know the poem had a meaning to me when I wrote it, but what it was I cannot now say." I cannot resist quoting here parallel answers of Coleridge and of Goethe, which comforted me long ago when I first transcribed them. Coleridge wrote the greater part of Book II. of Southey's "Joan of Arc," and annotated the long passage beginning, "Maid beloved of Heaven," thus:—

> These are very fine lines, though I say it that should not; but hang me if I know, or ever did know, the meaning of them, though my own composition.

(1) "Retrospects." By William Knight. First Series. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 9s. net.)

(2) "The Abbess of Vlaye." By Stanley J. Weyman. (London: Longmans, Green, & Co. 6s. net.)

(3) "The Garden of Allah." By Robert Hichens. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

(4) "Lord and Lady Aston." By Edward H. Cooper. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

(5) "The Face Behind the Door." By Coulson Kernahan. (London: Hodder & Stoughton. 1s.)

(6) "The Storm of London." By F. Dickberry. (London: John Long. 6s.)

Lord Francis Egerton, when translating "Faust," wrote to ask Goethe's explanation of a passage which puzzled him, and received the reply that the poet was himself at a loss for their meaning. "Surely," runs his answer to Lord Francis, "you at twenty-four should know better than I at seventy-four the meaning of a passage I wrote at your age." Both Browning and Tennyson were on the side of the angels in their faith in God and immortality, Tennyson holding that "annihilation was impossible, inconceivable. We are parts of the infinite whole, and when we die and our souls touch the great Anima Mundi who knows what new powers may spring to life within us, and old ones awaken from sleep, all due to that touch?" But Tennyson's horror of annihilation was such that he declared to Mrs. Fischer: "The idea of annihilation would be more horrible to me than the idea of everlasting torments." The most characteristic utterance of Gladstone's to Professor Knight recalls Emerson's: "A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines." "People," said Gladstone, "talk of a change of opinion as if it were a disgrace. To me it is a sign of life. If you are alive you must change. It is only the dead who remain the same, and of all the charges brought against a man or a party that of inconsistency, because of changed opinion leading to change of front, is the most inept." By the way, Carlyle's sneer to Mr. Knight at Gladstone's conscience: "Gladdy *has* a conscience, but he just turns it any way he has a stomach to, and immediately thinks it a call from God" reminds me of Archdeacon Denison's wittier expression of the same opinion. The Archdeacon broke one of those silences which sometimes occur even during a public dinner (a dinner given to him by the Bradford clergy in recognition of his militant Toryism) with this startling dictum: "Gladstone is the most conscientious man in Europe!" After the astounded clergy had looked first at him and then at one another, with the wonder in their eyes as to whether he was drunk or mad, he added, "But he changes his conscience of the week." "The Abbess of Vlaye" (2) is a fascinating book. Only a novelist like Mr. Stanley Weyman, who has trodden himself all the highways and byways of the history of the time of which he writes, could so transport you to those days and so infect you with their spirit of adventure. In less artistic hands, "The Abbess of Vlaye" would be a thrilling melodrama, but a mere melodrama; here, however, the most opportune interventions and the most superhuman heroisms, and the most miraculous rescues and escapes seem possible, probable, natural. Then again, the personages are not the puppets of a melodrama, but characters—the Abbess herself especially being subtly imagined and realised to the life by the reader. For myself, I may say that I opened the story where the hero and heroine were carried off prisoners together, and their ride through the night, her cutting of the hero's bonds, their escape to the windmill, their desperate stand there, and their falling into the hands of their worst enemy at the very moment of their apparently assured triumph, took such hold on me that I had to read on to the end, instead of turning back to the beginning. Here, again, the novel is wide apart as the poles from a melodrama, since your interest is so little blunted by your knowledge of the dénouement that even if, like me, you read the latter half of the story first, you must needs turn back and begin it with an unabated curiosity. You must on no account read in this crab-like way Mr. Robert Hichens' fine novel, "The Garden of Allah" (3), since then you would hardly have the heart to begin it. Besides much of your interest is that of a keen curiosity to discover the dark secret which separates the hero from his kind, and overshadows the otherwise perfect happiness of his marriage to the heroine. The sad ending of the story was artistically inevitable, and, indeed, was involved from the first in the heroine's character and parentage and all the associations of her impressionable years. Perhaps it is ungracious to complain of the length of this singularly powerful novel; yet surely it is overweighted with description—description, always admirable and often pertinent, but I cannot but think superabundant. There is no doubt at all that there is a superabundance of racing descriptions and scandals—"a superfluity of naughtiness"—in Mr. Cooper's novel, "Lord and Lady Aston" (4), and perhaps also a superabundance of intolerance thereof on the heroine's part. She is, indeed, something of a prig, and your sympathies, contrary to the author's intention, are often estranged from her, and given to her unfortunate husband. Neither she nor the author seems to regret much his being shot by a scoundrelly French marquis, who, even in his disreputable old age, made the seduction of women a profession. This old satyr is admirably drawn, however, and so, indeed, are most of the characters in this interesting story, which gives you an unedifying glimpse of the seamy side of the Turf. I have just read with deep interest a booklet of Mr. Coulson Kernahan, "The Face Beyond the Door" (5), "asserting eternal Providence and justifying the ways of God to men." It especially and passionately by parable and argument maintains the probability, even on the theory of evolution, of immortality, and is written with all the imaginative power and all the grace of style you have learned to expect from Mr. Coulson Kernahan. Imaginative power, too, has gone to the making of "The Storm of London" (6), even though the author acknowledges on the title page his indebtedness to "Sartor Resartus" for the genesis of his idea. Given an overwhelming storm which shall sweep London clear of every shred and rag of clothing, it is very obvious that the ensuing situation gives a keen social satirist illimitable chances for the exercise of his art. This is the situation Mr. Dickberry has conceived, and it is one which would need the pen of a Swift to do it full justice. Mr. Dickberry is not a Swift, but nevertheless he has produced a book which is as amusing as it is audacious in its pictures of Society compelled to adopt the primitive attire of an Edenic age.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is the place to live in just now, before the very short, dark days come on, and when there is a coming and a going at all the hotels and crowds in Piccadilly, pictures galore in Bond-street, and full houses at the opera and the theatres. We enjoy ourselves immensely, and only wish you could be with us to increase our pleasure by observing yours. Few feelings are more infectious than a lively joy in things. Unfortunately, a dull kind of apathy is infectious too, but not nearly so much so as the *joie de vivre*, which means that the faculties are alive and alert and capable of receiving quick and vivid impressions.

I must begin by answering your question about new hats. In order to equip myself for doing so I visited Madge Laird's new showrooms in 19A, Brook-street. She has all the newest and prettiest hats, toques, and bonnets from Paris. Bonnets? I hear you ask. Yes, bonnets. They are quite the fashion this season. One of Miss Laird's has a high coronet-shaped front, with a lattice-work of grey pearls upon a background of grey tulle. The crown is lavender panne, gauged upon cords in an old-fashioned style now revived. It looks so neat and sweet, somehow. The trimming consists of a pink camellia and a bunch of Parma violets, and the strings are narrow grey velvet. A toque, in modified Napoleon shape, is in looped black chenille, with folds of black satin round the crown and an aigrette of snowy marabout. The shape is very becoming, giving width at the

REDFERN'S FURS are absolutely a speciality. Skins are bought in the raw state, and prices will compare favourably with any house in the world. Conduit-street and Bond-street.

sides, height in front, and yet supplying just what is needed to the coiffure at the back.

Quite lovely is a large beaver velvet carriage hat with a twist of the velvet round the crown. Its charm lies in the beauty of the shape and the very becoming tilt it assumes upon the head. You may get a beaver hat and trim it very cleverly, but unless you can command the skill that gives it exactly the right curve, the hat will be a failure. A lovely one, suitable for bridesmaids, has a pink tulle brim bound with a band of pink beaver felt, with glacé silk about the crown and a tall aigrette of marabout. A knot of pink tulle under the raised brim at the left side makes it very becoming.

Very new and uncommon was a mauve velvet drawn tightly upon a large brim. The crown was surrounded by pleated silk in every shade of poppy colour—purple, mauve, and red, and pink, all shaded into each other. Round the crown, and holding up all the shaded silk, was a band of the same, with large buttons covered with the mauve velvet. A drooping cluster of violets in dull ruby and deep maroon hung under the brim. I have seldom seen so effective a hat. The new way of arranging a long ostrich feather is to lay it flat across the crown of a hat, with the tip drooping over one side. This was exemplified in a large white felt with black velvet trimming and a beautiful black feather. You would have joined us in admiration of an eighteenth century riding hat with brim of pleated pale blue silk bordered with a flat band of beige velvet and trimmed with a long ostrich feather, shading off from beige to pale blue. The crown is diamond-shaped.

Moufflon is the material of many modish toques. A pretty one was in mauve with a bandeau to lift the folds from the hair and a made feather in peacocks' breast colourings. I hear that Miss Laird is going in for the new theatre capotes that are so pretty and becoming.

By all means have a viyella costume. Your informant is quite right about its wearing qualities. I have had one for a year, and every one thinks it is new. And then the colours and patterns are so pretty; pale shades for night wear, and deep reds and blues, with black and white stripes for afternoon. We had samples sent us the other day, and very much liked a dark blue with very fine red stripes, Guards' colours without obtrusiveness. In the same packet is another in just the right shade of red, with fine black lines in groups of three. Maud has a teagown made of white viyella with faint markings in pale green, which I admire afresh every time I see it. It is trimmed with lace and knots of pale green velvet with little steel buckles. These chiné-striped white viyellas are very pretty. There is one with pale pink stripes and cloudy blue markings that turns out nice nightgowns.

There are tartans in another packet, and there is a rage for them at present. One is red and black, others are green and blue, and there is a nice mauve and black, also a black and white, which has its charms.

Mr. John Burns, M.P., tells us that he sees milking stools in the drawing-rooms he frequents. He must visit among ultra-Conservative families, for milking stools, together with decorated drain-pipes, disappeared from drawing-rooms at least ten years ago in the provinces, and quite fifteen years since from those of London. It is touching to note how tenderly some gentle souls still cling to the venial errors of past years. These art-muslin natures should be respected, if only for their surprising tenacity in small things. The sieves of their hearts must be so curiously constructed as to let all the big things through and yet retain the small. Who can comprehend them?

We are reading over again the vivid pages about trawling in the North Sea in "The Truants," Mr. A. E. W. Mason's latest novel. Our poor fishermen work hard indeed in supplying us with a rather neglected variety of food, and after reading the wonderful description of them in this book, we feel as though we had been with them. And to think that panic-stricken Russia should have made victims of some of these poor, hard-working men! Merely to read about the bitter cold and hardships they suffer makes one feel like an iceberg.

The ninth series of subscription dances in aid of the Gordon Hospital in Vauxhall Bridge-road has been arranged for November 14 and 28, and December 12, at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel. The dancing is to be at sweetly reasonable hours—from 9 till 1.30. Tickets may be had from the Secretary at the Hospital or from Mrs. Lechmere, 29, Cadogan-gardens. These dances have been the means of raising upwards of £2,000 for the hospital, but it is still £6,000 in debt, so that funds are urgently needed. Debt is so very expensive. Make all your London friends take tickets. They are charming balls, good music, splendid floor, and supper at the hotel for a small charge. And impress upon your friends that they should send a cheque when writing for tickets. Cases have been known of naughty persons who went to the balls, enjoyed the dancing, refreshed at the buffet, flirted aboundingly, and forgot to pay for the tickets. Rough on the hospital, was it not?

The hospital should be enlarged. No less than seventy applicants have applied for one vacant bed. There are twenty-six beds altogether, and the principle of the management is so large-minded that even if patients are unable to pay anything they are accepted in their turn. Most of them, however, pay something.

If all charities were like the Theatrical Ladies' Guild the proverb "cold as charity" would have to change its adjective to "warm." A sister society was started in 1895 by Miss Stopford under the title of the "Stage Needlework Guild," the members of which pay sixpence a year and contribute two garments annually, or blankets, boots, etc. Two years later this was made a branch of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, and in the same year Princess Christian became patroness, in succession to the late Princess Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck. Sir Henry Irving and all the leading managers of theatres are patrons. At this time of year more particularly, when we are all making our homes comfortable for wintry weather, we realise how good and kind a thing it is to provide warmth for those who are unable to secure it for themselves. All particulars can be had of Miss Stopford, 175, St. George's-square, S.W.

And here is the Vegetarian Association, working away at a kindred good deed, feeding the hungry children in the very poorest districts in London. The Report (third annual) shows that over 228,000 meals have been supplied from the depôts at Victoria Park-square Chapel, Bethnal Green, and 6, Suffolk-place, Snowsfields. The food is strictly vegetarian. No haphazard methods are employed, attention being given to the best materials for building up muscle, brain, and nerve. Nor is there anything indiscriminate in the administration of the charity, the children being sent by schoolmasters and schoolmistresses who know the cases to be genuine. For each penny subscribed a child is given a good hot meal; either a pint of nourishing vegetable soup, with a thick slice of wholemeal bread and a slice of currant wholemeal bread, or half a pound of wholemeal raisin pudding and two kinds of bread.

The children are always sadly in need of old boots and warm clothing. Mothers who are turning out their nursery and schoolroom wardrobes might make a note of this, and send a big parcel to Miss Nicholson, Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street, E.C.

In aid of the Children's Dinner Fund there is to be a doll-dressing competition, the prizes to be given at the Christmas Festival on December 17. The first prize is for the doll dressed in the most unique manner; second for the neatest sewing. The dolls are then to be sold by auction.

A very funny little volume is issued by Liberty and Co., "The Twins' A.B.C.," by Olga Morgan. The illus-

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

trations would make the stoniest of adults laugh, especially the pictures where the twins are laughing at father's jokes, and where they are being taken to the pantomime by a father so big and tall that only his boots and a small portion of his overcoat fit into the picture. This clever little book can be sent post free for 1s. 9½d.

A clever postcard from Ceylon, drawn by the sender, depicts a small brown baby tied to a tree about two yards from a huge crocodile, which has just been shot by the sportsman from behind a rock. An explanatory note which accompanies the card says:

Shooting a Man-eater, Ceylon.—The only way to get a shot is by hiring a native baby from its parents, and tying it near the haunt of the saurian. The parents have great faith in my skill, and when all is over give it its matutinal banana. The flesh of crocodiles is very musky, but liked by natives, who prepare the skin for me. Ten rupees is about the price paid for the hire.

One can hardly imagine the poor brown baby's state of mind before the clever shot which saves it from the awful "yard or two of smile," as Dickens calls a crocodile's mouth. No doubt it would say, if it could, "Ten rupees! How can ten rupees (paid to my parents too!) compensate *me* for the fright and the saying of all by baby prayers through like lightning, and thinking I never would get that matutinal banana!"

And here is a sunny, vivid leter from Madras:—

I will try to describe an Indian "compound" to you. It is usually a huge barren waste in the really hot weather, with nothing but gaunt trees with no leaves, and dried-up bushes and beds; and just round the house perhaps a garden something like a home garden, only not the same kinds of flowers. Then one day the rain comes, and hey, presto! Your barren waste is luxurious green and your trees all covered with green, too. It is the bamboo trees that astonish me most. One day they are literally nothing but a bundle of sticks, then the rain comes, and your bundle of sticks opens out into the most lovely, feathery, fairy-like bouquet of exquisite pale green. The only real drawback to enjoying your garden are the snakes and scorpions, for just after the rains, when the place is all looking its loveliest, all the snakes and scorpions come out, as the same rain has washed them out of their holes. J. killed two cobras a week or two ago, one on Sunday and one on Monday. The natives have a quaint superstition about cobras, and will not give them the first blow. They think that the man who hits them first will get all the evil, but when J. had given the reptiles the first whack the natives were only too pleased to smash them in pieces.

We also found two karails on our compound, and J. nearly trod on one. They are the most deadly snake in India, but we have a dear old watchman who always goes before us with a lantern after dark, and he is awfully cute at seeing things, and always warns us. I am becoming quite an Anglo-Indian, and go round every morning and give out my stores and see the horses fed, and potter round to look into everything. With very few exceptions, the natives are maddeningly thick-headed, and they haven't the most primitive idea of truth or honesty. They feel quite awkward when they are telling the truth. . . . I often long for dear, noisy, dirty old London. There is plenty of dirt and noise out here, but of quite a different kind! The noise is mostly chattering natives sitting on their heels in the queer way they do, discussing the latest bazaar gossip in the most harsh and inharmonious voices, and the dirt is oily and sticky, with a strong smell of curry and rice and cocoanut oil. Only Kipling can give you the vaguest idea of India, and one must come out here and see and hear it all to realise even *his* wonderful descriptions. I think the thing that strikes one most is the utter indifference to time shown by the natives and their extraordinary ability to sleep. If you turn your back for five minutes all your servants will be fast asleep, and if you call the boy he will come arranging his turban, which he always takes off when he goes to sleep.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—We are never secure in our dulness, even in the dull season. These spacious times, with life at high pressure, are full of surprises and sensations—anything may happen at any moment. The sharpest changes break in upon us, a bolt falls from the blue, we are suddenly plunged from absolute calm into wild excitement. Every child of the country is born with the burden of the world on his shoulders, in a manner. We have all more or less a public as well as a private life; an understanding that the affairs of the millions are also those of each unit of which they are made up. The Press has expanded our horizon, universal newspaper reading has opened up the world to every one. We take a look round at everything that is going on everywhere each morning, as regularly as we take our morning meal. If Wordsworth in his day thought that the world was "too much with us," what is it in our times? Last week how the common round of everyday life was broken in upon by public affairs. The consideration of household and personal matters gave place to excitement and surmise on the dreaded subject of war. For it is dreaded now, since the lessons of our late experience have taught even the most thoughtless the horrors of war. The Boer war has at least done that much for us, has it not? No doubt, however, we shall have more sensations and surprises, and those who sail the seas just now on peaceful avocations will have more than the weather to make them feel nervous. Over here we fondly indulge the selfish hope that the remoteness of our island will keep all foreign warships out of Irish waters. They have been curiously unlucky, as history records, whenever they tried to visit them. We have the reputation of being turbulent in our island; it is nothing to what the weather is just outside it.

Dublin is fast assuming its normal winter aspect, though the weather of last week was anything but winter-like. The sun shone on several days with summer-like amiability; the temperature was softness itself. There was no cause for hurrying about winter clothing, and furs had a time of what one could not call chilling neglect. Such an interlude, in the very heart of the shopping season, was specially trying to those of our sex with vacillating minds. How numerous they are in matters relating to personal attire only the weary and long-suffering shop assistants can tell.

There is something to be said on our side, however. Does not even the most steadfast mind get shaken by the wide choice offered by the shops at this season—so many things of beauty and suitability, and in such infinite variety. Like children in Christmas shops, though we may set out with minds fully made up as to what we want, we are so utterly distracted by the number of new ideas presented to us on all sides that we are apt to forget our original intention. Besides, we did not know of all these other things. Decisions made on insufficient knowledge have to be remade. The fault is not ours, but of those who put such tempting choice in our way.

Our leading rulers mostly deserted Dublin last week. Lord and Lady Dudley are still away, their children remaining in the Viceregal Lodge. Lady Dudley takes a great interest in progressive woman, and is an active patroness of everything connected with furthering woman's education and work of every kind in Ireland. She shows her interest in the Alexandra College, the Ladies' College of Dublin, by sending her daughters to the school for children attached to it. The Russian crisis called away Lord Ashbourne and the Chief Secretary to the Cabinet Council. Lord O'Brien is in Dublin now with Lady O'Brien and his family. He is houseless at present, having given up Newlands, Clondalkin, where he resided for several years, and not having as yet found another suitable residence. The idea of a Lord Chief Justice of Ireland without a residence in or near Dublin seems curious, does it not? But we are nothing if not original over here, and have our own ways of doing things.

The beginning of the hunting season is once again furnishing a large section of society was an absorbing occupation. A great deal of hunting can be done from Dublin quite comfortably. An increasing number of strangers come every year to enjoy sport in Ireland amongst the people, who, however fickle in other ways, are steadfast in their devotion to the horse. A "society" industry might very well be cultivated in Dublin, where those who think life only tolerable when amusing could find many amusments in the winter time to make it even more than tolerable. Whether Sir Horace Plunkett and his department will yet develop a society industry remains to be seen. To judge by his book, he seems to have a belief in the amusements of life.

The coming-of-age of Lord Newry, Lord Kilmorey's eldest son, is to be celebratd in the County of Down, where the family live, with much festivity, in the old way. The tenantry who present the usual address are, however, ceasing to be the tenantry with the sale of the Kilmorey estates. What a changed place Ireland will be in a few years. It is hard to think that the big places and demesnes will last long when the property and tenants in the midst of which they stood are gone. The lord without the land, the King in the Castle, but with no subjects. Even Cromwell's

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brutal measures did not work so great a change in the island as these peaceful ones will effect.—Yours ever,

CLARE.

If you want a nice new savoury entrée, try this timbale de volaille aux rognons:—

Pound 10 oz. of white chicken, or veal, add 4 oz. of butter and 6 oz. of bread panada, pound all thoroughly, then work in two whole eggs and one yolk, salt and pepper to taste, and rub it through a wire sieve. Butter and paper a plain mould, decorate the bottom, and with cut truffle. Cut three sheeps' kidneys into fine dice, toss them in flour, pepper, salt, and chopped parsley, cook them in a covered stewpan until they are turning brown, then mix in a gill of gravy, two tablespoonfuls of Escoffier's Diable Sauce, and when it boils stir in the yolks of two eggs. Line the prepared mould with the quenelle, pressing it to the sides with the back of an iron spoon dipped in boiling water, fill the cavity with the prepared kidney and cover it with the remainder of the quenelle. Twist a buttered paper over and steam the timbale for three-quarters of an hour, add a little brown sauce to that left of the kidney and pour it round the entrée when it is turned out.

This rose cake will delight the nurseryites:—

Cream 8oz. of butter with 8oz. of sugar in a basin, adding six yolks of eggs, beating each one in separately, and a glass of brandy at intervals. Then mix in the stiffly-whipped whites of six eggs, in alternate spoonfuls, with 8oz. of sifted flour. Bake the cake in two round, flat, buttered tins of equal size, and when done turn them out to cool. Pare the tops of the cakes evenly, beat 8oz. of sifted icing sugar with 6oz. of butter, adding two tablespoonfuls of brandy and sufficient red colouring to make it a pretty rose pink. Put the icing as a layer between the cakes, then put the cake on an inverted plate, which stand on a dish and pour over it the following icing:—Stir 12oz. of icing sugar with two tablespoonfuls of water and a little brandy, in a stewpan on the stove till it is warm; pour it at once over the cake, decorate the top with crystallised rose leaves, tie a pretty band of rose-coloured ribbon round the cake, finishing it with a smart bow.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—We are spending the week-end at our riverside cottage. On Saturday, when the sun shone and the sky was a vivid blue, everything about Maidenhead was as pretty as a picture. The trees that are still in full leaf show the most varied glowing tints of fading, and the river is now blue, now silver. We are proud of our garden, for it is full of flowers—big marguerites, pansies, nasturtiums, passion flowers, clematis, and roses of every tint. What would the world be without gardens?

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE King and Queen will leave Sandringham Hall on Monday morning for Windsor Castle. Their Majesties are to break the journey by a halt of several hours at Buckingham Palace, where the King will hold a Council directly after his arrival in town, and before luncheon.

His Majesty, who paid a strictly private visit last week to Lord and Lady Howe, at Woodlands, near Uxbridge, left Buckingham Palace on Thursday afternoon for Sandringham, accompanied by Prince George of Greece (who arrived in London on Wednesday morning from Copenhagen) and M. de Soveral. The King passed the day on Friday in walking through the gardens and grounds, and inspecting the various improvements which have lately been carried out, and his Majesty also paid visits to Appleton House, the residence of Prince and Princess Charles of Denmark and to the schools at Dersingham. On Saturday the King drove to Ken Hill for a day's shooting with Sir Edward Green, whose party included the Duke of Leeds, Lord Savile, and Sir T. Kelly-Kenny.

The King and Queen of Portugal are to arrive at Windsor Castle next Tuesday afternoon, and, according to the latest arrangements, they will be the guests of their Majesties until Monday, the 21st. The King and Queen will then proceed to pay visits to the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans at Wood Norton House, to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth House, and to the Duke and Duchess of Portland at Welbeck Abbey, stopping three days at each place. After this round of visits, the King and Queen of Portugal will come to London, and they are to make a short stay at Buckingham Palace before proceeding to Paris, where they will spend a week on their way back to Lisbon.

The announcement that the King and Queen of Portugal are to be lodged in the Tapestry Rooms at Windsor Castle is incorrect. The Tapestry Rooms are a part of the private apartments, and have never been occupied by State guests from abroad. The King and Queen of Portugal are to occupy the suite which was assigned twelvemonths ago to the King and Queen of Italy, and was occupied in 1899 by the German Emperor and Empress. These apartments were the usual living rooms of George III. and Queen Charlotte. King Carlos will have the Vandyck Room for receiving deputations or formal visitors, the Zuccarelli Room for a sitting and writing-room, and the Queen's Closet as a dressing room. The Rubens Room is to be Queen Amélie's boudoir, and the Council Chamber will be the bedroom.

All these rooms form part of the State apartments, and when shown to the public they are all arranged in a formal style as sitting rooms. When they are required for occupation the necessary furniture is taken in, and when the Royal guest has left it is removed again. The pictures in these rooms are among the finest in the Crown collection. The Rubens room, which is in George the Fourth's Tower, contains a huge chandelier, from which the room is lighted by pale green electric candles. There is also an immense green malachite vase, which the Emperor Nicholas I. sent to Queen Victoria as a memento of his visit to Windsor in June, 1844. The windows of all these rooms have fine and expansive views, except the Vandyck Room, which looks out on the courtyard and Round Tower. There are mysterious hidden doors in the walls of these rooms, which communicate with passages and staircases, for the use of attendants and servants.

The Crown gold plate is to be used next week at the State banquet in St. George's Hall, and at the Royal dinner parties in the State dining-room, and the famous show pieces will be displayed on the buffets. The gold service, which was purchased by George IV., will dine 130 guests, and his late Majesty also added to the collection thirty dozen plates, which cost twenty-six guineas each plate; six immense gold salvers, the work of Flaxman; and a silver wine cooler, enclosed with plate glass, for which Rundell and Bridge received ten thousand guineas. Among the other notable pieces is a peacock of precious stones, which was valued half

a century ago at £30,000. This came from India, and so also did a superb tiger's head, with a solid ingot of gold for his tongue, and crystal teeth. There are two huge fire-dogs of gold, which are usually placed on the principal sideboard on State occasions. The old-fashioned silver wine coolers, of which there are a great number, are now filled with palms or flowers. There is a remarkable collection of centrepieces, most of which were presented to Queen Victoria, who left them to the Crown, along with her Jubilee gifts. The huge Lincoln Cup, of pure gold, was won by George the Fourth, who left it to William the Fourth, who made it over to the Crown. There are some pieces taken from the Spanish Armada, and others from Burma and China. George the Fourth added a number of splendidly-ornamented gold shields, one of which was made entirely from snuff-boxes, which were valued at 8,000 guineas.

Royal guests at Windsor breakfast in their own apartments. Next week luncheon will be served on the shooting days at one of the houses in the Great Park or in a marquee. On non-shooting days the Royal party will lunch in the Oak Room (Queen Victoria's private dining room), and dinner is to be in the State Dining Room, except on the night of the State banquet, which will take place in St. George's Hall. Afternoon tea is a great institution both at Sandringham and at Windsor Castle.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will probably pay a visit during the early part of December to Lord and Lady Mount Stephen at Brocket Hall.

The Prince of Wales was last week the guest of Lord and Lady Iveagh at Elveden Hall for three days. The fact that H.R.H. would pay this visit was announced in TRUTH about two months ago. The Prince returned to Sandringham on Friday, and on Saturday H.R.H. drove to Houghton for a day's shooting with Colonel Vivian. Houghton is the seat of Lord Cholmondeley, whose family inherited this domain from the Walpoles. The place is let for a term of years to Colonel and Mrs. Ralph Vivian. The immense stone house, which is heavy and imposing, was built by Sir Robert Walpole from designs by Colin Campbell between 1722 and 1738. The hall and the principal rooms are very fine, and the house contains a few good portraits and some beautiful old carvings, and a very remarkable piece of tapestry.

The celebrated Houghton Gallery, which was collected by Sir Robert Walpole, was sold in 1779 by his grandson to the Empress Catherine for £40,550, and it is now in the Hermitage Palace at St. Petersburg, and is probably worth at least £200,000. The gardens at Houghton were laid out in the formal style in Sir Robert Walpole's time. The park is extensive and well-wooded, but rather flat. There are several very large old beeches. Houghton has belonged to the Walpoles since the reign of Henry I., and the estate (which is a very large one) has been celebrated for centuries for the excellence of its shooting. Sir Robert Walpole's autumn parties were notable both for their heavy bags and for their highly convivial character.

The Prince and Princess of Wales will also leave Sandringham next Monday, when they are to proceed to Windsor for a short stay at Frogmore House. The Prince of Wales will proceed on Monday, the 21st, from Windsor to Ormskirk, on a visit to Lord and Lady Lathom at Lathom House.

During the visit of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught to Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder this week-end there will be shooting parties in the extensive preserves on the Hartham estate on Saturday and on Monday, and the Duke and Duchess will leave Hartham on Tuesday morning for Windsor, on their way back to Bagshot Park. Lord and Lady Lytton and Lord and Lady Windsor are to be included in the house party at Hartham Park.

Lord and Lady Dudley are not expected to return to the Viceregal Lodge until the end of the month. At the beginning of December they will go to the North of Ireland to fulfil some public engagements. They will visit Belfast, in which city, on their first visit, they held a public reception, a kind of Viceregal "Court." The Belfast magnates generally attend the Viceregal Levees and other Court ceremonials during the "season" at Dublin Castle.

Of late years many things of historic, antiquarian, and picturesque interest have been sold in Ireland, including some of the Lakes of Killarney and the Hill of Tara. Now the battlefield of the Boyne is offered for sale, whereon one of the most memorable of Irish battles was fought. William of Orange is no more popular in Ireland than Cromwell, though his unpopularity is based mainly on the principles professed by those who call themselves Orangemen, but have little in common with the leader of whom they call themselves the followers. The penalties of living in history are great. Many a man's reputation is not saved from his friends.

Mr. Balfour was to have spoken at Glasgow about the Scottish ecclesiastical difficulties. It had been given out in the North that the Prime Minister would make a statement as to the attitude of the Cabinet on the Church case. It is now understood that Mr. Graham Murray will deal with the question at the first opportunity. Mr. Balfour will probably pay a visit to Lord and Lady Cowper at Panshanger Park, near Hertford, directly he is able to leave town. The King had invited the Prime Minister to go to Windsor Castle next Wednesday on a two days' visit, to meet the King and Queen of Portugal, but it is doubtful whether he will be able to fulfil this engagement. Mr. Balfour has been obliged to give up his intended visit to Sir John

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1194.
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and Lady Dickson-Poynder at Hartham Park, where he was to have met the Duke and Duchess of Connaught.

Lady Gardiner, who died last week at Thatched House Lodge, a Crown residence in Richmond Park, which had been granted to her by Queen Victoria, was the widow of General Sir Henry Lynedoch Gardiner, who was for many years a member of her late Majesty's household. Lady Gardiner was a daughter of the late Mr. Francis Newdigate, of Kirk and West Hallam, Derbyshire, the head of one of the oldest families in England. Several of her relatives figure in the novels of George Eliot.

Lord Melville, who died last week after a very short illness, at Cotterstock Hall, his place in Northamptonshire, never took any prominent part in public affairs. He was a most generous and considerate landlord, and took an active part in the management of his family estate in Midlothian. Lord Melville had successfully established an excellent system of pensioning the workmen on his property when they attained a specified age. He was a man of literary tastes and high culture, and was an expert on folklore and similar subjects, which he had studied for many years. Lord Melville, who was a son of the Rev. Charles Dundas, Rector of Epworth (a valuable Crown living) and Prebendary of Lincoln, succeeded his uncle in the title and estates in 1886, and five years later he married the youngest daughter of the first Lord Lamington, but leaves only two daughters. The new peer is his brother, Mr. Charles Dundas, who is Consul-General for Norway, and his official residence is at Christiania.

Lord Melville belonged to a very ancient Scottish family, the Dundases tracing their pedigree back to the Dunbars, Earls of March, the descendants of the Saxon Princes of England. The chief of the family is Charles Hope Dundas of Dundas. The first Viscount Melville was Henry Dundas, younger son of Robert Dundas of Arniston, Lord President of the Court of Session. He was the intimate friend and trusted colleague of Mr. Pitt, and he held several high offices. Lord Melville died suddenly in 1811, and was succeeded by his son, who sat in several Tory Cabinets, and he was for many years First Lord of the Admiralty under Lord Liverpool. He was visited at Melville Castle by George IV. in 1822, and by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in 1842. The third Viscount Melville saw much service in India and Canada, and for some years he was Commander-in-Chief in Scotland. The fourth Viscount (predecessor of the late peer) was Storekeeper-General of the Navy.

Mr. Samuel Thomas Evans, whose death is announced, was for a great number of years drawing master at Eton College, where he was a general favourite. He will be deeply regretted by a host of old Etonians, for he was quite one of the institutions of the school. Mr. Evans not long ago resigned his mastership, in which he has been succeeded by his eldest son, but he continued to reside at Eton, and every one there will miss a well-known personality.

The early and unexpected death of Mr. A. J. Goodford has caused general sorrow in Somersetshire, as he was greatly liked and esteemed, and he had been for nearly thirty years a very prominent figure in the administrative work of the county. Mr. Goodford was a very able man, and his business capacity was of a high order. He did good service to Somersetshire for fourteen years as the very efficient Chairman of the County Council. Mr. Goodford inherited the family estate of Chilton Cantelo near Yeovil, from his father, the well-known Provost of Eton.

Lord Wynford, who died suddenly the other day, only a year after he had succeeded to the title, was well known and very popular in Wiltshire, and took an active part in the public business of that county. Lord Wynford, who was a member of the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding, had been for many years closely associated with the Bath and West of England Agricultural Society, and he was a prominent and most useful member of the Council. The flourishing condition of the society is due in a considerable measure to the excellent management of Lord Wynford, who was untiring in his efforts to promote its interests, and his extensive practical knowledge and his sagacity as a man of business rendered him a most valuable member of the Council.

Mr. Edward Stanford, the head of the well-known firm of map makers and publishers, died on Thursday at Sidmouth, where he had resided for many years. Murray's famous and admirable guides (both home and foreign) are now published by Messrs. Stanford.

Sir Michael and Lady Lucy Hicks-Beach, who have been on a visit to Lord and Lady Wimborne at Canford Manor, are residing for a few weeks at Fittleton Manor, their place near Marlborough, but will return to Coln St. Aldwyns before Christmas. Williamstrip Park, Sir Michael's family seat near Fairford, is let to Mr. Allfrey. The house, which was built during the reign of George I., is surrounded by a large and well-wooded park, and there is some of the best trout-fishing in England on the estate.

I was amused to come across the following advertisement in my *Times* a day or two ago:—

"YOUNG MARRIED LADY, with five children (husband's income very small), wishes to be ADOPTED by very wealthy old lady or gentleman (without relatives), who would pay for children's education and provide for their future. Replies, etc.

The young married lady is probably not the only one who would like to be adopted on these terms. I should not mind it myself, although I am not in a position to offer five grandchildren to my adoptive parent.

A correspondent writes:—

A writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, discoursing on the earldom of Ellesmere, states that until 1846 the family name was Leveson-Gower and not Egerton. This is altogether incorrect. Lord Francis Leveson-Gower, the first Earl of Ellesmere, had been known under the name of Egerton for nearly forty years when he received an earldom in 1846 from Sir Robert Peel. He assumed the name as a child, when his relative, the last Duke of Bridgwater, made him the heir of his immense properties in Cheshire and Lancashire. He was the younger son of the first Duke of Sutherland, and the brother-in-law of Mr. Charles Greville.

AN IMPERIAL "COUP."

At the Berlin Opera last week the Kaiser, who was present, had many of the ladies turned back because they had come in high-necked dresses. Before they could obtain admission low-cut dresses had to be improvised with scissors.—*Daily Graphic.*

The things the Kaiser has *not* done
Since he his wondrous reign begun
'Twould not take long to mention;
But columns would not give us space
Should we the things attempt to trace
Which *have* had his attention.

He 's painted pictures; written books;
Re-dressed his Guards and "coached" his cooks;
Sent "wires;" delivered sermons;
Snubbed architects; put sculptors right;
And claimed a general oversight
O'er countless sorts of Germans.

He 's planned big ships; invented guns;
Attired his wife and taught his sons;
His Ministers instructed;
The ballet's skirts he has designed;
In writing dramas has combined,
And orchestras conducted!

But he last week himself surpassed,
For, whilst the audience gazed, aghast—
Though used to his excesses—
He from the Opera doors turned back
Those ladies who had come, alack!
In somewhat high-necked dresses!

And, meekly shrinking from his frown,
Those ladies there and then cut down
Each bodice that offended.
Scissors were used with quick effect
To make th' offending gowns low-necked—
And so the matter ended.

But, all the same, the Kaiser's act
Displayed a glaring lack of tact,
However we may view it.
To interfere with woman's dress!—
Why, nations have rebelled for less!—
He certainly will rue it.

Yes, though the ladies, at the time,
Evinced a patience so sublime,
And calmed their rising passions,
Yet Kaiser Wilhelm, if he 's wise,
Will pause before again he tries
To regulate their fashions!

The first two volumes of the Biographical Edition of Lord Beaconsfield's novels will consist of "Vivian Grey" as it was originally written, with all the suppressed passages restored. Large omissions and alterations were made both when the third edition was published, and also in 1853, when the book was revised by Miss Sarah Disraeli. It would be well to add the interesting key to the characters in "Vivian Grey" which was published some years ago in *Notes and Queries.*

Being a subscriber to the *Times* on those highly advantageous terms which all the world knows about, I have been favoured with a communication inviting me to explain exactly what I think is wrong with the paper, or at any rate what I think might be improved with advantage. If I had been allowed a free hand, I think I might have found much to say on this promising subject, but, unfortunately, I find that "editorial policy" is barred, and I am limited to expounding my views on such administrative details as "the arrangement of our pages, the various types employed, the form and contents of the Literary Supplement," and so forth. As I am in the business myself, I do not feel called upon to advise a contemporary on matters of this kind. We are each for himself, and the devil take the hindmost. But I confess I *should* like to know what all my brother subscribers think about that novel and striking feature in the *Times*—the "verified" advertisement. Many startling things have happened in Printing House-square of late years, but none more startling than this.

Personally, I like the verified "ads." They are much better done, to my mind, than the leading articles. Would it, now, be trenching on editorial policy if I were to suggest that the "member of the *Times* advertising staff" who did the Savoy Hotel butter should be turned on to Tariff Reform for a change? In connection with that subject, I find a good deal of butter in the *Times* cookery already, especially when the magic name of Chamberlain comes in. But I cannot help thinking that the gifted author of the Savoy article would handle this slippery material more artistically than some of the other "masters."

Talking of the Savoy butter, I was interested to hear from a friend the other day that a new departure has been made in table d'hôte dinner of the Grand Hotel. (I should say that my friend is not a member of the advertising staff of TRUTH, and for that reason I have not thought it necessary, as the *Times* very properly does in these cases, to verify his statements by independent investigation.) The new departure in question is in the shape of a five-shilling dinner which challenges comparison, in everything but volume, with the feasts commonly served at 50 or 100 per cent. more. I remember remarking when Mr. Gordon died last year that in inaugurating the public table d'hôte at the Grand Hotel he really started in London the fashion of dining at hotels and restaurants, now almost universal; and if the Gordon Hotels of to-day can persuade people that they can have as good a dinner as man (or woman) needs for five shillings, with every artistic and luxurious surrounding, they will do as much service to London as he did then. If time and money are no object, you can dine in London like a Roman Emperor; but there is a great need of more good moderate-priced dinners.

The Archbishop of York and Mrs. Maclagan will next week be the guests of Sir George and Lady Julia Wombwell at Newburgh Priory, and on Wednesday the ancient parish church of Coxwold is to be reopened after a thorough restoration. Coxwold Church, which dates from the thirteenth century, has some fine monuments of the Belasque family (Earls of Fauconberg), the ancestors of Sir George Wombwell. Laurence Sterne was vicar of Coxwold from 1760 until his death, and he was living there when he wrote "The Sentimental Journey" and the greater part of "Tristram Shandy." Sterne lived at Shandy Hall, which was converted into cottages after it had been carefully repaired by Sir George Womb-

well. The successor of Sterne at Shandy Hall found a large bundle of his MSS. in a cupboard, and used part of them as lining for the paper of a room, while the others were destroyed.

The living of St. Michael's, Cornhill, which has been vacant for the best part of a year, has at last been bestowed by the Drapers' Company upon Canon Bell, late headmaster of Marlborough College. St. Michael's is one of the richest of the City livings, the stipend being about £1,000 a year, and the parish is a very light charge. The last Rector of St. Michael's, the present Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Wace, was appointed to the Deanery early in 1893, and it may be remembered that at the end of last year a question was raised in TRUTH as to whether the rectory of St. Michael's was to be held permanently in conjunction with the Deanery, Dr. Wace's resignation of it not having been made public up to that time. It then appeared that he had resigned, but when he did so, and why the living has been vacant all the intervening time, are still in obscurity.

Canon Routledge, who died last week, was for many years one of the best known and most efficient of the Inspectors of Schools. He was a very able man, an accomplished scholar, and a learned antiquary. Archbishop Tait had a very high opinion of Canon Routledge. His death is mourned by a wide circle of friends, and he will be much missed at Canterbury. Canon Routledge was a son of Dr. Routledge, who was for many years Rector of Coteleigh, Devon, and at one time he was at the head of a very successful private school in Somersetshire.

An extraordinary example of the working of the system of private patronage in the Church of England has arisen in the parish of Durleigh, near Bridgwater. Durleigh is a very small parish with a living of the value of £30 a year, which until the passing of the Benefices Act of 1898 was what is known in ecclesiastical law as a "donative." In 1894 the late patron, "Squire" Gooding, appointed the Rev. J. M. Evans, Vicar of Wembdon, as curate-in-charge of Durleigh, and he has ever since officiated there, to the perfect satisfaction of the parishioners. Two years ago, however, the late patron was succeeded by his son, the present "squire," and this gentleman has got at loggerheads with the clergyman and the whole of the parishioners. It was discovered that Mr. Evans's appointment to the living was not a valid permanent appointment, owing to some flaw or omission in the document making it, and a few weeks back the patron gave him six months' notice to terminate his duties in the parish. In consequence of this treatment, Mr. Evans resigned forthwith, and for the past fortnight the church has been closed.

Before this resignation took place every adult parishioner of Durleigh, without a single exception, signed a petition to the Bishop of Bath and Wells asking him to secure the continuance of Mr. Evans's ministrations in the parish. The Bishop was informed of the esteem in which Mr. Evans was held, and of the indignation of the parishioners at the attempt to deprive them of his services "simply because he had joined with the people in resisting the high-handedness of the patron." It was suggested that under the Benefices Act the patron's right of presentation to the living had lapsed, but, owing to the complexity of the law bearing on this particular case, it is not altogether clear whether the Bishop was legally empowered to make an appointment. Be this as it may, however, the correspondence published in the *Bridgwater Mercury* shows that the Bishop evinced not the slightest sympathy with the people of Durleigh. He curtly refused to receive, let alone give consideration to, their petition, and did not even vouchsafe the courtesy of a formal acknowledgment of a second application that was submitted to him. It is said on behalf of the patron that he has acted in "a perfectly legal manner." Perhaps he has, but this does not make it any the less a scandalous thing that a clergyman who has been doing good work in a parish for ten years should be turned out by the patron, contrary to the unanimous wish of the parishioners, through a technical irregularity in connection with the original appointment. And the attitude of Bishop Kennion, who seemingly regards the interests of the whole body of parishioners as of less moment than the legal rights of the private patron, is an aggravation of the scandal.

I have received a copy of a letter addressed by the Hon. Stephen Coleridge to the Chairman of King Edward's Hospital Fund, with reference to the appropriation of grants from the fund by certain hospitals to their medical schools. I have also diligently studied the article on this question by Mr. Coleridge in the November number of the *Contemporary Review*. The wind, however, seems to have been somewhat taken out of Mr. Coleridge's sails, by the announcement at the beginning of last week that the Council of the King's Hospital Fund had appointed a committee to inquire into and report upon this question. I am not one who would condone a misapplication of charitable funds, but it seems to me that Mr. Coleridge has imported an unnecessary amount of heat into this discussion, and that it is absurd to speak of what has happened as "A Great Breach of Trust," at any rate if those words are intended to apply to the managers of the King's Fund. I believe I am right in saying that both the Hospital Sunday Fund and the King's Fund have always maintained the principle that money subscribed for the benefit of the sick poor ought not to be diverted to medical education or any other object. To enforce this principle, however, when making grants to hospitals is by no means easy, as any intelligent person can see for himself.

In this matter, the central hospital funds stand on precisely the same footing as the individual subscriber. If I send a cheque to the London or the Middlesex Hospital, I intend it to be applied to the charitable work of the hospital, not the educational work. If, however, I find in the year's accounts that an increased

amount has been contributed by either of these hospitals to its medical school, I cannot charge the board with misapplying my money, because I cannot prove that the particular money I gave was handed over to the medical schools. And even if I have enough evidence to satisfy my own mind that this is the case, I am still without any remedy, except to stop my subscription in future. The figures which Mr. Coleridge gives show clearly enough that the effect of the grants from the central fund has been to increase—more or less *pari passu*—the expenditure of the hospitals on their medical schools; and I believe that both the Hospital Sunday Fund and the King's Fund have seen for themselves what was going on, but they have hesitated to take the extreme step of absolutely stopping their grants unless the hospitals undertook not to increase their expenditure on their schools. Possibly they ought not to have hesitated, but there are certain difficulties in the question which afford an opening for differences of opinion, and there is no ground, under these circumstances, for speaking of the action of the central funds as a great breach of trust.

If there has been a breach of trust anywhere, it is on the part of the hospitals. The hospital managers, however, have something to say for themselves, for they contend that their medical work is assisted by the schools, and that consequently the hospitals get a return for their expenditure in that direction. There may have been a time when this argument was valid; but I doubt if it is so in these days of large and highly efficient nursing staffs. From what I can learn, the better opinion is that the medical schools are nowadays a hindrance rather than an aid to the primary business of a hospital. At any rate, if there is any room for doubt as to the benefits which the hospital derives from the school, there can be no justification for spending upon the schools any money received from subscribers to the hospitals. This principle obviously applies to all subscriptions, whether coming directly from individual members of the public, or indirectly through the great collecting funds. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Council of the King's Fund will succeed in forcing hospital managers to recognise this principle.

At the bottom of the whole question lies a much larger one—namely, the suitability of the hospital medical schools to the needs and circumstances of the present day. My own impression is that the present system of medical education in London needs root-and-branch reform, and that for this purpose the present schools will eventually have to be swept away altogether. I am told that the hospital schools are not up to the modern standard of efficiency. On that I am not competent to express an opinion. But it is obvious that these schools stand to a certain extent on a charitable basis, and there is no reason why that should be the case.

Concerning another question of the administration of hospital funds, I have received a long letter from the honorary secretary of the East London Medical Society, criticising the steps taken by the London Hospital authorities for dealing with the abuse of the charity by persons who are well able to pay for medical attendance. With the main contention, that the treatment as in or out patients of those able to afford to pay their own medical attendant constitutes a misapplication of funds contributed for the benefit of the poor, there can be no question. But it seems to me as yet too early to criticise the steps taken by the London Hospital to remedy the abuse. I take it that these efforts are still in the experimental stage, and if they do not produce the result no one will be more willing than the London Hospital authorities to devise fresh plans for preventing the abuse of the great charity under their control.

Reference was made in last week's TRUTH to an offensive trade advertisement founded upon the Russian outrage in the North Sea. Before the end of the week, however, the same incident was being used by the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen for the purpose of pointing an appeal to the public for cash. There are so many distinguished names attached to this appeal that I suppose I shall find myself in a minority, if I say that I do not see the difference between using such an incident for the purpose of advertising a trading establishment and advertising a charitable institution. If there is any difference, however, it can only be because charity covers a multitude of sins.

Princess Louise will open the Christmas Sale of the Ladies' Work Society at 31, Sloane-street, on Monday next (November 14), at twelve o'clock. H.R.H. has been for many years President of the society, which has done during that time much valuable work in supplying poor ladies with remunerative employment. As the small percentage which is deducted from the proceeds of sales in order to cover working expenses is found to be insufficient for the purpose, those who cannot assist in any other way may do so with advantage by contributions in cash.

I am asked to mention that Lady Ludlow will open the new Nurses' Home of the Cancer Hospital, Fulham-road, on Monday next, at 3 p.m. This addition to the hospital, I understand, has been long urgently needed, and I hope that the committee will have no difficulty in raising the £5,000 that has been expended for this purpose, if the money is not already forthcoming.

In commending the Little Cripples' Christmas Hamper Fund to the notice of the charitable public last week, I stated that the number of hampers distributed last year was 600. This was a mistake which very much under-estimated the extent of the work, for Sir William Treloar tells me that the number was really 6,160.

I have to acknowledge the following donations to this year's Toy Fund:—Friends at Cromer, 3s. 6d.; Noel, £1; Lord Brampton, £3 3s.; Tussock, 5s.; "R. E.," £5; Capt. E. T. Oakeley, £2 2s.; "D. and N.," £5; "S. S.," £10; "A. F. M. S.," £10.

The report on the results of the Army examinations for promotion, extracts from which have been appearing in the Press during the last week, is certainly an edifying document. Its author, General Hutchinson, tells us that bad spelling and inability to express themselves clearly were the failings of a large number of candidates, and "by no means confined to those officers who entered the Army with a direct commission." The papers show that many of the candidates were unfit for the duty of instructing N.C.O.s and men, owing to their being themselves insufficiently instructed. The General finds that officers neglect to keep their knowledge of military matters up to date, as men in other professions have to do. He describes the results of the examination in military engineering, tactics, and topography as "indifferent," the candidates failing to appreciate the situation and to weigh the possibilities and probabilities of the enemy's action, and the majority of them either ignoring the enemy or giving him credit for little intelligence.

One of the lessons of the war which we were to learn off-hand was the need of a better-educated class of officers, and this was one of the matters to which Mr. Brodrick devoted special attention. The results, however, do not seem to be very evident up to the present date. It is worthy of note that the shortcomings enumerated by General Hutchinson point not merely to defective professional knowledge, but to imperfect elementary education, and reflect, therefore, as much upon the public schools and the military academies as upon the system under which officers are trained after they have got their commissions. It looks to me as if it would be a good thing to offer a few cadetships at Sandhurst and Woolwich to prize boys from the Board Schools.

I hear that considerable dissatisfaction has been caused among junior officers quartered in Dublin, by a confidential memorandum recently circulated, expressing the hope that officers going to Dublin Theatre will wear evening dress. The effect of this is either to keep officers away, or to prevent them going to the cheaper parts of the house, and to force them into the seats where evening dress is generally worn. There is not much evidence here of that solicitude for the pockets of officers, which was so strongly preached from headquarters a short time back. On the contrary, it is an example of the bad old habit of forcing upon officers uniform expenditure, regardless of differences in rank and pay.

The following story of medical administration is sent to me by a Service correspondent at Lucknow. In view of the serious nature of the allegations made, I should hope that some explanation can be given; but cases of this kind are of somewhat frequent occurrence in India, and call for publicity. On April 6 a private of the 1st Dragoons was thrown from his horse, fell on his head, and remained for four days unconscious. On April 25 he was discharged from hospital, reported sick on four subsequent days, complaining of pains in his head, and was given medicine and returned to duty. On the fifth day another medical officer happened to see him, and took steps which resulted in the man being excused duty for three months. A fortnight later, however, the man went to hospital, again complaining of his head, and was detained for about a week, at the end of which time the officer in charge, having looked at his tongue, suggested that he ought to be at duty, and he was discharged from hospital accordingly. His comrades assert that when he came out this time his hearing, speech, and sight were obviously affected. On July 14 he fell down insensible, and was taken to hospital, and after two or three weeks the officer in charge again marked him for duty. A few days later the man lost his sight, was this time taken to a special ward, and eventually sent home to Netley for an operation. If these statements are correct, it seems to me that the case, like all such cases, demands inquiry, and that such inquiry ought to have been held before the man left India. It is obvious that he had sustained a severe injury, that his symptoms should have enabled the nature of the injury to be diagnosed, and that through incorrect diagnosis he was improperly treated for several months.

There is some growling among the troops in the neighbourhood of Bloemfontein, with regard to the lack of medical attendance. The collection of ramshackle huts which serves for the military hospital is two miles from the nearest boundary of the cantonment and five miles from the extreme end, and in any case of emergency the patient has to be removed this distance over a bad road before he is seen by a doctor. I am told that at one time a civil surgeon was stationed in the cantonment, but he was withdrawn, and the lines are now visited by a medical officer only in the forenoon. Considering that cases of accident and sudden illness must often occur in a camp of 3,000 men, the present arrangements certainly seem to be very inadequate.

The recent promotion of the junior major of a Lancer regiment to be second-in-command of a Dragoon regiment has brought me several communications fully justifying what has been said in TRUTH as to the feeling in the Army in regard to this incident. Among other things it has been pointed out that last year the officer in question was quite a junior captain in the 1st Life Guards; and also that the two senior majors of the Dragoon regiment have each some years' more service than the new second-in-command, one being a brevet lieutenant-colonel, and the other a D.S.O. The present subalterns of the regiment have special reason to feel aggrieved, for within about four years six captains, two majors, and a colonel have been brought in over their heads. And Army reform and War Office reform have been going on all the time!

If you are looking for anything in the way of GENUINE ANTIQUES, we shall be pleased to hear from you, to send you description and photographs; or, better still, have you call and inspect the largest collection of GENUINE ANTIQUES in London. GILL & REIGATE, Ld, 73-85, Oxford-street, W.

The last mail from India brought me a long growl from an N.C.O. on the subject of the difficulty which a soldier experiences in getting out of that country. The writer is of the opinion that the indefinite prolongation of Indian service tends to make the Army unpopular with the class from whom it is recruited; and I should think there is no doubt he is right. The matter was incidentally referred to in the recent TRUTH articles on the recruiting question. In the regiment to which this N.C.O. belongs, 400 men had just been selected to leave during this trooping season, over 600 remaining behind. Of these 600, about 250 are men with from six to fifteen years' continuous service abroad. Their grievance is aggravated by the fact that out of the 400 going home, numbers have barely two years' foreign service. This makes the detention of the others appear unreasonable, but whether it can be avoided in this case or not, I feel quite certain that it ought to be made impossible for men to be kept abroad for more than seven years without their express consent.

It by no means follows that if such a rule were laid down, no soldier would consent to stop abroad beyond seven years. There are a certain number of men who get to like India, and the number who would re-engage with liability to further Indian service would probably be considerable if they were allowed a six months' furlough in England. I have said this before on good evidence, and the point needs to be kept in mind. But to the average man, India becomes intolerable after five or six years, more especially if he has the bad fortune to spend much of his time in dull or sultry stations. To any man in any rank of life who looks forward to returning, exile from home becomes unbearable after this time; and apart from mere home-sickness, it is to be remembered, first, that garrison life in India is generally very dull and monotonous; and, secondly, that it is very likely to undermine a man's constitution. When men are liable to be kept abroad under these conditions for periods of ten, twelve, or fifteen years, the majority of them are certain to resent it keenly, and their friends at home are certain to share their resentment. In this way you create one of those causes which tend to make military service unpopular, which keep recruits away from the Army, and deter even men who are otherwise satisfied with the life from extending their engagements.

Here is another little grievance from the non-commissioned ranks which merits attention. A certain number of colour-sergeants and sergeants are sent to the Small Arms Factory, Birmingham, to go through a course. While there, lodgings are found for them by the factory, at a uniform charge of 15s. per week. Under the Allowance Regulations (paragraph 366), the colour-sergeants (class 17) receive travelling and detention allowance at the rate of 3s. 6d. per diem, or 24s. 6d. per week; the sergeants (class 19), who are not provided for in paragraph 366, are allowed 1s. 9d. per diem, or 12s. 3d. per week. The colour-sergeant, therefore, makes a profit of 9s. 6d. per week while going through the course, while the sergeant is out of pocket to the tune of 2s. 9d. It seems to me that the taxpayer has a grievance here, as well as the sergeant, for if the allowance were made to correspond with the actual expenditure—and there is no reason why it should not be—there would be a saving of money on the whole.

A few weeks ago, two lance-sergeants of the R.G.R., whom we will call A. and B., were brought before their commanding officer, A. charged with neglect of duty when in charge of the guard, B. with irregularity on the range. Their two cases seem to be conspicuous examples of the erratic way in which military offences are dealt with. A., while on guard at night, had found one of his men the worse for drink, and made him a prisoner. He had inspected the guard three-quarters of an hour previously, and found everything all right, the delinquent having then been on duty about an hour and a half. The night was wet and windy, and the sergeant had to keep the guard-room door shut to prevent the lamp being blown out. The presumption appears to be that somebody brought drink to the sentry while he was on duty.

For his share in this offence A., after having been a prisoner for twenty-four hours, was awarded a reprimand, apparently on the ground that he ought to have been outside in the rain, keeping watch over his sentries. B., on the other hand, was charged with firing rounds for another N.C.O., who was a bad shot—obviously a most mischievous offence against discipline, and one frequently the subject of court-martial. B., however, was merely admonished and got no entry. Apart from the obvious inequality and inequity of these punishments, the first case is a good illustration of the trumpery sort of offences for which N.C.O.s are liable to incur reprimand, with consequent injury to their characters on discharge, and possible liability to lose the good conduct medal if they serve long enough.

A local correspondent called my attention the other day to an odd arrangement in force at the depot of the Royal Garrison Regiment at Fort Widley. It seems to be the custom there to promote the N.C.O.s up to the rank of sergeant provisionally, with the result that the depot has a half-a-dozen so-called sergeants, who are merely privates masquerading in that character. The position of these men naturally exposes them to derision outside their own barracks, and is resented by bona-fide N.C.O.s. When I first heard of this arrangement I concluded that as the R.G.R. is under sentence of death this makeshift has been adopted to avoid the creation of any new sergeants, but it appears that the practice has been followed for a couple of years past.

My reference last week to the use of the regimental institute of the 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment at Colchester for a sergeants' dance resulted in the removal of one cause of complaint—the men employed as a

NAPLES.—GRAND HOTEL. The leading first-class hotel of Naples. Unrivalled situation. Facing bay and Vesuvius. Proprietors, HAUSER & DOEPFNER.

fatigue in preparing the rooms having been paid one shilling each for their services. But the principal grievance is, of course, the exclusion of the whole of the privates of the regiment from their recreation and reading rooms, and this happened again on Friday last, when another of the sergeants' dances—the second in a fortnight—was held. It seems that my suggestion that the men should have the use of the sergeants' mess while the sergeants are using the institute rooms is impracticable owing to the fact that several of the sergeants stand aloof from the club organising the dances. Perhaps this fact also explains why the dances take place in the regimental institute instead of in the sergeants' mess; but, however this may be, the commanding officer ought not to permit an arrangement which deprives the men of the rooms specially provided for them.

Mr. B. K. Denbigh, European traffic agent of the A. and A. Line (Oceanic Steamship Company), has written to me in answer to a complaint I mentioned a fortnight ago with reference to through bookings by this line from Australia and New Zealand, via San Francisco and New York, to London. The gist of the complaint was that a passenger, after paying a through fare from Auckland to London, which entitled him to a second-class Atlantic berth "valued at £6 10s.," was informed at New York that a second-class berth could not then be provided at that price. Mr. Denbigh now forwards me the company's latest Australian handbook, in which the lowest valuation shown for second-class accommodation on the Atlantic voyage is £8, while a notice appended to the table of through fares warns passengers that those holding tickets for such low-priced berths "frequently subject themselves to some inconvenience awaiting a slow and generally inferior steamer," but that they have the option of paying in New York the difference in fare for a larger and faster ship. I find that this notice did not appear in the earlier edition of the handbook, upon the strength of which the author of the complaint booked his second-class passage from Auckland to London. But its insertion, of course, now relieves the company of blame or responsibility for any delay and inconvenience that passengers experience when they elect, in spite of the warning, to book the lower-priced second-class berths from New York to London.

The Post Office used to pride itself upon the pains it took to deliver letters insufficiently or obscurely addressed, and in the annual report the public were regaled with instances of official skill and ingenuity in solving such puzzles. It would seem that the present policy of the Department is to go to the opposite extreme, and feign ignorance of the whereabouts of a person to whom a letter is incorrectly addressed, though the correct address is all the time known to the postman. A case in point is furnished by a citizen of York. In December, 1902, he removed from the office that he had occupied for twenty-five years to another office only twenty-five yards away, but in a different street. Last week a letter directed to him at the old office was returned to the sender marked "Gone, no address," in spite of the fact that the postman (both the addresses are in the same delivery) knew perfectly well for whom it was intended. The postman, of course, acted upon instructions, and no doubt the object of the officials is to grab a fee of a guinea under the rule regarding the re-direction of letters. There are cases in which, after the lapse of twelve months, this charge is justifiable, but this was certainly not one, inasmuch as no re-direction was really necessary, and the Postmaster-General would do well to see that some discretion is exercised in the enforcement of the rule.

It is satisfactory to see that the police are still keeping a watch upon the foreign lottery business so far as the printing and posting of circulars in London are concerned. The other day 14,000 stamped and addressed circulars, part of a little lot of 38,000, were seized on the way to the Mount Pleasant Post-office, and at the Clerkenwell Police-court the two printers who had executed the order were each fined £30. When the first prosecution of the kind took place some time ago an emissary of the foreign lottery agents boasted that, as the saving of expense was so large, they would still find ways and means of getting the circulars printed, addressed, and posted in London. Hitherto they seem to have had no difficulty in doing so, but such substantial fines as the magistrate imposed in this case, coupled with the probability that even heavier penalties will be inflicted in future, should soon put an end to these breaches of the law. I suppose, however, that it is too much to expect that the Postmaster-General will obtain powers, as he might easily do, to prevent these lottery circulars being distributed through the post when posted abroad.

The Belfast City Council are about to take over the local tramways, now belonging to a company, and the Board of Trade recently appointed an eminent civil engineer as arbitrator to assess the value of the undertaking. An Irish correspondent tells me that as soon as this excellent appointment was made the Council and the Company each displayed an eagerness to secure the services of the arbitrator's son as junior counsel, which has created much amusement in legal circles. It is understood that the learned gentleman has accepted a brief for the Council. Nobody supposes for a moment that the arbitrator's judgment will be influenced in the slightest degree by the appearance of his son on behalf of one of the parties; but the incident suggests a need for a rule prohibiting barristers or solicitors from practising before their fathers in any such cases. Such a rule is already in operation in the case of the sons of County Court judges, and in order to avoid misconceptions on the part of litigants, as well as in fairness to the general body of legal practitioners, it ought to be extended to all judicial or quasi-judicial tribunals.

Messrs. J. C. CORDING & Co., LTD., of 19, Piccadilly, W., & 35, St. James's-street, S.W., have been honoured by a special Warrant of Appointment as waterproofers to His Majesty the King of Italy.

With reference to my recent articles on the debt-collecting business of the Sheffield County Court, I am sorry to learn from Mr. Neal, whose letter I published last week, that his client, the Registrar of the Court, still considers himself personally aggrieved by the allusions to himself in connection with this matter in TRUTH of October 27. I thought that I made it sufficiently clear last week that, after the explanation that the practice condemned as irregular had the sanction of the Judge, no blame could rest upon the Registrar, and that I desired to withdraw any previous remark which might imply that it did. I gather, however, from what Mr. Neal now says, that the Registrar thinks that my first article suggested that he was improperly using his official position for his own ends. I certainly never intended to suggest that, and I do not think I used any words open to that construction. Regarding the practice in question as altogether irregular and indefensible, I asked certain questions as to how the incidental expenses were paid, and what was the arrangement between the plaintiff and the officers of the Court who, under this practice, were *primâ facie* doing his, or his solicitor's, work for him. The document being what it is, I think I was entitled to ask these questions upon it. They would naturally occur to any one reading it who was unfamiliar with the peculiar procedure adopted at Sheffield. There was no intention, therefore, of suggesting anything more than the document itself suggested. Having, however, fully accepted the explanation given on behalf of the Registrar, I certainly do not desire to leave him with any feeling that he has been unfairly treated; and as he considers that an apology is due to him, I apologise fully and unreservedly. I am sincerely sorry that I should have for a moment imputed to the Registrar blame which properly rests upon the Judge; but it never occurred to me as possible that any County Court Judge could have sanctioned the practice to which my remarks were directed.

Mr. Justice Wills has found it necessary to instruct the Bridport J.P.s in the elementary duty of hearing evidence for the defence as well as the prosecution. A young labourer was brought before these worthies on a charge of arson. His defence was an alibi, but the magistrates declined to hear his witnesses on the ground that, as they had made up their minds to commit him to the assizes, it would be a waste of time to do so. At the assizes last week the jury acquitted the prisoner, and Mr. Justice Wills made some severe remarks upon the extraordinary conduct of the magistrates. He pointed out that there were several reasons why a defence should be heard at the police-court, even if the case is certain to be sent for trial by a jury. For one thing, it is then possible for the prisoner's story to be tested. For another, it is only by calling his witnesses at the police-court that the prisoner can get them bound over to appear at his trial, and, if the judge consents, obtain payment of their expenses by the county. There is also the fact that in the event of the illness or death of a witness, his depositions before the magistrates would be admissible at the trial. These considerations are, of course, mainly important in the interests of the accused person, and, like not a few of the Great Unpaid, the Bridport Shallows seem to have thought that the interests of an accused person are of little account.

My readers possibly saw in their daily papers that on Thursday last Peter Paul Suckfull, of "Mme. Suckfull's World-Renowned High-Class International Ladies' Companion and Family Agency," was sentenced by Mr. Plowden to nine months' hard labour—three months for each of the charges against him. The police had, of course, many other cases besides those on which these charges were founded, so it is lucky for Suckfull that only three were gone into. I regard my part in bringing this scoundrel to justice with some satisfaction, for which I hope I may be pardoned. It was only on September 22 that I first called attention in TRUTH to the system of swindling he was carrying on at the expense of the poor ladies who are always on the look-out for engagements as companions or governesses. I subsequently took upon myself to communicate with the police on the subject, and referred them to a number of ladies who had been swindled. Within two or three weeks, Suckfull was arrested, and another fortnight has sufficed to bring him the reward which he so richly deserved. In taking to myself some credit for this result, I do not wish to appropriate any share of that which is properly due to Inspector Drew, and the other police officers who have had the matter in hand, and have acted with such commendable promptitude.

By way of postscript, I hope that Suckfull's conviction has been duly noted in the office of the *Morning Post*, seeing that all the frauds of which he was convicted, and many others which have not been brought home to him, were perpetrated through the instrumentality of that newspaper. How many unfortunate readers of the *Morning Post* fell into the trap set for them by Suckfull may be judged from the evidence of the police, who found that a few of the more extravagantly fraudulent of these advertisements had caught 774 applicants, all of whom paid fees. As I remarked when first dealing with Suckfull, it must have been perfectly obvious to any one who looked at the series of advertisements which he published in the *Morning Post* during the course of a month or two, that the thing was a wicked swindle, and it must be a painful reflection to the advertisement managers of the *Morning Post* that, by neglecting to scrutinise Suckfull's contributions a little more closely, they lured so many poor ladies into his world-renowned office.

The New Forest is now very beautiful. Stay at the BALMER LAWN HOTEL, Brockenhurst. Hire a car from the Hampshire Motor Works, Lyndhurst, you will be satisfied.

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. LUNN'S EXCURSIONS." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

In my Legal Pillory this week the amazing performance of two Irish J.P.s at Cahir puts into the shade all the other examples of misapplied lenity. Merely because he was asked for his ticket, a railway passenger dealt the ticket-collector a terrific blow in the mouth, breaking his jaw and knocking out several of his teeth. The ruffian did not condescend even to appear in answer to the summons for this assault, but instructed a soliciter to say that it was through "getting no sleep" and "taking some drink" that he lost his temper, and on the strength of this excuse the muddy-minded magistrates actually let him off with a fine of one shilling. I wonder how Mr. P. O'Connell or Mr. J. P. Cooney would like to have his own jaw broken at this price. Another noteworthy exhibition of Justices' justice comes from Shepton Mallet, the paltry fines which a couple of gamekeepers were ordered to pay for an unprovoked and brutal assault upon a farm servant making a peculiarly interesting contrast to the penalties that are almost invariably imposed for poaching. The farm servant was not a poacher, being employed and legally authorised to catch rabbits on the farm; but it is almost certain that if he had knocked a gamekeeper about as severely as these gamekeepers knocked him about, he would have been committed to gaol without the option of a fine:—

Nottingham Police-court. Wm. Dickinson, charged with assaulting the landlord and landlady of a public-house. He attacked another customer in the house, and on being asked to leave refused to do so, and assaulted both the complainants. Fined 20s.

Cupar Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Armour. John Parish, miner, charged with assaulting Wm. Porteous by knocking him down and kicking him on the head. It was an unprovoked assault, and there were five previous convictions against the accused. Fined 30s.

Barnstaple Police-court. Before the Mayor and Alderman Ashton. J. Cawsey, labourer, charged with assaulting his wife. A policeman said he saw the defendant beating his wife and tried to make peace between them, but the defendant went on with the beating, and told the officer that "he might as well be hung for a sheep as for a goat." Bound over to keep the peace for six months.

Eastbourne Borough Police-court. Before Major H. P. Molineux and other magistrates. John Thomas Jones, charged with assaulting his wife. He gave her a dozen blows on the face, blackening both her eyes. Fined 20s. and costs.

Ashby-de-la Zouche Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. Mo[illegible] and other magistrates. John Bird, convicted of assaulting Josian Smalley. Without any provocation, defendant attacked the complainant, inflicting a wound over his eye which had to be stitched up. Fined 10s. 6d. and costs.

Nottingham Police-court. James Cass, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop door. Two months.

Bath City Police-court. George Williams, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. One month.

Bridgwater County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. H. B. T. Strangways, E. C. Curtis, C. W. M. Greenhill, W. B. Broadmead, J. G. Henniker, H. T. Daniel, and R. Y. Foley. Alfred Blackmore, labourer, charged with stealing a shirt which was hung out to dry on a hedge. One month.

Spalding Police-court. Before the Rev. J. T. Dove and other magistrates. Mary Ann Ward, wife of a farm labourer, charged with stealing twenty-four hen's eggs. Fined £10 and £1 11s. 6d. costs; in default, six weeks.

Blackpool Police-court. James Smith and James Birtwistle, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days each.

St. Colomb Police-court. Before Colonel Bennet and Messrs. W. H. L. Shadwell and J. Hicks. Isaac Parkin, charged with poaching. Fined £2 and costs.

Hull Quarter Sessions. George Turner and Wm. Roberts, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop door. Three months each.

Fakenham Police-court. Before Sir Lawrence Jones, the Rev. J. Lee Warner, Captain F. R. Thackeray, and Mr. W. Freuer. Alfred Hipkin, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found with a poaching net in his possession. Fined £2 10s.

Walsall Police-court. Thomas Mincher, charged with assaulting his wife. He struck her with a jug, breaking one of her teeth and inflicting a wound on her lip which had to be stitched up. Fined 10s. and costs.

Shepton Mallet Petty Sessions. Before Colonel R. M. Clerk, Major C. D. Sherston, Messrs. H. V. Dobson, and F. Spencer. Thomas Alexander and Wm. Alexander, gamekeepers, charged with assaulting Henry Himbury, farm servant. Complainant was employed in catching rabbits on the farm, and held the written authority required by the Ground Game Act. Defendants, however, refused to recognise his authority, severely assaulted the man, and appropriated the rabbits which he had caught and which were the property of the farmer. The latter said he found the complainant lying in an unconscious condition in the field where the defendants had attacked him. Fined 20s. each and costs.

Thingoe Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. J. White and other magistrates. Thomas Hines, Thomas Redwood, and Samuel Place, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 6s. each; in default, one month.

Oundle Divisional Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. P. Monckton, Colonel Costobadie, Mr. H. Capron, and Mr. Brassey. Joseph Clarke and James Meads, charged with poaching. Meads two months, Clarke six weeks.

Swaffham Police-court. Before Mr. A. C. Fontaine and Colonel Herring. Henry Howlett, charged with poaching. Twenty-one days.

Bridgnorth Police-court. Before Messrs. J. Anderson and G. Lloyd. Joseph Barrett, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

St. Augustine's Petty Sessions, Canterbury. Wm. Wilson, charged with trespassing in search of conies. Fined £2 9s.; in default, one month.

Cahir Petty Sessions. Before Mr. P. O'Connell and Mr. J. P. Cooney. Cornelius Lynch, cattle dealer, Waterford, charged with assaulting Robert Johnson, a railway porter. Defendant, who was travelling in a night mail train, refused to show his ticket or give his name, and struck the porter so violently that his jaw was broken, and several of his teeth were knocked out. Defendant did not appear in answer to the summons, but his solicitor stated that for a week before this occurrence he had been travelling from fair to fair and getting no sleep, and he had also taken some drink, which had "a bad effect" on him. The magistrates imposed a fine of one shilling and costs, observing that they considered they should not deal too severely with the defendant as "he might have been a little put about on account of the loss of sleep and drink he took."

A public vaccinator has written to me in regard to a recent paragraph on the refusal of a certificate of exemption to a conscientious objector. It was a case in which the magistrates virtually denied the possibility of the applicant having himself contracted an ailment through vaccination, as he alleged, and I pointed out that this showed their worships' ignorance of facts admitted in the Report of the Royal Commission. My correspondent takes up the cudgels for the magistrates on the ground that such applicants often make "grossly exaggerated and absolutely false statements" as to the consequences of vaccination. No doubt this is so, but the fact does not affect the particular case with which I was dealing, or justify the refusal of the magistrates to grant the certificate. I do not myself hold any very decided opinion one way or the other on the subject of vaccination. But I do hold most strongly that magistrates are not called upon to consider whether an applicant's objection is well or ill founded, reasonable or foolish. It may be based on the most preposterous delusions, but so long as he conscientiously believes that vaccination will be prejudicial to his child's health—and a conscientious belief is not necessarily a sound or rational one—he is entitled to his certificate.

Three near neighbours at North Berwick were favoured the other day with identical letters dated from Madrid, and beginning as follows:—

Sir, Here as a prisoner for bankruptcy I ask you if you would help me to withdraw the sum of frs. 925,000 (£37,000) which I

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

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have in France and to come here for this purpose to lift the seizure of my luggage, paying to the secretary of justice the outlays to free a valise, having a secret in which I concealed the indispensable paper to withdraw the said sum.

As reward I would let you the third part.

The rest of the letter merely contains the customary instructions for the telegraphing of an answer to Madrid. It will be seen that this is an exceptionally bald and unconvincing version of the Spanish Prisoner's story, lacking many of the corroborative details with which it is generally garnished. The Prisoner does not attempt to explain why you have been singled out as the recipient of his confidence, nor does he seek to enlist your sympathy by pathetic allusions to his motherless young daughter, or by emphatic declarations that he is an unfortunate victim of Spanish injustice—on the contrary, he indicates pretty clearly that you are to assist him in defrauding his creditors. I have no doubt, however, that even this clumsy practitioner of the venerable swindle manages to secure plenty of dupes, though they are naturally reluctant to reveal their folly.

It is soothing to our national self-respect to know that it is not Britishers alone who are gulled by the Spanish Prisoner. A report has been going the round of the Continental papers of the adventures of M. Antoine Elked, a restaurateur at Budapest, who was lured to Madrid, taking with him a sum of 10,000 fr., by one of the usual communications from the Prisoner. In this instance the 10,000 fr. were required to regain possession of a fortune of 330,000 fr., part of which was hidden in a trunk lying at a railway station in France, and the rest on deposit in a bank at Berlin. Elked was to get 100,000 fr. in return for his loan. On reaching Madrid he was met by a representative of his correspondent, who produced bogus receipts in regard to the trunk and the bank deposit. To remove any doubt, it was suggested that telegrams should be sent to the railway station and to the bank, and in due course what purported to be replies were brought to Elked by a pretended telegraph messenger. The bogus telegrams finally convinced him of the genuineness of the business, and he arranged to meet the swindler in a certain café to hand over the 10,000 fr.

All this time an eye was being kept upon Elked by a fellow-Hungarian named Isray, a commercial traveller, who had come to Madrid by the same train, and who, on hearing the object of the restaurateur's visit, had vainly tried to persuade him that the affair was a fraud. Isray followed his infatuated compatriot to the café, which was one in a very low quarter of Madrid, and arrived just in time to see three men attempting to hustle Elked into a carriage. He had apparently hesitated to hand over the money at the last moment, and the ruffians were attempting to get him away to a spot where he could be more conveniently searched and robbed. Isray drew his revolver and fired two or three shots at Elked's assailants, but did not succeed in hitting one. He contrived, however, to injure the horse, and the struggle ended in the three bandits running away, leaving Elked still in possession of his money. No passers-by offered the Hungarians any assistance during the fight, nor did any police appear on the scene; and when Elked subsequently complained to the police authorities, they simply laughed at him for displaying so much credulity. The victims of the Spanish Prisoner are certainly not entitled to much sympathy, though that is, of course, no reason why the Spanish police should neglect to deal with the swindlers.

The American "gold brick" swindlers, like the Spanish prisoner, are always with us, and this fact is a sure proof that they are continually picking up new victims, notwithstanding the repeated warnings that have been published against them. The latest example of their operations that I have come across was addressed a few weeks back to a gentleman, whose death had been announced shortly before, and particulars of whose will had, no doubt, been published in the newspapers. The letter is in the usual form, beginning with the customary reference to "Thomas," who is "in very poor health," and unable to attend to business; and it goes on "to describe the marvellous discoveries of gold that Thomas has made, and his desire to make arrangements to put the gentleman to whom the letter is written in possession of his share of the discovery. I do not know whether the American police still interest themselves in the gentry running this trick, but, in case they do, they may like to have the address of the writer of this particular letter. It is Wilson Sanford, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

I have received a letter from the manager of the Dr. Curry Cancer Cure Company, of Lebanon, Ohio, beginning as follows:—

We are in receipt of copy of TRUTH of date of September 22, in which you refer to our advertisement as "pestilent," call our testimonials "humbug," and insinuate that our cure is "quackery" and our remedy a "fake." We take the pains to inform you that these statements are false. We expect a retraction through your columns of them, one and all.

We are a reputable company, having our own sanitarium, and doing an honest and legitimate business. Your attacks are malicious, injurious and damaging, and by publishing such malicious articles you are doing us irreparable damage.

By this time the Dr. Curry Company may possibly have received a subsequent issue of TRUTH, in which they will find further expressions of my opinion about the cancer cure. I am sorry to disappoint the company in their expectation that I should retract what I have said merely on the strength of their own assurance that they are a reputable company and doing honest and legitimate business. There was nothing malicious in my remarks; on the contrary, they were written with the purely benevolent intention of saving other people from the personal suffering and loss of cash which resulted in the cases under my knowledge from the Curry treatment. And if my remarks are "injurious and damaging" that is the fault of the Curry treatment, which in those cases proved injurious and damaging also. The manager also encloses a certified copy of a letter from a lady in England, which he presumes to be the one mentioned in my article. But unfortunately his presumption is erroneous, so we need not discuss the letter.

JEFFREY & CO.'S ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N.

A correspondent sends me a circular issued by "The Universal Benefit Trading Society" containing some extracts from TRUTH, which might seem to convey the impression that I had expressed a favourable opinion regarding the Universal Benefit Trading Society's enterprise. The extracts in question referred, however, to White's Assurance Trading Company, a fact which is carefully suppressed in the U.B.T. Society's reprint of my remarks. It is true that the two businesses are run on somewhat similar lines, both offering payment of sick benefit in connection with the sale of tea. But my approval of White's Assurance Trading Company was based on the ground that the payment of life assurance and sick benefit to customers for their tea is guaranteed by an insurance company of repute. Examination of the U.B.T. Society's circular shows that in their case the payment is dependent upon the profits of the business, under a rule similar to that whereby Nelson's Pension Tea Company set aside 75 per cent. of the net profit for payment of claims. Under these circumstances, I would suggest to the directors of the U.B.T.S. the propriety of ceasing to make use of the extracts in question.

May I suggest to my esteemed contemporary who occupies the editorial chair of the *Hull Daily Mail* that the Viavi woman is not a fit and proper person to be a recipient of an editorial puff? In spite of his assertion to the contrary, the Viavi movement is neither a "new" nor an "important movement for the welfare of women." It is simply an English offshoot of American quackery which is exceedingly mischievous in all its developments, and one which for years past I have thought it my duty to put the public on its guard against.

Those of my readers who have been favoured with offers of fine old cognac from the widow Salomiac will be interested to learn that Madame has a rival in the person of the widow Denis. Like the late Salomiac, the late lamented Denis was a native of Luton. Singularly enough, the handwriting of the widow Denis bears the same remarkable resemblance to the handwriting of the late Salomiac which I distinguished in that gentleman's widow's letter. In spite, therefore, of the fact that the widow Salomiac's inheritance consisted of "Fine Old Champagne, mark Flageot, 4 stars, style Martell," while the widow Denis's legacy is labelled "Mark Balaize and Co., 4 stars, style Martell," I have a suspicion that the brandies must have come originally out of the same cask, and that Madame finds it just as easy to change the name of the brand as she does her own. That at least is a more pleasing supposition than that two Cognac distillers have departed this life together, leaving their widows under the necessity of parting with their finest old brandies to total strangers for a mere song.

I have to thank the many readers of TRUTH who have favoured me during the last week with the flamboyant circulars of the notorious harpy B. S. Thomas, of Adelaide-street, Charing Cross. I am not solely dependent on my readers, however, for knowledge of the readiness of Thomas to advance any sum up to £5,000 at a moment's notice, for last week he was good enough to address one of these engaging documents to the proprietor of TRUTH personally at this office. After all that has been said in these columns about Thomas, it denotes a Christian spirit, which one hardly expects to find in a moneylender, to find Thomas intimating to the proprietor of this journal that he may some day find himself short of cash, and that Thomas' store of loanable capital will always be at his disposal. It was a superfluous precaution on his part, however, to intimate that he could not entertain any offers of business in the event of the proprietor of TRUTH being a minor. Also to enjoin him to "please keep this for reference." We have plenty of them on hand, and we are always ready to give Thomas a reference.

All the circularising moneylenders are exceptionally active just now. In a period of financial depression they can count upon the capture of many people who would otherwise evade their toils, and hence the present wholesale distribution of seductively worded offers of cash accommodation. Judging from the number of their circulars that are sent on to me I should say that the above-mentioned B. S. Thomas, George Foster, and Gerald Chesney, are at the moment the busiest of these pests, but they have strong competitors in Carringtons, Limited, W. Robinson, Arthur Cheston, Mortimer's, Limited, R. Leslie, Thomas Sandy, Harry Phillips, and others. Nearly all these are old familiar names, or aliases, and beyond once more warning my readers against the whole tribe of blood-suckers, I do not think I can now usefully add anything to what I have previously said concerning them.

A new-comer in this line of business (or possibly an old hand breaking fresh ground) is M. L. Rosenberg, of 22, Brunswick-terrace, Brighton. In a circular recently addressed to "The Stationmaster, N.E.R. Co.," at a town in Yorkshire, this individual intimates that he will be pleased to make "a monetary advance," and adds: "I keep no office or clerk, neither do I advertise, thus you can readily see how private everything is carried through." Although he occupies rather a swagger house, Rosenberg is apparently of a frugal turn of mind—at any rate he does not emulate his rivals in the matter of expensively got-up circulars, but laboriously writes them out with his own hand on the plainest and cheapest notepaper. His full name is Morris Levy Rosenberg, and it was in March last that he first registered himself at Somerset House as a moneylender at 22, Brunswick-terrace, Brighton, while in July he registered again with an additional address at 25, York-road, Harrogate. It is scarcely necessary to point out that Rosenberg's attempt to inveigle a stationmaster into borrowing money from him is a peculiarly reprehensible proceeding, for a man in such a position would of course

ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

be ruined if his employers discovered that he was in the hands of a professional usurer.

A couple of somewhat lengthy letters have been addressed to me by Tom Tower, a racing tipster, with reference to my comment last week upon an advertisement in which immediately after the Cambridgeshire he claimed that his paper, *Racing Gold*, "plumped for Hackler's Pride two week's ago." I pointed out that this, "if true," did not alter the fact that two days before the race the same sheet plumped for Laveuse. Tower now sends me an extract to show that it is true that he plumped for Hackler's Pride a fortnight before the race. As he seems to think that I implied a doubt on the point, I give him the benefit of this statement; but the fact still remains that he subsequently predicted the success of Laveuse, and so my comment upon the advertisement is unaffected.

The Headmaster of Tonbridge School sends me samples of advertisements sent to boys in the school by Gold and Co., of Delamere-crescent, London, W. The name of Gold will be familiar to many of my readers, a trick advertising business in shoddy jewellery and such-like goods, having been carried on from this address for many years. In this particular instance, Gold invites the ambitious schoolboy to "increase his income" by buying twenty-four "novelty thimbles of real aluminium," which he is to resell at 2d. each —aluminium thimbles being naturally in high request among schoolboys. Gold's price for the two dozen thimbles being 1s. 6d., the youthful retailer will make a profit of 2s. 6d. for himself. And as it is pretty certain that the thimbles are not worth more than a penny each, he will have helped to swindle his schoolfellows very handsomely at the same time. On this view of the matter, it might be worth the while of other schoolmasters to inquire whether Gold has engaged any of their boys to increase their incomes by peddling thimbles for him, for it is not likely that his attention is confined to Tonbridge.

I am asked to state that Miss Agatha Henslow has ceased to be a member or officer of the National Registry, Limited. This is the institution referred to in last week's TRUTH, in the article headed "Mr. Boelter's Bashfulness." I confess I am rather surprised, in view of the story there told as to Mr. Boelter's curious escapade at this office, that none of the responsible managers of the undertaking has communicated with me upon the subject. I have received a letter from Mr. Boelter himself which is frankly impertinent, and I gather from it that his connection with the National Registry is severed. But it seems to me that the committee of management owe it to themselves and the society to make this fact known officially.

What a brilliant idea was that which prompted the organisation of the Exhibition of Quackery at Breslau described the other day in the *British Medical Journal!* All the apparatus of quackery was displayed, from the advertisements and circulars to the bogus electrical appliances and wonderful specifics themselves, of which latter analyses were given. In fact the only exhibit missing was that of the quacks themselves. I can only hope that the example of Breslau will be followed in London. It is almost impossible to estimate the educative value of an exhibition exposing the methods and wiles of the Drouets, the Pointings, the Rices, the Kinlos, the McLaughlins, and their tribe. Even the catalogue would be valuable as a work of reference, particularly to the advertisement managers of some of my contemporaries who can never manage to discover quackery when it is hidden beneath a fat cheque.

AN ANTI-QUACK ALLIANCE.

We believe that a Society for the Suppression of Quacks and Quackery, such as exists in Germany, would be of powerful use in this country.—*British Medical Journal.*

There 's one thing made in Germany
  To which we gladly give our blessing—
We mean the new Society
  For Quacks and Quackery suppressing.
A branch of it, formed over here,
  Could scarcely fail to work improvement,
And we should heartily support
  So very excellent a movement.

We have, indeed, good cause to know
  How much this sort of thing 's demanded,
For we 'gainst Quacks and Quackery
  For years have wrestled single-handed.
And should the new Society
  Be duly brought into existence,
We should, of course, rely on it
  To give us valuable assistance.

This, though, should be well understood
  Before we start the new Society—
That Quacks and Quackery 'mongst us
  Are found in harassing variety.
To Dulcamaras who promote
  The sale of divers patent nostrums,
We have to add assorted Quacks,
  All "quacking" from their various rostrums.

The Pulpit has notorious quacks,
  Who never under bushels put lights.
Who couldn't name dramatic quacks
  That nightly strut before the footlights?
Are there no quacks in Parliament?
  Indeed there are—too well we know it.
And who could not an instance quote
  In which a quack is called a poet?

Quack novelists are far too rife—
  We must endure them "willy-nilly"—
Quack painters get their pictures hung
  Upon "the line" in Piccadilly.
Quacks are, in short, as plentiful
  As Snobs were found to be by Thackeray;
All classes of Society
  To-day are honey-combed with Quackery!

If, then, the potent sway of Quacks
  Is by our efforts to be ended,
'Tis clear that the attacking line
  Must be with new allies extended.
"No quarter!" then must be our cry,
  Till, hunted down like Quasimodo,
The Quack becomes extinct at last,
  Just like the often-quoted dodo!

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for SCRUBB'S. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

In reference to the Old Age Pension Trust, I have received the following letter:—

Greenhithe,
November 4, 1904.

Sir,—The issue of Truth dated October 27 last contained a letter from Mr. Taverner, one of the trustees of the "National Old Age Pension Trust," written as on behalf of the full body of trustees.

In that letter he stated: "I am very much afraid that your contributor saw an article in the London *Daily News* written by a man who has acted in a most underhand manner, and who has been severely censured for his sharp practices by the officials of the paper."

In reference to this statement, we desire to say that Mr. Taverner was alone responsible for it, and that he did not in any way express the general sense of the trustees.

We understand, on the authority of the Editor of the *Daily News*, that that statement is absolutely without foundation, and the writer of the criticism has the complete confidence of those responsible for that journal.

We deeply regret that the statement should ever have been made.—Yours faithfully,

W. Cuff.
Fred G. Wheeler.
R. C. Edwards.

This letter speaks for itself. I may add to it, however, that when Mr. Taverner called at this office, he not only reaffirmed his statement as to the writer of the article in the *Daily News*, but enlarged upon it, giving details of communications that had passed on the subject, and leaving me to understand that the writer of the articles had admitted himself to be in the wrong. As I hinted in my previous article, I formed a somewhat poor estimate of Mr. Taverner's judgment in such matters as pensions, death benefits, and actuarial business, but I certainly thought that when he stated facts within his own knowledge his statements could be relied upon, and I am sorry to find that this is not so.

I think it would have been better if, while thinking it necessary to write to me on this minor point, the three trustees who signed the letter had taken the opportunity of saying something upon the main subject of my article. Whether my criticism of the National Pension Trust was right or wrong, it is of far more public importance, and of far more interest to the subscribers to the Trust than the question whether Mr. Taverner misrepresented what had passed between the managers of the *Daily News* and a member of their staff in reference to this question. I must say that I think the trustees owe it to themselves, and to the thousands of subscribers whose money they have received, to define their attitude towards the criticism their scheme has incurred. Just after I had sent to press my article of October 27, Mr. Taverner called at this office, accompanied by his solicitor, to make a further appeal to me to withhold criticism, in view of the fact that an independent inquiry into the financial basis of the scheme was about to be made by a competent actuary. I should have thought that in writing to me, Messrs. Cuff, Wheeler, and Edwards would have alluded to this inquiry if they have in fact ordered it; and I now invite them to state whether this is so. If they have not thought it necessary to take any such step, they are in my judgment incurring an extremely serious responsibility if they are continuing to receive subscriptions.

I say this with the more confidence in view of the fact that at the moment that the Truth article was going to press, October 25, an article severely criticising Mr. Taverner's scheme was published in the *Financial Times*. Many of the grounds on which the *Financial Times* condemned the scheme were identical with those on which my criticism was based; but one or two other points were raised which give additional strength to the case against this hare-brained project. As two of the trustees are Nonconformist ministers, presumably quite unversed in matters of business, it seems desirable to point out to them that criticism of this character must be answered, or else the scheme must be dropped. This is a case in which a handful of gentlemen are inviting cash subscriptions *ad libitum*, on the strength of certain specific promises and representations. If those representations are inaccurate, or if those promises cannot be fulfilled, the gentlemen making them will eventually find themselves in a very awkward position; and in that event their conduct will be absolutely unjustifiable, if they have continued to receive subscriptions after it has been shown to them that their ability to perform what they are promising is doubtful.

One of the items on the agenda at the meeting of the directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society last week referred to the pamphlet issued by Professor Wallace, Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, on the management and educational policy of the society. At the instance of the chairman, the directors resolved to take no further action in the matter. It is easy to understand the desire of the executive of the society to shelve the awkward questions Professor Wallace has raised, but in the interests of agricultural education in Scotland, such a course is certainly to be deprecated, and it is difficult to believe that it can be approved by the general body of the members.

As I anticipated, nothing has come of the proposal of the Sandgate Council to make consumption a compulsorily notifiable disease in their district. Even if the Local Government Board had approved of this step, it is difficult to perceive how it could have had any direct or practical effect upon the scandal arising from the existence of the Jones Homes. The Board, however, refused to sanction it, and suggested instead that the Council should apply to Parliament for powers to control and regulate the so-called "sanatoria," the Board promising to support such an application. On Friday the Council resolved to promote a Bill next Session for this purpose, and I should like to think that at last they mean business. But the shilly-shallying of the Council for years past, in the face of what one of the members justly described as the "ruination" of Sandgate, is not conducive to confidence in its willingness or its capacity to deal with the matter in the only way in which it ought to be dealt with. No mere authority to make regulations will be sufficient. What is wanted is the suppression of the Jones Homes. The objection to them is not simply that they are badly managed, but that the houses in which they are carried on are utterly unfitted for use as sanitoria for consumptives, and that even if the buildings were suitable, such establishments—possessing no grounds of their own, and consequently having to turn the patients out among the public for air and exercise—ought not to be tolerated in the midst of a town.

The Foreign Office administration of the East Africa Protectorate, which has been so prolific of grievances among the settlers, is now being assailed on the subject of the currency. The basis of the currency is the Indian rupee, but whereas the law in India has for several years past made "golden sovereigns" (as Mr. Seddon calls them) legal tender at the fixed value of Rs. 15 to the sovereign, no such standard of exchange has been established in the Protectorate, and as a consequence every person bringing capital into the country suffers a loss of 2½ per cent. on exchanging gold into silver. This toll on capital is levied by a branch of the National Bank of India at Mombasa, which is the Government bank for the Protectorate, and the arrangement seems a highly profitable one for that institution. According to the local *African Standard*, however, the bank "would welcome the legalisation of the Rs. 15—£1 exchange." and for the failure to adopt it "the fault is, as usual, with the Foreign Office." Considering how desirable it is that the introduction of capital into the country should be encouraged, the attitude of the Foreign Office in the matter is quite incomprehensible.

A Singapore correspondent directs my attention to the strange story of Li Min, a Chinese coolie, as set forth in the *Straits Times* by Mr. J. C. Robertson, of Balaiajong, Kudat, British North Borneo. The gist of it is as follows: On December 30, 1903, what Mr. Robertson describes as "a shooting party" of policemen, under the leadership of a magistrate, were searching in the Kudat district for a runaway coolie. Li Min was not the runaway, but by an unfortunate mistake one of the policemen shot him. In spite of a warning that he had better hold his tongue or he would find himself in gaol, Li Min had the amazing audacity to make a fuss about this incident. He even went so far as to suggest that he was entitled to compensation for his injury. As had been predicted, Li Min was clapped into the Kudat Goal where he remained three months. He was then sent to work (still a prisoner) on a tobacco garden. After working there for some time he was put "in the tobacco garden goal", on a charge of attempting to escape; and when Mr. Robertson wrote he was still awailing his trial on this charge.

According to Mr. Robertson, the magistrate responsible for the original arrest and imprisonment of Li Min now asserts that he was arrested and imprisoned, not because he complained about being shot, but because he owed a sum of five dollars to another Chinaman. But no summons for debt was issued against Li Min, and no opportunity was given to him to pay the money; he was simply rushed off to prison and kept there. Is it to be understood that this is the usual method of dealing with debtors in British North Borneo? Even in that event the case would be bad enough, but in Singapore there seems to be no doubt as to the correctness of Mr. Robertson's statement that Li Min was really incarcerated to cover up the regrettable incident of which he was the victim. The matter certainly calls for a searching inquiry by the Colonial Office.

The Unionist Party ought to be thankful to the folly of the Russian Admiral in having provided them with an opportunity to get out of a considerable difficulty at their recent Party gathering in Southampton. No one, Liberal or Unionist, precisely understood what is the attitude of Mr. Balfour on the fiscal issue, and at this meeting he would have found it by no means easy to satisfactorily explain it without offending one section of his supporters. He therefore dwelt almost entirely on the action of the Government in regard to the Dogger Bank trouble, and merely stated in regard to fiscal matters that those who wanted to learn his views would find them in his previous speeches. I have tried to do this, and I have utterly failed. They are as harassing as the contradictory paradoxes with which he recently favoured the world on science and religion. But the fact that the resolution of confidence in him at the meeting was moved by Mr. Chaplin and supported by Sir Howard Vincent is pretty certain proof that his views are not antagonistic to those of the Protectionists. If these two gentlemen—who are avowed and ardent supporters of food taxes, and of a tariff to protect our home manufactures against foreign competition—find no fault with Mr. Balfour, this ought to convince every Free Trader that he is not to be trusted.

Had Mr. Balfour ever really finally stated his views, the statement would have been more or less to the following effect:—

I know little about fiscal issues, and care still less. I am an agnostic on everything, and particularly on such questions, as they do not interest me. If I have an opinion, I incline to Free Trade, but this opinion is not a conviction. My business is to keep the Party together and to remain its leader, and I can only do this by ambiguity. If I were to say that I am a Protectionist, I should offend my Free Trade supporters. If I were to say that I am a Free Trader, I should offend my Protectionist supporters. Therefore, you will agree with me that it is better that I should say that I am neither, and that I also am both. It seems probable that, whatever I say, we shall lose the next General Election. I will therefore put it off as long as I possibly can, and do my utmost to prevent any one being obliged to express his opinion on fiscalities so long as this Parliament lasts. At the General Election, I will refer all who would know the official programme of our Party to my speeches. If by this means we can contrive to hold together, and to win the election, I will do my best to pave the way for Protection, for Mr. Chamberlain seems to have got hold of the majority of the Unionists. If we are beaten, then it may perhaps be desirable to keep a door open for the ejection of Mr. Chamberlain. Although I love him as a brother, if this becomes necessary, you may count on me. In the meanwhile, I have done what I can for trade and commerce, for I have appointed my brother President of the Board of Trade, and last Session I induced the House of Commons to increase his salary by £1,000. I have also met the withdrawal from the Cabinet of the Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Ritchie, and other shy Free Traders, for which I take great credit, by filling their places with gentlemen who are as ready to adopt any fiscal policy which may commend itself to the majority of the Party as myself.

The Falkland Islands, as some of my readers may have heard, belong to us. They consist of two main islands separated from each other by a narrow strait, and a number of small islands. On one of the main islands there is a small town called Stanley, where the Governor and about 400 British reside. The islands produce grass, turnips, and pigs. These pigs used to be much sought after by American whaling captains passing by. The Governor always insisted that they were British property. The captains, on the other hand, insisted that they were wild pigs without an owner. So matters stood during the Crimean War. Whilst we were fight-

ing Russia, an American whaler appropriated a pig, and then put into the port of Stanley. The Governor classed the pig as a British subject illegally detained, and when the whaling captain refused to give it up he imprisoned him.

It so happened that a few days later an American ship of war put in to Stanley. It was under the command of Captain Lynch—a mariner of some scientific fame, for he had surveyed the Dead Sea. The captain, hearing that an American citizen had been clapped into prison by the Governor, demanded his instant release, asking the Governor, if unprepared to comply, to remove his women and children, as the town would be bombarded within twenty-four hours. Yielding to this threat the Governor released his prisoner, though what became of the pig I do not remember. The Governor sent an account of what had occurred to the Colonial Office, and the British Legation at Washington was directed to insist upon an apology, etc.

Mr. Marcy was then American Secretary of State. He explained that Captain Lynch was in a nervous condition, because he had lately had domestic trouble. We indignantly replied that we could not accept this as a valid excuse, much as we regretted the family troubles of an American officer. But we judiciously dropped the discussion, for it was thought, as we had a war with Russia on our hands, that it was just as well not to get into hot water with the United States. The matter was therefore dropped. I do not think that the newspapers ever got hold of it. If they had, what "copy" they would have made of it! How they would have blustered! What dire vengeance they would have threatened, if Captain Lynch had not been drowned in the Dead Sea, or otherwise punished!

This little tale has its interest just now, for the action of Captain Lynch was a far grosser outrage to us than the Dogger Bank incident. Whether it has ever been decided what is the status of the Falkland Island pigs—or, as I remember they were called in our despatches, "the porcine inhabitants of one of H.M. Colonies"—I do not know. Possibly the great international question of their status is still undecided, and the pig war still rages between our Governor and American captains.

I have been severely taken to task for having said last week that the Russians had consented to the detention of their fleet pending the inquiry by the International Commission. But my critics seem to be airing the wisdom which comes after the event. The article which the remark occurred was written on the strength of Mr. Balfour's statements at Southampton, and the inference which I drew from his words was drawn by the majority of journalists. Some people think that Mr. Balfour intentionally used an ambiguous phrase in order to spare the feelings of some of the journals which had made all their preparations for war, and needed a little time in order to trim their sails to the way the wind was blowing. However that may be, the responsibility for any wrong inferences that were drawn from the speech rests in the first place with the speaker. It is true that TRUTH only goes to press on Tuesday morning, and that by Tuesday morning the true state of the case was evident. I ought, therefore, to have noticed the mistake before going to press. But as long as newspapers are edited by human editors, mistakes of this kind will creep into them occasionally.

There was a great outcry in some quarters, as Mr. Balfour may have expected, when it was found that the Russian fleet was to proceed, and that only those officers were to be recalled whom the Russians deemed sufficient to give evidence in support of the Russian contention. But why should the Russians have been asked to detain either ships or more officers than those who were directly concerned in the Dogger Bank incident, and on whose evidence they relied? They are the defendants. They may call what witnesses they please—few or many. If they suffer by only calling few, so much the worse for them. I was surprised when it appeared that the Russians had consented to do more than this. Their fleet was on the way to the seat of war. It is not likely that the Japanese will agree to a suspension of arms whilst the investigation lasts. Presumably the date of departure was fixed on an estimate of the date of arrival. Time is an element in success or failure. A delay of a few weeks might have fatal results. Were the Russians to agree to incur the risk of reaching the seat of war with only a portion of their fleet, or of reaching it with the entire fleet too late to be of any service to them in the war, and this for no reason except that we wished to penalise them at once for their attack on our fishing-boats?

Lord Rosebery truly said, the other day, that we are too much inclined to refuse to look at both sides of a question in which we are concerned. Supposing that we were at war with Germany, that she had collected a powerful fleet in her North Sea ports to invade us, that our Mediterranean Fleet was hurrying up to aid in our defence, and that by some mistake, culpable or otherwise, our fleet had sunk some Spanish fishing-boats off Cadiz, would either our Government or our admiral consent to put into Cadiz, and wait there for weeks whilst an investigation into the circumstances took place?

THE ACADEMIC IBIS.

An Ibis, on the Upper Nile,
Once argued with a Crocodile
About the many sacred Stories
In which the Land of Egypt glories;
How Nilus, of the rolling Flood,
Once on a Time had been a God,
Out of whose fertile Mud did spring
The Form of every living Thing;
And how to primal Cats he 'd given
The Faculties of highest Heaven;
With many another such-like Myst'ry.
That 's told in Egypt's sacred Hist'ry.
"They 're true," piped Ibis, "Word for Word;
"They 're true, as I 'm a living Bird."
"True, in a certain Sense, I ween,
But never in the Sense you mean.
In fact," the Crocodile replies,
"They 're just instructive Alleg'ries,
Describing, in poetic Phrase,
The wondrous Course of Nature's Ways.

For instance: Cats were surely meant
Women alone to represent,
Who still 'mong Men (or Rumour lies),
Like Gods, an Empire exercise;
And still their Prototype they match
In equal Power to bite and scratch.
While as for Nilus' fertile Clay——"
"Stop!" shieked the Ibis. "Stop, I say!
Sceptic, incredulous! Absurd!
These Things are true—aye, Word for Word."
"Nay! nay!" the Crocodile replies;
"They 're just instructive Alleg'ries."
So they disputed all that Day
Of sacred Cats and Nilus' Clay;
But while the Wrangle they pursued,
Ibis forgot her callow Brood,
Who, hungry, cried in Vain for Food;
So, starving, with the dying Day
Those helpless Nestlings passed away.
Still, heedless of her murdered Brood,
Ibis the Argument pursued,
And might be arguing to this Day
'Bout sacred Cats and Nilus' Clay,
But Hippo, who had overheard,
Put in a shrewd and timely Word:
"It doesn't matter, Friends, a Jot
Whether those Tales are true or not;
Whether mere Alleg'ries you make 'em,
Or whether, Word for Word, you take 'em;
For, Faith, this Argument polemic
Is, when all 's spoken, academic.
But in those Records which you quote
Some Maxims practical I note,
Which should—as all good Beasts agree—
Be acted up to, lit'rally.
For Instance, Birds who rear a Brood
Are straitly charged to give them Food."
A referential Glance evinced
His Meaning plain. The Ibis winced.
Ashamed and sad, she hung her Head.
"I take your Meaning, Sir," she said.
"If, 'stead of wasting useless Chatter
On Prehistorics, which don't matter,
I 'd carried out the Gods' Command
In what lies present to my Hand,
And brought my starving Young Relief,
That would have shown the best Belief."

Moral.

Too many, in a general Way,
Conduct themselves, from Day to Day,
As if the "Sermon on the Mount"
De verbo wasn't meant to count;
But yet adopt the sternest Poses
In championing a lit'ral Moses.

SCRUTATOR.

THE PRESS, THE PURSE, AND THE PUBLIC.

THE purchase of the *Standard* by Mr. C. Arthur Pearson is a very significant event in more ways than one. The price paid is, I take it, a record one for a property of this nature. Every newspaper man knows that the *Standard* has been for years past a very valuable property, but, taking a most liberal estimate of the goodwill, and allowing for the machinery and stock which are included in the purchase, I should have hesitated myself before paying £700,000 for this or any penny paper. The Messrs. Johnstone are certainly to be congratulated on having made a very good bargain. Mr. Pearson, who has been extensively interviewed on the transaction, insists that it is purely a business one. It may be so, but when I see Mr. Pearson at the same time telegraphing the news to Mr. Chamberlain as a set-off to the crushing defeat of the Tariff Reformers in Monmouthshire, I take the liberty of thinking that political as well as business considerations entered into the minds of the gentlemen who have found the money. It is here that the chief significance of the incident comes in. The *Standard* is the one Unionist daily paper in London which has stood firm by Free Trade, and resisted the Chamberlainite Protectionist propaganda. For over a year it has fought the battle ably and valiantly, and it has strengthened rather than diminished its journalistic reputation by so doing. It has now been captured by Mr. Chamberlain's "champion hustler," and how? By the power of the purse, and nothing else. By offering to the proprietors terms which, I take it, were far too tempting to be resisted by any newspaper proprietor with any regard for his own interests.

A great many—I think I may say most—of my personal acquaintances are regular readers of the *Standard*. From their conversation during the last two days, I gather that they regard the change of ownership with dismay. This, of course, is partly because the *Standard* has for long been the typical example of the old-fashioned, sober, steady-going British newspaper; and has set its face against all the go-ahead notions which have been imported into English journalism in the last decade or so, mostly from America. It is not at all likely that the regular readers of the paper will see any great change in its character in this respect. Mr. Pearson has been careful to make it known that no such change is contemplated, and he is far too experienced in his business to seriously contemplate anything so risky. But the other fear which is now troubling so many good London Tories—viz., that the *Standard* is to be converted into a branch of the great Chamberlainite press agency—is obviously well founded. It is not to be supposed that one of the most active of Mr. Chamberlain's henchmen would acquire a leading London journal with an idea of conducting it in opposition to Mr. Chamberlain's ideas; and Mr. Pearson's guarded statements on this point tell their own tale.

It was a notable coincidence that this great triumph for the cause should have been reported to the great man almost simultaneously with the result of the Monmouthshire election. It is no exaggeration to say that in West Monmouthshire Mr. Chamberlain and the Tariff Reformers rode rough-shod over all the most cherished principles and traditions of the Conservative element in the Unionist Party. The local Conservative Association was not consulted in the choice of a candidate. The candidate was chosen by the Tariff Reform League, and the Conservative Association was bidden to accept him, which it did, simply from force of necessity. The candi-

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date was an advanced Radical on every question but fiscal reform, and neither he nor his backers attempted from first to last to conceal the fact. He was dead against the Government on every question which the Government admits is open for discussion in the present Parliament, and on many others. He was opposed to the Education Act and to the Licensing Bill; he was in favour of payment of members, universal suffrage, and taxation of land values and mining royalties. In a word, he is a Colonial progressive of the most uncompromising type—the type most obnoxious to English Conservatism, as it was until Mr. Chamberlain declared for Protection. He was therefore put up to appeal to Conservative electors on the one ground that although an opponent of the present Government he was a Protectionist, and an ardent follower of Mr. Chamberlain. The *Times* has described the candidature as an interesting experiment—an experiment apparently designed to test whether, in a Radical constituency, an opponent of the Ministry calling himself a Protectionist could be successfully run as a ministerial candidate. The result of the experiment has been disastrous enough, whether from the Conservative or the Protectionist point of view, and it is not likely to be repeated. But the significant point is that the moment selected for this experiment immediately followed Mr. Balfour's declaration that if the Unionist Party chose to adopt Protection, he would be unable to continue to lead it. The Tariff Reformers seem to have replied to this declaration by at once putting up as a Conservative candidate a gentleman who declared himself strongly hostile to the Government on every question of the moment, and to Mr. Balfour personally on the question of Protection. They therefore said in all but words that they intended to make the Party swallow Protection regardless equally of the declarations of its Leader and the traditional principles of the rank and file. They follow this up by putting down £700,000 to purchase the oldest and most respected and most influential organ of Conservatism, for the purpose of suppressing its opposition to Mr. Chamberlain and converting it into an exponent of his opinions. The two incidents, taken together, show at once the determination of the Tariff Reformers to capture the Conservative Party, and the immense resources in cash which they have at their command and are ready to use for this purpose.

So far as the Free Trade interest is concerned, I do not think that the adhesion or defection of a newspaper on either side, even one so influential as the *Standard*, is of the slightest consequence. The answer to Tariff Reform tactics in West Monmouthshire was given decisively at the polls—the same answer that has been given in every part of the Kingdom where a by-election has been held. Journalistic influence has had little to do with the result in any of these cases; and it is not likely to have any more effect in future elections. The bulk of the electors in all constituencies have already made up their minds on the question, and the process of buying up newspapers for the purpose of advertising Mr. Chamberlain and cramming Tariff Reform down the people's throats, whether they are disposed to swallow it or not, is likely to alienate quite as many as it will convert, probably more. But be the influence of the Press in such matters what it may, no one solicitous for the public welfare can look with satisfaction at the process that has lately been going on, and of which the case of the *Standard* is the latest example—the process of consolidating the whole power of the Press, for good or ill, in the hands of a small number of gentlemen commanding immense wealth. Mr. C. A. Pearson, for example, now controls two London morning papers of large circulation, one London evening paper, and half-a-dozen or so of important provincial journals. Other individuals, or companies directed by them, control similar groups of papers, metropolitan and provincial. The interests of the moneyed classes, which such organisations represent, are not, as a rule, the interests of the nation at large. The personal ambitions of the individual proprietors render them subservient to the views of politicians who have, or are likely to have, the dispensing of the loaves and fishes; and nothing has been more detrimental to the honest independence of the English Press than the modern practice of rewarding individual Pressmen with titles in return for political services—real or imaginary. There has grown up at the same time an increased disposition to pander to the least enlightened and least sober section of the public. The "bosses" of journalism, being all entered in the keen race for vast wealth and social distinction, care for little beyond inflating their sales and multiplying their advertisements, and are always disposed to appeal to the passions and prejudices of the moment rather than to stem them. It is self-evident that a newspaper trust inspired by such a spirit, embracing the whole country like an octopus, giving the public its own version of all contemporary facts, and constantly seeking to indoctrinate it insidiously with its own opinions, may easily become a national danger, and a series of such trusts a danger yet greater.

Of this we have just had a conspicuous example during the tension between England and Russia. When the first news of the Dogger Bank incident arrived, and before any communication from the Russian fleet could reach this country or Russia, the journals of these various groups, instead of assuming that the Russian Government would do what any civilised Power might be expected to do under such circumstances, at once burst into a howl for vengeance. Our own Government was egged on to take measures which would render any peaceable solution of the difficulty impossible, however anxious the other side might be for it. Every effort was made to force the hand of the Government by the simple process of printing false news, and crying it about the streets in sensational contents bills, representing that measures had been taken which were not taken, and which the result showed there was no necessity for taking. If the object of all this was not to defeat any pacific desires our Government might have, and to persuade the Russians that we meant to force a quarrel

on them, no better means of gaining those ends could have been adopted. Suppose the end had been gained, what would have been the state of things in two or three years? During that time we and the Russians would have been diligently employed in killing each other. We should have spent in this work many millions and lost many lives. Our trade and commerce would have greatly suffered, and our competitors would have used the opportunity of our energies being directed to war to supplant us wherever they could. Taxes would have increased, incomes would have decreased. We should have driven the Russian flag off the seas. We should not have occupied any Russian territory, and we should have had to fight hard in defence of our territory in India. Japan would have established herself firmly in Manchuria, but this would in no way have benefited us. By the end of the three years the original cause of the war would have been forgotten, and we should have each been beginning to consider for what we were fighting. Then we should have made peace on the *status quo ante*. One or two fire-eating journals profess to regret that all this has been avoided. How any sane Englishman can take that view passes my understanding, except that our Jingo "we's," our stay-at-home warriors, and our Maffickers seem to be under the impression that war is a blessing and peace an evil from which we should always endeavour to escape. We are all for arbitration in theory; I am also for it in practice. I honoured the Czar for having called together the Hague Conference, as it was an honest endeavour to reduce the risks of civilised nations going to war. Most heartily do I congratulate him upon having appealed to the Hague Tribunal in this particular case. It establishes an excellent precedent and one which I firmly believe will render wars less likely in the future. Spread-eagleism, as it is called in America, Chauvinism, as it is called in France, Imperialism, as it is called in England, will always exist, for all countries have their Bobadils and their Tappertits, and occasionally they will temporarily gain the upper hand. But, as Democracy advances, and the workers acquire more influence in their respective countries, so will the danger of any country being dragged into war by these baneful braggarts diminish.

As regards the part played by our Press in the crisis, there is a pretty general agreement that for once it altogether outran the popular sentiment. Everywhere, outside a few newspaper offices, the prospect of a war with Russia at the present moment was regarded with undisguised aversion, and the solution of the difficulty was received with universal relief. The general tone of public feeling showed two things; first, that our experience in the Transvaal has had a salutary effect even upon the classes who have hitherto been most Chauvinistic; secondly, that the public does not always allow the self-constituted organs of its opinion to lead it by the nose. One may hope that this is a sign that the public is beginning to take its journalistic mentors at a more accurate valuation. And really the time has come when even the most feeble-minded may be expected to do so. The process of buying up great "organs of public opinion" for the purpose of making them sing a different tune should teach every one who is capable of using his wits that the newspaper he reads, so far from aiming at expressing his views or serving his interests, is largely occupied in "getting at him" in interests which may possibly be quite at variance with his own. The knowledge that this is so should inspire suspicion of all newspaper opinion, and stimulate people to think out public questions for themselves.

THE VOLUNTEER AND HIS C.O.

The *Gazette* of October 28 contained the announcement that the services of Lieutenant W. W. Lucas, 3rd V.B. East Surrey Regiment, had been dispensed with. This announcement covers another of those "regrettable incidents" so common of late, in which a thoroughly energetic and efficient Volunteer officer has been lost to the Service through personal friction between him and his commanding officer, and tactless handling of the situation on the part of the superior authorities. Mr. Lucas was called upon to resign his commission in consequence of a complaint made by him against his Commanding Officer, Colonel Powell. He had transferred to the battalion from another in 1902 for the purpose of raising a company at Egham, where he lived. He had raised the company successfully, spending for that purpose not only much time and labour but a certain amount of money. In November, 1903, he was suddenly posted to Kingston, where, owing to lack of communication between the two places, it was impossible for him to perform his duties while residing at Egham. There were many other officers at Kingston; there was none at Egham, and the command of the Egham company had to be given to a captain residing eight miles off. Mr. Lucas naturally inferred that the object of posting him to Kingston was to force him to resign. It seems open to no other interpretation. Under these circumstances he made his complaint, alleging also other matters in which he considered that the C.O. had shown animus against him and treated him unfairly. Reams of official correspondence of course followed, but the end of it all was substantially this—that the Army Council ordered the Colonel and the Lieutenant to attend before the G.O.C. Home District, who was to inquire into the matter; that the G.O.C. saw the Colonel, and did not see the Lieutenant; that on the strength of the Colonel's *ex parte* statement he made a report, as the result of which Mr. Lucas was called upon to resign, and, declining to resign, was gazetted out.

It seems to me that this is a most unwise and unfair method of dealing with a personal difference between parties in the position of a Volunteer C.O. and subaltern, and that General Oliphant is to blame for the battalion and the country having lost the services of an efficient and useful officer, at a time when such officers are most difficult to obtain. At any rate, the inequity of the procedure is obvious. The subaltern is the man who has made the complaint; but he is given no opportunity of substantiating it. The C.O. is what in a legal proceeding would be called the defendant, but he is allowed to transform himself into a prosecutor, and while ostensibly merely justifying himself, to make in secret coun-

ter-charges, on which, without any opportunity of reply, the man who has made a complaint against him is deprived of his commission. Whether one looks at it from the point of view of the public or the individual, the course adopted is equally deporable.

This is the third case that has come under my notice within twelve months in which precisely the same result has come about for precisely the same reason. The mischief is due in each case to wooden adherence to the military rule of supporting the superior officer regardless of equity, and regardless of the peculiar circumstances of the Volunteer force. The higher authorities fail to recognise the difference between the respective footings on which officers stand in the Regular Army and the Volunteers, and also the special need there is for keeping Volunteer colonels in order. In the Army there is some *primâ facie* reason to suppose that an officer rises to the command of a battalion by virtue of merits which qualify him for the position. In the Volunteers there is no security for anything of the kind. It is notorious that it is not every officer who can afford to take the command of a Volunteer battalion, and that the men who aspire to that position very often do so from indirect motives other than the desire of serving their country, though no doubt they fully believe that this is the mainspring of their action. There is consequently a special liability to errors of judgment on the part of Volunteer C.O.s, and all the more so because discipline cannot be maintained on precisely the same lines between men who are civilians for the greater part of their time as between soldiers pure and simple. The failure to recognise this and the rigid rule of supporting the superior whenever friction arises, has led again and again to the loss of valuable Volunteer officers, and will continue to do so until a wiser system prevails. There ought to be no hesitation on the part of generals, or at the War Office, in telling a Volunteer colonel that he has made a mistake and must put it right. It must often be necessary for the good of the battalion. But Army men are so hide-bound by the narrow traditions in which they have been brought up that there is little chance of these difficulties being handled with wisdom and tact until the Volunteers are placed under the jurisdiction of some officer at Headquarters specially selected for his fitness to deal with them. I regard the case mentioned above as a further proof of the necessity of a special representative of the Auxiliary Forces on the Army Council.

THE PRICE OF GRAND OPERA.

After running for some time a discussion on cheap opera, the *Daily Mail* has undertaken to farm Covent Garden Theatre for one night by way of testing the question. I understand the value of this test from the point of view of *réclame*, journalistic or operatic, but what it can possibly prove as to the cost of producing opera I fail to understand. As far as I can learn, what has happened is this. Sir Alfred Harmsworth, in conversation with one of the Covent Garden managers, made a sporting offer to take the house over, and let it out for one night. From the point of view of the Covent Garden managers, the offer was no doubt one which could be entertained on business principles. From the point of view of Sir Alfred Harmsworth it would, in any case, be a perfectly safe one. To begin with, the most popular opera ever staged, "Faust," is put on for this occasion. In the second place, the *Daily Mail* circulation of something like 900,000 daily is used, free of charge, for advertising it. In the third place, although a pretence is made of offering the seats at reduced prices, the reduction only applies to the top prices of the boxes and stalls, the cheaper seats are actually raised in price all round, and the total amount of money in the house, assuming it to be filled, will be considerably in excess of what it is at one of the current performances of the San Carlo Company. The *Daily Mail* is, therefore, certain of more than covering the price at which the house is hired for the night; and at the same time the management have no doubt taken good care that either in money or money's-worth they will be no losers by the transaction. It does not require any high degree of intelligence to see that to call this arrangement a test of the cost of producing grand opera is simply silly. At about 12.30 on the day when the announcement was made I was credibly informed that every seat in the house had been booked. If any sporting individual, journalist or otherwise, will guarantee to a manager that the whole house shall be sold out a week in advance of each performance, and relieve him of the cost of advertising, it is quite obvious to anybody who knows anything of the business that opera can be produced at much lower prices than those at present ruling during the London season. As a matter of fact, the autumn season at Covent Garden has been extremely successful, at prices below what the *Daily Mail* is charging its confiding readers, while pretending to offer them a "cheap opera." I do not profess to be an *habitué*, nor to be in the secrets of the management; but on each occasion that I have been there during this season, the house has been packed, and on the production of "Carmen" crowds were turned away from the doors. The performances have been uniformly excellent, and the prices have been the normal prices of London theatres. I believe I am right in saying that the top prices have been below the corresponding prices at Naples or Milan, and if the stalls have been raised for the privilege of hearing Signor Caruso, those who are content with cheaper places have for the first time had the opportunity of hearing a great operatic artist at anything from 7s. 6d. down to one shilling. Hundreds of people are able every night to hear all the best Italian operas at the last-mentioned price—except when the *Daily Mail* is taking over the house for the purpose of providing "cheap opera." What Mr. Henry Russell, in conjunction with Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth, has proved is that it is possible at this time of the year to give a series of first-rate performances of grand opera at ordinary London theatre prices, and with a very large allowance of cheap seats, and to make it pay. I might add that the same thing has been pretty well proved

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S. Insist upon SCRUBB'S. "MAKES HOME, SWEET HOME IN DEED."

already by the success of the Carl Rosa and other touring companies.

Why, then, do so many operatic enterprises in the "off-season" in London miscarry? Obviously from lack of business ability or capital on the part of the managers. Either the performances are not up to the mark, or the wrong operas are produced, or the working expenses are too high, or the enterprise is not properly advertised. When, however, people talk about "cheap opera" in the *Daily Mail* or elsewhere, they generally mean opera at something below normal theatre prices, something like the prices that are paid at the ordinary provincial German opera houses. These prices are obviously unattainable except with a subvention from public sources. I do not myself believe that we shall ever see subsidised opera in this country. A subsidy raised by taxation is only possible when all sections of the community are agreed in desiring it; and to suppose that all sections of the English community would ever agree to be taxed for the upkeep of an opera house seems to me utterly visionary. One difficulty is that if people are going to be taxed for the purpose, they will want to go to the entertainment, and to enable all the ratepayers of London to go to the opera, it would be necessary to subsidise, not one opera house, but a dozen, or more. My view is, therefore, that for the present those who want opera will have to look to the enterprise of business men to supply it, and to pay the price at which the business can be carried on profitably. But after what Covent Garden has lately shown, there is clearly no reason why an opera house should not be open in London all the year round, like any other theatre; and for opera lovers it is something to have that fact established.

THE THEATRES.

"The Walls of Jericho," at the Garrick.

Mr. Alfred Sutro's play, "The Walls of Jericho," will certainly not rank among the great treasures stored up by the society of our time for the instruction and delight of coming generations, but I can well imagine, on the other hand, the assistance it may prove to be to the historian of the future. If he be wise, however, he will duly discount the personal equation of the writer, so far as the ethical side of the play is concerned. He will feel that a certain strong bias has been the motive power behind Mr. Alfred Sutro, a prepossession against the behaviour of a certain small section of the upper class of English Society. The play portrays the clash between two different modes of accepting life. On the one hand, the profligate, utterly selfish "smart set," on the other the virtuous and magnanimous Queenslander. Far be it from me to suggest that the morals of Queensland are not as pure and gracious as the name of that colony, but speaking in general of the standard of morality in other societies than that of the "smart set" of twentieth century London, I am firmly convinced that in many of them there is quite as much immorality, quite as low an ethical standard, in fact, as in that special society which is the subject of Mr. Sutro's theatrical philippic. The difference lies really in the fierce light of publicity thrown upon the one, the obscurity which envelops those others. I have said that a strong ethical feeling suggesting that of M. Brieux or of Dumas *fils* is at the back of Mr. Sutro's work. But he has chosen his characters well and combined their mutual effect upon one another with great skill. We are miles away from the philosophical indifference of a play like "Lady Windermere's Fan" and its fellows. The stalls at the Garrick are full of youthful Spartans, who learn their lesson from the drunken slaves introduced for their moral edification. As to the pit and gallery, they are one and all Queenslanders to the backbone. The whole atmosphere of the theatre was impregnated with savoury odours, wafted across the footlights from our pure and perfect colonies. I myself became charged with them, and almost leapt upon the stage to chastise that cynical old Marquis of Steventon, who objected to his son's marriage with the governess whom he had wronged. But, fortunately for me and the Marquis, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, as "Fighting Jack," the Queenslander, took the matter in hand, and so thoroughly anathematised and confuted the effete nobleman that one felt the acrobatic feat would have been out of place. The colonies may breathe once more. The crime of desertion, unknown to their virtuous shores, has been once and for all time put a stop to in this degenerate old country by Mr. Alfred Sutro. In minor matters, too, Mr. Sutro's whip was flying like a flail about the bare necks and shoulders of the fair immoralists, who lose more than their friends like to pay for them at Bridge, or who marry Queenslanders for money, or who make epigrams about the holy state of matrimony. All ended in the best possible of ways. Lady Alethea Frobisher went off to Queensland to be thoroughly disinfected and regenerated by a residence of two years in that sweet spot, her brother married the governess, and they also went to Queensland, presumably for the same excellent reason. True, Queenslander number two insisted upon marrying Lady Alethea's sister, and one feared possible complications in the future, for the young lady had simulated an affection for Alfred Tennyson and mine owners when she really cared only for the money in the mines, and in the second place for her youthful cousin. But the antidote has been given to us by Mr. Sutro, and we are sure she will soon be packed off to Queensland also. Harry Dallas, the would-be Don Juan, who so nearly compromises Lady Alethea, is for the best reasons not despatched by Mr. Sutro to that colony since Lady Alethea is going there, and Heaven knows what might not happen if they met in its sylvan solitudes. No, the next best thing is done for him. He is dismissed with obloquy from Frobisher's house, and we are left to feel that if he did go to Queensland he would not be allowed to land.

For the playing I have little but words of praise. First and foremost stands Mr. Arthur Bourchier, whose style exhibits ever more and more a grip, a power of concentration and of impersonal characterisation which place him in the first flight of European actors. Mr. Bourchier's Jack Frobisher will rank with his Doctor

Johnson, with his judge in "The Arm of the Law," with his Blagden, and with the admirable fooling of his clown. Succcess in these diverse parts stamps him as one of that rare species, the born actor. I have nothing but praise, too, for Miss Violet Vanbrugh's Lady Alethea, a difficult part played with great delicacy and refinement, and with that tragic quality on fitting occasions which is the most exquisite gem in Miss Vanbrugh's artistic treasure-house. Mr. Sydney Valentine was the rough Colonial to the life. The comedy scenes between him and Mr. Bourchier were some of the best of the play, and when the play rose to drama they rose with it. Lady Lucy Derenham, in the person of Miss Muriel Beaumont, was a ravishing little immoralist in blue and white. No wonder the Colonial was captivated. Miss Kate Serjeantson did the virtuous smart woman full justice, Mr. H. Nye Chart made one duly indignant with such honey-stealing drones as Henry Dallas, Miss Lena Halliday might have taken her Duchess of Matlock from life, such was the realism of her cynical money-snatching. Mr. Junius B. Booth, as Bertram Hannaford, was overlaid with countless epigrams elaborated by Mr. Sutro by the light of his oil-lamp rather than by that of natural gifts in this direction. They mostly rang false and infected the conversation of which they were the chief ingredient. But with this exception, the play may be pronounced a decided success, and I have no doubt that for many weeks to come Englishmen will crowd to the Garrick to see how some of them behave in England, and Colonials will do likewise to see how differently they behave in the Colonies. Both may be occasionally a trifle surprised; but is not surprise one of the chief delights of the drama?

"John Bull's Other Island," at the Court.

Mr. Bernard Shaw's style is like that of a motor-car. It proceeds rapidly on its way by reason of a series of explosions. "John Bull's Other Island" went very fast and very far at the Court Theatre last week, and the audience frequently exploded also. The components of Mr. Shaw's explosives in this instance are the English and Irish characters in juxtaposition. Broadbent is an Englishman and a Radical—Englishman down to his heels, Englishman to the loose band of his Norfolk jacket—and Mr. Louis Calvert gave us a delectable performance of this John Bull in love with an ideal Ireland, but so much in love with it that he must make it his own. His the hill and grey old tower of Roscullen admirably adapted for the construction of a modern hotel; his the green pastures and the palavering population of that remote village, for he will be their representative in Parliament; his the hand and heart of pretty Nora, whom his firm friend, Larry Doyle, had formerly courted, but renounces with infinite satisfaction in his favour.

The action migrates from the offices of Broadbent and Doyle in Westminster to the hill and town of Roscullen, the grass plot before Doyle's father's house, to the parlour at Corney Doyle's house, and finally climbs Roscullen Hill again for the consummation of Broadbent's schemes and desires.

All the unsolved riddles of politics, economics, land tenure, national temperaments and traditions pass in parade before us, clothed in the robust tweeds of Broadbent, or in the picturesque inconsistencies of Irish attire. The tall hat of Matthew Haffigan worn in the wilds of Ireland, battered and disreputable, yet still a tall hat was one of the most significant features of the play. It characterised to perfection the discontented small farmer who complains of being trampled upon by the landlord, and would himself trample yet more cruelly, if he could, on the farm labourer. The scene of the grass plot was the happiest of the play. Patsy Farrell, the peasant (in which Mr. Grahame Browne was excellent), the fiendish tyranny of the Roman Catholics in the person of Father Dempsey (Mr. Charles Daly), Barney Doran, with his tongue in his cheek (bravo! Mr. Wilfred Shine), Matthew Haffigan, acrimonious and whining, in the person of Mr. A. E. George, these and other personages made up a symposium of contradictions and cross-purposes which was wholly admirable. The scene which follows in the parlour at Corney Doyle's house was spoiled by the wearisome iteration of the joke about the pig taken in the motor-car by Broadbent. One sees Mr. Shaw's purpose, but he drove the nail in over the head in this instance. On the other hand, Broadbent's speech-making and its effect upon the natives was excellent fun and fine characterisation at the same time. The two characters who did not impress me were those of Keegan, an exceedingly wearisome personage who had been a priest, and had apparently abandoned that profession for backgammon with the pretty Nora and the enunciation of mystical absurdities about everything. I see that the introduction of a failure was a component part of Mr. Shaw's scheme, but he should have been more merciful as to the length of that failure's utterances. Mr. J. L. Shine, as Larry Doyle, was suffering from two, if not three, hindrances to histrionic effectiveness. The first was a cold which affected his voice, the second an imperfect mastery of his words. But the part itself was not much at the best, and Mr. Shine's shortcomings may be shared with the author. The unmerciful length of the tirade of the first act put into the mouth of Larry Doyle and the endless meanderings of the mind of Keegan, these are the places in the play which would be the better for the active use of the blue pencil. But it says much for the brilliancy of its total effect to remark that from half-past two till six o'clock when the curtain fell, I was rarely wearied, and alert and laughing at the last. One word in conclusion in praise of Miss Ellen O'Malley's Nora, a proud young Irish filly, tamed and daunted by the indomitable Broadbent, of the prim Aunt Judy of Miss Agnes Thomas, and for Mr. Nigel Playfair's admirable delineation of the English valet *in partibus*.

* * * * *

The revival of "The Milliner Duchess" at the Empire on the Monday of last week was the occasion of a pleasant evening, ushered in with marvellous feats on the wire and on the trapeze, in which the Luken Brothers excelled, by the amusing conjuring tricks of Melot Hermann, who produces a stock of Union Jacks

and Stars and Stripes flags apparently from thin air, and by the quaint vagaries of Charles T. Aldrich, the tramp juggler. "The Milliner Duchess" is as bright and lively as ever. I especially enjoyed the introduction of the different types of French costume worn by different groups of dancers.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

PAUL DE CASSAGNAC.

I NEVER swam in Bonapartist waters, but had some valued friends on the Imperialist side. I used also to see most of the leaders, and the literati and artists of "the Compiègne series" at the house of one of the most charming and best of men, the late M. Dardenne de La Grangerie. Nearly all the political men of the Empire often lunched, dined, and went to "hops" and concerts there. Rouher and Ollivier did not, but the second self of the latter, Philis, an epicurean advocate with man-of-the-world manners and a genius for clear, elegant statement, came to all the La Grangerie festivities. A spirit of amiable and sceptical epicureanism reigned. Dumas *fils* often held forth at the dinners. He used to try the effects of *thèses* to be expanded in forthcoming plays. But, wanting breeding, he made himself too much the centre and autocrat of the table. Pinard, the darling Minister of the Empress Eugénie, a hop-o'-my-thumb, clever, touchy, of pointed and lively conversation and almost a wit, used to wince at finding himself snuffed out by the author of "La Dame aux Camélias." Paul de Cassagnac, who died last week, another favourite of the Empress, often mingled in the company. She, to reward some scolding newspaper articles that he wrote when fresh from school, insisted on his being decorated. They were aimed against the party of *l'Empire Libéral*, led by Ollivier, and encouraged by the Emperor, who felt he had no longer the physical strength to govern with the mailed fist. Paul, a remarkably handsome young fellow, had the complexion, dark eyes, and a sort of childish *naïveté* denoting African blood.

I heard Debarolles—also a member of this set—speak of De Cassagnac as being the grandson of a negress on the plantation of one of the Empress Josephine's cousins in Guadaloupe, his birthplace. He had tall stature, a magnificent figure, in which strength—which is extremely rare—lurked below the rhythmic gracefulness of the outlines. He looked the incarnation of the romantic school of literature, and answered to the description of a mulatto hero of old Dumas. I knew him to be handsome, but I never felt it. I knew him to have talent, but could not stomach his articles. They were of the Tear-'em order, with great power of expression, so far as they went, and gleams of wit, but had not a mind able to think behind them. As a master of vituperation he fell immeasurably short of Louis Veuillot. He could only scold, tear, or vaticinate as a journalist, and kept on harping on the same chords for thirty-seven years. In the first three years he answered to the likings and dislikes, the hopes and fears of the Empress and her political friends. Since the fall of the Empire, he day by day expressed vengeful sentiments of Bonapartists and other reactionists towards the side that had won, and went on winning. He fought endless duels with the champions of this side. As a fencer he might be pitted against Senator Ranc, and he had not his equal as a pistol-shot. I do not suppose that he ever wished to shoot or "skewer" a political foe. He would have only wanted to show what he could do if he chose. Bonapartists delighted in his articles. One of his constant readers, a Marseillais, who never met him, left him 2,000,000 fr. to enable him to pursue in full liberty his polemical career. His father left him a good estate in the Gers, where the people idolised him.

There could not be a more dreary *poseur* in general society. In Fleet-street journalism they often spoke of him when he sat in the Chamber as the "fiery Deputy of the Gers," or "the impetuous M. de Cassagnac," or of "his scathing flashes of indignation." He had neither fire, flash, nor impetuosity. All his speeches were delivered in manifest cold blood, declamatory as a love letter of George Sand, nearer to the point and shockingly unparliamentary for deliberately studied effusions. They appeared next day in his journal covering about three pages, and giving the insulting passages in leaded type. His paper, *L'Autorité*, gave no news beyond what telegraphic agencies supplied. The raking fire of the first page article sufficed for its readers. Rich Bonapartists used to subscribe, to circulate it down low. He wrote in short detached paragraphs that sometimes sounded when read like the blows of a hammer used in nailing colours to the mast. Prince Napoleon (Plon Plon) detested the style and the writer. Paul gloried in having succeeded in urging Prince Victor to set up as a rival of his father, and later as a member of the Boulangist pool into which the Comte de Paris entered. Do not be surprised if I say that Paul de Cassagnac was not a bad sort, and took no offence when friends called him Po-paul.

He married according to his conscience, and his friends thought at the time to the ruin of his prospects. Mme. de Cassagnac, a plain, simple-minded person, gave herself no airs, busied herself with her *pot au feu* and her two sons, and deserved her husband's affection and respect. They set up as housekeepers in a flat on the Boulevard Haussmann, and had a country place with shooting at St. Viatre, in the Loir et Cher, where he died. The place in the Gers is a vintage estate which floods the market with a cheap, heady wine. M. Paul de Cassagnac enlisted as a volunteer in the Zouaves during the campaign of 1870. He could have hardly meant to serve as a private, and in point of fact only did so under remarkable conditions—that of offering the support of his strong arm to his Emperor whenever the latter needed it. He helped the Emperor in a half-fainting state to mount on horseback at Sedan. The Emperor fainted altogether in the saddle, and M. de Cassagnac bore him into the Prefecture to lie down. He also helped him to and from the carriage that took him to the Prussian headquarters, and wore a lieu-

tenant's uniform though he held no commission. When the Prussians took him prisoner and ascertained his legal standing in the army, they sent him on foot to Pont-à-Mousson, and treated him with the utmost severity. During his captivity he turned his back on the Empire. "En fait de capitulations, Sédan me suffit," he wrote, I recollect, to some paper that spoke of his noble devotion to the Imperial cause. Gambetta thought the *mot* charming. He said so when dining with me and two other friends at the Hôtel de Bordeaux at Tours. M. de Cassagnac, however, reverted on his return from Germany.

As a journalist of the sound-and-fury order it might be said of him: "Bon chien chasse de race." His father, Granier de Cassagnac, orator and publicist, used his great talents either to praise up to the skies or to revile. After bepraising Victor Hugo as a poet, and Guizot as historian and statesman, he banged and battered them, and betook himself to the worship of Louis Napoleon, the diapason of eulogy rising at the Coup d'Etat, never to descend. A black and white artist engaged to illustrate the French edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" found in Granier de Cassagnac a model for Legree, the slave-dealer. De Cassagnac, noticing the likeness to himself, obliged the publisher to destroy the plate.

It is hard not to connect Rozhdestvensky's movements with the combined attacks on the Government within the last fortnight. We had in the combination Doumer, an expert on Extreme East affairs and pro-Russian, Deschanel, a courtier of the Grand Duke Vladimir and of that favourite of H.I.H. living in the Avenue of Mac-Mahon; Millerand, Russian baron by the Czar's grace; and Ribot. The latter, a man of unimpeachable honour, regards the Franco-Russian treaty as a masterpiece of his diplomacy and policy. He certainly did his best to bring it about when Prime and Foreign Minister. The Right gave its blessing to this union. The more lukewarm members of the "Bloc," affecting disgust at General André fostering delation in the Army, had decided to mugwump if they saw they could count upon a defeat of the Government. Had the Quadruple Alliance gained in its first attack, things might now be growing hot in the Mediterranean. A Doumer Ministry, or a Ribot Ministry with Doumer, Deschanel, Millerand —rather as a Russian baron than a Socialist—and Leygues would have been *pacifiste*. It would certainly have at least threatened war "to stop the horrible butchery in Manchuria." Threats would have led to blows. Need I dwell on contingent issues? The mediation *pacifiste* reminds one of Gribouille, who jumped into the river to avoid being ducked by the rain.

"*Pacifiste*" is a neologism. It means peace at all hazards, by threats or blows, for the purpose of grinding one's own axe. The *pacifiste* would turn attention from the war among the members by execrating the war that goes on between armies. Pacifism tends to widen the area of war by mediation that neither of the belligerents openly asks for. A pacifist Prime Minister in the place of M. Combes might now be inviting Rozhdestvensky and a German squadron to co-operate with the French in the Yellow Sea. As it would have the votes of the Right, it would see to the interests of the Catholic Missions in the East, and call back Mgr. Lorenzelli to the Rue de l'Elysée. Finally, Loubet would have to go about his business. The howling rage of the Nationalists, as shown in the assault on General André, is due to the hopes founded on the Russian Baltic Squadron being dashed. Syveton, who hit the General with clenched fist in the face, is a professional prig, hungering for office. He represents the Rue Vivienne district of Paris, is clever, but disagreeable, and able-bodied and still young. General André, who left the Chamber with a black eye and swollen cheek, is close on sixty-two, and must soon retire from the Army. If the assault had not been premeditated, M. Arthur Meyer could not have shown himself, in the *Gaulois*, wise before the event. Nor would the elegant ladies and clubmen, to whom last Friday Royalist Deputies gave passes to the Strangers' Gallery, have stayed there until ten at night. They waited for the assault on the War Minister. Had the season allowed, they would have gone to witness Syveton's *pugilat*, decorated with the white carnation. The Society people wore that flower on the breast on the Sunday on which Baron Christiani assaulted President Loubet in the grand stand at Auteuil.

The Quadruple Alliance has met with defeat under conditions which will oblige the Government to accentuate its policy. It depends more than ever on the goodwill of M. Jaurès and the Masonic lodges. The combination against it has done its worst and can only gain ground if Combes resorts to the sand-ploughing expedient. The situation here greatly concerns his Britannic Majesty's Government and, much more, Liberal and Radical opposition in England. It is of vital consequence to Italy and Japan. How strange that the far-off Empire of the Rising Sun should be in the same boat as Liberal Italy, Republican France, and all that is progressive in Great Britain!

Can the excitement of watching for a crisis in Paris have hurried the German Emperor into his *coup de balai* against the ladies who appeared in high dresses at the Berlin opera house last Thursday? M. Loubet would not for the whole world have sent word to the lovely Otero to leave the pit of the Français when King Edward went there as the guest of the French Government. She had been attempting by the play of her eyes to impress the house with the idea of old acquaintance with the King. A Foreign Office attaché acting as steward very politely went and asked her for her invitation card. She had not one to show. He regretted this, as an invitation had been issued for every place. The person entitled to the one she has taken waited in the corridor for her to vacate it. This was tactful. At the Berlin Opera-house the ladies in the high dresses obeyed the order sent direct from the Imperial box with unconcealed ill-humour. They cut down the corsages in the corridor and returned to their boxes. A sovereign who designs his wife's dresses and could direct a *maison de*

robes et manteaux in the Rue de la Paix saw at once through the expedient. In his fierce anger he next day sent them a rebuking message for their conduct. When he dictated it, his nerves probably tingled with impatience to know the fate of Combes.

Deschanel's acceptance of the principle of the separation of Church and State means that, if in Delcassé's place, he would, as a practical statesman, be for maintaining the Concordat, or widening it, if the Right insisted. We must take people as we find them. He is a charming person, has a socially ambitious wife, understands that his greatness must be always reflected, likes to keep company with Grand Dukes, and understands that Pius and Nicholas are fellow Popes.

The new King of Saxony is in a sad plight. His subjects insist on seeing "Queen Louise, ex-Crown Princess," at his side. He is inclined to take her back, but she refuses to submit again to the slavery of heart and mind from which she broke away. She might be persuaded to return to Dresden on her own terms, which the Saxons might not think unreasonable. They would involve the repeal of the family statute, giving the King absolute authority over members of the Royal Family. Nor could she be induced to return unless a new code of palace etiquette were framed, one rule being that no appointment in her household should be made without her consent. The ex-Crown Princess is at her mother's place, Wartegg, on the Lake of Constance. It belonged to the late Duchess of Parma. She had arranged to spend the winter in Florence, but her good feeling, when she heard of King George's death, prevented her going on there, and she returned to Wartegg. The Princess Louise does not approve of the league to hiss the King whenever he appears without the popular "Queen" at his side. She would offer no objection if she returned to Dresden to the eldest son being brought up in the creed of the great majority of his subjects. This used to be the rule; but so many eldest sons died under age that it has been departed from as "unlucky." Nothing would be easier for the King, Saxony being for the Queen, than to re-marry her according to the Lutheran rite. The Catholic marriage holds good, and the Pope never annulled it.

The marriage of Father Hyacinthe made a famous noise in its day. We are now so *blasé* as hardly to notice the matrimonial engagement of a "secularised" Jesuit and the divorced wife of an ex-Minister. The fiancé's "secularisation" can be no longer doubted. The lady when at school at Les Oiseaux used to confess her sins to him. She had the honour of being asked down to Compiègne to meet the Emperor and Empress of Russia three years ago. Her husband then belonged to the Waldeck-Rousseau Cabinet. Paquin had supplied her with dresses for lunches, dinners, and the Betheny review. To her deep annoyance she had to tone them down, the Empress not having left off mourning for Queen Victoria. A decoration received through the Russian Grand Chamberlain enabled husband and wife to appear as Baron and Baroness at the dinner given in honour of their Imperial Majesties in the Grand Gallery, and at the *soirée théâtrale* at which the author of "Cyrano de Bergerac" read his ode in glorification of the Empress. How long ago all that seems!

Poor bishops! The Pope promised to provide adequately for Mgrs. Géay and Nordez if they resigned their bishoprics. He has allowed each 8,000 lire. The annuities are secured by the Banco di Roma. Combes would have done better than this.

Géay has been staying in a house on the port of Cannes, lent to him in the dull season. He will soon have to leave as Cannes fills for the winter. He can manage to live comfortably on the 8,000 lire if it do not prove to be *monnaie du Pape*. According to a French proverb, Papal money is on a par with wages *du roi de Prusse*.

They talk at the Français of reviving Rodenbach's "Béguin of Bourges," a poem of rare loveliness, in a dramatic form. The Belgians, or, rather, Margaret of Flanders, solved the problem of leading a religious life without making war against every human instinct good and evil. Bruges is proud of her béguinage, which secures peace, honourable employment, and a field for benevolent activity to more than three thousand women. Once the morning "chapel" over, the béguines are free to go out and come in to their convent at all hours of the day and evening up to nine o'clock. The individuality of each béguine is respected. She can have the flowers of her choice on her window-sill, arrange her little parlour and bedroom as she pleases, but must in her walks abroad wear the general uniform, an ugly loose gown and hood exactly like that worn by the Stamboul lady when she goes to the bazaar. The béguines have escaped from fanatical fervour, and are not a proselytising order. They make and sell lace, attend the sick in their houses, and enjoy the respect of all. I never heard of a béguinage outside of Belgium. That of Bruges is about the age of Windsor Castle, or the part built by Edward III. Perhaps I should say the foundations, for the small houses round the court, with their tiny gardens, must have been rebuilt many times. In all the troubled times in which the Low Countries were the cock-pit of Europe the béguinages remained havens of peace and rest.

Rodenbach, in writing his beautiful dramatic poem, struck a note that went home to Huysmans. Hence the visits of the latter to the Abbey of Citeaux, near Dijon, which he calls in one of his books Notre Dame de l'Atre, and the religious course his pen has taken. He received the communion from Dom Augustin, the new Abbot of Citeaux, at the Abbey of Notre Dame de l'Igny. Huysmans portrays, as he alone can paint, Dom Augustin under the name of Dom Anselme, in "En Route." Need I say that Citeaux and Trappists are identical? M. Combes will spare this order, but on condition that their central house is always to be in France and its abbot a Frenchman. The word of command is issued at Citeaux.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

WHICH is the true optimist, dear Lady Betty, the Conservative who imagines that whatever is, is best, or the Radical who believes there is better to come?

. . . . .

Mr. Arthur Balfour is one of the minor Premiers.

. . . . .

The critics do not create; they are the creatures of the old things and the old ways. The clever are for the new things and the new ways, and have, therefore, been opposed by the critics in every generation.

. . . . .

Interest chooses the husband; inclination, the lover.

. . . . . .

The lover is the Sunday-best husband; the husband, the every-day lover.

. . . . .

The writers of to-day think to live; the great writers lived to think.

* * * * *

The History of Woman has never been written. That is an amazing omission. The follies and vices of men in every generation have made the condition and character of the women of their period, and the history of woman, therefore, is the secret history of man.

We are at an interesting chapter. Was woman made for man, or man for woman, is the question that circumstances have forced to the front, especially in the United States. The ordinary American woman is well educated, enlightened, independent, enterprising, and is treated by man with respect, not merely because she is physically weak, but because her will is strong. A woman of that type does not collapse when a difficulty arises—she deals with it herself; and if her husband fails, she comes to his assistance, and endeavours to rescue him. With those qualities the women in America have raised themselves almost to the level of man.

The ordinary Englishwoman is not so well educated, enlightened, and enterprising as is the American woman, and the accumulated conventionalities of ages prevent her from being so independent. She, too, claims to occupy a higher level, but without the qualities necessary to compel man to submit. The Englishwoman wishes to enjoy, but not to endure.

That is the attitude which we in Europe assume on every occasion; we are prepared to move upwards, but we must drag the cumbersome past with us. Those serious reflections are an introduction to the following letter that has been addressed to me by "An American Woman":—

"Sir,—We are capturing your trade and we are capturing your titles. As fast as we make heiresses in the United States you make them into peeresses in England. The Englishwoman complains bitterly, but submits. Were I an unmarried Englishwoman I would cross to the United States, and would endeavour to marry one of the thousands of rich, good-looking, and well-educated men there are in America. The journey there, and the hotel bills, would not amount to more than the cost of a season in London—the return fare would be paid for by my husband. The Englishwoman, however, has only the courage of her circumstances.

"I might write more upon that matter, but I am in a hurry to get at another which is especially important. At the time of the War of Independence, the mortified English men and women consoled themselves by declaring that the American 'rebels' were low, uneducated boors. A century and a quarter have passed since the rebellion, but that prejudiced view is still maintained in England. The English girls do not blurt out in the course of conversation with us that they imagine American men to be too abominably vulgar for the former to marry the latter, but they dispose of the suggestion of such a union with so much decision that it is obvious the objection is in their mind.

"The local magnate in England treats with icy civility the rich retired tradesman who has settled in the district. The sons of the former make love to the daughters of the latter, if the daughters are pretty, and may marry them if they are heiresses. The sons and daughters of the magnate, however, avoid the sons of the rich tradesmen.

"It is surprising how closely this conduct is followed in the intercourse of the English with the Americans. Englishmen visit the United States, but Englishwomen seldom do. Impecunious English peers marry rich American girls, but impecunious English girls seldom marry rich American men. American girls are received in English 'society,' but American men are not!

"In the century and a quarter that have passed since the War of Independence, the United States have become the richest and the most enlightened country in the world, and the Americans have attained a level of civilisation which is far above that reached by any other race. Yet English men and women still imagine American men to be low, uneducated, boors, as the great-grandfathers and mothers of the former did in their irritation. Moreover, the prejudice created at the end of the eighteenth century has, notwithstanding our enormous development, so much life in it yet that the English unconsciously treat us as a local magnate does in England a rich, retired tradesman who has settled in the neighbourhood!

"If the English persist in imagining America to be a nation of social savages who cannot even outlive their origin as the distant descendants of rich tradesmen may in your own country, can you expect Americans to believe you are devoted to them—that you look upon them as far-away brothers? Elaborate official civility is not sufficient to secure our friendship in the face of the every-day behaviour of the whole nation which I have described.

"We Americans are not unobservant; nothing of that escapes us, and we are asking ourselves: Were the present war between the United States and Japan, and had the former collapsed as has Russia, would the English be inconsolable?

"Your prejudices are ruining you in every direction; it is not ships or soldiers you need to protect your country, but commonsense. It is my earnest hope that this letter may cause some of your readers to perceive how foolishly you are behaving towards Americans."

It all comes to this, that English women should marry American men, and if that will save this country, why not make the—sacrifice?—Believe me to be, very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE Newmarket stables have done very badly this year, although the winners of all the classic stakes were trained there. Three racing studs are, it is said, to be removed from Newmarket in order that they may be placed under the charge of "country" trainers. It is understood also that unusually large drafts of horses trained at Newmarket are to be weeded at the December sales for whatever they will fetch. At no previous time, in all probability, has there been such a despicably bad lot of horses in training at Newmarket. However, the so-called "country" stables are not much better off, for, with a very few exceptions, the handicap horses, the animals that have been running in weight-for-age races, and the two-year-olds are all miserably moderate.

The King's purchase of Grafton House (which was announced in TRUTH at a time when all the papers were reporting that the place had been sold to the Prince of Wales) is the one bright feature in the generally gloomy prospect at Newmarket. Extensive alterations are to be carried out on the house during the winter, and it

is to be ready for the King's occupation during the First Spring meeting, which will begin next year on May 2. The front of the house is to be considerably altered, and the interior is to be enlarged and improved.

Lord Derby has let the house attached to the Bedford Lodge stables to Mr. Maguire, who occupied Lord Wolverton's residence during the autumn meetings, and Lord Sefton has purchased Hillside from Mr. A. Jarvis, and intends to keep a small racing stud. The Bedford Lodge stables are rented from Lord Derby by Captain Dewhurst.

The Derby meeting next week is likely to be a great success. Large parties will be entertained for the races by the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth, Lord and Lady Carnarvon at Bretby, Lord and Lady Burton at Rangemore, Sir Peter and Lady Walker at Osmaston, and Mr. and Mrs. Miller Mundy at Markeaton; and Lord Scarsdale will have a few friends at Kedleston, including Sir James and Lady Miller. The visit of the King and Queen of Portugal to England will prevent any members of the Royal Family from going to Derby.

Messrs. Tattersall's winter sales at Newmarket are to be held on Monday, December 5, and four following days, and I hear that the catalogues are already full.

The *Sportsman* writer returns to the subject of Silvio, asserting that in the Derby of 1877 Lord Falmouth "only feared Chamant." Lord Falmouth did not in the least "fear" Chamant, for the excellent reason that the French horse was lame, but he openly expressed the opinion that Chamant was a stone superior to any other starter, and that if he had come to the post fit and well the Derby would have been won by him as easily as the Two Thousand had been. Chamant was a racer of the highest class, and was as much in front of the other three-year-olds of that season as Pretty Polly has been during the present year. Lord Falmouth was a sensible, cool-headed man, and was under no illusions as to the real form of his own horses. He had no high opinion of his Derby winners—Kingcraft and Silvio—but considered that Queen's Messenger was a better horse than either of them. It was unlucky for Queen's Messenger that he happened to be running in a season when the three-year-olds were an exceptionally good lot, and he was most unfortunate in breaking down at a time when the St. Leger was at his mercy on public form. The best animals bred by Lord Falmouth were probably Spinaway and Wheel of Fortune. There was more luck than merit in Jannette's Oaks and St. Leger victories, as the One Thousand running had proved her to be decidedly inferior to Pilgrimage, and she had a truly miserable field to beat at Doncaster. Wheel of Fortune could not have lost the Derby of 1879 if she had been entered for that race, and it was only her breaking down at York which prevented her from winning the St. Leger. Sir Bevys, the winner of that year's Derby, was a wonderfully lucky horse, in that Wheel of Fortune was not engaged, and Peter was disqualified from starting by the death of General Peel.

Entries close this week for the Princess of Wales's Stakes for 1908. The stupid obstinacy and limpet-like pertinacity of the Newmarket management are proverbial, or the blunder committed in excluding three-year-olds from this race would surely have been practically acknowledged by reverting to the old conditions. The value of the stake has been reduced from £10,000 to £6,000, and the deductions for second and third horses amount to £900, while the extravagant sum of £600 is deducted for the nominators of the winner and of the second horse. The winner therefore will receive only £4,500. In spite of the warning furnished by the case of Rock Sand, no alteration has been made in the conditions as to breeding allowances. The Stewards stipulate for 250 entries.

The National Breeders' Produce Stakes of £5,000 at Sandown Park is the richest two-year-old event of the season, and it has always proved so successful that it is wonderful that a race on similar lines has not been established at Newmarket. A very large entry has been obtained for the race of 1907.

The King heads the list of subscribers with six of the Sandringham mares, including Vane (own sister to Flying Fox), covered by Ladas; Laodamia and Nunsuch, both by St. Simon; and Amphora, by Persimmon. Amphora was purchased for his Majesty at the sale of the late Colonel McCalmont's breeding stud for 3,000 gs. The Duke of Westminster has engaged four of the very best mares in the Eaton Stud: Vampire (dam of Flying Fox), covered by Orme; Throstle (dam of Missel Thrush), by William the Third; Rydal, by St. Frusquin; and Ornament (dam of Sceptre), by Persimmon. Lord Rosebery has twelve mares, including Gas (dam of Cicero) and Serpentine, both covered by Sir Visto; Avilion, by Ladas; Chelandry, by St. Serf; Mauchline, by Cyllene; and Seabreeze, by Velasquez. Sir Tatton Sykes has engaged ten of the Sledmere mares, including Game Chick, covered by St. Simon; Elizabeth M., by St. Frusquin; Ornis and Orlet, both by Flying Fox; Mimi, by St. Frusquin; and Amphlett, by Persimmon. The Duke of Portland has a lot of eight, including Memoir, covered by Orme; Elizabeth Hardwick, by William the Third; Semolina, by Right-away; Mrs. Butterwick, by Carbine; and Miss Gunning II., by Cyllene. Mr. Botterill has engaged fourteen mares, eight of which have been covered by Pride. Mr. R. A. Brice has ten, including Dame Hampton and Miss Langden, both covered by Flying Fox, and St. Elizabeth, by Royal Hampton. Five of Mr. Brice's lot went to Forfarshire. Lord Carnarvon has nine mares engaged, five of which have been covered by Mauvezin. Lord Clonmell has a lot of fifteen, three of his mares having been covered by Gallinule. Yesterling went to Flying Fox. Lord Derby has an entry of six, of which lot Canterbury Pilgrim and Glasalt went to St. Frusquin, Broad Corrie to Carbine, and St. Victorine to Ladas. Sir Daniel Cooper has ten entries, including Glare and Melody, both covered by St. Frusquin; Myakka, by Merman; and Float, dam of Flotsam, by Gallinule. The Duke of Devonshire's lot of six includes Burgonet, covered by St. Frusquin; Lady Villikins, by Orme; and Light and Gay, by Cyllene. "Mr. Jersey" has six mares, all covered by Merman. Mr. Musker has fourteen entries, and six of his mares went to Chevening, and two (La Rosière and School-book) to Flying Lemur, who is own brother to Flying Fox. Simena (dam of Henry the First) has been again covered by Melton. Among the odd lots are Major Loder's Admiration (dam of Pretty Polly) and Astrology, both covered by Gallinule; Lord Londonderry's Nenemoosha (dam of Cyanean), covered by Persimmon, and his Wenonah, by Orme; Sir J. Miller's La Sagesse, by Ayrshire, and his Roquebrune (dam of Rock Sand), by Sainfoin; Mr. Neumann's Clarehaven, by Gallinule; "Mr. Theobalds's" La Reine (dam of Volodyovski), by Florizel II.; Mr. Hall Walker's Merry Gal, by Gallinule; Lord Wolverton's Woodbury, by Flying Fox; Mr. Raphael's Cimiez, by Royal Hampton; Mr. J. Robinson's Doremi, by Bay Ronald, and Fuji Yama, by William the Third; Mr. J. Porter's Miss Unicorn, by Flying Fox; Chev. Ginistrelli's Signorina, by Chaleureux; Lord Howard de Walden's Glass Jug, by St. Maclou, and Galinne, by Carbine; Mr. J. B. Joel's Emita, by Isinglass, Cerisette, by Orme, and Pasquil, by St. Simon; Mr. S. B. Joel's Samedi, by Gallinule, and Mazeppa, by Ladas; Mr. Leigh's Flying Colours, by Orme; and Mr. Brassey's Winifreda, by Bay Ronald. Lord Cadogan has four mares, all covered by Sidus. Only one French breeder has patronised this race, Comte de Bresson, one of whose three mares is Yella, covered by Perth.

The following sensible paragraph has appeared in a leading provincial paper respecting the really scandalous plethora of winter meetings. Racing of any description should be absolutely prohibited during December and January:—

> The fact is the public realise that steeple chasing and hurdle racing at this time of the year is little better than farcical, because

the majority of horses that go to the post are avowedly not intended to win even if they were good enough to do so. The only idea of running them is to create a false impression in the minds of the handicappers. Many of them have been turned out to grass through the summer, and have only just been brought up. It is as though the Jockey Club were suddenly to take it into their heads to allow an occasional meeting to take place under flat race rules in the middle of January.

M. E. Blanc has thirty-eight foals this year, of which twenty-three are sired by Flying Fox. There is an own sister to Adam, but no relative to either Gouvernant or Val d'Or. There is an own brother to Jardy, winner of the Middle Park Plate, and a half-brother, by Masque, to Caius, also a filly by Flying Fox out of Lucie. Thirty-five of the mares at the Jardy Stud have been mated with Flying Fox this year. The unbeaten Ajax will commence his stud career there next season.

The subscription to Missel Thrush for next season is full. This horse, who is by Orme out of Throstle, was very highly thought of by the late Duke of Westminster, but he could not be properly trained, so his Turf career was a failure. Missel Thrush, however, appears likely to prove a great success at the stud, judging from the excellent form of the first lot of his two-year-olds, and so far he has not obtained very much chance of high distinction.

The prospects of next season's three-year-old races are very gloomy for British owners, as the Two Thousand and the Derby really seem to be only a question of health for Val d'Or or Jardy. Adam is not engaged in any classic stake in this country, but he is entered for next year's Eclipse Stakes, and as M. E. Blanc is also represented by Val d'Or and Jardy, his chances of winning that race are excellent. Adam was engaged in the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 at Newmarket in 1906, but he was withdrawn from this race when the first forfeit was declared. M. E. Blanc, however, is still represented by Val d'Or, Jardy, and Gouvernant. It was indeed a lucky day for M. E. Blanc when he purchased Flying Fox at the sale of the late Duke of Westminster's racing stud in March, 1900, for the horse has already proved himself to be the most successful sire in Europe, and his owner has soon recovered the high price which he paid for him. Flying Fox was bred at Eaton in 1896, and he was certainly one of the very best racehorses that had been seen on the Turf since Ormonde. It is curious that Lily Agnes never produced a good racer after Ormonde, and it seems as if the stud history of Vampire is to be very similar. From Flying Fox to Flying Lemur was a tremendous fall, and there has since been a further and considerable deterioration, as Wetaria, the two-year-old sister to Flying Fox, is exceeding moderate. The mistake which the late Duke of Westminster committed with Lily Agnes has been repeated in the case of Vampire. The dam of Ormonde was sent regularly every season to Bend Or, and the dam of Flying Fox goes year after year to Orme. If any other suitable sire had been chosen for Vampire two or three years ago, she might have produced another flyer, or, at all events, when she was sent back to Orme again, the result of the cross would probably have been more satisfactory.

Not only is it apparent that the Two Thousand Guineas and Derby of next year are tolerably certain to be won by M. E. Blanc with either Jardy (winner of the Middle Park Plate) or Val d'Or, but last week's running at Chantilly makes it equally clear that he is also likely to secure the Oaks. Muskerry, by Flying Fox out of Maskery (dam of Masqué), made her début there in the Prix de Saint Firmin, a race which was won last year by Ajax. Muskerry had been highly tried, and odds of 2 to 1 were freely betted on her, although there were eleven starters. The filly won in a common canter. She is a good-looking and very racing-like filly, and capable of great improvement. Her English engagements are the Epsom Oaks and the Coronation Stakes at Ascot, and I do not see anything in the entry for either race which has any pretensions whatever to be regarded as a flyer. It seems to be exceedingly probable that M. E. Blanc will next season sweep the board of the great three-year-old stakes both in France and in England.

There is to be a very interesting match next week at Maisons Laffitte, between Presto II., who defeated Pretty Polly at Longchamps on October 9, in the race for the Prix du Conseil Municipal, and Fifre II., who was believed to be the best three-year-old in France during the spring, but he met with an accident which prevented him from fulfilling his engagements in the great summer races. Fifre II. is now believed to have fully regained his form. The pair are to run over one mile and a quarter, each owner putting down £1,000, the weights being 8 st. 7 lb.

Cyllene's subscription for next season has been full for some time, and this result was to be expected, considering the successes of his stock during the past season, and especially as his fee is only 100 gs. Double and treble as much is impudently demanded for far inferior horses.

I observe that Hackler's Pride is described as the best animal in training. Hysterical rants of this ridiculous kind usually follow any remarkably good performances on the English Turf. There are so few racehorses of really good class now in training in this country that the exaggerated eulogies of the form of notable winners are readily accounted for. I do not believe that Hackler's Pride would have any chance over the Cambridgeshire course with Pretty Polly, running at weight for age; and I would confidently expect Zinfandel to defeat Captain Forester's mare at two miles or upwards.

Last week's racing was most indifferent in the matter of quality. There were plenty of runners, but the fields were usually composed of wretchedly bad horses. Some of the fields for paltry selling plates were absolutely amazing, but the contemptible auction prices generally realised for winners proved the utter lack of decent class.

The Lingfield meeting afforded the sensation of the week in a genuine "Lack-end" turn-up. Bachelor's Button and Mark Time met at even weights in the Park Plate, and very long odds were betted on Mr. Joel's horse, 11 to 2 being recklessly laid at the finish. Mark Time waited a mile and a quarter, and then came along at his best pace, the favourite apparently evincing a disposition to "cut it." Mark Time won cleverly at the finish by half a length. It was one of the greatest surprises of the season, and a disastrous crash for plungers, but Bachelor's Button is not the stamp of horse to show to advantage in a match.

There were fifty entries for the Liverpool Autumn Cup, and thirty-three horses have accepted. The race, however, was greatly damaged by the muddy-minded folly of the managers of the meeting in publishing the weights nearly a week before the Cambridgeshire had been run. There was certainly no object in bringing them out so early. A cynical member of the Jockey Club, now deceased, who had been exasperated by the blunders and stupidities of the managers of a meeting, remarked that racing officials are among the most stupid and pig-headed of two-legged creatures. Airlie has been doing good work at Newmarket, but he is to start for the Liverpool St. Leger this afternoon, and if he wins that race he will incur a penalty, while if he is beaten his chance for the handicap will not be held in much esteem. Killeevan cannot stay the course, and Catgut has not pleased the touts lately; while Kroonstad appears to have trained off. Flower Seller is much fancied at Newmarket, and this colt certainly ought to win good races before the season is over. Housewife has been doing good work with Rondeau and Pharisee, and she is strongly recommended by some excellent judges at Newmarket. Hammerkop is quite likely to run prominently. Bachelor's Button has probably had enough of racing for the season, and Throwaway appears to have trained off. General Cronjé will be dangerous if he is backed by his stable. It seems to me that Vril ought certainly to

win this race after his excellent form in the Cambridgeshire. Lord Carnarvon's horse would most assuredly have been given at least 7 lb. more weight to carry if the publication of the handicap had been postponed until after the great race at Newmarket.

Next week will be occupied with the Leicester and Derby meetings. There are large entries for the principal events at Derby, and many horses of high class are engaged. The Derby Cup has obtained an acceptance of twenty-eight horses, out of an original entry of forty-eight. This event can be better dealt with next week. There will be no betting of the slightest importance until the numbers go up. Bass Rock, who appears to be much fancied, does not seem to be particularly well in. Mr. de Rothschild's colt won the Chesterfield Nursery at this meeting last year.

Romford has provided a breakfast problem for golfers. Two members tied at 77 for the August medal. The replay resulted in a tie, and so did the next nine holes. Then, for the fourth time, they tied at 76. Afterwards, some ingenious person discovered that the five handicap man had been playing with a handicap of four, to which figure his allowance had been reduced the day after the competition had started. The secretary held that he had won the medal. Naturally his opponent objected. The committee has decided against the objector. According to the *News of the World*, from which I take the facts, there is no precedent, and it is suggested that the matter should be referred to the decision of the Royal and Ancient. I have put the case before an eminent lawyer and asked him for his opinion. He says that, in the first place, the handicaps of both men should be reduced. On the main issue, he considers that the players should play again on their proper handicaps. I quite agree. I certainly consider the decision of the committee wrong. Every man should take care of himself. If a golfer chooses to play under a four instead of a five handicap, that is his affair. He cannot go back to the booking-office and demand the right change for his ticket after he has completed his journey and given up his railway ticket. No court would listen to him for a moment. If in a foot race he started from the five instead of the ten yard mark, he could not claim to run again nor claim the match. If in a lawn tennis or croquet tournament he used only one bisque, forgetting or not taking the trouble to inform himself that he had two bisques, he could not claim the match or ask to replay the tie. But if the tie or the race is a dead-heat, or if the journey is taken again, he is quite within his rights in saying, "Now that I have taken the trouble to find out what I have a right to, now that I know the railway company made a mistake in the fare they charged, I will take my proper start or pay my proper fare." And, as a sportsman, I rather feel that if I had mistakenly but voluntarily handicapped myself in that way, I would either toss for the prize or play again on the same terms, and not even take advantage of my error. The last thing in the world I would do would be to take the prize. This, I believe, is the winner's attitude. I quite sympathise with the loser, who says that the state of the scores at each hole was affected by the handicap. That is a position I can understand. He claims that the scores should stand, and that a fresh match should be played on the proper handicap. I have not the slightest doubt that he is right.

Shrubb, the long distance runner, did some wonderful performances at Glasgow last Saturday, when he set to work to demolish the ten miles, and, if possible, the one hour running record. At six miles he was inside Sid Thomas's amateur record by 18 sec. At eight miles he was 40 sec. inside W. G. George's world record, and at ten miles he beat W. G. George's amateur record set up in 1884, and W. Cummins's professional record, which was 11 sec. faster, and which was made in 1885. He did the distance in 50 min. 40 sec., which is 40 sec. faster than George's old record, and 29 sec. better than Cummins's. He ran through for the hour and beat all records except Watkins's, who, as a professional, paced by runners and cyclists, did 11 miles 1286 yards in 1899. Shrubb covered 11 miles 1137 yards. For the benefit of University athletes I may mention that the time for the three miles was just under 14 min. 46 sec. It might do the police good to see such a race. Their notions of motor speed might be corrected, while those magistrates who still regard twelve miles an hour as an outrageous speed would be considerably enlightened.

At Cambridge Third Trinity won the University Fours very easily from Lady Margaret, who had to change their crew at the last minute owing to illness. At Oxford, University beat Merton after a fair race. Balliol, their strongest opponents, were beaten by them after a good struggle in the first heat. New could not put on a four owing to illness.

It was interesting to watch the Rugby match between Lennox and Old Merchant Taylors on Saturday. The one team had fought its way into first-class football, the other is squeezing through the gate, and it has been squeezing for some time without quite getting there. And yet the Lennox club has done very well, in spite of the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. The club was largely composed of old Dulwich boys, but since the Old Alleynians has been formed that recruiting ground has been lost. And so this year only two of last year's forwards were playing. I am told they played above themselves last Saturday. I hope they will continue to do so. They packed and tackled well, but their dribbling was not quite good. Their full-back, Galloway, is a most promising player. He scored a try. He fields the ball cleanly. He kicks well, and, as he has pace, he should be a very useful centre three-quarter. Although the O.M.T.s won, they had all their work cut out to do so. The Old Boys passed very well, and their forwards, when they once made up their minds to work, put in some good rushes, but at times they quite failed to get round quickly. Judging by what I have been told of the Blackheath and London Scottish and Richmond and Bristol matches, the play in the match to which I have more particularly referred was quite as good an exposition of Rugby football as was to be seen elsewhere.

I sincerely hope that the Lennox team will get more recruits on their new ground at Cricklewood. They are compelled to leave Stamford Bridge. Their match at the Old Deer Park recalls the game which first brought the Old Merchant Taylors into a prominent position in the circles of Metropolitan Rugby football. It will be twenty years next spring since they played Richmond on the ground where the "A" teams of the O.M.T.s and Rosslyn Park now play. In the Old Boys' team, three of the outsides were in the school fifteen. Against them were Roberts and Rotherham, the International halves, E. Temple Gurdon and his brother, Browell, and others forward. Richmond won by a goal, that Browell placed, to nil. E. Temple Gurdon called for the formal three cheers at the end of the match, and then recognising that a new club had won its way into first-class rank, he called for three more cheers, a kindly compliment which has never been forgotten by those who played in that match.

The O.M.T.'s team contained some promising youngsters. A youthful three-quarter might remember that it is an excellent maxim of Rugby football "when in doubt punt into touch." A punt across the ground must be done promptly, and as quickly followed up. The match started with commendable punctuality. For the benefit of enthusiasts who come to that ground I may mention that no one is allowed inside the ropes, and that as the stand is flush with the ropes the rule applies to that portion of the ground as well. I can scarcely conceive anybody being so deficient in mental intelligence as to need to be told this, but from what I saw the lesson is needful.

I am told that "the Blackheath team beat the Scottish after a scrambling match." This is a pity. But it often happens in Metropolitan football when players in their

keenness forget the need for combination. Richmond beat Bristol after a rough game and some bad temper. Between roughness and hard play there is all the difference in the world. But a certain class of players never seem to understand the distinction.

Whatever may be the condition of Rugby football in the Metropolis there is absolutely no doubt about its progress in France. The champion club of France, the Racing Club de France, came over to Cambridge, and by two tries to a goal beat Trinity. But it was not really Trinity. The team was strengthened (see the *Field*) by two John's men, a back and three-quarter, who play for the University, and a half-back and a three-quarter from Caius. All the more credit, therefore, is due to the visitors for their victory. They tackled well, and picked up the greasy ball cleanly. I really do not know what is coming over Trinity, Cambridge. It is a mammoth amongst colleges. Like other mammoths, is it becoming extinct for sporting purposes? First, Trinity cannot put a four on the river, and its Rugby club has to go to St. John's and Caius to strengthen its side to play a match which has been arranged for Trinity to play.

Sunderland are now League leaders, but they could only draw with Woolwich Arsenal on their visit South. Indeed, they were lucky not to lose. In the Southern League, Tottenham Hotspur have at last scored another win, while Bury, at the bottom of the League table, have scored their first win of the season over Notts County. Amongst the amateurs there was some remarkable scoring in the tie for the Arthur Dunn Cup between the Old Malvernians and the Old Westminsters. The latter were beaten by ten goals to one, and yet they had Blaker, Moon, and S. S. Harris in the forward line. But their halves were fatally weak against a forward line as strong as any amateur club can boast—namely, Day, B. Foster, Balfour, Melville, Corbett, and Mellin. Clapton beat the Old Carthusians in the London Charity Cup, while the Corinthians, who could only put a weak team in the field, were overwhelmed by Aston Villa.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Unsettled — Less Business — Political Opinions—Money Less Easy—The Real Explanation of the Setback—Good Points—Markets still Susceptible.

ON the Stock Exchange the week has been an unsatisfactory one. Luckily, there was a holiday on Tuesday, and members were spared the slump which would probably have been induced by the circumstantial stories about the movements of the British fleets which came one after another from Gibraltar, each succeeding one heightening the effect and causing the bewildered man in the street to exclaim that this really meant war at last. Lloyds developed a scare, and in the circumstances the rest of the community might have been forgiven for displaying some alarm. Luckily it passed off next day, but there remained a rather weak undertone, which has prevailed to the detriment of real business down to the end, except for some recovery on Thursday, caused by the announcement that the Bank rate would not be advanced. The monetary position, too, is scarcely so rosy, and the outlook is more than a little uncertain, so that bill brokers and others are waiting to see if the Bank will be forced to raise its rate to 4 per cent. The usableness of money on the Continent, and especially in Germany, tends to a further reduction of the foreign balances which have been employed here for three or four years past, and although we are receiving much gold from abroad, it is, unfortunately, not staying with us. The Bank's reserve is being depleted, and there are heavy demands upon its resources yet to come before the end of the year. But this slight change for the worse in the monetary position would not be of much account were it the only disturbing element in the market. The Russian trouble has for the time being shaken confidence again, and though I do not believe that anything really serious will develop between Great Britain and Russia, the latter's policy of irritation, united with the progress of the mad fleet and the uncertain course of events in Manchuria, must tend to check anything but the most conservative investment buying. I speak of the House as a whole. Particular markets have their particular influences. Peruvian Corporation stocks, for example, are in a very active and buoyant condition, in anticipation of an early settlement of the outstanding claims against the Government of the country. But markets generally are in a very susceptible state, and with every wish to go better, are likely to be restrained until the political outlook is brighter.

Money Harder—Driven to the Bank—Old Lady in Control—Position of the Reserve—Foreign Requirements—Discounts very Firm.

Rates for money have been easier since the turn of the month, but there has been no abundance, and rates have not slipped back to any material extent. It was found necessary to borrow between £4,000,000 and £5,000,000 from the Bank of England to tide the market into November, and available supplies having been reduced by the recent transfer of credits to Germany, it was considered doubtful whether this could be accomplished unless Government disbursements were on a large scale. As a fact, Lombard Street has had to renew about a million, and the Bank of England has also done a large business in discounts. Cash is going to the country as well as abroad; the last Bank return shows a loss of £2,157,000 in the stock of coin and bullion, of which £1,377,000 was on foreign account; and with an increase of £252,000 in the note circulation the reserve is reduced by £2,410,000, and the ratio to liabilities is 1.73 down at 52.15 per cent. The menace of gold to America has been removed; but there are still considerable sums to go to Egypt and South America for crop-moving purposes; and although in some very good quarters it is thought that German demands have about come to an end, there is still an element of uncertainty about the matter, while in the ordinary course gold will be taken for the provinces during the next week or two. In all these circumstances, it is not surprising that discounts in the open market should have hardened to within a fraction of Bank rate for three months' fine bills. This is not without advantage. The Bank is in control, outside rates have been brought more into conformity with the official minimum, and there is the less prospect, therefore, of further withdrawals of French capital from London.

Consols ease back Further—Politics and Money—Other Government Stocks Sympathise—Colonials Idle—Foreigners less Active—Russians Steady—Japanese Improve—Another Peruvian Spurt—Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas.

More than one unfavourable factor has been operating to the detriment of gilt-edged descriptions during the past week, but the two most significant have been the political outlook, which gave anything but satisfaction owing to its haziness, and the monetary position. In regard to the latter the apprehension became rather accentuated on the publication of the Bank return, followed by rumours of large withdrawals of gold for Germany and elsewhere, which exercised sufficient influence to check any possibility of advance when politics ceased to trouble so much. The carry-over in Consols revealed no reduction in the "Bull" position, but the rate was appreciably stiffer at $3\frac{1}{4}$-$3\frac{1}{2}$, and the stock, though it made an attempt to improve at one juncture, moved consistently downwards throughout the week, finishing at $87\frac{3}{4}$, or a loss of $\frac{1}{4}$ on balance. Other Government issues, such as Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, Irish Land Stock, India Threes, and the War Loan, moved

in sympathy with the Funds, though the heaviness did not develop to an equal degree. Colonial stocks remained idle and, for the most part, neglected, and there has been less activity amongst Foreigners. When the nervousness over the political situation was most marked, Paris specialties eased back temporarily until that centre gave a little support which brought about a recovery in Russian, Spanish, and Turkish Unified, while the news from Manchuria exercised a beneficial influence upon Japanese issues, which show a fairly good improvement on balance. Apart from Peruvians and Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas, South American stocks have remained quietly steady. The former spurted significantly on the announcement that the Chamber of Deputies had authorised the Government to come to terms with the Corporation in regard to the outstanding debt due to the latter in connection with the unfulfilled obligations of the Government to pay an annual subsidy of £80,000 from the Callao customs receipts. Some profit-taking was induced by the improvement in price, but this did not check the advance very materially, and the Corporation's stocks, more particularly the Preference, and in a lesser degree the Ordinary, finish substantially higher. In regard to the Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas, the strength was occasioned by reports of the formation of another scheme for the settlement of matters outstanding, but the advances scored are not very material.

HOME RAILWAYS UNSETTLED AND WEAK—POLITICAL RUMOURS AND MONETARY FEARS—POOR TRAFFICS—WELSH STOCKS.

Dealings in the Home Railway section have been on an indifferent scale, and the tone has been unsettled—at one time it was weak. Luckily, the House was closed on Tuesday for the customary holiday, and prices did not suffer from the wild rumours afloat on that day, but on Wednesday the market was heavy. Although the political rumours were regarded as groundless, the traffic returns were certainly for the most part unsatisfactory, the only really encouraging "takes" being those of the North British and Great Central, and in a lesser degree the Great Western. The others showed small increases or actual decreases on top of declines last year. In explanation it was stated that the season-ticket receipts were not included this year, as was the case in 1903. The "heavy" group was conspicuously weak, Great Westerns, Leeds, North-Westerns, and Midland Deferred all closing with losses of 1½, while Berwicks fell a point. York Deferred went back ¾ to 40½. South-Western Deferred was also very flat, finishing 2 down at 51. Berthas and Dover A each lost ½, while Chatham First and Second Preferences declined respectively 1½ and 1. Metropolitan Consolidated left off 1½ lower, and Districts fell ½. North British and Caledonian Deferred both declined ⅝. In fact, declines more or less substantial occurred throughout the list. It ought to be understood that there was not much actual offering of stock, and that the declines were the result of "Bear" sales and the precautionary marking down of prices. There being little stock about, a recovery was the more easy to engineer, and consequently the next day witnessed a general improvement along with the gilt-edged section, and although there was a tendency to sell again in the afternoon, substantial gains were the rule. South-Western Deferred left off 1½ higher at 52½. Great Westerns, Berwicks, and Leeds all closed a point up, while Midland Deferred and North-Westerns added ¾ each. Dover A and Little Chathams were fractionally higher on balance, and Berthas registered a net gain of ½. Chatham Arbitration Preference rose 1 to 101. In the Scotch division North British and Caledonian Deferred put on ⅜. On Friday there was another set-back, the declines including 1 in Great Westerns, "Leeds," Brighton A, Chatham Arbitration Preference, and Midland Deferred, and ¾ in Great Westerns and Metropolitans. Scotch stocks showed some resistance, and Rhymneys and Barrys among South Wales issues actually improved. The market as a whole was affected by the talk of dearer money, which touches Home Railways almost as quickly as any other department in the House. At the moment there is a pause pending the conclusion of the settlement, and the dissipation of the disquieting influences which have served to drive away the investing classes from this as from most other markets—only for a brief period, it is to be hoped. For my part, I can see nothing in the monetary position to cause uneasiness. It is doubtful if a 4 per cent. Bank rate will be imposed upon us, even with the extraordinary demands of the Continent, and it is a long time since we were able to get over the end of the year even on a 4 per cent. basis. Coming after the drain of the South African War, I look upon this as a splendid evidence of the country's recuperative capacity. My table is below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price. Oct. 29.	Price. Nov. 5.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	76	76½	75¼	75½	- ¼
Do. Def.	28¼	33½	33½	32½	-1
City and S. London	51½	47½	47	47	--
Central London	96	93	93	93	--
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	51¼	51¼	—
Do. "B"	24	29½	29½	28½	-1½
Do. "A"	13½	16½	16	15½	- ½
Great Eastern	85	92¼	92½	90⅜	-1⅞
Great Northern Pref.	99½	102	101½	101	- ½
Do. Def	37½	42½	41⅞	40	-1⅞
Great Western	135⅝	139½	139½	138	-1½
Hull and Barnsley	42	38¼	38½	38¼	—
Lancashire and Yorkshire	101	106½	107½	106½	-1
London and Brighton "A"	106½	124	123⅛	121½	-2
London, Chatham, and Dover	14	16⅜	16½	16	- ½
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	90	102	101	100	-1
Do. 2nd Pref.	54	66	65	64	-1
London and North-Western	154	154½	154½	151½	-3
London and South-Western Def.	52	53½	53	52	-1
Metropolitan Consolidated	83	100⅜	101	99	-2
Metropolitan District	31	42½	41½	41½	- ½
Midland Pref.	68½	68	68	67½	- ½
Do. Def.	65½	66	66	64	-2
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	76	76½	76	- ½
Do. Def.	42¾	47½	47⅜	46⅜	-1
North-Eastern Consolidated	140½	133½	139	138	-1
South-Eastern "A"	48	58½	58¼	57¼	-1

Traffics are not at the moment very encouraging, but the trade outlook is better, and although a number of lines report decreases to date, these are likely to be counterbalanced by economies of expenditure. The position to date in the matter of gross earnings is shown below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 1,018	- 2,272	+ 14,253
Caledonian	+ 2,695	- 2,280	- 3,730
Great Central	+ 2,236	- 308	+ 14,641
Great Eastern	+ 1,200	- 6,100	+ 6,700
Great Northern	+ 1,566	- 5,701	- 35,104
Great Western	+ 2,100	- 200	+ 3,000
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 6,475	- 7,156	+ 36,017
London and North-Western	- 1,000	+ 2,000	- 69,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,300	+ 300	+ 7,400
Midland	+ 7,819	-15,746	-109,234
North British	+ 5,467	- 1,862	+ 8,572
North-Eastern	+10,106	-15,314	- 8,049
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 2,573	- 2,928	+ 20,322

AMERICANS LESS ACTIVE—A PAUSE PENDING THE ELECTIONS—ERIES AND SOME OTHER SPECIALTIES—WHAT THE ELECTIONS MEAN—WILL THE PUBLIC COME IN?—BETTER TRADE AND THE RAILROADS.

The American market has not had very much to do this past week. Wall Street has shown a hesitating tendency in view of the nearness of the Presidential election, which takes place this week, and may possibly furnish a surprise; and the export of gold to Paris gave rise to fears of monetary stringency, though this, it would appear, ought to be neutralised by the return of cash from the interior. President Roosevelt's accident had next to no effect, since it was not serious; and the wild rumours circulated in the earlier days of the week about the relations of Great Britain and Russia were not taken very seriously, and their influence was momentary. But between them the various factors have brought about a condition of quietness which has not

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

been witnessed in New York for many weeks past. The solid things of the market have not held their ground, and taking the market as a whole, a general reaction in values is to be recorded. It is only specialties which have come in for support. Eries were at one time prominent on the reported acquisition of control of the Hamilton and Dayton system, and on a rumour that the Rockefeller and Morgan interests had agreed to support the shares until after the election—when presumably, unless the public comes in, they will be allowed to find their own proper level once again. Norfolks were also well supported, and the Harriman interests bought Unions and Southern Pacifics, these latter coming in for good support from other quarters on the possibility of a dividend with the refunding plan in December. So far as London is concerned, however, the week has been more than usually uninteresting. Our market prefers not to take undue risks, and sees no reason why it should develop activity when the real leaders in New York think it time to call a halt. In view of the issues involved in the election, caution seems very desirable. A victory for Mr. Roosevelt is regarded generally as a certainty. Leaving out of count the possibility of a surprise, what is going to happen after all doubt has been removed? Another run for Mr. Roosevelt is interpreted to mean another era of prosperity for the whole country, and, if the American people believe that, they ought to come in and buy Railroad stocks. The big interests have argued that way, and have put prices tolerably high just as an encouragement; but there is little indication that anything of the sort will happen. In case the expected fails to mature, will the "pools" go on manipulating prices? Their commitments are very large, and their methods and the measure of their "pull" are coming to be pretty generally understood, and it seems to me that in default of a rush to buy, there is a very fair prospect of a general reaction. It is pointed out that the iron and steel trade is showing clear signs of improvement, and that the Companies are placing with the Steel Corporation and others large orders worth several millions of dollars on rails, cars, and other equipment. This is encouraging for the Steel Companies, but with earnings on their present scale, and the course of general prosperity still uncertain, it is scarcely a "Bull" point for Railroad stocks to know that these heavy expenditures are necessary—as they must be seeing how long they have been held back. My table will be found below:—

—	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing Price. Oct. 22, 1904.	Closing Price. Oct. 29, 1904.	Closing Price. Nov. 5, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	88⅝	89⅝	87⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	105	104¾	104¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73¼	98½	97	97¼
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	47	47¾	46¼
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	32½	32⅛	31⅛
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	86	85½	84½
Erie	43⅜	23¼	38⅞	41⅜	40⅛
Do. First Pref.....	75⅞	64⅛	75	75	74
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	139⅜	140	136⅜
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	177	178	175¾
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	31⅝	33	32
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	94	94	93
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅝	75½	74¾	74⅜
New York Central	158	116⅜	138¼xd	138	138⅛
Ontario	36	19¾	44	47	43⅜
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	70⅜	70¾	70⅛
Reading.....	35½	20	40⅛	38⅝	37½
Do. First Pref.....	45½	36⅜	45	45	45
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅛	36⅜	36½	35⅛
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	98	97½	96½
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	64	64½	62⅜
Union Pacific	107⅛	69⅛	110½	115¼	113⅝
Do. Pref.	97¼	86⅝	97½	97½	98
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	45½	45	44½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	70	69	68
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	21½	22	25⅛
Do. Pref.	—	—	83⅞	84⅝	87⅜

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PROGRESSIVE SOUTH AMERICAN RAILS.

Among Latin-American Railway issues, Argentine and Mexican Railway securities have by no means monopolised the attention of investors this year, for there have been some big advances in out-of-the-way stocks. For example, the Three per Cent. Cumulative Preference stock of the United Railway of Havana and Regla Warehouses has improved from 70 to 106—rather more than a 50 per cent. rise—and a few facts will show that there is a further 20-point rise in this security in the very near future. After years of difficulties the island of Cuba has enjoyed a year of such prosperity that for the twelve months to the end of June this Company was able to pay 6 per cent. on its Preferred, and 18 per cent. on its Deferred stock, thus liquidating all arrears on both classes, and leaving them now to rank equally in distribution, except that the first-named is still preferential up to 3 per cent. If the net earnings for 1904-5 should remain the same as in 1903-4, there would be more than sufficient to pay 8 per cent. on both stocks. As the traffic returns for the first four months give a gain of £21,370—at the rate of £65,000 a year—there is a good prospect of the Company being able to pay 12 per cent. on the Preferred and Deferred capital, or if only 8 per cent. is paid, some £30,000 to £40,000 might go to the reserve fund, which now stands at £84,052. The prospects of Cuba for sugar and tobacco-growing are particularly good, while the fact that about £6,000,000 is shortly to be distributed amongst the late Cuban Army for arrears of pay must add to the island's prosperity. It is obvious that this Company's Preferred stock is worth nearer 130 than the present quotation. The Ordinary stock of the Antofagasta (Chili) and Bolivia Railway, which has advanced from 107 to 127 this year, now looks pretty fully priced, and more worthy to sell than to buy. A steady 6 per cent. per annum has been paid for nearly twenty consecutive years, and now that the line is being worked by the Company, instead of by the Huanchaca Mining Company, considerable development is taking place. The various mining properties in Bolivia are to have branch extensions made to them, thus securing new traffic to the railway, and with earnings greatly increasing a 7 per cent. dividend is expected for 1904. If this is forthcoming, the present price is justified, but not much more. Within the next week the report of the Salvador Railway will be issued, and will no doubt contain sufficient to justify the recent rise in the price of its two Debenture issues. At the moment the Five per Cent. Mortgage bonds at 73 are a good purchase; interest has always been punctually paid, although it has not always been earned; hence the recent low level of prices. During 1903-4 the earnings have more than covered Debenture interest, while a surplus remaining will help to reduce the debit balance. With current traffics increasing, and the internal position of Salvador improving, it is only reasonable to expect these Mortgage Debentures to advance to 87, the price at which they were originally issued. The Taltal Railway is situated in Chili, and depends much upon nitrate for its traffic. The recent opening of new oficinas in its district, and the contemplated opening of a further very large one next January, has caused Taltal Railway £5 shares to improve from 4 to 5½ this year. The announcement just made of a 5½ per cent. dividend for the year ended last June has also helped, while the quotation will probably still further improve within the next few months. The price of La Guaira and Caracas Railway £10 shares has improved nearly 50 per cent. since January last, and owing to a very great increase in the earnings, which renders a 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. dividend for the current year fairly safe, the price is likely to go to par before long. These shares have of late been well bought by insiders, who believe that everything Venezuelan will go higher before long. La Guaira and Caracas shares, Salvador Mortgage Deben-

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tures, and United of Havana Preferences should all be bought for an early rise.

	Year ago.	1904. Jan.	1904. Present.	+ Rise or - Fall.
Antofagasta Ordinary Stock	103	107	127	+20
La Guaira and Caracas £10 shares	5½	5	7¼	+ 2¼
Salvador Prior Lien Bonds	84	86	96	+10
Do 5 p.c. Mort Debs.	51	57	73	+16
Taltal £5 Ord. Shares	3¾	4	5½	+ 1½
United of Havana 3 p.c. Pref. Stock	70	70	106	+36

CANADIAN RAILWAYS — POSITION OF "CANADAS" — GRAND TRUNK EARNINGS — MEXICAN RAILS STRONG — POINTS FROM THE REPORT—ARGENTINE EARNINGS.

Along with the rest of the house, the Canadian Railway market was upset by the political rumours on Wednesday, but there has been a moderate recovery since, and now prices are tolerably strong, though dealings are not on a good scale, recent events having frightened off most of the investors who were lending a hand quite cheerfully a fortnight ago. The Canadian Pacific is still reporting huge traffics, the latest representing an increase of $83,000, which follows upon $101,000 increase for the corresponding period of 1903. For the four months, therefore, the Company has a gross increase of $1,284,000. The net earnings are also satisfactory, the statement for September telling of a net improvement of $67,000, which makes $292,000 for the three months. The Company will have no difficulty in maintaining the 6 per cent. dividend, and, having regard to the outlook for the country, "Canadas" are worth holding for investment, and an ultimately higher quotation, notwithstanding a possible setback in the course of, say, the next few months. At the current price the shares bring in 4½ per cent. I gather from my correspondence that a number of readers who bought on my recommendation between 113 and 120 are now disposed to take their profits, for which I do not blame them. At the same time, the Company is so well established and so well managed that those who bought for investment need not worry if for a time a few points may be knocked off the price, and with the "rights" taken off the shares look, and are, cheap. The Preference stock may be recommended to investors content with 4 per cent., and the only objection to the First Mortgage bonds, which also return a good 4 per cent., is that they are redeemable in 1915. The Grand Trunk is in a less happy position than the Canadian Pacific. The September statement showed a small decrease, due almost entirely to the Western branch; but it is disappointing that there are no signs of the economies which were to have saved the situation. On the main system, for example, there was a falling off of £2,300 in gross receipts, and this was accompanied by a reduction of only £2,200 in expenses. For the three months the main system remained about stationary, the net profit aggregating £532,500, as against £532,700. The traffics do not show up well because of the very heavy figures of last year, and that for the last ten days of October tells of a decrease of £13,975. But there was one working day less this year than last, and but for this the figures would have worked out at an improvement, notwithstanding that for the corresponding period of last year there was an increase of £22,833. In gross there has been a decline on the four months of £84,746, in contrast with an increase of £357,664 in 1903. Considering that the position of the Second Preference stock is more than a little precarious, the price is singularly high at 92, from which it is clear that there are many people about who have faith in the early future of the Company. Movements on the week are shown in my table below:—

	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 5.
Canadian Pacific	121½	138½	132½xr
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	--	102¼
Grand Trunks	14⅜	17½	16⅜
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	98	98
,, 1st Preference	108½	106	105½
,, 2nd ,,	96	93½	92⅝
,, 3rd ,,	43⅜	44½	44⅛
Bengal and North-West	131½	145	145
Bombay Baroda	154	150	150
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126½	126½	127
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	98½	107	103
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	96	121½	116
,, ,, 1st Preference	99½	105	106
,, ,, 2nd ,,	87½	95	94¼xd
,, Great Southern	129½	138	133¾
,, Western	126½	129½	125½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	50	67	68½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	83¾	96½	96½
Costa Rica Railway	1⅞	3 1/16	3
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	94½	94
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	85	82½	80½xd
Mexican Railway	15¾	26½	28
,, 1st Preference	67	100	104¾
,, 2nd ,,	25	46	47½
Nitrate Rails	7¾	8½	8¾xd

The Argentine railway market has been firm. The inherent position was strong enough to permit it to withstand almost completely the influence of the political rumours which upset the rest of the House; but dealings have been small, fresh buyers not coming along in anything like good numbers until the political atmosphere is clearer. The earnings continue highly satisfactory, especially noteworthy being the £10,255 increase of the Rosario, bringing the gross increase since the beginning of the year to £422,694, and the £8,852 increase of the Great Southern bringing the total improvement since July to £117,246. The various leading Argentine stocks are worth picking up, as they are likely to go higher. Mexican Railway stocks have been very active, being helped by the good earnings, the shortage of stock, and the report; and although they suffered considerably on the political apprehensions—being naturally of a "jumpy" nature—they are well up on the week. The report states that the gross earnings of the line in the half-year amounted to $3,150,387, an increase of $422,884 over the corresponding half of 1903. The working expenses were greater by $21,706. The resulting net revenue was $1,402,118, an increase of $401,178. This, at the average exchange of 22.391d. (as against 19.44d.), produces £130,817. Adding to this £2,236, differences in exchange, £4,463, the profit on the pier and launch service, and £2,085, from interest and fees in London, there is a total on net revenue account of £139,602, which is greater by £54,999 than the amount at the close of the corresponding half-year of 1903. The First Preference stock, as already recorded by me, receives a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent., as compared with 1⅞ per cent., and there is a balance of £252 to go forward as compared with £1,505.

KAFFIR DEALINGS RESTRICTED—TONE REMARKABLY FIRM—JUMPERS AND HERIOTS—GOLDFIELDS A FEATURE—LABOUR AND OUTPUT PROSPECTS—COOLIES *v.* KAFFIRS—DIAMOND SHARES—DEEP LEVELS.

Although they have not escaped the influences which have affected the rest of the markets more or less adversely—the political rumours, the uncertain monetary prospects, and the consequent decline in Consols—South Africans have at no time been weak, and although dealings towards the end have been restrained by the nearness of another settlement the market as a whole is now firm—remarkably firm considering the surround-

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ing uneasiness and uncertainty. On the resumption of business after the holiday on Tuesday, dealers marked prices down in anticipation of a flood of public selling, but when they found that there was no outside selling and only a restriction of outside buying, they came to the conclusion that they had overdone the thing, and they proceeded to buy back. One or two weak spots have remained. There was a heavy slump in Jumpers, and at one time the shares found no buyers at 2-2½. The reason for the severe depreciation in these shares is to be found in the disappointing annual report, which shows that with regard to the main block of unworked reefs the South reef is split up into stringers of variable value, and that while the ore mined from this section is of low grade, the working expenses are unduly high on account of the old-fashioned equipment. The report of the meeting held at Johannesburg on the 11th ultimo is due by the next mail, and is awaited with interest to see whether it will supply any explanation of the mysterious rise in the shares last account. Heriots (whose mine is the western neighbour of the Jumpers) were also a weak market. It may be remembered that the eastern section of the Heriot property—the portion which immediately adjoins the Jumpers—has also proved disappointing. However, the shares of both Companies are now above the worst. Among the good features have been Goldfields, which are supported in anticipation of something encouraging in Lord Harris's speech at the meeting this week, and the market generally is helped by the improvement, actual and prospective, in the condition of the mining industry. It is expected that the October output, which should be announced about the time this issue of TRUTH is in the hands of its readers, will show an increase of about 20,000 oz. as compared with September—a not unreasonable anticipation seeing that there was one additional working day, and that the labour supply was larger. The figures of labour recruitings should also be satisfactory, seeing that the number of natives raked in was over 10,000, which should mean a respectable net increase, allowing for wastage; and it is stated by the Chamber of Mines that there are now 13,000 Chinese on the goldfields, and that the *Sikh* and the *Sofala* are to sail, the first on the 10th inst. and the second on the 20th inst., with 4,500 between them. The correspondent of one of the papers declares, after personal experience of the work of Chinese on the Rand, that the coolies are 20 per cent. better than Kaffirs. The initial outlay upon imported labour is great, but by the system of engagement, as I have before pointed out, a three-years worker is provided in place of a three-months one. In the end, it is declared, a more efficient worker is obtained, while the length of the engagement reduces the cost to a little less than has hitherto been paid for Kaffir "boys." Then as to white labour, it is reckoned that at the Glen Deep Mines, where the first batch of coolies shipped to the Rand are engaged, employment for an additional forty white men has been found whose wages amount to over £12,000 per annum. Quiet development work is in progress. During the past month, in the shaft of the Geduld, 118 ft. have been sunk by the coolies, while almost equally expert work has been done in the South Nourse shaft, as it has been lowered 99 ft. during the month, also by the Chinamen. Now that its monthly settlement has been arranged, Paris is again bidding for Kaffirs for the meantime, and (although the buying is checked by the political and other disabilities) there are signs of increasing interest on the part of the English public. It will be seen from my table below that values have been fairly well sustained during the week:—

—	High. in 1905.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	6⅜	6⅞	7
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅛	3⅜	3⅝	3⅞	4⅛
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
Bulfelsdoorn	—	1⅝	⅞	1⅛	⅞	1
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	⅛	1¼	1⅜	1⅜
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2⅜	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5⅜	5¼	5¼	5⅜
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅛	4⅛	6⅜	7	7⅛
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
Crown Reef	12¾	18½	10½	15½	16	16½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18½	18½	18⅝
Do. Def.	—	28½	18½	18⅝	18	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4⅜	4⅞	5
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅛	6½	5½	5⅝	5⅝	5¾
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2	2¼	2⅜
East Rands	12	10⅞	6⅜	1⅝	8⅞	8⅞
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2¾	⅜	2/-	2/-	2
Ferreira	22	23	18	20½	21	21
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅛	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Geduld	—	9⅛	5	6⅜	6¾	7
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Goch (New)	3⅞	4⅜	2⅜	3⅛	3⅜	3¾
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5⅛	5⅜
,, Main Reef	1⅜	⅞	½	⅝	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅜	2¼	1¼	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅛	2⅜	3	3x r
Henderson	5⅜	2⅞	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8	8½	8½
Heriot	12½	8½	3¾	3	3⅜	4¼
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	21	27½	27	26⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4⅜	2½	2⅝	2⅞	2⅝
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅞
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4⅝	4⅝
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2¾	2½	3	2⅝
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1¾	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6¾	2⅛	1⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Knight's	11½	9⅞	4⅜	6	6⅜	6⅛
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅜	⅝	⅛	⅝	⅝
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅞	3⅜	3⅛	4
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3¾	2⅜	2½	2½
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅜	1⅞	1⅝	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅞	2¾	4	4	4
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17¾	14⅞	7¾	9½	9¾	10⅛
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1¼	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	¾	17/-	16/6
Nigel	8⅞	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅞	2⅞
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅞	2
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	2⅜	2⅝	3
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2½
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¾	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛
Oceana Mineral	—	1⅛	⅝	⅝	⅝	¾
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	1
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅜	1½	1½	1½
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	10½	10⅜	10⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3	3⅜	3⅜
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1⅞	1⅜	1½	1⅝
,, Robinson	2⅞	2⅜	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅜
,, North	—	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9⅜	9½	10
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	8	8	8⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅛	9⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Sheba	2¾	1⅜	11/3	—	—	6/9
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅞	1⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/9	11/6	11/9
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2⅜	24/-	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅝	¼	6/6	6/9	7/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/3	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	2½	4	4⅛	4⅜
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅞	7⅜	6½	6⅝	7⅛
Violet	—	3¼	2	3	3	3
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Welgedacht	—	8½	6⅜	6½	6⅞	7⅛
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1¼	⅝	¾	¾	¾
,, (New)	—	2½	⅛	1⅜	1⅛	2⅛
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅝	3⅝	3⅝
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞

* £5 shares.

Seeing that inherent conditions in Kaffirs are strengthening every day, I fail to understand why the market should allow itself to be worried much by political frights, for which the shrieking Press of this country is responsible; or by the money bogey, since, as I have said above, rates are hardly likely to go to a height which will be any real hindrance to business. Political fears may cause the upward movement to be less pronounced than it would otherwise be, but they are not going to check the movement altogether, and perhaps, after all, there is greater safety in gradual progress, though it is a pity to see the British public neglectful of such an excellent opportunity of picking up bargains, especially as (if history is not to be believed) they will

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—The following is extracted from a letter written to the Editor of the *Christian World*, London.—"Dear Sir,—I have been greatly interested in following the correspondence *re* 'The Curability of Consumption' in your valued paper. I think it only right to state that for some years I prescribed Dr. Alabone's remedies for chest diseases, having been converted to do so by the marvellous recovery of a patient whom I had given up to die. Since then I have attended other cases of advanced tubercular disease, and have watched them gradually restored to health."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by Edwin W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, London, N.

show themselves eager buyers when quotations are 40 or 60 per cent. higher. The Diamond Group is in favour. De Beers have been bought by Paris, and a further sharp spurt has occurred in Premiers, which at 49¾ are 7 up on the one account. The minor descriptions have also been bought. The Deep Level Group has been quiet, but not altogether neglected, and towards the end of the week the shares are inclined to go higher, under the lead of Village Main Reefs. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6¾	3¾	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅜	1	½	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1¾	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12½	12⅝	12⅝
Durb. Rood Deep	4¼	4⅜	2	2⅜	2⅜	3½
Ferreira Deep	6¾	8½	5	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Geldenhuis Deep	10¾	12¼	8⅝	11¼	11⅝	11½
Jumpers Deep	5½	6¾	3½	4⅝	4⅞	4⅞
Knight's Deep	4¼	5½	3¾	3	3⅛	3⅛
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4⅞	2½	2½	2⅝	2⅝
Lancaster	3¾	3⅝	2	2⅛	2¼	2¼
Do. West	2¾	3	1⅝	2⅝	2⅞	2¼
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2¼	3⅛	3¼	3¼
Nourse Deep	5¾	6¾	3½	4⅜	4¼	4⅜
Nigel Deep	2	1⅝	⅛	⅝	⅝	11/16
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅞	2⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅞	4½	5⅛	5⅛	5⅞
Do. Cent Deep	4½	5⅝	2⅝	4⅜	4⅛	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¾	8⅛	8⅜	8½
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅝	1⅛	1 11/16	1⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	1⅝	2	2⅛
South Geld. Deep	3¾	4¾	2⅜	2½	2 3/16	2⅛
Simmer and Jack East	3½	4⅜	2¼	2	2⅛	2⅜
Simmer and Jack West	4¾	5⅝	2¾	3⅛	3 1/16	3⅜
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅝	2¾	1½	⅛	¼	¼
Witwatersrand Deep	2 5/16	4⅛	2 5/16	3⅛	3 3/16	4 1/16

RHODESIAN LESS ACTIVE—BANKET DESCRIPTIONS ERRATIC—INTEREST SMALL—ANOTHER CABLE—PRICES EASIER—CHARTERED TOLERABLY STEADY—SELUKWE RETURNS—NORTHERN DESCRIPTIONS UNINTERESTING.

Apart from the banket descriptions, which have moved erratically as the result of spasmodic profit taking and subsequent support, there have been very few interesting features in the Rhodesian section during the past week. Even in the Banket Company shares the activity is comparatively insignificant, and it would seem that there is no great inclination anywhere, except in directly interested quarters, to enthuse over the prospects of the wonderful reef, it being the general opinion that until an exhaustive report dealing with the banket formation is forthcoming, the shares are more than a little risky to hold, though there is no denying that if the development should prove even to approximate to the expectation of the promoters the shares are full of speculative possibilities. A cable received during the week stating that check assays of the Eldorado banket made by the Standard Bank agree with those taken at the mine, was not without a little beneficial effect, and the New Banket shares strengthened to 2 9-16, Explorations and Lomagundas followed suit. But the more confident feeling was not sustained for any length of time, and under the influence of profit taking one of the many set-backs occurred, and, failing to regain the ground lost, most of the shares show significant declines on the week, though it must be allowed that they finish well above the lowest points. In the case of Rhodesia Exploration the decline is almost ½, while Lomagundas are ¼ down, and the New Banket shares close lower, but the dullest spot is perhaps Scottish Mashonalands, in which the tendency has been almost consistently downwards. Chartereds keep tolerably steady and finish without alteration, and the other leading shares have been quietly firm, Selukwes being unaffected by the results for October, the total output being only 2,172 oz., as against 2,831 oz. for the previous month, which is the most unsatisfactory for several months past, the cause being attributable, according to an office note, to the fact that higher-grade ore was not accessible. Northern descriptions remain quite uninteresting, and for want of support show slight movements against holders. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	¼	¼
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2½	1 3/16	1 1/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,426,019	1	f.p.	4½	1½	1 1/16xr
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	⅝	⅝
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	6 3	1/16
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	½	13	13
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	1/16
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1½	¼	⅛
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	½	1/16
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅛	1 1/16	1 1/16
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2¼	2⅛
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	1⅜	1½
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	⅛	⅛
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	3½	2⅜
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅞	13 6	13/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	2¼	6½	5⅜
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	7/16	¼
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8⅜	2 11/16	2⅜
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	1/16	1/16
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1⅞	1⅞
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3½	3⅜
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅛	1/16
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅜
White's Con	500,000	330,450	1	f.p.	⅜	5/-	7/16
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	6/3	6/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6/16	1⅛	1⅛

WEST AFRICANS NEGLECTED—PROFESSIONALS LESS ACTIVE—BETTER GOLD RETURNS—QUOTATION LOWER—MISCELLANEOUS MINES FAIRLY ACTIVE—ETRUSCANS STILL DEPRESSED—INDIANS STEADY—ANOTHER COROMANDEL RECONSTRUCTION—COPPER SHARES FIRM—NEW ZEALANDER.

Even the professionals have neglected the Jungle throughout the past week, and public interest in the market being practically non-existent—apart from a desire to sell when values attain a level which would induce them to cut a bad loss—there has been a persistent tendency to sag away noticeable in all the leading descriptions without exception. In this respect the dulness of Wassaus was perhaps the most conspicuous, nothing having been made known concerning the rumoured reduction of working costs, and Ashanti Goldfields followed closely behind, though they rallied at the finish on the publication of the output for October, which gave a little encouragement, and indeed imparted a better tone to the whole market. For August the concern crushed 8,940 tons of ore, yielding 4,780 oz. of gold, but in September the amount treated had fallen to 7,840 tons, giving a return of 3,950 oz., and it is therefore satisfactory to learn that the mine had increased its tonnage for last month to 8,320 tons, from which 4,500 oz. have been recovered, the average being practically the same as for the month of August. Nor could much complaint be found with the Sansu return, while the Broomassie output of 694 oz. from 510 tons, as against 496 oz. from 385 tons for September, seems to indicate progress of a kind. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 9/16	1⅜
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/6 dis	4/6 dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	4/6	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	1 1/16	1 1/16
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1⅛	1
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1	⅞
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 11/16	2⅝
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	⅞
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/6	12/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f p.	5/32	7/16
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1⅛	1 1/16
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¼	1⅛

On the whole, there has been quite a fair amount of activity in the Miscellaneous Mining section, though of any outstanding feature there has been none, unless

one mentions the weakness of Etruscan Coppers as a result of the proposed reconstruction. The Directors have sent out a circular to the debenture holders asking whether they will accept a similar amount of stock in the new Company, bearing interest at the same rate of 6 per cent., and secured as nearly as possible in similar terms, for their existing holdings. Whether the change will be agreed to at the meeting next Tuesday is a matter of conjecture, but anyway the Debentures experienced a smart set-back of 5 points to 30 when the market heard of the scheme, and the Ordinary shares, after recovering from 2s. to 3s. 9d., fell away to 3s. again. Egyptians were inclined to be easier, in spite of the Nile Valley crushing return, which announces that from the 27 tons treated 1,084 oz. of gold were recovered, an office note stating that the specimen stone was included in the treatment. Indian mines keep tolerably steady, the monthly returns being quite satisfactory, though there is a shrinkage of almost 500 oz. in the Champion Reef output, attributable to the smaller quantity of tailings now available for treatment. The Coromandel is to be reconstructed for the third time, this latter instance involving an assessment of 5s. per share. In their circular dealing with the subject the Directors say that they have for a long time felt the necessity for vigorous exploitation of the property, but before recommending the execution of this policy they decided to obtain the opinion of Mr. Richards, of the Nundydroog and Balaghat mines, on the subject. The report of this gentleman is favourable, and to carry out his suggestion £30,000 will be required, hence the reconstruction scheme. Every old share will rank as 15s. in the new concern, the balance of 5s. to be paid up in instalments, and, as the mill is fully equipped, the proceeds will be devoted to development. Copper shares, although somewhat irregular at times, continue to show considerable strength under the lead of Rio Tintos, the support being induced by favourable gossip as to the future of the metal. In the British Columbian group Camp Birds keep steady, and Le Roi No. 2 improved slightly. New Zealanders have been quietly dull, the gold output for the Colony for October, though showing an improvement upon last year, not being regarded as altogether brilliant in view of the large amount of capital involved in the industry. Among silver shares, some further support was forthcoming for Broken Hill Props. on the better price of the metal.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24.	Closing Price, Oct. 9.
Anaconda Copper	7 7/16	3 3/8	5 1/8	5 1/4
Balaghat Gold	1 13/16	14/-	15 10½	16 6
Broken Hill Props.	1 3/4	1 1/4	42/-	45/-
Cape Copper	5	2	4 1/4	4 3/4
Champion Reef	7	5 3/8	1 1/2	1 3/16
Le Roi	4 3/8	2 3/4	3/4	7/8
Mason and Barry	4 1/2	3 1/2	3	3 1/4
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/2	2	10/3	11/6
Mysore Gold	7 5/8	5 1/8	6 3/8	6 3/4
Namaqua Copper	4 3/8	2 1/4	3 1/8	3 1/4
Nundydroog	2 1/16	1 3/8	35/3	1 3/4
Ooregum	27	21/9	17/3	23/-
Rio Tinto	53 3/8	38 1/4	48 3/4	50 1/4xd
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 3/8	3 3/8	4 1/2	5
Waihi Gold	6 1/2	4 15/16	5 1/8	5 3/8

Westralians Dull and Inactive—Tendency Downwards—Professional Interest Small—Public Keep Away—Oroyas—Other Leading Shares Lower—Perseverance Directorate—"Little Kangaroos" Neglected and Dull.

Dulness has been the outstanding feature in the Westralian market during the past week, and interesting features are few. None of the shares have displayed an unusual activity, perhaps because the "Bear" position having been reduced to utterly insignificant proportions there is nothing for the professionals to "go for," and the general inclination has been to allow prices to sag away steadily in default of any support and the paucity of developments. Public interest in the market is, if possible, rather less marked than for many months past, a state of affairs which need not cause wonderment, if one remembers how outsiders have been scared away, not only from the more suspicious shares, but from the whole of the market, despite the fact that many of the better-class descriptions possess merits almost unequalled anywhere. At one time Oroyas developed rather marked weakness as a consequence of heavy sales, falling from 3¾ to under 3½, but they rallied somewhat, only to experience another relapse, closing well down on balance. In regard to the "Bear" position in these shares, nothing of interest has transpired, and while there are many who believe that this fraternity have almost cleared themselves, there are others who hold a conflicting opinion. But this is a matter which will be solved at the next carry-over, and in view of recent events, it does not seem altogether improbable that the present dulness is traceable to "Bear" manœuvres. Not unnaturally the higher values attained during the previous week induced a little profit-taking, and this being accentuated by the general apathy, most of the leading shares show losses ranging from ⅛ to ¼, including Horseshoes, Great Fingalls, Ivanhoes, Kalgurlis, Associated, for an exception, maintaining their ground, while Northern Blocks were in receipt of some slight support. Perseverance remain dull, and are unaffected by the announcement that the Right Hon. Sir West Ridgeway had been appointed director and chairman of the concern in the place of Mr. Frank Gardner. The "Little Kangaroos" are still neglected, and apart from some heavy offering of Boulder Deep and Hannan's Stars have been quite featureless. My usual table is appended:—

	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up. Oct. 10, 1904.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7 5/8	3 3/4	1	1 1/2	2 3/8	2 3/8
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3 3/8	4 1/4	1 7/8	1 7/8	1 3/8	1 7/8
Brownhill Ext.	3 1/4	1 7/8	3/8	3/8	1/2	3/8
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/3	7/-	7/3
Golden Horseshoe	15	11 3/8	7	6 3/8	7 1/4	7 1/8
Golden Link	3 1/2	15/3	6/-	3/6	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	20/-	17/9	19/6	20/-	20/6
Do. Main Reef	2 3/4	1 1/2	8/6	4/3	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13 1/2	1 1/16	1 1/2	13/-	12/9	12/9
Do. South	8 1/4	1 1/2	3/8	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 3/16	9 3/16	5 1/16	7 3/8	8 7/16	8 1/4xd
Hainault	1 3/4	3/8	1/4	1/8	3/16	1/8
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	5/-	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15 1/4	10/-	6 3/4	7 7/8	7 15/16	7 5/8xd
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4 3/8	1 1/8	1/8	1/2	5/16	3/8
Kalgurli	9 3/8	4 1/2	2 1/16	5 3/8	5 3/8	5 1/4
Lake View Consols	5 3/8	6 3/4	1 3/8	1 3/8	1 1/4	1 1/8xd
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/4	1 3/4	1/4	8/0	8/6	8/6
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/9	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4 1/8	2	3 5/8	3 3/4	3 7/8
Peak Hill	5 3/8	2 3/4	3/8	7/-	4/6	1/4
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/8	2 7/8	1	1 1/8	2	2
South Kalgurli	6 1/2	2 1/16	3/4	1 1/16	1 3/8	1 3/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 15/16	7/8	7/8	1 1/2	7/8

New Issues.

The following prospectuses have been published:—

City of Sydney, C.B., Nova Scotia.—Issue of $330,000 Four per Cent. Debentures at an issue price of 93 per cent., equal to £191 1s. 11d. for each Debenture, the par value of which is £205 9s. 8d. Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co. are authorised on behalf of the contractors for the loan to receive applications.

Kalgoorlie Electric Tramways.—The Tramways Syndicate is offering for sale at par £75,000 First Mortgage "A" Debenture stock, part of £100,000 created, and carrying 5 per cent. interest. Stock redeemable by means of a sinking fund, which is calculated to redeem the whole £100,000 in seventeen years.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in

the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.

Coupon.—I do not fancy Costa Ricas, and think you can readily find a more attractive outlet for your capital—Peruvian Corporation Preference, for instance, if bought quickly, despite the already considerable advance which has taken place. The stock is likely to benefit considerably under the agreement with the Government for the settlement of the outstanding questions. *B. S. N.*—You cannot obtain 5 per cent. with absolute security, but for this return I should recommend Chinese Fives, Mexican Fives, Chilians 1886, and Port of Buenos Ayres stock. Japanese seem to be in no jeopardy as regards payment of interest, but with a big war on hand and more loans necessary, prices of the existing securities are almost certain to go lower. *Kaffir.*—Port Elizabeth Inscribed stock makes a promising purchase, also Melbourne Harbour Trust stock. On the last the yield will work out at almost 4⅞ per cent., and on the first at 4⅛ per cent. *Brighthelmstone.*—London County shares will give you almost 3¼ per cent. I suggest these along with India Three and a Half per Cent., Irish Land, and Transvaal stocks. *Kempshall.*—Uruguay stocks should have a further recovery now that peace has been established. In the matter of security Cuban Fives are to be preferred, but on these you obtain only 4¾ per cent., whereas Uruguays in return for the greater risk give 5¾ per cent.

RAILWAYS.

American.—1. A "put" option would probably turn out profitable, but much depends upon the attitude of the American public after the Presidential election. 2. Highest prices during the last two or three years have been reached in February and March, but these have been exceptional. The autumn has it over a series of years, although after a good year you are safe to look for high prices just before the dividend declarations. 3. I do not know of such a publication, but you might consult Messrs. Fred. C. Mathieson and Sons, 16, Copthall-avenue, E.C. *D. E. N.*—1. You had better realise, and place the proceeds in one of the promising South American Railway stocks, to which attention is drawn by me this week. 2. Should also be sold. *Rexo.*—1. Sorry I cannot recommend a solicitor. 2. Mexican Railways have had a good rise recently, and as you have a profit, you had better take it, as the market is a little "choppy." *Pay When Due.*—It suits the Company to pay on the 14th instead of the 1st day of each quarter, and I do not see that you have much of a grievance. *R. M. D., Bournemouth.*—1. Being registered, the owner is safeguarded. 2. All four American Railroad bonds are desirable investment holdings.

MINES.

R. H.—For October the total output of the Great Fingall mine was 14,151 fine ounces, valued at about £60,000. *Tyro, Huddersfield.*—Join the reconstruction; the property has possibilities, and the shares are likely to improve with the rest of the Kaffir market. *G. M. E.*—Sons of Gwalia make a good speculative purchase. Hainaults are also worth attention in view of the dividend foreshadowed for the end of the year. *F. B., Aberdeen.*—1. Better hold the Associated. 2. The best things in the Westralian market are Kalgurlis, Ivanhoes, Horseshoes, Oroyas, Great Fingalls, and Great Boulders. 3. I do not recommend the West African. *Medico.*—Rio Tintos are quite high enough at present. *Bob.*—The companies in which Messrs. Goerz are interested are the Geduld Proprietary, with the two subsidiaries, Geldenhuis Estate, Klerksdorp Exploration, Lancaster, Lancaster West, Way Consolidated, Modder Deep, Princess Estate, Roodepoort Central Deep, Tudor, Withok, Rand Central Electric, Rand Central Ore Reduction, and the recently-floated Van Dyk. *Radamus.*—1. The Ginsbergs are worth keeping. 2. Goldfields ought to have a very good recovery, enabling you to realise at a profit. *Afric.*—1. Worth keeping for a rise to 4. 2. French Rands, Anglo-French, and Van Ryns among Kaffirs; Oroyas, Fingalls, and Kalgurlis among Westralians. *Bridge.*—The mine is unknown to the *Mining Manual*, and it does not appear in the standard work on American copper mines. It is for you to draw the obvious inference. *Wet.*—Your Kaffirs make a very good speculative selection. 2. I suggest Randfonteins, East Rand Mining Estates, Rand Collieries, and French Rands. 3. I believe the concern is straight. *Mine.*—Day Dawns are a moderately good speculation. *Miros.*—Mysores and Champion Reefs, fulfil all the requirements. *P. M.*—The latest report on the Coromandel property is encouraging, but this is the third reconstruction, and the augury is not a very good one. *R. H. H.*—Resist the temptation. Low-priced mining shares are usually dear, and De Kaaps are no exception. *Endune.* Do not pay the call. *W. G. M.*—I cannot advise you to join the reconstruction. *Copper.*—I replied last week that the shares would make a promising speculative purchase. You appear to have overlooked it. *Spes, Co. Dublin.*—I dealt in the last issue of TRUTH with the La Fiesta Syndicates, and a perusal of that article will have prepared you for the statement that I do not entertain a high opinion of the concern or of the American Exploration Company. In fact, I advise you to get your money back on the ground of misrepresentation. *Sivaz.*—1. Sansus, Effuentas, Himan Concessions, and Presteas. 2. Sell the S. A. Territories; they are not likely to have much appreciation. *Middle.*—The Middlevlei Estate and Gold Mining Company owns 1,900 acres freehold (including mynpacht) in the Krugersdorp district, twenty-six miles west of Johannesburg. The agricultural lands have been let, but the Company is not developing, I believe, but is awaiting results of prospecting on neighbouring properties. The price of the shares is about 12s. 6d. *Clubman, Exeter.*—Nubia (Sudan) Development shares are quoted at ⅜ premium. They are worth holding, as the prospects are promising. *F. S. S.*—Reports concerning progress on the Victorian Deep leads are encouraging, and if promises are fulfilled, the results will, no doubt, be very handsome, and your Moorlorts and Loddon Valleys will go to high prices. But there is a big risk.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Melodies.—1. Hold the B.A. and Pacific stock. It should give you a profit by Christmas. 2. You will see that Premier Diamonds have hardened further since you bought. The shares are worth keeping for a still higher price. The statement of the possibilities to which you refer is a fair one. *Starling.*—1. Sell one of the Indian Mines. 2. The others are good Industrials, and are all right to hold. I should not change from Fine Cotton Spinners Preference into British Oilcake Preference. *Norman.*—1. I understand that the concern is all right, but please understand that I do not recommend outside brokers. 2. Van Ryns are likely to have a good appreciation with other Kaffirs. 3. All three are promising purchases. 4. If you see a moderate profit, take it. 5. Sell the A. J. White Ordinary shares. *U. C.*—1. The Japanese Six per Cent. bonds are a first charge upon the Customs revenues of the country, and are, therefore, more desirable than the Fours, which rank after the Fives upon the general revenues. 2. I regard the Chinese Five per Cent. and Four and a Half per Cent. bonds as quite reasonably safe. The first is to be preferred. 3. Hold on, but do not buy more. *T. F. R.*—1. I suggest Whitbread's Preference and Younger Preference; the first returns rather more and the second a fraction less than 4½ per cent. 2. The Great Central 1889 Preference is promising, and is likely to go higher with the payment of a dividend on the stock. 3. Keep the Central London stock. 4. Fine Cotton Spinners and Bradford Dyers are the best of those named. *Incognito.*—1. The lowest price touched by London and India Deferred stock this year was 56. I do not anticipate any early setback from the present level. It is probable that the Company will pay 4 per cent. on the stock in respect of the current year. 2. General Mining and Finance, New South Rand, and Rand Collieries, in addition to the Goldfields and East Rands. *H. H. E., Wolverhampton.*—1. Cordoba and Rosario Preference stock ought to go higher, but do not be too greedy, as you have a very handsome profit already. 2. Bieckert's Brewery stocks have had a good recovery, but you might buy the Preference. *Regent's Park.*—1. The trend of Consols during the coming months is likely to be upwards, and if the Russo-Japanese war could only be ended, you might safely look for a sharp appreciation. 2. North-Westerns and Great Westerns would suit you. 3. The B.A. Great Southern dividend is not likely to advance beyond 7 per cent. in the next year or two. *Lichfold.*—1. Mexican Central "B" bonds are a moderately good speculative purchase. 2, 3, and 4. Argentine Great Western, B.A. and Pacific, and B.A. Western are all three attractive. 5. Tarapaca Waterworks shares are worth buying. They are £10 each, and are quoted at 10½, giving a return of 7⅛. They are readily negotiable. *Sphenoid.*—Egyptian State Domains would give £4 3s. per cent., Cuban Fives 4¾ per cent., and B.A. Great Southern Railway Preference 4 per cent.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Numskull.—I do not recommend dealings with the Provident Association of London. *H. B., Birkenhead.*—West End Clothiers do not strike me as being any great catch, and I think you could put your cash into something much better. With regard to the other concern, I do not possess sufficient information to express an opinion. *Northern Investor.*—Rather young, and look strikingly like Mayward, Grant, and Co.. *Anxious.*—Do not entrust your money with the concern, which is nothing more than a low-down bucket-shop. *D. M., Bournemouth.*—I regard Guest, Keen, and Nettlefold Irredeemable Debenture stock as quite safe. *H.F. W., Portsmouth.*—I have heard of something which is not to his credit. The document is admittedly tempting, and it is frankly misleading, not to say untruthful. *Redpole.*—I think that all three are worth unfavourable rumours regarding No 2, which I believe to be true enough, it might be advisable to realise at once. *Sahib.*—Now that there is a nice little margin in your Bieckert holdings it would be just as well to take the profit. *Lonely Life.*—I thank you for the communication, and shall endeavour to comply with your request at some early date if possible. *Miles.*—Indifferent trade, increased duty, and competition have between them contributed to affect the earning powers of most of the Tea Companies, hence the lower value of the shares. Trade might possibly improve, but, nevertheless, I would be inclined to sell. *Scotty.*—I am afraid it is impossible for me to do anything in the matter, as the syndicate is virtually a private concern. If the shareholders would combine he would be forced to move some way or another. *Lincoln.*—Do not comply with their wishes. If you communicate with N. Keizer

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and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., they might be able to guide you in the matter. *Ireland.*—Have no dealings with Currie and Crisp. They seem to be going strong, for I have received scores of their bucket-shop circulars from readers this week. *Security.*—Bank shares make very desirable investments provided one does not mind the liability involved in the uncalled capital, which in many cases is an important item. Parr's have only £20 out of £100 paid up, and at their present price of 81 the yield is close upon 5 per cent. The others alluded to are sound institutions, and give an almost similar return. *Ignoramus.*—It would be to your advantage to ignore the pretentious circulars of the London and New York Exchange, a concern with which I had occasion to deal a few weeks ago. *Otto, Walsall.*—I am inundated with Currie and Crisp bucket-shop literature this week, but, nevertheless, thank you for obliging me once mose. *F. L., Landudno.*—Keep your Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank shares; they are safe enough. *Mayfair.*—All three are fairly sound industrials, and you might hold on. *Simplicity.*—The attraction in London and India Dock Deferred is that the stock will probably receive the full 4 per cent. for this year, in which case the yield works out at about 5½ per cent. at the present price. *Mathews, Huddersfield.*—I am posting the address of the solicitor in question. *Seaside.*—1. You had better pay the assessment. 2. Let me have the documents.

Miscellaneous Less Active—Politics Militating against Confidence—Trust Stocks Still Buoyant—New River Water Higher—Iron and Steel Firm—Breweries Depressed—Royal Mail Steam Packet Fiasco—Traction Shares—Refreshment Descriptions Idle—Meat Shares Dull—Hudson's Bays Lower—Sweetmeat Report.

The political uncertainty prevailing throughout the past week has been sufficient to retard the expansion of public interest, which seemed to have been gradually growing recently; but although there has been a lack of exceptional animation everywhere, the demand for one or two specialities is quietly maintained. There is, however, no doubt that until the political horizon becomes clearer the confidence of the outsiders will not be completely restored, nor will they be enticed to come in and pick from the many bargains existing there till then. The feature has perhaps been the continued buoyancy of Trust stocks. The recent activity of these descriptions brought more stock upon the market, but this was readily absorbed, and the tendency has been good throughout, further gains being registered by Alliance Investment Trust, Mercantile, American Debenture Corporation, Army and Navy, British Investment, and many others. Water stocks keep firm, but the only change recorded has been a further advance of 10 points to 320 in New Rivers. Iron and steel shares still exhibit a very satisfactory tendency, Vickers finishing with a slight gain, while Cammell Lairds hardened on the reported booking of a Government order. Armstrongs were quietly firm, and Babcock and Wilcox strengthened, and further attention was paid to North British Locomotives. Rhymney Irons were in request. Ebbw Vales recovered. Dulness continues to characterise brewery descriptions, and very little activity has been noticeable, the lowness of prices being no inducement to pick up stocks, and as a consequence movements in a downward direction easily preponderate. Ind, Coope issues continue to sag away, and some rather marked flatness became noticeable in Watney, Combe, Reid stocks. Allsopps relapsed sharply, and Barclay and Meux Preference were both marked down, while some apprehension as to the tenor of the advisory committee's report, which is expected shortly, led to a slight setback in Showells' issues. On the other hand, there has been a little inquiry for John Lovibond Debentures, and Huggins issues are less depressed. Among Dock stocks, London and India Deferred picked up towards the close on a little investment inquiry, but Surrey Commercial Preference and Millwall Ordinary both fell away on some realisations, the first losing 2 points to 123½, and the latter 1 to 31. Telegraph descriptions, though tolerably cheerful on the whole, finished below the best, this being particularly the case with Anglo-American "A" and "B" stocks, Easterns and Westerns holding their ground fairly well. Textiles have been less active than of late, the support from the North, which was in evidence a little time ago, gradually lessening, and, while Coats are virtually unaltered, the other shares, including Fine Spinners, Bradford Dyers, Bradford Dyers and Calico Printers, are a shade under top prices. In the Shipping list, Peninsular and Oriental Deferred rose 2 points on a little investmnt inquiry, but Royal Mails relapsed rather smartly as a result of the evidently unsuccessful appeal for the new Preference stock, a circular stating that the Board had decided to withdraw the issue. It is added that, although applications were received for a large amount, some was conditional upon the whole of the issue being subscribed and allotted. The total amount subscribed does not warrant the taking of steps for the cancellation of the outstanding liability on the Ordinary shares. This being the case, and having regard to the development of the business, the outstanding liability on the shares is to be called up, and under the new powers a resolution will be in due course submitted to the proprietors for the conversion of each £100 share into £40 of Five per Cent. Participating Preference and £60 Ordinary stock. Traction shares keep steady, some investment buying coming along for London General Omnibus stock, which made a little headway, while Road Cars and British Electric Tractions improved, and Anglo-Argentine Trams were not neglected, the Debentures gaining a point to 141. South Metropolitan Gas, together with Gas Light and Coke Ordinary stock, finished somewhat better, Imperial Continental Gas maintaining its higher position. "Bunshops" description have been quite uninteresting, J. Lyons being unchanged, while British Tea Tables are just the turn easier. Aerated Breads have seesawed, and show a slight loss. Meat shares have sagged away persistently, the weakest spot being James Nelsons, though River Plates followed closely. Liptons also displayed some dulness. Gordon Hotel Preference shares eased back, and Cecil Debentures lost 2 points to 97. Hudson's Bays suffered acutely from profit taking, and close with a loss on balance, and Deccan also fell away temporarily, while Pekin Syndicates, on the other hand, recovered all the ground recently lost. Nobel Dynamites hardened. Some unsatisfactory anticipations as to the revelations in the forthcoming report induced rather heavy offering of Sweetmeat Automatics, but when this came to an end the shares crept up again, though they show a reduction on balance, and these have been borne out by the event, for there is hardly a single item which can be regarded as encouraging. For the year to September 30 the net profit only amounts to £17,240 as compared with £44,195 for the preceding year, £73,456 for 1901-2, and £54,621 for 1900-1. There is no escaping the significance of this falling off in profits. The takings of the machines were reduced by £18,274, and the Directors have abandoned the practice hitherto prevailing of including in the year's receipts the earnings for the three weeks to October 21, which originated in the assumption that the takings for that period are in the hands of the agents at any given date. In referring to the cause of the decrease in receipts the Board have to admit increased competition as well as the exhaustion of novelty in some of the machines, but it is obvious that if they had not been so ambitious such ill-luck as they are now experiencing might not have befallen their concern. The assets have been dealt with in a very drastic fashion. They figure at £403,142, but the Directors propose to write them down to £200,000, and the reserve, after allowance is made for this item, and the wiping out of £2,200, representing an old outstanding balance, is reduced to no more than £5,000, and naturally no dividend is to be paid.

VIGILANT.

Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar.

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QUEER STORY.

A TOWN AND GOWN AFFRAY.

AT the time of which I write, being now upwards of forty years ago, Bellamy Beddington, D.D., President of Unity Coll., Oxford, was Vice-Chancellor of that University. A prim, donnish little old gentleman, of mild manners and indolent disposition, Bellamy Beddington took life easily, and in the control both of his college and of the University pursued a policy of *laissez-faire*.

He disliked being drawn into "ructions" or disagreeables of any kind. So that, rather than have to encounter such things, arising out of breaches of discipline by undergraduates, he preferred to shut his eyes and pretend to know nothing about them. Nor was he at all pleased with his subordinates or others when they disturbed his ostrich-like peace of mind by forcing such delinquencies upon his notice.

"Oh! young men will be young men," he would answer, testily. "It would never do to treat them like schoolboys. Let them indulge in their little ebullitions of spirits, so long as no serious harm is done. You should practise the art of being blind *in loco—in loco*, as I do."

"That is no doubt very well, up to a certain point," perhaps the college tutor, or whoever the complainant was, might reply; "but we must draw the line somewhere; otherwise there would be an end of all discipline."

"Oh, yes! yes! We must draw the line somewhere. But, in the matter under discussion, I don't think the time has come to draw it yet. We must give these young men a little rope—a little rope, don't you see. Over-severity defeats its own object, provokes insubordination, and mutiny, and no end of disagreeables. Such things get into the papers, and are most unpleasant. If you had governed a college as long as I have, you would be of the same opinion."

So the tutor would go off, feeling rather snubbed and very much irritated by his chief's refusal to back him up in enforcing discipline—a refusal which, he was perfectly well aware, was due to no sound and honest principle, but simply to the President's selfish dislike of facing a disagreeable scene.

But if this was the favourite attitude of Bellamy Beddington, President of Unity, in dealing with complaints made against undergraduates by dons of his own college, still more was it the favourite attitude of Bellamy Beddington, Vice-Chancellor, in dealing with similar complaints made by townsmen who were not members of the University. To the former he felt compelled to show some consideration; to the latter, none whatever. They belonged to another, and, according to his old-fashioned notions, an inferior, world. Indeed, he regarded the townsmen of Oxford who were not gownsmen very much as an Anglo-Indian regards a Hindu, or a Boer a Kaffir. They were a subject race, whose rights, if they had any as against members of the University, were practically negligible.

Thus, if an unoffending tradesman suffered from the playful freaks of some hilarious and high-spirited undergraduate, whereby his door-knocker had been wrenched off, his domestic cat shaved, his daughters subjected to rude and insolent attentions, or whatever might be the form in which the young man's boisterous spirits had vented themselves, he knew it was very little use complaining to the Vice-Chancellor, who, so far from helping him to discover and punish the delinquent, would be pretty sure to treat the whole affair as a joke, and perhaps read him a homily on the absurdity of taking a mere ebullition of boyish high-spirits so much amiss.

Let me quote a specific instance. On a certain Fifth of November, in the early sixties, a harmless little grocer, returning at night from his shop in the Corn to his house out Summertown way, was captured by a band of undergraduates on the war-path, who, after chastising him severely with sticks, stripped him to his shirt, and left him to find his way home in that solitary garment.

This wanton treatment of a peaceable pedestrian—differing entirely, I am glad to say, from the usual fair-and-square methods adopted by undergraduates in their then annual affrays with the townsmen on the Fifth—was brought to the notice of Bellamy Beddington by the unfortunate victim. He was unable to identify any of his assailants, and the Vice-Chancellor, even if he had wished to do so, probably could not have discovered them. But he might have taken the matter up, or, at the least, have expressed indignant disapproval of the outrage. He did, however, nothing of the sort. On the contrary, he simply pooh-poohed the affair as a venial practical joke, and excused himself from doing anything in the matter.

The victim went away, furiously indignant, and laid his wrongs before Thompson Thomas, his solicitor. The latter was what they then called, at Oxford, a Proctor in the Vice-Chancellor's Court—that is to say, he had the privilege of practising before that "close" tribunal—and he had been more than once employed by Bellamy Beddington himself in legal business connected with his own private affairs. From this it will be seen both that he was a solicitor of respectable status, and also that he enjoyed the personal acquaintance of the Vice-Chancellor.

He went to see Bellamy Beddington, and endeavoured to induce him to take some notice of the outrage that had been perpetrated on his client, the little grocer.

"Tut, tut!" said Bellamy Beddington, waving him, as it were, aside with an airy gesture, "Better let it drop—much better let it drop, I can assure you. Young men will be young men; and in these town and gown affairs the townsmen are quite as much to blame as the gownsmen. Six of one and half a dozen of the other."

"If it had been a fair fight, my client would not have complained. But for five strong young fellows to set on one weak and elderly man can only be characterised as cowardly and disgraceful. And I must express my extreme surprise, Dr. Beddington, that you should attempt to excuse such conduct," replied the solicitor, with some warmth.

"Tut, tut, Mr. Thomas. You, as an advocate, naturally take an *ex parte* view of the case—an *ex parte* view, I repeat. You are like Cicero denouncing Clodius on behalf of Milo. It was meant honestly enough; but, as an advocate, he was necessarily prejudiced, and all impartial persons take his account of that celebrated fracas *cum grano salis*. You must forgive me if I now adopt the same line in this case. Besides, even if I were disposed to take serious notice of the incident, what could I do? Your client cannot say anything as to the identity of his assailants, nor have I any means of finding it out——"

"You might, at any rate, hold some sort of investigation, Dr. Beddington."

"Useless, my dear sir—quite useless. Under such circumstances, any investigation would be a pure farce."

"Then you persist in your refusal to take any steps whatsoever?"

"Where little town and gown incidents of this kind are concerned, Camarina is best left undisturbed," said the Vice-Chancellor, sententiously.

"I can only regret your attitude and record my protest against it, Dr. Beddington. For the rest, I shall certainly do all in my power to discover the guilty parties, and make them pay for the outrage in some other way. Any jury would award my client heavy damages. I shall see what can be done."

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"Better let sleeping dogs lie. You'll only make yourself ridiculous if you treat an ordinary little town and gown affair so seriously," answered the Vice-Chancellor.

"We shall see," said Mr. Thompson Thomas, quietly, as he bowed himself out.

With his client's consent, he set an inquiry agent to work, and the result of the latter's investigations was that the identity of three out of the five culprits was discovered. They were all Unity men, named Bostock, Newington, and Cumberfield, respectively—horsey young fellows, of extravagant habits and doubtful reputation, who were no credit either to themselves or the college.

Having arrived at these facts, Mr. Thomas again went to Bellamy Beddington, and laid them before him.

"My client is determined to obtain satisfaction," he said; "and unless these young men are prepared to make him handsome compensation, he will bring the case before the Recorder at the next City Sessions. I have his instructions to take the necessary steps for that purpose."

"If he should do anything of the sort," replied Bellamy Beddington, evidently much perturbed by the prospect of such disagreeable publicity, "I shall exercise my prerogative, and insist on the case being removed to the Vice-Chancellor's Court."

"Well, I imagine that the Vice-Chancellor's Court will scarcely refuse to do my client justice, in view of the evidence he will be in a position to offer. But if, unfortunately, that should be so, my client will certainly appeal to a higher tribunal."

"Come, come, Mr. Thomas," said the Vice-Chancellor, wriggling uneasily in his chair. "Let me point out to you——"

"I am sorry, Dr. Beddington. But my client's instructions are imperative, and it will only be waste of time to discuss them. Either these three young men must pay him £50 apiece, or he will take the steps that I have indicated. Indeed, I had some difficulty in prevailing on him to entertain the former alternative at all. The matter, I may add, admits of no delay. Unless the money is paid over to me by noon on Saturday next, I am instructed to issue summonses against them without further notice. I now leave the affair in your hands."

The upshot was that Bellamy Beddington, much against his will, and through sheer dread of disagreeable publicity, brought pressure to bear on the three young men named, who, with a very ill grace and vowing vengeance between themselves against Thompson Thomas, paid over the money.

For nearly twelve months, however, nothing happened. Not that the three aggrieved undergraduates had forgotten. But they had been unable to find a convenient opportunity for wreaking vengeance on Thompson Thomas, and were biding their time. Moreover, the longer they nursed their wrath—being ill-conditioned and vindictive youths—the warmer it grew.

The next Fifth of November was approaching, when, one night, after Hall, Cumberfield—the most determined young Hooligan of the three—asked Bostock and Newington to come round to his rooms for a confab.

"Look here, you men," he said, "at last I think we really have our chance of taking it out of that devil of a lawyer. To-morrow, as you know, is the Fifth, the anniversary of that other affair over which he made us bleed so freely. A very appropriate date for paying him out. Poetical justice, eh? Now just you listen to me. I've got hold of one of his junior clerks, and I've wormed some information out of him, which has stood me in a couple of quid and several drinks. Not that I grudge the money in such a case. It's well spent. Now, would you like to know what the information is?"

Cumberfield's tone was exultant and excited. The infection of it communicated itself to his companions.

"What is it?" they exclaimed.

"That brute Thomas will be kept late at his office in the Turl to-morrow night by pressing business. He has an appointment, in fact, at eight o'clock, which probably won't be over before nine. Well, look here! We'll lie in wait for him. We'll follow him into Brasenose-lane, through which, as his clerk tells me, he always passes on his way home, and then we'll just set on the devil and take it out of him. We did leave that —— little grocer a shirt to go home in. But —— if we don't strip this beast of a lawyer stark naked, and, after administering toco, send him home in his bare skin."

This scheme was warmly applauded and approved. They drank copiously to its success in brandy—Oxford brandy. No wonder, therefore, that next morning they were all suffering from headache and spleen, the effects of which were evident on their tempers for the rest of the day.

After Hall, having again inspired themselves with more brandy, they slunk out and took up their positions in the Turl at a point commanding the exit from Thompson Thomas's office.

It happened to be a wet evening, the rain falling in a steady downpour; which circumstance—despite its being November 5—kept many, both of town and gown, indoors. The Turl was unusually quiet. At eight o'clock the shops had put up their shutters. It was all dark, damp, and still. Waiting, under such conditions, was irksome in the extreme. But at last patience was rewarded.

Shortly after nine o'clock, the street door of Thompson Thomas's office opened, and out he came. They could see his slight, stooping figure distinctly. He was wrapped in a long overcoat and muffler, and carried a large umbrella, on which the rain-drops fell with loud and incessant pit-pat. Unconscious of impending fate, he walked quickly down the Turl, and turned into Brasenose-lane, the three avengers stealthily following.

About half-way down the latter passage, they came up with their quarry, and fell upon him. They smashed his umbrella, tore off his overcoat, then the garments that lay beneath, mauling, stripping, cuffing for all they were worth, and rending into shreds each article of clothing as they pulled it from his back.

Taken by surprise, half-throttled, and scarcely able to articulate, he struggled and gurgled unintelligible protests in vain. Not till they had beaten him black and blue, and stripped him to the skin, did they desist from the cowardly assault. Then they dragged him along by the hair, and as they did so, they passed a street lamp, which threw its light upon him, and, for the first time, they saw his face.

A paralysing horror seized them. They let go of him suddenly, as if he had been red-hot.

"By G—d!" ejaculated Cumberfield, in dismayed and horror-struck accents. "*It's the—the—old Vice!*"

* * * * *

So it was; for it was he (though Thomas's clerk had not informed them of it) with whom the solicitor had had that late appointment, and, when he came out, they had mistaken him for Thompson Thomas, to whom he bore a general resemblance in size, build, and figure. Whether there had been any design on the part of Thomas, or whether the affair had really been accident, I am not in a position to state; though I incline to the former belief.

This, however, I can state as a historical fact—namely, that next day, Bellamy Beddington, Vice-Chancellor, sent all his three assailants down from the University for good, while Bellamy Beddington, President of Unity, expunged their names from the books of that college and confiscated their caution money.

I can also positively assert that, departing from his usual practice, he did NOT, in this instance, refer to the assault as a "mere ebullition of high spirits;" also that he did NOT attempt to excuse their behaviour on the ground that "young men will be young men."

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MUSIC.

A NEW OPERA AT COVENT GARDEN.

THE need of further preparation caused the postponement of the production of Cilèa's "Adrienne Lecouvreur," originally fixed for Saturday, until last (Tuesday) night; wherefore it is not possible in this issue to deal with the actual first performance. From the rehearsal on Friday one was enabled, however, to get an excellent notion of the opera, and I make no hesitation accordingly in predicting for it a very considerable measure of success. For, without being great or epoch-making in any way, the work has obvious elements of popularity. In going to a famous play for his theme the composer has of course only followed the example of Puccini, to say nothing of Verdi and many more, and the practice has obvious advantages, when the story chosen is one whose dramatic possibilities have stood so well the test of time as in the present case. But there is always one danger in the case of these adaptations. Your operatic libretto can readily take too much for granted, and in the present instance the book of Signor A. Colautti certainly does not comply with the rule which has been laid down for the ideal libretto—to wit, that the course of events should be obvious to the spectator without the need of the words at all. On the contrary, even with the aid of the text, those unacquainted with the original would probably have considerable difficulty in comprehending the action as it is set forth by Signor Colautti. A few lines of exposition in the opening scene to take the place of the first act of the play, which is omitted in the opera, would indeed have greatly improved the work, and might well be added even now. Since, however, most opera-goers may be assumed to know the play, the defect is less serious in this particular case than it might have been, and otherwise it is a sufficiently effective story for musical treatment with which the composer has been provided.

In the beginning we have the green room of the Comédie Française with Lecouvreur about to make her appearance on the stage. Enters unannounced and unexpected her lover, Maurice, Comte de Saxe, returned safe and sound from the wars, and full of fealty to his mistress. A love scene follows, in which the composer makes plain at once his gifts as a charming melodist. There is, indeed, nothing more pleasing in the whole work than the delightful solo, "La dolcissima effigie sorridente," in which the Count renews his suit. Happily treated also is the dialogue of the Prince de Bouillon and the reprobate old Abbé de Chazeuil, who aids and abets him in his dissipations. Follows the business of the intercepted letter from the Prince's wife, herself in love with Maurice, leading, in due course, to the meeting between the latter and the Princess at the Villa of the Prince's mistress, La Duclos. This begins the second act, a very pleasing solo for the Princess, giving expression to her hopes and fears in respect of the Count, opening the scene. In due course, after an interview between Maurice and the Princess, in which he offers his friendship in place of the love which he has now transferred to Adrienne, the unexpected arrival of the Prince puts his spouse to hurried flight. Concealed in an ante-room by the Count, she is eventually assisted to escape unrecognised by Adrienne, a violent scene of jealousy resulting between the two ladies, who, though ignorant of each other's identity, know each other at least as rivals in the Count's affections. This is an episode cleverly treated by the composer. Effective also is the kind of intermezzo, which, since every latter-day Italian opera must have an intermezzo at some point or other, is introduced in this act just before the release of the Princess by Lecouvreur.

Then in the third act we have the reception at the residence of the former, where a very charming ballet is one of the entertainments provided for the diversion of the company—and ourselves. Signor Cilèa has, indeed, put some of his brightest music into this scene, while showing no little technical skill by the happy manner in which the dialogue of the leading personages is continued as the dancing, or, more strictly speaking, pantomime, proceeds. Next the Count is asked to narrate the story of his triumphs in the field, and obliges, accordingly, with a song, "Il Russo Mencikoff," which likewise proves a very happy effort on Signor Cilèa's part; whilst finally comes Lecouvreur's recitation in which she expresses with such electrifying effect through the medium of a speech from "Phèdre" her extremely unflattering opinion of the Princess and her ways. This is Mme. Giachetti's opportunity, and she is the last one not to turn it to good account. The composer has risen to the occasion also here, and a situation which might easily have fallen flat is, in point of fact, realised in a genuinely telling fashion. Then in the fourth act we have the dénouement with the episode of the poisoned bouquet, followed by the death of Adrienne, after the delivery of one of those impassioned outbursts of which even when *in extremis* operatic heroines and heroes are always capable, in the arms of her faithful but helpless lover. On the whole, a strong story which has been cleverly handled. What is particularly noticeable about Signor Cilèa's music is its ease and spontaneity. Now in a clever bit of dialogue, now in a sparkling ensemble, here in a telling piece of declamation, there in a soaring burst of melody, Signor Cilèa proclaims himself a musician of resource and skill at every point. His music is frankly Italian in character, of course, but of its kind it is very excellent, and, as such, may be heartily commended.

Recent concerts have been numerous rather than important. Among others, that given by Mme. Clara Butt at the Albert Hall attracted naturally a huge audience, for Mme. Butt is, I suppose, the biggest "draw" of all English-speaking singers before the public at the present time. She proved in splendid form on this occasion, singing with an amount of finish and refinement of style, to which, a few years ago, her greatest admirers would never have expected her to attain. At the first of the Broadwood Concerts a pleasing set of "Novelletten" for strings, by Mr. Frank Bridge, well played by the Cathie Quartet, made a favourable impression, while at another chamber concert, the first of those given by Miss Ethel Barns and Mr. Charles Phillips, a new singer with a pleasant contralto voice, Miss Kate Fielder, made a successful first appearance.

Several new pianists have also been heard, Mr. Petrie Dunn, for one, Miss Gladys Law, for another, and Miss Evelyn Kingsford, for a third, all sound artists, but none of overpowering merit, while Mr. York Bowen, who has been best known hitherto as one of the most promising of our younger composers, has also demonstrated once again his considerable claims in the same capacity. On Saturday a clever young English violinist, Miss Evangeline Anthony, made her bow to the London public, though she needs to study a good deal more before she can be reckoned anything like a matured artist. The usual crowd of popular vocalists appeared at the second of the Chappell Ballad Concerts on the same afternoon, pleasing new songs by Guy d'Hardelot and Hermann Löhr being heard among others, while Mme. Blanche Marchesi regaled an appreciative audience with music of a rather different class at the Bechstein Hall. If Mme. Marchesi had a better voice what a great singer she would be! As it is, she is certainly a fine artist. Of several unfamiliar songs which she introduced a stirring "Venushymne" by Eugen d'Albert was effective perhaps as any.

At the opera lately repetitions have mostly occupied attention. The present company is such a good one, however, that such performances as they give of works like "Il Ballo in Maschera," "La Bohème," and "Rigoletto," with artists such as Giachetti, de Cisneros,

Anselmi, Dani, Sammarco, and the rest in the principal parts, are well worth seeing more than once. With the departure of Caruso, whose brilliant singing has been the great attraction of the season as a whole, the company has suffered, of course, a decided loss, but as its representations are at least as notable for the excellence of their *ensemble* as for the doings of individual performers, it is not likely to lose the support of discerning opera goers on this account. The production of Cilèa's setting of "Adrienne Lecouvreur," to which I have already referred, must be reckoned the most interesting feature of this week's performances—unless one gives the palm in this respect to the *Daily Mail's* egregious "test night" performance of "Faust" to-morrow (Thursday) evening—likewise alluded to in another column. Meanwhile, the rumoured engagements of Mme. Melba and Signora Giulia Ravogli have it seems, come to nothing, though I understand that we may still expect to see M. Maurel in "Il Barbiere" before the season ends.

Professor Julius Buths, who was responsible, it may be remembered, for the production of "The Dream of Gerontius" at Düsseldorf, is evidently determined not to weary in well-doing so far as concerns the presentation of British works before German audiences. He is going to follow up Elgar's work, it seems, by Sir Charles Stanford's "Requiem," which is to be given during the current season of the Düsseldorf Städtischer Musikverein, while, as if this were not enough, Mr. Arthur Hinton's pianoforte trio in D minor and a pianoforte concerto by Mr. Fritz Delius, who, though his name has a foreign ring, is a Yorkshireman by birth, are also to be heard by the lucky Düsseldorfers during the forthcoming season. With Stanford's "Requiem" coming on the top of Elgar's "Gerontius," the Germans will hardly be disposed to deny, at all events, that our composers take their art seriously in one respect, though it might be as well, perhaps, if next time he is good enough to honour British music in this way, the excellent Herr Professor selected some work a little more exhilarating in character. We do not want them to get the notion in the Fatherland that our composers deal in nothing but dirges, requiems and the like. Perhaps Dr. Cowen's "John Gilpin," which, I am glad to see, is to be given this season by the London Choral Society, might serve as a useful antidote.

Some years ago Tolstoi amused the musical world with a description of his experiences at Bayreuth, giving such an account of the matter as one might expect to proceed from an unlettered peasant, though differing therefrom in the fact that it displayed not the slightest appreciation of the circumstance that he was dealing with a subject which by reason of his lack of musical culture lay altogether beyond his ken. On another occasion he selected one of the purest and most serenely beautiful creations in music—namely, the "Kreutzer" Sonata—as the title of a novel written to prove the demoralising influence of the art of Beethoven. Now he goes further still, and denounces song itself as a thing accursed: "What is a song? Quite the same thing as brandy or tobacco, a mere pastime, a shallow amusement which only excites the people to bad deeds, to fight, etc. In war the song is considered necessary to inspire the soldier, but the soldiers are also inspired by brandy, and thus they go to their death, the fools." As it stands, could anything be cruder? Tolstoi clearly has strange notions as to the stimulating qualities of vocal music. He should attend one of our Ballad concerts. There he would learn better. There he might gather, too, that the song has its roots in all the emotions, good, bad, and indifferent, of which the human breast is capable—from love to hatred, and from joy to sorrow—that its scope and subject-matter are co-extensive with the interests of humanity, and that, in a word, it would hardly be more foolish to indict speech itself than song. But perhaps Tolstoi never really said these things. It is charitable, at any rate, to think so.

Gautier called music the most expensive form of noise, but probably, if we knew it, a kind far more costly, taking into consideration all its baleful results, its effects on the nerves, and so on, is that which greets us in the highways and byways and wheresoever men do congregate, in a thousand and one shapes which judicious legislation would suppress. It was Schopenhauer who said that insensibility to noise was the surest indication of a low and undeveloped nervous organisation. On which assumption it is certain that we, as a nation, can hardly be reckoned very far advanced. Certain it is that we are more tolerant under this head than any other nation professing to call itself civilised, though I fancy the Americans run us pretty close in this respect. Sir Arthur Sullivan was wont to compose in the middle of the night, because he could never obtain quiet at any other time, and without expecting the impossible or looking for legislation on a subject which is merely of concern to the community at large, irrespective of party issues, surely it is not too much to ask that the local authorities shall put their heads together on this matter, and exercise the powers which they possess? Mr. Bernard Shaw once expressed the opinion that it was the "State-aided noises," as he called them, which were the worst offenders—as, for example, the church bells and the military bands; but for most it is chiefly the itinerant organ, the peripatetic vocalist, the demon with the cornet, the German band, the leather-lunged newsvendor, the whistling locomotive, and the rattling dust-cart, which go to make life in London unendurable. Free Trade is all very well, but surely here, if anywhere, is a case for Protection.

The puff confidential is the latest device of that inventive genius the artist's agent. You get a letter informing you of some personal characteristic of the particular genius concerned, which, while in no sense to his or her discredit, as the case may be, you are requested not to publish, lest, peradventure, it should prejudice him or her in this or that direction. Something of this sort, for instance: "Master Prodigini, the gifted young fiddler of three and a half years old, who is to appear at St. James's Hall on Monday next, is, it may be interesting to know, such a sturdy young democrat that it is quite impossible to persuade him to play in the presence of Royalty. Consequently, the most comical expedients have been resorted to in order to enable certain illustrious personages to gratify their intense desire to hear this marvellous child. Please, however, do not publish this, as his parents do not desire that this amusing characteristic of their wonderful offspring should become generally known." For my own part, I can faithfully promise that no communications of this nature shall ever be divulged in print.

Sir A. C. Mackenzie, who meditates another tour in Canada, evidently finds Canada's musical conditions to his liking. A concert, and sometimes two, a day, for five or six weeks, coupled with constant travelling, since the whole Dominion is to be embraced, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, will mean much strain. But Sir Alexander is Scotch, and tough, and a very cormorant for work; also an excellent man of business, with the knack of taking things without worry, so he will doubtless come through all right this time as before. Perhaps it is the Scotch blood in Sir Alexander which accounts for his appearance in this rôle of musical emigrant or apostle in the wilderness. Truly Sir Alexander has been wonderfully successful since those far-off days when he scraped his little fiddle before even he had learnt to lisp; and his father, the old orchestral player of Edinburgh, would have been a proud man to-day if he had lived to see his youngster Principal of the Academy of Music and one of our twentieth-century knights. It takes grit and determination, indeed, as well as musical genius, for a composer to win fame and fortune in this country. But since the days when he pitched up a lucrative musical connection—as teacher, violinist, choirmaster, etc.—at Edinburgh to settle down, with his young wife, to composition at Florence, Mackenzie has never lacked those qualities.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—"Books dealing with China," says the translator of M. Alexandre Ular's "A Russo-Chinese Empire" (1), "are almost without exception hostile," and therefore, he suggests, that a book written by a Chinese—as the volume he thus introduces seems to be—is needed to redress the balance. But to redress a balance thus over-weighted on one side there needs, apparently, in M. Alexandre Ular's judgment, an over-weight as inequitable in the other scale. "It may be conceded from the outset," admits the translator, that the author not infrequently damages his case by overstating it." Indeed, he would hardly be human, and he would certainly not be eastern, if he did not exaggerate a little in retorting upon the calumniators of his country. Nevertheless, it is wholesome, if humiliating, for the man to see his portrait painted by the exasperated lion he has so long harassed and hunted. M. Alexandre Ular's ideas, therefore, of western civilisation and of Christianity, whether as originally preached, or as formulated by the churches, or as practised by its professors—all three essentially distinct from each other—are most interesting and instructive reading. By the way, it is quite impossible to believe all the monstrous charges of extortion, robbery, and murder made against both the Catholic and Protestant missionaries by M. Ular and his correspondents. However, these frightful charges and M. Ular's general impressions and denunciations of western civilisation and Christianity will not interest you so much at this moment as his disclosure of the precise terms of the Russo-Chinese agreements, especially that with regard to Tibet. Russia, as the introduction to this volume suggests, has the advantage over the Governments of less autocratically governed states, of a continuous, coherent, and inflexible policy, and its progress is like that of a glacier, slow, stealthy, and in one invariable direction. Japan may temporarily checkmate it in Manchuria, and England in Thibet; but as long as Russia holds together, and is autocratically governed, or is, at least, under an oligarchical Government, so long neither England nor Japan nor any other Power will permanently deflect her policy or progress. You must read for yourself the text of the confidential Russo-Chinese treaty relative to Thibet, since I have not space to transcribe it—"an episode in the collective, silent, terrible march of Russian expansion, signifying a decisive step towards Russian hegemony and the consolidation of a world-wide Russo-Chinese Empire." I cannot, however, resist quoting M. Ular's extremely probable forecast of what "the yellow peril" will really mean to the West:—

> In the first period we should see Western capital working in China with the aid of machines and tools manufactured in the West, but naturally handled by Chinese labour, which is cheap. During this phase China will be able to be an excellent outlet for Western industry. But only the great capitalists will profit by this state of things. In the second period European capital will work in China with the apparatus manufactured in China herself at extremely low prices; already the rebound in the markets and productions of the West will be terrible. But at this time the capital employed will still be very productive. In the third period Chinese capital, that is to say the inexhaustible economic force of the immense productive co-operative societies, the enormous capital of the workers themselves, will be substituted for European capital. The struggle of capital against organised work is a vain one. The rapid and disastrous decline of the European States will then be inevitable. In the fourth period, lastly, the present industrial countries will serve as outlets for Chinese production, and the ruin of Europe will be final.

Perhaps, also, there is a good deal to be said for M. Ular's parting Gospel, which cannot certainly be called un-Christian:—

> Lastly, we must abandon our faith that in the life of civilisations the engines of destruction give the superiority. No; it is the patient energy which wins—calm and unrelenting work.

Apropos of the confidential Russo-Chinese treaty, whose text is disclosed here by M. Ular, there is a significant passage in an extremely interesting and opportune book I have just laid down—M. F. Grenard's "Tibet" (2)—throwing light upon our recent mission to that country:

> A chief lama of Lhasa, Agoan Dordjieff, a Buriat, and a Russian subject by birth, went to St. Petersburg in 1900 and 1901, and was officially received by the Emperor. The Russian Government, on its side, sent M. Tsybikoff on a mission to Lhasa, where he remained during almost the whole of 1901. The Tibetans, closing their doors to all the world alike, by that very fact constituted themselves the protectors of the northern frontier of India, and it was to England's interest to respect their isolation. As they now, however, ceased to play that part, it suited the British Government to seek to make its influence paramount in that country. The object has remained the same; circumstances and the means employed have altered.

Tibet is a country of priests, to whom it is sacrilege to do the least injury. No doubt the Tibetans, like the mediæval Italians, scoff at the avarice, hypocrisy, tyranny, and immorality of these innumerable monks, but they have too servile a dread of their supernatural powers to molest or resist these spiritual parasites, who bleed the country white. If you are yet young enough in heart to care to read of Christian knights and ladies, their loves and sufferings in England and the East, of the Old Man of the Mountain, and of the great-hearted Saladin, then I can recommend to you Mr. Rider Haggard's "The Brethren" (3). Why Mr. Rider Haggard should be at such pains to suggest to you that of the two brothers the heroine loved Godwin, while her heart was really given all along to Wulf, I cannot imagine. However, this is a most stirring story of the Crescent and the Cross in days when Christians, even under the shadow of the Hill of Hattin, from which the sermon on the Mount was preached, showed themselves as blood-thirsty as the Moslems themselves. Different, indeed, in subject, time, tone, and treatment is Mr. Horace Annesley Vachell's admirable novel, "Brothers" (4), a true story of success and failure, where the success in life and love of the triumphant brother is wholly due to the inspiration of the brother who failed. Perhaps the best part of the book is the beginning, which describes the school-days at Harrow of the brothers and their mates; but you follow their future fortunes with a growing interest to the end. At the close you will probably have two doubts—of the perfect and permanent reconciliation of the brothers, and of the naturalness of the heroine on her death-bed dissuading the hero from suicide through the suggestion, "If you went with me, we should part on the other side." Mrs. Croker's "The Happy Valley" (5) is the slightest of slight novels, but it is light as it is slight, and will doubly please you, if you are as much in love with Norway and its fishing as Mrs. Croker. It has to do with the loves of two girls, one cowering under the hawk-like shadow of some tragic mystery, and the other the ordinary heroine of light fiction, who has the good fortune to meet with in the narrator of the tale a fairy god-mother. All ends as it ought to end in a novel with such a title and subject.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

(1) "A Russo-Chinese Empire." An English Version of "Un Empire Russo-Chinois" By Alexandre Ular. (Westminster: Archibald Constable & Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d.)

(2) "Tibet: The Country and its Inhabitants." By F. Grenard. Translated by A. Teixeira de Mattos. (London: Hutchinson & Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

(3) "The Brethren." By H. Rider Haggard. (London: Cassell & Co., Ltd. 6s.)

(4) "Brothers." By Horace Annesley Vachell. (London: John Murray. 6s.)

(5) "The Happy Valley." By B. M. Croker. With a Frontispiece. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—I wish I could be always on good terms with my conscience. I do so love peace and goodwill. But we—my conscience and I—are always having words. For instance, when I was planting bulbs this morning, my autocrat kept telling me that I should be writing to you. When I indulge in breakfast in bed, this troublesome ruler nags away at me because it knows—and I know—that I ought to be at the breakfast table instead of lazing in my bed.

Consequently, there is no real enjoyment in any bit of self-indulgence. My carping friend is down on me the whole time. Is it so with you? Are you continually

teased and coerced by a conscience well up to its work? I would not have it otherwise, would you? But yet it would be rather pleasant to be able to enjoy some favourite little diversion now and then without pin-pricks of compunction going on all the time.

It is not often that we hear of a bridegroom's costume costing thousands of pounds. Mr. Bradley Martin, married last week to Miss Helen Phipps, for some reason wore Highland costume, and it was the jewels with which it was adorned that brought the cost up to a sum reported as £8,000. How the Marquis of Anglesey would have enjoyed himself in that get-up!

The bride, Miss Helen Phipps, wore £20,000 of jewels and her bridal gown cost £4,000. So it is reported. If love really flies out of the window when poverty comes in at the door, what a guarantee of wedded happiness all this wealth should be. I wonder why the bridegroom wore Highland dress. The marriage, to be sure, took place at a Highland castle, rented for the occasion by the father of the bride. But the bridegroom is of American extraction.

The shops look like Christmas, and every time we go out we see some pretty novelty that I always mean to tell you about. But alas! memory is incapable of retaining them all. One thing, however, was so very lovely that it has escaped oblivion. It was a very large hat in the window of a Regent-street florist. Made of pale mauve asters placed closely together, the wide brim was slightly tilted, and under it was a feather imitated in pink heather. The top was trimmed with similar "feathers."

The storming of Bruton-street on Friday afternoon had its amusing side. The occasion was the opening by Sir Clements R. Markham, President of the Royal Geographical Society, of the *Discovery* Antarctic Exhibition at the Bruton Galleries. The rooms are not particularly large, but the management had sent out 5,000 invitations, each for two persons, and to judge from the scene, the whole 10,000 must have presented themselves for admission. When we arrived, people were diligently squeezing through the doorway in a tight mass, while the pathway on either side for several yards was feeding this crowd from two others. Add to this a constant stream of carriages, motors, hansoms and four-wheelers driving up and discharging their human freights as near the doorway as the pedestrian obstacle would permit. We gave up all idea of going in, and for a few moments stood on a doorstep and watched the scene. Some of the people took their disappointment with the utmost good humour; others looked cross, and what our Yorkshire friends call "a good few" expressed themselves in powerful terms, such as "scandalous," "disgraceful mismanagement," "what a horrible shame," etc., etc. One little episode that we witnessed will amuse you, and gives a new view of men's ideas on women's clubs. A middle-aged man accompanied by a lady whom we took to be his wife, met another middle-aged man, to whom he explained that he was going away and coming back in an hour. As he and his companion walked off, he turned back to his friend and said, in a low voice: "I'm going to leave her at her club. Such a comfort to have it to leave her at!" So, you see, women's clubs are apparently very useful to men.

The view of Bruton-street from the corner of Bond-street was a striking one. The middle of it was black with carriages and people, and as we stood watching streams of others passed us, all converging to the galleries.

We went again on Saturday morning, and found the whole exhibition of the utmost interest, the little model of the *Discovery* not least among the items. Some of the water-colours of the sky are really pretty pictures. There is a strange one called "Earth Shadows." The things used by the men on board are also of interest, and we should have liked to read all the numbers of the *South Polar Times*, but they were in a glass case. With them were several articles made by the explorers during the long winter of 1902-3: a model of a sledge made from old German silver sledge-runners, a knife made on board the *Discovery* and furnished with a sealskin sheath, a tobacco pouch made of a seal's tail, and candles also made on the ship.

We looked long at a Union Jack that had been presented by the explorers of 1875 to those of 1902, who value it so highly that they have insured it for £800. One of the sailors told us interesting things; for instance, that their principal food was seal, that they did not suffer from cold in the daytime, but slept at night in huge fur bags, and that the poor dogs died from scurvy after one sleigh trip. Three pups were born during the expedition. Of these the King has one, Captain Scott another, and the third, Roger, is on view at the Exhibition. He has appropriated to his own use a large damask velvet couch which suits his iron-grey complexion very well.

Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is to open the Christmas Sale of the Ladies' Work Society, 31, Sloane-street, on Monday afternoon next, and will probably sell some of the dainty things made by the reduced gentlewomen who are members. There are embroideries and appliqués of every kind on velvet, silk, cloth, serge, linen, crash, etc. Church embroidery is a feature of the Society, and also drawn-thread work, ribbon work applied to cushions, curtains, portières, grandfather chairs, music seats, screens, work-bags, piano backs, and a hundred other useful and ornamental things. The ladies also repair old tapestries and mend and transfer old lace.

You must not for a moment dream of having your afternoon gown cut with a train and trailing at the sides. I hope I am in time to stop you, for this fashion has completely vanished. To make quite sure about it—though I was quite sure before!—I went to Redfern's and saw there some very sweet frocks, all of which had skirts of moderate length; that is, the back resting from four to six inches on the ground, and the sides just barely touching.

I must describe one of the frocks I saw, a mauve and blue shot silk, the skirt of which was trimmed with two very deep gathered flounces. The bodice had a deep basque which looked like a third flounce, and all three were trimmed with lace put on the silk vandykes. The pointed front was trimmed with diamond buttons. The collar came down like revers and was buttonholed all round and embroidered in the colours of the shot silk in a floral design. The sleeves, very full and much rucked above the elbows, were trimmed with lace, like the flounces.

Another gown was in the favourite black velvet trimmed with black guipure over white silk. A band of this was laid on just above the hem, and scattered over the skirt were small motifs to match. The bodice had a deep collar of the black guipure, over white.

Very quaint and novel was a white silk, painted with faintly-tinted blue poppies, gathered very fully round the waist, and opening in front over white chiffon. The bodice was in cornflower blue taffetas, gathered in bands and finished with a short gathered basque. A sweet tea-gown, in pink Liberty satin, soft as crêpe in texture, was made with a deep, full flounce. Quaint little gathered and corded epaulettes trimmed the top of the sleeves. The front was white and pink muslin, hanging loose in soft folds to the feet, and the sleeves were covered with very full, graduated, narrow frills of white muslin, each frill bordered with very narrow Mechlin edging.

Redfern has such smart furs. A moleskin cape has an ermine collar and stole ends. A caracul, with ermine collar and cuffs, was cleverly arranged with a

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band of black velvet, curving diagonally on back and front, with the effect of making the wearer look slim. It was slightly pouched all round, with a little embroidery in dull green showing at the waist below the line of the simulated bolero. We may mix furs as much as we like now, you know. A sealskin coat had a moleskin bolero, defined by deep, sharp points let into the sealskin. The collar had similar vandykes.

Just as we were coming away we caught sight of a delicious frock, a Liberty satin, painted in a flower design, the front in fine straw-coloured embroidery on gold tissue. Where the satin met this front, it was bordered with lace, edged with narrow Liberty ribbon. Gold lace was sewn round the low bodice, and little bunches of ribbon flowers hung like tassels over a trimming of lace and loops of narrow flowered ribbon. The sleeves, wide and full, were pleated white chiffon.

For your cold hall I can recommend the very thing, viz., the latest development of the invaluable Ardent oil stove, the use of which has for the last ten years turned our winter into pleasant summer, so far as the atmosphere of home is concerned. A table stove in the boudoir sheds a rosy light, as well as genial warmth, on all surroundings, and a similar arrangement in the dining-room, nursery, or morning-room has the advantage of providing a comfortable temperature when needed, without the extravagance of keeping up fires all day. Upon its value in bedrooms I am almost afraid to dilate, lest you should think I exaggerate. No matter how late we are out at night, there is a warm room for us when we get home, and this without keeping a servant up to tend a fire. On the top is the cup of chocolate which rounds off the day and induces sleep. The Belgica is the name of the new form of Ardent, and it has, instead of a chimney, a wide bowl made of unbreakable glass. The top is finished with an ornamental tracery of soft colour (ours is pale Wedgwood blue), and the shape of the stove is such as to take up as little space as possible. There is neither smoke nor smell with any of these lamps, and they warm the room in every corner, much more effectually than a coal fire, a good third of the heat from which escapes up the chimney. In the sick-room, the Ardent stoves enable the nurse to keep up an even temperature without the smallest trouble; and only those who have had nursing to do can realise what a boon it is to be able to do without the noise and dust of a coal fire, with its perpetual need of renewal.

The new plan of doing away with the wall of the back dining-room in London houses, leaving it open to the stairway, is excellent. It makes the house more airy by banishing the usual narrowness, and letting the back dining-room window supply fresh air. Pretty Madame Mexique has done this with her big house in Kensington, and has turned a commonplace building into an original and beautiful one. The room thrown open in this way is furnished with comfortable armchairs as a kind of lounge. In the same way, the wall between the two drawing-rooms has been removed, and the fireplace stopped up in the back room, the wall being panelled with moiré paper in a deliciously soft tone of blue—sparrow's egg, I think. Ceilings and mouldings were all in the Adams style, which is more in favour than ever, as it deserves to be. I must confess to coveting Madame Mexique's bedroom. Vast in size, luxuriously carpeted, and perfect in colouring as taste and wealth can make it, it is an ideal room. A *chaise longue*, composed of two armchairs and a central stool, looked almost small in the great room, though it must be 8 ft. long, at least. The staircase is papered in the softest shade of rose Du Barry. Prints and etchings find in this colour an agreeable background. Compare this spacious bedroom with the one in which, as reported in evidence last week, a servant girl had slept for months. It was 8 ft. long by between 4 and 5 ft. wide, and 6 ft. high. Think of it!

I hear that a large furniture establishment has just dismissed two hundred girls who had worked in the carpet-making department. The number may possibly be exaggerated, but the fact remains that linoleum is now so largely used as a floor covering that there is great reduction in the demand for carpets. Poor girls! Turned away just as the cold and dismal winter is coming on. How one pities them.

The work of the London Needlework Guild will be on view at the Imperial Institute on Friday and Saturday of this week. The Princess of Wales was hard at work last week at the Institute in sorting and arranging the work of her Group. On Friday between 3 and 4.30 a ladies' amateur band will play. It is really a wonderful sight: the hugh mounds of warm clothing, destined for the poor and the suffering, are full of agreeable suggestions.

Lord Rosebery indulged in some interesting speculations the other day as to the impressions that would be made upon the minds of our Saxon fathers if they could revisit the glimpses of the moon and see the modern civilisation of some city that they knew in ancient days. In the country, too, the ghostly visitors would find hardly less surprising changes than in the towns. Imagine some great Saxon noble, proud of the civilisation of his own day, driving in a motor-car to the stately mansion that stands on the site of his old home. What would he think of its luxuries and its conveniences? It is probable that nothing would fill him with more amazement than the uses of electricity.

Leaving the Saxon out of the question, however, it is doubtful whether everybody in the present day is yet fully aware of the innumerable ways in which an electric installation can now be made to minister to the requirements of country-house life. There is some interesting information on the subject in a treatise entitled "Light and Power," which has been published by the well-known firm of electrical engineers, Messrs. Drake and Gorham, of 66, Victoria-street. It deals mainly with the electric lighting of country houses, but it also shows that an installation can be turned to such domestic purposes as supplying heat and ventilation, cooking the dinner, cleaning the silver, blacking the boots, wringing, mangling, and ironing clothes, and so on, besides pumping water, sawing wood, clipping horses, shearing sheep, and doing many other things about the house, the stables, and the farm. There seem, indeed, to be few things that cannot be done by electrical machinery.

Mme. Batavia, the Educated Bear at the Italian Circus, is creating quite a sensation in London, and her manners are so refined that there is talk of her being invited out to dinner and at-homes in the coming season, in the same way as the chimpanzee was at the Hippodrome. Madame is not a teetotaller, as before her motor ride to the Stock Exchange she finished a bottle of ale and took another on her arrival. Bee visited her in her cage after the performance, and she was most gracious, taking the smallest pieces of cake out of her hand without an attempt to bite. I heard that between the performances she amuses herself by rolling on the floor with the attendants.

Frances writes:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Now we have entered upon November you will, I am sure, be expecting to get a letter from me telling you what our prospects are for this year's season (we have, of course, other seasons, but this is *the* season). If weather has anything to do with the matter, and if it is as kind to us during the next two months as it has been during the last two, we ought, indeed, to have a glorious time. I have been in Brighton now for a good many years, but I have never known our real season ushered in under such favourable weather auspices.

But there are other considerations than the weather that have to be taken into account. Times are, unfortunately, bad, and no place feels the effects of bad times more than Brighton—in the

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same way, no place feels more quickly the effects of good times. We were discussing the matter in the tea interval in one of our many Bridge afternoons the other day, when an old General, who was present, waxed very eloquent on this question of bad times, and he finished up his argument by saying he thought it was about time that the gentlemen of the Stock Exchange took a holiday and came down to Brighton for a change in order to strengthen their nerves, which were evidently in a very shattered condition, seeing how they allowed themselves to be influenced by the ravings and imaginings of a certain section of the Press. "It really is astonishing," he continued, "that intelligent men (he supposed men on the Stock Exchange were intelligent) should pay attention to the gross inventions of these so-called journalists." With which sentiment we all most heartily agreed.

But you will say: What has all this to do with your Brighton season? Everything, my dear, for if the Stock Exchange would only keep its head, it would not only make money itself, but it would prevent the public from losing theirs by being frightened out of their securities at the lowest prices. However, no more lecturing—I am afraid I have rather got my "General" friend on the brain.

The *Daily Telegraph* gave us—that is to say, Brightonians—a long article last week and predicted, I noticed, a good season; and the *Daily Graphic* followed this up on Thursday with a Brighton supplement which was, however, principally historical. If the Russian Baltic Squadron and the London Stock Exchange could even at this the last moment get over their fit of nerves—and if the journalists throughout the country would content themselves with reporting facts and commenting only on facts—then we should have good times. Brighton, as usual, is quite prepared, not only to welcome its visitors, but to amuse and entertain them.

On Saturday next the Duchess of Albany is to visit us to open a bazaar at the Dome on behalf of Trinity Church, which was made famous some fifty years ago by the preaching of the Rev. F. W. Robertson. Her Royal Highness is sure to meet with a most enthusiastic welcome. Royalty, you know, has rather neglected Brighton since the days of the Georges; but I hope we are going to be more fortunate in the future. Princess Louise is coming in December to open the Amateur Art Exhibition.

Lady Louise Loder, the popular wife of our popular member, is very busy with her committee meetings, bazaars, cafés chantants, sales of work, and amateur theatricals and concerts. Brighton, as I have often told you, surpasses every other town for the marvellous energy of its inhabitants in the organisation of all sorts and conditions of charity entertainment. Sir Edward and Lady Clarke (I wonder if he will be our future member) have arrived at Brunswick-terrace, and the latter is again very much to the fore in supporting in every way everything going.

Perhaps one of the most enterprising efforts that have met with the entire approval of Brightonians is the Amateur Art Exhibition. It is to be held this year at the beautiful house in Grand-avenue, Hove, kindly lent by Sir William Chance, Bart. The Duke of Norfolk has again come forward to Miss Sullivan's aid, and her loan annexe will consist of some valuable exhibits lent by him, besides rare specimens of lace, boxes, watches, fob chains, seals, etc.; enamel on precious metals; agates, stones, crystals, tortoise-shell, shagreen; French gouache drawings, pastels, and French prints. Owing to The Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, having consented to open the exhibition, the date has had to be changed from December 3 to December 12. I wonder, my dear Madge, if you know of any kind "collector" friend who will lend us specimens of any of the above things for the loan annexe? Of course, all things lent are insured by the Committee, and the greatest care is taken to have them carefully packed, etc., when returning them. We are very excited at having at last succeeded in getting some of our Royalties to patronise us, for, although we have one of our King's daughters living in our midst, we have not hitherto been very fortunate in securing Royal favours.

We deserve to have a good season, for Brighton is always doing its utmost to add to its attractions. We have our two piers, at both of which are really good entertainments; our theatre, where London companies are weekly appearing; our Hippodrome, with its constantly changing programme; and last, but not least, our shops. And Brighton shops are now a distinct feature and a distinct attraction, regardless of our close proximity to London. For instance, Mr. Hill's well-known Viennese shops always attract large crowds of onlookers at all times of the year, and the new addition to his premises is a great improvement. Messrs. Barance and Ford, too, have at last obtained possession of the third shop adjoining their others, and are making a specialty of all kinds of beautiful furs. These go-a-head, up-to-date costumiers are very wisely competing with the times, and devote one of the showrooms entirely to smart tailor suits at really reasonable prices, and in the beautifully "got up" millinery showroom you are sure to find the latest French models. Messrs. Lewis, a few doors off, have still the reputation of possessing the finest collection of Old English furniture and antique china. Hannington's, of North-street, still go on in the same steady, thorough way, as do Chipperfield and Butler's in the Western-road. Lawson's (the old jewellery firm) have for a few years past had an extremely well-looked-after branch in the King's-road. It is looked upon by Brightonians as the King's-road Percy Edward's.

I must not forget to tell you how splendidly Miss Hollingshead's venture (the Ladies' Club) has grown. It has been said—of course, by non-clubites—that it is "the heart of the gambling world of Brighton." Poor little club! It has its Bridge afternoon every week, where 2s. 6d. a hundred is the limit that is allowed to be played, whilst at the tournaments that constantly take place only trifling prizes are played for. But quite independently of its mild Bridge, the club has proved a huge success, and Miss Hollingshead is to be heartily congratulated on the tact and wisdom she has shown. Over forty new members have been elected during the last three months, and even in August (by no means a fashionable month here) all the bedrooms in the club were occupied.

But I am afraid that, although I have not by any means exhausted all I could tell you about Brighton, I have exhausted you, so I will spare you.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—In a well-apportioned year November might be suitably set out as the month for study and reading; the one in which all the shortcomings in these respects of the other months would be made up for. Is it not pleasant to retreat into the world of books when the real world in these climes is in its most dull and unsatisfactory state—to trim the cheerful lamp, to draw a chair to the fireside, and shut out the outer greyness and fogs? When Nature is so gloomy, how much the better for us if we could only leave her to her gloom and escape from its influence! We might, in lesser degree, follow the example of those in Arctic circles, who have to grapple with the long night of winter. No fear that our stock of books would fail! Century upon century has passed since it was said, "Of making many books there is no end;" ever since there has been no end, and least of all does any end seem near in these days. Just at this season, in especial, the long lists of books of the long lists of publishers fill us with amazement. By a providential dispensation the "many books" of the wise man's time, and of long centuries after, have gone, like the pins of the world, none can tell where. Still, although without the burden of a too redundant past, both author and publisher have difficulties enough in an overcrowded present. Can these long lists of books to come, added to those which have already come, possibly find readers? The possible answer to the question makes one sigh. How pathetic is the fate of the failures of the books which offer themselves in all their bravery of print and binding to a public which passes them by unheeding! The bitterness of the rejected MS. is far less to its author than that of the book that fails. The eternal spring of hope in the human breast, however, tempers most of life's bitterness, and every one, no doubt, has some one who believes in him or her, even if it be only him or her self.

Having carefully thought out the best way of taking November as November, nothing would serve the month but to come in last week, especially at the end of it, with a smiling aspect, in fact masquerading as summer. Sunshine and clear skies when we had prepared to meet fog and gloom; a mild temperature making the chairs which we had drawn to the fireside impossible. We ought to have felt thankful, and of course it is better to have unexpected good than evil. Still, the unexpected is always a little disconcerting, especially when our preparations are for an entirely different state of things. Newly purchased furs were a little trying to look at, and yet more disconcerting was the shabbiness of the long-worn

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lighter garments which would have suited the almost summer mildness of the weather.

Lord and Lady Dudley will return to Ireland during this month, though not until the end of it. They will go north at the beginning of December, when they have public engagements in Newry and Belfast. Last week Ulster entertained Lord Ranfurly at a banquet and luncheon in Belfast, at which the Lord Mayor presided, and the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, Lord and Lady O'Neill, and most of the northern light and leading were present. Lord Ranfurly, who was a popular Governor of New Zealand, belongs to the North. His successor, another Irishman, Lord Plunket, is connected with it, Lady Plunket being the youngest daughter of Lord Dufferin, who in his day shed such lustre on the North. Ulster, however, which takes itself most pre-eminently as Ulster, never flattered Lord Dufferin by imitating his liberality and common-sense in Irish politics. By the way, Sir Antony MacDonnell, against whom the Ulster extremists do rage so furiously, was held in very high esteem by Lord Dufferin during the time of the latter's Viceroyalty in India. The Lord Chancellor and the Chief Secretary deserted Irish affairs for those of the Empire last week, crossing the water to attend the Cabinet Councils. Mr. Wyndham and Lady Grosvenor are expected to return soon again to the Chief Secretary's Lodge, and to stay there for some time. Lord and Lady Grenfell are at the Royal Hospital, where their little daughter was baptised last week. The Royal Hospital Chapel, where the religious ceremonial took place, is at the end of the large hall, which is the ballroom, and opens off it. This chapel has the peculiarity of—though in Ireland—not belonging to the Irish Protestant Church, but to the English—to an established, not to a disestablished Church. The office of Commander of the Forces gives its holder opportunity for a very active life in Ireland. Lord Grenfell is constantly on the move through Ireland, looking into military matters all over the country and paying visits here and there. Last week he joined Lord Drogheda's shooting party at Moore Abbey. Society in general is hunting and shooting just at present, and paying visits. Lady Ormonde has been staying with her daughter, Lady Beatrice Pole-Carew, and Sir Reginald, at the General's official residence in Cork, which is not very distant by rail or by motor from Kilkenny. The number of marriages in Irish society has been remarkable this year. Yet another engagement is now announced, that of Sir W. Mahon to Miss E. Dillon, Lord Clonbrock's daughter. In the first Abercorn reign at Dublin Castle, Lord Clonbrock, not then a peer, was Private Secretary to the Viceroy. Lady Clonbrock is the sister of Lord Crofton, who also has held Viceregal Household office at Dublin Castle.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Here is just one recipe for you this week. It is called tourte de pommes à la française:—

To half a pound of stiffly-reduced apple purée, put 4oz. of butter, 6oz. of castor sugar, the grated rind of a lemon, and two whole eggs and a yolk; stir it continually over the fire until it is thick, and then pour it into a round French-tart tin that has been lined with good short paste. Form a lattice on the tart with strips of the paste, and bake it very carefully about half an hour. Allow the tart to get cold before taking it from the tin, or it will break; dust sugar over it before sending it to table.

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ENTRE NOUS.

THE ladies who are kindly dressing dolls for the Truth Toy Show will doubtless be pleased to hear that the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company, of 112, Regent-street, have again presented a lady's gold watch as a prize in the doll-dressing competition. They have now done this for many years, and, in common with all concerned, I am much indebted to them for the assistance thereby rendered to the success of the Toy Show.

According to the latest arrangements the Queen will not accompany the King next week on his visit to Mr. and Mrs. William James at West Dean Park, Sussex. His Majesty will leave Windsor Castle next Monday, and is to stay at West Dean until the morning of Saturday, the 26th, when he will proceed to Sandringham. There are to be battues in the extensive and well-stocked preserves on the West Dean estate during the King's visit, and it is rumoured that his Majesty will shoot on one day during the week with Lord Leconfield at Petworth. His Majesty will arrive at Singleton Station about six o'clock on Monday evening, travelling thither by way of Petworth and Midhurst.

There are to be two theatrical performances in the Waterloo Chamber at Windsor Castle during the visit of the King and Queen of Portugal. The stage has been erected at the west end of the room. The Throne Room, Ante-Throne Room, and Grand Vestibule will be utilised as green rooms. A number of guests from the neighbourhood have been invited, and they will arrive at the Castle by the Household entrance, and are to assemble in the Grand Reception Room, whither the King and Queen, their Royal guests, the Royal Family, and the Court, will proceed from the Corridor, dinner having previously been served in the State Dining Room. The guests will sup after each performance in St. George's Hall.

The King and Queen entertained the following guests at Sandringham between Thursday, the 3rd, and last Monday:—Prince George of Greece (attended by Captain Lambessis), Count Albert Mensdorff Pouilly, Duke of Richmond and Gordon, Marquis de Soveral, Marquis and Marquise de Breteuil, Marquis du Lau, Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lady Gerard, Lord Gerard, Lady Maud Warrender, Sir Arthur and Lady Ellis, Sir Arthur and Lady Hardinge, Canon Dutton (Vicar of Bibury, Gloucestershire), Mr. Henry Chaplin, Professor Mahaffy, Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel, Mr. and Mrs. George Cornwallis West, Mr. J. S. Sandars, Mr. Esme Howard, and Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace.

Three days of last week were devoted to partridge driving, and excellent sport was obtained, except on Tuesday, when a strong wind greatly interfered with the shooting. On Friday there was duck shooting on the Wolferton Marshes and on the waters round The Folly. The Prince of Wales brought down forty-nine ducks. Wild fowl are very numerous this winter on the Sandringham estate, and the birds are in remarkably fine condition.

The Duke of Connaught and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia are to arrive next Monday at Hewell Grange, near Bromsgrove, on a visit to Lord and Lady Windsor. There will be shooting parties on the estate, which has extensive and well-stocked preserves, on Tuesday and on Wednesday. The Duchess of Connaught may not be able to accompany her husband and daughters on this visit. Hewell is the old seat of the Earls of Plymouth, of which Lord Windsor is the representative. The estate, which belonged to the Cistercian Abbey of Bordesley, was granted at the Reformation to Lord Windsor. The old house, which was built in the reign of Queen Anne, and which had a front 127 ft. in length, was pulled down about twenty years ago, and has been replaced by a new and very handsome mansion, which has some remarkably fine

rooms. There is an interesting gallery of family portraits at Hewell, and some good pictures of Old Masters. The park, which is large and well-wooded, contains an extensive lake.

I see that his Majesty's birthday has, as usual, been celebrated by "honours" being distributed, though why this singular custom should prevail of a person celebrating his birthday by honouring people whom probably he never saw, I do not know. Three good sound Unionist M.P.s—all ardent Balfourites—*i.e.*, gentlemen ready to support Mr. Balfour as a Free Trader and Mr. Chamberlain as a Protectionist—have blossomed from knights into baronets. But why not more Parliamentary baronets? Half the Unionist M.P.s are craving for the title. It would do no one any harm if they were given the object of their ambition, and it really seems as cruel to refuse it as to refuse a donkey a thistle.

There is some slight excuse for a man desirous of becoming a knight, for he may say—most of them do—that it pleases his wife to be called "My Lady," and it is a cheap way of pleasing her, for a diamond tiara or any conspicuous personal decoration costs a lot of money. But what always surprises me is that the man who is a knight already should set his heart on becoming a baronet. There are, of course, many respectable baronets, but seldom a week passes without the newspapers containing a petition of bankruptcy against one of them, or an account of one of them having come to grief as the guinea pig of a rotten company. According to the baronets themselves, any one may dub himself one, and they are persistently agitating for some sort of Commission to separate the true sheep from the intrusive goats.

When Lord Castlereagh was one of the British representatives at the Congress of Vienna, he appeared amid the bestarred and beribboned crowd without one single decoration. "How distinguished!" said Talleyrand. When George III. offered to make Mr. Coke, of Norfolk, a baronet, the squire replied: "If I have sinned, make me a knight; but what have my children done that my sin should be visited thus heavily on them?" At present decorations are as plentiful in the United Kingdom as in Germany, where there is a proverb amongst officers, which says: "Two things are certain—death and a decoration."

Lord and Lady Dudley, who went abroad for a motor tour, are soon expected to return to Ireland. They will resume their residence at the Viceregal Lodge on their return from visiting the North of Ireland in the beginning of December. Their Excellencies are expected, as usual, to spend Christmas at the Viceregal Lodge.

During the absence of the Lord-Lieutenant the Constitution-makers in Ireland have not relapsed into idleness. Of making speeches by all sorts and conditions of men and of writing letters there has been no end of late. If letters and speeches could settle the Irish question it would have been settled long ago. Perhaps if, by way of change, a league of silence were entered into by all parties better results might be obtained. The suggested nostrum is one of the few remedies which have never been tried for Irish grievances. Just now every one in Ireland, more or less, seems to feel himself called upon to give a hand in making a Constitution for the country, as though the case were an urgent one of "all hands to the pumps."

The Thatched House Lodge, a Crown residence in Richmond Park, has fallen to the gift of the King by the death of Lady Gardiner. This house, which is of moderate size, with small but pretty grounds, is pleasantly placed near the Kingston Gate, and it commands a very extensive view. The original Thatched House Lodge was built by Sir Robert Walpole, as a place for lunching or dining during his hunting excursions in Richmond Park. George the Second was often a guest there, and took such a fancy to Richmond that the White Lodge was ultimately built as a Royal residence. The Rangership of Richmond Park was formerly a post of large emoluments, but the salary was abolished during the reign of William the Fourth.

Mr. Merthyr Guest was the second son of Sir John and Lady Charlotte Guest, and younger brother of Lord Wimborne. He was most enthusiastic in his devotion to fox-hunting and is said to have gone out six days a week for thirty years. Mr. Guest, who passed most of his life in Dorsetshire, was for sixteen years Master of the Blackmore Vale pack, and he hunted that extensive country entirely at his own expense, and showed splendid sport season after season. He was very popular among the Dorsetshire farmers, and 830 of them presented him with a highly complimentary address when he resigned the mastership in 1900. Mr. Guest will be much and severely missed in the neighbourhood of Inwood, his place in Dorsetshire.

Mr. Merthyr Guest married Lady Theodora Grosvenor, the youngster sister of the late Duke of Westminster. Their father, Lord Westminster, gave each of his daughters £10,000 on marriage, intimating at the same time that he would make further provision for them in his will. When Lord Westminster died it was found that he had left his whole fortune (upwards of £900,000) to his wife absolutely. Lady Westminster survived her husband for about twenty-three years, and bequeathed everything to Lady Theodora Guest. Lady Westminster, who was a clever, imperious woman, was a daughter of the first Duke of Sutherland. The only

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For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1260.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1261.
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For APPEALS, see page 1260.
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surviving members of her large family are Eleanor, Duchess of Northumberland, Lady Macclesfield, Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart, Lady Leigh, and Lord Stalbridge. Lord Stalbridge came into his father's large estates in Dorsetshire and Wiltshire on the death of Lady Westminster, who had a life interest in the property, and resided for many years at Motcombe, the family place near Shaftesbury.

The death of Lady Ramsay, wife of Sir James Ramsay, of Bamff, is much regretted by all who knew her, and has excited the deepest sorrow in her own districts of Perthshire and Forfarshire. She was a clever and very pleasant woman, a most accomplished musician, a charming hostess, and exceedingly kind and charitable. Lady Ramsay, who was a daughter of Colonel Stewart, of Ardvoirlich, was a child at Cawnpore when hte Mutiny broke out, and she was saved by her Indian nurse, who escaped with her into the jungle, and ultimately reached a place of safety. Lady Ramsay had been in failing health for some time past, and she was about to proceed to the South of France for the winter, when she died suddenly of heart failure. Sir James Ramsay is the head of a very old family, the Bamff estate having been granted to Neis de Ramsay by Alexander II. in 1232 and the baronetcy dates from 1666.

Lord James of Hereford will entertain a large shooting party next month, including the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and Lord and Lady Burton, at Breamore House, near Salisbury. This is the seat of Sir Edward Hulse, of which Lord James has been the tenant since he left Ferne, Sir Walter Grove's place near Shaftesbury, which he gave up on the estate being sold to Colonel Charlesworth. Breamore is a very pretty place in the Avon valley, and the estate is heavily wooded.

Countess Torby has left Keele Hall with her children to join the Grand Duke Michael Michailovitch at Cannes, where they will reside at the Villa Kasbeck until the end of April. The Grand Duke Michael and Countess Torby intend to return to England in May, when they will resume their residence at Keele.

Lord and Lady Camden have returned to Bayham Abbey, their seat near Tunbridge Wells, after having spent the shooting season in Scotland. Lord Camden and Lord Henry Nevill rented Arrochar House, Dumbartonshire, a place at the head of Loch Long, from the trustees of the late Sir James Colquhoun of Luss, along with about 25,000 acres of grouse shooting. The picturesque, ivy-clad ruins of the ancient Abbey of Bayham are near the modern Tudor house, which was built in 1870. The Bayham woods and grounds are very attractive, the paths along the edge of the lake being particularly pretty. The Bayham estate was granted by Henry VII. to Wolsey, and by Elizabeth to Anthony Browne, Viscount Montagu, from whose descendant it was purchased in 1714 by Chief Justice Pratt, father of Lord Chancellor Camden. Until the new house was built the principal seat of the family was Wildernesse, near Sevenoaks, which was sold to the late Lord Hillingdon. This beautiful place, which adjoins Knole, was purchased in 1705 by Chief Justice Pratt from Sir Charles Bickerstaffe.

The following paragraph appears in a weekly contemporary:—

I hear that Lady Roden is very unhappy as she has lost another dog, although she had a hospital nurse for it, sitting up day and night.

Lord and Lady Amherst paid a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle on their way back to Montreal, their place near Sevenoaks, from Scotland. Lord Amherst rented Uppat House, the Duke of Sutherland's place near Brora, for the season, along with extensive shooting and fishing and a section of Dunrobin deer forest, comprising about 10,000 acres.

The Duke of Bedford, who is now residing at Woburn Abbey has terminated his tenancy of Meikleour, Lord Lansdowne's seat in Perthshire, which he had rented for a number of years, along with extensive low-ground shootings and a celebrated stretch of salmon fishing in the Tay. The Duke has taken Cairnsmore, the late Major Colvin Stewart's beautiful place in Kirkcudbrightshire, along with about 20,000 acres of mixed shooting. It was generally stated in the Press a few months ago that the Duke of Bedford had purchased or leased a number of hill farms in the South-West of Scotland, which were to be converted into a deer forest. There is no truth in this report. It was expected in Perthshire that Lord Lansdowne would take Meikleour into his own hands and that the place would become the residence of Lord and Lady Kerry, but a new tenant has been found in Mr. W. T. Crawshay. Meikleour House was rebuilt by the late Lady Lansdowne about thirty years ago. The charming grounds, which slope to the Tay, are famous for a magnificent beech hedge, which is one of the sights of Perthshire, it being a quarter of a mile long and eighty feet high.

Baron de Forest and three other guns, shooting at Eichorn, the well-known hunting estate of the late Baron Hirsch in Bohemia, killed over six thousand partridges in four days. Baron and Baroness de Forest have arrived in London from Vienna, and will pay a visit to the King and Queen at Sandringham during the week after next.

An arbitration was held in London last summer to determine the compensation which is to be paid by the Corporation of Liverpool for Mr. W. H. Lever's estate at Rivington, Lancashire, which is to be purchased in order to obtain the watershed. Mr. Lever purchased the estate about ten years ago for £60,000. When the Corporation originally discussed the project of purchasing the estate he valued the property at £457,000. When the arbitration opened his valuers claimed £250,000, while the Corporation of Liverpool offered

£100,000. The award fixes the compensation at £138,449.

Hartham Park, the Wiltshire seat of Sir John Dickson-Poynder, where the Duke and Duchess of Connaught have been staying for a few days, is a comfortable, handsome, modern house. The older part was built towards the close of the seventeenth century by Lady James from designs by Wyatt, but it has since been greatly enlarged, and has been much improved by its present owner. The grounds are very well laid out, and the park is heavily timbered, and adjoins Lord Methuen's Corsham Court domain. The Hartham estate, which is a large one, was purchased by the late Mr. Poynder from the Methuens, and it was owned at earlier periods by the Ducketts and the Goddards. Sir John Dickson-Poynder has been the Tory member for North-West Wilts since 1892, but at the next election he will stand as a Liberal Free Trader, and he is to be opposed by a Tory-Protectionist candidate.

A Scottish correspondent writes:—

Salmon fishing on the Dee has closed after one of the very worst autumn seasons on record. The river has been constantly running far too low for angling. Very few fish have been caught on the Balmoral, Glentanar, and Aboyne waters, and Lord Penrhyn had miserable sport at Cairnton, and it was the same with Mr. Baird at Durres. The Prince of Wales had a disappointing time on the Abergeldie and Balmoral waters, and Prince Arthur of Connaught was the most successful angler on the King's two stretches.

The annoucement of the sale of the *Standard* to Mr. C. A. Pearson was immediately followed by the news that the editor and the manager had resigned. The incident justifies the inference which I and most other people drew, that the change of ownership is the prelude to a change of policy. There could be no other reason for the retirement of a gentleman still in the prime of life, who has spent the best part of his journalistic life on the staff, and conducted the paper for many years with conspicuous ability. Mr. Curtis deserves the sincere gratitude and admiration of that overwhelming majority of his fellow-countrymen who adhere to the cause of Free Trade, whether or not they agree with him on other political questions. He has kept the flag flying, no doubt in the face of a good deal of opposition and obloquy, valiantly and successfully. He finishes his service with an act of sacrifice which is a pleasing contrast to the conduct of the many time-serving journalists in London and the provinces, who in the last year have swallowed all their principles in a gulp in order to retain their berths and salaries.

The statement as to the price paid for the *Standard* turns out, as I rather suspected, to have been a gross exaggeration. In order to heighten the effect of the announcement the simple expedient seems to have been adopted of multiplying the real figures by two—a happy augury for the introduction of the spirit of the new journalism into Shoe-lane. Even at the reduced figure, I question whether the new proprietary will not be over-capitalised. When, years ago, Mr. Johnstone bought the *Standard*, he got the funds to do so on loan from a wealthy Conservative through the good offices of the party organisers. He was able in a few years to repay the loan, and said that he was happy because he was no longer obliged to obey the party whips.

Some years after this he asked the late Sir John Robinson—then manager of the *Daily News*—as a personal friend and expert, to look into the management of the *Standard*. Sir John told me that the *Evening Standard* took away a good deal of the profit, because it had no advertisements of its own, but only reproduced those that appeared in the *Standard*, and he advised that it should be discontinued. To this Mr. Johnstone had not assented. Sir John did not tell me what the profit of the paper was, but from comparisons that he made with that of the *Daily News*, I gathered that it averaged about £35,000 per annum. I doubt whether it is anything like this at present. The trade profits of advertisers have been badly hit lately, and there have been few new companies brought out. This, and the advent of halfpenny dailies, must have told on profits. On the other hand, the price of paper is lower than it was when Sir John Robinson was consulted. Taking, however, one against the other, I should fancy that the profits of the *Standard* have fallen in the interval.

Mr. Pearson, I see from the report of an interview, expects that under his management the circulation of the paper will increase. Whilst I am certain that its influence will not, I have considerable doubt that the circulation will. The great houses of Harmsworth and Pearson seem to contemplate owning the entire Press of the country. It will be divided—if they have their will—into two huge trusts that are to crush out all opposition by the power of the purse. The idea is as unsound as the American shipping trust. People will in the long run absolutely decline to patronise such journals, or to aid in reducing journalism to a monopoly of two or more individuals, probably playing into each other's hands. What these gentlemen do not understand is that the fact of a newspaper being theirs will in the end tell against its influence, for the idea of their figuring as political guides to the nation is grotesque. It is as though those successful tradesmen Mr. Pears and Mr. Beecham were to undertake to direct the affairs of the State by edicts issued on soap wrappers and pill boxes.

I was once talking to M. Villemessant, who was Editor of the Paris *Figaro* in its palmy days. He understood journalism in its financial aspect as well as Mr. Pearson, if not better. "I am always," he said, "trying to find new writers, and to get rid of the squeezed oranges." "And how do you manage?" I asked. "Well, as soon as I think that a writer is getting stale I say to him: 'My dearest friend, you must leave me. I know your good heart, and you feel a delicacy in doing so, for I invented you. But you can do better for yourself, and I will not allow your

gratitude to stand in your way.' He protests, but I refuse to listen, and he goes." The proceeding was somewhat brutal, but it was practical.

The result of the first round in the Hospital Penny Fund competition was announced on November 4. It showed that in the first or open class £275 was awarded in prizes to individuals who had purchased among them stamps to the value of £52 19s. As no less than nine consolation prizes were given to persons who had bought no more than a shilling's worth of stamps, it is obvious that very little money could have come to hand from parties who did not win prizes. In another class open to the clergy there were no competitors at all. In the third class, for the medical and nursing professions, £75 in prizes was distributed to three ladies who bought £3 worth of stamps among them. In the class for boys under 15, £8 was given in prizes and something more in consolation prizes against purchases of stamps to the value of £1 0s. 6d.; and in the class for girls the same amount for purchases to the value of £1 7s. Altogether £346 in prizes was awarded for the sale of stamps to the value of £58 8s. 6d. These figures tell their own tale. I hardly expected that the project would fail so egregiously. But it is obviously dead, and the best thing that can be done now is to bury it.

I have been taken to task for suggesting last week that a good five-shilling dinner is a novelty in London, and evidence to the contrary is tendered on all sides. I did not suggest anything of the kind, for I know many places where I can dine as well as I desire for this price—notably at the Criterion, where we have all done ourselves well these twenty years past. What I endeavoured to convey was that the "moderate-priced dinner" has not kept pace with the others amid the growth of restaurants in numbers, resources, and splendour. There are dozens of places—not in Soho only—where a really good dinner can be had for half-a-crown. Each year that passes sees some addition to the number of sumptuous restaurants catering for those to whom money is no object. But there is a deficiency in the intermediate grades—at least, that is my impression.

On behalf both of my esteemed contributor "Madge" and myself, I desire to express my cordial acknowledgments to Mr. E. T. Reed for his lucid illustration in last week's *Punch* of some recent hints given by that lady on the subject of hairdressing. When I published the paragraph, I felt that something of this kind was wanted to convey the idea more accurately, but the staff of TRUTH have to do their best without the aid of pictures, and it is very kind of an illustrated contemporary to dot their i's and cross their t's for them. The pen may be mightier than the sword, but the pencil is often mightier than both—in the right hands.

If you are in doubt where to buy ANTIQUE FURNITURE, GILL & REIGATE, LD., 73-85, Oxford-street, have the largest collection of GENUINE EXAMPLES in LONDON. They publish a little book on the subject which they will be pleased to send you for 1s., post paid.

FORGOTTEN AGAIN!

THE POET LAUREATE, *loqr.*:—

"The Ninth" is here! My heart, be still!
'Tis premature to yet cut capers;
But I will know the worst, I will!
Yes, bring the papers!

"Here are the honours! I've a chance;
The list of knighthoods is no light one.
Oh! how the names before me dance—
But not the right one.

"Can all these knights be men of pith?
Amazement I am wholly lost in.
Brown, Jones, and Robinson, and Smith—
But where is Austin?

"Yet, though their choice upon me jars,
My mirth it also fairly tickles—
They've knighted ships, and coal, and stars,
And jam and pickles!

"The Muse's claim they still hold cheap
In manner sorely irritating;
'Tis very, very rude to keep
A lady waiting.

"But what is Balfour, after all?
A flabby philosophic doubter.
Now, Mr. Chamberlain I call
An out-and-outer!

"I only hope he power may get
Before the Ninth of next November,
For he, perchance, may not forget
To me remember.

"And I shall, properly addressed,
Come out at length a tardy winner,
And of L. Morris well abreast,
Go in to dinner!"

A volume entitled "Letters and Recollections of Sir Walter Scott" is to be published in a few weeks by Mr. Hutchinson. The book will consist principally of diaries which were kept by Mrs. Hughes, of Uffington, during two visits to Abbotsford. The first of these visits took place in 1824, when Scott was at the height of his fame and prosperity, and the second, in 1828, after his financial crash. Mrs. Hughes and her husband (Dr. Hughes, Canon of St. Paul's) were intimate friends of Scott, and there are numerous references to them in Lockhart's Life of Sir Walter.

Mr. Ernest Hartley Coleridge's "Life of the late Lord Coleridge" gives a very faithful and minute picture of that distinguished man. It is not a book for our old friend the man in the street, like "Lord Brampton's Reminiscences"—the two books differ, indeed, as widely as the characters of the two men. But it is full of interest for those who knew the first Lord Coleridge, and it possesses a still wider interest in his voluminous correspondence with nearly all the most distinguished men of the day in the Law and the

Church, in politics and literature. Though one finds him apologising to his correspondents for his indolence, Lord Coleridge was a careful and conscientious letter writer, and at every page one comes across memorials of the great personages of the Victorian era—Cardinal Newman and Dean Stanley, Gladstone and Bright, Benjamin Jowett and Matthew Arnold. From his correspondence with such people one gets a very clear and vivid impression of Lord Coleridge himself—his wide culture and scholarly tastes; his liberal views in many respects; his "correctitude" of thought and conduct; and also his limitations, which there is no need to dwell on.

Many of my readers, especially those with musical tastes, may be interested to know that the library of the late Mr. Percy Betts, who was for so long the musical critic of TRUTH, will be sold on Wednesday next, November 23, at Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's, Leicester-square. The library contains a great quantity of musical scores, as well as many books of utility and interest to musicians and musical journalists; and some interesting autograph letters from Madame Adelina Patti, Mr. Carl Rosa, and other musical celebrities, will be sold with the books.

The seventh season of the Oxford House Musical and Dramatic Association was opened last Saturday night at Excelsior Hall, Mansford-street, Bethnal Green, with a very successful entertainment. I would take the opportunity of again calling the attention of my readers to the excellent work, artistic and social, of this society, and its need of a little financial support from the West-End. It is too much to expect that high-class musical or dramatic performances in Bethnal Green will be self-supporting, and the Oxford House Association needs a few regular patrons, who will take guinea season tickets. Those who are willing to do so should communicate with the Head of the Oxford House, Bethnal Green.

One of the morning papers published last week a long notice of the Letters of Bishop Stubbs, in which it was stated that Mr. Gladstone gave him the canonry of St. Paul's, which he held for about five years before his promotion to the See of Chester. It is added that "they were of one mind as Churchmen." As a matter of fact, it was Lord Beaconsfield who gave Dr. Stubbs the stall at St. Paul's. He there succeeded Bishop Lightfoot early in 1879. Mr. Gladstone promoted him to the See of Chester in 1884 in succession to Bishop Jacobson.

Mr. Le Fleming has presented the Rev. Easton J. Nurse, who has been for fifteen years Vicar of Ladywood, near Birmingham, to the important living of Windermere, vacant by the death of Canon Stock, who had been the rector of this parish for forty-seven years. Windermere is one of the most valuable benefices in the diocese of Carlisle, the net income being about £600 a year, with an excellent house.

Bishop Perowne's death will considerably facilitate the new appointment to the See of Worcester, which will be made early in the spring, when Bishop Gore transfers himself to Birmingham. The stipend of the See of Worcester is £5,000 a year, and the late Bishop drew a pension of £2,000, leaving £3,000 for his successor. When the See of Birmingham is constituted, £800 is to be taken away from Worcester as a contribution towards the stipend of the Bishop of the new diocese. If Bishop Perowne had lived, the next Bishop of Worcester would have been reduced to £2,200 a year, whereas he will now draw the full stipend—£4,200. The present Bishop of Exeter is cut down to £2,200 a year, during the life of Bishop Bickersteth, who has drawn a pension of £2,000 a year since his retirement in 1901.

The late Bishop Perowne was one of the three highly distinguished brothers, all of whom carried off many University honours at Cambridge. His early life was devoted to teaching, and he was for ten years Vice-Principal of St. David's College, Lampeter. On leaving Lampeter Dr. Perowne returned to Cambridge, and he was soon afterwards appointed Hulsean Professor of Divinity. On the death of Dean Saunders in 1878 Lord Beaconsfield nominated Dr. Perowne to the Deanery of Peterborough, and he remained there until 1891, when he was promoted by Lord Salisbury to the See of Worcester, which he held for ten years. He was a Broad Evangelical, and a man of profound learning, but his manner was somewhat unsympathetic, and he never made any great mark as a preacher. Bishop Perowne's episcopate was not a success. It was against him that he had attained his sixty-eighth year before he was consecrated, and his attitude towards the proposed new See of Birmingham was much resented in the diocese. Dr. Perowne, moreover, became much more austere in his Protestantism after he went to Worcester, and his methods of administration were severely criticised. The Bishop's prestige was considerably diminished by his support of the egregious Grindenwald conferences of reunion which excited general ridicule. His best literary work was done as Editor of the Cambridge Bible and the Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools, which form an admirable series.

The Bishop of Chester has appointed his examining chaplain, Canon Maitland Wood, who has been for eighteen years Vicar of Runcorn, to the Archdeaconry of Macclesfield, which has become vacant by the resignation of Archdeacon Woosnam, who was appointed by Bishop Jayne in 1893. The stipend is £200 a year.

The Rev. J. McCormick, Rector of St. James's, Piccadilly, has been appointed chaplain of an excursion to

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Greece and the Holy Land next spring, which Dr. Lunn is arranging, and he is now busily distributing circulars to University men, acquainting them with this fact, and inviting those who would like to join to communicate with him. His reverence adds that Mrs. McCormick will be of the party, and he hopes that this will induce other ladies to join. I have not the pleasure of the lady's acquaintance myself, but I feel sure that the Rector's hope is well founded. There was a time when St. James's, Piccadilly, was regarded as a stepping-stone to a bishopric. If that is so no longer, it is something to know that it may still be the stepping-stone to a chaplaincy to one of Dr. Lunn's cruises. As I said the other day, in connection with Lord Tankerville's association with co-operative yachting trips, Dr. Lunn's success in enlisting eminent personages as canvassers fills me with admiration and envy. I only wish I could do it. I wonder now whether the Rector of St. James's would send out a little circular for me inviting University men to become subscribers to TRUTH, if I offered him an appointment as my chaplain, and put him on the free list.

The Chief Justice of Bermuda has just given judgment in an action arising out of the extraordinary attempt to oust the Rev. A. Goldring, Rector of Paget in that colony, from his living. It may be remembered that while his relations with the great majority of his parishioners were perfectly happy, Mr. Goldring had the misfortune to incur the displeasure of a small minority, led by Mr. Reginald Gray, the Attorney-General of Bermuda. Owing to the fact that only certain freeholders are entitled to vote at the vestry meetings, this minority, consisting of about a dozen individuals, were able to carry a resolution depriving the Rector of his parochial stipend, and through the influence exercised by the Attorney-General, the Synod of the Church of England in Bermuda also stopped the payment that had been previously made as a grant in aid of the stipend. Mr. Goldring brought actions to have these proceedings quashed, and, so far as the vestry is concerned, the Chief Justice has decided in his favour, holding that the vestry were not entitled to withhold his stipend. In the case of the Synod the action failed, but only on a technical point, and the Chief Justice showed his opinion of what happened by refusing to allow the Synod its costs. It is now clear, therefore, that the steps taken by the Attorney-General and his friends to eject Mr. Goldring from the benefice in opposition to the wishes of the rest of the parishioners were not only harsh and high-handed, but illegal as well.

An appeal for financial help for the Bath United Hospital, based on the indebtedness of the institution to the bank, is eliciting some criticism which the committee would do well to notice. It appears from a statement in a local paper, which is borne out by a communication that I have received, that, although there are 120 beds in the hospital, the average number of patients is only 92—a condition of affairs which suggests that expenses might be reduced by closing some of the beds that are not needed or at any rate used. Then, in regard to the indebtedness to the bank, it seems that, while the hospital has overdrawn its account to the amount of £5,200, it has investments producing an annual income of nearly £500. These investments presumably represent savings effected in more prosperous times to meet the difficulties of leaner years. Such thrift loses its virtue if the money is to be permanently hoarded up regardless of any urgent requirements that may arise, and the policy of running up a huge overdraft at the bank, instead of utilising this reserve fund, appears to be quite indefensible.

The latest sufferer from the curious delusion that a lottery is not a lottery when it is called by some other name is the Rev. R. Barton, of Ramsey, Isle of Man. He is now distributing broadcast an appeal for "subscriptions" to a fund for the building of a Catholic church, accompanied by "coupons" for a "free drawing" for a piano and a gold watch. It is carefully explained that participation in the drawing at the rate of two coupons for each sixpence obtained for the fund is offered to subscribers and collectors simply "in order to encourage them in their charitable work." To judge from his circular, indeed, one might imagine that the reverend gentleman has not the remotest idea that he is really seeking to raise the wind for his church by means of an illegal gamble.

A particularly obnoxious type of begging-letter, emanating from Mr. Woodhouse, Evangelist, of 5, Cromwell-place, Walnut Tree-lane, Cambridge, has been forwarded me by a correspondent to whom it was addressed. He mixes up his evangelistic efforts and family misfortunes in a manner which at once stamps him as an old hand at the game, and, as a fact, he has been for at least the past four years supplementing the income derived from his missionary labours by appeals to the pity of the benevolent. If he is in pecuniary difficulties it is due, I have no doubt, more to his fault than his misfortune, for in 1898 he held a position at Newcastle which secured him against any necessity for appealing for charity; but, after living above his income and running into debt, he got into further difficulties with regard to the subscriptions entrusted to him for the work in which he was engaged, and had to vacate his appointment. Evangelical enterprise of this nature is not to be commended.

As I think I have remarked before, our Colonies may be very wide awake in some respects, but they have not yet discovered the folly and mischief of collecting money for charitable purposes by means of "snowball" letters. One of these documents is at present in circulation in England in aid of a Veterans' Home at Auckland, which is described as "the National Memorial to the men from New Zealand who died in

South Africa." Apart from the ordinary objections to this method of collecting money it is not quite obvious on what principle money should be collected in England for a "national" New Zealand war memorial. The collector who has set the snowball going is a Mrs. James Mills, of Melville-street, Dunedin, and she calmly asks the fools who respond to these appeals to go on until the fiftieth series of letters has been reached, each letter bringing in 3d. I have not time to work out the number of millions sterling which the lady is thus asking for; and I should rather doubt whether she has ever worked it out herself.

An appeal has been sent to me by representatives of every religious community, Christian and Jewish, in the north and east districts of London on behalf of the North-Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney-road. The appeal is prompted by the announcement that some of the wards of this hospital will have to be closed at the end of this year unless further financial support is forthcoming, and every one will readily believe the statement that this event would be "little short of a calamity to the struggling poor" in that part of London. At this time of year, when people are beginning to look for suitable objects for their Christmas charities, I hope this fact will be borne in mind, and that the committee of the hospital will yet be provided with the means of keeping it in full working order.

Another institution the claims of which I have again been asked to bring before my readers is St. Luke's Home for the Dying Poor, which affords to people afflicted with incurable diseases the opportunity of ending their days in comfort and peace. Since I last called attention to it this charity has been removed to more convenient premises at 14, Pembridge-square, Bayswater, but a good deal of money has necessarily been spent in establishing it in its new quarters, and I gather from the report that funds are not yet available to enable the whole of the house to be utilised. Miss Helen Don, the honorary secretary, in writing to me on the subject, remarks that owing to the large quantities of bandages and dressings used in the home, old linen, cotton, and flannel are "worth their weight in gold," and even people who find other uses for their gold may, perhaps, assist the charity with these equivalents.

I have received the following donations towards the Toy Fund: S. W. M., £1 1s.; R. and E. H. B., £3 3s.; A friend, Windermere, 10s.; G. W., 10s.; Astræ, £1; H. A. Freeman, 10s.; A. M. G., £2; R. G., £2; Sir George and Lady Lewis, £10; G. and A. H., £1 1s.; C. N., 10s.; v. L., £1 1s.; R. E. W., £1; F. M. F., £1 1s. The amount acknowledged in last week's issue as received from A. F. M. S. should have been £2.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W. FLATS FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

Colonel Ricardo has vacated the command of the Grenadier Guards, much to the regret of all who have been in any way associated with that regiment during the last five years. Colonel Ricardo did much good work during the South African War, when the duties of the senior officer doing duty in London were exceedingly onerous. Colonel St. Aubyn, who is the eldest son of Lord St. Levan, and a son-in-law of Lord Mount Edgcumbe, is Colonel Ricardo's successor.

The following observations of an officer have some bearing upon the periodical criticism of court-martial justice in TRUTH:—

> An officer is always told off as prosecutor at a court-martial. Why should not one be told off for the defence? True, the court is supposed to give the prisoner all the help he needs, and no doubt it generally does so, according to its lights. But my experience is that, under present conditions, points that would be of benefit to the prisoner are often passed over unnoticed, through ignorance or inexperience on the prisoner's part, or his natural hesitation to cross-examine a superior officer in the witness-box.

There seems to be much force in this, especially the last remark. Of course, the prisoner is sometimes defended by a "friend," but soldiers cannot as a rule afford professional assistance, and it is only in the case of very serious charges that any man ever thinks of doing so.

I had a long letter the other day from a retired cavalry officer with reference to the present regulations as to the provision of officers' chargers. The subject has been so fully discussed in TRUTH that I need not go into the details which my correspondent sets out; but the point to which he specially calls attention is the effect of the present regulations in the case of hunting men. I take it that, from the military point of view, it is a desirable thing that a cavalry officer should hunt, if he can afford it. He picks up a great deal of knowledge and experience in the hunting field, apart from the immediate business of pursuing the fox, which must be useful to him in his profession. But my correspondent points out that to compel a man to take two horses from the ranks as chargers, and to pay for them at the War Office terms if he ever mounts one of them off parade, is to seriously handicap a man who desires to hunt. Even if he has the luck to get hold of a charger which is any use as a hunter, he saves nothing at the War Office rate of payment—as has been pointed out before—and if, as more often happens, the animal is no use for hunting purposes, he is led into additional expenditure. The result is, as my correspondent puts it, that "a sportsman is stuck with two brutes, which are not much to his taste on parade, and are useless to him at other times," and has to keep up a hunting stable of his own in addition. The whole mistake seems to arise from compelling a man to take two Government chargers when it would be sufficient to permit him to do so.

A few weeks back I offered some remarks upon the case of a gunner in India who had been guilty of the crime of "using strong language to a native bullock-driver." I have been rather amused by the following

letter from an Indian officer on this matter, written on the strength of an experience of over eighteen years among natives of many different castes:—

To punish a gunner for using bad language to a native seems to me on a par with punishing a child of two years old for assaulting a prize-fighter. Compared with the Asiatic, the most eloquent European is a mere baby in the art of invective. For about a year after I had obtained a practical knowledge of the language I confess to having occasionally indulged in "back-talk" with the Aryan brother, but deeper knowledge of his habits and accomplishments soon convinced me that any attempt to work on his feelings by strong language was futile. To understand this you have only to hear two natives abusing one another. Their eloquence is the very highest refinement of vituperation. They usually quarrel at a range of about one hundred yards, the object being that all the neighbours shall be in a position to appreciate their performances. Their vocabulary includes many words that a British bargee could only express in a long sentence, each noun or adjective of which would be an offence to the ear. What chance is there for an amateur against these professionals?

Nowadays I never make the attempt. I have found, however, that a little sarcasm, something like the Hindu equivalent of "Well, you are a beauty!" has double the effect of a mere Briton's untutored efforts to swear.

An officer sends me some forcible remarks on the lack of inducement or opportunity for medical officers retired with liability to recall to keep up their professional knowledge. He asserts, and it is no doubt true, that this state of things must make the reserve of Army medical officers an inefficient and more or less worthless force; for whereas a retired regimental officer, on being recalled for service can pick up the general routine of his work in a few weeks, it is idle to expect the same thing from a medical man who has forgotten his professional knowledge. It is suggested that retired medical officers liable to recall should be required to attend in rotation, at least once in four years, one of the half-yearly courses of instruction at the Royal Army Medical College, or elsewhere. Supposing the course lasted for eight weeks, and that an officer were allowed 10s. per diem and travelling expenses, the cost would be well under £1,000 a year, and this is certainly not a big price to pay for keeping a reserve of 100 medical officers in a state of efficiency.

In the course of last month, the P.M.O. of the district inspected the barracks at Labong, Bengal. The only fault which he found was that there was a waste of wood in the cook-houses. The correspondent who mentions the incident cites it as an example of the fondness of some officers for interfering with other officers' business; and the remark seems justified, for if the wood was wasted—and how it could be is not clear, seeing that a definite allowance is made for each man—the matter must be one for the regimental rather than the medical authorities. Presumably this particular fault was only found because the inspecting officer felt himself under the necessity of finding fault with something. My informant adds that in the hospital at the same place on an outbreak of whooping-cough occurring among some of the children, the medical officer had to give the parents recipes to be made up by a local chemist, because the requisite drugs were not in stock, while in a recent case when an operation was being performed, the necessary absorbent wool had to be taken from another patient, because there was no more of that article in stock. One wonders whether these deficiencies in his own department caught the eye of the lynx-eyed P.M.O.

Some extraordinary statements with regard to criminal offences by young soldiers in India have been made recently by the *Indian Planters' Gazette*. It is alleged that the attention of Lord Kitchener has been called to a sort of epidemic of petty larceny among young soldiers in different parts of India. Special reference is made to the case of two men of the West Riding Regiment, who deliberately broke a plate-glass shop window in Calcutta in broad daylight, proceeded to help themselves to the goods inside, and, when caught, at once pleaded guilty to the charge. The suggestion is that these crimes are simply prompted by a desire to get discharged from the Army and to be sent home at any cost; and it is also suggested that the motive at work is fear of enteric fever.

I spoke last week about the distaste for Indian life which is engendered by a few years' service in that country, but here we seem to have the same feeling developed in the course of a few months rather than a few years, and it is to be hoped that the explanation suggested above is the true one. That there is ground for the suggestion is clearly shown by the following letter which I have received on this subject from an officer of the Medical Staff:—

It is no wonder that soldiers should be scared by the amount of disease they see around them, and it is a disgrace to us that, with all our research powers, there should actually be a *mortality* of twenty-three per thousand among soldiers of less than one year's service in India. The mortality declines after that point until it reaches a ratio of 10.92 per thousand in the fifth year of service. After that it rises again to 14.98 per thousand in men of from five to ten years' service. The latter period is also high in invaliding, namely, 38.28 per thousand—a ratio considerably higher than at earlier periods. The meaning is that the soldier of longer service suffers from other diseases rather than enteric, *e.g.*, liver disease, dysentery, and fevers of different kinds. The fevers are believed by R.A.M.C. and Indian medical officers to be due to parasites.

The figures here given bring out two points very clearly. The mortality among men of two years' service is, as the writer observes, disgraceful, and medical science ought to be able to deal with it. A death-rate nearly double the normal death-rate of a healthy English town—and confined, be it remembered, to young men in the healthiest period of their lives—is bound to alarm young soldiers first making their acquaintance with India and to give them a most unfavourable impression of that country. The other point is that after about five years the effect of the climate upon men's constitutions begins to manifest itself in an increased death-rate. This immediately bears upon what I said last week as to the unjustifiability of detaining men in India beyond that period, unless they themselves voluntarily consent to it. In fact, there cannot be a stronger proof of the necessity

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for laying down a definite time limit to Indian service. It is scarcely necessary to add that these matters require the most careful attention, both in India and in England, in view of Mr. Arnold-Forster's new scheme of nine years' service with the colours.

Since writing the above I have had a letter from a soldier in India, which closely touches this matter. His point is that what is needed to induce men to extend their service in India is an increased pension. A soldier who serves till close on forty years of age can only expect to find unskilled work after he takes his discharge, and a long period of service in India often unfits him for the heavier kinds of unskilled labour. Consequently the bad look-out which always lies before a discharged soldier is increased to that extent by protracted Indian service; and every soldier who thinks about the question knows it. This is another question which Mr. Arnold-Forster would do well to bear in mind if he seriously desires to enlist men with liability to an increased period of foreign service.

The following advertisement appeared a few weeks ago in the *Pioneer*:—

Wanted.—An Overseer for the Conservancy (Horse) Lines, Quetta Cantonment. A retired Field Artillery or Cavalry non-commissioned officer, age not over 40 years, and pure European; must have a good character, and must be of active habits, sober, hardworking, and be able to ride a bicycle. Pay, Rs.30 and house. If engaged, he must pay his own fare to Quetta.

The pay is monthly, so that the retired pure European, active, sober, hard-working overseer, a cyclist as well as a horseman, would be drawing a munificent wage of between 1s. 3½d. and 1s. 4d. a day. And yet in the face of such brilliant openings soldiers complain of their difficulty in getting employment when they leave the Army!

Another growl on the subject of the appropriation of recreation rooms for sergeants' dances reaches me from Malta. The grievance arises this time in the 2nd Essex Regiment, which seems to be quartered at Lower St. Elmo, which, I understand, is a very small, cramped fort, where the men have absolutely no other room to amuse themselves in except the library. This room they were unceremoniously turned out of for the benefit of the sergeants a fortnight or so ago. This matter is such a constant source of dissatisfaction and bad feeling that I really think the authorities would do well to lay down some definite rule on the subject.

I was informed the other day that the R.A.M.C. sergeants' mess at the Devonport Military Hospital had passed a resolution to pay a bill for certain expenditure incurred by the sergeant-major and one or two members of the mess, in entertaining some members of a touring opera company. Naturally the other members objected to such expenditure; naturally, also, they did not care to express their objections publicly. It seems to be a case where an independent auditor is required.

I heard recently that an N.C.O. who had been serving at the depot of the Gordon Highlanders as a Militia orderly-room sergeant for something like nine years, being three-quarters of his total service, had been transferred to the permanent staff of the 3rd Battalion, and promoted to colour-sergeant. I have not been able to verify this information, and if it is incorrect I shall be pleased to amend it; but, as it stands, it seems to me contrary to the regulations on the subject, as well as to the recent efforts that have been made to get men of this class returned to their battalions. In the same connection I might mention the case of a colour-sergeant, who, through his own fault, lost his colours in India, and was transferred to the 3rd Battalion as a sergeant. Immediately on his arrival at the depot, however, he was again promoted to colour-sergeant over the heads of half a dozen of his seniors. This in itself seems a questionable step; and it would be interesting to know how far the man has proved himself fit for a position in Scotland which he was considered unfit for in India.

Admiral Sir John Fisher, Senior Sea Lord at Whitehall, has been appointed first and principal Naval Aide-de-Camp to the King, succeeding Admiral Sir Henry Stephenson, who has been retired from the Service on being appointed Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

There was a curious and objectionable innovation at the Lord Mayor's banquet, in that no naval officer of adequate rank had been asked to reply to the toast of "The Imperial Forces of the Crown" on behalf of the Navy. Sir George Vyvyan, who responded for the Navy, is a retired Commander of the Royal Naval Reserve, and Deputy Master of the Trinity House; but surely an officer of the regular service should have been invited to reply.

The serio-comic case of the R.I.M.S. *Investigator* still excites much attention in Anglo-Indian naval circles. "What would happen," asks an officer of the Royal Indian Marine, "if this ship, now in the Persian Gulf, were stopped by a Russian cruiser? We know that suspicion haunts the Russian naval mind, and the discovery that this Government of India vessel, flying her ensign, is in the command of a gentleman in plain clothes, with

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a naval commander and nine lieutenants in uniform serving under him, might excusably be regarded as very suspicious. In view of some of the exploits of the Russian fleet there is no knowing what might happen. Perhaps the *Investigator* would be seized and taken before a prize court at Jibouti!" One need not, however, conjure up this possibility of a political complication in order to realise what an extraordinary state of affairs it is that prevails on board the *Investigator*.

The facts of the case were noticed in TRUTH some months ago. By the regulations of the Indian Marine Survey Department, to which the *Investigator* belongs, it is laid down that the officer in charge of the survey shall be a commander on the active list of the Royal Navy. Last year the present holder of the appointment (whose term of office was extended by the Indian Government for five years in 1902) elected to retire from the Navy, and he now figures in the *Navy List* as post-captain, retired. It is obvious that his retirement from the active list of the Navy should have been followed by his retirement from the Marine Survey of India, but in defiance of the regulations he has been allowed to retain his berth in that Department, and as he is no longer entitled to wear his naval uniform, except on State occasions, he has to appear in mufti when in command of the *Investigator*. The only conceivable object of this anomalous arrangement is to enable the officer in question to draw both his pension from the Admiralty and the full pay of his Indian appointment. The arrangement is naturally objectionable to the officers of the Marine Survey, and, as they assert, demoralising to the discipline of the ship. Their petitions on the subject, however, have been ignored, and a few weeks ago the *Investigator* left Bombay, under the command of this "gentleman in plain clothes" on a seven months' surveying cruise in the Persian Gulf. There has surely never been a stranger example of what jobbery will do.

It must occur to any intelligent taxpayer, who looks first at the increase in our Navy estimates during the last fifteen years, and next at the increase of men and material during that time, that we are not getting value for our money. The force of the comparison is increased if it is extended to the cost of the more efficient foreign navies, of which I take the German and the Japanese to be among the best examples. That wholesale waste of money, if nothing worse, goes on in our dockyards not only unchecked but unnoticed, is the inevitable conclusion. I had it the other day from one of the most experienced of our dockyard administrators that the simple introduction of a capital account for each dockyard, combined with decentralisation and competitive work between one yard and another, would ensure an annual saving of from *two to four millions sterling*. At the present moment the dockyards do not even keep their own accounts. There is no annual stock-taking of national property, and the result, to quote the gentleman whose information I am following, "is a welter of waste at which imagination boggles."

At the root of the evil lies the fact that there is at the present moment no incentive to economy in any direction. Admiralty expenditure is limited only by the willingness of the Treasury to part with more cash, and in practice this limit is worth very little, for under the insane craze which has prevailed of late years for piling up naval expenditure, regardless alike of necessity and result, the Admiralty has got into the way of thinking that it can have as much as it likes to ask for, and the Treasury into the way of thinking that whatever it asks for it must have. Even, however, if a tighter hand were kept upon the purse-strings, this by itself obviously avails little to produce economy in the spending of the money. The money is spent behind closed doors without fear of audit, reprimand, or punishment. Political and personal considerations have full play, and unbusinesslike habits take root and run riot in all directions. My own belief is that for half our present expenditure we could have a Navy equal to our needs. But whatever differences of opinion there may be on that point, it is fairly certain that root and branch reform of the financial side of naval administration and the introduction of an efficient business system into all departments, would save us 10 or 20 per cent. of our present expenditure, and leave us with as efficient a Navy as we possess at present. An authority on all these matters told me the other day that Japan gets as much for 2s. as we get for a pound.

Considerable improvements have been effected in the Irish workhouse infirmaries during the past few years, but in some of the smaller and more obscure unions the sick paupers are still treated in a manner which is a positive disgrace to a civilised country. A gross example of this is furnished by a recent report of an Inspector of the Irish Local Government Board on the condition of the infirmary at the Killala workhouse. Everything was abominably filthy—the floors, the tables, the bedsteads, the bedclothes, and even the persons of the unfortunate patients. The whole place, in fact, was more like a pigsty than a hospital. Perhaps to make up for the utter lack of cleanliness and decency, the inmates were being supplied with liberal quantities of stimulants, and empty stout and whisky bottles were littered about the wards with rejected remnants of food and dirty clothes and rags. Not only ought the officers responsible to be summarily dismissed, but the Killala Guardians themselves should

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—The following testimony from a medical man speaks for itself.—Highbury. "Sir,—It having been my good fortune to meet several patients of Dr. Alabone, I feel bound to add my testimony as to the success of his treatment, having proved it by personal observation of the changes effected in their appearance, and their gratifying statements made by their own free will. I have seen cases pronounced *utterly incurable by the highest chest specialists quite recover*. I therefore feel it a duty to write, expressing my gratification and surprise at their recovery.—I am, yours, &c., L., M.R.C.S. Eng.—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

be removed from their office, for it is clear that they either knew of the existence of this shocking state of things, or else that they inexcusably neglected their duties.

As the outcome of an agitation among the ratepayers of Cheltenham, an expert was some time ago called in to inquire into the management of the municipal elctricity undertaking. The question was clearly one of great importance in connection with the elections to the Town Council on November 1; but although the report from the expert had been expected in October, no information on the subject was vouchsafed to the public till the elections were over. It has since come out that the report, which is of a distinctly unfavourable character, was in the hands of the Corporation a week or so before November 1, and the inference is being drawn that it was deliberately kept back in the interests of the party responsible for the blunders, which the expert has revealed. Whether its earlier publication would have materially affected the results of the elections or not, the suppression of the document was an unwarrantable and discreditable proceeding, and it has naturally aroused much indignation in the town.

At the meeting of the Reigate Corporation last week Alderman Viall inquired whether the law allowed members to supply goods or materials to the Corporation through contractors. He stated that one member was supplying lime for the sewage works and another stone for the electric light works in this way. The Town Clerk replied that "the contractor might go where he pleased" for materials, but unless the law on the subject of trading with a Corporation by its members has been seriously misunderstood, this is a remark that requires considerable qualification. Although a contractor may perhaps "go where he pleases," any member of a municipal body is surely liable to penalties if he is found to be even indirectly trading with that body or benefiting from one of its contracts.

The conviction of sundry members of Slater's private inquiry office is a very salutary event, but it is somewhat regrettable that the principal in the business should escape altogether. It is quite true, of course, that there was no case against that gentleman from the legal point of view—that is to say, nothing to establish his personal complicity in the conspiracy of his employees. Morally, however, this is a case where *qui facit per alium facit per se*. The proprietor of a private inquiry agency may not know that his staff are engaged in manufacturing bogus evidence, but he must know that they are often under considerable temptation to do so, and as they are his servants, and he takes the profits resulting from their operations, it is his business to see that they are doing their work cleanly and honestly, and he may fairly be held accountable when they do not. He is in the position of a man carrying on a dangerous trade who has to bear the consequences of his servants' blunders or indiscretions, and, seeing that the danger in this particular trade is the danger that the servants will resort to criminal practices, I do not see why the criminal liability in such cases should not be extended to the employer, unless it is shown that the servants have misconducted themselves for their own personal benefit, and not the benefit of their employer.

Everybody is agreed that the private inquiry business is an ugly feature of modern civilisation, open to the worst abuses. It is idle to suppose, however, that it can be suppressed, and the only practical question arising out of the Slater case is whether anything can be done to check the abuses to which it lends itself. I confess I do not see any such possibility except in the direction above indicated. How far it would be possible, or safe, to amend the law of conspiracy so as to make an employer answerable for criminal conduct on the part of his servants without proving express complicity in the particular act with which the servants are charged, is of course a question requiring careful consideration. But I may point out that the private detective business is not the only one where this particular situation arises. I have in my mind a large class of businesses which are notoriously carried on by fraudulent misrepresentations on the part of agents. The employer does not instruct his agents to adopt these practices. He merely sits quiet in his office and takes the profits, and in the event of a charge of fraud being made the agent goes to prison, and the employer cannot be touched. A case in point is that of the man Todd, otherwise Leicester and Co., of Twickenham, who was recently acquitted, while one of his agents got two terms of six months' imprisonment.

The Portsmouth Bench gave a remarkable decision last week in a case in which the licensee of a beerhouse was summoned for selling beer during prohibited hours, and a naval stoker and five soldiers were summoned for being illegally on the premises at the same time. The police saw a light in the bar at 2.30 a.m., and heard several men quarrelling and using bad language. After considerable delay, the landlord admitted the policemen, who, in the meantime, had heard "a rush upstairs." In a bedroom upstairs two soldiers, fully dressed, were found hiding under the bed, and pretending to be asleep; the naval stoker was also pretending to be asleep on the floor at the head of the bed; and another soldier was standing up in the room, partly dressed. About an hour later the police again saw a light in the bar, and just before five a.m. they found there the men previously seen in the bedroom, some more soldiers, and the landlord, all of whom appeared to be under the influence of drink.

In regard to the charge against the landlord, the defendant's solicitor submitted that there was no proof

whatever of any sale of liquor, and after an hour's deliberation the Magistrates accepted this view of the evidence, and, although reluctantly, dismissed the summons. As to the other defendants, it was stated that they were lodgers, paying the landlord sixpence each to stay in the house for the night, and that they had to leave at five o'clock in the morning, so as to reach Gosport barracks at six o'clock. The summonses against them were also dismissed, the Magistrates at the same time expressing the opinion that the conduct of the licensee was "discreditable to a degree." If convictions were not justified by the evidence in this case, it is difficult to see how this portion of the Licensing Act can ever be properly enforced. It is almost impossible to obtain direct evidence of a sale of drink after a house is closed. The Magistrates must act upon circumstantial evidence, or not at all, and if the presence of customers during prohibited hours can be explained away by the fact that they have paid sixpence each for lodgings, though obviously not bona-fide lodgers, the police might as well cease to prosecute in such cases.

It is to be hoped, by the way, that the revelations at the Portsmouth Police Court will be duly noted by the authorities at Gosport Barracks. According to the solicitor for the defence, it was "the practice" of the soldiers to stay at the public-house in this way, and such a practice clearly points to an abuse of the sleeping-out pass that ought to be stopped.

So much perjury is committed with impunity that some people seem to have been quite shocked at the severity of the sentences which were passed by Mr. Justice Bray in a case at Chester Assizes last week. It was really a very bad case. One of the prisoners was a publican, who had been prosecuted at Crewe for allowing his licensed premises to be used for betting on August 29 and 30. The other prisoner was a friend of his, a commercial traveller, and both swore that on the dates in question they were fishing together at Warrington and at Adderley. The evidence showed that these were false statements, deliberately planned and backed up by bogus entries in a pocket-book, for the purpose of exculpating the publican from the charge of having permitted betting. The commercial traveller, who appeared to have light-heartedly committed perjury to oblige his friend, was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, and the publican was given three years' penal servitude.

The writers of sundry letters that I have received take the view that these sentences were excessive. They certainly did not err in the direction of leniency; but it is as well to remember that perjury is one of the worst and most dangerous of crimes, striking at the administration of justice itself, and the difficulty there is in bringing it home to offenders only makes it all the more necessary that those who are convicted shall be dealt with in an exemplary manner. False swearing is notoriously common in all sorts of cases, especially in the minor courts, and, morally, as well as legally, it is not a bit less reprehensible in a prosecution for betting than in a prosecution for murder. The perjury of these two prisoners was premeditated and concerted, and as a deterrent to others it is well that such crimes should be visited with drastic punishment.

Some curious instances of superstition among the peasantry of South Derry were revealed at the trial of an action for libel against the *Coleraine Constitution* at Coleraine Quarter Sessions. The paper published a paragraph on the knavery of a class of charlatans who prey upon poor and ignorant country people by professing to cure diseases by means of charms and incantations. There are several of these impostors in the same district, and no individual was named, but one McNamee chose to fit the cap on to his own head, and sued the paper for damages. In the witness-box McNamee posed as a sort of faith healer, avowing that the words he muttered over his patients were a prayer, and that "the virtue of the cure was in the prayer." He admitted, however, that he also used charms, such as tying a green ribbon round a sufferer from heart disease, and that in some cases his agreeable practice was to lick the affected part or rub his own saliva on it! McNamee's impudent action was dismissed, but the belief in his powers to which some of the witnesses testified is probably too deep-rooted to be extirpated by any exposure in a newspaper or a court of justice. His dupes are ignorant country people, and, after all, equally childish delusions are entertained, even in the West End, by many people who are supposed to be educated.

The local papers report some strong observations made the other day by Judge Shand, on the hearing of a judgment summons in Liverpool County Court. The debtor was a Liverpool police officer, the plaintiff a tailor at Leeds, and it appears that a document purporting to be an official one from the Liverpool County Court had been obtained by the plaintiff and addressed to the head constable of Liverpool. The judge observed that the document was a most improper one to send to the defendant's employers, and warned the plaintiff's representative that if he found any more such forms coming before him, he would visit the plaintiffs with a penalty. Unfortunately, the intelligent reporters have omitted to explain precisely what the form was, and it is not even clear where the plaintiff obtained it, or whether he had invented it himself. But from the fact that it was used in connection with a judgment summons, and addressed to the debtor's official superior, it is to be inferred that the document was of a similar nature to those used by Mr. Graves, of Sheffield, in connection with his County Court business in that town. On that assumption, the observations of Judge Shand may be commended to the attention of his brother at Sheffield.

In my Legal Pillory this week I include a sentence which the Chairman of the Clerkenwell Sessions passed upon a man who, being hungry and destitute, ordered and consumed a meal at an eating-house for which he was unable to pay. Mr. McConnell's decisions rarely provoke adverse criticism, but four months' imprisonment certainly seems to be an excessive punishment for this offence, which after all is morally less reprehensible than the conduct of a good many people who manage to get goods on credit without any prospect or intention of paying for them. I give several examples of the misplaced mercy of the Great Unpaid in dealing with offences of violence and cruelty, the cases from Kirkcaldy, Neath, and Worcester being particularly noteworthy on account of the absurd inadequacy of the fines imposed for very brutal and cowardly assaults. From the contrasted sentences it will be seen that the magistracy generally display far more severity towards persons charged with such crimes as petty larceny, sleeping out, and poaching:—

Old Hill Police-court. Levi Dunn, convicted of assaulting his wife by striking her with a poker and attempting to strangle her. Fined 20s. and costs.

Bideford Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. Arthur Hare and Thomas Hutchings, charged with cruelty by working a horse whilst it was in an unfit state. The animal was in a very emaciated condition and suffering from large wounds on its back and shoulder. Hare fined 5s. and Hutchings 20s. and costs.

Neath Borough Police-court. William Bigg, convicted of assaulting Thomas Flynn, by striking him on the head with a railway lamp. It was an unprovoked assault, and complainant sustained a wound on the head over three inches long and very deep. Fined 20s. and costs.

Worcester County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. F. J. A. Wood, P. S. Williams, and F. Ames. David Jones, farmer, convicted of assaulting Edward Thornett, aged 72. Because he was dissatisfied with some work the old man had done, defendant struck him on the side of the head with a setting peg, rendering him unconscious and necessitating his removal to the infirmary. Fined £1 and costs.

Burton-on-Trent Police-court. John Ashmore, butcher, charged with cruelty to a cow. The cow, which was aged and in poor condition, was purchased by defendant for 10s. While being driven along the road the cow broke down, and was placed in a field, where it was left unattended and without food or water till it died, three or four days later. Fined £5.

Kinross Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff-Substitute Leslie. John Woods, David Anderson, and David Walters, charged with trespassing in pursuit of rabbits. Fined £2 11s. 6d. each; in default, three weeks.

Darwen Police-court. Thos. Hinde and Albert Richards, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Hinde fourteen days, Richards two months.

Hartismere Petty Sessions. Before Sir T. H. Lacon, and Messrs. J. Tudor Frere, J. G. Freeman, and R. H. Wilson. Arthur Ellis, charged with trespassing in search of game. Fined £2 10s.

Mansfield Police-court. Before Mr. T. Taylor and other magistrates. Arthur Morley and Isaac Channer, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with having been found on the highway in possession of rabbits and nets. Fined £2 each; in default, one month.

Somerton Police-court. Before Messrs. E. W. Valentine and A. Dickinson. Charles Parker, Albert Billick, James Smith, Thomas Power, and Tom Jones, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days each

Little Bowden Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. H. R. Rokeby and Lord Annaly. Henry Jas. Butt, charged with poaching. Fined £2.

Southend Borough Police-court. Before Alderman Francis and other magistrates. George Grant, charged with stealing two fowls. Three months.

Nottingham Police-court. Jos. Hopwell, charged with stealing a jacket from outside a shop. One month.

Sparkhill Police-court. Emma Lines, charged with stealing a bottle of stout from a public-house. Fined 40s., or one month.

Kirkcaldy Burgh-court. Before Bailie Dishart. Patrick Macfarlane, convicted of assaulting a woman by dragging her about the house, striking her several severe blows on the head and face with his clenched fists, and also kicking her in the face. There were six previous convictions against him. Fined 30s.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Messrs. Johnson, Leach, Lloyd, and Bradley. James Goldby, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk and threw a knife at her, inflicting an ugly gash on her temple. Bound over.

Falkirk Sheriff Court. Richard Livingstone, charged with stealing a saw and a hammer. Three months.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other magistrates. George Harris, charged with stealing a piece of beef from a butcher's shop. Twenty-one days.

Paisley Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Lyell. James Watson, charged with a contravention of the Poaching Prevention Act by being found on the highway with one hare in his possession. Fined £3, in default, thirty days.

Clerkenwell Sessions. Before Mr. McConnell. A man who refused to disclose his name was charged with obtaining food by false pretences. Prisoner, who was starving, went into an eating-house, ordered a meal value 1s. 2d., and consumed it and then stated that he had no money to pay for it. Four months.

Some two or three weeks back, one Thomas Rothwell figured as co-respondent in a divorce case, which ended in a decree nisi. A day or two later this same individual was charged at Westminster Police-court with an assault upon the unfortunate woman whom he had ruined, and was fined £15, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment. The evidence of the prosecutrix, which the Magistrate accepted, showed the man to be an unmitigated blackguard. She stated that, after having decoyed her away from her husband, he had sent the husband an anonymous telegram apprising him of the fact; that after they had left the Divorce-court together he grossly insulted her; and that when she reproached him with his conduct, he set upon her and assaulted her most brutally.

When before the magistrate this Rothwell described himself as an employment agent of Regent-street. I have since ascertained that he has been for a few months past carrying on business as "The Ladies' Aid," 63, Regent-street, W., and advertisements of this office, which is said to be "patronised by the nobility and county families," and described as "the largest and most reliable firm in Europe," have been regularly appearing in the daily papers. The agency also has a branch at Church-road, Hove. In a general way a man's character in his domestic relations has nothing to do with his customers or others who are brought into business relations with him. But, as has been abundantly shown in TRUTH during the last few weeks, the employment agency business lends itself readily to deception and fraud, and no one can be trusted in the character of an "employment agent" who is not thoroughly honourable and conscientious in all his dealings. I think, therefore, that the nobility and county families, and all those persons of humbler station who patronise Rothwell's office, should be aware of the above-mentioned incidents in this man's career. If after that they choose to pay him fees in order to obtain governesses, chaperons, servants, or what not, or in order to obtain through him employment in such capacities, that is their affair.

One does not like to think of a fellow-creature as incorrigible, but a "party" has just come under my notice for, I should think, the hundredth time, who

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

really seems to belong to this class. His name is either John Paget or W. Ridley Carr. He uses both names, but, according to his own statement, the second is the true one. He has for many years carried on a bogus "Anglo-Indian and Colonial Agency" for scholastic purposes, and he has in that capacity lived by extracting fees from unsuspecting schoolmasters, schoolmistresses, and tutors for the registration of their names on his books, or for personally inspecting their premises, or payment for advertising in his alleged "Guide" and circulars. For various tricks of this description he has been in recent years sentenced to five years' penal servitude, one month's imprisonment, and four years' penal servitude. The leniency of the second sentence is explained by the fact that it is one of his tricks to feign mental aberration, and he did so at the time of his trial, boasting afterwards that he had "bamboozled" the judge.

The last of these sentences was passed at the Old Bailey in September, 1901, and a full record of Paget's doings up to that date was given in TRUTH immediately after this event. Paget, however, is now at large again. The earliest date at which he could have obtained his release is September, 1904. But here, in the first week in November, I find him once more at work on precisely the old lines, apparently using the very same circulars as before, telling a schoolmaster that he can "assure him one good pupil by or prior to Christmas," and giving a detailed account of the methods of his business, "established 1883." He describes himself as "of many years' practical experience," though it is difficult to understand what practical experience he can have obtained while serving sentences of no less than nine years' penal servitude. I presume that Paget is now on ticket of leave. In that case the attention of the police and prison authorities ought to be directed to this renewal of his old operations. The present address of his old-established Anglo-Indian and Colonial Agency is 28, Canonbury-square, London, N.

The latest thing in tipsters' circulars that I have been asked to notice comes all the way from South Africa. Its author is one Hannam, and he styles himself manager of "The English Racing Agency," of Johannesburg. In consequence of "the almost universal interest taken by the sportsmen of this country in English racing, and the extensive betting on the same," the enterprising Hannam has completed arrangements with "*the* leading commission agent of England" to supply him with a final selection the day before each big race. The circular, which has been widely distributed amongst the English civil and military population in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, offers five of these valuable selections for a subscription of £1 and the subscriber's undertaking to "put us on 10s. to the odds," and remit the amount to Hannam for each winning selection. Besides paying 4s. for each tip, the subscriber is therefore risking 10s. for the benefit of the tipster in addition to what he puts on for himself. I know that plenty of flats at home take tips on this "heads I win, tails you lose" system, but I should scarcely have thought that such a game would succeed in South Africa.

In a recent paragraph concerning a defaulting bookmaker calling himself "W. Westbrook," and dating his circulars from an accommodation address, 19, George-street, Portman-square, it was suggested that he was associated with a man carrying on a similar business as "Edgar and Co.," at 24, Trevor-square, Knightsbridge. Some further information that I have now received points to the conclusion that Westbrook is also connected with another harpy named Fred Hylton, of 12, Wyndham-street, W. It is quite possible, indeed, that Westbrook, Hylton, and Edgar are one and the same individual, but whether this be so or not, is of little consequence. The important thing is that backers should remember that at each of these starting-price offices (as well as at many more of the same kind) they run a considerable risk of being welshed.

I am asked why the police cannot deal with these sharks. In the present state of the law it is, however, practically impossible to prosecute them with any chance of securing a conviction, and for my own part, while I should like to see the swindlers punished, I do not think that their victims usually deserve much sympathy. People who are so foolish as to engage in betting transactions with any stranger who sends them a circular and book of rules, clearly need the lesson they almost invariably receive.

A special circular offering "advances in anticipation of salaries" is now being directed to clerks and other persons in permanent employment by the unprincipled usurer who trades as "Richards and Co.," 39, Lombard-street, and whose real name is William H. Burgess. Within the past week or so copies of this circular have been sent to the clerks in the Customs House, and as there are a couple of hundred men there with salaries ranging from £60 to £100 per annum paid monthly, a speciously-worded proposal of a loan on note of hand at "a reasonable rate of interest" will doubtless be very tempting to some of them. It may be useful, therefore, to state again that Burgess is a bloodsucker of the most rapacious breed.

The minor usurers who prey upon the working classes are not a bit less rapacious—often they are more so—than the bloodsuckers of the West End. An instance of this is furnished by a man who contemplated borrowing a small sum from a concern styled the London and County Loan Company, Sheffield. He was given a card setting forth the terms on which the Company grants loans from £2 to £15 after inquiries by an "inspector" in regard to the position of the borrower and his bondsmen. From this it seems that if the loan is (say) nominally one of £3, the Company only actually hands over £2, the other £1 being deducted for "bonus or charges." The borrower then has to pay the Company £3 by twenty-four weekly instalments of half a crown each, so that if the gradual reduction of the principal is taken into account the "bonus" for the use of the £2 works out at a terrific rate of interest. But with sublime effrontery the Company append to

these terms the notification "no interest charged if instalments are regularly paid," and I dare say that three-fourths of their customers never realise the extent to which they are being bled till the process has commenced.

Another correspondent forwards a prospectus and circular showing that when he applied for a loan from the British Finance Company, Manchester, and elsewhere, he was informed that he must first of all pay 5s. "for expenses," and then "our representative will come and see you." He asks whether the Act of 1900 permits moneylenders to charge such preliminary fees. Yes, but the moneylender, of course, is still liable to prosecution and punishment if—as in the case of the notorious Pockett some years ago—it is proved that he is obtaining such fees by false pretences in regard to his ability or his willingness to make advances. "The British Finance Company," by the way, is simply the registered alias of one Samuel Cohen, whose wife is also registered as a moneylender under the alias of "Charles Russell." The extortion they practise may be judged from the fact that in a case recorded some time back they exacted interest at the rate of upwards of 60 per cent. per annum upon a loan of £60, which was secured by a bill of sale upon property of the value of £700.

One of my readers forwarded the other day with an inquiry a circular received from Messrs. Bernstein and Roberts, of Penton-street, Islington, offering "very superior and genuine oil-paintings on canvas of exceptionally good value" at one guinea the pair. The firm actually guarantee that the paintings are "genuine, and painted entirely by hand." Not having inspected these works of art, I cannot express an opinion upon them; but, in a general way, I should think that a good machine-made article might be better than a hand-painted one which is offered for sale at half-a-guinea. What interests me about the circular is that it is signed by my old friend, Mr. Walter H. Bacon. Some few years ago this gentleman came under notice in TRUTH in the character of "The South Kensington Fine Art Association, Limited," and at that time his energies were largely devoted to disposing of the shares and debentures of his firm, as well as works of art not "entirely painted by hand." After that he was running a somewhat similar business in the City, and now he has migrated to Islington. From what I know of his business in the past, I should hardly expect to pick up pictorial bargains at his shop, whether machine or hand made.

A New Zealander in London addressed an inquiry to me the other day respecting Dorey, Lester, and Co., of Winchester-avenue, Kilburn, stating that in consequence of the postal advertisements of this firm in New Zealand, numbers of people have, to his knowledge, been induced to order and pay for goods, which they have never received. The attentive reader of TRUTH will know that this has been for many years past the common fate of people in all parts of the world who have ordered goods from Dorey, Lester, and Co. As the individual trading under this name is careful to confine his operations to distant colonies, it is difficult to see what remedy the victims have, but I really think the Agents-General for the Colonies might consult with Scotland Yard as to the possibility of putting a stopper on Dorey, Lester, and Co., if the colonial victims would only set them in motion. However, I must point out to our colonists in all parts of the Empire, that falling a prey to brigands of this class is the inevitable penalty of not subscribing regularly to TRUTH.

The trick by which Messrs. North and Co. seek to sell fountain pens under the pretence of offering home employment at envelope addressing has found some imitators in a firm calling themselves H. E. Nicholls and Co., who, from a garret at 10, Featherstone-buildings, High Holborn, advertise salaries of 30s. weekly in return for payment of half-a-crown entrance fee, "as a guarantee of good faith." In the circular issued to applicants for employment there is one passage which is singularly descriptive of their own methods of starting their business. Messrs. Nicholls and Co., in warning the public against confounding them with any other firm, remark that "there are always vile imitators who, trading upon others' merits, endeavour to make profit by copying their advertisements and circulars, thereby misleading the public." Indeed there are.

Samples have reached me of circulars issued by one, W. Stocker, who describes himself as manager of The Lombard Association, 45, Lombard-street, E.C., the object of the circulars being to call the attention of investors to the value of that "sound industrial investment," the Nelson Share Syndicate, Limited. After enlarging in the usual style of such touts upon the general resources of the business, and pointing out that "prudent investors" will not wait until such shares carry high premiums, Stocker intimates that the Nelson ordinary shares can now be obtained at about 15s. 6d., and the preference at 17s. 6d. With these comments he encloses an order form for the use of "prudent investors." In understand that these circulars have been largely distributed in Scotland.

I expect to have something further to say on the present position of the Nelson Companies at an early date. But in the meantime I am in a position to inform "prudent investors" in Scotland, and everywhere else, that the crisis in the affairs of the Pension Tea business, which I have always said was only a matter of months, has now arrived. The suspension of the payment of the full pensions is now a matter, not of months, but of days; and when that event takes place, it is difficult to understand how the business can continue to exist. This seems to me a case, therefore, where the "prudent investor" will depart from his usual rule, and wait, even at the risk of the shares rising to a high premium. It would be interesting to know where the shares are coming from that Mr. Stocker is offering to "prudent investors" on such easy terms.

At various time I have received inquiries concerning the genuineness of the National Employers' Association,

of 4, Rupert-street, late of Jermyn-street, Haymarket, and, receiving the other day a complaint from a clerk who had entered his name for a situation on the books of the "Association" and paid 5s. for the privilege without obtaining a single offer of employment of any sort, I sent a representative to hear what the National Association had to say on the subject. He found that in spite of its resounding title the National Employers' Association was merely a private registry office of a very ordinary type, and doing a certain amount of genuine business, chiefly amongst hotel servants. The charges for booking vary from 2s. 6d. to 21s., a further fee being payable when applicants are suited. The booking fee, however, is only available for two months, and this fact, together with a statement that in no case can employment be guaranteed is plainly stated in the prospectus of the concern. When questioned as to proportion of situations found for those who paid fees, the "Association" frankly admitted that at least 50 per cent. would never receive a single offer of any sort of employment.

The "Association" seemed to be of opinion that he was justified in accepting the registration fees by reason of the limitation as to time and the express refusal to guarantee employment, though I do not see how this is any justification when there is no reasonable probability of finding employment for at least half of those who pay them. Still less is the Association justified in continuously advertising his ability to find situations when a cursory examination of his books shows that 50 per cent. of the applicants are not likely to have even their names put before a possible employer. The refusal in the prospectus to guarantee employment should, of course, be sufficient to warn any one against payment of a preliminary fee; but since it is clear that in itself it is not sufficient, I would point out to any one tempted to pay the National Employers' Association 5s. for the off chance of getting a berth that they will probably save time, temper, and cash by resisting the temptation.

I have been officially informed on behalf of the National Registry, Limited, that Mr. W. R. Boelter has ceased to be in any way connected with the organisation. I am very glad to make this fact known. For the present, I think it is unnecessary to say anything further as to the position of this society.

The news of some litigation which is going on in the Superior Court of California with regard to what are known as the "Montgomery Avenue bonds" may be interesting to any people in this country who happen to hold such securities. The story of the bonds is a curious one. In 1872 the Californian Legislature passed an Act for the execution of an important public improvement in San Francisco by the formation of Montgomery Avenue. The Act established a Board of Public Works for the purpose, and directed that the money required should be obtained by the issue of 1,579 bonds of one thousand dollars each, bearing interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum and redeemable in thirty years. It was universally supposed that the bonds were guaranteed by the City of San Francisco and the State of California, and a large number were taken up by investors here. Down to 1880 the interest was regularly paid, but the city authorities then ceased to levy the special land taxes required to discharge this obligation, and no interest has since been paid nor have the bonds been redeemed.

Some of the bondholders brought an action against the City of San Francisco, but the Court held that the City was not legally liable, and the matter again remained in abeyance till a few months ago. A firm of attorneys at San Francisco then came to the conclusion that the State of California (not the City) was liable for the whole of the unpaid interest on the bonds, as well as their face value. In June last an action was accordingly commenced against the State to recover $855,000 for the face value of 855 bonds, and a further sum of $1,121,000 for the accrued interest on them. The judge before whom it came decided in favour of the State, but the plaintiffs are now appealing against this decision, and they seem to be very confident that it will be reversed. If this should happen, however, the State will still be liable only for the interest and principal in respect of the bonds represented in the suit. It seems that by a local statute of limitations any claim against the State of California lapses if it is not made within two years, and these bonds having matured on January 1, 1903, no further claims can be made after the end of this year. So far nearly half the holders are unrepresented in the proceedings, and the probability is that most of them have long since put the bonds aside as worthless. They now have some chance at least of getting back their money, but they will have to hurry up if they wish to take advantage of it.

If any Liberals are not satisfied with the result of the Horsham election they must be very hard to please. The truth seems to be that we have been rather spoilt by the recent by-elections, and are beginning to expect too much. Horsham is one of the last constituencies in the country where a Liberal can fairly expect to get in—that is to say, a rural constituency with a considerable element of villadom. It would make, I should say, a very good pair to Sevenoaks, which we fought with much the same result last year. That we should be able to reduce the Conservative majority by one-half in such a constituency is one of the most significant signs of the times; and the result is the more satisfactory because Horsham has not been contested at the last two General Elections, and the comparison is, therefore, with 1893—a time of Liberal high-water-mark.

There have now been twenty-seven contested elections since Mr. Chamberlain embarked on his Fiscal Reform campaign. At ten of these elections the Free Traders have won a seat from their opponents. In the same twenty-seven constituencies at the last previous election the Unionists had an aggregate majority of 13,631. At the recent elections this has been converted into a Liberal majority of 19,933. In other words, there has been a Liberal gain of over 33,000 votes in twenty-seven constituencies. I am not one of those who attach undue significance to casual by-elections. But there

is, within my recollection, no precedent for such astonishing results as those steadily maintained over a period of a year and a half. We on our side are justified in regarding the result as conclusive evidence that the country is at once sick of the present Government, and absolutely opposed to any tampering with our accepted fiscal policy. The Government, on their side, are justified in concluding that they have no chance of surviving a General Election.

Mr. Balfour's latest idea is said to be the introduction of a Redistribution Bill next Session. In view of the Irish difficulty, it is doubtful whether he can carry such a Bill, and unless he decides to force it through by the same methods as the Education and Licensing Acts of the last two Sessions, this course would be unconstitutional. Assuming, however, that it is adopted, it will have the effect of putting off the General Election until 1906, when the present decrepit Parliament will have reached its normal span of life. Apparently Mr. Balfour cherishes some hope that by gaining time in this way he may better the position of the Government at the polls. I doubt this. He and his colleagues have already long outstayed their welcome. The spectacle of a Government clinging to office after receiving at every opportunity the plainest notice to quit is not calculated to increase its popularity. At the same time, the longer the Tariff Reform question is discussed, the more hopeless appears to be the position of the Tariff Reformers; while the progress of Mr. Chamberlain in capturing the Unionist party seems likely to proceed more and more rapidly. Every consideration, therefore, is against the postponement of a dissolution.

THE VOICE OF HUMANITY.

The time is near when, to a peaceful Court
  Which the whole world waits confidently for,
Two mighty nations will a case report,
  Snatched from the grim arbitrament of war,
And in a calm, judicial atmosphere,
  In which the fires of passion cannot burn,
Out of confusion order will appear,
  And, like a star, the truth we shall discern.

Statements now tangled will be analysed;
  Facts will be sifted till the right prevails;
Misleading prejudice will be excised,
  And issues weighed, while Justice holds the scales.
Well-chosen experts will with skill define
  What now is contradictory and vague,
And Peace, provided with another shrine,
  Will date her greatest triumphs from The Hague.

Are we too sanguine when we thus predict
  Results esteemed impossible before?
Nay, seeing War such evils can inflict,
  We are prepared to hope for even more.
And to the Court that will, as we believe,
  The outbreak of another war prevent,
We would appeal fresh honours to achieve
  By stopping that one which we now lament.

For, if a Court the sharp dispute can end
  We have with Russia, on a peaceful plan,
Why not its jurisdiction so extend
  As to apply to Russia and Japan?
True, the two peoples still fight stubbornly,
  Killing each other with a zest most keen;
But this, in sooth, but stronger makes the plea
  That arbitration now should intervene.

We ask it in the names of all the dead,
  Who otherwise have yielded life in vain;
We ask it, for the sakes of those who 've bled,
  And borne the horrors of a long campaign;
The moan of widows and the orphans' sigh
  Plead for the aid that pity would invoke:
Above the cannons' roar a piercing cry
  Is heard ascending from the battle-smoke.

And what of those who suffer, and are dumb?
  The hapless neutrals who, of hope devoid,
'Neath the harsh strokes of destiny succumb—
  Their houses burned, their standing crops destroyed.
Glory they cannot win; no fame is theirs;
  No hands for them the votive chaplets twine;
Both sides alike unheedful of their prayers,
  They suffer and they die—and make no sign.

In their names, too, the priceless boon we ask
  Which would this Reign of Horror quickly close.
Let the Peace Court assume this further task,
  And stop the blood that now so freely flows!
For otherwise there 'll cause be to lament
  The Czar of Russia's much-belauded plan,
Whilst it with England can a war prevent,
  Can't make a peace twixt Russia and Japan!

One of my readers offers the suggestion that Japan ought to be represented either upon or before the International tribunal which is to try the allegations against the Baltic fleet. There seems to be a good deal of force in this, for by all accounts the Russian case involves allegations in which the Japanese are directly concerned. Not only is it alleged that Japanese torpedo boats were seen in the neighbourhood of our fishing fleet, and according to one statement, lurking in Norwegian fiords, but it is said that the Japanese either laid or attempted to lay mines in the path of the fleet through neutral waters or upon the high seas, where the promiscuous scattering of such engines would be little less than an outrage on neutral shipping. If any such suggestions are made, the Japanese ought to be heard in reply. However, they are pretty capable of looking after their own interests.

The fire-eaters of the London Press are now endeavouring to convince us that it is necessary to our honour that one or more Russian naval officers shall be punished for complicity in the Dogger Bank affair; and the Russian papers, on their side, are retorting that it would be a slur on their national honour to do such a thing, and that their Government has never promised it. What may have passed between the two Governments on this point I do not know; nor do the Press disputants on either side. But unless we contend that the attack on the fishing-boats was a deliberately-designed insult—which we do not, or we should not be going before a court of inquiry—I do not see what we have to do with the Russian officers individually. What we ought chiefly to bear in mind is that if any officer were punished he would merely be a scapegoat for some one above him higher in authority, and I do not see that our national honour would stand any higher for having a vicarious sacrifice of this kind offered up to it.

It is evident that, if orders to fire were given, the individual officer or the individual gunner obeying it was bound to do so. General orders were, presumably, given

by the Russian Admiral to the effect that if a commander of any of the vessels believed that he was in the presence of a hostile torpedo-boat about to attack him, he was to sink the vessel. If any commander of a Russian vessel that fired believed that the case for action had occurred, he was therefore bound to act. He would only have been culpable, were it proved that he had no reasonable cause for this belief. We come then to the Admiral in command of the fleet. Unquestionably he appears to have been to blame for passing along the Dogger Bank, where he must have known that there would be a fleet of fishing boats, seeing that this was far out of his proper course; and he was all the more to blame if, as we are told, he had been warned that Japanese torpedo-boats were likely to take advantage of this to attack under cover of these fishing boats. But it must be assumed that the course of the fleet, the dangers to be anticipated, and the precautions to be taken against them, had been discussed beforehand at the Russian Admiralty, and in that case the Russian Minister of Marine was primarily responsible in not having instructed the Admiral to keep well clear of the banks on which British boats were accustomed to fish. This implies that the Czar and his Ministers, or the Russian nation, are collectively responsible.

An insult resides in the intention. If the action complained of was not intended as an insult, but was the result of a mistake, there can be no insult. The person or State injured has a right to damages, to an honest expression of regret, and to some sort of guarantee that the mistake will not occur again. This I take it, is the rule in private life, and, if so, it ought to be that between States. I do not believe in a great country insisting upon the punishment of this or that subordinate of a foreign Government in a case like this where the presumption is that the responsibility rests on the Government itself. If it comes out in the course of the inquiry that subordinate officers, by their stupidity or lack of nerve, got their Government into this mess, we may take it for granted that they will be punished quite as heavily as they deserve. For us to insist before the investigation takes place that such persons shall be punished is, therefore, a mistake.

We say—and I think with considerable truth—that we are acting not only in our interests, but in those of all neutrals. The moral strength of our position lies in having their support. We have a navy which practically gives us the command of the seas, and thus the entire commerce of the world is at our mercy. On many grounds this cannot be an absolutely satisfactory state of things to foreign countries. We must, therefore, in no way seem to dictate either what is, or what is not, necessary for neutrals safely to pursue their ordinary avocations on the ocean highways. If we do, our supremacy on the seas will become so serious a matter for other nations that, cost what it may, they will combine to bring it to an end, as the European nations did combine to bring the territorial supremacy of Napoleon to an end.

We have all been scoffing at the idea that the Russians could have mistaken a steam fishing trawler for a torpedo-boat. I have done so among the rest. But I confess I am rather disposed to alter my views after reading a letter in this week's *Spectator*. It is there shown by a quotation from the *Naval Annual* for 1901 that during the Naval Manœuvres of the previous year H.M.S. *Minerva* got among a fleet of fishing-boats off the west coast of Ireland, mistook them for torpedo-boats, remained among them for "some hours," considered herself torpedoed, declared herself out of action, and, playing the game in a nobly conscientious spirit, proceeded to Milford to place herself at the disposal of the umpires. During the same manœuvres, on the same authority, a destroyer is said to have passed at night six friendly battleships, steaming without lights, and to have mistaken them for six torpedo-boats. If such mistakes can be made by British officers when merely playing at war in their own waters, we must somewhat revise our criticism of the conduct of the Russians when primed with the belief that there was an enemy waiting for them round every corner.

The great influence of "Empress Mothers" in Russia is a curious phase in its scheme of Government. An Emperor generally marries a foreign young lady who is not of the Greek Church. On the marriage she joins that Church, being by way of being "convinced" that it is the only true one. Almost invariably she becomes so thoroughly "convinced" that during her husband's life she is ultra-clerical. On his death she becomes even more so, and not only does she meddle in politics, but her right to do so seems to be recognised by her son if he has succeeded to the throne. Thus, during the reign of Alexander I., the Empress mother was at the head of the anti-French party, and succeeded in preventing a marriage between Napoleon and a Russian Grand Duchess.

The present Empress of Russia seems not to have fallen under clerical influence, and to be what would be called Liberal in Russia. But the Empress mother is clerical and anti-Liberal. She is the ally of the priests and those statesmen who are the most reactionary. It has been largely due to her influence that Alexeieff has kept his place as Viceroy in Manchuria. The reigning Empress has never supported him, nor any of the retrograde measures of the Russian Ministers. It is surprising that the Russians should allow a foreign widow to meddle in their affairs because she was the wife of an Emperor who is dead; but I suppose that it is rendered possible by these ladies professing in religion to be more Russian than the Russians. Were I a Russian Emperor, I should, I hope, treat my mother with affection and respect; but she would have as little political influence as the wife of Frederick the Great in Prussia during his reign.

I rather doubt the accuracy of the statement made last week in the French Chamber by M. Delafosse that the Japanese were hesitating last year whether they should make war with Russia or with France. What is, how-

ever, not doubtful is that one of the aims of Japan in her war with Russia is to make it clear that henceforward Asia is no longer to be regarded by European nations as a field for their rival territorial ambitions. I respect the Japs for this, and I believe that if they succeed the probability of European nations quarrelling over the spoil will be avoided. There is no more valid reason for our treating Asiatics as though they were an inferior race than for Asiatics treating us in this fashion. If we have hitherto done so it has been because they have not been prepared to fight to maintain their equality and we have been prepared to fight to deprive them of it.

With these views I deem our treaty with Japan a mistake, unless we agree with her as to her policy of Asia for the Asiatics. The Japanese are no less clever as diplomatists than they are brave as warriors. They are not actuated by their likes or dislikes for any European nation. But they are ready to play one off against the other so long as they are not strong enough to say "hands off" to all. The treaty was made to secure them against united European action whilst they were engaged in securing Asiatic rule in Corea and Manchuria. If they succeed their next step will be to ally themselves closely with China and to safeguard her against any European country treating her as a negligible fighting factor in the future.

The General Election in Italy has resulted in the defeat of the Anarchists, Socialists, and Republicans. M. Giolitti, although no statesman, is an exceedingly clever politician. When he became Premier on the retirement of M. Zanardelli owing to ill-health, he announced that he would take certain Socialists into his Cabinet. They declined, but supported him in the last Parliament. On the occurrence of the great strike in Milan and other large towns, he remained inactive, waiting to see which way the cat would jump. It jumped against the strike. At once he dissolved, and declared his intention to ask the next Parliament to increase the police force. He then appealed to all lovers of law and order to support him, and thus secured as supporters all those who did not want a social and political revolution. Some of the ultra-Conservatives, who are called here the reactionists, and who recognise M. Sonino as their leader, declared themselves opposed to the Giolitti Ministry, but most of the Conservatives accepted it. The result is that the majoriy in the new Chamber consists of Moderates, some calling themselves Conservatives and some Liberals. The country has really declared itself against Anarchy, Republicanism, and Socialism, and a programme which was thus set forth in a manifesto: "We wish to destroy the whole political, economic, and judicial organisation of a bourgeois State."

Whether Giolitti will maintain himself for any length of time is, however, doubtful, for his majority is not very homogeneous. He is as tricky as Mr. Balfour, and as anxious to retain his post, but he will find it difficult to satisfy all his supporters. More of those on the register voted than usual, but the abstentions were very large. Nor was this due to the action of the Pope. He refused to renew the order to Catholics not to vote, and left them to do as they pleased.

The fact is that Italians have never greatly taken to Parliamentary government. They have the greatest distrust of Members of Parliament, and are convinced that each one has his axe to grind, and grinds it if he can get the chance. The electors are essentially local in all their ideas, and their patriotism is mainly parish or provincial patriotism. The late "general strike" and the scenes that ensued frightened them, and at bottom they are in favour of the present regime. They do not mind talking Anarchy and Republicanism at times, but it is mere talk in most cases. They have a proverb, "Altro è dire, altro fare," which means it is one thing to talk, another to act. The King personally is popular. Giolitti they neither like nor dislike, trust nor distrust. His force lies in the fact that there is just now no statesman who has a personal following, and who is recognised as superior to a dozen others. So little in some parts of Italy do the people trouble themselves about elections that in one small town the authorities and the electors forgot that there was an election. There were neither poll-booths nor any one who seemed to want them.

THE MEDDLESOME OWL.

The learnèd Owl himself professed
Of Music Critics quite the best;
So tried, with well-intentioned Pains,
To improve the Warblers' artless Strains.
Before him, in a wooded Vale,
One Evening sang the Nightingale.
Owl listened with a knowing Air;
Pronounced the Effort very fair;
Confessed, indeed, some Parts were splendid,
But others, certès, must be mended;
And, if the Songster would allow,
He'd demonstrate in Practice, how.
The Nightingale, a modest Bird,
To the Owl's Verdict, meek, deferred,
And followed closely his Instruction
In proper Modes of Voice-production.
Next Night he sang th' amended Strain,
Sure that the Birds' Applause he'd gain.
But they, when changed his Song they heard,
Cried in amazement: "What's occurred?
Why this new Lay—sweet Songster tell—
And not those Strains we love so well?"
"Because the Owl pronounced," quoth he,
"My former Singing all at Sea,
Declared it broke, in every Part,
Some Canon of the Vocal Art;
And spent the whole of Yester Night
Teaching me how to sing it right."
If now aright you sing your Song,"
Said they, "we liked it best sung wrong.
For whether good or bad in Art,
Those Strains spontaneous touched our Heart,
But these by conscious Art improved,
Leave our cold Bosoms quite unmoved.
Canons and Rules are very well;
They cannot make a Philomel.
By such let other Birds prevail.
Be *thou* our own old Nightingale."

Moral.

When Hymns, by use, have won our Heart.
Even though, strictly, bad in Art,
Revise you may; for better change;
Yet only make them cold and strange.

SCRUTATOR.

PEACE IN THE AIR.

PEACE has been "in the air" during the past week, and it is not difficult to see why. The battle-fields of Manchuria have indeed "staggered humanity." The greediest appetite for blood has been surfeited by the hideous records of slaughter at Liao-yang, on the Sha-ho, and under the guns of Port Arthur; and the deadlock that has been reached brings home to the most thoughtless the futility of it all. The main armies in the field seem to have fought literally to a stand-still—almost as M. Bloch, possibly inspired by knowledge of Russian character, prophesied would some day be the case. For weeks they have now confronted one another, each apparently equally afraid to make a move. While it begins to look as if the Japanese had shot their bolt in this direction, it seems impossible to believe, after all we have seen of them hitherto, that if they elect in future to stand on the defensive, they will ever be driven out of Manchuria until the last man has been killed or taken prisoner. At Port Arthur the situation is virtually the same. The Japanese only advance inch by inch, exterminating the defenders as they go; and it looks as if the Russian flag would never be hauled down until the last man left to defend it has fallen. Horrified spectators protest that this is carrying heroism to the point of insanity; that Stoessel has no right to assent to the extermination of his gallant band, or that his Government ought to have released the garrison from the obligation to die. But Stoessel and his Government are only playing the game to its logical conclusion, as we know the Japanese will play it yet if ever the weight of superior numbers on the Russian side reverses the situation. The truth is that there has been little of science or generalship on either side in this war. If the Russians have shown utter incapacity in the higher departments of the business, the Japanese have, on land at any rate, signally failed to take advantage of their opportunities, and have produced no leaders with any of the higher gifts of generalship. They seem to have a splendid machine, but hardly to know how to use it. On both sides, consequently, the whole campaign has been a "soldier's battle." Hundreds of thousands of men have been arrayed face to face and set to butcher one another by brute force, armed with all the resources of civilisation for that purpose, and inspired by heroic and indomitable valour. There is little left of the false glamour and glory of war either for combatants or spectators under these conditions. The thing is seen in all its naked hideousness, and those who have not the excitement of personal interest or danger to stimulate their nerves sicken at it as they would at the sight and smell of the shambles. In every civilised country men are asking themselves how long it is to go on, and praying that mankind may be delivered from such calamities in future.

We see the result everywhere. It showed itself in the feeling aroused, not in this country alone, by the prospect of a collision between ourselves and Russia. It helped us to keep our heads cool, and facilitated in every way a peaceful adjustment of the difficulty. It prompted Lord Lansdowne to deliver a weighty pronouncement in favour of international peace at the Mansion House dinner. There is a special fitness about this. Lord Lansdowne did not shine as a man of war, and his reputation remains somewhat tarnished in consequence. But he has done much to retrieve his political character by his work as a man of peace at the Foreign Office. He seems to have thought it necessary to play to the cheapest element in the gallery in some of his allusions to the difficulty with Russia. But he may well be forgiven that, if he has piloted the country safely and honourably through the difficulty, as he seems to have done; and the general tenor of his speech must have a good effect at this juncture throughout the world. We see the same spirit at work in France in the debate on the Anglo-French Agreement. There are the same tendencies always at work in France as among ourselves, to provoke Parliamentary opposition to any measure of the Government of the day. At the present moment the Government, though it commands a large working majority, is venomously hated in many quarters. Necessarily, therefore, the Agreement was opposed, and everything that party ingenuity could find to say against it was said in the course of the debate. In the result the Agreement has been ratified by the overwhelming majority of 443 votes to 104; but far more significant than the voting is the fact that even those Deputies who insisted that France had made a bad bargain by the Agreement—and even so eminent a politician as Lord Rosebery has criticised in precisely the same way from the opposite point of view—had, with one or two insignificant exceptions, nothing to say against it in principle. Scarcely a word of unfriendly feeling towards this country was breathed in the course of the debate, and it may be said that the Chamber was virtually unanimous in approving the Agreement as a great achievement in international statesmanship, and a valuable contribution towards the future peace of the world. No one seemed to doubt that the interests of peace are, for France, paramount to all other considerations.

Lastly comes America. The result of the Presidential election is certainly of international significance. Some of us have our misgivings about Mr. Roosevelt. He seems to me to have something of the character of a Transatlantic German Emperor; one never quite knows what he may do next. The recent development of American aspirations to cut a figure in the world outside the American continent is undoubtedly his doing to a great extent, and his re-election is universally understood to mean the further progress of that idea. He may fairly be regarded as a not distant relative of our own Imperialists. His triumphant return, therefore, by an unprecedented majority might have proved a disquieting event for the rest of mankind. But he, too, has signalised his return to office by declaring himself a man of peace. He is desirous of renewing and extending the work of the Hague Conference; and his Government has re-opened negotiations for an Arbitration

Treaty with this country, which the exigencies of American politics have hitherto obstructed. All this is to the good, even though the proposed Conference may not do very much. The object in view is to limit the horrors and risks of war in the interests of non-combatants and neutrals. So far as the interest of neutrals is concerned, recent events have shown how important it is to have a definite international agreement on this point, if the danger of outsiders being drawn into the fray whenever a great war breaks out, is to be avoided. As to non-combatants, I am bound to say that the idea of sparing them from any suffering that war is likely to bring seems to me of doubtful expediency. Nothing is more likely to predispose a nation to go to war with a light heart than the knowledge that all the hard knocks will fall on the professional fighting men, and that the stay-at-homes will have nothing to do but pay the bill; and nothing will more conduce to the interests of peace than the possibility that war in its cruellest shapes may invade every citizen's home, and take toll of all that he holds dearest. The one valid argument I know for universal military service is that it has this effect, and the effect has been seen in a very salutary way in European politics, outside the British Isles, during the last thirty years. The more horrible war grows, and the more widely its effect is felt, the sooner we shall see the end of it. This, however, need not prevent our welcoming the attitude that Mr. Roosevelt has taken up. The United States have now entered the arena of "world politics," for better or worse. Which it is to be will for the next few years depend a good deal on the President. He appears to have attained an immense hold on the goodwill and confidence of his fellow countrymen; and if he intends that the vast weight and influence of the United States shall be used solely for the maintenance of peace, the world may be thankful for the result of the last Presidential election.

It has always been the fashion among those who pass for knowing people to pooh-pooh the idea that nations will ever learn to settle their differences without fighting as a vain though amiable delusion. This assumption in itself does not a little to keep the war spirit alive. I rejoice, therefore, at anything which tends to disprove it, and it seems to me that recent events have abundantly done so. Twice in recent times—in the case of the Venezuela difficulty with the United States, and the difficulty with Russia over the Dogger Bank affair—we have ourselves proved that such causes as in the past have often led nations to fly at one another's throats may be successfully and honourably set aside by the exercise of the same self-restraint, forbearance, and tact as are used every day to avoid quarrels between individuals. In the case of France, we have had no difficulty in concluding an agreement which covers all causes of dispute that foresight can discern as likely to arise between the two nations. What has been done in these cases can be done in all, if only the will exists, and the man who denies this is the victim of delusion, not the man who affirms it. I see only two causes of war which are in these days dangerous. They are bad temper and greed. And to say that they cannot be held in check by civilisation and policy is to say that nations can never rise above the condition of beasts of prey.

AN ASTHMATICAL QUACK.

Amongst the many institutions for the cure of bodily ills upon which I am continually being asked to express an opinion, "The Paul Weidhaas Hygienic Institute," late of 16, Buckingham-road, Brighton, and now of Burgess Hill, is one of the most familiar to me by name, and recently some correspondence has been placed before me which strongly tends to confirm the impression I had already formed concerning the methods of business adopted by those responsible for the working of the "Institute." As any one who glances at the advertisement pages of almost any of the popular magazines must be aware, the Weidhaas Institute chiefly undertakes the cure of asthma, bronchitis, and other diseases of the organs of respiration, though it does not disdain to treat patients suffering from rheumatism, insomnia, and affections of the heart. The advertising is done on a very extensive scale, and it is perfectly obvious that only a business of considerable size could carry such an outlay. The circulars issued by the Institute are adorned with a portrait of "Professor" Weidhaas and reproductions of photographs of the "Institute" where resident patients are taken in. Who the Professor is, and whether he takes any part in the conduct of the business, I do not know, but the presumption is to the contrary, since cheques and money orders are required to be made payable to Richard Haynel, Director, who also answers all inquiries as to treatment. The nature of Mr. Haynel's qualifications for the treatment of asthma, bronchitis, rheumatism, and heart disease is also obscure. He makes no claim to be a graduate of any medical faculty, and it would seem to be a fair assumption that his qualifications are neither more nor less than those of any ordinary person who either has discovered, or imagines he has discovered, a cure for some malady, and opens an establishment to exploit his discovery commercially. How far such an action is justifiable or not I am not at the moment concerned to discuss. But a question of much wider importance is raised by the further pretension put forward by Mr. Haynel that he is able to treat disease by correspondence, and it is from this point of view that I consider it desirable to issue a warning to the public against having anything to do with the Weidhaas Institute.

One bundle of correspondence before me relates to the case of an Irish lady whom I will call Miss A. This lady answered an advertisement, and in due course received in reply a copy of a book, entitled "Dum Spiro Spero," containing a long list of testimonials and Press notices, together with a circular, of which the following are the salient paragraphs:—

> As I treat each case individually with due regard to all the essential variations of age, constitution, temperament, sex, and other vitally important associations, it is imperative for you to fill up the enclosed Consultation Form, and thus enable me to form an intelligent and correct opinion of your complaint.
>
> If your complaint (as indicated by your replies) does not come within scope of my Curative Method, I will frankly tell you so by return of post; and as I make no charge for studying your replies, I hope for an early return of the Consultation Form duly filled up.

This circular was dated February 27, and as Miss A. took no notice of it, on March 7 Mr. Richard Haynel sent her a second circular, in the form of a type-written letter, puffing the merits of his "Curative Method of Home Treatment." Accompanying this circular were copies of testimonials, which Miss A. returned. Mr. Haynel acknowledged the receipt of these testimonials, but, not having secured his customer, he sent on a fourth letter, again obviously a common form, dated March 14. This time his pertinacity was rewarded. Miss A. filled up the "consultation form," with the result that she received, a day or two later, a fifth circular, yet again a common form, stating that, after having given careful consideration to her symptoms, Mr. Haynel was most pleased to accept her as a patient since he fully anticipated that he could achieve a lasting cure in her case. He added that his fee for the whole course of treatment would be two guineas, the only other charge being for a "Special Tonic," which would not cost more than a shilling a week. This final circular proved effective. Miss A., like most sufferers from asthma, being only too anxious to obtain relief from her distressing malady, forwarded two guineas and received in return a copy of "Cure Directions" together with a "breathing apparatus" and a supply of "Special Tonic," for which latter she remitted to Mr. Haynel a further 4s. 9d. Miss A. gave the treatment a trial for a month, and finding that she was no better at the end of the time, she returned the "Cure Directions" and apparatus to Mr. Haynel, and asked for the return of her two guineas. Mr. Haynel, having got his fee, soon showed, however, that he had no intention of parting with it. He first tried to cajole Miss A. into the belief that if she would only persist in following the treatment she must be restored to health, but as she remained firm in her demand, he eventually informed her that in any case he certainly would not return the money, and that he "could not afford to waste his time on a senseless correspondence." Miss A.'s case is a typical one, as other correspondence in my possession proves, though the fee sought to be obtained from the prospective patient varies according to the amount likely to be obtained. In a second correspondence with a Mrs. B., a widow who declared her inability to pay the two-guinea fee, Mr. Haynel reduces his charge to 30s., and accepts 10s. 6d. down, the balance to be paid by instalments. In this case the "treatment" and apparatus were returned forthwith, yet Mr. Haynel is now threatening the poor widow, who was induced to communicate with him through his circulars and advertisements, with legal proceedings for the balance of the 30s., in spite of the fact that the treatment was not proceeded with.

As I have already said, I am not at the moment concerned with the merits or demerits of the cure for asthma which Mr. Haynel offers to all and sundry through the medium of advertisements in the Press, but so far as I can see the methods he adopts in pushing his business are precisely the same as those adopted by McLaughlin, Pointing, and other advertising quacks, American or otherwise. Having obtained the name of a sufferer from one of the diseases he professes to cure, he proceeds to bombard her with insidious circulars, puffing his treatment, until he induces her to fill up his "consultation form," upon receipt of which he has no hesitation in informing the patient in a common-form circular that he has no doubt of his ability to bring about a complete cure in her case. Having once obtained his fee by these methods, his business is done, and complaint or objection becomes "senseless correspondence." The main support of the whole business is, of course, the precious "consultation form" filled up by the patient herself, from which Mr. Haynel professes to diagnose the condition of the patient and prescribe the course of treatment for each individual case. This is exactly the system adopted by the notorious Drouet gang in their predatory operations upon the purses of unfortunate victims of ear disease, and every word which I have said in relation to this method of diagnosis by correspondence in regard to the Drouet Institute applies with equal force to the Weidhaas Institute. The whole weight of medical testimony is against the pretension that even a qualified medical man can make an accurate diagnosis from answers given in reply to a series of printed questions by a correspondent whom he has never seen. And if qualified medical men recognise their inability to combat disease in this fashion, what is to be said of the unqualified practitioner who vaunts his power of succeeding where they fail?

THE THEATRES.

"The Flute of Pan," at the Shaftesbury.

There is a very great deal of this play. The ready pen of "John Oliver Hobbes" must have raced across the paper as she wrote, or perchance the collecting of this rain of pearls fell to a select body of stenographers. They have presumably fulfilled their task with commendable exactitude, for it would be difficult to say much more, and also, alas! to say much less. This active authoress contributed a play to the St. James's Theatre some years ago. "The Ambassador" differed altogether in style from "The Flute of Pan." In the former play the writer had modelled herself upon the aphoristic paradox of Oscar Wilde, and thus produced an entertainment of which the hearing was not altogether unpleasant. In this case she has thrown aside the gown of the pupil, and assumed the petticoats of the mistress. That fault, which has so often been pointed out in feminine writing, it here pervasive: lack of reticence, of concretion. The dialogue of a good play should be a triple-distilled essence of the best possible human speech in a series of given situations. If we are given merely the commonplace of everyday life, the effect is precisely similar to a lack of rouge on the part of the players. Stage optic demands "make-up;" stage acoustics demand intensity.

In construction, this history of the Princess who marries the British peer is also weak. The main motive is jealousy wrongly aroused in the bosom of the peer by a mistaken belief that the Princess has a flirtation with another man, who in reality is intriguing with her cousin. The management of this asks too much of

our credulity. One word at the end of the first act would have cleared up the doubts of the peer. Again, when Baverstock appears in quest of an interview at the end of the second act, he selects the drawing-room of the Princess while she is being married in the adjacent chapel, for his place of rendezvous. Therefore, he is obliged to hide in the Princess's bedroom, and is seen by the peer emerging from it. One cannot illusionise oneself into the belief that the Princess's cousin could not have found some better time or place to meet her lover, and, even granting this, that the lackeys in attendance, on the chance of a tip, would have allowed a young Englishman to penetrate unbidden to the boudoirs of a Royal Princess.

I think that enough has been said to show that the play lacks verisimilitude in plot and construction. In the dialogue, too, there are phrases such as "Rats!" placed in the mouth of Count Marche, H.R.H.'s equerry, when addressing the cousin of his mistress, which to those unacquainted with Courts sound a trifle indecorous, though of course "John Oliver Hobbes" may have had exceptional oportunities of culling such flowers of rhetoric from authentic sources. "I have a sensation of being rushed," says Prince Adolph, the Grand Chamberlain of H.R.H. So have we.

As to the playing, Miss Olga Nethersole is not suited to the personage she represents. Miss Nethersole's undoubted emotional powers are best displayed in a part like "Sappho," where she can give them full vent. The constraint and the interminable ceremonies of a Court are contrary to her true bent. Mr. Herbert Waring did not invest the part of her husband, the Earl of Feldershey, with much glamour. He seemed too cold, too aloof from the ordinary feelings of humanity. He did not suggest the man consumed with a devouring passion pent up by pride. Mr. C. W. Somerset had but a thin part as the Grand Chamberlain, and I do not think that he is to blame for not having stood out from the rest. Mr. W. T. Lovell played Baverstock, the young millionaire who elopes with Princess Margaret's married cousin, Countess Bertha Rixensart, realistically and well, as did Mr. Dawson Milward the part of that lady's husband. But Miss Annie Hughes as the coquettish Countess Bertha was cast out of her proper sphere, and her manner, excellent and effective in congenial parts such as "The Country Mouse," made one feel that her cousinage with the Princess was indeed "morganatic." Miss Kate Phillips, too, scarcely conveyed by her playing of the Mistress of the Bedchamber a foreign Countess of cerulean blood. The dresses and upholstery were splendid, a glittering pageant; but this is not sufficient for a long evening's entertainment, and at the fall of the curtain one heard the flute of Pan both on and off the stage.

"For Church or Stage," at the Savoy.

The waiter at the Savoy Hotel triumphed alike over Church and Stage at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday. This humorous attendant delighted the audience in the last act by appearing always at the moment when the fatally fascinating Stella (that incarnation of the perils of the Stage) was tightening the coils of her auburn hair around the heart of the Rev. Noel Faber, who, one hopes, is not a typical representative of the Church. The waiter, too, it was who was the sole introducer of the Army, discomfited and crestfallen, in the shape of Captain Gerald York. This gay young blood had in the first act unwittingly established himself and the fair Stella at Fordhambridge within easy reach of the rectory. The fair Stella was too much for the parson, and the parson was too much for Stella. She gave him a thirteenth-century missal and herself lost all interest in modern literature by so doing. Even the *Sporting Times* had no interest for her. She was shocked by the levity of Captain York, who suggested that she should listen to one of Mr. Corlett's jokes. After inquiring whether the Captain proposed to marry her on the spot and receiving an answer in the negative, she declared her undying devotion to the parson, and took rooms at the Savoy Hotel. Deaf to the pleading of one of the parson's parishioners, who follows her to this haunt of elegant frivolity, she refuses, to the amusement of the audience, "to make the parish eternally indebted to her" by dismissing the amorous ecclesiastic. One would have thought they would have been rather inclined to reward her for her meritorious service in the cause of morality, and have sought a less impressionable pastor. But the Rev. Forbes Phillips, the author, decrees otherwise.

Once at the Savoy, the actress and the parson have a rapid supper together, broken in upon at frequent intervals by the waiter, and eventually by Captain York, who has come to bid a last farewell before sailing for South Africa. The parson does not at all like Captain York, and Captain York is not much attached to the parson. When the man of Mars has gone, the man of God, stung by repentance and also by something very like vulgar jealousy, decides that he, too, must return to his duties. The only man left to the poor lady is—the waiter. History does not relate the sequel, but one's fancy dreams of a second title: "For Church or Stage; or, the Waiter's Triumph."

"The Way of the World," at the Royalty.

The gallant Mermaid Society, whose president is Mr. Philip Carr, has done well to revive this great play. It has been fortunate, too, in securing a second time the services of Miss Ethel Irving for the scintillating Millamant. Miss Irving delighted me on the evening of last week that I witnessed her performance. She has the roguish audacity, the quick wit, the very walk of Millamant, and her gestures and intonation fit the part to a nicety. Mr. Nigel Playfair did exceedingly well as Witwoud, and Mr. Dennis W. Cleugh gave a very satisfactory interpretation of that gentleman's country cousin. Another character, that of Lady Wishfort, could not have been in better hands than those of Mrs. Theodore Wright, while Miss Meta Pelham's Foible was also a sound performance.

These ladies and gentlemen were all in tune with the humours of the Restoration, and the play, which, with the necessary excisions from the text and the lack of grip and sympathy evinced by several of the other players, was yet on the whole marvellously successful.

But Mirabell needs more verve and brilliancy than Mr. Fordham bestowed upon the part, and the important personage of Mrs. Marwood did not meet with justice at the hands of Miss Potter.

* * * * *

Mr. Henderson has arranged a complimentary matinée benefit for Mrs. Edmund Phelps, at His Majesty's Theatre, on Friday, November 25. Mr. Tree will appear in "The Man Who Was," Mr. Cyril Maude in "The Monkey's Paw," Mr. Bourchier in "A Lesson in Harmony," and Mr. George Alexander will also appear. There will be a scene from "The Orchid;" Mr. Maurice Farkoa will sing. These are a few of the principle names among many generous volunteers, and those who recollect Mrs. Phelps's long and honourable connection with the stage, running to fifty years, notably under Sir Charles Wyndham's management, will not require a further stimulus towards being present upon this occasion.

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The Charles Morton memorial matinée at the Palace Theatre was an overflowing success, and Mr. Alfred Butt, who undertook this difficult task, has every reason to be gratified with the result of his hard work.

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A brief note on the performance of Beaumont and Fletcher's heroic travesty, "The Knight of the Burning Pestle," may serve to draw the attention of lovers of our old drama to the Royalty Theatre. The play consists of five acts and many scenes, in which are portrayed the adventures in knight-errantry of an English Don Quixote, the apprentice of a citizen of London. The play was capitally performed, and the constantly shifting scene allowed one to realise the constant flow of wit and invention of the great Elizabethans. Mrs. Theodore Wright, who sat on a stool by the side of the stage and criticised the performance from the point of view of the citizen's wife, excelled in jovial simplicity, and Mr. Nigel Playfair, as the Knight, played the part with the utmost humour and scholarly imagination. The play runs during this week with matinées on Wednesday and Saturday. It is well worth a visit.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

A CHRYSANTHEMUM FESTIVAL.

IN the farthest East and the extremest West the chrysanthemum triumphs. Its languid beauty, so emblematic of heart-aches that time has softened but will never cure, fills the cemeteries of the great French cities. The chrysanthemum received almost worshipful honours through the last week at the horticultural show in the city of Paris conservatories, Cours de la Reine. At Tokio the Emperor and Empress of Japan gave on the 11th their yearly garden party in honour of the Imperial flower. It came off in the grounds of the Aoyama palace. On the same date the Loubet family lunched with that noted amateur of the chrysanthemum, M. Chauchard, at his Longchamps villa. Following the precedents of eight years, they were his only guests. This annual flower festival is unique. Professional gardeners all the world over contribute to it the rare varieties they have discovered. I suppose M. Chauchard must, to recoup the fancy prices he gives for extraordinary specimens, retail them in turn. He has from mid-October quite an army of gardeners at work every evening covering the chrysanthemum beds with white muslin. They have straw over their roots, and this textile on their heads, to shelter them from night frosts. Air and sunshine are given in the fore and early afternoon, when both "mufflers" are removed. The parterres cover acres. All the reception-rooms at the villa are marvellously decorated. The greatest specialists in the art of flower decoration had been called in during the preparation period. Series of entertainments, to which artists only are invited, follow through the week of the Presidential lunch. One of them tells me that the entertainments are "prodigious, *épatants*, *inouïs*, but lack *chic*," which money cannot buy. The receptive and retentive faculties of eye and mind are overtaxed by profusion in variety. Of the 10,000 varieties registered at the Cours de la Reine, the greatest number must have had turns in the Chauchard grounds.

The chrysanthemum first came out at a Parisian flower show twenty-one years ago. It made its début at the Horticultural Hall in the Rue de Grenelle St. Germain. That accomplished orator, economist, statesman, and wit, M. Léon Say, had taken it up. The exhibitions have been annual since 1883. A novelty of last week's show was "Infant Innocence" ("Candeur d'Enfance"), dedicated to the Czarewitch. The peculiarities are extremely long, irregularly curled petals, snow-white, and resembling silk threads in gloss and texture. Other peculiarities are russet foliage blended with red and yellow, and having the vividness of Indian summer hues. The creator of this species sent a crate-load of his best flowers to Russia for presentation to the Empress.

The fondest thoughts of the President and Mme. Loubet turn to their country place at Mezenc-la-Begude in the Drôme. They, in view to future retirement there, gave what time they could to the Cours de la Reine show, going there privately every morning. M. Loubet inquired closely about manures, chemical and other, and ordered samples. Without attempting to worm out secret methods of culture, he often asked for specific information. He also ordered plants, seeds, vegetables for surprise presents for old friends at Montélimar, not forgetting the venerable farmeress at Marsanne. She is in her eightieth year, but takes a keen interest in her farm and garden. In giving his orders he gave visiting-cards to be attached to the topmost bundle in each hamper. M. Loubet has two sets of

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cards. The State set bear the words "Le Président de la République," without any address. On the friendly or private set one reads "Emile Loubet," and at the left-hand corner, "Palais de l'Elysée."

M. and Mme. Loubet are fond of homely fare when dining *en famille*. They then treat themselves to the *pot au feu*, with its succulent vegetables and a slice of the *bouilli* beef. At the Cours de la Reine they selected for their cook bunches of phenomenally thick leeks, carrots, small and gigantic, and other roots, for the family *pot au feu*. Some over-grown crones caught the President's eye, and he proposed to order a basket of them for mutton haricots. The crone is a Japanese vegetable resembling in shape a monovalve shell. It melts in the mouth when cooked. Stewed with mutton, crones are delicious. M. Loubet recommended them to some plain country folks from his part of France. Planted as potatoes in light sandy soil, they flourish and vastly multiply. The crone, he said, ought to bring wealth to peasants on those spurs of the Alps formed by moraines in the ice period. He generally talks patois to Drôme peasants at agricultural and flower shows.

The historical section enabled visitors to mark the changes produced in the chrysanthemum. That flower is like ourselves in one respect—the more we cultivate it, the more liable it seems to suffer, the greater its morbidness. But few of the retrospective types have the graceful *morbidezza*, the air of pain, which goes to the heart, and makes one wonder whether the chrysanthemum is not a suffering sister. It looks unhappy from, one might imagine, being condemned to drag out in silence its life under our greyish sky, far away from the Land of the Morning Sun.

M. Loubet had amical conversation with an old boy of the Valence Lycée with whom he sat nearly fifty years ago on the same form. This former classmate is a M. Peydellet, a great chrysanthemum gardener. He owes renown and fortune to "La Triomphante" variety, now in every market garden. M. Peydellet began his career as a junior clerk in a railway station outside Valence. One day he found on the roadside there a plant with a peculiar foliage that took his fancy. He took it home, planted it on his balcony, attended to it carefully, and thought he had found in it a friend. In the following autumn it brought forth the pinkish-white flower that we all so well know. He fancied it had an air of proud and pleased self-consciousness. So he called it "La Triomphante," and brought it to a market gardener near Lyons, who wanted to buy plant and copyright (if I may so speak) for a larger sum than M. Peybellet's whole salary for a year. The railway clerk could not bring himself to part with his plant, took it back to the balcony, sedulously studied it, improved it, and gave up his post to devote himself to its culture. He believes that all the varieties we now see are reversions to far-back conditions. M. Peybellet's chrysanthemum gardens near Valence have almost taken as great extension as the tulip fields near Haarlem. He goes in for what he calls *bravura* effects, obtains them often, but has had endless agreeable surprises due, he doubts not, to atavism. Two thousand years ago Confucius spoke of the "yellow glory" of the chrysanthemum. The other great cultivators at the Cours de la Reine were Calvet, of Grenoble; Chantier, of Bayonne; Heraud, of Avignon; and Nonon and Launay, of Argenteuil. The winds of the Rhône valley and the Bay of Biscay agree with the chrysanthemum, but shelter from their rudeness is needed.

There are whispers about a private sale here of a collection of the German Emperor's photos, with his autograph and complimentary inscriptions in his handwriting. Whenever he visits an allied Sovereign or *hobereau* nobleman at his country house he takes with him a bundle of photos. After dinner he amuses himself by signing them and inscribing complimentary phrases. When he goes to Norway—being very fond of the Norwegians—he also affords himself this pleasure. Cabinet photos are generally reserved for great soldiers, statesmen, *savants* whom he patronises, or Emperors and Kings. He has himself photographed in uniform denoting his honorary rank in their armies or navies, or showing hunting suits he wore as their guest. The late King of Italy, King Oscar, the Emperor of Austria, have him as a Hungarian, Styrian, Carniolan or Alpine (Piedmontese) hunter. A first-rate actor, he enters, mind as well as body, into each costume or uniform. Of course, this can only be done through auto-suggestion. He suits himself to the set of garments with the utmost gravity. It would be interesting to have a talk on this subject with his wardrobe men who help him to robe and disrobe. Where the King of Saxony can afford to give a jewelled snuff-box, the German Emperor can only give a photo. But he has so high a notion of his standing in the world as to communicate it to those around him. The King of Saxony is worth in personalty about five millions sterling, and three millions in fat freehold farms and mining royalties.

An Alsatian tells me that the Emperor makes his way in Alsace, though folks there envy the French and Swiss their Republics. He knows that he is critically watched by Alsatians, and is on his best behaviour among them. East of the Rhine he lets his impulses run away with him. West of the Rhine he restrains himself and tries to get into the minds of people so as to propitiate them. He can then be genial and a patient listener. He checks profuseness in himself, but has always a handsome way of rendering favours. The Emperor would heap high rewards, says this informant, on any German Ambassador or agent who persuaded the French Government to invite him to shoot at Compiègne. Perhaps M. Jaurès can manage to gratify him.

M. Combes has committed himself to a measure for the separation of Church and State. It will, however, go before a Select Committee before he reads it to the Chamber. The country, taken in the mass, is unmoved by the news. The election of the present Pope in

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obedience to a *mot d'ordre* of the German Emperor has not been favourable to *Roman* Catholic interests. Those exposures before Law Courts of the nuns of the conventual orphanages have been unfavourable. The Order of the Good Shepherd is looked upon as an octopus trust. Its 7,000 nuns, 48,000 to 50,000 orphan toilers, profits to the amount, as chartered accountants calculate, of £600,000 a year, seem to justify this idea. The enterprises of Notre Dame de l'Usine (Our Lady of the Factory) have raised the backs of the working classes in the industrial centres. Seamstresses are reduced to utter poverty by the competition of the convents. All over France the wealthy are with the religious bodies and hostile to the Republic. Grammatically feminine, and symbolised by a female form, the Republic has down low taken the place of the Virgin Mary. It satisfies any atavist craving for Mariolatry. Any popular bent towards sacred images finds satisfaction in unveilings of statues and busts in public places. These ceremonies have become a Governmental policy. The images in bronze, or marble, are of heroes, scientists, authors, soldiers, sailors, explorers, artists, and other glories of France. Ministers go to unveil them in a familiar kind of pomp and with much stir. They make up-to-date speeches, distribute decorations, and attend banquets. Popular, look at them as one may, these fêtes give scope to the spontaneity of the French character. They are in the present-day movement, and have an intellectual side. The rich stand aloof, and show dislike. Church ceremonies are liturgical. They no longer suit the French people.

M. Loubet went to shoot last week at Compiègne with the four Vice-Presidents of the Chamber. He gave directions at the palace and preserves for the reception, a fortnight hence, of the King of Portugal. He expects to have a day's shooting with his Most Faithful Majesty. M. Loubet is left-handed in using his fowling-piece, but a capital shot. Carlos never aims and nearly always hits the bird. Queen Amélie is also a first-rate shot.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

"THE Autobiography of an Aristocrat," dear Lady Betty, is an especially interesting document. It is unnecessary to offer any excuse for publishing it here:—

"Sir, I am a superfluous child; a younger son.

"My harmless and necessary parents belonged to the original aristocracy, and the best.

"My father was a most inoffensive pauper; well-bred and ill-read. He led a life of strenuous idleness, and was an express-gossip.

"My mother was a hard-working peeress, who had a commanding upper part with extensive frontage, and possessed a good grave-side manner. She was always pre-occupied with homespun sorrows.

"So dismal were my parents that the wits of the time described our home as a popular suicide resort.

"For years my sisters dragged every drawing-room in London, and the Park, for a husband, but even then the matrimonial waters were sparingly supplied with elder sons.

"In these desperate circumstances it occurred to my mother to advertise in the *Morning Post* that 'Lord and Lady —— beg to inform the nobility and gentry they have desirable daughters to dispose of at greatly reduced prices. No reasonable offer refused. Family established over five hundred years.' My elder brother fortunately persuaded her to abandon the project, as it might lay him open to ridicule.

"However, one sister made a business-marriage with an elderly man, a member of the bloated democracy, and the other is still at liberty.

"My elder brother was a prosperous-looking pauper who had a ready-money air which was most prepossessing.

"He early formed a residential attachment with Mrs. —— who was greatly esteemed in the best divorce circles.

"The prolonged good health of her husband caused the lady the gravest anxiety, but a scandalous story, in which he was involved, having become public, this affected his spirits, and he died—as his friends said—of exposure.

"My brother felt compelled to marry the lady, but he greatly regretted the necessity.

"The bachelor's burden is his best friend's wife.

"However, he inaugurated a movement in the West End to present his wife with a reputation in recognition of his and her long services to 'society,' but before that came to anything he met with an accident, and the lady was left for a second time a widow.

"I inherited from my father nothing but his bad name; from my brother a flirting and dancing connection. From my early youth I had been a well-dressed man, described as a gentleman, and I soon became addicted to millionaire habits.

"My father had assured me that for a man of birth to dine out every night all that was necessary was a dress-suit, a shirt, and a smile.

"I soon found, however, that as a detrimental I was causing an obstruction.

"The infirmities of youth compelled me to give frequently little sentimental dinners, and I became possessed of a bijou connection of disorderly duchesses, and titled and untitled spendthrifts, and was within easy distance of the best 'society.'

"However, after a time, I became the recipient of many interesting presentations in the form of summonses and writs, and my friends, upon whom no expense had been spared, began to desert me.

"Nevertheless, the injuries I had sustained were so slight that little hopes of my succumbing were entertained.

"Whilst I was endeavouring to dispose of my debts, and was exploring the diamondiferous deposits of May Fair for the purpose, I encountered a pleasantly-situated widow, who occupied a mansionette in Curzon-street.

"She had a commodious character, was exceptionally well-furnished, and since the death of her husband had been re-decorated throughout in the most artistic manner, the result being that she ranked as one of the most desirable widows in London.

"She had been struggling for years on the outskirts of 'society,' but embarrassed by an alcoholic husband, a man who was commonly reported to belong to the belabouring class.

"I convinced her that this was a splendid opportunity for a woman with five thousand a year, but did not disclose that I was urgently in need of a rich wife to relieve me of my immediate distress.

"The lady at once perceived that I occupied a favourite position in 'society,' possessed auxiliary advantages, and was in fact the best value in London.

"We married.

"The social salvage corps came immediately to the

rescue, and dined with us continually. I am now rich, respected, and it is said by those whose opinion I least value, that I have 'done exceedingly well for myself,' which means I have done exceedingly well for them, for they are anxious to dine with me.

"Wealth instantly purifies the past and beautifies the character.—Faithfully yours, FITZ FOODLE."

* * * * *

The restaurant-woman is a new type, and has never yet received the attention she deserves. The lady seems to imagine that a meal at a restaurant is a theatrical performance. She sails into the room as an actress walks to the footlights, and sits down on her chair as if it were a "property" sofa. She never smiles, talks little, and eats less, and every gesture is as carefully studied as if an audience were attentively watching her. She has the restaurant-stare, which conveys, "You are absolutely insignificant; do you not imagine I am a duchess?" Always expensively dressed, and loaded with jewels even at luncheon, the restaurant-woman has invented a number of tricks to draw attention to herself. Once or twice in the course of the meal her fan will fall to the ground with a thud; when she puts on her gloves she will extend her arm so that the latter shall be seen from the shoulder to the tips of the fingers by the admiring neighbours; and, as she leaves the room, an expensive bracelet will drop from her wrist. That enables her to repay the man who picks up the jewel with a bow and a smile which are intended more for the guests in general than for him in particular. When the lady has left the restaurant the good-natured heave a sigh of relief, and are thankful that she has ended the difficult performance without an obvious mishap. It is as much as many of her fellow-guests can do to withhold from clapping their hands as she leaves the room, to show their approval of her excellent acting. It would be much simpler, and it is to be supposed more enjoyable, to go to a restaurant, as foreign women do, to eat, talk, and laugh—but the English restaurant-woman is obviously not of that opinion.—Believe me to be very truly yours, MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

IT was fully expected that Rock Sand would be kept in training for another year, as the Princess of Wales's Stakes appeared next season to be a mere question of health for Sir James Miller's horse, and, thanks to his 9 lb. breeding allowance, he seemed to have only a couple of M. E. Blanc's three-year-olds (Val d'Or and Jardy) to fear in the Jockey Club Stakes. He has another promising engagement in the Goodwood Cup. Rock Sand has got through an enormous amount of work since he was first put into training. He required a severe course of galloping in order to get him into proper racing condition, and most of the horses that have been running during the last three seasons would either have been broken down or would have lost their tempers if subjected to a similar course of training. Rock Sand is a sound, honest, and thoroughly game horse, and he ought to prove a success at the stud. After Sir James Miller's horse had won the Derby it was generally maintained that he was a three-year-old of the very highest class, but the rhapsodies of his admirers were stopped by his defeat in the Eclipse Stakes, where he had no chance with Ard Patrick and Sceptre. It was alleged that, although Rock Sand started favourite for that race, yet he was not at his best, and he might reasonably have needed a rest after so many months of hard work, and having taken part in four races, all of which he had won—the Bennington Stakes at the Newmarket Craven meeting, the Two Thousand, the Derby, and the St. James's Palace Stakes at Ascot. Rock Sand retrieved his reputation by his hollow victory in the St. Leger, but his collapse in the Jockey Club Stakes, where Sceptre cantered away from him, although she had 9 lb. the worst of the weights, was a rude shock to his friends. As a four-year-old Rock Sand commenced the season by being defeated for the Coronation Cup at Epsom by Zinfandel. He has since won several rich races, but he never once met a really good horse. Although he proved himself to be inferior to both Ard Patrick and Sceptre, he has won a larger number of races than either of those animals, and has secured for his owner a very much greater sum in stakes. Of course, it was an enormous piece of good luck that Rock Sand's 9lb. breeding allowance in the Newmarket £10,000 races and other rich stakes should have been enjoyed by him as a permanent benefit. Such an allowance ought most assuredly to be extinguished in the case of the winner of either of the great three-year-old races or of any stake of the value of £5,000. Sainfoin, the sire of Rock Sand, is indebted to that four-year-old for the high place which he holds on the list of winning sires, and he would have been nowhere but for the £20,000 which last year's Derby winner has contributed to his total. At one time it was thought that Sanroque, the three-year-old brother to Rock Sand, would also prove a brilliant success on the Turf, but he has never yet started, and he is not likely to do any good at racing. The retirement of Rock Sand from the Turf will therefore be a disaster for Sainfoin, who will have nothing smart to run for him next season, whereas, if Sir James Miller were to keep his horse in training for another year, the chances are that he would win another £15,000 at least. I am told that there is no reason to doubt Rock Sand's capacity to stand another preparation.

Pretty Polly has been out daily at Newmarket walking and trotting about, and I hear that she looks remarkably well. Major Loder's mare will no doubt undergo a special preparation for the Ascot Cup, and it may be taken for granted that she will be entered for the Coronation Cup at Epsom. There is no reason why Pretty Polly should not train on, as she has never yet gone through a severe race. No animal ever won so many great stakes with so little effort, and her triumph at Doncaster was achieved with extreme ease, although it had been generally thought (so many people being insanely infatuated about St. Amant) that she would have to do her very best to win the St. Leger. There is no reliable "line" between Ajax and Pretty Polly, so it is useless to speculate as to what would have been the result at Doncaster if the unbeaten French colt had come fit and well to the post.

Leucadia, who finished second to Pretty Polly in the One Thousand, and who won the Newmarket Oaks, has been relegated to the stud. Mr. Baird's mare is grandly bred, being by Martagon out of Santa Maura.

The King of Portugal, who is much interested in horse breeding, has expressed a wish to inspect the Duke of Portland's stud, and arrangements will be made for his Majesty to look over the mares and foals during his visit to Welbeck Abbey, where he is to arrive on Monday, December 5, and there will be a parade of the stallions. It is very likely that King Carlos will also inspect Mr. Robinson's stud at Worksop Manor during his stay at Welbeck.

Lord Bradford has decided to give up his breeding stud, and his stock is to be sold at Newmarket next month, when several animals belonging to Lord Savile will also be disposed of.

Foundling, who went amiss after the Cesarewitch, has been turned out of training for a time, and he is undergoing a course of veterinary treatment. If all goes well he will probably develop into a very useful four-year-old, and he is just the stamp of horse to win the Chester Cup.

Lord Westbury's horse Cerisier, over whom a lot of money has been lost during the past season, has been

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added to the list, as he had discovered himself to be utterly unreliable. The form of Cerisier was extravagantly over-rated during the spring, and the fancy for him for the Lincolnshire Handicap was as crack-brained and muddy-minded as the still more violent craze for Cossack, who, as was repeatedly pointed out in TRUTH, had no pretensions whatever to stay the course. If Cerisier "winters" well he may win some handicaps next year, provided that he is judiciously placed. A horse of this kind, which is Gulliver in Brobdingnag when running for a big handicap, becomes Gulliver in Lilliput when he is started for an event of minor importance and the field is made up of animals of inferior class. Owners, however, are slow to recognise in a practical way the mistake which has been made in over-estimating a horse's racing capacity, and very few of them have any really sensible ideas as to placing animals.

M. E. Blanc has purchased La Camargo for 200,000 fr., and this famous mare is to be sent next season to Flying Fox. She was really bred by the late Sir Blundell Maple, as her dam was in foal when she was sold to M. A. Abeille. La Camargo, who is now six years old, is by Childwick out of Belle et Bonne. If her breeder had kept her for his own stud she would have certainly won the One Thousand and Oaks of her year, and very likely the Derby (instead of Volodyovski) and the St. Leger (instead of Doricles), if she had been entered for those stakes. She was a racer of the highest class when at her best.

There are only sixty-eight entries for the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot for 1906. The added money to this race ought to have been increased from £2,000 to at least £5,000, as its importance has been greatly diminished since the various £10,000 stakes have been started. Animals which would once have been brought out for the Hardwicke Stakes are now often reserved for the more valuable Princess of Wales's Stakes or Eclipse Stakes. The conditions of the Hardwicke are laudably simple, there being a sweepstakes of £10 each, with £2,000 added, and there are no nonsensical breeding allowances as in the Newmarket event of this class. Major Loder has entered Pretty Polly, so her Turf career is evidently intended to be prolonged into her fifth year. Not a single four-year-old has been engaged in this race, and there are very few three-year-olds, the list of them being limited to Sir John Thursby's John o' Gaunt, Mr. Musker's Henry the First, Mr. Luscombe's Sansovino, Mr. Joel's St. Denis, Captain Forester's Golden Saint, Lord Derby's His Majesty and Lord Farquhar's Airlie. Pretty Polly will be able to defeat all this lot without any trouble. Of now two-year-olds the best are Lord Rosebery's Cicero, Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx and Shah Jehan, Mr. Neumann's Llangibby, Mr. King's Comedian, Mr. S. Hill-Wood's Cyanean, Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's colt by Ladas out of St. Ia, and the Duke of Devonshire's Full Cry.

There are only forty entries for the Prince of Wales's Stakes for 1906, and thirty-six for the Ascot Derby, £1,000 being added to the one race and £500 to the other. The recent serious falling off in the number of entries for these and other three-year-old races at Ascot proves conclusively the urgent necessity for a drastic revision of the present programme of this meeting.

For next year there are 114 entries for the New Stakes, which is a race of £10 each, with £1,000 added. The King heads the list with three entries, and the same number have been made by Sir E. Vincent, Major Loder, Mr. Dugdale, and Mr. Douglas Baird.

No fewer than ninety-four foals have been entered for the Hardwicke Stakes at Stockton (to run at two years old), and the success of this race is most remarkable, for the pecuniary conditions are not attractive. There is £500 of added money, with a sweepstakes of £10 each for starters. The entrance of £3 each recovers £282 of the added money. This stake should be changed into a sweepstakes of £10 each for every animal left in after the first Tuesday in the January before the race is run.

The Durham County Produce Plate of £1,000 has been generously supported by many of the northern breeders. Lord Londonderry and Mr. McIntyre have engaged ten mares each, Mr. W. E. Elsey has five (all covered by Galashiels), Mr. Kennedy has five, and Mr. Cox, Sir R. Waldie-Griffith, Mr. D. J. Jardine, and Mr. Vyner have four each. The name of Mr. James Lowther is missed from this list, as he was a liberal subscriber to events of this class at the so-called Yorkshire meetings. Every one would be pleased to find Lord Zetland's name again appearing as a subscriber to such stakes. I am glad to see that Lord Bradford and Lord Zetland have arranged a match for £100 each, to run at the Newmarket First July meeting, between a couple of two-year-olds—Gohappy, filly by Sir Hugo out of Lapley, and colt by Martagon out of Galinipper, which might be named Fisherfield, after its owner's recently-purchased deer forest in Ross-shire.

Colonel Baird, of Exning House, near Newmarket, the Junior Steward of the Jockey Club, has become the tenant of Streatlam Castle, Lord Strathmore's picturesque old seat in the county of Durham. The late Mr. John Bowes, who won the Derby four times, had a life-interest in the Streatlam domain, which passed on his death to the late Lord Strathmore, along with large estates, including the celebrated Wemmergill grouse moors.

The entry for the Column Stakes at Newmarket (1908) is published in last week's *Calendar*. Lord Falmouth has engaged Quintessence, who was covered this season by Orion, and her produce will have the benefit of a breeding allowance of 11 lb. There has been at various times some discussion as to whether Zinfandel was a better three-year-old than Rock Sand, but it is quite probable that Quintessence, who was never beaten during her two-years' career on the Turf, was as good as either of these horses. The Duke of Devonshire's Mon Droit (dam of Dieudonné) went to William the Third, and his Lady Villikins (dam of Full Cry) to Orme. Lord Harewood sent Lighthead (dam of Minstead) to Minting, the sire of that unlucky horse, and the produce will have a breeding allowance of 8 lb. Most of the mares engaged in this stake were sent to the cheaper sires, in order to obtain the various breeding allowances. It is proof of the preposterously extravagant fees which are now common that there is actually a 3 lb. allowance for the stock of any sire whose charge is under £150!

The Princess of Wales's Stakes of £6,000 for 1908 has failed to fill, but the race is reopened, and closes on December 6. The only method to restore this race to its former popularity and prestige is to admit three-year-olds. The experiment of starting a great race for four-year-olds and upwards, which the Stewards of the Jockey Club were so foolish as to attempt in deference to an outcry from a number of jabbering jackasses, has proved a dire failure, and has cost the Newmarket fund upwards of £8,000 in three years. If the race is to be continued, the only course is to revert to the old conditions, and open it to three-year-olds and upwards.

Next Tuesday entries will close for the Imperial Produce Plate of £3,000 at Kempton Park, to run in October, 1907, for mares now in foal. This is one of the richest and most important of the two-year-old races of the season, and a large entry may reasonably be expected, as the pecuniary conditions are most reasonable.

The Melton Constable stud of the late Lord Hastings will be sold at Newmarket on December 8, when eleven mares, two yearlings, and four foals will be offered, as well as the stallion Avington, by Melton, who is now in his fifteenth year.

The Lincoln and Liverpool meetings were principally remarkable for the large fields of exceedingly bad horses. I doubt whether at any period during the last half-century there have been so many horses in training of which even the best form is abjectly contemptible. It is significant of the frantic rush to get something at least out of the crocks which now form the majority in most racing studs, that there were thirty starters for

a Selling Nursery Handicap at Lingfield, winner to be sold for £50. Starters for this race were sold afterwards by auction for 21 gs., 20 gs., 18 gs., and 12 gs. respectively, while 25 gs. was realised for another animal which had cost 400 gs. as a yearling. It is astonishing that Chevening Belle, who started favourite for this race, was not claimed at 150 gs. She might certainly have been placed remuneratively before the close of the season. There were fields of eighteen (twice), seventeen, and fourteen for four trumpery races of the aggregate value of £503! Compare this return with the paltry fields at many of the principal meetings of the season for events ten and twenty times as valuable. Among the beaten lot in a maiden race for two-year-olds was Ether, own sister to Airs and Graces, a filly for which Mr. Faber paid 1,800 gs. as a yearling.

At Lincoln the Great Tom Plate was regarded as a good thing for Otherwise, but nothing in the field had a chance with Briar Patch, who won in a canter, and this animal has evidently recovered his spring form.

Alderman and Pitch Battle carried a great deal of money for the Lincoln Autumn Handicap, but Castro won cleverly at the finish. Castro is by Bumptious out of Scuveraine (by Rayon d'Or out of Sultana, by Lexington), and his dam was brought to England from the United States by Mr. Belmont.

At Liverpool, Tedworth ought to have won the Knowsley Nursery, but he swerved badly at the finish, and Semite won by a head. If the second had won he would certainly have been objected to and disqualified. Airlie was absurdly regarded as a good thing for the Liverpool St. Leger, but he had no pretensions to give Burgundy 12 lb., and the Duke of Devonshire's colt walked in. On Thursday, Phil May found no difficulty in winning the Sefton Steeplechase, for which The Farmer was favourite, but he fell over Kiora when going well. Moifaa, the last Grand National winner, jumped in perfect style, but she is sadly deficient in speed. Chaucer, who has been for some time expected to win a T.Y.C. race, carried off the Stewards' Plate, for which race Laveuse was heavily backed, but the distance was probably not far enough for her. Lord Derby's horse got a good start, and was never caught. Persinus was backed for the Witherslack Stakes as if the race was over, but Lord Wolverton's colt by Ugly out of Lecture made all the running, and won easily. The victory of Lord Derby's colours would have been most appropriate, as the race is named after his place in North Lancashire.

There were twenty-two runners for the Autumn Cup, and Vril, who started favourite, would probably have won if he had obtained a good position at the start. As it was, he was so unfortunate as to be drawn for a very bad place, and consequently he had a lot of ground to make up; but he was beaten only a head and half a length with all these disadvantages. Flower Seller proved the best of the Newmarket lot, as had been generally expected. It was not satisfactory to see such a handicap won by a four-year-old with the ridiculous weight of 6st. 1 lb., while second and third were three-year-olds, each giving the winner 15 lb. and a year. Wild Lad came with a rattle in the betting on Friday, and he was decidedly favourite for money at the start. The tone of the market clearly indicated that Wild Lad was the best of the Grateley lot, and only the most benighted of mooncalves could then have thought of backing General Cronjé, who, nevertheless, started at 100 to 7. I have always advised backers of late years to wait until the last, for now that the early market is always so weak and limited, no sane owner will show his hand until the day of running arrives.

The Derby Cup is now a post-betting race, and there is certain to be heavy speculation when the numbers go up. The withdrawal of Hackler's Pride has considerably diminished the general interest in this handicap. Donnetta is very much fancied at Newmarket, and the best of Lord Carnarvon's ought to be dangerous.

From some figures which a correspondent has sent me I gather that some 18,000 to 20,000 hands are employed on yachts, steam and sail, during the summer season. Needless to say, the great majority of these men are sailors bred and born. They are men who during the winter months are for the most part engaged in the fishing industry. The alien figures not in the list as he does in the Merchant Service. Certainly in no other sport is employed a larger body of men whose existence is so essential to our national prosperity. In these days of steam, when the mechanic is the able seaman of the Navy, and the foreigner works on British ships, it is satisfactory that under the guise of sport a class of thorough sailors are being trained. It is because of this training and the need for making yachting hands keen and smart in their duties that I hope the practice of handicapping a boat because it is being smartly handled will not find further favour. Such limitations on skill may be all very well when only amateurs are engaged. Even then I do not like the practice. But when the paid hand is working, smartness and efficiency soon become at a discount.

The Surrey police are to be highly congratulated on their knowledge of the law relating to motors. A motorist was summoned at Kingston, the motor persecutor's paradise, for not stopping when called upon to do so by a policeman. This embodiment of legal activity was disguised as a tramp. His superior officer informed the Bench that there was nothing illegal in this, although counsel suggested that it was contrary to the Local Government Board regulations. Then the legal luminaries of the police force received a severe check. The regulations for 1904 were produced, and it was clearly laid down that there was no offence in not stopping unless the policeman was in uniform. I only hope the dismissal of the summons involved the police in costs.

The French police seem to have taken a leaf out of the English policeman's book with regard to motorists. Such is the undesirable effect of the "entente cordiale." No Englishman regards the conduct of the average county constabulary towards motorists as embodying any principles of law except injustice. In France the police jot down the number of the car, give the occupants no warning, and then summon the drivers for some offence. It may be going at eighteen miles an hour. At Sièvres fifty motorists were summoned at one sitting. In forty-seven cases the alleged offences were committed while the car was being run, and the numbers of the cars were taken without any one being warned. Two gendarmes were responsible for this haul. In forty-four cases imprisonment from one to three days was inflicted, and in the great majority of cases the offence was for going over eighteen miles an hour on the open country road. That this state of affairs is a scandal is realised by the Automobile Club de France, which is taking the matter up. Meanwhile, English motorists will be wary of going to France, and the Surrey constabulary will no doubt endeavour to secure the services of two such admirable gendarmes, who would be so useful, having regard to the number of foreign chauffeurs that are employed in London.

Had it not been for the marvellous prevision of Cecil Rhodes, the Freshmen's sports at the University of Oxford would this year, at all events, have been a fiasco. The Rhodes scholars carried off seven out of the nine events, and they accomplished performances which makes one hope that they are better scholars than they are athletes. Singularly enough, the Englishmen won the sprints, which, like the rest of the performances, showed poor times. The only public schoolboy to win was Butterworth, of Marlborough, in the

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hundred. He took eleven seconds. The quarter went to Chavasse (Liverpool) in over 54 seconds. Now for the scholars. Schutt (Cornell) won the mile and the half in the only fairly decent time. He took 2 minutes 4 seconds. Young, of the University of South Dakota, took the high jump, long jump, and the hurdles. His high jump was good for a freshman. He cleared 5 ft. 5 in., and just failed at 5 ft. 8 in. He was a long time over the hurdles. Porter, of Bowdoin College, Maine, took the weight and hammer with two very moderate performances. Not a single representative from any British colony competed. If things go on like this, the Stars and Stripes will have to be hoisted at Queen's Club instead of the old Dark Blue in the Inter-University sports, and I wonder what Mr. C. N. Jackson, the O.U.A.C. treasurer, will think of that?

Unendowed by a South African or any other millionaire, Cambridge has to rely on the home-bred lads and on those who hail from the Colonies, and they are generally not scholars. The Freshmen's sports at Cambridge were certainly most promising. Brass (Eton), who won the public school sprint last time at Stamford Bridge, romped home with the hundred in good time. He must learn to start. Powell (Rugby) did a very fine performance in the hurdles—16 2-5 secs. He also won the quarter in fair time. He had better stick to the hurdles. Edwards (Bath), three miles in 15 min. 40 secs., was most promising. He has a good hip action. He also won the mile easily. Dellschaft (Merchant Taylors) was not pressed in the half. But the time was poor. The hammer and weight were won by Masters, whose distances are quite good enough for a blue to win. However, in the weight, a Scotchman, who had hurt himself, was absent. Ellison (Honiton) cleared 20 ft. in his first jump, and did not try again. The high jump, won by Shimwell (Shrewsbury), was only moderate. The unendowed's performances were, on the whole, well above the standard of those done elsewhere, especially in the open mile handicap, won by Crabbe (20 yards), 4 min. 20 3-5 sec.

When will those who are interested in Rugby football make some attempt to give metropolitan spectators a rational bill of fare? The number of followers of the game is comparatively small. Those who like the game are chiefly University and public school men. And yet, for no earthly reason, Oxford and Cambridge come up to town on the same afternoon to play the Harlequins and Blackheath respectively. Could anything be more annoying? Cambridge were nearly as badly beaten by Blackheath as the Harlequins were by Oxford. I wonder if the Rugby Union authorities will manage to keep Raphael out of his International cap this year? He is the most dangerous three-quarter in England. I know that if he had been a Welshman he would never have been out of the team. Welsh players always appreciate the courtesy of the English executive in leaving him out.

Richmond had not much difficulty in beating the Scottish, while Cooper's Hill simply over-ran the Old Merchant Taylors who were a weak team, and lost Corvell at half-back almost at the start. The Old Alleynians have secured their position in the front rank of Metropolitan clubs. They gave the Old Leysians a good beating last Saturday.

Woolwich Arsenal are still going up the League ladder. They beat Stoke after a game in which they ought to have scored more heavily. Their attack is not strong enough, and yet I think in Crowe they have a centre who will develop. But first-class football requires a lot of practice, however good a youngster may be. I saw the other day an embryonic back. He was a ragamuffin in a slum street kicking and clearing with unerring accuracy, and with either foot, a dirty tennis ball which the other youngsters were dribbling. And yet I suppose he has never kicked a real football in his life. To him it would be as large as a balloon. That lad has an eye which will probably be wasted, at least so far as professional football is concerned.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Better — Renewed Confidence — Don Pacifico Lansdowne—American Presidential Election — Port Arthur and Paris — More Investment Business.

A DISTINCT change for the better has come over the Stock markets. The "solution of continuity" in the restoration of confidence for which the Russian outrage in the North Sea was responsible has been mended again, and the fear of war with Russia is removed, failing some still more monstrous exhibition of criminal ineptitude on the part of the laggard fleet on its way to the East. Lord Lansdowne's utterances at the Guildhall banquet were of an eminently pacific character, breathing devout aspirations of universal peace; and money is not going to be so dear as was in some quarters thought likely with the heavy demands of Germany and the transfer thither of French balances employed on our market. The result of the Presidential election in America is of good augury, or is regarded in that light, and if the good American people give the least encouragement, the Wall Street "bosses" may be counted upon to inaugurate another "Bull" campaign. The fall of Port Arthur has not yet been brought about, but anticipation of that event—which does not appear to be far off—has helped matters here, and has not had any adverse effect upon the Paris Bourse, which takes the sensible view that the end of a most unholy war will be expedited thereby. Here and there dealings during the week have been decidedly active—for instance, in South Africans, in Peruvians, in Mexican Railway stocks, and in Anglo-American Telegraphs; but the striking feature was the general broadening out of business following upon the restoration of confidence. Given no further shocks, we ought to have active and buoyant markets and a steady appreciation in capital values.

Lombard-street's Poverty—Relying upon the Bank—The Autumn Drain — New Japanese Loan's Effect — Russian Balances—Bank of England's Position.

Floating supplies of cash have not been very abundant, and while the sum borrowed to tide the market over the end of the month was repaid by the help of Government disbursements, the balance over was small enough, and it was found necessary to go again to Threadneedle-street on the Stock Exchange settling day. At the moment the market is in an easy condition, being provided with the cash obtained from the Bank in the way of direct loans and discount operations; but unless the Government disburses still more freely, floating credits are likely to remain small, and the market cannot hope to get out of the clutches of the Bank. The fresh gold that arrives is being taken for Germany, and cash has been going into the country. It is not a bad thing that the Bank should be in control, and as the extraordinary demand for gold for Germany appears to have come to an end, we may easily scrape through the end of the year without a rise in the Bank rate, notwithstanding the autumn drain for Egypt and elsewhere. This week the resources of the market will be tested severely by the applications for the new Japanese loan, but the disturbance occasioned thereby will only be temporary. The money will be retained in London, where a large portion of the May flotation is still resting, and while the application money will take much cash off the market, the issuing bankers will, as before, return it again immediately. Besides, the Japanese Government has been disbursing to prepare the way for its loan. The disturbing element is the possibility of the withdrawal of Russian balances, but the Bank has a simple and effectual remedy in case the drain should threaten to become marked. Moreover, its position is considerably stronger than is usual at this period of the year. During the past week the reserve fell £341,000 to £24,322,671, but

owing to the decrease in the deposit liabilities, the ratio is 0.21 up at 52.36 per cent., which compares with 48.75 per cent a year ago.

CONSOLS IMPROVING—THE ABSENCE OF INIMICAL FACTORS—FAVOURABLE MONETARY POSITION—OTHER GOVERNMENT ISSUES FIRM—COLONIALS—WILD PERUVIANS—PARIS QUIET—ANOTHER JAPANESE LOAN AND ITS SECURITY—B.A. CEDULAS RUMOUR—CHILIANS—"RUBBISHY" BONDS MORE ACTIVE.

Politics are exercising hardly any appreciable influence upon the Stock Exchange, and the general expectation of an amicable settlement of the Anglo-Russian affair being rather sanguine, the tendency of the Funds has been very satisfactory throughout the past week, a contributory factor of some importance being the more favourable view taken of the monetary position. The German demand for gold has not been so strong, while the market professed to be satisfied with the Treasury Bill allotment, and the position of the Bank being as favourable as could have been expected, Consols, in the absence of any inimical factor, have crept up to 88 9-16 for the account after starting at 87¾, which is very satisfactory. In sympathy, the remainder of the Government issues registered gradual improvements day by day, Local Loans and Transvaal Threes being prominent, followed closely by the War Loan, London Threes, and the Irish Land stock, while the Water Board stock also finished higher. Among Colonial descriptions the Three per Cent. stocks of Canada, Cape Colony, New South Wales, and Queensland hardened slightly, together with a few others. In the Foreign group the comparative quietness of Paris is reflected in the position of many of the stocks favoured by that Bourse, which are mostly unaltered. The feature of the week has undoubtedly been Peruvian Corporation issues, which fluctuated violently and somewhat erratically on the expectation that something definite regarding the negotiations with the Government for the settlement of the outstanding differences with the Corporation would be made known shortly. The Preferred stock and the Ordinary, round which most interest has centred, were advanced from between 2 and 3½ points in one day, but the effect has been somewhat neutralised by subsequent indulgence in profit-taking. The new loan for £12,000,000 sterling was not overlooked by operators in Japanese bonds, but on the whole the effect has not been very material, some consolation being derived from a knowledge of the fact that the underwriting arrangements are satisfactory. The bonds will carry 6 per cent. interest, and one half of the sum required is being placed in America as before, the security being the Customs receipts of the country, subject only to the charge in favour of the existing loan. The Government will pay each month one-twelfth of the sum required annually, and as the Customs receipts for the five years to 1899-1903 averaged about £1,622,253, and for the year 1903-4 £1,774,035, there is ample security, which is somewhat enhanced by the revised tariff which came into operation on the 1st ult. Among South American issues the tendency has been satisfactory, Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas coming in for considerable attention at one time on the rumour, which does not seem to be founded on fact, that an arrangement had been arrived at for the settlement of arrears. Chilians have strengthened appreciably in anticipation of the country's redemption of its outstanding Treasury Bills, maturing early in December, out of the proceeds derived from the recent sale of warships. This, it is said, will extinguish that Government's floating debt. There has also been a little activity among the "rubbishy" bonds in this market, more particularly Venezuelans, Costa Ricas, and Colombians, on a recurrence of more irresponsible gossip relating to a pending settlement.

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HOME RAILWAYS IMPROVE—SOME INVESTMENT BUYING—TRADE RETURNS ENCOURAGING—EARNINGS BETTER—THE COMING REVIVAL OF INTEREST—DEFERRED ORDINARY STOCKS—LOW-PRICED STOCKS—METROPOLITANS AND DISTRICTS—TILBURY NEW PREFERENCE ISSUE.

There has been a moderate amount of investment buying of the leading Ordinary and Preference stocks of Home Railways, and the trend of prices has been distinctly upwards, following the lead of Consols, and influenced also by the feeling of reviving confidence in all sections of the House. The Board of Trade returns were an encouragement, especially to the Lancashire and Yorkshire, North-Western, and Great Central stocks, the cotton figures being satisfactory; and the other active issues have held their ground or advanced, owing partly to the investment buying referred to, and partly to the greater desire of the dealers to have stock on their books in order to be prepared for the public when it betrays—as it is hoped it soon will do—a really intelligent and active interest in the bargains which are on offer. The traffics are not wildly exhilarating, but, by way of a change, the gains are generally in excess of the decreases last year. The Scotch figures were regarded as reasonably satisfactory, and there need be no cavilling at the returns of the Great Western, Great Central, Brighton, and South-Western, while in its smaller way the Hull and Barnsley is now doing well. It will be seen from my table that the Midland, North-Western, and Great Northern are the only lines which have had appreciable declines for the half-year to date, and that a majority of the other Companies have increases:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 4,901	+ 492	+ 17,533
Caledonian	+ 3,870	− 4,303	+ 2,434
Great Central	+ 3,090	− 1,614	+ 21,899
Great Eastern	− 800	− 2,600	+ 10,100
Great Northern	+ 1,565	− 6,606	− 43,346
Great Western	+10,700	− 4,400	+ 26,400
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 2,526	− 4,581	+ 45,698
London and North-Western	+ 5,000	−10,000	− 75,000
London and South-Western	+ 3,900	− 2,800	+ 12,500
Midland	+ 6,086	− 4,984	−101,803
North British	+ 6,443	− 4,628	+ 23,207
North-Eastern	− 4,344	− 1,310	− 16,321
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 789	− 1,260	+ 20,365

General trade in the country is improving, and earnings should look better before very long. Then, perhaps, the long-neglected Home Railway market will receive the attention which is due to it. So far, it has not responded as completely as some other markets to the favourable factors which have come into operation, but that is no doubt the result of the disappointments of a couple of years ago. Investors and speculators ought to realise that conditions have improved considerably, that better methods have been adopted, and economies of working effected, and that the issues of fresh capital have been drastically curtailed. It is not to be supposed that, with the rest of the House developing buoyancy and activity, Home Railways alone will continue to be neglected, and when the interest is revived the recovery should be tolerably sharp, because of the low level to which values have been dragged. As to speculation for differences at the present moment, I say nothing, save that the odds are now in favour of a respectable "turn" on a purchase made on any fall; but as regards a purchase by the man who can pay and can afford to wait for a good rise, it seems to me that nearly everything is favourable. The mad Russian fleet is at large, certainly, but probably it will be smashed up within another few weeks, and in the meantime there appears to be a good understanding with the Russian Government. The "Heavy" stocks will no doubt lead the active upward movement when it develops; the Preferred Ordinaries, such as Brighton, South-Western, Great Northern, and North British are not likely to lag behind, and such stocks as Brighton "A," Great Eastern, Great Northern Deferred, and South-Western Deferred are safe for an advance. South-Eastern

Deferred seems high enough at 57½, on merits—or the lack of merits—but when the tap which is on in them is turned off you may look for vigorous movement in the stock, for there is no doubt that it is the speculative favourite of the moment. Some of the cheap—that is, the highly depreciated—stocks are worth looking at speculatively. In Railways, as in Mines, the low-priced stocks have a way of moving more rapidly, proportionately, than the heavyweights, and you get—or, say, appear to get—a lot for your money. You will, for instance, have a 10 per cent. appreciation in Great Northern Deferred, sooner than a 5 per cent. appreciation in one of the leading Ordinary stocks. Hulls, Highland, Great North of Scotland Deferred, Great Central Preferred and Deferred, and Chatham Ordinary are other stocks of the sort I have in mind, and of these I should prefer Great Centrals, Chathams, and Highlands. Underground stocks have much promise in view of the coming electrification, but Metropolitans are not cheap after their rise from 83 to over par, though they still have considerable speculative possibilities, and those who bought when I recommended them in the neighbourhood of 90 will be justified in holding on for the completion of electrification works, when they would do well to consider the advisability of getting out. Districts ought to go better within the next few months, and if the conversion is to result in the regeneration of the system, according to promise, the stock ought to have a big rise in time, despite existing drawbacks. Movements on balance during the week are shown in my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Nov. 5.	Price, Nov. 12.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	75½	75½	75½	+ ½
Do. Def.	28⅝	32¾	32¼	33⅝	+1⅜
City and S. London	51	46½	47	46½	− ½
Central London	95	93	93	93	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	51½	52	+ ½
Do. "B"	24½	29	28½	29½	+1
Do. "A"	13	16	15¾	16½	+ ¾
Great Eastern	85	91¼	90¾	92	+1¼
Great Northern Pref.	99½	101	101	101	—
Do. Def	36⅞	40¾	40	41¼	+1¼
Great Western	135	138½	138	139½	+1½
Hull and Barnsley	42	39½	38¾	42½	+4
Lancashire and Yorkshire	100	107	106½	108	+1½
London and Brighton "A"	104½	123	121½	124	+2½
London, Chatham, and Dover	13⅝	16⅝	16	16⅝	+ ⅝
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	89½	100¼	100	101	+1
Do. 2nd Pref.	54	64	64	66	+2
London and North-Western	152½	152	151½	152¾	+1¼
London and South-Western Def.	60	52	52	53	+1
Metropolitan Consolidated	83½	101¼	99	101¼	+2¼
Metropolitan District	31	42	41½	42½	+1
Midland Pref.	68½	67	67½	67	− ½
Do. Def.	61½	64½	64	65½	+1½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	76½	76	76½	+ ½
Do. Def.	42	47½	46¾	48½	+1½
North-Eastern Consolidated	140	138¾	138	139¾	+1¾
South-Eastern "A"	46¾	58	57½	58½	+ ⅞

The Tilbury Company is offering Four per Cent. Preference stock at par to the amount of £280,000 to existing holders of its Consolidated Ordinary and New Ordinary stocks in the proportion of £15 for every £100 held. As the existing Preference stock stands at 114, those who are privileged to subscribe have a bargain. In fact, I think that the Directors might have done better.

AMERICANS LESS ACTIVE—TONE GOOD ON THE ELECTION—WHERE IS THE PUBLIC?—MORE LIQUIDATIONS—MISSOURIS STRONG—ONTARIO DEAL—OTHER OPERATIONS—IMPROVING RAILROAD EARNINGS—AN AMERICAN VIEW OF THE OUTLOOK.

In the American market there was a pause at the beginning of the week pending the result of the Presidential election. A victory for Mr. Roosevelt was quite generally anticipated, but there was always the possibility of a surprise, and prices had been rushed up at a very rapid rate and stood fairly high. The result was eminently satisfactory from Wall Street's point of view, and although the early birds who assembled at eight o'clock in the morning of Wednesday caught very few worms—were in many instances caught themselves on the bird-lime—the tone of the market since has been good and prices are now appreciably higher than at the settlement this past week. It is rather noticeable, however, that the great American public, who were to have rushed in their thousands into the Wall Street net on the announcement of a Republican victory, are still fighting a trifle shy. The market leaders are less aggressive in their tone, and have been liquidating under cover of vigorous bidding for such stocks as Readings, Denvers, and Chesapeakes. It remains yet to be seen whether these enterprising people will go on supporting their specialties in face of a very half-hearted response. On the face of it the election result should stimulate business all round, but the unexpected has an all too frequent way of happening, and profits being attractive, it is quite conceivable that they will be taken. This would mean a general recession in prices, and would clear the ground for a Christmas "Bull" campaign. Towards the end of the week more attention has been paid to the good things of the market—Milwaukees, Illinois Centrals, New York Centrals, and Louisvilles; and this is a good sign, as showing that somewhere, in America itself, in this country, or in Germany, perhaps in all three, there are investors as well as speculators in Americans. The stock which has been most prominent, however, is Missouri, which has had quite a substantial gain. An unconvincing story has been put in circulation about a fight with the Goulds, who are credited with a desire to keep down the price; but the big earnings are quite sufficient to explain the special interest which is shown in the stock. No other American railroad is reporting such traffic increases. For the third week of October there was an increase of $105,000, and for the fourth week $163,000, giving an aggregate gross improvement for sixteen weeks of $840,000, which is exceeded only by the Southern with $888,000 and the Wabash with $1,171,000 (seventeen weeks); and the big cotton and corn crops have yet to be moved. Trade is improving all along the route served by the Company, and the net results ought to show up well, because last winter the Company was put to a large extraordinary expenditure owing to floods and "wash-outs." One of the weak spots in the market has been Ontario, the authorisation of a dividend of 3 per cent., which involves the issue of Four and a Half per Cent. bonds to the amount of $12,000,000, being not regarded as a "Bull" point, while the Company is not flourishing to any conspicuous extent, since for the September quarter it has a gross increase of only $49,000 Moreover, there is much disappointment over the outcome of the deal whereby the system passes under the control of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford. There is no doubt left that the minority shareholders are not to receive any advantages from the transfer of control other than they would have possessed had there been no deal of any kind. This is exactly what those who managed the transaction said would not happen. When the discontinuance of the voting trust was assured, and the shareholders of the road were in a position to offer the control of the road for sale, the statement was authorised by those holding the majority interest that nothing would be done unless the minority interests were assured the same rights and advantages as the majority. The Ontario deal and the decision of the management of the Union Pacific to retire the Oregon Short Line Participating and Four per Cent. bond issue lend a certain degree of plausibility to the reports of other important events of a similar kind, so that Wall Street is not altogether losing sight of inherent possibilities when it listens to apparently unfounded stories about a possible transfer of control of the Cincinnati, Hamilton, and Dayton-Père Marquette system to the Erie, or better substantiated reports of a forthcoming plan to refund the bonded indebtedness of the Southern Pacific system, while it is needless to remark that a settlement of the Northern Securities complications and a readjustment of the control of such properties as the

CANNES. — GRAND HOTEL, CANNES. — First class. Proprietor, H. MENGE (late of Savoy and Claridge's Hotels.)

Northern Pacific and Burlington roads finds believers in spite of its failure to materialise and the uniform denials by the capitalists interested that negotiations to that end are in progress. My American table is appended: —

—	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing Price, Oct. 29, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	89½	87⅝	90¼xd
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	104⅜	104⅛	105¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	97	97¼	100⅜
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	47⅞	46¼	47⅝xd
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	32⅜	31⅛	34½
Do. Pref.	93¼	66⅜	85⅛	84¼	87⅞
Erie	43⅞	23⅛	41⅜	40⅛	41⅞
Do. First Pref.....	75⅝	64½	75	74	75¼
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	140	136⅞	140⅞
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	178	175¾	179
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅞	16⅞	33	32	37
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	94	93	93½
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	74⅜	74⅛	76⅛
New York Central	158	116⅜	138	138½	140⅞
Ontario	36	19⅜	47	43⅜	45
Pennsylvania	80⅛	57½	70⅜	70⅞	70⅝xd
Reading.....	35¼	20	38⅛	37½	39¼
Do. First Pref.....	45¼	36⅜	45	45	45
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅞	36¼	35⅛	37
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	97½	96⅛	98
Southern Pacific	69⅛	39⅞	64½	62⅜	67¾
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅛	115¼	113⅝	116⅝
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	97½	98	98
Wabash Pref.	55⅞	30	45	44½	48⅛
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	69	68	71
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	22	25¼	27½
Do. Pref.	—	—	84⅝	87⅜	87⅜xd

The early course of the American market depends upon the measure of the public response to the invitation to come in and buy. The English public is a negligible quantity as far as Yankees are concerned, having more attractive outlets for its capital; and it is not to be supposed that Wall Street professionals will keep things moving cheerfully without encouragement. Sales following the election have been heavy, but up to the present the stocks offered have been well absorbed. One very good feature in the situation is that gross earnings are satisfactory. During the first half of this year the majority of weeks reported decreases of railway earnings, some of them serious. But the New York *Times* points out that there has not been a single decrease in the last ten weeks, and that the increases are all on a series of increases in each of the last four years. For the first three weeks of October the successive increases in gross earnings were 6.30 per cent., 7.35 per cent., and 10.95 per cent. The increase in the August net was 5.15 per cent., and in September net 9.95 per cent. "The increase in bank clearings last week," says the same journal, "was 44 per cent. in New York, but that includes a rampant security speculation. The increase throughout the country of 8 per cent. is not subject to such discount. It reflects good business as certainly as do the gross earnings of the railways. The iron trade is showing increasing vigour. The advance in pig is working its way up through the manufactured article, and 'fundamental conditions throughout the country are undoubtedly strong.' Labour is quiet and for the most part busy. The crops are good, and the harvest period of trial in the money market cannot last much longer if it is not already past." The colouring of the picture is no doubt a trifle rosy, but the prospect certainly does indicate some improvement. The railroads are showing in their reports of earnings and of traffic moving that the farmer is not only selling his wares, but is buying necessaries and luxuries in return. Almost every railroad which is not affected by local causes is reporting constantly increasing gross earnings. There is thus furnished to the railroads a basis upon which to make improved reports of net earnings, although the latter, of course, will depend to a large extent on the cost of operation, which, in turn, is always influenced by the weather. There have not yet this autumn been such heavy floods as last year visited nearly every section of the country. The weather has been favourable to uninterrupted movement of traffic and to economic operation of roads. With a winter of average length and not unusual severity, the railroads may be expected from the showing they have made during the autumn months to fully prove the expectations in regard to the balance of the present fiscal year. But it is worth while adding, perhaps, that such a sound observer as Mr. Henry Clews is of opinion that the improvement in trade and in the outlook is already sufficiently discounted.

Kaffirs Firm and Active—Goldfields Meeting—Foreign and Colonial Support—October Gold and Labour Returns — Holding for Developments — "Shops" Supporting—"Johnnies'" Results—East Rand Dividend Rumours—New Arrivals—Deep Levels.

The South African market has been firm in tone, and in the matter of actual dealings has been one of the most active in the House. The statements at the Goldfields meeting were received with favour by House operators, and they had the effect also of bringing orders from the country, not only for the shares of the Company and of its subsidiaries, but for other Kaffirs as well. Moreover, much support came also from the Cape and from the Continent, and, although the October gold return was rather below expectation, and some profit-taking has been indulged in, the market keeps remarkably good. The fact that the publication of the October figures left prices virtually unmoved may be taken to mean that temporary influences are not being regarded too seriously—that holders are willing to wait for the substantial improvement in conditions which is certain to follow the provision of a full supply of labour, the working of the full number of stamps on the field, and the greatly enhanced production of gold. I said last week that the expectation of an increase of 20,000 oz. for October was not unreasonable, seeing that the month had one working day more, and that more stamps were crushing. The extra working day would mean about 10,000 oz., and allowing for this, the actual increase was about 3,300 oz. This is not as good as it might have been, but there are disabilities to be taken into account. For instance, the Simmer and Jack's return shows a reduction of 1,500 oz., but this is only a temporary affair, twenty-five fewer stamps having been in operation owing to the disturbance caused by the exchange from the old to the new mill, and also by the substitution of Chinese for native labourers. The same factor is in operation elsewhere, and the adjustment to the changed conditions can only be gradual. It is a very satisfactory feature that the labour supply is improving rapidly. There is talk of recruiting troubles in China, but they are evidently of the old sort, and may be disregarded, the one central fact being that there is no dearth of coolies willing to go to South Africa and work there for three years, as against an average of about six months for the Kaffir. There was a heavy wastage of "boys" during the month, nearly 7,000 leaving, as against rather more than 10,000 distributed, and this must have had some effect, because the new comers are for the most part raw. Still, a net gain of over 3,000 natives is something, and, meantime, the Chinese are arriving in steady numbers. At the end of October there were 12,986 on the mines, as against 9,300 a month before, and since then the total has risen to 15,009, while other consignments are on the way. It will be seen from

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lay table below that there has been a pretty general improvement on the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9 3/16	6	6⅞	6⅞	7⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5 15/16	3⅜	3⅞	4 3/16	4 3/16
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1 5/16	1⅞	1⅞	1 5/16
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 9/16	7/16	7/16	7/16	7/16
Bantjes	7¼	2⅜	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 5/16	1¼
Barnato Consols	5¼	4⅝	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7½	3¼	3½	3½	3½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	1 ⅛	4 3/16	5	7⅛	7⅛
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Crown Reef	12⅜	18¼	16½	16	16½	15½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18½	18⅞	18⅞
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¼	18	18 3/16	18 3/16
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4⅜	4 15/16	5⅛
Durban-Roodepoort	8 3/16	6½	5½	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2½	2 7/16	2½
East Rands	12	10 7/16	6⅜	8 7/16	8⅜	8½
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2⅞	1 5/16	2/-	4/9	1 5/16
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	21¼	22¼
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 3/16	2 3/16	2⅞	2 7/16
Geduld	—	9½	5	6½	7	7⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2 15/16	2½	2½
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2¼	3 3/16	3 3/16	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5 5/16	5⅜	5 5/16
,, Main Reef	1⅜	2	¼	¼	¼	1 5/16
Glencairn	4⅜	2¾	1½	1½	1 5/16	2¼
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2 5/16	3	2 15/16	3 1/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 5/16	1	1 3/16	1 3/16	1¼
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10¼	7⅜	8¼	8⅜	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8¼	3⅜	3⅜	4½	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27	27	27
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2¼	2 13/16	2⅜	2 5/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	1 1/16
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	3	2 5/16	2¼
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 13/16	1⅜	1 13/16
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6¾	2 5/8	1⅜	2¼	2 5/16	2 5/16
Knight's	11½	9 5/16	4⅜	6⅜	6 1/16	6 7/16
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1¾	⅝	¾	¾	1 1/16
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 5/16	4 1/16	4	4 1/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	2¼	2¼	2½	2 1/16
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2¼	1 3/16	1 5/16	1⅝	2
May Consolidated	4 3/16	5 7/16	2¾	4	4	4 3/16
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¼	5¼	5½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14 5/16	7½	9¾	10½	10 5/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1 5/16	1½	1 5/16
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/-	17/-	17/6
Nigel	8 1/16	4	2⅜	2 1/16	2⅜	2 1/16
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	1 13/16	1 11/16	2½
New Comet	4½	4	2	2 15/16	3	3⅛
New Rietfontein	6¾	3½	1⅜	2 3/16	2½	2⅞
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¾	1 3/16	1 5/16	1 13/16	1 13/16
Oceana Mineral	—	1 3/16	⅞	½	½	½
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅝	¾	1	1 1/16
Primrose (New)	8⅜	5 7/16	3 3/16	3 5/16	3 5/16	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	1 3/16	1½	1½	1 3/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 5/16	10⅜	11	11 3/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	3 5/16	3 3/16	3 5/16
Randfontein Porges	3⅜	3½	1 7/16	1¾	1 5/16	1⅜
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	1 1/16	1⅜	1 5/16
,, North	—	2 3/16	1⅜	2½	2 5/16	2 3/16
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1½	1 5/16	1½
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1 1/16	1 1/16
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	9½	10¼	10⅜
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅜	2 1/16	3⅜	3¾	4
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14½	6½	8	8⅜	8¾
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/8	9 3/16	4⅜	5 5/16	5¾	5¾
Sheba	—	1 1/16	11/3	—	—	—
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	1¾	1 15/16	1 15/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	12/-	16/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3 3/16	3 7/16	3⅜	3 5/16
Transvaal Development	2½	2 7/16	24/-	1 5/16	1 3/16	1 1/16
Transvaal Exploring	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅞	3½	2¾	2½	2⅝	2 1/16
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4 5/16	4½	4½
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/6	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4 3/16	2½	4 1/16	4 1/16	4 1/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅜	7⅛	6⅞	7 3/16	7¼
Violet	—	3¾	2	3	3	3 3/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2½	1½	1½	1½	1⅝
Welgedacht	—	8½	6½	6 15/16	7½	7¾
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅜	11	11
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅝	⅞	⅞
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅝	1 1/16	2 1/16	2¼
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3½	3⅝	4¼
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1 7/16	1 5/16	1⅜

* £5 shares.

It is a good sign that the various "shops" are coming along with some discriminating support. The Robinson group has been much in evidence, especially Randfonteins, Block B, and Langlaagte Estates; and Barnato descriptions have also been to the front, including Consolidated Langlaagte. The figures given in the cabled summary of the Chairman's statements at the Johnnies' meeting at Johannesburg last week are lower than those reported a year ago, but the rate of dividend is maintained at 10 per cent. The net profit of £613,495 (including the amount brought forward) compares with £665,470, and the carry forward of £343,526 with £394,480 for 1902-3. The surplus of assets over liabilities is stated as £4,323,000, as against £4,375,000 a year ago. But, having regard to the exceptional circumstances ruling, the results cannot be regarded as other than satisfactory. The Goerz group has given a good account of itself, and in the recently-introduced Van Dyk the dealings have been on a fairly considerable scale. General Mining and Finance things have also been prominent, more particularly Rand Collieries and Cinderella Deeps, the last forming the natural dip of the Cason, the shares of which have been strongly bought, and advanced in price. Considerable blocks of Rand Collieries have changed hands, much of the buying coming from Germany, where the Albu interests are powerful. At one time East Rands were specially favoured on a widespread rumour that a dividend of 4s. or 5s. per share was about to be declared by the Company. The only distribution made by the Company so far was one of 5s. declared in June last year. At the annual meeting in March of this year the Chairman predicted that "when our labour difficulties are no longer in existence I am sure we shall be able to make regular distributions to shareholders." The Angelo and Driefontein subsidiaries have been working regularly, and the East Rand has received substantial dividends during the past twelve months from its holdings in these mines. While all the favourite counters have been favoured, particular attention has been accorded to Geduld, Welgedachts, Western Rand Estates, East Rand Mining Estates, and others of the same sort, these possessing special speculative possibilities because developments are in an interesting and somewhat nebulous state. There have been dealings in Saxon Gold Mines on the basis of ⅜-⅞. This mine was registered in the Transvaal in 1902. It adjoins the West Roodepoort Deep, has 330 reef claims, and a capital of 530,000 £1 shares, 79,000 of which are held in reserve. Development, according to the official statement, is proceeding on the third, fourth, and fifth levels, South Reef, and on the first and second levels, Main Reef, the results to the end of September last varying between 22 dwt. and 113 dwt. over a width of 7½ in. to 6in. on the South Reef. The Deep Level descriptions have not been neglected during the week, and it will be seen from my table that the tendency of prices has been upward with the rest of the market. Some of the Goldfields subsidiaries—notably Rand Victoria Easts, South Rose Deep, and Simmer Wests—have registered advances. Rand Mines Deep and some of the other third-row Deep Levels have also received more attention, and the shares of the still "Deeper Deep"—the South Village Deep—have come into demand. The property of the latter lies further south than that of the Turf Mines, where the reef was struck in the borehole at a depth of about 4,800 feet, which is the lowest point at which gold has yet been proved on the Rand:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price Nov. 12, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3¾	1 5/16	1½	1 5/16
Cent. Nigel Deep	½	1	½	½	½	½
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2½	2 7/16	2⅞
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	15 5/16	15	15
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4 3/16	2	3 5/16	3 5/16	3 5/16
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8⅜	6	5 15/16	5⅜	6 3/16 xd
Glen Deep	5	6 5/16	3½	4⅜	4 3/16	4⅜
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11 5/16	11⅛	11⅛
Jumpers Deep	5⅛	6½	3½	4 3/16	4 1/16	4 3/16
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅛	3 15/16	3⅜	3⅜
Knight's Central Deep	3 3/16	4 7/16	2½	2 13/16	2⅝	2 11/16
Lancaster	3⅜	3 5/16	2	2½	2 5/16	2⅜
Do. West	2⅞	3	1⅜	2 3/16	2 1/16	2⅛
New Steyn Estates	2 3/16	5 1/16	2½	3½	3½	3¼
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6½	3½	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Rand Victoria	3 5/16	4½	2⅜	3 1/16	3⅛	2 15/16
Robinson Deep	5½	6 5/16	4½	5 1/16	5 1/16	5 1/16
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5 5/16	2⅝	4 1/16	4 1/16	4⅛
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6⅞	8 5/16	8⅝	8⅝
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2½	3½	1⅜	1 5/16	1 5/16	1⅜
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2⅜	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2 3/16	2 15/16	2 15/16	2 15/16
Simmer and Jack East	3 1/16	4 1/16	2½	3 5/16	3 5/16	3 5/16
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅜	2⅝	3 5/16	3 5/16	3⅜
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2½	1½	⅝	⅝	⅝
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4 1/16	2⅜	2 1/16	4⅛	4⅛

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In the table below is shown the gold output for October as compared with previous months:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Bullion. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.	Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	401,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,502
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	308,242
April	439,111	—	119,588	227,871	305 946
May	444,933	7,478	138 602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219
July	456,474	25 960	149,179	251,643	307,340
August	459,709	28,474	162,750	271,918	312 277
September	411,762	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625
November	55,941	39,075	187,375	279 813	—
December	68,525	52,897	196,023	286,061	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,073,241

Values are indicated in the next table:—

—	1899.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846,489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345 782	834.739	1,229,726
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,329
April	1,639,340	—	507,980	967 936	1,299,576
May	1,658,768	31 271	588,746	994 505	1,336,826
June	1,665,715	84,014	606,493	1,012,392	1,309,231
July	1,711 447	110.269	663,674	1.068,917	1,307,621
August	1,720,907	120,963	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,326 706
October	1,028,057	141,848	770.706	1,208,669	1,383,167
November		165,986	795 922	1,188,571	—
December		224,692	832,652	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	13,054,296

Below will be found the October returns from the more prominent mines, the figures in parentheses indicating the number of stamps erected and those working:—

—	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Angelo (110; 90)	8,080	7,691	7,830	7,469	7,291	7,324
Bonanza (55; 55)	5,372	5,367	5,429	5,584	5,405	5,523
City and Sub'n (160; 160)	9.229	8.273	8.329	9,035	9,2·0	—
Cons. Main Rf. (120; 60)	3,398	3 882	4,160	4,218	4.508	5,137
Crown Deep (200; 145)	9 076	8,996	8,903	8,986	9,229	9,994
Crown Reef (120; 120)	10,870	10,669	11,031	10,862	10 692	—
Driefontein (110; 110)	7,895	8,156	8,244	8 086	7,644	7,344
Durban-R'dep'rt (80; 65)	4.158	4,140	3,928	3,935	3.955	4,037
Do. Deep (60; 50)	3,909	3.751	3 787	3,760	3,865	4,012
Ferreira (150; 120)	11,172	11,381	11,534	11,321	11,072	—
Ferreira Deep 100; 80)	7,148	6,959	7,167	7,215	7,204	8,489
French Rand (120; 55)	3,787	3,546	3,451	3,304	3,044	—
G'ld'nhuis Dp. (200; 180)	10,711	9.688	9.676	10 417	10,311	10,703
Geldenhuis E. (120; 80)	5,200	5,221	5,287	5,398	5,394	5,481
Ginsberg (60; 60)	3,491	3,184	3,307	3,387	3 381	3 373
Glencairn (160; 90)	4,093	4 126	3,937	3,878	3,705	3,949
Glen Deep (100; 95)	5,889	5,623	5,620	5,853	5.283	6,023
Henry Nourse (80; 73)	5,311	5,454	5,181	5,174	5,060	—
Heriot (80; 70)	3,207	3.353	3,435	3,046	2,907	—
Jumpers (100; 70)	2,676	2,460	2,747	2,710	3 200	3,465
Jumpers Deep (100; 95)	5,813	5,230	5,614	5,268	5 639	5 817
Knight's Deep (400; 110)	7.652	6,816	6,734	6,526	6,024	7,311
Lancaster (100; 60)	3,220	3.223	3,341	3.370	3,333	3,431
Lancaster West (40; 40)	2,478	2 530	2,438	2,541	2,435	2,606
Langlaagte Dp (120; 120)	6,420	6,139	6,281	6,391	6,119	6,343
Langl'gte Est. (200; 160)	8,260	8 348	8 505	8,555	8,350	8,650
May Consldtd. (100; 100)	5,534	5,512	5,776	5,741	5,731	5,989
Meyer & Ch'lton (80; 60)	4,426	4,237	4,044	4,683	4,792	4,723
New Comet (100; 60)	—	—	—	1,330	3.137	3.560
New Goch (60; 60)	3,917	3.802	3,970	3,731	3,538	3,850
New M'dd'rf'nt'n (60; 60)	3,573	3,662	3,585	3.607	3 660	3,488
New Primrose (160; 120)	6.454	6,489	6,460	6,614	6 441	6,532
New United M.R. (60; 60)	2,975	2,965	3 166	3,226	2,888	2,912
Nigel (50; 45)	2,943	2,869	2 976	2 890	2,898	—
Nourse Deep (100; 95)	5.324	4,847	4,799	4,849	5.123	5,394
Reitfontein A (60; 30)	3,262	3,132	2,887	2.826	2,856	2,937
Robinson (200; 175)	14,911	15,143	15,521	14,790	16,133	15,240
Robinson Cent. Deep (50; 50)	—	2,534	2,123	3,767	4,434	4,722
Robinson Deep (200; 190)	13,547	12,748	13,239	12,841	12,861	13,831
Robinson Randfontein (100; 90)	4,042	4,526	4,725	4,745	4,812	5,302
Roodepoort Cent. Deep (50; 35)	2,141	2,237	2,270	2,321	2,261	2,323
Roodepoort United Mn. Reef (110; 70)	4,400	3,969	3.879	4,234	4,145	3,948
Rose Deep (200; 185)	8.591	8,854	8,726	9,000	8.151	8,063
Simmer & Jack (320; 145)	11,251	11,167	9,854	10,506	10.801	9,295
Sth. R'ndf'nt'n (100; 100)	5,256	4,826	5,016	5,046	5,062	5,251
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates (60; 60)	3,163	3,175	3,289	3,119	3,186	3 235
Treasury (60; 60)	3,813	3,724	3,713	3 651	3,655	3,710
Van Ryn (160; 115)	4,636	4,241	4,313	4,499	4 508	5 262
Village Mn. Rf. (160; 160)	8,700	8,875	9,216	9,447	9.290	9,318
Wemmer (60; 60)	5,818	5,545	6,231	5,819	5,345	—
Wolhuter (100; 100)	4,938	4,928	4,822	4,693	4,988	5,161

CANADIAN PACIFIC'S BIG EARNINGS—GRAND TRUNKS INDIFFERENT—SPECULATIVE CHANCES—ARGENTINE RAILWAYS FIRM BUT QUIET—MEXICAN RAILWAYS AND THE "POOL."

The Canadian Pacific Railway continues to strengthen its position in the matter of gross earnings week by week, and it is only when one remembers that the comparison is with remarkable increases last year that the full significance of the present figures comes to be realised. This week the Company has to tell of an increase of $108,000 on top of an increase of $104,000 last year, and since the beginning of July the gross aggregate improvement is as much as $1,428,000, with every prospect of a continuance of big totals down to the end of the Company's fiscal year—and probably beyond. Although the Company is spending out of revenue as well as out of capital on betterments with a view to a more perfect equipment, there is no reason to fear for the maintenance of the 6 per cent. dividend on the Ordinary shares even with the increased capital, and these shares may therefore be bought with a tolerable degree of safety to yield at the current price about 4½ per cent., with the prospect of a gradual appreciation in capital value as the country develops and the Company finds itself able from increased net earnings to distribute even higher dividends than at present. Grand Trunks have been dull for the better part of the week. The last traffic showed an increase of only £1,014, as against £4,000 to £5,000 expected; but as there was an increase for the corresponding week of last year of £13,489, the result is not so very unsatisfactory, and as after the next traffic the comparison down to the end of the year will be with very moderate figures in 1903, the Company stands a good chance of reducing appreciably the adverse balance of £73,000 to date, especially as the past season's harvest is a big one and the country is in a prosperous state. The dividend prospects of the Second Preference stock are, however, more than a little doubtful, though at the same time (the Company's stocks being among the most favoured speculations in all the House) there is likely to be a pretty general and substantial advance in prices in the early part of the New Year—given a moderate sort of winter—because the earnings then will be going against the skeleton figures of the earlier weeks of 1904. The general sentiment at the moment is rather better than it was earlier in the week, showing that hope springs eternal in the breast of "Bulls" of Grand Trunks; but the outsider will realise that the immediate prospect is somewhat dubious. At the same time, the man who buys the junior stocks to put away is not, by present indications, taking undue risks. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 12.
Canadian Pacific	121½	133½	134
" 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102¼
Grand Trunks	14⅞	17½	17⅝
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	98	98½
" 1st Preference	109	105½	106
" 2nd "	96½	94	93!
" 3rd "	44½	45½	45⅝
Bengal and North-West	131	145	146
Bombay Baroda	154	149	149!
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126½	127	127½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	96	103	104
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	95	116	116½
" " 1st Preference	97½	106	106
" " 2nd "	86	93	93
" Great Southern	129	134	135
" Western	126	126	126¼
Entre Rios Railway Preference	51	68	71
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	85	96½	97½
Costa Rica Railway	1⅞	2⅝	2⅝
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	94¾	96
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	85	80¼	81
Mexican Railway	15½	29½	27
" 1st Preference	65	109	103½
" 2nd "	24	49	48!
Nitrate Rails	7⅞	8⅞	9½

Argentine railway earnings are generally satisfactory and stocks keep firm in tone, being aided by the reassuring cable concerning the crops and a denial of the remarks about the locusts. Movements, however, have been few, the amount of business passing being rather

small. There is not much support coming from Buenos Ayres, and holders in this country, while satisfied to hold, are not, for some reason or other, buying much more stock. I give below a table showing the return which may be obtained on the leading stocks in this market:—

	Price.		Yield per Cent. £ s. d.
Argentine Great West.	104	.....	5 15 0
Do. Pfd. Cum. Part.	115	.....	5 5 0
B.A. and Pacific	117	.....	6 0 0
Do. 1st. Cum. Pfd.	106	.....	4 15 0
Do. 2nd. Non Cum. Pfd.	94	.....	5 7 6
B.A. and Rosario	96¼	.....	5 14 6
Do. Dfd.	93	.....	5 8 0
B.A. Great Southern	135½	.....	5 3 6
B.A. Western	126	.....	5 12 0

The lesser-known Argentines have for the most part held their ground well. This remark applies particularly to Cordoba and Rosario stocks; and Entre Rios have hardened to 70 on the passing of the scheme for the paying of the arrears of dividend. In the earlier part of the week, Mexican Railway stocks were bid for energetically and scored a further sharp advance. At the meeting, however, the chairman announced, among other more or less unsatisfactory things, that the Mexican Central had decided to withdraw at the end of the current month from the "pool," and, although he professed to regard this with equanimity on the ground that the old Mexican Railway might be the better off for the defection, the fear of a rate war caused heavy selling, and the result is an all-round lower range of values. In an article on Mexican railway prospects which I published in TRUTH two or three weeks ago, I expressed my conviction that the stocks of this particular Company had been carried quite high enough—rather too high, in fact—and I look for a lower range of prices for another month or two at least, in spite of good earnings and the relatively high price of silver. This is assuming that the differences between the several Companies do not develop into a war of rates. In that event calculations will have to be revised. There has been a good deal of support for Nitrate Railway shares on the strength of the satisfactory condition of the nitrate industry.

WESTRALIANS EASIER—ASSOCIATED SURPRISE—ORE RESERVES REDUCED BY TWENTY PER CENT. — HORSESHOES DULL —STILL NO EXPLANATION—OROYAS—IVANHOES EASIER—"LITTLE KANGAROOS" AND DEEP LEADS.

Until the Westralian mining section ceases to furnish us with periodical surprises of an alarming nature, it is safe to assert that public confidence will not be restored. The latest development of this character is the revised estimate of the Associated ore reserves cabled by one of the Directors now at the mine, which states that on a "basis of safety," there are only 98,500 tons available, containing 83,000. oz. fine gold, an average of less than 17 dwt. per ton, as against the 163,129 tons, containing 186,785 oz., or an average of 24 dwt. computed by the general manager for the last report. Allowing for the quantity crushed since March, the discrepancy is only about 13,000 tons, but it is in the revised value of the gold contents that the significance attaches. It would seem that the quantity was over-estimated by about 20 per cent., and the mine has less than a year's supply of ore ready for the mill, and altogether it is not surprising that the shares developed marked weakness, and close well down on balance. These estimates, however, refer to the ore above the 800 ft. level, and consequently some consolation is to be derived from the fact that developments in the lower levels are more encouraging, and it is upon these that the future of the mine almost entirely rests. The old manager is said to have been superseded by the Northern Blocks manager, who will undertake the dual position, and it is to be hoped that the exploration of the lower levels will be carried out vigorously, and that the progress of this work will be made known as the reports are received in order to allay the nervousness of the shareholders. This incident has practically dominated the whole market during the past week, and the tendency has naturally been somewhat unsatisfactory, nearly all of the leading shares moving in a downward direction. Golden Horseshoes were a particularly dull spot, the market growing apprehensive over the prolonged absence of any explanation of the recent termination of the Bewick, Moreing management, but a slightly better feeling became manifest on the announcement of the striking of the No. 2 lode in the fourth level, the assay averaging about 1 oz. to the ton over a width of 6 ft. The "Bear" position in Oroya seems to be gradually diminishing, the shares being carried over at "even" on this account, and after moving within very narrow limits they finish unchanged, while Ivanhoes are inclined to be rather dullish, despite the announcement of the cutting of the middle lode near the main shaft at the 1,205 ft. level, no assay value being stated. The rest of the market has been devoid of feature of particular interest, but among the "Little Kangaroos," Hannan's Stars and Boulder Deep came into demand on Colonial account, while there was more animation amongst the Deep Leads. My usual table is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅝	3⅜	1	2⅛	2¼	1⅝
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 3/16	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	1¾	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	7/-	7/3	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7¼	7¼	7⅛
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	3/9
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	20/-	20/9	20/9
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	4/6	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 15/16	1⅛	12/9	12/9	12/3
Do. South	3½	1⅜	7/16	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 15/16	9 15/16	5 7/8	8⅝	8¼	8⅜
Hainault	1⅝	⅜	¼	5/7	1/8	1/3
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10⅛	6¾	7 15/16	7⅞	7 15/16
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅝	1 1/8	⅛	5/16	⅜	5/16
Kalgurli	9⅝	4¼	2 1/16	5⅝	5⅝	5⅝
Lake View Consols	5⅝	6¾	1⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/16	1⅛	¼	8/6	8/6	8/6
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/3	5/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4¼	2	3⅝	3⅝	3⅝
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅝	4/6	5/6	¼
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/16	2 9/16	1	2	1 15/16	2
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¾	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 1/16	⅛	1/2	1/2	⅛

RHODESIANS FIRM—CHARTERED ON THE UPGRADE—ABSORPTION OF THE NEW CAPITAL—THE RUSH FOR SHARES—BANKET DESCRIPTIONS ERRATIC—NEW SHARES FIRM ON SHOP SUPPORT — RUMOURS — TANGANYIKAS STRONG — COPPER SHARES BETTER.

The Rhodesian section continues to display a moderate amount of activity, and, on the whole, the tendency may be described as fairly satisfactory, though by no means brilliant, except in the case of Chartered, which have been steadily creeping upwards as a result, so it is said, of heavy repurchases by those who had sold the shares some time ago on the expectation of being able to cover themselves when the new issue was made. That they have suffered some inconvenience by the vetoing of the underwriting arrangement is pretty clear, for the Chartered Company, in notifying that allotment letters in respect of the additional capital issue will be posted at the end of the current week, state that the shareholders have taken up nearly the whole of their pro rata rights. There is, consequently, only a small balance of shares remaining to be allotted, and for these applications, amounting to over two and a half million shares have been received. Hints that some squeezing was in progress did not seem to be substantiated by the state of the account, but it is tolerably certain that the persistent advance in the price of the shares is almost wholly due to the buying by market operators, though, perhaps, a little sentimental assistance was derived from the remarks regarding the levelling up of expenditure and revenue by the Company. The banket descriptions have displayed their usual erratic movements and on balance show little or no change apart from the New Banket Company's shares, which finished rather firm at above 3 bid, after being as low as 2 9-16. At one time rumour had it that serious differences had arisen between the "shop" and the market operators, which served to create some

uneasiness, but later on an unconfirmed report that an independent engineer had passed a favourable opinion on the reef helped to mend matters, though, towards the close, more of the inevitable profit-taking occurred to neutralise the effect. A good deal of attention has been paid to Charter Trusts, and Globe and Phœnix keep steady, while there has been considerable activity amongst the Northern descriptions, Tanganyikas being somewhat a feature on liberal support, Zambesias hardening in sympathy. Both Northern Copper and Rhodesia Copper display a better tendency. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅞	⅞
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2/	1⅜	1⅜
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	1¼	1¼
Buluwayo Explorat'n..	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	⅜	⅜
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅞	⅝	⅝
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅞	⅞
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	⅛	⅛
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1½	⅜	⅜
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	¼	⅛
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅝	1½
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2⅛	2⅛
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	1⅛	1
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4¼	⅝	⅝
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	3	3⅛
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	13/-	14/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	5⅜	5⅜
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	½	½
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	6⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅝	⅝
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	3⅛	3⅛
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅞	8/6
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	4/-	⅞
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅞	7/-
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅞	1⅜	1¾

West Africans Improve Further — Interest Entirely Professional — Bibiani Return — Wassaus — Amalgamated the Feature—Miscellaneous Mines—Copper Shares Buoyant—Mount Lyells—Egyptians Firmer—Broken Hills Improve Further.

The Jungle has presented a firmer appearance throughout the past week, but it must not be imagined that the outside public are giving any support. The condition is still solely attributable to the manœuvring of the professionals, for there have been no developments which would warrant the improvement in prices which has occurred right down the list. Operators were inclined to regard the Bibiani return for October as satisfactory, the output being 1,271 oz., as compared with 999 oz. for the previous month, though the estimated value of the tailings is lower than on the last occasion. Wassaus derived a little benefit from the announcement that the fault in the sixth level had been passed through, the reef now driven through being 3 ft. wide, of an assay value of 18 dwt. The feature has perhaps been the persistent buoyancy of Amalgamated on the strength of inside support, the shares closing about ¾ higher on balance, and in their wake the rest of the market shows slight gains. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capital. Autho-rised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅞	1½
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	5/- dis	5/- dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315,000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Attasi Mines.....	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/6	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1½	1⅞
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1	1⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅞	⅞
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	3⅛
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	8/9	⅞
Obbuassi Syndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅞	⅞
Prestea Mines ...	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	⅞	13/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅞
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1½	1⅝
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¾	1⅞

In the Miscellaneous Mining market Copper shares continue to manifest an upward tendency as a result of the outlook for the metal, and at one time Tintos spurted to 61¼, though they subsequently reacted on profit-taking to 60⅞, which still represents a good gain on balance. Wall Street is giving some support to Anacondas, and Tyees and Capes improved. Notwithstanding that the reserve of payable ore is reduced to less than a year's supply, Mount Lyells continue to improve, some help being obtained from the dividend announcement of 1s. 3d. per share for the half-year to September 30, during which period the working resulted in a net profit of £125,034, after allowing £8,716 for mining exploration. Etruscans remained weak on large offering. Egyptians came in for renewed attention, the recent returns being regarded with satisfaction, but among Indians the tendency has been somewhat dullish. The better prices prevailing for silver, lead, and zinc have brought in some buyers of Broken Hill Prop. shares. In the Charters Towers group Queen Cross Reefs have been dull, but among New Zealanders Waihis improved on the dividend announcement:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 12.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	3⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Balaghat Gold	1⅜	14/-	16/6	17/-
Broken Hill Props.	1⅜	1¼	46/3	2¼
Cape Copper.....	5	2	4½	4⅜
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/6	1⅝
Le Roi	¼	¼	¾	¾
Mason and Barry.....	4½	3½	3⅞	3¼
Mount Lyell Mining.....	4¼	2	11/6	12/-
Mysore Gold.....	7⅛	5⅛	6¼	6¼xd
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3¼
Nundydroog	2⅜	1⅜	36/-	1⅝
Ooregum	2½	21/9	12/-	⅝
Rio Tinto	63⅜	38¾	61½	60⅜xd
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅝	5	5
Waihi Gold	6½	4⅛	5⅛	5⅜

Company Promoting Swindles.

The annual report of the Senior Official Receiver in Companies' Liquidation usually contains matter of much interest to the investing classes. Two or three very interesting points are raised in the report for last year, which is just out. One of these concerns the registration of new Companies in the island of Guernsey. In 1903 the number was 75, involving a total nominal capital of £18,890,000, in comparison with 53 with £18,053,000 capital in 1902, and five with £123,000 capital in 1901. As Mr. Barnes remarks, the course which has prompted promoters to register in Guernsey instead of at Somerset House can hardly be the increase of the *ad valorem* duty on registrations effected in England from 2s. to 5s. per cent., since this increase took place in 1899. Probably the true cause is to be found in the passing of the Companies Act, 1900, which came into operation on January 1, 1901, and in the desire on the part of promoters and directors to avoid the provisions of that Act which deal with the liability of directors and require the disclosure of material facts in prospectuses, and the filing of prospectuses and charges at Somerset House. Of late a special cause appears to have been at work, for among the recent registrations in Guernsey, as well as elsewhere outside England, appear some concerns which are reconstructions of Companies formerly registered in England. It is a well-known fact that on the reconstruction of a Company it is often thought by the Directors to be prudent, if not necessary, to pay a sum of money by way of underwriting commission, in return for a guarantee that the amount of new working capital required will be subscribed in full, but section 8 of the Companies Act, 1900, was in 1902 held by the Court of Appeal to be a bar to the payment of any sum of money for a guarantee of this nature, inasmuch as this section declares that no commission can be paid except in the case of an offer of shares to the public for subscription. On the reconstruction of a Company the shareholders in the old Company have the right to subscribe for the shares in the new Company, and the Directors have no power to offer them to the public, and consequently

have no power to pay a commission in return for a guarantee that the shares in the new Company shall be fully subscribed for. Some interesting evasions have been made of the spirit of the Act, as in the case of the Klerksdorp Company, for example, and also in the case of the Great Western of Brazil Railway, which has practically issued shares at a discount by means of a transfer of underwriting commission to subscribers. The Official Receiver draws attention to the case of the Velox Motor Company, which got over this difficulty in a very simple way. Under the new Act (section 8) it is provided that "upon any offer of shares to the public for subscription it shall be lawful for a Company to pay a commission to any person in consideration of his subscribing or agreeing to subscribe for any shares in the Company"; and in the same Act it is provided in the 10th section that the amount paid or payable as commission must be disclosed in the prospectus. Taking advantage of the provisions of these two sections, the prospectus of the Velox Motor Company offered for subscription 175,000 shares "credited as paid up to the extent of 3s. per share," and proceeded to explain, "the credit of 3s. per share is for commission to each subscriber in respect of each share allotted, and such 3s. per share will be credited against the allotment money of 3s. per share, which otherwise would be payable in cash. The remaining 2s. per share will be payable in cash." The result of this, of course, was an issue of shares at a discount of 60 per cent. The shares, it will be noticed, were duly offered to the public, and the amount of the discount or commission was duly disclosed in the prospectus. The issue apparently complies with the requirements of the section quoted above, though it can scarcely have been an issue contemplated by the Legislature.

Attention is drawn by Mr. Barnes to the large number of cases in which the assets of a Company have been taken by debenture holders to the exclusion of the unsecured creditors. In many cases, the debentures, under which the assets of the Company were seized, were issued in part payment for the Company's property at the time of its formation, and by this means the original seller of the property recovered what he sold, increased in some instances in value by the goods obtained on credit from traders, who, on the failure of the Company, are left without any dividend whatever.

On the general subject of the reconstruction of Joint-stock Companies I have received a communication from a valued correspondent, who asks that I should endeavour to effect changes in Company law whereby it would be made impossible for limited liability Companies to reconstruct if and when such reconstruction involved the payment of any further contribution by the shareholders. There are occasions when reconstruction involving assessments is justified by expectations, but in a vast majority of cases the act of reconstruction is only a process for extracting more money out of people who have already lost too much, but who cling to the last to the hope of getting some of their own back by the sporting sacrifice of some more. As my correspondent puts it, there is a sort of legalised roguery carried on in the City of London with absolute impunity. A gang of respectable swindlers start a Company, and when the time comes round, as it unfailingly does, when there is no more cash to fatten upon, a "reconstruction" scheme is resolved upon. The *modus operandi* is very simple; the old shareholders are told that they will be given the same number of shares in the new Company as was theirs in the old, with, say, 15s. paid up, so that for the new pound shares they will only be required to pay up 5s. per share. This is the "reconstruction"; precisely the same result could be obtained by borrowing or by raising debentures. The Company as a Company or its property is never in any way bettered; but while people would hesitate to subscribe loan or debenture capital, many of them unfortunately only too readily take the bait when it is put to them as "reconstruction." The brains who devise this system of roguery practically say, "If you do not subscribe a further 5s. a share you lose all," and as a result there are people who will not "cut" their losses, but hang on, throwing good money after bad. In course of time there must, of course, be further "reconstruction"—the coffers are empty and the old game has to be played, and so it goes on so long as money is obtainable. When there is no more there are no shareholders left, and so the assets, if there are any, become the property of the swindlers who are left in, free to do with it as they like, which usually consists in starting a new Company under a different name to work the old racket. An effort should be made to stop this roguery. If a Company is unable to borrow and is unable to pay its debts, there ought to be some provision in Company law which will enforce liquidation. It ought not to be in the power of any Company to "reconstruct," if the object of reconstruction is to raise capital, and if our Company law had provisions to that effect, they would put an end to one form of roguery at present rampant in the City.

New Issues.

The following prospectuses have been published:—

Japanese Government Six per Cent. Loan for £12,000,000, of which £6,000,000 is offered in London and £6,000,000 in New York. The issue price is 90½. The loan is a second charge upon the Customs' Revenue of the country.

Dharwar Reefs Company.—Capital, £175,000 in £1 shares. Subscriptions are invited for 90,000 shares at par. The Company has been formed primarily for the purpose of acquiring the leases of certain auriferous properties in the Taluq of Gadag, in the district of Dharwar, Bombay Presidency.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Bath.—So far as interest payments are concerned, I see little to object to in Japanese bonds, and as a fact, from that point of view, the Six per Cent. Loans especially that placed in May are desirable because they give a high return. But it is highly probable that by waiting you will be able to purchase them more cheaply even than at present, for the reason that further borrowings will be necessary unless the war be brought to an early termination, which is not likely. *Nalgar.*—Argentine Rescission bonds make a fairly desirable purchase. *C. N., Bradford.*—Turkish Guaranteed ought to suit you. The yield at the present price is over 3¾ per cent., and the loan is secured on the Egyptian tribute, and carries the guarantee, as to interest, of the English and French Governments. *Trign.*—1. The transfer into Johannesburg Fours would be a good move as you ask for a higher return. The stock is safe. 2. The Japanese Customs are not under English control, but I do not think you need worry on that score, and the analogy of your Greek Monopoly experience is scarcely fair to Japan. 3. The Preference shares are all right. *H. R., Bristol.*—I suggest the National War Loan, Irish Land, and Transvaal stock. These will return 3½ per cent. *Retired Pay.*—The Greek revenues are rising, and it might be advisable to go on holding. *Rab-mag.*—Ultimately Consols ought to go to par again, despite the reduction to the 2½ per cent. basis; but conditions, in the next year or so at the least, will be against any advance of more than a few points above 90. *Executor.*—Cape Three and a Half per Cent., New South Wales Four per Cent., Queensland Four per Cent., South Australian Four per Cent. (1924), New Zealand Four per Cent., Great Northern 1898 Preference, Brighton Second Preference, and Midland Perpetual Preference stocks would fulfil your requirements and bring in an average of nearly 3½ per cent. *Welshman.*—Money lent to the Swindon Corporation at 3½ per cent. for a fixed period would be safely placed. Swansea Four per Cent. bonds are also all right.

Railways

Araby.—It means that for the past week the Company had a decrease of £1,000 in contrast with an increase of £2,000 for the corresponding week of 1905, and that for the

half-year to date there has been a gross decrease of £69,000. *Be Cannie.*—It is rather difficult to advise you in the circumstances, because I look for higher prices in the Home Railway market, and your holdings are mostly good. Perhaps, you had better sell the North London Ordinary and South Eastern Annuities, with, if necessary, the East Lincolnshire stock. You have probably a good profit on your Metropolitans, and if necessary might do worse than take it. *Cobweb.*—You might exchange into American Gold bonds, which should improve further. *B. T., Hull.*—As your Entre Rios stock has had a good rise, you had better realise. *Hammersmith.*—Southern Railroad Five per Cent. Gold Bonds, Atchison General Mortgage bonds, and Baltimore and Ohio Prior Lien bonds would suit. *Rats.*—1. Hold on until April. 2. The concern is a very unreliable bucket-shop. *S. Pattison.*—1. You are safe in holding on to the Home Railways and Indian Railway Annuities for the present. I look for higher prices in Home Railways. 2. American Investment Trust stocks are worth keeping. *Odontome, Leeds.*—You appear to have been speculating on margins, in which case there can be no recovery, as their operations come within the scope of the Gambling Act. It is for the outside broker to show that there were real transactions in the stock. Meantime pay no more. *Barnfield.*—Pay up the instalments and sell when fully paid.

Mines.

E. X. E.—1. Nothing has been heard of the Company for two or three years, but it is supposed to be still in existence. 2. I can obtain no quotation for the shares. 3. Wit Deeps are a promising lock-up. *T. J. L.*—1. All the shares should be held for active conditions in the Kaffir market. 2. The Highland Chief appears to have gone under. *E. H. F.*—The reason why Bonanzas are at such a low price (having regard to dividends) is that the mine has only about another year of life. *Careful.*—It is acknowledged that the contents of the ore reserves above the 800 ft. level have been exaggerated, and the future of the mine depends upon the developments in the lower levels. Although these are to some extent encouraging, your best plan would be to get out and put the proceeds into some other Westralian—say, Oroyas, Horseshoes, or Ivanhoes. *Shares, Belfast.*—The Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company declared a dividend of 2s. per share last month. You will take that on a purchase made now. *American Thistle.*—Do not join the reconstruction, which would be throwing good money after bad. A purchase of the shares has not been recommended in Truth. *Skipper.*—Great Boulder Props are worth buying, but the other two should be left. "*Wicked Harry.*"—Premier Diamonds will probably go higher; but you have a very good profit and should take it. *Sheffield.*—The shares ought to go still higher, and as I have a good opinion of the early course of the Kaffir market, I do not think you will make a mistake by holding on longer. *Tomtit.*—The life of the mine is only eight or nine years, and in the circumstances its shares can hardly be looked upon as "a permanent investment." *N. B. C.*—Not much information is given as to developments, and as there has been a good deal of selling recently from Queensland, it is inferred that all is not well with the mine. *Scrutator.*—East Rand, General Mining and Finance, Johannesburg Consolidated Investment, Goerz, East Rand Mining Estates, Goldfields, and French Rands. *Middle.*—1. I recommend dealings with no outside brokers. 2. I have not seen a balance-sheet this year. 3. Should become profitable on full development. 4. The mynpacht is that portion of a farm (usually about 10 per cent. of the whole rate area) which, upon being thrown open by the Government as a public goldfield, the freeholder has the first right to peg out for himself. *Rusticus, Sligo.*—I do not recommend a purchase. *W. B.*—1. Balkis Lands are a promising speculation. 2. I should not join the reconstruction. *A. Tram.*—I am sorry that I have no information to give about the concern, but I fear that you have been badly taken in. *Flip.*—1. Have no dealings with the concern, against which I have warned readers before. 2. Great Boulders are a good purchase at the present price.

Miscellaneous.

Anagnostopulo.—The information given is all grossly misleading, and emanates from a notorious bucket-shop to which I drew attention a short while ago. Leave it severely alone. *Honesty, Aden.*—1. I do not regard the bonds as safe. 2. I believe the concern gives you a fair run for your money. *Indian Army, Peshawur.*—My objection to Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., is based upon their habit of charging exorbitant prices for the bonds, which are in no instances "a road to fortune" as they allege, because the chances of winning are so infinitesimal. Leave them alone and put your money into something else. *Tommy Atkins.*—You must never lose sight of the uncalled liability involved in banking shares. In the case cited only £12 10s. out of £60 paid up, but the risk is, of course, remote. Try Parrs and Union of London. *Rennick.* *Punjab.*—The bonds are no great catch, and certainly not if bought through the concern in question, with whom I would advise you to have no dealings. *Purgess, Northwich.*—I do not consider the bonds worth taking up. *E. F. G.*—I hope to deal with the concern shortly. *Port Arthur.*—It is a local concern, and I am not in a position to give any information regarding its stabillty. *R. B. P.*—Thanks for the communication. These concerns have a wonderful way of ferreting out the addresses. *Matula. Kroonstad.*—The remarks are applicable in your case with equal force. Try N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle Street, London. *Boot.*—Better realise both holdings, as prospects are not bright. *Dubious Sunderland.*—It will, perhaps, be the better of two evils to discontinue further payments. My opinion of the concern is not favourable. *L'Argent.*—They seem a fair speculative purchase, and you could do worse. *Emmanuel.*—Many thanks for the document. Very shady. *Anxious, Burnley.*—I know nothing against the concern, and I understand they do the fair thing by you, but I cannot recommend dealings with any outside brokers. *Stone, Chelsea.*—I consider them worth keeping for investment. *L. P. L.*—There is no immediate likelihood of the business improving, and while the risk of interest being forfeited is a possibility to be reckoned with, in the meanwhile there is the danger of depreciation of the capital. *J. T. R., Lincoln.*—I have repeatedly uttered warning against Stephens and Henderson and their literature dealing with the possibilities of wildly gambling in cotton "futures." *Tim Tomkins, Waterford.*—I have a very poor opinion of the stability of the concern. *Bumpkin.*—1. Not a reliable firm. 2. No. 3. If they thought so they would let you know, and, in the circumstances, you will find your money safer in the bank than in the hands of such a notorious bucket-shop. *Calico.*—Does it not stand to reason if they could achieve the results they claim that they would play the game for their own profit? Philanthropy of that kind is to be carefully avoided, especially when an American is practising it. *Nauticus.*—Moderately good industrial holding. *Constant Reader, Spalding.*—I do not recommend dealings with any concern specialising in cotton futures. *Ignoramus, Neath.*—J. Lyons are good holdings, the business being a progressive one. In some branches of the business intoxicants are sold. The others are all right in their way. Deal only with members of the Stock Exchange, and do not be influenced by the bucket-shop circulars. *Brewery.*—They are good things of their class and worth holding. The slight fall in values is solely attributable to the recent depression. *Oxford.*—Many thanks for the misleading circular. *Amused, Burton.*—I am obliged for the interesting communication received from Currie and Crisp, and I am pleased that you do not think of availing yourself of their magnanimity. *Inglenook.*—I do not know it and, therefore, cannot advise. *R. Jones.*—The police recently apprehended some agents who posted these lottery bonds, and they were heavily fined. The "New Great Royal" Saxony affair is no great catch. The adjectives spoil it. *Pilbey.*—Would strongly advise you not to accept the Lombard Association's offer of Nelson Syndicate shares at any price. *Woodbridge.*—Bucket-shop keeping is, undoubtedly, a "paying game," for if they make a loss the Gaming Act is so handy. My thanks for the circular. *J. H. Beale.*—I have already dealt with the concern on more than one occasion. Leave it severely alone.

Mixed Investments.

Alpha, Durley.—1. Meux Preference shares ought to be held. 2. Midland Railway stocks should harden with the rest of the Home Railway market. *A. B., Belfast.*—1. I advise a sale. 2. Sell. 3. Might be bought for a moderate profit—say 10s. per share. *Havant.*—1. Midland of Uruguay Railway debentures might be held; but for a purchase there are several South American Railways of more promise. 2. Entre Rios Preference and Ordinary stocks have already had a big rise, and I see room for little further appreciation. 3. Chatham and Dover Preference stock should go higher. 4. I do not fancy the Bank shares much. *J. M. H., Birmingham.*—The reference was to Canadian Pacific Ordinary shares. *Nancy.*—1. The Pennsylvania Railway Ordinary shares are worth holding for dividends. 2. City of Wellington Electric debentures are a good investment. 3. The Chinese Silver Loan is quoted so much lower than the Five per Cent. Gold Loan because silver is a very unstable metal. The remark applies also to Mexican Silver bonds. 4. Argentine North-Eastern debentures are highly speculative, and although the earnings have recently been good, you must remember that the stock has had a smart rise this year. *Carlos.*—Atchison Preference, Missouri First Mortgage bonds, and Cleveland and Cincinnati bonds should be held for higher prices, and also as good investment holdings. The B.A. Water stock and the other Argentine Government bonds are likely to go higher. Unification would not affect them adversely. *Pitt.*—1. Hendersons should go better with other Kaffirs. 2. I cannot confirm the report, and I regard it as very improbable. *Brassey.*—Armstrongs and Vickers are likely to improve. Tharsis and Mountain Copper have a good chance of rising further with copper on the up-grade. Barrow Hematite Preference, Consett Spanish Ore, and San Salvador Iron Preference shares are also worth holding. The other two might be sold. *Peter Simple.*—1. Eastern Bengal "A" Annuities are a safe investment. 2. The Argentine Funding bonds are reasonably good. 3. Argentine Great Western Preference stock is one which I have been recommending for a long time past. *Voyageur.*—1. Ind Coope "B" debentures make a good Industrial purchase. Dividends are paid in April and October. 2. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway stock might be held for a further rise, as trade conditions in Lancashire are improving further. *Rosebud.*—1. Sell out in January, when the capital repayment of £1 per share is made. 2. The *Statist* would suit you. 3. Grand Trunk Guaranteed stock would meet your requirements. 4. Hold on to the two Mexican Railway stocks. 5. Your Victoria and Cape of Good Hope stocks are good investment holdings. 6. Barneys and Johnnies should give you a profit on a more active Kaffir market. *F. A., Blackpool.*—Illinois Centrals, Canadian Pacifics, Great Westerns, North-Westerns, and Midlands should be held as good investments. Dunderland Iron Preference shares are all right, as the Company evidently has a good future. Armstrongs are likely to go higher, as the Company is very busy. Manchester and Liverpool District Bank shares should be kept, and the two Blackpool concerns are good of their class. Charter Trusts will go better if the activity in Rhodesians continues. *Onlooker, Waterford.*—1. As

you have a profit you had better take it. 2. Not very hopeful. 3. Sell and buy Barneys, or French Rands, or General Mining and Finance. 4. Get rid of the shares at what they will fetch. *Bayswater.*—1. I am unable to obtain information regarding the Company. 2. They have had their rise. 3. Hendersons might be held for some improvement with other South Africans. *Cotter.*—1. Great Westerns would suit. 2. Both Raphael Tuck Preference and Robinson and Cleaver Preference shares are good of their class. 3. It will be time enough to buy Japanese bonds when there are signs of a termination of the war. 4. There is no need to disturb yourself about the position. *K. P. P.*—1-9. All good to keep. 10. Rhodesia Explorations, Lomagundas, Rhodesia Bankets, and Globe and Phœnix. 11. Wabash "B" Debentures are not a hopeful purchase. The interest on them is not being paid. *Tedworth.* 1. Canadian Pacifics. 2. East Rand Mining Estates, French Rands, and Simmer and Jack. *T. B.*—The reference was to Canadian Pacifics.

MISCELLANEOUS FAIRLY ACTIVE—GENERAL TENDENCY BETTER — ANGLO-AMERICAN TELEGRAPHS THE OUTSTANDING FEATURE—ARMAMENT SHARES STRONG—TRUST STOCKS STEADY — BREWERIES SOMEWHAT BETTER — ALLSOPPS JUMP—SHOWELLS WEAK—INDIA DOCK DEFERRED IN REQUEST—TRACTION GROUP—TEXTILES LESS ACTIVE—REFRESHMENT SHARES — HUDSON'S BAYS — PEKIN SYNDICATES.

There are indications that the outsiders are again nibbling at the tempting baits dangling in the industrial section, and that they are getting over the rude shock to their growing confidence administered by the Baltic Fleet affair. Apart from one or two specialties, the activity has not been exceptionally great, perhaps, but on the whole the tendency has been satisfactory. The outstanding feature of the week has been the remarkable demand for Telegraph stocks, and more particularly Anglo-American issues, which have gained substantial ground, as will be illustrated by the simple statement that the Ordinary is more than 6 points higher, the Preferred more than 9 points, and the Deferred almost 4 points better. Most of the interest has centred about the latter, it being stated that a Continental syndicate had removed almost £250,000 of the stock from the market, while towards the close another rumour to the effect that the Company were sure to come victorious out of the long-drawn-out litigation with the French concern was ingeniously circulated to the benefit of all the stocks. Nor must it be forgotten that the active state of the American railway market, which exercised some effect recently by leading to hopes of a better dividend announcement in January, is still operating. The rest of this department has moved sympathetically, Eastern, Direct U.S. Cables, and Globe Trusts all improving; while there has been a steady investment demand for National Telephone stocks. Iron and Steel shares, and more especially the armament descriptions, have come in for considerable attention, Vickers jumping sharply on large German buying, induced by reports that the Company had secured valuable orders from the Russian Government through German agents, while there were also rumours that the Indian Government had placed some orders with the Company. Armstrongs, too, have been in request, and Cammell Lairds, John Browns, Thorneycroft New Preference, and all the rest of the shares in this section show an improvement. It is very clear that with the battering of the warships in the Far East the prospects of many of the British iron and steel establishments, and particularly those who specialise in armaments, are improved, for eventually they are almost certain to capture some of the orders for replacements, and for that reason I have prepared the following table of such issues, showing the yield obtainable on the basis of the last dividend, to which must be added the possibilities of an increased distribution:—

Name.	Price.		Yield per Cent. £ s. d.
Armstrong, Whitworth	3⅞	.....	4 18 0
Do. 1st Debs.	101	.....	3 9 6
Brown, John	1¼	.....	5 5 0
Cammell, Laird & Co.	6⅜	.....	5 10 0
Thorneycroft J. I. & Co. Pref.	1	.....	6 0 0
Vickers, sons & Maxim	2⅝	.....	5 0 0
Do. Preference	1¼	.....	4 5 0

The demand for Trust stocks has been quietly maintained, and among many others which have improved may be mentioned London, Scottish, and American Deferred, which gained 4 points to 100, and Edinburgh Investment Debs., which also finish 4 points higher, both on buying from the North. Even the Brewery division has contrived to throw off a little of the depression which has clung to it for some time past, the feature being the smart jump in Allsopps, the Ordinary and Preference registering an advance of between 6 and 8 points. There was also a little buying of the debenture stocks of Mitchell and Aldous and Benskin's Watford Brewery, while Huggins' issues picked up further. On the other hand, Cornbrook Preference and Ind Coope "B" Preference were pressed for sale, while Showells developed weakness on the publication of the investigation committee's report, which shows a deficiency of £430,000, the alleged reserve and undivided profits being practically non-existent, but with regard to the over-valuation of property and investments, a great deal of the loss is attributable to injudicious purchases and general depreciation. Among Dock stocks London and India Deferred has been largely bought for investment, a similar demand being in evidence also for many Traction shares, including British Electrics, General Omnibus, and Road Cars, while Calcutta and Anglo-Argentine Trams issues were both in request. In the Textile group Coats show a slight improvement as a result of some buying from the North, which was extended to American Threads, Fine Spinners, Calico Printers, and one or two others, but with little effect upon prices. "Bun-shop" descriptions have been quietly firm without feature of interest apart from the narrow see-saw movement in Aerated Breads, which improved at one time on the optimistic utterances made by the Chairman at the meeting. Hudson's Bays suffered from the effects of profit-taking, but finish above the worst, and Deccans keep steady, while Pekin Syndicates rallied on further support. Amongst Explosives, Nobel Dynamite displayed considerable activity on reports of better business, while in the miscellaneous things in this department Linotypes picked up again, but Sweetmeat Automatics, after improving on "Bear" covering, subsequently relapsed as a result of the poor showing.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

MATRIMONY, LIMITED.

SOME remark has recently been excited by Mr. George Meredith's pronouncement in favour of terminable marriage contracts. There is, of course, nothing novel in the suggestion. It has often been made before. Indeed, I even happen to know a couple who have tried it in practice. It is the experiences of this couple that I am now about to relate.

The time was in the middle eighties. The contracting parties were Richard Arthur and Selina Thorogood. They were both members of a society known as the "Go-aheads," which had then not long been founded by a certain clique of smart persons, with progressive views, for the express purpose of ventilating and furthering their advanced ideas. In short, every member of the Society (which was a mixed sex affair) was, or professed to be, in some respect or other a revolutionary; this one in politics, that one in the moralities, that one in social ordinances. Some took themselves seriously, and believed in the views which they expounded; others did nothing of the kind. They just played at keeping a pet fad as a new sensation.

It was to the former class that Richard Arthur and Selina Thorogood belonged. Their particular fad was a crusade against matrimony. They could neither of them speak a good word for that institution as at present obtaining. It was cruel, it was immoral, it was barbarous, it was illogical, and Heaven knows what besides. That a man and a woman, both being, or supposed to be rational, should bind themselves to

abide eternally by the result of a leap in the dark—for what else was marriage?—that, having no intimate knowledge of each other—and how could they have, under existing conditions, before marriage?—they should, nevertheless, take upon themselves the irrevocable obligation of a lifelong companionship—well, it was the *ne plus ultra* of reckless absurdity.

What man in his senses would execute a legal instrument without first having acquainted himself with its contents? Yet every man and woman who married under the existing law did something even more insane. They rushed blindfold into a contract which involved them for ever in obligations of which, at the time of making it, they were necessarily ignorant, and that in the most important relationship of life. The rest of their days was spent in mastering, and frequently in regretting, the terms of this contract to which they had so recklessly put their hands.

How, then, could this absurdity be remedied? Well, the remedy was simple enough. Make marriage a terminable contract. Let the aspirants to that estate take each other for a limited period—say, for not less than three, nor for more than five, years. Thus, in the intimate relations of wedded life they would have ample opportunity of getting to know each other as they really were; and if the result of that fuller knowledge was satisfactory to both, why then they could sign on for a further period. On the other hand, if it were unsatisfactory, they would simply allow the thing to lapse, and thus each be free to seek a more congenial partner.

Matrimony, they urged, was like taking a new house that has never been lived in before. Until you have lived in it, you really do not know either its advantages or its drawbacks; whether the chimneys smoke, or the roof leaks, or the sanitation is good, or the rooms are draughty; or, in short, anything else about it. Therefore, when you take such a house, you do not, if you have any sense, buy the freehold, or even sign an agreement for a long term. But you just take it for, say, three years, as an experiment. Well, sensible men and women should set about matrimony in the same spirit. The man cannot possibly know what the woman will be like as a wife, nor can the woman know what the man will be like as a husband. Let them begin, therefore, by taking each other for a terminable period as an experiment.

This is what Richard Arthur and Selina Thorogood, true to their principles, resolved to do. The ceremony was of a simple and novel character. It was performed one evening in the presence of half a dozen or so of the "Go-aheads." Richard made a declaration that he hereby took Selina to wife for a period of three years. Selina made a declaration that she took Richard to husband for the same period. Their respective declarations were reduced to writing, signed by the contracting parties, and countersigned by the six witnesses, and lo! the thing was done. The rational marriage was solemnised. Richard and Selina drove away together in a cab to set up housekeeping.

What could be more simple—more sensible? Nothing. Such, at least, was the opinion of their friends among the "Go-aheads." Their friends outside that society, being of a Philistine turn of mind, looked at them askance. To these good people, deeply imbued as they were with old-fashioned prejudices in favour of priest and Prayer-book, it seemed that Richard and Selina were committing a shameless and cynical offence against social morality. They struck them off their visiting list as improper persons, and declined their further acquaintance.

Richard and Selina, however, were not at all dismayed by this. They knew the fate of all reformers who were in advance of their age, from Socrates downwards. So they expected nothing else. Moreover, they were very much in love with one another, and, at present, their mutual society was entirely sufficient for them. To use an auctioneer's phrase, they were self-contained.

But presently the prudence of their conduct in merely having married each other on appro. was justified by events; for twelve months' intimacy produced in them that result which, in nine cases out of ten, it is bound to produce. I mean it effected their mutual disillusionment.

In taking to himself Selina Thorogood, Richard Arthur had believed he had been taking a woman in all respects as beautiful as she was in face. In taking to herself Richard Arthur, Selina Thorogood had been sure she was taking a man as much an Adonis in character as he was in form. For a while the mutual illusion lasted; but, little by little, the microscopic lens of matrimonial intimacy dispelled it. It showed up Selina's temper, her unreasonableness, her extravagance, her capacities for nagging. It showed up Richard's selfishness, his grumpiness, his capacities for using a latch-key. Moreover—and though these are delicate matters, I feel bound to mention them—Selina had a troublesome habit of tossing about in her sleep, which (particularly on an oscillating spring-mattress) was very disturbing to Richard's repose; on the other hand, Richard was a lusty snorer. The consequence was that when he was asleep he kept Selina awake, and when Selina was asleep, she kept him awake, which led to irritation, curtain lectures, and all manner of unpleasantness.

Thus, by the end of twelve months, as I have said, they were completely disillusioned; but by the end of twenty-four months they were quite disgusted, and either lost no opportunity of thanking Heaven (in the hearing of the other) that the end of another year would see them free to go their separate ways.

It was during this last year that a little one made his appearance—a fine boy, who (alas, for the poor infant, as Selina put it) bore a fatal resemblance to his father, Richard. By the understanding to which they had come when entering into their terminable marriage contract, it would devolve on Richard to take charge of the child, being a boy, in event of their separating at the end of three years.

"Mind, you'll have to take him with you, Richard, when we each go our own way at the end of next month," said Selina to her partner. "That was in the bond; do not forget that."

"I am not in the habit of forgetting my obligations," replied Richard Arthur, with frigid dignity. "Of course I shall take the nipper, and do my duty by him."

"And do try, Richard, for *his* sake, and for his future wife's sake, if he ever has one, to bring him up to be a less selfish and inconsiderate man than *you* are."

"They say that boys usually take after their mothers in disposition," retorted Richard. 'If this one does so, I am afraid I shall have to work on rather unpromising material."

Selina flushed hotly.

"This has been the amiable habit of your sex, from Adam downwards," she answered, with cutting reference. "I always considered our first father a most contemptible individual. 'Please it wasn't me. It was Eve!' Ah! how wonderfully true the Bible is to life!"

"I am somehow reminded," said Richard, with an air of studied abstraction, "of a certain person who can quote Scripture for his own purposes."

"A certain person of the *male* sex, I believe," murmured Selina, bitingly.

"A mere popular assumption. All the more enlightened modern thinkers regard the author of evil as having been a woman," rejoined Richard Arthur.

"Well, well! That ancient personage certainly did show evidence of brains hardly compatible with the average male intelligence," retorted Selina.

"Oh, that to-day were the thirty-first of next month!" cried Richard, flinging himself, in a rage, from the room.

"To that prayer may I be allowed to append a sevenfold 'amen!'" answered Selina, as the door banged.

Well, in due course the 31st of next month arrived. Richard and Selina took leave of each other.

"Let us, my dear Selina," said he, "part without recrimination."

"What room for recrimination," answered she, "when one's heart is full of an unspeakable joy? I give you my word, Richard, that I am in that mood to-day in

which I am simply oozing over with the milk of human kindness, and could not entertain a harsh thought towards my bitterest enemy."

"I am glad to hear it," said he, "for I was about to say that I part from you, Selina, without any sort of ill-feeling, and that I trust your sentiments towards me are of the same friendly character."

"I promise you that, Richard. I part from you with the best feelings in the world. In fact I never felt kindlier towards you than I do at this moment of saying 'Good-bye.'"

"Thank you, Selina. Shall we, then, kiss for the last time, and then take mutual leave of one another?"

"Certainly, Richard," she answered, in gay tones, holding up her pretty little mouth to him, unconcernedly for the final salute.

He kissed it—perfunctorily. Then they parted.

"Thank Heaven!" ejaculated he, as he drove away to his hotel, with a sigh of relief. "Thank Heaven! I am now a free man again."

Selina, as she drove to her hotel, said the same thing with the same relieved sigh.

"Thank Heaven! I am now a free woman again."

It was nearly a fortnight before they met again, running up against each other, accidentally, in Bond-street.

Selina was looking pale and fagged; there were dark semicircles under Richard's eyes.

"You are looking tired, Selina," said Richard, when they had exchanged greetings.

"May I return the compliment?" replied Selina.

"Well, I must admit that I have not been sleeping well of late," said he. "It is an odd thing, Selina, but by the time our three years were up, and we separated to our mutual advantage, I had just got broken to your habit of tossing about in your sleep, which had come to act upon me as a sort of lullaby—like a rocking-cradle on a baby, don't you know. And now, odd as it may seem, I find it positively difficult to sleep without it."

"Dear me! now that is very strange," answered she; "for I, too, had just got broken to your habit of snoring, which had come to act upon me like the monotonous droning of a dull preacher at an afternoon service after one has eaten a heavy luncheon, and now I, too, find it positively difficult to sleep without it."

"We shall get used to this new state of affairs in time," he remarked.

"Oh, yes, we shall get used to it in time. Anyhow, it is a glorious thing to be free again, is it not? We have, at least, that consolation."

"Yes, yes, to be sure," he answered. "It is a glorious thing to have one's freedom again. To come home, if you like, in the morning with the milk, and no one to rag you for it——"

"And to keep dinner waiting, to your heart's content, and no one to swear at you for it," she added.

"To smoke cigars all over the house, and no avenging angel to jump on you for it," said he.

"To occupy the bath-room for an hour on end while getting up, and no infuriated man to come kicking at the door and wanting to know when the —— you're going to give him a look in," said she.

"To read the paper in peace of an evening, and no chatterbox to distract you with garrulous inanities," he remarked.

"To eat your meals in quiet and comfort, and no one to worry you by incessantly cursing the menu and the cook," she observed.

He made no answer, but stared in abstracted silence at the pavement.

"What are you thinking about?" asked she.

"I was thinking," he replied, "(very odd, isn't it, how inconsequent one's thoughts are!) of a story which I remember to have read somewhere about a man in Newgate, when the prison was burnt down by the No-Popery rioters, who, finding himself unexpectedly released after many years' incarceration, couldn't somehow bring himself to take advantage of his liberty, but went back to the prison, and sat there idly among the ruins until the officers of the law came and re-arrested him."

"What a silly man! Why on earth did he do that?" exclaimed Selina.

"He couldn't help it. Years of imprisonment had deprived him of all capacity for freedom. He had grown so used to the restrictions and discomforts of prison life that they had become necessary to his existence. Horrible as the conditions of life in Newgate were, he found in them, through long habit, a morbid and fatal fascination; and he couldn't be happy until he was again incarcerated in the familiar walls of a prison cell."

"What a funny story! And what connection has it, pray, with the present subject?"

"No connection, Selina. It simply crossed my mind—as thoughts will—with perfect inconsequence."

Selina looked at him.

"Richard," she said, sternly, "It *has* a connection, and you know it. That is why you told me the story. You are comparing married life with me to prison life in Newgate. Now don't deny it, sir!"

"Well, perhaps I was, Selina," he admitted.

"And you are comparing yourself to the crushed and spiritless wretch, who, having by long incarceration lost the capacity for freedom, could not be happy away from the familiar walls of his prison cell. Is it not so, Richard?"

"I confess it," said he.

"Since you admit that," she replied, "I do not mind making a similar admission, Richard. Horrible as the conditions of life with you were, I find in them, through long habit, a morbid and fatal fascination. In a word, if it is not too paradoxical to say so, married misery with you has become such a necessary and familiar circumstance of my life that I can't be happy without it."

"Shall we, then," suggested Richard, "seek again happiness in our mutual misery, and sign on for a further three years?"

Selina shook her head.

"At the end of a further three years," she said, "we should only be in a worse condition than now—more than ever the slaves of that depraved and unnatural taste which, through sheer familiarity with what is nauseous, finds its highest satisfaction therein. At present, it is just possible that our palates might recover their normal condition. But after three years' more depraved indulgence they will have become incurably vitiated. No more limited indulgence in married misery for me; no more spoiling my palate with strong and nauseous foods only to surrender them after a short time and return to the toothsome delicacies which I have for ever lost the capacity of enjoying. What on earth is the good of acquiring the taste for oysters, if, just when one has acquired it, one has to give up oysters and return to sugar? Tell me that, Richard."

He looked puzzled.

"Oysters?" he inquired. "What is the point of the simile of the oysters?"

"It is this," said she. "Oysters, in themselves, are horrid, nauseous things. But the young person in the sugar stage, seeing veterans devour them with relish, concludes that they must taste as nice as sugar; so he tries them, and shudders, and is almost sick at the disgusting taste of fishy salt water that floods his palate. Yet somehow he tries them again and again, until his palate has become so thoroughly vitiated that he actually enjoys the nauseous flavour of the oysters, but in so doing he has lost the capacity for enjoying the toothsome sugar. Now what would such a young person say, Richard, if, when he had gone through all the trouble and misery of getting to like oysters, and to dislike sugar, you suddenly took away his oysters and sent him back to sugar?"

"He would probably say," replied Richard, "that it was a bit off."

"Just so. Well, marriage is like oysters. Its flavour is, in itself, unpalatable. But young persons in the sugared single state, seeing their elders rush into matrimony with apparent zest, conclude that it must taste as nice as the sugared single state, so they try it; and then they shudder, and are almost sick at the obnoxious flavour. But, somehow, they persevere

awhile, until they have acquired the taste for nauseous matrimony, but, in so doing, have lost the taste for the sugared single state. Is it not, then, altogether unreasonable to expect them at this point to give up the oysters, and to go back to the sugar? No, Richard. If I stick to oysters I stick to them, henceforth, once and for all. And if I swear off oysters, I swear off them once and for all. I am not going any more to be at all the pains of learning to prefer oysters to sugar only, when I have thoroughly learned my lesson, to be sent back to sugar. It must be either sugar or oysters *in perpetuo*. I leave it to you to say which."

Richard Arthur, in replying, did not hesitate for a moment. He said "Oysters."

And "oysters" it was, *in perpetuo*—that is to say, as much *in perpetuo* as a priest, a prayer-book, and a ring could make it.

ART NOTES.

AN INTERESTING "INSTITUTE."

HOW pleasant it is to be able to congratulate the exhibitors at the galleries of the Institute of Oil Painters on their Winter Show. The good impression produced by a glance round the Exhibition went far to obliterate the almost despairing mood in which I left the Suffolk-street Galleries of the R.B.A. a week or two ago. Well-selected and well-hung, the Institute pictures are certainly above the average of recent seasons. Another excellent feature of the Show is the wise limitation of the number of exhibits placed upon the walls. Because they have so many square feet of wall space the members of the Council have not therefore packed every available square foot of it with pictures. The number exhibited is but 252 all told, and those who know the size of the Institute galleries will understand what this means. For one thing, it implies neither "skying" nor "flooring." The conscientious critic has neither to kneel as if he were invoking the *manes* of Apelles, nor to borrow a chair from Mr. Blackmore's room on which to mount before he can focus the most exalted of the canvases. He can comfortably stroll from room to room and arrive at the end of his ambulatory exercise without so much as a strained optic nerve or even a crick in his long-suffering neck. Of going into Piccadilly with an "Academy" headache there is not the slightest danger. So, again, sincere thanks to the Council, say I.

When I wrote of the R.B.A. show I pointed out that it was saved from utter failure by the best of its landscapes. At the Institute the honours of the year are undoubtedly borne away by the portrait-painters. There are at least half a dozen full-lengths of distinction—portraits that would hold their own in any current exhibition. That these are, most of them, contributed by artists who are not Members of the Institute is another reason for praising the policy of the Council, which has not only invited several Scotch and other portrait-painters of the first rank to send in canvases, but have, with an altruism not too common in the art world, seen to it that some of the best positions on the walls have been reserved for their works. Such a work—pre-eminent, perhaps, amongst the portraits exhibited—is Mr. John Lavery's "Lady in Black" (No. 123). As one stops in front of this masterly picture one thinks of Tintoretto's paradox, that black and white are, after all, the most beautiful colours. How some of the artists of the Venetian school used black I need not remind my readers in these days of universal touring. At the point of their brushes that pigment seemed endowed with magic chromatic properties. They made it as attractive, as rich, as luminous, as full of vibration, as any crimson or purple. Mr. Lavery seems to have been studying, with admirable results, their method. His "Lady in Black" is superb.

Another of the portraits that specially pleased me was Mr. George Henry's "The Brown Dress" (No. 80). Here is an artist who is indeed a portrait painter, and not the mere face-painter which too many contemporary artists are content to be. For the marked revival which has set in in portraiture the young men of the Glasgow school deserve the warmest praise. Mr. Robert Brough is a third of the Scotchmen who add distinction to the Exhibition at the Institute. Right welcome, too, is the "Portrait of a Lady" by M. Jaques Blanche (No. 182). It is a trying ordeal for the "Glaswegians" to exhibit in such distinguished company, but in truth they pass through it with unmistakable success. Amongst its own Members the Institute does not number any portrait-painters of such exceptional excellence as the visitors I have named. There is Mr. Herman G. Herkomer, it is true, but he stands on a different plane altogether. Mr. Kennington, in "The Blue Vase" (No. 23), shows what another Member of the Institute can do in portraiture. He seems to paint with a well-nigh fatal fluency.

It is in landscape and genre that the Institute's Members achieve most success. There is that brilliant impressionist, Signor Garrido, for example—a host in himself. His pictures, such as "L'Entente" and "Inspectors of Prisons" (Nos. 63 and 113), compel attention. They seem to shout at you as you pass. Mr. Byam Shaw attracts special notice, too, by the fact that he gives in his "Sun, Silk, and Sinew" (No. 70) the very first representation in an exhibited oil painting of a starting-gate! His alliterative title, also, may prove suggestive. It might as well have been, "June, Joy, and Jockeys"! It was said by some one of Wilson, the English Claude, that he was possessed by the fixed idea that the Creator had only made Nature to serve as a framework for the Grief of Niobe. It might be said in a somewhat similar way that Mr. Ernest Parton has come to regard the rural world as nothing more than a background for his never-ending groups of silver birch trees! But repetition, he should remember, is apt to produce repletion. We have to thank Mr. Reginald Frampton for introducing us to St. Clare, the patron saint of embroidery. May we in due course expect to see a representation of the patron saint of tatting, of crochet, of crewel-work? And if so, why not a patron saint of plain sewing? Determined to be up to date—even if that date be a silly season—Mr. St. George Hare gives to one of his pictures (No. 47) the title, "Is Marriage a Handicap?" No artist, however, seems to have turned to pictorial account the still more popular headline, "Do we Believe?" Who cannot guess what Mr. Bundy's "Bachelors" are like (No. 59)? Rollicking blades, quotha! swaggering gallants, 'i faith! how well we know them—as intimately, indeed, as we are acquainted with Mr. Kilburne's "Huntsmen" (No. 193) and Mr. John R. Reid's gnarled old fishermen painted apparently with treacle! (No. 62). But enough! Were it for its portraits only the Institute is now well worth a visit, and that there are many other pictures upon its walls worthy of notice those who go to see "The Lady in Black" may be trusted to find out for themselves.

MUSIC.

BRITISH *v.* FOREIGN VOICE-TRAINING.

WHAT are the respective advantages of home and Continental training for British vocalists? According to Mr. Albert Visetti, who has lately been expressing his views on the question with much emphasis, the existing belief in the benefits of Continental study is a mischievous delusion. The budding vocalist, he would have us believe, can acquire the practice of his art just as effectually on British soil as in a foreign conservatoire. In London, he reminds us, may be found professors of singing, native and foreign, qualified to teach any kind of music of any epoch and any style and in any language. And further, he points out, they will be teachers qualified to impart their knowledge in the

pupil's own language, and to train him or her "according to the peculiar exigencies of the English throats." Even a foreign language may be acquired as readily, in Mr. Visetti's opinion, in England as on the Continent, so far as its use in singing is concerned. Mr. Visetti's own words on this point are really worthy of quotation:

> Four or five shillings buy the necessary works of Ellis and Sweet, by which one can learn not only the singing—which is very simple, if systematically studied—but the speaking pronunciation of English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Latin, and Greek; four shillings will barely carry you and your luggage to Charing Cross Station. As an irrefragable proof of the fact, I can state that in the German performances at Covent Garden the public, by unanimous consent, declared that the most pure, correct, and charming pronunciation of German is that of an artist who does not know German, and simply learns the words of his rôles by the help of practical phonetics.

Mr. Visetti's "irrefragable proof" will, I fancy, hardly carry universal conviction. It must be accounted, indeed, a case of proving too much when the conclusion is that the foreign language may be better sung by one knowing nothing of it than by a native.

But without making too much of this, is there anything in Mr. Visetti's main proposition? Is it true that the vocalist who goes abroad to study only wastes his money? Doubtless the answer to the question depends to some extent on the particular kind of vocalism which is contemplated. There is, of course, singing and singing. If it is singing of the ballad-concert type which the student has in view, then I do not know that he would gain very greatly by going to France or Italy. On the contrary, he would probably do better to stay at home, on the principle that you do not want a razor to cut wood. But if he aspires to something higher—if his (or her) aim is to become a Caruso or a Van Rooy, a Calvé or a Landi, then the matter assumes a different aspect. Doubtless we have many excellent vocal teachers in London—from Señor Manuel Garcia, the venerable *doyen* of them all, who hopes next year to give a lesson on his hundredth birthday, down to others whom it would be invidious to name. Doubtless, too, in many respects, they are the equal of any to be found abroad. It stands to reason, indeed, that with so many foreign professors honouring us by their presence it cannot be necessary to go abroad to obtain foreign teaching. Let it be assumed, therefore, for the sake of argument, that from the purely technical point of view there is nothing to choose between the instruction to be had in London and that obtainable in Paris or Milan. Yet is it not true that Paris and Milan provide something which London can never supply—to wit, that musical and artistic "atmosphere" which, in its way, is hardly less helpful to the receptive student than actual instruction? No doubt in London we have musical performances enough and to spare, likewise an opera where the finest imaginable singing may be heard, to say nothing of our incomparable ballad concerts, our piano-organs, our German bands, and other sources of musical culture. But the atmosphere as a whole, the musical and artistic environment, which means so much in the case of the young and expansive temperament, is altogether lacking.

Yet no one stands more peculiarly in need of that particular kind of help which atmosphere and surroundings afford than the average British student. As a race we are distinguished, as every one knows, by precisely those qualities of phlegm, reserve, and non-emotionalism which of all others offer the most fatal obstacles to artistic success. Wherefore none are more likely to benefit by study and sojourn in the brighter, easier, freer, and more genial atmosphere of the Continent. Even assuming, therefore, the justice of Mr. Visetti's observations so far as they go, this is far from endorsing his conclusion that the average British student is likely to derive no benefit from a course of Continental study. As to his further contention that the methods of foreign teachers are unadapted to the "peculiar exigencies of the English throats," and that they are calculated to spoil them for what he calls "a school of singing peculiar to the English race," this is an argument rather hard to follow. The great singers who come to us from abroad assuredly suffer no lack of appreciation because they do not sing in our English style. We liked M. Jean de Reszke none the less because his singing possessed all the finest characteristics of the French school of vocalism; we enjoy our Caruso all the more because his style is purely Italian in its character. In a word, the further the average student can escape from "the English school of singing," the more, and not the less, I fancy, is he likely, in Mr. Visetti's own words, to "move the heart of his audience." But the subject is a large one, and in many of Mr. Visetti's observations there is doubtless force. I would merely take exception here to his sweeping generalisation, which would condemn as useless, so far as British vocal students are concerned, all Continental training.

Among many recent concerts the most interesting, perhaps, was that at the Queen's Hall on Saturday, when Hugo Wolf's symphonic poem "Penthesilea" got its first hearing in London. It is a composition of the "wild and whirling" order, but clever enough in its way. It is in his working-out sections that Wolf, like Strauss, seems least successful, the wild cacophonous blending of themes previously heard on no recognisable principle being made to do duty here for treatment of a more logical and intelligible kind. It was indeed impossible not to contrast the ineffective hurly-burly resulting from this process in Wolf's case with the masterly working-out portions of Brahm's violin concerto heard earlier in the afternoon. Max Schillings' "Das Hexenlied," also heard at this concert, in which the music accompanies a spoken recitation, proved no more satisfactory than works of this description usually do.

Another interesting orchestral concert given earlier in the week was that of Mr. B. Hollander, who brought forward among other things a couple of taking "esquisses symphonique," entitled "Drame" and "Comédie" respectively, of his own. At the first of the Royal Choral Society's concerts "Elijah" was given in first-rate style, with a young singer of much promise, in the person of Mr. Dalton Baker, as the representative of the prophet. In the way of recitals, Herr Kreisler and Señor Sarasate have both been heard again; a clever young pianist, now calling herself Miss Ethel Leginska, but formerly known as a prodigy under her real name of Leggins, has proved herself now a more or less matured artist; while Mr. Plunket Greene found the Æolian Hall all too small to accommodate the multitude of his admirers who thronged to hear him on Friday. This week the most interesting event will be the appearance of Herr Nikisch at the London Symphony Orchestra's concert to-morrow (Thursday), when Tschaikowsky's fifth symphony will be heard, among other things, under his direction.

At Covent Garden lately no new works have been heard apart from "Adriana Lecouvreur," which was repeated with every sign of success on Saturday evening, but Monday's repetition of "La Tosca" served to reintroduce an old favourite in Signor Ancona; while M. Maurel, another famous artist who has enjoyed many triumphs at Covent Garden in bygone days, was announced to reappear yesterday (Tuesday) in "Rigoletto." "Faust," which drew a full house last week, notwithstanding the *Daily Mail's* "cheap" prices, is to be repeated this evening at the ordinary rates, which are cheaper, while "Lohengrin," with Mme. Wayda and Signor Vignas in the leading parts, is to be mounted on Friday.

A musician who writes to the newspapers to protest against a criticism which may have appeared is usually ill-advised in doing so, and I hardly think that the case of Professor Wilhelmj, who has been taking up the cudgels in this way on behalf of his pupil, Miss Evangeline Anthony, constitutes any exception to the rule. Professor Wilhemj is very wroth, it seems, because the *Times* critic ventured to assert that Miss Anthony

played out of tune. Such an assertion he regards as an "attack on Miss Evengeline Anthony," and in reply he asks permission "flatly and positively" to contradict the *Times* critic, who has tried, in his judgment, "to damn and check a reputation without possessing, whatever his presumed book credentials, the first essential of one who would criticise a violinist—a correct ear." The *Times* did not apparently print the irate Professor's letter, and I cannot say that I am surprised, in view of its general tone, which is gratuitously offensive. Why Professor Wilhelmj's *ipse dixit* on a matter of this sort should be accepted as final I do not know. "I'm not arguin'— I'm tellin' yer," seems to be his attitude; but that is absurd, of course. The *Times* critic is as much entitled to his own opinion on this point as Professor Wilhelmj—more so, indeed, since he is presumably unbiassed, whereas the Professor is naturally prejudiced in favour of his pupil. Personally, I was not profoundly impressed by Miss Anthony's playing, and for what it is worth, I venture to add my own testimony to that of the *Times* critic to the effect that her intonation was more than once at fault. But this, I hope, will not be regarded by the explosive Professor as an "attack" on his pupil, nor is it more than could be said at some time or other of every violinist who has ever lived.

Open confession is good for the soul, and Mr. Felix Weingartner will certainly lose nothing in the eyes of his admirers, whether Brahms-lovers or not, by reason of the change of views which he has acknowledged in a manner so creditable in relation to that master's music. Many of us certainly found it difficult to understand how a musician of Weingartner's eclectic type could write, as he did, so disrespectfully concerning such a giant of the art as Brahms, but now that he has seen the error of his ways one and all will be glad. "There is more joy," etc. The recantations of eminent musicians would make an interesting article. They have taken various forms. Schumann sneered at first at the "Tannhäuser" overture, but afterwards admitted (in a letter to Mendelssohn) that when he actually heard it performed it had affected him very differently. A converse change of views was that of Nietzsche in relation to the same master—as all are aware who recall his brilliant pamphlet, "The Case of Wagner."

Joachim also was a Wagnerian apostate. As Mr. Ashton Ellis's recently-published volume reminds us, Joachim was originally, if not an ardent Wagnerite, at least very profoundly impressed by his music, going so far indeed as to volunteer to lead the orchestra when "The Ring" should be produced. And in the case of Liszt his change of views was even more emphatic. It requires something of an effort indeed to realise that both Brahms and Joachim were classed originally as disciples of the Weimar school. Was there not something of recantation, too, in that striking utterance of Brahms respecting Wagner, which Mr. Ashton Ellis also quotes?—

> But when I finally remarked that "Wagner was chiefly responsible for all manner of confusion in the heads of us young people," Brahms struck me dumb; for he jumped up as if someone had stabbed him. "Nonsense - it is the *misunderstood* Wagner that has done you this; of the real Wagner those understand nothing who go astray through him. Wagner is one of the clearest heads that ever came into the world."

But not every musician who changes his views has the honesty to confess it with the candour of Herr Weingartner. How many are there still among us who, worshipping to-day at the Bayreuth shrine, once fought against the master and all his works?

Herr Huberman is an excellent violinist, as he has recently proved, but he does not seem to be very happily served by his agent—assuming, at any rate, that the latter is responsible for the egregious puffs concerning him with which the newspapers have been flooded during his recent stay in London. One, for instance, takes autobiographical form, and professes to narrate in Herr Huberman's own words "How I played on Paganini's violin," among other things. Here is a thrilling extract:—

> And now I come to the "moment" of my life. I alone of all living violinists have played on Paganini's violin. It was the Mayor of Genoa who invited me to make "Paganini's violin resound." In the presence of expectant witnesses the seal was removed. I reverently took the violin; new strings were required, pegs and the bridge needed adjustment. At first there came dull, dead tones which gradually became more vivid, and then still more powerful, until finally I forgot everything except that I was playing on Paganini's violin. The thought was heaven, and as one in a dream I played on and on, my soul penetrating and imbuing the violin with life, truly grateful for the honour of "reawakening Paganini's violin."

Whether Herr Huberman really wrote this inflated rubbish or not I will not profess to say; but certainly he is too genuine an artist not to suffer in the opinion of those who count from recourse to self-advertising of this absurd description.

Why not L.C.C. bands indoors in the winter months, as well as out of doors in the summer? is an old question which has been asked again, I notice, by the *Orchestral Times*:—

> Why, if it is lawful to pay for music out of the public purse in the summer is it unlawful in the winter? In the summer the fresh air and beautiful parks are in themselves attractive . . . whereas in the winter poor people have nowhere to go except to the public-houses or cheap music-halls, from which, both in their physical and moral interests, it is desirable to draw them by more wholesome counter attractions.

The argument is plausible, but it is hardly needful to point out the difference between the provision of music in the parks, where otherwise there would be none, and the establishment of subsidised concerts at the expense of the community in competition with those already provided in such large numbers by other agencies. It may be as wise—or, for that matter, as unwise—to do the thing in the one case as in the other. But there is obviously no analogy between the two. In the case of the parks performances, they can be listened to by all for nothing; in the case of indoor concerts, this could hardly be so. Whether such a scheme, considered on its merits, is practicable and desirable is another matter—though I hardly think that it is one which would be likely to commend itself to the average ratepayer. All I am concerned to point out at present is that the suggested analogy above quoted is essentially misleading.

For the production of "Aglavaine and Selysette" at the Court Theatre this week Mr. Donald Tovey has, I hear, written some original and characteristic music, which will be conducted by Mr. Th. Stier—a member of the London Symphony Orchestra who has done good work before as a conductor.

Poor Bayreuth! Is it never to have done with the slings and arrows of the hypercritical? Yet, though its detractors may be numerous, Bayreuth has never lacked defenders, even though all will not agree with the contention of Miss Marie Brema, who, in this instance, has rushed into the breach, that Frau Cosima Wagner is the "greatest of stage-managers." The fact is, though one can hardly expect Frau Cosima to recognise it, that nothing has injured Bayreuth more in the estimation of the dispassionate outsider than the influence of that well-meaning lady. The enthusiasm of the amateur is admirable, but is should be exercised with judgment and tempered with experience. Unfortunately, Frau Cosima's enthusiasm has been equalled only by her self-confidence, and in many ways the result has been rather deplorable. None the less, one may agree with Miss Brema herself one of the many fine artists who have enlisted under Frau Cosima's banner, that with all its faults Bayreuth has, on the whole, deserved well of the world of music. It was a noble conception in the first instance, worthy of its author, and if, like all things human, it has had its defects, its influence for good will always remain. Operatic stage-management can never again be quite what it was before Bayreuth came into being.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Authors, an irritable race according to Horace, and, according to their publishers, as unreasonable as they are irritable, have the advantage the lion in the fable justly objected to—of the exclusive presentation of their own case. One story is good till another is told, and remains good if the other is never told. It is but equitable, therefore, that you should occasionally, at least, have such a glimpse of the publisher's side as Mr. E. Marston gives you in "After Work" (1), or, as its second title has it, "Fragments from the Workshop of an Old Publisher." A temperate and amiable glimpse, certainly, which deals gently even with such a blustering client as Charles Reade, who, by the way, seems to me to be incomparably the greatest of the authors Mr. Marston had to do with in business. "Mr. Reade," writes Mr. Marston, "was an excellent man of business, and was very careful of the commodity which furnished the title of 'Hard Cash'"; but, on the other hand, Reade gave good business value for it, since no novelist ever accumulated and assimilated such masses of material for his work as the author of "The Cloister and the Hearth." Reade was singular as an author, not in knowing his own commercial value, but in obtaining it. "I am sure," he wrote to Mr. Marston, "the above are fair terms as between trader and trader; and you know I come to you as a trading author, determined to make money by my great labour." Why not? Reade had a very high opinion of Wilkie Collins's ingenuity in plot-building; while of Hardy and Blackmore he said, "Big men, sir! almost as big as they are made nowadays." Mr. Marston deeply regretted parting as a publisher with Mr. Hardy; but the author of "Tess" hesitated even to submit the MS. of that daring novel to so conservative a firm! I think Mr. Marston himself feels that this hesitation was justified, since he says, "Although, as Mr. Hardy said, 'Tess' was 'not in the least immoral,' I am sure that twenty years earlier the verdict would have gone against him." How fitful the breath and breeze of fame, and how necessary to take the tide of opportuneness when it serves, or lose our ventures, is also the moral pointed by "Lorna Doone." "But for you," writes Blackmore to Mr. Marston, "'Lorna Doone' might never have seen the light. All the magazines rejected her, and Smith and Elder refused to give £200 for the copyright." And even after its acceptance and publication by Mr. Marston's firm, it fell almost still-born from the press both in America and at home, till the marriage of the Queen's daughter to the Marquis of Lorne floated it on the full tide of fame! The brilliant British public ordered the new edition of the novel under the enlightened impression that it had something to do with the fashionable marriage of the moment! Indeed, Blackmore himself under-estimated this fine novel. Writing to a correspondent, he said, "In none of my books have I satisfied myself. There is something rather childish in "Lorna Doone" I think. Perhaps, taken altogether, 'Alice Lorraine' is the best of my books." The most extraordinary miscalculation of the popular taste, however, was made by the firm of publishers, Messrs. Groombridge and Sons, who declined "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Upon its publication in America in book form, after nine months' gestation as a serial, 3,000 copies were sold the first day, and over 300,000 within the first year. It may be imagined that Mrs. Stowe had no difficulty in securing an English publisher for her next work, "Dred," for which, on the contrary, there was a neck-and-neck race between Mr. Beeton and Mr. Low across the Atlantic! "It is a curious instance of the pushing enterprise of publishers, and I may be pardoned for mentioning it, that as Mr. Low was walking down the gravel path from Mrs. Stowe's door, he met Mr. S. O. Beeton going up! It may fairly be presumed that, as doubtless Mr. Beeton had crossed the broad Atlantic for the sole purpose of securing Mrs. Stowe's new book, his encounter with a brother English publisher almost on her door-step was not one likely to throw him into an ecstasy of delight." Before quitting the subject of publishers' mistakes I cannot resist quoting the delightful objection made by the fraternity to that standard work (of its day), "Prideaux's Connexion between the Old and New Testament." It was bandied about between five or six publishers for more than two years; it was gravely objected to because "the subject was *dry*, and wanted to be enlivened with a little humour!" I remember Sir Leslie Stephen showing me once the preface to a volume of sermons, recommending them to the pious reader upon the ground "that there was nothing to be found in them which would bring the blush of shame to the cheek of modesty"—a recommendation not more incongruously amusing than this objection to "Prideaux's Connexion" as lacking in humour. Mr. Marston's interesting and amiable book is enhanced in value by the portraits of the principal authors of whom it treats. "Thackeray's Letters to an American Family" (2) are characteristically sad. As I read them I recalled Thackeray's "Vanity of Vanity" verses, which have rung in my ears ever since I read them in my boyhood:

O vanity of vanities!
How wayward the decrees of fate are;
How very weak the very wise,
How very small the very great are!

Though thrice a thousand years are past,
Since David's son, the sad and splendid,
The weary King Ecclesiast,
Upon his awful tablets penned it.

Methinks the text is never stale,
And life is every day renewing
Fresh comments on the old, old tale
Of Folly, Fortune, Glory, Ruin.

Not the least interesting part of this most interesting book is its introduction. "Turning over the leaves of 'Pendennis,' as it lay on the table beside him, Thackeray said, smiling, from time to time, 'Yes, it's very like—is certainly very like.' 'Like whom, Mr. Thackeray?' said my mother. 'Oh, like me, to be sure; Pendennis is very like me.' 'Surely not,' objected my mother, 'for Pendennis was so weak!' 'Ah, well, Mrs. Baxter,' he said, with a shrug of his great shoulders and a comical look, 'your humble servant is not very strong.'" But Thackeray, inheriting, as he says, his mother's despondent temperament, loathed his lectures and scorned his books, and found no pleasure in his work or in his life. He can write thus even of "The Newcomes":—"I'm in low spirits about 'The Newcomes.' It's not good. It's stupid. It haunts me like a great stupid ghost. I think it says: 'Why do you go on writing this rubbish? You are old; you have no more invention, etc.'" "His lectures bored him greatly," writes Miss Baxter, "and in the end became a real burden. Indeed, these letters might almost have for their motto this dreary extract from one of them: "Something dismal must be in the air, for instead of writing gaily to a young lady on her birthday, see the page is full of darkness, death, weariness of soul, failing memory, advancing decrepitude, speedy departure." As millionaires are the fashion both in life and fiction, Mr. Marchmont's "The Queen's Advocate" (3), Mr. Chris Healy's "The Endless Heritage" (4), and Mr. Helm's "The Blue Fox" (5) ought to be popular. "The Blue Fox" is an amusing burlesque upon the modern novel of hypnotism, obsession, superhuman villainy, and no less superhuman detective cunning. We leave the hero with the "hot sun blushing with fuller crimson on his burnished face; it delays no more, but, yearning to cool his heat in the glistening water, sinks hissing with

(1) "After Work." Fragments from the Workshop of an Old Publisher. By E. Marston, F.R.G.S. (London: William Heinemann. 10s. net.)

(2) "Thackeray's Letters to an American Family." With an Introduction by Lucy W. Baxter: and original drawings by Thackeray. (London: Smith, Elder & Co. 6s. net.)

(3) "The Queen's Advocate." By A. W. Marchmont. Illustrations by John Cameron. (London: Ward Lock & Co. 6s.)

(4) "The Endless Heritage." By Chris Healy. (London: Chatto & Windus. 6s.)

(5) "The Blue Fox." By W. H. Helm. (London: Eveleigh Nash. 6s.)

one last great plunge into the exquisite western sea." Mr. Marchmont has invented for his millionaire hero a Servian Princess who should have succeeded the ill-fated Queen Draga upon the throne. The hero's pluck, resource, and good fortune, aided by his wealth and his dog, rescue the Queen's Advocate from the fate that befell her Royal mistress, and the curtain falls upon her happy marriage to the millionaire. Still, more interesting is Mr. Chris Healy's novel written upon the text, "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" His hero from his very childhood is a griping usurer, and sacrifices not his life and soul only, but his wife and child to his engrossing greed. The whole story grips you from the first and maintains its unrelenting hold upon you to the last.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—London is full and humming—even buzzing—with life. The blitheness of it all is enhanced by the nice weather. When there is rain, this nice and beautiful year has made a practice from its very beginning of getting it over at night. This is a convenient arrangement that I only wish other years would copy.

The opera is as gay as in the legitimate London season. We were there on the first night of Adriana Lecouvreur; and could easily have imagined it to be May, judging from the smart frocks, fine jewels, and well-arranged coiffures all about us. No royalties were present, but we had a Duchess or two, and any amount of beauty. A Parisian frock was white chiffon with a little bodice of orange glacé, a short basque of which was embroidered with pale blue roses. A narrow belt of pale blue ribbon was worn above the basque. A Marie Antoinette fichu of the snowy chiffon finished this picturesque bodice round the shoulders.

A gentleman who visited the Dowager Duchess of Manchester in her box carried his opera hat about on a stick, and held it so while he occupied his stall. A marvellous gown, well meant but not entirely successful, had a very large diamond bow on the bodice and diamond bands for sleeves. These were not straps, merely crossing the shoulders, but were carried all round the arms. A glitter of rose and ruby was in the hair, and this was emphasised when a very long rose-coloured velvet coat was donned.

Which reminds me to tell you about a perfectly lovely rose-velvet gown I saw at Russell and Allen's. The skirt was cut with a long, full train and hung beautifully owing to the skilful way in which a few pleats were arranged below the waist. The only trimming consisted of rouleaux of soft silk, matching the tone of the velvet and graduated in width from waist to hem. A little curl at either end interrupted the otherwise straight outline, and the whole of the rouleaux were fastened with small diamond buttons in clusters of three. The gathered front of the bodice had a tiny pouch. The puff sleeves were finished with long lace sleeves and bows of the silk, and the very becoming belt had a fan-shaped trimming at the back, and little diamond buttons.

A very poetic gown was in a lovely new material called taffetas chiné, the folded bodice forming a point in front with a ladder of little baby bows. One of these in pure white was made for a bride. The chinés are in very soft, dreamy colours, and in artificial light are very soft and refined in effect, though some of the colours are vivid enough. The new shots are deliciously pretty, too. A soft satin messaline in shot green and blue and white was trimmed with long lines of silver tissue embroidered in a design of silken daisies and turquoise forget-me-nots. The bodice was finished with a deep point of the embroidered trimming. The full sleeves were all little blue tulle frills bordered with the narrowest possible silver tissue ribbon. The daintiest little bows appeared on both bodice and skirt.

You would have admired a mauve tulle with lines of taffetas bordered with silver sequins and crystal beads, and finished at the top with silver rings, imparting a very novel look. Between the long lines of taffetas there were appliqués of cream-coloured lace. The bodice was covered with lines of the silver sequins, and a very shallow lace bolero matched the lace in the appliqués. Folds of the mauve satin crossed in front. The sleeves were as graceful as any I have ever seen. Made of tulle, they were finished round the arm with a band of the satin, which fell in long, tasselled ends of crystal beads. This, copied in black, was remarkably handsome. Another charming black gown was in Brussels net over white satin, with long loops of pale blue ruched ribbon crossing up the skirt. Small motifs of jewelled lace were scattered here and there in the spaces between the double eights of the blue ruched ribbon. The bodice had a deep lace collar and jewelled motifs. The belt formed a deep point in front. In a very clever gown of white taffetas mousseline paniers were suggested by the curves of gold lace at either side round a garland of chiné roses. A very deep band of similar chiné was inserted in the skirt, bordered top and bottom with gold lace sewn with silver sequins. On the pointed bodice was a deep-pointed berthe of the gold and silver lace, over which hung little filigree tassels. The pretty sleeves were puffs of the chiné set in a band and finished with a lace frill.

I also saw a three-tier pink chiffon, each flounce ruched; a Josephine tea-gown (low bodice, short sleeves) in Alençon lace over pale-blue all opal-sewn; a coat of pale-blue Ninon gauze patterned with lace and wandering lines of silver gauze, very full and long and sewn all round with a rope of silver cord; a long black velvet coat embossed in a large design, lined with orange, and with a band of silver lace down the inner sides of the front, and scattered with small paste buttons; and a perfectly sweet white ostrich feather pelerine with a white silk frill serving as background to vandykes of Brussels net embroidered with coloured flowers and edged with jewelled lace.

Other evening coats were in surplice and vestment shapes. The copious sleeves of a magnificent coat were wired in two places in order to keep them well out from the arms and the dress sleeves.

Have I not given you a surfeit of pretty sights?

Mirelle has brought out such pretty matinée capotes, and so becoming that they will soon cut out the picture hats. Try to imagine a curved band of gold and turquoise embroidery stretched over a shape about three inches wide, and finished at each side with a large mauve or shaded orange rose. The effect is most picturesque, half Indian, half Japanese. Another lovely little embroidered capote has the ears turned up in coquettish fashion and bordered all round with a frilling of folded green velvet. The flowers at the end come just over and behind the ears. A third is made of grey-green straw, pointed in front and caught up at the back. A pansy-purple velvet bow trims it above the forehead, and there are mauve roses at the sides. There are also large hats at 41, Conduit-street, as well as these dainty and becoming little capotes. A wide-brimmed hat is in copper-brown velvet, the brim turned up sheer at the back with a cache-peigne of dull olive ribbon. A fold of similar ribbon is round the crown, and a beautiful trimming of golden and orange shaded flowers at one side. A very large black velvet hat is lined with white, the brim bordered with velvet, and for the rest is spider's web black lace over white, with medallions of black panne introduced. This struck me as being particularly smart.

A beaver-coloured velvet hat was trimmed with orange

REDFERN'S special offer for XMAS PRESENTS. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

velvet flowers, and the beautiful breast plumage of a golden pheasant.

A pretty and becoming hat is *so* important.

I was amused at a remark made by a visitor to the Exhibition of the London Needlework Guild at the Imperial Institute last Friday. "I am sure the King never wore *that*," she said, pointing to a tweed coat of the useful, apart from skilfully tailored, kind. She evidently imagined that his Majesty sends as his contribution to the Guild his cast-off garments, boots, and hats. As a matter of fact, everything is new, nothing secondhand being admissible. There was the usual great display of comfortable articles, all of which will be discriminatingly donated this side of Christmas. The youthful Princes of Wales were represented by mufflers and Princess Mary by thoroughly well-made gauntlet gloves, whether knitted or crocheted I could not see, as there was a constant crowd round them. Becoming a member involves an extremely small outlay, and the contribution of two articles in every year. This is but slight, and if every woman of leisure would join what a far-spreading charity it would be! Mrs. Basil Ellis, Hon. Sec., will send particulars to any one wishing to join. Her address is Bevendean, Oxshott, Surrey.

We turned into the Royal School of Art Needlework and found the beautiful new building full of attractive things ready for the Christmas sale, at prices ranging from 1s. upwards. Books, albums, boxes, writing cases, pin-cushions, are all beautifully embroidered, and there are lovely little rosewood or ebony trays, lined with embroidery, which is protected by a layer of glass from soil or injury. Furniture covered with embroidery is growing more fashionable with every year, and is often of great beauty. Many specimens of this are ready for the Christmas sale. A grandfather chair is covered with lovely embroidery on white. The new cushions, embroidered on white moire, are also in high demand. Tables covered with quaint and curious little objects invite the purchaser. The collector of boxes should visit this exhibition. Old silver, pewter, and china are also to be found here. There is a very fine Dutch cabinet in splendid inlay which would make a very delightful Christmas present. It has many secret drawers. The Chippendale and Sheraton pieces of furniture are very attractive, and what is so nice about the school is that the price of everything is marked in plain, comprehensible characters. I cannot think why the advertisements of the Royal School inform visitors to London that the new buildings "still stand in the Exhibition-road." Even the most provincial of visitors could scarcely imagine them to have been wandering about.

I fancy that we have been earlier this year in choosing our Christmas greeting cards at Parkins and Gotto's, but we have so many friends in India and the Colonies that we should be late if we were to delay too long. One of the floral cards has purple thistles on the outer leaf and a sweet little riverscape inside, the pages tied together with a pale mauve ribbon. Shamrocks, four-leaved and otherwise, appear to be as much in favour as ever. On several cards the "chosen leaf of bard and chief" is combined with a delicate little medallion enclosing the sender's monogram.

A spray of crimson roses, the shaded petals in relief, adorns a pretty book-shaped card, tied with pale willow-green ribbon. Violets, cyclamen, or pansies, are decoratively treated on many of the cards, some of which have the excellent wish "What is best be thine for ever."

Among the larger cards there are some attractive pictures on the covers. Two figures in Tudor costume against a background of snow and wood are effective in dull tones of blue and brown and green. Many pretty figures and charming faces appear on others. Now, which of all these will you choose? Perhaps a pair of very youthful Dutch lovers with a wide orange river in the picture, tall black poplars and an orange sun, a nice bit of lively colour.

Florizel von Reuter, the boy composer, is rehearsing with the London Symphony Orchestra for his concert at the St. James's Hall on Saturday a funeral march which he has composed for a favourite dog that has lately died. Will it be as quaint and effective as Gounod's Funeral March of a Marionette?

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE.—Our "sensation" of last week was not a war but a weather one—the abrupt change from almost summer like sunshine and mildness to real winter in all its gloom and greyness. We had our first touch of it over here. November became itself, returning to the old traditions, and making those of us who were of the mercurial kind suffer accordingly. By the way, is the mercurial temperament a blessing or a curse? One might incline to say the latter at this season, when the low barometer induces a corresponding downward tendency of spirits. Against that, however, has to be set the delicious exhilaration which goes with the rising barometer; the reaction, its delights, specially those of a rise after a fall. It is, when all is said and done, the old question of the ups and downs of the roses and thorns. And, after all, the downs may well be gladly suffered if they give the compensation of added raptures to the ups.

The rain of last week, which was anything but welcome to us, in the midst of our shopping and general setting of our houses into order for the winter season, was received with acclamation by the hunting world. Evidently a varying climate has the advantage of giving everyone something for his or her taste in turn. An increasing number of strangers each year are drawn to Ireland for the hunting. Meath is one of the most popular of happy hunting fields now. Lord Coyngham has let his fine place Slane, near the Boyne, to an American, Mr. Morgan, and many others are drawn from afar by the attractions of Irish hunting. Every year, too, our sex take to the hunting field in larger numbers, regardless of the risks to life and limb, and even to beauty perchance. And the risks to women are so much greater than to men, scars on the face, teeth knocked out, and such like things being of great moment to the ornamental sex. Lord and Lady Dudley are still away on a motor tour, we hear, on the Continent. The Lord Lieutenant is much given to motoring and must be anxious for fresh worlds to conquer. He has long ago exhausted the resources, or rather the space, of the small island which he rules. He has already been all over Ireland in his motor many times. How curious it is that men should have taken so much to driving. It is all very well for the man who drives the motor, but do not a set of men being driven look lazy and good for nothing. How weak the muscles of the legs will get of those who motor over-much, and most people generally do everything over-much when it is the fashion. Some scientist predicts—with the further development of motoring—a falling away in the legs of the future man, that these appendages will become soft and finny, something like those of the sea lion. In the immediate present, however, with its rage for pace, the loss of legs altogether seems to be the more imminent danger.

Lady Grosvenor returned to Ireland last week from her visit to her daughter, Lady Beauchamp, and went to Belfast for a short stay with Lord and Lady Shaftesbury. This week the Chief Secretary and Lady Grosvenor are again in residence at their Lodge in the Phœnix Park. Lady Grosvenor opened a sale of work for certain Irish cottage industries promoted by ladies and organised by them. What a number of these kind of sales there now are all over the Kingdom. The wonder is that these industries do not develop more quickly into real business organisations in which organizers and workers should all share in the profits, and the bazaar and philanthropic element disappear. The Lady Bountiful is a kindly and gracious creation, but somehow one does not believe in her business capacities, and she has, besides, so many social and other duties. Does not the working of a sound business and the firm establishment of it take every moment of the time of anyone who makes it a lasting success? If only our people would learn to help themselves! How true it is that "Providence helps those who help themselves."

The Duke and Duchess of Abercorn have been entertaining visitors at Baronscourt. Lord and Lady Rossmore are having parties of guests also. Lord Newry's coming-of-age is causing northern festivities. Amongst the visitors to Lord and Lady Kilmorey at Mourne Park will be Lady Annesley, Lord and Lady Rossmore, Lord and Lady Hamilton, Major Frank Lambert, Mr. and Lady Clementine Waring, and others. Mourne Park is not near Newry but some miles from Rostrevor, on the beautiful road which leads from that picturesque spot to Kilkeel, and thence to Newcastle. It is in the country of the Mourne Mountains, which

extend from the north shore of Carlingford Lough to Newcastle. Lord and Lady Dudley will visit the county of Down at the beginning of next month, as well as Belfast. They are expected to attend the bazaar for the Newry Hospital, for which great preparations are being made, all parties and classes in the neighbourhood working hard to make the bazaar a great success. Last week Lord Mayo opened the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in Dublin, in which he took a very active interest. Lord Mayo and Sir Horace Plunkett made speeches at the opening ceremonial. Much artistic and interesting work is exhibited. This week Lady Mayo has sent out invitations for an afternoon reception at the exhibition. We cannot just now complain in Ireland of want of encouragement in being industrious, artistic, and crafty, can we?—Yours ever, CLARE.

I have some nice recipes for you this week. Lobster cutlets are a delicate entrée:—

Pound the flesh of a nicely-boiled lobster, work in a gill of white sauce, 2oz. of butter, two whole eggs, and one yolk. When it is thoroughly amalgamated, rub it through a wire sieve into a basin and work it with a wooden spoon, adding a tablespoonful of pounded and passed spawn, and salt and pepper it to taste. Garnish eight or nine cutlet-shaped moulds with truffle, fill them with the lobster, and steam them with a greased paper over them and without allowing them to boil for half an hour. Steam the remainder of the lobster quenelle in a buttered border mould, which turn out on a dish, arrange the cutlets crown shape on the border. Garnish the centre with ball-shaped pieces of boiled cucumber and pour the following sauce round them:—Into a gill of butter-sauce stir a teaspoonful of passed lobster spawn, the yolks of two eggs, half a gill of cream, a dessertspoonful of lemon juice, and a dash of cayenne; whisk the sauce over the fire till it is on the point of boiling.

You will appreciate these recipes for almond paste and marzipan. This is the paste:—

Mix 1 lb. ground almonds and 2 lbs. of icing sugar together. Then work it into a stiff paste with the yolks of four eggs and the juice of a lemon. Form the paste into various fancy cakes and dry it in a cool oven.

And this the marzipan:—

Mix half a pound of ground almonds with an equal quantity of icing sugar and a tablespoonful of orange flower water, in a stewpan on the stove until it does not stick to the upper part of hand. Then put the paste on to a marble slab, and, when cooling, work in a quarter of a pound of icing sugar. Form the paste into the desired shapes and dry them in a cool oven.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—Mrs. Brown-Potter wears very pretty gowns in the new play "Church and Stage." The last especially, a combination of snowy crêpe de chine and handsome white embroidery, is very graceful. The audience was a smart one. The hats were more cruel than ever. One had quite as much trimming below the brim at the back as on the hat itself. The nice people who know what good manners are took off their hats. The others kept them on and were energetically detested by those who sat behind them. We saw one sweetly becoming theatre capot. M.

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NOTICE.

The terms of Subscription to Truth, *which are payable in advance, are as follows:—To any address in the United Kingdom, for 3 months, 7s.; 6 months, 14s.; and for 12 months, 28s. The Thin Paper Edition is forwarded to countries within the Postal Union for 3 months for 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; and 12 months, 30s. 8d. Cheques and Post Office Orders should be made Payable to the Manager,* Truth, *"Truth Buildings," Carteret-street, S.W.*

ENTRE NOUS.

I HAVE much pleasure in announcing that, in connection with the Truth Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall, Mr. H. C. Tonking has once again kindly offered to give three organ recitals. They will take place at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14, and 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 15. Mr. B. M. Jenkins has also offered to give a performance by his Premier English Mandoline Band of 150 performers, which proved so great an attraction last year, and I have arranged for the performance to take place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 15. I have no doubt that this musical entertainment will add greatly to the success of the show, and on behalf of all concerned, I tender my best thanks both to Mr. Tonking and to the Mandoline Band and its director.

Meantime, the following amounts have reached me towards the Toy Fund: C. S. Wills, £3; A. W., £2 2s.; R. B. S., £1 1s.; A. S., £1 1s.; C. C., £2 2s.; P. M., £5; Mrs. Champion, 5s.; Anon., £1; Lady Campbell Clarke, £3 3s.; H. M., £1; W. Wavell, £2 2s.; J. E. M., £1 10s.

The King has not been suffering from either gout or sciatica, as stated by romancing journals, but he was somewhat lame for a few days in consequence of his having slightly sprained his foot when shooting wild-duck at Sandringham on Friday, the 11th. It was of course expedient to rest the injured foot as much as possible for a short time, but the mishap was a mere trifle.

A weekly contemporary need not have raised such an elaborate fuss about the fictions respecting the health of the Prince of Wales which have appeared in certain journals, and which had much better have been left unnoticed, for nobody whose judgment is worth a potato peeling attached the slightest importance to these sensational reports. The Prince of Wales has been in his usual excellent health, except for ten days last month, when he was suffering from a severe cold of the ordinary type, which he was supposed to have caught while fishing in the Spey during his visit to Gordon Castle. H.R.H. was inconvenienced by the cold during his brief stay in town when he came up from Scotland, and also when he was the guest of Lord and Lady Savile at Rufford Abbey, but he had entirely got rid of it a few days after his return to Sandringham.

The King and Queen will entertain a second series of guests at Sandringham from next Saturday until Monday, December 5, and there is to be another shooting party next week, when there will be battues in the woods and covers. The first shoot of the season at Sandringham was devoted to partridge driving and duck-shooting. The King will probably shoot at Castle Rising with Lord Farquhar during the week after next and on Monday, December 12, their Majesties are going from Sandringham to Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, on a three days' visit to Lord and Lady Cadogan, and will proceed thence to town for a short stay at Buckingham Palace before returning to Sandringham for Christmas.

Their Majesties' dinner party at Windsor Castle took place on three days last week in the Oak Room, which was one of the favourite apartments of Queen Victoria. The arrangement was most suitable, as one side of the room is covered with the superb Gobelins tapestry which Queen Amélie's great-grandfather, Louis Philippe, presented to Queen Victoria as a memorial of his visit to Windsor in 1844. The Oak Room, which is entered from the corridor, looks out on the Quadrangle and Round Tower. All the furniture is of oak, the large sideboard being finely carved. Angeli's first and best portrait of Queen Victoria hangs in this room, the other pictures being portraits of her late Majesty's four daughters-in-law.

The King and Queen of Portugal are to be the guests of the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans for several days at Wood Norton after their visit to the Duke

and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth. There will be a series of battues on the estate, which swarms with game, and last week several truck loads of pheasants arrived to be added to the stock already in the covers. Wood Norton, which is on the banks of the Avon, and surrounded by pleasant grounds, was the English residence of the Duc d'Aumale, who left the property to the Duc d'Orléans. The King (when Prince of Wales) was several times a guest of the Duc d'Aumale at Wood Norton during the shooting season.

The King and Queen of Portugal are to arrive at Buckingham Palace on Friday from Chatsworth, and they will proceed either on Saturday or Monday next to Wood Norton. Their Majesties are expected to return to town on Friday, December 2, and on Monday, the 5th, they will go to Welbeck Abbey, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Portland for four days. The King and Queen of Portugal are to leave Portsmouth on the Royal yacht for Cherbourg on Saturday, December 10.

A weekly journal is struck by the fact that King Carlos has more the appearance of a German than of a Portuguese. This might be expected, considering that his great-grandfather was Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, brother of the late King of the Belgians and of the Duchess of Kent, who married the only daughter and sole heiress of the Prince of Kohary, one of the greatest territorial magnates of Hungary.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, who are on a visit to Lord and Lady Lathom at Lathom House, will return to Sandringham on Friday or Saturday next. Lathom is one of the famous historic domains of England. The Stanleys lived there in the utmost magnificence for three hundred years in the Plantagenet, Tudor, and Stuart periods, a Royal Court being practically maintained there. The house was besieged for four months in 1644 by the Parliamentary forces under Fairfax, Lady Derby being in command of the garrison, as Lord Derby (who was afterwards beheaded at Bolton) was at his castle in the Isle of Man. After the death of the Earl of Derby, his daughter and heiress (Lady Ashburnham) sold the Lathom estate, which in a few years came into the possession of the Bootle Wilbrahams, with whom it has since remained. All traces of the stately old fortified castle disappeared during the Civil War, after which the Stanleys removed to Knowsley, having acquired that domain by marriage about the middle of the fourteenth century. The splendid modern house at Lathom was principally built during the reign of George II. The old-fashioned gardens are pleasant, and the well-wooded deer park is four miles round. The best shooting in Lancashire is on the Lathom, Knowsley, and Croxteth estates.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughters, who are on a visit this week to Lord and Lady Windsor at Hewell Grange, will be the guests of their Majesties at Sandringham during next week for a few days. The last Royal visitors to Hewell Grange were Queen (then Princess) Victoria and the Duchess of Kent, who were the guests of the second Earl of Plymouth for several days in 1832. The Shah of Persia paid a visit to Lord Windsor at Hewell Grange in July, 1889, just after the new house had been completed.

Princess Stéphanie of Belgium (the widow of the Archduke Rudolph) and her husband, Count Elemer Lonyay, have returned to Vienna from Salsomaggiore, and they are coming to England early next month, and will stay in this country until April, probably at Torquay, or Bournemouth, or in the Isle of Wight. Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is to join her sister in England about the middle of December, and will be her guest for several weeks.

The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland, who have been staying at Florence for some weeks, have returned to their country seat in Upper Austria, near Gmunden, accompanied by Princess Olga and Prince Ernest Augustus of Brunswick-Lüneburg. The Crown Prince of Denmark was visiting them during the latter part of last week. The Duke and Duchess of Cumberland will probably pay visits next month to the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Schwerin at Ludwigslust, and to King Christian at Copenhagen, before they proceed to their villa at Penzing, near Vienna, where they are to arrive about December 30 for a stay of several weeks. Prince George of Brunswick-Lüneburg has gone to Egypt for several months for the benefit of his health.

ONE TASTE OF PUDDING MAKES THE EMPIRE KIN.

Looking back upon the visit,
Which he paid us not long since,
The Alake his remembrance
Of his sojourn would evince;
So he 's ordered us to send him,
Future leisure to beguile,
Some much longed-for reminiscence
Of our highly-favoured isle.

And what has he demanded?
Bishops, p'rhaps, you will suggest;
Three or four of them, assorted,
High, low, broad—our very best!
Or a score or so of p'licemen,
With the wonder-working hand;
Or some Ladies of the Ballet,
To delight his native land.

Do his thoughts revert to motors?
Does he seek to play the part
Of a sable-hued Mæcenas
To encourage British art?
Has he sent for a consignment
Of arc lamps or Röntgen-rays?
Has he made our Poets busy
By commissioning new lays?

No; the truth must be admitted;
On the memory of our guest
There is one thing 'bove all others,
Deeply, earnestly impress'd.
What he yearns for is Plum Pudding.
'Tis on that his heart is bent;
And for five-and-twenty cases,
Greatly daring, he has sent!

Lord and Lady Dudley were in Paris last week, on their homeward way. They return soon to Ireland, where their children have been staying at the Viceregal Lodge. A change in the usual Viceregal arrangements is probable, under which Lord and Lady Dudley will not be in Dublin until next year. They will visit the North of Ireland at the beginning of December, staying in Belfast, and for a short time with Lord and Lady Kilmorey at Mourne Park. They are expected to spend Christmas at Rockingham, where they will entertain a family party.

Small blame to them, as they say in Ireland, if the amateur Constitution-makers of that country have been of late very much engaged in their voluntary work. Most of the official governors of Ireland were absent last week. The Lord Chancellor was engaged with Imperial affairs on the non-Irish side of the Channel, the Chief Secretary was treading the Primrose path and discoursing on topics in no way connected with the country specially given into his charge. Even Sir Horace Plunkett was gone, having taken his departure for America.

Sir John Richard Geers Cotterell, of Garnons, has been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Herefordshire, in the place of Mr. Arkwright who succeeded the late Lord Bateman in 1901, and who has just resigned this office. Sir John Cotterell is a son-in-law of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon and a grandson of the first and last Lord Airey.

Lady Curzon of Kedleston is to reside during the next three months at Highcliffe Castle, near Christchurch, which place has been rented by Lord Curzon from Mr. George Cavendish Bentinck, who has a lease of it from Colonel Stuart Wortley. Highcliffe occupies a beautiful situation on the sea-cliffs, and commands extensive views of the Solent and of Christchurch Bay. The house is approached from the land side through an extensive fir wood, and is surrounded by charming gardens and grounds. The domain belonged to Lord Bute (the Minister of George III.), who built a villa on the cliffs, which was washed away by the sea. The present Gothic house, which was built by Lord Stuart de Rothesay, is a quaint and picturesque combination of castle, abbey, and church, and fragments brought from monastic ruins in Normandy, and particularly from the Abbey of St. Wandrille, are cleverly incorporated in the building. The house contains some superb carvings, and the stained glass and tapestries are good. Highcliffe was for many years the favourite residence of the late Lady Waterford. The place has been visited by Queen Victoria, King Edward (several times), and numerous members of the Royal Family.

Lord Northbrook, although not a man of any brilliant gifts, was a statesman of a characteristic English type, and one of whom the country may well be proud. He was a man of sound judgment and common sense, great industry, and the highest integrity, and his public life was wholly devoted to the interests of the country without any taint of self-seeking. Before entering upon active political life he had several years of hard training in practical administrative work as private secretary to three Cabinet Ministers. He was a man of tact and ability, and did well in every office which he filled. He was a decided success as Governor-General of India, but there was never any fuss raised about his doings in public life. He was anything but a pusher, and self advertising was detestable to him.

In politics Lord Northbrook was essentially a Whig, and with the rest of that school he separated from Mr. Gladstone in 1886, but last year he again left the Liberal Unionists, and announced that he would offer an uncompromising opposition to the Protectionist policy, and he absolutely refused to follow either Mr. Balfour or Mr. Chamberlain on the Fiscal question. He was a man of remarkable independence, and distinguished for his freedom of outlook. In Hampshire he was very popular. He was a generous and considerate landlord, and interested himself zealously in all county affairs and local business. He was a model Lord-Lieutenant, and was both greatly beloved and highly esteemed.

The Stratton Park estate, near Winchester, was purchased by Sir Francis Baring (father of the late Lord Northbrook) from the Duke of Bedford, and he rebuilt the house, and laid out a great deal of money in improving the gardens and grounds. The park is picturesque, and contains a remarkably fine avenue. Stratton was the residence of William, Lord Russell, and Rachel, Lady Russell. After her husband had been unjustly executed in 1683, Rachel, Lady Russell settled at Stratton, where she died in 1723. The house contains some good pictures and many valuable objects of art. Lord Northbrook hunted regularly for many years with the Vine and the H.H., and he liked shooting in moderation, but his favourite sport was trout fishing, and he greatly enjoyed a day's angling on the Test or Itchen. A portrait of Lord Northbrook, subscribed for in Hampshire, was to have been presented to him in the Great Hall of Winchester Castle on January 2.

Lord and Lady Minto are expected to resume their residence at Minto House, the family seat in Roxburghshire, about the end of this month on their return from Canada. Minto was let for several years to Mr. Bell Irving, along with the shooting over the estate, but he left last spring, and has become the tenant of Rokeby Park, the beautiful domain of the Morritt family in the North Riding of Yorkshire. Extensive improvements have since been carried out at Minto House, which is well-situated on the Teviot, near the picturesque Minto Crags.

For the TRUTH HOTEL LIST, see page 1330.
For FOREIGN HOTELS, see page 1329.
For AMUSEMENTS, see page 1323.
For APPEALS, see page 1330.
For OUR PUZZLES, see page 1337.

Lord and Lady Cowper are entertaining a succession of visitors at Panshanger Park, the picturesque old family seat near Hertford, where Mr. Balfour is to be a guest for a few days when he is able to leave town.

There have been festivities on Lord Kimberley's extensive estates in Norfolk in celebration of the coming of age of his eldest son, Lord Wodehouse, who received handsome presents from the servants and workpeople. The Wodehouse family have lived at Kimberley, near Wymondham, since the reign of Henry IV. Kimberley Hall is a brick house in the Italian style, which was built during the reign of Queen Anne, and it stands in a perfectly flat park, which, however, is remarkable for its magnificent trees. The house contains some good portraits, and many historical relics of much interest. The oak wood on the banks of the lake is the finest in Norfolk.

Large shooting parties have been entertained by Lord and Lady Leicester at Holkham Hall, Lord and Lady Normanby at Mulgrave Castle, Lord Howard de Walden at Audley End, Lord and Lady Penrhyn at Penrhyn Castle, Mr. and Lady Violet Brassey at Apethorpe Hall, Lord and Lady Albemarle at Quidenham Hall; Lord and Lady Ilchester at Abbotsbury Castle, and Mr. Miller Mundy at the Abbey, Thetford. Shooting parties are about to be entertained by Lord and Lady Bath at Longleat Hall, Lord and Lady Normanton at Somerley Park, Lord Shrewsbury at Ingestre Hall, Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney at Didlington Hall; Lord and Lady Pembroke at Wilton House; the Duke of Sutherland at Lilleshall, and Lord Ellesmere at Worsley Hall.

The following letter, which reached me the other day from the North of England, seems to me worthy of notice. It is a standing grievance that the people who pay the most rates get the least advantage out of them, and I can readily believe that there is room for the extension of technical education in the direction indicated by my correspondent:—

DEAR TRUTH,—The County Councils send out teachers of laundry-work, cookery, dairying, etc., for the benefit of the country districts; they do nothing, however, for the education of those who are most heavily rated. People rated at £1,000 or £2,000 per annum ought to have the opportunity of learning as much as the daughter of a farmer or a parson rated at £50. There is one subject in which education is specially needed—namely, practical housekeeping and the management of servants. I think the County Councils should supply experts who would visit all the big houses in the country, look through the housekeeping books, and make reports with suggestions. They might also hold classes in convenient centres for the benefit of ladies and housekeepers. Apart from the educational work, the visits of the County Councils' experts would have a valuable effect in opening the eyes of masters of houses to the great and needless waste of money that goes on in their establishments. Awful as is the waste of money on dress, far larger is the waste of money on housekeeping.

It used to be said that beggars must not be choosers; but, judging by many of the advertisements one sees in the papers, we have altered that altogether in the present day. Look, for instance, at the following extract from a Kentish paper:—

Will trustworthy person with private income take charge of tiny house and prepare meals for lady out daily?—Address, etc.

One gathers that the advertiser wants a servant, but cannot afford to pay the wages of one. She not only invites somebody to enter her service for nothing, but she stipulates that her servant shall have a private income, and be a trustworthy person.

In the current number of the *Aldershot News* there is an account of a rather curious little difference of opinion between the proprietors of the paper and the Capital and Counties Bank. The proprietors are Messrs. Gale and Polden, Ltd., and they have an account both at the head office of the bank and at the Aldershot branch. The firm, like many others in a large way of business, use their own private cheques, and recently the local branch debited them with the price of printing the cheques supplied to them—in addition, of course, to the ordinary charge for the stamps. The firm objected, but the branch manager stuck to his guns, so the account was transferred to the London, City, and Midland, which has a branch at Aldershot. After this step had been taken the matter seems to have been referred to the headquarters of the Capital and Counties Bank, and eventually the Aldershot manager wrote to Messrs. Gale and Polden that, "having regard to the long and valued connection with your company, we are prepared to remit the charge of 37s. to which exception is taken," and the amount was refunded accordingly. It is a novelty in banking business, however, so far as my experience goes, that a bank should charge its customers for cheques supplied, whatever the length and value of the connection, and if this should meet the eye of anybody who finds that his banker is making a charge of this nature against him, I should recommend him to follow the example of Messrs. Gale and Polden, and go elsewhere.

It is distressing to read of the hardships many thrifty working people will suffer from the failure of the local penny savings bank at Needham Market. Numbers of poor men and women have lost the savings of a lifetime, all that they had to provide for their old age. The bank seems to have been an entirely one-man concern, and no balance-sheet was ever issued, but the unfortunate depositors looked upon it as perfectly safe, and, though they got no higher interest, preferred to put their money there rather than in the Post Office Savings Bank. I notice that the blind confidence of the people of the neighbourhood in this penny bank is said to have been largely attributable to the fact that the proprietor was a leading member of an important and most respectable Nonconformist sect. I know nothing as to the merits or demerits of the failure, and, for all that I am aware to the contrary, this eminent Nonconformist may have been the most truly devout of mankind. The fact, however, of his position in his sect ought not to have inspired confidence in him as a banker, for of late we have had a good many bankers and financiers of the "unco' guid" type, whose operations have not proved bene-

ficial to those who have confided their money to them. I would rather trust my money to a banker who shows a good and well-certificated balance-sheet than to a bishop of the Established Church or to an elder of any other denomination.

It is to be hoped that there will be a liberal response to the appeal for financial assistance which is being made on behalf of the Royal Agricultural Society. Although we have been told that "agriculture has gone," it still remains our greatest national industry, and the fact that it is less prosperous than it should be is a reason for extending rather than diminishing the useful work the society has carried on during its existence of nearly seventy years. In France and Germany such work is deemed worthy of Government support, and here grants have often been made from the public exchequer for less important objects. The heavy losses on the last two annual shows at Park Royal seem to be the main cause of the difficulties in which the society now finds itself. The ground is within easy reach of London, and it is incomprehensible why the attendance has hitherto been so disappointing. If it is decided to continue the show there it may perhaps be possible to do something more to stimulate the interest of the public in it. Meanwhile it is urgently necessary that the society should enlist new members and raise a large sum for the liquidation of its debt if its operations are not to be seriously curtailed. I trust that the efforts that are being made to put the society on a sounder footing will be completely successful.

The absurdly named "County Families' Association," referred to in TRUTH a few weeks ago, has lately been inviting officers' messes to become members at the annual subscription of £1, with the further advantage that, after the whole mess has joined on these terms, individual officers of the regiment may become members on their own account at the reduced price of 10s. per annum. My respect for the intelligence of British officers, individually and collectively, is such that I cannot think they are very likely to be bitten by this offer. But if there is any doubt on the subject, I would point out to them that membership of any of the leading co-operative stores is as cheap as membership of the County Families' Association, and I should say considerably more advantageous. "Membership" of Harrod's Stores, or Whiteley's, is even cheaper.

Apropos of the lifting of a Queer Story from TRUTH, and its reproduction in America with illustrations a fortnight after publication, Mr. Baillie-Grohman narrates the following experience:—

President Roosevelt kindly wrote for my recently-published "Master of Game"—England's oldest book on hunting—a preface of some 3,000 words, which it was expected would ensure a steady sale for the 300 copies reserved for America. As the book is a big folio, the preparation of which for the press entailed an unusual amount of editing and proof-reading, it was impossible to secure American copyright by having it printed in America; but it was expected that Mr. Roosevelt's preface would ensure for it security from the literary pirates. Imagine my surprise when, among the very first pages of press notices of the book, I found a huge page of the *Chicago Tribune* containing, as a "special," with huge scare headlines, the whole of the President's contribution to my book, which had been wired to Chicago word for word.

Lord Burghclere's fine translation of the "Georgics of Virgil" into English verse, which was printed some time ago for private circulation, is to be published shortly by Mr. Murray.

The Duke of Cambridge's library, which is to be sold at Sotheby's next month, consists of 858 lots, including a superb copy of the "Vinegar Bible," extended to eight volumes and illustrated with over 1,300 original engravings after old masters. There is a valuable and interesting collection of pamphlets of the eighteenth century, which was formed by the first Duke of Gloucester. The library is rich in choice and rare works on military and civil costumes, regimental records, and military history. A notable feature is the collection of plays (over twelve hundred in number) of the eighteenth century and the early part of the nineteenth, which was formed by William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, and his wife, the Princess Mary. The numerous books which were presented to the Duke of Cambridge by Queen Victoria (including several privately printed works) have been withdrawn from the sale.

I am averse to acting as a court of appeal from the decisions of my contemporaries who run competitions in their columns. But really some of these things are done in a style that every journalist is entitled to protest against. I have had sundry communications lately respecting the result of a competition in *Answers*. I have not the original problem before me, but it appears to have been in the form of an imaginary tour undertaken by "Mr. Answers," in which the names of the places were suppressed, and the competitors were left to discover them from the particulars incidentally given of the times of the trains, railway fares, telegraph offices, etc. When the result is published it appears that "Mr. Answers" left London on Saturday for Bath, performed sundry excursions in the neighbourhood, and "next morning cycled about twelve miles to Bath, and caught the 7 a.m. train for Waterloo." The "next morning" must have been Sunday morning; and a reference to the railway time-table shows that there are no trains from Bath to Waterloo on Sunday. "Mr. Answers'" journey, therefore, was an impossibility, and not only have the prizes gone to people who have no right to them, but hundreds of others have been fooled into wasting their time over a problem which cannot possibly be solved correctly. A little irritation on the part of the disappointed competitors under these circumstances seems excusable.

The late Sir John R. Robinson frequently told his friends that he was in the habit of recording in a diary everything of interest that he saw or heard. His jottings seem to have been found too informal or too discursive for publication as they stood, but they have yielded a rich store of anecdote and gossip which Mr. F. Moy Thomas has welded into a most entertaining book under the title of "Fifty Years of Fleet Street: Being

the Life and Recollections of Sir John R. Robinson" (Macmillan and Co.). Sir John was an extremely able journalist, and a shrewd observer of men and things. During his long career as manager of the *Daily News* he came into contact with many persons of distinction in the literary, political, and social world, and his reminiscences are full of interest. Abounding as it does in good stories, the volume should, indeed, be one of the most popular of the present publishing season.

PEACE WITH—POWDERS.

No less an authority than Sir Lauder Brunton has expressed the opinion that bad temper should be treated medicinally by means of what he calls "Temper Powders."—*Daily Paper.*

If you 're troubled with a temper which is short and ill-controlled—
Just take a powder!
Of the sort Sir Lauder Brunton is so eager to uphold—
A Temper Powder!
If you feel a sudden outburst coming on without delay,
If "Big D's" you know for certain you 'll be tempted soon to say,
Why, the threatened ebullition you can easily allay—
Just take a powder!

Yes, the man whose wicked temper makes him castigate his wife
Should take a powder!
The unmitigated bully who in passion draws his knife
Must take a powder!
Or, if brought before the Bench he for a lenient judgment prays,
Why, in place of the confinement, or the fine which now he pays,
He may find the latest sentence is, say, prison fourteen days—
Or twenty powders!

Wheresoever we may wander we in future ought to see
Folks taking powders!
The sale throughout the country ought prodigious soon to be
Of temper powders!
The mud-bespattered victim tempted horribly to swear—
The ingenuous investor hugged so badly by a "Bear"—
The cabbie on his hansom when he gets his legal fare—
Will take a powder!

The Stage-manager, rehearsing, somewhat frequently will stop
To take a powder!
The bold Golfer, ever tending his stupendous drives to "top"
Will take a powder!
We shall soon, upon all golf links, if Sir Lauder Brunton 's right,
See an altogether novel, though a reassuring, sight—
Namely, scores of golfers stepping to the left or to the right,
To take a powder!

What a pity certain Rulers, it were easy work to name,
Can't take a powder.
What a pity "Yellow-Pressmen," who seek temper to inflame,
Can't take a powder.
"Peace with honour" as a motto is a bit the worse for wear;
It is surely time another for the Country to prepare;
Let us call on all the nations to a policy declare
Of "Peace with—powders!"

Lord Barnard has presented the Rev. J. E. Phillips, Rector of Kiddington, Oxfordshire, to the very desirable country living of Staindrop, near Darlington, vacant by the death of Canon Lipscomb, who held this benefice for fifty-eight years, having been presented to it by the second Duke of Cleveland in 1846. Staindrop is the parish in which Raby Castle is situated, and the Rector usually holds the appointment of domestic chaplain to the owner of that domain. The living of Kiddington, which Mr. Phillips vacates, is in the gift of Lord Dillon.

The Bishop of Hereford has appointed Prebendary Oldham, Vicar of St. Leonard's, Bridgnorth, to the Archdeaconry of Ludlow, vacant by the resignation of Archdeacon Bather, who received this preferment from Bishop Atlay in 1892. The stipend is £200 a year. Prebendary Oldham was presented to his present benefice by the late Mr. Foster, of Apley Park, in 1882. Archdeacon Bather, who has held the family living of Meole Brace, near Shrewsbury, for more than forty-six years, will retain the residentiary stall in Hereford Cathedral, to which he was collated by Bishop Atlay in 1892.

Dr. Maclean, Principal of the Edinburgh Theological College, who has accepted the see of Moray and Ross in the Scottish Episcopal Church, is a very able man, distinguished for great learning, remarkable force of character, and exceptional energy. He took high honours at Cambridge in 1880. It is, however, a pity that such a man as Dr. Maclean should be practically lost in what an eminent prelate defined as "the lotus-eating featherbed of a Scotch diocese." There was some doubt as to whether Dr. Maclean would accept the see, as he was elected by a majority of only one clerical vote over Canon Mitchell Innes, but he had a large majority in the lay chamber, where the Duke of Richmond and Gordon was one of his supporters. Dr. Maclean succeeds Bishop Kelly, the late Primus, who had held the see for eighteen years, and he was previously Bishop of Newfoundland from 1867 until 1877. The stipend is £600 a year, but the duties are certainly not onerous, for there are only twenty-three clergy in the diocese.

The death of the President of Corpus makes a big gap in Oxford. For the best part of forty years "Tommy" Fowler was to successive generations of Oxford men as familiar an institution as the Sheldonian or the Mitre. He owed this position partly to his own individuality of character, partly to his enthusiastic devotion through the whole of his long life to College and University business. He served the University in almost every capacity from Proctor to Vice-Chancellor, and what he did not know about its corporate affairs was certainly not worth knowing. He also took a prominent part in local politics—always on the Liberal side—and he has left his mark on all the University reforms carried out in the last thirty years. His selection as President of Corpus in 1881 was a surprise to everybody, for he had been regarded as the probable successor of Mark Pattison at Lincoln, and the appointment was

not regarded with universal favour in the college to which he was transplanted. It proved, however, most successful, and the traditions of Corpus have been well maintained under his presidency. Although not pre-eminently distinguished for scholarship or learning, he was in his day a successful tutor and professor, and he leaves behind him a good record of literary work, marked by his unfailing thoroughness and industry. Personally Dr. Fowler was a most genial and popular man, full of shrewd humour, kindness of heart, and unassuming hospitality.

What looks like the latest application of the "snowball" to industrial enterprise dates from Calcutta. There some enterprising genius has started a Young Ladies' Guild, with the avowed object of assisting "young ladies in utilising their idle moments in any industry suitable to their accomplishments, and deriving therefrom a remuneration from the Guild, to enable them to be solely, or partially, independent of support by means of their own endeavours." With this laudable object in view, the Guild sends out a certificate with six coupons attached. The coupons are to be sold at Rs2 each. Of the amount received Rs2 are to be retained by the vendor, and Rs10 forwarded to the Guild in payment for any one of a variety of articles, worth perhaps another Rs2, contained in a printed list. Purchasers of the coupons become entitled to apply for a certificate in their turn, and thus give the snowball another turn. This may be a philanthropic enterprise, of course, for philanthropists are not always too particular as to the means by which they raise cash for their pet schemes. But it looks to me much more likely to be the sort of philanthropy which begins at home, and I should be glad if some one could tell me something more about the Guild. Its address is 7/1, Wellesley-place, Calcutta.

At a meeting held on November 15, under the chairmanship of Sir Anthony Thornhill, the managers of the Hospital Penny Fund propounded what they were pleased to call a new scheme in substitution for the former one, which has so egregiously miscarried. The only material difference, so far as I can discover, between the new scheme and its predecessor, is that the thing is not to be run by any one newspaper in particular, and that the financial arrangements are to be supervised by representatives of the hospitals. The essential principle of the scheme—namely, the raising of money by the sale of stamps and the offer of prizes as an inducement to people to buy the stamps, remains unchanged. It is evidently thought that by distributing the advertisements among newspapers generally, instead of running the scheme under the auspices of one particular journal, the influence of the whole Press may be enlisted in support of the scheme; and at the same time it is hoped to gain the approval of the hospitals, which has hitherto been withheld, by giving them a direct representation in the management of the undertaking.

It is to be hoped that both these expectations will be disappointed, for the main objections to the scheme are not in any way touched by the improvements now offered. The meeting held last week seems to indicate that this will be the case. Only a few of the hospitals sent representatives, and they were evidently not authorised to discuss the matter in any way, but were merely there to hear and report. A few questions were asked, but the most important of them—namely, the question who are the promoters, other than the paid officials, at the back of the scheme—was left unanswered. Why this point should be so studiously kept in the dark, it is impossible to see. I know the history of this scheme from the beginning. The names of only two gentlemen were disclosed prior to the formation of the committee presided over by Sir Anthony Thornhill—namely, Mr. Rawson, who first exerted himself in connection with it, and a Mr. Goldman, who was mentioned by Mr. Rawson as the inventor. Mr. Rawson's retirement has since been announced, and the inference is that Mr. Goldman is now, to all intents and purposes, the promoter. Mr. Goldman has blossomed forth into the secretary of the fund, and probably to this extent the scheme has answered to his expectations. Occupying this position, it is very natural that he should be anxious to try again; but there is no reason why anybody else should co-operate with him in his fresh attempt to galvanise the thing into life.

I have been asked to call attention to the position of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, in relation to a conditional promise of a very handsome gift, which was announced by the Prince of Wales in March last. With a view to raising the permanent income of the fund to £50,000 per annum, an anonymous donor offered to give an amount which will produce an income of £4,600 per annum, on condition that a further sum, sufficient to produce an income of £9,400, is collected by December 31. I gather that up to the present time this condition has not been fulfilled; and it is much to be hoped that the amount required will be forthcoming during the next month, for without it, the grants from the King's Fund to the hospitals are likely to be permanently reduced. In fact, the fund is distributing £20,000 less this year than it did last.

It always seems to me that the central hospital funds, like the King's Fund and the Sunday Fund, offer to the public the most satisfactory way of supporting the hospitals. For those who have no opportunity of personally looking into the management of any particular institution—which is the position, after all, of the majority of subscribers—it is far better to subscribe to one of these funds than to respond blindly to appeals, however pathetic, from individual hospitals, for in this way there is absolute security for the money going where it is wanted. If the King's Fund were supported as it ought to be, it would grow year by year as London grows, if not faster.

An officer serving in the Colonies asks on what principle income tax should be deducted from Colonial Allowance. Of course, in a general way servants of the Crown are charged with income tax on the same principle as other members of the community, and to let them off would be simply adding so much to their pay at the expense of their brother taxpayers. When, however, a special allowance is given to an officer to meet special expenditure, I confess I do not see why this should be treated as income for income-tax purposes. Colonial allowance is essentially the same thing as the repayment to a man of any out-of-pocket expenses he may incur in the public service; and if income tax is not charged in the latter case, there is no reason why it should be in the former. I think, on behalf of men in their own department, the Army Council ought to fight this question out with the Inland Revenue people.

I take the following chaste sample of platform eloquence from the report of a municipal election meeting at Carlisle last week:—

> Major Spencer Ferguson said that everything possible had been said in favour of Mr. Hope and about that other man. (Laughter.) He would be hanged if he wanted to be represented by an infernal fellow—(laughter)—who came from the other side of the river and damned the town as much as he could. (Laughter. They did not want that sort of a rascal put in the Town Council. (Laughter and cheers.) If he had his way he would get a devilish short shrift. (Great laughter.) He intended to vote at eight o'clock on Tuesday morning for the right man.

This gallant orator is an officer of the Northumberland Fusiliers, at present acting as Adjutant to the 1st V.B. Border Regiment. I do not know whether the paragraph in the King's Regulations prohibiting officers on the active list from taking part in political meetings would apply to a mere matter of municipal electioneering; but that it should do is evidently desirable in some cases, if only for the sake of officers themselves.

Apropos of General Hutchinson's recent report upon the defective education of officers, a friend of mine in the Service calls my attention again to the difficulty, not to say impossibility, of obtaining the books which officers are expected to have in their possession. It is some two years since an Army Order was issued stating that officers would be provided free of charge with a copy of each such book; but down to this moment not a single officer of my friend's acquaintance has ever been able to obtain one. He adds that fulfilment of the promise made in the Army Order is evaded by printing the word "provisional" across every text-book, the point being, I suppose, that as the books are only provisional they do not come within the terms of the Army Order. Readers of TRUTH will remember how many complaints have come to hand from India that the books by which officers are expected to pass examinations are out of print. It might have been useful, and would only have been fair, had General Hutchinson mentioned this state of things in his recent report.

Departmental reorganisation schemes generally bring an aftermath of promotion grievances, and the scheme which three years ago transformed the Indian Ordnance Department into a southern and a northern "circle"—the Bombay and Madras establishments being united in the former, and Bengal and the Punjab in the latter—is no exception to the rule. Of course it was officially predicted at the time that there would be an even flow of promotions in the two circles, and equally, of course, the prediction has been falsified. There are, for instance, upwards of twenty store-sergeants in the southern circle still awaiting promotion, but with no immediate prospect of getting it, who have all put in about double the departmental service of half a dozen or more of their juniors who have already become warrant-officers in the northern circle. This anomalous state of affairs naturally produces discontent, more especially as the whole department is under one Director-General, and men may be posted or transferred to either circle in which there happens to be a vacancy. Obviously the most equitable plan would be to have a single general list for promotions in both circles.

Since writing the foregoing paragraph, I have received another complaint from the same department which almost suggests that the store-sergeants do not know when they are well off. The burden of the complaint is that promotion from store-sergeant to sub-conductor brings with it such a paltry increase of pay that it is hardly worth accepting—indeed, it is asserted that in some instances the newly-fledged warrant officer, after paying £50 or £60 for his outfit and being saddled with house rent, finds himself actually a loser by the change. Still, the fact that some men regard the promotion as very much in the nature of an Irishman's rise is no reason for the existing unfair difference in the position of store-sergeants in the northern and southern circles respectively.

In common with my contemporaries, I have received a lengthy circular from the National Association for the Employment of Reserve and Discharged Soldiers, setting forth the extreme difficulty that is found in obtaining work for the men on the Association's books, and requesting employers to write or telephone their requirements to the office, when a couple of smart men will be sent up "on appro." for almost any kind of situation. I gladly do my share in making this known, though I think it is pretty well known already. But what strikes me, on reading the circular, is that the "national association" which ought to offer employment

At MESSRS. GILL & REIGATE'S Old Curiosity Shop, which is reached by separate entrance at 73, Oxford-street, W., will be found an assemblage of articles forming ideal Xmas Presents dear to the heart of the lover of Curios.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.—Patterns now ready and sent post free of these new and fashionable Cards for Christmas (specially printed), a most complete collection, amongst them many striking novelties. —PARKINS & GOTTO, Court Stationers, 54 to 62, Oxford-st., London.

for reserve and discharged soldiers is the Government itself, and the sooner the Government recognises that fact the sooner we shall come to the end of the present difficulty on the subject of recruiting.

Another complaint of soldiers being turned out of regimental institutions to make room for sergeants' dances comes from Cairo, the victims in this case being the men of the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers. There seems to have been a special grievance on this occasion, inasmuch as the recreation rooms were closed for the whole day, although the dance did not come off till 10 p.m. From the number of complaints of this character that have come to hand during the last few weeks, I conclude that the dancing season in the non-commisioned ranks is now in full swing. No one would desire to interfere unnecessarily with the amusement of the N.C.O.s and their lady friends; but it is most undesirable that they should be allowed to amuse themselves in this way at the expense of all the rest of the regiment.

Apropos of this question, a Service correspondent remarks that the sergeants' dances are frequently a source of revenue to the mess, owing to the quantity of liquor consumed. I gather also that, according to his experience, this quantity is considerably in excess of the legitimate requirements of the guests and the waiters. But, however that may be, the prospect of making a profit out of the entertainments may possibly have something to do with their popularity. At any rate, it is an additional reason why the privates should not be turned out of their recreation-rooms on these occasions; for if the dances yield a profit, they might be held in rooms hired for the occasion—at any rate in large towns.

Several references were made in TRUTH a few months ago to the unjust way in which barrack-wardens—at least in Ireland; I forget whether the grievance was general—had been treated by the sudden raising of their rent, the amount charged to them being out of all proportion to their pay, and such as no civilian in a corresponding rank of life would ever dream of paying. Although some attempt was made to explain away the grievanee, it really did not go to the root of the matter. I was surprised, therefore, to learn the other day that the grievance remains unredressed. As I have been asked for advice in the matter, I should think that the best thing that the barrack-wardens can do is to invoke the aid of their Parliamentary representatives.

I am aware that discharge by purchase from the Navy is a privilege only granted in special circumstances, but I have understood that when the parents of a handy-man were dependent upon a son's support, and the applicant could produce a guarantee of employment, it is customary to permit him to purchase his discharge. A case recently brought under my notice, however, rather upsets my preconceived notions on the subject. My informant is a builder who, being interested in the welfare of two old people whose son is in the Navy, made an application on his behalf to the Admiralty that he should be permitted to take his discharge. He was informed that the application must be made through the man's commanding officer, and this course was adopted. Though not in absolute want, the parents' means of livelihood are undoubtedly precarious, and likely to become increasingly so, while the builder is willing to give their son employment at a wage which would safeguard the family from what otherwise threatens to be complete privation. Nevertheless, permission to purchase the discharge was refused.

Refusal under these circumstances makes me desirous of knowing what are the special circumstances which constitute grounds for granting the permission, and who exercises the privilege. In this case the father and mother seem to be under the impression that the application has got no farther than the Captain of the Naval Barracks at Chatham, where their son is stationed, whereas I understand that such applications are considered by the Admiral, who in this instance would be the Commander-in-Chief at the Nore. It would be an unfortunate thing if any Admiral took the view that it was not desirable to grant such an application until the dependent parents were compelled to enter the workhouse, and for this reason I should like some enlightenment on the subject.

Scarcely a week passes without bringing some complaint to this office from householders who suffer from having obscene advertisements of one kind or another shot into their letter-boxes. The announcement in the *Times* of an addition to a family is the invariable signal for the bombardment of the proud parents with attentions of this class; but they are provoked by any occasion, or none. The thing is obviously a serious public nuisance, and as the Post Office is the medium of it, it is difficult to understand why successive Postmasters-General refuse to suppress it. There is no difficulty in doing so, though St. Martin's-le-Grand is pleased to imagine that there is. There is an Act of Parliament prohibiting the circulation of such matter by private agency, and it was obviously by an oversight that the Act left an advertiser free to do through the agency of the postman what he is forbidden to do personally or by his own paid agent. A clause extending the provisions of the Act to postal advertisements would provide the remedy, and it should be left either to the Postmaster-General or the recipient of the circular to put it in force. Lord Stanley would earn universal thanks if he would take this matter up.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W. FLATS FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

BRIGHTON.—NEW SHIP HOTEL.—For families and gentlemen. The best of everything. English servants only. Electric light throughout. Night porter. Tel. 292. Manageress, Miss Tucker.

In what I have just said it is, of course, assumed that the objectionable matter is delivered in closed envelopes, that is to say, that the G.P.O. has no means of knowing its nature. But since that was written, I have come across one of the most frankly obscene advertisements I have ever seen, sent from Paris to an address in London in an open envelope at the five centime rate. The envelope bears on its face the name and address of a "scientific library," in Paris, which is quite enough to suggest a suspicion about its contents. There is no excuse whatever for the delivery of such matter; and every householder has a legitimate right to complain when such things are dropped into his letter-box by agents of the Government, for the perusal of any of his household—male or female—who may be tempted to look inside the envelope.

Bumble is never tired of denouncing the idleness of tramps. How he would encourage them to become industrious has just been shown at Market Bosworth, where a painter who entered the casual ward was asked to remain in the workhouse to repaint and redecorate the Guardians' board-room. He did the work satisfactorily at an expense of about £3 for materials, whereas an ordinary contract for the job would have come to £10 or £12. It was proposed that when the man left the workhouse he should be given £1 for his labours, but the majority of the Guardians deemed this an excess of generosity, and so the amount was cut down to 15s. It seems a mean and contemptible wage. Perhaps, however, Bumble holds that it should be a sufficient reward for a poor tramp to have felt what Carlyle calls "the blessed glow" of honest toil.

The Registrar-General has issued a circular to Boards of Guardians throughout the country suggesting that in the future interest of children born in the workhouse any direct reference to that institution should be omitted from the certificates of their birth. The object is, of course, to save the children from being labelled for life as of pauper parentage, and almost every Board has expressed its approval of the proposal and adopted some alternative description of the workhouse for birth registration purposes. Here and there, however, hide-bound Bumbles have lifted up their voices against any such concession to the feelings of mere paupers. For instance, when the Eton Guardians resolved that the workhouse should be called "Albert House, Albert Road," in the register of births, a clergyman named Lathbury protested against the change on the ground that there was "a good deal of false sentiment about it." It may be a result of false sentiment, but it is an undeniable fact that workhouse children are humiliated and handicapped in after life by the misfortune of their birth and up-bringing, and every humane poor-law administrator recognises the desirability of sending them out into the world as free as can be from what is regarded as the taint of pauperism.

JEFFREY & Co.'s ARTISTIC WALL PAPERS now on Exhibition at their New Showrooms, The Wallpaper Gallery, 31, Mortimer-st., W. To be had of all decorators.—Factory, 64, Essex-rd., Islington, N

There has just been a surprising sequel to the official inquiry into the affairs of the City of Glasgow Friendly Society, upon which I commented a few months ago. The Assistant Registrar of Friendly Societies for Scotland ordered the inquiry, upon a requisition signed by five hundred members, in accordance with Section 76 of the Friendly Societies Act of 1876. The outcome was a report revealing gross irregularities on the part of the managing treasurer, Mr. James Stewart, who had arrogated to himself practically the sole control of the society's business. Mr. Stewart's influence in the society, especially over the agents and collectors, who for years had been his humble servants, was unfortunately so powerful that in spite of this damaging report a majority of the delegates reinstated him in the office of managing treasurer from which he had been temporarily removed. That step, however, was only an aggravation of the scandal, and certainly did not in the slightest degree affect the fact that the application for the inquiry was justified by the report.

By the above-mentioned section of the Act of 1876, it is provided that "all expenses of and incidental to" any such inquiry shall be defrayed by the members applying therefor, or out of the funds of the society, or by the members or officers, in such proportions as the chief or assistant registrar directs. The obvious intention of the Act is that costs shall follow the judgment. In this case the Assistant Registrar has directed that the society shall pay £691, one-third of this sum to be refunded to the society by Mr. Stewart. Nearly the whole of this £691, however, is absorbed by official costs, and only £30 has been allowed towards the costs of the law agent employed by the applicants in making a preliminary investigation of the affairs of the society, which extended over a period of ten months.

The Assistant-Registrar appears to hold that he is debarred from ordering payment of any of the expenses that were incurred in preparation for the inquiry, but this is surely a most hide-bound interpretation of the words of the Act as to expenses "incidental to" such inquiries. Before an order for an inquiry can be secured, expenses are necessarily incurred in satisfying the Registrar that there is a primâ-facie case. It is clearly impossible for the working men belonging to societies of this kind to get up such a case without legal assistance. and if it is to be laid down that even when they have succeeded in proving their charges the applicants for an inquiry must still defray the major portion of the costs they have incurred, this section of the Act becomes a mockery. The consequence will be that members will decline to move in the matter, and the worst abuses in the management of such societies will flourish unchecked. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Assistant Registrar will reconsider his decision.

The following communication, addressed recently to creditors of a West End company in process of liquidation, seems to indicate a novelty in procedure of this

class. The liquidator, it will be seen, offers to buy the creditors' claims himself at 17s. in the pound, coupling his offer with a pretty plain hint that if it is not accepted, the creditors may expect to have to wait a considerable time before they see anything in the shape of a dividend. The liquidator, whose name is not disclosed, appears to be somewhat anxious to do business, for this letter, not having been answered in the course of three weeks, Mr. Bunbury, his secretary, writes to one of the creditors a second time, enclosing a copy of the former communication, and requesting an early reply. So far as this particular creditor is concerned, his reply takes the form of sending both communications to me, and I agree with him that the position taken up by the liquidator is not one that ought to be encouraged:—

106, New Bond-street, London, W.,
25, 10, '04.

(In the matter of Maison Hellbronner, Ltd., in Liquidation.)

GENTLEMEN,—I am desired by the Liquidator of the above Company to say that he has admitted your claim against the Company at the sum of £—.

The assets of the Company consist almost entirely of book debts which are in process of collection but which appear likely to take a long time to realise. He hopes to be in a position to declare a first dividend in about six months' time.

If it is any convenience to you he is prepared to pay in cash out of his own pocket the amount of your claim, less 15 per cent., upon your agreeing to assign to him, if called upon, the amount of your claim against the Company.—I am, your obedient,

(Sd.) ALFRED BUNBURY
(Private Secretary to the Liquidator).

Disclosures of an unhappily familiar kind are being made in the bankruptcy proceedings against a Bristol solicitor named Wm. Frederick Langworthy. His unsecured liabilities include about £22,000 owing "in respect of trust estates or to clients." In his public examination he said "he attributed his failure to insufficiency of income to meet interest on trust moneys appropriated by him many years ago, and other moneys." His first "irregularity" in a trust matter occurred in 1875, and "since then he had been in the position of replacing one trust fund with another." The public examination of the debtor, which commenced at the beginning of this month, has not yet been completed. In view, however, of what has already been ascertained, it seems time to ask whether there is not to be an investigation elsewhere than in the Bankruptcy Court.

The following report of an Old Bailey prosecution appeared in the *Globe* of November 15:—

At the Old Bailey, yesterday, in the case of Helen Daniels (60), charged with publishing a defamatory libel concerning Edward George Codrington Parr, Dr. Griffiths, the medical officer at Holloway Gaol, expressed the opinion that the woman was insane and unfit to plead. An order was made for Daniels to be detained during the King's pleasure. Daniels: May I speak? I am as capable of pleading my case as any counsel in court. I am suffering from nervous prostration and weakness, but not mental. The Recorder: But the doctor thinks that you are not.

The report is very brief, and possibly some material point may have been lost in the process of condensation. I have searched other papers in vain for a further report of the case, but cannot find one. On the *Globe* account of the proceedings, however, I confess I do not understand them. A person cannot be pronounced insane in the ordinary course of things except on the certificate of two doctors, and after examination by a magistrate. But it would appear that if the person is charged with a criminal offence, the mere dictum of a single prison medical officer is sufficient to stamp him as a lunatic in the eyes of the law, to deprive him of the right to a trial, and to procure his detention "during the King's pleasure"—which presumably means detention as a criminal lunatic. If this procedure is regular, I can only say that the sooner it is altered the better. As far as I can see, whenever anybody obtains the formal consent of a judge to prosecute me for criminal libel, it only remains for a prison surgeon to give the opinion that I am unfit to plead, and I may end the rest of my days in a lunatic asylum.

An action which came before Mr. Justice Buckley last week brought to light some further evidence of the defalcations of Mr. J. S. Lickorish, a solicitor formerly carrying on business in Queen Victoria-street, whose case was referred to in TRUTH a few months ago. A Miss Williams advanced £400 on a mortgage through Lickorish, who acted as her solicitor. The mortgage contained a proviso for the repayment of the money by quarterly instalments of £25; but the mortgagee knew nothing of this. Lickorish received the quarterly instalments and stuck to them, continuing to pay his client the interest on the whole amount, as though it were still outstanding. The action tried last week was brought by the mortgagee against the mortgagor, Mr. Hunt, to recover the money paid to Lickorish; and in accordance with what I think is the established rule, that a solicitor has no implied authority to receive mortgage moneys on behalf of the mortgagee, judgment went to the plaintiff.

In this case, therefore, Lickorish's client recovers her money, and the party who suffers through the solicitor's dishonesty is the unfortunate mortgagor, who has to pay the money over again. It may be remembered that a prosecution was commenced by the Treasury against Lickorish, who appears to have robbed his clients right and left for some considerable period, but was abandoned on the score of the man's age and infirmities. As a matter of fact he has no worse infirmities to-day than he had during the period when he was carrying on his business and robbing his clients, and it is a great scandal that he should be allowed to get off scot-free. The number of people victimised by him is very large, and the worst feature of the case is that many of them are people of very limited means, who, in some cases at any rate, have lost nearly everything they possessed.

The Canterbury coroner, Dr. Johnson, seems to have forgotten the wigging which he received some time ago

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

on account of his unwarrantable attempts to bully jurymen into signing blank requisition forms. The matter cropped up once more at an inquest the other day, when Mr. Fryer, who made the first objection to the coroner's irregular procedure, was again one of the jury. After the finding of the verdict the following colloquy took place:—

Mr. Fryer: Is the verdict filled in?

Dr. Johnson: Come and look for yourself, man; none of your tin-pot nonsense; look for yourself.

Mr. Fryer (after examining the document): I see the verdict is not filled in.

Dr. Johnson: Do you object to signing it?

Mr. Fryer: When the verdict is filled in I shall be very pleased to sign it. We have come to the conclusion that the man died——

Dr. Johnson: Yes; well, you sit down.

The Coroner then glanced at the inquisition and ordered his officer to close the inquiry, without making any further attempt to obtain Mr. Fryer's signature. It is really time the Lord Chancellor took steps to curb the insolence of this "tin-pot" functionary.

I am sure that Mr. Justice Wills will be as sorry as I am to learn that some injustice was done to the Bridport Bench in connection with a case recently tried at Dorset Assizes. The prisoner's solicitor was called as a witness, and stated that the committing magistrates refused to take evidence for the defence on the ground that as they had made up their minds to send the case for trial by a jury it would be a waste of time to do so. On this statement Mr. Justice Wills passed some severe criticisms on the conduct of the magistrates, which I quoted and endorsed. The magistrates, however, have since denied that they refused to hear the prisoner's witnesses. What happened was that at the close of the evidence for the prosecution they said they thought a primâ facie case had been made out, whereupon the solicitor for the defence at once remarked that he would not call his witnesses, "as it was only taking up time." He accordingly did not tender any evidence on behalf of his client.

While this account of the proceedings, which is borne out by the newspaper report published at the time, puts a different complexion upon the conduct of the Bridport Bench, the general necessity for the lesson that Mr. Justice Wills conveyed still remains. Magistrates do not, perhaps, go to the length of refusing outright to hear witnesses for the defence, but they give a pretty plain hint that in any event they intend to commit the prisoner for trial, and the result is that he is advised to reserve his defence till he appears before a jury. For the reasons that Mr. Justice Wills mentioned it is highly desirable that any available evidence for the defence should be taken at the police-court, even if a committal for trial is a foregone conclusion, and it is to be hoped that magistrates will cease to make remarks in discouragement of this course.

Brutality is still cheap at Barnsley, as may be seen fro a case at the head of my Legal Pillory this week. T Solons of that town have always been notorious for extr ordinary leniency in dealing with offences against th person, and the prevalence of these offences is not matter for wonder when a fine of ten shillings is all th is inflicted for such a ruffianly outrage as was committe on the complainant in this case. The inadequacy of th fine stands out in striking contrast to the penalty whic the same magistrates imposed upon a first offender fo theft. Bailie Peebles, of Kirkcaldy, evidently look with an indulgent eye upon the pastime of woma beating. In a bad case against a man with a number o previous convictions his worship spoke to the accused i an almost apologetic tone for being unable to let him o with a less fine than twenty shillings! The furthe examples of misapplied mercy from Walsall, King Heath, and Birmingham are noteworthy on account o the previous convictions against the defendants, whil among the cases in the opposite column of the followin list I would particularly direct attention to the mon strous sentences which the Langport J.P.s passed upo eleven navvies who, owing to the lack of lodgings i the neighbourhood, were "sleeping out":—

King's Heath Police-court. Before Messrs. J. H. Cartland, J. J. Tomson, G. F. Lyndon, and L. A. Olivieri. Ernest Joseph Turner, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and with assaulting two constables. Defendant threw down one of the officers and kicked him, ripped his uniform, and pulled out his watch and stamped on it. When the other officer arrived he was also violently assaulted, and it took four men to carry the defendant to the police station. There was a list of previous convictions against him. Fined 40s. for the assaults and 7s. 6d. costs for the drunkenness.

Coatbridge Police-court. Before Bailie Neilson. Terence McLusky, convicted of assaulting a woman. The woman remonstrated with him for striking a child, whereupon he hit her on the head with a brick, knocking her down. Fined 40s.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Peebles. Hugh M'Kechnie, convicted of assaulting Margaret M'Kechnie. After striking her about the face and knocking her head against an iron-bedstead, whereby she was badly cut, he chased her out of the house and again ill-treated her until the neighbours interfered. The Bailie said that owing to accused having been before the court so often he could not let him off with a less fine than 20s.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Peter Robertson and Thomas Robertson, convicted of committing a breach of the peace and of assaulting Thomas Hailstones by knocking him down and striking him about the face and body. Fined 20s. each.

Chester Castle Petty Sessions. Richard Littler, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of rabbits supposed to have been obtained by trespassing, and Samuel Broster and John Goodyear, charged with aiding and abetting him. Goodyear fined £1 and costs, the others £5 each and costs, or two months.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Colonel F. C. Corfield and other magistrates. Wm. Taylor, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Hamilton Police-court. Before Bailie London. Sarah Reid, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop door. One month.

East Grinstead Police-court. Before Mr. C. H. Everard. George James, charged with sleeping out. Seven days.

Cupar Sheriff-court. Before Hon. Sheriff-Substitute Gray. Four labourers named Christie, Simpson, Barrett, and Bell, charged with sleeping-out at a pit head. Twenty-one days each.

Paisley Sheriff-court. James M'Hardy, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found on the highway with rabbits and a net in his possession. Fined £5; in default, thirty days.

New Mills Police-court. Before Mr. James Hibbert and other magistrates. George Jones, charged with stealing a Cardigan jacket. One month.

East Dereham Police-court. Before Messrs. A. G. Copeman and G. Brett. John Skipper, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 10s.

ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

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Barnsley Police-court. Before Alderman Wray and other magistrates. Wm. A. Houchin and Ellis Houchin, charged with assaulting Frank Kane, who stated that one of the defendants struck him on the head with a poker and both then beat him and kicked him in a brutal manner. Kane had two black eyes, scars on his face, and other marks of the ill-usage he had received. The magistrates said they were quite satisfied that there had been a very serious assault, but the summons against Ellis Houchin was dismissed, and though the other defendant admitted that he let Kane "have it," he was only fined 10s. and costs.

Walsall Police-court. John Hampblett, coal dealer, convicted of assaulting Kate Wood, wife of another coal dealer, by knocking her down and kicking her. There were several convictions against the defendant for assaulting the same woman, and the police said rivalry in business was the explanation of his conduct. Fined £3.

Birmingham Police-court. Before Mr. Pearson and other magistrates. Francis Walton, publican, charged with assaulting his wife. He threatened to "do" for his wife and children, and loaded a revolver. When he found that his wife had secured the revolver he threw a glass at her, inflicting a nasty wound over her left eye. He had been previously convicted of wife-beating and a separation order was made. Fined £3 and costs.

Barnsley Police-court. Before the same magistrates. Wm. Legge, a respectable-looking young man, charged with stealing a quantity of scrap brass, value 21s., belonging to his employers. It was his first offence, and the prosecutors said they did not desire to press the charge. The Bench said the least they could do would be to impose a fine of £5 and costs; in default, two months.

Loughborough Police-court. Edward Marsden, charged with poaching. Fined £3 and costs, and, in default of payment, committed for one month.

Totton Police-court. Arthur Stubbs and George Hall, charged with sleeping-out. Fourteen days each.

Langport Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. W. Valentine, C. L. Eastlake, A. Dickinson, and F. Meade. Eleven navvies employed at some works in the neighbourhood, were charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. It was stated that there were not sufficient lodgings available for the men. Fourteen days each.

Newport Pagnell Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. M. Knapp, A. W. Hipwell, J. J. Boswell, W. J. Levi, and Colonel Burney. Alwyn Parker, charged with poaching. Fined £5 16s. 6d.

Willenhall Police-court. Before Messrs. J. C. Tildesley, H. Vaughan, and L. B. Moreton. Sidney Smith and Wm. Fletcher, charged with poaching. Fined £5 each and costs; in default, six weeks.

A Clapham grocer named Lane was summoned at the South-Western Police-court on Friday for selling as cocoa "a substance containing 70 per cent. of sugar and sago." The peculiarity of the case is that the 70 per cent. of what I would call adulteration was not only admitted but defended on the ground that the mixture was not sold to the prejudice of the public; that real cocoa could not be sold at one shilling a pound; and that "the British public are aware in buying cocoa that it contains 70 per cent. of sugar and sago." Are they? I doubt it, even though the Chairman of the Grocers' Association asserts it. If the public want sago, they buy it. So they do sugar. As one of the public, if I asked for cocoa I should expect to get it. But the law, as expounded by Mr. Garrett (who dismissed the summons), does not protect me against sugar and sago to the extent of nearly three-quarters of my cocoa. All I can say is that if Mr. Garrett is right in his law the sooner the law is amended the better. If it is allowable to sell such stuff as this as cocoa, why should not my tobacconist sell me tobacco that is three parts hay? I wonder if the public would be "aware of" that kind of adulteration.

I feel no animosity towards the citizens of Birmingham, so I am sorry to see a veiled advertisement of that bombastic quack, "Professor" Thomas F. Adkin, of Rochester, N.Y., appearing in the *Birmingham Gazette*. The "Professor's" claim to have raised a woman from the dead, and his offer to perform a similar miracle free of charge to all and sundry, have already been dealt with in TRUTH, when they appeared in the form of an ordinary advertisement. The effect is likely to be still more mischievous when the story appears under sensational headlines as a contribution from a special correspondent. The editor and proprietor of the *Birmingham Gazette* should really show a little more consideration for their fellow citizens. They must know that a considerable proportion of their townsmen have proved themselves to be particularly prone to be the victims of quackery, and eager to swallow any story of a "cure all" when not boldly labelled "Advertisement."

I would also bespeak a similar consideration on behalf of the less intelligent of his readers from the editor of the *Dorset County Chronicle*, who allows a flagrant puff of the Drouet Institute to appear as an item of news in his columns. One does not expect to find an old-established county paper assisting in laying a trap for the unwary in this fashion for the sake of a few shillings. Surely Lord Justice Mathew's description of the Drouet Institute as "a disgraceful institution carried on for unworthy objects by discreditable means" should be sufficient to prevent any one furthering the predatory operations of this "disgraceful institution," one of whose "discreditable means" for carrying on its "unworthy objects" being, by the way, the obtaining of the insertion of paid advertisements as news matter in otherwise respectable journals.

As scarcely a week passes without my receiving some inquiry respecting the advertisements of "Professor" G. Keith-Harvey, now of 117, Holborn, the following experiences of one of the "Professor's" patients may be useful. The patient, who had suffered from deafness for many years, and tried, as he ingenuously states, "all the leading aurists, and most of the quacks," still had sufficient faith left in him to answer one of Keith-Harvey's advertisements, and pay a guinea for the "aural battery" which is this individual's specialty. He received with the battery some lotion, and he faithfully followed the directions until the stock was exhausted, without any perceptible result. He communicated this fact to Keith-Harvey, who recommended and forwarded two more bottles of the lotion at 7s. 6d. Instead of paying more money the patient then offered Keith-Harvey to pay him £5 on condition that he was cured. The "Professor's" confidence in his ability to effect a cure then underwent a sudden change. He asked that the two last bottles of mixture might be sent back at once.

Whatever may be the case with another predatory class, there is certainly no honour among the trick-advertisement harpies, for they purloin one another's notions and plagiarise one another's advertisements and circulars in the most barefaced manner. An example of this is afforded by various advertisements in practically identical terms, inviting "persons (inexperienced) desirous of becoming stewards, stewardesses, clerks," etc., on steamships (otherwise described by the advertisers as "ocean greyhounds" or "ocean liners") to write to

so-and-so. Those who write get a circular asking them to forward 1s. or 2s., and those who are further gulled into paying the fee are then favoured with another circular giving some elementary instructions as to the way in which applications should be made for such berths on steamships. The request for the fee is so skilfully worded that the sending of the practically worthless second circular fulfils the strict letter of the undertaking upon which the money is paid; but in spirit the whole business is a cruel imposition.

I have on several occasions referred to the notorious Forshaw, of Bolton, Breakell, of Birkdale, and Scale and Co., of Stockport, as among the practitioners of this fee-snatching dodge. Now I find that it is also being carried out by an individual calling himself "Seaborne and Co.," late of 15, Warwick-road, Worthing, and now of 76, Brixton-road, S.W., whose circulars are more or less close copies of those issued by Forshaw, Scale, and Breakell. The Seaborne and the Scale advertisements, almost word for word alike, have been appearing one above the other in the *Daily Telegraph*. The deceptive character of these advertisements must be known even to the most innocent of newspaper managers, and it is anything but creditable to the *Daily Telegraph* that it should assist such harpies as Seale and Co. and Seaborne and Co. in preying upon its unwary readers.

Some accounts and letters which a backer has received from a circularising bookmaker calling himself "Walter Hartness, late Mason and Co.," 17, Woodstock-street, W., disclose an instructive and entertaining story. By his first week's bets the backer became entitled to £1 3s. 7d. from Hartness, but the latter added a note to the account to the effect that as he did not send out cheques for under £2 he had placed the winning balance to the client's credit. Another week's bets showed a balance due to the backer of £15 16s. 4d., but again no cheque was forthcoming, Hartness's clerk writing to say that "Mr. Hartness contracted a severe chill at Newmarket, and has been laid up ever since," and to ask in the name of Mrs. Hartness that the account should remain over till he was able to attend to his affairs. A few days later Hartness himself wrote a letter which possibly sheds a light on the nature of the chill he contracted at Newmarket. "You will quite see," he said, "that with Hackler's Pride coming on the top of Wargrave I have been very hard hit, and it will be as much as I can do to find the money to settle with my clients who have already paid me before, on Monday, and as I have not been able to get about I could not collect a lot of accounts outstanding."

The backer was sympathetic, and in the following week, ending November 4, he made more bets whereby the balance due to him from Hartness was reduced from £15 16s. 4d. to £10 6s. 4d. Hartness, however, had apparently not yet recovered from the Newmarket "chill." He promised to pay "about the middle of next week," but instead of doing so he wrote to express a hope that if the backer communicated with TRUTH he would not omit to mention that he owed £9 12s. 6d. to Rowsen and Co., of Old Burlington-street. The latter are welshers whom I have lately pilloried, and the backer had a good and sufficient reason for refusing to pay them, which is more than can be said in regard to Hartness's failure to meet his obligations.

"The grand work of transforming failure into success" is still being carried on by that noble-hearted philanthropist A. Victor Segno, of Los Angeles, California. If you are ambitious, if you desire to better your position, to increase your business, to develop your talents, to attain a higher social standing—all you have to do is to join the Segno Success Club. Segno, the president, and your fellow-members will then "exert their combined mental influence and thoughts in your favour," and what you desire will come to pass. In your turn you will have the inestimable privilege of "radiating" your own mental influence for the benefit of others. "A personal friend, who is a member of this club, and who has a thorough knowledge of your character and ability, has recommended you to us," says Segno, and in consequence you are specially favoured with the offer of two months' trial membership at the reduced fee of one dollar, which, it is carefully explained, is equivalent to 4s. 3d. in English money, and may be remitted to Los Angeles by P.O. order. I am afraid that I am a hopeless sceptic, but if anything could convince me of the reality of the mysterious system of "mental vibrations" on which A. Victor Segno discourses in his circulars, it would be the fact that he continues to rake in dollars by this transparent humbug of the Segno Success Club.

A week or two ago I noted with amusement the endeavour of a firm to establish a rubber-stamp agency in a lunatic asylum. Now the medical officer of a similar institution sends me on some circulars which a patient under his charge has received from Symond's London Stores. The circulars in question contain particulars of yet another competition of the proverb-guessing order, so simple, in fact, that, as the medical officer remarks, "the most high-class idiot in the institution" could not fail to solve the puzzle, yet the lunatic was informed that 1,000 Royal Worcester bicycles have been set aside as prizes for those who successfully solve these puzzles. The astute Yankee who presides over the Symond's concern seems in this instance to have suited his appeal to the intelligence of his possible customers. I do not see how any one outside a lunatic asylum could imagine that he could get a bicycle for nothing by filling in the missing letters in half-a-dozen such sentences as, "H-nes-y is — b-st p-licy," or "A p-nny s-v-d is — p-nny ——." The first of these two proverbs, by the way, is well worth Messrs. Symond's attention, while the second may be specially commended to the consideration of their possible dupes.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S. Insist upon SCRUBB'S. "MAKES HOME, SWEET HOME IN DEED."

Another firm which makes a very appropriate appeal to the inmates of lunatic asylums, with the offer of £100 in cash to those who can solve a simple pictorial version of "All is not gold that glisters," is the United Services Association, of 115, Newgate-street. The "Association" is engaged in the stale old trick of selling fountain pens at 3s. 4d. each as a condition upon which the prize-winner becomes entitled to share in the prize. I can understand the unfortunate inmate of an asylum imagining that he may obtain a substantial amount of prize-money by fulfilling the conditions; but how any one outside Bedlam can be induced to purchase a fountain pen or any other article on such flimsy representations is far more difficult of comprehension.

The irrepressible impostor—I believe a female—who trades under the name of Ernest Day, of 439, Old Kent-road, is no respecter of persons, and his—or her—latest attempt has been made upon a distinguished member of his Majesty's Government. Happily for themselves, as well as for the country, his Majesty's Ministers find time, amid the cares of State, to glance through the pages of TRUTH, and Day's little attempt in this direction has, therefore, been foiled. I would suggest, however, that the next time a Cabinet Minister receives a notification that Ernest Day has lost another relative, and consequently come into possession of a remarkably rare and interesting family portrait, which "straightened" circumstances compel him to dispose of at an alarming sacrifice, the document should be handed to the Home Secretary with a view to its transmission to the Police Department of his Office. There is, I believe, no doubt that this cock-and-bull story of the deceased relative and the family portrait amounts to an attempt to obtain money by fraud, and it is a great pity that nobody thinks it worth while to put a stop to this old-established swindle.

As an illustration of the promiscuous way in which the Spanish Prisoner scatters abroad his interesting letters, Mr. Catesby, of Cork Lino fame, informs me that he has been favoured with the usual generous offer of a third of the captive's fortune of £36,000 in return for his services, if he will provide the means of recovering the time-honoured trunk in which the security for the money is concealed. Needless to say, Mr. Catesby was not buying second-hand trunks at this figure, and I rather doubt whether the prisoner will find a market for this class of furniture down Tottenham Court-road.

In connection with the business of Mr. Graves, of Sheffield, my attention has been called to the fact that all those persons who are enlisted by him as agents, for the purpose of selling gold and silver goods on commission, ought by rights to take out licences. It is not likely that any of them have ever done anything of the kind; and it is rather surprising that the Inland Revenue authorities have not taken any steps to enforce the law. My impression is that they have the right to inspect Graves's books, in order to discover who these agents are; but if they have not, the order should be obtained. This point applies not only to Mr. Graves, but many other "tallyman" firms who do business on the same lines. Apart from general objections to this business, it is not fair to other traders that the law should be evaded by carrying on the business in this way; neither is it fair to the taxpayers that the Revenue should suffer to this extent.

RADIATION AND REVELATION.

A well-known scientist is developing the "N-ray" theory, according to which every human being is surrounded by rays varying in colour according to his or her character.—*Evening Paper.*

Those doctors! Those doctors! Why, now they declare—
  Caring little how much they astound us—
Certain rays, which our characters strangely project,
  With a halo chromatic surround us.
Grey, they say, are the rays which the cultured emit
  For the expert's delighted inspection;
Whilst girls that are good give off pink, so to speak;
  'Tis the pink, we presume, of perfection!

Mr. Chamberlain moves, since ambitious is he,
  In an atmosphere stained with bright yellow;
The Kaiser is blazing with rays of deep red,
  He *is* such a passionate fellow.
Great actors surrounded by purple should be,
  When evolving their grandest creations;
True Poets—does Alfred this statement confirm?—
  Should yield only puce emanations!

The subject, as yet, undeveloped remains,
  But it 's clear that each girl should discover,
As soon as she 's able, the hue of the rays
  That are said to shoot out from her lover.
Each master, too, well might the point follow up,
  At which sundry papers have hinted,
And granting his servants emit certain rays,
  Find out for himself how they 're tinted.

Still, care is much needed; for think what mistakes
  Might arise, not from spite nor unkindness,
But simply because many folks, as we know,
  Are misled by confirmed colour-blindness.
Just imagine the awkward results there might be,
  If the friends we supposed to be true ones,
Because they emitted the greenest of rays,
  Radiated, in fact, only blue ones!

I was greatly surprised at Mr. Chamberlain having the effrontery to tell a Luton audience that they were being ruined owing to English straw plaiting having been destroyed by foreign competition. Most of his hearers must have been aware that the reverse is the case. The Duke of Devonshire seems to have been equally surprised, and all the more when he found that Mr. Chamberlain had made this assertion on the strength of having read in a recent publication of the Luton Chamber of Commerce that this terrible disaster had arisen owing to the demand for Panama straw hats, which are not made in England. I happen to know something about the straw hat industry, owing to my having been often in Tuscany, where the principal purveyors of the braids out of which so-called straw hats are made reside. Some twenty years ago these braids were plaited in the villages around Luton. The finer, however, were always imported from Tuscany and from Switzerland. The English straw plaiters never earned much beyond a

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL and GHEZIREH PALACE, Cairo's Premier Hotels. CHARLES BAEHLER, General Manager. For particulars apply to SLEEPING CAR CO., 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross.

pittance. To become one a child had to begin plaiting at six years old, and for the first few years the wage was nominal, for it is by no means easy to acquire the finger pliability that is needed.

The Tuscan straw is obtained by a peculiar method of cultivation, and by cutting the straw before the grain ripens. It is a good deal better for plaiting than English straw. A Tuscan straw plaiter can earn about 7½d. per diem. In Tuscany and everywhere else straw has been replaced by wood chips and other such materials, which are a good deal cheaper. This is almost entirely so in the case of ladies' hats, which form by far the greater part of the trade. Straw or wood chips are sent over to the English manufacturer plaited in what are called braids. These braids are about sixty yards long. The way wood chips came to be substituted for straw is curious. In one or two villages near Modena the peasants had long been accustomed to make hats out of willow chips. As the material was cheaper than straw, the Tuscan braid purveyors took to using them, and soon to such an extent that the supply of willows failed in Italy.

One of the manufacturers then heard that there were many willows in Japan, so he sent there for chips. Seeing that these chips were to be used in making braids for hats, the Japanese soon not only sent chips but plaited braids made out of them, and it was soon discovered that the latter could be delivered at Leghorn for less than they would cost if plaited in Italy, and at present by far the greater number of braids used in Europe to make hats are plaited in Japan or in China. The Italian plaiting industry has suffered from these importations. It would have been entirely destroyed had it not been that fashions in braids change frequently. When an order for a braid of some new pattern comes, therefore, to Tuscany the merchant has not time to send to Japan to have it made, but has it plaited in Tuscany from the wood chips. These chips, as I have said, mainly come from Japan and China, but a certain amount of them is obtained from Bohemia.

Men's hats are often made from straw, but ladies' hardly ever at present. The cost to the hat manufacturer of a braid needed to make sailor hats is about ninepence, and out of this braid three hats can be made. There are other and finer braids which are a good deal dearer. Some hats are made in Italy, but few of these go to England. In the main they are sent to the United States, a Protectionist country. Speaking generally, an English hat is made of wood from the East out of braids that are either plaited in Japan or in Italy. The profit to the English manufacturer is derived from converting the same manufactured wood into a hat.

And what is the result? About three times as many hats are made in England as was the case when the braids were plaited there. A greater number of hands find work in the hat factories than they did as plaiters, and they are better paid. The wearer of the hat gets a better and a far cheaper article. Thus English manufacturers, English workers, and English wearers of hats have gained. Luton, the English centre of the industry, is now one of the most thriving towns in the country, and it population has increased by fully one-third. Had Mr. Chamberlain taken the trouble to learn his facts before making his fiscal speeches, he would have discovered that the straw hat industry is no proof that we are being ruined by foreign competition, but the most convincing proof that we are all large gainers by importing a semi-manufactured article duty free, and then converting it into the completed article.

I do not know whether the Luton manufacturers really believe that they are suffering owing to so many Panama hats being imported and sold in England. But if they do, I hardly think that they are right. A Panama hat is made of a grass found in Central America. There a rich man, who wants to show his wealth, wears a very fine Panama hat. If it be the very best, it ought to be able to be passed through a wedding ring. I have seen men there wearing hats for which they have paid above £200. This may sound an excessive price, but the maker who can turn out such hats is so rare that he gets an ounce of gold (£3 17s. 6d.) per week for his work, and it takes him nearly a year to make one hat. Such hats have the advantage of never wearing out, but they do not keep their shape.

In England a so-called "Panama" hat can be bought for about a pound. A good many of these are made in France round about Nancy. For generations hats have been made there from palm leaves. At present they are made from imported Panama grass. The true Panama hat is not made from braids, but is itself plaited. If all foreign-made Panama hats were forbidden to enter the United Kingdom, I greatly doubt whether it would not take generations for English workers to be able to do this fine work. Even if it took twenty years, no Panama hat would be seen in our country for that period, for a child would have to be put to the plaiting trade at six years old, and certainly would not be able to make a fairly good Panama hat until it was twenty-six.

Within the last two or three years the West Indies and Central America have sent over large quantities of the leaf (I forget its name) out of which the slips are made that are tied round bundles of cigars, with a view to their being used in making braids for hats, but I do not think that this leaf is used in Central America in the making of Panama hats.

A youth—who is called the Collier Evangelist—named Harris is rousing, say the papers, the whole of South Wales to a pitch of religious frenzy. People come to hear him from far and near. I would suggest to Mr. Chamberlain that possibly he might rouse England to a pitch of Protectionist frenzy by adopting the methods of Harris, which are thus described:—

He tells his audiences that it is time for us to get out of the groove in which we have walked so long. He seldom occupies the pulpit, but walks up and down the meeting-place talking, exhorting, pleading, and explaining. Now he will kneel beside

some one, and he will grasp the hand of an aged man. As he walks up and down he swings his arms, and claps his hands. He smiles joyously, and at times gives a short, sharp spring off his right foot to display the exuberance of his spirits. He does not believe in the counting of heads. Some people have said that he is doing good work. It is not his, however. He is only an instrument, and he wants men to believe as he believes. He is very modest.

I have always wondered why Frenchmen, who certainly do not lack courage, and who usually have a keen sense of the ridiculous, do not realise the absurdity of their duels. Neither adversary seeks to kill the other. If it is a sword duel, each tries to give the other a scratch; if a duel with pistols, they are put at a distance which renders it improbable that either will be hit. All is arranged by means of solemn "protocoles" and "procès-verbaux" between the seconds. The gallant duellists let it be known where they are going to fight, and generally the very harmless contest takes place in the presence of a host of newspaper reporters. When over, whether by neither combatant being hit by a ball, or by one of them getting a scratch from a sword, it is solemnly declared that honour is satisfied, and the duellists and their seconds have the pleasure of reading an account of the tomfoolery in all the French newspapers.

It seems, too, the habit in France to recognise that any scamp has a right to challenge any one who throws any doubt on the motives of his political action, or who questions in the Press the bona fides of his financial operations. The other day, one Syveton, an obscure Deputy, not approving of the conduct of the Minister of War, suddenly rushed on him in the Chamber, and beat him about the head with his fists. He is free pending a prosecution. But in the meanwhile three duels have been the outcome, one in which a son of the Minister of War, and another in which this Syveton figured as principals. The result of these duels was one slight scratch. Had this occurred in the House of Commons the assailant would have been handed over to the police, and every one would have felt that he had acted so dishonourably that—even if duels were our custom—no one would have fought with or for him. But that the three French duels should have only produced one scratch is so ridiculous an anti-climax that Frenchmen should really unite to put an end to such child's play.

Freemasonry with us is a very harmless association of persons who like to disport themselves in curious dress, to dine together, and to indulge in solemnly repeating in their lodges a more or less ancient ritual. They have secret signs and a pass-word by which they make themselves known to each other, and beyond a knowledge of the ritual (which very few of them really do know) they have no secrets. The pass-word is "Boas." The sign is in the shape of a right angle. When making it the hand ought properly to be drawn across the throat, but this is not necessary. The ritual consists of a long account how a certain Hiram Abif, when employed in building Solomon's temple, was thrown down from a scaffold and killed by the fall, and the members of the lodge declare their regret for the untimely end of this mythical mason. When a person becomes a Freemason he has to stand blindfolded in a lodge, with one leg and one arm bared, without any corn or metal on his person, and with a rope round his neck. He swears to keep the secrets of the "craft," and hopes that if he does not he may be buried between high water and low water. He keeps the secrets religiously, for the very good reason that there are no secrets. Freemasonry is, in fact, with us simply a mutual aid or benevolent society. It practises charity to its poorer members, and maintains many useful charitable institutions. Beyond this, it does nothing but dine, and wear aprons and other such personal paraphernalia on festive occasions.

In France, however, the "craft" stands on a very different footing. There are a good many officers in the French Army who are more inclined to favour an Empire or a Monarchy than the Republic, and possibly some of these may be influenced by their Clerical proclivities, and rather too openly show their political views. The late French Minister of War was fully justified in seeking to learn who these were, but he pushed his inquiries to the point of espionage, and listened too readily to denunciations due to party or personal feeling. But the most surprising thing in all this is the part that the Freemasons played in these denunciations. They seem to have been in close touch with the Minister, and to have been his most accredited spies. Such a state of things would have been impossible with us, for our Freemasons steer clear of all politics; and even if their heads were to send—as Freemasons—a report against any officer, a Minister of War would regard it as a gross impudence, and treat it with contempt.

It seems to me that some of the evidence given at the Hull inquiry looks anything but favourable to our case before the International Court. When several of our witnesses frankly state that they themselves thought they saw torpedo boats during the firing, the Russian allegation that they also thought torpedo boats were among the trawlers ceases to be the absurdity that we have hitherto regarded it. Of course, the evidence can be from our point of view easily explained away; but speaking with some experience of litigation, I know that I should be very sorry to go into court relying on witnesses whose evidence on a material point is as favourable to the other side as to me. It seems a great pity that the *Times* should sum up the result of the Hull proceedings as though it gave us a cast-iron case, and altogether ignore this serious flaw in it; for this ostrich-like attitude can do no good to us, and may lead to disappointment and dissatisfaction with the verdict. Anyhow, a delusion on the Russian side cannot be exactly regarded as criminal if it prevailed on our side too.

The Russians are naturally somewhat angry at Lord Selborne having gone out of his way to urge us to keep

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an eye on the designs of Russia on India, because she is our northern neighbour there, and has extended her railways within her territory, so that she might throw a vast army into India far more easily than into Manchuria. No doubt all this was exceedingly indiscreet under existing circumstances on the part of an English Minister. But the Russians must understand that Lord Selborne is one of the family Ministers, and that no one in England pays the slightest attention to anything that he says.

When Mr. Chamberlain revolted against Mr. Gladstone, Lord Selborne became one of his whips in the House of Commons, and he is the son-in-law of the late Lord Salisbury. On Mr. Chamberlain making common cause with the Conservatives, his adherents insisted on being rewarded with a very large share of the loaves and fishes. All of them wanted something, and Lord Selborne was given a place in the Ministry, because his father-in-law, and his political father, both united in wishing something to be done for him. He knew absolutely nothing of the Navy, but as he was in equally blissful ignorance of the work of other departments, this was not deemed a reason for not making him First Lord of the Admiralty; indeed, it was very likely thought that he would do less harm in that post than in any other, because the First Lord is merely the titular head of a naval board. He has seen that some of his colleagues have tried to divert attention from the faults of the Ministry by getting up scares, and he remembered, no doubt, that Mr. Chamberlain had been praised by our Yellow Press for telling the Czar that we could not trust him, and that any one who sups with the devil should have a very long spoon. Lord Selborne knows no more of India than a cat does of Palestine, but he thought that he would serve his party by trying to get up a scare about it. In this case he entirely failed.

So far as I understood his speech, he would have us at once largely increase our British force in India. He may possibly have wished to contrast the strength of the Navy under him with the weakness of the Army under Mr. Arnold-Forster, for no doubt he really believes that the former is the result of his personal abilities. It is curious that the only truly able man of the entire Salisbury clan of sons and nephews and cousins is in opposition to the Government, and never loses an opportunity to find fault with his relatives who have been promoted to office.

THE "PREVIOUS" VULTURES.

A Grizzly Bear, the Redskins say,
Once 'mid the Rockies wounded lay.
Forthwith the Vultures Bruin spied,
And, hungry, flocked from every Side;
Then, hov'ring high above his Head,
Watched to make sure if he were dead.
But Bruin stirred. "He lives!" they cry.
"Yet only just. The End is nigh.
Till Sunset, p'raps, with Luck, he'll tarry on,
And then, for sure, we 'll get our Carrion."
Came Sunset—still survived the Bear;
Came morrow's Dawn—he still was there,
Breathing serene the vital Air.
"Tut! tut!" say they. "And we' d have sworn
He couldn't linger on till Morn.
He 'll die ere Noon, beyond a Doubt;
Aye! Six short Hours *must* see him out!"
Came Noon—but still the Bear lived on;
Came Twilight—nor he yet was gone.
Desp'rate, at length, the Vultures cry
In ill-used Tones: "When *will* you die?"
"Shot if I see," replied the Bear,
"Why you put on that injured Air—
As if, forsooth, I 'd done you Wrong
By hanging on to Life so long."
"And so you have," the Vultures say.
"You 've cheated us, from Day to Day,
In quite the most indecent Way."
"Nay, foolish Birds," was Bear's Reply,
"'Tis *you* who 've played the Cheat, not I.
I mean your own too eager Haste
My longed-for Flesh and Blood to taste
Deludes you to forestall th' Event,
On which your Appetite is bent."

Moral.

How oft the Press, Pro-Jap, of late
Has told Port Arthur's instant Fate,
And prophesied that Nippon's Host
Must take it in a Week—at most.
Yet Weeks have sped—to Months have grown,
And still the Fortress holds its Own.
Now, what a MORAL, think you, lies
In all these futile Prophecies.
'Tis this: When Man a Thing desires,
That Longing all his Thoughts inspires;
And so, what he would like to see,
He cheats himself to think will be.

SCRUTATOR.

WHITE ELECTORS AND YELLOW MINERS.

THE *Daily Chronicle*, I am glad to see, has reprinted, as a penny pamphlet, its series of special articles on the Chinese labour question in the Transvaal. It ought to be read by every elector who will go to the polls, while the present Government remains in office, for it is a most exhaustive and convincing presentment of the case, illuminated by the light of practical experience up to the present time. The Unionists assert that their continued failure at the by-elections is due to the misrepresentations of the Liberals in regard to the importation of Chinese chattels into the Transvaal, and they contend that if the true facts were better known, those who vote on this account against the Government candidates would recognise that they are an additional reason for supporting these true-hearted and intelligent patriots. I fail to see in what the misrepresentations consist. We may differ from the Unionists as to conclusions, but, so far as I know, the facts from which the conclusions are deduced are not in dispute.

The Transvaal gold is embedded in a very low-grade ore. A large amount of capital is needed to provide the machinery necessary for its extraction, and the wages bill is a very heavy one. Many of the mines could not be worked with a profit were the manual labour done by white men at white men's wages; whilst in others the abnormal profits would, in this case, be very sensibly diminished. Before

the war black natives were employed, and one of the complaints of the mine-owners against the Kruger Government was that impediments were put in the way of black workers being recruited, and practically forced to work, at an exceedingly low wage. So soon as a British Government had replaced that of the Boer, the mine-owners reduced this wage, and this led to the supply of black labour falling off. On this becoming apparent, the mine-owners endeavoured to induce the British Government to force the blacks to work in the mines by an increase of the amount of their taxation. When this failed, they managed to obtain permission to import Chinese labour. These mine-owners had anticipated a "boom" when the war was over. The reverse, however, took place. Their aim still is to engineer a "boom," for they want to sell the shares that they have at a fancy price, and to promote new companies. An unlimited supply of cheap Chinese labour will, they imagine, bring about the desired result. The arrangement in regard to these imported chattels is as follows. They are recruited with Governmental aid in China. They contract to work for a fixed term of years. During this term they are to be allowed to engage in no other work than gold mining; they are to be imprisoned in compounds; they are to be subjected to fines and imprisonment if they do not work; they are to be summarily arrested if caught out of their compounds; their wage is to be the same as that of Kaffirs; and, when their term of servitude is over, they are not to be allowed to remain in the Transvaal, but to be sent back to China.

I do not regard it as surprising that Englishmen should be indignant at such a system of qualified slavery being permitted in a British dependency. I should have been greatly disappointed had they not, for it would have been a convincing proof of our moral deterioration. Necessity is pleaded. The Transvaal, it is said, cannot prosper unless Chinese contract labour be allowed in its mines. Desirous as we all may be that the Transvaal should be prosperous, we are not prepared to ignore all our noblest traditions to bring about that prosperity. I am, however, by no means prepared to admit that the prosperity of the Transvaal depends upon Chinese serfdom prevailing there. Gold is to be found almost everywhere. In America public feeling does not allow the employment of blacks in mines. A mine-owner has to employ whites and to pay the white man's wage. What is the result? The mining industry flourishes, but there are many poor mines that cannot be worked at a profit, and consequently are not worked. So it is with our coal-pits. Numbers that are not now worked would be worked were Chinese to be imported, shut up in compounds, and paid at the rate of 1s. per diem. I once wrote down all the estimates that I could find of the probable life of the Transvaal gold deposits, if worked at the present rate. Dividing their sum total by the number of estimates, I found that the term averaged twenty-five years. Possibly it may be longer, but what is certain is that, even at the present rate of production, the mines cannot last very long. Under those circumstances, we must regard the Transvaal mines as a temporary industry, and we must not sacrifice the permanent interests of the country in order that a few very rich men may grow speedily still richer. During the war, we were perpetually told that the Transvaal is a country of great agricultural possibilities. After the war schemes were devised to inundate it with agriculturists. We hear nothing more of the schemes now. Everything is subordinated to making the mines pay high dividends, and to opening out new ones. If they belonged to us, or to the Transvaal State, I could understand the idea which prevails that they are a great national asset enriching the entire community. But this is not so. I do not think that I am exaggerating when I say that the discovery of gold in the Transvaal has put 150 millions into the pockets of a few score of company promoters, and this money has not come from the mines, but out of the pockets of investors in mining securities. The gain of the sharks has been the loss of the small fish, and it has in no way profited the community. "Yes," perhaps the answer is, "but look at our trade with South Africa—look at our exports to the country!" To a certain extent, but only to a certain extent, this has been something to the good. But if we were to build up a great agricultural country in the Transvaal, its inhabitants would take more of our manufactured goods than the mines take of our machinery, and the trade would be far surer, far more permanent, and far less speculative. It is a mistake to suppose that a country exceptionally profits by gold or silver mines. Iron mines or coal mines are far more valuable, because they must be close at hand for a country to develop its manufactures. When Spain owned all the mines of South and Central America, far from increasing in wealth, she became almost bankrupt. Many years ago I was in South America. I remember there was a proverb there which said that "He who discovers a copper mine is sure to be rich, he who discovers a silver mine may be rich, he who discovers a gold mine is certain to be ruined." I believe that it has been calculated that every pound sterling costs thirty shillings to bring into existence. The reason is that for one gold mine that pays there are a dozen that do not, and there is such a glamour about the idea of a gold mine that money is always being thrown away in attempts to develop worthless ones. In Lancashire there are no gold mines. If there had been she would not be so rich or support so large a population by labour as she does. The real wealth of a country is the muscle, the bone, the readiness to labour, and the intelligence of its inhabitants.

So soon as a Liberal Government, representing the views of the country in regard to these Chinese chattels, has replaced the limpets at present in office, we must make an end of the business. I am glad to see that Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman spoke out plainly on this matter last week. A Liberal Government, he said, would deal with the question from the point of view of the permanent interests of the country, and not from the point of view of the temporary exigencies of those who financed the gold mines. We must have no more importation of chattels, and those that are

already in the Transvaal must be shipped to the place from whence they came. They would all probably gladly go if their passage back were paid, and each one were given five pounds. I am certain that the country would rather incur this liability than allow such serfdom to continue. The mine-owners and their Press henchmen have so long had their own way that they are apparently under the impression that no Government will dare act in opposition to their behests. They will find themselves mistaken. Honoured as these successful financial adventurers may be by the present Government, by the Jingo Press, and by all the fine gentlemen and ladies of society whom they have bought over, this is by no means the feeling entertained for them by the country. I have seen it more than once suggested that the question of Chinese labour should be left to the white inhabitants of the Transvaal. This, however, could not be permitted. The mine-owners have kept English labour out of the country. Most of the whites in towns there now are dependent on them. I think it very probable that they might be able to secure a majority of votes for anything on which they have set their hearts. A vote under present conditions on Chinese labour would not represent the opinion of those in the country, and those who would go there were Chinese labour abolished. So long as the Transvaal does not enjoy self-government, we are responsible for what occurs there. I go further. I say that we ought not to grant self-government to the Transvaal except on the condition that there be no importations of labour from China or from anywhere else under servile conditions. Before we are safe from such a scandal under our flag, the power of the ruling oligarchy must be destroyed. British labour must no longer be excluded because, as these oligarchs themselves say, it is tainted with Trade Unionism. In such a resolve not only should we have the other States in South Africa with us, but all our self-governing colonies, and every labour association in the United Kingdom. We have not spent nearly 250 millions and lost thousands of lives in order to create under our flag a State with plutocrats ruling, and serfs working. And if our Government had been as wise in other matters as they have been foolish, their attempt to do this is a sufficing reason for getting rid of them as speedily as possible.

NELSON'S PENSION TEA:

The Bubble Bursts.

As briefly mentioned in last week's Truth, the Nelson Tea pension scheme has at last reached the end of its tether. I have now before me the circular notifying the Company's agents of this fact, and of the steps that the Board have taken to meet the situation. The profits of the Company no longer suffice to meet the enormous charge for weekly pensions that has now grown up. The reserve fund is exhausted. The profits from the sale of soap and other articles have only served to keep the cranky craft afloat for a few weeks beyond the date at which it might naturally have been expected to founder. The crucial clause, therefore, in the Company's agreement with its widows, which provides that the pensioners shall only be entitled to payment so long as the profits of the business suffice for the purpose, now comes into operation. The pensions, it is intimated, will be reduced to such an amount as the profits will suffice to pay, and I believe I am right in saying that this amount is not likely to be more than 5s. per week on pensions on the higher scale, and 2s. 6d. on the lower —a reduction of 50 per cent.

Under ordinary circumstances, this announcement would be followed at a very early date by the utter collapse of the business, the knocking of the remaining 50 per cent. off the pensions, and the disappearance of the two Nelson Companies in the limbo of liquidation. It would be idle to expect that women will go on buying tea at about 8d. a pound above the normal market price after the failure of the Company to pay the promised life pensions has become known, as it will be in every town and village in England, the moment the weekly cheques on the old scale cease to go out to the present pensioners. In a case of this kind the first default in payment means the bursting of the bubble. The present Board of Directors, however, have naturally been anxious to avoid the final catastrophe, if possible, and for this purpose they have devised a very ingenious scheme. A new company has been formed under the name of Nelson's Trading Company, and it hopes to establish a new business on the ruins of the old through the medium of the existing agencies. The new concern is to be a life insurance business pure and simple, a lump sum being paid to every woman on the death of her husband, instead of a weekly pension. The scheme has been settled by a competent actuary, and there is no reason to doubt that it is financially sound. The new company will have, like any other insurance office, to deposit £20,000 in the Chancery Division of the High Court as security for the discharge of its obligations to its customers, and I understand that this has been done. There is no objection, therefore, to this new scheme; on the contrary, the combination in this way of industrial insurance with retail trade may yield substantial advantages upon the insurance side. There are one or two companies already doing such business on a sound basis, and there is room for more. As the Nelson Trading Company starts with a large connection and an established system of agencies over the whole country, the Directors have to that extent reason to hope for the success of the new enterprise. On the other hand, the Company has the disadvantage of sharing whatever odium will be attached to the name of Nelson's Tea when the collapse of the old scheme becomes known, as it will in a few days or weeks, to every customer now on the books. This strikes me as a somewhat heavy handicap, and had I myself been concerned in the business I think I should have dropped the immortal, but apparently irrelevant, name of "Nelson" out of the new company. However, the present Board have been for some months doing their best under great difficulties to put the busi-

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ness on an honest footing and to extract it from a very precarious position, and I do not wish to say anything that may make their task harder.

When a result against which one has long been warning the public in vain is ultimately arrived at, it is sometimes a satisfaction to be able to say "I told you so!" There is no room for any such satisfaction in the present case. The collapse of the pension tea scheme means the loss of the hard-earned savings of hundreds of thousands of thrifty women, and will bring sheer desolation to thousands of homes in which the pensions have for a few months been regarded as a life-long provision against want. The sufferers belong in almost all cases to a class which does not read sixpenny weekly papers, and, therefore, no one can reproach them with having disregarded the warnings that have been given them. But as a journalist gets little credit except what he takes to himself, I trust I may be forgiven for pointing out that every word that has been said in TRUTH during the last year and a half about the Nelson Companies and their pension scheme now stands justified up to the hilt. When I first dealt with the business in June, 1903, I pointed out that Nelson and Co. were offering—or pretending to offer, for their conduct was upon the face of it delusive—what no insurance company could dream of offering; that they were, in fact, charging, after making every allowance in their favour, a premium of less than one-sixth of the amount which would be the proper premium for the benefits held out by their scheme. The then Directors, to do them justice, did not attempt to controvert this allegation on any actuarial principle or authority. In their answer, delivered through their solicitors, they took refuge in the plea that their scheme did not really promise what it purported to promise, that they were acting under the best legal advice, and that they had "a reasonable prospect" of being able to pay the "life pensions" that they were pretending to sell. This was practically an admission that the pension scheme was, as I had called it, a "trick." Every fact that has been brought to light since in these columns has further exposed the hollowness of the trick, and the certainty of its early collapse. At what date the collapse would occur it has always been impossible to say, without exact knowledge of every detail of the business, down to the ages of the customers who were purchasing pensions; and prediction has been rendered more difficult by the fact that additional business in other articles than tea has been opened up for the purpose of sustaining the tottering pension fund. But in March last I was able to give an authoritative actuarial calculation of the probable life of the scheme, based on assumptions which were all of them in favour of the company. The calculations were made on two alternative bases. Upon the first basis the pension fund was practically exhausted at the end of the fifth year; upon the second, its exhaustion occurred earlier in the same year, so that by the end of that year there was an actual deficiency of £3,681. The actuary who made those calculations pointed out that, as on every doubtful point he had made assumptions in favour of the company, the probability was that the fund would be insolvent at a somewhat earlier date. The result has more than justified the prediction. The company was floated in May, 1901; the pension fund has become exhausted in November, 1904. It is true that the pension scheme was working for a year or two before the present company took it over; but on a comparatively small scale, and I believe that many of the widows already on the fund were settled with when the company took over the business from Rasmus Jenson, its founder. Anyhow, the reader can see for himself that the prediction published in TRUTH last March, like everything else that I have said in criticism of the Nelson business, was under, rather than over, what the facts justified.

There is a conclusion from this which it is necessary to point out plainly. If it has been possible for an outsider, without exact knowledge of the actual business done, and considering it merely on general actuarial principles, to demonstrate that the pension scheme was fundamentally rotten, and that the "life pensions" which the company has been pretending to sell could not possibly by paid for more than five or six years at the outside, what is the position of the gentlemen who started this business, and who have for three years past been drawing enormous profits from it? That is a very serious question. I have already said that the business was a dishonest one; and now that the whole truth about it is known I do not see how any one can dispute that view of it. We all know the answer of the gentlemen who are concerned to vindicate it. It has been given in the columns of TRUTH over the signature of their solicitors, and repeated over that of Mr. J. M. Catton, who is more concerned in the business than any one else. It comes to this, that they did not unreservedly promise their customers 10s. a week for life; that there was a clause in the contract providing that the company should only be liable for the payment of pensions to the extent of 75 per cent. of the profits; that the scheme was only a "profit-sharing" one; and that no less than three K.C.s had advised the original directors that they had a perfect right at law to divide up the profits as they have done. At law this may or may not be a good answer to objectors; I express no opinion on the point. But as regards the morality of the business, it is no answer whatever. Criticism of the scheme under that head rests upon the grounds (1) that in the words of the contract, and still more in the advertisements of the business—and everybody knows that it is by the latter, far more than by the wording of any legal form they may be asked to sign, that ignorant people are influenced—life pensions of specified amounts were expressly held out to the customers as payable by the company to every widow on her husband's death; (2) that the proviso limiting the company's liability was not of a nature to be understood by the majority of women of the class to which the company appealed, and was inserted in the printed form used among a number of other conditions; and (3) that there never was from the first the slightest probability of the company being able to continue the specified pension to any widow who survived her husband more than five or six

years, while for many months past, although new subscribers have been enlisted by thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, during that time, it has been morally certain that the overwhelming majority of such women could never get pensions at all—that is to say, any return for their payments to the company over and above the tea they bought. No plea of ignorance as to the probable duration of the scheme can avail anything in a case like this, for no honourable man would go into a business of this kind, and make huge profits by promising impossible benefits to thrifty women, without first satisfying himself of the soundness of the scheme from a business point of view. Even if the promoters had erred in the first instance by mere carelessness, there could be no excuse for persisting with the business on the same lines, as was done in this case up to three or four months ago, after the essential rottenness of the scheme had been publicly demonstrated. It is to be remembered that at the beginning of last March, when the truth about the scheme must have been brought home to every director then on the Board by the fact that the current profits had ceased to suffice for the payment of the pensions, and that the reserve fund was beginning to be drawn upon, dividends were nevertheless declared for the past quarter at the rate of 24 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares, and at the rate of 149 per cent. on the Deferred shares—the bulk of which were held by Mr. Catton, the promoter and controller of the company. Nor was there at that time, nor till several months afterwards when the old Board had been ejected from office, any modification of the terms in which "life pensions" were held out to women, or any abatement of the delusive appeals to the vast cash reserves and other resources of Nelson and Co. as a security to women desirous of making a provision against widowhood through the medium of this company. Knowing, as Mr. Catton and every one of his dummy directors must then have known, what the real prospect before the pension fund then was, what use is it for these gentlemen to say that they were legally entitled to act as they did? Their legal rights are a striking proof of their cleverness, and may protect them against legal punishment; but they avail nothing on the question of the moral honesty or dishonesty of such conduct.

If any one who has been connected with this business desires to put himself right with the victims and the public, there is one way, and only one, of doing it. That is by making restitution. What the exact profits have been only the recipients know; but a general idea of their magnitude may easily be formed. For nearly three years the dividends paid on the Ordinary shares ranged from 15 to 24 per cent. What has been paid on the Deferred shares I cannot at the moment say, but in March last £7,182 was paid on them in one lump, all but a few of them being in the hands of Mr. J. M. Catton. These, however, are but a fraction of the profits made by the two gentlemen chiefly interested in the Company. As already mentioned, Mr. Catton, in his capacity of promoter, not content with securing to himself without payment an enormous holding in the capital of the Company, obtained by the purchase contract the exclusive right, subject to existing contracts, to the supply of tea and other goods to the Company. His interest in this contract was subsequently divided with Mr. Emerson Bainbridge, who found most of the real capital. What these profits must have amounted to may be judged from that, in May last, after the right to supply the tea had been surrendered for a brokerage of ½d. per lb., under an arrangement which came into force on May 1, Mr. Catton's receipts from this source *per week* amounted to upwards of £180. To suggest anything in the shape of voluntary restitution to Mr. Catton would, I fear, be futile; but if he is not disposed to disgorge any of his gains, it is well worth consideration whether there is no possibility of forcing him to do so. I trust that on this point the victims, in their turn, may be able to obtain the best legal advice. Mr. Bainbridge stands in a different position. He has invested very large sums of money in this rotten business, and stands to lose in proportion. As already fully explained in TRUTH, it is largely due to his exertions that the Board has been reformed, that Mr. Catton has been ejected from the control of the Company, and that practical efforts have been made to reconstruct the business on an honest basis. He has explained to the shareholders that for a year and a half prior to the appointment of the shareholders' reform committee his influence on the Board, where he only had one representative, was directed to amending the objectionable features of the contract and the advertisements. He is entitled to all credit for his efforts, and for such results as he has achieved. But I am bound to say that I do not see how his retention of the huge profits that have been paid to him can be justified in the face of the situation that has now arisen. There must be upwards of ten or twelve thousand poor widows who are about to be deprived of what they supposed to be a provision for life; there must be at least a hundred thousand other women who are at the present moment in the position of having paid to Nelson and Co. sums which they supposed would secure to them a similar provision in the event of their husbands' deaths. It is the money thus paid that has made up the monstrous profits that have gone into the pockets of the gentlemen mainly interested in the business. Whatever view of their rights those gentlemen have hitherto entertained, if they have any respect for the views which other people will entertain, I do not see how they can retain profits made under these circumstances. The proper way to deal with the situation is to wind up the pension fund—and the Company, too, if necessary—and settle with the women individually; and the shareholders should contribute to the fund for that purpose. It is absurd to attempt to carry the thing on after what has now happened, and the attempt to do so will only expose all concerned to more obloquy.

I cannot leave this subject without a word respecting the other pension tea firms on the same basis as Nelson's. One or two of them have already come to grief, but others remain in the field. Among those the chief is the concern called the British Widows' Assurance Company. It has been so often referred to in TRUTH that

there is no need to describe its business again. Its scheme is in the main identical with that of Nelson and Co., but with the important exception that its customers come into full pension benefit after only six months' subscriptions—in other words, after payment of only half the amount required by Nelson and Co. It is enough to say this to show the utter and hopeless rottenness of this scheme. Whatever may be said as to the unjustifiability of the action of the old Nelson directors in starting and persevering with their scheme, applies with double force to those who are running this concern. With the evidence before them of the fate of a far sounder and far more prosperous scheme than their own, they can have no excuse for keeping the thing going a day longer. To do so will be a downright fraud upon every new customer who joins the scheme in its present shape; and I should hope that no amount of legal skill or subtlety will avail to prevent such a fraud being brought home to the parties responsible for it. If it does, then it is the duty of the Legislature to amend the law in the interest of the helpless and ignorant section of the public, for whom such abominable traps can be set with impunity.

A WELSHER'S LIBEL ACTION.

Not a few impudent actions for libel have been commenced against the proprietor of TRUTH, but I recollect none quite so amazingly impudent as an action by Albert Victor Jackson, which came to an end last week. It is certainly the first time in my experience that a man serving a sentence of imprisonment for frauds has had the temerity to claim damages from a newspaper in respect of its exposures of his frauds. For some years Jackson, under different aliases, carried on betting agencies in London and the Channel Islands. In the early part of 1903 he established an office in Holland, first at Flushing, then at The Hague, and afterwards at Delft. He began his business there as "A. Jackson and Son," but subsequently blossomed forth into "Bevan, Son, and Thompson," and in these names vast quantities of circulars were distributed in the United Kingdom inviting people to forward money to him for tickets in racing sweepstakes and competitions and also for investment in backing horses either in the ordinary way or in accordance with various so-called betting systems. I came to the conclusion that the business was a swindle, and from time to time I expressed my opinion about it in these columns. Jackson never ventured to challenge the justice of what I said at the time my paragraphs were published. On March 15 last he was arrested, and charged in company with one Harold Parker, his principal assistant, with conspiring to defraud the purchasers of tickets in the Derby sweepstake promoted by A. Jackson and Son in 1903. Both men were committed for trial at the Central Criminal Court, where on May 30 Jackson pleaded guilty. On the very next day, whilst he was actually awaiting sentence for his frauds, Jackson caused a writ to be issued in his name against the proprietor and the printers of TRUTH, claiming damages for alleged libels in paragraphs published on October 22 and November 26 last year. Judgment on Jackson and Parker (who had been tried and convicted) was respited till June 20, when the Recorder sentenced each of them to nine months' hard labour. In the meantime, the action started by Jackson was taking the usual course, and on August 6 the statement of claim was delivered. On the writ Jackson gave as his address a house at Brixton where he appears to have lodged prior to his appearance at the Old Bailey. It was manifest that this was not his proper address, seeing that he was by this time undergoing a sentence of imprisonment. On the ground, therefore, that the writ did not disclose his proper address, my solicitors, Messrs. Lewis and Lewis, obtained an order against the plaintiff for the payment of £60 into court as security for costs. This order was not complied with, and last week Jackson's solicitor gave notice of discontinuance of the action.

If this action had gone before a jury I should have been prepared to justify all and more than all I have ever said about Jackson's businesses—indeed, on looking back at what I did say I am astonished by the moderation of my language on the subject. The learned counsel who drew Jackson's statement of claim evolved from my remarks the innuendo that the business was "a mere cloak for fraud." This is certainly what I meant, and what I should have substantiated. So far as the racing sweepstakes were concerned, the evidence in the criminal prosecution showed that the business was an unmitigated swindle. The *modus operandi* was delightfully simple. Jackson netted no less than £8,296 2s. from the sale of tickets at 2s. each for the Derby sweepstake, the money being sent to him in Holland. There was not even a pretence at a draw for this huge stake. While Jackson was still receiving entries in Holland, Parker, acting for him in London, concocted and got printed a bogus "result sheet" for distribution to the subscribers, which purported to give the numbers of the winning tickets in the draw. All these numbers were fictitious, no such tickets having been printed or sold, so that not a single penny of the £8,296 2s. was paid away as a prize. In another similar case of a racing lottery fraud which recently came before the Central Criminal Court, the prisoners had tried to obtain a reputation for honest dealing by awarding a few small prizes to bona-fide ticket-holders. Jackson, however, disdained any such artifice, and boldly stuck to the whole of his plunder from the Derby sweepstake. This was his biggest coup, but in the character of "Bevan, Son, and Thompson" he engineered another nearly as big on the Manchester November Handicap of last year, and in addition to the sweepstakes he also ran a series of "placing competitions" on more or less similarly dishonest lines. Nor were these the only devices by which he preyed upon the gullish herd of gamblers. Another was to obtain money from people by undertaking to employ it in working various betting systems, for a remuneration of 5 per cent. on net winnings. He circulated a pamphlet describing these systems, and the "investor" paid his money and took his choice of them. Each system was represented as practically infallible, but, needless to say, the one infallible thing about it was that the fool of an "investor" lost his money to Jackson.

Usually that individual was able to state quite truly that the system had collapsed, and if by any chance it exhibited a profit for a week he simply refused to pay over the money. One dupe who had thus "invested" £100 won (on paper) £56 in the first week. He at once demanded back his capital and his profits, but Jackson ignored his communications, pretended to go on working the system for another fortnight, and then announced that the £156 had been lost. The dupe in question afterwards brought an action against Jackson in the City of London Court, whereupon Jackson pleaded the Gaming Act. In the aggregate Jackson probably pocketed thousands of pounds by these betting system operations, and in the ordinary transactions of a bookmaker or "turf accountant" (receiving money in advance) he further enriched himself by unprincipled welshing. Like other welshers, he would pay a small winning bet as a sort of sprat to catch a mackerel. If the amount was large, however, he did not pay, but, on being asked for the money, suggested that there had been some mistake, and requested the backer to send back the voucher that had been forwarded to him when the bet was booked. If this was done, Jackson generally destroyed the voucher, and then denied that he had ever received it.

Such were the methods of fraud practised by this audacious rogue. At the time of his arrest (in connection with which I am pleased to know that I was of some service to the police) Jackson was at Manchester preparing for a fresh series of raids on the public in the new alias of Santen, Moore, and Son. I believe that something like a quarter of a million prospectuses in this name were being got ready for the post, and the arrest took place only just in time to nip this project in the bud. Jackson's prosecution and imprisonment failed, however, to put a stop to the old business of Bevan, Son, and Thompson. While he has been picking oakum, the representatives he left at Delft have been as active as ever. They have flooded the country with the usual circulars, including a sheaf of so-called "Press opinions" puffing Bevan, Son, and Thompson, which were really advertisements inserted in the *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette* and other journals in the guise of editorial notices. At Jackson's trial the Recorder stigmatised the custom of publishing such editorial notices for payment as a gross fraud, and every respectable journalist will agree with him. It might have been thought that the widespread publicity given to the proceedings against Jackson at the police-court and at the Old Bailey, which were reported by almost every newspaper in the kingdom, would have put everybody on their guard against Bevan, Son, and Thompson. But there is a great army of infatuated noodles who never hear or heed any warning of this sort, and, in spite of the conviction and imprisonment of the proprietor of the firm, Bevan, Son, and Thompson have continued down to a recent date to carry on the same old game. One of the most successful of the swindles during the past season has been a pretended system of backing "the last horse quoted in the betting returns" of any sporting paper chosen for the purpose by the party entrusting his capital to Bevan, Son, and Thompson. This, as I have frequently explained, is a self-evident swindle, and its victims can be little better than congenital idiots.

I cannot say that I have much sympathy for any of the "mugs" who are bamboozled by such firms as Bevan, Son, and Thompson. They badly need the lesson for which they pay, though this is not, of course, any excuse for the harpies who take their money. At the present moment I am myself more concerned about the additional illustration of the rotten state of the law with regard to libel actions which Jackson's case has furnished. If the object of the action was to prevent me making any further references to the business of Bevan, Son, and Thompson, it was not accomplished, for since the issue of the writ I have continued to say whatever I deemed necessary on the subject. I suppose that this was technically contempt of court, but in the peculiar circumstances I was pretty confident that the Judges would take my view that the action itself was a gross abuse of the processes of the law. It seems to me to be high time that the law was altered to check such abuses. Newspaper proprietors are accustomed to being a mark for frivolous and vexatious actions for libel. In my time I have been shot at myself often enough. Never before, however, have I heard of a self-confessed swindler signalising his appearance in the dock of a criminal court by issuing a writ for libel against a journal which had drawn attention to his swindles, and maintaining the action for several months whilst he is actually undergoing his punishment for those swindles.

THE THEATRES.

"The Freedom of Suzanne," at the Criterion.

Suzanne is not an Ariel, nor has her husband, Charles Trevor, much about him of Prospero. She is, on the contrary, a very ordinary type of young woman of the day, addicted to flirtations with social pirates, to the reading of femininist literature. Hers is an attitude of opposition to that clause of the marriage service which speaks of obedience to the husband. For her, freedom of action is the inalienable right of the wife, as quiescence is the duty of the husband. Reasonable liberty means nothing to her. Marriage should be a spreading of the wings, not a pinioning of them. So she flutters recklessly forth from her dovecote in Curzon-street and essays the perils of Piccadilly. How she does this, and how nearly are her wings singed, Miss Marie Tempest relates with her inimitable vivacity, her rapier points of repartee, to the select circle of her mother-in-law and friends on her return to the family hearth at a small hour in the morning. Freedom is her quest; Sir Francis Jeune shall be her liberator. But not yet has she attained to that possibility. Charles Trevor has not been cruel before witnesses, and therefore when her friends and mother-in-law have retired with upgathered skirts from the happy hearth, Suzanne will run upstairs and from her tranquil slumbers drag forth her companion Minching to be a witness of the cruelty. At first she almost fails of her purpose, for her husband has adopted conciliatory tactics, but at length the goal is attained. M. de Trémor, she says, kisses so swoon-

ingly well, in his eyes are love-lights so entrancing, that with him alone can she play in the private theatricals for which she has been studiously rehearsing with that gentleman. That does it, and her husband seizes her wrists with a violence that amounts to cruelty, and would certainly injure a fly.

So, in the next act, at the hotel by the sea, we find the scintillating Suzanne, the decree granted but not made absolute, free of her husband, but surrounded by imperious admirers. The husband is there, also as a visitor, for the hard necessity of the drama demands this; so is the mother-in-law, and the young widow who would fain be the future Mrs. Trevor. All this act is as adroitly managed as the first by Mr. Cosmo Lennox, the author, who may here be congratulated upon his gift of light and sparkling dialogue, salted with cynicism. The first member of the trinity of admirers found meet and elegant expression in the senile amorousness of Lord Datchet, divided in his attentions to his rheumatism and to his love affairs. Mr. Holman Clark here again showed his mastery of an old man's part, which he plays with humorous elegance, divesting this antique Don Juan of all that might so easily jar. The discomfited Tommy Keston, already in his own belief the warder of the freedom-loving Suzanne, was happily rendered in its boyish petulance by Mr. Horton Cooper, while Captain Harry Cecil, in the hands of Mr. A. E. Matthews, made his proposed sojourn with Suzanne beneath Sicilian palms appear a very pleasant inferno. But, alas! Suzanne is by no means the free woman which she aspires to be. She is tightly meshed in the social net, and when Captain Cecil makes it clear that their projected sojourn in Sicily is to have no prelude in church or even in the registry office, Suzanne is aflame with indignation. By one of those happy accidents which occur on the stage, her husband appears at this juncture, and she calls upon him for redress. But, as he explains, this is no affair of his; indeed, he has other preoccupations. The young widow is going to town that very night, and Trevor leaves it to be supposed that he has travelled in her company, or at least to meet her there. When Suzanne finds that he has gone, she commandeers Lord Datchet's motor, and furiously follows in his wake, for the fact is she really loves her husband, and the thought of another woman biting the fruit she has rejected fills her with just indignation.

In the last act we find Trevor in his newly hired flat, and when the eavesdropping charwoman (well played by Miss Mansfield) has duly concealed herself in the adjacent conservatory, the moment is ripe for Suzanne's appearance. And she duly appears in Keston's motor waterproof, barred with muddy grease, and on her perky little head the motor-cap of the same Lothario. *Cherchez l'autre femme!* and she eventually unearths the charwoman. The fair rival is not to be seen anywhere, and, indeed, she vanishes from the play somewhat mysteriously. Then begins the reconciliation between husband and wife, almost ineffectual because he commands overmuch, but rendered necessary by the spying of the King's Proctor, which makes impossible the divorce. Here, as all through the play, Mr. Allan Aynesworth's Charles Trevor was a fine performance. Reserve power, affection, and a gentlemanly expression of sentiments, correct in his difficult position—all were evident in Mr. Aynesworth. This last act, however, plays rather slowly, owing to the amount of "business" introduced. The situation is quite clear, and one cannot help feeling that where such an emotional storm as that which drove Suzanne to town has burst the reconciliation would come more speedily. But then Suzanne would not have time to show her pretty bare foot, and we should be deprived of the tinkling of a stage telephone.

My readers should certainly visit the Criterion. The triumph of Suzanne is brief; the triumph of Miss Marie Tempest is permanent.

"Aglavaine and Selysette," at the Court.

Miss Edyth Olive aglavained and Miss Thyrza Norman selysetted to her for some hours last week. Both ladies did this charmingly; Miss Olive with her beautiful young mediæval face clustered with pearls, Miss Thyrza Norman plaintive and young and fair as an April of ancient days. Mr. Walter Hampden meleandered through his unattractive part like a stained-glass window figure with rose-water for blood. Meleander, it must be admitted, is a trying person, and when he says to Selysette: "Come, let us go and kiss Aglavaine in bed: perhaps she is still sobbing," one feels that all is rose-water and mysticism indeed. Not a drop of blood in the play: oceans of ichor. Super-subtle, tenuous, unreal, these personages meleander through the long afternoon, and one realises that of such is the kingdom of stained glass. Not a stone therefore is thrown. They accept destiny, all of them, as quietly as Meligraine, the ancestress, dozing in her armchair. They are all souls but one; and she is a slip. This is not a stage play at all; it is at best an exercise for marionettes behind a veil of gauze. Mysticism, being a uniting of the individual with the all by love, inevitably works out to its true answer—sensuality. Vainly they orate, vainly they mix the expressions of little children and the *minauderies* of the nine-year-old with the feelings of grown men and women. It is all a flam. We know they do not mean it, or, if they do, that they deceive themselves.

Maeterlinck, "the Belgian Shakespeare," is a charming writer and a profound psychologist. He has given us some delightful works, such as the "Princesse Maleine," "Les Aveugles," and, in the non-dramatic form, "The Life of the Bee." But the truth is that they are for the cabinet, not for the stage; or if for the stage, then for a stage of marvellous marionettes. But his great vogue on the Continent has created a belief with the unthinking that he is a great dramatist. He is not. Snobbishness exists in literature as much as in life, and when a reputation has once been acquired the snobs of literature and the drama are ready to go into ecstasies over any work of the Master, to imitate and to adore. We have need in this country of a virile criticism, that accepts nothing without duly testing it at the touchstone of thought. The very name "Belgian Shakespeare," hung round poor Maeterlinck's neck gives reason to pause. As Belgium is to the British Empire,

so is Maeterlinck to Shakespeare, as a little Belgian hare from its Flemish hutch to the tawny-maned lord of the jungle of life.

"Lady Windermere's Fan," at the St. James's.

The revival of this masterpiece by Oscar Wilde and its enthusiastic reception by an audience as remarkable for its intellect as its brilliance has been the great event of the week. Familiar as it is to many readers who are fortunate enough to possess a copy of the play, these and the others who are unacquainted with it should seize this happy chance by the forelock and hasten to the St. James's Theatre. But they must not go expecting perfection, or anything approaching to it, in the playing. Three members of the old cast throw their best and worthiest work into the parts of the Duchess, of Charles Dumby, and of Mrs. Erlynne. Miss Marion Terry brings all her charm of personality, her fine social sense, her great reserves of emotion to the part of Mrs. Erlynne. Miss Fanny Coleman shines as she shone in the days of the original performances as the worldly Duchess. Not a word nor gesture, not a delicate paradox nor aphorism over-inflected, and through all her performance a tone of worldly refinement impossible to over-praise. And Mr. Vane Tempest's Dumby: born to the manner he plays this little elegant as to the manner born. And I may congratulate Miss Lilian Braithwaite on a most creditable performance of the difficult and heart-searching part of Lady Windermere. Her scenes with Windermere and Miss Erlynne were most satisfactorily played; she was outraged purity itself, and brought genuine sympathy to the part. Let me pick out for commendation from the smaller personages Mr. Selwyn Seymour's Mr. Hopper, the Australian millionaire, as a fine exposition of Antipodean gaucherie not over-done, Miss Elinor Aickin's Lady Jedburgh, and Miss Corisande Hamilton's winsome acquiescences as the obedient daughter of her Grace. Of Mr. Ben Webster's Lord Windermere, one must remark that it lacked weight and easeful nobility; of Mr. Aubrey Smith's Lord Darlington, the rejected of Lady Windermere, that its strenuousness was not in the right key for this class of comedy. They might possibly have exchanged rôles with advantage. One could not help feeling that the utterances of Lord Darlington in the first act could not have come from him as rendered by Mr. Aubrey Smith. Mr. Sydney Brough's Lord Augustus Lorton, though humorous enough, had a deplorable tendency to degenerate into low comedy; and Mr. Leslie Faber's Mr. Cecil Grahame was too artificially elaborate.

I trust that these remarks will not be taken ill by any of the artists mentioned, for whom, in certain parts, and notably Mr. Smith and Mr. Ben Webster, I have genuine admiration. I fully recognise their great difficulties, but in dealing with a work of this importance one must raise one's standard to the height of the writer's genius.

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The German Theatre gave an interesting and excellently-played performance of "Einsame Menschen" last week. Would that I had space to enlarge upon it. This week it produces for the first time in England "Das Thal des Lebens," a dramatic audacity, of which I hope to say something next week.

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Apropos of Mrs. Craigie's "Flute of Pan," which was not enthusiastically received last week, I see that on this (Wednesday) evening Mrs. Craigie and Miss Nethersole invite readers of two of the daily papers to revise the verdict of the first night. In a very long letter to the *St. James's Gazette*, Mrs. Craigie, objecting to what I admit to be the objectionable system of booing, remarks that there is no booing at a cricket match or in a picture gallery. Mrs. Craigie, in comparing her play to a cricket match, draws, I think, a false analogy, It might with at least equal justice be compared to a game of skittles. But the true analogy lies in places where there is vocal display, such as a political meeting or in the House of Commons, where the equivalent of booing is, I am told, painfully prevalent. Mrs. Craigie also says in her letter that first-night audiences are composed of people who have seen all the other plays produced. Well, I must, for one, plead guilty to acquaintance with a large number of them, but I fail to see why a knowledge of efforts of a similar kind should be held a bar to the appreciation of a given work. Art is not like trade in which sufficiently extensive advertisement eventually pays. Certain pills, we all know by this time, "cure melancholy," but I doubt whether the most extensive advertisement of "The Flute of Pan" will render it a serious rival in this direction.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

ANDRÉ AND HIS SUCCESSOR.

WIVES of cavalry officers—the cavalry is aristocratic—will no longer feel resentful at having to pay their respects at the War Ministry to a former *chanteuse d'opéra comique*. General André, husband of this estimable lady, has retired. He sent his resignation in a feeling letter to M. Combes. The Premier, in a personal visit, sanctioned the harikari, and as he left begged to embrace the General. He would have been obliged to stand on tip-toe. One cannot conceive a man of General André's ramrod stiffness stooping to be kissed on the cheeks. The General carried, against bitter and sullen opposition from generals and regimental officers, some much-needed reforms in the army. He had the rigidly-stiff and frigid manners of the Polytechnic old boy. One of his defects as a Minister was incapacity to see how his actions would affect the minds of others. He also gave long notice in his too prolix speeches of changes he meant to make. If you go in for a reforming career in France, never ventilate your intentions. Let others thresh out the reasons without letting them say they are yours. The least polemical people in the world, the Dutch, were the first to secure liberty of conscience.

The Carlton Hotel. Restaurant and Grill Room.
The Carlton Hotel. The most fashionable in London.
The Carlton Hotel. Nat. Tel. 1598 Gerrard. Gen. Mgr. C. Ritz.

There may have been a *guillotiné par persuasion.* Was there ever a *guillotiné par argumentation?*

General André returns to his humble flat at Passy after four and a half years in the splendours of the War Ministry. In his term of office his full-length portrait was hung in the red saloon between two tall windows. Boulanger's portrait of the same size hung there sixteen years ago. General André's could not fit into his recent dwelling. It will be rolled up, and the frame sold. Should his son marry an heiress of consequence, the painting will be unrolled and set up as a family relic in their place of abode. It appears that the General's successor intends to find him in his own wealthy clan a rich wife.

Colonel Valabrègue remains at the War Office as official private secretary of the incoming Minister. I hear he is a relative of M. Valabrègue, of Carpentras, brother-in-law of ex-Captain Dreyfus, who stayed for some time on a visit with him after he left Rennes.

Pride often lurks in unexpected places. M. Berteaux is proud of being the first stockbroker who ever held the War portfolio. His Bourse colleagues have arranged his Stock Exchange business until his son is able to step into it. The general friendliness this very civilian War Minister meets with at the Palais Bourbon should not be entirely attributed to his opportunities for giving good tips. He has well-wishers and almost courtiers on all sides there. He belongs to the Jaurès-Rabier group. None the less, if he goes to sit for a short time beside some colleague of the Right, one sees so many hands stretched out to shake M. Berteaux'! He has a familiarly affectionate manner with the aristocrats on that side of the house. He has business shrewdness, and might slily hide a business game. Otherwise he is open—open in heart, in hand, in expressing his sympathies, and he took no pains to hide his joy the day he first took his seat on the Ministerial bench.

If the new War Minister belonged for the last seven-and-twenty years to the *corbeille*, do not imagine he is a vulgar city man. He may be a little bustling and hurried in manner and a trifle too familiar in conversation. To gain time for his numerous tasks and undertakings he hardly lives in Paris. His usual place of abode is Chatou, near Bougival. Chatou is a cockney place. A motor brings the Villa Bertaud within forty minutes of the Bourse. Life at high pressure checks hospitable instincts on week days. M. Berteaux can barely find time to give the rein to his cheery conversational spirit on Sundays.

M. Berteaux is a native of Vincennes, and was born in 1852 at the St. Maur end of the park, in a villa standing on the site of Agnes Sorel's Château de Beauté, where Henry V. of England died. He received his education at that most Parisian of high schools, the Lycée Charlemagne, through which Michelet and most of the brilliant writers of the Empire passed. M. Berteaux sat there on a lower form than M. Léon Bourgeois, and qualified from love of mental work and of scholarship for entrance to the École Normale des Hautes Études. I suppose he will run down some day. So far, however, no amount of hard work has ever fagged him. At the age of eighteen he volunteered to serve as a mobile in the defence of Paris, and learned from experience where the military shoe pinched. His campaigning over, he thought of following Bourgeois to the bar, studied law, attended a debating society's meetings, and, to please his father, married the only daughter of wealthy parents, entered the Stock Exchange, and, under the auspices of the late M. Floquet, got himself elected a Town Councillor. He saw, as did so many others, an ante-chamber to the Palais Bourbon in the Hôtel de Ville. Not to have all his political eggs in the same basket, he became a Town Councillor of Poissy, where he had interests, and the Mayor of Chatou. This post opened to him the seat he now fills in the Chamber of Deputies for Versailles.

Combes is hardly a better man for committee work than Berteaux. The latter has been for six years a member of the Budget Committee, reporter on the Posts and Telegraphs and War Estimates, and twice on the General Estimates. He also prepared the Bill for the two years' military service, and reported on it. He lent himself to the Socialist movement in framing the Railway Servants Bill now before the Senate, and put his shoulder manfully to that wheel in the Chamber. Another of his Socialist enterprises is a special Bill to decorate with the red ribbon five heroic firemen, and different members of friendly societies, as such. He had these *décorés* to a Socialist banquet in his grounds at Chatou, and hailed them as his colleagues in the Legion of Honour. Democracy, he holds, should be wide of heart, live, hopeful, elastic, and mindful that France has the most civilised working class on the face of the earth. This class owes its genius to far-back atavism. The daily exercise of throat and lungs in the *corbeille* have added to the natural sonorousness of M. Berteaux' voice. As an orator he is pleasing, mellow, and easy to follow. He puts plenty of "body" into his speeches, avoids idle display, and allows scholarship just to ooze out.

We have lost M. Wallon, Father of the Constitution, author of many school books, of colourless lives of Richard II. and Joan of Arc, and of a history of "Slavery in the Pagan World." His "Abrégé de l'Histoire Sainte," "Histoire Sainte," "Histoire d'Edom," "Epîtres et Evangiles," were inflicted on elementary schools from 1852 until the city of Paris took an irreligious line. They are still used in schools where very mild Liberalism goes hand in hand with sound Catholic principles. M. Wallon died last week of a cold caught at the wedding of a great-granddaughter, and aggravated by attending the marriage of another great-grandchild two days later in a damp church. He had reached the age of ninety-two, buried two wives, saw round him on his last name-day seven children (two who are nuns not appearing), forty-nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Military men belonging to two generations, and ranking from private to general, appeared at this family party. M. Wallon had the pensions of retired Professor of the University, ex-Minister, and the salaries of life Senator and ex-Minister of Public

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr LUNN'S EXCURSIONS." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

Instruction. His very molluscous Constitution, adopted by the Versailles Assembly in 1876, had one vital spark—the word "Republic."

M. Wallon's posterity formed at his funeral a deep square in the Church of St. Germain l'Auxerrois. His sister, a lady of ninety-four, walked from the Institute where he lived rent free to the grave at Mont Parnasse. In the company appeared the Comtesse d'Eu and Cardinal Perraud, *ex* Bishop of Autun. Numerous deputations attended. Foremost in the church were those of the Senate and Chamber, of the Ministry of Public Instruction, of Orleans and Domrémy, and of Valenciennes, M. Wallon's birthplace.

M. Wallon must have had enthusiasm, but kept it under a wet blanket. His passionate admiration for the imaginative Michelet threw him at the age of twenty into historical studies. Michelet called up from their graves the heroes and heroines of French history. He gave them a higher life than they had ever enjoyed before. Wallon made for them leaden coffins, and gave them Christian re-burial.

A learned chemist of my acquaintance said to me the other day: "If you want to make a fortune with a patent medicine your best chance is by offering the public some compound containing no really active ingredients. Like that, your medicine will disagree with nobody, and, with a little persuasion, you can make it agree with everybody. There is no money to be made out of a really valuable drug, as it will suit only a few cases."

I am reminded of this saying by the tremendous success of "Notre Jeunesse," M. Alfred Capus's new play at the Comédie Française. It reminds me of the success of M. Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac," which, after being proclaimed a masterpiece for five or six years, has suddenly become quite old-fashioned. Both these plays were written for the hour, to suit a mood, to please every class of the theatre-going public. And there the resemblance between the two plays ends. I much prefer M. Capus's comedy, in keeping with the traditions of Scribe, Labiche, Mielhac, softened by a sensitiveness to pain which is very modern, to the Lord Mayor's Show fineries of "Cyrano." "Notre Jeunesse" is an amiable, sentimental comedy, or, rather, novel in dialogue form, with some exquisite pages which would have brought the tears to the eyes of our grandmothers. A peculiarity of M. Capus's play is that, while relating the consequences of a "left-handed marriage," it is perfectly safe and warranted not to disturb the heart of the most delicate lady of even a most provincial town. M. Capus seems to have deliberately avoided all deep passion.

Here is, briefly, the story. Lucien Briant is an engineer, born, as they say, with a silver spoon in his mouth, at the head of a prosperous enterprise. In his student days, in Paris, he had a *liaison*, and a daughter was born. Weak-willed and overawed by family considerations, he was content with settling upon the mother an annuity, and, following a programme made out for him by a masterful father, he returned to Besançon, took over the paternal factory, and married the young lady of his parents' choice. No children were born. For seventeen years the couple lived a dull provincial existence, and Briant's Paris *liaison* had receded in a dim past.

One fine morning at Trouville, where Briant comes for a holiday with his wife and his imperious father, this past rises up before him in the guise of a beautiful girl of seventeen—his daughter Lucienne. In obedience to her mother's dying wish she has sought out an old friend, the honest Chartier, who will help her (she is educated and accomplished) to earn her own living. Now, it happens that the Briants are staying with Chartier as his guest. It is not necessary to tell you the plot, but the upshot is that Mme. Briant, charmed by the sweetness and loveliness of Lucienne, tells her irresolute husband they must take her back to Besançon as their daughter, and, notwithstanding the inevitable resistance of the hard-hearted Briant, senior, she has her way.

The plot, as usual with M. Capus, is slender. The interest depends upon the dialogue, a pleasant society chit-chat that runs on apparently without effort. The author's picture of the fast, frivolous, and idle society of Trouville is always interesting, sometimes true, and never dull. The dialogue is a string of *bons mots* and epigrams, and is written with touch-and-go lightness.

And now to the toilettes, which are all worn on the Trouville esplanade. In the first act Mme. Bartet appears in a pale blue crèpe de chine gown dotted over with appliqués of unbleached guipure. The berthe, embroidered with silver thread, and the silvery gauze sash light up the old pastel blue of the dress. A bunch of La France roses at the waist gives a touch of more vivid colour, but the merest touch. Mlle. Sorel, who knows she resembles Marie Antoinette, and makes a point of dressing to bring out the resemblance, is in a Trianon cambric gown, white, and of great elegance, with a Liberty blue silk sash. The Tuscan straw hat is trimmed and lined with satin to match the sash. Mme. Pierson, who is supposed to be gently mourning the hopes that left her some time ago, is in a heliotrope Goody gown, trimmed, however, with a ruche along the hem of the skirt and with smaller ruches on the corsage. In the last act, on the Casino terrace, near a Tsigane's orchestra ready to play, we find Mme. Bartet in a gown of unbleached net with Pompadour incrustations in coloured silks. The front of the corsage and tablier are of rose silk, and the bust is framed—pardon the expression—with a deep flimsy ruche worn almost as a boa and fastened with a bunch of Baroness de Rothschild roses. The hat is of some light material, with a garland of golden gauze flowers. The whole get-up is refined. In this act Mlle. Sorel is in a straw-coloured Louis XV. redingote or pelisse gown bordered with Pompadour garlands applied flat. A pastel blue sash girdles the waist, and is tied behind in a large falling bow with long ends. They fall to the topmost of five narrow flounces of yellowish-brown lace. The under-sleeves, falling from the elbow in the Pompadour fashion, are of fleecy tulle, and heighten the effect of a pair of lovely arms.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Palace of Health, dear Lady Betty, is the attractive name that is to be borne by a building which a group of financiers propose to erect in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly in the course of next year. The entrance is to lead to a large circular hall, which will occupy the centre of the building. There are to be three very large halls to the left of that central space and opening into it, three to the right, and one facing the entrance to the street; and they are to be named respectively Margate, Felixstowe, Cromer, Brighton, Bournemouth, Torquay, and the Moors. There is to be a pipe, a foot in width, from each of the places which have been mentioned to the halls that bear their name, and a continual supply of local air will be forced through the pipes to Piccadilly.

In each hall there is to be a restaurant and a stage, and there will be concerts, recitations, variety entertainments, or plays from the early morning until late in the evening.

There will be stalls and cheaper reserved and fixed seats on a portion of the floor facing the stage in each hall, and on the right and left of the stage, on the first, second, and third tiers, there are to be a few private boxes, as there are at the theatres. Two-thirds of the floor space, however, will be used as a promenade, and will resemble more or less an ordinary pier.

Those who have originated the proposal declare that it will not be necessary to close the windows, as the continual and considerable supply of the freshest air forced through the pipes from the seaside places which have been mentioned, and from the moorland, will keep the vitiated air of London out of the halls.

A man who has been working in a close office in the City the whole day will be able, for instance, to step into the Margate hall on his way home, and breathe there for an hour as fresh air as there is in England. In the morning his children will, probably, have spent some hours in the Brighton hall, trundling their hoops, sheltered from the rain or removed from the fog, and enlivened by the music played by an excellent band. His wife, being in need of warmer air, may have attended a performance in the Bournemouth hall in the afternoon. It is obvious that medical men will order many of their patients to spend several hours a day in the Felixstowe or Cromer halls.

The promoters of the scheme, however, have other developments in view, one of which is reasonable, whilst another is altogether too ambitious. Having carried their pipes from Margate, Felixstowe, Cromer, Brighton, Bournemouth, Torquay, and the moors of Yorkshire to the Palace of Health in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly, they declare they will be prepared to supply public and private buildings in London and the suburbs with continual fresh air at a trifling cost, that the price of coast or moor air by the cubic foot would be very much less than that of gas. The promoters maintain that in time the company will provide air for most of the theatres, hotels, restaurants, public buildings and offices, hospitals, large business houses, and the private houses of the rich and the moderately well-to-do. It would, certainly, be both useful and agreeable to have the air from the east and south coasts, and from the moors, brought to every room in the house, and to be turned on at will, but that might give rise to discussions which at present are not known. A man might thrive in Cromer air, whilst his wife could only bear that of Torquay, or the children would require the milder air of Bournemouth!

The too ambitious proposal is scarcely worth describing. The promoters declare that in time they will be prepared to apply to the Government for a concession to supply London and the neighbourhood with sea air! They say that at a later period they could place wide pipes from the coast to several thousand places in the metropolitan district, and could absorb through them the whole fog and smoky air of the town! They would drain the skies! By means of thousands of other pipes connected with, for instance, Margate, they could at the same time replace the vitiated air with pure! Were an accident, however, to occur to the pumping machinery at Margate, what would happen to the Londoners whose local air was being withdrawn at a prodigious rate by the exhausting process, is a question which some ignorant persons have asked. The supply of fresh air in the skies is inexhaustible, of course, and even then Londoners would be supplied with better air than the fog and smoke-laden atmosphere they continually breathe now.

. . . . . .

The imagination, which is the scout of the main body of thought, has travelled far beyond this, and, already, it insists that we are within measurable distance of the compressed air tablet! Are we, really, rapidly approaching the time when every man or woman shall carry in the pocket a lozenge of the air that suits him or her best?

An eminent German doctor has declared that it is the duty of every reasonable human being to discover at the earliest opportunity the particular air which is best suited to his or her constitution. He insists that people are most unscientific in their holiday-making, and that two-thirds of his patients choose a place to spend their holidays at because it is cheap, gay, or because they have friends who are to be there, but ignore that air more rapidly affects the health than does food or spirits. A lowering or a too bracing place will more quickly disagree with a person than a too rich meal or a bottle of unwholesome wine, and the right air will more rapidly raise the spirits and clear the brain than the most carefully-chosen diet. The doctor says that two-thirds of his patients return home from the holidays in a worse condition than when they left, because they have lived in the interval in unsuitable air. Every one, therefore, should spare no pains and spend much money to discover early in life the air upon which he thrives best, and should tell his doctor which it is, for as we grow older the kind of air we require changes, and, knowing which suited in youth, medical men may be guided in advising us which to breathe at a later period. It may come to this, therefore, that at some future time medical men will not compose their prescriptions of drugs, but, having compressed air at their disposal, will mix instead so much Margate, a trifle of Cromer, and a dash of Snowdon!

* * * * *

The Order of Merit which the King founded soon after succeeding to the Throne is becoming every day more puzzling to those who occupy themselves with such matters. Of the twelve men who had the order conferred upon them at the time, three have died—Sir Henry Keppel, Mr. Lecky, and Mr. Watts. The King has not filled their places, nor has he conferred the Order on any other men since the announcement of the names of the original members. In 1820 a great Englishman and a great Englishwoman were born—Mr. Herbert Spencer and Miss Florence Nightingale; Mr. Spencer has died without having the Order conferred upon him, and Miss Nightingale is, as all know, not a member. Mr. Swinburne also is still unhonoured, and so is Lord Cromer. Miss Nightingale and Mr. Swinburne certainly should be members of the Order, and it is being asked again now: (a) Are women not to obtain that reward, and why? (b) Are Radicals ineligible? and (c) Is the Order to be allowed to become extinct? It is most unjust that a woman who has rendered enormous services to the country should not have them acknowledged as would a man, and it is equally unjust that an honour which is conferred for ability should be withheld from Mr. Swinburne because once upon a time his political opinions were not in favour of Conservatism. It appears to be a custom in this country to magnify our mediocrities and to ignore our great—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

GREAT NORTHERN CENTRAL HOSPITAL, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. GLENTON-KERR, Secretary.

SPORTING NOTES.

MR. W. R. WYNDHAM, whose colours have recently made their début on the Turf, belongs to the family of the celebrated Earl of Egremont (1751-1837) who was for more than sixty years a member of the Jockey Club, and he won the Derby five times and the Oaks five times. His Derby winners were Assassin (1782), Hannibal (1804), Cardinal Beaufort (1805), Election (1807), and Lapdog (1826). He won the Oaks in 1788 with Nightshade, in 1789 with Tag, in 1795 with Platina, in 1800 with Ephemera, and in 1820 with Caroline. Lord Egremont both bred horses and raced them on a very extensive scale. He was descended from Lord Thomond, who kept a large stud at Newmarket during the reign of Charles II. Lord Egremont had a private course for many years in Petworth Park, and when he gave up the races there, about a century ago, the meeting at Goodwood was established by his friend and neighbour, the third Duke of Richmond. Lord Egremont had over £100,000 a year, and all his property was at his own disposal. He made it a rule to spend £20,000 a year in charity. He lived magnificently at Petworth House for more than half a century as a grand seigneur of the old school. Lord Egremont was much attached to Lady X, and he once made her a present of a blank cheque, which she filled up for £30,000. The bulk of Lord Egremont's vast property now belongs to his great-grandson, Lord Leconfield, and a considerable part of it is owned by his grandson, Mr. Percy Wyndham. The Petworth House gallery of pictures, over 600 in number, forms one of the largest and finest private collections in Europe, and it is particularly rich in superb works by Holbein, Vandyck, and Turner. The Queen drove over to Petworth House from Goodwood last July during the race week, and made a hurried inspection of the principal pictures.

There are ninety-two entries for the Ascot Biennial (1905-1906) of £10 each, with £500 added. The endowment of this race, of the Coventry Stakes, and of the New Stakes (each event now receives £1,000) should be doubled, and the added money to the Windsor Castle Stakes should be increased from £300 to £1,000. Lord Derby and Mr. Rose have each engaged three yearlings, and Mr. D. Baird, Mr. W. R. Wyndham, Mr. Reid Walker, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Durham, Mr. L. de Rothschild, Lord Penrhyn, Lord Falmouth, Mr. G. H. Freeman, Mr. Neumann, Sir J. Miller, Mr. Larnach, and Mr. A. James have two each.

The New Biennial for 1905-1906, with £500 added, has obtained only thirty-nine entries, sixteen of which are now two-year-olds, including Mr. King's Comedian, Mr. Fenton's Vedas, Lord Carnarvon's Grandiflora, Sir E. Cassel's Prudent King, Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx, Chevalier Ginistrelli's Signorino, Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's colt by Ladas out of St. Ia, and Mr. Neumann's Petit Bleu.

The Prince of Wales's Post Sweepstakes of £200 each at Goodwood (1906) has obtained an excellent entry, no fewer than seventeen owners having subscribed, so this race will be worth £3,400. The King heads the list with two of the Sandringham foals. One of Lord Wolverton's pair is a colt by Flying Fox out of Woodbury. The Duke of Westminster's pair are Flying Leap, own brother to Flying Fox, and Glass Gauge, half-brother, by Isinglass, to Duke of Westminster. Mr. Baird enters Spiridion, by Martagon out of Santa Maura (this colt is own brother to Leucadia), and Isola Bona, filly by Isinglass out of Fleur de Marie. Lord Derby has a filly by St. Simon out of Canterbury Pilgrim (winner of the Oaks, and dam of Chaucer), and a colt by St. Frusquin out of Bridget. Mr. Fairie enters Comus, by Cyllene out of Galéottia, and Eastern, by Eager out of Galicia. One of Mr. A. James's pair is an own sister to Rabelais, and Mr. Musker has an own brother to Henry the First. The Duke of Portland's pair are a colt by Ayrshire out of Miss Gunning II., and Cavendish, colt by Ladas out of Elizabeth Hardwick. Lord Rosebery's entry consists of a half-brother to Cicero, by Velasquez, and a colt by Ayrshire out of Chelàndry.

Robert le Diable has been turned out of training, and has joined the Highclere stud. Lord Carnarvon has fixed this horse's fee at 65 gs., which is a very reasonable amount. Most owners would have asked 100 gs. Robert le Diable is a remarkably good-looking horse, and exceedingly well bred. He has been for some time probably the best handicap horse in training, and his improvement from four years old to five was extraordinary. St. Maclou was certainly not a better horse than Robert le Diable when on the Turf, but his fee is 95 gs., and 100 gs. seems an exorbitant demand for Sainfoin.

Flotsam has been relegated to the stud, and he will stand at Newmarket. His fee has been sensibly fixed at 35 gs., which is a small amount as times go. Flotsam is grandly bred, being by St. Frusquin out of Float, and he was a very smart horse on the Turf when at his best. Flotsam's last public appearance on a racecourse was at last year's Sandown Park First Summer meeting (at which, by the way, Pretty Polly made her début on the Turf), when he won the Sandringham Foal Stakes, and Exchequer, who was second, had 21 lb. the better of the weights.

I am informed that Vril would certainly have won the Liverpool Cup if he had got off well. The handicapping of Wild Lad has been severely criticised, and it is another example of the pernicious practice of estimating horses on their worst form, and ignoring their best performances altogether. Considering Wild Lad's successes at Epsom and at Alexandra Park, it was preposterous and scandalous that he should have been so lightly weighted at Aintree. The handicapper apparently regarded him as a bad selling plater, and there was no justification whatever for treating him with such contempt. It is most unsatisfactory to see feather-weighted old horses defeating three-year-olds which they are meeting at an enormous advantage.

Thirty years ago there were seventy-nine ordinary members of the Jockey Club, in addition to nine Royal Princes. There are now fifty-two ordinary members, besides the King, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, Prince Christian, the King of the Belgians, the Grand Duke Vladimir of Russia, and the Khedive of Egypt. The Royal list of thirty years ago also included the King of the Netherlands, the Prince of Orange, and the Duke of Edinburgh. Of the ordinary members of that period the only survivors are Mr. Chaplin, Lord Coventry, Mr. W. G. Craven, Lord Feversham, Sir Reginald Graham, Mr. J. H. Houldsworth, Sir Frederic Johnstone, Lord Harewood, Lord Rendlesham, and Lord Rosebery. It may be hoped that at the winter meeting of the Club there will be an election of some members who will take an active part in the business, for such recruits are urgently needed at Newmarket.

There is a serious dearth of really capable jockeys on the Turf. It was quite expected that the experiment of the apprentices' allowance would bring clever riders into notice, and this has taken place, but the result has not been satisfactory, for directly a lad has ceased to be entitled to the 5lb. allowance, he is seen no more in the saddle. The matter is now under consideration by the Stewards of the Jockey Club, and it was suggested at Newmarket that allowances on a sliding scale should be established. It has been proposed that an apprentice shall be entitled to claim 5 lb. for twelve months, and then 3 lb. for another year. This arrangement might be introduced for a season or two, and if it worked well there should be an end of the present difficulty.

Another matter which is engaging the serious attention of the Stewards is the everlasting trouble as to delays at the starting-post and indifferent starts. If an improvement does not soon take place we shall hear of some notable retirements from the Turf, as owners

become exasperated at hearing time after time that a highly-tried and much fancied animal has been "left lengths." It is provoking for the owner of a defeated favourite to be told that his horse would have won easily if it had got off. The number of bad starts has greatly increased, and must be enormously diminished, or it will be the worse for the Turf. The system of starting now in vogue is flagrantly defective, and could surely be altered with advantage.

Adam, own brother to Ajax, is said to be the best of M. E. Blanc's two-year-olds, Val d'Or coming next in order of merit, while Jardy, winner of the Middle Park Plate, is reported to be inferior to both his stable companions. This is probably a fairy tale, and it is much more likely that there is really very little between the three sons of Flying Fox. In any case, Jardy has shown himself to be as much superior to the English two-year-olds of this season as was Pretty Polly to the colts of twelve months ago. I do not fancy that we shall hear much more of Cicero on the Turf, and in any case the merits of Lord Rosebery's colt have been extravagantly exaggerated, for he never met a really good animal.

A great deal of expansive nonsense was printed in the papers last week about an alleged offer of M. Gaston Dreyfus to match his horse Presto II. against Pretty Polly for £4,000. The Paris correspondent of an evening journal announced on Thursday that "the greatest interest is being taken in the offer." As a matter of fact, M. Gaston Dreyfus never made any such offer, and has no intention of doing so. It would be interesting to learn how these circumstantial fictions are originally put about. Major Loder would not have been likely to accept such a challenge, even if it had been formally issued. Pretty Polly has been out of training for the last month, and it would be out of the question to make any such arrangement for next season. A match, moreover, is not a conclusive test of form.

The Dullingham Plate of £1,000 at Newmarket (for now two-year-olds and upwards) has failed to fill. Forty entries were asked for. The race has been reopened, to close on December 6. This is a subscription stake, with an entrance of £5, to be the only forfeit if declared by the last Tuesday in March, with an additional payment of £15 if left in after that date. Owners are evidently getting tired of these subscription races, which are very expensive. In this case, entering a horse practically means taking £850 to £20 against winning, or £100 to £20 against being second, or £50 to £20 against being third.

Hackler's Pride, who is certainly one of the best of the few really good racehorses now in training in England, was bred in Ireland by Mr. P. Quinlan, and she was purchased as a yearling for 75 gs. She commenced her racing career in 1902 as a two-year-old with three defeats in Ireland, but she always ran prominently, and was looked upon as likely to turn out a smart filly. Captain Forester showed excellent judgment in then giving 1,500 gs. for her, and in a few weeks she won him the Chesterfield Nursery at Derby with 7 st. 10 lb. on her back. She had been so well galloped that she started first favourite at 9 to 2, although there were twenty-seven runners, and she won in a canter by four lengths. It is curious that the Chesterfield Nursery and the two Cambridgeshires have been the only successes of Hackler's Pride, and each of her triumphs has been achieved in the late autumn. She has never stayed a longer distance than the Cambridgeshire Course, but there is no reason to doubt her stamina, and I hope that she will be entered for next year's Ascot Cup. Her only engagement is the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, and it must surely be by an oversight that she was not entered for the Hardwicke Stakes, which rich race would be a good thing for her, as the class of the animals engaged is exceedingly moderate. Zinfandel will probably be then out of training, Ajax has gone to the stud, and neither Rock Sand nor Pretty Polly is entered. Hackler's Pride is by Hackler out of Comma, by Coltness, a son of King Tom, who many years ago won the New Stakes at Ascot for Mr. Houldsworth.

The list of winning owners in France is headed by M. E. Blanc, who is credited with upwards of £65,200, which handsome sum would have been considerably increased if Ajax had kept on his legs until the end of the season. In spite of Ajax breaking down at the end of August, he was the largest contributor to his owner's total, as the four races which he won were worth over £25,500. Gouvernant carried off five races, value nearly £15,000. M. E. Blanc had four winning two-year-olds by Flying Fox, which brought in upwards of £11,000. If all goes well with these two-year-olds, M. E. Blanc will have an even more prosperous season in 1905, as the great three-year-old stakes, both in England and France, appear to be at the mercy of his representatives. The second place is filled by M. Caillault, whose horses have won nearly £23,600, his best contributors having been the three-year-olds Macdonald II. and Samsam. Baron de Schickler and Comte de Pourtalès (who were second last year to M. E. Blanc with £20,500), are now third with £15,400. This stable has some promising two-year-olds which are likely to do well next season. Mr. Vanderbilt is fourth with about £11,300, his best winner having been Turenne, who had carried off eight races, value £6,000, before he broke down after running second in the Grand Prix. M. Gaston Dreyfus has won over £11,000, his largest contributor having been the three-year-old Presto II., who is well known in England as the conqueror of Pretty Polly in the race for the Prix du Conseil Municipal at Longchamps on October 9. Presto II. finished a most successful season by defeating Fifre II. in a match for £2,000 at Maisons Laffitte over one mile and a quarter. Presto II. won in a common trot, but no importance need be attached to this running, as Fifre II. has evidently not recovered from the effects of the accident which he met with during the spring, when he was considered to be the best three-year-old in France. The Vicomte d'Harcourt, who has a large stable, has won only £9,006; and next comes M. de Brémond, who is credited with nearly £6,000. It must be remembered that in France large sums of added money are really given, and are not recovered (as in England) by means of a dexterous system of entrances and forfeits, which frequently leaves the owners only their own money to run for.

The catalogue of the winter sales at Newmarket on December 5 and four following days fills twenty-three columns of the *Racing Calendar*. Vendors must quake at the prospect of such a plethora of lots.

There were large fields at Leicester last week, but the meeting was an orgy of plating, none of the racing being of any general interest, and the class of most of the runners was simply contemptible.

Derby is now really the most important of the back-end fixtures, and there are not only the large fields which are everywhere to be seen at this period of the season, but the class is good in the important events. There was a great plunge on Holme Lacy in the Stainsby Selling Plate. He had been so highly tried that he was regarded as a really good thing. When the flag fell 5 to 4 was being taken in a field of fourteen, and the favourite won easily. Holme Lacy, who is named after Lord Chesterfield's place near Hereford, was bred by Mr. H. Barclay, and he was purchased last spring by Lord Westbury, who was remarkably fortunate in being able to get him back for only 340 gs. Vril was heavily backed for the Markeaton Handicap, but he was beaten by Percussion, who won the race in the last few strides after it had appeared to be any odds on Vril. Lord

CANNES. — GRAND HOTEL, CANNES. — First class. Proprietor, H. MENGE (late of Savoy and Claridge's Hotels.)

SAVOY HOTEL & RESTAURANT, LONDON.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

Carnarvon's horse was exceedingly unlucky, as he had previously run second for both the Cambridgeshire and the Liverpool Cup. It was asking him a great deal to give 11 lb. to Percussion, who has been a marvellously good bargain to Lord Penrhyn, who has now won half a dozen races with the colt since he purchased him for 1,050 gs. at the sale of the late Lord Alington's race-horses. Percussion is half-brother to Plum Centre, who was expected to win the Dewhurst Plate for Sir Frederic Johnstone, and who might be regarded as a possible winner of the Derby if only the French colts were not engaged in that race. The Chesterfield Nursery, which is one of the most successful events of this class, brought out a field of twenty-five, and Twelvebore was made a warm favourite, but she was done with after half a mile had been traversed. There was a very fine finish for this race, and four of the starters passed the winning-post apparently in a line. Vedas carried off the honours of the race, and he has never shown better form, as he was beaten a neck when giving a stone to Standen, and he had 10 lb. the worst of the weights with Prudent King, whom he defeated by a head. Standen is a half-brother, by St. Angelo, to William the Third. He was bred at Burghley by Captain Greville, and cost Sir John Thursby 1,200 gs. as a yearling.

There was a dense fog at Derby on Thursday, when the fields were again very large, and nothing could be seen of the race for the Cup, which brought out eighteen starters. Santry was made favourite, Donnetta (the great tip from Newmarket) and General Cronjé being next in demand. Santry and Bass Rock were both done with after going six furlongs, and Donnetta and Melayr also failed to stay the course. Romer, who won very easily at the finish from Sansovino, is owned by Mr. Davis, the manager of the Hurst Park meeting. He was bred in Ireland by Mr. Garrett Moore, and is by Black Duck (by Galopin) out of Theobroma, by Kilwarlin. Sansovino was very unlucky, as he ought to have won the Derby Cup, his jockey having failed twice in attempts to get through. Romer had been very leniently treated by the handicapper, considering his recent victory at Newmarket, and it is difficult to understand why Sansovino should have been made to give him 6 lb. Housewife, who finished fourth, is probably best at a mile, but the two favourites are evidently lacking in stamina.

On Friday there were seventeen starters for the Allestree Handicap, and Lord Derby's colt by Ayrshire out of Pace-egger, who was made favourite, got away in front of all the other runners, and won easily without ever having been caught. There were twenty-three starters for a Selling Handicap Plate of £106! Lord Rosebery's Ladurlad was backed down to 9 to 4, but he ran badly, and Drumnigh (100 to 8) won cleverly from Ravenshoe. Nineteen went to the post for the Osmaston Nursery, Quick being favourite, but the Duke of Devonshire's animal was beaten easily by Golden Measure, who had no price in the betting. Lady Madcap was unlucky in being beaten by Nirvanah for the Rangemore Stakes, as Madden apparently outrode Leader, and it was said also that Mr. Cartwright's filly had been coughing. The King's Plate was really the most interesting race of the week, as it brought out Throwaway, Sandboy, Rondeau, and Hammerkop. Sir James Miller's mare was made favourite, but she was easily beaten by Hammerkop. Throwaway was indeed a fortunate horse to win the Ascot Cup. There has never been a more flagrant fluke. If Zinfandel had "come through" he would have won by several lengths. How many races have been thrown away by the adoption of the "waiting" game, which is really unpardonable folly in the case of a proved stayer?

Everything depends at Manchester on the state of the course, which may very probably be a swamp on Saturday, all calculations being upset by the heavy going. There are twenty-eight acceptances for the November Handicap, out of an original entry of forty-six. This race should be left alone until the last. I fancy Roe O'Neill and Cliftonhall if they come all right to the post.

THE LUXURY OF A BATH is incomplete without the addition of SCRUBB'S, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for SCRUBB'S. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

THE CASUISTRY OF GOLF.

A fortnight ago I commented upon a paragraph in the *News of the World* with reference to an incident at the Romford Golf Club. Briefly, the material facts stated by me were that two players were declared as tying in the stroke competition in August. Before the tie was played off one player's handicap was reduced. He played on that reduced handicap. Again the players tied, and yet again. Then it was discovered that one player ought to have been playing on his old handicap, in which case he would have won by the margin of reduction. It was stated in the *News of the World* that the secretary and committee had decided in favour of the man whose handicap was reduced. I said the players ought to play again on the proper handicap terms. This incident has brought out in strong relief the English attitude towards the game. In Scotland golf was played with a strict adherence to old rules and to the etiquette of the game. Golf was too sacred for the profane and vulgar. Over players and rules and etiquette, the stately spirit of the ancient game prevailed. The Englishman took to the game. The cry for new rules and local rules arose. The players tried hard to equalise matters by not rigidly adhering to old rules, and groaned that penalties were unjust and severe. They introduced what they thought was the spirit of justice into the game, and they demanded that this spirit should be materialised in the form of new legislation. This was done, and while it was being done they introduced bogey competitions and medals daily, weekly, and monthly. For these competitions there were prizes and sweepstakes. Then they took stock of the letter of their laws. They took upon themselves to administer executive regulations with a rigid severity which would delight a special pleader, and at the same time they neglected to adhere to the spirit of the game itself, its etiquette, and its traditions. For such things are not written in black and white. On the written rules they will agree and split points to infinity. They seem to think that in this matter of arguing they are Scotchmen, and are truly imbued with the spirit of the game. It is nothing to them that a player should tell his opponent a wrong handicap score. The law does not forbid him to do so. But it is quite enough to disqualify a player if in error he does not hand in his card before the appointed time. In brief, all the executive regulations, when there is a prize or sweepstake, are rigidly insisted upon, while the rules of the game for its own sake are regarded in anything but the same spirit. Executive rules may not and cannot cover every case. When difficulties arise they should be met in a broad spirit of justice. Rules should not be strained and quibbled over.

With this preface, I now proceed to deal with the particular case upon which the honorary secretary of the Romford Golf Club has sent me a long letter. He says that the statement of facts which I quoted was incomplete. The only fact that the honorary secretary reveals is that after the first replayed tie neither competitor handed in his card. If this had been done, he says, no trouble would have occurred. Strictly speaking, that ought to have been done. "By Rule 2, special rules for stroke competitions, all ties are under the jurisdiction of the green committee, and consequently the cards should have been returned to the secretary as their agent. The declared winner did return his card after the last replayed tie, his opponent never did, so that on that point he is out of court." No doubt the honorary secretary thinks this is an easy way of getting out of the whole difficulty. But I would point out that as the rule stands, and as both competitors did not on the previous occasion return their cards, they were then both out of court, and the subsequent replay was a nullity. If neither player had returned a card in the original competition neither would have appeared in

the list for the medal. I feel surprised that this position has not occurred to the honorary secretary, for he is nothing if not legal. He says:—

The unsuccessful claimant claimed in substance that the handicap that was wrongly exhibited by the declared winner could not be altered by the secretary, or, in fact, by any one. This is his published statement. "No 2 objected, and said the cards as marked must stand, and that the state of the game was undoubtedly affected by the scoring at each particular hole." The latter sentence is irrelevant to the issue, and in a medal round, though he might receive sympathy, he would have no legal standing on such a statement. It has been pointed out to the objector many times "that the cards as marked must stand" applies to the marking of the score for each hole, but, like the deaf adder, he stoppeth his ears. There is nothing incumbent on a player to exhibit his handicap. If it is exhibited it is not "marked" in the technical meaning of the word. He might exhibit it at 4 when it correctly is 2. The responsibility rests with the secretary to see that the correct handicap is added or deducted, as the case may be, to or from the addition of the scores, for which also he is responsible.

This is the argument on which the honorary secretary bases his assertion that a player might have sympathy, but no legal standing in regard to the play being affected by the state of the score. I can only say that if the honorary secretary is correct, then, while his view may be common law, it is not common sense. It is not equity in the ordinary sense of the term. Above all, it is not golf. Let me examine the position for a moment. If a player does exhibit on his card a higher handicap than that to which he is entitled, and the tie is played on that basis, it is obvious that the game may be materially affected by the state of the score. A may be doing an excellent round which would be well worth returning. He is playing with B, who has put a higher handicap than that to which he is entitled on his card. B on that basis has beaten him, and so A gives up. If A had known B's correct handicap he would have played out, and he might have beaten B. It must be even more obvious that the play would be more materially affected when, as in this case, the players were the only two men left in. If it is quite legal for a player to exhibit a wrong handicap, then there is a huge omission in the rules. But such omission can be remedied. Behind the rules there is the spirit or equity of the game. It is a game, and the rules do not cover all cases. Then the equity of the case comes in, and one applies general principles. Primarily a man is bound by his own acts, even if he make a mistake. If another party has altered his position in consequence of such mistake, he cannot complain. Assume that the objector in this case had won on the first replayed tie by a score less than the mistake of the figure in the handicap, and the objector had taken the medal, could his opponent have claimed it months afterwards?

When last writing on this subject, I pointed out that if a man starts from the wrong mark in a foot race, he cannot claim the race if it is a dead-heat or if he is beaten by a less distance than his proper handicap. The same principles apply in other sports. But if there is a dead-heat he can claim to run or replay on his proper handicap. And so, for all the casuistry of the honorary secretary, I regard my view as the right one. It may well be that the objector is wrong in his contention that the rule as to the cards as marked standing does refer to the handicap. I cannot help thinking that I would prefer to extend the reading of the rule to include any figures on the card rather than have the position open that a player can legally put what handicap he likes on his card. I may point out that on the secretary's reading of the rule there must be exceptions. Such would arise in the case of fraudulent entries, and how would he deal with a case in which both players admitted, after the cards had been sent in, that an error had been made in entering too small a score at a hole? The rules, as I have already remarked, do not cover all cases, and it seems to me that in this instance a replay would have been the best way of meeting the circumstances and justice of the case. The honorary secretary, I may add, says the gentleman who has been declared the winner is a thoroughly good sportsman and was quite willing to play again. I never doubted this. It is a pity more golfers are not like him.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets React—Scared by Politics—Weak "Bulls" Realising—No Real Weakness—On the Upgrade Again—Mexicans and the Gold Currency.

It is seldom, indeed, that the middle of a nineteen-day account is allowed to pass without the development of a scare of some sort. If there is nothing handy, the lie-grinding-mills are always equal to any demand upon them, and (save when the public is greedily on the bite) it would never do to flout precedent by allowing the period to pass unnoticed. A stupid story about a conflict between Russians and Afghans gave rise to visions of a Russian invasion of India, as a diversion from fighting the Japanese in Manchuria and upsetting Great Britain by the antics of its fatuous Baltic fleet. The source of the story ought to have been sufficient to show its real value, but professional "Bulls" on the Stock Exchange are rather numerous just now, and too many of them are of the weak sort, moreover, and the general situation is abnormally sensitive, causing realisations on the slightest provocation. Another yarn on the following day telling of friction between this country and Russia served to intensify the depression, and to encourage "Bear" sales. There was, however, no real weakness at any time. The people who sold what they did not possess in the hope of being able to buy back more cheaply were, for the most part, the least impressed of all, but they thought it very possible that some real holders would develop a fright. In this they were disappointed, and the recovery in values on the dissipation of the rumours was accentuated by the necessity which these "Bear" gentry were under of buying back quickly and making the best of a bad bargain. Hence a general recovery in prices, accompanied, however, by some remaining nervousness—the outcome of the war, and our own relations with Russia—which is likely to check the speculative spirit, though quiet investment buying goes on unchecked. This factor apart, the indications are favourable, and special attention may be given to Mexican Railway and other stocks on the ground that the country is highly prosperous, but more especially because it is about to adopt a gold standard. The prospects of the Kaffir market also grow more encouraging every week.

Money Fairly Cheap—Japanese Loan Applications—Bank Does Big Discount Business—Will the Rate Be Raised?—Gold Withdrawals—Bank's Position.

It is estimated that the new Japanese Loan took something like four millions off the market in connection with the applications, but Lombard-street was not in the least degree disturbed. The three issuing banks re-lent the money immediately, acting in this respect in a manner different from that adopted by the Bank of England when big public loans are in course of flotation, and the Japanese Government made some timely disbursements in order to grease the wheels better. There has been no other particular call upon the resources of Lombard-street, the amount required for the new Exchequer Bonds being actually only about £300,000, owing to payments in full in advance, instead of a nominal £1,250,000; and floating supplies have been increased by the very large discount business done at the Bank. Rates have therefore continued fairly easy, call money being obtainable at 2 per cent. or less, and fixtures for a week at 2½ per cent. The whole of the sum borrowed from the Bank towards the end of the previous week was repaid. The ease in money is in sharp contrast with the firmness of discounts. Three months' fine bills are not discounted in the open market under Bank Rate, the general fear being that the gold withdrawals will necessitate an advance in the official rate this week. Cash is not going from the Bank to Germany, but the new arrivals are moving that way, and the condition of the exchanges gives rise to the fear that the Bank's stock may be entrenched upon further

when a rise in the rate would be inevitable. Of themselves, the withdrawals for South America and Egypt would probably not necessitate an advance, because the Bank reserve is tolerably strong for this season of the year. In spite of an efflux of £450,000 for the week, the reserve has fallen by no more than £156,717, standing now at £24,165,954, as compared with £22,254,412 for the corresponding week of last year, while the ratio to liabilities is 51.71 per cent., as against 49.92 per cent.

CONSOLS AND POLITICAL CANARDS—GROWTH OF CONFIDENCE NEUTRALISES LOSSES — OTHER GOVERNMENT ISSUES SYMPATHETIC—COLONIALS IDLE—PARIS MORE CHEERFUL—ANOTHER RUSSIAN LOAN RUMOUR—LUCKY JAPAN — MEXICAN CURRENCY REFORM — ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN LESS ACTIVE—PERUVIANS SAGGING AWAY.

Political canards never work with more force than towards the middle of a nineteen-day account, as has been amply illustrated during the past week. Gilt-edged descriptions reflected all the confidence which had been engendered by the removal of the possible rupture between this country and Russia over the unfortunate North Sea affair, when some highly imaginative individual thought he had good reason for supposing that the negotiations were not proceeding with all the smoothness that could be desired. Consols succumbed to the prevalent nervousness, already increased by a rumour of trouble between Russia and Afghanistan. But the market grew more confident when it recognised the legendary nature of the reports, and the improvement which set in somewhat neutralises the earlier losses, though most of the high-class Government issues do not show so well as a week ago, Consols, for instance, finishing at 88 5-16 as against 88½. But at this level they are decidedly firm, and if only political rumours will cease to trouble, they will soon make headway once again. Colonials have been very much in the background without feature of interest, but in the Foreign group the slight irregularities occasioned by the rumours alluded to have disappeared, and the majority of stocks display a better tendency, Paris being inclined to support most of its favourites in the hope of the "war" in the Far East coming to an end at no far distant date. Russians, despite the reported conclusion of arrangements with a Continental syndicate for the raising of more money, are somewhat firmer, probably as a result of the usual inspired support being forthcoming preparatory to the impending new issue, and Japanese descriptions are more buoyant as a result of the success of the new loan. This, it is said, was subscribed for almost fourteen times over, a good proportion of the subscriptions being for small amounts on account of "stags," who, after calling the stock 2¼ premiums at one time, lowered the rate at the close to about 1½ for the special settlement. Considerable attention is also being paid to Mexican issues on the strength of the proposals to reform the currency. If the scheme is adopted, there will no longer be free coinage of silver for domestic use, and the value of the dollar will be maintained at 50 cents, or 2s. 1d., equivalent to one-half a U.S. dollar. Other South American stocks have been less animated, Argentines and Brazilians exhibiting a see-saw movement without any special feature of interest apart from the dulness developed by B.A. Provincial Cedulas, owing to the lack of rumours regarding the alleged settlement scheme. Peruvians are slowly dropping back, the retrograde movement being accelerated by the persistent liquidation of stale "Bull" accounts and the absence of any confirmatory intelligence concerning the agreement with the Government. Chilians are still creeping upwards, and Uruguays are steadier while in the "rubbishy" group there has again been a fair amount of animation, more especially in Costa Ricas, Guatemalans, Honduras, and Nicaraguans due to the professional operations.

NAPLES.—GRAND HOTEL. The leading first-class hotel of Naples. Unrivalled situation. Facing bay and Vesuvius. Proprietors, HAUSER & DOEPFNER.

HOME RAILWAYS QUIETER — PRICES RECEDE — POLITICAL SCARES AND POOR EARNINGS—HULL AND BARNSLEY RUMOURS—"LEEDS" AND "BRUMS"—METROPOLITAN NEW CAPITAL.

The stream of investment buying, which had shown signs of flowing more freely, has during the past week almost dried up again, and the professional "Bulls" (who had, as usual, overdone the thing and gone ahead too fast) have been liquidating, being the more impelled thereto by the African scare, and later by the rumour that the negotiations with Russia were not proceeding as harmoniously as could have been wished. Nobody regarded either report in a really serious way, but they were an encouragement to "Bears," and the "Bull" commitments are for the most part not in strong hands, so that realisations are apt to be indulged in on very slight provocation. Moreover, the traffics were for the most part bad or indifferent, the only really satisfactory showings being those of the Great Western and the South-Western. The North-Western, Midland, and Great Northern figures are particularly poor. With the hope of improved general trade, and the knowledge that the Companies are effecting economies of expenditure, the present showings might have been ignored but for the sensitive condition of the whole market. As it is, however, some reaction in prices was inevitable. The "heavy" stocks have suffered, but Southern descriptions have been weakest, and among these Brighton "A" has been conspicuous—possibly in connection with a forthcoming issue of fresh capital, of which rumours have been heard for some months past. Great Northern Deferred, Great Easterns, Scotch stocks, and the other more speculative things have gone off with the rest. Great Centrals have continued in considerable favour, being bought by speculative investors who have faith in the future of the Company and are willing to sit on their stocks for some years. In addition to the Preferred and Deferred Ordinary, the 1894 Preference has been bought, and the earlier Preference issues have held their ground. In fact, all prior charge stocks have kept tolerably firm. The Underground stocks show little movement on the week, and much the same remark applies to the Tubes, but Metropolitans were at one time weak on a reported impending new issue of Convertible Preference stock. Hull and Barnsleys have been active, much buying having come from Hull itself on the talk of amalgamation with one of the larger Companies, the North-Eastern, Great Central, and Great Northern being successively mentioned, though the real fact appears to be that a working arrangement with the Lancashire and Yorkshire is being negotiated. This last-named Company is also credited with being about to make arrangements with the North-Western for the pooling of goods traffic in South Lancashire. My table shows the measure of movements on the week; they are not violent, the dissipation of the political scares having brought about some recovery in values:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Nov. 12.	Price, Nov. 19.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	74½	75½	75½	75½	—
Do. Def.	28⅝	32¾	33⅜	32⅜	- ⅜
City and S. London	51	46½	46½	46½	—
Central London	94	93	93	93	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	52	56	+4
Do. "B"	25	29	29½	31	-1½
Do. "A"	13½	16	16¼	16¾	+ ⅝
Great Eastern	85	91½	92	91½	+ ½
Great Northern Pref.	99½	101	101	100¾	- ¼
Do. Def.	38	40⅜	41¼	40⅝	- ⅝
Great Western	134½	138¾	139¼	139	- ¼
Hull and Barnsley	42	39½	42½	43½	+1
Lancashire and Yorkshire	100	107	108	107½	- ½
London and Brighton "A"	105⅞	123	124	122¾	-1¼
London, Chatham, and Dover	13⅜	16⅝	16⅝	16½	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	89½	100½	101	99½	-1½
Do. 2nd Pref.	55	64	66	63	-3
London and North-Western	152	152	152½	150	-2½
London and South-Western Def.	52	52	53	52	-1
Metropolitan Consolidated	85	101½	101¼	100	-1¼
Metropolitan District	31	42	42¼	42	- ¼
Midland Pref.	68	67	67	67	—
Do. Def.	64½	64¼	65¼	64	-1¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	77	76½	76½	76½	+ ½
Do. Def.	41½	47¾	48½	47⅝	- ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	140	138¾	139¾	138	-1¾
South-Eastern "A"	47¼	58	58½	57	-1½

As I stated last week, the Home Railway market ought to come into greater favour before long, if only we are spared political scares. It has been badly neglected during the past couple of years or more, and prices have been reduced to a level which ought to bring in investors, especially as the yield obtainable is good, and we are in for an era of cheap money. Prices generally are well above the lowest of the year, but there seems room for a further improvement, as dividends, with only one or two exceptions, promise to be maintained. Below will be found my table of traffics, in considering which it is only fair to bear in mind the bad weather which prevailed during the week concerned:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 149	- 554	+ 17,682
Caledonian	+ 207	- 2,468	+ 2,641
Great Central	- 1,632	+ 1,245	+ 20,267
Great Eastern	+ 1,200	- 1,500	+ 11,300
Great Northern	4,505	- 2,152	- 47,911
Great Western	+ 4,800	+ 4,500	+ 30,700
Lancashire and Yorkshire	+ 1,756	- 3,093	+ 47,454
London and North-Western	-18,000	—	- 93,000
London and South-Western	+ 2,000	+ 700	+ 14,500
Midland	-11,590	- 1,077	-113 363
North British	+ 1,745	- 2,479	+ 24,952
North-Eastern	- 2,188	- 2,442	- 18,509
South-Eastern and Chatham	- 1,883	- 886	+ 18,482

CANADIAN PACIFIC POSITION AND PROSPECTS—GRAND TRUNKS—ARGENTINE RAILWAYS WAITING—MEXICAN RAILWAYS AND THE GOLD STANDARD—NITRATE RAILWAYS.

Canadian Pacifics have been supported both speculatively and for investment, and though some profit-taking causes the shares to leave off below the best, there is still a respectable advance on the week. The Company's earnings continue to expand in a remarkable manner, the latest traffic representing an increase of $109,000, which comes on top of a big total last year, and makes the aggregate improvement since the beginning of July $1,537,000. There is not much that is new to say on the subject of "Canadas" as an investment. It may be taken as certain that the 6 per cent. dividend will be maintained on the increased capital, and the harvest being large and the general trade of the country prosperous, there is good ground for anticipating a continuance of big figures. There may be—probably will be—reactions in the price of the shares following upon any speculative outbursts in Canadian or in American rails, but with the expansion of the Dominion, especially in the North-West territories, there is plenty of room for increased earnings by the Canadian Pacific and the tendency of quotations should be upwards. The management is conservative, and it prefers to strengthen the equipment and generally to make preparations for the future, rather than divide profits up to the hilt. This policy is in itself the best safeguard that shareholders could have that their interests are in good hands, and as progress is made the dividend will, of course, be increased, and the investor will obtain a double reward—a better return in the shape of dividend and a considerably higher quotation for the shares. This is to take a long view of the situation; a possible drop of a few points in the course of the next month or two in this connection is neither here nor there. For the Grand Trunk there is also a big future, and I do not see how the man who buys to hold for this consummation can be making any mistake, even though—in relation to the junior securities—he may be dividendless for the present. Any dividend on the Third Preference stock for the current year may be dismissed. If the Company pays the full 5 per cent. on its Second Preference stock for the twelve months it will fulfil expectations to the full. But the man who buys Grand Trunks—at all events, the Third Preference and the Ordinary—does so to put away for a time, knowing that, in all human probability, he will see far higher prices than those at present ruling. The Company has passed through an extraordinary period, and has much leeway to make up. Apart from this, there is no ground for complaint against the earnings. While the traffic receipts are about £80,000 less than those for the corresponding period of last year, the Company is in a position to effect considerable reductions in expenditure and the trend of earnings is decidedly upwards, only they look indifferent because last year witnessed a very exceptional expansion. My table of Colonial and foreign railways will be found below:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 19.
Canadian Pacific	122¾	133¼	137¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference	101		102½
Grand Trunks	16½	17¼	17⅞
,, 4 per cent. Guaranteed	102	98	98½
,, 1st Preference	110½	105½	106
,, 2nd ,,	97⅞	94	93¾
,, 3rd ,,	46⅜	45½	45¾
Bengal and North-West	121	145	146
Bombay Baroda	155	149	145½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126	127	127½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	97	103	104
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	99½	116	117½
,, ,, 1st Preference	98½	106	106½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	88	96	96½
,, Great Southern	129½	134	135½
,, Western	129	126	124½ xr.
Entre Rios Railway Preference	55	68	70½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	87½	96¾	99½
Costa Rica Railway	1½	2⅜	2¾
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	99	94½	96
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	86	80¼	89
Mexican Railway	15⅜	29½	28¾
,, 1st Preference	65½	109	107
,, 2nd ,,	24	49	51½
Nitrate Rails	7¾	8¾	9¾

In the Argentine Railway group there has not been much activity, but stocks have more than held their own. Rosarios have advanced to close upon par and Rosario Deferred to 94, and Pacifics have found favour. Buenos Ayres Westerns are quoted ex rights to the new issue of £618,000 shares, the rights being equal to 1½; and, allowing for this, there is not much change in prices. By way of a change, the Rosario's traffic is indifferent, showing an increase of £2,141, but for the corresponding week of last year there was a big improvement, and were it not for the bad weather, which has kept freight back, the showing would no doubt have been more satisfactory, and there is no quarrelling with the aggregate increase of £432,819 for the year to date. The Great Southern's increase of £13,600 is very satisfactory. There has been a further advance in Entre Rios Preference stock on the scheme for the funding of the dividend arrears. Nitrate Railway shares have been steadily bought, and show a considerable improvement on the week. Antofagastas are higher, and Cuban Railway descriptions are higher, especially prominent being the United Railways of the Havana, to the merits of which I drew attention last week. Mexican Railway stocks went off in the earlier part of the week as a consequence of the disruption of the pool, and the stocks of the other railways concerned were inclined to weaken. Towards the end, however, there has been a sharp recovery on the Government proposals for the adoption of a gold standard, which will be of much value to the various railways by fixing the price of the silver dollar. If the pooling difficulty were out of the way there would be nothing to prevent Mexican Railway stocks from having a further good appreciation.

AMERICAN RAILS QUIETER—POST-ELECTION DEVELOPMENTS—POLITICS AND THE BLIZZARD—UNION PACIFICS—SHIPPING TRUSTS PROMINENT.

The rush of outside buying of American railroad stocks which was to have followed the results of the Presidential election has so far not come about, and the condition of the Yankee market during this past week has been on the whole unsatisfactory. Some support on the part of the American public has been given, but there is no sign of any increase of interest on the part of people in this country, and there is much less noise than there was a couple of weeks ago among the professionals on our market. The political rumours which upset other markets did not leave Americans unaffected, but they were only a temporary influence, as was, in another way, the blizzard in New York. A few stocks

have come in for attention—Missouris, for instance, to which I drew attention last week; Union Pacifics, bought at one time on the strength of a reported impending decision in the Northern Securities case; and Steel Corporation issues, which were advanced with much noise in consequence of the decision to raise the price of billets, etc. Another stock dealt in in the Yankee market is that of the International Mercantile Marine Company, in which an endeavour has been made to create an interest consequent upon the settlement of the rate war. The Common has been advanced to 13 and the Preferred to 30½, but it is doubtful if level-headed people on this side will be attracted to either stock, except as a gamble, bearing in mind the gross over-capitalisation of the undertaking and the indifferent character of a good part of the fleet. Apart from these points, the American market has developed no features of consequence on the week, which after the predictions of post-election activity has been distinctly disappointing. Movements on balance are shown in my table below:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price, Nov. 5, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	87⅝	90¼xd	88¼xd
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	104½	105⅜	105½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	97¼	100⅜	99⅞
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	46¼	47⅝xd	51⅝
Denver	43¾	18¾	31⅛	34½	34⅛
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	84¼	87⅜	88
Erie	43 7/16	23½	40⅛	41¼	40
Do. First Pref.	75⅓	64½	74	75⅜	75
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	136⅜	140¾	142¼
Milwaukee	187½	137¼	175⅜	179	177¼
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	32	37	35⅜
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	93	93½	94
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	74⅜	76⅛	77
New York Central	158	116⅜	138½	140⅜	139
Ontario	36	19⅜	43⅜	45	43¼
Pennsylvania	80⅓	57½	70⅜	70⅜xd	70xd
Reading	35½	20	37½	39¼	38⅞
Do. First Pref.	45¼	36¾	45	45	45
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	35⅛	37	36⅜
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	96½	98	98
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	62¾	67¾	68¾
Union Pacific	107 1/16	69 5/16	113⅛	116⅝	117⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅛	98	98	98
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	44½	48½	48
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	68	71	71
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	25⅛	27⅞	27⅞
Do. Pref.	—	—	87⅜	87⅝xd	89⅝xd

It is rather interesting to find the more responsible financial writers on the other side of the Atlantic discussing a reaction as quite on the cards. Intrinsically, it is pointed out, the election of Mr. Roosevelt will not add a bushel or bale to the crops, nor a cent to their price, nor a ton to railway traffic, nor can anything more be hoped from the tariff by anybody. Nobody proposes that the highest tariff in any civilised nation shall be made still higher, or believes that it would be beneficial if made higher. No Republican on account of Republican success merely will enlarge his orders or raise the wages he pays, nor will any Democrat because of disappointment in his political hopes take any gloomier views than he has held for half a generation. Those who like to back up their arguments by precedents are deprived of any great support one way or the other by the action of the market on the occasion of the previous two elections. Shorn of all extraneous questions, those were struggles between gold and free silver, and gold was the champion, but no such problem is presented now, and once more it is a contest between the parties—not parties financial, but parties political. The essence of the case made out against Bryan so far as the stock market was concerned was lacking in the case of Parker. The average observer in Wall Street is of the opinion that the immediate future of the market will be better assured by the election of Roosevelt than by the success of Parker, but mainly for the reason that the stock market dislikes changes that necessitate assuming a different basis of operations. In anticipation of the election, prices of American railroads were put better, and, without the active and strong support of the American public, they are not likely to go much higher.

RHODESIANS BETTER—ANOTHER DISCOVERY—CHARTERED'S ENGINEER TO INVESTIGATE—NEW BANKETS JUMPING—REGARDED AS A GAMBLE—GOLD OUTPUT SMALLER—NORTHERN DESCRIPTIONS TOLERABLY ACTIVE.

Rhodesia is becoming richer and richer every day so far as encouraging discoveries are concerned, and the latest to be announced to the benefit of the whole market is that somewhat briefly mentioned by the Chartered Company. The cable received states that "an alluvial discovery in the Victoria District is well reported on by the Mining Commissioner at Victoria. It is supposed to extend over a large area. Product seen by me (Administrator of South Rhodesia), rough nuggety gold, declared by experts equal to best Klondike or Australian. The supply of water on the spot now being worked is indifferent, but it can be brought in without great difficulty if results warrant. Average production 2 dwt. rough gold to load. Largest nuggets 9 dwt. Fine gold also present, but not recovered with present appliances. The residue now being tested." An office note added says that the Chartered Company is sending its own engineer to report on the discovery. Consequently something more definite ought to be forthcoming before long, and, beyond expressing the opinion that if it turns out as encouraging as it seems at the first blush, Rhodesians ought to advance, it is not worth while commenting upon. Not unnaturally, it had a good effect upon the whole of the market, and Chartered shares were vigorously pushed up to 2¼ at one time, after being normally steady during the earlier part of the week, though, as will be seen from the table which I give this week, the total output for October was appreciably lower than for the preceding month. Apart from these the feature has been the violent fluctuating movement in New Bankets. At one time they were firm at 4¼, at another they were under 4, while they are talked above 6, and, as practically all the shares are held by the "shops," it would be no difficult matter to hoist them very much higher. Though there may be but little real merit in the shares, they do not seem to make a bad gamble. The "shop" is striving its utmost to attract public attention, and if any one should feel like "having a run," he must get in at once. The other banket descriptions moved somewhat irregularly at the whim of the operators, but like the rest of the market they close rather firm. In regard to the gold output for last month briefly alluded to at the outset, the shrinkage as compared with September is the significant one of 1,110 oz., the aggregate being only 24,919 oz., as against 26,029 oz. To a large extent this is due to the reduced output of the Selukwe, attributable to the inaccessibility of high-grade ore, but it is worthy of note that the majority of the other leading mines show slight decreases as compared with September, which for some reason or another seems to have been a very successful month, though, contrasted with previous monthly outputs, they seem to indicate slight progress, while for the year to date the aggregate is more than 8 per cent. better than during the corresponding period of 1903. My table showing the return since 1900 is appended:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	5,242	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,360
February	6,233	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673
March	6,286	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,776
April	5,456	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862
May	6,554	14,469	19,598	22,137	19,424
June	6,185	14,863	15,842	22,166	20,402
July	5,737	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339
August	10,137	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669
September	10,718	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,029
October	10,725	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919
November	9,170	16,487	15,923	15,714	—
December	9,373	15,174	16,210	18,750	—
Total	91,816	172,160	194,168	231,872	213,453

The following is a list of the available individual

returns for October, together with those of the previous five months, for the purposes of comparison:—

—	May.	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Antenior	1,115	747	777	805	869	834
Ayrshire	1 027	2,160	3,038	3,050	4,016	3,653
Bechuanaland Exploration	—	—	46	51	46	—
Bonsor	—	333	50	101	206	—
Dumbleton	503	408	445	405	425	408
Duraven	—	—	515	478	379	—
Eagle-Vulture	†306	—	—	—	—	—
Empress	1,010	1,205	1,154	1,220	386	—
Globe and Phœnix	3 394	3,029	3,792	3,599	3,368	4,002
Imani	—	382	—	—	—	—
Mashonaland Consolidated	314	259	259	277	411	383
Matabele Sheba	283	308	497	—	—	—
Morven	712	703	701	731	715	700
North Bonsor	—	—	1,297	1,321	1,770	—
Penhalonga Proprietary	1.290	*1,047	1,142	*1.147	*1,183	*1,232
Red and White Rose	449	303	282	266	287	—
Rezende	1,057	1,240	1,819	1,942	1,665	*1,083
Rhodesia Consolidated	—	—	—	—	300	427
Selukwe	2,504	2,334	2,810	2,773	2,831	‡2,172
Surprise	1,021	1,005	1,406	1,715	1,475	—
Tanganyika	417	420	544	512	428	—
Wanderer	1,645	1,431	1,588	1,475	2,075	1,957
Wareleigh	605	730	367	387	327	464
Willoughby's Consol	—	—	—	—	133	—
Zambesia Exploration	26	17	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1,641	2,341	1,810	2,414	2,644	—
Official total	19,424	20,402	24,339	24,669	26,029	24,919

* Fine Gold. † Mill shut down May 21. ‡ Decreased yield due to higher-grade are not accessible.

There has again been a fair amount of activity in the Northern descriptions, though no development of interest has occurred, and for the most part prices show little change on balance:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902–3.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	7/16	7/16
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p	2 3/8	1 5/16	1 5/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/2	1 13/16	2 1/8
Buluwayo Explorat'n.	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/8	3/16	3/16
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	1/8	1/16	1/16
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	13/32	13/32
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	3/32	3/32
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/8	1/32	9/-
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/4	7/32
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 11/16	1 3/4
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6 1/8	2 15/16	3 1/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/16
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/2	5/16	5/16
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	3	3
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 3/8	13/-	14/-
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9 1/4	5 9/16	5 9/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/8	1/4	1/4
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8 1/8	2 3/8	1 1/4
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	3/9	3/9
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/2	1
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	3 1/4	3 3/4
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 3/8	5/8	5/8
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	5/8	1 3/8
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p	3/4	4/-	6/-
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	5/16	8/6
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 7/16	1 5/16	1 3/4

West Africans Dwindling—Professional Support Less Marked—A Succession of Losses—Miscellaneous Mines—Bouyant Coppers—Indians Quiet—Broken Hill Depressed—Mount Lyells.

The professional support which has been accorded to West Africans during recent weeks, and had the effect of creating a little artificial buoyancy, is no longer forthcoming, and in the circumstances it is not unnatural that prices should manifest an inclination to dwindle away again. The artifice adopted by the House operators have all along been too transparent to be misinterpreted by the public whom they were intended to attract, and until the country can show some real progress in the winning of the precious metal it is safe to say that the outsiders will remain stolidly indifferent to all the "charms" of the Jungle, preferring, in their good sense, to dabble in other mining shares, which not only furnish a little excitement, but in addition possess a little real merit. Perhaps the unsatisfactory tendency of movements during the past week can be attributed to the nervousness arising out of the prevailing political uncertainty, though that excuse is extremely questionable; but, anyway, all the leading shares show losses on balance, the most significant being Ashanti Sansu, which are no better than ½, as compared with 11-16; while Amalgamated, after being 3 at one time, are about ¼ lower at 3⅛. On the whole, this section has been devoid of interest in the absence of developments of any sort. The report of the Axim Mines for the year to June states that the funds available for the purposes of the Company during the past year were approximately £19,000, including £10,000 provided by the shareholders of the Company and £6,700 subscribed by the shareholders of the Liverpool Ashanti Gold Concessions, Ltd., upon the amalgamation with that Company and a loan from the bank. If the necessary funds are provided, it is intended to sink the main shaft to a depth of 250 ft., and to continue the present crosscut from "A" shaft at 119 ft. to meet it, and proceed with the policy of development outlined by the engineers. It is believed that sufficient stoping can then be done to enable crushing to commence with ten head of stamps within twelve months from the date of recommencing work, and that the cost should not exceed £25,000. Having regard, however, to the present conditions of the Money Market, this amount could only be obtained by the issue of a debenture. Considering the expenditure which has been already incurred, and looking at the results achieved, it would, in the opinion of the directors, be most unwise to abandon the property; and if the shareholders are not at present willing to provide the above £25,000, an alternative proposal is that a sum should be subscribed by debenture in order to defray current liabilities (including the bank's overdraft, secured by a charge), and the repayment of the present small debenture issue of £1,750, and so preserve the properties for a period of, say, two years, during which time it is to be hoped that a revival of public interest in West African ventures will enable the directors to obtain the necessary funds to carry on the development on a larger scale. Failing the adoption of either course, the Company must inevitably pass into liquidation. Another happy instance illustrating the extraordinary gold-producing possibilities of West Africa! My customary table of prices is appended:—

—	Capital. Autho-rised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds (4/-)	250.000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 7/8	1 5/8
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	5/- dis	5/- dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	21/32	1/2
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/6	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 1/2	1 5/8
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1	1 1/8
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	5/8	7/16
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 11/16	3 1/4
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	3/9	15/32
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	5/8	5/8
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	5/8	13/-
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120.000	1	f.p.	1/2	7/16
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1 1/2	1 3/8
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1 3/4	1 3/8

In the Miscellaneous Mining Market, Copper shares continue to attract a great deal of attention, as a result of the better prices prevailing, due to the anticipated shortage of the metal, and, notwithstanding that in most cases substantial gains on balance are shown, they are talked much higher. Rio Tintos gave the lead, and, Paris supporting vigorously, the shares, after some temporary irregularity due to profit-taking finished at 62⅜, as against 60⅞ a week ago. Anacondas were helped by Wall Street, and Capes, Tharsis, Mason and Barry, and Namaqua were not neglected here. Indian gold mines have been quietly steady for the most part, without any feature of interest apart from the temporary and unimportant set-back in Ooregums, occasioned by the dividend announcement, making the total distribution for the eight months 1s. per share on the Ordinary and 2s. on the Preference, as against 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. for the corresponding period of last year. Among Silver shares, Broken Hill Props. have been consistently weak and depressed as a result of fairly heavy realisations, induced

by rumours telling of the unsatisfactory working of the new magnetic process, though it was subseqently announced that adjustments were being made and the plant would probably work without trouble "in due course." Mount Lyells presented a firmer appearance, as a consequence partly of "Bear" covering, following a statement that good ore had been struck at the 600 ft. level. Egyptians continue fairly buoyant, this condition being attributable to gossip pointing to better prospects of the industry. Etruscans were offered on the sanctioning of the reconstruction scheme at the meeting of the debenture holders. My table will be found below:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 12.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	3⅞	5½	6¼xd
Balaghat Gold	1½	14/-	16/6	17 -
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1¼	46/3	44/-
Cape Copper	5	2	4½	4⅛
Champion Reef	7	5⅜	32/6	33/6
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	¾	⅞
Mason and Barry	4½	3¼	3⅞	3½
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	11/6	13/6
Mysore Gold	7⅜	5⅛	6¼	6¼xd
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3⅞
Nundydroog	2⅛	1⅜	36/-	34/6
Ooregum	2⅞	21/9	18/-	⅝
Rio Tinto	53⅛	38⅞	61½	62⅜xd
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	5	5½
Waihi Gold	6½	4⅛	5⅞	6

KAFFIRS REACT—AND RECOVER AGAIN—GOOD UNDERTONE—MAGNATES CO-OPERATING—SOME OUTSIDE SUPPORT—LABOUR POSITION—MR. HANAU AND BARNATOS—RAND COLLIERIES SPURT—EAST RAND MINING ESTATES—DIAMOND SHARES—A NEW ARRIVAL—DEEP LEVELS.

The political scares caused some reaction in the Kaffir market on Wednesday and Thursday, some weak "Bulls" finding it advisable to get out. But there was not at any time real weakness, and with the dissipation of the successive rumours the strong undertone has asserted itself once more, and the department is helped sympathetically by the strength of Chartered, which have had a sharp advance on the discovery of what promises to be a very important alluvial field in the Victoria district of Mashonaland. Not that it is lacking in "Bull" points of its very own, for sympathy with Chartered is rather suggestive of the tail wagging the dog; but the connection is close, and when Chartered are cheerful the contagion usually spreads. The English public does not appear to be greatly impressed with the possibilities of the situation, but the public never is impressed until values are somewhere near the top, when it rushes in with eagerness, and wonders why it should have the infernal luck to be left behind. It must be owned, however, that, while there is not much outside speculation on margins, there is still a very encouraging amount of buying of Kaffir shares by people who are taking them up with the intention of holding until they see a respectable appreciation following the return of normal conditions—full production and enhanced profits in the case of producing mines, and further development in the case of properties still in the earlier stages. In this connection it may be noted that another mine is returning to the crushing stage; this is the Witwatersrand Deep, whose mill is expected to restart at the beginning of December upon 750,000 tons of payable ore now developed in the mine, after being suspended in June last. With an increasing supply of unskilled labour this is the sort of news that may be expected to be received frequently. The recent annual report by the Government mining engineer showed that a large number of Companies were either merely developing or not working at all. Each one, therefore, restarted will be welcomed by the well-wishers of the Rand industry. The London Secretary of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines states that on Tuesday last the *Sikh* sailed with 1,849 coolies, while according to another cablegram the number of natives recruited so far in the present month in the Transvaal numbered 4,690. For November the total of "boys" is therefore likely to reach 10,000 again; it has been estimated that 2,000 more would be obtained, but, as stated by the Chairman of the Chamber of Mines, temporary difficulties in the way of recruiting in Nyassaland have been experienced. It will be seen from my table below that on the week prices have been fairly well maintained:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9	6	6¾	6⅝	7½
Anglo-French	7⅜	5	3	3¾	4	4
Aurora West	3¾	2	¾	1⅞	1⅜	1⅞
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅞	⅞	⅜	⅜	1
Bantjes	7⅜	2	⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1½
Barnato Consols	5	4	2	2⅜	2⅜	2⅝
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7	5	5½	5⅝	6
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅜	4	7	7	7⅜
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1	1⅜	1⅜	2
Crown Reef	12⅜	18	16	16	16	15½xd
De Beers Pref.	—	20	18	18	18⅜	18⅜
Do. Def.	—	26	18	18	18⅜	18⅜
Driefontein	4⅜	6	4	4	4⅜	5
Durban-Roodepoort	8	6	5	5⅜	5⅜	6⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4	1	2	2⅜	2
East Rands	12	10	6	8⅞	8⅜	8⅜
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2	⅞	2/-	4/9	⅞
Ferreira	22	26	18	21	21	23
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1	2⅞	2⅞	2½
Geduld	—	9	5	6⅜	7	7½
Ginsberg (New)	2	4	3	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4	2	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7	7	5	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
" Main Reef	1	¾	½	½	½	½
Glencairn	4	2	1	1⅜	1⅜	1½
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4	2	3	2⅞	3⅛
Henderson	5	2	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8	10	7	8⅛	8⅜	8⅜
Heriot	12	8	3	3⅜	4	4⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27	27	28
Joh. Con. Invest.	6	4	2	2	2	2⅛
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
" Goldfields	—	1	⅝	¾	¾	1⅛
Jubilee	12	7	4	4	4	4
Jumpers	8	5	2	3	2⅞	2⅞
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4	3	—	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6	2	1	2⅛	2⅜	2⅛
Knight's	11	9	4	6⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3	1	⅝	¾	¾	1
Langlaagte Estate	7	5	3	3⅞	4	4
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	2	1	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Luipaard's Vlei New)	2	2	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
May Consolidated	4	5	2	4	4	4⅛
Meyer and Charlton	8	6	4	5	5	5⅜
Modderfontein (£4)	17	14	7	9	10	10⅛
Mozambique	3	2	1	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/-	⅜	18/6
Nigel	8	4	2	2⅞	2⅜	2⅛
" Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3	1	1	1	2
New Comet	4	4	2	2⅜	3	3⅛
New Rietfontein	6	3	1	2⅛	2½	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1	2	1	1⅛	1	1⅛
Oceana Mineral	—	1	⅝	¾	⅞	⅞
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1	⅜	⅜	1	1
Primrose (New)	8	5	3	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4	2	1	1½	1½	1⅞
Rand Mines (5/-)	11	13	8	10	11	11
Randfontein	4	4	2	3⅜	3	3
Randfontein Porges	3	5	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
" Robinson	2⅞	2	1	1⅜	1⅜	2
" North	—	2	1	2	2⅛	2
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1	1	1
" Mynpacht	—	—	—	1	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11	12	9	9	10	10
Roodepoort United	8	4	2	3	3	4
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14	6	8	8	8
S. A. Gold Trust	12	9	4	5	5	5
Sheba	2	1	11.3	—	—	6/9
Simmer and Jack	*8	2	1	1⅞	1	1⅞
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	11/6	12/-	15/6
South Afr. Terrors	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4	6	3	3⅞	3	3⅜
Transvaal Development	2	2	24/-	1	1	1
Transvaal Exploring	—	¾	½	6/9	8/-	8/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8	3	2	2	2	2
Treasury	5	6	4	4⅜	4	4
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/6	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4	2	4⅛	4⅛	4
Village Main Reef	9	9	7	6	7	7
Violet	—	3	2	3	3	3⅜
Vogelstruis	6	2	1	1	1	1
Welgedacht	—	8	6	6⅛	7	7
Wemmer	13	15	9	10	11	11
W. Rand Central	—	1	⅝	¾	¾	¾
" (New)	—	2	1	1⅛	2	2
Wolhuter	12	6	3	3	3	4
Worcester	6	3	1	1⅞	1⅝	1⅞

* £5 shares.

Among the leading shares there are not many features, apart from much option buying of Goldfields. Nothing more has been heard of an East Rand dividend, but the shares have held their ground well, and the several leading groups have been giving quiet support to their own specialties. One of the best auguries for the immediate future of prices is the fact that better relations now exist between the various magnates—there is less of that jealousy which was

rather marked a year or so back, and which helped very materially to retard the recovery in prices. The reported retirement of Mr. Carl Hanau from the firm of Barnato Bros. is a factor which does not affect the market, since his interests are taken over. Among the outstanding features has been Rand Collieries. For some time past I have drawn attention to the speculative merits of these particular shares, and my recommendation is justified by the consulting engineer, Mr. G. A. Denny, a summary of whose special report has been cabled over from Johannesburg. Mr. Denny, on the borehole data estimates the average recovery value of the reef in the Company's property as not less than 40s. per ton, and that he puts the total contents of the gold-mining area at 16,500,000 tons. He recommends the sinking of two shafts and the erection of 200 stamps, the latter ultimately to be increased to 500 or 600. He estimates working costs at 20s. a ton on a basis of 200 stamps, and at 15s. or lower on a basis of 500 stamps, giving to commence with an estimated profit of 20s. per ton. The minimum life of the mine, taking the same factors into account, he places at twenty years. The summary concludes: "The evidence from boreholes and results from neighbouring producing mines warrant the conclusion that the Rand Collieries is an exceedingly sound and valuable proposition. It is a significant fact that the test boreholes put down in the neighbourhood are either on or immediately adjoining the Company's property. The readjustment of the boundaries recently granted converts the entire mining area into a comparatively shallow mine, which can consequently be more cheaply developed and worked. The boreholes giving the best results are contained in the horizon of the re-located area." Rand Collieries have had a good rise on the publication of this very encouraging report, and possibly they may take a rest for a brief space. But the shares are a very good purchase to hold on to for further developments. Another share of much promise is East Rand Mining Estates. This Company, which is concerned in a section of the Rand that possesses great attractions for the bulk of the supporters of the Transvaal goldmining industry, has just issued its annual report, which is accompanied by a special report by Dr. F. E. Hatch, who states that the Company's boring operations have proved the existence of the Main Reef, or Van Ryn, series, in continuity, and at a workable depth throughout the Farm Grootvlei, and also over a sufficient area of the Farm Palmietkuil to enable the Company to mark out all the ground to which it is entitled for mining purposes under the Gold Law. The Farm Grootvlei has been transferred to the Grootvlei Proprietary, Limited, in which the present Company holds 253,020 shares out of the 360,250 issued. The Farm Palmietkuil is to be the subject of a similar flotation later on, and further subdivisions may be looked for in the ordinary course. The parent Company still retains a large area of unproved ground, to the development of which it may now be able to devote all its energy. Diamond shares are receiving much support at the moment. Lace Diamonds are being bought steadily from the Cape; Jagers have advanced on buying induced by the prospect of an early splitting of the shares; Premiers, to which I drew attention when they were 28, have now advanced beyond 50; and De Beers have not been neglected by Paris. The report of this last-named Company shows that the sum realised from the sale of diamonds was £4,918,560, as against £5,241,170 for 1902-3, and £5,687,200 for 1901-2. The fall in profits is due to the lower grade of the "blue ground" raised from the chief mines, the yield per load having declined from .76 carat in 1902 to .54 carat last year, but the effect of this has apparently been again offset to some extent by an increased amount of "stuff" dealt with. It is expected that during the current year the Dutoitspan mine will become an important producing factor. The De Beers Directors make no allusion to their active competitor, the Premier Diamond Mine of Pretoria, but at the meeting the Chairman is represented as saying that the Company had as yet "found no formidable rival"—which seems to indicate a lofty scorn of all possible competition. This week sees the introduction to the market of the shares of another diamondiferous property. This is the New Vaal River Diamond and Exploration Company, which has been registered in the Cape Colony. The property belonging to the Company is situated about thirty miles from Kimberley, and comprises three farms having an area of nearly eighty square miles, and possessing twenty-seven miles of frontage on the Vaal River. The estate was thrown open on July 3, 1902, and large portions of it are stated to contain rich alluvial diamond deposits, and also diamondiferous "deep ground." The total value to the end of October last was £112,000. For the last five months of 1902 the average monthly yield was 750 carats and the average value £2,670; during 1903 the average monthly production rose to 1,256 carats and the average value to £4,680; and for the first nine months of this year the average monthly output was 1,102 carats and the average value £4,030. The highest monthly production was in December last, when 2,406 carats were found, of the value of £11,600, and the second best output was last month, when the value of the diamonds discovered was £6,150. The estate, in addition to its mineral wealth, is also said to be exceedingly valuable from a pastoral and agricultural point of view. The Deep Level group has continued fairly firm without much activity or feature. But among the cheap shares, South Village Deeps have been run up from about 11s. to 13s. According to mail advices, a provisional agreement has been entered into between the General Mining and Finance Corporation and the Directors of the South Village Deep, whereby the Corporation acquires the right to prospect and conduct boring and other operations on the property with a view to proving its value, and, if found satisfactory, to reconstruct the concern on terms which have been tentatively agreed upon. My table is appended:—

—	1900.	1902-03.		Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
	High'st.	High.	Lowest.			
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1⅝	1½	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅜	1	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2¼	2⅛	2⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	12⅞	13	13¼
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4⅝	2	2⅞	3⅜	3½
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅜	6	6 and
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3⅞	4⅜	4⅜	4⅛
Geldenhuis Deep	10¾	12½	8¾	11⅝	11⅝	11⅝
Jumpers Deep	5⅝	6½	3½	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅝	3⅞	3¾	3⅝
Knight's Central Deep	3¾	4⅞	2½	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Lancaster	2⅜	3⅜	2	2¼	2⅛	2⅛
Do. West	2¾	3	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
New Steyn Estates	2⅛	5⅛	2½	3¼	3¼	3⅛
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6¾	3½	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝	⅝
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4¾	2¾	2⅞	2¾	2⅞
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do. Cent Deep	4½	5⅝	3¾	4⅞	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¾	8⅝	8¾	8⅝
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅜	1⅝	1½	1⅝
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2	2¼	2¼
South Geld. Deep	3¾	4⅜	2⅜	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	2½	2⅝	2⅝	2⅝
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅝	2¾	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2¾	1½	⅝	⅝	⅝
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅛	4⅞	2⅛	3¼	4⅜	4⅜

WESTRALIANS SOMEWHAT NEGLECTED—TENDENCY INCLINED TO BE EASIER—OROYAS FIRM—THE DIVIDEND AND THE WORKING POLICY—HORSESHOES STEADY—ASSOCIATED DULL—DEEP LEADS MORE ACTIVE—"LITTLE KANGAROOS" IDLE—SLUMP IN NORTHERN TERRORS.

Even the professional interest evinced in West Australian mining shares is on quite a small scale, and in the absence of any important developments the tendency has been inclined to dulness for the most part, though a little furtive "Bear" covering here and there has served to neutralise the effect somewhat. Of features there have been none, but one might perhaps allude to the comparative firmness of Oroyas, occasioned by the dividend announcement of 4s. per share, being the fourth quarterly distribution; in addition, a good impression was created by the Directors' statement dealing with the policy of reserve. They consider that the only

proper course is to regulate the output according to the estimated average value of the payable ore in the mine in order to provide a regular income, and to prevent serious fluctuations in the market price of the shares. As in most other Westralian mines, the value of the ore differs considerably from foot to foot, and, as the ore is stoped systematically in the most economical manner, the monthly yield varies from 20 per cent. below to 20 per cent. above the average of the mine, rendering it an impossibility to economically maintain a regular output without drawing a variable amount from the reserve. Horseshoes experienced a sharp spurt on some heavy buying, but the effect was somewhat neutralised by the dulness which set in throughout the House when the political atmosphere seemed cloudy, though the shares are still slightly higher on balance. Associated developed renewed weakness, the market being still apprehensive in regard not only to ore reserves, but to the change of management at the property, and it is significant that though they are only just the turn easier on the week at 1 13-16 this compares with a make-up on the 8th inst. of 2⅛. Of the other leading descriptions, Fingalls have been somewhat neglected, while Ivanhoes are better on the statement that the middle lode recently cut is 6 ft. wide and assays 15 oz. to the ton. Sons of Gwalia have hardened on the satisfactory state of the ore reserves, while the South Kalgurli's statement of reserves, being less than was expected was made the pretext for marking the shares down. There has been quite a fair amount of interest displayed in Deep Leads, but among the "Little Kangaroos" the slump in Northern Territories to 3s. 6d. as against a make-up of 14s. 6d. little more than a week ago has been the outstanding feature. The manager, it seems, has been under-estimating the expenditure on capital account, and over-estimating the returns from the ore, with the result that the Chairman of the Company now on the mine had to ask for £11,500 necessary for the meeting of liabilities and the erection of plant. The opinion being that this expenditure would place the mine on a dividend-paying basis, and was only a temporary measure, the request was acceded to. But another cable was received stating that a further £12,000 would probably be required before the Company could be established on a sound basis, and the Directors have decided to place the matter before the shareholders. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Oct. 24, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅝	3⅜	1	2 3/16	2½	1⅝
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 5/16	1⅜	1 3/16	1⅜
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¾	⅝	⅞	⅞	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	7/-	7/3	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅞	7	7½	7½	7⅛
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	20/-	20/9	20/6
Do. Main Reef	2⅞	1⅜	8/6	4/6	4/6	4/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 15/16	1⅜	12/9	12/9	12/3
Do. South	3⅛	1⅛	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 15/16	9 13/16	5 1/16	8 5/16	8½	8 1/16
Hainault	1¾	⅜	¼	5/16	7/16	1/2
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10⅛	6⅜	7 11/16	7⅞	7 11/16
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/16	⅛	5/16	⅜	5/16
Kalgurli	9⅛	4½	2 1/16	5⅜	5½	5⅜
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1½	1 7/16	1½
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 15/16	1 3/16	½	8/6	8/6	8/6
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	5/9	5/3	5/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅝	3 5/16	3 3/16
Peak Hill	5⅜	2⅝	⅝	4/6	5/6	¼
Sons of Gwalia	6 3/16	2 9/16	1	2	1 15/16	2
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¼	1 3/16	1 5/16	1
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 15/16	⅜	13/32	9/16	5/8

New Issue.

The following prospectus has been published:—

Quebec and Lake St. John Railway.—Issue of £75,000 Four per Cent. Prior Lien bonds, part of a total authorised amount of £500,000, of which £200,000 has already been issued. The bonds are offered at 87½ per cent.

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

A. G.—For a high return, coupled with reasonably good security, the Japanese Six per Cent. bonds are very desirable. They are secured upon the Customs' revenue, which is more than ample for the service of the loan. The only objection I can see to them is that, with a costly and lengthy war on, Japan will almost certainly have to issue further loans, and they will have the effect of weakening even the best of the existing issues. After the war, no doubt there will be a good recovery in spite of the fact that the bonds run for only a limited series of years. *X. L., Hull.*—You cannot obtain anything like 5 per cent. with "absolute" security—3½, or, at the most, 3¾ per cent. is the most that may be commanded on this basis. As you desire 5 per cent., I suggest Chinese Fives (1896), Mexican Fives, Japanese Sixes (concerning which see reply to the preceding correspondent), Egyptian State Domain, Argentine Funding, and Chilian 1886 bonds. *Jules.*—1. Costa Ricas seem to me to be a mighty poor gamble. 2. Peruvian Preference stock has had a big rise, and as you have a nice profit, I suggest that you take it, especially as the forthcoming report is not likely to fulfil the vaticinations of those who have been working up the stock recently. *Ranker.*—You could realise in South Africa without trouble, whether you buy here or there. The stock would suit you admirably, and I do not know a better one in the circumstances. *Onyx.*—The Bulgarian Six per Cent. bonds (1888) might be held.

Railways.

Monte Carlo.—1. There is no reasonable doubt that the Grand Trunk First Preference dividend will be paid for the whole of the current year. It will be due in April. 2. Mashonaland Railway First Debentures are all right to hold. *Freshwater.*—1. Isle of Wight Railway Preference stock would give a yield of 3⅜ per cent. 2. North London Railway Ordinary stock is not attractive at the current price, having regard to the competition and the rather considerable decline in earnings. The 1866 Preference stock may be held, as it is a long way from being endangered. *Lytton.*—Speculatively, Grand Trunk Third Preference makes a hopeful purchase at the current price. There is likely to be an appreciable improvement before the end of the year, and in the new year the recovery should make further headway, because comparisons will be with the very lean figures of the earlier months of the current period. But you should not buy for a dividend in respect of 1904; the extraordinary influences of last winter have knocked that on the head. *Berkeley.*—You might hold the New York Centrals as an investment. *Len.*—Great Western, North-Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and South-Western Preferred stocks might be bought. *Chemist, Wakefield.*—1. The Mexican Southern will not be in the least degree affected by the break up of the "pool." The Company will probably declare a dividend of 4½ per cent. on the Ordinary stock, which ought to go to par. 2. Probably the full year's dividend will be paid on the Grand Trunk Second Preference stock, but, as you may see from the earnings to date, there is a chance that only a portion may be distributed. *Araby.*—If you will consult my article of November 3 again you will see that I said nothing about Mexican Southern First Preference stock. You are evidently confusing it with the Mexican Railway First Preference—which is quite another thing. *Arthur.*—You might exchange into Great Western Ordinary stock if the Home Railway market does not develop activity within the next month or two.

Mines.

Old Friend.—1. October has one working day more than September because the mills run on Sundays. 2. An active market will carry Randfonteins and the others above the figures named by you. 3. Hendersons are supposed to want more capital, but the directors some little time ago denied the truth of this report. *City Man.*—Nile Valleys are likely to be taken in hand before long, provided conditions are favourable. United African Explorations might be added. *Tramp.*—Orange Diamonds ought to have a further rise—say to the figure at which you bought, or higher—as I understand that developments are encouraging. *R. H. W., Wakefield.*—Anacondas have already had a good improvement, and though they may go still higher, they are not likely to come into much favour on this side, as interest in the shares has died out since the mines passed into the hands of the Copper Combine and a policy of secrecy was adopted. *Northern.*—Ask the secretary to explain why the sections of the Act relating to the rights of dissentient shareholders did not apply. To me it looks like a bit of bluff. *Red Rose.*—I am

unable to obtain further information. The offer to find a purchaser at 1s. per share might be ignored. The concern has a bad name. *Croydon.*—By joining the reconstruction I fear that you will be throwing good money away. The other share ought to be sold, as the Company is not doing well, and not likely to do so. *Withington.*—The new subsidiaries will be brought out when the labour supply is increased, and conditions in the Kaffir market are more favourable. As you can see for yourself, these conditions are improving rapidly. *A. W., Taunton.*—South Geldenhuis Deep, East Rand Deep, and South Rose Deep, with Simmer and Jack West if you want a fourth. *Kumassi.*—Presteas and Bibianis might be kept, but get rid of the others, which are worthless. *Perplexed.*—Sons of Gwalia are worth taking up to hold for a 10s. rise. *Havant.*—The Long Reef Company is to be wound up, the property having passed into the possession of mortgagees. New Hillgroves are not very promising. *Boulogne.*—1. Keep the Treasury shares. 2. Simmer and Jack is a good proposition, but (3) Wassaus are doubtful owing to the lack of official information concerning working expenses. *Premier.*—I would not sell the South Africans, which are of the good sort, just when things are on the point of turning. Premier Diamonds are attractive, of course, but at 50 they are tolerably high. You should have thought about buying them when I drew attention to their speculative merits at the time the price was under 30. *H. H.*—I believe that the noble lord is a considerable holder of shares in one of the American Exploration Company's syndicates, but, with yourself, I do not regard that as any reason why others should throw their money away, since he is no authority on Californian gold mining. In TRUTH of the 3rd inst. and the preceding week. I dealt at much length with the whole business, and recommended shareholders to insist upon having their money back. It would be well if shareholders could combine and take action. *Kuroki.*—Oceanas, Nigel Deeps, and Mines Proprietary might be kept, and possibly London and West Australian Explorations. The others are hopeless. *Nikola.*—Rand Collieries would suit, but if you see a fair profit take it and do not hold on for the six months. *Rexo.*—1. The concern has an indifferent reputation, and probably neither bought nor sold the stock on your account, but you cannot ascertain that definitely. Fight it rather than be done. 2. Hold the Copiapo shares. *Bosco.*—I do not anticipate an improvement in the shares. *Wax.*—Harmony Proprietaries and Niekirks would suit you. *Muscle.*—I do not recommend any of the shares for a rise in about a month. *Star.*—Recent development work has been unsatisfactory, and you had better sell. I should recommend Rand Collieries, concerning whose prospects I have something to say this week. *Cantab.*—Makes a fair lock-up in view of the recent discoveries at the 600 ft. level. *Anxious, Hove.*—1. Should go to 5½ or 6. 2. Good to keep for 3½ in view of the revival in Rhodesians. 3. A highly promising speculation, and the shares should touch 7 on a good market. *Ayr.*—1. Rhodesian Bankets are talked up to 6. If you get a chance of realising at 5, do not neglect it. 2. I do not advise a purchase. *Micmac.*—Probably about the end of February. Accept my thanks for the cuttings.

Miscellaneous.

Kathleen.—The concern's methods are not safe, and you would be well advised to leave it alone. *Forceps, Hull.*—Not being able to trace the concern, and knowing nothing about it, I regret I am unable to advise you in the absence of further particulars. *Whitaker.*—These German lottery circulars are undoubtedly a nuisance, but, as I have said before, if every recipient would promptly send them to the Postmaster-General, he might be induced to adopt more stringent measures for their suppression. *E. H. S.*—Its business is more in the nature of a moneylending establishment than a bank proper, and I do not consider it safe or reliable. Put your money into the custody of some reliable concern. *B. P. W.*—I recollect replying to your previous query. Do not be gulled by the utterance of any sugar-tongued agent. The institution is not safe, and I have had numerous complaints about it. *Lewis, Cork.*—The advertisement is grossly misleading, and it would be to your advantage to have no dealings whatever with the Company. Ignore their communications. *What About Enclosed.*—For poor people who have saved money to endeavour to augment it by dabbling in cotton "futures," it would be more risky than bearding a starving lion. *Done.*—I believe the Company is still in existence somewhere, but I have no information about what it is doing. *Edward.*—You say you are inclined to believe the concern a fraud, and you are quite right, and should persuade your wife from having any dealings whatever. *San Toy.*—Gas Light and Coke stocks make a good progressive investment. Its bye-products are becoming more valuable month by month, and, with fogs so prevalent, the consumption of gas is increasing, despite the competition of electricity. *Berry Head.*—I am inclined to believe that it would be throwing good money after bad to join the reconstruction, as the Company's record is not an encouraging one. *Lee, Tynemouth.*—I have commented upon the methods of the concern in question before to-day, but may reiterate that you ought to have nothing whatever to do with it. It is one of the many swindling bucket shops which exist for the avowed purpose of relieving gullible fortune-hunters of their money. *Regular Reader.*—Many thanks for your thoughtfulness. The "magnanimity" is so plausible, not to say transparent, that the wonder is how anybody is taken in by the utterances. *Scarboro.*—I believe they are "square," but I do not recommend dealings with outside brokers. *Lottery, Leeds.*—It is neither sound, reliable, nor trustworthy. In fact, it is just the other extreme, and you ought to leave them to their own devices, else they will have your cash. *Pub.*—The Debentures rank before the Preference, and, in any case, if the proceeds of the new Preference issue is to be utilised for improving the business, I do not see how it can affect your holding. *C. L., Leeds.*—The concern is not safe, and beyond remarking that the high rate of interest offered is not compatible with the security of your principal, I do not think I need comment further. *Chink.*—I think you should hold on. The stock, like other brewery descriptions, has suffered from the depression occasioned by heavy realisation, but it ought to improve eventually. *Odontoglossum.*—I do not recommend any outside brokers. No. 2 is certainly not reliable. *Royal. Goole.*—Do not average. Conditions seem to be mending, and I think you might hold on to what you already possess. *Worker, Southsea.*—It is not safe to deal with the establishment named, and you ought to leave it severely alone. There is no scope for you with such a small sum, which would be safer and bring in more interest if entrusted with a savings bank. *A. Edin., C.* Would not recommend dealings. *Orange, Belfast.*—1. At the present price South Metropolitan yield almost 4¼ per cent. It is a good holding for investment. 2. I consider the Deferred worth picking up. It is true that the Port Bill has been dropped, but from the way things are shaping it seems likely to receive the full 4 per cent. this year. *An Inquirer, Limerick.*—1. Worth holding. 2. Doubtful. 3. They are the usual charges.

Mixed Investments.

Albany.—Chinese Fives, Japanese Sixes, Argentine Rescission bonds, Argentine Great Western Railway Preference, and B. A. Pacific First Preference Stocks would suit, and involve no particular risk, though you will understand that you cannot secure gilt-edged stocks to yield 5 per cent. *Orlando.*—1. I should recommend you to hold on to the New South Wales stock for the present. Japanese Fives are no doubt all right, but the country is engaged in a costly war the end of which cannot yet be foreseen, and it will probably be necessary to borrow more money; in which event the quotations of the existing securities are likely to suffer. 2. Keep the Ginsbergs, but do not buy more. *Stuart, Clifton.*—1. The Neuchatel Asphaltes might be held. 2. I see no reason why the Tea shares should be sold. 3. Plummer Roddis Preference shares are a good industrial holding. *Johnnie, Ross-on-Wye.*—The Kinloch Ordinary and Bovril Deferred should be kept, but the outlook for the others is more than a little doubtful, and you might sell. *Erimus.*—I should choose Argentine Great Western Preference, Grand Trunk First Preference, City of Mexico Five per Cent. bonds, Newcastle Breweries Debentures, and Armstrong Whitworth Ordinary. *Sark.*—1. Philadelphia and Reading Six per Cent. bonds are safe to hold. 2. The bonds are good. *Truro.*—1. Hold on to the North British Railway Four per Cent. Convertible Preference stock. 2. P. and O. Deferred is all right to keep for investment. *Victor.*—1. Calico Printers may harden further with conditions in the cotton trade, which seem assured, but as you have a good profit you should consider the advisability of taking it. 2. Moss's Ordinary shares are a fair purchase at the current price. *High Jinks.*—1. Millwall Dock Ordinary stands at 34, and I think it would be advisable to realise and put the proceeds into something which pays dividends. 2. Kimberley Waterworks are quoted at 4¾. Worth keeping. 3. Cape Town or Johannesburg Funds would make a good investment, bringing in rather more than 4 per cent. *Bream.*—1. If you will tell me what are the terms of the trust I shall be able to advise you in regard to United Railways of Havana. 2. The brokers are well reputed. 3. The two South American Railway stocks ought to be higher. *Sea Surgeon.*—1. As investments, B. A. Water and Queensland Threes are to be recommended, but Wm. Hill Ordinary shares come into another category. 2. The three are hopeful speculations, especially Tanganyika Concessions, but as these are moving upwards, buy promptly if at all, and be satisfied if you can get out with a fair profit. *Chubbler.*—I should prefer No. 2, as No. 1 is very much over-capitalised, like most of the textile combines. No. 3 will probably keep up, as iron trade conditions are improving, and its position is already a strong one. But if you have a decent profit you would not be blameworthy if you were to take it, as there are promising stocks in other markets.

Industrials Less Active—General Tendency Uncertain—Anglo-American Telegraphs Picking Up Again—Trust Stocks—Breweries Less Depressed—Textiles—Lyons and Slaters—Traction Group Firm—Darracq Motor Showing—Gas Light and Coke—Cunards and the End of the Rate War.

The disquieting political rumours prevalent have been quite sufficient to act as a momentary deterrent to the somewhat tardily-growing confidence of the outside public, and as a consequence they have not displayed much interest in the Industrial market during the past week. Investment business, in fact, is coming along in only moderate proportions, and, apart from their attraction to specialties, even the market operators have been somewhat quiescent. The general tendency, too, is somewhat uncertain in the absence of important developments, and in the Telegraph division Anglo-Americans have suffered rather acutely from profit-taking conse-

quent upon their recent outburst of activity, though the clique who were responsible for the initial move are still affording some support, and the Deferred or "A" stock finishes well above the worst after a week of excited and irregular movements. The Company's other issues, too, are tolerably firm, while Easterns, Eastern Extensions, Direct U.S. Cable, and one or two others improved in sympathy. The quiet demand for Trust stocks is well maintained, and amongst the many others which have registered further small improvements may be mentioned Gas, Water, and General Investment, Alliance Bankers Preferred, Metropolitan Atlas, and Foreign and Colonial. The improving process which Brewery descriptions have been endeavouring to simulate for a long time past seems to be becoming a little more manifest week by week as the selling pressure gradually lessens. Ind, Coope, and Hodgson's Kingston Breweries, however, remain dull spots, but on the other hand, Cannons, Northamptons, Bullard and Sons, and, in a lesser degree, Allsopps, present a firmer appearance, while, the worst being at last known and realised to the full, Showells have come in for a little attention, and have rallied. The American group displayed less lifelessness, as a result of some bidding for St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Denver United. Iron and Steel shares are less conspicuous, and, the recent advances causing some profit-taking, both Armstrongs and Vickers displayed a little dulness, though they finished rather better. Dorman Longs reacted on the passing of the dividend. Robert Stephenson issues, for an exception, remained firm throughout, and William Cory shares, together with Ebbw Vales and Bolckow Vaughans show a slight improvement. Textiles have not come in for much attention, and Coats drooped slightly in the absence of any further support from the North. The Fine Spinners' dividend, at the rate of 4 per cent., as against 6 per cent., was regarded in some quarters as unsatisfactory, and the shares suffered somewhat in consequence, though it came to be generally recognised that in view of the widespread depression in the cotton districts the showing could not be cavilled at. In the "Bunshop" class, J. Lyons developed a slightly easier tendency, despite the usual interim dividend announcement at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, while Slaters, on the other hand, showed to better advantage for a similar reason, the declaration being at the rate of 22 per cent. per annum, making 16 per cent. for the year. Liptons remained on offer, but James Nelsons came in for renewed attention, and moved upwards rather sharply, while other Meat shares were without feature. Traction shares are still favoured by investors, London General Omnibus scoring an advance of five points to 125½, though a little reaction subsequently brought them down to 124½. London United Trams were not neglected, and Road Cars maintained their higher level. Anglo-Argentine Trams still keep creeping upwards, the idea being that the Company will not fail to benefit by the prosperity of the country, and there was a slight demand for Calcutta Trams, while, on the other hand again, British Electric Tractions do not show so well. Darracq Motor shares did not fail to respond to the more encouraging showing in the report, at £112,300 the net profit being more than £12,000 greater than for the previous year, which admits of an additional dividend of 2s. 6d. per share on the Ordinary, making 4s. as against 2s. 6d., while in addition to the appropriation of £50,000 for enlarging the works and plant, there is an available balance of £35,500, or £15,000 more than a year ago. Among Lighting descriptions, Charing Cross Electrics are marked higher, but Gas Light and Coke issues are not quite so firm. Market operators have not failed to recognise that the ending of the Atlantic rate war ought to have an appreciable effect upon the earnings of the Shipping Companies, even though the cream of the wanderers to the New World have availed themselves of the lower charges, and both the fully and partly-paid shares of the Cunard line are almost a point higher on balance. Elder Dempster debentures, too, sympathised, but on the other hand, Royal Mails remain in the slough of depression, and stand no better than 18, holders evidently not liking the idea of handing over more money, despite the better prospects of the Company. Among Dock stocks, Millwalls continued to creep up again, and Surrey Commercial improved, but India Deferred moved somewhat irregularly. Nitrates have come in for renewed attention. Hudson's Bays are not quite so firm, and Pekin Syndicates are also somewhat easier, while Deccans were supported on the strength of rumours that the Hutti Mine, in which the concern is largly interested, is doing well. Sweetmeat Automatics continue dull in tone.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

THE VICAR AND THE CURATE.

[The circumstances related in the following story occurred several years ago in the West of England. But its publication strikes me as being peculiarly apposite at the present time.—THE AUTHOR.]

THE Rev. Athanasias Libstock, M.A., Vicar of Rudgehill, and rural dean of the district, was a Tory parson of the good old crusted type—such as still survives here and there in country neighbourhoods. His theology was the theology of the Middle Ages. He insisted, without qualification, on the verbal and literal interpretation of every phrase in the Scriptures. Geology notwithstanding, he made, for instance, the word for word accuracy of the first chapter of Genesis a *sine quâ non*. That the earth was created in seven days of twenty-four hours he held indisputable, and to dispute it was, in his opinion, rank heresy.

"All Scripture," was his favourite dictum, "stands or falls together. Take away Moses, and all the rest goes, too. Deny Jonah and the whale, and you deny the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation."

And he meant it. Moreover, he consigned to the flames of eternal perdition all who were disposed to take a more spiritual and liberal view.

Now, the Rev. Athanasius had an only daughter—by name Dorcas—a pretty, mild-tempered girl of some nineteen summers, whose attitude towards her father was one of unlimited awe and obedience. He had also a curate, a young fellow of about five-and-twenty, named Charles Badgworth, who, as was in the nature of things, lost his heart to pretty Dorcas Libstock. In due course, he professed his love, was accepted, and, with the vicar's consent, became engaged to Dorcas. The Rev. Athanasius, in fact, regarded the affair with distinct satisfaction. Badgworth was good-looking, well-connected, and gentlemanly; in addition, he had a private fortune of £400 a year. So, as curates go, he was not so dusty.

But Charles Badgworth had not been engaged to Dorcas many weeks before he put his foot into it with a vengeance.

It was on a Septuagesima Sunday. Badgworth preached at the evening service. He took for his subject the lesson for the day—the story of Adam and Eve, as related in the second chapter of Genesis. And, not being aware of the awful offence he was thereby committing, he mooted the possibility of the story's being a beautiful allegory, and was proceeding to expatiate upon it from that point of view, when the vicar, stern, majestic, and blazing with wrath, rose in his seat.

"Stop!" he exclaimed, as he pointed a denouncing finger at the curate. "I will not have infidelity preached from my pulpit. It is the fashion nowadays to throw doubts on Moses, but that fashion shall find no countenance here. I take my stand, and always shall continue to take it, on the faith of my fathers. We will now sing hymn number——"

The hymn was sung. The blessing was pronounced, and the congregation, passing out of church, lingered in the churchyard, in little knots, discussing with excited interest the scene they had just witnessed.

"I says as the yong chap's right," declared one burly farmer, with whom Badgworth was a favourite. "No one's a-going to make I believe as woman was really took out o' a mon's side."

"Then how comes it, varmer," answered another, who upheld the literal view, "as a mon hev woanly nine rib and a woman ten. Answer me that!" he demanded, triumphantly.

The farmer was nonplussed by this problem, even as the Royal Society's sages were nonplussed by Charles the Second's problem about the bowl and the goldfishes. It never occurred to him to suppose that his opponent might be wrong in his facts.

"Dunno nothing about you, but ee won't make I believe as woman was took out o' a man's side," he repeated, obstinately. "I'm ready to believe a good deal, I am; but that's one too many for my understandin'."

"If ee believes woanly what ee understands, varmer, ee won't believe much," rejoined the other.

"And if ee believes all that ee doan't understan', I hreckon ee'll hev to believe a good deal," retorted the farmer.

But while these rustics in the churchyard were thus disposing of the matter by the *argumentum ad hominem*—that time-honoured refuge of the ignorant—young Badgworth in the vestry was receiving a severe wigging from the vicar.

The Reverend Athanasius was white with anger. In his irate eyes burned a thousand potential Smithfields.

"How dare you refer to the history of our first parents as an allegory?" he demanded.

"Many enlightened thinkers——" began Charles Badgworth.

"Enlightened atheists," interrupted the vicar, in withering tones.

"There is no question of atheism," answered the curate, warmly. "I believe most firmly in all the essential truths of Christianity. But, with many modern students of the Bible, I am compelled to the belief that much of the language of the Old Testament is the language of imagery——"

"It is no such thing," thundered the vicar. "The Bible is to be interpreted literally, from first to last. It all hangs together. You cannot impugn the accuracy of any one part of it without impugning the accuracy of the whole. Refuse to accept the statements of Moses as historical facts and you *ipso facto* refuse to accept the statements of the Evangelists as historical facts."

"I cannot see it," answered Badgworth.

"No; because your eyes are blinded by the devil," retorted the vicar.

"If you are going to take that line," replied Badgworth, growing heated in his turn; "it is useless for me to argue the point with you any further."

"Quite useless," answered the vicar. "I decline to tamper with infidelity by listening to any of your sophistical and free-thinking arguments. And let me further tell you, young man, that unless you will promise to recant your heresy publicly, in the pulpit, next Sunday, and express contrition for it——"

"I shall certainly do nothing of the kind. I do not admit the heresy."

"Very well, then. You shall take no further part in the ministrations of my parish. And you may consider that your engagement as my curate terminates from this moment."

"I have been licensed by the Bishop. I am responsible to him," retorted Badgworth.

"I shall lay all the facts before him and request him to withdraw your licence," answered the vicar. "You are not a fit person to be in orders. Let me also add that everything between you and my daughter Dorcas must now cease. I would rather see her in her grave than married to an infidel."

"This is unjust; it is absurd——"

"That is for me to decide. Dorcas will send you back all your letters and presents to-morrow. Now kindly leave the church. I have nothing more to say to you."

Next day, sure enough, Charles Badgworth received a bulky package containing all his letters and presents to Dorcas, accompanied by a brief, tear-stained little note, in which she put an end to their engagement.

One sentence in the note ran as follows:—

I am very sorry; but as a true and faithful Christian I have no alternative; remembering, as I do, the words of St. Paul: "Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers."

"That's not Dorcas," commented Charles Badgworth, as he read it; "that's the vicar. I can see him standing over her while she wrote it at his dictation. Well, one thing is certain. I am not going to acquiesce in this treatment without a protest. I must consider what is best to be done."

Two days later, while out walking, he met Dorcas. She looked frightened, and made an effort to avoid him; but he would not let her do so.

"Dorcas!" he exclaimed.

"Oh, Mr. Badgworth!—Charlie—please don't stop me. Papa has forbidden me even to bow to you. He will be terribly angry if ——"

"I won't keep you half a minute. But just tell me this. Did you break off our engagement by your own wish?"

"N-no," faltered Dorcas.

"Well, if I can induce your father to change his mind ——"

"Oh, Charlie! If you only could. You know how overjoyed I should be. But I am afraid there is no chance of that, seeing what papa is," answered Dorcas, beginning to cry.

"I think it might be managed, darling. But, in the meanwhile, have I the assurance that you are still true to me in spirit?"

"You know you have that assurance, Charlie. I shall never love any one but you."

"Then I believe we shall come out on the top, in spite of your father, darling," answered Badgworth, as he bade her good-bye.

He walked back to his lodgings engrossed in thought. Things were beginning to shape themselves in his fertile brain.

En route, he called on his friend Farmer Biffin—the burly agriculturist who had espoused his cause in the churchyard on the previous Sunday.

"Biffin," he said, "I want you to do me a favour."

"What bea that, then?" inquired the good-natured farmer. "If so bea as it's in my power I'll do un, and welcome, Mester Badgworth."

"I want you, Biffin, to go round to the vicar and ask him to oblige you with the loan of £25," said Badgworth.

Farmer Biffin stared at him, bewildered.

"What be I to borry twenty-five pun from the vicar vor?" he demanded. "'Taint my habit to borry money from no mon. Besides, I doan't need to borry; what's more, the vicar, he woulden a-lend me anything if I did. He's not that sart. He's a good mon, in his way, is the vicar. But no one can't call him open-handed."

"I am perfectly aware of that, and it is the very reason why I wish you to apply to him," answered Badgworth.

Then he proceeded to explain in detail to the astonished farmer the precise reasons for his strange request.

Farmer Biffin's astonishment gave place to intense amusement. He laughed till the tears ran down his red cheeks.

"You'm a cure, Mester Badgworth," he chuckled. "You'm a cure, and no mistake. But, seein' as your object's what it is, I'll du un vur ee; aye, I'll du un vur ee, Mester Badgworth."

"Thank you. I'm awfully obliged. And will you come round to my rooms on your way back from the Vicarage and tell me how you have fared?"

"I knows, in a general way, how I shall vare avorehand," replied the farmer. "But I'll cer'nly come round and tell ee partik'lars."

So, about two hours later, he appeared at Badgworth's lodgings and gave him an account of his interview with the vicar.

"I begins," he said, "by a-telling of him as I was in

trouble, and he begin by being quite kind and sympathetic. But I when hints at a little loan of £25, he freezes up at once, and tells I, quite rude like, as he never lends money. Then he gets up from his chair and shows I out."

"Good," smiled Charles Badgworth. "Well, I'm sure I'm awfully obliged to you for your services, Biffin ——"

"Doan't ee mention un, zurr. You'm kindly welcome," interposed the farmer. "You'll rub it into the vicar about the literal interpretation of scriptur', woan't ee, Mester Badgworth?" he added, with a chuckle.

"Oh, yes, I'll rub it in," answered Badgworth. "Trust me for that, Biffin."

So when Biffin was gone, Charles Badgworth took a postcard, and wrote on it as follows:—

Vide Matt. v., 42.

This short and sweet missive he sent by post to the Rev. Athanasius Libstock.

That gentleman, when he received it, turned up Matthew v. 42, where he read this:—

Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.

His face grew very red, and his expression denoted extreme irritation and anger. He was not a man of very acute perceptions. But he could not fail to see that Farmer Biffin must have told Badgworth of his refusal to help him with a loan, and that Badgworth had seized the opportunity to rub it into him by an adroit reference to the literal text of Scripture.

He muttered an unclerical phrase, tore the postcard savagely into many pieces, and flung it into the waste-paper basket.

Next day, as he was walking down the village street, he met another farmer, Stubbard by name, an ill-conditioned Radical of a fellow, whose farm adjoined the vicar's glebe, and with whom he had lately had an unpleasant altercation on the subject of boundary fences.

Stubbard appeared to have been drinking; at any rate, he was in an abusive and quarrelsome mood. He accosted the vicar rudely, used some rather insulting language to him, and finally raised his hand as if threatening personal violence.

Now the vicar, who was a powerful, athletic man, being much exasperated, clenched his fist, and squaring up to the farmer, promised him a severe thrashing unless he made himself scarce at once; and the farmer, seeing that he meant it, and knowing that the vicar was a stronger man than he, promptly dropped his hectoring attitude, and shambled discreetly off.

Whether Charles Badgworth had had any hand in arranging this matter, I cannot say. At any rate, he heard all about it. Witness the fact that next morning the vicar received the following postcard in his ex-curate's handwriting:—

Vide Luke vi., 29.

As the vicar looked up the reference and read: "To him that smiteth thee on the one cheek turn also the other," his face was a study.

He was now beginning to realise, in a vague sort of way, that the man who commits himself to the word for word interpretation of Scripture commits himself to a good deal.

But this was only the beginning of his troubles. Charles Badgworth had set himself to keep a close eye on the vicar's daily behaviour, and on every occasion when that behaviour did not harmonise with the literal precepts of Scripture, he reminded the vicar of the fact by an allusive postcard. The result was that agreeable little reminders of this character reached the Rev. Athanasius by nearly every post, until at length, he positively dreaded to hear the postman's knock. On one occasion, for instance, when the vicar was sued by a neighbour for damage done to his crops by the reverend gentleman's pigs, and he defended the action, he was referred by Badgworth, on a postcard, to Matt. v. 40. On another occasion, when the Reverend Athanasius's name appeared in the published list of the local cottage-hospital, his attention was pointedly called to Matt. vi. 1, and so on. At length it became unbearable. It got on his nerves. He could stand it no longer.

He went to Charles Badgworth in sheer desperation, and exclaimed:

"Look here, Badgworth. Take your allegorical theories about Adam and Eve; take my daughter; take anything you will; but, for Heaven's sake worry me with no more of your Scriptural postcards!"

So the curate (who was reinstated in his curacy, and subsequently married Dorcas) was left in peace to put a free construction on the second chapter of Genesis; while the vicar was left in peace to put an equally free construction on the fifth and sixth chapters of the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

MUSIC.

THE ART OF CONDUCTING.

QUITE the most interesting of recent events has been the reappearance in London of Herr Nikisch. This famous conductor does not visit us too often, and the thanks of one and all are certainly due to the London Symphony Orchestra for giving us the opportunity of enjoying his incomparable art again. It is getting on for ten years now since Nikisch first came among us, though many will recall the occasion readily enough. That visit was paid in the summer of 1895, and the concert was the first of a series organised by Mr. Daniel Mayer. Already Nikisch had made his name, of course; still, it was only natural that we thought hardly so much of him then as now. I recall, indeed, that it was this very concert that elicited one of the wittiest and most impudent, as it was certainly the concisest, concert notice on record. This was penned by a clever musician, who has since left the ranks of musical journalism for the more unfettered pursuit of his calling as conductor and composer, and consisted of three words: "Oh, that oboe!" If Nikisch ever had his attention called to this original essay in musical criticism, he must certainly have been amused, while finding consolation, doubtless, for its exiguous limits in the more generous estimates of his abilities which appeared elsewhere. But since those days his fame has grown apace, and doubtless his powers have developed also. The world in general, too, has learned more of the conductor's art in the intervening years than it knew at that date. It needs something of an effort, indeed, to realise what a comparatively recent birth of time is this art of the conductor by which we nowadays set such store—though, of course, it goes a good deal further back than many might suppose.

As long ago as 1869 we find Wagner writing his famous essay, "Ueber das Dirigiren," which might fairly be reckoned the starting point of the art as it is practised to-day; and writing therein with a detailed knowledge of his subject and grasp of all its bearings which not all the specialised labours of such later practitioners of the art as Richter, Levi, Von Bülow, Mottl, Weingartner, Nikisch, and the rest have much advanced upon. But thirty-five years is not taking us very far into the "backward and abysm of time." The two prime functions of the orchestral chief, said Wagner in this essay, are (1) to discover the right tempo, and (2) to seek out the *melos* of the music and place it in its proper light. But only a correct conception of the *melos*, he was careful to add, can give the proper tempo—the two being indivisible, and the one conditioning the other. Nikisch, I suspect, has much of the qualities as conductor which distinguished Wagner—not only his keen sense of the *melos* and its proper tempo, but also his prodigious enthusiasm, his feeling for the right relationship of part to part and details to wholes, and his perception of the song-like character of all symphonic music. It was significant in this connection to find him saying in an interesting interview which appeared in the *Daily News*, "There must be that expression to make the music sing. All music is more or less a big song." That is the Wagnerian

theory of conducting in a single sentence; and, what is more, it is completely realised by Nikisch in practice. Yet there is no exaggeration or obvious straining after effects. It is the delicacy and restraint as much as the power and the passion of his playing which go to account for the effects which he produces. The most telling results are obtained in the least demonstrative fashion, because all have been so carefully prepared. Like the successful general who knows always what is on the other side of the hill, Nikisch knows always what is on the other side of the page, and of many pages beyond, and acts accordingly. In the result you follow him with extraordinary interest, but at the end it is by no means easy to say precisely where or when his reading of a given work differed from others, and, if the truth must be told, a good deal of nonsense is too often talked by those who profess the power to do this.

It is, in fact, astonishing what fine-drawn distinctions some well-meaning folk profess to perceive where rival conductors—or any other kind of *virtuosi* for that matter—are concerned. Not only do they recall every *nuance* of the performance immediately under discussion, but, more remarkable still, they retain an equally vivid impression of some other performance of the same work given six months or twelve months previously, and contrast and compare and distinguish between the one and the other in a manner truly wonderful. The fact of the matter is that these super-subtle distinctions exist for the most part only in the imagination of the hearers. One performance of the C Minor symphony by a first-rate conductor is surprisingly like another performance of the same work by another first-rate conductor, and in nine cases out of ten your super-subtle analyst who finds such marvellous differences between this, that, and the other "reading" would be hopelessly unable to say which was which if the conductors were concealed from view. This is not to say, of course, that all conducting is alike. Far from it. Conducting, like every other art, is of various orders of excellence, but it cannot accomplish the miracles ascribed to it by some. The "Tannhäuser" overture as played by Nikisch differs in no essential respect from a performance of the same work by any other good conductor. Nikisch's performance will be merely a better one than others because in a purely musical sense the work will be better played—just as a song may be better delivered by one singer than by another, but remains always the same song. But this is by no means to belittle the functions of the conductor. It is merely to define the limits within which they are necessarily exercised—and by none with more consummate skill than that displayed by Nikisch.

The San Carlo season at Covent Garden comes to an end this week, and every one will be sincerely sorry. Whatever the financial results have been, and information on this head will be learned with no little interest, the artistic success of the venture has been indisputable, and the hope is widespread that another year may see a similar season arranged. It has certainly been shown conclusively that the London public is quite prepared to support grand opera, when offered good performances at reasonable prices, and it remains for those whom it concerns to take note of the circumstance, and lay their plans accordingly. Meanwhile the excellence of the present performances is being maintained to the end. During the past week the reappearance of M. Maurel has been an event of no little interest, and though it would be flattery to suggest that the famous French baritone's voice is any longer what it once was he retains all his old distinction of style and rare ability as an actor, and as it is hardly necessary to say received the heartiest of welcomes at the hands of his old admirers. "Rigoletto" was the work which he chose for the occasion, while to-morrow (Thursday) he will resume his old part of Iago in "Otello."

Another old friend has re-appeared with no less success in the person of Signor Ancona, as Scarpia in "La Tosca" and Telramund in "Lohengrin," a charming Elsa being found in the case of the last-named work in Mme. Wayda, a singer of Polish extraction, who did well also as Marguerite in "Faust." Signor Amato is another newcomer who has proved himself, as Michonnet in "Adriana Lecouvreur," a thoroughly competent artist. The projected revival of "Il Barbiere" has apparently been dropped, but this is almost the only respect in which the Company has failed to fulfil its original intentions, while for many at least there would be an even more attractive substitute in the "command" performance in honour of the King and Queen of Portugal. This will take place on Friday evening, and will serve to round off the six weeks' season in a brilliant and memorable fashion.

Apart from the appearance of Nikisch at the head of the London Symphony Orchestra, recent concerts have been numerous rather than important. Pianists have been particularly active. M. Delafosse was the best of the bunch, perhaps, with a recital at St. James's Hall, which proved him once again a very accomplished player. Miss Mary B. MacNair, Miss Agnes Gardner Eyre, and Miss Elsie Horne have also been heard in this capacity—the programme of the last-named including a set of attractive preludes by one Pachulski, a composer whose name is entirely unfamiliar in this part of the world. The Bohemian Quartet has been heard again at one of the Broadwood concerts, giving Borodin's quartet in D, among other things, superlatively well; while Father Bernard Vaughan easily beat all the regulation concert-givers by the galaxy of talent which he rallied to the cause of charity at the Albert Hall on Thursday. Kubelik was indeed a disappointment here, but Sarasate with rare magnanimity took his place; so that with Patti, Miss Ada Crossley, Mr. Santley, and others also giving of their best, a huge audience was hugely satisfied.

Reference has been made in these columns more than once of late to the multiplicity of the demands which are made upon the resources of the music-loving philanthropist. The latest cause on whose behalf such aid has been invoked is, of all things—voice production! "Mrs. Carlisle-Carr," I read, "gave the second of two demonstrations of her system of voice culture at the Bechstein Hall," and "expressed the hope that some beneficent person would start in London a national institution for the cultivation of breathing and natural voice production, which should be followed later by the establishment of similar schools in the provinces." Voice production is doubtless an important subject, but it is certainly a highly controversial one. Perhaps, indeed, there is no question which is capable of eliciting such diverse opinions and engendering such bitter passions. The differences of politics and religion fade into nothingness by contrast with those which are seemingly inseparable from the study of this thorny subject. On this account alone, therefore, he would certainly be a rash man who ventured to endow in the manner proposed any one of the innumerable "systems" for which infallibility is claimed as the only true and proper vocal method—even assuming him convinced on general grounds of the utility of such a curious "national institution" as that suggested.

It has often been remarked that musicians as a class are not distinguished—in London at all events—by their clubable or convivial qualities. Wherefore, it will be noted by many with satisfaction, that an organisation exists, and has enjoyed a prosperous career now for several years, which goes to show that at least there are exceptions to the general rule. This is the King Cole Club, a body which finds no sort of incompatibility between music and good cheer, although hitherto they seem to have been singularly indisposed to take the outer world into their confidence. Now, however, it would appear from a contemporary (*Musical News*) that a change of policy is contemplated, and will find shape in a public performance of no less considerable a work than "Le Nozze di Figaro," which will be given by the

HAVANA CIGARS.—"The 'BOLIVAR' is the FINEST CIGAR I have seen in the new crop. The aroma reminds one of the GOOD OLD CROPS of BACK YEARS."—Havana Correspondent of *Tobacco*.

club at the Portman Rooms on December 13. Mr. A. W. Payne will conduct, there will be a first-class professional orchestra, thirty-five strong, mostly composed of members of the Club, a chorus of forty voices, and an excellent cast of soloists. After the second act there will be an interval for supper, whereby the convivial reputation of the club will be sustained; and it is even proposed to continue and finish the opera afterwards. Tickets for the performance, including the supper, price 6s., may be obtained of the Secretary, Mr. Jan Mulder, 22, Regent-street, W.

On the subject of subsidising young and promising composers, recently touched on in these notes, Mr. Josef Holbrooke, himself a young composer of signal promise, questions altogether the expediency of such proposals. If a young composer is worth his salt, he suggests, a millionaire, will be about the worst medicine possible to prescribe for him:—

> The young composer, like everybody young, naturally errs on the side of knowing too much; this, with a spice of laziness, can only be overcome by (1) hard work, (2) forgetting a little about oneself (very hard for egoists), (3) and "roughing it" at the start by touring with a comic opera company, a pantomime, or a circus, with a band of six. By experiencing all these things, we come back to see how all these are inevitable if one is to learn. I did not think this, of course, when I had to do it, but I see more now than I saw then. No, the "hard way," I feel sure, is the only way. . . . The Russian publisher Belaieff, who stands as the model for this grievance, has the credit of publishing an enormous amount of music; I venture to say that very little of it is worth going over twice. This is where the "evil" is; masterpieces are not found in this way.

It is refreshing to read such healthy opinions, especially when coming from one who might well have been excused for holding different views.

Musical critics as a class are not, perhaps unduly lacking in assurance. Yet occasionally they display astonishing diffidence in the expression of their opinions. A new work of importance is produced at a concert, for example, and you pick up a paper on the following day to find that every feature of the performance is discussed, save the very work regarding which the critic's opinion is looked for with some interest. One of the most curious instances of this which I have seen for some time was afforded in connection with the last Queen's Hall Symphony concert, at which, it will be remembered, Hugo Wolf's "Penthesilea" was produced. As the longest and most important work from Wolf's pen which has so far been heard in London, its performance was an event of unusual interest. Moreover it took place on a Saturday afternoon—an occasion which would seem to have left ample time for the expression of an opinion concerning it in Monday morning's paper. Yet this was the manner in which the work was disposed of by one of the most important London dailies:

> A symphonic poem "Penthesilea," by the late Victor Wolf, followed. There will certainly be other and better opportunities of discussing its qualities.

Only that and nothing more. What other and better opportunities the cautious writer had in view I cannot imagine, since it is quite likely, in point of fact, that the work will never be heard again in London. But even on the opposite assumption, why should the learned judge withhold his verdict in this tantalising fashion?

Still another prodigy is announced. His name is Mischa Elman. He is a Russian by birth, and according to the accounts of independent judges is amazingly gifted. Says one writer: "He has a finished technique, a rich, warm tone, and his interpretations are broad and ripe. . . . He manipulates the bow with the strength and ease and freedom of a master." We shall doubtless hear the youth in London in due season. Meanwhile, I venture to predict that in one respect at least that other prodigy of the period, Master Florizel von Reuter, is likely to remain unsurpassed—I allude neither to his violin playing, to his gifts as a composer, nor to his conducting, but to the manner in which he is advertised. Here is an extract from an article concerning him which recently appeared in the columns of the *Express*:—

> He has played in every capital in Europe with the exception of Madrid, and is on terms of personal friendship with most of the reigning monarchs. Quite simply he yesterday spoke to a representative of the *Express* of Queen Alexandra as "My sweetest Queen," and of "Carmen Sylva"—who is writing the libretto of his opera—as "My dearest Queen friend." Next to Florizel's great love for music comes his love for animals. "When I am not with my Kings and Queens in the capitals," he said yesterday, without an atom of affectation, "I am in the zoological gardens, I have been in the 'zoos' of Paris, Moscow, Berlin, Warsaw—oh, to all the 'zoos'!"

If anything more odious of this kind is capable of being produced, I trust it may never be my lot to come across it. Nor does it make the thing any less regrettable that the youth, as he showed again at his concert on Saturday, is indisputably a genius.

A number of well-known artists are giving their services in connection with the George Aspinall benefit concert which is to take place at the Bechstein Hall on Thursday evening, December 1. They include Mme. Hortense Paulsen, Miss Sobrino, Miss Louise Dale, Mr. Gregory Hast, Mr. Herbert Grover, Miss Helen Mar, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Charles Capper, Mr. Acton Bond, and many more, so that with the further assistance of the many influential folk who are giving their patronage to the entertainment a deserving cause should benefit substantially. Tickets may be obtained at the hall.

The new edition of "Grove," like the old one, is seemingly not to escape criticism. I have no space here to discuss the matter at length, but undoubtedly some of the points urged against the new edition have been justly taken. The article on Elgar, for one, is certainly inadequate, not so much for its omissions in matters of detail, but in respect of its whole tone and spirit. The writer was quite justified in taking a definite line on the subject of Elgar's music if he chose; but the article could at the same time have been much more carefully and exhaustively done. As it stands it has the air of a curiously haphazard and perfunctory piece of work. Perhaps it would have been as well if, under all the circumstances, the editor had entrusted this particular article to some other hand. In any case it cannot be reckoned a very satisfactory effort. The Brahms article, on the other hand, likewise by the editor, is all that could be wished. Berlioz is also treated in admirable style by Mr. W. H. Hadow, while Mr. Dannreuther's article on Chopin is much more complete and generally satisfactory than that which he contributed to the earlier edition.

In the case of Bach, Herr Maczewski's original article has been incorporated with the additional matter by Dr. Spitta, first published in the Appendix to the old edition, while in that of Beethoven, Sir George Grove's famous article has been retained, with such additions and alterations as he himself had designed. In this case it certainly would have been a pity to interfere with the original article, which, in many ways, could not possibly be bettered. At the same time, it might well have been supplemented by matter embodying some attempt at a more modern estimate of Beethoven's place in relation to the history of the art. Even in the case of Beethoven there has been a certain change of views since 1877. There was room here in fact for, in Nietzsche's famous phrase, a "transvaluation" of his genius in terms of current opinion. One fastens inevitably on points of criticism; but, space permitting, there is much also which might be praised. Signor Mazzucato contributes, for instance, an excellent article on Boïto, who was not separately treated at all in the first book, while Mrs. Newmarch's papers on Balakirev, Borodin, Dargomijsky, and Cui could not have been better done. In fact, of the new "Grove," as of the old, it may be said, to adapt a famous phrase, that it is "ower good for banning and ower bad for blessing."

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LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Morel's "King Leopold's Rule in Africa" (1) is a chamber of atrocious horrors with such grim ironic texts over its door as, *e.g.*, this extract of a letter from the King to his agents:—

> Our only programme, I am anxious to repeat, is the work of moral and material regeneration, and we must do this among a population whose degeneration in its inherited conditions it is difficult to measure. The many horrors and atrocities which disgrace humanity give way little by little before our intervention . . . each step forward made by our people must mark an improvement in the condition of the natives.

How "the many horrors and atrocities which disgrace humanity give way" before this beneficent Prince's intervention, you learn, not merely from missionaries like the Rev. Dugald Campbell, and British Consuls like Mr. Roger Casement, but from the confessions of the very agents themselves, to whom such edifying appeals are addressed:—

> Lacroix asserted, among other things, that he was instructed by his chief to massacre all the natives of a certain village. Twenty-two women and two children were killed, and two other women who were fleeing in a canoe were drowned. The massacre had been ordered because the village had been slow in bringing in rubber. On another occasion Lacroix's chief had put sixty women in chains, nearly all of whom had been allowed to die of starvation because the village to which they belonged, Mummumbula, had not brought in enough rubber. Lacroix wound up his letter with the following flourish:—"I am going to appear before the judge for (1) having assassinated 150 men and cut off sixty hands; for (2) having crucified women and children, and for having mutilated many men and hung the remains on a village fence."

Here is an extract from the confession of another agent, Moray:—

> At Ambas we were a party of thirty under X——, who sent us into a village to ascertain if the natives were collecting rubber, and, in the contrary case, to murder all, including men, women, and children. We found the natives sitting peaceably. We asked them what they were doing. They were unable to reply, thereupon we fell upon them all, and killed them without mercy. An hour later we were joined by X——, and told him what had been done. He answered, "It is well, but you have not done enough!" Thereupon he ordered us to cut off the heads of the men and hang them on the village palisades . . . . also to hang the women and children on the palisades in the form of a cross.

In giving these confessions of the King's agents as they appeared in *Le Petit Bleu* of Antwerp, I by no means intend to suggest that such King's evidence is worth more than that, say, of the Rev. Mr. Campbell, who cannot be charged with commercial jealousy of the Belgian traders. No doubt Mr. Campbell was occasionally inconvenienced, as he confesses, by the wholesale burnings of the native villages and massacres of their inhabitants, since "the missionaries were more or less dependent on them for fowls, eggs, and native produce;" but this would hardly provoke the reverend gentleman to invent or exaggerate the appalling atrocities he records. Here, *e.g.*, are a couple of extracts from Mr. Campbell's letter to Mr. Fox-Bourne, secretary of the Aborigines' Protection Society:—

> This chief was afterwards burnt alive in a cave with about seventy or eighty of his people, including women and children, by a State force under Captain Z——.
>
> Kayombo was the next large Luban chief dealt with. Having taken refuge among reeds in a marsh, he was caught and hung up by the heels to a palm tree; then a fire was kindled underneath, over which he was slowly roasted to death. Several more women were added to the rope gang and the village was pillaged and burnt.

On the whole, this "King Leopold's Rule in Africa" is hardly less horrible reading than Foxe's "Book of Martyrs"; is, indeed, in one sense more horrible reading, since the abominable cruelties it records were all committed from the most sordid motives and under the most hypocritical pretences. But the responsibility for them does not lie only at the door of this canting King, since the Governments and the peoples of Great Britain and the United States are primarily responsible for the creation of the Congo State, and ought, in the name of common humanity, as Mr. Morel pleads, "to make up their minds to handle this monstrous outrage resolutely, and so point a way and set an example which other nations would be compelled to follow." Prophecies, as we had good reason to know in the Indian Mutiny, are dangerous things, and perhaps there is trouble in store for us in Nigeria through a prophecy which has so far favoured us. "On his deathbed, Othman, the great Fulani, the first Sultan of Sokoto, the spiritual head of the revealed religion, saw the future in a vision, and told it to his priests, that all might know what was to come. *His dynasty was to last for a hundred years. The sixteenth Sultan of Sokoto would reign but for a day. Then would come the day of a foreign power for four years, and then the Mahdi and the Millennium.*" So far the prophecy has been fulfilled to the letter, and, indeed, has helped to its own fulfilment, since the people were prepared to accept the English invasion as fated, and, therefore, irresistible. "We have four years," as Mr. Hazzledine says in his singularly interesting and instructive "The White Man in Nigeria" (2), "to establish ourselves in the land and get such a hold on the people that the Mahdi (there will be a Mahdi; there is always a Mahdi) when he rises shall not be strong enough to turn us out, or, best of all, that the people shall not want him to." And, if we go on as Mr. Hazzledine assures you we have been going on, we shall have given them something like the Millennium in that four years. A more exemplary contrast to the Congo State cannot be conceived than Nigeria under our rule, for there "we take nothing without payment, burn no towns, ravish no women, loot no houses, and make no slaves." If we should lose Nigeria at the end of the four years, we should lose, *teste* Mr. Hazzledine, a better market even than India; indeed, one of the finest markets in the world. But even as it is we shall lose this to Germany if we do not condescend to send the Hausas what they want, and not what we think they ought to want:—

> It would pay us even to send out men to inquire what is needed, just as the native traders do in Morocco when they make two distinct journeys through a district, the first to find out what is wanted, the second to take it. It will pay us well to find out carefully what is wanted, for the market of Northern Nigeria is not merely the market for the Hausa States, it is the market for the whole of the Soudan.

Really, every merchant in Manchester and Birmingham ought to read Chapter IX. of "The White Man in Nigeria," for "the market is a tremendous one; it is opened, it is ready. It has not been damaged a bit by its acquisition. There has been no devastation, no decimation, no waste, no impoverishment; it has been acquired by a *coup*. Sir Frederick Lugard reported immediately after reaching Kano that the markets were in full swing, which in Northern Nigeria meant that the people had confidence in the security of property under our rule, which is everything. We can benefit if we will. If we are too apathetic, if we do not care to venture, others will." Mr. Hall Caine's "The Prodigal Son" (3), interesting throughout and occasionally powerful, is marred by the Hogarthian shaping of the characters to point the moral. It is incredible that the hero should have been so malignantly misunderstood by his own people who had known him from infancy; that the heroine should have so remorselessly allowed him to efface and calumniate himself for her sake, and should so foolishly have insisted upon the company of her treacherous sister and rival upon her honeymoon. It is odd, by the way to find Mr. Hall Caine appropriating to his prodigal son the Rossetti incident of burying his precious MSS. in his dead wife's grave as an act of contrition for his treatment of her during her life. Rita's "The Silent Woman" (4) exasperates you by the bathos of its lame and impotent unravelling of the mysteries with which it opens. I fear that even Rita's most ardent admirers will resent the discovery that its

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(1) "King Leopold's Rule in Africa." By Edmund D. Morel ("E.D.M."). With Illustrations and Maps. (London: William Heinemann. 15s. net.)

(2) "The White Man in Nigeria." By George Douglas Hazzledine. With Illustrations. (London: Edward Arnold. 10s. 6d. net.)

(3) "The Prodigal Son." By Hall Caine. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(4) "The Silent Woman." By "Rita." (London: Hutchinson & Co. 6s.)

(5) "A Fool With Women." By Fred Wishaw. (London: John Long. 6s.)

appalling spectres are but turnips hollowed to hold farthing dips. In "A Fool with Women" (5) Mr. Wishaw expects you to believe in the incredible blindness of its hero to its heroine's love for him. In truth, Keith Adams is such a fool all round that you are not much interested either in his loves or adventures.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely, DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The streets and shops are almost as crowded as if it were mid-December, and in spite of the miserable fogs London is really gay. On Thursday the King and Queen of Portugal drove through a city of mist to the Guildhall. We happened to walk up York-street that afternoon, and saw Westminster Abbey through the soft, grey mist, the towers rising like dream towers from a dream cathedral. It was exquisite. Never could it have looked more poetic, not even on the sunniest day.

We did not see the King and Queen, our visitors, but heard that his Majesty looked as genial, her Majesty as winning, as ever. She wore a large hat of white beaver tilted high on the left side and trimmed with a long white feather. Her gown was palest green, but was partially hidden under a cape of darkest Russian sable. King Carlos wore the scarlet uniform of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry. The Princess of Wales, who, with the Prince in military uniform, accompanied their Majesties, wore white silk and a white toque, a long sable coat protecting her against the raw air.

The combination of light gowns, lace, jewels, and rich furs must have made the Guildhall luncheon a scene of brightness, aided by the military, diplomatic, and civil uniforms. A friend who was there tells me that the King expressed great admiration of the beautiful gold casket in which the address of welcome was enclosed—an Elkington triumph. The design was ingenious, and was due to Mr. G. Halliday. A graceful figure representing the City of London is represented as welcoming the King of Portugal, and bears in one hand an olive branch, and in the other the City keys. Another symmetrical figure shows Britannia, and a third typifies Portugal. The arms of our King and his Majesty of Portugal occupied conspicuous positions.

The streets that did not form part of the royal route seemed quite deserted. We had Bond-street almost to ourselves. Turning into Oliver Holmes's to look at a perfectly lovely hat that had attracted us in the window, we heard that the whole stock is to be sold off on and after the 23rd—a complete clearance, the goodwill of the business having been disposed of to Mr. Bosworth, of Burlington-street. I shall hardly know my Bond-street without the shop that Bee insists on calling after the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table.

The next thing, naturally, was to call at Bosworth's and ask about your winter costume. Cloth, with a little velvet about it, is what you must have for country wear, driving, and making calls. We were shown a perfectly charming gown and coat in dahlia-coloured cloth, a bright, sweet tone of deep red. The skirt was trimmed above the hem for several inches with stitched, shaped pieces, and the coat was cut rather after the fashion of an eighteenth-century riding coat, the long basque diversified with shaped pieces like the skirt. There was a very long vest, embroidered in two shades of paler red silk, and the revers were in velvet exactly matching the dahlia red of the cloth. They hung in a pretty fold on either side, and were bordered with mink tail. You cannot think how becoming the deep-toned red velvet is.

Another nice visiting dress was in a black and brown check fancy material, a panel of brown velvet being bordered on either side with black silk braid caught in at intervals with little brown and gold buttons. The bodice was arranged with pleats from the shoulders carried down to the waist, and made with small velvet revers and gilt buttons, black braid being caught in as on the skirt and the ends tied in neat bows. A little chenille embroidery gave a handsome finish to the whole. The vest and collar were white cloth, embroidered in brown and gold. At the back the pleats of the check, after crossing the shoulders, met above the waist, and were there kept perfectly flat.

That is the beauty of a tailor-made. The figure is studied, made the best of, and improved incredibly, almost as much as in a riding habit, and we all know—but what we know we need not always say, need we?

A pale pink soft silk evening gown was as graceful as it was pretty, the skirt falling in soft folds, and just of the right length at the sides and a half-train at the back. A deep flounce, not over-full, was put on with large shaded pink silk bows, looking like roses, and connected by curved lines of shaded pink chenille hand embroidery. The bodice was folded over back and front above a pointed belt of the silk with a trellis of the chenille embroidery. Drooping from the top of the bodice and also from the long pointed sleeves were little pink chiffon roses. Two points about this gown were particularly admirable, the sleeves falling away from the front of the arms, and a sweet little vest that filled a small portion of the space between the folds of the bodice in front. So much of the success of a gown depends on these small but far from unimportant details.

I must not forget a green tweed with tight-fitting coat, the lapels of which were divided into tabs which could be either buttoned over or turned back to show the tan kid lining. To be worn with this was a smart tan kid hat, or one made entirely of coffee-brown marabout, or a third with the brim covered with what appeared to be oak-brown marabout, but was really chiffon gathered up and then pulled out. Bosworth has the sweetest little soft, flat ties for wearing inside a fur coat. There is just the neck-piece with two or three ends, fur being introduced amidst the embroidery. They are deliciously becoming.

A mixture of silk and cloth is the newest thing in blouses. Mme. Clematis, whose pretty rooms at 13, South Molton-street I have before described to you, has made for the Duchess of Albany some very attractive blouses in spotted black silk with vandyked cloth down the front and on the sleeves. The two materials give the effect of two shades of black. Another is trimmed with curved puffings of black silk and pretty little gold buttons. I saw a remarkably pretty hat there, the brim made in the shape of petals in tones of mauve velvet, each just resting on the next, and held down, as it were, with small buttons of mauve chenille. There are three shades of mauve in these velvet petals, and there are also three shades in the violets that thickly surround the crown and make a lovely bit of soft colour under the brim. Folds of velvet in the three shades envelop the round crown behind the violets. This is an original and a very pretty design. Another large hat is covered with brown beaver cloth, and is trimmed with flowers in pastel tones of mauve toned to sulphur. A set of muff, cape, and hat are in gathered brown velvet, the brim of the hat being of the true tricorne shape, and partly covered with a lovely feather-brown towards the stem, and shaded green at the outer edge of the fronds. This is also very new. The feather was held by a handsome clasp in embossed leather with a gilt design, very Eastern-looking. The brown velvet cape was gathered on the shoulders and trimmed with folds of brown satin held with dainty little paste buttons. I admired a Napoleon hat, very wide and curved down

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at either side, a perfect shape. It was made of bright red chenille plaited up with silk of the same colour. A pair of red fancy wings completed a coquettishly charming hat. Very nice, too, was a white zibeline cloth hat bordered with a band of black chenille, the brim split up above the left temple and a wide black plume introduced. I must give up trying to describe that hat. It was too pretty for words.

And one more touch of art. If you want your silk petticoat to match your hat or its trimmings, you will find them here; also the daintiest and newest hat-pins made out of old Dutch or French buttons, and copies of Pompeian hairpins.

No one is likely to deny that a set of Russian sables—wide pelerine and lovely granny muff—is a delightful Christmas present. Now is your chance for presenting some friend of your soul with a set worth 120 gs. to be had for 60 gs., or similar bargains in every range of prices; while the most exacting man could but be delighted with an overcoat of fine dark cloth, lined with sable, worth 300 gs., and he could not know that only 120 gs. had been paid for it. For less lordly gifts you can take your choice among sable stoles from a couple of guineas, fur coats for a couple more, and every variety of fur daintiness at less than half their value. You will be wanting to know where this temporary El Dorado is to be found, and you will recognise a favourite address in that of Charles Lee and Son, of 100, Wigmore-street. The sale is only for ten days, but if you venture there I am persuaded you will buy more than Christmas presents, though these can be had not only in furs, but laces. There are some berthes in the rare and lovely "old" tint which so seldom can be obtained in new lace; and the sale extends to warm tweed coats, some lined with fur, and smart millinery. There is one costume in dark, shaggy stuff just like a Scotch pony, and the other models, from a brilliant rose-pink chiffon evening dress to a tailor-made serge, are all marked down. There is a delicious evening frock in the finest black net embroidered in a handsome design with green beetles' wings and gold. The loose sleeves have turned-back cuffs, just above the elbow, of the embroidery, which is imperially handsome without being ostentatious. Those fascinating Vienna cloth coats in pale hues, for afternoon and evening, are as cheap as everything else, and if you know any one wanting light garments for India and Egypt, this is emphatically a golden opportunity for them.

A nice little present for an acquaintance would be the Nantgarw dessert service on view at Mortlock's. The price is a matter of a thousand guineas, and there is only one other such service in existence. There are bunches of flowers painted in the middle of the pieces, in a border of green and gold, such as I have seen copied in modern Worcester. The dishes have a useful and comfortable projection at one side by which to hand them. Why do we not copy these niceties of convenience nowadays?

Already we are planning for and peeping into 1905. May it be as prettily-behaved in the matter of weather as this present year of grace, which ought to have a gold medal for good conduct. May 1905 bring peace with it! One dreads to take up a paper. The very headings fill one with horror, giving the numbers of the killed in this dreadful Russo-Jap war.

Charity is to be as busy as ever in the New Year. One of her greatest feats will be the Dickens ball which Lady Maud Wilbraham is organising for the benefit of the West Ham Hospital. It is to take place early in the year at the Empress Rooms, Royal Palace Hotel. I suppose the dancers will wear costumes after the characters in Dickens's works. It ought to be very pretty. Which character would you choose to be? I think Bella Wilfer would suit you. She fascinates the reader more than any other girl depicted in the whole of Dickens. Lady Dedlock has charm, too, but of a rather tragic kind. One cannot fancy her in the Kitchen Lancers. Bee would choose to go as Ruth Pinch, carrying a rolling-pin in memory of the famous pudding. I know someone who would make a splendid Fanny Squeers, and I could find a capital Mrs. Merdle.

"In the Closed Room" is the most beautiful story about children that I have ever read, and is exquisitely told. You must not fail to read it. The illustrations are worthy of the text, and that is saying much. Hodder and Stoughton are the publishers. A pretty, tiny book for very young children is "Little Golden Hair," by Anne Batchelor, whose "Old Nursery Rhymes" you liked so much last year. It would be an interesting book to teach the youngsters to read in.

This educational remark reminds me to tell you that Mme. Mermin's "Apprentissage de Valérie" has been adopted by the Minister of Public Instruction in France for school libraries. This is a very great compliment. The clever authoress has now followed it up with another story for girls, "Le Drame du Nivernais," published simultaneously in Paris, Geneva, and London (Williams and Norgate). It is an interesting story with plenty of action in it, just what girls like, and very different from the wishy-washy books provided for the reading of English girls. Richard picked up one of these the other day, and, after reading a couple of chapters, threw it down with a very inelegant expression of opinion. "Catlap!" he said.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Light is indeed a holy thing. How dreadful is the want of it; mentally depressing and physically unhealthy. At this season we have to face the fact that, whether we like it or not, we shall have very little light—out of doors—for many a long week to come. The sun will be with us—very poorly, too, as a general rule—for but a few hours of the day's twenty-four. So it has been in these climes from the beginning. The wonder is that we have not adapted ourselves better to circumstances. The twentieth century boasts itself to be an age of progress and practical science, yet how little way it makes against the darkness of our winter. Why has not science found a substitute for the absent sun, at least in our towns? Some way of lighting up outdoors as we do indoors. One cannot but think that something might be done in this direction if only even a small portion of the inventive genius devoted to automobilism and the making of airships were devoted to baffling the darkness of winter. How much better to expend endeavour on making ourselves comfortable where we are than in flying about uneasily from place to place. Were the beginning of the twentieth century worthy of itself, we ought to have "outdoors" as well lighted as "indoors." We might have streets and parks as brilliantly lighted as our passages and drawing-rooms, if only for a few hours daily, to prolong the winter days, say, up to six o'clock. But, no doubt, "mankind," which, as Gibbon says, "honours its destroyers more than its preservers," will never devote its ingenuity chiefly to increasing the comfort and pleasantness of life.

You on your side of the water seem to have been suffering severely from want of light. Envy us, therefore, who, over here, know of no fogs thicker than light sea ones. Our oldest inhabitant only remembers one fog in Dublin which interfered with traffic. It was a happening of very long ago. What a gloomy and unpleasant idea of English weather the King and Queen of Portugal must have had last week. November is a very bad month in every way for Royal shows and processions. The wonder is that they should have any spectators between the difficulty of seeing them in the fog and the penitential work of waiting and watching for them in streets or at open windows. Enthusiasm for Kings and Queens is always great in humanity, they appeal so strongly to the imagination, and then there is the eternal truth that "man will always be the object of man's most curious interest in the world." And woman of woman's still more so, don't you think?

Dublin was quiet, not to say dull, last week, and will hardly brighten up as regards social festivities this side of Christmas The town, however, will fill for the inevitable shopping of the season, though as yet there is much grumbling over the slackness of trade. Lord and Lady Dudley are still abroad, or were so

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last week. They are now thinking of spending the Christmas at Rockingham, near Boyle, where they have not lived all this year. Dublin's loss will be Boyle's gain, and possibly what is called the "real country" has attractions which the Phœnix Park has not at Christmas time. The Viceregal Lodge is not at its best as a residence in late autumn and early winter. The Chief Secretary and Lady Grosvenor, as well as the Lord Chancellor, were called away from Ireland for the banquet at Windsor Castle last week. The Chief Secretary's Lodge, like the Viceregal, has been tenantless of late. Mr. Wyndham has been very little in Ireland this year, and his absence from the country does not seem to have made the hearts of the people of any party grow fonder. The Royal Hospital is to be deserted, too, this month. Lord Grenfell goes on his mission to Rome, and Lady Grenfell goes away to Italy to visit a relative at Florence. Shooting parties are still the leading features of social life; there were many gatherings of the kind all over the country last week. This week the Mourne Park festivities are the chief event in the North. They include a ball, for which a large house party will be assembled, and to which the social light and leading of the county are all bidden as well. Lord Newry's coming-of-age is being celebrated as if the old order had not changed, and yet one hears that Lord Kilmorey is selling his estate like all the other landlords. No doubt the new order will be fully in place before the next generation comes of age, and everything will be changed. What will supply the place of the rejoicing tenantry one wonders? Are there any "comings-of-age" in America? Lord and Lady Ardilaun will shortly go to Galway to their beautiful residence at Ashford, where the gardens, as at St. Anne's, show Lady Ardilaun's artistic and horticultural tastes. What courage it takes to face the garden that one loves in November, and how strong the faith which enables us to believe that it will ever again be a thing of beauty.—

Yours ever, CLARE.

Petites pâtes aux champignons make a pretty and delicate entrée:—

Cut eight or nine round pieces from ¾lb. of puff paste, make an incision in the top with a smaller cutter, bake them and take out the soft interior in the usual way. Skin and remove the gills from a pound of mushrooms, chop them finely, and cook them with salt, pepper, butter, and a little lemon juice, in a covered stewpan, without allowing them to acquire colour; add to them a gill of white sauce, three minced, hard-boiled eggs, a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley, the yolks of two fresh eggs, and a little thick cream. Stir the ingredients together till they are hot, fill the patty cases, dish them on a napkin, and garnish them with fried parsley.

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No. 1457. Vol. LVI. Thursday, December 1, 1904. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

THE

Twenty-Eighth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

A MODERN BLUE BEARD

AND OTHER STORIES,

WILL BE PUBLISHED ON

FRIDAY NEXT, DECEMBER 2.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

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A Modern Blue Beard—I.
A Modern Blue Beard—II.
Marriage à la Mode.
A Park Lane Procession.

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ENTRE NOUS

THE Truth Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall will open a fortnight from to-day (Wednesday). This fact compels me to call the attention of all my readers to the urgent needs of the Toy Fund. When I last did this, I stated that at least £1,000 was required to pay for all the toys and dolls needed. The applications that are beginning to come in from the workhouse schools, the hospitals, and the few other institutions which share in the distribution, show that this estimate will not prove below the mark. In the meantime, however, the contributions received have not reached half this total. Somehow or other, therefore, I have to get together over £500 in the next fortnight. Failing that, the list of institutions that are to receive toys will have to be cut down, and a corresponding number of children will be disappointed of Christmas presents. It is a large order, I know; but previous experience justifies me in hoping that all those readers of Truth who have not yet subscribed will at once do so according to their means. I hope it is not necessary for me to add that the class of children to which the Truth Toy Fund ministers has the strongest claims on the charity of all people at Christmas time. I should like to persuade all those who at this time of year make presents to children who already have more toys than they know what to do with, to spare a small contribution for the children who have no chance of such a treat except from this source.

Messrs. John Broadwood and Sons, Limited, have most kindly placed at my disposal, free of charge, one of their steel barless grand pianofortes for use in the musical entertainments that will be given during the Toy Show. Messrs. Broadwood did the same thing, it will be remembered, last year, and their kindness was very greatly appreciated by all visitors to the show, as I have no doubt it will be this time. I have also to thank the Metropolitan District Railway Company for kindly undertaking to exhibit advertisements of the Toy Show at all their stations.

Apropos of the Truth Toy Show, I may mention that the Editor of *London Opinion* is organising, in consequence of a suggestion from Lady Jeune, a fund for the purpose of providing Christmas trees for children in the hospitals and infirmaries. It is also contemplated, I understand, to organise, with the assistance of ladies' committees, in the various metropolitan districts festivities in connection with the Christmas trees. This is an excellent idea, and I hope it will be taken up in such a way that it can be carried out thoroughly. Wherever these Christmas trees go, Truth toys are sure to be going also; and it will add greatly to the pleasure which the toys will cause if they are distributed in connection with a sort of children's Christmas party.

In the meantime I have to acknowledge the following donations to the Toy Fund:—E. B., £1; Mollie, £1; Paddie, £1; Kittie, £1; Gracie, £1; Susie, £1; Mickie, £1; A Friend, 5s.; Ralph and John Philipson, £2;

Lady Diana Huddleston, £1 1s.; A. D., £5 5s.; H., 5s.; H. E. N., £1 1s.; Colonel Follett, £2 2s.; E. R. W., 5s.; E. G. B. L., £1 1s.; M. H. and P. H., £1; C. M. Y., 10s.

Will those ladies who are dressing dolls for the Toy Show, and have not yet returned them, kindly note that if their dolls are to appear at the Albert Hall they must reach this office by Thursday in next week (December 8) *at latest?*

The King will return to Buckingham Palace from Sandringham on Monday morning, and is to stay in town until Tuesday afternoon, when his Majesty will proceed to The Hall, Castle Rising, near Lynn, on a visit to Lord and Lady Farquhar. The King is to return to Sandringham (which is within a drive of Castle Rising) on Friday, December 9.

His Majesty will pay a visit on Monday afternoon to the Smithfield Club Cattle Show at the Royal Agricultural Hall, where he is to be received by Prince Christian, who is President for this year.

The King was last week the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William James, at West Dean Park, near Chichester, from Monday until Saturday. His Majesty did not join the shooting party on Tuesday, but he was out on Wednesday, when the battue was in the home preserves in and around the beautiful park of West Dean, and the sportsmen lunched at the cottage in the Arboretum. On Thursday the King again went out shooting, and excellent sport was obtained in the High Down, Chilgrove, and Hook's Way preserves. The pheasant shooting on the West Dean Estate is now by far the best in Sussex. Mr. James having greatly improved it since he purchased the property from Mr. F. Bower. On Friday the King and a party drove in motor-cars to a cottage which Mr. James has recently built on Monckton Down, where luncheon was served. The bag for the three days (eight guns) was over 2,500 head. The house party included Consuelo Duchess of Manchester, Lord and Lady Cadogan, Lord and Lady Savile, Mr. Sidney Greville, Mr. Henry Stonor, Lord Hyde, Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel, Mr. William Grenfell, Mrs. Sneyd, Miss Caroline Roche, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon.

The King and Queen of Portugal, who are now on a visit to the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans at Wood Norton, were last week the guests of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth from Monday until Friday. The weather was cold and wintry, with deep snow. King Carlos was disappointed by his day's grouse driving over Beeley Moor, where a heavy bag of wild duck had also been expected. The battue on Wednesday in the celebrated Birchill covers, between Edensor and Bakewell, was most successful, over a thousand head being killed, principally pheasants, in four drives. Queen Amélie drove in a sledge to Haddon Hall by way of Rowsley, and returned through Bakewell.

The intended battue at Chatsworth on Tuesday was stopped by the weather. King Carlos spent most of the day in the library, which is a magnificent room, and it contains one of the finest private collections in the world of rare books and ancient MSS. Queen Amélie passed the morning in Sir Joseph Paxton's great conservatory.

The bag at Chatsworth on Thursday was not nearly so large as had been expected. The fact is that this failure was due to bad shooting on the part of several of the guns. The Duke of Devonshire, who drove to the Park Wood in a sleigh, did not shoot, but walked about the roads adjoining the preserves with Lord Charles Montagu. The snow was lying more than a foot deep, but King Carlos walked from the house to the scene of the first drive, the distance being one mile. There were two drives before luncheon, at Park Wood and at Farlow, but the drive for hares was given up owing to the snow drifts. After luncheon the drives were at Hare Park and Buxton, and the shooting was much better during the afternoon. Queen Amélie, who joined the party at luncheon, drove afterwards in a sleigh to Ashford, and thence through some of the picturesque Peak villages and Monsal Dale.

TO OUR LATEST ROYAL GUEST.

Short, Sir, although your stay with us has been,
We have already learned to greatly like you.
We like your friendly looks, your merry mien;
We like the way our institutions strike you.
Even our Fog, which caught you unawares—
One of our City's most "pea-soupy" quality—
Even our Fog—or so the Press declares—
Failed utterly to choke your usual jollity!

So, too, when you to Fog no more a prey,
Bearded our Snow King in his own dominions,
'Twas in a similar good-humoured way
You uttered your "Mark Tapley-like" opinions!
Yes, Sir, our Climate gave you its worst things—
Cold, damp, fog, frost, ice, snow, and all the rest of them;
But, in *your* heart, Hope has perennial springs,
And so we 've seen you bravely make the best of them!

We 've watched you very closely, day by day,
Shooting at Windsor, and in Bond-street shopping;
We 've heard, too, of those good things, by the way,
Which you succeed so tactfully in dropping.
Upon your sleeve, 'twould seem, you wear your heart,
Genial and frank we are rejoiced to find you;
And be assured that, now we have to part,
You will not leave one enemy behind you.

At such a time, then, 'tis with vast regret
We find a Jingo scribe a statement printing,
In which at something we from you should get
He has the cool effrontery to be hinting;
Prepared to shape his maladroit demand,
As though good taste forbade not such a question,
Nor even waiting till you 'd left our land
Before he made his ill-advised suggestion!

Pray understand, then, that this breach of taste
Which on all hands inspires expostulation,
Is but a Jingo utterance made in haste,
And does not speak the meaning of the nation.
No, Sir, 'tis for yourself that low and high
Wish you all luck that Fortune can decree you,
And even as they shout a warm "Good-bye!"
Express the hope they soon again may see you!

The King's Household-in-Waiting will be constituted as follows during December:—Lords of the Bedchamber, Lord Suffield, Lord Lawrence, Lord Denbigh; Grooms of the Bedchamber, Mr. Sidney Greville, Lord Edward Pelham-Clinton, Mr. Henry J. Stonor; Gold Stick, General Lord Chelmsford, Colonel of the 2nd Life Guards; Silver Stick, Colonel Anstruther Thomson, 2nd Life Guards; Equerries, Sir Stanley Clarke and Captain Ponsonby; Field Officers in Brigade Waiting, Colonel Codrington, Coldstream Guards, and Lieutenant-Colonel Cuthbert, Scots Guards; Deputy Clerk of the Closet, Rev. W. Rowe Jolley, Rector of Huggate.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were last week the guests of Lord and Lady Lathom from Monday until Friday at Lathom House, Lancashire. The house party included Lord and Lady Sefton, Lord and Lady Dartrey, Mr. Victor and Lady Evelyn Cavendish, Colonel Bromley-Davenport, and Major Wynne-Finch. The battues at Lathom were most successful, in spite of the unfavourable weather, over four thousand head of game (principally pheasants) having been killed in three days.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughters were last week the guests of Lord and Lady Windsor at Hewell Grange, Worcestershire, from Monday until Thursday. Great preparations had been made for battues on Tuesday and Wednesday, but the heavy snowstorm stopped the sport on Tuesday and on Wednesday, when seven guns went out in the Brockhill Woods and Park preserves; the weather was most unfavourable. However, over nine hundred head of pheasant and wild-duck were killed. The Duke of Connaught did not shoot, nor did H.R.H. go out during his recent visit to Hartham Park. The house party at Hewell included Lord and Lady Algernon Gordon-Lennox, Lady Marjorie Manners, Count Hatzfeldt, Sir John and Lady Dickson-Poynder, Sir Edward and Lady Sassoon, Colonel Leslie, Major Yarde Buller, and Captain Graham.

The young Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is now attached to the First Regiment of Prussian Foot Guards at Potsdam, where he resides at the Hotel Stadt Königsberg, in the Bauerstrasse. Duke Charles Edward's coming of age is to be celebrated at Gotha on July 19, and at Coburg on the following day, when he will be placed in full possession of his sovereignty, the Regency of the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg being arranged to terminate on July 19.

Lord and Lady Dudley are expected to be at the Viceregal Lodge this week, where their daughters have been staying during their absence from Ireland. Next week Lord and Lady Dudley go northward to fulfil public engagements in Newry and Belfast. They will stay at Mourne Park with Lord and Lady Kilmorey for the opening of the Newry Hospital bazaar, and in Belfast with Sir Otto and Lady Jaffe, when Lady Dudley will open the new Cripples' Home on the 10th of the month. The Dowager Lady Dufferin and Ava, who lives chiefly at Clandeboye in the County Down, has taken much interest in this charitable institution, and been very active in getting funds for it.

The visit of the Prince of Wales to Lord and Lady Ardilaun has been announced for this month. H.R.H. is to be their guest at Ashford, their residence in the county of Galway. Lord Ardilaun has some of the best shooting in Ireland; the woodcock shooting is of special renown. Ashford is a palatial residence, with fine lawns and gardens. Its extensive demesne adjoins Cong, on Lough Corrib, a place of much historic and antiquarian interest. The abbey of Cong is one of the finest ruins in Ireland. Its cloisters, which have been restored, and other portions of the abbey, are within Lord Ardilaun's grounds. Lough Corrib is thirty miles long, and studded with interesting islands. The Corrib river, which, flowing through the town of Galway, leads from the Lough into Galway Bay, is remarkable for its salmon fishery.

Last week, Mr. Wyndham was still absent from Ireland, and devoting himself to Great Britain, a change from the usual traditions of the Irish Chief Secretaryship. In other times, November and December were specially the months devoted to the dispensing of hospitality at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, which was a social centre. In Ireland it is a cause of wonder that officials who have so little time to spend in the country should inconvenience themselves by taking office in it. The Government just now, however, seems bent on leaving Ireland to itself. How far is it responsible for the Birthday Honours, in which the country was absolutely ignored? Great Britain had its place, but where was "and Ireland"? And the Irish people are so vehemently denounced, if on their side the "and Ireland" is forgotten.

The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire will entertain another large house party at Chatsworth next week, and Sayers, the North Berwick professional, has been engaged to play on the private golf course in the park, which extends over eighteen holes. The Duke and Duchess of Devonshire are to pay some country visits, including one to their Majesties at Sandringham, before Christmas. They will make Chatsworth their headquarters until they come to town for the meeting of Parliament, and about the middle of February they are going to the South of Europe for a couple of months.

Lord and Lady Castlereagh left London for Paris last week on their way to India, where they will spend the winter. Lord Castlereagh's hunting box near Oakham is to be occupied this season by Lady Gerard.

Lord and Lady St. Oswald entertained a large shooting party last week at Nostell Priory, including the Duke and Duchess of Portland and Lord Clarendon.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1399.
For Truth Educational List, see page 1401.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 1393.
For Amusements, see page 1393.
For Appeals, see page 1401.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1409.

Lord and Lady Dartmouth have returned to Patshull Park, their seat near Wolverhampton, after spending two months in the United States and Canada, whither they were accompanied by Lord and Lady Lichfield and several members of the Legge and Anson families. During the absence of Lord and Lady Dartmouth from England, Patshull Park has been occupied by Julia Lady Powerscourt.

The death of Lord Northbrook places the Lord Lieutenancy of Hampshire at the disposal of the Prime Minister. Lord Northbrook held the office for fourteen years, having succeeded the late Lord Carnarvon, whose predecessor was the Marquis of Winchester. Lord Northbrook's place will be difficult to fill, as he was in all respects a model Lord Lieutenant. He was also Lord High Steward of Winchester, having held that office since 1889, when he succeeded Lord Eversley, who was for many years Speaker of the fourteenth House of Commons.

Mr. Duff-Assheton-Smith, of Vaynol Park, Carnarvonshire, who died last week, was one of the most generous and considerate landlords in Great Britain, and he was equally liberal and popular as an employer of labour. The Vaynol estates have about sixteen hundred tenants, and upwards of three thousand workmen are employed regularly at the Dinorwic quarries. Mr. Assheton-Smith was most highly esteemed in North Wales, and his estates came brilliantly through the ordeal of the Land Commission of 1893. Very few changes have taken place on these estates, and nearly twenty families have been tenants for over three hundred years. In the quarries, moreover, many of the workmen belong to families which have been employed there for generations. Mr. Assheton-Smith's remissions of rent have been munificent, and enormous sums have been expended on repairs and improvements. Vaynol Park is a fine and very beautiful estate on the Menai Straits. A portion of the demesne is occupied by a collection of wild animals, which was a hobby of the late owner of the place.

The late Mr. Duff-Assheton-Smith leaves no son, so his immense property in North Wales passes under the entail to his brother, Mr. Charles Garden Duff, who is well known on the Turf as the owner of Cloister. The Vaynol and other estates were owned during her life by Mrs. Assheton-Smith, widow of Thomas Assheton-Smith, of Tedworth, the celebrated M.F.H. The late Mr. Duff-Assheton-Smith was a grand-nephew of Mr. Assheton-Smith, and a grandson of Mr. Duff, of Hatton Castle, Aberdeenshire. The Asshetons descend from Sir Richard Assheton, of Middleton, Lancashire, and Thomas Assheton assumed the name of Smith early in the eighteenth century on the death of his uncle, John Smith, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the reign of William III., and Speaker in two of Queen Anne's Parliaments.

Mr. Walter Ralph Bankes, who died last week, was the head of a very old Dorsetshire family, and he was well known as a liberal and considerate landlord and a country squire of the best type. He took an active part in the management of his large estates, and he was very hospitable, a fine shot, and an excellent judge of horses. Mr. Bankes inherited one of the finest collections of Spanish and Italian pictures in England, and he was always ready to lend them to the winter exhibitions of the Royal Academy. The gallery at Kingston Lacy, the seat of the Bankes family near Wimborne, is also rich in portraits, the collection including one of the best Romneys in the world. There is an admirable full-length of Philip IV., by Velasquez, and two noble portraits by Rubens, which came from the Grimaldi Palace, Genoa. The Virgin and Child, by Raphael, which once belonged to Charles I., was brought to England from the Escurial, and has a superb frame of walnut, carved with the arms of all its former owners.

The beautiful old house at Kingston Lacy, which was designed by Inigo Jones, and altered by Sir Charles Barry, has splendid rooms, and a white marble staircase, 30 ft. wide. The Spanish room has walls covered with Cordova leather, and a ceiling brought from the Contarini Palace at Venice. The house is crammed with valuable and interesting objects of art. The grounds and park of Kingston Lacy are most picturesque, and are celebrated in Dorsetshire for the age and size of many of the trees, particularly the elms, chestnuts, and limes.

Lady Kerry, who has just died at the age of ninety, was a daughter of the fourth Earl of Bessborough, and in 1834 she married the elder son of the third Marquis of Lansdowne, uncle of the present owner of Bowood. Lord Kerry died two years after his marriage, leaving a daughter, who married the late General Sir Percy Herbert, and the present Lord Powis is their son. Lady Kerry afterwards married Mr. Charles Gore, brother of the fourth Earl of Arran, and one of her sons of the second marriage is the Bishop of Worcester.

The tenants of a number of licensed houses in Grantham, belonging to the Earl of Dysart, received notice last April for the termination of their tenancies in April next, but were informed that they would be able to tender for the occupation of their respective houses on a twenty-one years' lease, the rent to be paid half-yearly as before. It was at the same time made known that brewers would also be allowed to tender, and, as was anticipated, the tenants have been outbid by a local brewery firm, the result being that on the expiration of the notices each of these houses will be converted from a "free" into a "tied" house. Lord Dysart has, of course, only done what he is entitled to do with his own property, but this does not make the change any the less a hardship to the old tenants. In one instance the licensed house and the land attached to it have been in the occupation of the same family for close upon a century, and during successive generations they have spent much money on improvements for which no compensation can be legally claimed. In these circumstances the noble landlord's action is naturally much criticised, more especially in view of the fact that not

long since he attended a meeting in support of Earl Grey's Public-house Trust movement—a movement directly antagonistic to the spread of the brewers' tied house system.

The destruction of Enville Hall, Lady Stamford's place in Staffordshire, is greatly to be regretted. It was one of the finest and most stately Tudor houses in England. The Hall was built during the reign of Henry VIII., and had two high turrets at the entrance, with rich stepped gables and ornamented chimneys. The centre, which receded from the wings, had windows formed with Gothic pointed arches, and was flanked by two rectangular towers. An embattlement ran all round the top of the house. The beautiful grounds at Enville, which were laid out by Shenstone, contain a fine lake and a picturesque cascade, and the fountains rival those at Chatsworth and at Witley.

WHEN JULIA "MOTES."

(Two Points of View.)

I.—That of a Too-Susceptible Rhymester, who Affects the Seventeenth Century.

When in her Motor Julia goes,
How soft the air that round her blows!
Just ruffling on her forehead fair
The golden tendrils of her hair.
Bright as the Dawn's first rosy streak,
Blushes through gauzy clouds her cheek,
The roguish Loves in eager flight
Are snared within the tangles light
Of filmy scarf, that fluttering floats
When Julia motes.

The Goddess in her dove-drawn car
Less fleet than Julia is by far!
My lady's chariot hath no need
Of peacocks, doves, or prancing steed,
Upon a wheel her slender hand
She lays, and swift at her command
It flashes forward like the wind,
The Gazer turns to look behind,
"Dea in Machina!" he misquotes
When Julia motes.

Thus, like a conqueror, proud and gay,
She drives on her triumphal way,
And binds, despite my fond appeals,
Me captive to her chariot wheels,
While Cupid o'er my anguish gloats
When Julia motes.

II.—That of the Twentieth Century Realist.

When in her Motor Julia goes,
What smuts begrime her pretty nose!
How rough and out of curl her hair!
Her eyes through owl-like goggles glare.
Her heralds are the hideous shriek
Of horn and petrol's noisome reek.
We see approach a shapeless fright
With head in duster tied up tight,
Arrayed in baggiest of coats
When Julia motes.

The Scorcher, in his racing car,
Less rash than Julia is by far!
Through streets and lanes at topmost speed
She loves to dash, and takes no heed
Of regulation or command;
But, scorning those who bid her stand,
Flies onward fearing to be fined,
And leaves a cloud of dust behind.
We splutter, gasp, and clear our throats
When Julia motes.

Thus, to the wayfarer's dismay,
She rushes on her reckless way,
And crushes, careless of their squeals,
The dogs and hens beneath her wheels;
Her number the policeman notes
When Julia motes.

A few weeks back a correspondent wrote to me in a somewhat alarmist strain, respecting the danger from fire in some of the larger hotels and "hydros," and from one or two inquiries that I have made, I should think that there are cases where his remarks are very fully justified. Of course, in the construction of large modern hotels, the danger of fire is taken into account, and precautions of one kind or another adopted; but it is rarely so in the case where old houses, especially private mansions, have been adapted for use as hotels. The particular case to which my attention was called is that of a hydropathic establishment in the North of England, holding about 400 people, and having in the main building only one staircase and one door, and no ladder or fire-escape within immediate reach. It would not be difficult to find other buildings of the same class in more or less the same condition, though I do not know of any others quite so big.

In London and other large towns this matter is carefully looked after by the public authorities, and I have even heard complaints from hotel proprietors that the requirements of the London County Council are in excess of all reason. I was glad to hear it. But in the country, and in small provincial towns, any proprietor of an hotel or hydro seems to be free to pack as many people as he likes into his house, without the slightest regard to the possibility of their escaping in the event of the place catching fire. It seems to me desirable that this state of things should be altered before the necessity for it is demonstrated by some serious catastrophe.

The third series of "The Diary of Henry Greville," published last week in one volume by Smith, Elder, and Co., is excellent reading from the first page to the last. There are many very good and quite new stories about well-known people. Mr. Greville, who was for many years in the Diplomatic Service, was a familiar and popular figure in the best English and French society, and he knew a great number of interesting and notable personages, and was in the way of hearing everything that was going on behind the scenes. He recorded his doings and impressions daily, and was seldom without something worth writing down. The book is both entertaining and instructive. Mr. Henry Greville was a most amiable man, and he always liked to write of people in a kindly spirit. This instalment of the Diary extends from January, 1857, until December, 1861, and Mr. Greville relates some incidents in Prince Albert's last illness which have not previously been revealed. It may be hoped that Lady Strafford will presently give the public a fourth series of her uncle's Diary.

Daily papers have made many new departures during the past few years, but it has been left to the *Daily Chronicle* to be the first in the field with a Christmas number. The thirty-two pages of fiction and poetry,

with plenty of illustrations, which my contemporary has issued as its Christmas number constitute a remarkably good pennyworth, even in these days of cheapness.

Apropos of the remarks in last week's Truth on a competition in *Answers*, my attention has been called to another competition concluded a few weeks earlier, which ought to have received very wide notice, for the result is one of the most astonishing things I ever heard of. Early in the year a prize of £1,000 was offered to the person who should most nearly forecast the figures of the official return of births and deaths between January 1 and June 30. They call this, by the way, a "skill competition," which shows how anxious the proprietors are to do nothing to encourage the gambling spirit so rife in the present day. The actual number of births for the half-year according to the Registrar-General's Returns was 600,684, and of deaths 364,396; and in due course it was announced that a Mr. Llewellyn Davies had given both numbers exactly, and won the £1,000 prize.

Even if this forecast had been a mere guess, it would have been amazing enough, for, I suppose, that the odds against a correct guess at both figures would be reckoned in millions to one. But as a feat of skill, it takes away one's breath. What was the particular form of skill exercised in making the calculation is not revealed; but probably Mr. Davies possesses occult telepathic gifts which acquaint him with all the births and events all over the country as they take place. It would be a good thing to offer him the post of Registrar-General at the earliest opportunity, for he could just sit in his office and record the births and deaths automatically, which would save the country no end of money in collecting returns.

The excellent biography of Dr. Liddon—which was published last week by Messrs. Longman—by the Principal of Cuddesdon, confirms the accuracy of the statement which appeared many years ago in Truth (and in this journal only) that there was not a particle of foundation for the widely and persistently circulated report that Queen Victoria had so strongly opposed the promotion of Dr. Liddon to the Episcopal Bench that neither Mr. Gladstone nor Lord Salisbury had been able to advance him to a bishopric. I was able to announce that this tale was the purest of fiction, having received the contradiction from the most unimpeachable authority. However, the story has repeatedly appeared in newspapers, magazines, and volumes of reminiscences. It is now made clear that the only obstacle to Dr. Liddon's promotion was Dr. Liddon himself. He was offered Bishoprics by both Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury, but he resolutely declined to accept a mitre. One reason for these refusals was the delicate state of his health, which would certainly have rendered him unequal to the heavy strain of diocesan work. Liddon, moreover, was a most rigorous adherent to the austere principles of Pusey and Keble. He was quite shattered by the shock of "Lux Mundi," and had no sort of tolerance for any modern development.

When Lord Alwyne Compton was promoted to the See of Ely Lord Salisbury offered the highly desirable Deanery of Worcester to Dr. Liddon, it being then clear that he would not accept a bishopric, but he did not wish to leave St. Paul's, or to give up Christ Church, where he retained his rooms in Tom Quad to the end of his life.

Dr. Liddon's life was shortened by his exhausting labours over the monumental biography of Dr. Pusey which he had planned. The book was on altogether too large a scale. As a matter of fact, the most life-like sketch of Pusey is to be found in Mr. Tuckwell's entertaining volume entitled "Reminiscences of Oxford."

The Rev. Albert Watson, Fellow and formerly Principal of Brasenose College, died suddenly at Oxford last week, having survived his intimate friend Dr. Fowler only twenty-four hours. He, also, was an active but unobstrusive member of the party of University Liberals, and did good work in a quiet way in the reorganisation of Oxford studies. He practically passed his whole life at Brasenose. He was a man of vast learning, and became a perfect reservoir of reference for his friends and colleagues, for his memory was as retentive as his reading was wide. His admirable edition of the "Select Letters of Cicero" will keep his name alive. Mr. Watson was a kindly, hospitable, and most charitable man, but excessively retiring, and the position of "Head" of a College was not at all to his taste.

The new Bishop of Southwell is to do homage to the King at Buckingham Palace next Tuesday, and on Thursday Dr. Hoskyns will be enthroned in Southwell Minster. The Bishop of Ripon (Clerk of the Closet) will conduct the ceremony of doing homage.

Bishop Ryle having obtained leave from the Crown to nominate a second Suffragan for the Diocese of Winchester, the King has sanctioned the appointment of Archdeacon Boutflower, who will take the title of Bishop of Dorking. Archdeacon Boutflower, who was prepared for holy orders by Bishop Lightfoot at Auckland Castle, was for three years curate of the important parish of St. Mary's, South Shields, and then domestic chaplain to Bishop Westcott for eleven years. The late Bishop of Carlisle presented him in 1901 to the great living of St. George's, Barrow-in-Furness, and at the same time collated him to the Archdeaconry of Furness. The appointment is an excellent one, and will meet with hearty approval. The new Bishop is a very able man and a learned scholar and theologian, and he has enjoyed a large practical experience of both organising and administrative work, and of parochial duty. He is a Churchman of the admirable school of Bishops Lightfoot and Westcott. The preferment to be vacated

Society's palpably hit with the craze for the Card Game called Pit; Ping Pong is played out, so we all laugh and shout, for there's Fun and excitement in Pit; Pit is it?—For there's Fun and Excitement in Pit.

by Archdeacon Boutflower (*i.e.*, his benefice and the Archdeaconry of Furness) will fall to the Crown for this turn, in consequence of the See of Carlisle being vacant.

Chancellor Newbolt is to be the Canon in Residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during December, replacing Archdeacon Sinclair. Dean Gregory, who is now in residence, will preach on Christmas Day at the morning service.

The Benchers of Gray's Inn have appointed the Rev. R. J. Fletcher, who has been Reader in their Chapel for ten years, to the Preachership of Gray's Inn, vacant by the resignation, through ill-health, of Canon Thompson, late Vicar of St. John's, Cardiff, who has been advised to leave London, and he will reside for the present at Worthing.

I have been asked to call attention to the fact that Wednesday next, December 7, is to be observed as a "pound day," for the benefit of the Invalid Children's Aid Association. For the benefit of those who do not know what a "pound day" is, I will explain that it means that a pound of anything useful, from a pound of money to a pound of tea, should be sent on that day to Mrs. Munro, Secretary of the Association, at 8, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden. The business of the Invalid Children's Aid Association is to look after and help the sickly and crippled children of the poor, which is done by means of qualified visitors, backed by professional advisers, and this work might be extended very considerably if the requisite funds were available. It is a very admirable work from every point of view, and I hope that the Association will obtain all the pounds it stands in need of.

Princess Henry of Battenberg will open the winter sale of the Working Ladies' Guild, which is to be held at Kent House, Knightsbridge, on Tuesday and Wednesday in next week (December 6 and 7). The sale will open each day at 2 p.m.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Model Soup Kitchen, 357, Euston-road, N.W., tells me that during the last week the kitchen has been feeding between 1,500 and 2,000 men, women, and children; and that the number could be greatly increased if only the money necessary for the purpose were in hand. Knowing the excellent way in which this charity has always been conducted, and the amount of real good done by it, it seems to me that its work ought not to be curtailed for want of money, especially at a time like the present, when there is so much distress in London among the most deserving of the poor. I would suggest that those who agree with that view should signify their assent in the usual manner to Dr. Percy Jakins, the Honorary Treasurer.

I have received £1 from P. W. for Lady Jeune's Country Holiday Fund.

Surgeon-General Sir William Taylor, Director-General of the Army Medical Service, is to vacate this important post next month, and there has been much speculation as to his successor, who will be nominated by the Army Council, subject to the approval of the King and the Secretary of State. So many Scotsmen have filled this coveted appointment that the Medical Department at the War Office has been long known in Service circles as "the Scotch preserve."

Colonel Hanbury Williams, late Oxfordshire Light Infantry, who accompanies Lord Grey to Canada as military secretary, has enjoyed a large experience of both active service and administrative work. He was engaged in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882 and in the South African War; and he acted as military secretary to Lord Milner at the Cape from 1897 until 1900, and was for four years principal private secretary to Mr. Brodrick at the War Office.

As some of my readers may know, the regiments of the Indian Army have recently been renumbered. In connection with this operation heavy expense for new buttons and badges has been thrown upon all ranks, entirely through the fault of somebody or other at headquarters. When the question of new badges and buttons arose, designs for these articles were submitted by the various regiments to Headquarters, and when the designs had been approved, the commanding officers proceeded to order the articles, under the impression that the Government would pay for the cost of carrying out its own orders. Quite recently, however, and when most corps had already provided themselves with their new decorations, a circular was issued to the effect that the buttons and badges were not to be replaced until worn out, and that no allowance would be granted to cover their replacement. The result is that large numbers of officers have had to pay from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80 out of their own pockets, and a proportionate expense has fallen upon the native officers and rank and file, who can even less afford it.

I am sorry to add that there are officers who suspect that Headquarters deliberately laid this trap for the various regiments, but that, of course, is a cruel slander. It does, however, seem an extraordinary thing that the Government should contemplate the existing badges and buttons being kept in use until they are worn out. As a matter of fact, such things scarcely wear out at all, and had not officers and men replaced them at their own expense, in a few years' time a large proportion of several regiments would be wearing official designations of their corps which had long since become officially extinct. Indeed, that result will follow now in the cases where the new badges have not been already procured.

The following incident is reported from Middelburg, C.C., and seems to show that the recent orders on the subject of unnecessary parades and inspections have not yet reached that part of the world. The officer in

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charge of the hospital holds, for some reason or another, a parade of the R.A.M.C. detachment on a Saturday afternoon. Seventeen N.C.O.s and men, being on duty at that time, are ordered to parade in marching order on the following (Sunday) morning, and afterwards to lay out their kit for inspection. Most of these men have been on duty on Saturday from 6.30 a.m. till 10 p.m., and some of them for the whole of the night, and it certainly seems a most inconsiderate proceeding to order a kit inspection for men on a Sunday morning under such circumstances. As was recognised in Lord Roberts's order, such proceedings are a most prolific source of discontent in the Army, and I am in a position to testify that it was certainly so in the above instance.

Is it to symbolise the turning of swords into ploughshares in South Africa that an Army officer is allowed to hold an appointment in the Transvaal Agricultural Department? He is on the staff of the experimental farm at Potchefstroom, and he figures in the Army List among "officers in special extra-regimental employment." In a recent letter I am told that this is one of a number of military appointments to civilian berths which occasion adverse comment in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony. There is obviously a good deal to be said for the contention that such a civilian berth should not be given to a soldier, or at any rate that, if his services are indispensable on the farm, this Cincinnatus should at least be required to lay down the sword before taking up the plough.

An old grievance of Army officers in India is reproduced in the case of those occupying married quarters in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. There the benevolent authorities provide the officer with a bungalow and debit him with the rent of £90 per annum out of his pay, which for captains and majors works out at from £300 to £400 per annum, including colonial allowance. The exorbitance of the rent is accentuated by the fact that it represents a return of about 6 per cent. on the capital employed in the building of the bungalows, whereas the money was borrowed for the purpose at 3½ per cent. That a profit rental should now be charged for quarters is, indeed, a touching instance of the greater consideration for officers' pockets which our Army reformers promised two or three years ago.

I was told the other day by a Militia officer that the Auxiliary Forces are at the present time in a half-paralysed condition owing to the prevailing uncertainty regarding their fate, and it is time to ask how long this state of things is to continue. Mr. Arnold-Forster, when announcing his contemplated reforms, gave out that conferences with Militia officers as to the future of that force would be held in the autumn, and the whole scheme of the "Home Service Army" was left in a nebulous condition pending the decision on this point. The autumn is past and the winter has come, but, so far as can be ascertained, the promised consultation with the Militia officers has never been held, although it is a matter of supreme national importance that the question should be disposed of, one way or another, as soon as Parliament meets. While Mr. Arnold-Forster is hankering to disestablish the Militia, and has announced a large reduction of the Volunteers, the Conservative caucus at Southampton has passed a resolution which, if it means anything, means that both forces should be developed rather than extinguished. Neither officers nor men can know, under these circumstances, what to expect, and the continuance of such uncertainty can only be disastrous to both Volunteers and Militia.

It is always gratifying to know that good results have followed from a paragraph in Truth. It was mentioned in these columns a fortnight ago that a little item of expenditure incurred by the sergeant-major of the R.A.M.C. at the Devonport Military Hospital had been charged to the mess accounts. An inquiry into this circumstance was immediately afterwards held by the C.O., with the result that the money has been refunded. It was observed in the course of the proceedings that it was a pity the N.C.O.s did not complain to their company officer, instead of communicating with Truth. But it is generally a risky thing for a man in the Army, whatever his rank, to make a complaint against a superior, and that is why a little paragraph in Truth is sometimes so useful.

Since writing the above, I have received a very lengthy statement, setting forth the other side of the case, by way of defence of the sergeant-major. It would appear from this that the grievance was not a very serious one, and very possibly the sergeant-major imagined that he was quite justified in the course taken; but the incident is now closed, and is not worth further discussion.

A gentleman recently returned from Canada came across, while in that country, an ex-trooper of the 21st Lancers, who tells the following story. In the autumn of 1902 he twice in the course of a few weeks injured his right knee by a fall. He remained in hospital for three months, during which time the medical treatment was limited to the application of liniments. At the end of that time, he was unable to straighten his leg, and was given two months' sick furlough. During this time a civil surgeon ordered him a course of massage, and his leg regained its normal condition. On his returning to duty, at the end of about two months the knee became troublesome again, and he returned to hospital for three months more, during which time he states that the treatment consisted of blistering and application of some kind of dressing.

The result of this treatment was that at the end of the time the man could only hobble about with the assistance of a stick. He then went before an invaliding board, which apparently came to the conclusion that he was shamming, and returned him to duty. Very soon after this, his C.O. sent him back to the hospital, and shortly afterwards he was discharged from the Army, apparently without going before a board again. Immediately after his discharge he went to St. Thomas's Hospital. His leg was there massaged every day for

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twenty minutes, and at the end of five weeks he was ordered to take half an hour's rowing exercise daily. Three weeks later he was discharged from the hospital cured, and has been perfectly well ever since.

It seems to me that this story conveys a severe reflection upon the competence of the medical officers who had the man under their care. They evidently did not know how to treat the man for what seems to have been a very trifling injury, and, when they failed to cure him, they diagnosed the case as one of shamming. Apparently it is a common practice of Army doctors, when their scientific knowledge does not enable them to discover what a man is suffering from, to conclude that he is shamming—at any rate this is the third case that has come under my notice during the last twelve months in which the diagnosis has taken this course. I have said before that in these cases there ought to be an inquiry with a view to ascertaining how far the Army surgeons concerned were to blame. There has been a deal of talk lately about promoting efficiency by the removal of incompetent combatant officers or the stoppage of their promotion. Efficiency is quite as important in the medical as in the combatant branch of the Service, and what is sauce for one should be sauce for the other. The necessity for it is strikingly exemplified when, as in the above case, a man who might be a useful soldier is discharged from the Army simply because the medical men do not know how to treat him. If my suggestion were carried out, a board should be formed for considering such cases, independent of the R.A.M.C., and containing a majority of civilian practitioners of recognised standing and authority.

Apropos of the recruiting question, my attention has been called to an order issued in the 1st Munster Fusiliers at Mankote. In this order it is intimated that "applications from any of the above N.C.O.s or men to extend or re-engage will not be entertained." The men specified are close on ninety in number, so that they must comprise a very large part of the time-expired men of the present trooping season. Presumably the C.O. regards the whole of these men as undesirables, though it is a somewhat unusual course to publicly advertise the fact in this way. It seems to me, however, that there must be something radically wrong when a commanding officer publicly notifies his desire to get rid of something like ten per cent. of the strength of his battalion.

Even granting that Irishmen have, according to the widely-accepted opinion, a double dose of original sin, it hardly runs to the length, I should think, of rendering ten per cent. of them ineligible for military service. The question arises whether this state of things may not be the fault of someone else, or whether the commanding officer's discretion has been wisely exercised in regard to all of the men. Only a few weeks ago I pointed out that it may not always be expedient, from the point of view of the Service and of the public, to entrust a commanding officer with the final decision whether any particular man shall or shall not remain in the Army. As there has been a special difficulty in finding soldiers for India of late, I would suggest to the Army Council whether, in a case like the above, if any of the men desire to re-engage, and any other commanding officer is ready to give them a trial, they should not be transferred to some other regiment.

My opinion has been asked on the following point of military law. A private is discharged from the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers, at Gibraltar, for misconduct, after having undergone a term of imprisonment, and the men of his company subscribe a few shillings for his benefit on his departure. A list of what each man desires to give is accordingly made up, and handed to the colour-sergeant, in order that this money may be stopped on the next pay-day. When pay-day comes, and the beneficiary goes to draw the amount, 13s. is deducted from the total, which amounts only to £3 10s., to meet a charge against him for certain articles he had been put down for when going to prison.

The subscribers protest that they had no intention of paying the man's debts to the Government, and only gave the money in order that he might not be absolutely destitute when landed in England. Their protest, however, is overruled on the ground that as the money is put through the accounts, the authorities have a right to treat it as public money. This strikes me as a very good example of the pettifogging principles on which financial business in the Army is transacted. Suppose I were dismissing one member of my staff, and that another member of the staff asked my cashier to give the man a sovereign out of his own pay, should I be justified in telling my cashier to stick to the sovereign on the ground that the man who was leaving owed me that amount? Personally, I should regard this proceeding as little better than stealing.

It has been known for some time past that when Sir Compton Domvile vacates the command of the Mediterranean Squadron in the spring he will be succeeded by Lord Charles Beresford, who is himself to be replaced in the command of the Channel Fleet by Rear-Admiral May. It has just been settled that Captain Jackson, now in command of the torpedo-school ship *Vernon* at Portsmouth, is to be the new Controller of the Navy. This is an excellent appointment, as Captain Jackson is an officer of exceptionally wide experience and very high scientific attainments. He invented an admirable system of wireless telegraphy.

The following statement affords a good illustration of what was said in Truth a fortnight ago as to the business principles on which our dockyards are managed. When the old *Victoria and Albert* was broken up, among the "residual products" was a steam winch which had cost £1,700, and was as good as new. A smart naval officer cast his eye on it, and it was bought at a mere nominal price for the boom defences of Portsmouth and Southampton. Had it not been rescued, the winch

Southampton.—South-Western Hotel.—The new Dining-room, elegant Lounges, Smoke-room, with Restaurant and Grill-room on ground floor now open.—For tariff, apply to Manager.

was to have been sold as old iron! I am satisfied that this statement is absolutely authentic, and it is an example of what is always happening. Any business man can see for himself the bearing of such incidents upon the suggestion that a capital account for each dockyard—a thing at present unknown—is one of the first essentials of economical and business-like administration.

A correspondent, writing from some knowledge of the public service, says that there is hardly a single department in which from 10 to 20 per cent. could not be saved by administrative economies as easily as in the Navy, or more so. He suggests that a beginning should be made with the Revenue machinery itself, which he pronounces to be the most expensive of all the Government departments. He asks, and it is more than I can do to answer him, why this department should be administered by a board, with a chairman at £2,000 a year, and a number of colleagues drawing from £1,200 to £1,500 each, when practically the whole of the work is done by the secretary and his staff. He asks why special officers should be paid for selling stamps and writing licences, when the whole of this work could be transferred to the Post Office and the County Councils, and discharged by existing machinery, without any additional cost to the public.

Again, in Ireland agricultural returns are collected by the police, and this work is done much better than in England. In almost every English rural parish there are one or more constables with little or nothing to do who might just as easily be turned on to this job. I have no doubt that economies like this might be effected in all directions if it were anybody's business to effect them. The system simply goes on automatically year after year on the same lines, without regard to expense or the possibility of improvement; and it will continue to do so until the House of Commons, as the guardian of the public purse, devises some means for checking unnecessary expenditure, similar to those which houses of business are forced to adopt if they desire to escape bankruptcy.

One of the foundation managers of a non-provided school (Roman Catholic) at Portsmouth has lately been removed from his office in a manner which reveals an extraordinary anomaly in the administration of the Education Act of 1902. The manager in question acted as the treasurer, and a sum of £48 was due to him from the school. A proposal having been made to carry out certain alterations required by the local education authority, he pointed out that there were no funds for the purpose, and reminded his fellow managers of the existing debt. He added that if they could not raise the money the proper course was to close the school or else hand it over to the education authority. In spite of his protest the other managers resolved to incur the further proposed expenditure, and a few weeks later the two clergymen who are the trustees of the school revoked his appointment as a foundation manager on the ground that they disapproved of his suggestion that the school should be transferred to the local authority. He ascertained that the trust deed empowered them to take this course, and at the same time he was informed that the trustees were not in any way responsible for the debt due to him as treasurer, that being a matter which only concerned the managers.

The Board of Education have declined to interfere, and it must therefore be assumed that they see nothing objectionable in the arrangement which makes the foundation managers mere puppets in the hands of the trustees. Yet its objectionableness is obvious. The two clergymen mentioned above are also the trustees under similar deeds of a considerable number of other schools, and their power not only to appoint but to dismiss foundation managers at their pleasure practically perpetuates the system of autocratic management by the clergy which it was one of the supposed objects of the Act to abolish.

I was under the impression that the imposition of religious tests for workhouse nurses had died out, but it seems that this form of intolerance still survives among the Southwark Guardians. Recently three candidates for the position of superintendent nurse appeared before a committee. The candidate who was admittedly the best qualified of the three was, however, ruled out, when she stated, in answer to a question, that she was a Roman Catholic. One of the Guardians has given notice of a motion that in the making of future appointments "no questions respecting religion be put." This ought to be the universal rule among Poor Law authorities, and it would surely be within the province of the Local Government Board to make and enforce it.

What a convulsion there would be among the well-paid bureaucrats of Dublin Castle if an order went forth for the stoppage of their salaries whenever they are off duty through sickness! Yet those of them who constitute the Local Government Board for Ireland could not complain with any regard for consistency after the recent correspondence of the Board with the Corporation of Kilkenny. At the audit of the accounts of the Corporation the Local Government Board auditor objected to certain payments of wages to sick workmen, and stated that in future such payments would be surcharged. In one case, an old employee in the municipal market had received his wages during an illness admittedly brought about by overwork. In another case a municipal employee contracted an illness, which proved fatal, while engaged in disinfecting fever and diphtheria-contaminated clothing and bedding; and until he died his wages were paid for the support of his wife and little children. The auditor seemingly held that both in these exceptional cases and in ordinary cases of sickness—all certified by the medical officer—the payments to the workmen were illegal.

The Corporation appealed to the Local Government Board, but the latter practically endorsed the ruling of the auditor, and suggested that if it were not considered satisfactory, an authoritative judicial decision

should be obtained. "Workmen," the Board wrote, "are generally regarded as receiving a day's wages for a day's work done, and in a different position to officers holding specific appointments." To the credit of the Kilkenny Corporation, it takes a broader and more humane view of its duties as an employer, contending that if salaries are paid during the illness of well-to-do officers, there is no reason why wages should not be similarly paid during the illness of poor workmen, whose families would otherwise be left to starve. A very vigorous protest has been made against the attitude of the Local Government Board in the matter, and it is to be hoped that if surcharges are insisted upon the question will be taken before the King's Bench.

Dr. C. D. F. Phillips, who died last week at the age of seventy-four, was the hero of a *cause célèbre* of the seventies, which remains, I believe, a "leading case" on the question of damages for personal injuries—the case of "Phillips *v.* the London and South-Western Railway Company." Dr. Phillips was injured in 1877 in a collision near Vauxhall Station, with the result that he became paralysed in the legs, and was for many months unable to leave his bed. Prior to the accident he had a large practice, bringing in about £6,000 a year, and he asked for damages in proportion. The dispute was tried in 1878 before Mr. Justice Field, when, after evidence had been given of the plaintiff's total inability to pursue his profession, the jury awarded £7,000 damages. The plaintiff was dissatisfied with the verdict, and on appeal obtained an order for a new trial, on the ground that the damages were insufficient. The case was tried a second time in 1879, before Lord Coleridge. This time the plaintiff, who was represented by Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, was awarded £16,000.

It is a remarkable fact that, notwithstanding the strong medical evidence that Dr. Phillips was permanently incapacitated, and the huge damages that he obtained in consequence, he nevertheless, in the course of a few years, recovered to a very considerable extent, largely owing to his own pluck and perseverance. At the end of three or four years he partially regained the use of his legs, and was able to resume practice, and he subsequently filled the post of examiner in Materia Medica and Therapeutics in the University of Edinburgh. It cannot be said, of course, that he was unduly compensated for the injuries he received; on the contrary, he must have lost very heavily in pocket, apart altogether from the personal suffering and the eclipse of his professional career. But I have often wondered that in cases of this kind, where time alone can show the full extent of the injury, and the solvency of the defendants is beyond question, the principle has never been adopted of giving the compensation in the form of an annuity, instead of a lump sum. This arrangement would dispose of all those questions as to the permanence of the injury, which are such a fruitful source of litigation; it would be fairer to railway companies and such-like parties; and it would often be very much more for the benefit of the injured person.

Apropos of my reference last week to the unwarrantable treatment jurymen experience from the Canterbury coroner, Dr. Johnson, a correspondent states that this functionary is in the habit of employing his partner to hold post-mortem examinations, the fees for which are paid by the city. There are manifest objections to this arrangement. It is unfair to other medical practitioners, and it is likely to arouse a suspicion that the expense of such examinations is sometimes incurred unnecessarily. The City Council should make it their business to look into this question, and at the same time to see whether the Lord Chancellor cannot stop the coroner's custom of asking jurymen to sign blank inquisition forms and insulting those who refuse to be parties to this irregularity.

One night last week William Nuttall was found by a policeman sleeping in the snow in a field at Accrington. Despite the fact that he had 2s. 5d. in his pocket, William was haled before the magistrates on the familiar charge of lodging in the open air, "not having any visible means of subsistence," and their worships committed him to goal for two months. There were previous convictions against him for the same heinous offence, and, according to the Chief Constable, he prefers to sleep in the open air, whatever the weather may be. It was stated also that he could sleep while walking or standing, as well as lying down. He seems, indeed, to have an unusual capacity for sleep, but that can hardly be counted a crime. An Accrington tradesman who knows Nuttall informs me that he is a perfectly harmless, though eccentric, fellow, and if he chooses to sleep in the open air I fail to perceive why the police should interfere with him. To give a man two months' hard labour on such a charge would be in any circumstances a harsh sentence. In this case it was not only harsh but illegal, for a man with 2s. 5d. in his possession could not be properly convicted of being without visible means of subsistence.

Before Mr. W. J. Cooper, J.P., at Basingstoke last week, two men on tramp were charged with refusing to do their allotted task of work at the workhouse. They explained that they refused to do the work because they had been unable to sleep owing to the verminous condition of the nightshirts supplied to them in the casual ward. One of them observed that he went into the workhouse clean, and did not expect to come out as he did. Although it was admitted that these statements were correct, Mr. Cooper, who is himself a member of the Board of Guardians, sentenced the men to seven days' imprisonment, telling them that if they came into the casual ward they must work. Quite so, but men entering a casual ward ought to be given clean accommoda-

SCRUBB & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of SCRUBB & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

CANNES. — GRAND HOTEL, CANNES. — First class. Proprietor, H. MENGE (late of Savoy and Claridge's Hotels.)

tion, and the excuse of the workhouse porter that "it was impossible to keep the vermin away" is nonsense. He mentioned that there was a disinfector at the workhouse, but that it was not a proper one, and this is doubtless the reason why the unfortunate tramp who goes into the ward clean emerges as a verminous person. It might awaken Mr. W. J. Cooper and his fellow-Guardians to a sense of their duty to the tramps if they were compelled to pass a night with them and the vermin.

The following is taken from the report of the proceedings at the Halifax West Riding Police-court the other day, when a number of passive resisters were summoned for non-payment of the education rate. The Chairman of the Bench was Major T. H. Morris:—

Mr. S. Mitchell (one of the defendants): I should like to state ——.
The Chairman: You can state nothing.
Mr. Mitchell: I only want to state the position.
The Chairman: I am not here to hear a single word on that. *This is a Court of Justice. I cannot allow you to state your case, sir.*

No doubt Justices' justice is often administered on these lines, but it seems a little indiscreet for the Chairman of the Bench to give away the show so openly.

With reference to my comments last week on the case of one Helen Daniels at the Central Criminal Court, I have been furnished with some supplementary information showing that there is no reasonable doubt as to the woman's insanity. My point was that, so far as could be gathered from the newspaper report, the woman was held to be a lunatic, and ordered to be detained during the King's pleasure merely on the dictum of a prison doctor, whereas in the ordinary course of things two medical certificates and an examination by a magistrate are required before a person can be pronounced insane. It seems, however, that Daniels had been remanded at the previous sessions expressly in order that her state of mind might be inquired into. In such a matter the opinion of one prison doctor who has had a person under daily observation for a month is probably more valuable than the opinions of two doctors who have only made brief casual examinations of a supposed lunatic. As to the examination by a magistrate, I am aware that in many instances it is a perfect farce, and the appearance of the criminal lunatic before a Judge is doubtless a better safeguard against any wrongful committal to an asylum.

The confidence of the public in the administration of criminal justice has suffered another shock from the case of the youths Ryan and Baxter at Marylebone Police-court. They were charged before Mr. Curtis Bennett with being suspected persons and attempting to pick pockets, and a detective deposed that on the occasion of the recent Royal procession from Paddington to the City he watched the movements of the prisoners among the crowd for three-quarters of an hour. On this evidence Mr. Curtis Bennett sentenced them to three months' hard labour. No information of the arrest had been communicated to the youths' families, nor had any inquiry been made as to their characters and antecedents. As a matter of fact, both were respectable youths, Ryan being a postman and Baxter in the employ of the Marylebone Borough Council; and, apart from the injustice of charging them as suspected persons and the improbability that they were attempting to pick pockets, conclusive evidence was forthcoming that down almost to the moment of their arrest they were not in the street where the detective said that he had had them under observation for three-quarters of an hour. Steps were taken by their friends to lay this evidence before the magistrate, and as a result of his recommendation the Home Secretary released the youths, though not till they had been in gaol for a week.

The detective admitted that owing to the fog he temporarily lost sight of the parties he was watching, and no doubt the explanation of the affair is that he afterwards mistook Ryan and Baxter for the real pickpockets. It seems to have been an inexcusable mistake, but a still more serious matter was the subsequent committal of the accused to prison without any inquiry or any corroboration of the officer's evidence. Old offenders charged with loitering with intent or attempting to steal are, I know, frequently sentenced upon such police evidence. But it is certainly an alarming revelation to find that persons against whom nothing whatever is known can be summarily dealt with as suspected thieves.

At the North London Police-court, on Saturday, Arthur Harrison, a grocer's assistant of nineteen, was charged with behaving in a disorderly manner in Upper Holloway. Policeman 350Y said that the youth would not go away when asked to do so; also that he shouted, "Below there, here's a copper!" He was also alleged to have used bad language. The prisoner asked to be sworn, and denied all the charges. Two independent witnesses followed the policeman and his prisoner to the station. One, Mr. Herring, a clerk, was ordered out of the charge-room, but persisted in seeing the inspector, who told him he could go to the police-court if he liked. He swore that though the prisoner did nothing the constable ordered him to move on, and said, "Do you refuse to go away?" and on hearing the answer, "No, I don't," rushed at him, struck him, shook him, and then marched him off. The other witness, Mr. F. S. Elliott, gave similar evidence. Now, if this evidence is true, this is an exceedingly scandalous case of police ruffianism. It seems to me that two civilian witnesses are as credible as one policeman, and Mr. Fordham, the magistrate, evidently thought so too, for he discharged the prisoner and directed all the evidence to be laid before the Police Commissioner. I shall be interested to know the result.

WHITEHALL COURT, S.W. FLATS FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. Overlooking Thames and Gardens. High Class catering with moderate tariff. Domestic service provided.

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In my Legal Pillory this week I would particularly direct attention to the edifying remarks of the East Dereham J.P.s on their determination to show the world that there is not one law for the rich and another for the poor in connection with the cult of the sacred birds. The principle is sound enough, but whether the defendant is rich or poor, £5 10s. seems to me an outrageously excessive penalty for shooting a pheasant on a Sunday, and it stands out in striking contrast to the penalty which the same magistrates imposed upon another defendant for a violent assault. The following list also contains several further examples of severity in the enforcement of the Game Laws, together with some sharp sentences for petty larceny and the so-called crime of sleeping out. On the other hand, I give a series of cases from Bradford, Liscard, Burslem, and elsewhere, in which extraordinary leniency has been displayed in dealing with offences against the person:—

East Dereham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. W. D. E. Bulwer, T. B. F. Daniel, M. W. Harvey, A. G. Copeman, and Colonel H. E. Hyde. Frederick Hunter, charged with assaulting Ambrose Sadler by striking him about the head. Fined 20s.

Burslem Police-court. Robert Wordell, convicted of assaulting his wife. He thrashed her in the morning, and on hearing that she had lodged a complaint against him, he attacked her again in the evening, knocking her down and kicking her. His defence was that he was under the influence of drink. Fined 40s. and costs.

Wantage Petty Sessions. Before Colonel C. J. Carter and other magistrates. James Roberts, charged with assaulting his wife by striking her on the head with a hammer. Fined 10s. and costs.

West Bromwich Police-court. George Crumpton, charged with assaulting Samuel Taylor. Defendant attacked the complainant without any provocation, and the Bench said they regarded it as an aggravated assault. Fined £1 9s. 6d.

Towcester Divisional Petty Sessions. Before the Duke of Grafton and Messrs. W. G. Stops and J. H. Jepson. George Townsend, convicted of assaulting Wm. Atkins. It was a brutal and unprovoked assault. Fined 20s. and costs.

Bradford City Police-court. Before Alderman W. W. Wood and other magistrates. James and Herbert Hartley, Wm. W. Watson, and Thomas Halliday, charged with assaulting an innkeeper. Because he refused to allow them to gamble on his premises, defendants violently assaulted the complainant, knocking him down and kicking him. The magistrates said it was a very bad case. Fined 10s. each and costs.

East Dereham Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. H. Knowles, charged with killing a pheasant on a Sunday. The bird was shot on land of which the defendant was the sporting tenant. His solicitor said the defendant was out shooting snipe, which he was entitled to do on Sundays, but a pheasant got up, and in the excitement of the moment he shot it. The chairman said that a poor man would not be allowed to shoot game on Sundays, and the magistrates were determined that there should be no idea that there was one law for the rich and another for the poor in such matters. Fined £5 and 10s. costs.

Wantage Police-court. Before Mr. H. Denis de Vitre. Charles Strickley and Richard Green, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days each.

Calne Police-court. Before Messrs. Redman and Jefferys. Alfred Taylor and Fred James, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. James, seven days; Taylor, fourteen days.

Barnsley Police-court. John Cropper, charged with stealing a dead rabbit. Twenty-one days.

Holbeach Police-court. Before Messrs. Merry and Tingle. James Newton and Albert Williams, charged with stealing a coat. Six weeks each.

Preston Police-court. William Blundell, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Paisley Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Lyell. Peter McDonald, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of a number of rabbits. Fined £5 or thirty days.

Galashiels Police-court. Before Bailie Dawson. James Scott, charged with stealing a loaf from a shop. He was starving. In default of paying a fine of 21s. he was committed to prison for thirty days.

Liscard Police-court. Hugh M'Mahon, convicted of assaulting Margaret Hughes, his sister-in-law, by striking her on the head with a frying-pan. Fined 10s.

Dumfries Police-court. John Sidney Farquharson, charged with assaulting his wife. He went home drunk, struck his wife repeatedly on the head, knocked her down, and kicked her. He had been previously convicted. Fined £5.

Thorpe Police-court. Before the Rev. Canon Norman and other justices. Edward Catchpole, charged with stealing a shirt and a pair of stockings from a clothes-line. Two months.

Perth Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Sym. John Bisland, charged with poaching. He had caught two rabbits. Three months.

Tiverton Police-court. Henry Sanders, charged with stealing a bag containing 60 lb. of coal. One month.

An itinerant quack, calling himself "Professor Richard," his "profession," but not his practice, being to cure all sorts of diseases by electrical treatment, is at present performing at Southampton. This man has had a very disreputable career, and from time to time warnings against him have been published in TRUTH. Last year he paid me a visit, and endeavoured to work on my sympathies by recounting the persecution which he had incurred in all parts of the world, and which he attributed to my remarks about him. He made a clean breast of his past doings, putting the best face upon them he could from his own point of view; assured me that the past was dead and buried; and implored me to have pity upon an old man, who was being deprived of his only means of livelihood in his old age.

As I am naturally tender-hearted, and as Richard is a plausible sort of rascal, with whom it is difficult to feel angry, I have refrained for many months from noticing his doings. I heard last week, however, from Bournemouth, where he was last giving his show, of a case in which a working man of the poorest class with a family dependent upon him, had parted with his savings to the amount of £5, on Richard's representation that he could cure him of long-standing and doubtless incurable deafness. Needless to say, he had got no result whatever for his money. If Richard has so little mercy as this upon other people, I do not see why I should have any mercy upon him. He gave me to understand that he posed rather as an entertainer than a "healer," and that his entertainment was an amusing and a harmless one. It seems, however, from his recent advertisements, that he invites people to his show free, evidently with the object of getting money out of them for treatment. Judging from the above example, his business is most mischievous, and I think the police at Southampton or wherever he is giving his performance, would do well to look up his record, and see if anything could be done to stop his operations.

Examples of Messrs. Dorey, Lester, and Co.'s operations continue to reach me from all quarters. The latest is from a correspondent in India, whose experience in forwarding the money for two watches without receiving anything in return is identical with that of dozens of other persons to whose cases I have referred in TRUTH. Unlike many of Dorey, Lester, and Co.'s victims, however, he has received a communication from the firm since he forwarded his cash. This communication took

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

the form of a "Net Cash Price List" of a variety of photographic materials. Apparently they want him to photograph himself, and send them on the result, in order to see how their victim looks after being swindled.

Bristol has lately been invaded by one of the gangs engaged in the "clearance sale" trick, which has been so often exposed in TRUTH. In this instance they call themselves "Messrs. Bennett and Co.," and represent that they are disposing of an enormous stock of "unclaimed and mislaid goods from the railway companies." The *modus operandi* is always the same. First there is a house-to-house delivery of circulars, and then "one of our travellers" calls. Samples are produced of silks, flannels, or other materials for which ridiculously low prices are quoted. Thinking that she is getting a bargain, the unwary housewife orders some of these materials, and then the traveller cajoles her into paying cash down for a "dress length," which he happens to have with him. Of course, the "dress length" which he leaves is shoddy stuff, worth about half the price charged for it, while the order which he books is never executed. The police at Bristol and elsewhere would do well to ascertain whether these tricksters have hawkers' licences, and if not, to prosecute them.

One of my readers mentions a novel method of dealing with the circulars of moneylenders, turf-tipsters, and others of the same class. He seals them up in an envelope, and addresses them unstamped to the Postmaster-General. This seems to me an improvement on the old method of returning them in the same way to the senders. A great deal of literature of this class is sent to this office which might with advantage be forwarded to St. Martin's-le-Grand. The advantage of sending it to the latter destination is that there is no charge for postage.

In forwarding several tipsters' circulars purporting to emanate from "V. Vee," Morion House, Newmarket, and "James Grant," Bryanston Mansion, York-street, W., respectively, a correspondent points out that the envelopes in which they were posted were all addressed in the same handwriting. He infers from this that V. V. and J. G. are one and the same individual, and though I do not attach any importance to the evidence of the envelopes, I am inclined to think that he is right. It has been stated before that "V Vee" is the Newmarket alias of a touting tipster named Arthur McCall, also doing business from an address in London, and if the James Grant circulars are not from the same pen, then some prophet has arisen who has achieved a wonderful imitation of the marked peculiarities of McCall's literary style. However, even if McCall, Vee, and Grant are not one person, they are birds of a feather and I should think that only the greenest of greenhorns can be imposed upon by the transparent nonsense as to "absolute certainties" and so forth which fills these circulars.

My readers will doubtless remember the home employment business recently started at Manchester by the two men Albert Bennett and J. H. Hunter, under the title of the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company. Attempts have recently been made to answer the criticism of this business by the circulation of an expert's report, in which the machine is represented as a thoroughly good and useful one, which with ordinary care and intelligence could be worked without difficulty. I cannot profess to set up my own opinion against that of an expert, and I am more concerned with the value of the offers of home employment made by Bennett and Hunter than with the technical merits of their machine. The machine is offered indiscriminately to women as a means whereby they can obtain well-paid work in their own homes, and if any considerable number of them are unable to make the machine work, the whole business is a delusive one, and it is not worth while to discuss the question how much care and intelligence are needed to work the machine satisfactorily.

Abundant evidence has already been given in TRUTH that numbers of purchasers are unable to do anything with the machine, and have demanded from the company the return of their money. The following letter, which has been sent to me, affords very strong evidence that the fault in such cases lies with the machine, and not with the workers, and it also shows, incidentally, that it is as difficult to get a cash settlement for work done out of Messrs. Bennett and Hunter, as it is to get knitting out of their machines:—

> In May last, I saw the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company's advertisement in several papers, and, not knowing anything about them, I sent for one of their machines, for which I paid £6 down by cheque. The machine is absolutely useless. After two months of needless daily toil, I managed to turn out two dozen pairs of socks, which I sent to the firm, and I had to wait some seven weeks for settlement. Since then I have not attempted to work the thing, but a fortnight ago a young lady expert tried to work it, and it has now broken down completely. . . . . .

The writer of this letter subsequently obtained a knitting machine from another firm, and reports that it works well, and is satisfactory in every way.

Side by side with the foregoing experience, it is interesting to read a letter written only a week or two ago by the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company to a customer who had complained that the machine would not work, and that an expert had pronounced unfavourably upon it. Here are a few points from the letter:—

> We are in receipt of your letter, and in reply may say that we were rather inclined to believe that you were determined to be dissatisfied, when you sent in your machine to be overhauled with practically nothing the matter with it. You would rather depend on what some so-called expert tells you than what we tell you, and if you are going to continue to do this all along, it is by no means desirable for us to continue doing business with you.
>
> We enclose herewith a report made on our machine by one of the greatest experts in England, and his forty-five years' experience surely qualify him to speak as an expert. Do you think the expert who told you the machine was useless can compare with the expert we mention? . . . . .
>
> We want people to send work, but we want people who want work, and who are willing to work for the money we pay. We never did agree to pay money for nothing, nor to furnish machines which would make money for you without an effort on your part. . . . . .

In view of my criticism of the Hardy business, the expert's report, which is referred to in the above letter, was recently communicated to me. *Experto crede* is a a very good motto, but the expert to whom it applies is the party who has tried the thing for himself. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, and the evidence of half a dozen people who have vainly attempted to

ECONOMICAL DENTISTRY.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—GOODMAN'S, LTD., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

turn out work with the help of this machine is worth the report of a hundred scientific witnesses who are paid to give evidence upon its merits. Mr. Albert Bennett and his colleague, as has been frequently mentioned, came to grief in London a few years ago by carrying on a business identical with that of the Hardy Machine Company with a machine which a County Court Judge pronounced to be "a gross and cruel fraud." It is natural that after this experience they should have made some attempt to get a better machine before trying the game again. Possibly they have done so. But if it were the best machine on the market, which it is not, I should warn all women in search of work against looking for it through the agency of these gentry.

An interesting contribution to the registry-office question is made by somebody describing himself as manager of "The Universal Supply Association," 92, Ravenhurst-street, Camp Hill, Birmingham. In reply to a lady who declined to pay a preliminary fee on the chance of getting a servant, but promised to pay the amount required upon engaging one, this individual writes as follows, accentuating his impertinence by posting the letter unstamped:—

> The Manager of this Association begs to present his compliments to Mrs. ——, and to state that unfortunately he cannot see his way to work the business on terms proposed, there being as yet no subsidy from Public Funds nor charitable subscriptions. He will further thank the lady for information as to whether the newspaper advertising office accepted her advertisement on similar favourable terms.

This clearly implies that the office could not keep itself going on fees received for servants engaged, and that it really lives on fees paid in advance, on the off-chance of getting something in return. This is, doubtless, true of a considerable proportion of such establishments.

Amongst the many dodges for selling tea which have been brought under my notice, an offer made by "The Public Tea Company of London," whose office is at 9, Mincing-lane, is one of the most curious. In a circular headed "How you can make money," the company announces that it will present £5 to its first 40,000 customers who take from its agents not less than a quarter of a pound of tea per week at 6d. per quarter, and as an earnest of the gift it issues to its customers an imposing certificate for £5 to be paid when the sales of tea by the company have reached a certain fixed amount. Forty thousand of these certificates are to be issued in twenty lots of 2,000 each, and when 5,000 cases (200 lbs. each) are sold, the first 2,000 certificate-holders will be entitled to their £5. In other words, when the company has netted £100,000 by the sale of tea at 2s. per lb., it expresses its readiness to pay 10 per cent. of the gross proceeds of the sale to its customers. A similar distribution is to take place when the company has sold a second £100,000 worth of tea, and so on, until the 40,000 certificates have been redeemed. A further point in the scheme is a plan for payment of 10s. on account of the certificate to a certain number of persons every month, by way, I should imagine, of assisting to dispel the heart sickness which comes of deferred hope.

A scheme of this sort is not, of course, calculated to attract customers who look closely into the conditions, but there can be very few among the working classes to whom the appeal is made who look further than the promise to pay £5. A case in point is that of a working woman who writes to me complaining that, though she has purchased tea for nearly three years from the Public Tea Company, she has not yet received her promised £5. As her certificate is numbered 22,906, I am not surprised at this. Before she can become entitled to the cash the company will have to sell tea to the value of £1,200,000, and since it has not yet, according to its latest circular, redeemed the first 2,000 certificates, the prospect is a remote one. I observe that, although the certificate to which I have referred, numbered 22,906, was issued on February 1, 1902, the circular now being issued by the Public Tea Company is still inviting customers to "apply early and be included in the early issues." This seems a delicate way of sugaring their tea which is not likely to redound to the Public Tea Company's credit.

A correspondent offers the suggestion that it would be conducive to commercial morality if the common practice of trading under fictitious names or titles were prohibited. He remarks that an individual starting in business often assumes the style of an imaginary partnership concern, and even if the proprietor's real name is introduced at all it is as frequently as not followed by a meaningless or possibly misleading "and Co." There can be no doubt that swindles of various kinds are, to some extent, facilitated by the freedom with which such trading aliases can be adopted and abandoned. But, on the other hand, many good businesses, including some of the best in the West-End, are quite legitimately carried on in other names than those of the proprietors, and there is not the least likelihood of any proposal to prohibit this custom would be accepted. In the case of some old-established businesses it is, indeed, obvious that such a proceeding would be a serious injustice. Perhaps there might be a greater chance of success for a proposal to extend to all traders using an assumed name the obligation of entering their real names in a public register just as moneylenders and newspaper proprietors now have to do.

Readers of the *Journal of the Photographic Society of India* are informed that "one of the most useful institutions of this country promises to be the Diabetic Institute of London established for scientific research into the origin, cause, and treatment of diabetes, etc." I do not know whether there is anything in photography which makes photographers particularly prone to diabetes, that this information should be vouchsafed them, but in case there is, I would warn them not to "write to the Diabetic Institute, St. Dunstan's-hill, London, E.C." My own camera has long ago revealed the fact that this "promising" institute is nothing more than a nest of quacks every bit as insinuating and dangerous as the disease they profess to cure. Perhaps after this the editor of the *Journal* will do his best to see that the announcement in his columns has only negative results.

Brighton.—New Ship Hotel.—For families and gentlemen. The best of everything. English servants only. Electric light throughout. Night porter. Tel. 292. Manageress, Miss Tucker.

Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). The Original Brand.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Beware of imitations.
Cherry Whisky Fremy Fils (Chesky). Sold everywhere.

"The Psychic Union's" latest effort in popularising the Psychical Sciences takes the form of advertising home-employment at addressing pamphlets, puffing their publication, "How to Succeed in Life." The material condition for engagement appears to be payment of 2s. 6d. as a deposit for the necessary material with which to commence work. Really this plan seems unworthy of the distinguished psychologists who occupy the little office at 55 and 56, Chancery-lane. How can they expect to popularise psychical science by means of a trick as ancient as the witch of Endor? What, too, can be thought of the professor of a science of success whose practice shows no greater claim to originality than is here revealed?

A "CLERICAL" ERROR.

Sir E. Clarke, by taking the initials of the words "United States of North America," gets "Usona," which he suggests as a new name for the country in question.

'Tis dangerous work, Sir Edward Clarke—
One of the riskiest of labours—
To try, as you have tried, to make
Nicknames for one's old friends and neighbours.
'Tis mere coincidence, of course,
But there 's this word of yours "Usona"—
Is it not ominous, at least,
To find it rhyming with "Bellona"?

And had you thought, before you made
To Uncle Sam your pat suggestion,
How in his Country's songs 'twould sound?—
For that 's a most important question.
No one, we 're well aware, will doubt
Your—let us say, please, *fides bona*;
Still, "Hail Columbia!" on the whole,
Sounds stronger, much, than "Hail Usona!"

"Usona" might be well supposed,
By those who study nomenclature,
A cheap sustaining breakfast-food
Of an undoubted "beany" nature.
Or, better still, the "U.S.A."
Might rescue it from grocers' labels
To put it on the "Register"
As their address, for use in "cables"!

But, on the whole, with "Honest John"
We are in close agreement, surely;
Inventing nicknames, we repeat,
Is risky work—done well or poorly.
For if, "Usona" called by us,
The States preserve a calm cherubic,
Great Britain must prepare to smile
When some "smart" Yankee calls it "Gubik"!*

For the benefit of those of my readers who have not yet got to the bottom of the fiscal question, I would call attention to the course of lectures on Free Trade which is being given during the present winter under the auspices of the Cobden Club. The first lecture was given on Monday last, and the next will take place on December 5 at the National Liberal Club.

The Brussels Sugar Convention was the fruit of Mr. Chamberlain's first efforts as a fiscal reformer. We all remember what wonders it was to accomplish. It was to confer a great benefit on the West Indian sugar-growers without injuring the interests of home consumers and sugar-using manufacturers—in fact, Mr. Balfour, with characteristic recklessness, declared that the convention would not increase, but lower the price of sugar. If he had given a moment's serious consideration to the question he must have realised the absurdity of such a statement, but it served its intended purpose in overcoming the scruples some of his supporters felt in regard to the measure then before the House of Commons. How completely the predictions of Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Balfour have been falsified is now universally known. It was not in the interests of the foreigner that they recommended the convention to the British public, but, as its critics foresaw, it is the foreigner who has reaped practically all the advantages of the abolition of the bounties.

In Germany, France, and Austria the price of sugar has fallen and the consumption increased. Here the price has risen and the consumption is falling. Every consumer is paying more for his sugar, and the price is still going up. The confectionery, the biscuit, and the jam trades have been badly hit, and already thousands of workpeople are being discharged from the factories. It is estimated that we are paying something like eight millions a year more for our sugar, and to round off the disastrous story only a tithe of this extra tax on the home consumer reaches the West Indian planters, for whose relief our wise rulers brought about this precious convention. I do not think that anything was needed to complete the discomfiture of Mr. Chamberlain. The bottom has already been knocked out of his tariff reform agitation. But if anything had been required to convince the country of the danger of following him, the costly object-lesson of this experiment of the Sugar Convention would certainly have supplied it.

I see it stated that Parliament will meet late next year. This is, in any case, an intelligent anticipation, for Mr. Balfour would be foolish not to do his best to act on the doctrine that the room of the representatives of the nation is better than their company. The entire future of the country depends upon whether its fiscal policy is henceforward to be Free Trade or Protection. Naturally all are desirous that the House of Commons should come to a decision on this momentous point as soon as possible. Mr. Balfour will not allow the House to discuss the matter, or even to declare its adhesion to his own statements, nor will he consent to a dissolution. This, coupled with the admitted fact that the majority in the House has ceased to be the majority in the country, renders his position when confronting the House a ridiculous one. Such a Parliamentary majority has not the weight of public opinion with it, and to rule by its support is a travesty of representative government.

I see nothing that Mr. Balfour can do to better his position either in the House or in the country. Mr. Arnold-Forster, as War Minister, has proved a dreary failure. All is chaos at the War Office. Mr. Arnold-Forster implies that this is due to his not being allowed to have his own way entirely. His critics in the Cabinet reply that he has it already too much, but that he is so weak, so self-opinionated, and so unpractical that, if left to his own devices, the Army would go from bad to worse. The Educational "reforms" of the Government have not found favour. Wales is in open rebellion, and Londoners find that the schools which have been handed

* United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.—G.U.B.I.K.!

over to them by the Church of England in consideration of the doctrines of that Church being taught in them, are in such a condition that most of them will have to be rebuilt at the cost of the ratepayers.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain is Chancellor of the Exchequer, because he is the son of his father. He has proved himself nothing beyond a painstaking clerk, and our finances are in so bad a condition that a really able man is needed at the helm. He believes that we can spend what we please, and that, if only we accept his father's nostrums, we can make foreigners pay a large portion of our taxes—a view which everybody with a normal allowance of common sense knows to be nonsense. As for Mr. Balfour, his verbal acrobatics have ceased even to amuse, and there is a general feeling even amongst Unionists that he is not up to Premier mark.

What surprises me is that Ministers do not ride for a fall, and then resign instead of hanging on to their present position. This it seems to me would be their best course. The Party is hopelessly split up. Neither Mr. Balfour nor Mr. Chamberlain can gain anything by prolonging the existence of the present Parliament. They should, therefore, in their own interest and in that of their country, court an appeal to the electorate. They will be beaten; but at least they are more likely to better their position in opposition than in office. If they dissolve, the differences between the two sections of the Party will become more acute, for, whilst Mr. Chamberlain does not conceal his aims, Mr. Balfour will have to take the country a good deal more into his confidence than he has already done. In such a situation as has been created, it is far better for a Party not to have to submit to the electorate an official Ministerial programme.

Ministers might resign on any adverse vote, and thus it could easily be arranged that they should find themselves in a minority on some trifling issue. It was, indeed, only the most persistent efforts of the Unionist Whips that prevented defeat last Session owing to lax attendance. Let the Whips abate their persistence, and Ministers will be beaten before Easter in the rough-and-tumble of business.

Before the cordite vote was taken which resulted in the defeat of the last Liberal Government, I was sitting upon a bench on the Terrace with Sir William Harcourt. It so happened that the day before I had several times divided the House against the Government, and as the division bell rang he was saying to me, "We shall have a peaceful evening, for neither you nor any one else is likely to divide, and there will only be the usual talk amongst our war experts." On the bell ringing we both thought that the House was up, and when we found it was a division I said, "I shall go away; it is some rot." "Come along," he replied, "and vote first." So we went up together. On entering the House he asked the Whip, "Which lobby?" and we both entered the lobby indicated by the Whip. He went on talking whilst we were in the lobby, and I do not think that he knew what we were voting about, until the Opposition Whips by their position at the table showed that the Government had been beaten.

It is hard to understand, but, according to our newspapers, the Russians not only can do no good thing, but are at the bottom of all evil. There is a new British Consulate at Urumia—a place which might have been invented by Mr. Anthony Hope—in Northern Persia. A few days ago the new Consul, who was accompanied by an escort of four mounted men, was "attacked by a band consisting of ten persons on foot." Happily the Consul was able to ride away, and, though pursued, "reached the town again in safety." Such an incident is all very simple in such a part of the world as Urumia; but the telegram to the papers adds, quite gratuitously, as it seems to me: "It is thought probable that the attackers were bribed by Russian agents," because apparently Uramia is near Russia! But why Russia should pay bandits to attack an obscure British Consul in Persia passes comprehension. So, of course, do many alleged doings of the Russian autocracy.

There has been recently a dispute in Italy between one of the news agencies, and the *Tribuna*, the leading Ministerial paper in Rome. Most startling news from the seat of war was frequently telegraphed to our papers from Rome, with the assurance that it had reached Rome from the East. In almost every case it has proved to be purely imaginative. The *Tribuna* insists that this news only appeared in very small and insignificant Italian papers, none of which had a correspondent in the East, and it asks, with some point, how it reached the Italian papers which published it. The news agency has not clearly answered this question.

Some of our newspaper war correspondents exercise a little more discretion than others in their war telegrams. But some are perfectly reckless. One day they blow up a fort at Port Arthur by a tunnel that the besiegers have made under it, unperceived by the besieged; the next day they announce that the same fort has been assaulted by the Japanese, but that after five or six thousands of them were mown down by the Russian fire the assault failed. One day all the Russian warships in Port Arthur are only awaiting a favourable moment to emerge; the next day all these warships that have not been sunk have been dismantled. One day they reinforce the besiegers with 20,000 men; the next day they reduce them by the same number owing to reinforcements having been sent to the armies confronting Kuropatkin. One day Kuropatkin has outflanked the Japanese; the next day the Japanese have outflanked Kuropatkin. One day Port Arthur contains provisions to enable it to hold out for months, and Kuropatkin's army is amply provided with provisions and war material; the next day Stoessel is seriously thinking of surrendering because he has neither food nor ammunition, and Kuropatkin's army is not in a much better situation. One day they get news here from some Chinese boatman at Chifu; the next day the informants are the gossips in a Tokyo tea-house; the next a Russian deserter; the next an intelligent Chinese resident in Manchuria; and the next it "comes from a source which I am not permitted to mention, but which

is thoroughly reliable." Sometimes they take higher flights. Either a Russian or a Japanese General has confided the most secret plans of the campaign to someone, who has confided them to someone else, and this someone has conveyed them to the correspondent.

All this is varied by telegrams from the correspondents in neutral capitals, announcing that negotiations are going on between this and that country with a view to peace. In this line of sensation a good deal is done. One newspaper states the fact, another newspaper denies it, each having the "best ground" for its assertion. "A well-known diplomatist" is usually put forward as the source of the statement, and another for the denial. Usually the very newspapers which denounced as an insult to us any suggestion of a foreign State that neutrals should try to patch up a peace between us and the Boers, accompany these imaginative efforts with an expression of opinion that, in the world's interest, we should impose a suspension of arms on Japanese and Russians.

I greatly doubt whether either belligerent would thank a neutral for meddling, for this is usually so when a fight is going on, as long as the combatants are not both entirely exhausted. But looking at the map, it seems to me that the following arrangement ought to satisfy both parties. Give to Russia the northern portion of Korea, which intervenes between her territory and the sea. This would secure to her a terminal port for her Trans-Siberian railway. Give to Japan the rest of Korea. Restore Manchuria to China, dismantling Port Arthur, and let all European countries give back to China any territory that, on one plea or another, they have stolen. At the same time, let each renounce all spheres of influence, and China be open to all countries, in the sense that any body of financiers may exploit any railroad or other concession at their risk and peril, and on the distinct understanding that the whole thing is a matter between them and the Chinese Government, in which the State from which the syndicate hails will not interfere.

In view of the growing lawlessness of the Chinese miners the white employees are arming themselves with rifles or revolvers. Three Chinese overseers were found murdered in their bunks at the Van Ryn compound to-day.

The above I read last week in a telegram from Johannesburg, and it by no means surprised me. Our imported Chinese serfs consist mainly of riff-raff who have been exported from their country for their country's good by the local authorities. Given in many cases the choice between the Transvaal mines and the sharper discipline of a Chinese prison, they naturally preferred the former. They are not likely to work unless compelled by very drastic measures, and they are a permanent danger to the country, which encloses them in compounds and endeavours to submit them to disciplinary rules.

For my part, I do not blame them. They are reduced to a condition which no human being with one spark of manhood would submit to. If they are men who seek honestly to make a livelihood, they must feel that they have a right to make it in any honest way, instead of being condemned to chattel labour in mines. If—as is the case with most of them—they are the criminal scum of China, they can only be kept in order by methods which would be repugnant to justice, as they have not been found guilty of any crime on British territory. We were assured by Mr. Lyttelton that they would be accompanied by their wives. Not one Chinese woman has yet reached the Transvaal. To any one at all acquainted with China, this in itself is a reason for their being sent back as soon as possible. The horrors and iniquities that must take place in the compounds can better be imagined than described.

There may be a banket formation in Rhodesia, and there may be alluvial gold there. But—even if this be the case—I should require a good deal more than mere assertion to believe in either existing as a paying asset. The Chartered Company seemed to me to be bankrupt. It wanted more money to "carry on." This could only be obtained from its shareholders, and it was difficult to get it from them. A discovery of "banket" heralded the raid on their purses, and a discovery of alluvial gold has kept up the price of the new shares. It was by promises and assurances that the shares of the Company were foisted off on fools at eight or nine pounds per share, greatly to the benefit of those intelligent financiers who had expended ink and paper in bringing them into existence.

I shall believe that the Chartered Company can earn a profit, when it not merely pays a dividend, but proves that the dividend comes out of bonâ-fide profits, and not some financing hocus pocus. What I know is that expenditure far exceeds revenue; that revenue seems merely to come from a tax that the natives have to pay; that, what with debenture interest and interest due on guarantees, the existing mortgages on assets seem far to exceed the value of the latter; that millions have been made out of investors by the promoters of this rotten company, whilst not one shilling has been made by investors; that in a country which is as large as Spain and France together, there are only 13,000 whites, after the Company has been in existence for years, and that of these probably most are, directly or indirectly, dependants of the Company; and that a vast number of Rhodesian mining companies have been launched, not one of which has ever paid a dividend. Under these circumstances I do not think that I shall buy the shares of the Company myself, but I do contemplate doing my best, as a taxpayer, to hinder British taxpayers ever—directly or indirectly—paying one farthing for the acquisition of this very undesirable property.

THE SUN AND THE EARTH.

The Sun, above th' Horizon prying,
Saw chill and dun the Earth a-lying,
Then, shivering, said: "How cold! How grey!
Scarce an inviting Welcome—eh?
Guess I 'll not rise on *you* to-day."
"Nay," said the Sky, "you foolish Elf,
The Fault 's entirely with yourself.
In Shadows grey the cold Earth lies,
Simply because you do not rise.
She waits but for your dawning Beam
To greet you with her answering Gleam.
Try her; bestow your genial Light,
And see if, prompt, she 'll not requite."

Sol heard, obeyed, and, glorious, rose.
Forthwith the Earth responsive glows.
The Woods, the Dales, their Charms unfold;
The Hill-tops glint like burnished Gold.
And Meadows, wet with early Dew,
Their morning Brilliance renew.
Cried Sol, amazed: "Some Wizard's Hand
Must, sudden, have transformed the Land."
"Nay," says the Sky. "But Earth, imbued
With Sympathy, reflects your Mood.
Withhold your Light; she 's dour and grey;
Shine, and she smiles with answering Ray.
It all depends on how you take her;
For Earth's precisely what *you* make her."

Moral.

Of Friends you 'll find this Moral true;
What *you 're* to them *they 'll* be to you.

SCRUTATOR.

MR. CATTON AND PENSION TEA.

IN my remarks last week upon the insurance scheme put forward by the new Nelson company—Nelson's Trading Company, Limited—it was said that "the new company will have, like any other insurance office, to deposit £20,000 in the Chancery Division of the High Court . . . and I understand that this has been done." On fuller knowledge of the facts these words require some qualification. It appears that the Nelson Trading Company is a trading company pure and simple, and not an insurance company. The life insurance which it offers to its customers is to be effected through the old Company, Nelson and Co., Limited, and this is specified in the form of agreement with the customers, in which Nelson and Co., Limited, are described as "The Insurance Company." It is not, therefore, necessary for the Nelson Trading Co. to deposit £20,000, and the form of agreement expressly states that this deposit has already been made by "The Insurance Company"—*i.e.*, Nelson and Co., Limited. No new deposit has been made; the deposit referred to in the agreement is the old deposit made in 1891 by Nelson and Co., Limited, as security for its obligations to its customers under the pension scheme.

It has been represented to me on behalf of the Nelson companies that this fact is of no importance to the customers who may join the new insurance scheme offered by the Nelson Trading Company. The reason given for this is interesting. Under the pension contracts of Nelson and Co., Limited, it is, as my readers are aware, expressly provided that the company shall only be liable for the payment of the promised pensions to the extent of 75 per cent. of the profits of tea. As long as it makes any profit at all, 75 per cent. of that profit must go to the widows' fund, and be distributed *pro rata* among the pensioners. But, if it ceases to make any profit at all, it is under no legal liability to pay any pensions—as has been pointed out in these columns over and over again. In the event, therefore, of there being no money to pay the pensions, the pensioners have no claim upon the company; and consequently they have no claim upon the £20,000 security deposited by the Company with the Government. This, at any rate, is the view of the situation taken by the Directors; and I am told that in this matter, as in all others, the Board takes its stand on the best legal advice obtainable. Even the best legal opinions, however, are apt to be contradicted by other legal opinions equally authoritative; and it may be that if this matter ever comes into court a different view of the rights of the pensioners may prevail. Although the argument indicated above is on the face of it plausible, it must be remembered that this deposit was originally paid under an order of the High Court, made in consequence of proceedings taken by the Board of Trade against Mr. Jensen, the founder of the Nelson pension business. It is to be presumed that the argument now put forward was used on Jensen's side in those proceedings; and it is difficult to understand how the Court could have ordered the security to be deposited if it was also of opinion that the terms of the contract were such as to give none of the pensioners any charge upon the deposit. It may be that the Act of Parliament left the Court no alternative. But at any rate the Act and the order of the Court will be egregiously stultified if it be held now that no pensioner-creditor of Nelson and Co. can ever have any rights against the security. In that case it would have been infinitely better if the Board of Trade had never moved and the deposit had never been ordered. As every reader of Truth knows, and as the unfortunate customers of Nelson and Co. have only too good cause to know, this £20,000 deposit with the Government has been the foundation of all the appeals that have been made during the last three or four years to thrifty women to avail themselves of the opportunity offered them by Nelson and Co. of making a provision against widowhood. Upon countless thousands of leaflets, posters, and newspaper advertisements, this imposing sum of money has been held out as proof of the impregnable financial position of the pension scheme, and the absolute certainty of every widow ultimately obtaining all that Nelson and Co. led her to suppose that she would obtain. One favourite device, which has figured on innumerable advertisements, brought the security before the eyes of the intending subscriber by a picture of a huge money bag with the figures "£20,000" inscribed upon it. It would put the finishing touch to the dishonesty of the pension tea business, if, after making such use of this precious "Government security," the company were to turn round and tell their pensioners that not one of them has or ever could have a right to touch a penny of it. And it would be a pretty satire on law and justice if, after the High Court, at the instance of a Government Department, has ordered the company to make the deposit which has served as such a seductive bait for its trap, the Court were to uphold the contention that so far as the pensioners, present or prospective, are concerned, the £20,000 deposit was all humbug. However, for the present that is the view of the company to-day, and if any widow does not accept it, her only remedy is the very doubtful and risky one offered by the Law Courts.

In calling attention to this matter it is not my desire to reflect in any way on the intrinsic merits of the proposed life insurance scheme of the Nelson Trading Company. As intimated last week, I have no reason to impugn the soundness of that scheme; and I have since been informed that the Directors, in fixing their premiums, have taken care to allow a margin of security beyond the amounts settled by their actuary as the proper payments for the benefits promised. It is probably owing to this that I have a communication before me now in which it is asserted that the benefits offered under the new scheme are not equal to those which can be obtained from reputable insurance offices. This may be a legitimate ground for criticising the scheme, but it is at least a fault on the right side. At the same time, it ought to be understood by all who join the new scheme that the £20,000 security deposited with the Government is merely Nelson and Co.'s old £20,000 over again. If in point of law the pensioners of Nelson and Co., Limited, have no claim upon the money, it remains available in its integrity as a security for the creditors of the new life insurance business. But if it should prove that this view of the law is incorrect—as to which no one can speak with certainty until the matter has been decided in court—then the £20,000 would be swallowed up in a moment by the claims of Nelson and Co.'s pensioners, and would be utterly valueless as a security for any life insurance claims under the Nelson Trading Company's agreements. This ought to be clearly understood.

So much for that matter. In reference to my last week's article I have also received the following letter from Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, and Co.:—

17, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.,
November 25, 1904.

To the Editor of TRUTH.

SIR,—Our attention has been directed by our client, Mr. J. M. Catton, to your article of November 24, headed "Nelson's Pension Tea."

Although Mr. Catton has already answered many of the points raised again by you in his letter of July 2, we must ask you in justice to our client to kindly give space in your next issue to the following reply and contradiction:—

1. The formation of the Nelson Trading Company, Limited, to which you refer at the beginning of your article as a very ingenious and likely to be successful scheme, is due to Mr. Catton, and was devised by him in order to establish, as you correctly infer, a new business through the medium of the existing agencies. 85 per cent. of the net profits of the new business will go to the widowed customers of Nelson and Co., Limited.

You will also remember that our client was recommended for election as a Director of both Nelson Companies (and was subsequently elected) by the shareholders of the Nelson Share Syndicate, Limited, at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Company called for the purpose of electing a Director in the place of one of the two who had retired.

2. There was no ejection of the old Board. Two out of the five gentlemen comprising the Board retired, and their places were filled by Colonel Fleming and our client, and Mr. Catton's election by the shareholders has been justified by what he has accomplished since he joined some four months ago. Your other statement that Mr. Catton has been ejected "from the control of the Company," which he never had, is thus obviously incorrect.

3. You further on state that the Company was floated in May, 1901. This was Nelson and Co., Limited, with which our client had nothing to do, and Nelson and Co. and Nelson and Co., Limited, had been running for four years, and doing large business, before our client bought the share of Nelson and Co., Limited. The promoter and founder of the scheme was Mr. Rasmus Jensen, not Mr. Catton. The Nelson Share Syndicate was formed by our client at the end of 1901, and bought for shares entirely the shares in Nelson and Co., Limited, which our client had purchased for cash and shares from Mr. Jensen. You have apparently, from your remarks, been under a misconception as to the real facts of the case.

4. In reference to this last explanation, we must also deny the statement that "Mr. Catton secured for himself, *without* payment, an enormous holding in the capital of the Company." The selling of the shares of a Company, which our client had bought and paid for, for shares in a Syndicate cannot be properly described as "acquiring an enormous holding without payment."

5. You also refer to the "monstrous profit" received by the "gentleman principally concerned." Beyond the right to supply tea and other articles, given to our client under agreement in part payment of the purchase money (which could not therefore be a "monstrous profit"), there is no profit answering to your description. Our client received exactly the same return by way of dividend as the other 400 odd shareholders.—Yours obediently,

ASHURST, MORRIS, CRISP, AND CO.

I have the highest respect for Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, and Crisp, but that must not prevent my saying that I think I know more about the history of the Nelson companies and Mr. Catton's connection with them than they do. To say this is no reflection upon them, for I have had this matter before me pretty constantly for a year and a half, while they necessarily know only what they have heard from their client Mr. Catton, and, as has already been indicated on previous occasions by his personal communications to TRUTH, an excess of candour is not one of that gentleman's failings. I will endeavour to make this clear by answering the numbered paragraphs of the above letter *seriatim*:—

1. If Mr. Catton invented the new insurance scheme, it does credit to his ingenuity; but, before admitting that the scheme is "due to Mr. Catton," I should like to know what the other members of the present Board have to say on that point. It would obviously be unfair to them to take this statement solely on Mr. Catton's authority. As regards Mr. Catton's election to the Board, I remember the circumstances perfectly, and they have been clearly stated in TRUTH. Up to three months or so ago Mr. Catton practically ruled the Board through a set of nominee directors. When the shareholders' committee recommended the reconstruction of the Board, they recognised that as he held, or controlled, the largest interest in the company, he was entitled to representation on the Board, and they recommended his election as a director in order to remove him from the objectionable position which he had occupied of pulling the strings in the background without any personal responsibility.

2. Whether it be correct or not to speak of the "ejection" of the old Board is a mere question of words, but I admit that it would have been more correct to speak of the ejection of the Catton element on the old Board. The two gentlemen described in the letter as having resigned did so under pressure, and after considerable resistance. By the election of Colonel Fleming in the place of one of them the Catton interest was placed in the minority. How Mr. Catton can have accomplished anything by his personal presence on the Board it is difficult to understand, for, with all respect to Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, and Crisp, it is absolutely true that, prior to these changes, Mr. Catton controlled the Board and the company. A majority of the directors were merely his nominees. The Board meetings were held at his office. He attended them personally whenever he thought it desirable, personally interfered in the proceedings, and practically dictated his own wishes. The evidence on this point is indisputable.

3. The facts in regard to the formation of the two companies have already been fully set out in TRUTH, and I do not agree that I am under any "misconception as to the real facts of the case." It is quite true

that Jensen was the "promoter and founder of the scheme." I have never suggested that Mr. Catton invented the pension tea trick. But to say that he had "nothing to do" with Nelson and Co., Ltd., is preposterous. When Jensen was desirous of forming his business into a company and was looking for a capitalist, he found Mr. Catton. Catton found the capitalist, and did the rest of the business. That, at any rate, is the story as I have always heard it, and I note that there is nothing in the above letter inconsistent with it. With the assistance of Mr. Catton, and the money of Mr. Emerson Bainbridge, Jensen's business was turned into Nelson and Co., Ltd., registered July, 1901, with a nominal capital of £100,500. Within six months, the whole of the shares were transferred to Mr. Catton, through his nominee, Mr. Goffin, and resold to the Nelson Share Syndicate, with a capital of £250,000—in other words, the capital was watered to the tune of 150 per cent. On what terms the first part of this operation was performed I have never professed to know. Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, and Co. tell us that their client acquired the shares of Nelson and Co., Ltd., "for cash and shares." The question is what portion of the consideration was cash and what proportion shares; and it seems to me a pity that when instructing his solicitors to dispute the statement that he "secured for himself without payment an enormous holding in the capital of the company," he did not also instruct them to say exactly what the payment was. From my knowledge of Mr. Catton I infer that the shares were a much more substantial element than the cash in his transaction with Jensen, at any rate, if the cash was, as the letter subsequently tells us, Mr. Catton's "own money." In the absence of more definite information, however, what we have to go on is this—that for this payment "in cash and shares" to Jensen, and the subsequent exchange of his holding thus acquired in Nelson and Co., Ltd., for shares in the Nelson Share Syndicate, Mr. Catton, through his nominee, Mr. Goffin, was allotted in the latter company 60,000 Preference, 155,000 Ordinary, and 5,000 Deferred shares, the last being the whole issue authorised. The whole of these 220,000 shares did not, of course, remain in Mr. Catton's possession. I understand them to have been the joint share of Mr. Catton and Mr. Bainbridge in the capital of the Nelson Share Syndicate, Ltd.; nor is it possible to say exactly how many of them constituted Mr. Catton's personal share, because he has preferred to hold them in the names of nominees. I do not think, however, I should be over the mark in suggesting that about 100,000 of the shares ultimately found their way into Mr Catton's possession, and a list of nominee holders to nearly that amount was given in Truth last July. I believe that 100,000 would be under rather than over the mark, because at the time when the recent battle over the reconstruction of the board was going on, it was definitely stated that Mr. Catton's holding was larger than Mr. Bainbridge's. For this holding, whatever its exact extent, all that Mr. Catton ever paid in cash was the unknown sum which, in conjunction with shares, he paid to Jensen under the circumstances above-mentioned. On these grounds I said in my last article that "Mr. Catton secured for himself without payment an enormous holding in the capital of the company." To that statement I shall adhere until Mr. Catton condescends to state exactly what amount he paid in cash for the shares in Nelson and Co., Ltd., subsequently exchanged for his holding in the Nelson Share Syndicate.

4 and 5. These paragraphs, if they do not answer themselves, are sufficiently answered by what has been said above. I have given figures, which have not been challenged, indicating the amounts drawn by Mr. Catton under the modified arrangement for the supply of tea, etc., which came into force in May last. When it is remembered that these sums, enormous as they are, are but a fraction of what was drawn under the pre-existing arrangement, no one will question that Mr. Catton's profits under this head may be rightly described as "enormous." They are not the less profits because they were described in the purchase agreement as part of the purchase money. To say that beyond these unconsidered trifles, Mr. Catton only received the same return by way of dividend as the other shareholders, is somewhat absurd. Mr. Catton's profits as a shareholder are Mr. Catton's profits. The holding of all the other shareholders with the exception of Mr. Emerson Bainbridge was trifling by comparison with his, if it be true, as he has more than once said, that he has never sold any of his shares. The drawing of the profits under this head is open to the reflections I have made upon it (1) because the rate at which the profits were distributed made it impossible that the promised pensions to the customers could ever be paid for more than four or five years—in point of fact they have only been paid for three years and a half; (2) because Mr. Catton, as already explained, practically controlled the board which declared the dividends. I would point specially to the fact that in March last, when it was known that the Reserve Fund was being drawn upon, and that consequently the collapse of the pension scheme was within measurable distance, this Board distributed dividends at the rate of 24 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, and at the rate of 149 per cent. on the Deferred shares, all but a few of which were held by Mr. Catton.

These are the facts which Mr. Catton has to answer, and, as he is evidently unable to do so, it seems to me that he would be better advised to observe a discreet silence. It is no answer to them to say that the division of the profits was legally authorised by the agreements with customers. I have said over and over again that I do not question the legal right of the company. The question is, what moral rights Mr. Catton and his nominees on the Board had to appropriate these profits to the payment of dividends, when they knew—or ought to have known—that their pension scheme was within a few months of insolvency; and what right they had to go on at the same time holding out the prospect of acquiring pensions to new customers, boasting in all their advertisements of the soundness of their scheme, and the vast resources of the company, and in this way week by week adding hundreds to the number of deluded women who were paying their money to this company with no prospect

of getting any return, but with the certainty that by this means the payment of these huge dividends would be kept up for a few months longer. To this question there can only be one answer. It was practically admitted that the proceedings of the company were indefensible when, three months ago, the shareholders decided to take another 10 per cent. off the profits which they were entitled to under their agreements with the customers, and to transfer it to the pension fund. I do not know whether in Paragraph 2 of Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, and Crisp's letter it is suggested that this concession is part of the work accomplished by Mr. Catton since he joined the Board in person. But if it were, I should be compelled to say that the suggestion is contrary to the fact. The changes recently made in the company were not initiated by Mr. Catton, and were only reluctantly assented to by him; and if he had any serious desire to do the right thing by the customers without regard to his own interests, he would have stopped the distribution of the profits on the old scale a year or two before it was done. In fact, it is impossible to understand how any man who desired to do the right thing could ever have gone into this business at all without satisfying himself in the first instance of the soundness of the pension scheme. These are the grounds on which I said in my last article that the profits made by Mr. Catton and Mr. Bainbridge ought to be refunded. The reader can see for himself that there is not a word in Messrs. Ashurst, Morris, and Co.'s letter which calls for any modification of that opinion.

LESSONS OF THE BECK SCANDAL.

The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the case of Mr. Adolf Beck will assuredly do nothing to dispel what they rightly describe as the grave misgivings in the public mind as to the nature and working of our system of criminal justice. It is true that relief has been felt at the dismissal of the ugly suggestion that the terrible calamity which overtook Mr. Beck was due to a deliberate conspiracy to procure the conviction of an innocent man. I am not sure, however, that the amazing story of official ineptitude and negligence which the report sets forth is not in some ways even more disquieting than the sinister theory of a conspiracy against a particular individual. The good faith of those responsible for this miscarriage of justice has been established at the expense of their reputation for intelligence and competence, and the administration of the criminal law is shown to be full of loopholes for the infliction and the perpetuation of wrongs which are none the less monstrous because they are the unintended outcome of the ordinary course of procedure. Mistakes must happen under the most perfect attainable system, but if the facts had not been brought to light in this report it would have been deemed incredible that such a long succession of mistakes, all attended with appalling consequences to the unfortunate victim, could have been made in a single case.

In the opinion of the Master of the Rolls and his colleagues the primary cause of the whole of the mischief was the omission of a prison governor in 1879 to enter the fact that John Smith was a Jew on his record of identification marks. Smith was the convict for whose subsequent misdeeds Mr. Beck received seven years' penal servitude in 1896, and narrowly escaped another heavy sentence on his second conviction last summer. But although this conclusive proof that Beck could not be Smith was not known to the police and the Public Prosecutor in 1896, or, indeed, till after the further trial this year, it might nevertheless still have been discovered that Beck and Smith were different persons if proper steps had been taken to compare their identification marks. The Committee observe that the neglect to do this "tends to create an impression—perhaps an unwarranted one—that identification marks are used only to secure the conviction, and not to establish the innocence of a prisoner." I am afraid that, in spite of the explanations that are given, most people will derive an equally disagreeable impression from the account of the manner in which the prosecution of Mr. Beck was conducted in 1896. It is admitted that he was throughout regarded as being identical with Smith—indeed, nobody who compared the incriminating documents and other evidence in the case against Smith in 1877 with the documents and other evidence in the case against Beck in 1896 could have the least doubt that both series of frauds were committed by one and the same man. There were actually four felony indictments on the file in which Beck was charged with this previous conviction in the name of Smith. Not only did the prosecution refuse to proceed with these indictments, Beck being tried on an indictment for misdemeanour only, but it objected to evidence being given for the defence to prove the prisoner's non-identity with Smith, and consequently his innocence of the charges preferred against him. By an unfortunate ruling of the judge this objection was upheld, with the result that, in the words of the Committee, Mr. Beck "was convicted on evidence from which everything that told, or might be thought to tell, in his favour, was excluded; his case was never tried."

To my mind, however, a more serious matter even than the original miscarriage of justice at the first trial was "the subsequent failure of the reviewing authority to detect the flaw and redress the wrong." As, judges and juries being fallible, such miscarriages can never be completely eliminated from the administration of justice, it is simply appalling to find that the machinery for correcting them is so inadequate and defective. The Home Office deservedly comes in for the severest censures of the Committee. Some of the minutes penned in that department on Mr. Beck's petitions are really sublime examples of official obtuseness. In one of these precious documents it is virtually suggested that Beck's offer of evidence in regard to his non-identity with Smith should be looked upon merely as a ruse, because "it would have been very difficult indeed" for the prosecution to answer it! The Com-

Shepheard's Hotel and Ghezireh Palace, Cairo's Premier Hotels. Charles Baehler General Manager. For particulars apply to Sleeping Car Co., 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross.

mittee remark that this minute is hardly one that a trained lawyer could have written. It seems to me that its author displayed not only a lack of legal training, but a lack of common sense, which would disgrace an office-boy, and it is positively shocking to think that petitions relating to alleged miscarriages of justice are submitted to the judgment of such egregiously incompetent persons. The Committee hold that even on the facts stated in Mr. Beck's first petitions after his conviction in 1896, the Home Office should have realised that there had been a miscarriage of justice. But this fault was venial in comparison with the sheer stupidity, or else callous indifference to a cruel injustice, which the same officials exhibited in 1898, when they definitely ascertained that Smith, as a Jew, had undergone a rite which made it physically impossible that Beck could be the same person. A proper appreciation of the vital importance of this fact, viewed in conjunction with the evidence of the incriminating documents in the cases of 1877 and 1896, must have led to Beck's release. But all that the wooden-headed gentry at the Home Office did was to order the removal of the convict prison mark and number indicating that he had been previously convicted. He was left to serve out the remainder of his sentence, and the discovery that he could not be Smith was never communicated to the police or the Public Prosecutor till its suppression had indirectly resulted in his re-arrest and second conviction in the present year.

The recommendations of the Committee are eminently satisfactory—so far as they go. It is clearly desirable that the different public authorities concerned in the adminstration of criminal justice "should be brought into such co-ordination as to make it impossible that material information acquired by one of them affecting a particular prisoner should not be placed before all." There is also evident need for an amendment of the law which would no longer make it essential that the Judge himself should be willing to state a case in order to enable the Court for Crown Cases Reserved to deal with an erroneous ruling on a point of law, such as the exclusion of the evidence for the defence at Mr. Beck's first trial. Nor can there be anything but approval of the proposal for the strengthening of the legal element in the staff at the Home Office, if the Home Office is still to remain the only court of appeal, except on points of law, in criminal cases. It is here, I think, that the report of the Committee will occasion general disappointment. Although many of the circumstances of the Beck case are exceptional, miscarriages of justice are by no means so uncommon as is sometimes supposed. Within the past few months several very bad cases have occurred, the prisoners being usually the victims of "mistaken identity" on the part of witnesses, coupled with excessive zeal on the part of the police. In acquitting the police of any unfairness towards Mr. Beck, the Committee of Inquiry allude to "the entire absence of any probable motive" for such action. It is well to bear in mind, however, that very large numbers of policemen are strongly imbued with the idea that their primary duty is to secure the conviction of an accused person, and that, though it may be more or less unintentionally, they are often found to be pressing every possible point against him while ignoring, if not concealing, those in his favour. Two conspicuous instances of police blunders were furnished recently by the wrongful convictions of the men Da Costa and Shellard at the Devon and the Wilts Quarter Sessions respectively, and another flagrant case in London is mentioned in my present issue. There is certainly no sufficient safeguard for the checking of such miscarriages of justice in the Home Office at present, nor is it likely that any system of secret and informal inquiry by officials there can ever be fully satisfactory. What is wanted is a properly constituted tribunal for the purpose of dealing with applications for new trials in criminal cases. If a conviction is wrong in law, possibly owing to some trifling technical error in the framing of the indictment or the conduct of the trial, the Court for Crown Cases Reserved quashes the conviction, and the prisoner goes scot-free, although in point of fact there is no doubt about his guilt. If, however, the conviction is wrong on the facts, the innocent prisoner has no means of redress beyond the chance—and it is a very poor chance—that the injustice he is suffering will be recognised by one of the junior clerks who are entrusted with the duty of considering petitions from convicts to the Home Secretary. Even then the victim can obtain nothing more than a "free pardon" for a crime which he never committed. In civil actions, when only a man's money is involved, he is given the right of applying for a new trial on the ground that the verdict was against the weight of evidence, and it is an incomprehensible anomaly that he should be denied the same right in a criminal case when his liberty and his reputation are at stake. Sir Richard Henn Collins and his colleagues would have greatly added to the service which they have rendered in this inquiry if they had pointed the true moral of the Beck case by advocating the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal.

SHYLOCK ON THE WARPATH.

The extraordinary pushfulness of the professional moneylenders during the past few months is a truly impressive instance of the philanthropic spirit of the age working for once in combination with the economic law of supply and demand. There is no doubt about the demand for money. Its scarcity has been the theme of universal complaints. In every class of society, high and low, one hears the same story of diminished incomes and the growing difficulty of making both ends meet. The prudent have been cutting down expenses, the imprudent have been running into debt, and all have been loud in their lamentations over the hard times. This melancholy state of things has touched the hearts of a fraternity of benevolent capitalists. "Here," one may imagine them saying, "here are worthy people suffering from a lack of money; let us succour them out of our abundance." And so they have come tumbling over one another in their eagerness to place their stores of wealth at the disposal of their impecunious fellows. The spectacle is enough to melt the most confirmed cynic. Of

the keenness of their rivalry in well-doing I have proofs before me now in the shape of a huge pile of nicely-worded circulars, emanating from many different individuals, but all breathing the same generous desire to lend money to those in need of it.

Look, first of all, at these circulars from Carringtons, Limited, 9, Old Cavendish-street, W., which are being sent out in thousands. There is a good, honest English ring about the name of Carrington which in itself is productive of confidence, whereas some people might be instinctively suspicious of the designs of the company if they knew that—as is the fact—it practically consists of two Hebrews—Morris Manoy and Myers Manoy. Carringtons wish you to know that they "still continue" to make cash advances "to noblemen, ladies and gentlemen of position, naval and military officers, medical men, clergymen, also tradesmen and responsible persons generally"; and the receipt of the circular may be taken as a flattering indication that, if you are nothing better, you are at least regarded as a "responsible person." It gives you to understand that you have only to mention the amount you require, "from £30 to £3,000," and by return of post an appointment will be made "to complete the business without delay." The name of "Gerald Chesney," 25, Regent-street, on another circular also sounds well, and does not awaken recollections of a sentence of six months' imprisonment for preliminary-fee frauds as the name of Henry Trowbridge Pockett might do. "From £50 to £2,000" is the limit Pockett, otherwise Chesney, sets to his advances. "B. S. Thomas," 4, Adelaide-street—who parenthetically intimates that his office is "next to Coutts' Bank"!—only draws the line at £5,000. His circular, printed in blue, underlined with gold, is both the most gorgeous and the most seductive of those in my collection. Nothing could exceed the delicacy with which he approaches you. "It frequently happens," he begins, "that persons in all positions of life find themselves short of cash, and in most cases they do not, for various reasons, care to apply for financial assistance to friends," etc. "To know where to turn in such an emergency," he goes on to remark, "would doubtless be no small consideration"; and, therefore, he begs to inform you that should you at any time require an advance he will be pleased to accommodate you. "B. S. Thomas" (alias Charles Samuel) unaccountably says nothing about his terms; and therefore I beg to inform you that this smooth-spoken rascal is one of the most remorseless bloodsuckers in London. "Having a large amount of uninvested capital at command," George Foster, who hails from Victoria-square, S.W., is "prepared to make advances in sums from £100 to £10,000." He is, indeed, so anxious to get rid of his capital that, if desired, he will "attend personally at your residence with cash, and carry out any advance you may require" on terms which he is sure "will meet with your approval." Carringtons, Chesney, Thomas, and Foster are, I think, the most industrious of the circulating usurers at the present moment. I have, however, also received of late copies of more or less similar effusions bearing the names of R. Leslie (alias Katie Levene), Arthur Cheston, Harry Phillips, W. Robertson (alias Troostwyk), T. Wilson and Co., Thomas Sandy, F. Lawrence, J. Wooley (alias John Wolfe), Herbert Lester (alias Sanguinetti), P. Saunders, S. Bassett, H. Bowen, and many others.

The present eruption of moneylenders' circulars certainly surpasses anything of the kind that I have witnessed in an experience of over a quarter of a century. There have previously been spurts of abnormal activity on the part of these pests, but never before have they engaged in such a persistent and wholesale distribution of their kind offers of cash accommodation. In London the plague is especially severe. All sorts and conditions of people suffer from it. The sharks do not stop to pick and choose likely victims, but attack promiscuously everybody whose name figures in a directory. Men who used to get a circular occasionally are being pestered with half a dozen a week, and many who never heard from any of the tribe before are being worried now. All this must involve a prodigious outlay in printing and postages, and touting moneylenders and moneylenders' touts are not in the habit of throwing money about recklessly. It is obvious that they have discovered that this is an exceptionally favourable time for the pursuit of their nefarious business. To a man who is temporarily pressed for cash it is a great temptation to learn that some opulent stranger of a seemingly altruistic disposition is anxious to come to his assistance; and I fear that numbers who have hitherto turned a deaf ear to the moneylending charmers must now be falling into their toils. Some of the correspondents who bombard me with letters calling for the denunciation of Shylock and Co. want to know whether steps cannot be taken to stop the issue of circulars which tempt the unwary to their ruin, and annoy the rest of the community. It is, of course, quite futile to make such a proposal. The only thing one can usefully do is to warn people of the danger of resorting to Shylock and Co., however urgent their necessities may be. The inevitable result is that the borrower has to submit to a process of unprincipled extortion which enormously aggravates his difficulties.

THE THEATRES.

"Candida," at the Court.

Mr. Shaw's "Candida" has been reproduced for a series of performances at the Court Theatre. "John Bull's Other Island," of which I had occasion to speak favourably the other week, is a study in clashing nationalities. "Candida" is a study of temperaments with the national element focussed presumably in that complex nationality called English. For I did not gather that a single one of the characters hailed from Ireland, although at moments every one of them showed traces of Hibernianism. Eugene Marchbanks bears a name which one associates in different spelling with Scotland, but Mr. Granville Barker, in his admirable rendering of the impulsive poet, assuredly had a sprig of shamrock in his brain. And what a brain and what a marvellous boy he makes of this twenty-year-old scion of aristocracy, this sport of an ancient house blossoming in the Vicarage at the East End! Certainly in no conventional environment could such a personage

evolve; for the expression of his fine frenzy he needs a differentiated frenzy in his surroundings. And Mr. Shaw takes care that he shall get it. Candida, the parson's wife, who attracts the poet from his sphere, is a most unconventional person, who feels that in the management of her husband, her children, her household, and her parish, she has yet a wealth of superfluous energy which she can afford to spend upon poets and dreamers. So we soon see that his visit to the Vicarage will be a visitation, at least for the unfortunate parson, the Rev. James Mavor Morell. True it is that in an ordinary play, when one man tells another that he passionately adores that other's wife, and when he defines this clerical friend as a "pig-headed parson" and "a windbag," the cumulative effect of such statements would inevitably precede the ejectment of their utterer. Not so here, for are we not in Shawland, and is not Candida present nearly all the time to see that the windbag limits his anathemas to the pulpit? Candida is what Chesterfield might have termed an *omnis mulier* (how he would have hated her!). She is the ultra-capable woman, and if it were possible to reconcile antinomies, then she would have lived happily with the "windbag" and with the nerve-diseased dreamer (as I think the poet terms himself). Miss Kate Rorke did very well with this part—I had almost written whole. She completely dominated the situation, so much so, indeed, that one felt it was quite a question of the dice as to which of the two men would eventually oust the other. She finally decides to remain with the parson, so far as I could make out, because life with him was more strenuous, and because he had got into a habit of happiness, while the poet, being unaccustomed to this happiness, would not feel its absence so keenly. Also, I suppose, because she loved him, though one felt that with such a woman mere love came behind the pleasure of ruling the roost.

One of the amusing characteristics of this genial frolic is the evident ability, in his own line, of the parson. He, too, is a master of men outside the family circle, but within it he is the slave of his wife's wedding-ring. Round these protagonists Mr. Shaw has grouped two or three excellently-etched personalities. First we have the uniquely sane father of Candida, the prosperous employer of labour, a hard man without education and without intentional humour, yet humorous to a degree by juxtaposition with his daughter, his son-in-law, and the poet, "nephew of a peer." Mr. Edward Sass, new to the part, was a gem of Brummagem. His goatlike beard, his massy watch-chain, overspreading that opulent white waistcoat, that wide-winged frock-coat of mercantile respectability—these things remain with one against one's will. They are so real. Real, too, with an ideal realism is Miss Sydney Farebrother's Proserpine Garnett, the typewriter of the divine, as he is to her in every sense. Her passages of arms with the poet on the one hand, the opulent merchant on the other, and Candida, his daughter, and the parson between them, are delightful penknife play. One felt that even the typewriter's clicks were vindictive replies to the merchant's contempt of "the young woman" whose "employer" was his son-in-law. Mr. Athol Stewart had the most modest of the parts, but played the cultured curate, who modelled himself on the Rev. James with much humour and elegance. The Rev. James Mavor Morell, played by Mr. C. V. France, could not have been in better hands. "Candida," then, should be seen at the Court Theatre. You will not meet her in the street.

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I hope that those of my readers who are *tant soit peu* German scholars took my advice and went to see "Das Thal des Lebens" at the Great Queen-street Theatre. I called it an amusing audacity, and such indeed it showed itself in the able hands of Mr. Hans Andresen, Mr. Max Behrend, and their fellow-players. Astonishing principality not marked on the map, but obviously in the kingdom of Offenbach! Delightful Markgraf, ever awaiting an heir to his thronelet, lest it fall into the hands of abominable Prussia. Honest village mother-maidens, so true to their unwedded spouses, whom the Markgraf would legislate into matrimony. Frank, king of the wet nurses; Hans Stock, snatched from unconnubial bliss to mount guard at the Markgräfin chamber door! Bright Markgräfin, weary of the senile Court poet and chamberlains, finding a happy escape in the society of "the King"! All these and others, masterly handled by Max Dreyer, the author, kept us laughing all the time, and when the decree of "compulsory matrimony" is rescinded, and the Markgraf himself comes to engage a wet nurse for his longed-for son and heir, one felt that the exertions of the king of the wet nurses were indeed fittingly rewarded.

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From gay to grave, from "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" to Ford's "Broken Heart," is but a step for the versatile Mermaid Society. This Elizabethan play, which contains some finely poetical passages and interludes, but is, in the main, diffuse, and does not bear without blinking the light of the twentieth century, was played last week at the Royalty. It now rests again among the relics of the past, and managers of the future will be well advised to let it gently slumber there, disturbed only by the soft tread of some bookworm or poet who will draw it forth for his own profit and private delectation. This week the Mermaid Society is playing Vanbrugh's "Confederacy." To know we are in the Restoration, to know that Mrs. Theodore Wright is making gift of her mirth-compelling talents to the part of Mrs. Amlet, and that the play is "The Confederacy," are three good things. The fourth sums them up, and is to be found only at the Royalty Theatre.

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The Avenue Theatre is about to open its doors on that most delightful of kingdoms, "Ladyland."

Mr. Frank Lambert, the composer of the opera, is, I see, originally from Nottingham. He was educated at Rugby, and, in spite of this, has developed, as those who sing his charming songs are aware, remarkable talents for musical composition. This, his first attempt at opera, will be criticised with enthusiasm—I trust, of the honeyed kind. Mr. Eustace Ponsonby

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

has long been an *habitué* of the theatre, and when not otherwise engaged, has strolled far with the "Windsor Strollers" (not a football team), and has brought gaiety and youth to the performances of the "Canterbury Old Stagers." He was educated at Eton, and, like Mr. Lambert, has triumphed over initial drawbacks, for he possesses wit and education, which one hopes will stand him in good stead in his first serious effort to be frivolous.

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Mr. Brandon Thomas wishes me to say that Mr. Penley's lease of the comedy, "Charley's Aunt," has now expired, and all the rights have reverted to the author, Mr. Brandon Thomas. The future run of this perennial laughter-maker will continue under the direction of its author.

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I am asked to say that the Theatrical Ladies' Guild will hold its annual meeting at the New Theatre on December 2, at three o'clock. There will be speeches from Mrs. Tree and other well-known theatrical personages; Miss Carlotta Addison will preside; Mrs. George Alexander will badge the successful. "See workers," is appended enigmatically to the communication. I suppose they will be visible to the fair sex on the 2nd, but although I have a lady's admission card, and am also a worker, I fear that there are difficulties in the way.

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An historical theatre reopens its doors. The old Surrey Theatre is now to be called the Surrey Vaudeville. Mr. Frank Macnaghten has decided to turn this theatre into "a transpontine temple of variety." Mr. Macnaghten is the possessor of numerous other theatres, and is thus enabled to offer long engagements to his artists. May the engagements be long but the performances seem short, and may the former home of "Black-Eyed Susan" become "the home of amusement for the family."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE SOLDIER'S LIFE IN FRANCE.

NOVEMBER is the black month for French youths liable to military service. They face their misfortune with a brave front, march about the day before they must report themselves with flying ribbons, red, blue, and white, fastened to their caps. The rich invite their future comrades to dine at restaurants, and are sure again to do so when all have been discharged. The humblest may fare the best in the two years which they must face. Officers now find their domestic servants among the recruits. They could have them for nothing but their food, if custom did not stand out against such an abuse. But the wages they give are much lower than might be offered in the labour market. I know of a young ostler in a country inn who had picked up some culinary knowledge. He receives from the captain, or captain's wife, whom he serves, 20 fr. a month, and gains 40 fr. a month on the marketing. He cooks, makes the beds, polishes the floors, and mends clothes and darns. A comrade attends table, answers the door bell, dusts, and valets. He receives 35 fr. a month. A third, who gets 15 fr. and his food, works in the scullery, cleans knives and shoes. A captain is entitled to two servants, but practically he can ask for as many soldiers as he can afford to keep. General slackness reigns, as reign it must. It takes four soldiers an hour to peel a pound or so of potatoes. When from bad air, poor food, want of healthy stimulation every one has run down, discipline grows lax.

I know a rich major in active service who has hired at his different changes of residence a villa or country house near his garrison town. He thinks great standing armies *une bonne blague*, is persuaded that the German army is no fitter than the French, and uses to the full his privilege of finding servants in the regiment. No less than four soldiers have been called in to cultivate his garden. He has as many more in his stable. An officer fond of horses and rich enough to keep a stud can always find youngsters in the regiment able to groom and exercise them. Jockeys who have distinguished themselves in riding for owners of great racing studs are somehow relieved from military service. The case of one attached to a foremost training establishment at Chantilly has just come to my knowledge. These relaxations of rules must shock formalists. In practice it is not so bad as it appears. The French have a lurking regard for human right as against stupid laws. It is not their way to agitate on platforms, but to gradually repeal such laws by "dodging" them. Soldiers, I repeat, are better off, and will become more useful to the State as officers' servants than as the slaves of sergeants and corporals. They have time at stated intervals to practise the goose-step, march, and learn to use a rifle. For the rest, employed as domestics, private secretaries, ladies' tailors, tutors, they do not leave the army in broken-down health; the time spent in apprenticeship is not quite lost. The State benefits in not having to feed them. If they must wear uniform in the streets, they have slop clothes and aprons for house work. This saves the clothing provided by the army stores. Cooks' assistants are pounced upon by officers of hospitable habits. They eventually find their advantage in serving these employers well. A French general of good private fortune may be an obliging and very useful patron hereafter. The late M. Got, in serving as a colonel's servant in Algiers, became stage manager to the colonel's wife, who had a craze for private theatricals. Got used to act with her on grand occasions. When the regiment was ordered to return to France this lady prevailed on the Duc d'Aumale, the Governor-General, to use his influence to obtain Got's discharge and a nomination for the Français. Who but a prig will deny that in this case breaches of rule had no drawback? They were advantageous for the colonel's guests, for art, and consequently for France; and they released Got from seven years of military service. There is more *façade* than military reality in nearly all great standing armies. The sooner Jingoes all the world over get this into their heads the better.

The pharmaceutical chemist of a military infirmary

Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., Convalescent Home Limpsfield, dependent on £15,000 a year from voluntary sources Contributions urgently solicited.

is allowed as many soldiers to assist him as he asks for. He chooses from two classes. One class furnishes the men who scour and scrub, and take turns in the kitchen. The other provides the pharmacy assistants. Parents of bourgeois standing besiege him every autumn, wanting him to choose their sons. He is assimilated to a captain and given a horse and residence near the infirmary building. When regimental health is good, all there have a nice time. I know of a chemist who turned to famous account a laboratory and a library of the pharmaceutical "captain." A soldier of some education who helps a stupid officer in his desk work and necessary studies can do just as he pleases in the regiment. N.C.O.s and concierges fear him. To a man officers act in regard to these soldiers on the love-me-love-my-dog principle. They stand up for them as senior boys at English public schools used for their fags. Highly-educated soldiers are frequently brought in to "coach" lieutenants and captains preparing for examinations. They also help them to prepare those regimental lectures which were a pet notion of General André. The Army gains through this employment of intellectual privates.

General André, in the four and a half years he was in office, kept soldiers as much as he could in their native districts. They remain in touch with their kindred. When discharged they have not an invincible attraction to great towns. Excellent lectures are given on agricultural subjects. Regimental vets. deal as lecturers with the distempers of animals. There are also military schools in garrison towns for Militia lieutenants and captains. The other day an amusing example came to my knowledge of the superiority of mother wit to book learning. A captain was teaching reservists from a book how to load one of the new baggage waggons. There is in these vehicles a numbered place for every object. Numbers were read from a book and the lading done according to them. At the close of the operation, however, there was a general misfit. The directing officer could not think what was the matter. He had gone exactly according to the book, and a lieutenant with the facsimile had checked him. A regimental soldier who had been looking on, hands in pockets, laughingly suggested that perhaps they had begun at the wrong end of the waggon. The unlading and relading that followed proved him to be right.

Militiamen are bound to serve twenty-eight days in autumn. The officer is entitled at manœuvres to a Government horse and a servant to groom it. This is a burdensome rule for the country. A friend of mine, who has been a Militia lieutenant for six years, has not served once in that time. The commanding district officer privately begged him not to, on account of the horse. He has not, therefore, bought a uniform. If an inspector came round and found him without one, he would probably punish him. It would be for the War Minister to remit the penalty. It is a great social advantage in provincial towns to be a Militia officer. Rich and aspiring tradesmen try to get their sons into the Militia as officers. They gladly supply them with costly horses to enable them to appear to advantage among the district heavy swells. Being a lieutenant of Militia enables a young man in business or starting in a profession to marry advantageously. By-and-by he will have the title of captain, and then of major. His wife, her family, and his own will think it a feather in his cap. It will open to him exclusive circles, not excepting cathedral vestries. These bodies have generally the pride of birth and the pride of the purse.

A Franco-American topic of the hour is the reversion of the Marquise des Moustiers de Merinville to what appears to her a wider Christianity. She, as Mary Gwendolin Caldwell, granted on coming of age 300,000 dollars towards the foundation of a Catholic theological university at Washington. Bishop Spalding, her guardian, prompted this handsome action. He had represented to her the disadvantage at which the Catholic Church was in the United States owing to the inferior culture of its priests. Miss Caldwell had often been painfully impressed with their want of refinement. She entered with enthusiasm into the Bishop's scheme to raise the clergy to a higher plane of sentiment and intellect. I recollect hearing nine or ten years ago that she would probably found a conventual order for women with the very large fortune that had remained to her after her many benefactions and donations. She had then advanced near to middle age, and was still a beautiful person of the Kentuckian type, which she inherited from her mother. It seems that while following the direction of Bishop Spalding anti-Catholic thoughts had been fermenting in her mind. She could not reconcile herself to the idea, so often impressed on her by spiritual teachers, that the Church of Rome is the only true Church, and holds the keys of Heaven. She had seen Protestant European society at the house of her sister, Baroness von Zeedwitz. It seemed to her broader in its views, more earnest and practical in its religion, and better evolved than Catholic society of the same grade in any part of the old Continent. As to the claim of higher sanctity in the professionally religious Catholics, she could not accept it. Angelic characters are to be found in all Churches; but their fine qualities had a better intellectual soil in Protestanism than in Catholicism, and could be assured a stronger and a healthier growth.

Mary Gwendolin Caldwell had been sought in marriage early in the nineties by the late Prince Murat, then father-in-law of Count Goluchowski and the Duca di Lavelo Carraciolo, and the ancestor of nine or ten grandchildren. He had reached his seventieth year. Miss Caldwell would, though forty years younger, have married him, had he not stood out for a setlement on him absolutely of half her fortune. It would be erroneous to suppose she had been hypnotised by his descent from Joachim Murat, King of Naples by Napoleon's appointment. She knew all about Joachim's mushroom royalty and his extremely low birth. What made the late Prince Murat interesting to her was his devotion to his three children after his wife's death and the care he took to find for them brilliant matches. However, her appreciation did not go so far as to alienate half her fortune for their advantage.

She married at a time of deep mourning for Baron von Zeedwitz. The fortunate suitor was the Marquis des Moustiers de Merinville, whose nobility dated from the middle of the eighteenth century. Bishop Spalding, assisted by the amiable and excellent Father Cooke, officiated at the wedding mass in the Church of the Passionist Fathers, Avenue Hoche. Baron von Zeedwitz's yacht, the *Isolde*, had just two months before collided with the *Meteor*, having the German Emperor on board, in the Solent Regatta race. A steel mast fell on the Baron's head, inflicting fatal injuries. He belonged to the Lutheran community, but never asked his wife to enter it. She, however, some time after her marriage, went over from a wish to be in closer sympathy with his family, so many of whom, she had found, honoured religion in their lives. I doubt whether two American heiresses brought up Protestants would have thought so seriously about religious subjects.

Since Mary Gwendolin Caldwell became Marquise des Moustiers de Merinville she has lived much in Rome. This seems to have worked for reversion, and "to have led her," to use her own words, "to the entire repudiation of her former creed." She entered the Roman Catholic Church with her mother and sister, the former a famous beauty, having been converted a short time previous to the death of her husband, William Shakespeare Caldwell. He had been a theatrical manager in England, and emigrated to America, where he made a fortune as a builder of gas-works. Mrs. Caldwell did not long survive him, and left her two daughters under the care of Irish Roman Catholics, who placed them in a convent school at Baltimore and under the eye of a Catholic prelate. Mary's delicate health seemed to turn her towards a conventual life. Carolina's marriage drew her to Washington, where Baron von Zeedwitz served as First Secretary of the Legation. His subsequent tenures of office in St. Petersburg, Tokyo, Stockholm, and Mexico opened up fresh fields for comparative studies of religions to Mary Gwendolin.

Baron von Zeedwitz's fate is another instance of the shadowing of bright fortune by tragedy. Carolina Caldwell, his wife, had also the heritage of Kentuckian beauty and millions. The Kentucky woman is simply the Venus of Milo in warm healthy flesh, with grace in all her motions, and, when in love, heaven in her eye. She has the American capacity to adapt herself to fresh conditions. Her nerves have not been set on an edge by Atlantic east winds, and she has a broad and sympathetic nature. In marrying Carolina Caldwell, the Baron became co-proprietor of the magnificent house at Newport, where the sisters passed the summer, and of their winter residence in New York. Following the Kaiser's example, he went in after his marriage for yachting. His wife encouraged him, and he ordered the *Isolde* to be built at Herreshoff's yards. It took him to his doom in the Solent waters.

M. Lavisse was installed last week with high ceremony as Director of the École Normale des Hautes Études. The Minister of Public Instruction attended to induct him. Lavisse, as the friend of students, is *poseur*, and yet genuine. The pose has become a second nature, and the man is of an upright, solid character. He comes from the Duc d'Aumale's lordship of Nouvion in the Ardennes, where the talk of "the old people, some of whom remembered the Revolution," turned his thoughts towards history. He studied history from boyhood upwards, first because he liked it, later to teach it, and still later to writes histories. M. Duruy, the most progressive Minister of Public Instruction that France ever had, found him a professor of history in the Lycée of Nancy. The Minister had gone down there with the Empress and Prince Imperial to keep the centenary of the union of Lorraine and France. He cottoned to Lavisse, presented him to the Imperial personages, and took him back to Paris to help him in his educational reforms. He arranged before the reactionists drove him out of office that Lavisse was to be in due time Professor of the Philosophy of History to the Prince Imperial. The Emperor's laborious attempt to write a life of Julius Cæsar had given some importance to historical studies at the Tuileries. Sedan, however, frustrated the arrangement of M. Duruy. After the fall of the Empire, Lavisse went to teach French history at the Versailles Lycée, and witnessed there the rise of the second German Empire. This turned his attention as a historian to Prussia, and led him to write about Frederick the Great. He has since written about the three German Emperors, William I., Frederick, and William II. I fear he was too previous in his chapters on the latter. The Empress Frederick, in her visit to Paris thirteen years ago, asked the German Ambassador to invite M. Lavisse to a dinner given in her honour. She warmly thanked the historian for having drawn so true a portrait of the Emperor Frederick, and conversed with him the whole evening.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

ALL are educated now, dear Lady Betty, except the educated classes. The following letters have been prepared for the use of the latter:—

ASKING FOR A LOAN.

——— Club.

DEAR HOGGENHEIMER,—Having lately received more bankruptcy petitions than I can conveniently deal with, I am now arranging to pay my debts, and am desirous of obtaining a loan for the purpose for £800. Will you be so good as to advance me that sum?

I regret any inconvenience this request may cause you, but, if you fail to lend me the money within six days, I shall reluctantly be compelled to discontinue the acquaintance. Awaiting an early reply, I am, very truly yours,

FITZFOODLE.

ANSWER REFUSING THE LOAN.

216, Belgrave-square.

DEAR LORD FITZFOODLE,—Your favour of the 24th instant to hand. I regret to inform you that, in consequence of the very serious depreciation in social value

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive desigas. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

of your stock of friends and acquaintances, it would be of no advantage to me to advance you the amount you require. I am, therefore, compelled to decline to comply with your request.—I am, very truly yours,

ADOLPH HOGGENHEIMER.

ASKING TO BEGIN AN ACQUAINTANCE.

216, Belgrave-square.

YOUR GRACE,—I have just opened a large house in this square, and the prospect of success seems assured. Permit me to add that I have greatly extended my connections in "society," and that I am now well established.

I should be happy to entertain you and your family at dinner on Friday evening next at 8.30. This being our first transaction, I shall be prepared to pay you upon the delivery of your wife, daughters, and elder son, if you will forward me the account, with the usual cash discount, by a previous post.

Will you please lay the matter before the Duchess, and, in the event of your accepting my invitation, I hope that you will give me the benefit of your most favourable terms.—I am, your obedient servant,

HELEN HOGGENHEIMER.

ANSWER ACCEPTING THE INVITATION.

Norbiton House, Grosvenor-square.

DEAR MRS. HOGGENHEIMER,—I have the pleasure to inform you that, in accordance with the request contained in your letter dated the 26th instant, we shall be happy to open an acquaintance with you.

I am forwarding to your address on Friday evening next the Duchess of Norbiton, the Ladies Agatha and Phillipa Fitzsmithers, and Lord Walworth, and I enclose the account as requested, which is subject to a 5 per cent. discount for cash—Believe me to be sincerely yours,

NORBITON.

TERMINATING AN ACQUAINTANCE.

216, Belgrave-square.

DEAR MRS. FRISK,—The object of the present is to inform you that, owing to the recent important additions to my visiting list, I shall be compelled to discontinue your acquaintance.—I am, yours truly,

HELEN HOGGENHEIMER.

TO CANCEL AN INTRODUCTION.

216, Belgrave-square.

DEAR MR. HOWARD DE MONTMERENCY,—I have always made it a principle not to permit my daughters to know impecunious younger sons, however well-connected, promising, or popular, they may be. I, therefore, must ask you to discontinue the acquaintance which was inadvertently begun this afternoon, and I trust you will excuse conduct which may seem harsh and uncourteous on my part, but which I have always found to be the safest and, in the long run, the kindest course for all parties.—Yours faithfully,

HELEN HOGGENHEIMER.

LOVE LETTER TO A COUSIN, TO WHOM THE WRITER IS ENGAGED.

216, Belgrave-square.

MY DARLING SYLVESTER,—Please send me at your earliest convenience the following goods:

One engagement ring.
One pearl necklace.
One diamond tiara.
Two bracelets.

Love shall be sent by return of post.—Yours most affectionately,

LAVINIA HOGGENHEIMER.

ANSWER COMPLYING WITH THE REQUEST.

603, Fitzjohn's-avenue.

MY DARLING LAVINIA,—I have this day forwarded by express messenger the goods mentioned in your letter of the 28th instant, which I will thank you to place to my credit as the first instalment of the love I entertain for you. I must ask you, however, to contribute your proportion of the expenses incurred in delivering the goods, as it is quite contrary to my usual practice to bear the entire cost of carriage.—Yours lovingly,

SYLVESTER HOGGENHEIMER.

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION.

Norbiton House, Grosvenor-square.

DEAR LORD WALLSEND,—The bearer of this note is my friend Mr. Sylvester Hoggenheimer. He has a considerable fortune, and I have pleasure in introducing him to you. He considers "society" a better field than the shop, and prefers to try his chances in the former to staying exclusively in the latter. I shall be obliged if you will extend to him your support.—Very truly yours,

NORBITON.

PROPOSAL OF MARRIAGE.

216, Belgrave-square.

DEAR LORD LERWICK,—I see by this day's obituary notices that Lady Lerwick is dead, and, in case of your being at any time desirous of re-marrying, I have written to ask whether I may so far trespass on your kindness as to suggest that you should make me your wife.

I need scarcely assure you that in the event of your doing me the favour, my endeavours would always be to prove that you had not been mistaken in selecting me to succeed the late Lady Lerwick.

Hoping to receive a favourable reply, I am, my lord, respectfully,

DORINDA HOGGENHEIMER.

* * * * *

Mr. Winston Churchill is an exceptionally clever man, and, being that, he attracts the enmity of most mediocrities. England is essentially the kingdom of the common-place. Mr. Churchill has written and spoken of late in opposition to the formation of newspaper trusts, and much of that which he has advanced against them is correct. But he overlooks that the general public seldom read leading articles, and it is only by those that a newspaper proprietor can endeavour to promote the cause he supports. The news contained in a paper is almost always Radical, for it reports scandals in courts and in "society"; the consequences of Mediæval methods of governing; the corruption of officials; and the continued failures of men and women who claim to be socially superior to their neighbours. These items of news are the chief attractions of a modern newspaper, which appeals to the general public, and could not possibly be omitted.

Of course, the proprietor of a large group of important newspapers can make himself unpleasant to a Government which refuses to comply with his wishes. He can raise a storm over this or that grievance, for instance, and thus attach unpopularity to Ministers. But, on the other hand, he can do little to assist a cause which he has promised to support, except to have leading articles written in its favour, which nine readers out of ten do not even glance at. The public of to-day can, and does, ferret out a private motive concealed in a public policy, and attaches no importance whatever to such manœuvres. So long as there are grievances and scandals a newspaper will be a Radical agent, whatever may be the opinions expressed in the leading articles.

* * * * *

Mr. Edward Dillon has produced a most exquisite work, "Porcelain," which has been published by Methuen and Co., and he deserves, and has secured, on account of this, the gratitude of all who are interested in the matter. There are thousands of men and women now in every country who collect porcelain, but most of them have complained that out of the vast library which exists connected with this art, there are few books which altogether meet their requirements. The one published by Mr. Edward Dillon is an exception in this direction as in many others. It is to be hoped that he will soon do for some other branch of art that which he has so successfully accomplished as regards porcelain.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

NEXT week will be entirely occupied with the Newmarket Winter Sales, which are to extend over five days. On Monday, Mr. Buchanan sends up three horses in training, including Lancashire, which he purchased just twelve months ago for 3,000 gs. at the sale of Mr. Keene's stud, a dispersal of which the vendor had all the best of the business. High prices were paid for several lots, not one of which has proved a remunerative investment. Lord Harewood sends up five horses in training, including Almscliff, and Lord Londonderry offers the two-year-old St. Florentin, by St. Simon, winner of the principal stake at Redcar. Sir E. Cassel sends up (*i.a.*) Handicapper (winner of the Two Thousand in 1901), Cockolorum, by Orme out of Cockeye, by Springfield, covered by Love Wisely; and Axiom, by Peter out of Electric Light, by Sterling, covered by Cyllene.

On Tuesday, Mr. J. C. Sullivan sends up some notable mares from his stud in Ireland, including Alimony (1889), by Isonomy out of Alibech, the dam of Winkfield's Pride, and other winners. She has been covered by Winkfield. Mr. King sends up eight horses in training, including Prince Florizel, over whom a large sum of money has been lost during the last two seasons. Mr. Musker sends up fifteen brood mares and twenty horses in training, and it is satisfactory to find the sensible announcement "without reserve," which avoids the waste of time, trouble, and money. The mares include Activity (1900), by Melton out of Adderley, by Ayrshire, covered by Flying Lemur, who is own brother to Flying Fox. Four of the other mares in the list have also been sent to Flying Lemur, who was a remarkably good-looking horse when on the Turf, and he could stay well. It is quite on the cards that Flying Lemur would have proved a troublesome opponent to Sceptre for the St. Leger of 1902 if all had gone well with him. He was capable of great improvement when he ran at Ascot, where he won the Ascot Derby and finished second to Sceptre for the St. James's Palace Stakes. Five of Mr. Musker's mares have been covered by Orion. The list of horses in training includes no fewer than eleven two-year-olds.

On Wednesday Lord Carnarvon sends up some horses in training, including Vril and Santry, but high reserves will probably be placed on these animals. Lord Carnarvon's racing tactics have been attacked in certain quarters with extravagant and most unjustifiable asperity, but he is no doubt sufficiently philosophical to regard these criticisms with the indifference which characterised his grandfather, the Earl of Chesterfield, who was a prominent figure on the Turf for nearly forty years after he came of age in 1826. Lord Chesterfield came into large and valuable estates, besides the vast savings of a minority of eleven years, and he had many notable successes on the Turf, but his racing career was certainly far from profitable. He twice won the Ascot Cup, and the Goodwood Cup four times, besides the Oaks twice, and the St. Leger once. Lord Chesterfield, who married one of the beautiful daughters of the first Lord Forester (a sister of the late Lady Bradford and of Mrs. George Anson), was the owner of Priam. He commenced his racing career by winning the Ascot Cup of 1829 with Zinganee, who was purchased for him a few days before the race by Mr. Charles Greville, after George the Fourth had refused to buy him. When, however, Zinganee had carried off the Cup, the late King turned sulky, and vowed that he had been misled into declining the purchase of the winner. There may have been some truth in this idea, as Mr. Greville was furious with George the Fourth for not appointing him to be the manager of the Royal stud, a position which he had successfully filled for the Duke of York, and about this time he described his late Majesty as "a spoilt, selfish beast."

Brother Bill, who has won the Ascot Biennial, the Orleans Nursery, and other races for Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, who purchased him at the sale of Mr. Sievier's stud, is to be put up on Wednesday. Lord Savile is giving up breeding at Rufford Abbey, and the stud of seven brood mares (all covered by El Diablo) and four maiden mares will be offered without reserve, as well as the stallion El Diablo, by Robert the Devil out of Tantrum, by Lord Lyon out of Vex. These mares are young and well bred, and the lot includes Santissima (1895), by St. Simon out of Cissy, by Strathcona. Captain Greville sends up the last remaining mares (six in number) of his stud at Burghley, including Gravity (dam of William the Third and Standen), by Wisdom out of Enigma (dam of Florence). This mare, who has been covered by St. Maclou, is now in her twenty-first year, and it may be hoped that the Duke of Portland (who is not deficient in good feeling) will buy her back, and let her end her days in peace, in consideration of her having produced so high-class a horse as William the Third. It is lamentable to see an old mare which has won great races and produced good stock in her day sold into slavery. It was a permanent blot on Mr. James Merry's reputation as a sportsman that he "weeded" the aged Sunbeam (winner of the St. Leger!) and other old mares which had done him good service for miserable prices. Mr. Merry, however, was as hard as a file, and had no more sentimental feeling in the matter than the hog for the age and beauty of the tree under which he is munching acorns. Lord Bradford's stud, from Weston-under-Lizard, Shropshire, is to be sold without reserve. A lot of four mares, described as "the property of a gentleman, all believed to be certain in foal," includes Catherine Luther (1894), by St. Simon out of Heresy by Hermit, covered by Love Wisely; and Céliane (1897), by Orme out of La Cloche, by Hermit, covered by Enthusiast. The King sends up two mares from the Sandringham stud: La Carolina (1889), own sister to Energy, covered by Persimmon; and Wheatley (1895), by Orme out of Shotover, covered by Diamond Jubilee. Wheatley has been only a very short time at Sandringham. She was purchased for 1,850 gs. at the sale of Captain Greville's stud at Newmarket in December, 1901. Major Loder sends up four mares and two foals and there are four mares and one foal from the Compton Stud, and five the property of Lord Derby, including Iceboat (1899), by Persimmon out of Ice, by Dutch Skater, covered by Orme; and Ormskirk (1897), by Orme out of Bridget (sister to Melton), covered by Ladas. Lord Stanley sends up five mares, including Birch-rod (1893), by Hazlehatch out of Fright, by Thunderbolt, covered by Mélange; Free State (1897), by St. Serf out of Orange by Bend Or, covered by Galeazzo; and Kilmorna (1893), sister to Kilcock, covered by Ayrshire. Sir James Miller will offer Cossack, who has been one of the smartest T.Y.C. horses in training for some years past, but he has no pretensions to stay a mile, as the ganders discovered to their cost who had been so infatuated as to back him for the Lincolnshire Handicap last March. It was apparently thought because Cossack galloped a mile without trouble at Newmarket that he would be certainly able to stay that distance at Lincoln going all the way at racing speed, an illusion worthy of Colney Hatch or Earlswood.

On Thursday, Palmy Days, winner of the Liverpool Autumn Cup and Northumberland Plate, will be put up. Lord Clonmell sends up three mares from his stud in Ireland, including Hunting Queen (1889), by Melton out of Princess Victoria, by Prince Charlie, covered by Gallinule. She is the dam of John Peel and other winners. Mr. Taylor Sharpe will offer eight mares from the Baumber Park Stud. Major Platt sends up eight mares from his stud at Chesterford Park, including Mary Seaton (1890), by Isonomy out of Marie Stuart (dam of Merry Gal), served by Flying Fox. I expect there will be a heavy reserve on this mare, considering that her yearling sold at Doncaster in September for 2,600 gs. This was a colt by Persimmon, and Mr. Dugdale was the purchaser. Leonie (1889), by Plebeian out of Olton, by Sterling, was covered

by Ladas. The Duke of Portland's annual draft from the Welbeck Stud consists of five young maiden mares, including daughters of Carbine, St. Simon, Gallinule, and Orme. The Duke is weeding Ormsby, the three-year-old son of La Roche by Orme, and it seems as if the Oaks winner of 1900 is going to be as abject a failure at the stud as Memoir. Mares are sent up by Sir R. Waldie-Griffith, Mr. Pallin (Arthgarvan Stud), Mr. J. Russel, R. Marsh, and other breeders. The Melton Constable stud, the property of the late Lord Hastings, is to be sold on Thursday without reserve. There are eleven mares, nine of which have been covered by Avington, and that sire, who is fourteen years old, and by Melton out of Annette, will also be offered. There are only two yearlings and four foals.

On Friday there are a number of miscellaneous lots, including six mares belonging to Mr. W. R. Reid, of Melton Constable, five of them having been covered by Avington. This stud includes Lady Clifton (1886), by Rosebery, dam of Cliftonhall and other winners. The only yearling is a yearling half-sister to Cliftonhall, by Avington.

Rock Sand has successfully gone through a course of veterinary treatment during the last two months, and it is now thought that he will certainly stand another preparation, so Sir James Miller has decided to keep him in training as a five-year-old. Rock Sand has some valuable and highly promising engagements next season, so that it would have been a misfortune for his owner if it had been found necessary to relegate this horse to the stud.

Colonel Hay Boyd, of Townend, who died last week at Ayr, served for many years in the 20th Regiment, and he went through the whole of the Crimean War. He was well known among Scotch sportsmen through his connection with the Western meeting at Ayr, and he was himself for some years interested in a stud of racehorses. He had been for a very long time one of the most prominent and useful of the resident country gentlemen of Ayrshire, and he was very popular in the county and highly esteemed. He had for many years taken a keen interest in the Ayr meeting, which is now decidedly the most important of the Scotch fixtures, Kelso having ceased to exist and Edinburgh (Musselburgh) having considerably declined.

The report that Hackler's Pride is going to the stud is evidently a fiction, as Captain Forester has just entered his mare for the Beaufort Stakes at next year's Newmarket First October meeting. There is a very good entry for this race, including Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx, Mr. Musker's Henry the First and Admiral Breeze, Mr. Neumann's L'Aiglon, Lord Penrhyn's Percussion, Mr. Joel's St. Denis, Sir James Miller's Wild Oats, and Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's colt by Ladas out of St. Ia.

Mr. Leonard Brassey is anxious to sell Preston Hall, his place near Maidstone, in consequence of his having purchased the large Apethorpe estate, in Northamptonshire, from Lord Westmorland's trustees, so his breeding stud is to be removed to Cheveley, near Newmarket, where he has taken the farm belonging to Mr. George Dawson, which adjoins Sir Daniel Cooper's paddocks.

Zinfandel is to be kept in training for another year, and he will undergo a special preparation for the Ascot Cup, a race which he certainly ought to have won last June, and next season he will encounter a formidable opponent in Pretty Polly.

Mr. Henning's breeding stud is to be removed to Newmarket, and he has taken the paddocks which have been rented for several years by Mr. Burdett-Coutts.

The *Sportsman* announced on Friday that the value of the Princess of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket for 1908 is to be reduced from £10,000 to £6,000. This is decidedly stale news, as this reduction took place twelve months ago, when the race for 1907 was cut down from £10,000 to £6,000. The Stewards of the Jockey Club could not maintain this stake as a £10,000 race, considering that in the course of three years it has cost the Newmarket fund about £8,000. This disastrous failure, is, of course, due to the crazy resolution to exclude three-year-olds, which was feebly adopted by the Stewards in deference to idiotic yelping which ought to have been entirely disregarded. The *Sportsman*, which appears to be sunk in fatuity on this subject, considers the exclusion of three-year-olds to be "gratifying," and would like to see them kept out of the Eclipse Stakes. It is waste of time to point out the absurdity and imbecility of these opinions, as they are sufficiently obvious to all practical people. The exclusion of three-year-olds from the Newmarket race has resulted in a ruinous annual loss, and it would, of course, be the same thing at Sandown Park, the inevitable consequence of which would be the demise of the Eclipse Stakes. Managers of race meetings, from Newmarket downwards, must draw out the conditions of their stakes to suit the Turf as it is, and not to answer to a state of affairs which might be very desirable, but which does not exist. The Stewards of the Jockey Club in their meddling and muddling with the Princess of Wales's Stakes resembled a man who, having a clear course, deliberately put up a wall to bring his steed to grief.

Some of the sporting papers have been constantly puffing the new meeting at Newbury, which ought never to have been licensed, for it is scandalous that any addition to the already overcrowded list of fixtures should have been permitted. That the meeting will be a failure is as absolutely certain as that lightning is followed by thunder. There is no room for another fixture, and the stakes already advertised for next year are not sufficiently valuable for the meeting to achieve success through them. Newbury will require, moreover, to receive a very large support from the public if the meeting is to pay its expenses, and I do not believe that Londoners (upon whose patronage it will mainly depend) are likely to travel fifty-three miles while they have so many other established meetings close at hand, at which, moreover, better sport may be confidently counted on.

The frost and snow brought the racing season to a premature close, which was a serious disaster for the proprietors of the Manchester racecourse, who had to abandon their meeting, for which all kinds of expensive preparations had been made. All the events were, of course, void. This was also a tragical disappointment to those numerous owners who had been keeping horses in reserve for Manchester, and who have since been lamenting like friars on a fast-day. Several promising "plants" have been ruthlessly withered in their bud, and some boiling "certainties" have lost their chance. It would be a real benefit if the frost lasted for several weeks, and stopped all the ridiculous cross-country meetings which have been fixed to take place during December and January.

Tuesday next is an important nomination day, when no fewer than eight events will close at Newmarket, including the Princess of Wales's Stakes (1908), the Champion Stakes for next year, and the Biennial for 1906 and 1907. The only two-year-old event is the Fitzwilliam Stakes at the next Craven meeting, of £15 each, £10 forfeit, with £200 added, distance last four furlongs of the Rous Course. At the Bibury Club meeting (over Salisbury course) there is the Hurstbourne Stakes for next year, with £300 added. At Stockbridge this race was one of the principal two-year-old events of the summer, but it has lost all its old prestige, and has sunk into a very paltry affair. Surely the Bibury Club could afford to endow their principal two-year-old stake with £1,000. Of late years their meeting has degenerated into an orgy of nauseous plating. At the Doncaster Spring meeting there are the Hopeful and Fitzwilliam Stakes, each to be run over four furlongs. There are events at Hurst Park, Gatwick, Redcar, Newcastle, and other meetings, with the City of London Breeders' Foal Plate of £1,500 at Kempton Park, for now foals, to run at three years old, in August, 1907. There are some important races at Sandown Park, notably the Tudor Plate of £1,000 (for now maiden two-year-olds), to run at the next Spring meeting, distance one

mile; the Sandown Stakes of £1,000, for now twos and threes, to run at next year's Autumn meeting, distance one mile and a half; and the Sandringham Stakes of £2,000, for now foals and yearlings, to run as threes and fours in June, 1907, distance one mile and a quarter.

A correspondent sends me a cutting from the *Detroit Free Press*, in which it is alleged that the Diamond Sculls won by Scholes are one of the attractions of the paternal drinking saloon. The saloon, it is stated, is decorated with oarsman's trophies, and the Diamonds when asked for by a customer are produced by the attendant and exhibited. If these things are so I am indeed sorry. For with our peculiar old-fashioned notions we do not consider such doings good form. A man who wins the Diamonds is expected to have that feeling. Of course, the whole incident may have been very much exaggerated, or it may have been written up for Press purposes, or it may be inaccurate in every respect. I trust that these alternatives are correct. At all events, I can promise the winner of the Diamonds every opportunity of clearing up the matter in Truth.

Once again I am asked to call attention to the Middlesex Hospital Students' smoking concert in aid of the cancer charity. Thanks to the generosity of the numerous artists who give their services voluntarily a considerable sum is handed to the charity. At the same time very considerable work is demanded of those students who organise the concert. They are to be commended for their devotion to their Hospital's great feature, for in this wing the patients remain often for many years. Major-General Lord Cheylesmore will be in the chair on Friday, December 9, at 8 p.m., at the Queen's Hall, and tickets may be obtained at prices from 5s. to 1s. at the box-office at the Hall, or of the honorary secretaries at the Hospital.

I am very glad to see, from a statement of Mr. Wall, that the Council of the Football Association is taking steps to abrogate the rules whereby the Association is at present compelled to regulate the salaries paid to players. It is considered that these questions are not properly within the sphere of the Association's duties. Blinded as I am with a concentrated essence of ignorance, to use the words of a shining light in football circles, Mr. J. J. Bentley, I must confess to some satisfaction with my mental state. When the scheme was first propounded I said that it was outside the functions of the Association to impose limits on players' salaries. I further prophesied grievous trouble in its working. The troubles have come, and the Council is now of opinion, I will not say that I was right, but at all events that the views expressed in Truth were not incorrect. It seems, perhaps, unnecessary to repeat what I have often said, and that is, that the paid player is entitled to just as much respect as the unpaid player. With professionalism I have never quarrelled. Honest professionalism is just as good as honest amateurism. That which is the curse of the game is the existence of the sham amateur. The Football Association has quite enough to do to preserve the integrity of these two classes. Recent decisions have shown that it is prepared to deal very stringently with all such cases of infringement of rules. I hope that in this respect it will continue to act with Draconic severity. The official who runs a professed amateur team, when in reality the players are broken timers, deserves all he gets in the way of punishment. Nor are the players entitled to any sympathy. If they are suspended for a season or two from any football, others will soon find the game is not worth the candle. Under no circumstances should they be permitted at once to drift into the ranks of professionalism. Two honest sets of players are well rid of association with men who do not hesitate to evade and break rules, and who have no better sense of decency than to pose as being players of one class, while in fact they belong to the other class. The net result is that they bring both classes into disrepute.

Frost and fog either jointly or severally spoiled much football on Saturday. It saved the Arsenal from a beating by Everton. But it did not prevent the Corinthians from scoring double figures against Manchester United. After all, between London and Manchester there is not a great gulf fixed when they meet Corinthians. In Rugby matches the great game, and, having regard to the standard of their play, it would have been a great game—that is too say, the Richmond and Blackheath match—was abandoned with Richmond leading by a penalty goal. How the Metropolitan players mopped up the West in the international trial game! Raphael at three-quarters, and Rogers forward are certain Internationals.

In reviewing the work that the London County Council has done in providing recreation in the public parks and other open spaces for all sorts and conditions of men, women, and children, reference has been made in Truth to the development of bowls. I warmly approved of the work that had been undertaken, and the manifestation of this good work has been the organisation of the London Parks Bowling Association. It consists of affiliated clubs playing the game in parks and open spaces under the control of the L.C.C. These clubs represent a membership of 1,500 players. At the annual dinner at the Holborn the toast of the L.C.C. was made judiciously a peg on which to hang an appeal for the improvement of the bowling greens. The burdened ratepayer will probably exclaim "What next?" He will picture to himself the possibility of having to keep bowling greens, cricket pitches, and lawn tennis courts up to the high level of the Crystal Palace, the Oval, and Wimbledon. He will regard these good bowlers with the stupefaction that was occasioned when Oliver Twist asked for more. Now it is in this respect that the association should organise a definite policy. Its object should be to provide first aid to bowling greens. Let us see how the matter stands. The L.C.C. reserves a certain portion of its open spaces for bowling greens. Regulations are enforced for the use by the public of these greens. Under these regulations certain clubs get the benefit of playing as members of the public at certain times. These clubmen take a peculiar interest in the game. They cannot be granted privileges to the exclusion of the general members of the public, of whom they are for these purposes but the specific. But surely the Association might say to the L.C.C.: "We want better greens than you can give us. We are willing to provide a fund to enable the improvements to take place. In this way the enjoyment of the game will be increased not only for our members, but for the general public." I rather fancy the L.C.C. and its Parks and Open Spaces Committee would look quite favourably at some such working scheme. The Oliver Twists of bowls who want more must help themselves.

I wonder if the British public realises that the incident of the Baltic Fleet prevented a rupture in the British Empire which no amount of fiscal policy could possibly ligature. The M.C.C. lost over a thousand pounds in bringing the ashes from Australia. The word ashes means the majority of the Test Matches, and is to cricket what the America Cup—which has cost a lot more—is to yachting. That is the proportion sum. I regret that I am not good enough mathematician to say the value of these ashes in grams or grains. But it seems that the cost is, like that of the Boer War, more than it is worth. The financial loss has taken the gilt off the gingerbread. Mr. Warner says that the loss was due to the fact that cheap and temporary membership was given to the public, and so they had free passes. Australia was rampant and furious. But a bitter controversy was smothered by the interest that was taken in the Baltic Fleet. The Press boom swamped a Press boomlet. The *Referee*, with a good deal of commonsense, says that, as in a cricket score, so in the travelling score. Mr. Extras is responsible. Certainly here a little and there a little is probably responsible to some extent. But the adverse balance takes a lot of wiping off, except on the hypothesis that the business arrangements were not sound. A cricket tour is business. The other side

to a contract can do what they please inside the corners of their contract, and for reasons best known to myself I do not regard the M.C.C. as being business men of the first class.

There is probably nothing so difficult for a man who has been easily a leader in a game to realise as the fact that youth will tell. He forgets, or else he fails to grasp that youngsters learn from him and improve upon his methods. I watched with some regret the letter warfare between Roberts, Stevenson, and Dawson on the billiard championship. I am old-fashioned enough to believe that Roberts can still win. But years and example have told their tale. He is not head and shoulders above the others as he was. He may not be as brilliant. They most certainly have come on. He gave Inman 2,750 in 9,000; he was beaten by nearly 750 points. He must be prepared to meet Stevenson and Dawson on level terms. If he wins, as one thinks he would, well, then the laugh, the public, and the money will be on his side.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Better—General Confidence Restored—Business Broadens Out Further—South Africans Most Prominent—Outlook for Markets—Grand Trunk Revival—The Small Investor Reappears.

THE mining markets, and especially those concerned with Kaffirs and Rhodesians, have attracted the most attention during the past week, and in respect of these it is pleasing to be able to say that dealings have been really active, that the tone has been buoyant, and that matters are shaping in a way to justify soon all the hopes entertained of the South African markets—hopes frustrated time after time since the conclusion of the Boer war by a succession of inimical factors, most of which could not have been foreseen. While in other departments the briskness has been less noticeable, the general feeling has been more confident and dealings on public account have been more numerous, it being conclusively evident that business is broadening out. Confidence, which was unduly shaken by the happenings of the Russian fleet in the North Sea and the consequent fear of war between ourselves and Russia, is now pretty well restored once again, and investors and speculators are more disposed to take advantage of the bargains that are offering, being convinced that the opportunity is a favourable one, and that the general course of prices during the next few months will be upwards, in response to the country's improving trade and the greater plentifulness of capital for employment. Grand Trunks have become very prominent. The earnings are better; the outlook for the Company has improved, and there are always people who have an affection for these descriptions. Home Railways, on the other hand, have hung back; the recent fogs have told upon earnings, and the more recent blizzard has knocked down the telegraph wires in the provinces. Argentine Railways, too, are dull, as a result of the strikes and riots in Buenos Ayres, and Americans have only succeeded in holding their own. The Continent, supporting in the earlier part of the week, has slowed down since the announcement of a new loan for Russia, the amount stated being £52,000,000. It is evident from the movements in the Industrial market that the small investor is about as well as the large investor, and altogether the prospects are fair. The sky is not without political clouds, but they are insignificant at present, and the warm sun of investment buying is cheering the heart of the investor.

Money Conditions—Bank Rate Unaltered—Foreign Demands for Money Satisfied—Continental Exchanges—Banks Window-dressing.

The Bank of England did not find it necessary this week to raise its rate of discount above 3 per cent., and this reassured the Money Market. It seemed probable from the Bank's willingness to discount medium and long-dated maturities that the existing rate would not be touched failing an adverse movement in the Continental exchanges. While the calls upon the Bank's resources are large and certain to continue, the demands for neither Egypt nor South America would call for action, and an additional element of strength lies in the fact that part of the South American requirements are to be met from New York. Germany appears now to have about as much gold as she needs, or as much as she can conveniently pay for, and the position of the French exchange is materially strengthened by the shipments of gold from New York to Paris. It is quite possible, the worse being now over, that we shall be able to get over the end of the year without a rise in the rate. The Bank is now in full control of the market and the outside rate for fine three-months paper is close upon 3 per cent. Money in Lombard-street is not particularly abundant, and when some of the joint stock institutions called in loans for monthly balance-sheet purposes, a number of borrowers had to go to the Bank of England and pay 3½ per cent. for accommodation for a week. The dearth of floating credits is the more noticeable since a large business has been done at the Bank in discounts. However, the banks are lending freely once again, and the temporary tightness is now removed. The weekly return is quite as good as had been anticipated. Although the Bank lost £875,000 for abroad, the reserve is reduced by no more than £350,111 owing to the return of notes and gold from the provinces. The total of the reserve is now £23,815, 843, and on the week the ratio to liabilities has fallen 1.20 to 50.51 per cent.

Consols Tolerably Steady—Fear of the Bank Rate—Anglo-Russian Convention Helpful—Other Gilt-edged Descriptions Quietly Firm—Argentines and Brazilians—Labour Troubles in Argentina—Russian New Loan—Paris Tolerably Cheerful—Mexicans Easier—Peruvians.

Politics have exercised singularly little effect upon gilt-edged stocks during the past week, but on the other hand some slight apprehension on the score of an increase in the Bank rate sufficed to check any improvement which the absence of the former might have allowed to develop. But though not particularly brilliant, the tone remains fairly satisfactory, despite the influence of rather dearer money, the signing of the Anglo-Russian Convention being regarded in a favourable light and stimulating Consols, which finish with a slight gain on balance. Other stocks, such as Transvaal Threes, Local Loans, War Loan, and the Irish Land stock, continue in moderate request, but are without much interest. Colonials have been idle and neglected, and where movements have occurred, they are slight and unimportant. In the Foreign group, some further support has been forthcoming from the Continent for Argentines and Brazilians, the French buying of the former being attributed in some quarters to the prospect of the introduction of a Bill into the Chamber which will improve the trade relations of the two countries. But though three or four significant advances occurred, the improvement was neutralised in the case of the Argentine bonds by the reports of serious labour difficulties encountered in the country. Japanese, though inclined to be dullish throughout, have moved within very narrow limits, while Russians have been marked down on the report that the impending new loan will be arranged early in the New Year, the sum required being approximated at £52,000,000 in some quarters. Turkish Unified, Spanish, and Egyptians are being quietly supported from Paris. Mexican stocks have been adversely affected by the circular from the Company's financial agent correcting the prevailing impression that the Three per Cent. Internal Debt bonds would be redeemed at 50, the misapprehension arising out of the confusing of these with the Three per Cent. Internal Consolidated Debt bonds, which have already been redeemed out of the proceeds of the loan issued in 1888. The Peruvian Corporation announce a dividend at the rate of 1¼ per cent.

on the Preference stock, as compared with ¾ per cent. for 1903-4, while the sum allocated to reserve is £75,000, as against £70,000, the carry-forward being £3,000 greater at £156,000. Nothing further is known regarding the progress of the negotiations with the Government for the settlement of outstanding differences, but perhaps the report will contain some reference to this matter. In the meantime the bonds are fluctuating somewhat erratically, though still at a comparatively high level, which reduces the yield considerably, while future possibilities, too, seem to have been pretty generously discounted.

Home Railways React—Fog Traffics—Telegraphs Down—"Leeds" and Great Centrals—Metropolitan and New Preference Stock.

In Home Railways there have been few dealings, and the market has developed fewer features of interest than I can remember for many weeks past. The quietness of Consols was not without effect, and for the rest, the traffics have not been inspiriting (though there is a disposition to minimise their significance on the score of the foggy weather experienced during the period covered by them), while the blizzard has interfered with telegraphic communication with the provinces. The hardening of rates in Lombard-street and the approach of the termination of the nineteen-day account have also contributed to the curtailment of dealings, and generally quotations are slightly lower, though the losses are not material. The firmest stocks have been those of the companies which serve the cotton manufacturing districts, both Lancashire and Yorkshire and Great Central stocks receiving much steady support from Lancashire. Apart from these the feature has been the issue of new stock by the Metropolitan Railway Company, to which I referred last week as impending. The amount is £750,000 in Three and a Half per Cent. Convertible Preference Stock, holders having the option, in perpetuity, of converting into Ordinary Stock, cent. per cent., at any time. Stockholders of the Company only have the right to participate in the issue, which will be made at the price of 104. On application £10 per cent. has to be paid, £44 per cent. being called up on January 9, and the remaining £50 per cent. on March 28. The new stock will, for the present, rank immediately after the Three and a Half per Cent. Convertible Preference Stock issued in March last, but the Company has applied for powers in the next Session of Parliament to consolidate the two issues. The capital is being raised in order to provide for expenditure in connection with the electrification of the line. My table shows the measure of net movements on the week:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Nov. 19.	Price, Nov. 26.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	75½	75½	75½	- ½
Do. Def.	28⅝	32¾	32⅝	32⅜	- ⅛
City and S. London	51	46½	46½	46½	
Central London	93	93	93	94	+1
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	56	56	—
Do. "B"	26	99	31	31¼	+ ¼
Do. "A"	14	16	16⅞	17	+ ⅛
Great Eastern	86½	91½	91½	91	- ½
Great Northern Pref.	100	101	100½	100	- ½
Do. Def	38½	40⅝	40⅝	40½	- ⅛
Great Western	135	138½	139	139	—
Hull and Barnsley	42	39½	43½	43	- ½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	99	107	107½	107½	—
London and Brighton "A"	108	122	122½	123	+ ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅜	16⅜	16½	16⅜	- ⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	91	100½	99½	100	+ ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	55	64	63	64	+ 1
London and North-Western	150	152	150	149½	- ½
London and South-Western Def.	51	52	52	52	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	87	101½	100	100½	+ ½
Metropolitan District	34	42	42	41½	- ½
Midland Pref.	68	67	67	67	—
Do. Def.	65	64½	64	64	—
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76⅞	76½	76½	77	+ ½
Do. Def.	42½	47¼	47⅜	47¼	- ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	140½	138¾	138	138¾	—
South-Eastern "A"	49¼	58	57	57	—

The best traffic return is that of the Great Western, which has a good increase following upon a more moderate figure last year, but the Scotch totals are encouraging, and the Great Central and the South-Western contrive to make some headway. Once again the Great Northern makes a very indifferent showing. Details will be found below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	- 1,413	+ 110	+ 16,289
Caledonian	+ 352	+ 1,311	+ 2,992
Great Central	+ 149	+ 491	+ 20,416
Great Eastern	- 3,900	+ 2,200	+ 7,400
Great Northern	- 4,199	- 4,213	- 52,030
Great Western	+ 6,800	+ 4,700	+ 37,500
Lancashire and Yorkshire	- 819	- 2,180	+ 46,635
London and North-Western	- 6,000	- 3,000	- 99,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,100	+ 1,700	+ 15,600
Midland	- 2,786	- 1,428	- 116 179
North British	+ 867	+ 1,133	+ 25,319
North-Eastern	- 7,027	- 38	- 25,536
South-Eastern and Chatham	- 1,647	+ 1,433	+ 16,835

Canadian Railways — Trunk Prospects Improving — "Canadas" — Argentine Railways and Labour Troubles—Mexican Currency and Railway Earnings — Mexican Southerns — Interoceanic Preference Shares.

There is rather more business on hand in Grand Trunk Railway stocks, and the feeling as to the early course of earnings and of prices is decidedly more cheerful. The latest traffic encourages this view. It gives an increase for the third week of November of £8,838, which is nearly £5,000 more than had been anticipated, and follows upon an increase of £8,600 last year. As the comparison will be with very moderate increases for the remaining weeks of the year, and as the Company is sharing in the general prosperity of the country, there is ground for the hope that the gross decrease of £80,870 to date will be greatly reduced, if not wiped out altogether, by the end of December. It should be understood that the Grand Trunk's earnings are in reality on a large scale as compared with the average of the past few years. They look poor because last year's figures were abnormally large, and there is every likelihood that the actual receipts for 1904 would have exceeded those of 1903, but for the extraordinarily severe winter, which, by the way, not only caused a loss of traffic, but added very greatly to the cost of operating, and made it necessary to "pass" the Preference dividends for the June half of the year. It may be accepted as certain that from the earnings of the second half of the year, it will be possible to pay the full 5 per cent. on the First Preference stock for the whole twelve months, but the position of the Second Preference is uncertain, and the full distribution on this stock will depend largely upon the extent of the economies effected, which is an uncertain quantity, though the report for the half year to June showed that the Company was able to save very considerably. Having regard to the uncertainty, Seconds seem quite high enough, but any decided change in the aspect of gross earnings will, without doubt, stimulate speculative dealings in Thirds and the Ordinary stocks, and both these are promised a good run between now and the early months of the coming year, when the receipts ought to show up well against the lean figures of last year. In Canadian Pacifics the position shows no change. The Company's earnings are on a large scale, and are still growing. The shares are well established on the 6 per cent. basis, and whether the course of prices be easier or not during the coming few months, the steady expansion of Canada can scarcely fail to justify the extensions and the additions to equipment for which the Company is spending out of revenue as well as out of capital, and in the long run we shall see "Canadas"

Corpulence is an Unpardonable Sin in society. It is so regarded since the well-known specialist, F. C. Russell, has demonstrated that it can be cured by use of pure vegetable preparation without interference with ordinary habits. Russell's system reduces fat by pounds per week—as weighing machine proves—while it increases appetite and vigour, and restores the graces of youth to both sexes. Recipe in his "Corpulency and the Cure" (256 pages), sent post free on receipt of three penny stamps, from Woburn House, Store-street, London, W.C.

at a much higher level than at present. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Nov. 26.
Canadian Pacific	122¼	133½	137⅝
" 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	16½	17½	20⅛
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	98	99
" 1st Preference	111½	105½	107
" 2nd "	98	94	95½
" 3rd "	46⅜	45½	48⅜
Bengal and North-West	131½	145	147
Bombay Baroda	155	149	148½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126	127	128
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101½	103	103½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	104	116	117½
" — " 1st Preference	99	106	107
" " 2nd "	91½	93	94½
" Great Southern	130½	134	135
" Western	129½	126	125
Entre Rios Railway Preference	67½	68	71
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	88⅜	96½	99½
Costa Rica Railway	1⅜	2⅜	2⅛
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	94⅜	97
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	85	820½	83
Mexican Railway	15½	109½	29½
" 1st Preference	65½	99	107½
" 2nd "	24	84	51½
Nitrate Rails	7⅜	¾	9⅜

The Argentine Railway market keeps very firm, and Rosarios have advanced beyond par, while the Deferred is close upon its heels. This Company's earnings are on a large scale again, the latest increase being £7,656, on top of £16,000 last year; and the Great Southern has also done remarkably well with £11,084 increase following upon £12,650, giving it £146,042 since July 1, while the Rosario is £440,475 to the good from the beginning of the year. On sheer merits the stocks of these Companies, and of the B.A. Western, B.A. Pacific, and Argentine Great Western, are by no means dear at current figures, and, having kept quiet for so long, business in the market ought soon to revive. The one drawback is that strikes and riots are pretty general, and they may spread, though the Government is dealing with them in a pretty effectual manner. Mexican railway stocks, with only one exception, show advances on the week, consequent upon buying on the strength of the currency proposals which have now been accepted by Congress. The one exception is the Mexican Southern, whose Ordinary stock has suffered a sharp relapse on the official statement that the Mexican Government intends to redeem the Six per Cent. Silver Subsidy bonds. It is hoped that the proceeds will be sufficient to redeem the whole of the outstanding First Debenture stock, so that the interest and sinking fund of the Second Debentures (to which the interest on the subsidy bonds for last year contributed about £14,500) will in future fall entirely on the revenue derived from the working of the railway. This rather upsets calculations, and though the earnings will be sufficient to pay 4½ or 5 per cent. on the Ordinary stock in respect of the current year, it is hardly likely, in the circumstances, that the directors will distribute at this rate. At the same time, it should be remembered that the Company is doing very well in earnings, and will participate with the other railways in the reformation of the currency, which should neutralise the loss of the silver subsidy. The stocks of the old Mexican Railway are on the up grade, though the attention is partial because of the uncertainty over the outcome of the break-up of the pool; and Interoceanics have improved, the dividend declaration being very satisfactory. For the year to June 30 last the full 4½ per cent. has been met upon the Second Debenture stock, and 6 per cent. is to be paid upon the Seven per Cent. "B" Debenture stock, which has received nothing since 1900, when it got 3 1-16 per cent. The Company had a published traffic increase on the twelvemonth of $724,000, while it benefited from a rise in exchange to the extent of about 2.7d. per dollar, the average working out at something like 22.2d., as compared with 19.5d. in the previous year. For a speculative purchase the Preference shares, to which I drew attention some little time ago, are worthy of attention. They are of £10 each, and are entitled to a cumulative dividend of 7 per cent., the arrears at the present time amounting to more than 90 per cent. The Company's credit being now decidedly better, it ought to be in a position to redeem the Seven per Cent. "B" debentures (which it cannot do under 120) on favourable terms to itself, and soon or late a scheme for the funding of the arrears of Preference dividend is a certainty.

AMERICANS QUIET—RESTING AFTER THEIR LABOURS—THANKSGIVING EFFORTS—DEARER MONEY FEARS—ATCHISONS BOUGHT—STOCK ISSUES—THE OBJECTION TO YANKEES—WINTER EARNINGS.

The American market appears to have exhausted itself with its pre-election activity. At all events there has been a distinct decline in the amount of business carried through on Wall Street and on our own market, which is almost wholly subservient to Wall Street; and except for the first day or two following Mr. Roosevelt's election, the condition of things has been unsatisfactory, and calculations have been sadly upset. I pointed out before that the odds were quite as much in favour of a reaction as of a further advance, failing the early arrival of the great American public with a flood of buying orders. The American public, while betraying rather more interest in stocks, is anything but keen on them, and the "bosses" are resting, partly because they are tired and partly because they are waiting to see if their hopes materialise. There was a holiday in New York this past week for the celebration of Thanksgiving, and that no doubt helped to increase the lassitude. Though the under-tone has kept fairly good, it is scarcely so strong as it was. The action of the Treasury indicated a possible drain upon the resources of the New York banks, and, coming on top of the export of gold to Europe, and the expectation that a considerable amount is likely to be taken also for South America, it helped to increase the fears of dearer money. At one time there was energetic bidding for Atchisons, London being reported as a buyer, although nobody was taken in thereby, every one knowing that the orders were on American account. Steel Trust issues have been treated to further manipulation, and Union Pacifics and Ontarios have been in some favour. But it must be acknowledged that interest in the market on this side is of the most insignificant character, and there seems no likelihood of any early departure from this attitude. The great objection to Yankees is that they afford no chance of appraising the situation, so that a man does not obtain a fair run for his money, and he is not to be blamed, therefore, if he prefers to risk his money in other directions. In relation to its actual importance, the American market in London is a great deal too prominent. At the same time there is no department which furnishes one with such excitement and if that is what you are on the look-out for, and if results are of secondary importance, then I say again try Yankees. My table follows:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price Nov. 12, 1904.	Closing Price. Nov. 19, 1904.	Closing Price. Nov. 26, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56⅛	90⅛xd	88⅛xd	91⅛xd
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	105⅜	105½	106¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73¼	100⅜	99⅝	99
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	47⅝xd	51⅜	50⅜xd
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	34½	34⅝	33½
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	87⅞	88	87⅞
Erie	43 1/16	23⅛	41⅛	40	40½
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	75⅜	75	75½
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	140¾	142¼	142¾
Milwaukee	187½	137½	179	177½	178
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	37	35⅜	35
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	93½	94	94
Do. Common	78½	55⅞	76⅛	77	77
New York Central	158	116⅜	140¾	139	139
Ontario	36	19⅜	45	43¼	43
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	70⅜xd	70xd	69½
Reading	35½	20	39½	38⅝	39⅝
Do. First Pref.	45⅛	36⅜	45	45	45
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅛	37	36⅜	35⅝
Do. Pref.	97 1/16	73½	98	98	97½
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅞	67⅜	68⅜	69
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅝	116⅜	117⅜	119⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	98	98	97
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	48½	48	47½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	71	71	70
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	27½	27⅝	30⅛
Do. Pref.	—	—	87⅝xd	89⅝xd	97¼xd

During the autumn railroad earnings have been satisfactory. Traffics are usually good in the "fall," while operating expenses are correspondingly light. As winter advances there is always noticeable a falling off in gross earnings, an increase in operating expenses, and a loss in net earnings, when they are compared with those of the preceding months, even though they may show advances as compared with former years. It is hardly to be expected that the coming winter will be an exception to the general rule, and therefore it should not surprise if for the next two months railroad earnings should be less satisfactory to rampant "Bulls" than they have been for the fall months. For, after all is said and done, the increase in net earnings shown by the railroads have not been uniformly due to increases in gross, but in many cases have resulted from a more economical operation of the properties. It is true that in many ports of the country, especially in the Southwest and in the grain districts, gross earnings have begun to pick up. But the improvement has been a slow one, and although the gross earnings for September, as reported by seventy railroads show an increase of over $3,000,000, it should be borne in mind that these railroads are reporting for a largely increased mileage, many new branches and lines having been opened in the Southwest during the last year. As to the future, I see that the financial editor of the New York *Times* is of opinion that the election result does not warrant another such rise as the market has had during the past three months. At the same time, he believes that values will be maintained by the pools, and will even be carried higher. "But," he adds, "as for going in on any judgment of values, why, that's another story."

Westralians Idle—Tone Undecided—Paucity of Developments — Account Uninteresting — Great Boulders Picking Up—Associated Dull—Sons of Gwalia—Professionals Quiet—Northern Terrors Erratic.

Throughout the whole week there has been a lack of animation in the Westralian section, and the tendency is somewhat undecided. Even the "Bears" do not manifest much interest, and in the absence of any interesting developments, prices have moved in a rather see-saw fashion within very narrow limits, the only approach to a feature being perhaps the comparative firmness of Great Boulders as a result of the cable announcing that in the crosscut from the 1,900 ft. level south the lode is 15 ft. wide, and averages about 16 dwt. In addition, a dividend of 9d. per share, being the same as a year ago, exercised a little effect, and Kalgurlis also strengthened slightly on the announcement of a usual interim distribution of 2s. 6d. per share. The dullest spot has been Associated, though this share picked up towards the close, and shows hardly any change on balance. Nothing of interest has been revealed by the carry-over, the "Bear" position in Oroyas being about the same, though the rate fixed was 2d. back to "even," as against "even" last time. Sons of Gwalia have come in for more attention, the dividend being regarded with satisfaction, more especially as the ore reserves, as shown in the statement a short time ago, are encouraging, but, taking the market as a whole, I may reiterate that it has been completely devoid of interest. The professionals do not feel disposed to be energetic, while the outside interest is extremely conspicuous by reason of its absence, the ever-recurring examples of the market's particular vice, Westralianism, militating against a restoration of the confidence which seemed to be budding only a short time ago. In regard to the "Little Kangaroos," Northern Terrors, to which allusion was made last week, have fluctuated rather erratically, it being thought that something further will transpire when the shareholders are called together to discuss the position of the concern, but no progress has been made towards a recovery. The other smaller descriptions remain idle and dull. My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 25 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 26, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	2⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Assoc. Nth Blocks	3⅜	1⅛	1/-	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Brownhill Ext.	3¼	1¼	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cosmopolitan	30/3	30/3	12/-	7/3	6/-	6/-
Golden Horseshoe	15	11⅛	7	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Golden Link	3⅛	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	4/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	20/9	22/9	22/9
Do. Main Reef	2⅜	1⅛	8/6	4/6	4/-	4/-
Do. Perseverance	13⅛	1⅛	1⅛	12/9	12/3	12/6
Do. South	3⅛	1⅛	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6⅛	9⅛	6/-	8⅛	8⅛	8⅛
Hainault	1⅜	⅜	¼	⅛	⅜	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/0	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10	6⅜	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Kalgurli	9⅜	4¼	2⅜	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Lake View Consols	6⅜	6⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
L. & W. A. Exploration	1⅛	1⅛	¼	8/6	8/3	8/6
North Kalgurli	1⅛	10/-	4/-	5/3	5/6	5/6
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Peak Hill	5⅜	2⅛	⅛	5/6	5/6	⅛
Sons of Gwalia	6⅛	2⅛	1	1⅝	2⅛	2⅛
South Kalgurli	6⅛	2⅛	¼	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛

Kaffirs Strong and Active—Home, Continental, and Cape Support — Chartered Influences — Corner Turned at Last—Eastern Rand Descriptions—Welgedacht's New Issue—E. R. Mining Estates' Resources—Barneys and Johnnies in Favour—Premier Diamonds Jump—Deep Levels.

Early in the week dealings in the South African market were inclined to slacken off—a not unnatural thing, considering the nineteen-day duration of the account; but the tone was very firm, and with the inauguration of the new time dealings have displayed an animation which is very striking. There is quite a large amount of outside buying, and the tone is exceedingly optimistic. In addition to the support on home account, the Cape is giving support for some specialties, and French and German operators are dealing freely, a feature of the dealings on account of these individuals being an increase of outright purchases and a decrease of option buying, because "call" quotations have stiffened very appreciably, in view of the prevailing sentiment, and are no longer attractive. The strength of Chartered shares, consequent upon the discoveries of alluvial gold, is a contributory influence for good, and—always barring political shocks, the possibility and the effect of which are not to be foreseen—I look for an active and rising market down to Christmas and beyond. The last month of the year is not generaly active, but this year promises to prove an exception. Conditions are all round favourable. The mining industry is going ahead, the labour position is improving very rapidly, the magnates are no longer viewing one another with jealous eyes, but are co-operating for the mutual benefit, and prices are low enough to tempt the speculator, whether he comes in now for the first time or is already a holder, and finds it advisable to average in view of the outlook. It is not necessary for me to enlarge at great length upon the Kaffir position. My views are tolerably well known by this time, and it only remains to add that the corner has been turned at last—not so soon as all of us had hoped for and some of us had expected, certainly, but the delay has been due to extraordinary causes, slow in their operation except for evil, and the central fact remains that the good time has come when we can anticipate strong markets, much activity, and respectable profits for those who act quickly and with discretion. For months past I have been advising the purchase of Kaffirs to put aside for the inevitable return of normal conditions, with the provision of an adequate labour supply, and those who acted on my advice find themselves now in the happy possession of at least moderate profits. They need not worry about realising because the upward movement has only just commenced, though I deprecate the all too common habit of holding on for top prices, and

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would rather take a profit and make an exchange into something which has yet to have its proper rise—into one of the Far Eastern Rand descriptions, for example—Apex, Geduld, East Rand Mining Estates, Rand Collieries, T.C.L.s, or Welgedachts. And, speaking generally, the moderate-priced shares are those which have the largest proportionate rise. My table will be found below. It shows a fairly general advance even on the making-up prices of Friday:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 26, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	6⅝	7⅛	7¼
Anglo-French	7⅜	5¹⁵/₁₆	3⅜	4⅞	4⅜	4⅛
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1⅜	1⅞	1⅛
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	1/16	⅜	⅜	⅜
Buntjes	7⅜	2¼	1/16	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5½	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5½	6⅜	6⅜	6½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4⅛	7½	7½	7⅝
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	1⅝	⅜	2⅞
Crown Reef	12¾	18⅛	16½	16½	15½	15½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅞	18⅜	18⅜
Do. Def.	—	20⅛	18⅜	18⅜	18½	18⅜
Driefontein	4⅜	6½	4⅜	4⅜	5⅜	5⅜
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅛	6½	5½	5⅜	5⅜	5⅜
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
East Rands	12	10⅜	6⅜	8⅜	8⅛	9⅛
Elandsdrift Diamond Est.	—	2½	⅜	4/9	3/-	⅜
Ferreira	22	26	18	21½	22½	22⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅛	2⅞	2⅞	2⅞
Geduld	—	9⅛	5	7	7⅛	7⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	8	2½	2½	2⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2⅛	3⅛	3⅜	3½
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5⅜	6⅛	6⅛
,, Main Reef	1⅛	⅜	¼	¼	¼	¼
Glencairn	4½	2⅞	1½	1⅞	1½	1½
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅛	2½	3⅛	3½
Henderson	6⅜	2⅞	1	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8½	8½	8⅜
Heriot	12½	⅜	3⅜	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27	28⅛	28⅞
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅛	2½	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	¾	1	1
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4⅜	4½	4
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Kimberley Rood	4½	3	1	—	—	—
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6⅛	6½	6⅛
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅛	1⅞	⅜	¾	1	1⅛
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅛	4	4⅛	4⅛
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4⅞	3⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei New)	2⅜	2⅞	1⅜	1⅞	2	2⅛
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅛	⅜	4	4½	4½
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅞	5½	5⅜	5⅜
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14⅜	7½	10½	10⅜	11⅜
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1¼	1½	1⅛	1⅛
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	¾	17/6	18/-
Nigel	8⅜	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
,, Main Reef (p.p.)	—	—	—	—	—	—
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1¹³/₁₆	2	2⅛
New Comet	4⅜	⅜	2	3	3½	3⅜
New Rietfontein	6⅜	8½	1⅜	2½	2⅞	2⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1¹³/₁₆	1¹⁵/₁₆	1⅞
Oceana Mineral	—	1⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛	⅛
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅛	⅜	1	1	1⅛
Primrose New)	8⅛	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅞
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	11	11⅛	11⅛
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞	1⅞
,, Robinson	2⅛	2⅜	1	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
,, North	—	2½	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	⅜	1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Robinson (£5)	11⅛	12	9⅜	10⅜	10⅜	10⅜
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2⅛	3⅜	3⅜	4
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	8⅜	8½	8⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12/6	9⅛	4⅜	5⅜	6	6⅛
Sheba	2⅜	1⅛	11/3	—	—	8/3
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1¼	1¹⁵/₁₆	2	2
South-West Africa	—	26/-	12/-	12/-	15/6	16/3
South Afr. Terrora	—	—	—	1/6	1/6	1/6
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅛	3⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2⅝	24/-	1¹³/₁₆	1¹⁷/₁₆	1¹⁵/₁₆
Transvaal Exping.	—	¼	¼	⅛	8/-	8/6
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅛	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4⅝	4⅛	4⅛
United African Lands	—	5/3	1/-	1/6	1/6	1/6
Van Ryn	11	4⅛	2½	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅜	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	3⅛	3⅛
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜
Welgedacht	—	8⅜	6⅛	7⅛	7⅜	7⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	11	10⅜	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅜	½	½
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	3⅜	4⅛	4½
Worcester	6½	8⅜	1⅜	1⅞	1	1⅜

* £5 shares.

Goldfields have again been prominent, and have scored a fair advance, the carry-over revealing a shortage of stock. Gold Trusts—an exceptionally hopeful purchase among the heavier weights—Rand Mines, East Rands, Randfonteins, Knights, and others have improved. The whole of the Eastern section has shown strength. East Rand Mining Estates have been a particularly good market. The demand for the shares was due to the statements made by the Earl of Chesterfield at the annual meeting last week. It is estimated, according to Dr. Hatch's report, that the ore contents of the Company's claims on the basis of one-fifth of the Farms Grootvlei and Palmietkuil will amount to a minimum of 22,724,000 tons. In the event of the Company obtaining a quarter of the farms under the new Gold Law, instead of a fifth, the tonnage will amount to 28,405,000 tons. Then, again, the Chairman pointed out that if the hanging-wall leaders which have been found in the New Modderfontein property exist in the East Rand Mining Estates' Area, which he had every reason to believe would be the case, the tonnage would have to be doubled. This would mean 45,448,000 tons on one-fifth of the farms, or 56,810,000 tons on the basis of a quarter. Such figures will convey an idea of the magnitude of the Company's holdings. The Welgedacht Company has started further boring in order to ensure the correct demarcation of the reef preparatory to the sinking of the shaft, which can now be undertaken at an early date. In order to provide funds for the latter purpose, the Directors have decided to make an issue of 9,500 shares at the price of £6 10s. per share, *pro ratâ* to the shareholders whose names appear on the registers of the Company at November 21, being at the rate of one new share for every ten shares held. A syndicate has guaranteed the due subscription of this issue in consideration of an option over a further 9,500 shares at the price of £7 10s. per share, expiring on September 30, 1905. The proceeds of this issue, added to the funds in hand, will give a total sum of about £130,000, which is considered ample to provide for the cost of the shaft. The funds receivable in the event of the option being exercised will go towards the cost of development and surface work. A good deal of attention has been paid to Johnnies and Barneys, which have hung back for some time past—probably in connection with the retirement of Mr. Carl Hanau from the firm of Barnato Bros. Among specialties, United South Africa Associations have been bought on the strength of the holding of 3,400 shares in the Premier Diamond Company. These last have furnished the sensation of the week. During the past account they rose 6, following upon one of 8 during the previous period, and they signalised the start of the new period by jumping another 5 in one day. It is to be hoped that those who are in this swim know what they are doing. The shares are talked very much higher, but a £1 share at close upon £60 stands already more than a little high, and those who were fortunate to get in when I drew attention to the prospects during the summer might be well advised to think of their profits. The rest of the Diamond group has been in demand, Lace Diamonds being especially strong; and the Deep Levels have attracted considerably more attention to themselves. My table follows:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up. Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 26, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅜	1½	1½	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅜	1	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13½	13⅜
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4⅜	2	3⅜	3½	3½
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8½	5	5½	6⅜	6½
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3⅜	4⅞	4⅞	4⅛
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11⅜	11½	11⅜
Jumpers Deep	5½	6⅜	3½	4⅞	4⅜	4½
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4⅞	2½	2½	2⅛	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅞	2	2⅜	2⅜	2½
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2½	5⅛	2½	3½	3⅛	4
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅛	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5½	5⅜	5⅜
Do. Cent. Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅛	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2½	2½	2½
South Geld. Deep	3⅛	4½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack West	4½	5⅝	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2½	1½	⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4⅜	2⅜	4⅛	4⅜	4⅞

RHODESIANS BUOYANT AND ACTIVE—THE ALLUVIAL DISCOVERY—CHARTERED STRONG AND LIVELY—THE INEVITABLE "RUBBISH" BROUGHT OUT—BANKET DESCRIPTIONS SLACKER—EXPLORATION REPORT—TANGANYIKAS AND THE RAILWAY—COPPER SHARES SPURT.

The small boom in Rhodesians to which I drew attention last week has developed very satisfactorily, and the feeling seems to be growing more confident day by day. The Chartered Company are exercising very noteworthy caution in regard to the alluvial discovery when promulgating the latest news, and emphasise that they can say nothing definite until their engineer has investigated the discovery thoroughly. The Mining Commissioner at Victoria (Mashonaland) cables that the area so far tested measures 800 by 300 yards, but he mentions that prospectors state that exactly the same formation extends for miles, though it has not been tested because of the lack of convenient water. "The gold is found in surface soil four feet deep, and is red soil containing diorite boulders and small pieces of quartz. Under this talcose schist, with a little gold on top, the red soil contains good gold, the biggest nugget being 9 dwts." This undoubtedly seems hopeful, more especially as the estimated average of 2 dwts. per load has been verified by an expert, and that the water difficulty alluded to can easily be surmounted if results warrant. It is also interesting to learn that a little of the gold obtained is en route for London for exhibition purposes, but before that arrives we shall probably have heard a great deal more about the alluvial, with, let us hope, something definite and conclusive. Chartered shares naturally reflect the optimism prevalent in all quarters, and they have been an active and cheerful spot throughout the whole week, which, from the fact of a considerably increased "Bull" account indicated at the account by a carry-over rate of about 3d. to 2d. per share, as against 1¼d. last time, seem to augur well. Additional significance is given by a glance at the make-up figure of 2⅜, which compares with 1 15-32 a fortnight previously, while at the close the shares practically touched 2½, which for them is a further material gain. It would, perhaps, be too much to expect that in active times rubbishy shares would maintain their position in the background, and consequently it is not at all surprising to find that a whole host of these descriptions have been brought from out of the way corners and found marketable, simply because of the prevailing boomlet. True, it cannot be denied that the alluvial discovery might possibly occur on the properties which they possess, in which case they stand a chance of being lifted out of the obscurity into which they have fallen; but it must be remembered that such possibilities are very remote. Even should fortune favour them, it is well known that they possess no funds for development. Everything considered, it is, therefore, wise to leave such things alone, unless one wishes to be reckless in endeavouring to snatch a paltry profit. The whole market, as I have said before, is cheerful, and inclined to make some headway, and among the shares supposed to be directly affected by the recent find, Willoughbys remain prominent. The Company's land holdings aggregate 558,519 acres, and so there is plenty of scope for hopefulness in regard to gold being stumbled across in some out-of-the-way corner. It is said that the concern does not hold any interests in the alluvial area, which ought to be remembered when such a great deal is being made of that item. In the circumstances it is perhaps only natural that the banket descriptions should take a very back seat now that there seem to be better attractions in the market. These shares, indeed, present a forlorn appearance, and the tendency has been almost consistently dull, except when a little belated support was forthcoming to bring about a halt in the downward progress. The report of Mr. Abe Bayley's engineer is singularly prosaic in comparison with the optimistic utterances to which we have grown accustomed, and there is no doubt that this influenced operators, though another and later report seemed somewhat more hopeful. But in regard to the question of the richness of the reef there is nothing for it but to await developments and see what the future will bring with it. In regard to Rhodesian Exploration, the report for the year to June last has just been published, and in view of the recent banket reef discovery, it seems only natural that the directors should make some reference to this latest development on the Eldorado mine. The formation, it is said, has been proved by outcrops and ancient workings—this is old news perhaps—to extend for three miles, and "there is a strong probability that it will be traced for a considerably longer distance." The average width of the payable ore, so far as is known at present, is 6 ft., the widest point being 13 ft. It is thought probable that other bodies will be found in addition to the one now being opened up, but it is not, of course, claimed, indeed, it is not expected, that payable stuff will be obtainable throughout the whole three miles, though the ancient workings afford evidence that at least 3,500 ft. of it is auriferous, while at the only point where the reef has been exposed in depth it is found to be of high grade. That the shares will not remain in their present idle condition for any length of time is almost a certainty, because the "shops" and the House operators hold practically all of them, and as their object is to attract the outside public it is a foregone conclusion that when the excitement in the other Rhodesian descriptions has had time to simmer down the Bankets, and with them Explorations and Lomagundas, will be twisted up again. In the Northern group there have been one or two sensational incidents, chief amongst them being the sharp spurt in Tanganyikas to 5 13-16, as against 3¾ a week ago, on the rumour, which has since been contradicted, that the Company had arranged for the financing of the Lobito Bay Railway, which will enable the ore to be transported expeditiously to the coast. As a fact nothing will be arranged in this matter until the sanction of the shareholders has been obtained, but though this exercised a little adverse effect for the moment, the shares rapidly recovered again and made further headway, Zambesias climbing up with them. Northern Coppers furnished another interesting instance of market manipulation, and have been smartly twisted up to 4¼ as compared with 3½ at the make-up on the previous day, and 3 a week previously. Rhodesia Coppers jumped with them both on the strength of rumours that the railway will soon enable the two concerns to work at a profit. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capitals.		Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up Nov. 25 1904.	Closing Price. Nov. 26, 1904.
	Authorised.	Shares Issued.					
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1¼	⅜	⅜
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1⅜	1⅜
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4¼	2⅛	2⅛
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2¼	½	½
Buluwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	⅜	⅜
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	1/16	1/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅜	⅜
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	1/16	1/16
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2¼	⅛	¼
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Lomagunda Dev	250 000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2⅛	2⅛
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	1⅜	1⅜
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4¼	3/16	3/16
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250 000	160,500	1	f.p.	8⅜	3½	4¼
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600 000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9⅛	5⅜	5 7/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	⅜	⅜
Rice Hamilton	60.000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2⅜	⅜
Salisbury Districts	50 000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	⅛	⅛
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	1 1/16	1⅛
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	5⅜	5⅛
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	1/16	1/16
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	⅜	⅛	⅛
Willoughby Con.....	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	3/16	3/16
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	238,317	1	f.p.	6 7/16	2¼	2⅜

THOMAS GOODE & Co.—China, glass pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues post free.—South Audley-street London.

West Africans Dull and Idle—Uninteresting—Tale of a Revival—Miscellaneous Mines—A Boom in Egyptians—Wonderful Experiments—South African Assistance—Copper Shares Quieter—Indians—Broken Hill Props. Better.

Once again I have to record an idle and uninteresting Jungle market. The tone has been rather depressed throughout, though towards the close the somewhat more cheerful feeling which developed neutralises to a slight extent the losses which occurred in the earlier part of the week. Amalgamated displayed marked weakness at one time as a result of realisations, and this spread to the rest of the leading descriptions, including Ashanti Goldfields and Wassau, which, together with practically all the other shares, are lower on balance, the losses being in one or two cases significant, Amalgamated being no better than 2¾ as against 3⅛ a week ago. In some quarters the hope has been expressed that with South Africans booming the Jungle will not fail to derive some sentimental benefit; but for my part I think it rather doubtful that a revival will be brought about until the conditions of the industry are considerably better than at the moment. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 26, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGoldfields(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅜	1⅛
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/9 dis	5/- dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜	⅝
Attesi Mines..	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	4/6	4 9
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	1½	1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1½	1⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2¾	2¾
HimanConcessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅝	⅜
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12 6	12 -
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120 000	1	f p.	⅝	⅝
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,1~5	1	f.p.	1⅞	1¼
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1⅝	1⅞

In the Miscellaneous Mining market the outstanding feature has been the activity of Egyptian mines, more especially Nile Valleys, which were steadily hoisted up until at the close they stood at 3 buyers, as against 1¾ a week ago. For this buoyancy there are a couple of contributory causes, the principal being the optimistic utterances of the Chairman after a visit to the mine. A five-stamp mill is in course of erection, and it is estimated that there are already about 4,500 tons of ore of varying assays in sight, but though this may seem encouraging, it is not the most remarkable development, for in this respect the novel experiment of putting a couple of shots into the ore body in one of the winzes, and thereby bringing down a shower of gold of an estimated value of £4,000, easily has it. "One piece of stone alone weighed 100 lb., from which over 30 lb. of rough gold were obtained," which, though it is rather strikingly reminiscent of some of the wonderful stories told in that delightful work, the "Arabian Nights," because it happened in mysterious Egypt, seems encouraging, even if allowance is made for the ecstasy occasioned by the first glimpse of real gold. However, I shall let this pass without further comment, and point out that the additional factor in operation is the statement that Mr. J. B. Robinson is to exercise his call of 47,000 shares at 30s., and that in addition other Kaffir magnates are likely to display more interest in the Egyptian section in future. These rumours, it may be remarked, are without confirmation so far, but they have nevertheless exercised a powerful influence upon all Egyptian shares. Copper shares have been rather quieter and somewhat irregular, a sharp drop in the price of the metal occasioning an equally smart relapse in Tintos and other shares; but a more confident feeling developed, and this has had a good effect all round. In the Indian group the tone has been quietly steady, without feature of interest, apart from the statement of the Directors of the Nine Reefs that they propose to close down the mine pending developments on the adjoining Balaghat property. Among silver shares Broken Hills have turned on the up grade again, and in the New Zealand group Waihi Grand Junction displayed considerable strength, some benefit being derived from the cable that, though the ore at the No. 3 level is of low grade, it is expected that with another 50 ft. of driving the quality will improve:—

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Last Make-up.	Closing Price Nov. 26.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	2⅞	—	5⅛
Balaghat Gold	1 19/32	14/-	16/9	17/-
Broken Hill Props.	1⅛	1¼	45/-	45/-
Cape Copper	5	2	—	4⅜
Champion Reef	7	5¾	32/-	33/6
Le Roi	4⅜	⅜	⅜	⅛
Mason and Barry	4¼	3½	—	3⅞
Mount Lyell Mining	4¼	2	11/16	13/6
Mysore Gold	7⅞	5 1/2	6⅞	6⅞
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3⅜
Nundydroog	2 13/16	1⅛	35/-	1⅜
Ooregum	2¼	21/9	17/-	—
Rio Tinto	58⅜	38½	—	62
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	—	5½
Waihi Gold	6⅝	4 15/16	5 1/16	6

An Abortive Nitrate Ramp.

A concern calling itself the Nitrate Syndicate, which rents a room at Salisbury House, E.C., has been endeavouring to plant its shares after the fashion rendered notorious by Arthur Dougall Cochrane when he tried to foist the shares of his Royal British Bank upon proprietors of Lloyds. It has sent out a circular to the holders of shares in the leading Chilian nitrate Companies announcing that they are provisionally allotted a number of its shares conditional upon signing the accompanying form of application and making the payment therein referred to, the shares to be subsequently exchangeable for an equal number of founders' shares of the California Nitrate Company. The Nitrate Syndicate's shares are £10 each, and with the form of application so graciously sent to strangers £3 per share had to be sent, the balance being due as £3 10s. on formal notice of allotment and £3 10s. one month later. The suggestion which the circular conveyed was that an enormous body of nitrate was to be worked by this California Company, and that an agreement would probably be arrived at with the Chilian interests whereby ruinous competition should not ensue. Says this document:—

As you are probably aware, nitrate deposits of considerable magnitude were discovered in Death Valley, California, some two years ago, but owing to the comparative inaccessibility of that portion of the country, their extent and great value were only recently determined. So large is the extent, and so great is the value of these deposits, that in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, the present very satisfactory position of the nitrate industry would be threatened if not wholly disorganised should they be developed by interests antagonistic to the present Nitrate Combination. To avoid this, and at the same time work in harmony, if not in conjunction with the Nitrate Committee, the Nitrate Syndicate, Limited, has acquired options over thirty-eight saline placer claims of 160 acres each, giving a total acreage of 6,080 acres, or 9½ square miles, which area is believed to cover all the valuable nitrate ground in the Death Valley. The Death Valley contains practically all the nitrate deposits of California, and as there appears at the present time little likelihood of deposits being discovered in any other part of the world, the working of these deposits in harmony with the Nitrate Committee will insure stability of price and certainty of profit for a long time to come, so that to every one interested in the Chilian nitrate industry the formation of this Syndicate is a distinct gain, apart from any investment in its shares.

This was a pretty scheme, regarded from the point of view of the Nitrate Syndicate. The writer of the circular, warming to his work, deals with the advantages which are to result. The supposititious advantages of the Californian deposits would place the American markets at the disposal of the Company; and as the American consumption last year was 300,000 tons, it was easy to figure up on a margin of profit of £900,000 assured thereby annually. But the American market was not the only one to be considered. For instance: "While the cost of transportation between the United States and Europe and Chile and Europe is practically the same, the lower cost of mining

in California and the absence of export duty would give the Californian producer a distinct advantage over the Chilian producer in the European markets should competition arise." Enormous profits were to follow to the Nitrate Syndicate from the flotation of the California Nitrate Company; and in order to strengthen the suggestion that there was to be some connection between the American and Chilian interests, it was added that an endeavour would be made to secure one Director from each of the following named Companies, which should ensure the best results in safeguarding all interests:—Lagunas Nitrate, San Lorenzo, Alianza, Anglo-Chilian, Salar del Carmen, San Jorge, and Liverpool. As the Board of the California Company was to have been seven, it would have been nicely representative of the Chilian interests had the game succeeded. Unfortunately for the Syndicate, the Chilian Companies wrote strongly repudiating all connection with or knowledge of it, and finally the Syndicate, impressed by the warmth of the Press denunciations, decided to withdraw its circular and to return all moneys paid to it. Thus ends what looked like developing into a very bad business.

Shell Transport and Trading.

From a shareholder in this Company I have received a lengthy letter criticising the management, which is certainly not all that could be desired. I have no room for the whole letter, but I think a good purpose will be served by drawing attention to some of the points raised. It would be difficult, as my correspondent remarks, to define the present position of the Shell Company with its various combinations, amalgamations, etc., many of which were entered into without either the knowledge or consent of the general body of shareholders. It seems to me that the shareholders should insist upon knowing the exact position, and not be put off with vague statements unaccompanied by proof, nor trust altogether to a Board of Directors. The trouble is that the Shell Transport is virtually a one-man Company, the Chairman having the voting power entirely in his own hands, and being able to out-vote nearly twice over the number of votes of all the other shareholders put together, so that it is only a matter of form to hold a general meeting at all—a fact borne out by the meagre attendance at the last meeting, when not more than forty persons were present, besides the Board and the Press, office staff, and relations of the Chairman out of a total number of 1,500 shareholders. Writes my correspondent:—

I would like to draw your readers' attention to some of the remarks made at previous meetings by the Chairman. On June 25, 1902, the Chairman stated that "they had recovered possession of their site at Tientsin, China, and in the meantime their claim for £11,000 had been admitted, although they had not yet received payment." It would be interesting to know if that sum has ever been received, as it has not been referred to since, and seeing that there was no meeting held between that time until December 22 of the following year; and, further, that the balance-sheet for *1903* is not even yet in our possession, we are wholly in the dark as to what has taken place. At the meeting of December 22, 1903, a shareholder asked for more detailed information in the balance-sheet, which, as everybody knows, is meagre in the extreme, to which the Chairman replied: "If there is any form in which we can set out the accounts so as to give more information we should be glad to adopt it." At this meeting the same shareholder objected to the lumping together of the assets—running into seven figures sterling, and not setting out the items making up this huge total—thus obviating criticism from the shareholders. Attention had been previously drawn to these same matters in the Press, notwithstanding which the balance-sheet has since appeared in the same form. Also, as to the delay in issuing the annual balance-sheet, in spite of the assurances of the Chairman, the shareholders are very chary in accepting same, as it appears on the face of it unreasonable to take the whole of the next year to bring out a balance-sheet of the previous year's trading—and even when it is issued, it is in such a mystified form as to be useless for all practical purposes, and I think to some extent accounts for the flagging interest now taken by the general body of shareholders, as they are evidently beginning to slowly realise this.

There is another point which materially affects every shareholder, and that is the absence of an official quotation on the Stock Exchange for the Ordinary shares. This is highly unsatisfactory, as it is very difficult to get a quotation or deal in the shares at all, and consequently there is not a free market in them, a great drawback being the voting power of the Chairman, who has five votes for every share. The *Petroleum World* says that steamers have been built—viz., the *Silverlip* and *Goldmouth*—simply to be laid-up on the Tyne for months together. My correspondent continues:—

As a holder of a fairly large number of shares, all I can say is that I am extremely dissatisfied with the present state of affairs. Things are not at all clear; there is too much mystery surrounding the whole concern, and the report when published does not enlighten us, as it practically gives no general information whatever. Unlike other companies, no weekly reports are issued as to quantity of oil obtained from that wonderful Borneo property about which we have heard so much, but received so little in the shape of dividends—and the Chairman has gone so far as to say on more than one occasion that "they have sufficient oil to supply the whole world." One naturally wonders, in face of such a statement, why the "Shell" Company's steamers make such frequent trips to Batoum for such large quantities of oil and pay the heavy Suez Canal dues? I should be very glad indeed to be enlightened on these and other points, and would like to hear the views of your readers as the depreciation in the price of this Company's Ordinary shares since they were split up into £1 shares, together with the want of a Stock Exchange quotation in order to create a freer market, are most detrimental to our interests as shareholders, and I do not think will ever be remedied until the chairman's shares are put on the same footing as those of other Ordinary shareholders. Surely, seeing that he holds nearly three-quarters of a million of Ordinary shares, these should be a sufficiently powerful vote for any one if he has any faith at all in the concern without multiplying it by five.

The Chairman complained bitterly at the last meeting about the action of the British Burmah Government not recognising the Company as a British concern. I think they were quite right in saying that this is not a British Company in the strict sense of the word, seeing that the majority of the Directors are foreigners and aliens. Formerly there were two able gentlemen Directors on the Board, Messrs. Graham and Lane.

London Wall Syndicate.

In case there may be readers of Truth who have dealt or been tempted to deal with the London Wall Syndicate, of 783-784, Salisbury House, E.C., I think it will be instructive if I place on record the experience of a gentleman in the North who entrusted the concern with the sale of seventy shares in the Coffee and Dining Rooms Company. The Syndicate reported in June last that they had sold the shares at 8s. 6d. each, equal to £29 15s., and they sent him a transfer for execution. He executed and returned it, along with the share certificate, to the Syndicate, on June 22; but although they wrote on July 1 promising to remit the purchase money immediately they knew the transfers were through—which they said should be at the beginning of the following week—the seller was unable, notwithstanding repeated applications, to obtain payment. The gentleman was a great deal more patient with the Syndicate than I should have been in the remote event of my having any share dealings with it. The cheque should have come to hand in the first week of July. On August 9 we find the Syndicate writing that the Managing Director had been "exceedingly ill for the past few weeks," but that there was little doubt of his return that current week, when the matter would be finally disposed of. In the same letter it was stated that the shares had not been sold, but "there is no difficulty on that point." On August 17 there was a further letter in reply to the client's threat to place the matter in the hands of his solicitor. This time the Managing Director would doubtless be well enough to transact business at the beginning of the following week. On the 26th "we are seeing our Managing Director late to-day, and we will write you to-morrow what can be done in the circumstances." The people in charge at 783-4, Salisbury House, were unable to ascertain what had become of the certificate and transfer, "but whether the shares are mislaid or not, it will make no difference to the payment to you of the agreed amount." On September 2 the Syndicate asked pardon for delay, but their Mr. Bennett wished to be in a position to settle, and he was away for a few days to recruit his health. He would return on the ensuing Tuesday, when he would no doubt put the matter in order. In the meantime the seller of the shares had ascertained from the Secretary of the Coffee and Dining Rooms Company that the

shares had been transferred on June 28 to one Walter Chapman, who was understood to be the London Wall Syndicate, and, his patience being by this time exhausted, he instructed his solicitor, who extracted from the estimable Bennett that Chapman was Secretary of the Securities Exchange, and that the shares had been left there with a view to their sale—a fact which he had forgotten in consequence of his illness and the morphia he took to appease it. Under pressure a cheque was sent on September 7, but it was dishonoured, though it was honoured ten days later. If this is a sample of the way the London Wall Syndicate treat the people who have dealings with them, the sooner they go out of business the better. Search of the file at the Companies' Registry showed that the Company was registered on November 4, 1903, with a nominal capital of £100, divided into 2,000 shares of 1s. each, of which Peter Bennett held 1,994, six other shareholders holding one share each only. Peter Bennett and N. B. Collyer were the Directors of the Company.

New Issue.

The following prospectus has been published:—

Pettigrew and Stephens.—The Company has been formed to acquire a large drapery and millinery business in Glasgow. It has a capital of £90,000, of which £50,000 is in Six and a Half per Cent. shares, and £40,000 in Ordinary shares, and Five per Cent. Debentures to the amount of £80,000. The vendor takes the Ordinary shares, and there are now offered for subscription the whole of the Preference shares and £64,000 of the Debentures.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Trustee.—I see no reason why New South Wales and New Zealand Fours should be realised. No doubt Colonials are not exactly in favour, but there is no question as to security, and along with the rest of the gilt-edged market these are likely to witness some recovery within the next year or so, and in the meantime the interest is assured. *H. R. H., Bombay.*—The Japanese Six per Cent. bonds are worth buying if you do not mind the possibility of a temporary depreciation. If the war be prolonged, the country must borrow more, but the loan is well secured, being a first charge on the Customs revenue of the empire, and after the war I should look for a recovery in the price. *Dragon.*—It might be a profitable operation if you were to sell the Chinese Fives (1896) and transfer into the new Japanese Six per Cent. bonds, subject to the contingencies referred to in my reply to the preceding correspondent. The yield is much higher, and there is no reason to question the excellence of the security. *Pub.*—If you want authorised trustee stocks, I would suggest London County Threes, Cape of Good Hope Three and a Half per Cents., South Australian Fours, and Victoria Fours. These give an average of about 3⅝ per cent. If you are permitted to invest in other than trustee stocks, please advise me and let me know the conditions of the trust deed. *A. R. C. B.*—The National War Loan is redeemable at par in 1910. The stock is worth holding, as it will probably go higher some years before then. *Sailor.*—1. The Two and Three Quarter per Cent. Annuities are redeemable at par on or after January 5 next on one month's notice being given by the Government. 2. The money on deposit might be invested in Johannesburg or Cape Town Fours at the end of the twelve months. You will be able to command about 4 per cent. in this way, and the security would be much improved.

Railways.

Wrinkles.—1. Great Central 1894 Preference stock makes a good purchase, and within five years it is likely to have a big appreciation. 2. "British Buildings as Investments," by Mr. W. J. Stevens (publisher, Effingham Wilson, Royal Exchange, E.C.) would fulfil your requirements. *Cotter.*—The North Staffordshire has not had a good half-year, and while its stock makes a good investment purchase, I think the Railway Market has better things to show—Brighton Preferred Ordinary, for instance, or South-Western Preferred Ordinary, the first yielding 3⅞ per cent. and the second 3¾ per cent. *Alderley Edge.*—The Metropolitan District Railway is promoting a Bill for the funding of the arrears of interest on the Four per Cent. Guaranteed stock. *B. R., Lincoln.*—The fear is that the strikes may spread, but Argentine Great Western Preference stock is a good investment holding, and I should be inclined to add B.A. and Pacific Second Preference stock, the first returning 5¼ per cent. and the second 5⅜ per cent. *Silver.*—American railroad bonds will probably have a further rise. Louisville First Mortgage Trust and Atchison Adjustment bonds are good investment purchases, yielding rather more than 4½ per cent. *F. A., Blackpool.*—The Canadian Pacific is working the line, but the interest on the bonds is guaranteed by the British Columbia Government. I regard them as quite a good investment. I am glad that the Canadian Pacific purchase turned out so well. *Ontarios.*—The operation ought to turn out well.

Mines.

Gippy.—Egyptian Mines Exploration are a promising speculation if you get in soon. An endeavour is being made to put prices better, and to create a greater interest in the market. *Cosmos.*—As developments are not very encouraging, I suggst a sale and a purchase of a progressive Kaffir—say Rand Collieries—with the proceeds. *W. O'C.*—1. Randfonteins are an excellent lock-up. 2. You will see that Johnnies are beginning to move. I look for a recovery to your figure with a full return of normal conditions in the Kaffir Market. 3. The London address of the Randfontein Estates Company is 1, Bank-buildings, Lothbury, E.C. *Treaty.*—The Oroya Brownhill has ore developed representing over £4 per share, and after the richer ore is exhausted, the mine will probably have a long life as a low-grade proposition. I regard the shares as a good holding, as the prospects are quite satisfactory. At the same time there is not much room for a considerable advance in the price. *Nagasaki.*—You will see by the market reports that South Africans are moving cheerfully. Prices are likely to go considerably higher, and while I decline to prophesy on the point, it seems very probable that your holdings will reach the figures named within another two or three months. In the matter of the Chinese my sentiments coincide with your own. *Putter.*—The capital of the Westralia Mount Morgans Company is £125,000 in 5s. shares, which are a fair speculation at ⅝. A dividend of 7½d. was paid in April. *Greenhorn.*—I suggest Oroyas and Champion Reefs. *Tapton.*—Matabele Reefs and Warleigh (Rhodesia) Developments are worth holding for better prices, since the Rhodesian market is going ahead, but I should not be inclined to increase the holding of either. *Syzygy.*—All the South Africans should be kept for the present. By this time your slight loss will have been converted into a profit, which looks like being increased materially between now and Christmas. Take a moderate profit when you see it. *R. A. C.*—General Minings and Finance should give you a profit soon, since they are to-day up again to 3½. Hendersons and Rhodesia, Limited, ought to be held until you see whether the improvement in South Africans is maintained, as it probably will be, and if it is, a recovery to your buying prices and above will be a matter of only a month or two, perhaps less. *Veritas.*—I have only a poor opinion of Kent Coals, but I think it would be best to hold the Preference shares on the chance that some coal may actually be brought to the surface one of these days. The chance is a sporting one, but it is worth taking. *A. J. C.*—The shares are likely to improve with other Rhodesians, but not to any material extent. The Company has a large property, but it will probably want more money before long. *Ersen.*—1. I should sell the Le Rois and put the proceeds into a Kaffir—Barneys, or General Mining, or Randfonteins. 2. Orange Diamonds are likely to have a further recovery. *Kautschuk.*—1. Simmer and Jacks should go beyond 2½ within the next six months. 2. Vogelstruis Estates might be held for 2, and Glencairns for 2½ or 3. Transvaal Explorings ought to touch 12s. again. The other two are poor, and I should get rid of them. *Judge.*—Nile Valleys are a promising speculation, but they have had a sharp advance during the last week on the strength of the Chairman's report to his colleagues, and it would be well to get in soon and be content with a fair profit if you would go in at all. *Seeker.*—The address of the Forbes Reef Gold Mining Company is at 45-46, Leadenhall-street, E.C., and the secretary's name is Mr. William Gardner. The other concern appears to have gone out of existence. I cannot trace it. *Wycliffe.*—Low in common with other South Africans, and are now on the up grade again. My recommendation not to buy more was based upon the fact that there are more promising shares, recent development work leaving something to be desired. *Dot.*—You are right in your surmise, and I suggest that you resist the temptation to take part in the operation. *Belfast.*—To my regret, I can give you no definite information. A dividend in the near future, however, seems improbable. *Somerset.*—1. Golden Arrows seem very unattractive. 2. H.E. Props are a good speculation. 3. Do not join the reconstruction. It will probably result in more calls and nothing else. *Inquirer.*—1. Selukwes are likely to have a moderate advance in the near future. 2. Johnnies or Rand Collieries. *Kirkee.*—The depreciation in your Queensland mining shares is attributable to selling from the colony itself, and as little is made known about reserves and developments, the selling probably has significance. Duke United might be kept. *Beta.*—1. Robinson Randfonteins make a hopeful purchase. 2. Bantjes Consolidated are not very attractive. The mine is not being opened up. I understand, owing to labour difficulties, and there are a number of Kaffirs more attractive for an early improvement. *Pater.*—Transvaal Exploring shares are worth holding for a higher price. Nigel Main Reefs and Klerksdorp Gold and Diamonds are unpromising. *Victim.*—Do not join the reconstruction. I fear the concern is hopeless. *E. C. R., Barrow.*—Nile Valleys and United African Explorations are the most prominent Egyptian mining companies,

but Egypt and Sudan mining shares are also a very promising holding.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

Isabella N.—1. The Rainy River Company is still in existence, but I do not hear that it is progressing or that it is doing any work at all. The other two have disappeared. In your circumstances it would be advisable to leave out-of-the-way mines alone, and with the cash in hand I advise you to buy Chinese Fives, Egyptian State Domain bonds, Argentine Great Western Railway Preference stock, Canadian Pacific Railway shares, and Great Western Railway Ordinary stock. These will bring in an average of 4½ per cent. If you are prepared to take a little more risk for a better return, write me again. *Woodcock.*—1. The concern is reliable, I understand, as far as that sort of concern can be said to be reliable. 2. Better hold the Colt's Gun shares, as there are or were recently, at all events—some knowing people picking them up. 3. I should choose Anglo-American Telegraph Preferred stock. *Berwick.*—National Telephone Second Preference shares and Raphael Tuck Preference shares would meet your requirements; yield about £4 13s. per cent. *Elad.*—1. Great Central "B" stock makes a good speculative investment to lock up for some years, if necessary. 2. Sons of Gwalia. *Imp.*—1. Guinness Ordinary, Babcock Preference, and Harrods Ordinary are the best of the six. 2. Of the Kaffirs named, I should select Goldfields, East Rands, Barneys, Johnnies, Simmer and Jack, Cinderella Deeps, and Transvaal Estates and Developments. 3. I would rather buy Coats. The Ordinary and Preferred Ordinary are both attractive. 4. I look for a gradual appreciation in Consols, but a recovery to the immediate neighbourhood of par is not to be expected for some time to come. *Waiting.*—1. You would do best by holding the Kaffirs for some little time longer. Orange Diamonds, you will see, have had a moderate recovery during the last few days, and are likely to go still higher. Cassell Coals are also promising, and Harmony Props. are talked higher, though you would do well to take a small profit if it comes your way. 2. Armstrongs, Gas Light and Coke, London United Trams Preference, and J. W. Benson Preference shares. *Kappa.*—1. Gas, Water, and General Investment Preferred, Foreign, American, and General Investment Deferred, Lyons Ordinary, and Weardale Steel Preferred would suit. 2. Randfonteins, Oceanas, and Selukwes are worth keeping for a further improvement. *Erratic.*—1. Canadian Pacific Railway Ordinary shares. 2. The Japanese investments you name are not known here, and you should understand that there are disabilities attaching to the holding by foreigners in such undertakings. 3. I should not regard it as a particularly attractive investment. *Ajax.*—1. I cannot recommend you to join the reconstruction. 2. Great Western, North-Western, and Central London. *Ford.*—1. South London Electric shares are worth buying. The other two I should leave alone.

MISCELLANEOUS.

B. H. K.—I would not recommend any dealings with the concern. Go to some reputable establishment. *Anxious.*—By charging about 50 per cent. above the market value they can easily ignore the incidental expenses. Leave them alone. *St. Andrews.*—The lottery may be genuine enough, but they are certainly not so attractive as the touting agents would have you believe. The chances of winning are utterly remote. *Strensall.*—Try Vickers, and leave the other alone. *M. N. Wood.*—You cannot expect to get such a high rate of interest with good security, and I think you ought to patronise some respectable bank. *Lt.-Colonel, India.*—They have been working your country for some years past, with much profit to themselves, I think. Many thanks for the circular. *M. A. G.*—I would not in any circumstances deal with the firm on the conditions named. It would be more profitable to leave the cash in the bank. *Co. Tyrone.*—It may be as well to accept the offer. *Dodder.*—My opinion is that you ought not to deal with Currie and Crisp. *Reader of* TRUTH, *Liverpool.*—A touting establishment which relies upon its grossly misleading circulars to attract the uninitiated. *Delta.*—Certainly not safe. Leave them alone. *X. X.*—The bonds are all right, but not attractive, and you will find that Cunliffe, Russell, and Co., charge 40 per cent. or 50 per cent. above the market price. *Jimmie.*—I recommend you to have nothing to do with the German lottery. *C. M.*—The gentleman named is working energetically, and though I do not know much about him, I suspect he is one of the old gang under another name. *Nauticus.*—They do not strike me as a particularly attractive purchase. *Attraction.*—British Electrics appear reasonably safe, and ought to have a decent recovery in time. *Gems.*—Of their class they seem all right, and I think you might hold. *The Poet.*—The debentures are not in much danger, and as the radical change in the management ought to be beneficial in time, I see no reason to sell. *G. M. B.*—Of the bucket-shop order, and you ought not to entrust the concern with any money. *Anxious, Leeds.*—You would be well advised to have no dealings with the institution, because it is not safe. *Nimrod.*—Many of the bonds sold by Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. are easily negotiable, and in their way they are quite safe. But my objection to the concern is that they charge exorbitantly even after making allowance for the instalment system. *Vigilant.*—The Rock Life is a good office, and you might try the London Life Assurance Company, 81, King William-street, but I cannot recommend the American establishment. *Forceps, Hull.*—Seems to be a new Company, and judging from the prospectus, I should say it stands a poor chance of succeeding. *Bacillus.*—The bonds are in their class not absolutely bad, but you would do well to leave the firm in question to their own devices. *Angel.*—I should prefer J. Lyons or Slaters, which possess far better merits. *Captain, Treffgarne.*—Have nothing to do with the institution. *Equity.*—My opinion is that you ought to steer clear of the establishment. *Nitrate, Dorking.*—I am much obliged to you for your promptitude. I am dealing with the affair this week. *R. E., Kensington.*—Many thanks. The German lottery circulars are an unmitigated nuisance. There is no doubt upon that point, but I think that if every recipient were to redirect the envelope promptly to the Postmaster-General he might be compelled to exercise his powers in regard to these illegal missives. *Veritas, Lewisham.*—Yes, the same variety. I believe that one Lovegrove is the guiding spirit, and he works under various aliases, another of which is known to the world as Ridley and Skinner. *Bradford.*—Neither reliable nor safe, and you ought to have nothing to do with the concern. *Small Holder, Rangoon.*—I would strongly advise you against taking up any of the certificates. *Perplexed.*—If you are discreet you will in future put the documents in the fire as soon as they arrive. One of the worst types of bucket-shop, and not so long ago I had occasion to deal with its precious schemes at length. *R. A.*—It is, indeed, strange why such establishments should go to the trouble of asking all and sundry if they may kindly make one's fortune. The mere fact ought to act as a deterrent, but very frequently people are so misguided as to dabble in cotton futures with deplorable results. *Anvers.*—It would be to your advantage to communicate with an inside broker. *C. B.*—I am exceedingly obliged for the trouble you have taken in the matter, and you may rest assured that I will follow developments closely.

INDUSTRIALS IRREGULAR — BUSINESS STILL MODERATELY ACTIVE—OUTSIDE INTEREST SLOWLY EXPANDING—PEKIN SYNDICATES THE FEATURE—TELEGRAPH STOCKS LESS VIOLENT — BREWERIES GRADUALLY IMPROVING — MANCHESTER BREWERY REVELATIONS—TEXTILES STEADY—SHIPPING SHARES BUOYANT—DOCKS—LIGHTING STOCKS IN FAVOUR.

The restoration of public confidence in the Stock markets generally and in the Industrial section in particular which has been indicated recently by more active interest on the part of outsiders, is still in evidence, but the process of expansion is exceedingly slow. In the circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the fag-end of a nineteen-day account should have been characterised by rather free indulgence in profit-taking, induced by the higher range of values prevailing. But on the whole one cannot describe the tone as unsatisfactory, for, like the curate's historic egg, it has been good in parts, the outstanding feature of interest being the strength of Pekin Syndicates, which have moved up steadily from 7½ to 12¼ in consequence of favourable rumours concerning the progress of the railway undertaking of which it is said seventy-five miles have been completed and in use, the remaining portion being expected to be completed within three or four months, when transportation facilities to the coast will enable the concern to market its commodities very profitably. Coming next in point of interest, I may mention Anglo-American Telegraph stocks, but they have not shown any of the violent fluctuations which have been their characteristic recently, and though the group who were responsible for that activity gave a little support now and again, the tide of profit-taking has been too strong. Consequently the stocks, and more especially the Deferred, are lower than a week ago, but they finish above the worst. Other issues in this division are firm, including Easterns, Direct U.S. Cables, and Westerns, while a little more attention is being directed to Cuba Submarines. National Telephone stocks are featureless. Though somewhat irregular, the Iron and Steel group keeps tolerably steady on the whole, more especially the Armament shares, which are well supported, Vickers-Maxims creeping up gradually, while a demand has sprung up for Hotchkiss Gun issues, which show a fair gain. Thornycrofts have not been neglected. Though there have been many movements in both directions, it would seem that the undertone of the Brewery group is becoming less unsatisfactory, probably as a result of a lessening of the recent selling pressure. Allsopps keep comparatively steady, and Ind Coope descriptions are not so dullish. Showells maintain their position tolerably well. All Manchester Brewery Company stocks, on the other hand, are weak and depressed as a result of the Investigation Committee's report, which seems to indicate that many drastic changes are imperative. Having regard to the Company's financial position, the Committee cannot conceive why the Directors "purchased

land in Trafford Park at a chief rent of £1,045 per annum, coupled with a covenant by the Company to erect thereon, before March 12, 1906, a brewery at a minimum cost of £40,000. This is a serious matter, and will have to be dealt with at once, otherwise an action may be brought against the Company for the performance of the building clause." And in conclusion emphasis is put upon the "serious want of judgment that has characterised the dealings with the Company's finances since its formation." The recommendations given are the outlay of at least £50,000 upon improvements in properties, etc., the immediate institution of efficient supervision, and an entire change in the administration and management of the brewery. In the circumstances the weakness of the Company's stocks is not to be wondered at. Trust stocks continue in favour, and almost without exception movements have been in an upward direction, though in no instance has there been an exceptionally great advance. In the Textile group the tendency has been tolerably steady, Coats improving to a slight extent, while Calicoes are steadier on more buying from the North. Fine Spinners have displayed but little activity, and British Cotton and Wool Dyers, which have been moving upwards recently, received a temporary check on the publication of the report, which shows a loss on the year's working of £11,990, after payment of prior charges, though if the amount brought in is taken into account, the balance available is £67,151, which is carried forward. In view of the serious and lengthy period of depression from which the industry generally seems to be about emerging, this result is no worse than could have been expected. Shipping shares present a firm appearance, the cessation of rate-cutting in the North Atlantic trade still favourably influencing Cunards, while Peninsular and Oriental Preferred spurted on the dividend announcement of 6½ per cent. for the six months, with a bonus of 3 per cent. added. With the interim distribution of 3½ per cent. this brings the rate up to 13 per cent. for the twelvemonth, the same as for the three preceding years. This is a very handsome return, but it must, of course, be remembered that the P. and O. is in an exceptionally favoured position, deriving a large and fixed sum annually from the conveyance of mails and other Government services. Dock shares have been rather more active, a couple of London and India descriptions coming in for a little investment inquiry, while Surrey Commercial and Millwall issues, after moving back, picked up again. A good deal of investment buying is also going on in Lighting shares, Gas Light and Coke issues more especially, and South Metropolitans are not neglected. "Bunshop" descriptions remain idle and rather featureless, and Meat shares show little change. Among the more miscellaneous things in this section Hudson's Bays have come in for more attention, and seem to be on the up-grade again, while Deccans were favourably influenced by the report of the Hutti mine, in which it holds a large interest, the net profit for the year amounting to £10,000, out of which a dividend of 10 per cent. is to be paid. VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

A BREACH OF PROMISE CASE.

MONTAGU STITCHWORT was a young West End solicitor, who, although he had not been many years in practice, had already made for himself a considerable reputation—of a certain type; that is to say, not of the respectable family and conveyancing type, but rather of that sharp, and sometimes shady, common-law type, which is concerned with the seamier side of life in the Metropolis.

Did a man get into difficulties, and wish to evade the payment of his just debts, he could not go to a better man for the purpose than Stitchwort, who knew every trick and dodge whereby the shifty debtor can elude his creditors. *Per contra*, did a creditor wish to run a shifty debtor to earth, Stitchwort, using his peculiar knowledge from the other point of view, was the man to do it for him. So also with breach of promise actions, or with even less creditable amorous entanglements. Stitchwort was a past-master at either pressing or repelling them, according as his services were sought by plaintiff or defendant—by blackmailer or victim. Provided you paid him his fee, which he usually required in advance, he was your unscrupulous agent and advocate, prepared to go to any lengths (within the technical limit of the law) to get the better of your opponent.

At whiles, of course, his unscrupulous ingenuity extricated some innocent defendant, or gained the day for some deserving plaintiff. More often, however, it did precisely the opposite, inasmuch as the majority of Stitchwort's clients were disreputable persons. But this did not in the least trouble him. On the contrary, I think it rather pleased him, for his own sympathies and inclinations lay rather in the disreputable direction. In fact, out of business hours, his pursuits and his company were of no very desirable character. He was a man of pleasure. He "saw life," as the phrase goes, meaning particularly that kind of life which is chiefly to be seen when the ordinary life of the world is asleep. But whatever his overnight amusements, Montagu Stitchwort always came up to time in his office next morning, brisk, alert, and hard-headed. His constitution, like his heart and his conscience, was tough. Drink and dissipation appeared to have no more effect on the former than the higher emotions on the latter. But this at least may be accounted unto him for righteousness—namely, that during business hours he allowed nothing to interfere with the punctual and regular transaction of his business.

He was seated in his office (which was situate near Piccadilly Circus) one afternoon, when his clerk came in and announced that a gentleman had called to see him, at the same time laying the visitor's card upon his employer's table.

Stitchwort picked up the card, and glanced at it. It bore the following inscription:—

MR. ALFRED OXLEY,

1,001, Addison Mansions, W.

"Umph! Seem to have heard the name before. Wonder where it was," he murmured, reflectively. "All right; show the gentleman in, Jenkins."

A minute later, Mr. Alfred Oxley was shown in—a tall, foppishly-dressed young man, of aristocratic appearance, who bowed to the solicitor, and took the chair that Jenkins had placed for him.

As their eyes met, Montagu Stitchwort recognised him in an instant.

"Hilloa! You and I have come across one another before, Mr. Oxley," he remarked. "You were the defendant in that breach of promise action, Snook *v.* Oxley, before the Lord Chief last sittings, in which I acted for the plaintiff. Is it not so?"

"Yes, I'm the man," nodded Mr. Alfred Oxley. "You got me shot for a thousand damages, you may remember. Beastly shame, too! Regular put-up affair! Bad lot, that little girl Snook. Never have got a verdict if you hadn't handled her case so d——d cleverly."

"Well, I don't deny that we were rather severe on you," replied Stitchwort, calmly. "But business is business, you know. One is bound to play to the score on behalf of a client, and——"

"Quite so," interposed Mr. Oxley, "I recognise that. And I don't bear you any malice. Not I. Flatter myself I'm too much the man of the world for that. On the contrary, I was so much struck by your smartness that I vowed, if ever again I was in a scrape, I'd take devilish good care to have you on my side, instead of against me. That's what brings me here this afternoon."

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr LUNN'S EXCURSIONS." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

"Most happy to act for you, I'm sure, Mr. Oxley," replied Stitchwort, affably. "What's the trouble now, may I ask? Another breach of promise, by any chance?"

"Well, yes; oddly enough, that is just what it is. Lord knows why the girls all seem set on taking pot-shots at me," said the young man, ruefully. "Shouldn't have thought I was such a promising target as all that. But the girls appear to think so. Wish they didn't. It comes doosed expensive and awkward."

"Is this a genuine case, may I inquire?" said the solicitor.

"Well, it's more genuine than Polly Snook's was. I've gone farther with this damsel than I ever did with that little minx Polly. But I've certainly never made her a definite offer of marriage. Too wide-awake for that, by Jove."

"Who is the lady?"

"Name's Butters—Nellie Butters. Lives alone in a flat in Maida Vale——"

"Respectable?" murmured Stitchwort.

"Quite. She's simply what they call nowadays a bachelor girl. Lives her own life. But straight enough, as far as morals go. Knows how to take care of herself, you bet. Rather! Nellie's not the girl to give herself away."

"Has she actually commenced proceedings against you?"

"Not that I'm aware of. At least, I haven't yet been served with a writ, or whatever you call the thing. But she threatens immediate action, unless I come up to the scratch. And I don't mean to come up to the scratch. Matrimony isn't my game, and I don't mean to be bounced into it. No, thank you; not much. Eh? What?"

"You wish to settle the matter, then?"

"That's it; and as cheaply as possible. I shall have to pay something, I suppose. I want you to arrange it for me—on the most economical lines."

"Very well; I'll do my best for you, Mr. Oxley. And now I must trouble you to furnish me with precise particulars," said the solicitor, briskly, as he drew some draft paper forward on to his blotting-pad, and dipped his pen in the ink.

He then put to Mr. Oxley a number of searching interrogatories, taking down his answers in detail. This occupied about an hour, by the end of which time Montagu Stitchwort had extracted all the necessary information.

"By the way," he asked, at the conclusion of his catechism, "you don't happen to have kept copies of any of your letters to the lady, I suppose?"

Oxley shook his head.

"Never kept a copy of a letter in my life," he answered. "It's fag enough writing the original. Always jolly glad to lay down my pen and have done with the beastly thing. But you may take it from me that I never compromised myself by anything that could be construed into an offer of marriage. Too 'cute for that, by Jove."

"Still, I presume your letters were—ahem!—affectionate?" said Montagu Stitchwort.

"They were tender, but guarded," answered the young man. "If I let myself go a bit in one sentence, I always watered it down in the next. That Polly Snook business had made me cautious. No, I don't fancy Miss Nellie will get much change out of my letters."

"Let us hope you are correct in that surmise. In the meanwhile our game is to adopt a policy of masterly inactivity, and leave the lady to make the next move. On no account see her, or have any direct communication with her. If she, or her solicitors, write to you, simply refer them to me."

"Thanks. Then I'll leave the matter entirely in your hands—to get me out of it as cheaply as you can."

"All right. You may rely on my making the best terms possible," answered Montagu Stitchwort, as he bowed his client out.

In the course of a day or two Mr. Oxley forwarded his solicitor another menacing letter which he had received from Miss Butters.

To this Stitchwort replied by calling upon the damsel at her flat in Maida Vale. He felt that in a ticklish case of this kind he could proceed more safely and satisfactorily by oral discussion than by written correspondence. On being shown into Miss Butters' presence he could not help being struck by her appearance. Nellie Butters was a strikingly pretty girl in the blond style, with glossy golden hair and large liquid blue eyes. There was perhaps the faintest suspicion of rouge and powder upon her peach-like cheeks, and possibly a suggestion of carmine on her cherry lips. But to one accustomed, as Stitchwort was, to artificially-aided beauty these things were no detraction, but rather an enhancement.

She received him civilly enough, but when she came to speak of Alfred Oxley her manner grew warm and her expression excited and angry.

"He has behaved *disgracefully*," she exclaimed; "yes, *abominably!* No doubt he has pitched a pretty story to you. But, if you knew all the facts——"

"My client instructs me that he never made you an offer of marriage," interposed Stitchwort.

"Then he has instructed you in a lie—a wicked and deliberate lie!" cried Miss Butters, her bosom heaving. "He did ask me to marry him, and he knows it. And before I've done with him a judge and jury shall know it, too," she added, her blue eyes flashing sparks.

"Pon my Sam! Anger suits her," reflected the critical Mr. Stitchwort. "She looks prettier than ever when she's in a passion. I wonder, now, if she's quite as immaculate as young Oxley supposes. There's something about her manner—hum!"

Aloud he said:

"My client will defend any action you may see fit to take against him. Moreover, I am convinced that his case is unassailable."

"We shall see," answered Miss Butters, pursing up her lips.

"Good Lord! What a face for a jury!" thought the solicitor. "It's worth fifteen hundred to her if she goes into court—'pon my soul, it is."

Aloud he replied, with an off-hand air:

"Oh, well! Take the matter into court, if you will, Miss Butters. We are not at all afraid of you."

"Indeed?" she rejoined, with an ironical smile. "Now from the fact of your calling to see me on Mr. Oxley's behalf I should rather have inferred that he is afraid of facing the music and wants to square me. I may be wrong, of course. But that's what it looks like."

"Appearances are often deceptive," said Montagu Stitchwort, sententiously.

"Oh, come, now, my dear man," exclaimed Miss Butters, suddenly bursting into a hearty laugh, and adopting a tone of good-humoured banter that was in strong contrast to her previous high-tragedy manner, "you can't humbug me. I know too much. Let's get to business. What's his figure?"

This practical way of putting things, coupled with Miss Butters' genial and chaffy tone, rather appealed to Montagu Stitchwort. He was used to women who conversed in this strain. It set him at his ease at once.

"Now I see we shall get on," he smiled, playing up to her lead.

She regarded him with an arch, perhaps a rather bold, glance of her blue eyes. Montagu Stitchwort reciprocated it.

"I guess you're the sort of man I can talk to," said she. "Now, let's get to business. What's young Oxley's figure?"

"Ahem! You must begin by bearing in mind that my client does not, for one moment, admit any claim——"

"You can skip all that. He knows he's got to pay,

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and you know it, and, by Jove, *I* know it, too. The case has been remitted to us to assess damages, as you lawyers say. It's only a question of amount. What's your offer?"

"I would suggest that a hundred pounds——"

"A hundred pounds? What next?" she interrupted, in scornful amusement. "Make it five, and I might listen to you."

"Five hundred pounds is a large sum of money."

"Think so? Well, I call it very moderate under the circumstances. Anyhow, I won't take a penny less."

"Come, now; be reasonable, my dear Miss Nellie."

"I am reasonable—far more so than that young wretch deserves. If he gets off with five hundred, it will be letting him down very light. So you may take it from me that, unless you're prepared to talk on a five-hundred basis, you can spare your breath. That's my irreducible minimum."

"I am sure my client won't entertain it."

"Then I shall take him into court and get a verdict for four times the amount. Consider the position: designing Lothario—unprotected orphan girl—not bad-looking (though I say it)—sobbing pathetically into a lace handkerchief—blighted life—lacerated feelings—and all the rest of it. Wouldn't it just go down with a jury of susceptible British tradesmen?"

And she laughed and winked at Montagu Stitchwort, with a humorous, cynical audacity that he found infinitely engaging.

"Ahem! It appears to me, my dear Miss Nellie, that you are hardly so simple as my client had led me to suppose."

"Oh, I suit myself to my company," she replied, with unblushing candour. "I'm a very adaptable sort of girl. But to get back to business. How about this five hundred?"

"I'll submit it to my client," said the solicitor; "and when I have his reply, I will write you."

"Better bring me his answer in person," she answered, challenging him with her eyes more archly than ever.

"Well, perhaps I will," rejoined Montagu Stitchwort, not slow to respond to such an invitation from so pretty and congenial a young woman.

She was just the sort to appeal to him, combining, as she did, the beauty and freshness of a young Venus with the boldness and pertness of a member of the *corps de ballet*. These qualities, in combination, had never before come in his way. He found them irresistibly attractive.

"Come to lunch to-morrow," she suggested, insinuatingly.

Stitchwort said he would. He reflected that it would mean a good slice out of the day's business. But he reflected also that Alfred Oxley would have to pay for it.

The upshot of his interview with the latter gentleman was that Oxley, after some demur, agreed to the terms proposed, and a cheque for £500 was drawn in favour of Miss Eleanor Butters.

But the affair between Stitchwort and the charming Nellie, which had arisen out of these negotiations, did not cease with them. It was pursued for some months afterwards. Then, owing to the increased freedom of Montagu's behaviour, which Nellie—somewhat to his astonishment—met with sudden and indignant resentment, they had a rumpus; and the outcome of the rumpus was that Nellie issued a writ for breach of promise against the solicitor, claiming £5,000 damages.

There had been no promise, nor any mention of marriage on Stitchwort's part. Nevertheless, Nellie had led him on so far to compromise himself that she fairly had him in her power. So eventually, with much grumbling and cursing, Mr. Stitchwort found it discreet to settle the case, at the last moment, for £2,000.

Within a few months of the payment of this substantial sum to her, she was led by Alfred Oxley to the altar. Only then did the astute Mr. Stitchwort realise that he had been designedly fooled by young Oxley and the fair Nellie, for the express purpose of recouping the former his damages and costs over the Snook affair, and also of making him, Montagu Stitchwort, pay for his unscrupulous handling of that put-up case.

ART NOTES.

THE NEW ENGLISH UGLINESS.

THERE are two things which are continually impressing themselves on me in the course of my critical divagations. One of these is the persistent depression of spirits which characterises the minor poet of the period. Never was there such a dull and lachrymose dog as the average bardlet of the Bodley Head makes himself out to be. The second impression I receive is the insatiable desire of the young artist of the day, who "wishes to be in the movement," as he calls it, to paint what is ugly in its most unsympathetic form. Your New English Art Clubman, for instance, is often the deliberate contemner of beauty. This opinion of mine has been strengthened appreciably by my last visit to the Dudley Gallery. There is, I admit, something to be said for the thesis that the true artist should be ready to take things as he finds them. It is doubtless false and shallow art that devotes itself to the reproduction of certain cloying types of namby-pamby loveliness. We can easily get too much of the lifeless manifestations of mere academic grace and prettiness. But it is equally bad art, it seems to me, that such painters as Mr. A. E. John affect. He is a pronounced specimen of those deliberate contemners of beauty to whom I allude. Of a set and wilful purpose, he seems to deprive old age of its natural pathos, and to make ugliness positively repulsive. To such a study as that he names "Carlotta" it would not be difficult to apply a much stronger adjective, such a one, indeed, as it will be my duty to apply to much of the late Mr. Aubrey Beardsley's work now to be seen at the Carfax Gallery, when in due course I say what I think of that ill-advised exhibition.

Whether or not Mr. John would esteem it a compliment to be called a "decadent artist" I do not pretend to know, but that there is a decadent tendency in his apparent fondness for types of unmitigated ugliness I unhesitatingly assert. Ugliness, as it has been very properly pointed out in this connection, can be made grand and awe-inspiring. It can be, as it were, transformed and sublimated by such great artists as Rembrandt and Rubens, and, to come to our own times, by a Daumier and a Goza. There is Rodin, too, some of whose masterpieces we have lately seen in our own city. Most earnestly is it to be hoped that Mr. John will, in the interests of true art, not object to be thus made a peg on which has been hung a short homily which is applicable not only to many of his own pictures, but to much of the work of certain of his fellow-members of the N.E.A.C. as well.

Mr. P. Wilson Steer would seem to be still assiduously engaged in finding himself. He is still, to a modified extent, in the grasp of that Constable who arrested his artistic footsteps some seasons ago; but as an examination of his exhibits at the New English Art Club will show, he is a painter of several well-differentiated styles. He seems disposed, however, to extend his period of experimental probation hazardously over-long. It is really time that he had made up his mind what manner of painter he actually is. An artist who is too long in finding himself runs the risk of always remaining lost to the public. Mr. Orpen is another artist of much merit who is still lingering in the experimental stage. He has now come out of that cold, drab back-parlour he was so fond of painting, and in his "Improvisation on the Organ" will disconcert even his staunchest admirers. For this extraordinary picture he has apparently drawn his inspiration from various quarters. But, if I may be allowed to so put it, his drawing has proved by no means faultless. It is to be regretted that the late Mr. C. W. Furse is represented at an Exhibition, of which he was often one of the mainstays, by a portrait of Mrs. White Jervis, which is neither characteristic nor strikingly effective. His action when he painted it seems to have been too constrained. He was not sufficiently careful to cut his coat according to the size of the available cloth.

M. Blanche's little joke at the expense of a brother artist is to be regretted. That he should have provided Mr. Ricketts with what looks like a first-class halo may be funny, but—as they say in another field of enterprise—it isn't cricket! The work of Mr. Will Rothenstein never fails to interest me. He is sticking to landscape work, and his "Deserted Quarry" I should designate a grand subject. Whether he has quite realised on his canvas what he had conceived in his brain, I venture to doubt. But I congratulate him on the fact that his *mot d'ordre* is "Excelsior!" Looking at Mr. H. Brabazon's drawings, I found myself softly murmuring:—

> Is *chiaro oscuro* a failure?
> And is the arch-smearer smeared out?

We have lost for ever M. Fantin Latour as a painter of flowers, but it is delightful to find Mr. L. Harrison following so successfully in the path of that charming artist. The "Hydrangeas" of the living painter is a floral study of rare truth and delicacy. Another painter of flowers, Mr. Francis E. James, also sends, in his "Polyanthus," a flower-piece of great promise. Mr. W. G. von Glehn's "Brooklyn Bridge" is one of the "nocturnes" that the late Mr. Whistler invented. Mr. von Glehn's artistic master, however, is Mr. J. S. Sargent, who, in a picture called "His Study," gives a most disappointingly unsympathetic picture of an artist and his surroundings. It is not often, fortunately, that Mr. Sargent is so deliberately commonplace.

MUSIC.

THE SUCCESS OF AUTUMN OPERA

THE cause of national, if not of subsidised, opera has been distinctly advanced by the success of the six weeks' season of opera in Italian which came to such a triumphant conclusion at Covent Garden on Saturday last. Indeed, the success of this undertaking may be regarded as one of the most noteworthy of recent events in our musical history. Whether the venture has or has not actually realised a financial profit is really a comparatively unimportant matter. Certainly it is to be hoped that it may have done this, since in that case the likelihood is so much the greater of the experiment being repeated another year. But even if it has not, the moral of what has been accomplished remains. The undertaking has certainly demonstrated the fallacy of the theory that there is no public in London for opera save that of the grand season, and the significance of this as a step towards the realisation of permanent opera in the Metropolis it would be hard to over-estimate. The result might easily have been different, of course. Poor houses might have been the rule, and downright failure the consequence. The London public might have proved themselves in reality as indifferent to grand opera as they are sometimes alleged to be. That they did not do so is matter for genuine rejoicing—not only by our recent Neapolitan visitors, but by all who have at heart the interests of grand opera among ourselves.

What were the factors which went to bring about this happy result? First and foremost, beyond all doubt, the excellence of the fare provided. For once in a way popular prices did not involve second-rate performances, and the public were quick to realise this. It was admirable policy, for instance, to secure the services of Caruso, since in no other way could the undertaking have obtained such immediate recognition—though this is far from belittling the services of Giachetti, Anselmi, Sammarco, Ancona, Maurel, and the many other fine artists who have likewise been heard. Nor is it only the principals who have merited praise. Much of the talk about the smoothness of the ensemble as resulting from the company having played together at Naples has doubtless been rather wide of the mark in view of the actual facts of the case; but certainly the performances, thanks chiefly, no doubt, to the industry and intelligence of even a scratch Italian chorus, have been conspicuously good in this respect, while the rare merits displayed by Signor Campanini as conductor have also been generally recognised. In short, it has undoubtedly come as a surprise to many to find that a company consisting for the most part of performers entirely unknown in London could come and do so well at Covent Garden, where we have been apt to suppose that only "stars" of world-wide fame could hope to give real satisfaction.

Then the venture has been exceedingly well managed in other ways. What has been promised has been performed; the works presented have been well mounted and well rehearsed; hitches and blunders have been few and far between, if not wholly non-existent. To Mr. Henry Russell, as the responsible manager of the company, all possible credit is due under this head. At the same time, one could hardly over-rate the benefit which the enterprise gained from the active co-operation of Messrs. Rendle and Forsyth as the lessees of the theatre, and the sympathy and support of the Royal Opera Syndicate. Failing these, indeed, the venture might have had a very different fate. It is regrettable in a sense that this should be so. It would be pleasanter to think that a series of like performances would succeed just as well under other conditions, but in reality this is certainly not so. In point of fact, the "connection" and the cachet of Covent Garden meant an asset of inestimable value to the undertaking. And all these things are worthy of note by those who should contemplate a like enterprise at any future date. The season just ended has been a signal success because a difficult problem was tackled in the right spirit, and the essential conditions of success were complied with.

At the same time, while in most respects the undertaking has had everything in its favour, in another this was hardly the case. I allude to the fact that the répertoire of the company has been confined almost entirely to works of the Italian school. It was the view of many, indeed, that a season projected on such a limited basis in these days was on that ground alone foredoomed to failure. Such, however, did not prove the case. Without endorsing the absurd suggestion put forward by some old-fashioned folk that the season has meant the triumph of Italian over Wagnerian opera, it has certainly been rather surprising to note what popularity the season has enjoyed, despite its restricted répertoire. But if a season of grand opera from which all the greatest operas in existence have been excluded has yet obtained general favour, it is safe to assume that this has been in spite of, and not on account of, that circumstance. It is safe to say that the performances would have been at least as well supported if "Tannhäuser," "Tristan," "Die Meistersinger," and like famous works, beloved of all others by serious opera-goers, had been included among those given, as well as "Rigoletto," "Il Ballo in Maschera," "La Tosca," "La Bohème," and the rest. But this is a detail. The main point is that it has proved possible to give a season of grand opera in London at ordinary theatre prices, and, unless rumour speak false, actually to make it pay.

Concerts continue plentiful. At the Queen's Hall Symphony Concert on Saturday a novelty of some interest was Mr. Joseph Holbrooke's "Poem"—*tout court*—"Ulalume," inspired by Poe's work of that name, though it hardly proved a very satisfactory effort. The author of "Lady Windermere's Fan" described fox-hunting as "the unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable." This Poe-Holbrooke production might be defined as the unintelligible in terms of the unutterable. When one has recorded that it contains some effective orchestration, including some novel effects for muted instruments, the catalogue of its virtues has been exhausted—so far, at any rate, as one of its hearers was concerned. M. Claude Debussy's prelude "L'Après-midi d'un Faune," is another essay in the same genre, which was followed with as much difficulty and as little profit as

Mr. Holbrooke's. Mendelssohn's "Italian" symphony and the "Emperor" concerto were the other works heard —Busoni (strangely altered as to his outer man by the removal of his moustache and beard) brilliant as ever as soloist in the latter. Another orchestral concert earlier in the week was that of the "Royal Amateurs," who gave Tschaikowski's "Romeo and Juliet" overture, among other things, in excellent style. In the way of recitals, Mr. Boris Hambourg, a younger brother of the well-known pianist, who has clearly inherited a goodly share of the family talent, made a very successful first appearance as a 'cellist, and he will doubtless be heard of with frequency as time runs on; a couple of new pianists, both good, have appeared in Miss Ruby Holland and Mr. St. Quintin Downer; while Mr. A. Disraeli, Mr. Frederic Warren, Mr. Warren Wynne, and Mr. Arthur Rösing have given successful vocal concerts.

One of the fallacies most often exposed during the recent copyright agitation was the contention that the pirate has been called into existence by the unduly high prices of the ordinary music sellers. No wonder, therefore, that the trade are incensed to find this point advanced again—this time in connection with the *Daily Mail's* issue of sixpenny songs. Messrs. Chappell and Co. put the real facts of the case very forcibly in reply:

It is not the high price of music that has called the music pirate into existence. It is the absence of any adequate law to protect copyright that is responsible for him. The high price of gold watches would have come down below their market value had the laws of this country not given to manufacturers of jewellery proper protection. The statement that because an article is stolen and sold under its market value the market value is too high is preposterous. Granted there is an enormous demand for pirated editions of popular songs. But the demand has been created by the energy, enterprise, and capital of the original owners of the copyright. There is no demand for music merely because it is published at 6d. or 3d. The public will not pay one penny for a piece of music that has not been made popular either by payments to singers, costly concerts, or musical comedies, such as Mr. George Edwardes' productions.

Nor is it any answer to this to point to the success of such sixpenny issues as those referred to—since in this case the requisite advertising is accomplished by means of the newspapers.

From a well-known English composer I have received the following interesting letter in reference to the relative merits of home and Continental teaching for British vocalists:—

I think the subject is such a vast one, that, unless a clear distinction is drawn between singing "generically and specifically" . . . it would require whole volumes to thresh out. . . . I entirely disagree with Visetti about the pronunciation of foreign languages, and would even go one further than you do on the subject. In French and Italian (where alone I feel myself competent to judge) not one English singer in a thousand gets even anywhere near a decent, or even a comprehensible, pronunciation, and, after all, to satisfy an English audience in an English opera house with (Anglo-) German cannot very well be taken as a criterion of the excellence of an English (or American) singer's pronunciation. The only thing that strikes me as *quite* right in Visetti's article is the postscriptum. The backbone of a singer's career in this country is oratorio and ballads—the former practically non-existent on the Continent, unless in Germany. If, therefore, a singer wishes to earn a living with his or her voice, I do not see very well where he or she is to get a good training unless in England. Over and over again, I have come across well-taught (otherwise) artists who have studied abroad, and they fail to get in touch with an English audience when they sing some simple English song for want of proper diction in English. I think if any one really wanted to get at the real truth the only way would be to treat separately: (1) Operatic singing, subdivided into the languages and countries in which the career is to be made; (2) English oratorio; (3) ballad and general English concerts; (4) drawing-room singing, including mezza-voce, a practically unknown art in England—Oudin the last exponent. Then, and only then, would one get at some definite result.

Ferruccio Busoni, who appeared with such success at the last Queen's Hall Symphony concert, is to be reckoned among those prodigies who have emphatically redeemed the promise of their youth. As early as eight years old he made his first public appearance at Vienna, and to-day he ranks with the greatest of living executants. But he is a great deal more than this. One of his most recent compositions, a concerto for the curious combination of piano, orchestra, and male chorus, has recently attracted much notice in Berlin, and is to be heard in London at one of the next season's Philharmonic concerts, while in various other ways he has shown himself before now a musician who is nothing if not original. Sometimes too much so, indeed, in the opinion of some, who reprobate his numerous "perversions" of Bach and other masters; but Busoni goes on his way unmoved. Has he not even published an "improved" version of the Chromatic Fantasia itself, with neat little notes peppered all over the pages to explain in detail how his "derangement" is better than Bach's original? In this same connection, too, he condemns the Fugue as inferior to the Fantasia—another critical audacity which has perhaps more justification. After Bach, Busoni seems to find his chief delight oddly enough in Liszt, whose "Douze Grandes Etudes d'Exécution Transcendante" he has been known to play right off the reel. He has written operas, too, besides works in every other form, and is certainly one of the most accomplished all-round musicians of his day.

It is not surprising that the success of Cilèa's "Adriana Lecouvreur" should have stimulated a desire to hear more works by some of the younger Italians than those with which we have so far made acquaintance in London. There is, indeed, not a little justice in the contention of the correspondent of a contemporary, who protests against the spirit in which operas of this school have hitherto been treated by a certain class of superior persons in this country. The catch-word eternally applied to operas of this school is "squalid," though the term is certainly at least as applicable to such works as "Rigoletto," "Traviata," and "Manon" as to operas such as "Cavalleria" and "Pagliacci," dealing with the simple loves and hates and jealousies of peasant folk. As the writer referred to points out, moreover, only a small proportion of the works of Young Italy are in reality of this particular type at all, though all have been comprehensively condemned by many on the assumption that they are.

Meanwhile Berlin seems to be looking forward with no little interest to the production of Leoncavallo's new opera, "Der Roland von Berlin," written at the suggestion of the Kaiser, which is to obtain its first performance at the Royal Opera early next month. What amount of success may attend the work remains to be seen, though a subject so essentially German seems hardly one which Leoncavallo would have been likely to tackle on his own initiative. It was the composer's earlier work, "I Medici," it may be remembered, which drew the Kaiser's attention to Leoncavallo's powers and prompted him to suggest the subject of his newest work. Leoncavallo has, it seems, two other operas already planned, "La Rose d'Inverno" and "Cavaliere d'Aon," which he promises shall surpass all his previous productions. At present we know Leoncavallo in London only by his "Pagliacci;" other works of his, besides "Der Roland von Berlin," which have not yet been heard here are "Chatterton," "I Medici," "La Bohème," and "Zaza."

Mr. F. Corder has the following letter in a musical contemporary under the heading "How English Composers are Handicapped":—

SIR,—I see that all the papers wasted about a quarter of a column of their valuable space in condemning Max Schilling's "Hexenlied," produced at the last Symphony Concert. But not one of the critics alluded to the fact that an English composer last year produced a setting of the same work with such success that it was repeated four times. And yet these same critics (or their deputies) reviewed the piece in question in the most favourable terms. Have they no more memory than the public?

Mr. Corder is too modest to name the composer of the work in question, but I presume the reference is to his own "musical recitation" entitled "The Witch's Song," a work of whose existence I confess I was previously unacquainted. I presume, too, that most of my colleagues were in a condition of similar ignorance, since otherwise they would doubtless have referred to the work. But Mr. Corder is not quite right in his suggestion that all condemned Max Schillings' music. On the contrary, the general opinion seemed to be that it was the form of the work, and not its music, which

was at fault. Meanwhile, if Mr. Corder's setting of the same poem was so successful it would certainly be quite a good idea to give it again. But its composer is only too well accustomed by this time, I fear, to the writing of works which do not get themselves performed. There is a pathetic little foot-note bearing on this point attached to the list of his works given in the new edition of "Grove":—"Mr. Corder is understood to have completed several other operas for his own gratification, as it is hardly likely, in existing conditions, that they will see the light."

Some interesting and useful musical books were disposed of at the sale of the library of the late Mr. Percy Betts, though no remarkable prices were realised. Spitta's Bach and Jahn's Mozart went for 27s. the pair; Fétis's Biographie Universelle, with supplement, five volumes, fetched 2 gs.; Mendel's Lexicon (twelve volumes) was knocked down at 22s.; Julian's Dictionary of Hymnology at 27s.; while Hill's "Antonio Stradivari" was obtained for 26s. Twenty-two volumes of newspaper cuttings collected by Mr. Betts himself realised 2 gs.; a large and important collection of autograph letters from celebrated musicians, vocalists, operatic managers, etc., addressed to the deceased, were obtained for £2 4s.; a couple of autograph letters from Mme. Patti went for 3s.; while four from Sims Reeves realised 1s. less. Another "lot" of personal interest consisted of the wreath and dagger used by Tietjens in the character of Norma; this went for 8s. Most of the purchases were made by the dealers, but a few went to colleagues of the late critic, of whom several were present.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—At last I have mustered up courage to make some attempt to fulfil your desire for guidance in the selection of suitable gift-books for your young friends at the approaching Christmastide. The task is not one to be entered upon light-heartedly, I can assure you. The taste of the average boy and the average girl is by no means so catholic as that of the adult reader of fiction. He or she is not satisfied with a meagre story, thinned out with pages of description of scenery, nor does a painfully minute analysis of a hero or heroine's mental attitude make any appeal to either. Youth requires a direct narrative, seasoned with plentiful incident, running adventurously to a happy ending. These simple tastes appear to be fairly well known to the writers of books for boys and girls alike, and are amply catered for. Indeed, the provision is so ample that the chief difficulty I have found is in the wealth of material at my disposal. I was confronted with an army of books, which, from their solid array and the fact that they were "all gleaming with purple and gold," irresistibly suggested to me an Assyrian descent upon the peaceful fold of my study. However, I was not to be daunted. I made an attack upon the solid phalanx, and I was immediately rewarded by the capture of "Two Little Savages" (1). One has grown accustomed to expect from Mr. Seton sympathetic delineation of the creatures of wood, and mountain, and plain, and now he has shown an equal insight into the heart, an equal sympathy with the nature, of the young male human animal. The result is the production of a book which cannot fail to be of absorbing interest to every boy who becomes its fortunate possessor. It is a simple story of two boys camping out for a holiday on the border of a settlement just emerging from the backwoods period. The average writer would probably have found it necessary to give his imagination reins in order to supply a suitable meed of adventure, but Mr. Seton needs no more than to translate the wood lore at his command into simple narrative, to provide a richly adventurous, yet absolutely real, story. Meanwhile, Mr. Seton, having broken new ground, his old claim has been jumped by Mr. Charles G. D. Roberts, whose "Watchers of the Wild" (2) proves that the mine discovered by Mr. Seton has been by no means exhausted. Mr. Roberts claims in his preface that these stories of the adventures of animals consist of facts as precise as painstaking observation and anxious regard for truth can make them. But facts may be drily presented, and fortunately Mr. Roberts has that sympathetic understanding of the wild people of the woods which enables him to make their doings more than merely interesting. The volume, by the way, is worthily illustrated by Mr. C. Livingstone Bull. Both these books come to us from over-seas, and strike, I think, the most distinctly American note apparent in any fiction of the day. But these American observers of Nature have at least one rival on this side of the Atlantic, who this year elects to make a compendium of the observation of others instead of producing a new volume of his own. In his "Romance of the Animal World" (3) Mr. Edmund Selous opens with the story of a snail's friendship, and travels onwards until the tale of a monkey's malison on his murderer brings the book to a conclusion. It is a fascinating volume for the young naturalist, packed with incident and picturesque description of animal life. Another book of the same stamp is "The Romance of Modern Exploration" (4), in which all the latest exploits of the pioneers of civilisation are chronicled, including Sven Hedin's adventures in Tibet, Dr. Haddon's trip into the interior of Borneo, and even Lieut. Shackleton's recent explorations in the Antarctic, which were only completed this spring. One more book of the same type, and I will turn from romantic reality to pure romance. The budding engineer cannot fail to be delighted with the story of the birth and growth of the railway which Mr. Williams unfolds so graphically (5). Beginning with the story of the Midland, Mr. Williams summarises the history of typical railroads on both sides of the Atlantic, and then goes on to picture every detail in railway life and management.

When I came to search for pure romance I happened first on a little volume by Mrs. E. M. Field, telling once again the story of King Alfred (6). Mrs. Field has spared her juvenile audience the cake story, but that is not her only title to praise. She perhaps insists a little too much on Alfred's holiness to quite please the taste of young readers, but she has seasoned the moralities with a plentiful supply of adventures. As for romance of the historical sort, the Rev. A. J. Church has long held premier place, and this year in "The Crusaders" (7) he easily retains his honours. Taking for his mouthpiece the Wandering Jew, he tells the stories of the first, third, and eighth crusades. Peter the Hermit and Walter the Penniless number him amongst their followers. He witnesses the exploits of Godfrey, Baldwin, Saladin, and Cœur de Lion, and ends his story with the death of St. Louis. The Crusades also form a background for a brightly adventurous story with which Miss Hollis should charm many youthful

(1) "Two Little Savages." By Ernest Thompson Seton (London: Grant Richards 6s.) (2) "The Watchers of the Trails." By Charles G. D. Roberts. (London: Duckworth. 6s.) (3) "The Romance of the Animal World." By Edmund Selous. (London: Seeley. 5s.) (4) "The Romance of Modern Exploration." By Archibald Williams. (London: Seeley. 5s.) (5) "The Romance of Modern Locomotion." By Archibald Williams. (London: Pearson. 5s.) (6) "At the King's Right Hand." By Mrs. E. M. Field. (London: Wells, Gardner, Darton, & Co. 3s. 6d.) (7) "The Crusaders." By Rev. A. J. Church. (London: Seeley. 5s.) (8) "A Slave of the Saracen." By Gertrude Hollis. (London: Nelson & Sons. 2s. 6d.) (9) "By Conduct and Courage." By G. A. Henty. (London: Blackie. 6s.) (10) "By Pyke and Dyke," "Captain Bailey's Heir." By G. A. Henty. New Editions. (London: Blackie. 3s. 6d. each). (11) "Boys of the Light Brigade." By Herbert Strang. (London: Blackie. 6s.) (12) "Robo." A Story of the Russo-Japanese War. By Herbert Strang. (London: Blackie. 5s.) (13) "With the Dyaks of Borneo." By Captain F. S. Brereton. (London: Blackie. 6s.) (14) "A Hero of Lucknow." By Captain F. S. Brereton. (London: Blackie. 5s.) (15) "The Commander of the 'Hirondelle.'" By W. H. Fitchett. (London: Smith Elder & Co.) (16) "To Win or Die." By G. Manville Fenn. (London: Partridge. 5s.) (17) "Crag Island." By W. M. Graydon. (London: Partridge. 2s.) (18) "True Grit." By Harold Bindloss. (London: Partridge. 2s 6d.) (19) "The Yellow Shield." By W. Johnston. (London: Partridge. 2s 6d.) (20) "The Red Adventure Book." Edited by A. T. Quiller Couch. (London: Cassell & Co.) (21) "Hazard and Heroism." (London: W. and R. Chambers. 5s.) (22) "The Gold Bat." By P. G. Wodehouse. (London: A. and C. Black.) (23) "Glyn Severn's School-days." By G. Manville Fenn. (London: W. and R. Chambers. 5s.) (24) "The Town's Verdict." By Ethel F. Beddle. (London: Blackie. 6s.) (25) "A Girl's Ideal." By Rosa Mulholland. (London: Blackie. 5s.) (26) "Mrs. Pritchard's School." By L. T. Mead. (London: W. and R. Chambers. 6s.) (27) "Mother Maud." By Mrs. Arthur. (London: Nelson. 3s. 6d.) (28) "The Biography of a Prairie Girl." By Eleanor Gates. (London: Putnam.) (29) "Diana Polwarth, Royalist." By J. F. M. Carter. (London: Seeley. 5s.) (30) "Cassell's Magazine." (London: Cassell & Co.).

readers (8), with whom the initial improbability of the kidnapping of a boy in France by a party of Saracens will have little weight.

It is not every lad, however, who appreciates historical romance. The plain story of adventure is on the contrary acceptable to every taste, though I never knew a boy object to a background of real events being given to the story in the manner which Mr. Henty used so successfully. From Mr. Henty's pen unfortunately the present generation can expect no new works. The last book he wrote has now been issued, and, needless to say, it has the same qualities which won for all his work its wide popularity. "By Conduct and Courage" (9) is the story of an orphan left desolate in a fishing village, later to enter the navy as a ship's boy. He is a real Henty hero, modest in manner, brave in action, so there is no need to wonder that in the glorious days of the three-decker he so distinguishes himself that from cabin-boy he becomes midshipman. Nor does promotion stop there. His ship is sent to the West Indies, where his services attract the notice of the admiral, who gives him command of a small cutter, and lets him loose amongst the pirates to their great disadvantage. How many times he is taken prisoner and manages to escape I dare not relate. Only a Henty hero could come unscathed through such thrilling adventures. It is a pity he must needs be the last of a distinguished race. Still, it is not to be thought that a new generation will arise that knows not Henty, for I notice that Messrs. Blackie and Son are reprinting many of his earlier works in cheaper form (10). Nor would Mr. Henty be forgotten if only for the fact that a number of later authors have found his methods to be good, and adopted them for their own. Of all these I fancy his mantle may most worthily be worn by Mr. Herbert Strang, who contributes two volumes of enthralling interest to the list of desirable boys' books. One is a story of the Peninsular War (11) with a subaltern of the 95th as hero. The story of Sir John Moore's famous retreat can never be without interest to the British boy, and in Mr. Strang's hands it certainly loses none of its appeal. Mr. Strang's second volume is more up to date. The story of "Kobo" (12), as the title implies, concerns itself with the Russo-Japanese war. Kobo San, who gives his name to the volume, is the descendant of an ancient Samurai family. The English hero of the story, one Bob Fawcett, sent out just before the commencement of the war to test the range-finding apparatus of the Japanese fleet, manages to do him some slight service, and a friendship ensues, which is only terminated by Kobo's sacrifice of himself in his country's cause. Before this termination, however, Bob has witnessed the attack on the Russian fleet at Port Arthur, and, after taking part in some of the most noteworthy naval operations of the war, gets cast adrift in Korea, and between Cossacks, Manchus, and Chunchuses has as exciting a time as any hero of fiction can desire. Never for a moment does the story lag, and it is well and brightly written. I wish I could say the same for Captain Brereton's story, "With the Dyaks of Borneo" (13), but the fact is that Captain Brereton's literary style leaves much to be desired. Still, he has a good story to tell in the narration of Tyler Richardson's adventures while fighting side by side with the Rajah of Sarawak, when engaged in the suppression of the river pirates, and with most boys the story is the thing. A second volume by the same hand tells once again the oft-told story of the siege and relief of Lucknow (14), and is full of sufficiently exciting incident. I have noticed that this year the tendency of the writers of books for boys is to revert once more to the sea-story and in at least half a dozen of the volumes I have referred to the hero is a naval man of one sort or another. But of all who can write a good sea yarn there is none to equal Dr. Fitchett, whose "The Commander of the Hirondelle" (15) has the true salt flavour. His hero is a worthy son of the sea, and wins his reward amidst the stirring times of the great war under Nelson and Jervis. Amongst the host of authors who depend upon the battlefield for their incident it is pleasant to find Mr. George Manville Fenn content to make use of a less bloodstained background. "To Win or Die" (16) is a story of the Klondyke gold craze, and the two youthful heroes have a full share of peril and adventure before success attends their efforts, and they stumble by a happy chance on the gold which makes their fortunes. The book will surely appeal to every boy. The American winter, plus convicts and panthers, bulks largely in Mr. Graydon's story of a camping party on the head waters of the Delamere (17). Should your young friends, however, find none of these various scenes to their taste you may still offer them the choice of thrilling adventure amongst the negroes of West Africa which Mr. Bindloss has provided for their delectation (18), or the equally stirring story of the Zulu war contained in "The Yellow Shield" (19).

By this time I think that you should be in a position to satisfy the daintiest palate for adventure, but should you be in doubt as to the individual taste of any boy, I can conscientiously recommend the collection of stirring scenes and moving accidents from the world of adventure edited by Mr. Quiller Couch in "The Red Adventure Book (20), or the volume of short stories by Mr. Henty, Mr. Louis Tracy, Mr. Harold Bindloss, and others contained in "Hazard and Heroism" (21), of which the title alone should be a sufficient recommendation. You may, however, perhaps wish to know of a good school story, and here Mr. Wodehouse is so generally approved that any volume by him is certain to be welcomed by the recipient. His volume, "The Gold Bat," is quite equal in interest to any of its predecessors. Mr. Manville Fenn has also turned out a story of school-life (23), which has all the elements which make for popularity, together with that sound insight into the schoolboys' point of view which makes him perhaps the first of living writers of boys' stories.

I am afraid that in thus giving you so extended a survey of the literature designed for the boys' reading I have left myself little space to deal with the equally important needs of the girls. In this department of the Christmas output there is not the same extensive range of subject. The older girls will find a good many delightful hours in the perusal of Miss Heddle's new volume (24) and its pictures of life at St. Andrews seventy-five years ago. Lady Gilbert, too, may be safely recommended to provide dainty fare for sweet seventeen. The heroine of "A Girl's Ideal" (25) has a twelve years' lease of a great income, and spends it right royally. But a great misfortune overtakes her to her great advantage, for the proper understanding of which paradox I must refer you to the book itself. Mrs. L. T. Mead may also be depended upon to delight any girlish audience, and in "Mrs. Pritchard's School" (26) she amply sustains her reputation. A charming story of a girl's unselfish life is unfolded by Mrs. Arthur in "Mother Maud" (27), while Mrs. Gates presents a pleasant picture of girl life in a Dakota farmhouse which is as fresh as it is interesting (28). "Diana Polwarth, Royalist" (29), as the title implies, is a romance of the Commonwealth period, and the adventures of the Cornish heroine in being mixed up with the plots which menaced the life of the Protector make an exciting story. Finally, let me recommend you as a stand by for family reading at this season the annual volume of Cassell's "Magazine" (30); it is packed with material to suit all tastes.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

The Cure of Consumption.—Respecting this matter, W. F——, M.D., L.R.C.P. L.M., Edin., writes the following letter to the Editor of the *Christian World*: "I have some thirty patients in all stages of phthisis undergoing Dr. Alabone's treatment, some very bad, so that I should not be surprised if I lost one or two, but at present I have lost none. The improvement in them is most marked and surprising. I do not think there is any doubt of the great efficacy of his treatment in stopping the advancement of the disease. It has in my hands been very successful in many cases." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The St. James's Theatre looked very pretty on the occasion of the At Home given by Mrs. George Alexander and some distinguished ladies of "the" profession in aid of the Samaritan Free Hospital. The function was crowded, of course; nothing draws the public more surely (even with tickets at a guinea each) than the opportunity of beholding their footlight favourites at close quarters. Equally of course, it was an ornamental and exquisitely-frocked affair. Ashton's band discoursed sweet music from the dress circle before and after a concert given by some operatic stars, including Miss Alice Neilsen, who was one of the hostesses. There followed tea on the stage, which was set for the garden-scene in "The Garden of Lies." The limelight was well in evidence; it is very becoming to youth and beauty, but it were wise in others to keep their backs to it. Mrs. George Alexander wore a wonderful costume of creamy lace with a green silk coat and green and crystal buttons. Mrs. Kendal's capote, with a bunch of white violets at either side, was very distinctive. But if I once began to tell you of people and frocks I would never be done, for at every step (and steps were difficult and slow) some highly ornamental and charming vision appeared, in nine times out of ten offering cakes with a persuasive and beautifully-elocuted "Do have one."

After tea came the great business of drawing lots for coupons, the counterfoils of which were attached to one's tickets. Those whose numbers were drawn and announced were handed a billet on some well-known firm for goods to the amount of £10. Miss Lilian Braithwaite got almost one of the first. They nearly all fell to dramatic stars. By six o'clock we had all left, so that the theatre might be reinstated in time for the evening performance, the stalls put back, etc. The afternoon must have resulted in a substantial sum for the hospital, to judge by the hundreds present.

Do you want to hear of lovely jewellery? I can tell you all about it, being fresh from an hour spent amidst the enchantments and fascinations of the Goldsmiths' and Silversmiths' Company at 112, Regent-street. Shall I begin with big things, and gently lead you down an inclined plane to little ones? Tiaras, then. Some are wide and high, while others are airily delicate, rising very high and pointed in the centre, and diminishing to the merest line of radiant light amidst the hair. One in a Louis XVI. design has an exquisitely made little bow in each point and a wreath of flowers. The workmanship in all these is so perfect, yet so minute, that one wonders how human fingers can accomplish it. And our English artificers cleverly manage to combine strength with beauty in their handicraft. You would better understand what I mean could you see a lovely diamond pendant which is really three pendants, each quivering from a single loop at the top, yet each absolutely strong, though the weight of a fine piece of turquoise matrix hangs from one of them. Then necklaces, which are at present slightly eclipsed by pendants with their slender chain of platinum. Amethysts are the rage just now, both in Paris and London, and we saw some very beautiful ones. The depth of colour depends on the thickness of the stone, and you would be surprised at the difference in tint between a thin one and a really thick one. The latter is a pool of purple light, incredibly beautiful in its tones of pansy tints. These amethysts are raised high in the centre, cut with the skill to be commanded in London only, and the designs are as various as they are delicate and symmetrical. Some of the stones are surrounded by a thin setting of "milled" gold (viz., the edges corrugated like those of a sovereign) or silver and bordered with diamonds. The white rays of light round the purple lakes show the latter up to great advantage. A hexagon brooch has a fine amethyst set diagonally with a diamond at each corner and three pearls in between. A little safety chain is attached to it. A triple lace-pin had an amethyst in the centre with a tourmaline and a peridot at the end of the two chains. Another had two peridots swung from the upper amethyst, and yet another was set in a rim of white enamel with an outer rim of pearls.

You know how fashionable opals have been for the last few years. They maintain their popularity. There is no jewel more beautiful than they are. You should see a pendant in which these stones are set in a kind of lacework of diamonds, each opal with a half-circle of green enamel pointed leaves showing above it. Two magnificent opals, very large and very deep, are combined in one pendant, and unite in themselves every imaginable summer tint of sea and sky.

You must not imagine that there are not less costly things for Christmas present giving. Amethyst lace-pins are to be had as cheap as 23s., and a very dainty ornament in the fashionable stone can be had at £3. Little brooches and lace-pins in all the newest shapes, including the absolutely straight line, like a fairy ruler, can be had in plain gold or in diamonds, rubies, or sapphires. Blouse-pins, too, in graduated sizes, are likely to be greatly in demand for gift-making. Rings for young girls (how girls love rings!) are in simple designs at very low prices. Turquoises and pearls, small opals, and perhaps a little diamond, are combined in a fanciful design. Brooches and lace-pins, with the daintiest leafage in fine wrought gold, and a few pearls or turquoises, or both, studded here and there, are all for choice. The newest patterns are either straight lines or in diagonal squares. All are beautifully finished and of strongest workmanship. Sets of buttons and links are also to be had in an endless variety.

We saw three beautiful sights last week. One was the powdering of snow on the yew hedges in our riverside garden, and the shades of pale grey in the sky above them. The second was the river, like a broad blue ribbon between the snow-covered banks, with a smiling sky above it, and the sun shining as though it were midsummer. And the third was the moon in the zenith, wearing a halo, edged with orange and sepia, as seen from the dark murkiness of the Underground Railway at the Monument Station last Tuesday night. Our position, in the depths of the earth—a kind of Dantesque Hades—seemed to enhance the lofty brightness of the beautiful queen of the skies.

And what on earth, you will wonder, took us to the Monument Station in the dark hours of Tuesday? We went to assist at an entertainment given at St. John's Mission Hall, Tooley-street, to a number of working people and people longing for work but unable to get it. There never was a more appreciative audience. They saw each point at once, and, as you may imagine, there was nothing of the claque in their applause. A gentleman gave them the gruesome grave-digger scene from "Hamlet," but they did not care for it. How should they? Why offer such medicinal mental fare to those whose lives need brightening?

Never have I seen even the Savoy so brilliant as on last Sunday night. The restaurant was so crowded that dinner tables had to be laid a long way up the beautiful foyer. A large party had their table decorated with roses and smilax, and at another table there were carnations and lovely foliage. But the cream of the evening is the adjournment for coffee to the foyer, and the great idea is to secure front places where one may see handsome women and lovely frocks pass up and down and watch the different groups that occupy the pale-green chairs on the rose-coloured carpet. The creamy walls touched at the top to pale gold by the hidden electric lights make a good background for such frocks as we saw on Sunday night. It was like a score of smart

REDFERN'S special offer for XMAS PRESENTS. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

MADAME CLEMATIS, COURT MILLINER, 13, SOUTH MOLTON-STREET, BOND-STREET, W. Millinery, Blouses, Petticoats, Furs, and Laces.

dinner parties rolled into one. The gown that comes first to memory was a bright red crêpe, with hanging sleeves, worn by a handsome girl with quantities of brown hair arranged well forward on the forehead, and with a large wreath of Parma violets pressed down upon it. A big bunch of violets was pinned on the bodice, and a big opal pendant added to the unique effect of this daring scheme of colour. A very tall woman in a gown of rose-velvet had oak leaves in her hair. Simple, but picturesque, was a very long gown in black satin, with bodice of white net spotted with black, the waistband very high, and pointed both back and front. More remarkable than beautiful was a gown completely covered with sapphire sequins. A large diamond ornament fastened the bodice. A wonderful lace gown was embroidered in panels with gold and silver flowers, and a very graceful girl drew all eyes as she walked up the beautiful room in a white gown with silver pointed flounces. An immensely tall girl, who carried her height well, wore white silk with quantities of splendid lace lavished on it, and walked with a shorter lady in orange velvet. A cluster of white lilies on the front of an emerald-green gown was like a line from Rossetti.

Fur trimmed many of the gowns, and black velvet made princess shape is evidently *the* thing for evening, with a lace berthe and lace sleeves. Jim, who knows everybody, was with us, and pointed out the Marquis and Marquise Osana-Olerto, the lady in Irish point, with a garniture of turquoise; Lord Rosslyn entertaining a small party; Sir Albert Rollit, Lord Lascelles, Count Hatzfeldt, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Watney, Lady Meux in white lace, Lord Wallscourt, Commander Basto (attaché of the King of Portugal), Sir William Broadbent, Admiral and Lady FitzGeorge, with whom was Mrs. Hamilton.

Hardly any women smoked. It is a bad habit that our sex is unreluctantly overcoming.

We are told that "man wants but little here below." Well, nobody would think so who should examine Spiers and Pond's Stores catalogue! It contains about a thousand quarto pages filled with illustrated lists of the necessaries and luxuries of life. How difficult it is to draw the dividing line between the two! Take furniture alone. A chair, a table, a bed, and something to cook with are probably necessaries. Is everything beyond that a mere luxury? If so, how very luxurious we are! In this volume, ornamentally bound, there are details of the provision department, ranging from onions to caviare, and including cooked meats (foreign as well as British); the floral department, bulbs to exotics, strawberry runners to orchids; wines and spirits and aerated waters, the now fashionable cider, cigars and tobacco, with pages of pipes and meerschaum bowls, pouches, and all their sisters, their cousins, and their aunts, in the shape of cigar and cigarette cases, racks, scrapers, cutters, and piercers, tobacco jars, and so on. The drug department is as complete, but less suggestive of enjoyment. More comfortable is the long list of cakes, pastry, chocolates, crystallised fruits, and sweets.

The export pages are an education in themselves for any about to change their sky. Particulars are given of the various outfits necessary for travelling to, and residing in, India, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, or Canada. Even the postage and parcel rates are detailed. Expeditions for any part of the world are also treated in the same way, and estimates given. This export catalogue can be had separately from my friend the thousand-pager. The lists of food recommended are very instructive. Then comes the tailoring department, so full of pretty pictures that we can quite easily see the difference between a Chesterfield and an ordinary overcoat and a frock overcoat, and can note that the crease is still down the front of trousers, in spite of the report that the King favours the crease down the sides. It is characteristic of our times that almost all the men depicted are smoking. Very smart look the coachmen, footmen, grooms, and pages on p. 274, but still smarter are the girls in tailor-mades a little further on, though the prices seem very low. The hosiery department includes kit-bags, suit-cases, and so on. Drapery, underwear, and haberdashery all find a place in this comprehensive catalogue. The furniture pages fascinate me. It is interesting to compare the prices of chairs, cabinets, sideboards, with what one has paid for similar articles. The jewellery pages cannot be lightly passed over, nor even the watches and clocks, and bronzes. But even this does not exhaust the subjects. Are there not left electro-plate, hardware, china, glass, and earthenware, to say nothing of stationery, pens, and the long array of varied objects summed up under the generic title of "fancy"? And even now I have not nearly exhausted the list of departments. How about man's "wanting little here below"?

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—There was no shilly-shally or doubt of any kind about the manner of winter's coming to us last week. As the poet awoke to find himself famous so did we awaken one morning, after sunny days of mildness and softness, to find ourselves plunged into the grim severity of winter, real, earnest winter, with no humbug about it. We were in its iron grip and no mistake. The change in the air, in the skies, and on the face of the earth, had been worked with the suddenness of a magician's touch. Not of a beneficent magician by any means, the quickness of the change suggested more a malign one bent on giving disagreeable surprise, and taking pleasure in putting us out and deranging so many of our plans. Everyone, more or less, had their occupations interfered with and engagements set aside. The world, which amuses itself, was stopped in the full swing of its sporting amusements, and of many others. The world which works was in many cases thrown out of work. The world which shops continued, no doubt, to shop, but the work became a penetential one, not the mere idle pastime of an idle hour that it not infrequently is with our sex. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good; the furriers had their good time last week. Our faith in furs, which had grown slack, was ardently revived. We began to find our equipment sadly inefficient without fur coats or fur-lined ones; stoles and muffs became necessary adjuncts of dress, our ordinary outdoor pursuits assuming the nature of Arctic expeditions. Of course we have often had severer weather, but the contrast was so great when we had been so long jogging on in a kind of semi-summer. "Lulled into a false security" like the indignant tenant whose landlord, not having asked payment of rent for several years, then had the bad taste to suggest the payment of one year's rent.

The weather was very unfavourable for the Mourne Park festivities on the coming-of-age of Lord Newry. However, the programme was faithfully carried out, and everyone was festive under creditable circumstances. The house party assembled for the week included Lord and Lady Annesley, Lord and Lady Rossmore, Lord and Lady Hamilton, Lord Arthur Hay, Major Frank and Miss Lambart. It was just the weather for a house party. They had decidedly the best of it on the night of the ball. Imagine guests from the neighbourhood driving ten miles or so to and from Mourne Park in a wild wintry night on a mountain road by the side of Carlingford Lough. What enthusiasm for festivity it must have taken to carry the undertaking through. And then the awful chances hanging over the business of mishaps to horse or vehicle on the lonely road. But perhaps the pleasure is all the keener for the pains taken to attain it. Besides the ball on Thursday night there was a birthday banquet, followed by a small dance on Saturday night. Next week another party will assemble at Lord and Lady Kilmorey's, when Lord and Lady Dudley will be their guests on the occasion of the opening of the bazaar in aid of the hospital at Newry. Mourne Park is at a considerable distance from Newry, though not as the motor flies. What a frightful trial to the complexion "open" motoring is in frosty weather. As the age gets more and more "motorious," the ideals of beauty with regard to feminine complexions will have to be readjusted. Bronzed and brick-red tones of colouring will have to take the place of cream and roses, softness of skin must give way to weather beaten hardness. Then how will it be for evening dress? The décolleté style

THE MORNING CONSTITUTIONAL.—Attractive Short Skirt Costumes, substantial for all weathers, yet smart for wearing in Town, are made by FRED. BOSWORTH, 9, New Burlington-st., W.

MIRELLE, 41, Conduit-street, Bond-street, W., Court Milliner and Dressmaker, Lingerie, Corsets, &c. Speciality, "The Matinée Capote." Special attention given to Indian and Colonial orders.

and light, diaphanous fabrics will hardly suit the complexion of exposure to weather.

The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland has been of late in the curious position of having no residence in that country. He has been staying at the Shelbourne Hotel with Lady O'Brien and his family whilst in search of a house. Houses are easily to be had in Dublin, but the fashion of late has turned to suburban rather than to urban abodes. The latest fashion of all is to build a house according to one's own special tastes rather than to occupy one that others have built and lived in. Villas, bungalows, and more important mansions are rapidly springing up on all sides in the picturesque environs of Dublin. Sir Horace Plunkett is building a villa at Foxrock, where Sir Henry Robinson, the head of the Local Government Board, has already built one. Just now old-fashioned houses are out of favour; the big ones are in many instances being turned into charitable institutions, schools, convents, and so on. One of the oldest houses in Ireland, Howth Castle, has been uninhabited for some little time. Lord Howth has gone to Bournemouth for the winter, where his sister, Lady Margaret Domvile, will stay with him. Mr. Baring has had what may be called a "novel" idea and bought himself Lambay Island, off the Irish coast near Malahide, on which he is about to build a residence. The island is of considerable size but has no inhabitants; it is mountainous and picturesque; as it has its back to the north, no doubt gardens can be made on it, perhaps like those on the Scilly Isles. How romantic to live all alone on an island. But there would be drawbacks, do not you think? How terrible the three miles from the mainland, as at Lambay, must become in wild weather.—Yours ever, CLARE.

Lose no time in trying this salmi of game à la Provençale:—

Cut the remains of cold cooked game into convenient sized pieces, chop the remaining bones and stew them with stock and vegetables for three hours, then strain them. Make a nice brown sauce with the stock, adding a clove of garlic. After simmering the sauce for half an hour, squeeze it through the tammy and return it to the stewpan. Season the sauce with salt, pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice, and a dessertspoonful of chopped parsley. Warm the pieces of game in the sauce, and then dish them on a large croûte of fried bread, placing the inferior pieces at the bottom and bringing it to a pyramid. Garnish the dish with small, round croûtes of fried bread, on each of which place a slice of hard boiled egg from which the yolk has been removed, pounded with a little butter and chopped ham, rubbed through a sieve, and replaced in the rings. Arrange an outer border of boiled spaghetti.

Artichokes à la Hollandaise are a dainty entrée:—

Make the breast of a chicken, or 6 oz. of white veal, into crème de volaille, and steam it in six or seven small buttered bouchée moulds. Warm as many artichoke bottoms in a little cream sauce and then place each one on a croûte of fried bread, put them on a border of mashed potato; pour a little Hollandaise in each one. Then turn the moulds of crème de volaille out on the artichokes, sauce them over with Hollandaise, and sprinkle them very lightly with chopped red tongue.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—I must tell you next week about a deeply interesting lecture by Lady Henry Somerset that we heard this afternoon on the subject of her beneficent Home at Duxhurst.

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• TRUTH •

"Cultores Veritatis Fraudis Inimici."—*Cicero.*

No. 1458. Vol. LVI. Thursday, December 8, 1904. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

THE

Twenty-Eighth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

A MODERN BLUE BEARD

AND OTHER STORIES,

IS

NOW READY.

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A Modern Blue Beard—II.
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ENTRE NOUS.

As the Truth Doll and Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall will open almost simultaneously with the publication of next week's issue, I mention now for the information of my readers that the Show will be open on Wednesday, December 14, and Thursday, December 15, from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. In accordance with the arrangement followed during the last two years with so much benefit to the Toy Fund, a charge of 1s. will be made for admission each day before 5.30 p.m. On Wednesday after that time the charge will be 6d., and on Thursday evening admission will be free on presentation of visiting card. Mr. H. C. Tonking will give his organ recitals at 11 a.m. on each day, and at 7 p.m. on Wednesday; and Mr. Jenkins' Mandoline Band will perform at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

I regret, however, to have to add that on the financial side the prospects of the Toy Show are, at the present moment, most alarming. Begging is a distasteful business, and I hoped that I had said enough last week to render any further appeal to my readers unnecessary. But while thanking all those ladies and gentlemen who have answered so promptly, I am compelled to point out that the response has so far been very inadequate to the need. The plain truth is that at the present moment less than £300 has been subscribed to the Toy Fund this year. This is *not one-third* of the amount required to pay for all the dolls and toys for which I now have applications. What is most disquieting is that it is about £100 less than had been received on the corresponding date last year. The arrangements for the distribution have been made on the assumption that readers of Truth will subscribe as they have always done before. The experience of twenty-five years justifies me in hoping that they will still do so. But it is necessary to point out that the money is required *at once.* Unless a good part of it is forthcoming during this week, I shall be compelled to cut down the list of institutions which are to participate. I hope it is not necessary to dwell on the disappointment that this will bring to many hundreds of poor children.

Just after last week's Truth had gone to press, a visitor for whom I always begin to look out anxiously at this time of year arrived at this office with a bulky parcel, and the following letter:—

London, November 29, 1904.

Dear Sir,—Once more I beg to solicit your kind assistance in distributing at Christmas time the accompanying 11,000 new sixpences amongst the poor Children of the London Workhouses, and their Schools and Hospitals, towards the expense of doing which I enclose £5.

You may feel assured that I heartily appreciate your continued kind co-operation in this work, without which it could not be carried out successfully.—Yours sincerely, A Friend.

It is a great pleasure to me to carry out this good "Friend's" wishes, and the sixpences shall be duly despatched to the various workhouses and their schools, etc., immediately before Christmas. On behalf of 11,000 poor children whose Christmas will be brightened by this generous gift, and on my own behalf also, I once again thank the unknown donor, and wish him the Christmas he deserves. As he desires to do his alms

in secret, it is not for me to enlarge upon his generosity. But I think I may be allowed to say that the repetition of this handsome gift for so many years in succession is a very admirable piece of charity, and I hope that the example may have its effect on those readers of Truth for whose contributions to the Toy Fund I am now anxiously waiting. We cannot all give 11,000 sixpences, but we can all give a few, and every one of them will be welcome.

Another good friend of the children who never fails at this time of year, writes to me as follows:—

69, 67, and 65, Wilson Street,
Finsbury Square, E.C.,
December 2, 1904.

Dear Truth,—I have again reserved between twenty and thirty thousand Christmas Crackers for your distribution among the poor children of the London Workhouses and Hospitals.—I remain, yours sincerely, Tom Smith.

Tom Smith's crackers are an essential ingredient in a Merry Christmas, and this kindness deserves the warmest thanks. I have also to express my acknowledgments to Messrs. Frank L. H. Collins and Sons, of 81-83, Cheapside, through whom I have effected the insurance of the toys and sixpences at the Albert Hall, and who have kindly presented the premium of £1 6s. as their contribution to the Toy Fund.

The following are the contributions to the Toy Fund that have been received during the week:—

A Friend, for the distribution of new sixpences, £5; Kenneth Anderson, £1 1s.; A. Leaver, £10 10s.; James Tod, 1 dollar; B. L., 10s.; A. B. W., £2 2s.; A Well-wisher, 5s.; Noël, Evelyn, and Bobbie, £1 1s.; High Grove, £1 1s.; Henry T. Butlin, £1; S. W. Spelman, £1 1s.; F. M. R., £1; Sir Charles Cust, £10; William Asch, £5 5s.; Alec. Harris, £1 1s.; Tome Biki, £1; Ascott-avenue, W., £1 1s.; Colonel and Mrs. St. Maur-Wynch, £2 2s.; Mrs. Swinburn, 10s.; J. G. R., £1; Clericus, £1 1s.; Major Walter Wingfield, £1 1s.; Mrs. M. Streatfeild, £3 3s.; G. F., £2 2s.; James Combe, £2; J. H. L., £5; R. W. P., £1 1s.; Number One, 10s.; John A., £1 1s.; L. E. R., £5; F. H., 2s. 6d.; R. H. H., £3 3s.; Robert Kaye Gray, £10; Wilfred, £1; Winifred, £2 2s.; Sidney Snelgrove, £2 2s.; Robert Crawshay, £5; R. S. T., £5 5s.; Miss F. M. Crowther, 10s.

I have also received a box of dolls, etc., from Miss Hastie and Miss Judge, Moscow; a parcel of scrap books, Mrs. J. Picciotto; two home-dressed dolls, Mrs. G. Beetham; two dressed dolls, Miss Gilbertson; three large dressed dolls, Miss Jameson; one dressed doll, Miss Potter, Pau, France; thirty small dolls, Mrs. G. Clarke, of Peru; and two parcels of home-made scrap books, Mrs. M. J. Thomas.

The King will hold a Council next Monday, when Parliament is to be summoned to meet for the despatch of business. His Majesty is to hold an Investiture of the Bath and other Orders at noon on Monday, the 19th, in the Throne Room at Buckingham Palace.

The King and Queen are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Cadogan at Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmund's, from Monday next, until Saturday, the 17th. The house party will include Count Albert Mensdorff, the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, M. de Soveral, Lord and Lady Londonderry, Lord Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley, Lord Howe, Lord Lovat, Lord and Lady Savile, Lord and Lady de Grey, Lord and Lady Chelsea, Lord and Lady Lurgan, Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel, Sir Frank Lascelles, Mr. Henry Chaplin, Mr. and Mrs. William James, Elizabeth Lady Wilton and Mr. Pryor, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon.

Culford, which is situated in a heavily wooded country, between Bury and Thetford, is close to Ampton and Livermere, which are two of the most beautiful domains in Suffolk. The estate passed from the Bacons to the Cornwallises, by whom it was sold to the Benyons, and Lord Cadogan purchased it about twenty years ago. The house, which was built during the reign of Elizabeth by Sir Nicholas Bacon, has been much altered and greatly enlarged. There are pleasant gardens, and a small, but well-timbered, park. The shooting on the Culford estate is now very good indeed, having been greatly improved and extended since Lord Cadogan purchased the estate.

The King and Queen entertained their second shooting party at Sandringham last week, including the Dowager Duchess of Manchester, Lord Howe, Lord and Lady de Grey, Lord and Lady Wolverton, Mr. Balfour, Lord Herbert Vane Tempest, Sir Frank Lascelles, Rear-Admiral Sir Archibald Berkeley Milne, Captain H. H. Campbell, Captain D. N. Welch, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sneyd, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sassoon, and Mr. Amherst Webber. There was pheasant-shooting on four days, and heavy bags were obtained as usual. The next and last Royal shooting party for the season at Sandringham will assemble at the Hall on Monday, the 26th.

The King's visit to Lord and Lady Alington at More Crichel, which was to have taken place during the second week in January, has been postponed for a year in consequence of the death of Lord Hardwicke. His Majesty was to have visited Lord Portman at Bryanston Park and Lord and Lady Shaftesbury at St. Giles during his stay at Crichel, where he was three or four times the guest of the late Lord and Lady Alington.

The King will return to Buckingham Palace on Friday from visiting Lord and Lady Farquhar at Castle Rising, near Lynn, and the Queen is coming to town from Sandringham in order to see the King of Portugal again before his departure from England.

The King and Queen of Portugal had a very successful visit to the Duc and Duchesse d'Orleans at Wood Norton, near Evesham. The house party, which was entirely composed of foreigners (except Colonel Legge, who was in waiting on King Carlos), included the Duc and Duchesse de Guise, the Duc de Luynes, and M. de Soveral. There were battues in the principal preserves on the Wood Norton estate on Monday and

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1472.
For Truth Educational List, see page 1476.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 1474.
For Amusements, see page 1465.
For Appeals, see pages 1472 and 1473.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1481.

Tuesday, and eight guns killed 700 brace of pheasants and a large number of hares and rabbits on the first day, while on the second day 2,810 head were killed, principally pheasants, the bag including forty-one wild duck. King Carlos and Queen Amélie left Wood Norton on Wednesday morning for Buckingham Palace, and on Thursday the Duc and Duchesse d'Orléans started for Vienna, on their way to Alcsuth, the seat of the Archduke Joseph in Hungary.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to arrive this evening at Melbury Park, near Yeovil, on a visit to Lord and Lady Ilchester, who have invited a small house party to meet the Royal guests. Melbury is a very handsome old house, beautifully situated, overlooking a large lake, and surrounded by woods. On Thursday, the Prince and Princess of Wales will travel by Great Western special train from Evershot to Dorchester, whence they are to drive to Abbotsbury Castle, Lord Ilchester's charming place on the coast. There will be some drives for wild duck from the famous swannery, which is the great sight at Abbotsbury, with a luncheon at the Castle, and an inspection of the Abbey ruins and the beautiful gardens. On Friday there will be shooting in the Westbury preserves, and on Saturday morning the Royal guests will leave Melbury for London.

H.R.H. and the Princess are to arrive at Wilton House, on Monday, the 12th, on a visit to Lord and Lady Pembroke, and they will stay there for four days. There is first-rate shooting on the Wilson estate, the covers being among the best in Wiltshire. The house party at Wilton to meet the Royal guests will include the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, the Duke and Duchess of Portland, Lord and Lady Powis, Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton, Lord and Lady de Grey, Lord and Lady Bath, Lord Clarendon, and Lord and Lady Herbert, and other members of the family. The Princess of Wales will probably visit Stonehenge, Salisbury Cathedral, and Longford Castle during her stay at Wilton. At Longford, Lord Radnor's place on the Avon, there is one of the finest private collections of pictures in England, the gallery being particularly rich in Holbeins, including the famous portrait of Erasmus.

Wilton House occupies the site of an ancient monastery, which was given by Henry VIII. to Sir William Herbert, the first Earl of Pembroke. The present house was begun during the reign of Elizabeth, was altered and enlarged during the reign of Charles I., who is said to have himself designed the garden front, and was ruthlessly "Gothicised" by Wyatt about a hundred years ago. The collection of old armour in the hall is very fine. The house contains a splendid collection of pictures, principally of the Flemish and German schools. The portraits by Vandyck are superb, notably the famous picture of the Herbert family, containing ten figures. The gardens and grounds at Wilton are very charming, and command some beautiful views. The ornamental water is crossed by a covered Palladian bridge, and the Italian garden terminates in a Renaissance pavilion which was designed by Holbein. Sir Philip Sidney composed his "Arcadia" in the Wilton gardens.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to be the guests of Lord and Lady Mount Stephen at Brocket Hall, Lord Cowper's seat near Hatfield, from Monday, the 19th, until Wednesday, the 21st; and on Thursday, the 22nd, his Royal Highness will pay a visit to Lord Burnham at Hall Barn Park, near Beaconsfield, for a day's pheasant shooting.

I learn that the Prince of Wales's visit to Lord Ardilaun at Ashford, County Galway, is to take place during the second week in January, when H.R.H. leaves Sandringham for the season. When the Prince returns to England from Ireland about January 20, he will join the Princess of Wales at Frogmore House, near Windsor.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and the Princesses Margaret and Victoria Patricia were last week on a visit to Lord and Lady Derby, at Knowsley Park, where the house party included Lord and Lady Selborne, Mr. and Mrs. Brodrick and Miss Brodrick, Lord Hyde and Lady Edith Villiers, Mr. Robert Ward, Major Murray, Major and Lady Isabel Gathorne Hardy, Mr. Lionel Earle, Miss Kelly, and Lord Stanley, Lady Alice Stanley, and other members of the family. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their daughters will pay visits in the course of the next few weeks to their Majesties at Sandringham and to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Baden, the Grand Duchess Marie, the Grand Duchess of Hesse, and the Hereditary Princess of Hohenlohe-Langenberg have been on a visit to the Dowager Duchess Alexandrina of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha at Kallenberg, her dower-house in the Thuringian Forest, near Coburg. The Duchess Alexandrina, who is in her eighty-fourth year, is the eldest sister of the Grand Duke of Baden, and the widow of Duke Ernest, elder brother of Prince Albert. Queen Victoria carried on a regular and very confidential correspondence with her sister-in-law for many years.

Lord and Lady Dudley arrived at the Viceregal Lodge at the end of last week from England. Lady Dudley has recovered after her long period of delicacy, and is already making arrangements for the Viceregal duties of next year and the "season" at Dublin Castle. This week Lord and Lady Dudley are fulfilling their engagements to visit the North of Ireland, where they stay for a few days. The weather in the north, as elsewhere in Ireland, recovered from its inclement stage, and has been unusually mild of late.

Lady Grosvenor has been staying at the Chief Secretary's Lodge, and Mr. Wyndham has occasionally spent

some days there. The Lord Chancellor and the Chief Secretary have made quite a record number of passages across the Channel within the last month or so. Fortunately for the comfort of these high officials, rarely did the Irish Sea experience such a calm November as the last, one so absolutely without the traditionally "tempestuous storms and troublesome waves." However, officials in high place in Ireland meet with many storms and troublesome waves, even though those of the Irish Sea may be made a calm. The Irish Attorney-General—who has not been "crossing the water"—has, of late, had some experience of the kind.

Lord Grey, who succeeded the late Duke of Northumberland as Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland, has resigned that office in consequence of his intending to be absent in Canada for several years. He is to be replaced by the Duke of Northumberland, who is the greatest territorial magnate of the county, and also a most popular landlord, residing at Alnwick for about seven months of every year. There have been seven Dukes of Northumberland of the modern creation, and five of them have held the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Northumberland. There is an interesting account in Lord Beaconsfield's "Tancred" of the quick rise of the modern race of Percy during the reign of George III., with a description of Alnwick in the author's most picturesque style.

Lord Ridley had been in failing health for several months, and, indeed, he never recovered from the shock of his wife's death. He was the head of an old, distinguished, and wealthy Northumbrian family. The Ridleys of Blagdon trace their descent from Nicholas de Ridley, who flourished during the reign of Edward I., and the Bishop, who was one of the "martyrs" of Queen Mary's reign, belonged to this family. Lord Ridley was educated at Harrow, under Dr. Vaughan, and proceeded thence to Balliol, where he became a favourite with Professor Jowett. He took high honours, and was afterwards elected to a Fellowship of All Souls. Lord Ridley succeeded his father as Tory member for North Northumberland in 1868, and, except for a few weeks in 1886, he sat in the House of Commons until he was raised to the peerage in 1900, on resigning the office of Home Secretary. He was an excellent man of business, and always most kind and genial in manner. Lord Ridley owned a large estate in Northumberland, including extensive collieries, and the greater part of the flourishing port of Blythe. He was a most generous and just landlord, and was very popular among all classes of his tenants and employees. He was very hospitable, and was fond of shooting and salmon fishing. Lord Ridley had spent the last autumn in Scotland, having rented Wester Elchies, in Morayshire, for the season.

Sir Matthew White Ridley, Lord Ridley's father, sat in the House of Commons for a great number of years, and supported Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli, who were believed to have offered him a peerage in 1859. Lord Ridley's mother was one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Lord Wensleydale, and it was probably from that famous Judge that he inherited his abilities as an administrator. Lady Ridley, who was a daughter of the first Lord Tweedmouth, and a sister of Lady Aberdeen, was a truly delightful person and a most charming hostess.

The late Lord Hardwicke was a sensible man, plodding and methodical in his official work, and a fair but quite unpretending speaker. It cannot be said that he had discovered any exceptional capacity for either official or Parliamentary life. The reckless extravagance of some of his predecessors had alienated the family estates, on which the late Lord Robartes had large mortgages, and the Wimpole property in Cambridgeshire now belongs to Lord Clifden. Wimpole Hall is a stately old brick house, which dates from the reign of Charles I. It is surrounded by a large park, which is remarkable for its fine timber. The interesting collection of pictures at Wimpole and the valuable library were sold some years ago. Lord Chancellor Hardwicke's state papers and political correspondence, which were preserved at Wimpole, are now in the British Museum.

Mr. Watts, of Ford House, who died last week at the age of ninety-one, was the head of a very old Devonshire family. He had been all his life an active magistrate and a prominent Conservative, and he took a leading part in county affairs. Mr. Watts resided at Ford, which is a beautiful and interesting old place near Newton Abbot. William III. stayed at Ford when he landed in England in 1688, and Charles I. was a guest there in 1625.

The death of Mr. Daniel Harry Lascelles, younger brother of Lord Harewood, is much regretted in Yorkshire, as he was very popular, and was well known in the North Riding as a keen sportsman, being fond of hunting, shooting, and fishing. Mr. Lascelles, who died of typhoid fever after a short illness, lived for a number of years at Great Smeaton Manor with his mother, Lady Harewood, and when she died a few months ago he removed to Croft, near Darlington. He was educated at Eton and at Christ Church, and was only forty-three.

The Duke of Devonshire has presented the Rev. Stephen Gladstone, who recently resigned the living of Hawarden, after an incumbency of thirty-two years, to the rectory of Barrowby, near Grantham. Barrowby was formerly worth about £1,500 a year, with residence, and the living is still one of the most valuable benefices in Lincolnshire, while the parish church is one of the finest in the county.

Lord and Lady Londonderry are this week entertaining a large party at Wynyard Park, County Dur-

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ham, to meet Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll. Lord and Lady Londonderry will leave Wynyard a day or two after Christmas for Mount Stewart, their place near Belfast, where they intend to reside until the meeting of Parliament.

Lord Spencer, who had intended to spend the winter at Althorp Park, has changed his plans, and he has taken a villa at Bournemouth (The Toft, on the East Cliff), until the end of January. Lord Spencer will come to Spencer House for the meeting of Parliament, and about the middle of February he will probably go abroad for a few weeks, returning to Althorp in April.

A correspondent writes:—

Your contemporary the *World* announced last week that Lady Wilton and Sir Frederick Johnstone "have left England." As a matter of fact they "left England" so long ago as the end of September, and are now yachting in the West Indies, having embarked on board the Duke of Bedford's steamer *Sapphire* at Monte Carlo.

Lord and Lady Gage have left Firle Place, their seat near Lewes, for Eastbourne, where they have taken a house for six months. Firle is a picturesque old house in a pretty park, from which there are fine views. Firle Beacon is the second highest point on the South Downs.

The Yorkshire County Ball is to take place on Wednesday, January 11, and there will be large house parties for the function at most of the country seats in the neighbourhood of York. The General Committee is principally composed this year of descendants of the original founders of the York Assembly Rooms. The profits of the ball are to be applied to the restoration of these magnificent rooms, which were designed in 1727 by Richard Earl of Burlington, an ancestor of the present Duke of Devonshire, who then resided at Londesborough Park, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, This domain was sold about sixty years ago by the sixth Duke of Devonshire to George Hudson for £470,000, and it now belongs to Lord Londesborough.

Westbury House, Colonel Lewis's place in Hampshire, which has just been burnt down, stands in a beautiful park, which is intersected by the Meon. There has been a manor house at Westbury ever since the Conquest. The last house dated from the reign of Queen Anne, but had been much enlarged. The decorations in the dining-room were by Grinling Gibbons. There is some remarkably fine timber in the park, which contains a pretty lake, formed by the Meon. The Westbury estate was purchased from Lord Gage by the late Mr. J. D. Lewis, M.P.

With reference to the dispute between Messrs. Gale and Polden, of Aldershot, and their bankers over the charge for supplying them with cheques in a special form, I have had a communication from a country banker, urging a number of points in defence of the line taken by the bank in this instance. These points are: (1) That much inconvenience is caused to bankers by the issue of special cheques of different dimensions from their own standard size; (2) that extra expense is caused by having a plate specially engraved for each private cheque; (3) that the plates and the cheques in stock are rendered useless by the death of the customer, or the transfer of the account. My correspondent argues that it is necessary to place some restraint on the desire of every customer to have a special cheque for his own use, varying in size and style according to his individual fancy, the more so as in his experience many customers who adopt these cheques scarcely use more than 100 of them in a year. He adds that personally he has always found customers ready to pay a special charge for such cheques when these considerations are pointed out to them.

In what I said about the Aldershot case I certainly never intended to suggest that every customer is entitled to call upon his banker to print him a special set of private cheques, without regard to the number he uses, or the value of his account. In my experience, I have only known such cheques used by companies or firms in a very large way of business, who are drawing perhaps thousands of cheques per annum. In such a case I should hardly think that any banker would have hesitated to supply the cheques in any form that the customer might require. It is simply a question whether the banker does or does not think it worth his while to grant this favour; and on that ground I suggested that if a customer with a very large account finds that one bank refuses to supply him with the cheques unless he pays for them, he will probably, in these days of competition, have no difficulty in finding another bank quite ready to do so. At the same time, I entirely agree with my banking correspondent that there is no particular advantage in the use of private cheques, and that bankers may quite legitimately set their faces against the practice. It is pointed out in a letter under notice that many business men imagine that such cheques are of use as an advertisement. This is obviously absurd, since the cheques only go into the hands of persons who already have dealings with the firm, and after that no one sees them except the bankers' clerks.

I am asked to mention that a sale of antique furniture, china, pewter, Sheffield plate, prints, lace, and other antiquities, together with a quantity of Oriental art-work and curios, will be held at 1, Belgrave-square on Thursday and Friday of this week (December 8 and 9) in aid of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Help Society. Princess Christian will open the sale at 2.30 on Thursday afternoon.

Messrs. Mortlocks are showing at 466, Oxford-street a very interesting collection of glass belonging to Mr. Charles Edward Jerningham. The collection consists chiefly of old English table glass, but it also contains some good examples of old German and Dutch workmanship,

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and a few pieces of Spanish glass which are very rare and quaint. Mr. Jerningham has long been known as a connoisseur of old glass, and his collection is well worth a visit from those who share his taste.

Apropos of Mr. Baillie-Grohman's story of the lifting of the preface to his book by an American firm, a friend gives me the following experience:—

A long time ago I published a book called "Old Touraine," which was sold, and is still being sold, by Messrs. Rivington here, and by Scribners in New York. About six years ago an American firm called Pott, who usually sell Bibles and prayer-books, stole the whole book, taking every syllable of my text. To this they added a worthless set of illustrations of their own, putting my name on the title page of the mixture, and proceeded to sell it without any reference to me.

Of course these things are bound to happen until Great Britain and the United States are disposed to grant one another absolute reciprocity of copyright, which they are not very likely to do. To do them justice, American publishers are much more liberal than they used to be towards British authors whose works they are disposed to appropriate.

An Oxford corespondent sends the following notes on the battle between the Greeks and the Barbarians in Convocation last week:—

By this time all the world, who happen to be interested, know that up here the party which insists upon Greek being compulsory in Responsions has won the day. The general feeling is that the barrier of Greek will have to go sooner or later, but not yet. On the other side not a few are convinced that the change would destroy the character of the University and make it the paradise of the chemist and mechanic.

In the debate on Tuesday the President of Magdalen, estimable, well-meaning, but unconvincing, held the attention of the house for thirty-five minutes with varying interest. Great scholar though he is, he was against the retention of Greek, and spoke, as he always does, from the point of view of the "working man." Sir William Anson, more fluent and more polished, opposed, because he believed boys are made to specialise too early. The Rector of Exeter, who fathered the resolution before the house, which was that candidates reading for honours in mathematics or natural science should be allowed to offer French or German instead of Greek in Responsions, was somewhat apologetic for his offspring. The last speech, that by Mr. Hadow, of Worcester College, was perfect, and is said to have influenced the voting. In spite of a thin, high-pitched voice, he carried the meeting by storm. Exceedingly voluble and witty, he told us that a visit last year to America had made him a convert to the Greek side. The Americans told him that they had opened the door, and now, when they would like to close it, there are so many pushing, it cannot be done. There you can get degrees for anything, even for bricklaying. America strongly advised Oxford to remain true to her present dignified position. Upon this occasion she did. The voting was 200 to 164.

Personally I am a Barbarian. Whatever the effect of an appreciative knowledge of Greek literature, art, and history may be—and I have no desire to belittle it—I doubt if the minimum requisite for passing "Smalls" or "Little Go" is sufficient to produce that effect. It is true that I have several men on my staff who have, at more or less remote periods of their existence, gone triumphantly through these ordeals. It may be that my readers note the result with satisfaction in the chaste style and the cultured taste pervading the columns of Truth. Heaven forbid that I should cry "stinking fish"! But, however sure I may be about the effect, I am not so sure about the cause. It so happens that I have other literary Phœnixes at work, who are not even University passmen, and I cannot for the life of me detect any Greek tincture in the "copy" of the former which is imperceptible in the latter. From time to time, I have compared barristers and clergymen who are graduates of Oxford and Cambridge with others who enjoyed no such educational advantages, and the result has always been the same.

I have come to the conclusion that the "small Latin and less Greek" necessary for passing University examinations evaporate very quickly; and even if they leave any subtle trace behind, I doubt whether it is worth the extravagant expenditure of time and labour which English boys are forced to bestow on their classics for ten or twelve precious years of their lives. The question is whether that time might not be better employed, especially by boys who are going to specialise in other branches of learning. It has often struck me, and I wonder it has never struck the educationists who look to Ancient Greece with such reverence, that the Greek boys never studied dead languages. If they had all spent their school and University days learning to write Mycenæan prose, or turning out verses in the Hittite tongue, would Greek literature ever have come into existence? I doubt it. Judging from the example of Greece itself, if we had less Greek in our youth we might have better English later on in life.

From the last debate at Oxford, it would seem that the Greek party take for granted that if Greek is not made compulsory for everybody, Greek will soon become extinct in the University. This shows little faith in the intrinsic virtues of Greek. It is like the contention of the Church people that if we do not cram all the Board School children with sound Church principles before they are old enough to ask questions, they are bound to remain outside the fold all their lives. Greek is not yet extinct in French and German Universities, though there is no such universal compulsion there as at Oxford and Cambridge. And in our Universities, apart from the intrinsic attractions of the language for all men of scholarly tastes and ambitions, there would remain potent inducements for the serious study of Greek, though a worthless smattering of it ceased to be required of all students indiscriminately. I see that Cambridge is still arguing this knotty point, and I hope that University will be true to its traditions of showing Oxford the way. The truth is that the classics occupy a place in English education which would be indefensible even if their educational value were far greater than it is; and this is one reason why our educational system does not keep us abreast of the rest of the world. I wish Parliament would pass a law against teaching little boys to write Latin verses. This is one of the wickedest things in our Public School system.

"Bankruptcy of a Bishop" would make a startling newspaper headline, but it is well within the range of possibility, judging from the financial statement which the Bishop of London issued last week. His lordship is encumbered with two houses, which cost him in rates and taxes £848 odd per annum and £1,190 in repairs,

and an income which costs him £500 a year in income tax. He is bled to the tune of £422 per annum by Queen Anne's Bounty. He has to keep four horses and three men to look after them, at a cost of £895 (rather a high figure, by the way; a couple of motor cars would cost less and do more). His gardens and farms cost him another £733. His domestic expenses, including the entertainment of ordination candidates, come to £1,678, and the episcopal business involves an annual charge of £388 for printing, stationery, and postage. The total result is that his expenses exceed his income by nearly £1,700 a year, and at the end of three years he finds himself £5,000 poorer than on his appointment to the See. Any one short of a millionaire might well exclaim "Nolo episcopari!" on these terms.

There are two obvious morals to be drawn from the Bishop's figures. The first is the absurdity, to say nothing of the incongruity, of forcing upon a bishop the upkeep of establishments which render it an impossibility for him to make the two ends meet on £6,000 a year. I take it that the Bishop of London desired to indicate this when he published the figures. On his first appointment Dr. Ingram wished to let London House, but found that legally impossible. Why should he not be allowed to do so, and to let Fulham Palace as well, if he likes? He himself is a bachelor, and a man of the simplest tastes. He would no doubt be perfectly comfortable in a flat at £150 a year. He should bring in a Bill for the emancipation of all prelates who have the sense to despise the pomps and vanities of episcopacy. The Bill might provide for the sale of Fulham Palace, which could be put to many useful purposes. Many an episcopal palace is a white elephant to its tenant, and in these days the occupation of a palace does not tend to enhance the popular respect for the office of a bishop. At any rate, any bishop ought to be free to live where he pleases, even if, like the first Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, his taste takes him to a garret in a slum.

The other point which occurs to me is that there is as much need for "pooling" the incomes of the higher as of the lower clergy. I could mention one or two provincial bishops who are by no means unable to make the two ends meet, and it is not unknown for some of their lordships to lay up considerable treasure—for their heirs and relatives if not for themselves—out of superfluous episcopal revenue. On the other hand, the mere working expenses of a diocese like London, including the calls upon the Bishop in the way of hospitality and charity, are enough to swallow up all the income that is not appropriated by establishment and domestic expenditure. I would treat the bishoprics in the same way as the parochial benefices—throw the whole of them into hotch-pot, and then apportion them according to the amount of work expected of the incumbent, and the necessary working expenses of his office. I have, indeed, been told that if the parochial revenues were treated on this principle, there would not be enough to give every parson a living wage. But, at any rate, if the bishops' incomes were pooled, and each one paid according to his work, there would be enough to prevent any bishop finding himself in the Bankruptcy Court.

The Bishop of Rochester has appointed Canon Daniell, late Chaplain of Dulwich College, and now Vicar of St. Matthew's, Redhill, to the Archdeaconry of Kingston-upon-Thames. The stipend is £200 a year. The office has become vacant by the resignation of Archdeacon Burney, who is in his ninetieth year, and who was appointed by Bishop Thorold in 1879. Archdeacon Burney was for many years a prominent and influential leader of the Evangelical party. He is a nephew of Mme. d'Arblay, and a grandson of Dr. Charles Burney, the intimate friend of Dr. Johnson.

Canon Christopher has decided to resign the important living of St. Aldate's, Oxford, which he has held since 1859. Canon Christopher has been for forty years an active, influential, and popular leader of the Evangelical party in the Diocese of Oxford, and he was closely associated with the late Dean Fremantle and with Mr. Golightly, who was so well known through his Low-Church zeal, his eccentricities, and his munificent charities. The rectory of St. Aldate's is in the gift of the Simeon Trustees, and their choice of a successor to Canon Christopher is awaited with much interest, as a variety of circumstances have tended to make this benefice one of the most conspicuous charges in their gift.

"One speaker was so enthusiastic that he not only shouted hymns in a powerful voice, but danced in ecstasy on the platform." I take this from a report of one of the revivalist services conducted by Evan Roberts in Wales. From the same newspaper I gather that the services are usually prolonged until a late hour in the night, and so far as I can make out, they consist of each person praying or singing a verse of a hymn as the spirit moves him, whilst every now and then a speaker on the platform tries to get a hearing with more or less success. From time to time, one of the mob shouts that he is converted, and the conversion is received with applause. At one service a man is represented as having undergone this process. He said that he had just come from a public-house, where he had passed the evening carousing with other sinners.

The Welsh are an emotional people, but they have never seemed to me to lack mother wit. Surely they can hardly seriously believe that any good can come out of these orgies of religious hysteria. What can a conversion be worth which is led up to by a mob shouting, singing, and groaning, with a man on a platform dancing in ecstasy? How long is it likely to last? Emotional religion of this sort produces the same effect on the brain as strong drink. It can no longer apprehend or judge. The scene is reflected on it to the

exclusion of all else. If a person believes that he is not already converted, he feels an impulse to be one with those that are. If he were asked what he himself means by conversion, he would no more be able to reply than a sheep that is following the example set by the rest of the flock.

Evan Roberts is, I gather, a young collier. He is represented as possessed of no eloquence. He explains to reporters that he is convinced that he has a Divine mission to convert others. A likeness of him in one of the newspapers shows him to be a smug, self-satisfied looking youth. In this wood-cut—which I think is the reproduction of a photograph—he is standing surrounded by several pretty-looking Welsh girls who appear to be singing.

I attended out of curiosity some of the revivalist services amongst the negroes in the Southern States of America. Much the same sort of hysterical tomfoolery used to take place. The "camp" lasted two or three days, and the conduct of those present when the services were going on did not strike me as exceptionally edifying, nor were the "conversions" lasting. Any one can say that he has a divine mission to convert others. We have only his word for it, and, generally speaking, he is a neurotic degenerate, who suffers from megalomania, and seeks to attract attention. Evan Roberts would probably be far more usefully employed in working in a coal pit. I see it stated that several persons have already gone mad owing to this revival. This is always the result of a wave of religious delirium, as, indeed, of most outbursts of emotional excitement.

But, after all, why blame this young Welsh collier for imagining himself a messenger sent from Heaven, when we have a Premier who fancies that he and his policy must prevail because they represent an immutable law of nature? This is what he announced the other day at a dinner which the Knights Imperial of the Primrose League (whoever these humbugs may be) were giving either to themselves or to him. His policy is—and apparently theirs also—to submit to any degradation, provided that the Party—or rather the rump of the Party that still supports his Ministry—can be herded like sheep in the same pen. It is a policy of trickery and chicanery; a policy of facing-all-ways; a policy of treachery alike to friend and foe; and a policy of grovel to any mandate that Mr. Chamberlain may issue. The laws of nature are immutable; this policy is as mutable as a weathercock. Apparently Mr. Balfour thought that Mr. Chamberlain and the Welsh collier should no longer be allowed to lay claim without challenge to speak as direct representatives of Providence, and so he out-did them by declaring that he rules over us as a law of nature against which we poor finite creatures as vainly struggle as against fate.

At this dinner he informed the carousing "Imperial Knights" that his administration had passed more measures for the benefit of the community than any Government of which history has record. Can he suppose that this will be the verdict of future history, or that even "Imperial Knights of the Primrose League" would in their serious moments agree with him? Not to speak of the rest of the world, I should have imagined that a very cursory glance at our own history would have led him to doubt that he is the greatest statesman that ever ruled over us, and that his administration has done more for us than any previous one. How deep must be his contempt for the intelligence of his fellow countrymen, when he can indulge in such preposterous self laudation! I would seriously advise him to put himself in the hands of a good medical specialist. He is obviously suffering from megalomania in a very acute form. If some steps are not taken to abate the disease we shall soon have him, like the speaker at the Welsh revival service, shouting incoherent snatches of Primrose melodies, and dancing ecstatically on the floor of the House of Commons.

I was surprised to hear a few days ago from a well-known member of the medical profession that every member of the General Medical Council, which has just been holding its session, receives on an average £100 a year for attending meetings. It would be interesting to know what benefit the profession gets from this expenditure, for the seven days' session which has just ended—the second of the present year—led to absolutely no practical result of any kind, the seven days being consumed in futile discussion and squabbling over more or less trumpery professional matters. The Council consists of thirty-two members, each of whom is remunerated at the rate of five guineas a day with extra payment for railway and hotel expenses. The total fees paid last year amounted to £4,034 18s. 11d. Office and law expenses consumed upwards of £4,000 more, and the accounts show the very surprising result of an exact balance between income and expenditure. The greater part of the income is derived from young doctors and dentists desirous of having their names on the register, and from their point of view at least it may well be doubted whether the Couhcil justifies its very expensive existence.

A correspondent forwards, with some forcible observations, the prospectus of an income-tax repayment agency in the Strand, which does its business on the basis of a commission of 4s. in the £1 on all tax recovered. There may be cases, of course, where, owing to exceptional difficulties, this charge is not excessive, but in a general way it is preposterous. In the ordinary course of things any person of average intelligence can fill up for himself, or herself, a form of application for repayment of the tax, and if any difficulty arises in doing so, an application to the collector or surveyor will generally dispose of it. People with small incomes are therefore very foolish to pay to any agency a tax of 25 per cent on the money recoverable. With the income tax at 1s. in the £1, this percentage itself amounts to a serious tax.

From a Service friend in India I hear that misgivings are felt in some quarters about one of the cardinal features of Lord Kitchener's Army reforms. The feeling is that the abolition of small stations, and the concentration of the greater part of the Army in the direction of the frontier, increases the risks of mutiny. I understand that Lord Kitchener desires to have nine divisions within easy reach of the frontier. I doubt myself whether there is much in this. It seems to me that the more an army is concentrated the better it ought to be under control, and that in the event of disaffection, small bodies of troops scattered all over the country may easily be a serious source of danger. A rising other than a military mutiny is hardly now within the range of practical politics, and in these days of railways and telegraphs could always be dealt with. Lord Kitchener's idea probably is that the most likely cause of insurrection that we have to think of is a defeat on the frontier in case of invasion, and that the best way of preparing against that is to keep your army where it can meet invasion most promptly and effectually.

One of the latest of Lord Kitchener's reforms is a rule that no captain or subaltern standing first for promotion shall be granted leave to England, except on medical certificate, unless he has passed the examination qualifying for the next higher rank. This is an excellent regulation, for great inconvenience has frequently been caused through a senior officer going to Europe on leave without previously qualifying for his promotion, various troubles and complications being usually the result.

From what one sees at this distance, I should think one of the curses of Indian military administration is red tape. Look, for example, at the following sublime notification which recently appeared in station orders at Aden:—

Stationery:—

589. The G.O.C. sanctioned the purchase locally of a bottle of red ink under the financial powers granted to him in A.R.I. (Army Regulations, India). Vol. III. Para. 6 (ii.) and 7 (ii.).

This sort of thing, says the officer to whom I am indebted for this gem, may explain why such enormous staffs of babus are kept up in the Indian military establishments.

For some time past a movement has been on foot to provide a drill hall, with a Morris tube range, for the Volunteers at Bromyard, Herefordshire, and it is understood that several schemes have been considered and rejected. There is now a report in the town that it has been decided by the officers of the corps to erect a small building on a site offered by a publican, and forming part of the garden attached to his house. The building would not be large enough to serve as a drill hall, or to take a Morris tube range, and, apart from the insufficiency of the accommodation, the erection of headquarters for the Volunteers in a public-house garden is obviously open to serious objection. A local correspondent tells me that the scheme is generally condemned in the town, and it is impossible to believe that the War Office will allow it to be carried out. If any official sanction or promise of financial assistance has been given, it must have been under a misapprehension as to the situation and character of the proposed building, and when the facts become known in Pall Mall the project will doubtless be stopped.

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. Lunn's Excursions." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

THE CAROLINE THAT "WENT."

With Apologies to the Author of "Come, Come, Caroline!"

A civil-spoken gentleman
Did lately make a call
Upon a famed ship-building firm,
Residing at Millwall.
"Hullo!" quoth he; "what 's that I see?"—
And pointed to a boat.
Quoth they: "She 's fine—the *Caroline*—
The fastest craft afloat!"
"'Tis well!" cried he;
"If you agree,
She 's the very yacht for me!
So come, come, *Caroline!*
Come, come, *Caroline*, come!
We 'll get you off the slips,
And have some trial trips—So
Come, come, *Caroline!*
Come, come, *Caroline*, come!"
And, as he walked away,
He slightly winked, they say.

He paid the price without demur,
And then he hired a crew
To take his purchase to the Nore,
To see if she would do.

* * * * *

Soon, to their joy, they "made" the "Buoy,"
And turned; but, with a scoff,
The civil-spoken gentleman
Cried: "No, you *don't*—We 're off!
'Return?'—Oh, no!
'Proceed?'—Just so,
And as fast as you can go!—So
Off, off, *Caroline!*
Off, off, *Caroline*, off!
You are the very thing
The Russians bade me bring—So,
Off, off, *Caroline!*
Off, off, *Caroline!* off!—
Yo-ho, my lass, yo-ho!
To Libau you have to go!"

Oh, what a stir there was in town
When she did not come back;
The firm that sold her cried "Tut, tut!"
The papers groaned "Alack!"
"My Lords," much vexed, and more perplexed,
Were in a frightful state;
And took the most decided steps,
Though several hours too late!
No sign, no trace,
To "save their face"—
It was quite the clearest case
Of "gone, gone, *Caroline!*
Gone, gone *Caroline*, gone!"
And, while Europe blandly smiled,
The Japs, extremely "riled,"
Echoed "Gone, gone, *Caroline?*
Gone, gone, *Caroline*, gone?
We don't want to make a fuss,
But this may prove bad for us."

Nor can we English folk forget
When we the facts survey,
What 'twas for "*Alabama* Claims"
This country had to pay:

If those that sold the *Caroline*
Had borne that case in mind,
It 's possible that she would still
At Millwall be confined.
And we should not,
Vexed by the plot
Which has smuggled off that yacht,
Cry "Fie, fie, *Caroline!*
Fie, fie, *Caroline*, fie!"
Nor at some future day,
Have cause to warmly say,
"Dear, *dear Caroline!*
Dear, *dear Caroline*, DEAR!
How bitterly we rue
We ever heard of you!"

A tradesman at one of the naval ports complains that the Admiralty should refuse to give him the address of an officer who ordered goods a few months ago, and has since been placed on the retired list. It is not altogether clear to my mind that either the War Office or the Admiralty is always bound to assist a creditor by giving him the address of an officer who is no longer on the active list. But there are certainly cases where a tradesman is entitled to this assistance, and it seems to me that each case ought to be judged on its own merits. In the particular instance above referred to, it would appear that the officer had been placed on the retired list within a month of the delivery of the goods, so that the tradesman has had no chance of getting his money. He (the tradesman) sends to the Admiralty a letter addressed to the debtor, at the same time explaining the circumstances, and asking that the letter may be forwarded. The letter is returned to him with the statement that the officer's address is unknown—a palpable fiction, as he is in receipt of retired pay. I do not suppose that any civilian employer would refuse to forward a letter to an employee under these circumstances, and really there is no difference between the position of a civilian employer in this particular matter and that of a Government Department—except that a taxpayer has a stronger claim upon a Government Department than he would have upon a private individual.

Profound dissatisfaction has been created in the Estate Duty Office, Somerset House, by the promotion of Mr. A. W. Soward to the post of Assistant Secretary. This gentleman only entered the Department in October, 1876, and was a lower division clerk for ten years after that date, when he was advanced to the second division. He is now promoted over the heads of no less than five gentlemen who have served with ability and credit for periods ranging from thirty-seven to forty-three years. He has done nothing to entitle him to such favour, and the appointment is universally regarded as a flagrant job, to which attention ought to be called in Parliament at the earliest opportunity.

A growl comes from the park-keepers at Hampton Court in reference to the question of leave of absence. Recently a man applied for leave on a Saturday to attend his brother's funeral, but was told that he could not go, though he was willing to forfeit his day's pay or to have the day deducted from his annual holiday. The incident is the second of the kind that has occurred in the course of a few months, and the rule against leave on Saturdays seems to be enforced by the superintendent with quite unnecessary rigour. There could be no difficulty in sparing a keeper, and the refusal of a perfectly reasonable and legitimate request simply provokes a feeling of discontent and irritation among the whole of the men.

Reference was made in TRUTH a fortnight ago to a specially obnoxious circular, emanating from Paris, which had lately been delivered by post in London in open envelopes. In view of the nature of this thing, I subsequently thought it desirable to bring it to the notice of the Postmaster-General personally. I have since been informed that steps have been taken to prevent the circulation by post of any more of these advertisements. I am very glad to be able to make this known, but I wish that I could prevail upon the Postmaster-General to take steps to bring about an amendment of the law, which would make it more difficult to circulate such matter, whether in closed envelopes or open ones.

As has been already mentioned in some of the daily papers, an action has been commenced against Nelson and Co., Limited, on behalf of some of the widows interested in the Company's pension tea fund. I am very glad to hear this, as this action will raise and dispose of certain important questions in regard to the rights of the widows, the nature of which has already been indicated in TRUTH. Hitherto the Company have met all objections to their own reading of their pension contract by referring to the opinions of three eminent K.C.s, who were consulted on the question in an early stage of the history of the concern. The value of counsel's opinion, however, always depends very much upon the manner in which the case is stated, and the exact nature of the questions asked; and it would be by no means surprising if the decision of the Court were to upset some of the assumptions on which the Company has been reckoning. The most important question for the present is the right of the Company to utilise its Government deposit as security for a new life insurance business, on the hypothesis that all the old customers under the pension scheme, to whom this deposit has been held out as a security for the discharge of the Company's obligations, have no legal rights against it. I take it that this point will have to be decided in the action now pending, and the sooner the better.

There was a very interesting letter in last Thursday's *Times* from Sir Richard Harington, Judge of the Worcester County Court, on the relation of the present County Court system to unthriftiness among the working class, and consequent distress in bad times like the present. Sir Richard Harington points out what has been said so often in TRUTH, that imprisonment for debt has not been abolished; that the procedure under the

Debtors Act enables a man who has not any kind of employment to obtain credit by "mortgaging his body"; and that the facilities for obtaining credit consequently enjoyed by the working classes are a constant incentive to unthriftiness, wastefulness, and extravagance. It is no answer to this to say that only a small proportion of defaulting debtors actually go to prison. On the contrary, the mischief of the system is accentuated by the fact that, under pressure of a judgment summons, and a suspended commitment order, the debtor is generally able to discharge his liability by instalments of a few shillings a week. As Sir Richard Harington puts it:—

> It is obvious that the man who can pay 4s. or 2s. a month under the pressure either of a bare judgment or warrant, could have paid ready money for his goods, and might, if he liked, have had his 1s. or 6d. weekly for the Savings Bank into the bargain. But the mischievous facility for credit secured by this pledge of his body tempts him to run into debt.

The Judge also points out that even where the man is thrifty and industrious the same mischief may result through the extravagance of his wife, without his knowing anything about it, until the judgment summons or the commitment order brings the state of affairs home to him.

This evil has been repeatedly noticed in connection with the business carried on by Mr. J. G. Graves, of Sheffield, and a few other firms that have lately sprung up in imitation of his. These firms conduct a huge business upon credit, chiefly among people who live on weekly wages. They correspond to the "tallymen," who have always been the curse of the working classes, but, instead of working through travelling agents, they deal directly with their customers by means of the Post Office and advertisements in the cheaper newspapers and magazines. In this way they retail jewellery, watches, plated goods, and other luxuries, to people who never have enough money in their possession to buy them straight off, but are tempted to buy them when offered the convenience of paying by instalments—in other words, of getting into debt. Practically, Mr. Graves and his competitors are ready to give credit to anybody. All they require to know before delivering their goods is that the debtor is in regular employment. Granted that, the County Court machinery, with the commitment order in the last resort, is sufficient security for the creditor's purpose—especially when the Court is ready to improve its machinery by providing the creditor, as is done at Sheffield, with extra facilities for collecting his debts cheaply and expeditiously.

The extent of the evil that has grown up in consequence has been already very clearly shown by the Sheffield County Court statistics, where as many as 7,000 judgment summonses and the same number of commitment orders have been issued in a single year for the benefit of Mr. Graves alone. Sir Richard Harington tells us that in Birmingham 67,000 actions for sums under £20 were entered during the year 1903—which means that something like 10 per cent. of the population were put into the County Court in the course of the year. Such figures point conclusively to a social evil of very serious dimensions. My remedy for this state of things would be to abolish imprisonment for debt altogether, or at any rate for amounts under £50. There may be cases where it is justifiable to treat the man who can pay and will not as a criminal, though even he may be honestly standing out for a principle, as in the immortal case of Mr. Pickwick. But in the class of business which eventuates in a County Court judgment summons the creditor has rarely anyone but himself to thank for the difficulty he experiences in getting his money. It would be no hardship, and would do an infinite amount of good, if County Court judges were deprived of the power of committing the debtor who is in such a position that credit ought not to have been given to him.

A comic state of affairs in a solicitor's office was disclosed at the Llandilo County Court the other day, when Mr. H. G. Philipps, a local solicitor, was sued by a late clerk for 19s. 7d., the amount of stoppages from his salary. The clerk was a youth of nineteen, and his salary 12s. 6d. a week. His case was that Mr. Philipps had continually subjected him to "fines," ranging in amount from one penny to one shilling, for various alleged offences. He said that he had been fined for carrying some papers in his pocket instead of in a bag, for making a mistake in a writ, and "for taking off his cap to certain gentlemen in the town." Sometimes Mr. Philipps would say, "You are fined so much," without telling him the reason. On one occasion, when he protested against being fined, he was fined 7d. for protesting! In giving evidence on his own behalf, Mr. Philipps admitted that he had fined the plaintiff, but said the amount was seldom over twopence, and the penalties averaged only a little over a penny a week. He adopted the system with the plaintiff and another clerk "to maintain discipline," and if the plaintiff did not like it he could have left. As Judge Bishop gave judgment for the clerk with costs, holding that the agreement between the parties did not entitle the defendant to inflict such fines, it would seem that some other means of maintaining discipline in this lawyer's office will now have to be devised.

Some remarks of Judge Edge at Clerkenwell County Court last week show that the Commercial Catalogue Company, of Caledonian-road, is still preying upon traders by means of the trick on the part of its canvassers which I exposed a year or so ago. The trick is for the canvasser to make various oral misstatements to secure an order for an advertisement in a catalogue published by the company. He then presents for signature a printed order form which provides that the price of the adver-

Mr. Gladstone had friends, Mr. Gladstone had foes; How we wrangle on Cobden, why everyone knows; On the merits of Fox we may argue a bit, But all are united in favour of Pitt.—Ask your stationer for the new card game.

Brighton.—New Ship Hotel.—For families and gentlemen. The best of everything. English servants only. Electric light throughout. Night porter. Tel. 292. Manageress, Miss Tucker.

tisement shall be payable on production of "a Post Office receipt for circulation of one thousand copies of the catalogue," no other conditions being recognised. If the customer, finding that he has been bamboozled in regard to the value and character of the catalogue as an advertising medium, disputes the account, he is sued by the company, and on the strength of this written order judgment is given against him.

"It was," said Judge Edge, "a matter of very great anxiety when he was obliged to give verdicts for the plaintiff company in the face of evidence which came from all parts of the country that the orders were obtained by fraud and misrepresentation on the part of the canvassers. But persons who signed written documents must be presumed to know the contents of such documents." This is perhaps a sound principle in such matters, though as a matter of fact the presumption may often be unfounded. The fact that the Commercial Catalogue Company obtains its verdicts does not, however, in any way diminish its moral responsibility for the system of swindling—it is nothing else—which is practised by its agents.

A case at Lucan Petty Sessions last week in which a school teacher was convicted of assaulting a child is worthy of notice on account of the evidence of Father Fennelly, the manager of the school. It was shown that the child, a little girl, had been very seriously caned over the hands, arms, and body, many bruises attesting the violence of the punishment. Father Fennelly told the magistrates that he always instructed "his" teachers to give a child "a good slashing" when it was deserved. He was asked how the child came to be so badly bruised. "The slashing, of course," was his reverence's reply; "she got a good trouncing—a thorough good slashing—but she deserved it." He was reminded again that the little girl was black and blue, but the fact simply elicited the further remark that he was often black and blue himself when he was a boy. His early experiences seem to have had a somewhat hardening effect upon Father Fennelly. With such an enthusiasm for the "slashing" of children, he hardly seems to be in the right place as a school manager, but perhaps the action of the Bench in fining the teacher £1 and costs will do something to convince him of the danger, if not the cruelty, of beating little girls till they are black and blue.

In view of what has been repeatedly said in these columns, I am naturally interested to observe that the City police are prosecuting one of the parties engaged in obtaining fees from "persons (inexperienced) desirous of becoming stewards, etc.," on "ocean liners." Nicholls, the man arrested in the City, styled himself sometimes "Liner and Co." and sometimes "Williams and Co.," and at the barber's shop which he used as an accommodation address the police seized seventy-six letters containing postal orders and stamps which had apparently arrived by one morning's post. As the prisoner is now under remand, it would, of course, be improper to make any comments upon the case; but I gather from a remark that he made to the detective who arrested him that before he embarked in this line of business he had been himself tricked out of a fee by Scale and Co., of Stockport. The latter have been carrying on this business by means of precisely similar advertisements and circulars for some time past, and I commend the action of the City Police to the notice of the Chief Constable of Stockport. Other harpies of the same species are the notorious Forshaw, of Bolton, Breakell, of Birkdale, and an individual trading as "Seaborne and Co.," of 76 Brixton-road, S.W., all of whom are equally deserving of the attention of the police.

Two grievances in connection with the administration of Crowner's Quest Law were ventilated at an inquest at Emneth, near Wisbech, last week on the body of a boy who had been drowned whilst attempting to rescue a companion from the canal. The accident occurred on Monday afternoon, but the inquest did not take place till Thursday morning, and the Vicar stated that this delay had aroused a strong feeling in the parish. It was explained that the coroner was unwell and that his deputy had been unable to attend earlier owing to previous engagements; but though the delay on this occasion may have been unavoidable, it is a matter of common knowledge that inquests in country districts very often are put off unduly to suit the convenience of officials. The other complaint referred to the fact that for three days the body was locked up, uncoffined, in a barn, behind the village inn. The parents were anxious that the corpse should be placed in a coffin, but the police-constable was under the impression that it must not be moved or touched till after the inquest, and so, much to their distress, it was left in the barn. It was, of course, pointed out that this was quite unnecessary in a case where there was no suspicion of foul play. The delusion that bodies on which inquests are to be held should be left as they are found is very prevalent in the country, but police constables, at any rate, ought to know better, and if they do not, it is time that they were instructed on the subject.

Four years ago Edward Evans, described as a "rockman" of Porthywaen, near Oswestry, was convicted of stealing a cow, and sentenced to a month's imprisonment. Last week Edward was again before the local magistrates on a charge of stealing a small piece of beef from a butcher's cart, and was again sentenced to a month's imprisonment. No doubt he now appreciates the truth of the saying that a man may as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb.

NAPLES.—GRAND HOTEL. The leading first-class hotel of Naples. Unrivalled situation. Facing bay and Vesuvius. Proprietors, HAUSER & DOEPFNER.

BOLIVAR is the very best and most reliable brand of Havana Cigars. Delicious nutty flavour, "like the good old crops of back years." From all good retailers.

In my Legal Pillory this week I give an instructive study in sentences at the Staffordshire Quarter Sessions, where two prisoners, charged with petty larceny, received just double the punishment which was inflicted upon a callous and brutal ruffian, convicted of wounding his wife by breaking her leg. Very likely it will be said that there were previous convictions against the thieves, but even if this be so the fact would still be insufficient to account for the glaring disparity between the sentences, which were obviously based upon the pernicious theory that offences against property are more heinous than offences against the person. There is another effective illustration of the working of this magisterial theory in the contrasted cases from Carmarthen and Sunderland respectively. For kicking a man in such a dastardly manner that he had to be carried to the infirmary, the defendant at Carmarthen was called upon to pay a fine of half a crown; for damaging the door of a colliery company's office by kicking it, the defendant at Sunderland was awarded a month's imprisonment! Among the remaining items in the following list, those from Southampton, Truro, and Lochgelly are noteworthy as examples of the leniency which is extended to old offenders in cases of violence. If the defendants had been charged with poaching, or petty theft, or sleeping out, they would have been committed to gaol without the option of a fine:—

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Before Lord Hatherton and other magistrates. William Henry Price pleaded guilty to inflicting grievous bodily harm on his wife. The Chairman said the man was evidently possessed of brutal instincts. After his wife's leg was broken through this assault, he threw a bucket of water over her and refused to help the doctor who was called in. Six months.

Southampton Borough Police-court. Mr. J. E. Le Feuvre and other magistrates. James Finley, charged with being drunk and disorderly and with assaulting a constable. He kicked the officer and struck him in the mouth, loosening two of his teeth. There were several previous convictions. Fined 30s. and costs for the two offences.

Carmarthen Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and other justices. Thomas Pickup, charged with assaulting William Boswell by kicking him in a dangerous part. Boswell had to be conveyed to the infirmary, and the surgeon said such a kick might prove fatal. Fined 2s. 6d. and costs.

Colchester Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. W. Butcher, H. Goody, C. H. T. Marshall, and Asher Prior. George Chilvers, charged with assaulting his wife. A policeman said the woman came to him with her left eye blackened and her face covered with blood. On the officer asking defendant to let her return to the house, defendant replied that if she came indoors he would "bash her brains in and break her neck." The woman had to spend the night in the police station for safety. Fined 10s. and costs., and bound over to keep the peace for three months.

Staffordshire Quarter Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Thomas Hawthorne, charged with stealing a pair of boots. Twelve months.

George Wilson, charged with stealing a basket. Twelve months.

West Bromwich Police-court. James Ward, charged with stealing two pairs of boots. Six months.

Saffron Walden County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. E. B. Gibson, J. Bell, and J. Bailey. Alfred Wisbey, charged with poaching. Two pheasants were found in his possession. Two months.

Wednesbury Police-court. Harry Hainsworth, charged with stealing a pair of boots from a shop. Three months.

Sunderland Police-court. Chas. Spooner, charged with damaging a door at the Wearmouth Colliery offices. It was stated that whilst a meeting was going on defendant and another man kicked at the door. The damage was estimated at 5s. One month.

Thingoe Petty Sessions. Before the Rev. J. White, Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Josselyn, Lieutenant-Colonel Newcome, and Messrs. R. Burrell and J. H. Thornhill. George Buckle, charged with poaching. One month.

Chippenham Police-court. Before the Mayor. John Salter, charged with sleeping-out. Fourteen days.

Chorley Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. J. Whitehead, G. T. Brown, R. L. Crosse, and Major Anderton. William Westwell, charged with stealing a pair of clogs. One month.

Truro City Police-court. Richard Masters, charged with assaulting Richard Whitford. Complainant was knocked down by a brutal blow in the eye, and he had to be taken to the infirmary. There were nineteen previous convictions against the defendant, including nine for assaults. Fined 10s. 6d. and 14s. 6d. costs.

Lochgelly Police-court. Before Bailie Henderson. Daniel M'Donald, convicted of what the magistrate characterised as a cowardly and brutal assault upon an old woman. There were several previous convictions. Fined 30s.

Cupar Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Armour. Andrew Black Briggs, miner, charged with committing a breach of the peace and with assaulting George Mullen and William Black, by striking them with a poker. Fined 30s.

Brighouse Police-court. Four men, named Joe Whittaker, Chaplin, Holroyd, and Alfred Whittaker, convicted of assaulting a policeman. After being ejected from a public-house, defendants created a disturbance in the street, and the constable asked them to go away. All four then attacked him, striking him and kicking him in a most brutal manner about the head, face, and body. Joe Whittaker fined £5 and costs, and the others £2 each and costs.

Sheffield City Police-court. Before Mr. E. M. E. Welby. Joseph Gillott, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. Twenty one days.

Paisley Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Lyell. Ralph Sweeney and John Ellingham, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £1 15s. each; in default of payment, thirty days.

Launceston Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. W. Hare. William Stevenson, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

Tiverton Police-court. Thomas Tucker, charged with stealing a fowl. One month.

Cupar Sheriff Court. John Sloan Kirkwood, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2.

John Printie and Charles Stewart, charged with sleeping-out. Fined £2; in default, twenty-one days.

A common form of imposition on the charitable public received a check at Lincoln Police-court last week, when one of a gang of youths from a so-called "Boys' Home" at Nottingham was charged with acting as a pedlar without a certificate. The youths, who were dressed in a uniform, called from house to house with books and music, presenting a circular in which they solicited purchases on the ground that they belonged to a brigade established to provide for unemployed boys until situations could be obtained for them. The Chief Constable said that he had ascertained from Nottingham that there was no such "home" as was suggested, but that the youths were simply engaged by a man named Scothern to sell goods in return for a wage of 3s. 6d. a week and their food and clothing. The Chairman of the Bench remarked that the "boys' home" seemed to be run for private profit, and the defendant was fined half-a-crown. I trust that the action of the police at Lincoln will be imitated elsewhere, or, better still, that some means will be devised for bringing to book the principals of businesses of this kind. There are many such practically bogus "homes" and "brigades" in London and the provinces which send out youths to sell goods under what are virtually false pretences, thereby demoralising them as well as imposing on the public.

Judge Emden was assuredly justified in stigmatising as monstrous the system of extortion by the Camberwell Borough Council, which was disclosed in an action at Lambeth County Court last week. A widow sued the Council for the return of 27s. paid "for the expense of conveying her to Holloway Prison," for non-payment of rates, on three occasions. It appeared that as a matter of fact no such expense was incurred, for on each occasion when the warrant was executed the widow paid

Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as waste paper.—Secretary, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

the amount demanded, and the Council took as a profit on the transaction the 9s. charged under the above heading. On the ground that the plaintiffs' proper remedy was by means of an application to the justices at quarter sessions, the Judge was compelled to dismiss the action, but at the same time he spoke out strongly against the imposition which had been practised.

To complete the story it came out that on a fourth occasion when a warrant for her arrest was presented, the widow was able to pay the full amount of the rates and the costs with the exception of the 9s. for her conveyance to Holloway. The warrant officer declined, however, to accept anything less than the full sum specified in the warrant, and she was accordingly removed in custody to the prison. The custom in these cases seems to be that if you can pay for going to prison you don't go, and that if you cannot pay you do go. It would be hard to conceive anything more unreasonable and unjust, and it is satisfactory to know that the legality of the system is to be tested by a further action against the borough authorities for false imprisonment.

I am glad to see that the police have laid their hands again upon Mr. W. Ridley Carr, otherwise John Paget, as I suggested should be done in Truth of November 17. As mentioned on that occasion, this individual who has served several terms of imprisonment for frauds in the character of a scholastic agent, was no sooner released on ticket of leave a couple of months or so ago, than he set to work at the old game, using apparently his old stock-in-trade. When brought up at Clerkenwell Police-court on Saturday, charged with failing to report himself to the police, he resorted to one of his old tricks—feigning deafness, and wearing green glasses, and informing the magistrate that, owing to his infirmity of sight and hearing, he was unable to understand what he was charged with. The Detective-Inspector, H. Kane, who had him in hand, gave him the character of "the cleverest impostor in England," and stated that he had been on the police records for about thirty-one years. Paget was thereupon sent back to prison for twelve months; but it is a pity that the term is not longer, for he is evidently a hopeless incorrigible.

It is reported in a Norwich paper that a local resident, whose name is charitably withheld, has been victimised by the Spanish Prisoner to the tune of £70. An attempt was made to extract more money from him, but the citizen grew cautious, and the swindler then added insult to injury by a letter telling him that the whole affair was a fraud, and counselling him to say nothing about it, as his friends would make fun of him, and the Press would "write satires" upon him "Let it be a lesson to you for the remainder of your life," the swindler concluded, "and under the circumstances I think you will agree with me that resignation is the best thing." Though his dupes naturally do not relish it, the Prisoner gives them very sound advice.

By the way, this venerable version of the confidence trick is now being practised on people in the West Indies by some swindlers operating from the city of Mexico. Except for the necessary variation of the details, the letters which form the opening move in the game are practically copies of those used by the Spanish Prisoner. In one of these effusions, which has been sent to me from Jamaica, the writer says that he was "Colonel Cashier of the 1st Military Zone of this Republic," and that he deserted to the United States, carrying away funds to the amount of £36,400. Fearing that he would be arrested in New York, he took a steamer to Kingston, Jamaica, where he became much troubled in conscience over the fate of his adorable daughter, whom he left behind in Mexico. He made up his mind to go back for her, but before doing so he buried his money "in a very sure local near the place you live." As may be guessed, he was arrested and imprisoned on his return to Mexico—"the victim of a delation"—and he now turns to his correspondent for assistance in recovering his fortune, offering as a reward one-third of the whole amount. All that the dupe is asked to do for his £12,000 is to advance the money required for the passage of the adorable daughter and a companion (who have the plans of the "sure local") from Mexico to Jamaica. People are as gullible in the West Indies as elsewhere, and I fear that many will succumb to this Mexican fraud.

My old friend Tanquerey, of the Société Artistique de Portraits, is now engaged in spoiling the Egyptians. For their benefit he is announcing a "Grand Découverte Artistique; Agrandissements en Couleur Naturelle." Numbers of circulars offering these *agrandissements* "gratis," and "*absolumment pour rien*," have lately been received in Cairo. I do not suppose that the poor "fellahs" in the Nile Valley are likely to want Tanquerey to enlarge their photographs, in colour or otherwise; but, of course, these circulars are designed for the benefit of European residents in Egypt, and it is as well, therefore, that they should inform themselves of the cost of Tanquerey's gratis portraits, before giving him their orders.

From an advertisement appearing in a French provincial paper, I see that the McLaughlin gang have extended their operations to France, their headquarters being in the Boulevard Montmartre, Paris. The advertisement is directed particularly to women, who are invited by the "Doctor" to apply for "mon beau livre illustré expliquant ma méthode." "Mon beau livre" is, I take it, the same filthy production with which these quacks sought to push the sale of electric belts on this side of the Channel. I had thought that the authorities in France had a shorter way of dealing with quacks than we are blessed with. Apparently I am mistaken in this opinion, but I trust that there

The Carlton Restaurant, Pall Mall, London, S.W.—*The* Restaurant of London. Telephone 1600 Gerrard. Telegrams, "Carlton Hotel, London." C. Ritz, General Manager.

will be found some of my French contemporaries public-spirited enough to warn their fellow countrywomen against having anything to do with this bogus doctor and his Electro-Vigueur humbug.

An advertisement has lately been appearing in various provincial papers—and I dare say in London papers also, although I do not happen to have come across it—headed "Curing Catarrh Without Operations." It begins thus:—

> The medical staff of the Dean Drug Company, Ltd., London, are opposing the treatment of catarrh by the cutting, burning, and painful methods regularly adopted by the majority of nose and throat specialists. Leaving out of the question growths, tumours, and polypi, they say catarrhal diseases of the nose and throat simply need common sense treatment, which can be conducted by correspondence when necessary, etc., etc.

It seems desirable to point out that the Dean Drug Company is simply a company floated a short time ago to take over from Mr. Carré the London branch of the Drouet Institute; and the "Secretary, Dean Drug Company, Limited, 10, Marble Arch, W.," whose name is appended to this advertisement, is no doubt Carré himself. I am very glad to see that the Drouet Institute has found it desirable to adopt an alias, for it shows that the original name has become only too well known, and that the business is on the down grade. The objections to the Drouet business, however, remain unchanged, whatever the name under which it is advertised.

The M. A. Winter Co., of 339 and 341, Pennsylvania-avenue, Washington, who some little time ago were offering agencies for the sale of their "highly-polished chocolate-coated Health Restorers" to the nobility and gentry of this country, are now busy in mapping out fresh territory for residents in India to operate in. One such offer has reached an officer in the jungle of Assam, possibly with a view to his dosing any tigers in the neighbourhood who may be a little out of condition. Another has been made to an officer engaged at the ammunition factory at Dum-dum, and my correspondent, being a humane man, naturally has no desire to become an agent for the distribution of explosive ammunition of this nature. I do not know what success the M. A. Winter Co. has had in inducing our dukes and duchesses to peddle pills, but I can safely assure Thos. H. McKee, secretary and treasurer of the concern, that English officers are not likely to become quack agents.

I should not advise any one to send a postal order for 1s. 7d. to W. Ritchie in response to the following advertisement, which has been appearing in the *London Magazine* and elsewhere, if he entertains any hopes of obtaining a musical box in return for his cash.

> The Bijou Musical Box represents a Musical-box playing Six Popular Airs and introducing the Chimes, Bugle Calls, Cuckoo, etc. A great novelty. Copyright. Post free, 1s. 7d. (per postal order). W. Ritchie (A.C.), 17, Houghton Street, Liverpool.

The musical box is "represented" by a four-page piece of music worth about 2d. To trick any one into purchasing this rubbish by means of a carefully-framed advertisement may seem "a great novelty" to Ritchie, though to me it looks much more like a common swindle, and I am surprised to find the advertisement appearing even in the none-too-particular columns of the *London Magazine*.

In looking through the advertisement columns of the Christmas number of the same magazine, I have found the following stupendous list of quack remedies the delusive nature of which has been exposed, in many cases over and over again, in TRUTH:—

Diano (Espanola Medicine Co., alias Pointing).
Fell's Reducing Tablets. (Pointing.)
Ward Chemical Co.'s. Cure for Drunkenness. (Pointing.)
Magic Foot Drafts for Rheumatism. (Pointing.)
Capillus Manufacturing Co.'s Remedy for superfluous hair. (Pointing.)
Grecian System of Physical Culture. (Pointing.)
McLaughlin's Electro Vigour.
Yonkerman's Consumption Cure.
Weidhaas Institute Consumption Cure.
The Cartilage Co.'s "How to Grow Tall."
Keith Harvey, Deaf Specialist.
D. Clifton, Deaf Specialist.
Rice's Rupture Cure.
Research Publishing Company.

London Magazine is the property of a company, the profits of which for the past financial year are returned at no less than £278,000, and a dividend of 35 per cent. has just been declared upon its Ordinary shares. One can understand a poor struggling newspaper barely able to keep its head above water accepting advertisements of this character, but there is no such excuse for a company earning profits on this scale.

Since my criticism of the methods of business adopted by the Weidhaas Institute, I have received nothing in the shape of reply from the Institute nor from Mr. Richard Haynel, its director. I have, however, received some further correspondence which tends to confirm my opinion as to the quackery of the whole concern. Like McLaughlin, or any other of the notorious American quacks, the Weidhaas Institute makes a bold bid to obtain as customers persons who have been lured into communication with it through newspaper advertisement, by means of a carefully-drafted series of follow-up letters. Quite on the McLaughlin plan, too, is the offer to suit the price to the pocket of the customer if the latter prove coy to the earlier blandishments. "On the condition," writes Mr. Haynel, "that you give my treatment a thoroughly fair trial, and do not disclose the exceptional reduction, I will accept my fee in instalments of 21s. prepaid, and 10s. 6d. a month." This is part of the everyday practice of the ordinary quack.

If any further evidence of quackery is needed, it is to be found in the latest advertisements of the Institute. In these the claim is made that the Weidhaas treatment is as effective in the cure of consumption as in asthma, bronchitis, and other diseases of a chronic type. In dealing with the Drouet Institute, I have

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as SCRUBB'S. Insist upon SCRUBB'S. "MAKES HOME SWEET HOME IN DEED."

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

again and again pointed out the dangers of attempting to diagnose and treat consumption by means of correspondence, and there is no need to repeat my arguments on the subject. In default of any reply from Mr. Haynel, I can only assume that he is not possessed of any medical qualification; but, even if he were a qualified practitioner, he would not be any more justified in pretending to diagnose the condition of a patient without a personal examination. Only a quack does that.

In an article last week on circularising moneylenders I gave a conspicuous place to two Jews named Manoy who trade under the registered alias of "Carringtons, Limited." Their rapacity is exemplified by a transaction which has since come under my notice. An applicant for a loan of £50 received in cash £46 10s., £3 10s. being deducted from the nominal amount of the loan as a procuration fee. He gave a promissory note for £70, payable in monthly instalments of £5 each, and seven instalments, making £35, were duly paid. The next instalment was not paid on the proper date, but the borrower eventually sent a cheque for £5 5s., the additional five shillings being tendered for thirty days' extra interest. Carringtons, however, refused to accept this, and issued a suit for the recovery of the whole outstanding balance of £35, which became payable at once upon default being made upon any monthly instalment. When account is taken of the reduction of the principal each month, the interest charged works out at a very high rate; but the Judge who tried the action declined to interfere for the relief of the borrower under the Moneylenders Act, Carringtons consequently getting judgment for £35 and costs. The fact that Shylock was awarded his full pound of flesh, however, only emphasises the danger of falling into his toils.

There was, by the way, a case at Chester County Court last week in which the Moneylenders Act was successfully invoked against a notorious bloodsucker, named Woolfe Jackson. He had obtained judgment against a borrower for £18 18s. and costs, but the defendant had applied for a new trial and claimed relief under the Act on the ground that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable. Jackson alleged that he advanced £8, while the defendant swore that he only received £5. Taking Jackson's own statement, the Judge, Sir Horatio Lloyd, found that the interest charged on the loan of £8 was at the rate of 15s. a week, which would of course work out at hundreds per cent. per annum. His Honour felt no difficulty in deciding that this came well within the definition of a "harsh and unconscionable" bargain, and he accordingly revised the terms with the result that the usurer was awarded £9 9s. 4d. in the place of the £18 18s. for which he originally got judgment. It is satisfactory to see that the Act is not always treated as a dead letter.

The monopoly of stencil-cutting as home employment, hitherto held by Golding and Co., of East Dulwich, is seriously challenged by a firm calling themselves Norman and Co., who date their circulars from 111, Fleet-street. "Norman and Co." are of the retiring disposition which distinguishes so many of these home employment benefactors, for the door of their second-floor office bears the announcement "Application by letter only." This desire for privacy can be easily understood from the experience of one of my correspondents, who was induced to send 1s. 6d. "to cover expenses" of materials for the work, under a promise of repayment when the work was returned. The stencils were cut and the materials returned, but all requests for payment, either of the preliminary fee or for the work done, have been simply ignored. The whole business is clearly nothing more than a trap for the unwary.

Referring again to the Hardy Machine and Woollen Co., of Manchester, here is an interesting extract from a letter written by them in reply to an application for the full address of some of the parties from whom they profess to have received testimonials, the said testimonials being circulated as advertisements:—

> We are in receipt of your letter, and in reply may say that we cannot furnish you with the full addresses of the people you request without their permission. If we furnished these addresses to every person who asked for them, these people would be so busy answering letters that they would have no time for knitting, and we do not pay for the service of letter-writing for us . . . . .

The last statement can easily be believed. The question is whether the company ever pays "these people" for any other service, including the home employment which it offers them.

I see, by the way, on some of the latest circulars of this concern that Mr. Horace M. Hardy is described as the proprietor of the firm. As I have already said, I believe this business to be owned, or, at any rate, conducted, by the man Albert Bennett, who was connected for years with various home employment firms in London, and who eventually fled the country after having been pronounced by a County Court Judge guilty of "a gross and cruel fraud" in the character of the Home and Colonial Knitting Co. If Mr. Horace M. Hardy is not the aforesaid Bennett, he would do well to establish that fact without delay, and also to explain in what capacity Bennett has been employed on his premises. When I first referred to the business of the Hardy Machine Co., I was warned that Mr. Hardy had been "sent for," and that I might expect unpleasant consequences when he arrived upon the scene. That is a good many months ago, but up to the present Mr. Hardy—who presumably has returned long since—has thought it better to lie low.

From a recent complaint it appears that canvassers for the directories published by Wm. Macdonald and Co., Ltd., are still required to sign the extraordinary agreement upon which I commented about three years ago. The agreement, which fills three closely-printed foolscap pages, places the employees completely under the thumb of the employers. For the work of compiling names and addresses and procuring advertise-

ALFRED B. PEARCE, 39, LUDGATE HILL, LONDON, E.C. provides China and Glass Outfits for the Palace or Cottage. First-class quality. Superior taste. Moderate prices.

ments and orders for the directories a man is paid a salary starting at 2s. a day, and rising to 2s. 6d. after the first month, 3s. after the first year, and 3s. 4d. after three years, with a commission of twopence in the shilling on prepaid orders. There are many districts in which only a very trifling amount of commission can be earned, and it is difficult to see how a man constantly moving from place to place can contrive to support himself on his beggarly salary, which is, moreover, only paid for those days on which he sends in a report by the same night's post, showing that he has been at work. Nevertheless, the canvasser is not only bound to devote his time and attention "solely to the business of the company," but obliged to submit to deductions from his salary by way of "fines and penalties" whenever he breaks any of the host of regulations contained in the agreement. Finally, he has to hand over £10 to the company as "cash security," and the agreement provides that they may retain this sum for twelve months after the termination of the engagement, and that deductions may be made from it on a variety of pretexts.

One of the canvassers states that, as though the conditions of his employment were not already sufficiently oppressive, he was lately informed that his wage of half-a-crown a day would be stopped unless he collected 7s. 6d. a day for the company. He found it impossible to collect 7s. 6d. a day in the district assigned to him, and as a consequence he was stranded there, a long distance from the town where he was originally engaged. Of course, it may be said that the canvassers must abide by the agreements into which they enter, just as the tradesmen and others whom they beguile into advertising in the directories must fulfil their contracts, however disappointed they may be with the results of their expenditure. That, however, is no credit to the company.

I have always regarded Mr. Chamberlain as a wonderful man, and never more so than after reading his address at the Birmingham University dinner last week. He there stated that for upwards of half a century he had eaten ices whenever he could get them; that he has smoked whenever he had nothing else to do, and frequently at other times; and that he had always consumed in moderation such intoxicating liquors as he saw before him, for all which indulgences he has never felt himself any the worse. When I read this, there came back to me the exclamation of a very old friend: "Joey is tough, Sir, tough—and devilish sly!"

THE CHAMBERLAIN SUGAR PLUM.

When, to put in Christmas stockings and to hang on Christmas trees,
You select the lollipops which now abound,
You will notice that, pursuant to the Government's decrees,
You, for all, must pay an extra sum per pound!
Yes, the absent-minded Joseph, and his friends through thin and thick,
Not content with all the mischief they have done,
With that stubbornness and blindness which the Nation makes so sick,
Have sent up the price of sweetmeats with a run!

So, duke's son, cook's son, children of high or low,
Remember! before you suck the sweets that are yours on Christmas Day,
That, for every drop and lollipop that within your lips shall go,
Somebody 's had an augmented price
To Pay! Pay! Pay!

And let every thirsty laundress and char-lady of the land
Bear in mind, as she sips lovingly her tea,
That her second lump of sugar, if not absolutely bann'd,
Has had its size reduced by Mr. C.!
And let every British Workman, lured to Moderation's ways
By the cheap and anti-alcoholic cup,
Note the way that this same meddler, in these "Fiscalitish" days,
Has sent the price of mineral waters up!
Young folks, old folks, all have alike good cause
To resent the blunder—or is it crime?—which has made the land its prey;
Since, whoever we be, we can't be free from Protection's evil laws—
For the pranks of the cranks from Birmingham
We must Pay! Pay! Pay!

Were the rich alone affected, we might let the matter pass,
But the victims, doomed henceforth to harder fare,
Are the poorest and the weakest of our people, who, alas!
Had already found their loads so hard to bear!
And thanks to this new burden that our "statesmen" have devised,
Since with Brummagem concoctions they were dosed,
Of the helpless, hopeless thousands 'mongst the sufferers comprised,
'Tis the children who will feel this hardship most!
Bread that cheap jam made toothsome again must be eaten dry;
Sweets, which their farthings purchased, no longer will come their way;
'Tis the girls and boys bereft of joys and inured from birth to pain,
It is these that have for a Fiscal fad
To Pay! Pay! Pay!

What, then, of those crass bunglers who have caused such things to be?
Whose boasted panacea proves a sham?
What of those who take the sugar from the poor man's cup of tea,
And from the children's bread scrape off the jam?
It is they, we must remember, who, to show what they could do,
Have stuck to their fell plan through thick and thin;
It is they who loudly told us days of plenty they 'd renew;
And *this* is how the blunderers begin!
B.'s men; C.'s men—Tariff Reformers all!—
These are they whom we ought to blame for the state of affairs to-day.
These are the men who, with tongue and pen, have answered Joseph's call—
These are the men that in the end
Must Pay! Pay! Pay!

The reports of the Rhodesian meetings are sometimes funny reading. I came across one the other day which amused me. The company was called the Crescens Mines and Land Company. The chairman announced that it had made a loss for the year of £24,960, but seemed to fancy that it would cheer the shareholders to hear that the hut tax of 20s. per head on natives, although only due in September,

had been paid by these enthusiastic tax-payers in the previous July, though why—unless compulsion was used—they were such simple fools he did not explain, or how this benefited the company, as the tax goes to the Chartered Company, and not to the Crescens Company. He then announced that the directors had received an offer for their assets, which apparently was to be paid in the shares of some other company, as in recommending it he said that he preferred a share in a company whose securities had a marketable value. The directors, he continued, having no mandate from the shareholders to agree to a sale, he courted an expression of opinion from the meeting.

Mr. Scobell, a shareholder, on this arose and failed to see how the board justified their opening statement that they "had pleasure in presenting the report." It was a pleasure in which the shareholders did not share. He was succeeded by Mr. Sloper, who thought that the shareholders had not one sixpence to rub against the other. He then digressed into a tirade against prospectless companies, and stated that in his opinion the banket discovery was the discovery of no banket, but of a volcanic formation of the geyser kind, an opinion which the chairman declared to be the acme of absurdity. Again the chairman urged the expression of opinion as to the wisdom of a sale or amalgamation. This, the shareholders urged, was not a question before the meeting, and one of them objected to be amalgamated with any concern that was shuttlecocked, or used as a gambling counter on the Stock Exchange. Several said that they would accept a good thing and not a bad one. Almost all were against giving the chairman power to enter into an agreement that was not first fully disclosed to the shareholders. On this the chairman asked for a "concrete opinion." Would they amalgamate with a good concern or trust to Providence? This concrete opinion the shareholders declined to give. But the chairman declined to recognise that he was beaten. Again he made a speech. Did they want to amalgamate? he said. A voice: "Yes, on terms." On which he announced that he believed that he had elicited the opinion of the meeting, and he thanked the voice. And so the meeting came to an end.

I know absolutely nothing of the Crescens Company. But the proceedings seem to me suggestive of what goes on in many of these Rhodesian companies. I should certainly not trust the chairman to amalgamate with any other company that he might please. On the other hand, it seems hardly probable that Providence will interfere to convert the losses of a mining company into gain. When the company was launched I suppose that the certainty of good dividends was announced, for the most sanguine ass would not take shares in a claim company in South Africa were he told that he must trust to Providence for a profit. Providence apart, were I a shareholder in the company, I think that I should ask for an independent report on its formation and on the fair market value of its property. If any individual or company liked to buy it at that value, I would sell it. But payment would have to take the form of cash, and not of shares in some other company. Two rotten eggs do not make one omelette. The quoted market price of a share is one thing, to be able to sell shares at that price is quite another. Two astute men of Boston are said each to have made a fortune by continually swapping a knife. Rhodesian and Transvaal companies are always engaged in amalgamating or reconstructing. I suppose that some one profits by these financial operations, but I doubt if it be shareholders.

What particularly amused me in the report of this meeting was the mode in which the chairman finished by getting his own way, against what apparently was that of the shareholders. It was what the Americans call "right clever." Mr. Balfour never did better in the House of Commons, and should the Unionist Party lose his services, I would advise them to take this chairman as their leader.

The Japanese are somewhat indignant at the Russian warships navigating with English coal. Lord Lansdowne could, however, do no more than declare—as he has done—that in his opinion English colliers accompanying a belligerent fleet as tenders are liable to punishment under our Foreign Enlistment Act, and that he fully recognises that coal is good prize. Even if the Japs were to insist on our Government taking action, could they come into court with clean hands? Have they not purchased British coal for belligerent use during the war?

We have a perfect right unofficially to sympathise with the Japanese and to wish them the victory. But a considerable number of our journalistic guides do not exactly realise our official position in regard to the Russo-Japanese war. Whether we were right or wrong in making our treaty with Japan is open to difference of opinion. My own impression is that it was a mistake, for it might involve us in a war not essential to our own interests. We are not, however, by the terms of that treaty the allies of Japan in a general sense, but only should certain events take place, which have not taken, and I trust never will take place. As it is, we are simply neutrals, looking on regretfully at two friendly nations cutting each other's throats, and bound to act with absolute impartiality in regard to both. The fact, indeed, of our having a contingent treaty with one of the belligerents should make us specially careful in holding the balance even. According to the text writers on international law, it is even held that if one country is bound to afford specific and limited aid to another country in case it be at war with a third, the granting of this aid does not constitute in itself a *casus belli*,

Weymouth. — The charming Dorsetshire Seaside Resort. Municipal Orchestra, one of the finest on S. Coast, performs twice daily. Send six 1d. stamps Town Clerk, for beautifully Illus. Guide.

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

although the country thus damnified may make it one if it so please. For instance, if France had agreed by treaty with Russia to allow her ships of war to coal in all French Eastern ports, the coaling by such ships would not have been a violation of neutrality, although the same permission were not accorded to Japanese ships of war.

Where it seems to me that our treaty with Japan might prove useful would be if Japan were to refuse to make peace with Russia on what, in our opinion, were fair and reasonable terms. Under these circumstances we should be justified in telling Japan that if, in consequence of the refusal she finds some Great Power aiding Russia, she must not expect any aid from us. This would probably make for peace.

My own sympathies are with Japan; but they would never lead me to seek an occasion to rush into war with Russia, as our Jingo prints would have had us, when the Dogger Bank incident took place. On the whole, I regard the action of Lord Lansdowne as thoroughly sound. Anything that creates a precedent for arbitration is so much gained for peace. What specially pleases me is that the country has shown that it has had enough of newspaper dictation. So far, the war in South Africa, with its millions spent to establish a mining oligarchy in the Transvaal, based on the servile labour of Chinese, has been a useful object lesson. That war was the outcome of an alliance between Mr. Chamberlain, a few wealthy mining cosmopolitans, and a handful of newspaper owners. I do not know what Mr. Chamberlain's views in regard to the Dogger Bank incident were, and the Transvaal cosmopolitans had no reason to court a war with Russia. The Jingo newspaper owners find that their shouts for war were not deemed of more importance than the baying of a pack of wolves at the moon.

THE TEA AND THE SUGAR.

Once in her Cup, while taking Tea,
A Dame dropped Lumps of Sugar three.
The Tea, who thought Disdain of Sweets,
Thus the Intruder, scornful, greets:
"How dare you, sticky, sickly Mess,
Your loathsome Presence on me press?
Come, run away; or, sure as Fate,
I 'll melt you and annihilate."
The Sugar didn't run away;
He couldn't, so he had to stay;
And Tea, attacking with a Will,
Soon melted him away to *Nil*.
At least, the Tea-spoon, probing round,
Not one remaining Granule found;
But Tea as Amber-clear was seen,
As if no Sugar there had been.
"Observe," exclaimed triumphant Tea,
"What cometh of defying me.
If, at my Word, you 'd cut and run,
You were not thus reduced to None.
But now, complete Effacement's Lot
Is yours. In Fact, you just are not."
"Unfounded, Sir, is your Rejoicing,"
The Answer came, a muffled Voice in.
"You think I 'm NOT. 'Tis Nothing such.
I AM (*au contraire*) very much.
Nor have you, as you vainly thought,
By melting me, reduced to Nought,
But merely turned my solid Forces
Into unseen and liquid Courses.
For, though no longer now I be
In Lumps that you can touch and see,
My Substance, by Disintegration,
Gains in its Power of Permeation,
And, blending with your sweetened Cup,
Asserts itself in every Sup."

Moral.

To crush the outward Demonstration
Of rising Freedom, in a Nation,
Is not to kill that Freedom's Force,
But merely to divert its Course
Through Channels secret, out of Sight,
Whence (having gathered pent-up Might)
'Twill break, at length, in boundless Wrath,
And sweep th' Oppressor from its Path.

SCRUTATOR.

FISCAL OBJECT-LESSONS.

IT is not altogether to be regretted that the country has before it at the present time two striking object-lessons on the fiscal question. The first is afforded by the effect of the Brussels Convention on the sugar trade and the British industries dependent upon it; the second by the unemployed question. Free Traders are twitted by the other side with inconsistency in objecting to international measures for getting rid of the Continental sugar bounties. Their position in this matter, however, is perfectly clear and legitimate. They did not defend or approve of the bounties. They simply said that if foreign nations choose to tax themselves in order to supply us below the normal price with goods of which we can make profitable use, that is their affair, and that it is not our business to interfere with them to our own disadvantage. To do so, in fact, would be precisely that kind of pedantic adherence to an abstract principle, without regard to the effect on ourselves, with which Free Traders are absurdly reproached. The pedants in this case were the Protectionists, or Fair Traders, or whatever they call themselves, who, after years of agitation, persuaded our Government to convert the foreigner to a better sense of his own interests. The result is precisely what every Free Trader predicted. The foreigner has gained the sole benefit, and we have been very hard hit. Even our West India Colonies, on whose behalf we were urged to take this foolish step, have gained but an insignificant benefit, and it would have been well worth the while for the British trades concerned to have paid a sum down themselves to the West India planters, rather than to have incurred the infinitely greater loss which the Brussels Convention has brought upon them. "This," said Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman when the measure was before the House of Commons, "is a proposal for raising the price, restricting the supply, and diminishing the consumption of sugar." Mr. Balfour replied that "in the opinion of the Government the price of sugar would not be raised; on the contrary, it would be diminished"; and his brother,

the President of the Board of Trade, confirmed this, with a cocksure prediction that "about £10 per ton should be the normal price of sugar after the Convention had come into operation." The event has shown which side was right. The price of sugar is now £14 per ton, and the importation has fallen off in proportion. The countries, against whom our sapient Ministers thought themselves to be aiming a serious blow, are consuming more sugar and paying less for it. The great industries that have been built up in England upon cheap sugar are suffering disastrously, and their workpeople not the least, witness the evidence of Messrs. Clarke, Nicholls, and Coombs, Messrs. Icke and Sharp of Birmingham, and Messrs. Fry of Bristol, who have discharged a number of their workpeople. Every household in the Kingdom is at the same time paying so much more per week for one of the necessaries of life, the tax falling, as usual, most heavily upon those who can least afford it.

The most desperate efforts are, of course, being made to show that the rise of price is attributable to the weather, or the machinations of speculators, or anything rather than the folly of our Government; but it has not been shown how the weather has cheapened sugar abroad and also increased the consumption; nor that the Convention has not itself strengthened the hands of the speculators. So damning are the facts to the Tariff Reformers that Mr. Chamberlain has even thought it necessary to write a letter explaining them away. The letter is hardly worth the answers it has already received. He absurdly finds that the sudden paralysis of an important industry is only a fresh example of the alleged ruin of all our industries by Free Trade, which the facts so obstinately persist in disproving. He suggests that the trouble has arisen so long after the Convention that it cannot be attributed to it, which is again contrary to the facts, the mischief having made itself apparent almost from the first. He deprecates wide inferences from sudden fluctuations due to changes in the relation of supply and demand; speaking without a particle of proof that such a cause is at work in this instance, and forgetting how often he has built his own case for fiscal reform on purely temporary or local phenomena of the same character.

Even if it could be demonstrated, however, that this is a case of *post hoc*, and not *propter hoc* at all, the real lesson is unaffected. Sugar has been for twenty years or more the classic example of the effects of "dumping." What did this dumping do? It ruined a certain number of English sugar refineries, and threw a good many hundreds of employees out of work for the moment. There is no question about that. But it put into the pockets of the whole community, the working-classes especially, an amount immeasurably greater than the losses under this head; and it supplied us with raw material for new industries out of all proportion to those which were displaced. The number of people employed in British sugar refineries during the pre-bounty era is not known exactly, but it has been estimated at about 7,000. Some 3,000 or 4,000 are still employed in the industry. On the other hand, the number employed to-day in the trades mainly dependent upon sugar as a raw material—chiefly the jam, confectionery, biscuit, and aerated water factories—exceeds 40,000; and that figure does not take into account the agricultural employment afforded by the growth of fruit for preserving. The exports of articles produced in these industries figure very respectably in our trade returns, so that we have actually sold to the wicked foreigner large quantities of goods which we were enabled to produce by his inconsiderate conduct in dumping the raw material on our shores. Mr. Chamberlain has been pleased to sneer at "jam and pickles"; but the pioneers of the movement of which "Tariff Reform" is the latest name, were content to make half their capital out of the ruin of the sugar-refining industry by "unfair competition"; and the Free Trader is entitled to-day to point out that the dumping of bounty-fed sugar, apart from the benefits that it has brought to every household by the reduced price of an article of universal consumption, has created industries beside which the industry which it displaced—only partially displaced—was utterly insignificant. What is true of sugar is true of any article that can be used in a home industry, from steel ingots to doors and window frames. If a foreign country chooses to artificially reduce prices, by any means, in order to place its goods at our disposal, the benefit is ours—a benefit in which both capital and labour share; and we are fools if, out of regard for some sectional interest, which may temporarily suffer, we refuse to take it. If some intelligent foreigner chose to "dump" down a cargo of gold on our shores at a loss to himself, the most short-sighted of Protectionists would hardly object that we should injure ourselves by accepting his generosity. Whether it is gold, or steel, or sugar, or wealth in any other shape, cannot possibly affect the results of the operation. It will be a blessing in disguise if our unpleasant experience in the case of sugar brings this home to the people who can never see an inch beyond the ends of their noses in questions of this kind.

There is the other object-lesson of the unemployed. The *Times* last week, after making an absurd comment on Mr. Asquith's speech at Southend, pointed to the slackness of employment as evidence of the disastrous results of our fiscal system, and bade us note how, by keeping out foreign manufactured goods, we may find employment for all the workless men now walking the streets or filling the workhouses. Since Mr. Chamberlain first attempted to bribe the working classes by promising unlimited employment and higher wages, as the result of protective tariffs, the fallacy of the promise has been shown again and again. A mere comparison of the statistics of "unemployment" in France and other Continental countries with the corresponding figures for this country, is conclusive proof that tariffs can neither provide work for all nor make employment more regular. But there is a peculiar ineptitude about the repetition of this flimsy fallacy at the present moment, for within the last year there has been a marked slackening of our imports, accompanied by a continued rise of our exports. As was very aptly pointed out a few weeks

ago in the *Westminster Gazette*, the trade returns of the last few months indicate precisely the state of things which it is the object of Mr. Chamberlain and the tariff reformers to bring about by artificial means. We are buying less of those accursed foreign goods, and we are selling to the wicked foreigner more of our goods than ever. If, therefore, it is true that by closing your own markets by means of tariffs, and stimulating exports by retaliation or otherwise, more work will be provided for your own people, our own people ought at the present moment to be in an exceptionally prosperous condition. Instead of this, we see that slackness of import and buoyancy of export trade is accompanied by general depression in our home industries, and by a heavy increase of the number of the unemployed. The Free Trade view is that the increase of imports, being attributable to increased purchasing power, is an indication of industrial prosperity, that exports are only valuable as payment for imports, and that the foreigner who brings his goods to our market is finding employment for British labour, because his goods can only be paid for by British goods, or British services of one kind or another. The whole circumtances of the present moment afford the strongest confirmation of this view; and from what we now see it is a fair and reasonable inference that any measures designed to still further check our import trade would reduce instead of increasing the demand for labour at home.

A POST-OFFICE BECK CASE.

The report of the Departmental Committee appointed by the Postmaster-General to inquire into the case of the ex-sorter Careless is, in effect, a monstrous aggravation of an official injustice. The case was dealt with at length in Truth on July 14. After fifteen years' service as a sorter in the Circulation Office, G.P.O., Careless was dismissed in January, 1901, as a person suspected of stealing two postal orders for 8s. 6d. No attempt was made to prove his guilt before a judge and jury. The Post Office does not usually hesitate to prosecute a dishonest servant. In this instance the man begged that he might be put on his trial in a criminal court in order to have an opportunity of clearing his character; but the authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand, perceiving that his trial would inevitably end in his acquittal, refused to prosecute. For upwards of three years Careless made incessant efforts to obtain redress, and in August last the Postmaster-General at length consented to the holding of a Departmental inquiry. The inquiry was conducted by Mr. Francis Salisbury, Postmaster of Liverpool, and Mr. Edwin Winter, Assistant Solicitor to the Post Office.

The report, which has just been presented, expresses the opinion that the charge upon which Careless was dismissed was justified. The reasons the Committee give for arriving at this conclusion are positively astounding in their inadequacy and ineptitude. The only direct evidence against Careless was some so-called evidence of identification. The stolen postal orders were cashed at a public-house, and when the theft was discovered the manageress and her assistant were taken to the Post Office to see whether they could identify Careless. The manageress said that he was the man who cashed the orders; her assistant failed to recognise him at first, but subsequently professed to do so. Apart from this, not a scrap of evidence was produced against Careless, while there were many circumstances telling in his favour. It was alleged that if the letter from which the orders were taken "followed the normal course," it might have been sorted by Careless; but it was shown to be equally possible that it might have been sorted by any one of forty other men in the same room, and it is a not insignificant fact that six of these men have since been convicted of theft. In the report on the Beck scandal the Master of the Rolls observed that "evidence as to identity, based on personal impressions, however bonâ-fide, is perhaps of all classes of evidence the least to be relied upon, and therefore, unless supported by other facts, an unsafe basis for the verdict of a jury." In that case the evidence of identification by ten women was found to be incorrect. In this case evidence of identification by one woman, partly supported by another—evidence of identification procured, too, in a manner which was at least open to suspicion—has been accepted by the Committee as conclusive, and judgment has been given against the accused.

The result of the inquiry is only what might have been expected from the constitution of the Committee. To ask Post Office officials to inquire whether the action of the Post Office in this affair was justified was just as farcical as it would have been to ask War Office officials to inquire into the mismanagement of the War Office or Home Office officials to inquire into the Beck scandal. In every branch of the public service official prepossessions are naturally on the side of officialdom, and any admission that a mistake has been made is regarded with the greatest repugnance. The frame of mind in which Messrs. Salisbury and Winter approached the consideration of the Careless case will perhaps be best appreciated from their comment upon the fact that he has never ceased to declare his innocence and to court a criminal prosecution:—

> This course of conduct is consistent with his innocence, but not necessarily a proof of it. It is proved that before his dismissal he and his family were in comfortable circumstances, and were reduced by it to a condition of poverty and distress. He has had, therefore, the strongest inducement to prove his innocence, and to take every step likely to produce the belief that he was innocent.

This sapient Committee actually look with suspicion upon Careless's demand that his case should be properly investigated, because his poverty gave him the strongest inducement to prove his innocence! There is only one remark to make on this extraordinary passage in the report. In it the Committee have written themselves down as—well, as quite incapable of carrying out the intelligent and impartial investigation which the matter required.

The case raises a question of great importance over and above the wrong that has been done to this unfortunate ex-sorter. The State, we have been told, should be a model employer; but, as a matter of fact, the State shirks legal and moral responsibilities which every private employer has to bear. Careless was discharged

with an official "statement of his service," which virtually branded him as a thief, and if any private employer had treated him in this way he would have been able to recover heavy damages for wrongful dismissal and libel. Against a Government Department there is no such remedy, or, at any rate, only a mockery of a remedy, for if the law is put in motion the jurisdiction of the court is ousted by a plea of privilege on the part of the Crown. Surely the time has come when this state of things should be amended. Cases of gross injustice to public servants may not be frequent, but they do occur from time to time, and Parliament ought to provide some means by which those who are wronged would have adequate means of redress in a court of law, or, if necessary, before some court specially constituted for the purpose. It is certainly a crying scandal that any servant of the State, whether of high or low degree, should be liable to such treatment as Careless has received from the Post Office.

DOM BENEDICT DONKIN.

It was mentioned in Truth a few weeks ago that the man Donkin, whose career was dealt with in Truth of September 22 under the title of "A Clerical Adventurer," had brought an action for libel against the Rev. Vernon Herford, of the Church of the Divine Love, Oxford. This action is now at an end, and its history is what might have been expected under the circumstances. It never got beyond the issue of the writ on September 15. Fourteen days after the end of the Long Vacation (November 7) Mr. Herford's solicitor took out a summons in the District Registry at Oxford to dismiss the action. On November 12, when this summons was returnable, Donkin turned up in person, and stated that he had quarrelled with his solicitor, who had not carried out his instructions to go on with the action, and on this ground he asked for an adjournment. He was given seven days, on the understanding that within that time he would issue a summons for directions. At the end of the seven days another solicitor appeared for him, explained that he had only been instructed ten minutes previously, and asked for another adjournment. This the Deputy Registrar refused, and the action was dismissed with costs.

It will be seen, therefore, that his action was a piece of empty "bluff," of the same character as most of Donkin's proceedings. Mr. Herford is a gentleman who became, I understand, in India a Bishop of the Syro Chaldean Church. He is known and deservedly respected by many of the clergy both of the Roman and Anglican Churches, and has carried on for many years under great difficulties his church at Oxford. Needless to say, he is not a rich man. Donkin imposed upon him by representing himself as the apostle of a Liberal Catholic movement, and using, without authority, the names of other clergy known to Mr. Herford—the trick which he has played repeatedly during the last ten years. On discovering that he was an impostor, Mr. Herford wrote a letter of warning to one of the Oxford papers, and upon this the action was brought. During the intermediate time Donkin has been living in lodgings at Oxford under circumstances which it is easy to guess from the records of his previous career, and no doubt the action was brought for the purpose of keeping up appearances and enabling him to impose upon other people. A few weeks ago the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle* forwarded to me a curious communication which he had received from Donkin. It purports to be a "Declaration of Faith of the Old Catholic Church in England and America, founded on the Declaration of Faith of the Catholic Congress held at Munich." It opens with an imposing "Be it known unto all men, that we, the undersigned Bishops of the Catholic Church," etc., etc., and, after reciting at great length the creed of the said Bishops, it concludes with the signatures, "Benedict, Bishop of Santa Croce, Primate"; "Paul, Bishop of Sevas"; "Edwardus, Bishop, Vicar Apostolic." A postscript indicates that all communications should be addressed to the Primate, 67, Howard-street, Oxford. This is the address of the lodgings occupied at that time by Donkin. The Declaration of Faith was forwarded to the *Daily Chronicle* with a covering letter requesting its publication, signed "Dom Benedict, Bishop of Santa Croce, Primate." It is obvious that this communication is yet another piece of "bluff," designed to keep up the character which Donkin was assuming for his own ends in Oxford. Had the "Declaration of Faith" with the signatures of the three Bishops appeared in a London newspaper, it would no doubt have had the desired effect; but, happily, the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle* is a cautious man, and made inquiries before publishing the document, with the result that the "Declaration of Faith" found its way to Truth Office. The trick is very similar to that played by Donkin last summer, when he advertised in the *Standard* his appointment by the Patriarch of Antioch to the apocryphal office of Bishop of the Independent Roman Catholic Church in Southern Switzerland. I should like to know more of his co-signatories to the "Declaration of Faith," "Paul, Bishop of Sevas," and "Edwardus, Bishop, Vicar Apostolic." Have any individuals answering to these descriptions been seen in company with the "Primate" at Oxford?

Although there is a comic side to the operations of this self-styled bishop, it must be understood that he is an impostor of a most mischievous type. In my first article upon him I said, in reference to his *Standard* advertisement, that it was probably a move for the purpose of some swindling operation which he was about to undertake in Switzerland. That conjecture was amply justified by the event. In his character of Vicar Apostolic of the Independent Roman Catholic Church, Donkin betook himself last summer to Geneva, and there quartered himself for several weeks upon a confiding lady who let lodgings. As he has done in other cases, he not only lived at her expense, but borrowed money of her, imposing upon her in the usual way by the free use of the name of some other dignitary of the Church, with whom he professed to be on intimate terms—very possibly some one else on whom he had imposed. I have seen the written statements of his victim, and the story is a pitiful one. The keeper of the *pension* was, of course, a lady of very limited means, and the loss of her money has brought disaster upon her and

her family. The money which she lent to Donkin was money which ought to have gone to her tradespeople, and the result of Donkin's frauds upon her was a judgment and execution against her in the local courts. Apparently Donkin has been living in this way for a long time past, for it will be remembered by those who read my previous article that in the early part of this year he has been prosecuted for similar frauds in Italy. Immediately after this we have his visit to Geneva, and then his descent upon Oxford, which he worked by introducing himself to Mr. Herford. If the lodging-house keeper whose hospitality he has been enjoying at Oxford has been paid, he or she is, therefore, extremely fortunate, and, in that case, it would be interesting to know how Donkin obtained the money for the purpose. I can only say that, in the event of his finding in this way any victims in England, I hope that he will be at once handed over to the police; for it is evident that he is a thoroughly unprincipled swindler, and it is high time that his proceedings were stopped.

THE BETTERMENT OF BOWDEN GREEN.

Nearly a year ago an article was published in TRUTH dealing with the affairs of the Betterment of London Association, and pointing out how this concern is designed to contribute to the betterment of Mr. Thomas Bowden Green, who is described as its "honorary" secretary. Mr. Green has now prepared a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the Betterment of London Association from January 1, 1902, to June 30, 1904. Considering the amount of money that has passed through his hands during that time, it is decidedly irregular that he should have allowed two and a half years to elapse before thinking it necessary to make up his accounts. This, however, is altogether in keeping with the financial administration of Mr. Green's previous philanthropic venture—the National Thrift Society. The story which the accounts tell now that they are made up is not creditable to the intelligence of the present generation of Londoners, and fully justifies what I said last year as to the personal interest of the "honorary" secretary in the Betterment of London Association. From one source or another, including £50 "advanced by friends," the Association has received during this period no less than £1,322, and it spent all but £15 16s. 6d. of that amount. The details of this expenditure are worth setting out in full:—

By the Publication of "Occasional Papers" of the Association, the Noise Abatement Leaflets, and other Literature issued by the B.L.A. from January 1, 1902, to June 30, 1904	£421 0 8
By design for the Betterment of London Journal, prepared by Walter Crane, Esq.	10 10 0
By Office Rent (City and Kensington), Office Furniture, Books, Stationery, Office Printing, Advertising, Newspaper Cuttings, Travelling, Postage, and Miscellaneous Expenses during Two and a Half Years....	198 16 10
By Editor's Honorarium and Expenses—1902 (£105); 1903 (£105); 1904 (£52 10s.)...	262 10 0
By Remuneration of Assistant and Branch Secretaries, and by occasional Clerical Assistance during Two and a Half Years	286 15 0
By Commission on Subscriptions and Donations .	127 5 0
By Balance in Hand, July 1, 1904	15 16 6
	£1,322 12 0

In order to appreciate the significance of this account, it is necessary to remember what has already been explained in TRUTH as to the relation of Mr. Green to the printing and publishing business of the Betterment of London Association. Shortly after he had succeeded in forming this concern, Green floated a small company entitled the Betterment of London Printing and Publishing Company. Its main objects were to acquire from Green the "goodwill and connection" (this was the expression actually used) of a nominally philanthropic association carried on by him for many years under the title of the National Thrift Society; and to print and publish the *Betterment of London Journal*, the organ of the Betterment of London Association. In return for the transfer of the goodwill and connexion of the Thrift Society, and for his services in establishing the *Betterment of London Journal*, one-fourth of the capital of the company was allotted to Mr. Green. As the whole authorised capital was only £2,000, it was evident that the company had no intention of doing its own printing; and there was not the slightest reason why the remainder of the capital should ever be issued to anybody. The company was obviously nothing but an ingenious device for enabling Bowden Green to undertake the printing and publishing of the Betterment of London Association—that is to say, to give him a middleman's profit on all this business, whatever it might amount to.

What it amounted to during the first two and a half years of the Association's existence the figures given above show. The first item in the account is evidently merely a printing bill. As the charges for office work, advertising, and postage are all entered under separate heads, "Publication" can only mean printing, and in the absence of any more definite explanation of the expenditure, it is a fair inference that the whole of the £421 expended under this head was paid to Green's little company. To this must also be added whatever amount is included in the third item under the head of "Office Printing," to say nothing of "Books and Stationery," which the same company may or may not supply. The fourth set of items, amounting to £262 10s., for "Editor's Honorarium and Expenses," represent payments to Bowden Green personally. It has already been explained that, while posing as "honorary" secretary, Mr. Green was also appointed—or appointed himself—as the Association's "Editor." Possibly he considers himself as an "honorary" editor, for he is careful to describe his editorial salary as an "honorarium"; but, anyhow, the fact is clear that he is drawing in this capacity a fixed salary of 100 gs per annum. In addition to this, we have the further item of £127 5s. for commission on subscriptions and donations. There is, of course, no evidence that this sum went to Mr. Bowden Green, but it will surprise me very much to hear that it went to anybody else. On the whole, considering that this association is quite in its infancy, the accounts indicate that Mr Bowden Green

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has made as much out of it as he, or anybody else, could reasonably have expected.

The ladies and gentlemen who have subscribed the sum of £1,322 for the Betterment of London may very possibly consider that the labourer is worthy of his hire, and that Mr. Green's services to the cause have not been unduly remunerated by that portion of the society's income which has found its way, directly or indirectly, into his pocket. That is their affair. All that I am concerned with is to point out the humbug of describing a gentleman who takes toll of the receipts to this extent as an "honorary" officer of the society. In any reputably managed association of this character the remuneration of the officials is "marked in plain figures," so that every subscriber may know it for himself; and it is altogether an irregular and improper arrangement for a man who manages the concern, receives a substantial salary, and draws considerable indirect profits out of its business, to be held out as an "honorary" secretary. To my thinking, this piece of humbug is of a piece with the whole character of the Association. The main objects of this society, as many of my readers will remember, was to suppress the grinding of barrel-organs, the shouting of newsboys and costermongers, the rattling of milk-cans, and so forth. I forget whether the screaming of babies and the caterwauling of pussy-cats were expressly included; but, make the programme as comprehensive as you please, it is truly childish to suppose that it will ever be realised by paying Mr. Bowden Green to collect subscriptions and edit and publish as much literature as the subscriptions will run to. That is the whole scope of the Association's business at present. In two and a half years, £1,322, less the trifling balance in hand of £15 16s. 6d., was expended on these objects. "The Noise Fiend," as Mr. Bowden Green picturesquely describes him, is not less noisy to-day than on the day when Bowden Green received the first subscription for the purpose of exterminating him. The Betterment of London by the subsequent collections and expenditure is not visible; but the betterment of Bowden Green is written in black and white. That is why I have said that the accounts of the Association are not very creditabel to the intelligence of the ladies and gentlemen who have subscribed the money.

There is another phase of this humbug which does not appear so clearly on the surface. It has already been suggested that, in connection with his new Association, Mr. Green was adopting the system of taking cash "premiums" for clerical or secretarial appointments which he carried on so dishonourably in connection with the Thrift Society. I now know beyond all question that this is being done. Only the other day a gentleman who applied for the post of secretary of the Kensington Branch of the Association was requested to deposit £300, bearing interest at 5 per cent., as a premium on his appointment. After some little negotiation he was informed that the post had been filled up, so that it is to be presumed that the money was obtained from somebody else. This is not the first appointment that has been made to the post of Kensington secretary. The question therefore arises, what becomes of the money paid under such circumstances, since there is no mention in the accounts, either of the deposits, or of the payment of interest upon them? A former secretary was found to be registered as a transferee of thirty of Bowden Green's £5 preference shares in the Betterment of London Printing and Publishing Company. I asked whether this investment was in the nature of a premium on the appointment; and the question naturally arises again now, seeing that neither the deposits nor the interest on them come into the Association's accounts. If that were the arrangement with the branch secretaries, it would obviously be most irregular; and the more so seeing that the draft agreement offered to the applicant in the case mentioned above is an agreement between the Association and its officer, and provides for the payment of the money "to the Association, to be utilised in furthering its objects." Even if the money were actually paid to the Association, it would be altogether irregular and improper for a philanthropic society to raise loans in this way from its employees, and to expend any portion of the income in payment of interest on such loans. It is the more indefensible in this case, since it is obvious that the only way in which such loans can be "utilised in furthering the objects" of the Association is by spending them on the printing and publication of more literature, and so increasing the business of Mr. Green's company. Either way, Green gets the benefit of such loans. I may add that the money was not paid in the case above mentioned, and for a very good reason. The applicant asked Green for a list of the vice-presidents of the Association, and wrote to two of the gentlemen whose names were given to him. Both of them replied that they were not connected with the society, and one advised his correspondent to have nothing to do with it.

It is, however, the fact that the names of several more or less distinguished gentlemen—in all cases people who ought to know better—are displayed among the Association's list of presidents and vice-presidents, and it is too much to suppose that all these names are used without their owners' consent. It is time that these gentlemen gave their personal attention to this system of obtaining premiums from persons seeking appointments on the office staff. Indeed, I think that gentlemen in responsible positions, who can lend their names to such a concern as this on its present footing, are very seriously to blame, for it is solely owing to them that Mr. Green is able to collect money on the scale indicated above. Apart from any question as to the desirability of having a gentleman with Mr. Bowden Green's record as the virtual manager and controller of the whole thing, it is entirely irregular that any organisation collecting money from the public on a considerable scale should be constituted as the Associa-

The Cure of Consumption.—In a letter to the Editor of the *Christian World* on this important subject, Dr. Smith, L.S.A. writes the following: "The patient, Mrs. Wright, whom I sent to Dr. Alabone some months ago with advanced phthisis, has been to see me. I have examined her lungs and am much pleased with the result of your treatment. She has regained her weight, and is able to resume her ordinary duties. She was given up as incurable by another eminent man before she came to me. I shall try to induce all cases of Consumption in my practice to place themselves under your care."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

tion is at present. If it is proposed to continue this serio-comic movement for the "Betterment of London," the subscribers should be called together, a respectable committee should be elected by them, a constitution should be drawn up, and Mr. Bowden Green, if it is still thought that his services are indispensable, should be placed in the position of a servant of the Society, instead of its master.

THE THEATRES.

"The Confederacy," at the Royalty.

Sir John Vanbrugh held the boards at the Royalty last week. His play, "The Confederacy," stands the brunt of time well. It has many good qualities, notably clear-cut characterisation, heightened, one must admit, with touches of the *rouge* of farce, a broad sense of the ludicrous, and lastly, much of epigrammatic dialogue. The plot is there, too, and obvious enough, though from its arbitrary improbability one does not feel inclined to attach much importance to its development. No, what one dwells upon with pleasure in witnessing this comedy are the qualities above-mentioned, and that fourth, perhaps equal to the others, namely, the peculiar sensation of having set Mr. Wells' time-machine to work and living back again to the days of rapiers and ruffles, of love in St. James's Park—and be d——d to the Puritans!

Some of the personages were well played, especially that of Mrs. Amlet by Mrs. Theodore Wright, who brought to the "selling of all sorts of Private Affairs to Ladies" that treasure of merriment which, while it reveals the baseness of soul of the personage portrayed, yet secures condonation for what would otherwise offend. But Mother Amlet is by no means altogether void of higher instincts, and her love for the disreputable gallant, her son, comes as the fitting antidote to her doubtful dealings with her customer's diamond necklace. In the "daughter to Gripe by a former wife" Mr. Philip Carr introduced us to a charming young actress, Miss May Martyn, whose name should not long remain unknown to the majority of playgoers. Her intrigues with Mrs. Amlet's son, conducted by the maid Flippanta, were among the "purple patches" of the entertainment. Miss Dora Nole played the pert Flippanta with just the requisite lightness of touch on the first night. Some of the other characters were here and there a trifle uncertain as to what they were going to say next, and this uncertainty was apt to be conveyed to the spectator in the form of a feeling of nervousness. But on the whole "The Confederacy" well rewarded those who went to the Royalty. It is to be played there for another week, beginning on Monday next, while this week Beaumont and Fletcher's beautiful "Maids' Tragedy" is being produced.

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"Traumulus," the great success of the season in Germany, was played here last week by the German company in Great Queen-street. I confess that I was not carried away by the story or by its method of treatment, although the playing left nothing to be desired. It is, of course, true that this play is an essentially autochthonous growth, and consequently makes its appeal most directly to Germans familiar in their youth with the system of tuition and State *surveillance* prevalent in the Fatherland. Herr Holz, the author, I see, is a naturalist by profession and practice. He claims that the first condition for all art must be truth. In this play, with its tragic end and unpleasant development in the dirty bake-house, where students bawl nonsense, or in the sordid severity of the police-station, I am quite ready to accede that Herr Holz has been true to fact. But, granted this, the impression on the fall of the curtain is not one of pleasure, nor of that soul-purging terror inherent to true tragedy. One feels sorry for the young student who has committed suicide because he has deceived his tutor. One feels sorry that the tutor was such a fool and so unfit for the care of young men. But that is all. The young man does not interest one especially, though we are told at great length in the first act how excellent a scholar he is. None of the characters is more sympathetic, and the little actress who is the cause of all these misfortunes least of all. She is not really in love with the young man, nor he with her. There is no other love interest. In my opinion, the reason why Herr Holz fails to fascinate us with his tragedy lies in his formula. Let him erase the word "truth" as the *sine quâ non* of art, and substitute the word beauty. If he does he will not compose another "Traumulus." The Germans love acting upon a theory. Those who do not publish literary manifestoes, but are content to develop their gifts to the best of their powers, are the people who do the great work.

This week the Germans are giving us a light comedy entitled "Sein Prinzesschen," and there will also be performances of the amusing farce, "Das Thal des Lebens," and a cyclus of three one-act plays entitled "Die Befreiten."

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"The Orchid," that hardy evergreen, has blossomed afresh. The songstresses have new songs, the principals have new jokes—or some of the other kind furbished up—the domain of the dance has widened considerably, and the costumes are things not to dream about but to see. Among the songs, Miss Gertie Millar continues to sing "Little Mary" with a sweetness very long drawn-out by reason of the addition of new verses, but the public so thoroughly understands and appreciates Mr. J. M. Barrie's subtle joke that I believe it would have listened with huge satisfaction to a great many more gastric lyrics. Miss Millar has also two new numbers—"On a Summer Afternoon," and the exceedingly well-arranged "Chimney-sweep" song wherein, surrounded by little black imps with the brushes of their vocation, this charming lady apparently enjoyed herself as much as I did to hear and to see her. More so, perhaps, since, after retiring with the most diminutive of the sweeps, a tiny mite, she reappeared to take her encore, her fair cheek diffused with an ink-black blush. Miss Marie Studholme, bright and beautiful in wide grey hat, and dressed in grey, sang to us new and delightful things about fishing and "Blanche Marie." Miss Gabrielle Ray chirruped in finch-like fashion, and danced delightfully, all rose and floating skirts, her

toes *à la hauteur* of the tall hats. In the second act Mr. Mackinder now tells us melodiously about Kate O'Malley, but Miss Olive May does better, for she is Kate O'Malley, all beshamrocked save her flashing eyes and nimble feet, as she dances before a legion of Hibernians with their shillelaghs. By far the most attractive part of the entertainment is the dances, so artfully thought out and manœuvred by Mr. Sydney Ellison. I noticed particularly the spade dance, where the exit is by groups, the tiger-skin savage dance of deep red, and the bathing-dress transformation with its hoops, its orange parasols, and its laughter, as those dry Naiads are carried bodily off the stage, laughing themselves with no affectation. Yes, the intellect of the Gaiety dwells in its toes.

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Mr. Bourchier sends me an open letter addressed to Mr. Sidney Dark about the "Tyranny of the First Night." Mr. Bourchier holds that a first-night audience is very quick in taking up the good points of a play, and he thinks a play never goes so well as on a first night, but he adds the rider that the verdict of a first night audience "has never been prophetic of the financial success of any play." Mr. Bourchier may with justice speak for himself as to the playing on a first night, for on the whole I think he is the best first-night actor I ever saw. His psychology must be something like that of the man who honestly cannot play his best in a game of billiards until he has a heavy bet on the result. He is braced rather than depressed by danger: a fine quality. As to his final statement, I presume he means that the verdict of the first-nighters is never prophetic of the financial success *or failure* of a play. If so, I must demur. There are, I know, exceptions which can be quoted, but in the large majority of instances the first-nighters are correct in their judgment.

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Mr. Tree must have his hands full. He has been lecturing on Hamlet to his dramatic training-school; he has been largely instrumental in starting the movement for the Shakespeare Fund; he is conducting a subacid correspondence in the newspapers with Mr. Henry Arthur Jones upon theatrical decadence. In fact, he is playing both Prospero and Caliban. I trust he will continue to spar with Mr. Jones, and that Mr. Jones will return to the lists after a short interval for refreshment, for their jousts are rather amusing reading. As to the Shakespeare Memorial, I am of those who believe it to be the least necessary of memorials, since it already exists for ever, made by Shakespeare himself. But I suppose thousands of pounds will be subscribed, and in that case I should like to see two clauses of the project inverted. By the first, the statue of Shakespeare is to be the main objective; by the second, such funds as remain over are to be expended on the furthering of Shakespearean studies. I should say, the studies and the libraries first, and then, if you must have a statue, let it be done cheaply, and let the Poet Laureate write an inscription for the pedestal. You see, I do not believe that anything can increase or lessen the greatness of the greatest.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE FIGHT OVER JOAN OF ARC.

JOAN OF ARC is the woman of the hour. If she loved the din of battle she now must have it to her heart's content. She has been in riots of high-school boys in the public places, in quarrels of students around the Sorbonne, in the Chamber of Deputies, where she nearly overthrew a Ministry. She is dragged into faction fights as a pretext for fighting harder. Jaurès will have to fight a duel with Déroulède about her at the end of the week. The seconds of the former have delayed the hostile meeting to enable their principal, who is a mere duffer, to practise fencing and pistol shooting. They have found in Parliamentary duties an excuse for putting off the evil day.

One side in these rows see in Joan of Arc the tutelary divinity of France and the Monarchy. The other side takes the agnostic view of M. Thalamas, professor of history in a lycée. He set the strife going in correcting the theme of a pupil of sixteen. The youth spoke of the heroine's miraculous mission and its miraculous fulfilment. The professor said that he had himself to take the human, or reasonable, view, and to deny that any trace of the miraculous could be found in Joan's career. History dealt with facts and not with legends, except as such. The Grand Council of France at Tours and the artillery it created, and not Joan, saved France. Her superhuman pretensions no doubt depressed the English. Indeed, a letter of the Duke of Bedford established this circumstance. As to her trial, it was according to the ideas of her time, legal and scrupulously regular. The Deputy Grand Inquisitor of France, acting on papal licence, authorised it, and attended it. Burning women for witchcraft was not uncommon in Joan's time nor for three centuries later.

Whether from wounded vanity or resentment at this attack on the cult of Joan of Arc, the author of the theme denounced Thalamas to his father. The latter, the Royalist carriage-builder who built the vehicle in which Henry V. was to have re-entered Paris, fired up at the Professor's blasphemy. He brought his pronouncement against the Maid's miraculous mission before the Chamber. The Minister of Public Instruction ordered an inquiry. He thought it better to leave the upper boys of the Condorcet Lycée to their worship, rebuked Thalamas officially for his want of tact, and shifted him to the Lycée Charlemagne, which is in a Republican part of the town. The Jesuits had a great day school in the Rue de Madrid, not far from the Lycée Condorcet. On its suppression its pupils had to attend the high school, where Thalamas taught history. Chaumié's decision displeased most parties. The Conservatives wanted his dismissal or a long suspension. The Socialists thought he deserved to be patted on the back for his moral courage as a historian. The Moderates held it would have been better to have kept the historical doubts about the miraculous mission for the Sorbonne, where they have been already aired. The foes of the Cabinet, secret and open, found in the noise an opportunity for a grand attack in which they might

expect to break *le bloc*. Royalist society, counting on their chickens before they had been hatched, pressed into the tribunes to see the defeat of the Government. It seemed to me that Chaumié rode for a fall, and hoped to come to the front again in a new Cabinet. Combes saw this possibility, and multiplied himself, trotting round to heads of groups to whisper suggestions into their ears. He proposed, I hear, to those personally hostile to Chaumié, not to vote against him, but for an order of the day he had accepted. It meant nothing, and it could be followed by a formal vote of confidence in the Cabinet. This idea made its way at once. When the confidence question was put to the vote, nobody wanted to appear beaten. It was carried by overwhelming numbers.

M. Combes, when he studied medicine, taught in two boading-schools connected with the Lycee Charlemagne. His task was to prepare the higher-grade pupils in afternoons for the forenoon classes at the Lycée. I learn from an old boy of the Pensionnat Masson, where he gave history lessons, that he inculcated the very same view of Joan of Arc's mission which Thalamas takes. He spent the mornings and forenoons in hospitals and at the medical schools, and his evenings in writing articles for the *Revue Contemporaine*. He also "coached" medical students. Mme. Combes did the marketing She had received on her marriage 70,000 fr. The interest of this capital and Combes' earnings brought their regular income up to 10,000 fr. a year. The articles paid for country excursions and other extras. Combes thought himself rich, and, she consenting, brought his father and mother and two brothers to Paris. He provided a lodging for them near his own, obtained for the father, who had lost all pecuniary means, a small situation in the Bercy wine depot. One of the brothers studied medicine with the future Prime Minister. The other aimed at a diploma that might enable him to teach in a communal school. The father and mother died of cholera in 1865. Mme. Combes bought a plot of ground for their graves. The brother Louis became a successful doctor and practised at Vincennes. Mme. Combes' people at Pons knew nothing of these family arrangements—so honourable to those who made them. Her mother dying in 1872, she came into the house there in the Rue Gambetta in which she and M. Combes reside at Pons. She had a further augmentation to her dowry of 60,000 fr. This enabled M. Combes to set himself up with a second-hand gig and a horse that, if old, had still good wind.

M. Combes is the seventh of nine children. His father could read and write, but his mother and his grandparents on both sides could not. The father had natural talents that ran in many directions, but weak character. The mother had strong character, and did quietly and wilfully what suited her, without minding what neighbours said. She gained the reputation of being the hardest worker in the commune of Roquecourbe, a semi-Protestant bourg of 1,500 inhabitants in the Tarn. Her husband had there a house and field The latter he and the wife cultivated. They also worked at tailoring, and with hand looms at stocking-weaving When they had a big bundle of stockings, one or the other went round the country to sell them. The extension of the railway to their neighbourhood ruined them by bringing in cheap machine-made hosiery. The yarn-spinner who supplied them pressed for a payment of a debt for yarn. Refusing to give them the time they asked, he sold them out, and bought in their little freehold.

Combes owed his elementary education to a neighbour, a chemist, who also took him through the Latin and Greek grammars and Cornelius Nepos. At the age of eleven he won a demi-bourse, or half-scholarship, at the Seminary of Albi. A rich cousin, the Abbé Gaubert, his godfather, undertook to pay the half fees. He hoped that Emile would enter the Church from the theological school. This relative became Vicar-General of Rennes. He had intended to leave his fortune to the godson. The civil funeral of the latter's son André, a young doctor, exasperated the Churchman. In the heat of his anger at what appeared to him an impious ceremony he made a will in favour of a priest unrelated to him by blood. André died at the age of twenty-five. Some days previous to his end, he sent for his sister Germaine, who shared his opinions, and charged her to arrange for a free-thought burial. He feared the tenderness of his father and mother for the feelings of their outer kindred would bring them to yield. The sentiments of the family are given on the tombstone in the following terms:—

Dans la mort comme
Dans la vie
Notre cœur nous dit
Qu'il n'y a pas de
Séparation éternelle.
Nous nous quittons
Dans l'incertitude,
Nous nous retrouverons
Dans la Vérité.

It is a long way from the Faubourg St. Antoine to Pons. Each time the Prime Minister goes to that town his first visit is for the grave of his son André. It lies amid flowering shrubs and trees on the slope of a hill below the old frowning donjon. In the flowering shrubs and trees, thrushes, finches, nightingales, and other song-birds congregate. The mistress of the communal school charged with the education of M. Combes' two daughters until they went to live with him in Paris watches over the tomb.

In Bismarck's time Berlin became the centre of European diplomacy. The pendulum seems to have swung back to Paris. The humble birth of President and man at the helm does not hinder in any way the return of the ancient prestige. The brothers Cambon have gained higher eminence in bringing quarrelling nations to agree than any of Napoleon's Foreign Office agents in keeping European sores open. We had proof of the rising influence of France in the visits of Kings Edward, Carlos, and Victor Emmanuel, and the return visits of M. Loubet to London and to Rome. All England and all Italy united with their sovereigns in welcoming the head of the French Republic.

We had a further proof last week of the reversion of Europe to an old centre of gravity—I mean the pilgrimage of the Parliamentary delegates of the three Scandinavian kingdoms. I attach more importance to this event than to the advent here last year of the caravan representing the British Parliament. In England they are always demonstrating and firing off speeches, settling the affairs of the world. The Scandinavians are very undemonstrative. Their three kingdoms have been from a far back time *frères ennemis*. I spent a summer in the Scandinavian countries twelve years ago. At that time nobody could have conceived the possibility of the three States uniting for any purpose in a friendly spirit, and still less their Parliaments. The different peoples were insensible to the good qualities of one another. Norwegians and Danes saw falsity at the bottom of Swedish politeness. Norse sincerity struck Swedes as boorish. It might be estimable, but impeded that culture which makes for sociability. The sociableness of Stockholm got on the nerves of Christiania. I thought, when I heard there strictures on the levity of the former capital, of the English Puritans' resentment at the Sunday sports promoted by Charles I. and his French Queen. In Stockholm they admired the brilliant gifts and acquired talents of King Oscar, boasting that he was the only monarch in Europe who could derive prestige from his appearance. Every one esteemed Queen Sophia, but lamented her rather gloomy religiousness. In Norway they paid no attention to the remarkably fine figure and handsome face of the King. Their admiration ran towards the Queen. They found in her the personification of sincerity, piety, and charity. If worldly pleasures jarred on her, did it not show a right spirit within her? As to the Danes, one heard in Sweden of their insincerity and Bœotian heaviness. Norwegians taxed them with a too prosaic view of life and utter want of ideality. Danes aspiring to intellectual life had to go to Germany. The Danes had, however, solved one important question—the possibility of a well-behaved and virtuous *corps de ballet*.

The Grand Duke and ex-Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt were too close cousins to constantly enjoy the society of each other. His relations were hers, and hers his. This cut them off from half the subjects that are open to a couple unrelated in blood. Talking across the breakfast table became so dreary as to lead to fits of ill-humour and attacks of nerves. The Grand Duke would have liked to marry either an attractive young widow of fortune with a couple of children, or the Countess of Erbach, whose beauty last year made a sensation at the Greece-Battenberg wedding. He had to relinquish the latter intention because the Countess is not of sufficiently high birth. Not being able to find the widow coming up to all his requirements, he has fallen back on an unmarried lady who has reached the sensible age of thirty-three, Eleonora, daughter of the late Prince Hermann of Solms-Hohensolms-Lich. She is related to the Waldeck-Pyrmonts, but in no wise the cousin of her future husband. He and she have been acquainted from infancy. When he studied at the provincial University of Giessen, near Lich, along with her brothers, he was under the care of the Prince and Princess Hermann. The Princess Eleonora shared with them their open-air and indoor amusements. Her eldest sister is the wife of one of the Counts von Lynar of Potsdam, and the sister who comes after the Grand Duchess designate is married to Count Dohna, that very great friend of the German Emperor, and grandson or great-grandson of the Countess Dohna, Stein's daughter, who helped Queen Louise to form the Ladies' League against Napoleon.

The present Prince of Solms-Hohensolms-Lich is a godson of Prince Charles of Hesse-Darmstadt, the father-in-law of the Grand Duchess Alice. That Royal lady cultivated intimacy with the Lich branch, and went at different times on visits to their residence in Upper Hesse. They live there in a handsome style that might pass muster in the Notts Dukeries. The great trouble of Prince Charles is the vast number of relatives whom he cannot pass over when an event of high ceremony takes place in his family. About 150 Solms, as many Stolbergs and Isemburg-Büdingens, let alone Salms and Erbachs, attended the funeral of the late Prince Hermann. The church could not afford them standing room. It would have taken a German genealogist to explain their single, double, triple, and quadruple cousinships. There were Solms of the branches *a*, *b*, *c*, *d*, *e*, *f*, and so on. A descendant of Queen Frederica of Hanover and her second husband came in at the head of the *a* division. Most of the Princes at the funeral had that *stramm* form so much prized by the German Emperor in military men about him. The Grand Duke inherits some tastes of his grandfather, the Prince Consort. He aspires to make Darmstadt the centre of crafts school exhibitions and a German Faubourg St. Antoine for the manufacture of art furniture. His sister, the Grand Duchess Sergius, who has the same bias, gives him encouragement. His subjects gave him credit for excellent intentions, but regret his want of steadfastness. This, perhaps, is his father's fault. The late Grand Duke never allowed his son's governor, a Prussian officer, to check him in any way. At Giessen he stood on the topmost rung of the social ladder. The equality that reigns at Bonn is unknown at the small Hessian University.

The German Emperor does not follow the Apostle in avoiding "vain genealogies." In giving a bust of Coligny a place amongst his ancestors he calls Dutch attention to his being the senior descendant of William the Silent. Queen Wilhelmina is descended from a collateral of that Prince. If the Emperor looked closely he might find the Marquis de Lassay among his forefathers. He has discovered descent from the Cid through the Saxe-Coburgs. This may recommend him to the Spaniards. He is not in the movement which has brought Loubet and Combes to the front rank of the governing class.

Herr Hentig's resignation has disturbed the stagnation of Saxe-Coburg politics. He is a Prussian, and on the late Duke's death took office as Prime Minister to

disentangle the financial affairs of the Duchy. The Diet has been opposed to the present Duke having at once Crown estates and a Civil List allowance. Hentig obtained the consent of the Diet to the retention by the Duke of half of these estates, with an annuity of 300,000 marks a year. The latter, not liking this compromise, and his guardian being irresolute, a final settlement is deferred until Charles Edward comes of age.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

DEAR LADY BETTY,—The following astonishing document has been received by a reader of TRUTH:

"MATRIMONIAL REPORT.

"MADAME,—We have the pleasure to forward to you our Report of the condition of the matrimonial market for 1904.

"During the past year there has been but little inquiry for most titles, but that is a natural consequence of the extreme dulness of trade which has prevailed in this period.

"DUKES.—The prices of these continue to be decidedly firm, and the holders of this title refuse to make any concession on their present rates, the supplies being very short.

"PEERS.—There has been a fair demand for the most desirable sorts, and it may be expected to increase, as the quantity of the best growths is now smaller than it has been for years.

"TITLED ELDER SONS.—The market has been very flat, but, no doubt, further business would have resulted had the stock on offer consisted of more desirable kinds.

"HONOURABLES.—These at present receive no attention, and little or nothing has been done in this direction.

"BARONETS AND KNIGHTS.—There was no inquiry for either of those growths, but several Baronets and Knights of desirable character are now offering at reasonable prices, and are worth the attention of small buyers.

"THE GUARDS.—There is only a moderate demand for these, and Guardsmen were very firm with regard to prices.

"THE WELL-CONNECTED.—The lower classes of the well-connected continue very difficult to sell, and a new opening for some of the oldest lot now being offered at exceptionally low prices is much desired.

"MEN OF INTELLIGENCE.—The supply and demand appear to have entirely ceased.

"We are preparing to despatch a miscellaneous shipment of bachelors and widowers to the United States at the end of January, where the recent great addition to the stock of millionaires must tend to increase the consumption considerably, and we are certain that supplies will come to a good market.

"IMPORTS.

"AMERICAN HEIRESSES.—Deliveries in London during the past twelve months have been extremely disappointing, but full supplies may be looked for in the early spring of next year.

"HUNTER AND CO.,
"*Matrimonial Brokers*,
"Piccadilly, London, W."

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The Order of Merit may have a more important part to play than those who created it supposed. There are now many prominent men, some in England, more in the British colonies, and others in the United States, who have adopted the view that the Order might be opened to the entire English-speaking race. They argue (a), that it should be our special endeavour to weld the English-speaking peoples together; (b), that this would considerably help, for a community of interests in great achievements must bring all members of the race closer. When the King announced on June 26, 1902, that he had founded the Order, and had appointed twelve members, those who take intelligent interest in interesting things perceived it would be very difficult in existing circumstances to fill the vacancies which might occur in the immediate future. In two years and a half three vacancies have occurred, and no new members have been appointed. Were his Majesty to arrange with President Roosevelt a plan which would enable the latter, with the consent of the former, to appoint such a man as Mr. Edison, the importance of the Order would be enormously increased. There are, of course, difficulties to be overcome, but they are not unconquerable.

* * * * *

"'Spoiling and Despoiling the Poor' would be an excellent subject for an article for one of the Reviews. A casual observer would imagine that charity was now a craze in England. The members of our Royal Family dispose of much of their time in visiting hospitals and charitable institutions; there is scarcely a prominent woman in the country who is not continually occupied with work in connection with the poor; and our greatest entertainments in the year are organised for the benefit of charitable objects. From the moment a pauper child is born to the time he or she is laid to rest in the grave, a multitude of benefactors are on the look-out to relieve his or her wants. There are hospitals for the nose, the eyes, the ears, the teeth, the skin, the heart, and the lungs of the poor, and others which generously tender all the ailments indiscriminately. There are associations and funds to enable the poor to have holidays in the country; to give them salt-water baths; to amuse them at Christmas; to beautify their homes; to supply them with clothing; to provide them with literature; and to teach them to cook their food properly. Every Member of Parliament, many of the editors of newspapers, and most of the successful manufacturers, financiers, and tradesmen, give large sums for the use of charitable institutions, or give many acres of land to form public parks. And yet the number of the poor in England increases instead of diminishing, and the condition of their poverty becomes more severe instead of less!

It is a curious circumstance, however, that most of those in England who work to relieve the poor, or who do something for the benefit of the latter, obtain advantages from their charitable endeavours. Some obtain popularity, social recognition, or advertisement; others, seats in the House of Commons; others, peerages, baronetcies, or knighthoods; others, secretaryships to which salaries are attached; and others, pecuniary rewards. Reform and Free Trade enabled the middle-class to thrive, and it has thriven so considerably that it is now elbowing out the upper-class. A further measure of reform would probably reach the labouring class, and enable that to prosper. Would it not be cheaper to grant this reform than to spend so much time, energy, ingenuity, and money in unsuccessful efforts to relieve the poor?

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Time after time it has been suggested in this column that there should be coloured advertisements in our newspapers as there are in the newspapers in the United States and in every other country in the world. The Editor of the *Connoisseur* has adopted the suggestion, and in the Christmas number of that charming art journal there are two full-page advertisements in colour, one of which is as beautiful as any illustration in the body of the magazine. It is to be hoped that this will give the death-blow to the obstinate resistance to coloured advertisements, which has been so long offered in this country.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

PRESTO II., who defeated Pretty Polly at Longchamps, is to be entered for the Ascot Cup, so Major Loder's mare will have an excellent opportunity of turning the tables on him. We have yet to learn, however, that either the horse or the mare can stay a severe two miles and a half. With Zinfandel and Rock Sand still in training, and likely to go for the Gold Cup, there might be a great race next June. It is quite on the cards, moreover, that M. E. Blanc may enter one or two of his three year-olds, as next year the race for the Grand Prix de Paris will not take place on the Sunday before Ascot, as usual, but is to be run a week earlier, as the Ascot meeting has been wisely deferred until three weeks after Epsom.

Lord Rosebery's Cicero and Mr. King's Comedian are the best of the English two year-olds, and neither colt is engaged in the Two Thousand, which would therefore appear to be a very open race but for the fact that a couple of M. E. Blanc's two-year-old are entered Jardy and Val d'Or. Mr. Henning's Rouge Croix, winner of the Dewhurst Plate, is quite likely to turn out the best of the English lot for this race. This colt was palpably backward when he won the Dewhurst Plate so easily, and he appeared to be capable of great improvement. Rouge Croix has apparently both speed and stamina, and he has a nice easy fashion of galloping. He was entered by his breeder, Mr. R. Swanwick, for the Column Stakes at the Newmarket Craven meeting, but he was withdrawn from that race when the minor forfeit was declared. The Two Thousand is his first engagement as a three-year-old, and he is also entered for the Newmarket Stakes, the Derby, the Ascot Derby and St. James's Palace Stakes at Ascot, the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood, the St. Leger, and the Grand Prix. It is quite on the cards that Rouge Croix will discover himself next season to be one of the best three-year-olds in England.

Mr. Lionel Robinson's racehorses, nine in number, left Beckhampton last week for Newmarket, where they will in future be trained by J. C. Brewer.

Mr. A. James has sold Rabelais to go to France. Rabelais, by St. Simon out of Satirical, was a smart two-year-old, but he could only finish third to Rock Sand and Flotsam for last year's Two Thousand, and a fortnight later Flotsam easily defeated him for the Newmarket Stakes. He was unplaced in the Derby, but at Ascot he won the Triennial from a very bad field, and at Goodwood he carried off the Cup, but there was no merit attaching to this achievement, as his opponents were dreadfully moderate. Rabelais is to join the Montford stud, and there is no reason to regret his exportation.

A high opinion was entertained of Mr. Neumann's colt Llangibby after he had won the New Stakes at Ascot, but he ran very badly for both the Middle Park Plate and the Dewhurst Plate. It must be remembered, however, that in the race for the Dewhurst Plate Llangibby was giving 10 lb. to Rouge Croix. Mr. Neumann's colt is likely to improve considerably during the winter if all goes well with him, and he will no doubt win some good races if he is judiciously placed, but he need not be thought of in connection with such events as the Two Thousand or Derby while the French horses are all right. Llangibby's first engagement as a three year-old is the Craven Stakes at Newmarket. This colt has more than twenty engagements in the future, and at Ascot he is entered for the Prince of Wales's Stakes, the Rous Memorial Stakes, and the Hardwicke Stakes.

Sir Edgar Vincent's colt Shah Jehan is quite likely to turn out one of the best of the Newmarket three-year-olds, as he is capable of much improvement, and he stays well. He is a perfectly sound colt, and he went through a lot of hard work last season. Like Llangibby, he is entered for the Craven Stakes, and he is also engaged in the Two Thousand, but in the latter event he will have no chance of defeating M. E. Blanc's representative on the Middle Park Plate running. It is unlucky for Shah Jehan that he is not entered for the Newmarket Stakes, which is apparently a very open race.

A great deal was thought of Signorino before his defeat in the Middle Park Plate, which shattered the roseate illusions of his admirers, and he ran still worse in the Dewhurst Plate. I expect that next season he will not be of any use over a greater distance than six furlongs.

It is probable that Carstone is the best of the King's indifferent lot of two-year-olds. This colt, who is by Persimmon out of La Carolina, was easily beaten at Newmarket in the autumn for the Boscawen Stakes by Pamflete. Carstone is quite likely to train into a useful three-year old. He commenced last season with thirty-nine engagements, of which eighteen are still in the future. The wisest policy to pursue with him would be to train him with a view to his Ascot engagements—the Prince of Wales's Stakes, Ascot Derby, and St. James's Palace Stakes—as in any one of those events he will have the benefit of a maiden allowance, and the best of his far from smart opponents will have extra weight to carry.

The Grateley stable, which has been broken up, has been singularly unfortunate during the past season. Their last great coup was achieved over last year's Stewards' Cup, when Dumbarton Castle won. A considerable sum was of course won over Wild Lad, but there had previously been a series of disasters. General Cronjé has been a dreadfully bad horse for the stable, as over and over again he was backed for thousands, but only to be beaten. Wild Lad could not have been backed so heavily at Liverpool, but for the fact that a "professional backer" was infatuated about General Cronjé, on whom he piled the money. The Grateley party consisted of Captain Bewicke, Captain Bald, Mr. Hugh Peel, and Mr. Prentice, of the Stock Exchange, whose remaining horses will in future be trained at Newmarket by Jarvis.

Ninety yearlings have been engaged in next year's Middle Park Plate, which is a subscription below the former average of the race, but still remarkably large, considering the curiously unattractive pecuniary conditions. The Middle Park Plate is a sweepstakes of £30 each, £20 forfeit, entrance £5, with £500 added. The liability on each entry is therefore £25. Next year the added money will really be £50 only, as the amount recovered by the entrances will be £450. The largest subscribers are the Duke of Portland and Lord Rosebery, with four each, and next come his Majesty, Lord Howard de Walden, Major Loder, Sir James Miller, Mr. Neumann, Mr. L. de Rothschild, Lord Westbury, and Lord Wolverton, with three each. There are seventy-six entries for the Dewhurst Plate, and the sum really added to the stake will not be £300, but only £62. The Jockey Club really ought to increase the value of these, their principal two-year-old races, as they have greatly lost in prestige of late years.

There are eighty entries for the Two Thousand of 1906, as against 106 for this year and ninety-six for 1905. This race is simply a sweepstakes of £100 each, half forfeit. There is more zeal than knowledge in the exhortations of certain writers to the Stewards of the Jockey Club to insist that the St. Leger should be endowed with an adequate sum of money. The Doncaster authorities might reasonably point out that the pecuniary conditions of the great three-year-old stakes at Newmarket had better be altered for the benefit of owners before the Stewards take upon themselves to prescribe more generous treatment at other meetings. Lord Rosebery has four entries, including Hortensius, half-brother to Cicero, by Velasquez; Trunnion, by Ladas out of Seabreeze; and a colt by Persimmon out of Chelandry. Lord Howard de Walden also has four entries, including Finger Glass, by Isinglass out of Thimble, and colts by Gallinule out of Beauty Unadorned and by Persimmon out of Golden Spangle. The Duke of Devonshire's entry of three consists of a half-brother to Full Cry, by Marco, and colts by

Diamond Jubilee out of Lady Sneerwell and by Persimmon out of Claque. Sir James Miller also has three entries, including a colt by Ladas out of Roquebrune, dam of Rock Sand. Mr. L. de Rothschild's lot of three includes St. Amadour, own brother to St. Amant. Lord Wolverton also has three entries, including colts by St. Simon out of Perfect Dream and by Cyllene out of Silverling. The Duke of Westminster's only entry is Pipistrello, own brother to Flying Fox. His Majesty has two entries—Mores, by Ladas out of Medora, and Nulli Secundus, by St. Simon out of Nunsuch. Lord Falmouth has entered Benedict, by Florizel II. out of Wise Virgin, dam of Fiancée. Mr. Houldsworth has two Ladas colts, one out of Casserta and the other out of Spring Ray. Mr. A. James's pair are Gorgos, by Ladas out of The Gorgon, and Diamond Drill, by Diamond Jubilee out of Needlecase. Major Loder has Admirable Crichton, half-brother to Pretty Polly, by Isinglass, and Zadkiel, by Gallinule out of Astrology. The Duke of Portland's pair are Greendale, by St. Simon out of Ismay, and Wombwell, by Isinglass out of Mrs. Butterwick. It is to be noted that there is not a single French entry for the Two Thousand.

Eighty-six yearling fillies have been engaged in the One Thousand of 1906, as compared with eighty-seven for this year and sixty-eight for 1905. The King heads the list with a single entry—Vanitas, by Ladas out of Vane, own sister to Flying Fox. Lord Derby and Mr. A. James have four entries each, the lot of the former owner including Victorious, own sister to Volodyovski, and a filly by Isinglass out of Canterbury Pilgrim. Mr. James has Lady Meldrum, by Tarporley out of Aboyne (dam of Huntly), and fillies by Orme out of Andromeda and by St. Simon out of Lucky Lady. The Duke of Portland has three entries, including Quair, by Orme out of Memoir, and Culzean, by Ayrshire out of Miss Gunning II. This animal is named after Lord Ailsa's place on the Ayrshire coast near Maybole. Mr. Neumann, Lord Howard de Walden, Mr. Douglas Baird, and Mr. Croker have each three entries. One of the Duke of Westminster's pair is Crown Gem, own sister to Sceptre, and the other is Rhos, own sister to Duke of Westminster. Mr. L. de Rothschild's only entry is a filly by Galeazzo out of Gaylass. Lord Harewood has engaged Almia, own sister to Minstead, and one of Sir D. Cooper's pair is Dame Fortune, half-sister, by St. Simon, to Flotsam.

Next season's minor two-year-old events at Newmarket have obtained fully as many entries as could reasonably have been expected. There are thirty-five yearlings engaged in the Exeter Stakes, thirty-eight in the Hopeful, thirty-two in the Clearwell, and twenty-six in the Prendergast. £200 is nominally added to each of these races, but a considerable part of this endowment is got back by means of the entrances, the result being that only £372 is really given to them, instead of £800. There are larger entries for the two principal events at the spring meetings, the distance of each race being now four furlongs. Fifty-six yearlings have been engaged in the Granby Plate at the Craven meeting, and fifty-seven in the First Spring Stakes, which is run on May 2, being the day before the Two Thousand. £400 is nominally added to these two events, but the entrances amount to £339.

Flying Fox, who is now in his ninth year, heads the list of French winning sires, his stock having won nearly £54,000, and this large sum would have been considerably increased if the unbeaten Ajax had kept on his legs until the end of the season. The rich Prix Royal Oak (French St. Leger) was at his mercy when he broke down. Ajax won four races, value nearly £26,000, including the Prix du Jockey Club (French Derby) and Grand Prix de Paris, and Gouvernant won five stakes of nearly £15,000, and the remainder of the amount with which Flying Fox is credited was nearly all contributed by his owner's two-year-old colts Val d'Or, Adam, and Jardy, who carried off the Middle Park Plate, in addition to his French successes.

The Duke of Devonshire's filly Full Cry, by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins, was one of the disappointments of last season. After she had won the rich Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes at Goodwood, Full Cry was regarded as one of the very best two-year-olds of the season, but she was coughing during August, and at Doncaster she was obviously out of form. She is a good-looking filly, and if she trains on she certainly ought to be capable of winning the One Thousand. She is also engaged in the Two Thousand and Derby and in the Newmarket Stakes. As to the Oaks it seem probable that M. E. Blanc will win that stake with Muskerry, by Flying Fox out of Maskery, who is a very much smarter filly than any of the English lot. As twelve days intervene between the race for the Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at Chantilly and the Epsom Oaks, there will be nothing to prevent Muskerry from being a starter for the English race, and she is also entered for the Coronation Stakes at Ascot.

Mr. Faber has leased Duke of Westminster, by Orme out of Gantlet, to go to France for three years. This horse has been so hopelessly discredited by his poor form during the last three seasons that he certainly would not have commanded any desirable patronage in England at the stud, even if he had been advertised to serve mares gratis, but in France the glamour cast upon him by the fact that he is own brother in blood to Flying Fox may induce breeders to try him. Duke of Westminster was purchased as a yearling at Newmarket in July, 1900, for a huge price by Mr. Sievier. As a two-year-old he won the New Stakes very easily, defeating (*i.a.*) Flying Lemur, who started favourite; Game Chick (who was not then quite fit), and Robert le Diable, who was not backed for a penny. His next appearance was at Goodwood, where Game Chick ran him to a head for the Richmond Stakes, and Flying Lemur was third. There was a very severe finish for this race, and in my opinion Duke of Westminster was never the same horse afterwards. He ran no more as a two-year-old, and late in the autumn the colt was sold to Mr. George Faber, who could actually have purchased Sceptre for a smaller price, but he was advised to take Duke of Westminster in preference to the mare. As a three-year-old, the colt was so preposterously written up that he started an equal favourite with Sceptre for the Two Thousand, but was unplaced, and he did no better in the Derby. His only other appearance as a three-year-old was in the Cambridgeshire, when he carried 7 st. 8 lb. and ran nowhere, Ballantrae being the winner. As a four-year-old Duke of Westminster carried off the Rous Memorial Stakes at Ascot, defeating Flotsam and Royal Lancer, and this was the only race which he won for Mr. Faber.

There was a meeting at Kempton Park last week, but the sport was of no interest whatever. There is not likely to be any cross-country racing of the very slightest importance during the next two months.

Lord Hardwicke was well known for some years as a gentleman-rider. He began riding across country in 1888, and during the five seasons that he was constantly in the saddle he won a considerable number of cross-country events. He was a clever rider, with a cool head and remarkably fine hands. Lord Hardwicke's father was on the Turf for many years, and he held the office of Master of the Buckhounds from 1874 until 1880 under Lord Beaconsfield, and the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot is named after him. Lord Hardwicke, whose colours were "white, gold braid, plum-coloured cap," won the City and Suburban of 1869 with Alpenstock, but only a small stake was netted by the stable, as a dreadful blunder had been committed in trying the colt on Good Friday, a day on which there was no betting in London, so that when the commission came to be executed next day, every one had heard of the successful gallop. Lord Hardwicke's racing career was most disastrous, and brought the family fortunes to a ruinous crash. Every one felt much sympathy with his son, who was in a very trying position. With Lord Hardwicke the elder it was the old story of the poor shattered Amphora attempting to float down the stream with the mighty Golden Vessel, as the Yorke estates were already encumbered when he succeeded to them.

Mr. Fairie's horses-in-training, which have hitherto been prepared for their engagements at Bedford House, Newmarket, have been removed to Taylor's stables at Manton.

Bona Vista, by Bend Or, the sire of Cyllene, again heads the list of winning sires in Austria and Hungary. Bona Vista, who was bred by Lord Rosebery, won the Two Thousand of 1892 for Mr. Rose, having previously carried off the Newmarket Biennial. He was unplaced in the Derby, Sir Hugo being the winner. He stands at the Kisber Stud at the very moderate fee of £60. If Bona Vista had remained in England he would have probably been rushed up to £200 after Cyllene's three-year-old season.

Meddler, by St. Gatien out of Busybody, who heads the list in the United States, won the Chesterfield Stakes and Dewhurst Plate of 1892 for Mr. G. A. Baird, and but for his owner's death he would have proved a dangerous opponent to Isinglass for the classic races of the following year. Meddler represents one of the late Lord Falmouth's best strains of blood, and his dam was one of the smartest racers ever bred at Mereworth.

I am told that the finest of M. E. Blanc's yearlings of this season is Blue Fly, by Flying Fox out of Bluette. She is engaged in the Epsom Oaks for 1906, also in the Coronation Stakes at Ascot, and in the St. Leger. Blue Fly has not been entered for next year's Middle Park Plate, and M. E. Blanc's only nomination for that race is Louksor, by Flying Fox out of Airs and Graces, who is own brother to Jardy.

The Sassenach is more subtle than all the beasts of the field when he takes to discussing the rules and regulations of golf. I sincerely hope that the honorary secretary of the Romford Golf Club is a reader of the golf notes in the *Scotsman*. The writer therein refers to the Romford incident. He quite denies the alleged right of any player to tell his opponent a wrong handicap. He says no golfer would do so—it would not be golf. It is very pleasant to have my views supported by such authority. For I do feel that it would be subversive of the whole spirit of the game if such conduct were within the rules. I make no apology for labouring this point. The publicity that it has received makes it imperative to point out that a man who wilfully declares a wrong handicap is unworthy of the society of golfers. And as a sequel the man who innocently declares a wrong handicap must stand the racket. If he understates his strokes he must abide by the result. If he overstates his figure, then he should be disqualified. And yet, I am sorry to say, the honorary secretary's view receives support from southern golfers to whom I have mentioned the matter. Their reasoning is that there is nothing in the rules on the subject which compels a man in stroke play to declare his handicap. These are the sort of men who have never realised the old distinction between the laws and etiquette of golf. Etiquette means nothing to them. Make a rule of etiquette a by-law with a forty-shilling fine, and they appreciate its worth. They regard the rules of golf as being made to be dodged, and if there is no written law, they imagine themselves at large to do as they please. This is altogether the wrong spirit in which to play the game. Similarly, the writer in the *Scotsman* ridicules the idea of the objector in the Romford case being ousted for not handing in his card. In such a case the equities, let alone the decencies, of the game should prevail. In other words, red tape may be admissible in the War Office, but, taking one consideration with another, it is not golf.

In the absence of the Russian fleet and undaunted by the immediate presence of Thornycroft's Torpedo Works, the Cambridge University trial eights rowed their race from just above Chiswick Ferry to Putney Bridge. This was the second time the race had been rowed on the Thames, a course that was necessitated by the frost at Ely. It was the first time that light ships had been used. On this point rowing experts differ as to whether or not the light ship is desirable. In order to teach a man to row it is quite true that a tub ship is necessary. But one who is not a rowing expert in that he has not won the Grand or rowed in the University race, may perhaps be forgiven for thinking that no very great respect is due to University rowing if outside the sacred circle of the Blues there are not sixteen oarsmen in the University capable of pulling together in a couple of light ships. Indeed, I should be strongly inclined to put some value on the observation that if a man who has rowed in a light ship, and who has had careful coaching for the trials in a tub or clinker eight, cannot adapt himself to a light ship a week before the race, then he lacks the essential element for the Putney to Mortlake course, and that is watermanship. It is only permissible to say that on this occasion when the men were rowing in light ships and were handicapped by their inexperience of the fast-flowing waters of the Thames, the oarsmanship compared very favourably with that which is generally seen at Ely. Now for a few words about the race. As Lewis had to stroke at the last moment in the place of Sanger, the President, and as his bow oar had only a seat in the crew for a few minutes the day before the race, his crew was given the Surrey station, and this advantage just accounted for the win, coupled with the fact that the coxswain of the other crew—Taylor's—did not steer as good a course as could be wished. He kept too close to the Middlesex shore. Be that as it may, the crews were hardly ever clear. Lewis got the best of the start, and was soon a length ahead. By Harrod's they were clear, and Taylor crept up, and almost overlapped at the concrete. They were then holding their own. But Lewis went a quarter of a length ahead just by Leander. At that point six and stroke were not locked together in the losing crew. Three hundred yards from the finish, Lewis had had quite enough. He was cocking badly, but he stuck to his work gamely, and landed his crew a winner by a clear yard of daylight. The Old Blues who followed the race were well pleased. No one showed striking merit. But there was every reason to expect that quite an average University crew could be made up from the men who were rowing. The University crew should certainly be better than last year.

Judging by what I am told of the race at Oxford, there is an equally good prospect of getting together a good crew. The race was a very close one, and the crews were never clear of one another. In the result, Bucknall's crew won by three-fifths of a length. The Eton recruits should necessarily prove very useful. They were a very heavy set of men, and the Rhodes scholar did not take part in the race. This international element in inter-University sport is most interesting. At the same time no Blue is likely to be given for baseball, whatever may happen to lacrosse.

Mr Vaile has been writing a series of wonderfully illustrated articles in the *Field* on the subject of the swerve in bowling. As there seems to be a good deal of money to be made by any one who can teach a youngster to swerve in bowling I vainly endeavoured to make head or tail out of the articles. But compulsory Greek has killed applied science. However, a gunnery expert clears up the matter most succinctly and explicitly in the *Field* this week. He says:—

> Mr. L. S. Bidwell put the whole question in a nutshell when he pointed out that "any spinning body projected through the air in such a direction that it has a component of translational velocity in a plane perpendicular to the axis of spin will undergo a continuous displacement away from that side whose tangential motion, due to spin, is in the same direction as that component of the translational motion of the body." It seems to me that once this is recognised the subject is closed so far as the general reader is concerned.

Mr. Bidwell, I may mention, explained the matter in this way in *Engineering* in September, 1900. I wonder how many young gentlemen who have become schoolmasters on the strength rather of their cricketing than their educational capacities could really explain this proposition. Fortunately, the *Field* gives a simple explanation of this scientific expression. It is a peculiar thing that scientific men use such incomprehensible phrases to

enunciate a simple proposition. I wish simple English were made compulsory in all schools. These scientific axioms remind one of the man who said that sea-sickness would be avoided if the periodicity of the ship synchronised with the periodicity of the swell.

It was rather hopeless to expect to draw a line as to the prospects of the University Rugby match from the play last Saturday. The Old Merchant Taylors took down too weak a team to expect to be able to extend Cambridge. Oxford, on the other hand, made their weakness forward apparent by suffering defeat at the hands of Blackheath pretty well to the same extent that they did from Richmond. On the whole the game will depend on the forwards. But the Cambridge men must not make the mistake of trying to play a tight forward game. They ought to be stronger than the Oxford pack. To win they must set to work to rush the Oxford men off their feet. Otherwise the Dark Blues are sure to get a chance of getting their backs in motion, and then if Raphael is in form they will win.

I do not think I ever read anything more unworthy of an old University man than the disgraceful suggestion made in the Press by Mr. A. O. Jones, the Notts cricketer and Midland three-quarter, that Cambridge University refused to turn out against Leicester because they had not MacLeod and Mainprice playing for them. I read that owing to the frost the ground was in places still covered in order to make a fall less dangerous. In the local Press it was stated that hard collaring would be dangerous. The Press was not at one with the referee, but I have not the slightest doubt that the Cambridge captain exercised a wise discretion in not playing. I have some idea of the state of ground on which certain clubs will play when there is a gate to be considered. No doubt the referee will report the matter to the Rugby Union if he considers that his authority was defied.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Active—Feeling Good—Markets Broadening—A Pause for Breath—Monetary Position Good—The Most Promising Markets.

CONDITIONS on the Stock Exchange are for the most part favourable, and I have to report a distinct increase in business. It has not been distributed generally, and the Home and American Railways have been more than a little neglected, while towards the end the volume of dealing shows some contraction all round. This, however, is not a regrettable affair. A pause in the upward movement permits of breathing space, and makes more for confidence and the broadening out of business than any skyrocket rise, which is all too apt to be followed by an equally sudden drop, leaving the miserable shareholder nothing but the barren stick for his trouble and expense. Apart from the miserable war in the East and the possible outbreak of further capers by the valiant warships now on the way to Port Arthur, everything makes for good trading. The monetary position is the dominant factor, and that is altogether satisfactory. It has not been found necessary to advance the Bank rate beyond 3 per cent., at which it has stood since April last, and it looks now as though we shall get beyond the turn of the year without any change, in spite of the foreign calls upon us and the invariably strong inquiry for loans which marks that period. Some correspondents were at one time disposed to regard my views on the monetary outlook as a trifle too sanguine, but I think the facts justify me. Capital is available in greater volume for investment and speculation, and, what is more, it is better distributed, the class which keeps things moving cheerfully in normal times having more surplus at its disposal than it has had hitherto since we embarked upon our little war in South Africa. In the New Year, we ought to have really lively markets, and, for my part, I am inclined to plump for two departments—South Africans, because conditions there are brightening every day; and Home Railways, because they have been badly neglected while virtually every other market has witnessed activity and a big rise in values.

Money Cheap Again—Bank Rate Unchanged—Foreign Demands for Gold—The German Menace—Year-end Demands—Gold from India—Bank's Position.

The great feature of the Money Market is the retention of the Bank rate at 3 per cent. The drain on the Old Lady's resources of gold is pretty severe, but Egypt is not taking so much as had been anticipated, and some portion of the requirements of Argentina is being diverted; added to which, the buying of Argentine securities on Buenos Ayres account has during this past year been on a very large scale, thereby offsetting to some extent the necessity for shipments of gold to move the crops. The German menace, which threatened more than any other influence to force action upon the Bank of England's Directors, is now entirely removed, and although recent arrivals of gold have gone to that country, it is only at a reduced price, bar gold being now back again to 77s. 10d. per oz. Supplies on the market are increased by the greater willingness of the joint-stock banks to grant facilities, now that the month has turned and their balance-sheets are made up, by the distribution of a number of dividend payments, and by the large sum obtained from the Bank of England by the discounting of bills which will not mature until the New Year. For the next week or two, therefore, loans may be expected to be cheap. But the ease will not extend beyond then—until the beginning of January, I mean—because there is a big rush for accommodation during the last ten or fourteen days of the year. Discount rates are disposed to be easier, owing to the condition of the Money Market, and for fine three-months drafts the rate is only 2⅞ per cent. The fact that a million in sovereigns is on the way from India, and that it is due to arrive just when it will be most wanted, makes for ease. The latest Bank return shows a decrease of £926,000 in the reserve, the stock of coin being reduced by £305,000, while the circulation of notes is up to £621,000.

Consols Active—Other Government Stocks Sympathise—New Zealand Loan—Foreigners Firm—Spanish and Exchange Reforms—"War" Stocks Steady—Peruvian Report.

Quite a large volume of business has been passing in the gilt-edged market, and, though it seems to be slackening off somewhat, no doubt a renewal of the support will be forthcoming, provided no untoward developments arise to act as a deterrent. The Consols settlement revealed nothing of exceptional interest, beyond an appreciably higher carry-over rate of 4—4¼ per cent. This naturally did not create a favourable impression, but it came to be recognised that the usual year-end monetary conditions were the chief reason for this higher charge, rather than any increase in the "Bull" position. The Funds moved ahead quite cheerfully, being helped by the large shipment of gold from India, which it is thought will materially assist the Bank and minimise the risk of any advance in the Bank rate, and though the latest New Zealand issue and rumours of large withdrawals of the metal served to create a somewhat heavy feeling towards the close, on balance the stock is well up, if allowance is made for the deduction of the quarterly dividend. In sympathy, other Government stocks have been more cheerful. Local Loans, Transvaal Threes, Irish Land stock, and the War Loan displaying a better appearance, while the Water Board stock has received an encouraging fillip by the fixing of the special settlement for the 21st current. In the Colonial group, little interest has been manifested, apart from the latest New Zealand loan for £1,000,000, which takes the form of Seven Years' Convertible Debentures bearing 4 per cent. interest. Offered at par, the bonds will be redeemable at the

same figure in 1912, and holders can exercise the option to convert into New Zealand Three and a Half per Cent. Inscribed Stock. This announcement has had practically no effect upon the existing stocks, which remain unchanged. The new issue is quoted at a small premium. There has been a fair amount of Continental support for Foreigners, and the general tendency remains quite satisfactory, Spanish being somewhat a feature of the proposal of the country's Prime Minister to introduce a bill having as its object the steadying of the exchange. True enough, it is not the first of its kind, but on this occasion the general impression is that the reform will be carried out. Among the "war" stocks, nothing fresh has transpired in connection with the impending Russian loans to affect the country's stocks adversely, and they have been inclined to improve slightly; while as regards Japanese issues, they move within narrow limits just as the popular fancy interprets the progress of the struggle in the vicinity of Port Arthur. A little more attention is being paid to Chinese stocks, and in the South American group Brazilians and Argentines are bought more freely, but they are without any outstanding feature, except perhaps in the case of Buenos Ayres Provincial Cedulas, support for which has again been induced by rumours of an alternative settlement. Chilians keep buoyant, and Uruguays, too, are steady, the news from the country seeming to indicate that the disarmament of the insurgents as well as the negotiations between the two contending parties are proceeding satisfactorily. Peruvians have displayed less animation, and on the whole the tendency has been to dwindle away, as the result of the profit-taking induced by the publication of the report. In respect of the negotiations with the Government, the statements in the document are less encouraging than had been hoped, it being implied that though the Government has obtained powers to settle its outstanding differences with the Corporation, they will not become inoperative until July, 1906, which fact seems to leave scope for much more procrastination. The Board, however, are hopeful that the results will be achieved at no distant date "on terms just and equitable to both parties."

Home Railways—Investment Buying—Market Prospects Better Trade Outlook—Southern Stocks Strong—North-Westerns to the Front—Great Centrals—Preference Stocks for Investment.

There is a fair amount of investment buying of Home Railway stocks, but speculative support is on a poor scale, and while still preserving a good undertone, the market is languishing to some slight extent. It seems to me that this neglect is unwarranted, and that the man who goes into the market and buys to hold into the early part of the New Year will make a more than respectable profit for himself. While every other section has responded more or less to the better influences prevailing, Home Railway stocks have lagged rather sadly. They have not been entirely neglected, and as compared with the prices ruling at the end of September, some moderate gains have been registered. But the support has been indifferent, and I should say that—simply by virtue of the neglect, coupled with merits which are not generally recognised yet—this is the market which will be taken in hand next. It is true that earnings are not exactly exhilarating, but with the exception of only three or four companies, they still indicate increases, and in the case of those three or four, liberal allowance must be made for underestimation; and it should be recognised also that traffic is being worked more economically, and that capital charges are being kept down. The trade outlook is improving, and the return upon one's investment is anything but meagre. Operators do not seem able to look beyond the immediate run of indifferent earnings, whereas it is quite certain that with the turn of the year at the latest, when money will be cheap and dividend speculation will have been initiated, the conditions will be such as to induce a general and pretty substantial advance in values. Therefore, I regard Home Railways as quite attractive for a purchase into the New Year. During the past week the movements have not been material, but good spots there have been here and there. Southern stocks have come into favour, especially Chatham Ordinary and Second Preference, Brighton A, and South-Western Deferred, the last registering a fair gain on the week. Dover A has been kept down by the size of the "Bull" account, there being people about who, having bought when the stock was talked to 75 or 85, or some such preposterous figure, are still holding on, hoping against hope that they may get out without loss. There are a score or more of stocks more attractive on their merits than Dover A—stocks which give a direct return in the shape of dividend as well as the hope of a good appreciation when the market receives its turn. It ought to be remembered that all the dividend-paying stocks now carry half a year's interest, and that some of them—Brighton A, South-Western Deferred, Great Northern Deferred, and some others—are loaded with almost a full year's dividend. Recognition of this fact will show that as they stand they are cheap. The "heavy" stocks are safe for a good yield, with every likelihood of a substantial advance in quotations, and while Great Westerns are helped by exceedingly satisfactory earnings, North-Westerns will lead the way in the general advance, which is overdue, and seems now to be imminent. Great Central Junior issues are less attractive now than they were a couple of months ago; in the 1894 Preference the advance has been very striking, and well as the Company is progressing, the immediate prospects appear now to have been pretty liberally discounted. While Central Londons keep firm, the stocks of the Underground companies are disposed to react, from fear of the proposed Great Western's line from Shepherd's Bush to the western suburbs, which would serve as a feeder to the "tube." Movements during the week are shown in my table below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Nov. 26.	Price, Dec. 8.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	75½	75½	76½	+1
Do. Def.	28¼	32⅜	32⅜	33	+⅝
City and S. London	50	46½	46½	46½	—
Central London	93	94	94	94	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	56	57	+1
Do. "B"	26	31	31½	30⅜	−⅛
Do. "A"	13⅞	17	17	16⅞	−⅛
Great Eastern	85½	91½	91	91	—
Great Northern Pref.	100½	100	100	100½	+⅛
Do. Def	38¼	40½	40⅜	40⅝	+⅛
Great Western	134	139	139	139½	+½
Hull and Barnsley	42	43	43	42½	−½
Lancashire and Yorkshire	98	107½	107½	108	+½
London and Brighton "A"	107½	122½	123	124½	+1½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14½	16⅜	16⅜	17½	+⅛
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	92	99½	100	101	+1
Do. 2nd Pref.	54	65	64	67½	+3½
London and North-Western	149	149½	149½	152	+2½
London and South-Western Def.	51	52	52	53½	+1½
Metropolitan Consolidated	88½	100⅜	100½	100	−⅜
Metropolitan District	36½	41½	41½	41½	—
Midland Pref.	67½	67	67	67	—
Do. Def.	64	64	64	64½	+⅛
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	77	77	77	77½	+½
Do. Def.	41½	47½	47½	47⅝	+⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	138	138½	138⅜	138½	−⅛
South-Eastern "A"	48¼	57½	57	57½	+½

Traffics, as hinted above, are mostly indifferent, in some cases poor, but in considering them, the better trade tendency should be kept in mind, and in mitigation there was the bad weather. My table shows the position for the half-year to date.

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	− 1,413	+ 110	+ 16,269
Caledonian	+ 352	+ 1,311	+ 2,993
Great Central	+ 149	+ 491	+ 20,416
Great Eastern	− 3,900	+ 2,200	+ 7,400
Great Northern	− 4,199	− 4,213	− 52,030
Great Western	+ 6,800	+ 4,700	+ 37,500
Lancashire and Yorkshire	− 819	− 2,180	+ 46,635
London and North-Western	− 6,000	− 3,000	− 99,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,100	+ 1,700	+ 15,600
Midland	− 2,786	− 1,428	− 116,179
North British	+ 367	+ 1,133	+ 25,319
North-Eastern	− 7,027	− 38	− 25,536
South-Eastern and Chatham	− 1,647	+ 1,433	+ 16,835

Preference and other prior charge stocks have kept firm recently, and they are now being bought in expectation

of a general advance in gilt-edged investment stocks in the New York; in addition to which they are full of half a year's dividend.

American Rails Inactive—Operators Shy—Sentiment "Bullish," but Public Interest Declining—The Presidential Message—Heavy Stocks Supported—Northern Securities.

On the New York market there has been much activity in American rails, and the daily dealings have reached big figures. On this side, however, the interest has been very restricted, and it is to be feared that a respectable proportion of the dealings carried through have been on New York account, with the object of creating an impression that dealings here are broadening out. Rightly or wrongly, the speculators on this side are still fighting shy of Yankees, and the professional gentlemen are not indulging in any undue risks, realising presumably that the outlook is doubtful, and that values have already been brought tolerably high by the pre-Presidential election boom. From New York one hears that the sentiment is still "Bullish," but at the same time it is allowed that public interest is declining, and the market is now rather disposed to await the Presidential message, fearing that it may administer something of a shock by its references to the trusts and the necessity for a modification of the tariff. The "pool" manipulations, about which I had occasion to write some weeks ago, have now almost ceased—for the time being, at least, and the cheap rubbishy stocks are resting quietly, while the "heavy" and responsible dividend payers take the floor. In other words, the feature of the week has been the strength of such stocks as New York Centrals, Illinois Centrals, Milwaukees, Louisvilles, and Pennsylvanias, followed at a respectful distance by Baltimores. These stocks apart, there is little to which attention need be drawn. There was at one time a recurrence of the feverish demand for Northern Securities in anticipation of a legal decision, which ought to be announced before this issue of Truth is in the hands of its readers, and at the same time, support was forthcoming for Union Pacifics. The Gates interests bought Readings, and simultaneously circulated a report about an impending dividend, which the President of the road characterised afterwards—no doubt in a dry fashion—as "rather premature." My table is appended:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price, Nov. 19, 1904.	Closing Price, Nov. 26, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	88½xd	91¼xd	91½
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅝	88⅜	105½	106½	106½
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	99⅝	99	102⅜
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28½	51⅝	50¼xd	51⅛
Denver	43⅞	18¾	34⅛	33½	34
Do. Pref.	93½	66¾	88	87½	89¼
Erie	43⅛	23¼	40	40¼	41
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	75	75½	75½
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	142¼	142¾	150
Milwaukee	187½	137½	177½	178	181
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅞	16⅞	35⅜	35	34⅞
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	94	94	95
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	77	77	78¼
New York Central	158	116⅜	139	139	144¼
Ontario	36	19⅞	43¼	43	44¼
Pennsylvania	80	57½	70xd	69½	71⅛
Reading	35½	20	38⅜	39⅜	40½
Do. First Pref.	45⅛	36½	45	45	45½
Southern Common	37⅞	17⅞	36⅜	35⅜	37½
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	98	97½	98
Southern Pacific	69¼	39⅝	68⅜	69	68⅝
Union Pacific	107⅛	69⅝	117⅜	119⅜	119¼
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	98	97	97½
Wabash Pref.	55½	30	48	47½	47⅜
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅜	55½	71	70	71
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	27⅞	30½	33⅜
Do. Pref.	—	—	89⅜xd	97¼xd	96¾

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Metal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues post free.—South Audley-street London.

Canadian Railways—Grand Trunk Position—Pacific Extension—Canadian Pacifics—Argentine Railways and the Strikes—Mexican Railways Weak—Mexican Centrals—San Paulos for Investors—Arica and Tacna Shares.

The Grand Trunk's revenue statement for October, showing an increase in net earnings of £1,000 (which brings the aggregate increase for the four months to £6,200), was not exactly to the liking of the market, which had looked for £4,000 or £5,000; but, having regard to the fact that there was one working day less than last year, the result is not really poor, and the financing scheme of the Grand Trunk Pacific soon brought about a readjustment of values. The official announcement is that Messrs. Speyer have bought, and will issue shortly, $6,600,000 Four per Cent. First Mortgage Lake Superior Division bonds and $8,000,000 Four per Cent. Mortgage (Prairie Division) bonds. Both bonds run for fifty years, and the capital and interest are unconditionally guaranteed by the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada. This purchase by Messrs. Speyer will enable the Company to begin construction immediately, and practically assures the carrying out of the Transcontinental Railway across Canada. The ultimate effect of the Pacific extension upon the fortunes of the Grand Trunk will unquestionably be beneficial, and, in relation to the immediate course of values, the market argues that the Speyer interests can hardly help giving support in order to pave the way for the bond issues. A factor of immediate consequence is that earnings are looking better, the comparison now being with moderate totals last year. There have been snowstorms in the country, but there is ground for the belief that the decrease in gross earnings for the four months will be appreciably reduced by the end of the year, and that in the early months of next year there will be a respectable improvement. As I have pointed out before, the actual sum of revenue is large, but the Company is handicapped by the failure to pay an interim dividend on even the First Preference stock. To pay in full for the twelve months on this it will need to find £171,000 after meeting all charges down to and including the Four per Cent. Guaranteed stock. This it will no doubt do. But there is room for some doubt on the score of the Second Preference receiving its full 5 per cent., although the Company ought to be in a position to do this if it is able to reduce expenditure on anything like the same scale as for the half-year to June, either by actual savings or by the temporary suspension of non-urgent works. For the December half of 1903 there was almost £400,000 available after paying rents, debenture interest, and other prior charges. The Guaranteed capital has been increased, and calls this half-year for £129,482, while to pay 5 per cent. on the Second Preference requires £120,500. In other words, the Company wants £426,982 to meet charges down to and including the Second Preference. Seeing that it reduced expenditure by £99,463 during the June half, it should be in a position to save about £30,000 during the second half. The price of Seconds shows that it is generally believed that it will do this. Next year, given a moderate winter, earnings will look handsome, because they will go against a long run of decreases, and speculation is likely to become very active, with rising prices. In Canadian Pacifics there is little change. The earnings keep on a big scale, and while the October statement shows a net decrease of $88,000, this may be regarded as exceptional. The Company's shares make a good investment purchase, bringing in about 4⅜ per cent., with the likelihood of a good advance in the long run, as the line derives full benefit from the opening up of

Financial Protection for Families or Provision for Old Age. The public is invited to apply for the new Prospectus of the Scottish Widows' Fund. Funds £17,000,000. Participating Life Assurances by Annual Premiums effected before December 31st next, will, at the next Division of Profits (1908) rank for Five years' Bonus Additions. Applications for such Assurances should not be delayed. 28, Cornhill, E.C., and 5, Waterloo Place, S.W.

Canada and the spread of its own system. My table follows:—

—	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Dec. 3.
Canadian Pacific	124¼	138	137¾
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	15⅝	21	20⅞
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	102	98½	98½
,, 1st Preference	111	107	107½
,, 2nd ,,	97½	96½	95½
,, 3rd ,,	45¼	49	48⅛
Bengal and North-West	132½	147	145xd
Bombay Baroda	155	148	148½
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126½	127½	128
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	103	103½	103
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	107½	118	116½
,, ,, 1st Preference	99	107	108½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	90	94	95½
,, Great Southern	135	135	134⅝
,, Western	130½	125	125¼
Entre Rios Railway Preference	66½	71	74½
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	91	100	100½
Costa Rica Railway	1/8	2⅜	2⅜
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	96½	97½
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	85	88	88
Mexican Railway	15⅜	28¾	26¾
,, 1st Preference	65½	108	106
,, 2nd ,,	24	51½	48½
Nitrate Rails	7⅛	9⅞	10⅛

Argentine Railway stocks are quiet, and still a little depressed, consequent upon the labour troubles, though these appear to be dying out. Should there be no violent outbreak and general disturbance, I look for a revival of activity in this market with the moving of the wheat crop, which will come soon, as the harvest has already commenced in Santa Fé. The Great Southern earnings are very satisfactory, the latest increase being £8,914, which gives the Company £154,956 for the half-year to date. The passing of the Currency Reform Bill has not had a good effect upon the issues of the Mexican Railway, the "Bull" account in these being very heavy. Mexican Central bonds are also depressed on the abandonment of the united action for the protection of the bondholders' interests. This Company's stocks are worth looking at, as the earnings are good, and the Company will derive much advantage from the fixing of the dollar at a fair level. For the first quarter of the financial year the traffics increased by $457,644, equal to about 35 per cent., and the position with the prior lien and consolidated mortgage bonds is reasonably secure. The chances of the junior securities rest largely upon the endeavours of rival interests to secure control. Brazilian Railway stocks show little movement, but San Paulos are firm. They are a rather heavy weight, of course, but they ought to prove attractive to the man who is on the look-out for a 7 per cent. security. The traffic increase for twenty-one weeks amounts to £99,353, and there is more to follow. The Company is very well managed, is in English hands, and for each of the last three years 12 per cent. has been paid. There has been some inquiry for the shares of the Arica and Tacna Railway in view of the possibility of the line being acquired in connection with a scheme to provide direct communication between the rich mineral district of La Paz and the Coast. The £10 shares, which are fully paid, stand now at 3¾ buyers, and are a promising speculative holding.

South Africans Brisk—Bucket-shop Influences—Markets Strong in Tone—French Support—More Stamps Dropping—Anglo-French Exploration Issue—"Lewis and Marks, Limited"—Barnato Shares—Steyn Estates—Welgedacht's Coal Strike—Diamond Shares—Deep Levels.

In the earlier part of the week there were very large dealings in South Africans, and despite heavy realisations in the way of profit-taking, prices advanced considerably, the shares offered being absorbed willingly. The suspension of the London and Paris Exchange, which had large "Bear" lines open in Chartered and other Kaffirs, caused some uneasiness, and helped to a quieter condition of things, which continued down to Saturday, the last two days of the week witnessing a rather striking drying up of the speculative stream. The bucket-shop failure was, however, of little real consequence; its indebtedness to the members of the House was not very large, and the creditors were soon reassured. The tone of the market remains strong enough, and a renewal of active trade this week is probable. Occasional rests are good, for they afford some breathing space, and keep values from going ahead too rapidly. The condition of things on the Rand improves steadily, and the good Frenchman, who only buys on a buoyant market, is now operating freely. It is not generally realised to what extent this individual is supporting the market, nor is it properly understood that he is capable of giving very great help on occasion, since he is fond of Kaffirs, and has much money lying idle owing to distrust of home industrials. Good buying is coming also from Germany and other parts of the Continent, and the Cape is a discriminating purchaser of specialties. Owing to the better supply of labour, and the assurance of a sufficiency for immediate requirements, the mines are encouraged to set additional stamps to work. The Simmer and Jack and the Van Ryn are to increase the number dropping, and Knights have been extensively bought on the report that the mill was to commence crushing with 100 stamps on Friday. Another evidence of the better feeling is shown in the new Company flotations, and the issue of fresh capital by existing Companies. The Anglo-French Exploration, Company, Limited, announce that they have resolved to issue 150,000 Preference shares, being the balance of the Company's authorised capital, thus making the total capital 500,000 Ordinary shares and 500,000 Preference shares, all issued. In a circular the Directors state that these Preference shares carry the right to a fixed cumulative preferential dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, and rank both as regards dividend and capital in priority to the Ordinary shares. The issue will commence to rank for dividend from the 1st prox., and it has been decided to issue the shares at a premium of 2s. per share, in the proportion of three Preference shares for every ten Ordinary shares, to all Ordinary shareholders registered on 23rd ult., any shares not taken up by the shareholders being dealt with by the Board. The allotment letters will be issued to the Ordinary shareholders on Monday. The existing Preference shareholders have no right to an allotment. The week has witnessed a very important new issue—the African and European Investment Company, which might almost be called Lewis and Marks, Limited. The Company has been formed to consolidate and develop a large number of properties which have been selected by Messrs. Lewis and Marks, some of which have been held by them for many years. The purchase consideration for the whole of the properties and assets is £1,000,000 in fully-paid shares, in addition to which Messrs. Lewis and Marks have stipulated that, after the shareholders of the Company shall have received in cash (whether by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise) an amount equal to the whole amount paid up on the shares held by them, they (Messrs. Lewis and Marks), on any further distribution, are to be paid one-fourth of the amount to be distributed. Amongst the assets taken over from the agency are agreements which that Company has entered into with a number of South African and other Companies to act as their secretaries or agents in London and in Paris. The prospectus contains a full schedule of the properties, from which it appears that the landed interests cover an area of 716,442 acres (equal to about 1,119 square miles), situated in the best known districts of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, which have been most carefully selected with a view to mineral possibilities, as well as to their agricultural value. The Company owns the whole of the mineral rights over nearly all the area. In the Marico district alone the Company owns over 500 square miles. The Malmani Goldfields, which have been proclaimed as public diggings, are in close proximity to many of the Company's farms in this district, one of such farms being on the goldfields and already proclaimed. Marico and Rustenburg are considered to be amongst the best agricultural districts in the

Transvaal, owing to the abundance of water and the rich quality of the soil. In the Zoutpansberg district the Company owns about 15,000 acres, situated on or in close proximity to the Smitsdorp Goldfields, one of the Company's farms, Zandrivier, having been proclaimed a public goldfield. The share interests at present market quotations exceed in value £400,000. The shares offered to the public number 250,000, issued at 30s., and the market has put a further premium of 5s. per share on them. Another new-comer is the New Districts Development Company, promoted by the H. E. Props group; it has a capital of £90,000 in £1 shares, of which 79,000 shares have been issued, leaving 11,000, which are held in reserve under option at £2 10s. From my table below it will be seen that values show improvement on the week:—

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9⅛	6	6⅜	7⅜	7⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5	3⅜	4⅛	4⅜	4⅜
Aurora West	3⅜	2		1⅜	1⅞	1⅞
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜				
Bantjes	7⅜	2⅛		1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Barnato Consols	5½	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5½	5⅜	6⅜	6⅜
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅜	4⅛	7⅛	7⅜	8
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1⅜	2	2	2
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	16¼	15¼	15½
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅞	18⅜	18⅜
Do. Def.	—	26½	18½	18⅝	18¼	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	4⅜	5⅛	5¼
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6½	5¼	5⅜	5⅜	5
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2⅜	2⅜	3⅛
East Rands	12	10⅜	6⅜	8⅜	8⅜	9⅛
Ferreira	22	26	18	21½	22⅜	22⅜
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅜
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	7	7⅛	7⅛
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅛	3	2¼	2¼	2⅜
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	6½	5⅜	5½	5½
,, Main Reef	1⅜					
Glencairn	4¼	2¾	1½	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Henderson	5½	2⅛	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8⅛	8⅜	8⅜
Heriot	12½	9¼	3¾	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	27	28⅜	28⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4⅜	2⅛	2¼	3⅛	3⅛
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1½	1⅝
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜			1	1⅛
Jubilee	12½	7½	4¼	4⅜	4¼	3⅞
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2¼	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅜	1¼
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2⅜	2¼	2⅜
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6¼	6½	6⅝
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1¼			1	1⅛
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅜	4	4⅛	4⅛
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅛
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2½	2⅞	1⅜	1⅞	2	2⅛
May Consolidated	4⅛	5⅞	2⅜	4	4⅛	4⅜
Meyer and Charlton	8¼	6½	4⅞	5½	5⅝	5⅝
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14⅜	7⅞	10¼	10⅜	10⅜
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/6	17/6	18/-
Nigel	8⅞	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜
New African	—	3⅜	1½	1⅝	2	2⅛
New Comet	4½	4	2	3	3⅛	3⅜
New Rietfontein	6⅜	8¼	1⅜	2¼	2⅜	3⅜
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅜	⅜	1	1	1⅛
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4⅛	2	⅜	1⅛	1⅜	1⅛
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	11	11⅜	11⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4⅛	2⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅛
Randfontein Porges	3⅛	3⅛	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Robinson	2⅞	2⅛	1	1⅛	2⅛	2⅛
,, North		2⅛	1⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9⅛	10⅛	10⅜	10⅛
Roodepoort United	8⅛	4⅜	2⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6⅛	8⅜	9⅜	9⅜
S. A. Gold Trust	12½	9⅛	4⅜	5⅜	6	6⅛
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1⅛	1⅜	2	2⅛
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	12/-	15/6	16/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅛	3⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Transvaal Development	2½	2⅞	24/-	1⅜	1⅜	1⅛
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	⅛	⅜	8/-	10/-
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4⅜	4½	4½xd
Van Ryn	11	4⅛	2⅛	4⅛	4½	4½
Village Main Reef	9½	9⅜	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3	3⅛	3⅛
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜
Weigedacht	—	8⅜	6⅜	7⅛	7⅜	7⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9⅛	11	10⅜	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1⅛	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Wolhuter	12	6⅛	3	3⅛	4⅜	4⅜
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1⅛	1⅛	1	1

* £5 shares.

Goldfields have again been a noticeably strong market, and Gold Trusts have also been bought. Rand Mines, East Rands, Modders, and the other leading favourites have been fairly active on home as well as Paris account, this last centre being a buyer also of Randfonteins, Barneys, Johnnies, Simmer and Jacks, and others. The Barnato descriptions, after rather prolonged inactivity, have strengthened further. I am told that the firm has bought out all the interests which Mr. Carl Hanau held jointly with them, with the one exception of Coronation Syndicates, the whole of the Barnato holding in which (and it is not very large) will pass into the hands of another group. General Mining and Finance subsidiaries keep prominent, Steyn Estates in particular being bought on the report that milling will shortly be commenced, while much is made also of the expectation that the Roodepoort's United rich chute will extend into the property. Rand Collieries have been bought from Germany, and there has been much buying also of Van Dyks. The material increase which has taken place lately in the Company's assets has caused attention to be paid to Goerz shares. Eastern Rand descriptions have all been tolerably good. East Rand Mining Estates, Apex, Geduld, and Welgedachts are all higher. The last-named is especially strong. A message published some days ago stated that from appearances there was every possibility of further coal seams being struck. This expectation has been fulfilled, a later message stating that another seam has been struck of a width of 54 ft.—which is really handsome. An office note points out that the whole of the fuel may not be marketable, but such a thickness provides latitude for some waste. An inspection is to be made, and the result will be awaited with interest by all who are interested in the Welgedacht and in the Companies having properties adjacent thereto. The leading Diamond shares have been reactionary, except for Jagers, which keep firm. Premiers have gone back a couple of points, the recent sensational jump causing profit-taking, in addition to which it is denied that there is to be an amalgamation with the De Beers. The shares of this last Company are easier. Lace Diamonds have been active, and as a result of Dr. Corstorphine's report (which is favourable) concerning the prospects of the Company the shares had a big jump, but part of the rise has since been lost. Deep Levels have come into favour, Modder Deeps and Roodepoort Central Deeps being prominent:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1½	1½	1⅝
Cent. Nigel Deep		1				
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛	3⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13	13⅜	13⅜
Durb. Rood. Deep	4½	4⅜	2	3⅜	3½	3½
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	5⅞	6⅛	6½
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11⅜	11½	11½
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3⅜	4⅞	4⅜	4⅞
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4⅞	2½	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2⅜	2½	2½
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2½	5⅛	2½	3½	3⅜	4⅛
Nourse Deep	5⅜	6⅜	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜				
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜			
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5⅛	5⅜	
Do. Cent. Deep	4⅛	5⅜	2⅜	4⅛	4⅜	4⅜
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6⅜	8⅜	8⅜	8⅜
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅜	3½	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜	2⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4⅛	2	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	3⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅜	2⅛	3⅛	3⅜	4
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1⅛	⅜	1⅛	1⅛
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4⅛	2⅜	4⅛	4⅜	4⅜

WESTRALIANS IDLE—NO INTEREST IN THE MARKET—THE STRENGTH OF KALGURLIS—ASSOCIATED AND LAKE VIEWS FIRM—CONCLUSIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION—LITTLE KANGAROOS.

Once again has it to be chronicled that the Westralian market is in a somewhat inanimate condition, but on the whole the tendency has not been altogether unsatisfactory. Professionals and public alike seem to be looking on without any desire to operate. The feature has undoubtedly been the remarkable strength of Kalgurlis, in anticipation of the report, which proved to be very satisfactory. Associated have also improved as

the result of favourable developments at the No. 10 level, the Iron Duke lode, carrying ore of a value of 35 dwt., having been encountered. Another cable from the Lake View property dealing with the striking of low-grade ore at the 1,600 ft. level also had a beneficial effect upon these shares, but otherwise the market has been devoid of interest, and prices for the most part are without much change on balance. It is rather opportune, I think, now that the interest of outsiders in the market is at such a low ebb, and shows no sign of expanding, to call attenion to the reported conclusion of the Westralian Royal Commission into the Boulder Deep Levels scandal, which occasioned such disgust a short time ago. From the evidence adduced it was clear that misleading statements were intentionally circulated when the abortive boomlet was in progress, but upon whom the responsibility for these rests is not quite certain. However, the Commission are of opinion that the secrecy which has hitherto been observed in regard to the working of many Westralian mines is not in the public interest, and it is said that these gentlemen recommend that all mines shall be open to inspection by shareholders at convenient hours; that the Minister of Mines shall be empowered to authorise an official to take samples from any property, inspect the workings, and compel the Companies to keep assay plans, also plans of the underground workings where they will be available for inspection by shareholders. It is further recommended that misrepresentation or concealment of facts shall be punishable by fine or imprisonment, and that managers' reports shall be published locally coincidentally with their reaching the head office. Even if all these recommendations are carried out with exactness there is no doubt that there is still scope for the practice of "Westralianism"; but on the whole the risk ought to be considerably minimised. Among the Little Kangaroos, Northern Terrors remain conspicuous at their lower level of about 3s., fluctuating around that figure from day to day, but on the other hand some more Colonial inquiries is reflected in the better appearance of Boulder Deeps. Here is my table:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 8, 1904.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅝	3⅝	1	2 1/16	1 13/32	1 13/32
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4 1/16	1 7/16	1 13/32	1 13/32	1 7/16
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	1¾	⅛	⅜	11/32	⅜
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	7/3	6/-	6/-
Golden Horseshoe	15	11½	7	7¼	7⅜	7¼xd
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/-	4/-	3/9
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	20/9	22/9	21/9
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1¼	8/6	4/6	4/-	3/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 1/16	1¼	12/9	12/3	12/3
Do. South	3½	1⅜	1/16	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6½	9 1/16	5 1/16	8¼	8 3/16	8 3/16
Hainault	1¾	3/16	1/16	1/16	3/16	2/16
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	16½	10¼	6¾	7⅞	7 15/16	8
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/16	⅛	⅜	5/16	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅛	4¼	2 1/16	5¼	5 5/16	6 1/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1 5/16	1⅜	1 5/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 1/16	1 1/16	¼	8/6	8/3	8/6
North Kalgurli	1 1/16	10/-	4/-	5/3	5/6	6/-
Oroya Brownhill	—	4¼	2	3 5/16	3⅜	3⅜
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅜	5/6	5/6	1/16
Sons of Gwalia	6 3/16	2 5/16	1	1 31/32	2¼	2¼
South Kalgurli	6¼	2 7/16	⅛	1 3/16	1 3/16	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 1/16	⅛	1/16	1/16	1/16

Rhodesians Less Animated—Tone Fairly Good—The Alluvial Discovery—Chartered Easier—Banket Developments—Amalgamation Proposals—Tanganyikas and Zambesias—Rhodesia Copper Flotation.

A pause is noticeable in the Rhodesian section after the marked activity resulting from the alluvial discovery announcement, and in the majority of cases a healthy setback from the higher levels prevailing a week ago has occurred. Though certainly quieter, it would be erroneous to conclude that the activity has ceased or that the general interest has evaporated, for they are still there, but both rather subdued. There has been a paucity of news concerning the prospects of the alluvial area of which so much was made, and this has given time for careful reflection upon its possibilities, and the prevailing impression received little stimulus from the *Times'* Cape Town correspondent's cable pointing out that the scarcity of water will be a hindrance of undoubted significance to militate against the economical development of the ground, while the fact that the area shows indications of ancient workings is also held in some quarters to detract from its potentialities. But as I have before said, we must wait for the result of the Chartered engineer's investigation before commenting upon the discovery as a factor in the exploitation, and incidentally the colonisation, of Rhodesia. Chartered shares have not maintained their position so well, losing about 5-32 on balance. Banket descriptions continue more or less in the background, though they were momentarily lifted from their comparative obscurity by the announcement of developments on the No. 2 level of the Eldorado claim. The message says that indications are improving, the average assay on the level just referred to, for instance, being 42 dwt. across 5 ft. throughout the drive, while the face shows very high-grade ore, and the eastern section proves continuity of reef of good value with a largely increased tonnage of ore at the east end. This is undoubtedly the most encouraging news given out for some time. Among the smaller gold mines, an interesting amalgamation proposal is announced, dealing with the fusion of the Eagle Vulture, Geelong, Jessie, and West Nicholson properties under the one title of East Gwanda. The decision to amalgamate has been come to because of the difficulties experienced in maintaining an adequate supply of native labour at isolated mines, as well as the economies which may be effected by working several mines under one management with one central reduction plant. The new concern will have a capital of £600,000 in £1 shares, of which 360,100 will be offered to the shareholders of the four Companies absorbed, credited with 14s. paid, and 100,000 allotted as fully paid in part settlement of liabilities, leaving 139,000 shares in reserve, subject to consent of the debenture-holders in the Geelong and West Nicholson Companies to exchange for an equivalent amount of Six per Cent. Debentures in the new Company. In the Northern group quite a fair amount of interest is still being manifested, Tanganyikas being helped by the report that work on the Lobito Bay Railway was resumed on November 26, while Zambesias have improved in anticipation of a favourable report by the Directors. Though Northern Coppers have lost a little of the ground recently gained, they are steady at the lower level, and Rhodesia Coppers are firm, deriving some benefit from the rumour that the Chartered Company have concluded to extend the railway from Victoria Falls, while the flotation of a subsidiary to develop the lead and zinc deposits in the Rhodesia Broken Hill mine has had a little effect. This Company will be known as the Rhodesia Broken Hill Development Company, and will acquire an area of about thirty-five square miles in the vicinity of the mine. My usual table is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1¼	⅜	⅜
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2⅜	1 13/32	1 13/32
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	2 3/16	2 3/16
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	1/16	1/16
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194 028	1	f.p.	⅛	⅜	⅜
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	1/16	1/16
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/16	¼	¼
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	1/16	1/16
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	3/16	3/16
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/16	1⅜	1⅜
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6½	2¼	2¼
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	1⅜	1⅜
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4¼	1/16	1/16
N'rth'rn Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	3⅜	3½	4
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	3/16	⅜
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	5⅛	5⅛
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	⅜	⅜
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	3½	2⅜	2⅜
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	¼	¼
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	5⅜	5⅜
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	1/16	1/16
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅜	⅜
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	⅜	6/16
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/16	3/16	3/16
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅞	2¼	2⅜

West Africans Livelier—Another Spasm—Ashanti Goldfields Dullish—Amalgamated and Wassaus Improve—Egyptians Strong—Copper Shares Firm—Indians—Le Roi No. 2 Buoyant.

One of those outbursts of buoyancy which have characterised the West African Mining section within the past month or two is again conspicuous, and it is accompanied by the almost inevitable gossip concerning the brighter outlook for the industry. As a matter of fact, nothing has so far transpired to lead one to the belief that any important developments are impending, and it is quite safe to assert that the present condition is wholly artificial. It is the obvious result of professional manœuvring, that fraternity being induced to exert themselves by the cheerfulness prevailing in other mining sections, more especially South Africans, concluding in their usual optimistic way that if the public were displaying an active interest in that market, it would eventually enlarge and spread to the forlorn Jungle. It would, indeed, be remarkable if the outsiders were to begin to do so, after the sad experiences of the past few years, but the chances are much against any such manifestation of interest developing until inherent conditions are healthier, and decidedly more encouraging. The dullest spot has been Ashanti Goldfields, which for some inexplicable reason fail to participate in the upward movement, and at one time, when a general setback was occasioned by rumours regarding the fresh capital requirements of one of the leading mines, they developed rather marked weakness. The two outstanding features have been Gold Coast Amalgamated and Wassau, both of which have been twisted appreciably higher, the former being $\frac{5}{8}$ better than a week ago and the latter $\frac{3}{4}$, both very significant advances, while a few of the rubbishy descriptions also came in for a good deal of attention, with the usual result. My table of prices is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅛	1¼
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/9 dis	5/- dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Attesi Mines.....	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	4/6	4 9
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1½	1½
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1⅞	1⅞
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f p	⅜	3⅝
HimanConcessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	¼	¼
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Prestea Mines....	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/6	13 6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	⅝	⅝
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1½	1½
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	1¾	2⅛

In the Miscellaneous market the feature has again been the strength of Egyptians, though there have been no sensational fluctuations in prices. Intermittent profit-taking naturally had the effect of neutralising previous gains, but on the whole the tendency is very satisfactory, and from the fact that Mr. J. B. Robinson has secured a controlling interest in Nile Valleys, it is a clear inference that the Egyptian Mining shares will stand out more conspicuously in the future than hitherto. Copper shares keep firm, despite the less encouraging position of the metal, but there have been few developments of interest to record. Indians continue steady, without much feature apart from the slight advance in Champion Reefs consequent upon the dividend announcement of 1s. 5d. per share, making 4s., or 160 per cent., for the year on the new half-crown shares, as compared with 16s. 6d., or 165 per cent., on the old 10s. shares. The difference in the return is explained to a great extent by the fact that the new shares did not fully participate in the profits last year. Ooregums strengthened a little on the cable pointing out that a vein 2 ft. wide had been intersected, assaying 15 dwt. Among British Columbians considerable attention has been paid to Le Roi No. 2, as a result of the belief that the Company will declare another dividend before the end of the current year, though it is exceedingly doubtful, I think, that any further distribution will be made pending a settlement, one way or another, of the option recently acquired. Mount Lyells have hardened further, and in the Charter Towers group Brilliant and St. George keep on the upgrade, while among New Zealanders, Waihi Grand Junctions are still in request.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Dec. 3.
Anaconda Copper	7 7/16	3 7/8	6	5½
Balaghat Gold	1 15/16	14/-	16/9	17/-
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1¼	45/-	42½-xd
Cape Copper	5	2	4½	4⅝
Champion Reef	7	5⅛	33/	34/-
Le Roi	4⅝	⅝	⅝	¾
Mason and Barry	4¼	3⅛	3⅛	3½
Mount Lyell Mining	4½	2	2	17/-
Mysore Gold	7⅞	5½	6⅞	6⅞
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2½	3⅜	3⅜
Nundydroog	2 5/16	1⅜	35/-	1½-xd
Ooregum	2⅝	21/9	17/-	18/-
Rio Tinto	53⅜	38⅜	62½	62½
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	3⅜	5⅝	5½
Waihi Gold	6⅝	4 11/16	5 1/16	6

A Sermon on Bucket-shops.

A tremendous amount of noise has been made in the daily papers over the suspension of the London and Paris Exchange. To judge from the fuss, one might imagine, did one not know better, that one of the pillars of our banking world had suddenly fallen away, causing widespread disaster. The simple fact is that a top-heavy bucket-shop—one of the superior sort, no doubt, but none the less a bucket-shop—found itself badly caught over the recent advance in values, and had to admit that, failing the clemency of its Stock Exchange creditors, there was nothing for it but to close its doors and go into liquidation. The Stock Exchange creditors, being convinced by the figures placed before them by Mr. Mandeville, have agreed to wait a little while for what he owes them, and by the aid of friends, the gentleman has been enabled to raise a round £100,000, with which he will meet immediate obligations towards clients, more particularly in respect of "call" options, on which the concern has been very badly caught, and during this week the doors at Basildon House are to be opened again and business will be resumed—not, it is hinted, on the old lines, which is a good start in the way of reform. The daily Press has been exceedingly sympathetic over this collapse, for what particular reason I confess I am unable to ascertain. I am free to admit that, so far as my knowledge goes—and readers of Truth are, as a rule, not slow to advise me when they have been "done"—the London and Paris Exchange has given its clients a fair run for their money, has paid up when the luck has gone against it, has advertised to the verge of prodigality, and along with its mining speculations on margin, and in the selling of options, has carried on a genuine investment business, especially in Industrials, for the behoof of small people who would not know how to approach a broker affiliated to the Stock Exchange. It has carried on a sort of banking business, which I suspect to have been more of a snare and an incitement to mining speculation than anything else, and has dabbled largely in real estate and insurance. But it remains that first and last the London and Paris Exchange has carried on the business of a bucket-shop primarily, the other branches being a sort of fringe to the elegant and tasty garment, and that it has been brought down by the inevitable operation of those circumstances which years ago brought down George Gregory, John Shaw, and other illustrious members of the race. To me the most striking feature of the affair is the lack of resistance which has been shown to adverse influences. The London and Paris Exchange has run in opposition to its clients—that is to say, man being by nature a "Bull," the Exchange has been a "Bear," and since the advent of the Boer war conditions were almost uniformly favourable to it. During the past four years it must have netted enormous sums out

of marginal operations for the rise which did not come off, as well as out of "call" options, which were not exercised. And after all this it finds itself in trouble after something like a month of rising values! There has, I am afraid, been bad management and reckless speculation, or this smash could not so soon have happened. Nobody, of course, could have foreseen the enormous appreciation in Chartereds, in connection with which much money has been lost, by the granting of "call" options at ridiculously low rates. But reason or no reason, there is no room for doubt on the score of the rise in values, and any concern that goes on "Bearing" stocks which will persist in advancing must expect soon or late to be left "in the cart." This is what has happened. It was inevitable on a rising market, but, as I have said already, I am surprised that it should have happened so soon.

I understand that thousands of letters of sympathy have been received from clients up and down the country. I can quite imagine it, and if all the firm's clients are satisfied, having received a run for their money but no profit, there is nothing more to be said. There is certainly no room for sympathy with any one who may lose his or her money. My views are, by this time, I think, tolerably well known. I recommend no outside brokers, because the facilities which they profess to offer are all bunkum, and because the client has no such safeguard as is afforded by the Committee of the Stock Exchange against sharp or fraudulent practices on the part of its members. But this country is full of fools who are willing to risk a little money in the hope that they may make much—who would rather lose in the end than be deprived of their flutter; and as these are quite hopeless—they would not keep their cash if they could—they may as well throw it into the bottomless pit of the London and Paris Exchange as of any other concern operating on the same lines. Personally, after some years spent in warning people of the dangers they run in dealing with bucket-shops, I confess that I sometimes grow a little tired of the naïve—not to say idiotic—questions that are put to me, and of the guileless spirit which imagines that people are in business in the City of London in order to make the fortune of strangers out of a five-pound note. There are honest outside brokers, and it is as well that there should be, if only to prevent the growth of a monopolistic feeling among the gentry privileged to enter the doors of the big house in Throgmorton-street. But between them and the bucket-shop there is a world of difference. There are bucket-shops and bucket-shops—those who pay up on the rare occasions when they lose and those who, like the scoundrel who calls himself Herbert Smith, plead the Gaming Act, and play the game of "heads I win, tails you lose." The London and Paris Exchange ranks among the former; it has, I understand, paid up promptly, and that much, at least, is to be said for it. But it remains a bucket-shop, none the less. The legitimate business in stocks and shares which it has transacted on behalf of clients goes to its credit, but it is almost a negligible quantity beside the speculations in mines and other descriptions in which the Exchange has run, deliberately and as part of the system, against the public who have entrusted it with their money.

The regenerated concern, we are told, will be conducted on more conservative lines than the old one—some of the more reprehensible methods will be abandoned, and the aspiration is to make it a sort of "English Crédit Lyonnais." I do not regard the phrase as any compliment to the French concern, and I am free to confess that I do not see how the business is to be carried on for any length of time. Immediate liabilities on "call" options may be discharged, but there are plenty of others, and I imagine that the events of the past week will have done much to upset the confidence of the small investor no less than the speculator.

The Luxury of a Bath is incomplete without the addition of Scrubb's, which refreshes and invigorates. Always ask for Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

New Issues.

The following prospectuses have been published:—

African and European Investment Company. Capital, £1,000,000, in £1 shares, of which 250,000 are offered by Messrs. Lewis and Marks at a premium of 10s. per share. Particulars of the undertakings acquired will be found in my Kaffir article this week.

San Miguel Copper Mines.—Formed to acquire a Spanish mine of this name, which has been a producer for over thirteen years. The share capital is £150,000, in addition to which there are 6 per cent. debentures for £750,000. No subscriptions are asked from the public.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Sigma.—I should suggest Chinese Fives, Japanese Sixes, Cuba Fives, and Egyptian State Domains, which would average rather more than 4½ per cent. For safe custody the bonds might be deposited at the bank. *Premier.*—The City of Mexico bonds are all right to keep, and Johannesburg Fours might be bought. *Salisbury.*—1. You cannot command 4½ per cent. on really gilt-edged descriptions. I suggest that you spread the money over Turkish Guaranteed, Johannesburg Fours, Chilians 1886, Chinese Fives, Japanese Sixes, Argentine Great Western Railway Preference stock, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern Ordinary. 2. Buy through a broker who is a member of the Stock Exchange. In the event of the contingency named the client's money would be safe. 3. The bank acts as agent only and takes no responsibility. *Beaulieu.*—1. I should prefer the Japanese Six per Cent. Loan. 2. The first of the two issues. 3. The two Six per Cent. Loans are secured on the Customs receipts of the country, and there is a good margin left after meeting the charges. *Hop.*—The Cuban Five per Cent. bonds make a reasonably safe purchase, and at the present price they return about £4 18s. per cent. *Trust.*—Transvaal Threes and Local Loans would suit for a yield of 3⅛ per cent.

Railways.

W. S. R.—I see no reason to worry over Central Londons. The 4 per cent. on the Deferred promises to be maintained, and at the current price the yield on the Deferred is close upon 4¾ per cent. There are few Home Railway stocks which bring in so much—at least stocks of such good standing. Barry Deferred gives just 5⅛ per cent., Great North of Scotland Deferred 5 per cent., and Taff Vales 5 1-16 per cent. North London Ordinary brings in nearly 4¾ per cent. on the basis of the last dividends, but this Company is suffering from the diversion of goods traffic and from the competition of the Great Northern and City tube, and I am not hopeful on the subject of a recovery of the ground lost. *Buckle.*—The Grand Trunk First Preference stock is safe for its full 5 per cent. for the year, and as I argue elsewhere in this issue, there is good reason for assuming that the Second Preference will receive similar treatment. *X. X. X.*—I prefer San Paulos to Leopoldinas. *W., London.*—The investment in North British stock is a good one, and I look for an advance in the price. You bought at a fair price, and the charges are normal. The yield will be nearly 4¼ per cent. Dividends have varied considerably; for 1903 the rate was 2 per cent. The highest price touched in recent years was 74¾ in August 1890, and the lowest 30 in July 1893. *B. C. F., Turk's Island.*—Atchison Preference stock is worth holding as an investment. *Yorkshire.*—The Grand Trunk Junior stocks are speculative favourites, and in the new year they ought (on this basis, coupled with some merit) to go higher, because the earnings will be going against poor figures in the early part of the current year. Canada is making rapid progress, and is good for great strides, which can hardly fail to be profitable to the Grand Trunk Company. But the coming opening up of a vast extent of rich agricultural country must surely count as an asset of much consequence. *Yankee.*—Mexican Central "B" Debentures ought to improve, especially with the country in a prosperous condition, and about to inaugurate a new currency policy which will be of immense benefit. *Com. Trav.*—1. It would be safer to wait until January. 2. I do not anticipate a new high record in prices. 3. Missouris, Eries, and Ontarios. 4. There is no regular rule in the matter.

Mines.

Cornishman.—The least hopeless are Otto's Kopje Diamonds and Fanti Consols, which might be held for a possible improvement, which, however, would be slight. Get rid of the others. *S. B.*—Libialas and Cape Coppers are worth keeping, but you have a considerable holding, and rather than buy more I suggest that you pay attention to one of the promising Kaffirs. The market is full of promising things—say Boksburgs, Barneys, Goerz, or General Mining and Finance. *Cromwell Road.*—The Premier Diamond splitting scheme provides for two Preference shares of 5s. each, entitled to a cumulative dividend of 250 per cent., and your Deferred shares of 2s. 6d. each in exchange for the existing shares. The reported amalgamation with the De Beers is declared on high authority to be devoid of foundation. *Puzzled.*—Your five Kaffirs should be good for a further advance between now and the early weeks of the new year. *Kanya.*—Kanyas may have some recovery if the activity in Rhodesians spreads to the whole market, but I have not a high opinion of the prospects of the Company. Globe and Phœnix are good to hold for some improvement. Oroya Brownhills are good for dividends and a probable improvement in price. *Duncairn.*—I do not think favourably of the reconstruction, and I advise you not to risk any more of your money. *C. W. H.*—I am obliged for your note on the subject of South African Territories. *Medical.*—South Rhodesia Goldfields shares are quoted at about 2s. 6d. The Company is not to be confounded with Rhodesia, Ltd. I am unable to say anything about its relation to the banket. *Exeter.*—Hold the Copper share for 2½, and the other for 4. *Pilate.*—Do not join the reconstruction. In due course you would almost of a certainty be asked for another assessment, and you have lost enough already. *Ayr.*—City and Suburbans might be kept for the dividends, and a higher range of quotations in the near future. The mine has a life of eighteen years or thereabouts. *Lys.*—The Company's prospects are fairly good, and the shares are worth holding on to. *F. W. Foreman.*—1. Sons of Gwalia and Kalgurlis would suit you. 2. Chartered might go soon to 5, but you already have a good profit, and ought not to be too greedy. *Union.*—Worth holding until Christmas or beyond, as the look of the market is better, and dealings are likely to increase. On an active market Barneys and Johnnies are both likely to go above 4. *Veritatis.*—1. The concern is reopening its doors this week, and you should receive your shares. 2. Meyer and Charltons, Knights and Casons. *Louis.*—Hold for 2, and then transfer into something more promising—say, one of the Eastern Rand shares. *Blix.*—Johannesburg Consolidated Investment shares make a promising speculation. They are not to be regarded as "a safe investment," but as a holding which gives dividends and (when bought with prices fairly low, as at present) promises an appreciation in values. *A. M.*—Rathbones and Mines and Minerals might be kept. I should not buy Northern Territories. *Spero.*—Randfontein at 4½, Johnnies at 4, Glencairns at 2, and Hendersons at 2. *Rag.*—Boksburgs are a fairly good share, and you ought to get out before long without loss—possibly even at a profit. *Nemo.*—Hold both the Kaffirs.

Mixed Investments.

Ignoramus, Poona.—1. I do not recommend dealings in Continental lottery bonds with Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. The bonds in which they specialise are genuine enough so far as they go, but these people charge about 40 per cent. above the market price. 2. Ottoman and Panama bonds are a fair gamble. They may be bought through the Crédit Lyonnais or through N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C. 3. There is no liability. 4. I do not care much for either of the shares named. I recommend Gas Light and Coke Ordinary stock, which will give you a yield of nearly 4½ per cent., and Westminster Electrics, which give over 5 per cent. 5. Gorringes might be kept. *Punjaubi.* 1. Hold the South Africans for better prices, but with the new money you might buy Goerz, Barneys, General Mining and Finance, and Welgedachts. 2. The money might be spread, as you suggest, over Gas Light and Cokes, Raphael Tuck Preference, and Westminster Electrics. 3. Brighton A is worth holding for the annual dividend. That, added to your profit through the appreciation of the stock, will give you a really good return. 4. I do not recommend dealings with the Universal Stock Exchange or any other firm of outside brokers. *T. R., Peterhead.*—1. See preceding reply. 2. I do not recommend the concern. 3. Angelo Deeps are promising. 4. They ought to go to 5 at least. 5. The carry-over charges are all right. *Norwood.*—1. I should keep Foreign and Colonial Investment Trust Deferred stock. 2. Buenos Ayres Western Ordinary stock is likely to go higher. 3. I should keep the Kirkstall Brewery Ordinary and (4) Preference shares. 5-8. These are all right. 9. I should get rid of the Honduras Government Railway shares. The country is absolutely hopeless. *R. E., Midlands.*—1. You might exchange into Grand Trunk Firsts, which are likely to go higher, and in the meantime will give you close upon 5 per cent. 2. Better sell the Oceana Developments and buy Rand Collieries, which are more in favour. 3. The North Charterlands should be sold. *Veronique.*—1. For the present at least. Buenos Ayres Rosario Ordinary and Preference might be held. 2. What Mexican Debentures do you refer to? 3. Sell the Costa Rica B bonds, which, I fear, are next door to hopeless. *Hosein.*—1. There would be no difficulty in obtaining payment if the agent were reliable. 2. Make the exchange into Gold Trusts and East Rands. 3. Pekin Syndicates have had a big rise, and would be too risky for you. 4. Vickers are worth buying in view of the good times which the armament Companies are now enjoying and also have in prospect. *Ninety-Nine.*—I do not care for British Westinghouse Preference shares, but the others are good to hold. *Vox Populi.*—1. I suggest Johannesburg Fours, Egyptian Unified, Chinese Fives, North-Western Railway Ordinary, Great Western Railway Ordinary, Great Central 1872 Convertible Preference, Canadian Pacific Preference, and Buenos Ayres Great Southern Preference. 2. I should retain Canadian Pacific Debentures. 3. Johannesburg Fours would make a judicious purchase if within the terms of the trust. *Auckland.*—It seems to me that Rhodesia Railway First Debentures, City of Mexico bonds, Calcutta Electric Supply, and Rio de Janeiro City Improvements Debentures make a fair selection for investment. I anticipate a material improvement in Great Central 1894 Preference within the next two or three years. *Pilot.*—1. Cordoba Central Income bonds might be held for a further improvement. 2. French Rands will probably move soon with other Kaffirs. 3. Likely to go better now that the Resolution is over and business conditions are normal. *Pub.*—I should recommend the Chinese Five per Cent. Gold bonds, Canadian Pacific Ordinary shares, and Argentine Great Western Cumulative Preference stock. *Hutch.*—All four securities are sound, and good to hold for investment.

Miscellaneous.

Preference.—You might hold on to Hope Bros. Preference, despite the bad showing, but with regard to the other concern, its condition is shaky, and you might realise. *Oakham.*—1. You will have seen by the papers that the concern has had to put up its shutters until certain monetary difficulties are surmounted, and further comment on your query is superfluous. 2. A fair speculation, but the future is inextricably mixed up with the future progress of Rhodesia. *Colonial at Home.*—I have frequently warned readers against dabbling in Cotton "futures," and especially at the instigation of the firm of "smart Yankees" alluded to. *Z. E. O.*—The depreciation in Brewery stocks is almost wholly attributable to the prevailing depression, and I think your holding is quite safe enough. *Jaber.*—Because they have a nasty habit of charging from 30 to 40 per cent. above the market prices for their specialties, I do not consider them at all reliable. The bonds themselves partake more of the nature of a lottery than an investment. *Clubsteward.*—The liquidator is entitled to throw out your proof in the circumstances. *H. M. S., Rangoon.*—You would be well advised to leave Cunliffe, Russell, and Co. alone. In the first place, the bonds do not possess any particular merit, and in the second you are grossly overcharged. *Harold Dewhurst.*—I believe it is a fairly sound institution. *Vicment, Dublin.*—A moderately good concern. *Major.*—I see no reason to recommend any dealings with the Investment Registry and Stock Exchange. *Birch.*—A very undesirable swindling establishment which ought to be avoided. *Wanting to Know.*—The concern seems to be working profitably with an expanding business, and to enable it to tide over its present difficulties you might take up the allotment. *Warrington.*—My opinion is that the Society is a highly undesirable one. *Pingstone.*—Discontinue payment and threaten proceedings if they refuse to refund your money. *Augustus.*—Currie and Crisp seem to be an offshoot of another notorious bucket-shop. They are energetic in circularising everybody who has a "suggestion" of wealth, and they ought to be left to their own devices to speculate with their own money. *D. R., Leeds.*—If my advice is to influence you in the matter you would not risk your savings in the concern, because it is fundamentally unsound. *J. M.*—A highly undesirable concern is the Army and Navy Dairy Company, and you ought to endeavour to get your money back. The mine mentioned is a fairly good spec. *Windsor.*—Hold on to what you possess for a while, but do not buy more. *Taffy.*—The concerns are all unreliable. If you want to speculate go to an inside broker and you may possibly be successful, but with any of the concerns mentioned your money will quickly vanish. *L'argent.*—I think you might hold for 25s. It is necessary to notify any change of address. No further liability is incurred. *Sindbad.*—So far as the central institution itself is concerned the Company is successful, I think, but the other hotels in the group are not profitable. The fresh capital has been secured. *Anxious.*—Yes, safe enough. *Hales.*—1. All your money is absolutely lost. 2. The Standard Oil Company, New York, is sufficient address. *Swaffham.* Many thanks for your thoughtfulness. *Omnia.*—All these concerns are of mushroom growth, and will burst sooner or later. To put your money into them would be extremely risky. There are thousands of better outlets for your savings. *Kilcullen.*—Not genuine by any means. *El Capitan.*—Do not take any notice of Stephens and Henderson's attractively got-up cotton-future circulars. Put your money into a bank. *Nimrod.*—Communicate with N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., and they will enlighten you in regard to all details. *Malacca.*—The Nitrate shares are promising, and you might hold on. The combination of the producers is likely to be maintained. *W. S. M.*—I have dealt with them already. It is evident that one leading spirit guides the destinies of three of your bucket-shops. The silly sheep, strange to say, seem to delight in being slaughtered, notwithstanding that I have frequently pointed out the error of their ways. *C. H. K.* See foregoing answer to "W. S. M." *Amused, Seacombe.*—It is not without a touch of humour that one reads the Stephens and Henderson selected collection of eulogistic testimonials. *Alpha.*—Bradford Dyers' shares would suit. They yield 5¼ per cent., and the price will probably improve with the better conditions ruling in the textile trades.

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MISCELLANEOUS MARKET QUIETLY FIRM—HUDSON'S BAYS THE FEATURE—TELEGRAPHS LESS ACTIVE—ARMAMENT SHARES FIRM—BREWERIES QUIET—RELAPSE IN CITY OF LONDONS—TRUST STILL BUOYANT—TEXTILES—LYONS EASIER—DOCK STOCKS—P. AND O. RESULTS SATISFACTORY—MEAT SHARES JUMP—LINOTYPE APPEAL.

The indications still point to a broadening out of business in this section, and, though the process is somewhat slow, and may not be accelerated before the turn of the year, it is still gratifying to see the small investors manifesting even a slight interest in their favourite market. The tendency, too, may be described as fairly satisfactory on the whole, and there has again been a strong demand for specialties, amongst which interest has been centred chiefly about Hudson's Bays, the shares creating another record in the matter of price by touching 52. As I have mentioned before, the carrying out of the Grand Trunk Railway Pacific scheme stimulates the buying, it being recognised that the line will open up an immense area of fertile land owned by the Company, and will naturally enhance its value. The Company owns about 5,800,000 acres of land in the fertile belt, which at the modest valuation of 30s. per acre ought to eventually bring in about £8,700,000, while the land in the vicinity of the trading posts are being disposed of profitably; and in addition, it must be remembered that the fur and store trade is worth approximately £100,000 a year. There has been some Canadian buying, though not on a very large scale, but towards the close the effect of profit-taking neutralises the earlier gains. Pekin Syndicate and Shansis have been less active, and though they displayed considerable strength, at one juncture they relapsed as a result of realisations. In the telegraph division there has been less animation, but, apart from Anglo-American Deferred, the tendency remains quite firm. Here is a table showing the yield on the better class of Telegraph stocks:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Commercial Cable, $100	180	£4 9 0
Direct U.S. Cable, £20	11	5 9 0
Eastern Extension, £10	13½	6 4 6
Eastern Stock	134	6 4 6
Great Northern, £10	25½	5 5 0
Indo-European, £25	46	4 8 0
Western, £10	13½	5 8 6

Apart from armament descriptions, which continue to be bought on the strength of the better business which may possibly result from the war in the Far East, iron and steel shares have been quiet and without much feature. Dorman Longs continue to manifest a better appearance, and more business has come along for Harvey United, while Cammell Lairds improved. British Westinghouse relapsed on the passing of the dividend. In regard to Brewery stocks, very little change is discernible, the tone generally being somewhat more satisfactory in the absence of any widespread selling pressure. Watney, Combe, Reid issues are inclined to rally, and Ind, Coopes are tolerably steady, while J. W. Cameron stocks have come in for a little inquiry, which is reflected in the slightly higher values. But, on the other hand, City of London Brewery descriptions have shown decided weakness in consequence of heavy realisations, and indications of any recovery are still wanting. Trust stocks remain a cheerful spot, and there being little stock offering to offset the small stream of investment inquiries the tendency of prices is to improve, and chief amongst others which have made a little further headway I may mention Gas, Water, and General, Foreign and Colonial, London Scottish and American, as well as General and Commercial Trusts. Among Textiles, Fine Spinners have been in considerable request, picking up smartly, and Coats improved for the same reason—the prospect of cheap cotton with a record American harvest. Calico Printers and English Sewing Cottons remain firm without particular feature. In the "bunshop" class, Lyons, which were at first disposed to harden, relapsed sharply on the new Debenture issue, but they picked up slightly towards the close, the new Debenture stock being quoted at 2 premium. Aerated Breads, Slaters, and British Tea Tables are quietly steady. In the Traction group a small demand has sprung up for North Metropolitan Trams, which are slightly higher, but there has not been so much business passing in Road Cars or General Omnibus, though they maintain their ground tolerably well. British Electrics came on offer, while Anglo-Argentine and B.A. and Belgrano Trams made further progess. London and Indian Dock "A" and "B" Preference stocks have been in demand at the instance of investors, but the Deferred has see-sawed within narrow limits; otherwise this group has been devoid of interest. The P. and O. Steam Navigation report makes very satisfactory reading, the chief feature, perhaps, being the considerable advance in the profits from freight, due to the growing capacity of the fleet rather than to any increase in rates, and the coal bill, too, is more moderate than had been anticipated. The Company's Deferred stock advanced slightly on the strength of these results, but among other shipping descriptions Cunards are inclined to be dull, owing to uneasiness over the rate war settlement. Royal Mails continue weak, with sellers fairly numerous. One of the usual periodic spasms inseparable from the meat group has again been in evidence. James Nelsons and River Plate Meats were twisted higher only to relapse again practically to their previous level. Linotype descriptions have relapsed in consequence of the report not being regarded as satisfactory. The net trading profits for the year, after deducting £28,000 for reserves and depreciation, totalled £150,038, which, after providing for prior charges, etc., would enable the payment of 6 per cent. on the Cumulative Preference shares, though, in view of the state of the Company's finances, the Directors do not recommend any distribution. In an explanatory note it is said that "A" Debenture stock could not be placed on practicable terms, and, in view of the pressing necessity for more money, the Directors have formulated a proposal that every shareholder should purchase the unmarketed "A" Debenture stock in the proportion of one-sixth of the holding of shares at £82 per £100 stock. The payment for this is spread over six months in relatively easy instalments, and as good profits are being made and must improve with better times, it ought to be to the manifest interest of the Company that the requisite money should be forthcoming.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

KATHLEEN'S YOUNG MEN.

WILLIAM BELLEVILLE TUNKS, Esq., J.P., D.L., C.C., of Threadstone Hall, Cheshire, was a widower in middle life, with one child, a daughter, Kathleen.

The girl, you will perceive, had an Irish name. She was, in fact, called after her mother, who was a native of Tipperary, and had been gifted with all the wit, vivacity, and irresponsibility of her native land. How she had come to marry Tunks, the most solid, stolid, phlegmatic, matter-of-fact of English squires, was a puzzle to all who knew them both.

However, marry him she did, and lived very happily with him, too, though I fancy that he never quite understood her to the day of her death. She was always doing something strange, reckless, and inconsequent that baffled and bewildered him; and while he was warmly attached to her in his stolid way, he was never quite easy in his mind as to what might be her next prank. Only in this respect was a sense of security gained when, with much heartfelt grief, he laid her finally to rest in the family vault.

When that happened, the little Kathleen was about twelve years old, and, until she grew up, William Tunks enjoyed comparative peace. But upon her emerging from the schoolroom, with long frocks and rolled-up hair, the second edition of his troublous perplexities began. Kathleen proved to be the replica of her mother—only more pronounced. Beautiful to look upon, lithe

and graceful beyond description, vivacious, witty, reckless, impulsive, harum-scarum, with the warmest of warm hearts and the most inconsequent of inconsequent natures, she was at once her stolid father's pride and despair.

His troubles were increased when young men began to run after Kathleen, as they soon did by the dozen. Small blame to them, either. Indeed, it was only in nature that any young fellow of spirit who saw this matchless creature should fall in love with her on the spot, and any who failed to do so deserved to be kicked for an insensate and callous wretch.

Kathleen encouraged them all, too—up to a certain point. She enjoyed being made love to, and it came natural to her to coquet. But when they spoke of marriage she "smiling put the question by."

"Oh, please don't be so terribly practical and prosaic. I don't want to marry any one at present. It will be time enough to talk of that in another ten years. What! 'May you hope?' Do you know you're the tenth man who has asked me that this week? I suppose you may. I don't know of any reason why you shouldn't. Oh, yes! Hope as much as you like. There are certainly twelve hoping at the present moment, and you will make the baker's dozen. Eh? You don't mean *that?* You want to hope all to yourself. Now, I call that very egotistic of you. I could not possibly encourage you in such selfishness. It's hardly Christian."

Thus she teased her many admirers, who talked, fretted, fumed, vowed that they would have nothing more to do with so heartless a girl, and next day were back at her feet as abject as ever.

But if Kathleen regarded her multitude of suitors with complacent unconcern, her father, William Tunks, found himself quite unable to follow her example. The fact was that these young men made his life a burden to him. They were always calling upon him, declaring their devotion for his daugther, requesting his permission to pay their addresses to her, and imploring him to use his influence with Kathleen in their behalf. The thing became a serious nuisance, and Tunks began to wish, with all his heart, that he were the parent of a less attractive and less coquettish daughter.

At length, one day, he spoke to Kathleen in tones of serious remonstrance.

"I must say I seriously disapprove of your behaviour, Kathleen. You encourage all these young men——"

"Oh, no, Daddy, dear! I do nothing of the kind. They run after me spontaneously, without any encouragement."

"It is not treating them fairly," continued Mr. Tunks, ignoring her disclaimer. "Why can't you send them about their business and have done with it?"

"Oh, that would break their hearts, poor things! You would not have me guilty of wholesale heart-smashing, would you, Dad?"

"Pooh!" said Mr. Tunks. "You are much more likely to break their hearts by keeping them dangling on in a fool's paradise, and buoying them up with false hopes, which, you know perfectly well, have not the least chance of realisation.

"I don't know that, Daddy. I might come to love one of them—some day."

"You can't come to love all of them, Kathleen."

"I'm not sure. It is quite possible. I have a large heart."

"Well, you can't marry them all, anyway."

"No, Daddy. That is true. I can only have one husband at a time—in the present state of the law. That is what makes selection so important and so difficult. It is like having twenty new hats sent you 'on appro.' when you can only afford one, and have to make that one do for the season. The moment you've made your choice and sent the other nineteen back to the milliner, you're sure to wish you had kept one of those nineteen instead. That's why I am so loth to fix my fancy upon any single admirer and to discard the rest. For I know that, when it's done, I shall feel mad with myself that I didn't choose one of the others. It's always the way."

"I do wish you wouldn't make fun of everything I say to you, Kathleen," replied William Tunks. "You are just like your poor mother."

"Ah!" cried Kathleen. "But she was more fortunately placed than I am. *Her* selection of a husband was rendered easy by the fact of her running up against *you*. If I could find *your* counterpart, you dear old thing, all my difficulties would be at an end. But, alas! that is impossible. You have no duplicates, you old darling," cried she, as she leant on the back of his chair and affectionately kissed the pink top of his bald head.

"Oh, yes; I dare say, Miss Blarney," answered her father, pleased with the flattery, nevertheless.

"I mean it, dear. I do, indeed. You are what Bob Morris calls a—a—— Let me see, what is it? a hapax—hapax—something or other; I forget the rest of it."

"Ah! a ἅπαξ λεγόμενον, I suppose you mean," said her father.

"Yes, that's it. It sounds very learned, doesn't it? But Bob Morris is a nailer at the classics. He has offered to teach me Latin; but I said, 'No, thanks.' The living languages are quite good enough for me. I have no desire to go delving in the graves of the defunct ones."

"Talking of Bob Morris," said William Tunks, "now I should really like you to come to an understanding with him, Kathleen. He is a capital fellow——"

"A well-meaning prig," she interposed.

"He comes of one of the oldest families in the shire."

"Yes; so old, that he has acquired quite a musty flavour. His moral aroma is that of a mouldy sixteenth-century book—interesting as a curio, but of somewhat oppressive odour at close quarters."

"His estates march with mine, Kathleen."

"His personal qualities do not march with mine, Dad. We have no single taste in common."

"Nor had your dear mother and I. Yet no married couple ever lived together more happily.

"But you did not marry her, Daddy, because grandfather's estates marched with yours?"

"Ahem! No, that is true. Your dear mother's father had no estates—at least, only Irish estates, which is the same thing. His tenants never paid him any rent, and he was too good-natured to press them. But if you would make a match of it with Bob Morris, now, and join his 7,000 acres to my 8,000, that would make 15,000 acres in a ring fence. Only think of that, Kathleen."

"Ah! Fifteen thousand acres in a ring fence is the end and aim of marriage, is it, father?"

"Nay! Not the end and aim, my dear, but a very desirable accessory," said William Tunks.

"I think I'd rather have a little more love and a trifle fewer acres," murmured Kathleen.

"But Morris loves you devotedly."

"That is so. Unfortunately, however, I do not love him."

"But surely, if you try, you can bring yourself to do so."

"I think not. Even if I were disposed to care for him—which I am not—the mere fact of feeling that he was the man whom I had got to love would at once make me hate him. To expect a girl to love best under such restrictions is like expecting a lark to sing his best in a cage. He can't do his song justice in a two-foot prison, nor can I do my affections justice within the limits of a ring fence. Even if you threw me in all Cheshire, I should not be contented. I must have the whole world to find my mate in."

"Ah! How unpractical you are—how high-flown! Just like your poor dear mother," said William Tunks, with a sigh. "If only you would try to think of that excellent fellow, Morris——"

"Well, Daddy—to please you—I will try to think of him."

"You will?" he cried, beginning to brighten up at her unexpected compliance.

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"Yes, I will certainly think of him."

"That's my own daughter."

"But what the result of my reflections will be is another matter," said Kathleen, with a provoking smile, as she danced out of the room.

Nothing more was said on subjects matrimonial for some weeks. Then one night Kathleen went, under the chaperonage of an aunt, to a large ball in Chester. Next morning, at breakfast, her father asked her how she had enjoyed it.

"It was ripping," she said. "And, oh! Daddy, dear, I must tell you I have done it at last."

"Done what?" inquired William Tunks.

"Lost my heart," said Kathleen.

"Eh?" he exclaimed, anxiously. "Was Bob Morris there, then?"

"Oh, yes, he was there. But he is not one of the happy triplet."

"Happy triplet? What do you mean, Kathleen?"

"Let me explain. First of all, Charlie Rawstone, after dancing three dances with me, asked me, while we were sitting out the fourth, whether I loved him. It dawned upon me all in a moment that I did, and, in answer to his question, I felt bound to admit it."

"Kathleen! You have never promised to marry young Rawstone—a fellow with only £300 a year?" cried William Tunks, in horrified tones.

"No; I didn't promise to marry him. I only said that I loved him——"

"Don't quibble, Kathleen. It's the same thing. You had no business to tell him anything of the kind," fumed her angry father.

"He asked me a plain question, and I gave him a truthful answer. You wouldn't have had me tell him a lie, Dad, would you?" inquired Kathleen, artlessly shocked at the bare notion of such a thing.

"I won't consent," declared William Tunks, fuming and stamping.

"Well, he is coming to see you this morning, and you can settle with him then. . . . But I have ever so much more to tell you yet. Later on in the evening Dick Prendergast asked me the same question. I don't know how it was; but the conviction suddenly flashed across me that I loved Dick, too. And I confessed as much!"

"Kathleen! I do not regard this as at all a proper subject for jesting."

"I am not jesting, father. I am giving you an unvarnished account of what took place. Dick Prendergast will also call upon you this morning. He told me so, when he wished me good-night."

"Upon my word, Kathleen, if you have really behaved as you say—which I can hardly believe—your conduct is simply outrageous. To tell two men, on the same evening, that you loved them——"

"It was *their* fault for asking me," interposed Kathleen, in an ill-used voice. "I shouldn't have volunteered the information, if they hadn't demanded it."

"Pooh! Don't talk to me like that. It is impossible that you should love two men at once——"

"On the contrary, dear; I have found it possible to love three men at once. Towards the end of the evening, Jack Molleton asked me the self-same question, and, feeling that I did really love him also, I had no option but to answer in the affirmative. He is the third of the happy triplet; and he, too, will call upon you this morning.

"Kathleen—are you mad? Or are you only, after all, trying to play a senseless joke upon me?"

"No joke at all, father. It is the sober truth. All three did ask me whether I loved them, and to all three—as truth demanded—I answered 'Yes.' I said nothing about marrying any of them; though each appeared to assume it; and I had not the presence of mind, at the moment, to point out that the assumption was premature. So they all consider that I am engaged to them, and they will all come here this morning to ask your consent."

"Well, and having got yourself into this ridiculous mess, what do you propose to do now, miss?" demanded her father, with angry sarcasm.

"I propose, dear, to go out for the day, and leave you to deal with these three young men," said she, smiling at him serenely.

"You shall do nothing of the kind, Kathleen," he answered, energetically. "You have got yourself into the hobble, and you shall get yourself out of it."

"Oh! But, Daddy, you will manage it ever so much better than I shall."

"I tell you I decline to see them! I am not going to be made a perfect fool of. You must settle it with these young men yourself."

"I can't, Dad. I am too tender-hearted. I have not firmness enough to handle so difficult a situation. *You* must see them—you must, indeed."

"I won't, I tell you!" declared William Tunks, stamping his foot excitedly.

"Then no one will see them," answered Kathleen; "for I shall certainly not be in the way when they arrive. Goodness me! A quarter to ten! And Charlie Rawstone will be here at the hour. Ta-ta, Daddy dearest! See you again at dinner," said she, kissing her hand to him gaily, as she tripped out of the room.

A moment later the hall door had banged behind her, and William Tunks, feeling very hot and angry, and looking extremely blank, saw his mad-cap daughter careering swiftly on her bicycle down the drive.

"She's beyond everything," he muttered. "Don't seem to think she's done anything unusual or outrageous either. Says 'Yes' to three men on the same evening, and then coolly shoulders the whole responsibility of her mad freak on to me, and leaves me to settle with the idiots she has befooled. I won't see them, though. I'm jolly well d——d if I will. . . . The devil! Here's some one riding up the drive now. It's that young ass, Rawstone."

He rose excitedly from his chair and gave a violent tug at the bell. The butler answered it.

"Brett, if any gentlemen call this morning, I'm not at home."

"Very good, sir."

"And if they ask when they can see me, say I shan't be at home all day."

"Very good, sir."

At that moment, the front-door bell pealed loudly. William Tunks shuddered.

"There's some one there now, Brett," he said, with a pale, agitated face. "Mind you say what I've told you."

"Very good, sir."

And Brett departed, looking rather puzzled. Was the governor going off his chump? Or was it that he had got into money difficulties and was expecting duns? He sincerely hoped not, for the place suited him very well; although, of course, as a self-respecting butler, he could not possibly remain in a family where there were financial inconveniences.

Presently he returned, bringing Mr. Charles Rawstone's card on a salver.

"Mr. Rawstone left this for you, sir, and said he was very sorry to miss you, but would call again to-morrow morning. I was to say that he wished to see you very partic'lar, sir."

"Ah! Thank you, Brett."

Not ten minutes afterwards, the front-door bell pealed again. It resulted in Brett's bringing in another card bearing the inscription, "Mr. Richard Prendergast."

"Mr. Prendergast left this for you, sir. He said he was sorry not to find you in, as he wished to see you on important business. He will call again to-morrow morning, sir."

"Confound him!" muttered William Tunks, under his breath.

He took up his *Times* and tried to read it, but could not concentrate his attention on it for two sentences together. His ear was all the while on the alert for

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st. W. Inspection solicited.

that third peal at the front-door bell, which he knew could not be long delayed.

Soon it came—ting, tang! ting, tang!—loud, strident, insistent; and although William Tunks was expecting it, it made him jump. Shortly afterwards Brett again appeared with another card.

"Mr. Molleton left this, sir. I was to give you his compliments, and say how sorry he was to miss you, his business being of a most pressing nature, sir. And he will call again to-morrow morning."

"D——n!" muttered Tunks. And if ever a Cheshire squire meant "d——n," William Bellville Tunks, Esq., of Threadstone Hall, J.P., D.L., C.C., meant it then.

* * * * *

Kathleen, true to her word, did not put in an appearance again until dinner-time. Then, when the servants had at length withdrawn, she asked her father, with a bright, interested smile:

"Well, Daddy darling, how did you get on with them?"

"I did not get on with them at all," answered her father, with a displeased frown; "I declined to see them."

"Oh, but, Daddy dearest," cried Kathleen, in disappointed tones, "that is really too bad of you. I felt quite sure that by the time I returned this evening you would have arranged matters for me and settled which of the three was to be the happy man. And now I find nothing whatever done, but things in precisely the same muddle as I left them. I do call it most unkind of you."

"Well, of all the unreasonable——"

"What's the good of a father," continued Kathleen, with an injured pout, "if he can't arrange a little matter like this for you? Daddy, you *must* settle which of the three I am to marry."

"Pish! I don't want you to marry any of them. They are none of them a match for you."

"Ah, but I must marry one of them. It would be too humiliating to have had and accepted three offers, and then for none of them to eventuate. If you won't say 'which' for me, I shall say 'which' for myself; and, in that case, I think I shall single out Charlie Rawstone."

"I say, for Heaven's sake, don't marry Rawstone! He has only £300 a year," cried Tunks, in alarmed tones, for he knew that his reckless, harum-scarum daughter was quite capable of carrying out her mad threat in the impulse of the moment.

"Dick Prendergast, then?"

"Kathleen, don't be idiotic! A younger son, with nothing but his allowance of £400. You might as well commit suicide at once."

"Charlie Rawstone no go! Dick Prendergast—no go!" said she, checking them off calmly on the tips of her fingers. "Well, then, only Jack Molleton remains. I don't quite know what Jack's income is. But you seem to be very well up in these things. Perhaps you can tell me."

"Molleton has £1,500 a year. He is more eligible than either of the other two. But even he is no match for you, Kathleen——"

"Now, it is no use your saying that, Dad, at this stage of the proceedings," she interrupted him, "when you yourself, by eliminating Charlie Rawstone and Dick Prendergast, have narrowed the choice down to Jack Molleton."

"Nothing of the sort. I forbid Molleton, too."

"Father! This is ridiculous! You are merely arguing in a circle, and have brought things round to where they were at the start. Under these circumstances only one course is open to me. I wash my hands of the whole concern. You shall see these three young men and have it out with them yourself."

She spoke with resolution. This was clearly no idle threat. William Tunks thought of that triple interview to-morrow morning, and his heart misgave him, for he was a shy and nervous man. Even if he were "not at home" again when they called, he could not go on dodging them for ever. They would run him to earth sooner or later. And then——

"Kathleen," he cried, excitedly, "you must write to those three young men by to-night's post."

"What is the good of my writing, if I have nothing definite to write?"

"You have something definite to write. You must reject them all."

"Impossible, Dad! I am not going to make myself a public laughing-stock by falling between three spoons—I mean stools. Marry one of them I must for my own credit. It is only on these terms that I will consent to put pen to paper."

From this position she would not budge, until at length:

"You are exactly like your poor mother. D——n it all! let it be Molleton, then," cried William Tunks, in sheer desperation.

* * * * *

So Kathleen got her way, and married, with her father's consent, the man whom she loved, by the unconscious aid of Charlie Rawstone and Dick Prendergast. I think she could have gained her point by direct methods, but this indirect method of forcing her father's hand by encouraging two other suitors of detrimental quality to propose, and so rendering Molleton relatively eligible, was the method that appealed to the madcap Irish girl as at once the most humorous and the most effective.

MUSIC.

GLUCK REDIVIVUS.

DECIDEDLY the most interesting event of the past week has been the revival of Gluck's "Alceste" by the students of the Royal College of Music. All are aware of the position which this famous work occupies in the history of opera, and certainly it was quite uncommonly interesting to have the chance of hearing it actually performed. No doubt it would be possible to exaggerate the importance of Gluck's reforms, or at least to misunderstand their character. As Mr. Ernest Newman has pointed out in his brilliant book, "Gluck and the Opera," they did not amount to quite so much as has sometimes been supposed. Although Bach had lived and died when "Alceste" was composed and its preface written, curious views were still held even by the most "advanced" musicians of that time as to the relative importance of music and poetry in the case of opera. "I sought to reduce music to its true function," wrote Gluck, "that of supporting the poetry"—which was certainly giving music a good deal less than its due from the standpoint of a later kind of music-drama. But this by no means prevented Gluck from writing in "Orfeo," "Alceste," and the two "Iphigénies" such music as up to that time had never been known in opera in respect of its independent beauty and impressiveness. After all, the great thing was, not the theory, but the result, and in this respect Gluck must be reckoned perhaps a greater reformer even than Wagner. Nor did he lack his portion of opposition and contumely either. Like Wagner, Gluck was accused of crude harmonies, incoherent modulations, tuneless melodies, noisy orchestration, of injuring his singers' voices, and Heaven knows what else. Such charges sound incredible enough to latter-day hearers of his music, but they were undoubtedly laid at his door, and it is instructive to remember it.

At the same time, the criticism which his works excited is in some respects quite easily understood. It was almost a new art which Gluck offered his hearers—something different, not only in degree, but almost in kind, from that to which they had been accustomed. No wonder, therefore, that those who had come to look on opera as nothing but a string of effective airs, in which

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

their favourite vocalists could display their powers, combined with dancing and spectacle, protested when Gluck set before them such vastly different fare. Save that the two things were both called opera and sung on the stage with scenery and costumes, there was hardly anything in common between "Alceste," "Orfeo," and others of Gluck's greatest works, and such operas as those which they displaced. In other words, Gluck found opera a dreary and fatuous convention, the butt and byword of all thinking men for its multitudinous absurdities; he left it a living art possessed of the noblest possibilities, only the least of which, perhaps, have yet been realised. It is a striking commentary upon the condition of opera in this country that until last week "Alceste" had never been heard in London. Is it too much to hope that now that the students of the Royal College of Music have given it a friendly lead, Covent Garden may perchance feel disposed to follow suit? That the work gave the greatest enjoyment to its hearers last week admitted of no doubt. Why should it prove less attractive if mounted at Covent Garden? "Orfeo," with Giulia Ravogli in the title-part, was, of course, quite a drawing card for a certain period during Augustus Harris's régime. The same great artist would make an incomparable Alcestis if the syndicate would provide the requisite opportunity.

The performance by the students was exceedingly creditable. Miss Nannie Tout, who distinguished herself last year as Fidelio, did excellently again as Alcestis. Mr. B. I. Davies lacked the inches of the ideal Admetus, but had the right conception of the part, and sang at times with real power; while Mr. F. G. Johnson as the High Priest and Death, Mr. J. H. Foster as Heracles and the Oracle, and Mr. F. C. S. Carey as the Herald and Apollo, were others who did all credit to themselves and to their teachers. If there was ground for criticism at all it was, indeed, in respect of a matter beyond the control of either pupils or masters—to wit, the actual quality of the raw material, so to speak, revealed by the voices which were heard. While giving every praise to the excellence of the performance, who could lay hand on heart and say that the standard of either voices or vocalism was what it might be? Doubtless the explanation is not very difficult to find. If we had native opera there would be no lack of native opera singers. There is no reason to suppose that the land of Sims Reeves and Santley and Patey and Clara Butt is any less richly endowed in the matter of fine voices than France or Germany or any other country. The trouble is that, as matters stand, they are simply not discovered and brought to light. Possibly matters are just a shade better in this respect to-day than they were in former years. If Covent Garden offers yet small inducements to the average British student, there are, at any rate, the Moody-Manners, Carl Rosa, and other organisations always on the look-out for such talent as may be available. Still, the fact remains that in the output of operatic artists at present we make a sadly poor show. If that long-desired National Opera were founded to-morrow, the English-speaking singers available to man it would be hopelessly inadequate.

Among recent concerts the most interesting perhaps has been that of the London Choral Society on Monday evening, when Dr. Walford Davies's setting of the old morality play, "Everyman," which made such a hit at the Leeds Festival in October, was given for the first time in London. It is undoubtedly a most clever and impressive piece of work, quite the strongest thing which Dr. Davies has done in the way of original composition so far. Now and again, suggestions of Elgar are noticeable, but for the most part the music has a character all its own, while its prevailing solemnity is gratefully relieved by such more vivacious numbers as the "Appeal to Riches" and the chorus embodying the protestations of Kindred and Fellowship. The work should be heard again, and might well be given at the Albert Hall. An interesting concert of an entirely different order was that announced for Tuesday evening (too late for notice this week), in the shape of the first Chamber Music Concert given under the terms of the Palmer Fund. For this concert some sixty odd compositions were, it seems, received, out of which works by Messrs. W. Y. Hurlstone, Frank Bridge, A. E. T. Bax, F. C. S. Carey, Percy H. Miles, Paul Corder, John B. McEwen, and George Dyson were chosen for performance. Chamber music of an earlier date was heard at the last Broadwood concert, when a number of old English madrigals were given among other things by an excellent choir from Leeds, under the direction of Mr. H. A. Fricker.

In the way of oratorio music, the Royal Society of Musicians celebrated its 166th anniversary with a capital performance of "Elijah" by the London Choral Society, with Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Giulia Ravogli, Mr. William Green, and Mr. Ffrangcon Davies as the principal soloists; while "Hiawatha" has been repeated once again by the Royal Choral Society. Then, of course, there were the usual St. Andrew's Day concerts—Master Florizel von Reuter contributing to the programme of that given at the Albert Hall. At the Ballad Concert on Saturday, a new song cycle, "Dream Fairies," words by Mr. Edward Teschemacher, music by Mr. Franco Leoni, found considerable favour as given by Mme. Suzanne Adams, Miss Muriel Foster, Mr. Ben Davies, and Mr. Kennerley Rumford. Some music of interest was also heard at the second of the Barns-Phillips chamber concerts, given the same afternoon, including among other things a group of songs (the best of 387!—what were the worst like?), called forth by Mr. Phillips's recent competition; while Miss Katharine Saunders, a débutante possessed of a very fresh and pleasing voice, which she uses with skill and taste, made a decidedly pleasing impression in songs by Haydn and others.

As regards forthcoming concerts, M. Maurel's vocal recital on Saturday, when he will be heard in some of the most famous numbers of his operatic répertoire should draw a big audience, despite the counter attraction of the Symphony Concert at Queen's Hall. Saturday, indeed, will offer an embarrassing variety of attractions, since Busoni is playing also on that afternoon at the Curtius Club Concert.

One hundred years ago yesterday (December 6) was born, as an interesting article in the *Musical Times* for December reminds us, one of the greatest of latter-day prime donne—to wit, the incomparable Schröder-Devrient, whose name will always live in the records of the opera, if only by reason of her connection with Wagner's earlier works. But it was, of course, in such parts as Fidelio, Agathe, and the Queen of the Night that she had, previous to this, won fame, though Chorley, as usual, mixed a good deal of vinegar with the honey of his praise of her when she first came to London. It was Schröder-Devrient who told Wagner, with the true assurance of a prima donna: "You are a man of genius, but you write such eccentric stuff it is hardly possible to sing it." This was in relation to the Venus of his "Tannhäuser," which she created in 1845; and others of her recorded sayings revealed a considerable sense of humour. Thus as Ardriano in "Rienzi," when instructed to sit "brooding" at one point, she called out to Wagner at rehearsal: "Very well; but what am I to hatch?" On another occasion, in "Fidelio," when Florestan was slow in accepting the crust of bread which she offered him, she whispered, *sotto voce*: "Why don't you take it? Do you want it *buttered?*"—a passage which the audience under the spell of her art in that pathetic scene certainly little suspected.

Yet is there not a suggestion always of the fabulous about the records of these great singers of the past? Take that passage from the *Neue Zeitschrift*, for instance, quoted in the article already named:—

> In this rôle the Devrient surpassed herself in originality; the effect was extraordinary, the audience turned first hot, then cold, for intensity of emotion.

We have our great singers nowadays, yet do they ever produce such effects as this? Does a Covent Garden audience ever grow hot and cold by turn? If not,

why? Is it the singers or their hearers who have changed? Or was it merely a flight of imagination on the critic's part? The latter alternative is perhaps the more probable. It is always in the past that these musical miracles are accomplished—never in our own day.

Mme. Calvé is the most unfortunate of artists. Last year she was accidentally poisoned by taking an overdose of aconite. Now she is laid up at Vienna, and there is talk of an operation for appendicitis—though all will hope that her condition may have been exaggerated. A less serious misadventure which befell her not so long since was to get a drenching from a fire-hose, which had been turned on by a zealous theatre official in America to quench the undue ardour of her admirers. But even these ills are nothing to those with which rumour has persistently credited one whose life was despaired of years ago, if all that was said about her can be trusted. Happily Mme. Calvé has lived to belie these evil-omened croakings, and all will join in wishing her a speedy recovery from the attack which has now laid her low.

So Richter is not to conduct a series of provincial performances of "The Ring" for the Moody-Manners Company. It was a sufficiently improbable suggestion, but Dr. Richter has thought it worthy of formal contradiction. This is to say nothing, however, against the project in connection with which the rumour started. In view of the great success with which the Sheffield experiment seems to have been attended, Mr. Manners, who is nothing if not ambitious, may well be entertaining a bigger scheme on similar lines, such as this suggested production of "The Ring" at a dozen or more of the great provincial centres under arrangements similar to those adopted in the case of the Sheffield fortnight. Nor, given a little enthusiasm and organisation, should the thing be incapable of fulfilment. The situation is very simple. On the one hand is Mr. Manners with his company and his plant; on the other you have your provincial music-lovers thirsting for that which, under existing conditions, it does not pay to provide. To such Mr. Manners says: "Guarantee my expenses, and I will give you your 'Ring.'" What need stand in the way? Meanwhile, it is satisfactory to learn that there is every probability of the tetralogy being given again at Covent Garden next season, with Dr. Richter once more at the head of affairs.

Draughts at Covent Garden are a new complaint—chiefly, no doubt, because we ordinarily get our opera in the summer; the recent Arctic weather has, however, proved our only Opera-house anything but immaculate in this regard—though, doubtless, there is force in the managerial reply that vast sums have been laid out in the attempt to render its ventilation perfect. Unfortunately this is no guarantee that that desirable result will be attained. The fact is, of course, that the proper ventilation of a public building is one of the most difficult problems in existence. Certainly few of our concert halls or theatres are free from reproach in this respect.

How the draughts of St. James's Hall used to be grumbled at is ancient history. At Queen's Hall, on the other hand, the complaint is all the other way, since there a little more fresh air even in the form of draughts would often enough be welcome. It is, indeed, deplorable that the ventilation of our principal concert hall should be so sadly defective. To sit out a well-attended concert here on a mild day is almost to court asphyxiation. In the stalls the thing is not so noticeable, but if you happen to be seated in the grand circle or, worse still, in the balcony, the atmosphere is at times well-nigh unendurable. At the Bechstein Hall the ventilation is better, while the quiet and artistic decorative scheme is also in happy contrast here with those dreadful "stucco twiddlings" of Langham-place. But drawbacks of other kinds are not lacking. A gangway down the middle of the hall is one thing badly needed, while, if the rearmost rows of seats were raised (as at the Steinway Hall), the comfort of those who occupy them would certainly be greatly increased. As it is, the floor being quite flat from back to front, one can often hardly catch a sight of the performers from the back rows.

The financial result of the last Leeds Festival, the report of which has just been published, can hardly be regarded as very satisfactory. Although the expenses were less by nearly £800 than in 1901, the profits were only £304, as against £1,651 made in 1901—the sum being the smallest amount realised by a long way in the whole history of the Festival. The profits of the first festival, in 1858, exceeded £2,000, and those of the succeeding meetings have seldom fallen below that sum, while they have more than once exceeded it. This was the case in 1880, when Sir Arthur Sullivan conducted for the first time, and the sum of £2,330 was realised, and again in 1889—the record festival in this respect—when the profits amounted to £3,142. Certainly, beside such figures as these, the sum of £304 obtained this year makes a poor show, and it is obvious from the report that, but for the fortunate saving effected in expenses, the Festival would, for the first time in its history, have resulted in a loss. The report ascribes the result to the depression of trade.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Last week I endeavoured to give you the results of my survey of the publishers' efforts to supply the rabid requirements of youth for adventure, and I have no doubt that you will have no difficulty in selecting from the books I mentioned volumes to suit the taste of any of your young friends who are still in their teens. But there remains a still more youthful audience, whom the publishers show themselves fully as anxious to cater for, and thus it happens that directly I managed to emerge from the sea of adventure into which I had plunged at your bidding, I found myself confronted with the necessity of embarking upon the exploration of another wonderland dear to the artist and teller of stories at this season of the year. Fortunately there is no lack of adequate guides to this imaginative realm. What, for instance, could serve as a more charming guide-book to Fairyland than Mrs. Chisholm's volume (1) illustrated so daintily by Miss Cameron in colours? Or, as a guide, who could prove more trustworthy than the faithful Grimm garbed in a new and attractive uniform by Messrs. Blackie (2). Mr. Andrew Lang, too, may always be depended upon to lead his young readers into pleasant places, and in spite of the array of gold and blue and red fairy books which he has gathered together, it is clear that he has not yet exhausted the world's supply of fairy lore. For "The Brown Fairy Book" (3) he has drawn on the folk-lore of many of the savage nations of the earth, and the stories which have delighted and frightened the Red Indian, the aboriginal Australian, and the Kaffir youngsters are here reproduced for the benefit of the child of the decadent white man. Then, amongst those whose imagination is capable of inventing a new and complete fairyland, who

(1) "In Fairyland." By Louey Chisholm. Illustrated by Katherine Cameron (London: T. C. & E. C. Jack). (2) "Grimm's Fairy Tales." Illustrated by Helen Stratton. (London: Blackie. 5s.) (3) "The Brown Fairy Book." Edited by Andrew Lang. (London: Longmans. 6s.) (4) "The Phœnix and the Carpet." By E. Nesbit. (London: Newnes. 6s.) (5) "The Pedlar's Pack." By Mrs. Alfred Baldwin. Illustrated by Chas. Pears. (London: W. & B. Chambers. 6s.) (6) "The Blue Moon." By Laurence Housman. (London: John Murray. 6s.) (7) "The Golden Heart." By Violet Jacob. (London: Heinemann.) (8) "Anatole." By Augusta Klein. Illustrated by Patten Wilson. (London: Dent.) (9) "The Wallypug in Fogland." By C. E. Farrow. (London: Pearson. 5s.) (10) "Wally Wanderoon." By Joel Chandler Harris. (London: Grant Richards.) (11) "King Arthur's Wood." Written and illustrated by Elizabeth Stanhope Forbes. (London: Simpkin, Marshall. £2 2s.) (12) "The Odd Fancies of Gwen." Written and illustrated by Gwen Forwood. (London: Drane.) (13) "The Pilgrim's Progress." Illustrated by Byam Shaw. (London: T. C. & E. C. Jack.) (14) "Uncle Tom's Cabin." (London: A. & C. Black. 6s.) (15) "Gulliver's Travels." Illustrated by S. B. De la Bere. (London: A. & C. Black. 6s.) (16) "Tales of the Canterbury Pilgrims." Retold by F. J. Harben Darton. Illustrated by Hugh Thompson. (London: Wells Gardner, Darton, & Co. 6s.) (17) "Stories from Shakespeare for Children." Retold by Alice Spencer Hoffman. (London: Dent. 1s each vol.) (18) "New Treasure Seekers." By E. Nesbit. (London: Fisher Unwin. 6s.) (19) "Animal Autobiographies." "The Dog." By G. E. Mitton. "The Rat." By G. M. A. Hewett. (London: A. & C. Black. 6s. each.) (20) "Adventures of Cock Robin." By R. Kearton, F.Z.S. (London: Cassell.)

can be more certain of a welcome than Mrs. Nesbit? Indeed, I am not quite sure that the story of "The Phœnix and the Carpet" (4) does not deserve to be the most popular children's story of the year, for the adventures of the family of children who are blessed with the possession of the wonderful bird and wonderful carpet, are told with just the happy knack of realism which enables the child to follow them with thrilling interest. Then there is Mrs. Alfred Baldwin's budget of stories about giants and princesses, and other inhabitants of fairydom (5), which is certain to be warmly welcomed in the nursery, and not the less by reason of the pictures by Mr. Charles Pears which illustrate the text. Mr. Laurence Housman is another of the generous band of writers who give the children of their best both with pen and pencil, and the volume to which the first story "The Blue Moon" (6) gives its title, is a very charming specimen of his art. Stories and illustrations of the daintiest are also to be found in "The Golden Heart" (7), though this by no means exhausts the choice. Miss Klein elects to take her little readers to the fairyland beneath the seas, and Mr. Patten Wilson visualises her fancies with very delicate grace (8). Mr. S. Ashton and Miss Dorothy Furniss also collaborate with pen and pencil in telling the adventures of a little girl, who, through finding the key to Davy Jones's Locker, is enabled to explore the country of the sea fairies. Then Mr. Farrow has added yet another to his Wallypug stories, and the adventures of "The Wallypug in Fog-Land" (9) makes fully as amusing reading as any of the series. Another favourite author who is practically certain of a hearty welcome has given us "Wally Wanderoon" (10). The pen of the creator of Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, and their companions has lost nothing of its cunning, and the volume of tales told by Wally's wonderful story-telling machine concludes with a new story of Brer Rabbit and the Bee as delightful as anything Mr. Harris has ever written.

Nearly all the before-mentioned books are admirably illustrated, and, indeed, one of the features of the Christmas literature of the present year is the extent to which colour printing is used for the adornment of children's books. The finest example of the book-beautiful I have seen, however, is the work which Mrs. Stanhope Forbes has produced. "King Arthur's Wood" (11) is more than a mere fairy story for children, more than a repetition of the old-time romance of Sir Gareth and the lady of the Castle Perilous from the Morte d'Arthur. It sustains its charm to be considered as a work of art, and part of the credit for the satisfactory result is undoubtedly due to the printer, who, by printing the blocks upon a dull surface paper, has succeeded in attaining the closest fidelity to the technique of the artist, both in the reproduction of the water colour and charcoal drawings. Finally, before leaving the domain of fairyland, let me commend to you "The Odd Fancies of Gwen" (12). Both letterpress and drawings reveal evidence that the young authoress is gifted with a very real imaginative faculty. Already, though still in her teens, Miss Forwood's work compares favourably with that of many of her older rivals for children's favour, and this volume leads one to the conclusion that the promise of her first book, published last year, is likely to be amply fulfilled.

In other directions illustrations play just as important a part in the books for children as in the fairy books. I hardly know whether the "Pilgrim's Progress" (13) is properly described as a children's book, though with Mr. Byam Shaw's pictures, fine in colour and feeling, it makes a covetable volume. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" (14) is another of the books which have ascended to the nursery, and in the reprint illustrated by Mr. Vedder is certain of a welcome. "Gulliver's Travels" (15) also only gain from the youngster's point of view by reason of the full-page pictures in colours with which Mr. De la Bere has adorned the volume. Turning from these reprints of old favourites to stories retold in terms suitable for children's comprehension, Mr. Crockett is to the fore with a volume of stories which he humbly acknowledges to be "stolen from the Treasure Chest of the Wizard of the North" (16). He justifies his literary piracy with the expression of the desire that his action may send every reader and listener to Scott himself, and if the youthful lover of romance needs such prompting to go to the fountain head, Mr. Crockett supplies it. Another delightful rendering of the old-time stories is to be found in "Tales of the Canterbury Pilgrims" (17), rendered in easy prose and delightfully illustrated by Mr. Hugh Thomson's dainty drawings, while Shakespeare is laid under contribution by Miss Hoffman for a series of charming little booklets (18). Romance of to-day is the keynote of another book which Mrs. Nesbit has produced for the delectation of the youthful reader, and I see no reason to doubt that the doings of these "New Treasure Seekers" (19) will not prove to the full as exciting as the adventures of their predecessors. It is just the sort of book which, read aloud, will keep all the little inhabitants of the nursery absolutely quiet during the dullest, wettest afternoon of the whole Christmas holidays. Need I say more in its commendation? For the same purpose the "Animal Autobiographies" (20) which Messrs. A. and C. Black are publishing should also prove effective. Two of these handsome volumes are before me. In one, Mr. G. E. Mitton gives the life history of a Skye terrier with a dash of the retriever in him; in the other Mr. Hewett relates the life and adventures of a rat. Both are full of incident and well written, besides being adequately illustrated by bright colour-plates, and for the child lover of animals no gift could more effectually secure a welcome. Another pleasing volume for the budding naturalist is the book about birds, illustrated by 120 photographs from nature, which Mr. Kearton has called "The Adventures of Cock Robin" (21).

So far the books which I have introduced to your notice have been mainly those in which the pictures have been merely pendants to the text, but there are still a number remaining in which the reverse holds good—the picture books, nursery rhymes, and alphabets designed for the amusement of the smaller inhabitants of the nursery. And here again there is no lack of choice. There is "The King of the Beasts" (Blackie, 3s. 6d.), ably pictured by Mr. Carton Moore Park, together with all the other animals who lay claim to sovereignty. The coronation does not follow the accepted tradition, as may be gathered from the final couplet of the illustrative rhyme:—

> For many examples in History are found,
> Of very big Asses who come to be crowned.

Still remaining amongst the animals, Commander Peary's volume, "Snowland Folk" (Gardner, Darton, and Co., 6s.) is true, novel, and amusing, and its pictures of bears, Esquimo, and other denizens of the north lose nothing of their interest by reason of their reality. Or, again, there is a wealth of humour in Mr. Milson's pictures of "Jolly Jumbo" (Blackie, 3s. 6d.). Thoroughly amusing, too, are "The Twins" (Nelson), as pictured by Mr. Hassall and described by Mr. Shirley, and the same may be said for the adventures of James O'Flame in the world of sport, as depicted by Mr. Alan Wright. Perhaps the verse in this "Comic Sport and Pastime" (Skeffington, 5s.) is a little beyond the range of even the precocious infants of to-day, but certainly the pictures will be a joy to them. But for real rollicking humour which cannot but appeal to young and old alike there is nothing to touch the volume which recounts the adventures of "Buster Brown" (Chambers, 3s. 6d.). Buster first made his appearance in the pages of the *New York Herald*, and made so great an impression upon laughter-loving Yankees that he created quite a sensation, and Buster neck-ties, Buster footwear, and Buster overalls became the rage in fashionable circles in New York and Chicago nurseries. Another picture-book which

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

especially appeals to the nursery is Miss Gotch's "Tuffy and the Merboo" (Brimley, Johnson, 6s.). The quaint drawings of the Boobirds have just the drollery which delights the children. Mr. Hassall, too, knows exactly how to make attractive pictures for little eyes, and "The Old Nursery Stories and Rhymes" (Blackie, 3s. 6d.) which he has chosen to illustrate is bound to be immensely popular. Amongst the annuals again there is to be found an immense store of interesting material for making dull days pass pleasantly. "Chatterbox" (Gardner, Darton, and Co., 3s.) is so old a favourite that it scarcely needs notice. "Blackie's Children's Annual" (3s. 6d.) and Ward, Lock, and Co.'s "Wonder Book" are both comparatively new-comers, but their bright stories and brilliant illustrations should suffice to find them a ready welcome. Cassell and Co, in this department, make a successful bid for favour with "Little Folks," "Bo-Peep," and "Tiny Tots," and further with "The Little Folks' Adventure Book" (3s. 6d.) have added one more desirable volume to the prolific output of the season.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—No sooner had we got out all our warm garments for the bitterly cold and frosty weather than it took its departure, and gave place to weather so mild and pleasant that all the little bushes in the squares thought spring had come, and put out their baby bourgeons. Dear little shiny leaves, so fresh and unspotted by the world, it seems hard that they should be shrivelled and blackened before long by the bitter breath of winter. In nature, superfluous effort induces punishment, not reward.

I promised to tell you about Lady Henry Somerset's address at a drawing-room meeting last Monday. It was held in a pretty drawing-room in Park-street, which belongs to a lady, Mrs. Streatfeild, who always sends in a great number of Truth dolls. The voice of a tiny fountain in a window was a curiously fascinating item of the proceedings. When I first noticed it, I thought it was a little bird soliloquising in a faint, soft voice. The room was well filled, and Lady Henry told us very interesting things about her Industrial Farm Colony for inebriate women at Duxhurst, near Reigate. Started ten years ago in a small way, it has grown, and succeeded, and vindicated itself. Her friends said, "How are you going to build walls to keep the women in?" But kindness and consideration are far better than walls. The unfortunate beings are brought back gently from the dreadful ways of drink, and outdoor occupation is one of the principal factors in their redemption. Another strong one is found in the children at the Birds' Nest, part of the colony where little ones are sent by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The women soon begin to love the children, and to feel their sweet, restraining influence. The young things about the farm, too, being dependent on their care, make the poor creatures feel that something in the world needs them and watches for them. The proportion of the cured cases is 65 per cent., a contrast to the results in State reformatories, where both men and women are taken. The fallacy that women can never be cured of drinking habits has been completely refuted. One woman, who had been convicted of drunkenness about two hundred times, and was known as "the terror of Holloway," turned out, under treatment at Duxhurst, a gentle, kindly, willing creature, liked by all. Unfortunately, they were unable to keep her at the Home after she had remained there the full year. Other and pressing cases were waiting for admission, so the poor "terror of Holloway," though begging and praying to be allowed to stay, had to be turned out in a scornful world. She never relapsed, but her long years of drunkenness had ruined her health, and not long after she died.

Funds are very much wanted, as some of the women are too poor to pay much. The good work ought to be extended. There is a home for ladies which is self supporting, and the farm produce is an asset, besides the needlework done by the women. Contributions should be sent to Miss Mary C. Gorham, S. Eanswythe's Cottage, Tonbridge.

The second dance for the Gordon Hospital was a great success. In fact, the dancers complained of the crowd, and particularly of a way it had of surging up into one corner when there was far more room everywhere else. There was some pretty dancing. A little Spanish-looking girl, wearing brown and gold, with flowers à la Japonaise in her hair, danced every dance from start to finish, and enjoyed every step of them. A tall, distinguished-looking woman in a jet "coat-of-mail" also danced beautifully with a partner taller than herself. A lady with very splendid pearls was in black and pale blue. A magnificent blonde wore black velvet swathed round her fine figure. It is not often that one sees really beautifully moulded shoulders as white as they are well-shaped. These balls are managed capably, and are doing really good work for an excellent charity. The third and last of the series takes place on Monday next. The hours are nine till one, a Cinderella and what the Scotch call "a bit."

The Exhibition and Sale of Irish Industries at Newcastle this week (Wednesday and Thursday) is to be a social function in its way. Half a score of countesses, with a due proportion of marchionesses and a whole flock of ladies of lesser title, are to take part in the vending. It is good and kind-hearted of them, for selling is weary work. Buyers are very shy birds, and as the nets are spread in their very sight it is not an easy matter to bring off a sale. And then the crowd, and noise, and heat—oh, they *are* good, and deserve the warmest of Hibernian blessings! Have you ever heard of this curious one: "May ivery hair of your head turn to a pound of candles to light your sowl to glory"?

When we give a copper coin to a crossing-sweeper we call it buying penny blessings, and owing to the rich quality of the London mud of late we have purchased quite a large number. The blessings of the London crossing-sweepers are a study in themselves. They are a literature. Linda, who has no children and does not wish for any, was so annoyed one day when one of her *douceurs* elicited a fervent prayer that she might be blessed with a "large and handsome family."

I wonder why theatre managers do not adopt the very simple plan of printing on the tickets, if not the name of the play, at least the time of the performance? It would save much trouble and confusion, and it really seems so obvious that one wonders why everybody did not think of it, rather than why nobody ever did. The Duke of York's management has adopted this plan during Miss Robson's season, and it is to be hoped that English managers will follow suit. Another thing—why do not the theatres advertise the prices of their seats in the "amusements" column of the daily Press? There are slight variations of price in many houses, but the nearest place where one can find particulars of these is at the box-office or an agency. In the case of the suburban theatres, at popular prices, it is extraordinary that so politic an insertion has not long ago commended itself to the proprietors.

I am sending you by this post a copy of a book in which I had some hand, the Peri Lusia Handbook, and also by this post I am sending one to the ladies of the household of the Ameer of Afghanistan. Mrs. Daly, in her book about them, says that they are all quite busy, and take a great interest in knitting, embroidery, and crochet, and that they even cut out their children's clothes and stitch them together in the sewing-machine. What a different picture from that which Lalla Rookh

Redfern's special offer for Xmas Presents. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

paints in the mind! The modern development of the harem is no doubt eminently useful and practical and praiseworthy, but what about romance?

The book, as you will see, gives many designs in all kinds of fancy work in the beautiful Peri-lusta thread, which has all the brilliance of silk at a very much lower cost. If you want to embroider a dress trimming, glance at the title-page and see how well the soft colours work in with each other. Minna has just embroidered a white linen blouse for herself after the design on p. 76, and dear little Marion has finished a perfectly sweet tea-table cloth in drawn work like that on p. 59. Do say what you think of the book, as I am rather inclined to be proud of it! I delight in fancy work, but seldom have any time for it.

There is an Exhibition of beautiful embroideries going on at Debenham and Freebody's. Many of the specimens date from the Tudor period, when "petit point" or small-stitch work began. There is no mistaking embroidery of this period, for the Tudor rose is almost invariably introduced, in company with its enemy the caterpillar and its not very improving visitor the butterfly. Stuart embroidery is distinguished by designs raised in relief, and spangles were introduced to brighten the already bright colours of the stitchery. In the days of Queen Anne, wool was introduced among the silks, and human hair was also used in the designs. It had to be plucked freshly from the head, or it would have lost its gloss. The faces have been painted in upon some of these pieces, and it is said that great painters occasionally used their finished art in this way to embellish the embroidery of their friends.

The samplers are almost painfully interesting, considering the tender years of some of the executants. The sampler appears to have been a peculiarly British institution. It does not appear among the superb collection of foreign embroideries, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, much of which has been made up into cushions and other articles suitable for presents. A fascinating addition to the usual exhibition is a section devoted to old paste, very fine in workmanship. So are the old-fashioned bead purses and reticules, in which our great grandmothers carried their money and their handkerchiefs. These, with old lace, fill up a fast-fleeting hour at the well-known house in Wigmore-street.

In order to emphasise the fact that all their goods are made in Paris, the London Corset Co., of 28, New Bond-street, send to customers who apply for it a pretty white and silver box, with a draped Venus of Milo on the lid, and containing a stereoscope and several views of Paris, a corner of the Champs Elysées, a bit of a busy boulevard, the Rue St. Honoré, showing the Magasins du Louvre, the Place de la Concorde, the lake in the Bois, the Rue de Rivoli, and many other places of honour and renown, interspersed with views of the workshops in Bond-street. All the slides are postcards.

What would a house be without handsome glass and china? This thought occurred to me when sauntering through the acres of both in Goode's of South Audley-street. Present-hunting is easy enough here, where you can get dinner-services ranging from a couple of sovereigns up to charges that you may reckon from the fact that a single plate costs £22 10s. These are painted by Alcock, each design illustrating a thought of one of our English poets. The colours are so fascinating that choice becomes a little difficult. I notice that almost all the specimen plates of the dinner-services chosen by royalties have a plain white ground. In the next section long tables shone and scintillated with rainbow tints from every possible shape and size of cut glass. And another table was covered with beautiful Worcester. Tall white lamps and vases with a brilliant gloss upon them are admirable for the reason that they lift high their burden of light and flowers so that merely a slender pillar intervenes between vis-à-vis at table. A whole roomful of the quaint and brightly-coloured Wemyss ware contrasted with the delicate tints elsewhere. I think it was in this room that I noticed a very large and handsome pair of jardinières in deep-toned oxydized bronze, ornamented with beautifully-modelled fruit and foliage. The size is 18 in. high, and 24 in. in diameter. They are unique and very cheap, and would look well in the great hall of some country house.

There are many small things for presents, including the long, narrow trays with coffee-cups, tea-sets, of every kind, tea-tables, bi-metal spirit-lamps and stands, candelabra in every kind of handsome china, tables with a deep well, sectioned out for plate (a capital idea!), china caskets, boxes, and inkstands, silver boxes, lacquer boxes, old china bowls for pot-pourri, and dainty little dessert knives with painted china handles in cases.

After seeing all the magnificent vases, some of them 8 ft. high, and other splendid ornaments, I found my way to the kitchen goods, and confirmed my own impression that Goode's is the cheapest place in London to buy the French marmites and casseroles. Their copper heaters for the table are eloquent of comfortable hot breakfasts and suppers. The bi-metal, made of copper and pure sheet silver, always tempts me; it looks so pretty. I always want to cook something in the tiny bouchée moulds. The beauty of bi-metal is that even the most fastidious cannot object to food being served in the dishes in which they were cooked, and though the cost of the utensils is rather high initially, yet they make for economy in the end, being practically indestructible and never needing re-silvering.

We remain faithful to Jaeger, and always believe that our immunity from colds all through the winter is chiefly due to these soft and warm garments, and the luxurious Jaeger blankets, combined with open bedroom windows! We go twice a year to their Regent-street depot—once in spring to get nice, fresh, light things for summer wear, and again in winter to provide against the chills of the season. More than anywhere else do we find the union of softness and lightness with warmth and comfort. It is carried to a fine art. The two-guinea camel-hair shawl could be passed through a curtain ring, yet one of these serves us as a blanket, whenever we go abroad, being as warm as it is light. And you know how thick and over-ample the Continental blanket is.

Apropos of shawls, there is a knitted one in the case that is a copy of one presented to Queen Alexandra on her marriage. It is really and actually like a cob-web, and the design is as clear and definite as that of a spider's web. This took the worker, now an old lady, six months to accomplish. It is much finer than lace, and looks as if Titania and the ladies of her fairy court had woven it. The Jaeger blouses are beautifully cut, and many are embroidered in delicate colours. One has red berries and green leaves, another peacocks' eye feathers, so fashionable just now. Jerseys in every colour, whether white, blue, crimson, green, or grey, are in some cases hand-knitted and in every instance daintily finished, and the little knitted open coats are to be had in white, red, or blue. The new petticoats, just in, are in cloth with a deep flounce in alternate lines of satin and strong black net. They are black, grey, crimson, and so on, and are agreeably inexpensive. So are the spencers made of goats' hair, so fine that they can be crushed quite small in the hand, and the dressing-gowns in all degrees of thickness or thinness. One in mauve with a pale mauve silk collar could not have weighed more than a pound and a half. The children's things look so pretty, fine, and dainty. For them, as for grown-ups, Jaeger boots and shoes are the only warm ones warranted to prevent chilblains. They are as soft, light, and comfortable as the other things.

We were so busy last week that we could not go to

"La Samothrace."—Every corset of the London Corset Co., 28, New Bond-street, W., is made in Paris. The very latest models. Not connected with any other establishment.

Mirelle, 41, Conduit-street, Bond-street, W., Court Milliner and Dressmaker, Lingerie, Corsets, &c. Speciality, "The Matinée Capote." Special attention given to Indian and Colonial orders.

Christie's to see the Anglesey jewels. Our friends who did so are eloquent on the subject, and they all finish their remarks with the indignant observation, "And all wasted on a *man!*" Eva says that she saw some of the artificial jewels used for the theatrical performances, and that she never beheld any lovelier designs. I have often said that more attention and art are given to the designs of imitation jewels than to the general run of real ones. I am sending you the catalogue of the Parisian Diamond Company, knowing how many presents you choose therein for your friends every year, and you will notice this perfection and grace of design in the pieces. The setting alone is a marvel. You should study the earrings particularly, as there is a great feeling in favour of these very becoming ornaments. You cannot judge from the illustrations of the sparkle and grace of those which have three stones set dangling one below the other—either two diamonds and a pearl, or all diamonds. Pear-shaped drops are always fashionable, and so are the solitaires, in any stones. Emeralds are most becoming to the complexion when drooping from the ears, and as for small Creole hoops of tiny diamonds, they are the daintiest and most becoming of all.

Something quite new is the stiff alternation of jewels seen in buckles, etc. Six rubies together, then six diamonds, and so on. There is quite a rage for this at present, but its novelty is its chief advantage. We were shown a pretty square buckle of open-work trellis in the company's famous diamonds, each intersection of the trellis being marked by a square emerald. Jewelled ornaments are sold for evening shoes also, being worked on with gold thread very effectively. In pendants there is a bewildering choice, but chiefly did we love a sacred Egyptian ibis, whose body was one shell of pearl, his wings being of green enamel studded with emeralds, and his crest of emeralds. He hung sideways from a chain of gold and pearl and a blue enamel loop, and the delightfully unconventional and artistic angle of his body was balanced by two sapphire drops falling from gold and pearl chains, caught in his finely-modelled claws. A certain neatness of outline seems to indicate a reaction from the "new art" patterns, and there is a great revival of antique designs copied with modern lightness, the settings being invisible and the centres flexible. You would love the refinement of a delicate golden trellis held with diamonds, through which chiffon or velvet can be run to form a most charming neck-band.

I see that the Strolling Players are to give a performance of "Liberty Hall" at the Court Theatre on Friday evening of this week in aid of the funds of the Ladies' Association of the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland-road. Tickets can be obtained from the Chairman, Mrs. Jesser Coope, 7, Eccleston-square, S.W.

One of the morning papers last week boldly affirmed that the Christmas card was falling into disfavour. It would be interesting to know how the writer arrived at this conclusion. All the evidence seems to point in the opposite direction, for it may safely be assumed that the leading firms engaged in the production of greeting cards would not put forth an increased supply, as they have done, if there were really any signs of a lessened demand. Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, for instance, have beaten all their previous records by issuing something like 3,500 entirely new designs. More important than the quantity is the artistic quality of the cards, and in this respect also the collection is an advance even upon the former splendid achievements of this well-known firm. There are so many beautiful and novel cards, in such a wide range of styles and processes, that it would be impossible to single out any for special reference without feeling that others equally noteworthy had been passed over. Perhaps it will be better, therefore, to say comprehensively that people of the most fastidious and the most diverse tastes cannot fail to find both cards and calendars to their liking in the productions of Raphael House.

Under the title, "For the Empire," Messrs. Hills and Co., Limited, have published a series of Christmas cards and calendars deserving of high praise alike for their artistic designs and their excellent colour-printing. It is pleasing to know that they have all been entirely produced in London, for the results are distinctly creditable to British workmanship. Besides a quantity of charming Christmas cards and calendars, Messrs. C. W. Faulkner and Co. issue many series of picture postcards, and also a number of ingenious and diverting games which will be popular with children.

Did you see the puzzling picture in the *Westminster* last week of a delighted party of seven playing some new and evidently exciting card game? Beyond the mysterious legend, "The Pit(t) Club: Latest Phase," there was nothing to show what it all meant, though obviously an advertisement. "Pit" is the title of the game, which is a Yankee invention based on the idea of the transactions in the corn exchange at Chicago, familiarly known as the "wheat pit." You play the game with cards bearing the words, "wheat," "oats," "barley," and so on, and the object is to get into your hand "by trading" all the cards of any one kind, so that you can declare a "corner in wheat," or whatever it may be that you have secured. The points scored vary for different "corners," and if the game is played in the proper spirit, the fun is fast and furious. "Pit" has the advantage of being playable by any number of persons from three to seven.

It was a happy thought of the editor of *Pears' Annual* to make a special feature of "Christmas Days with Charles Dickens." Nobody ever wrote so delightfully about the festive season as the great novelist, and it is pleasant to have gathered together the most striking Christmassy passages from his stories, with admirably executed reproductions in colour of the illustrations by "Phiz" and John Leech which adorned the early editions of "Pickwick" and "A Christmas Carol." There are also extracts from "The Chimes" and "The Holly Tree Inn," with illustrations in colour by Charles Green and Frank Dadd; and in addition to this feature the annual, which is an amazingly good sixpennyworth, is accompanied by three finely printed coloured presentation plates.

Clare sends me the following from Dublin:—

DEAREST MADGE,—Once December begins Christmas is practically with us, for better, for worse, for enjoyment or worry. Just as we choose to take it, there it is, but take it we must. The festival enters into all our arrangements and engagements, into everything that we do or leave undone; it fills our thoughts, and in many ways rules our lives, whether we will or not. The best philosophy of life teaches us to take cheerfully whatever we have to take, and no doubt the teaching is very applicable to Christmas. At the same time many of the circumstances of Christmas make it extremely creditable to us when we can exhibit a sufficient amount of cheerfulness to pass muster on the occasion. For one thing, our obligations are generally so much in excess of our powers of fulfilling them. For another, it is at best of times hard to come up to our own expectations, but the difficulty is as nothing compared to that of coming up to the expectations of others at the season of gifts and "tips." If only one could be a millionaire at Christmas, how delightful it would be—so helpful, so simplifying! Unfortunately it is generally quite otherwise with most of us. Is it not one of the least pleasing features of Christmas to bring before our minds in a most ruthless way the limitations of our incomes? At other times we go our ways, forgetting there are many things we fain would have and cannot have; we fain would do for others but cannot do. At Christmas this happy forgetfulness is broken in on; our memories are lighted up; in fact, as they say over here, "the whole discovery is found out."

Our shops are very attractive at this season although not magnificent like yours; still they are up to date, and have all the novelties which tempt the fickle mind. What an art the setting out of shop windows has become, demanding artistic knowledge in the execution of the work. Some goods must be very trying to the artistic temperament. Who can make anything satisfactory out of boots, umbrellas, and various other things of stiffness and utility?

THE MORNING CONSTITUTIONAL.—Attractive Short Skirt Costumes, substantial for all weathers, yet smart for wearing in Town, are made by FRED. BOSWORTH, 9, New Burlington-st., W.

Lord and Lady Dudley returned to Dublin at the end of last week, having finished their first holiday of the year. They rejoined their family at the Viceregal Lodge. Lady Dudley generally does a good deal of Christmas shopping in Dublin. The season is a very busy one for Viceroyalty as for Royalty. So many gifts to be given, so much charity to be dispensed — in fact, Christmas in high place is the most acute of all the Christmases. This week Lord and Lady Dudley are paying their long-arranged visit to the North, but not a long one. Belfast and Newry have both been busy with their bazaars. The Dowager Lady Dufferin has been foremost in working for Belfast, whilst Lord and Lady Kilmorey and Sir John and Lady Ross of Bladensburg, have been actively promoting the charitable work for the Newry Hospital. One wonders at the number of bazaars and sales, or, rather, to think that they are made to pay. The purse of charity is apparently a miraculous and inexhaustible one. Society is having as yet a specially dull time in Dublin, and little improvement is expected with regard to entertainments in the evening until after Christmas. Last week Lady Grosvenor gave an "at home" in the afternoon at the Arts and Crafts Exhibition, which has been mainly got up by Lord and Lady Mayo. Lady Fingall also gave one at the same place during the week, at which Lord and Lady Dudley were present. Entertainments of this kind have lately become much the fashion over here. They are specially interesting at picture exhibitions, a picture gallery being so suitable as a *mise en scène* for a Society entertainment. During the week Lady MacDonnell, the Under Secretary's wife, gave an afternoon tea at the Royal Hibernian Academy, where an exhibition of pictures by modern artists, presented to Dublin, is being held.

Lord and Lady Ardilaun were at St. Anne's last week. The arrangements about the Prince of Wales's visit to Ashford are necessarily liable to change and cannot be definitely fixed. The woodcock shooting is usually at its best after Christmas, Lord Ardilaun's annual shooting parties being held in January as a general rule. Ashford is a fine residence, with all the comforts of modernity, in the West, the old country of the Celt, which still retains its atmosphere of old history and Celticism—a country in which one may still see poetry and mystery to lift up the soul, in mountain, wood, and water, and not only "economic" possibilities and the water power for commercial enterprise. One whispers to oneself sometimes that modern progress may after all be a retrograde movement, an "advance to the rear," to put it Irishways, a concentration of energy on the bread by which man alone cannot live. Who can tell? We stand in the midst of problems, of which the variety of solutions is infinite. "It's a quare world!" as a certain Irish doctor on an ocean ship used to say with a sigh at the end of a day spent in the amenities of flirtation in absolute neglect of medical duties. We find it a "quare world," don't we, each in our own way?—Yours ever, CLARE.

Quail à la Normande offers yet another way of preparing these inviting birds:—

Fill four boned quail with chicken forcemeat that has been mixed with minced foie gras and chopped truffle. Tie strips of buttered paper round the birds and braise them with stock and vegetables for an hour. When the birds are cold, cut them in halves, lengthways, and coat the round side with tomato aspic; put on each a star of hard boiled white of egg. Dish them on a border of aspic, fill the centre with cube-shaped pieces of cold boiled new potatoes and asparagus points, all mixed with oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, and put chopped jelly round them. For the tomato aspic:—Reduce a tin of passed tomato purée very stiffly, and mix it with 3 gills of aspic jelly; use it when on the point of setting.

Charlotte à la crême de Chataignes is a pretty sweet:—

Whip the whites of three fresh eggs very stiffly, mix in 6oz. of icing and castor sugar (previously mixed in equal proportions), and 1oz. of desiccated cocoanut. Put the méringue into a paper cornet and press it on to oiled paper in finger-shaped pieces, not more than three inches long, mix 2oz. of cocoanut with 2oz. of icing sugar, and with it sprinkle them quickly and lightly, then dry them in the oven for some hours. Line a charlotte mould with oiled paper, arrange the strips of méringue in an upright form round the sides of the mould, using a little icing to make them adhere to each other, place the mould in the screen or a cool oven to dry. To serve, turn it out on a fancy paper, fill it with the following cream, and sprinkle it with desiccated cocoanut:—

For the cream:—Scald and remove the skins from twenty-five chestnuts, boil them until they are the consistency of floury potato, then rub them through a wire sieve. Mix the purée with half a pint of custard, a gill and half of whipped cream flavoured with maraschino, and then freeze it in the usual way.

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Marriage à la Mode.

A Park Lane Procession.

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ENTRE NOUS.

AT THE ALBERT HALL.—A CHRISTMAS APPEAL.

December 14 and 15, 1904.

CAN London show a sight more fair than this—
This shrine of Charity where Pity's hand
Has built a bridge across that deep abyss
Dividing rich and poor throughout our land:
A bridge o'er which, in answer to the sighs
Of Sorrow's all-too-long-neglected host,
Hope, of the buoyant heart and star-like eyes,
Can carry help where it is needed most.

Gaze on the picture! 'Tis a pleasant sight
To see this Hall, where Wealth oft tastes its joys,
Transformed into a Temple of Delight
For London's poorest little girls and boys—
To see the Toys that everywhere abound,
As, at each glance, new vistas are revealed;
To mark the blaze of colour all around
Where countless dolls hold the chromatic field!

But there are other scenes we would recall—
Sad scenes beyond the frowning Workhouse gate,
Where little of Life's sun can ever fall,
And where, with wistful eyes, the children wait.
They've heard glad rumours of the goodly times
Which they, if Fate be kind to them, *may* share.
And so they listen for the Christmas chimes,
Now buoyed by hope, now saddened by despair!

For as a fact their lot at Yule depends
On that which *you* may be prepared to do;
Since every day the lengthy list extends
Of those who look for happiness to you.
Yes; you it is their future must decide,
And whether, on the coming Christmas Day,
Any of those for whom we would provide
Must, after all, unnoticed, go their way.

Then, look again, and you will see, not far
From where a glimpse of Fairyland we gain,
The long dim Wards where tiny sufferers are,
Moaning, alas! with rarely ceasing pain.
These also watch, for they have also heard
Of the glad visit Santa Claus *may* pay,
And to their broken sleep the nurse's word
Brings dreams that fainter grow at dawn of day.

For there is just a chance—poor little tots!—
That by some grim omission, after all,
The longed-for visitor may pass their cots,
Deaf, it would seem to their pathetic call.
And often through the hours of weary pain,
When for the solace of your love they yearn,
Their faith, unable to withstand the strain,
Into depressing doubt is apt to turn.

You must decide their fate, and if you 'd make
Each tiny patient's Yuletide one of joy,
With *you* it rests the needed steps to take—
To send to every waiting waif a toy;
So that, with no restrictions to impede,
Truth's List of presents may be so compiled
That, 'mongst the little ones for whom we plead,
There shall not be one *sad, forgotten child!*

Not *one* pale face, with tear-dimmed, wistful eyes,
To haunt your festive hearth; not one sad sigh
To mar the carols that may heavenward rise,
Whilst the clear joy-bells echo to the sky.
Oh, no! 'Twill rather be your joyful task
To scatter yet more happiness around,
To do the little that from you we ask,
And make the Christmas chimes more sweetly sound.

'Twill mean at most a doll or so the less
For girls already sated with such joys;
One plaything, drawn from some rich child's excess,
To charm a workhouse boy, unblessed with toys.

One toy the less! how little that implies
For those whose life is passed 'midst brighter scenes!
But for the waif who, sick and weary lies,
Who shall compute how very much it means!

But passing great as the delight may be
Of those t'wards whom your kindness is displayed,
More happy yet 's the lot the Fates decree
For those who to the helpless carry aid.
For this remains unaltered by repeal,
This, often tested, has all tests withstood—
Of all the luxuries that man can feel,
The sweetest one is that of doing good!

My readers are all aware, I hope, that the Truth Doll and Toy Show at the Royal Albert Hall is open to-day (Wednesday) and to-morrow. I trust that as many as possible will avail themselves of this opportunity of seeing the splendid collection of dolls and toys provided for the amusement of the children in the London hospitals, workhouses, and workhouse schools during the coming Christmas season. It may be convenient to mention again that the Show will be open each day from 10.30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and that the charge for admission before 5.30 p.m. will be 1s. After that time to-day (Wednesday) the charge will be sixpence, and on Thursday evening admission will be free. I would also call attention to the fact that collecting-boxes will be provided in the Hall for the convenience of those who have not as yet found themselves able to send their contributions to this office. I trust that all who visit the Show will avail themselves of this convenience.

Messrs. Callard and Bowser, of Duke's-road, Euston-road, have very kindly sent me forty-two boxes of their butter-scotch for distribution in connection with the Toy Show, and I have again received from Messrs. Fry and Sons, of Bristol, two cases of their chocolate for the same purpose.

I am compelled, much against my will, to call attention again to the unsatisfactory position of the Toy Fund. Though a certain number of my readers continue to respond most liberally to the appeals already made, they are only a very small minority. Unless a much larger number comes to the rescue during the next week, the Fund will close this year with a heavy deficit, and next year's Toy Show will start with a serious handicap. I still venture to hope that this calamity will be averted, but it will only be by every reader of the paper and every visitor to the Toy Show giving practical help between now and Christmas.

Do readers of Truth appreciate that for want of more general support the usefulness of the Toy Fund is seriously curtailed? I can hardly think they do, and I therefore invite them to look at the following letter just received:—

Dear Sir,—May I ask you to consider our small hospital, which is inclined to be overlooked in regard to toys?

We have forty-five to fifty beds for children, some from very poor parts.

We should welcome a visit from any of your staff. We get full grants from Hospital Saturday and Sunday Funds, and our expenditure for collecting and office expenses is practically *nil*.

This is merely a sample of letters that are reaching me every day at this time of year from outlying quarters of London. To my regret, I am obliged to tell the writer that it will be impossible to find any toys this year for his fifty children, though obviously the hospital is a very deserving one. The same answer will have to be given in many other cases. Though more toys have been provided for this year's distribution than the public seems disposed to pay for, there are still not enough to go round. What is more, if the Toy Fund ends this year in debt, there is a prospect of the number of disappointed children being still further increased in future. Is it necessary to say more? I can only leave the facts to speak for themselves.

I have received the following amounts in response to my appeal of last week:—

T. Walmesley, £10; Archie, Maud, and Vera, £2 2s.; A. W. B., £1; H. C. M., £2; E. D., 5s.; Lord Durham, £5; C. F., £20; Mrs. J. D. Brown and friends, 10s. 6d.; Gerald, 10s.; Mrs. Mumm, £2 2s.; A. A. S., £3 3s.; S. K. B., 10s.; Claude, Eileen, and Joyce Nicholson, £1 10s.; M. K., £5; R. B. S., £1 1s.; Miss Pearson, £1 1s.; Bechmann and Ullmann, £5; J. W. P., £2 2s.; Douglas, £2 10s.; Leo, £3 3s.; Eileen, Bowse, and Denise, £25; Charles Maw, £5 5s.; Sibyl, £1; Leonide Belligheimer, £1 1s.; Mrs. P. L. Argenti, £4 4s.; Fredk. John Horniman, £5; Frank Davis, £2 2s.; A fat pollack, £1; J. H. O., 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Bailey, 5s.; G. W. S., £1; Connie, Tom, and Leslie, £5 5s.; O. R. D., £10; Rev. E. L. Browne, £2; J. F. A., 10s.; Léonie, £2; M. G. F., £2 2s.; D. W. C., £10; the Hon. A. Holland Hibbert, £3; Yannon, £3 3s.; W. Y., £5; T. L. Bullock, 10s.; M. W. C., 10s.; Sylvia, £2 5s. 6d.; Jack pot, 10s.; Lord Hamilton of Dalzell, £25.

In addition I have received:—

Twelve scrap-books, Lucy, Albert, and Harold Auerbach; three scrap-books, Miss K. Howard; a parcel of fur monkeys, anonymous; six wool balls, S. B.; parcel of dressed dolls, Miss Gray; one dressed doll, Mrs. A. Baker; six dressed dolls, Miss S. Ravenscroft; two boxes of dressed dolls, Madame A. Clematis; six dolls, Mrs. R. E. Warden; one scrap-book, Mrs. E. Oakeley; six dolls, Mrs. S. L. Carson; parcel of dolls, Miss Yovitchitch; six scrap-books, Miss L. Hurst; two scrap-books, Miss E. Thomason; parcel of dolls, Mrs. N. Webb; two scrap-books, Miss C. Dimston; four scrap-books, Miss Martin-Edmunds; scrap-books, etc., Ethel and Marjorie.

The King and Queen, who are on a visit to Lord and Lady Cadogan at Culford Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, will return to Buckingham Palace on Saturday, and are to stay in town until the middle of next week, when they will proceed to Sandringham for the Christmas holidays. The last shooting party of the season at Sandringham will assemble at the Hall on Monday, the 26th, or Tuesday, the 27th. The King and Queen are to leave Sandringham on Monday, January 2, on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire at Chatsworth, where they will stay until Saturday, the 7th, when their Majesties are going to Windsor Castle for a residence of about four weeks. Prince and Princess Louis of Battenberg, the Duke and Duchess of Fife, and Count Albert Mensdorff will spend Christmas at Sandringham.

The King was last week on a visit to Lord and Lady Farquhar at Castle Rising, near Lynn, where the house party included Lord and Lady Mar and Kellie, Lord

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Stanley and Lady Alice Stanley, Lord Henry Vane-Tempest, Sir T. Kelly-Kenny, Mrs. George Keppel, and Mr. Somerville Gurney, besides the two Equerries-in-Waiting upon His Majesty. The King went shooting at Riffley on Wednesday, and at Royden Fen on Thursday afternoon, and in the home covers on Friday morning, but the weather was very unfavourable on all three days. His Majesty will very likely drive over to Castle Rising for another day's pheasant shooting in the preserves rented by Lord Farquhar during his next stay at Sandringham.

The King of Portugal's visit to Welbeck Abbey was most successful. His Majesty went pheasant shooting on the first day of his stay, and the second day was devoted to partridge driving, which he preferred to a suggested excursion round the district of "the Dukeries" in a motor-car. Before leaving Welbeck on Friday King Carlos drove to Hunciecroft and inspected the Duke of Portland's famous breeding stud, when St. Simon and the other sires were paraded.

The Prince and Princess of Wales were last week the guests of Lord and Lady Ilchester from Tuesday until Saturday at Melbury Park, where the house party included the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, Lord and Lady Powis, Lord and Lady Crewe, Mr. Walter and Lady Evelyn Guinness, Lord Stavordale and Lady Helen Stavordale, and Captain and Lady Muriel Digby. There was shooting in the park preserves on Wednesday, and Thursday was spent at Abbotsbury, Lord Ilchester's place on the coast, where there was driving for wild fowl, an inspection of the Swannery and the Abbey ruins, and a luncheon in the beautiful sub-tropical gardens of the castle. On Friday there was shooting in the woods in the morning, and in the afternoon at Bubbdown, from which there is one of the finest views in Dorsetshire.

H.R.H. and the Princess are to return to Marlborough House on Friday from visiting Lord and Lady Pembroke at Wilton, and on Monday evening they will leave town on a two days' visit to Lord and Lady Mount Stephen at Brocket Hall, Hertfordshire. The Prince and Princess of Wales are to spend the Christmas holidays at York Cottage, Sandringham.

The visit of the Prince of Wales to Ireland has been postponed until the last week in January, in order that H.R.H. may be present at the Lord-Lieutenant's first Levee and Drawing-room, which are to be held at Dublin Castle on Tuesday, January 31, and Wednesday, February 1 respectively. The Prince of Wales will leave Windsor for Dublin on Monday, January 23, and H.R.H. is to proceed direct to Ashford, Lord Ardilaun's place in Connemara, where he will have three or four days' shooting. Ashford is the best estate in Ireland for woodcock. The Princess of Wales will remain at Frogmore while the Prince is in Ireland, and they are to arrive at Marlborough House for the season on Friday, February 3.

Prince and Princess Christian, who have been staying for a week at Schomburg House, will spend the Christmas holidays at Cumberland Lodge, where they will be joined by their son, Prince Albert of Schleswig-Holstein, from Berlin.

Princess Louise and the Duke of Argyll were last week on a visit to Lord and Lady Londonderry at Wynyard Park, County Durham, where they arrived on Tuesday from Edinburgh, en route for Roseneath House, Dumbartonshire. Lord and Lady Londonderry will leave Wynyard about the 28th to spend a few weeks at Mount Stewart, their seat near Belfast, where they will probably receive a brief visit from the Prince of Wales towards the end of next month.

Princess Beatrice and her daughter, Princess Ena, who have been staying for several weeks at Kensington Palace, are to leave town on Friday for the Isle of Wight, and they will reside until about the middle of January at Osborne Cottage. Princess Beatrice will leave England about the end of January, or early in February, to spend a couple of months in Egypt.

The paragraph in a contemporary last week about the dispute between the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the Government of the Duchy is a strange farrago of nonsense. This journal considers that only prejudice could cause any one "to deny the right of the Duke to a voice in the disposal of the Royal lands and domains." The writer evidently knows nothing whatever about the matter. "The Royal lands and domains" to which reference is made were national property until about 1855, when it was decreed for special reasons to transfer them to the reigning Duke as a temporary arrangement. When the crisis had passed, Duke Ernest most unjustifiably refused to return the estates to the Diet, and his relations with his subjects were never afterwards cordial. Duke Alfred followed his uncle's example. A few months ago Herr Hartig, the Minister of State, brought in a Bill to regulate the question of these estates, which was unanimously passed by the Diet. The Regent of the Duchies, the Hereditary Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg, declined to assent to this measure because Duke Charles Edward comes of age next July, and the Regent was of the opinion that the future ruler should decide the question for himself. My contemporary absurdly eulogises "the great tact" of the young Duke, who has in reality done nothing except intimate that he does not approve of the measure which has been passed by the Diet. Herr Hartig, who has resigned his post, is a very able man, and a great favourite with the Emperor William, and he is believed to be destined to fill a high office in the Imperial Government at Berlin. There is a firm and universal determination in Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to carry out the arrangement indicated in the late Minister's Bill, which is most liberal in its treatment of the reigning Duke. This journal's prediction that the Duke will transfer to the State one-half of the Royal lands, "as an act of grace," is rubbish. If this is done the Duke will merely carry out the

provisions of Herr Hartig's very generous measure, which gives him half the Crown estates, and an annuity of £15,000 a year.

Unless Duke Charles Edward meets the Diet in an amicable and liberal spirit, it is expected that the King will privately intervene, as the affairs of the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha are a matter of considerable concern to the Court. Prince Arthur of Connaught is at present the next heir to the Duchy, and if the reigning Duke and Prince Arthur both died without leaving male issue, the throne would pass to the second son of the Prince of Wales.

It was announced in Truth recently that Countess Lonyay (the Princess Stephanie of Belgium, widow of the Archduke Rudolph) and her husband are coming to England for the winter, and that they will be joined in this country by her sister, the Princess Louise of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Count and Countess Lonyay, who left Prague last week for Vienna, on their way to Paris, have taken Adsdean, Mr. Tennant's charming place in West Sussex, for a few months. The statement, which is going round the Press that Count and Countess Lonyay "are going to take up their residence in England" is not exactly correct, as they are merely coming to this country for a few months.

The Irish Viceregal arrangements were changed last week suddenly owing to the illness of Mr. John Ward. Lord and Lady Dudley left Mourne Park, where they were staying with Lord and Lady Kilmorey, direct for England. During the week it was officially announced in Dublin that the Prince of Wales would pay a visit to Lord and Lady Dudley on the occasion of his being in Ireland for the woodcock shooting at Ashford, near Cong, Lord Ardilaun's fine residence in the county of Galway. Lord Ardilaun's is generally considered the best woodcock shooting in Ireland.

Mr. Douglas Close Richmond is to resign the office of Comptroller and Auditor-General at the end of the month, when he will retire from the Civil Service. The salary is £2,000 a year, and the place is in the gift of the Prime Minister.

Lord Hobhouse belonged to an old Somersetshire family, and his father was for many years Permanent Under Secretary at the Home Office. He was educated at Eton and Balliol, where he was a contemporary of Lord Coleridge, Jowett, and other distinguished men, and he took the highest classical honours in 1840. Having been called to the Bar, he soon obtained a large and lucrative practice as a conveyancer and equity draughtsman, and he became an intimate friend of Roundell Palmer and Hugh Cairns. Lord Hobhouse's health failed when he was in the full tide of work, and he then did good service as a Charity Commissioner, and as an Endowed Schools Commissioner, and afterwards as legal member of the Viceroy's Council in India, where he spent five years. After having served for some years as a member of the Judical Committee of the Privy Council he was raised to the peerage by Mr. Gladstone in 1885. He was a member for some years of both the London School Board and the London County Council, and strongly supported the Progressive Party. Lord Hobhouse was all his life an advanced and uncompromising Radical. He supported Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule policy, and he vigorously opposed the South African War. He was a pleasant and genial man, very hospitable, and well known for the excellence of his table-talk.

Mr. Robert Ward, of Bangor Castle, County Down, who has just died at the age of eighty-five, was one of the best-known country gentlemen in Ulster. He was the only son of Michael Edward Ward, a prominent member of the Diplomatic Service, who was for many years Minister at Dresden, and he was a grandson of the first Viscount Bangor. Mr. Robert Ward's mother was Lady Matilda Stewart, daughter of the first Marquis of Londonderry, and half-sister to the second Marquis, the celebrated statesman who was best known as Lord Castlereagh. Mr. Robert Ward, who was educated at Eton and Christ Church, served for some years in the 10th Hussars. He is succeeded in his large estates by his only child, Lady Clanmorris.

The new Earl of Hardwicke, who is an uncle of the late peer, served in the Navy for twenty-eight years, and was engaged both in the Baltic and before Sebastopol during the Crimean War. He retired in 1882 with the rank of Captain.

Lord and Lady Amherst of Hackney have been staying at Didlington Hall, their seat in Norfolk, since the termination of their visit to Lord and Lady William Cecil at Hunmanby Hall, near Filey. It is possible that the Prince of Wales may spend two or three days at Didlington shortly after Christmas in order to shoot in Lord Amherst's preserves, which are among the best in East Anglia. Didlington is in a very ugly country, but the gardens are well laid out, and the extensive park, which is finely wooded, contains a picturesque lake, which swarms with wild fowl in winter. The house is handsome and well arranged, and is crammed with objects of art. Lord and Lady Amherst are going next month to the Riviera, for a long residence at their delightful villa at Valescure.

A number of articles which the late Lord Salisbury contributed to the *Quarterly Review* will be published in a volume by Mr. Murray in the course of a few weeks. These essays deal with literary and political subjects.

It is not surprising that Tories are envious of the advantage their opponents possess in the services of Mr. F. C. Gould. A Minister lately spoke of him as the real leader of the Liberal Party. Without carrying one's admiration to that length, one may truly say that Mr. Gould is a far greater force in the Party than several of the men usually counted among its leaders. It is only necessary to glance through the volume of "Political Caricatures, 1904," just published by Mr.

Edward Arnold, to recognise the value of the work "F. C. G." does for Liberalism. Never have his rare talents as a cartoonist been displayed to better purpose than during the past year. The fiscal controversy is, of course, the most fruitful of his themes, and Mr. Chamberlain is necessarily the dominant personality, but the Chinese labour question, with Mr. Lyttelton as the principal figure, also happily inspired Mr. Gould, and indeed almost every political topic of the day is dealt with in the collection.

Mr. Gould has also, by the way, illustrated the selection of verses, mostly political, by Sir Wilfrid Lawson which Mr. Fisher Unwin has published under the title of "Cartoons in Rhyme and Line." With an excess of self-depreciation, Sir Wilfrid styles himself "the worst of poets." For my own part, I much prefer the verses of the Lobby Laureate to those of the Poet Laureate. On all sorts of subjects Sir Wilfrid rhymes with wit and wisdom, and the outcome of his collaboration with Mr. Gould is a most entertaining book.

In congratulating the *Daily Chronicle*, the other day, on its Christmas Number, I referred to it as "a new departure." I ought to have limited the last expression to London journalism, for the Editor of the *Western Morning News* has written to point out that his journal has been publishing a Christmas Number regularly and successfully since 1891. Judging from the latest example, its success has been well deserved. Possibly I shall be told that other provincial journals have done the same thing, so to save trouble to them and me, I may as well say at once that I do not think it will be necessary to notice them all individually.

I see that London is promised two more new theatres—one of them an opera house of large dimensions. I wish that the founders when looking out for sites would get a few hundred yards away from the limited space into which the majority of West-End theatres are at present packed. The confusion and crowding in and around St. Martin's-lane, Coventry-street, and Leicester-square when the theatres are emptying are enough to deter nervous people from going to the theatre at all, and are inconvenient to everybody—not to say dangerous; indeed, it is a wonder that serious accidents do not constantly happen. The whole cab trade of London seems to be concentrated at night in these two or three narrow thoroughfares. Yet two or three times a year a new theatre is opened cheek by jowl with an old one, and a week or two hence, the new Coliseum will be ready to discharge an additional 3,000 people every night into the midst of the existing pandemonium. I understand the business reasons for keeping a particular trade in a particular quarter of the town, but in the case of the theatres there are very good reasons for extending the area a little as the trade increases. At the present rate we shall soon want "tubes", or overhead railways to take us to and from the theatres.

The following letter gives a view of the "Greek" question, for which there is a good deal to be said:—

Apropos of the recent outcry for the abolition of Greek, as a compulsory subject, from the Oxford curriculum, I have often wondered why Greek, rather than Latin, is always the language at which would-be reformers make such a dead set. If either of them is to be abolished, why not Latin? As a language, Greek is infinitely superior to Latin. And between the two literatures there is no comparison. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that Latin literature, as we have it, would never have existed at all but for the Greek models to which it owed its inception and inspiration. In other words, Latin literature is essentially a second-hand, imitative, and artificial literature, in which the lack of originality is very inadequately atoned for by mere neatness of form and studied polish of phrase.

Take the drama, for instance. What Latin tragedian can raise his head to dispute pride of place with Aeschylus, Sophocles, or even Euripides? Who would be so bold as to mention Plautus or Terence in the same breath with Aristophanes? Take epic poetry. What sane man would assign Virgil a seat by the side of Homer? Take philosophy. Who that had read his Plato or his Aristotle could tolerate, for a moment, the superficial platitudes of Seneca?

I remember writing an essay when I was a boy at school in which I referred to Cicero as the greatest orator in the world's history. My tutor contented himself with the pointed and sarcastic query: "Was there never such a man as Demosthenes?" The force of that query struck me more and more as I became better acquainted with that consummate master of Attic eloquence. I think that I have read most of the great speeches recorded in the literature of both ancient and modern times. But I have never read any speech at all comparable to the "De Corona." It would be interesting to know how many of our greatest speakers, both Parliamentary and forensic, have been indebted to the influence, conscious or unconscious, of the Attic orators. Lord Brougham admitted that he owed much of his success as a pleader to that source, and he stated categorically that all those passages in his speeches which both told most at the time and were most admired afterwards, had been assimilated, and in some cases translated, from Greek models. Certainly, also, the influence of Attic oratory is apparent in the speeches of Pitt and Fox, of Burke, Canning, and Gladstone. But who would listen with patience to a speaker that moulded his eloquence upon the artificial periods of Cicero?

I can understand a man objecting to the study of the dead languages *in toto*. I think his view is mistaken, indeed; but it is intelligible, and (so far as it goes) consistent. But what I cannot understand is, how any man—having the slightest acquaintance with the two languages—can advocate the retention of Latin, but cry out for the abolition of Greek. In the latter, we have a language as fine as, perhaps finer than, any language that has ever existed, and a literature, which, if it has been equalled, has certainly never been surpassed; in the former, a language and a literature that are, by comparison, second-rate. Yet the prevailing tendency nowadays is to do away with the better but to retain the worse. And what makes it more surprising is that this extraordinarily perverted policy should be seriously advocated in the sacred name of education.

Generally speaking, I agree with my correspondent. But when he asks who would listen to an orator who modelled himself on Cicero, I rather think a similar question might be asked in regard to Demosthenes. I do not say this out of any lack or respect for Demosthenes. It applies equally to all the alleged speeches handed down to us from times prior to the evolution of shorthand writing. Would any of them be effective if delivered to-day *viva voce*? I doubt it. The reason is that they are literary productions, not real speeches—just as are the speeches in Thucydides or Livy. They give us not what the speaker really said, but what some judicious editor attributes to him, or what he put into his own mouth when preparing his discourse for publication in the leisurely seclusion of his study. A good deal of the "Attic influence" which my correspondent detects in the speeches of Burke, Pitt, and their contemporaries may have been infused in this editorial process.

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I doubt if it was so evident in the speeches as originally delivered, and if it had been I doubt if they would have been the more effective for it.

As regards Gladstone, I should say that his most effective speeches—those delivered from the platform—are those which show the least "Attic influence." The school of Parliamentary oratory, of which he was one of the last exponents, was modelled upon the written speeches of the older school, and, in my humble judgment, was often stilted and ineffectual for that reason. A born orator, like Gladstone or Bright, could shake off the trammels of an artificial, literary style; but in the mouths of ordinary mortals the political oratory of two or three generations back was apt to become the most prosy, soporific stuff imaginable.

Of course a great deal depends upon the audience. The late Mr. Spurgeon—one of the few real orators of the pulpit—would not have been a success as a Select Preacher at Oxford. The most telling platform style does not go down in the House of Commons, even in these democratic days. But, speaking generally, I think oratory, to be effective, requires to be racy and spontaneous and free from all smell of the lamp. If Demosthenes was as good a platform speaker as tradition declares, I should not be surprised, could one listen to him to-day, to find him a good deal more like Mr. John Burns than his published speeches would lead one to expect. On the whole, my advice to sucking orators, whether for the Church, the Bar, or "the Senate" is to get away from the classical models—Attic or otherwise. But, of course, I am a mere Philistine.

The announcement that Lord Alwyne Compton will resign the Bishopric of Ely in a few months has caused no surprise in the diocese, his early retirement having been expected for some time past. Lord Alwyne Compton, who is now in his eightieth year, had held the family living of Castle Ashby, near Northampton, for about a quarter of a century when Lord Beaconsfield appointed him to the deanery of Worcester in 1879 on the death of Dean Yorke. Nineteen years ago Lord Salisbury promoted him to the See of Ely, in succession to Bishop Woodford. Lord Alwyne Compton is a High Churchman, and he has always been a most popular prelate, while the course of the diocese has been most peaceful under his wise government. The picturesque old episcopal palace has been the scene of constant and most genial hospitality during Lord Alwyne Compton's episcopate, and his charming and accomplished wife has proved herself to be an ideal hostess for such a house. Lord Alwyne Compton holds the office of Lord High Almoner to the King, to which he was appointed by Queen Victoria in the autumn of 1882, after the death of Dean Wellesley.

The Bishop of Worcester has presented Archdeacon Walters to the pleasant living of Malvern Wells. Archdeacon Walters at present holds the Rectory of Alvechurch, near Redditch, which was formerly one of the richest benefices in the diocese, and it is in the gift of the Bishop. Archdeacon Walters was appointed to the Archdeaconry of Worcester by the late Bishop Philpott in 1889. He was for about twenty-five years Vicar of Pershore before his removal to Alvechurch on the presentation of the late Bishop Perowne.

Lord Brownlow has presented the Rev. Edward Clark, Vicar of Mattingley, Hants, to the Rectory of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, vacant by the resignation of the Master of the Temple.

The Bishop of Worcester is to be absent from his diocese for five weeks from Monday next, and it is understood that the present diocese of Worcester will be divided and the new See of Birmingham fully constituted in the course of the next two months. It is now known that Bishop Gore intends to transfer himself to Birmingham, thereby losing £700 a year and undertaking much heavier work than will fall to the new Bishop of Worcester. There is a great desire among High Churchmen that the See of Worcester should be offered to Canon Newbolt, who was beneficed in that diocese when the late Lord Salisbury gave him the residentiary stall in St. Paul's Cathedral which had become vacant by the death of Dr. Liddon.

The consecration of Archdeacon Boutflower, the second Suffragan for the Diocese of Winchester, as Bishop of Dorking is to take place in Westminster Abbey on Wednesday, January 25. It is understood that the new Suffragan is to work principally in the northern division of the diocese, and it is expected that he will arrange to reside at or near Dorking.

Chancellor T. D. Bernard, who died last Wednesday at the age of eighty-nine, was for many years a most distinguished leader of the Evangelical party. He was conspicuously successful as Rector of the important parish of Walcot, Bath, where he accomplished a great work, and the admirably organised parish and the fine new church of St. Andrew's are enduring memorials of his ministry, which extended over twenty-three years. For thirty-three years he was a Canon Residentiary of Wells Cathedral, and there he literally recreated the choristers' school, which he rebuilt at his own cost, and he also founded an excellent high school for girls. Resigning his preferment when he felt age creeping over him, he spent the closing years of his life at High Hall, his place near Wimborne, and to the last he was always ready to give assistance in clerical work. Chancellor Bernard was three times Select Preacher at Oxford, and in 1864 he was Bampton Lecturer.

Weymouth.—The Charming Dorsetshire Seaside Resort. Temperature higher than that of any other seaside resort—see daily reports. Send six 1d. stamps Town Clerk for illus. Guide.

In regard to Evan Roberts, the Welsh revivalist, I have had a letter from Cardiff protesting that the movement has been caricatured in the Press accounts from which I derived my information, and that it deserves better treatment from TRUTH. I have no wish to do any injustice to the inspired collier, but my experience is that all these movements are evanescent. My Cardiff friend writes:—

> Some scores of empty churches are filled now. Thousands who never prayed before pray now. Drunkards are made sober and gamblers are made honest men. Ministers are made honest ministers.

All very desirable, no doubt. But how long will it last? I have a profound distrust of these spasmodic and hysterical conversions. I shall be told, I dare say, that a certain percentage of converts remains converted, and that this at least is so much to the good. But there are bad effects of these epidemics as well as good, and they are just as likely to be permanent.

I am glad to see in a recent issue of the *Grimsby News* a word of warning against an individual who has been collecting in that neighbourhood on behalf of the Gordon Memorial Day Nursery for Little Children—in other words, for the enterprising Africander who styles himself the Right Rev. Bishop McLaglen, D.D., LL.D. My readers know all about this worthy bishop and his bogus charitable enterprises; and it is to be regretted that his emissaries are still free to go about the country collecting money on his behalf—or on his behalf conjointly with their own, for they retain for themselves a very handsome share of the "swag." I hear that another of them—a man named Hicks, who has long been associated with McLaglen—has been operating during the last week or two at Epsom; and it would be well if the local Press would warn the residents of that neighbourhood against him also. As I have said before, McLaglen's business is one that ought long ago to have had the attention of the police.

The new building of the Royal Ear Hospital in Dean-street, Soho, which was opened on Monday by Lady Cheylesmore, is in every way excellently adapted to its purpose, and will add vastly to the usefulness of the institution. I take a special interest in ear hospitals, for no class of the sick poor are more exposed to the ravages of mischievous quacks than those afflicted with deafness and ear diseases, as the columns of TRUTH from time to time abundantly show. I would, therefore, take this opportunity of mentioning that the Royal Ear Hospital, though it has opened its new building, is still £6,500 short of the money required to pay for it. I hope that it will soon see this debt extinguished, and I do not know any better direction in which people can bestow the gifts they are making to hospitals during the Christmas season.

"TRUTH" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.s should be made payable to the MANAGER, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

General Sir Baker Russell has been retired from the service under the age rule. He was engaged from 1857-59 during the Indian Mutiny, in the Ashanti War of 1873-4, in South Africa during the campaign of 1879, and during the Egyptian War of 1882, when he commanded the 1st Cavalry Brigade. He joined the Army in November, 1855, and was last employed as Commander of the Southern District, a post which he held from November, 1898, until November, 1903. He has been widely known as a popular and very able officer.

I hear that there has recently been another case of the blackballing of a batch of Army Medical officers at a Service club, the club this time being the Junior United Service. Since the abolition of all distinctive marks between the rank of medical and combatant officers, one has heard less than formerly of these displays of vulgar snobbishness, and it might have been hoped that a better state of feeling on such matters was growing up among Service men. One would think that, considering the difficulty there has been in keeping the Army Medical Service up to the mark, and the strenuous attempts that have been made to give medical officers the official footing in the Army to which their education and responsibilities entitle them, officers who hold, or have held, the King's Commission would have a sufficient amount of patriotic feeling and loyalty to the heads of the Army to avoid putting slights upon medical officers with a view of teaching them that they are an inferior order of beings, whatever the War Office or the Sovereign may order. But it is of course idle to argue with the pig-headed prejudices of the old-fashioned type of Service snob.

In spite of all the red tape attached to military administration there is a very considerable leakage of public money in connection with lodging allowances and similar military charges; and the Army Council would do useful work by ordering a searching inquiry into this matter, with a view to devising means by which the drawing of allowances which are not due would be checked. I am constantly hearing of abuses of this class, though from the nature of the case it is difficult to deal with them specifically. In one of the cases brought under my notice the offender is the quartermaster of a provincial military establishment who has been temporarily placed on the lodging list pending certain building operations. He draws, therefore, lodging, fuel, and light allowance, yet coal and wood from the depot stores are regularly conveyed to his temporary quarters, recruits being employed to take them through the town on a hand-cart, which is not in itself a very desirable arrangement. I suppose it is a little difficult to prevent any irregularity of this kind where the quartermaster himself is concerned, but it ought not to be impossible. At present it would seem that there is no attempt at any check in such cases.

So the *Army Journal* is dead—actually before it had taken its first airing in public. Poor, ill-starred little

bantling! It was one of the "unwanted children," as Mr. Benjamin Waugh calls them, but though we can easily do without it, that does not make its sad fate less pathetic. I suppose there is not likely to be an inquest—at any rate, till Parliament meets; but if there were, it is one of those cases where the parents ought to be heavily censured, not only for the death but for the birth also. People just starting in life, like the Army Council, had no business to saddle themselves with a helpless encumbrance like this, trusting to the rate-payers to look after it.

The following incident has an interesting bearing on a subject that has lately been discussed at some length in these columns. A corporal serving with his regiment in India recently applied for a Post Office appointment in England, in anticipation of his discharge to the Reserve. He received and handed to his company officer the usual document as to character, etc., but in due course he was informed by his commanding officer that, in view of the terms of the Post Office form, the C.O. could not recommend him for the post, his character being unsatisfactory. The facts in regard to this corporal's character were as follows. He had completed six years and seven months without a single entry on his defaulter sheet. During the next twelve months he incurred four severe reprimands. The first was the result of his being secretary of the Army Temperance Association Branch, and some error having arisen in the accounts. It would appear that the corporal's own accounts were perfectly correct, but an error of Rs. 5 was found in the stock-book, which is kept by the barmen. The barmen were ordered to refund this money, and the corporal was severely reprimanded, apparently because he was officially responsible for the mistake. The second reprimand was the result of his being in bed after reveillé; the third was on account of some trifling breach of discipline in his room; and the fourth was for the awful crime of "walking out with a private soldier."

It will be seen, therefore, that this man's deficiencies in point of character had relation, not to any moral offence, but solely to trifling breaches of his duties as a non-commissioned officer. There is absolutely nothing against him which would lead any civil employer to hesitate to engage him; and though I do not know what the rules may be in the Post Office, that department is uncommonly lucky if the whole of its staff are of as irreproachable character as this corporal. Nevertheless, on the strength of these trumpery peccadillos, the man is denied further Government employment upon leaving the Army. And observe, it is not the Department from which he is seeking employment that refuses to take him, but it is the Army, which has done with him, that closes the door of the next Department against him. The case shows, what I have so frequently said, that instead of doing its best to help its men when they are returning to civil life, the Army deliberately tars their characters and throws obstacles in the way of their future career.

It is high time that this important matter of soldiers' characters was seriously discussed by the Secretary of State and the Army Council. The greatest obstacle to recruiting is the unfavourable outlook for the soldier when returning to civil life; and as long as it is the practice to discharge a man with an unsatisfactory character, not because he is drunken or dishonest, or for any other reason likely to be an untrustworthy servant, but merely for trifling infractions of military discipline, the country will continue to exhibit at every street corner warnings against enlistment in the shape of discharged soldiers looking in vain for work.

Another incident reported from India may be mentioned in this connection. At Lebong a few weeks ago two privates of the 1st Royal Fusiliers were awarded five days' C.B. for wearing their overcoats in town without permission. The men put on their overcoats, as anybody else would, because the day was very cold and damp. I would ask in the name of common sense why a soldier should not be as free to put on his overcoat when he feels the want of it as any civilian? Even if there were any reason for laying down that men shall not wear their overcoats when off duty without permission, obtaining permission ought to be a mere matter of form. If a man feels the want of an overcoat, and cannot obtain permission to wear it, the officer who withholds permission is the party who ought to be punished, rather than the man. One would think that these idiotic regulations were only devised for the purpose of making the Army unpopular. Yet it is the breach of such regulations that leads to a man being discharged from the Army with an unsatisfactory character, and being stranded in civil life in consequence.

Yet another point which has a bearing on the recruiting question. From a recent order in a regiment at Pretoria, it appears that a party is told off daily for eight hours (7 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.) for R.E. works. The R.E. works for the time being are the digging of drains in the cantonments. For this work the men are paid 8d. a day, or 1d. an hour. I am all in favour of finding employment for soldiers when they are not engaged in their primary business of training for war. Such work, however, ought to be, as far as possible, skilled labour, which will be useful to them in after life, not the roughest kind of labourers' work; and when the work they are put to is useful to the country, it ought, on every ground, to be paid for at fair rates. To use soldiers' labour at sweaters' rates for the mere sake of saving money is bound to create discontent. Even a Chinaman in South Africa, under the famous Ordinance, gets more than 1d. an hour; and if the military authorities in South Africa have any difficulty in obtaining cheap labour, they have only to apply to Mr. Lyttelton and Lord Milner. It would be unjust to argue that these gentlemen will not do as much for the Army as they have done for the mine-owners.

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Talking of South Africa, a growl reaches me from an officer with reference to the rebate of Customs' duty allowed by the Natal Government. Unfortunately the growler does not express himself as clearly as might be desired—which may or may not bear upon a recent report made by General Hutchinson. But I understand the point to be that, whereas all the Colonial Governments agreed to allow rebate at a certain rate from January 1 last, the Natal Government has refused to allow the same concession before February 1. One would suppose that this is due to some misunderstanding on the part of the Natal Government, but it is a very profitable misunderstanding for them, if it be true, as I am informed, that it means a loss to some of the senior officers concerned of as much as £5 a head, £1 17s. to subalterns, and 3s. 6d. to the rank and file.

I am credibly informed that since December 1 the proprietor of a public-house in Northgate-street, Chester, has been filling the appointment of chief pensioner clerk at the headquarters of the North-Western District at Chester. The gentleman in question is a late sergeant-major R.A.M.C. There is no doubt, therefore, as to his qualifications for the appointment he is filling; but it certainly seems to be a most extraordinary proceeding that a licensed victualler in the town should be selected for such a post. A very similar arrangement was recently brought to light at Gosport, but came to an end upon attention being called to it in Truth; and it is to be hoped that the same result will follow at Chester. To a mere civilian it would seem that the officer responsible for such an appointment must be somewhat to blame.

A few weeks ago I expressed astonishment on hearing that troops at Crown Hill, near Plymouth, were supplied with boots by a local maker. My astonishment seems to have been legitimate, for I was soon afterwards informed authoritatively that the statement which astonished me was absolutely without foundation. In justice to the Commanding Officer, this ought to be made known, and I should have done it before, only that I thought it due to the author of the statement to give him an opportunity of explaining himself. He has had the opportunity, and the desired explanation is not forthcoming, and the only conclusion I can come to is that his original communication was prompted by some form of mental aberration.

I do not pose as an authority on strategy—naval or military. Perhaps as a journalist I ought to; but it seems to me a mischievous kind of humbug, of which the public can get more than enough, if it wants it, from other quarters. Speaking, however, merely by the light of common-sense, I confess that the new scheme for the disposition of our Fleet in European waters seems to be rational and business-like. It has the air, at any rate, of being founded on an intelligent conception of possible requirements, and inspired by a disposition to move with the times. The Admiralty has its faults, like all Government Departments; and it has been allowed of late to make demands on the public purse beyond all reason. But there seems some ground for hope that it really gives us some sort of value for our money, which we have never got up to now from the sister Department.

What I do not understand in the new scheme is the necessity for the enormous naval force which we keep up in the Mediterranean. The only other naval Power in that sea worthy of consideration at the present time is France; and so far as human foresight can avail, we have removed all possible causes of quarrel with France beyond the region of practical politics. I may be wrong, but I can see no argument for keeping our present naval force in the Mediterranean against the possible designs of France, which would not equally require us to keep an overwhelming military force in Canada against the possible designs of the United States. The strategy of peace time ought to be moulded by foreign policy. What the foreign policy is which requires a Mediterranean squadron on the present establishment I am unable even to guess at. But the truth is that the strength of our whole Navy at the present moment bears no relation to any development in international politics which can reasonably be anticipated.

One sentence in Lord Selborne's Memorandum is peculiarly puzzling at the present time: "The Russian Navy has been greatly increased." Surely this last word must be a misprint for "diminished"! Never in recent years has there been such a thorough and rapid process of naval reduction as that which the Russian Fleet has lately experienced.

Another phrase which struck me is the announcement that all the old battleships have now been replaced by modern ones. This is a policy which ought to be applied to "personnel" as well as "matériel"—I do not mean so much at sea as on shore, and especially in the higher administrative circles, military as well as naval. If we could only get rid of all the old crocks in Government offices as easily as obsolete warships, we should be much nearer efficiency all round than we are now.

The situation at Port Arthur is now a very curious one. This fortress is essentially a naval one. It has been heroically held by the Russians, and not less heroically attacked by the Japanese, because it was the only asylum open to the Russian fleet after it had been driven from the high seas. The place has not yet been captured, but the Japanese have so far succeeded that their guns have command of the harbour, and have been able to destroy nearly every ship of war in it. For the same reason the place has become useless as a base or harbour of refuge for the relieving fleet now

on its way out. Even if Rozhdestvensky wiped Togo off the sea, he dare not enter Port Arthur. There is, therefore, no conceivable reason why the Japanese should waste another life in attempting to capture the town itself, and equally little reason why the Russians should waste another life in attempting to hold it. Under these circumstances, one would think that nothing would be easier than to arrange an armistice for an indefinite period on the basis of the maintenance of the present situation. Yet in practice, I suppose, neither side will dream of such a thing. Why? Simply because it is a point of honour on both sides to go on pegging away and killing one another, though neither has anything to gain or lose, be the result what it may. Truly a noble pastime for rational beings!

Some very strong opinions reach me from India respecting the recent reorganisation of the Aitchison Chiefs' College at Lahore, which has resulted, among other things, in the removal of the late principal, Mr. Godley. Mr. Godley is a distinguished Oxford man, and was formerly, I believe, a master at Winchester. He has been for a number of years principal of the College, where he was by all accounts most successful, industrious and popular. He has been replaced by a junior assistant master from another English school, hardly of the first class, who receives double his predecessor's salary, and is allowed two assistants, at salaries largely in excess of the single assistant allowed to Mr. Godley. Roughly speaking, the cost of the staff under the reorganisation has been increased from about Rs.1,200 to above Rs.5,000 a month; and the opinion seems to be that the work will not be as well done as before, which seems probable, as the new staff are absolute strangers to it. Why Mr. Godley was dismissed is not evident; but one of my Indian correspondents attributes it to the fact that "with all his accomplishments and all his learning, Mr. Godley had never learnt the most necessary and useful accomplishment in an Indian career, namely, boot-blacking; in fact, he was one of the worst boot-blacks in all India." I do not know what truth there may be in this, but it is no uncommon thing for a man with this failing to be rewarded with the Order of the Boot.

There are some startling revelations as to the sanitary condition of Buckinghamshire in a pamphlet which Sir Edmund Verney has based upon the annual reports of the medical officers of health. He gives extracts from the reports showing that in many places the water supply is dangerously impure. The medical officer at Slough says that some 15,000 of the population are drinking from "polluted sources." In one delectable spot in this district the back gardens of a dozen cottages form "one marsh of overflowing sewage," and it is from wells "situated somewhere in the middle of the marsh" that the cottages obtain their water. From the Eton rural district ninety-eight samples of water were submitted for analysis, and sixty-one were found to be bad or doubtful. The medical officer at Long Crendon was asked to examine only two samples of water; both gave evidence of sewage pollution. Similar stories are told concerning the water supply in other parts of the county, and some of the reports on the subject of sewage disposal are equally alarming. As might be expected, cases of typhoid fever, diphtheria, and scarlet fever are of frequent occurrence, but in consonance with the general inefficiency of rural sanitary administration in Bucks, effective provision is scarcely ever made for dealing with these outbreaks. Year after year, also, the local authorities ignore the recommendations of the medical officers in regard to the inspection of dairies, cowsheds, and slaughterhouses.

The state of things depicted in these official reports is not by any means peculiar to Bucks. It exists in innumerable rural districts throughout the country, and it is probably almost as much responsible as the housing difficulty for the movement of the population to the towns. Even when Hodge can get a decent dwelling he is still too often exposed to risks from polluted water and defective drains which make life in the country as hazardous as in a city slum. There are continual lamentations over the rural exodus, but, as Sir Edward Verney remarks, in view of the conditions under which agricultural labourers and their families have to live, "the wonder rather is that any of them can be induced by any wages to remain in the country at all." He adds that it is, too, amazing that townspeople can be persuaded to consume at any price agricultural produce coming from such polluted districts. Happily for their peace of mind, however, townspeople are usually ignorant of the pestilential sources from which their supplies of milk and butter and poultry and meat are frequently drawn.

How hard it is for a rural community to secure protection from an admitted and remediable danger to health is shown by the fate of the village of Llanelly, Breconshire. For years past Llanelly has suffered from outbreaks of typhoid fever owing to the contamination of the water supply by leakages from a sewer belonging to the Brynmawr Urban Council, which passes along a hill above the village. Since I first drew attention to the matter in 1901, inquiries have been held by the Local Government Board and the Breconshire County Council, and various remedial measures have been recommended for adoption by the Brynmawr Council. This body, however, appears to hold that it has neither any legal nor any moral responsibility for the health and lives of the people of Llanelly, the village being situated in the district of the Crickhowell Rural Council, and practically nothing has been done to carry out the recommendations that were made. As a consequence Llanelly is now once more in the throes of a serious epidemic of typhoid fever, and the Crickhowell Council is once more invoking the assistance of the Local Government Board. The time really seems to have

come when if any death in the village can be definitely traced to the negligence of the Brynmawr Council in connection with its sewer the members of that body ought to be indicted for manslaughter

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In Bumbledom an appeal by a Guardian to the Local Government Board is evidently considered akin to high treason. One of the Leicester Guardians, after vainly calling the attention of his colleagues to a grievance in regard to the religious training of Roman Catholic children in the cottage homes, wrote to the authorities at Whitehall on the subject. In due course the letter was sent to the Guardians for their observations, whereupon they passed a resolution censuring the writer for communicating with the Local Government Board, but ignored the question whether his complaints were well founded or not.

Similar resentment has been shown by the Fylde Guardians against a lady member who reported to the Local Government Board that female inmates of the workhouse were employed in stone-breaking. They expressed their approval of this practice, and at the same time condemned the lady member's conduct in writing to the Board as "very unkind and unladylike." I hope that the Board will nevertheless insist upon the abolition of the stone-breaking task for female paupers in the Fylde Workhouse, and that it will also compel the Leicester Guardians to answer the charge that has been made concerning the Catholic pauper children. In both cases the position assumed by the majority of the Guardians is simply ridiculous. Not only has every individual Guardian a perfect right to inform the Local Government Board of anything that he deems wrong in the administration of the Union, but in many instances the Guardians as a body are so negligent or so callous that this is the only means by which abuses can be corrected.

The exhaustive report of Dr. Branthwaite, the Inspector under the Inebriates Acts, shows that, although steady progress has been made in the administration of the Acts, a good deal remains to be done. Many local authorities are still loth to take advantage of their powers to provide establishments for the treatment of drunkenness, or even to make arrangements to pay for cases as they arise. On the other hand, the Great Unpaid still, as a body, show themselves content to provide penal instead of reformatory treatment for old offenders, and in spite of the preponderance of the courts served by the unpaid magistracy the courts over which stipendiaries preside have furnished the larger proportion of cases. Bumble and Shallow individually are difficult enough to move, but it is infinitely harder to get them to move forward jointly on the path of progress.

I have been looking out for some explanation from Mr. A. F. Harratt, solicitor, of Ely-place, Holborn, of certain evidence given the other day in a prosecution at Marlborough-street, but up to the present I have not noticed it. The prosecution was instituted by the Holborn Borough Council against the occupants of certain flats in Bloomsbury, and the porters attached to the building. The places were shown to have been conducted in a most disreputable manner, the rents charged were extortionate, and one of the women pleaded that she could not pay her rent in any other way than that which the Borough Council objected to—a view which the observations of the magistrate seemed rather to endorse. The head porter, who was convicted not only of assisting in the offence of the tenants, but of resisting the police when arrested, was the landlord's representative, and collected the rents. After the prisoners had all been heavily fined, the Holborn Town Clerk went into the box, and stated that the landlord was Mr. A. F. Harratt, above mentioned. Mr. Harratt, I should think, ought to have something to say in reply. If he has already said it, and I have missed his reply, I shall be happy to co-operate with him in giving it wider publicity.

THE *LANCET* IN A NEW RÔLE.

[The *Lancet* has varied its condemnation of everything man eats or drinks by going in hot and strong this week in favour of the hot potato as purveyed in the streets of London.]

Ah! Who shall, after this, deny
That Christmas can a genial ban set
E'en on the croakings that appear,
Week after week, within the *Lancet?*
For here 's the paper that hereto
Has been as cynical as Cato,
Proclaiming now the high esteem
In which it holds the street-potato!

And not the one we eat at home,
Or at the club—mashed up with butter,
No! but the "spud" baked in the can
That still steams gaily in the gutter!
Yes! *this* is what the *Lancet* lauds,
And coolly tells the upper classes
Is a delightful *plat* too long
Consumed entirely by the masses!

Think how, a month or so ago,
The *Lancet*, treating this same question,
Would in a learnéd way have sniffed
At what is now its own suggestion!
How 'twould have pleased it to describe
The way the can reeked with bacteria,
And how its patrons ailments risked
In "itis" ending, or in "eria"!

Now, of such dangers there 's no hint,
But London's middle class and upper
Are urged to seek the "ball o' flour,"
And eat a fine *al-fresco* supper!
Surely the Spirit of the Times
Must be just now in rarest fettle,
When even the potato-can
Can't put the *Lancet* on its mettle!

Or is it an ironic joke
In which the doctors are engaging?
A variation in the war
Which 'gainst the microbe they are waging?
Well, time will show; but 'twill be best—
Recalling what was urged by Plato—
To wait and *next* week's *Lancet* see
Before we try a street-potato!

SCRUBB & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their CLOUDY FLUID AMMONIA that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of SCRUBB & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

There will be a vacancy in the Court of Session at the end of this month, caused by the resignation of Lord Trayner, who was raised to the Bench in 1885. He is a very able judge, and his retirement is much regretted. It is understood in the Edinburgh Parliament House that the Solicitor-General for Scotland (Mr. David Dundas, K.C.) will be the new Judge.

The Court of Appeal gave an important judgment last week in a case under the Moneylenders Act which was originally tried by Mr. Justice Kekewich in June last, and noticed in Truth at the time. The plaintiffs were Philip and Braham Samuel, two usurers trading under the registered alias of "P. Saunders," and the defendant was the executor of the late Mr. H. T. Alton, a brewer, of Derby. In October, 1903, Mr. Alton borrowed £2,000 from the plaintiffs upon a promissory note for £3,300, payable in twelve monthly instalments of £275 each. The interest was, therefore, at the rate of upwards of 100 per cent. per annum. As the plaintiffs were well aware, Mr. Alton was a man of substance—his estate was sworn at the net value of £42,000—and he would have had no difficulty in borrowing money from a banker at the ordinary current rate, but, owing to his intemperate habits he had become negligent and incompetent in matters of business. He died a few days after the payment of the first instalment, and his executor thereupon offered to pay off the balance of the loan with interest at 10 per cent. The plaintiffs refused to accept this, and, default having occurred upon the next instalment, sued the executor for the immediate payment of the whole amount outstanding, which meant that they then claimed interest at the rate of 418 per cent. per annum.

Holding that the transaction was "harsh and unconscionable" within the meaning of the Moneylenders Act, Mr. Justice Kekewich gave judgment for the executor and ordered that an account should be taken on the footing that the plaintiffs should receive back the amount that they had advanced with interest thereon at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum. His lordship also ordered the inclusion in the account of a previous transaction between the parties, Alton having borrowed £1,000 from "P. Saunders" in July, 1903, and paid back £1,400 in the following September. It was against this decision that the plaintiffs appealed. So far as the October loan of £2,000 was concerned, the Court of Appeal sustained the decision of Mr. Justice Kekewich, agreeing with him that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable, and expressing the opinion that the 10 per cent. which he had allowed was "amply sufficient." In reference to the July loan, however, the Court held that the reopening of this transaction had been technically wrong, and they therefore excluded it from the account, though without prejudice to the right of the executor to bring a further action to re-open it. The plaintiffs were left to pay the whole of the costs in the action before Mr. Justice Kekewich and also their own costs in the appeal, so that altogether their success on one technical point will be somewhat unprofitable.

The case threw an instructive light upon the relationship between several bloodsuckers whom I have repeatedly pilloried. It appeared that Mr. Alton had had the misfortune to fall into the hands of a notorious tout named Henry Sagar, who bags victims for a whole gang of unscrupulous extortioners, including Isaac Abrahams (otherwise "The Bedfordshire Loan Co."), Charles Samuel (alias "B. S. Thomas"), and the above-mentioned Braham and Philip Samuel. In this muddle-headed inebriate they discovered a rich and easy prey, and a nice little party had been formed by Sagar to divide the spoil. Sagar himself took fat commissions out of the loans that were arranged, and though "P. Saunders" was nominally the lender of the £2,000, several other usurers joined in as what Lord Justice Vaughan-Williams characterised as "co-adventurers" in the transaction. It is a matter of great satisfaction to know that on this occasion the law has effectually checked their rapacity.

The Moneylenders Act was also enforced with good effect last week in a case tried by the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in Dublin. The plaintiff was a usurer named Charles Wells, of Leicester, who has long carried on his pernicious business among small tradesmen and farmers over here, and is now apparently extending his sphere of operations to Ireland. By means of one of his newspaper advertisements, a Galway farmer was lured into his toils, signing a promissory note for a loan repayable in monthly instalments with interest which worked out at the rate of about 90 or 100 per cent. per annum. There were two subsequent transactions, and the net result was that at the end of twelve months the borrower had received altogether £140, and paid back £155, but still owed Wells £69, for which sum that shark sued him under the usual default clause, making the whole outstanding amount due forthwith whenever any one instalment was not paid. The Lord Chief Justice came to the conclusion that the transaction was harsh and unconscionable, and accordingly he gave the usurer judgment only for the reduced amount of £40, payable in two instalments in January and March next. A still more substantial reduction might perhaps have justly been made, but it is at any rate satisfactory to know that Shylock did not get his full pound of flesh, and that he will, moreover, have to pay his own costs out of what he did get.

"Truth" will be sent weekly to any address in the United Kingdom for 7s. for 3 months; 14s. for 6 months; or 28s. for 12 months. The subscription for all Countries included in the Postal Union is, 3 months, 7s. 8d.; 6 months, 15s. 4d.; 12 months, £1 10s. 8d. All subscriptions are payable in advance, and cheques and P.O.O.'s should be made payable to the Manager, "Truth" Building, Carteret-street, S.W.

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world." *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

My Legal Pillory this week is adorned by an instructive contrast between two sentences upon an animal-torturer and a poacher respectively at Warminster. The former had been guilty of the gross cruelty of deliberately starving animals, but he was nevertheless let off with a fine four times less in amount than that which was imposed upon the defendant charged with trespassing in search of game. In the eyes of the rural magistracy the preservation of game is, of course, a very much more important matter than the prevention of cruelty. There are several examples of the misguided leniency with which dastardly assaults upon women are treated. At Queen's Park, Glasgow, a man was charged with severely injuring his wife by throwing a kettle of boiling water at her. It was his fifteenth conviction for assault, but with the fatuous remark that "nothing appeared to be a lesson to him," Bailie O'Hare allowed the ruffian to escape with a pecuniary penalty instead of inflicting the term of imprisonment with hard labour which he so richly deserved. The Bournemouth Bench is also represented by a preposterously inadequate sentence upon a brute who had beaten his wife about the head and face with a bottle, causing serious wounds. On the other hand, a couple of men convicted of damaging a door and breaking a pane of glass at Somerton were committed to gaol for a month, and the list also contains other sentences of imprisonment for poaching, petty larceny, and sleeping out:—

Warminster Petty Sessions. Before Captain A. H. Southey, Colonel W. P. Alexander, and Messrs. G. N. Temple, W. F. Morgan, and A. Newall. Mark Whatley Hobbs, carrier, charged with cruelty by starving two pigs. The animals were in a filthy and neglected state, and "nothing but skin and bone," defendant giving them only just enough food to keep them alive. He had plenty of food about the premises. The magistrates said the pigs had been cruelly starved. Fined 10s. and costs.

Needham Market Petty Sessions. Before Mr. R. H. Tidswell, and other magistrates. Herbert Simpson, charged with assaulting Wm. Leathers. Defendant attacked the complainant in the road at night, striking him with a stick and also kicking him. Fined £1 2s., including costs.

Bournemouth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Major Maunsell, and Alderman Parsons. Frederick William Wareham charged with an aggravated assault upon his wife. He held her down and struck her with a glass bottle on the back of the head, the temple, and the nose, inflicting wounds which bled profusely and causing her to become unconscious. She was kept in bed for ten days, and the doctor said that one of the wounds on the back of her head was very deep and might have been very dangerous. Fined £2 and £1 10s. costs, and bound over to keep the peace.

Warminster Petty Sessions. Before the same magistrates. Edward Foyle, charged with trespassing in search of game. It was stated that defendant had a young dog which coursed a hare but did not catch it. Fined £2 and costs.

Louth Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor, Messrs. A. Ingoldby, F. M. Thompson, and J. Cusworth, Alderman Hall, and Dr. Best. James North, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. One month.

Clitheroe County Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. C. J. B. Trappes, R. Trappes-Lomax, J. T. Whipp, and R. Hindle. John Thomas Hall and John Turner, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 each and costs.

Somerton Police-court. Before Messrs. E. W. Valentine and A. Dickinson. Tom Williams and John Clarke, charged with damaging a door to the extent of 4s., and with breaking a pane of glass value 1s. at a public-house. The damage was done during a struggle between the defendants and other men. One month each.

Blandford Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. G. W. Daniell. Geo. Hurley, charged with poaching. One month.

Barnstaple Police-court. Thos. Popham, charged with sleeping-out and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Kirkcaldy Police-court. Before Bailie Westwater. James Kelly, charged with assaulting his wife; also with assaulting his three step-children. There were eleven previous convictions against him for assault. Fined 20s.

Coatbridge Police-court. Patrick Williams, a football player, charged with assaulting two members of the committee of a football club. Because the committee excluded him from the club team the accused made a violent attack upon the complainants, both being knocked down and otherwise assaulted. Fined 20s.

Haywards Heath Petty Sessions. Before Major Berrer and other magistrates. William Kinch, charged with assaulting his wife. He knocked her head against a wall, blackened her eye, and bruised her face and arms. Fined £2 and costs.

Newport Borough Police-court. William Fitzgerald, charged with assaulting Robert Shakeshaft and William Poulson. Without the slightest provocation he brutally assaulted both the complainants. Fined 40s. in each case.

Forfar Sheriff Court. Before Sheriff Lee. William Mackenzie and Thomas Donald, charged with trespassing in pursuit of game. Mackenzie fined £1 10s.; Donald £3 5s.; in default, thirty days.

Oakham Petty Sessions. Before Messrs. R. Heathcote, G. H. Finch, G. J. Noel, and W. H. Neill. Charles Louth, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. Fourteen days.

Kettering Police-court. Jos. White and Frederick Holliwell, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found in possession of eight rabbits. Fined £2 3s. 4d. each; in default, one month.

Woodbridge Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. Loder and other magistrates. Horace Walter Chambers, charged with poaching. Six weeks.

Chippenham County Police-court. Before the Mayor. Henry Kite, charged with sleeping-out. Seven days.

Thornbury Police-court. Before Admiral H. C. St. John and Mr. Wm. Cullimore. George Lawrence, charged with stealing a pair of boots from outside a shop. One month.

Queen's Park Police-court, Glasgow. Before Bailie O'Hare. Jas. Blackley, charged with assaulting his wife by throwing a kettle of boiling water at her. The woman was severely scalded about the legs and feet. There were fourteen previous convictions against the accused for assaults, and the magistrate remarked that nothing appeared to be a lesson to him. Fined 42s., and bound over.

The relation between the County Court system and improvidence among the working classes is further exemplified by the interesting letter which the Registrar of Leeds County Court has addressed to the *Times*. From a single morning's work in his court the Registrar cites nine cases in which debtors earning from 18s. to 28s. per week have mortgaged from 2s. 6d. to 4s. of that amount for furniture acquired on the hire-purchase system. It is worth note that one of the men who is paying the top amount (4s.) is the one at the bottom of the list in point of wages (18s.). In four of the cases the full price of the furniture exceeds the total amount of the unsecured debts; so that, as the Registrar points out, the debtor has practically furnished his house with money that ought to have gone to the grocer or the draper or the other creditors on whom he has been living.

The point which this evidence brings out is that men who have not even a stick of furniture that they can call their own, and whose wages are heavily charged in favour of the furniture dealers, are still able to get credit from other tradesmen; and there can be no doubt that Mr. Cantherley, the Leeds Registrar, gives the true explanation of this state of things: "In a very large number of cases the County Court forms the only basis upon which credit is given." In other words, the security on which the tradesman gives credit is the power of squeezing a man who is in regular employment by means of the judgment summons and the suspended commitment order. But for the ultimate remedy against

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

the creditor's body no credit would be given. The whole of this mischief would be swept away if imprisonment for debt were really abolished.

Apropos of the miscarriages of justice that have lately been brought to light, a correspondent relates an incident that occurred in a court of quarter sessions where he was foreman of the grand jury. He chanced to discover that a prisoner against whom the grand jury found "no bill" was nevertheless tried (and acquitted) by a petty jury. It was ascertained that the indictment had been plainly endorsed "no bill," and the clerk of the court frankly confessed that it was through a gross blunder on his part that the prisoner was put on his trial. Of course, no particular harm was done; indeed, I think myself that these preliminary private investigations by a grand jury, which are usually conducted in a most perfunctory manner, might be abolished with advantage to the administration of justice. But the incident is of interest as showing how easily mistakes may happen in any court.

For a man to be found injured and insensible in the street seems to be regarded at Tottenham as a proof that he is drunk and incapable. This was recently the experience of George Coote, a respectable working man, the caretaker at a local chapel and a total abstainer for twenty years. At the hearing of the case before the Tottenham J.P.s, it appeared that one afternoon during a dense fog Coote was discovered lying in an unconscious condition in a pool of blood at the edge of the pavement. He was conveyed to the police-station and charged with drunkenness. Two constables swore that he was drunk, and the police-surgeon who dressed the wounds on his nose and lips also expressed the opinion that he was "suffering from intoxication." It was furthermore alleged that Coote behaved violently, but it was admitted that this was only when a dressing was applied to a severe cut on his lip which would make it smart. For the defence, Coote stated that when he was about to cross the road in the fog he was knocked down by a motor-bicycle, and his overcoat bore a mark such as would have been made by a bicycle-wheel running into him. A coffee-stall keeper who had served him with a cup of coffee an hour before his arrest deposed that he was then quite sober; and a doctor who examined him on his release from custody said that at that time (eight hours after his arrest) Coote showed no trace whatever of drunkenness, but all the symptoms of concussion of the brain.

From inquiries into this case, I have not the least doubt that what the police witnesses looked upon as signs of drunkenness were really the effects of the accident with which the defendant met. It is by no means an uncommon thing for illness to be mistaken for drunkenness; indeed, a case of the kind occurred last week at Lambeth, where the stipendiary magistrate discharged the accused. Coote's case—to put it at the very lowest—presented an element of doubt of which any competent judge would have given him the benefit. Unfortunately, however, he came before a set of pudding-headed amateur magistrates who conceive it to be their duty to treat police evidence as impeccable and infallible, and so he was convicted and fined 5s. and costs. The blunder by the police was bad enough, but this miscarriage of justice by the Tottenham Shallows was many degrees worse.

I have often remonstrated with certain of my contemporaries in this country for accepting the advertisements of McLaughlin, of Electro Vigour fame, but I must do them the justice to admit that I do not think they would ever have printed the disgusting advertisements now appearing in the South African Press, puffing a rival electric belt, called the Herculex. This is the property of a concern calling itself the Dr. Sanden Electric Company. The South African representative of the company is apparently a Dutchman named Marthinus Jacobus Piepers, and he has already come into conflict with the law, and been fined for practising as a medical man without a licence. The methods of puffing Herculex and Electro Vigour are so nearly identical that I should not be surprised to find that "Dr." Sanden and "Dr." McLaughlin are one and the same person.

In one of the follow-up letters in which K. Leo Minges, otherwise the Cartilage Company, of Rochester, New York, pursues those who have once applied to him for information as to his secret of how to grow tall, he reduces the price from three guineas to two guineas cash with order, and one guinea to be paid when the extra growth has been effected. This is very self-sacrificing on the part of Minges, for I have a suspicion that if his short customers were to attempt to do what he declares they can do, there would be very few of the final guineas forthcoming. Minges says that when his apparatus is adjusted comfortably to the patient's head, any person can increase his height instantly from two to three inches. Mr. Billington, I believe, is accustomed to use a very simple apparatus to produce the same results, but after the operation the persons who have been lengthened are rarely in a position to pay their debts.

In his lively and vigorous speech at the Gimcrack Club dinner, Lord Durham stigmatised the advertising and circularising tipsters as scoundrels who exercised a most pernicious influence on the Turf. He commended the example Truth has set for years past by exposing and denouncing "the most notorious of these wretches," and he appealed to the leading sporting newspapers to discontinue the publication of their advertisements. It is certainly difficult to understand how journals which profess to be concerned for the reputation of the Turf can be content to aid and abet such harpies. As Lord Durham pointed out, their advertisements and circulars usually show either that they are procuring information from training stables by improper and dishonest means, or else that they are selling tips by false pretences. Personally, I have not the least doubt that the latter is the true explanation in nine cases out of ten.

The touting tipster's talk about stable secrets, and so on is generally all humbug. More often than not he is in no better position to predict the result of a race than the man in the street. His prediction is a pure guess, and his dupes might just as well guess for themselves as pay him to do so. One of the tricks of the trade is for the tipster to recommend in turn to different backers every horse engaged in a race, so that, whatever wins, a certain proportion of the tips sent out are bound to come off. This a favourite dodge of the gentry whose prophecies are offered on the condition that the client shall pay them so much for each winner; and it is also worked by such swindlers as the notorious Beston, of the *Midland Referee*, who carries on his nefarious business under upwards of a dozen aliases. No doubt the people victimised are mostly fools; but that fact does not make the conduct of the knaves engaged in this game any the less mischievous and reprehensible. The touting tipster is a curse, not only to the Turf, but to the community at large, and, as Lord Durham urges, he ought to be suppressed.

The latest circular from one of these pests that I have come across is signed "H. S. Marshall," and dated from Briar Lodge, Teddington. "I am not a regular tipster," Marshall writes; "I scorn all such people. I am a bonâ-fide Worker of Commissions for Stables. In the course of my business *good things* sometimes reach me. . . ." Needless to say, this is the preface to an offer to send you these good things, the payment required being "the odds to 2s. 6d. each winner." In this particular circular Marshall sent, unsolicited, a tip for a race last week; but unfortunately for his reputation as a purveyor of good things, the horse he recommended was not even placed.

I would warn all my readers in Brighton and the South of England generally against advertisements now appearing in the local papers in the name of the Brighton and South Coast Tradesmen's Mercantile Society, of Ship-street Chambers, Brighton. These advertisements are of a similar character to those of the defunct Armadale Company, and the Mercantile Syndicate, Limited, of London, of which a full account has already been given in these columns. The tradesmen are asked whether they want to extend their business, whether they want a partner, or additional capital, or to form their businesses into joint-stock companies; and if they do, the Brighton and South Coast Tradesmen's Mercantile Society declares that it can introduce "over 1,500 investors who have sums from £250 to £20,000 awaiting sound investments." Side by side with these tempting announcements appear notices of "Directors wanted" with qualifications ranging from £500 to £1,000, and "Secretaries wanted" with qualifications ranging from £250 to £500.

If any directors and secretaries are forthcoming on these terms, the B.S.C.T.M. Society will have that number of "investors awaiting investments," sound or otherwise; but I am quite sure it will not have them from any other source. In point of fact, this pretended society is one W. Smith. He has in past times been connected in some way with the gang who are now figuring in London as the Tradesmen's Legal Aid Society and the Mercantile Syndicate, Limited, and he himself has started two abortive enterprises on more or less similar lines, one called the Business Men's Legal Aid Society, and the other the Tradesmen's Legal Aid Society, or some such names. Smith appeared at Brighton some months ago, and obtained possession of the office he now occupies in Ship-street by stating that he represented the Mercantile Syndicate, Limited, which was about to open a branch at Brighton; and he gave references to two firms who, strange to relate, were prepared to answer for the trustworthiness of the aforesaid syndicate. In other words, he obtained a footing in Brighton by a swindling trick. He appears to have made use of the name of the Mercantile Syndicate in other ways; and last week there appeared in the Brighton papers a public apology signed by him, in which he declared that he had no connection with the Mercantile Syndicate, Limited, and apologised to that concern for having misled people in the manner above mentioned. It will be readily judged that there is far more likelihood of Mr. Smith obtaining money out of parties who go to him in search of that commodity than of their obtaining capital out of him, and if he has had any success in that direction up to now, those who have parted with their money would do well to take legal advice without delay.

A good deal of discussion has been excited in trade circles by some *obiter dicta* on the subject of "tipping" employees which fell from Mr. Justice Grantham in the recent case of Bradley *v.* Harrod's Stores. His Lordship rather pooh-poohed the idea that there is anything wrong in a customer tipping a servant of a firm with whom he is doing business. There was nothing criminal in it, he said, adding that "a little palm oil has often been found to make the wheels of business run smoothly." There is no doubt about that; but if his Lordship had bethought himself a little before speaking, he would doubtless have remembered that the smoothness resulting from the application of palm oil is frequently very bad business for the party whose servants' palms are greased, and also that the system has frequently developed into something little short of blackmail. Although there may be nothing criminal in trade tipping as generally practised, another learned Judge, Sir Edward Fry, has laboured strenuously to make it so, and I think there is an overwhelming preponderance of public opinion in favour of the measure he has proposed.

I have been in communication on this subject with Messrs. John Knight and Sons, Limited, of Silvertown, who also wrote to the *Times* last week with reference to Mr. Justice Grantham's remarks. They give an edifying picture of the extent to which this evil prevails in the soap trade, and describe some of the attempts that have been made to meet it. What is true of this trade is notoriously true of many others—the printing trade, for instance, as to which there was an interesting discussion in the *Master Printer and Newspaper Owner*,

two or three months ago. A certain section of the soap-boilers of London have agreed among themselves to drop the use of palm oil for the purpose of lubricating the wheels of business. But the remainder stand out, apparently because they do not feel able to trust one another, and fear that if an agreement were come to some firm would violate it to the prejudice of its competitors. It is just for this reason that trade combination cannot be trusted to suppress the evil effectually; and it therefore becomes necessary to call in the assistance of the law. At present the call is in vain, simply because Parliament cannot find time to get through its own business. But a little more pressure from public opinion would soon get over that difficulty.

Apropos of the "Just as Good" controversy, which has been proceeding merrily in the *Daily Mail*, the *Pharmaceutical Journal* has some pertinent observations in its current issue. Roughly summarised, these amount to a claim on behalf of the chemist to be in a position to discover the exact proportions of all the ingredients in practically every advertised remedy, to prepare a precisely similar compound freshly made under his own supervision, and supply it at a price commensurate with its real value. Under these circumstances the *Journal* asks how the purchasing public can be defrauded by receiving a precisely similar medicine at one-half the price which would have to be paid for the advertised nostrum. Obviously the public would suffer more if it paid for the advertising as well as the medicine, and the only method by which the big advertiser can deal with this form of competition is not by inspired articles in friendly newspapers, but by allowing the chemist such a percentage of profit on their preparations as will make it not worth his while to push his own preparations.

My recent allusion to the secrets of Freemasonry has provoked much scoffing from the spokesmen of the craft, and I am surprised and grieved to find that the Masonic organs in particular seem to be seriously aggrieved at my remarks. One Mason is reported as having told a press representative that my description of the rites could not be correct because the King is a Freemason. I do not quite see the *sequitur*. I have not said anything reflecting on the craft; quite the contrary. Neither had I any idea that I was making a surprising disclosure, for the whole thing has been given away a hundred times before. Any one, indeed, must be very foolish who supposes that hundreds of thousands of people can be initiated as Masons without the secrets of the craft ever leaking out. What surprises me, in fact, is that anybody should have been surprised at the few harmless facts which I mentioned. At any rate, nothing was further from my intention than to wound the susceptibilities of any Mason. I have too many good friends among the craft for that; and as I thought I indicated, I admire the brethren for their generous and unfailing charities. In England Freemasonry does a great deal of good, and hurts nobody. In France and some other Continental countries it is somewhat different, and this was what I endeavoured to point out.

By the way, I hope that what I have just said will be a sufficient answer to the innumerable offers I have received of further information about Masonic secrets. I am not a Freemason—I sometimes wish I was—but I know quite as much about the craft as I want to. In spite of indignant denials, I am quite satisfied that what I know is correct—though possibly the numerous correspondents who tell me that "Boas" should be spelt with a "z," are in the right. I suppose the people who offer information—on more or less easy terms—are all renegade Masons. If so, it would seem that the Masonic flock—like others—is not exclusively composed of white sheep. This is, of course, the reason why, as I said, the secrets of Freemasonry are no secrets at all in these days.

The best observations I have seen on this question are those of the Provincial Grand Master (whom I am pleased to know as R.W. Bro. Colonel Lockwood, M.P.) to a convivial gathering at Colchester:—

> The world was welcome to know the secrets of Freemasonry. If the world would follow the example of unity and charity set by Masons there was no more necessity for Freemasonry. Their secrets, their regalia, their rank, were nothing compared with the objects they had in view. (Applause.)

I humbly join in the applause.

A CHILDISH SUGGESTION.

> The great fault of ours nowadays is that we grown people are not childish enough.—Mr. Arthur Morrison, in *The World and his Wife.*

Mr. Morrison, says, and no doubt Mr. M.
Is a critic who speaks with authority,
That a failing which he is resolved to condemn
Is afflicting the social majority.
Grown people, he vows—though of course he allows
That *some*—the exceptions—are "wildish"—
Must be deemed, as a rule, if we take them all round,
To be far from sufficiently childish.

Now, although with possessing this singular fault
He is ready enough to attaint us,
Yet in what kind of way we his hints should obey
And be childish, he doesn't acquaint us.
P'rhaps he means we should try "blind man's buff" with a zest,
And e'en be sufficiently "chipper"
For an hour every day at "Dumb Crambo" to play,
Or to Hunt, twice a week, say, the Slipper!

Or perhaps we should childishness try to attain
By a lavish consumption of ices;
By absorbing mince-pies, of inordinate size,
And consuming of Pudding huge slices!
Or are we in place of remaining as wise
As our friends and our neighbours have thought us,
To be like a child in the way that the mild
And the bland Mr. Balfour has taught us?

One thing is quite certain—we 've "statesmen," so called,
So unstable, so rash, so unsteady,
That we look upon *them*—*pace* Mr. A.M.—
As a little too childish already!
Thus, however we spread what this critic has said,
'Twill at once, we believe, be conceded
That wherever more childishness may be required,
It will not be in Downing-street needed!

But Yule-tide is near, and if childishness now
Is assumed to be sanctioned by reason,
There 's an excellent chance the new cult to advance
In the course of this mirth-making season.
And what with the holly and mistletoe bough,
What with dining, and dancing, and mumming,
We can all of us try, with mere children to vie,
In the days of Misrule that are coming!

I am told that the figures I gave last week as to the number of hands employed in the industries immediately dependent on the sugar trade very much understated the truth. There cannot be much doubt about that, for the President of the National Union of Mineral Water Manufacturers stated in a recent letter to the *Times* that in normal times the mineral water trade alone employs nearly 200,000 workers. This is five times the figure I gave for the whole of this group of trades, but no doubt my figure refers to jam, biscuits, confectionery, and suchlike industries, exclusive of the mineral water trade. I have seen or heard various estimates of the number of hands employed in these trades, ranging from 42,000 up to 100,000. I put it at the lowest amount in order to be within the mark, for, even at the lowest calculation, these industries are six times as valuable to the country as the sugar-refining industry was in its palmiest days.

Moreover, I understand that it is difficult to get at the numbers employed in those trades exactly, and the reason is worth mention. The only available source of information is the Census returns, and in the Census the employees in question are returned under a variety of headings, which give no clue to the nature of the industry in which they are at work; for instance, many of the hands may class themselves as "engineers," "stokers," "packers," "warehousemen," or what not. This observation applies, of course, to a very large number of industries; and the point ought to be taken into consideration when arrangements are being made for the next Census.

The Italian Chamber consists of 500 members. Of these 100 are the personal followers of the Prime Minister, Signor Giolitti; 100 are Conservatives, 100 are Socialists, Republicans, Anarchists, and ultra-Radicals, and 200 are waiters on Providence, but by way of being Liberals. The Conservatives are aware that they cannot hope to be able under present circumstances to form a Government, and a good many of them will support Giolitti provided that he does not prove himself too Radical, and even then they will hesitate to turn him out lest they may exchange the frying-pan for the fire. They will, however, angle for the waiters on Providence, and if they can gain over a sufficient number of them to their side they will not be above accepting the aid of the extremists. Of the extremists, probably, were Giolitti to make any issue a question of confidence, and find himself likely to be defeated, about fifty would either vote with him or abstain. Giolitti has consequently a sufficient number of winning cards in his hands to be able to defy Parliamentary opposition if he knows how to play them, and I think that he does.

The General Election has shown that the majority of the electors have become afraid of the tactics of the extremists. Their attempt to force their views on the country by means of a general strike has been resented. Giolitti very cleverly seized this moment to dissolve, declared that all who were for existing institutions should rally to him, and thus succeeded in securing a majority more or less elected to support him. The Conservatives are already complaining that, having thus secured it with their help, he is now determined to rule on Radical lines. His reply is practically this: "I have always been of opinion that the extremists are best fought by giving full effect to Radical reforms, and that in this way alone can the monarchy be maintained. I have never concealed that I am a Radical, and I intend to remain one."

That he is a Radical is probable, but he is also an Opportunist. Were he to seek to hold his post by any weakening in his Radicalism, he would be defeated, and if so, and he were to dissolve, he would fall between two stools. On the other hand, were he defeated by a Conservative vote for being too Radical, an appeal to the country would probably result in his favour; whilst, were he to resign without dissolving, the Conservatives would be unable to govern with the present Chamber, and would have to dissolve themselves, when their programme would be defeated at a General Election. What has particularly angered the Conservatives is that M. Marcora was the Government candidate for the Presidency of the Chamber. He was elected by a very large majority, but his candidature was, I think, a mistake; for he is a Milanese, and is regarded there as the head of the Socialists, who were badly beaten in that town at the last General Election.

Since then Signor Giolitti has found favour with the Conservatives by bringing in a Bill to increase the police force, and clearly announcing that, if any Government employee joins in a strike, he will at once be dismissed. The importance of this declaration is that the extremists have declared the right of such employees to strike, and threatened to use this weapon if they cannot carry their measures, or if the Government carries measures of which they disapprove.

The German courts have decided that to play at poker is not to gamble, because it is a game of skill. In like manner, the French courts decided some years ago that baccarat is not gambling. Skill undoubtedly enters into the former, though very slightly into the latter. A good poker player would probably in the long run win were he always pitted against inferior players. But at any one particular game at poker luck would very much outweigh skill, and to say that it is not a gambling game is absurd. Probably a good many sharp men and women make a living out of bridge, owing to its being possible to play it well or badly. But this is because so many insist on playing it who are not skilled

ANTIQUES FOR PRESENTS.—See GILL & REIGATE'S stock. The largest collection of Genuine Antiques in London. 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, & 85, Oxford-street, London, W.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL and GHEZIREH PALACE, Cairo's Premier Hotels. CHARLES BAEHLER, General Manager. For particulars apply to SLEEPING CAR CO., 20, Cockspur-street, Charing Cross.

players. Why, however, is it popular? To a certain extent because it is a game of mixed skill and chance; but in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred because of the chance element in it or, in other words, because it furnishes an opportunity to gamble.

I have always agreed with Dr. Johnson that, if two persons like to submit to chance the question which of the two is to have a sum of money, this in no way concerns the State, any more than many other not very wise ways of getting rid of money. The element of chance may furnish as pleasurable an excitement as kicking a football or handling a bat. This can hardly be deemed a harmful pastime. To risk an amount which a person cannot afford to lose is foolish, but not more foolish than to squander money on needless objects that a person cannot afford. I see perpetually doleful complaints of the mania now existing for playing at bridge in season and out of season. But if the greater number of these bridge players were to renounce the game, would they be employed in anything more useful to the community? I think, however, that when there is bridge at some private house the host should always insist on the stakes being reasonable and suitable for small purses, for it may be that some of the guests may otherwise be led to play beyond their means, as they may not have the moral courage to admit that the stakes are too high for their purses. I am not now a great reader of tracts. But there used to be many tracts which traced the execution of some person for murder to his having once played pitch-and-toss for pence. All this is trash.

Mr. Chamberlain and his wirepullers have discovered that Sir John Gorst is not prepared to be hustled out of the Conservative Party so easily as they seem to have anticipated. Mr. Ritchie and Lord George Hamilton have apparently accepted Party ostracism, and do not propose to stand for the constituencies that they now represent at the next General Election. In other cases the recalcitrant has not resisted the decree of divorce between himself and his constituency which has been pronounced by the High Court of Birmingham, whilst in others he has swallowed with a wry face the programme of the Tariff Reform League, in order to be allowed to stand again as a Unionist.

Sir John Gorst represents the university of Cambridge. In the days of the Fourth Party he was the Ulysses of the group. But he was deemed a dangerous man to put in the Cabinet, for, although a Conservative, he was not the man humbly to accept any folly proposed by the Liberal turncoats who had captured the Unionist Party. He was therefore only given a second-rate post. He is one of the most capable speakers in the House; in intelligence head and shoulders above the nonentities and the aristocratic bantlings that have blossomed into Ministers. Moreover, he does not always conceal his contempt of fools in high places. He was Minister of Education, without a seat in the Cabinet. He thoroughly knew his subject, and if the conduct of the Government Education Bill had been left to him in the House of Commons, it would not have been so certain, as it is now, to be a mere temporary measure, for, although a Churchman, he would have placated its opponents by well-timed concessions. But Mr. Balfour insisted upon ignoring him, and taking the conduct of the Bill under his own wing. The next step was to get rid of him by a very clear hint that his room in the Administration was deemed better than his company.

And now it would seem, that a little knot of dons at Cambridge have been induced by the Tariff League to call upon him to sever his Parliamentary connection with the University. He has dared, they say, occasionally to differ from the Unionist Cabinet with which we are now blessed. This, however, is not the real grievance. He has declined to be dragooned into acceptance of Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal revolution. The next thing, I suppose, will be to add an article which will declare faith in Chamberlain to be a dogma of the Established Church, in addition to the existing thirty-nine. Sir John has treated these University jackals of the Birmingham dictator as they deserve. He has told them that he does not recognise their right to speak for his constituents, and that he intends to accept his dismissal from the latter only. I sincerely hope that he will be once more returned, for although I do not agree with him in many of his political views, I think that, if a Conservative is to represent a University, it is well that he should be of ability, great Parliamentary experience, and thoroughly independent of party pressure of the sort which is now being exercised. Those who do not favour University representation in Parliament are numerous, and nothing is more likely to increase their number than this attempt to convert the Universities into Chamberlain pocket boroughs.

THE STUBBORN SIPHON.

One Morn, a parched and thirsty Wight,
Who "chippy" felt from Overnight,
Went to a licensed Grocer's, handy,
And bought a Pint of Cognac Brandy;
To mix wherewith he also bought a
Siphon of sparkling Soda-water.
Then, in a lengthy Tumbler, he
Poured, shakily, some *Eau-de-vie;*
Next, pressed the Siphon Handle's End,
Eager to quaff the grateful Blend.
But, bootless, lo! that Tap he pressed;
Bootless the Thing inversely blest;
In Vain or Oath, or Thumb's Impact;
The stubborn Brute refused to act.
So, in a Passion, up he took it,
And, like a naughty Child, he shook it,
Saying the While: "I 'll make you pour;
You shan't beat *me!*" Then pressed once more.

It is played by the Irish, It is played by the Scot; The English and Welshmen, they play It a lot; Our Colonial Cousins now play It a bit, And the women and children all rave about Pit; Pit is It, Pit is It, Pit is It, Pit is It, all the women and children now rave about Pit.

Thomas Goode & Co.—China, glass pottery, fireproof ware. Sole agents in the United Kingdom for the famous "Bi-Métal" (copper lined with pure sheet silver) Cooking Utensils. Illustrated catalogues post free.—South Audley-street London.

This Time the Thing, with Vengeance, acts—
Shoots forth in foaming Cataracts,
Which, checked in their torrential Course,
Leap from the Glass, with reflex Force,
And souse the Fellow, *Cap-à-pie*,
With much-diluted *Eau-de-vie*.
Cursing, like Mad, his Face he dried,
"Damn you, contrary Beast!" he cried.
"You wouldn't pour at all for long,
And, now you do, you pour too strong!"
"'Twas ever thus," said Siphon, "Sir,
With those that hardest are to stir.
It takes a Lot to make 'em go it;
But, when they do, they let you know it!"

Moral.

An even-tempered Man, no doubt,
Requires a Deal to put him out.
But once upset his placid Level,
You 'll find that he 's the very Devil.

SCRUTATOR.

PRESS PATRIOTS AND THE DARDANELLES.

THE section of the London Press that did its best to drag us into a war over the Dogger Bank incident, and, happily, failed, is now seeking to bring us into collision with Russia over the Treaty of Paris. This treaty embodies an agreement between the European Great Powers neutralising the Black Sea, in the sense that only Turkish ships of war could either leave it or enter it. Certain Russian papers have urged that the Russian Black Sea Fleet should, if the permission of the Sultan can be obtained, pass through the Dardanelles into the Mediterranean. It may be that this is contemplated by the Russian Government or it may not. The *Standard*, however, threatens Russia with war should such an event take place. Eventually the "Champion Hustler" who now selects its writers and its policy is determined to show that he can beat the war drum as loudly and as recklessly as his rivals in the Harmsworth Press. We are, says the Hustler, bound by our alliance with Japan to maintain the *status quo* in regard to the Black Sea, and prevent any change which would tell against our ally, for she went to war on the assumption that we would do this. This is trash. Japan was not a party to the Treaty of Paris. It was an agreement between certain of the Great Powers of Europe in their own collective interests. The treaty was joint and not several. The fact that we have a treaty with Japan agreeing to side with her if she be attacked by any two Great Powers imposes on us no obligation to force Russia to stand by the Treaty of Paris in respect of the Black Sea. The Treaty gives no right to any one of the signatories to take action against any other to maintain it intact, but the remedy would have to be collective and international, based on general assent.

The late Lord Derby, when England agreed to join the other Great Powers in neutralising Luxemburg, laid down the principle that this "hands off" could only be enforced by the joint action of all the parties to the agreement. When it was pointed out to him that, if so, the agreement meant nothing, far from denying this, he admitted it. According to him, such treaties are little more than an expression of opinion, and, so far as collective action is concerned, leave to each Power the right to go to war itself to maintain the neutrality, but create no obligation on any Power to do so.

The Hustlers call upon us to make any action on the part of Russia contrary to the Treaty of Paris a *casus belli*, not only because this might aid the Russians in their war with Japan, but because the neutrality of the Dardanelles is a British interest. I greatly doubt whether it be so. There is a great deal to be said on both sides from the British standpoint. The neutrality of the Dardanelles certainly is not of such vital interest to us that we should be wise to maintain it at the cost of war with any Great Power, if the others are not prepared to aid us. Even if we once had any interest in that direction, circumstances have changed since the Treaty of Paris was signed fifty years ago. Among other things we have discovered since that date that in supporting Turkey against Russia we "put our money on the wrong horse." No Great Power would permanently submit to such a restriction on its natural right to free navigation from its shores to the high seas, as the Treaty of Paris imposes on Russia. We might as well expect Russia permanently to assent to her Baltic Fleet not being allowed to pass through the Sound, even though Sweden and Denmark might assent to the passage. The treaty was imposed on Russia after an unsuccessful war. At that time things were very different from what they are now. Russia was not confronted in the East by a powerful and somewhat aggressive nation in possession of a considerable fleet. We were not in possession of the Suez Canal, nor were Germany, Russia, France, and the United States seeking to share with us the commerce of the Far East. Our chief aim at the present moment should be to localise the Eastern War, and to keep out of it ourselves. We are bound by treaty to side with Japan if any other Great Power sides with Russia. There our obligation towards Japan begins and ends. The fact that the egress of the Russian Fleet from the Black Sea may be advantageous to Russia in her struggle with Japan is entirely outside the question, and if it be absolutely necessary to the Russian naval operations in the Far East, we could not be surprised were she to act on the principle, *salus populi suprema lex*. If we really believe that the restriction now existing is absolutely vital to us, we ought to go to war to maintain it, even at the cost of converting a local into a general war. But to prove this, something more would be needed than that Sir Alfred Harmsworth, Mr. Pearson, and half a dozen other newspaper proprietors should tell us that it is.

I note that the newspapers which are affiliated to the Tariff Reform League are ever endeavouring to force us into some war. I am inclined to think that this is an attempt to stave off defeat on the tariff issue. They would drag a red-herring—and an exceptionally sanguinary one—across the tariff trail. The Unionist Party used the South African War to retain power, and the more reckless of them would very probably be ready to play the same game again. Fortunately, however, the present Government, although shifty, reckless, and greedy of place, is not quite so unpatriotic as these

blatant and fire-eating Press "patriots." I hope that the Japanese will come out the victors in the present war, for there is much that I admire in them, and I should be glad to see Orientals recognised as best fitted to be the masters in their own lands, and no longer bullied and robbed by Western nations, now on one plea, now on another. But neither my admiration nor my desire blinds me to the fact that the Japanese possess a large measure of Oriental acuteness where their own interests are concerned, and that what would suit them by no means necessarily suits us. It is far from improbable that if they find that they are getting the worst in their present struggle with Russia, they will endeavour to convert it into a war in which we may be involved. This may be sound patriotism on their part, and they may hold that the end justifies the means. With all respect to them, however, we must keep our eyes well open to this contingency. We know what our war for the benefit of the cosmopolitan money-grubbers in South Africa has cost us. A war with Russia would be dearer, and, so far as I can see, under no circumstances could any advantage that we might reap from it recoup the outlay. That it might suit Japan is no reason for our engaging in it. Business is business.

NELSONS' WIDOWS:

A Word of Warning.

The position of Nelson and Co.'s pensioners, and of the customers who have contingent interests in the pension fund, has been attracting a great deal of public attention during the last week or two; and it is edifying to see how much anxiety on behalf of those good ladies has developed in unexpected quarters. The halfpenny Press—which for the last three years has manifested no interest in the pension tea business, except as a source of revenue to the advertisement department—has suddenly awoke to the gigantic dimensions of the "ramp" in which it has been participating. It is now overwhelming those of its readers who happen to have been caught by the Nelson advertisements with information and advice, more or less disinterested. An association for the special benefit of Nelsons' Widows has sprung into existence, and is being busily pushed. The Nelson Company itself is anxious to convince its widows that they need no friend but Nelson and Co. And Mr. Emerson Bainbridge has come forward with a personal guarantee for the benefit of the widows, present and prospective, which wears the air of a piece of quite princely munificence. It almost looks as if there was no room for the Editor of Truth in this overpowering muster of widows' friends. It may be, however, that the poor ladies are a little bewildered by the attentions of so many benefactors; indeed, I have evidence that this is so in many personal applications for advice, and, as I am at any rate disinterested in this matter, which some of the other parties are not, I will give Nelsons' widows the benefit of my opinion about their other friends.

We will begin with the "Widows' Pension Protection Society," of Mansion House Chambers, Queen Victoria-street, E.C. Nelson and Co.'s customers have been beset during the last week or so with prospectuses of this concern, and invitations to join it. "Not a moment is to be lost," they are informed, and, in order to save the loss of precious moments, they are supplied with printed postcards, on which they may request to be enrolled as members of the society, and which they may despatch by return of post at the cost of a halfpenny stamp when they have filled in the needful particulars. The society has been formed, it says, "at the request of a number of Nelsons' customers." I should rather like to know who these customers were, and to whom they made their request, for the concern sprang into being with miraculous celerity after the impending feduction of the Nelson pensions had been announced. The objects in view, as specified in the prospectus, are "to provide legal aid if necessary, to enforce payment of pensions to those entitled to same, and above all to secure the continued payment of pensions to all to whom they are due, or may become due." The mere recital of these objects looks sufficient to cause every woman concerned to fill up and return the postcard instantly. But how it is proposed to secure these desirable ends the prospectus does not indicate, beyond mentioning that "eminent lawyers will be retained by this society." Eminent lawyers are not retained for nothing; yet, strange to say, nothing is said in the prospectus about the source from which these legal luminaries are to be paid. The widows themselves are not asked to subscribe—at any rate for the present. An "Honorary Committee" is announced on the prospectus. The only two familiar names upon it are those of Lady Henry Somerset and the Rev. Hugh Chapman. Lady Henry Somerset's name, I am in a position to say, was announced somewhat prematurely; and she is *not* a member of the committee. Mr. Chapman is hardly a tower of strength in such a position. Of the other committeemen I know nothing, nor does the public; and this may also be said of Mr. R. Fowler, who signs the prospectus as "Honorary Secretary." In point of fact, the real moving spirit in this society is a Mr. Arthur Deakin, who was for a time in the service of Nelson and Co. as head of one of their departments. He left their service in consequence of that particular branch of the business being dropped. The parting was not exactly a friendly one, and Mr. Deakin made claims which the company only partially satisfied. I neither say nor suggest anything against him; but that he should seize the first opportunity of organising a society for the protection of the customers against the directors, and that at the same time he should not allow his own name to appear publicly in connection with the organisation, are facts which have a certain significance.

At any rate, as this society stands at present, I have no hesitation in advising Nelson's customers, widows or not, to have nothing to do with it. Neither the manner in which it has sprung into existence, nor the names of the committee, are such as can inspire confidence for the particular purpose in view. The postcard which the women concerned are asked to sign, and which is addressed to the Hon. Secretary, contains a paragraph in these words: "I authorise you to act on my behalf in such manner as you think fit to protect my interests free of expense to myself." It would manifestly be a

most foolish thing of any woman interested in the Nelson pension fund to give an authority of this kind to people of whom she knows nothing; and I say emphatically that a self-constituted organisation of unknown individuals has no right to ask all these women—who, from the nature of the case, must be assumed to be utterly without any knowledge of business matters—to sign a "blank cheque" of this description under a vague promise of "safeguarding their interests." What is the first step that has been taken in that direction? According to an apparently inspired announcement in the *Daily Mail* of Saturday, two members of the Protection Society's Committee had responded to an invitation to confer with the Nelson directors. One of the delegates chosen for this purpose is the Rev. Hugh Chapman. He is, doubtless, a most estimable clergyman; but I take the liberty of doubting whether either in general business knowledge, or familiarity with the particular business of the Nelson pension scheme, he is any match for the very astute gentlemen whom he will have encountered at this conference. The circular on which the existence of the Protection Society is based assumes a direct antagonism between the Nelson directors and their customers. The directors are represented in it as contemplating steps highly prejudicial to the interests of the customers, and the object of the society is represented as being to resist such steps with the assistance of eminent lawyers. This view of the situation may be right or wrong; but it is a curious way of starting on the realisation of the programme to hold a friendly conference with the board which the society is formed to resist. No one in his senses can expect that the deliberate policy of the Nelson directors will be modified by any representations which the Rev. Hugh Chapman and his colleagues may make in the course of this discussion. Simultaneously with the announcement of this conference, it is stated that members of the Protection Society's committee have been invited to join the board of Nelson and Co. This looks uncommonly like inviting the lamb to lie down inside the lion. The previous relationship between the Nelson board and the presiding genius of the Protection Society may facilitate a friendly understanding between these two bodies. The directors of Nelson and Co. are quite right to establish it if they can. But the very possibility of such a thing is inconsistent with the assumption of antagonistic interests which have to be defended, on which the Protection Society is founded; and the fact that the first move of the society is in this direction makes its professions an absurdity, and justifies the distrust which its origin inspires. If there is no antagonism between the company and its customers which cannot be removed by a little friendly conference, or the admission of a customers' representative to the Nelson board, it follows necessarily that there is no need for the existence of the Protection Society.

I repeat, therefore, my advice to all women concerned to abstain from signing the postcard above mentioned, or connecting themselves in any way with this concern. I go further. I advise them to sign nothing—nothing whatever—in the present state of affairs. As already mentioned in TRUTH, an action has been commenced in the Chancery Division on behalf of certain of the pensioners and other customers interested in the Government Deposit and the pension fund. The High Court of Justice is the true Widows' Pension Protection Association. Whatever decision it pronounces in the action now pending will apply indiscriminately to all concerned, whether parties to the action or not. If any woman now on Nelson and Co.'s books as a pensioner or a customer desires further information or advice, she had better write to the Editor of TRUTH. I confess I am not particularly desirous of entering into correspondence with 700,000 ladies in all parts of the kingdom—the present number of Nelson's customers, according to the latest information. But I would rather do that than leave any of them in the hands of the first enterprising or benevolent gentleman who offers them assistance at the present crisis in the affairs of the company.

So much for that matter. It is also necessary to speak frankly about the "personal guarantee" offered to the customers by Mr. Emerson Bainbridge. In order to do Mr. Bainbridge no injustice I give below the full text of this document as it has been communicated to the Press, and, as the postscript implies, to the customers also:—

PERSONAL GUARANTEE TO NELSON'S WIDOWS AND CUSTOMERS.

To the 19,000 Widows and the 700,000 Customers Associated with the Nelson Pension Scheme.

During the past few weeks many sensational and misleading references have been made to the Nelson Pension Scheme, and no doubt a great deal of uneasiness has been created in the minds of the Nelson customers.

Knowing something of the great help the scheme has been, and may be in the future to people of small means of livelihood (many of whom it has kept out of the workhouse) I have decided to make the following proposition to all who are customers of Nelson and Co., Limited, in order to secure the return to them of all they have put into the scheme. I am prepared for a period of five years (if I so long live) and to the extent of £50,000 (1) to guarantee the whole of the widows now receiving pensions from Nelson and Co., Limited, that they receive back at least the whole of the extra price for tea paid by them to secure a pension during the whole time they have been customers; (2) I will also guarantee the whole of the 700,000 customers (exclusive of widows), who are now buying the tea with a view to receiving pensions in case of widowhood, that they will receive back (in the event of their becoming widows and being entitled to pensions) at least the whole of the extra price for tea paid by them to secure a pension since they have been customers of Nelson and Co. This guarantee is given on the understanding that five-sixths of the present customers continue their association with Nelson and Co., Limited.

For the fulfilment of this guarantee, I will deposit securities to the amount of £50,000 with my bankers. This undertaking on my part will at least secure every one of Nelson's customers *against loss*. With regard to the future, each customer will now have the option of having either a pension, or, if she joins the Nelson Trading Co., a lump sum at her husband's death. If a pension, this will be derived from a certain percentage of the net profit made by Nelson and Co., and such percentage has recently been increased from 15s. in the £1 to 17s. in the £1. The amount of pensions paid depends upon the amount of net profit made by the company, and the amount of profit made must depend upon the number of Nelson's customers.

I have decided to give this guarantee for the following reasons:—1. Because I wish the customers to be assured that the extra money paid by them for Nelson's tea, to secure a pension, will not be lost to them. 2. Because I know that those who are trying to stop the business are not doing it for the benefit of either the widows or the customers. 3. Because I believe that the present scheme, backed up by the new assurance scheme and the sales of other goods, as already arranged, should continue to be of the greatest benefit to the working classes.

(Signed) Emerson Bainbridge.

December 8, 1904

The customers receiving this should sign it and return it through the company's local agent to the head office.

Name .....

Address .....

The first point to be noted in this document is that it is not a guarantee for the payment of the "life pensions" which have been held out to the customers in the company's advertisements, but of something entirely different and absolutely insignificant. It does *not* "secure every one of Nelson's customers against loss," and Mr. Bainbridge ought not to have used so loose and misleading an expression in so important a document, for the offer only applies to the widows (at present 19,000 in number) and all the rest of the 700,000 customers will continue paying their extra tea-money for nothing. As regards the widows themselves, present or prospective, all that the guarantee promises is that they shall get out of the pension fund all that they have paid to the company in the shape of extra price of tea in order to secure a pension—in other words, that they shall not be out of pocket by their dealings with Nelson and Co. The extra price paid for tea under Nelson's pension scheme may be taken roughly as about 6d. per ½ lb. A woman becomes entitled to the full pension benefit of 10s. per week after buying half a pound of tea every week for twelve months. In the most favourable case to the customer, therefore, the extra amount paid to the company to secure a pension will be £1 6s. In the case most favourable to the company the woman will have been paying for the whole period of the company's existence (three years and a half), which would make her total payments about £4 11s. These figures, therefore, give the least and the greatest amounts that any one can receive under Mr. Bainbridge's guarantee. (There are, I believe, some few women on the books who date from the Jensen era, prior to the formation of the company; but their number is insignificant, and at least six-sevenths of the present customers must have joined within the last two or three years.) All, therefore, that Mr. Bainbridge promises to a woman who has been paying her money in expectation of a "life pension" of 10s. per week is a sum which may not amount to three weeks' pension at that rate, and which cannot be more than ten weeks' pension—except in the case of Jensen's old customers. To every Nelson customer who has received a 10s. pension for ten weeks, or a 5s. pension for twenty weeks, and to many thousands of them who have received it for less periods, Mr. Bainbridge's guarantee is worthless and meaningless, for all such women have already received as much or more than they paid in, and can therefore never have any claim on the guarantee fund. Even within the narrow limits to which it is thus reduced, it is open to doubt whether the £50,000 which Mr. Bainbridge offers to deposit would be under all circumstances sufficient for its purpose. I suppose that this sum was arrived at upon some calculation of the number of widows who are likely to come upon the pension fund during the next five years, and the probable amount that they will have paid in previously. I have no materials myself for making any such calculation, and the position is too complicated and uncertain for any guess at the probable liabilities in the event of the payment of pensions being entirely suspended during the next five years. But one or two facts are certain. In the first place, if the company has now 19,000 widows on its books from among customers of upwards of one year's standing, that number must be doubled or trebled in the next five years, even from the present 700,000 customers to whom the guarantee is limited. In the next place, £50,000 will only suffice to pay £2 10s. per head to 20,000 women, or not much more than the existing number of pensioners. That is to say, if in the course of five years more than 20,000 widows should come on the fund who have been subscribing for two years or upwards, and it is highly probable that they will, £50,000 would not suffice to repay all their subscriptions. The amount can only be sufficient for the purpose if Nelson and Co. should be able to go on paying pensions to all its widows for several years to come, so that the number who will not have received back in pensions as much as they paid in will be very considerably reduced. I do not myself believe that there is the slightest probability of that result being arrived at.

It is not worth while, however, to labour these points. A far more important matter is the object for which this delusive guarantee is now dangled before the noses of the 700,000 customers of Nelson and Co., Ltd. That object is evident on the face of the document. It is hoped by thus indemnifying all the customers against any actual loss on their contracts with the company to retain at least 600,000 out of the 700,000 on the books, and thereby to keep the business afloat a little longer on its present basis. On that view of the matter it is difficult to condemn Mr. Bainbridge's move too strongly. What is the position of the company at the present moment? It has paid the promised pensions in full for the last time. On December 9 it gave notice to the widows that the existing pensions are reduced by one-half. It is faced by an ever-increasing load of liabilities which—in the absence of extended supplies of new dupes, of which under the circumstances there is little prospect—will involve further reductions of the pensions at no distant date. The directors can no longer have the slightest doubt—if they ever had any—that the promises by which the greater part of the existing customers have been obtained are utterly delusive, and that the life of the pension fund, even on its reduced basis, is now measured by months. It is in this state of things that Mr. Bainbridge comes forward with a scheme the whole scope and purport of which is to induce these 700,000 women, ignorant women every one of them, into buying tea from Nelson and Co. at the present price a little longer. Left to themselves, the overwhelming majority of them, as everybody can see, would recognise the deception that has been practised upon them, and "cut their loss," declining to throw good money after bad. To prevent them taking that course, what does Mr. Bainbridge say? "Keep on buying your tea at the present rates, and I will personally indemnify you against loss—provided you become widows within five years." He knows—nobody better—that the percentage of women to whom this promise applies is insignificant. For all but a few thousand out of the 700,000 the result can only be that they will go on paying their 6d. a week to Nelson and Co. without the slightest chance of either getting their money back

or getting any benefit for the expenditure. Nevertheless, he does not hesitate to tell the whole 700,000 that the offer he is making "*will at least secure every one of Nelson's customers against loss.*" At the moment of going to press, I see a calculation by "an actuarial authority" in the *Daily Mail*, which reckons that if 583,331 customers (that is to say, 600,000 less the widows) go on buying tea at the present rate, they will pay among them, in "extra price," or insurance premiums alone, £291,666 per annum. It is to obtain such a result that this delusive "guarantee" is offered. Bearing in mind the class of women to whom the offer is made, it is difficult to condemn it too strongly. It is in principle no better than the offer of "life pensions" on which the pension tea business has been built up. To men of business the exact value of either offer may be evident enough, but to the women whose money is to be thus obtained the thing is certain to present itself in a very different light; at any rate, it will not be Mr. Bainbridge's fault if it does not.

Mr. Emerson Bainbridge cannot complain that he has been harshly dealt with in Truth. In all my criticism of the Nelson business he has had the fullest benefit of everything that could be said in his favour. He has had the fullest credit—some people say too much—for the part he took in the recent reconstitution of the board, and the attempts that have been made to put the business on a more honest footing. I have given the fullest prominence to his assertions that for a year and a half before the reconstruction of the board he had vainly exerted himself to get the advertisements modified: the customers' contracts recast, and the division of the profits altered in favour of the customers; and on the strength of these things, I have credited him with a perception that the business with which he was connected was not an honest one, and with a sincere desire to give it a different character. But I am bound to say that this last move, for which the sole responsibility must rest upon him, is no better than any of the earlier proceedings from which he has sought to dissociate himself. The ugliest feature of it is that the person who stands to gain most by it, with the possible exception of Mr. J. M. Catton, is Mr. Bainbridge himself. Of course, it will be said that if the 700,000 customers can be induced to go on buying their tea at Nelson's prices for a few weeks or months longer, the existing widows will get their pensions out of what is thus paid. If that were all, it would merely be a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul. But "Paul" in this case includes a great deal more than the widows who may get a few more shillings out of the plundered "Peter" before the game finally stops. Not only will 15 per cent. of the profits of this plunder go to the Nelson shareholders, of whom Messrs. Catton and Bainbridge are the chief, but the principal part of the profits of these gentlemen is derived from their commission on the sale of tea to the company, which goes on undiminished as long as the number of customers on the books remains undiminished, however much the pensions may be cut down. What the profits under this head amount to readers of Truth already know; and it may be safely said that if, as the result of Mr. Bainbridge's professed guarantee, five-sixths of the present customers continued buying Nelsons' tea for another twelve months, the gain to Mr. Bainbridge would far exceed any liability that he is ever likely to incur under that document. When the impending reduction of the pensions was first mentioned in Truth last month, I said unhesitatingly that there was one way, and one only, in which Mr. Bainbridge and his partner Mr. Catton could put themselves right with public opinion, and that was by refunding to the unfortunate women who supposed that they were buying from them a provision against widowhood all the profits that they have themselves made out of that delusion. Now that the impossibility of the continued payment of the pensions is proved up to the hilt, there cannot be a shadow of excuse for continuing to receive further payments from women for the purchase of pensions. The only straightforward course is to let the pension business die a natural death, even if that involves the decease of Nelson and Co. at the same time. If Mr. Bainbridge recognises, as he ought to do, and as by the offer of this guarantee he purports to do, that on the collapse of the business it is incumbent on him to see that no customer is out of pocket by her dealings with Nelson and Co., let him pay them off in cash *now* and close the account. What he has chosen to do is something very different. He seeks, by making a show of indemnifying everybody against loss, to extract further payments to an enormous amount, in return for which nothing substantial is ever likely to be obtained, while securing a corresponding addition to the profits he has already made. The attempt is the more odious because it is disguised in the shape of an act of disinterested munificence, and flavoured with nauseous cant about the good work that this gigantic ramp has already done in keeping poor widows out of the workhouse.

The advice I have given above to the Nelson customers against signing any document submitted to them by benevolent friends at this juncture, applies, I need not say, with especial force to this communication from Mr. Emerson Bainbridge. The proposed guarantee is altogether delusive, and I trust it will prove abortive. I take the liberty of adding a word of advice to those newspapers which have at last discovered the true bearings of the pension-tea scheme, and are now tardily endeavouring to give their readers some practical insight into the matter. It is that they should study what has been said above, and in previous issues of Truth, and abstain from bestowing their impulsive approval on schemes for the benefit of Nelsons' customers about which they know little or nothing. This has already been done in more than one instance during the past week. I beseech some of my junior contemporaries not to allow their tails to be salted. The Press has contributed largely through its advertisement columns to the blowing up of the pension-tea bubble to the point at which it burst. It may do something now to repair the mischief, but that will only be by exercising a little common sense based upon full and accurate information about the facts.

THE THEATRES.

"Pagliacci," at the Savoy.

Mr. Gilbert Hare and Mrs. Brown-Potter have continued their privateering excursions into opera, for now is appended to the picturesque remnants of "Cavalleria Rusticana" the not less picturesque costumes and environment of "Pagliacci." Remnants of the music of this as of the other opera are also commandeered to eke out the dialogue and fill up chinks generally. Despite the admirable conducting of Mr. Raymond Roze, I question whether Signor Leoncavallo and Signor Mascagni will be tempted to sip their own wines in their present mutilated form. Mr. Charles Brookfield has been called in to operate (the exact word!) upon "Pagliacci." He has done so, sparing not the knife, yet lavish enough of his own particular balsam which he pours into the wounds, even prefixing a prologue in rhyme, where we are told that although the play is but a play, yet beneath their rouge and patches the players speak the soul of things. Vaguely I seem to have heard a similar thought before; certainly I did not want to hear it before "Pagliacci." Mr. Brookfield rhymes also the comedy parts of the dialogue of the play, and, for what they are, his rhymes are deftly enough turned, but the diction is altogether unsuitable to the passionate village folk and strolling players of Calabria; to Canio the jealous husband; to Silvio, the lover; or to Tonio, the evil genius of the work. Such writing as Mr. Brookfield here gives us would be exactly in the note of the prologue to the entertainment during Canterbury week. Nervous prose would have gone far more near to the original.

Mr. Charles Warner has his full fling as the amorous and jealous husband who stabs his wife on the stage, and his emotional utterance found its familiar echo in the applause of a part of the audience. Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw, as the lover, is natural and quite in the right note, Mr. Gilbert Hare excellently sinister as Tonio, the detestable clown. One sees why Mrs. Brown-Potter prefers this sort of production to legitimate drama. It gives her a better opportunity of revealing her good, and to some extent concealing her bad, qualities. From the pictorial point of view, indeed, nothing could have been more exquisite than her beautiful head, with its disordered auburn tresses, as she lies prostrate on the inner stage at the end of the play within the play. This wonderful head and face are turned away from the audience, and, being slightly inclined below the horizontal level, resemble nothing in the world so much as the head of the Medusa. One felt the little serpents were writhing in that beautiful hair. And the Watteauesque ballet skirts, all silver sprinkled—the whole effect was a triumph, as I say, from the pictorial standpoint. But Mrs. Brown-Potter remains as incapable as ever of speaking dialogue naturally; she is always awaiting the moment when, after uttering two or three peacock screams, she may either fall into the arms of her lover, be assassinated by her husband, or at any rate accomplish some action worthy of a paragraph in the *Daily Mail*. Here the use of music comes in opportunely, and one may employ a phrase, vulgar but appropriate to the expression of its function. I refer to that conclusion affixed to certain anecdotes by their tellers: "And then the band played." One does not regret it.

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Herr Eric Hartleben's trilogy of one-act plays produced at the German Theatre on Monday is an interesting attempt to effect a unity of purpose between three plays essentially differing in plot. The trilogy is followed by the light military comedy "Militarfromm." To-morrow (Thursday) the farce in four acts, "Die goldene Spinne," will be given for the first time.

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The Mermaid Society's performance of "The Maid's Tragedy" has added another leaf to the crown of real laurels which it has won by its courageous endeavour.

* * * * *

The Crystal Palace announces as its Christmas Pantomime "The Babes in the Wood." This performance, I am assured, in the matter of mounting and stage properties, will be "a scene of beauty as far beyond the dreams of a nursery myth as it is possible for the inventive genius of the up-to-date stage-manager to make it." There is a delightful element of unconscious comicality about this statement. Poor Hans Andersen! Poor Grimm! You must hide your poor little imaginations, for a greater than you has undertaken to deal with myths of childhood: no less a person than the "up-to-date stage-manager." But I have no doubt that, in spite of all this, the performance will be worthy of the Crystal Palace; and one could not give it higher praise. The Crystal Palace will also produce a circus, which will occupy the central transept, and besides the ring for the equestrians there will be no less than three separate stages forming the background of the house. Artists engaged include the Tokyo Japs and the Russian Equestrians (the management does not say whether these are to enter fighting), the Powell Family, and "a small army of clowns."

* * * * *

Last Saturday evening Mrs. O'Hagan gave a very pleasant entertainment in her little theatre in Courtfield Gardens. The first of the two plays was Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Comedy and Tragedy." Mrs. O'Hagan herself took the difficult part of Clarice, and showed great imaginative as well as histrionic skill in those transitions from grave to gay for which the play is so well known. Her tragic scene at the close was especially notable. Among the other personages of the drama those of D'Aulnay and of the Duc d'Orléans stand out in clear relief, and it is in no small degree to the credit of Mr. Charles Bryant (familiar to the public in "Iris") that he did so well with the former, as it is to Mr. J. G. Meade to have succeeded in the latter part. As Clarice's sister I noted with pleasure the playing of Miss Georgie

Financial Protection for Families or Provision for Old Age. The public is invited to apply for the new Prospectus of the Scottish Widows' Fund. Funds £17,000,000. Participating Life Assurances by Annual Premiums effected before December 31st next, will, at the next Division of Profits (1908) rank for Five years' Bonus Additions. Applications for such Assurances should not be delayed. 28, Cornhill, E.C., and 5, Waterloo Place, S.W.

Joss and of Mr. Jolliffe Walker as Doctor Choquart. "A Pantomime Rehearsal," the second of the plays, is always a favourite. Mr. Raynes's Lord Arthur was a pleasant reflection of Mr. Grossmith's manner, and Miss Gladys O'Hagan made Lily bright and charming in word, in dance, and in song. Her duet with Miss Mendelssohn (Violet) was especially successful. Miss Florrie Whistler's whistling solo was much appreciated, and there was merit in the performances of Mr. Corbin as Jack Deeds, of Mr. Burford Morrison as Captain Tom Robinson, of Miss Joss as Lady Muriel, and of Captain Dickson as Sir Charles Grandison.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

"GYP" DRAMATISED

"LE FRIQUET" scored its hundredth representation at the Gymnase last Thursday. No play ever seemed to promise less to a clever manager than this adaptation by Willy of Gyp's story. Its prospects looked so poor that steps had been taken to replace it by some other novelty in case of a discouraging reception. To the delightful astonishment of authors, manager, and players, "Le Friquet" became at once the furore, and may run on through the whole winter. Its success is entirely due to Mlle. Polaire, who sprang up, as did Thérésa, from the paving stones of Paris. She sang in *cafés chantants*, and had some admirers, but no great vogue. Willy's attention was called to her, and he went to hear her sing, and became a devotee. He rightly judged that rare talent lay behind her *singeries* and that she would draw in an adaptation he was preparing of Gyp's queer story. Polaire has the agility and lightness of a winged insect, a mouth from ear to ear, a waist no thicker than your cane. She can express more sentiment, emotion, whimsicality, wild impishness, and energy than a whole band of Tsigane musicians. Her audacity is only held in check by the nicest stage tact. This creature can be touching to the point of pathos. She saw in childhood and growing girlhood every depth of misery, and grew familiar with the grim tragedy that haunts the dwellings of the poor. Her old impressions must start up in her like the hammers of a piano when the fingers of a Paderewski run over the keys. The head is almost too large for the threadpaper body, but must be a brimful reservoir of vitality. Old Bonapartists who see her at the Gymnase are reminded of a certain ambassadress who in her prime ruled the Court of the Tuileries, and with truth declared herself *pire que jolie*. But that very grand lady had no eyes to speak of, and had rather impudence, that verged on *impudeur*, than audacity. Her plainness, save at those dinners of the Empire where fine wines flowed freely, had an unpleasant effect, and the singularly wide mouth struck one as *gourmande*. Polaire's ugliness is beauty transposed, and her eyes can blaze like carbuncles. In being risky she conveys the idea of the innocence of Eve before the fall. I really think Mlle. Schneider as La Mariée d'Ici is surpassed by Polaire.

This gutter flower, or gutter sparrow, is supposed to be Le Friquet, an imp still girlish, wild and chaste, who has been a circus "utility." She is a being of instinct. The spirit of self-sacrifice without a grain of saintliness is strong in her. Each of the four acts gives a different side of her very complex nature, which is seemingly so simple. We see in her a sort of Cigale, then a young lady, the adopted daughter of vulgar and thickly-gilded bourgeois. In the third act she dreams her love-dream, a state that comes on the spectator as a surprise, and is full of interest. One could no more have imagined a Topsy falling in love than Le Friquet, and few heroines of romance could be so pathetic when she suffers from the stings of an unrequited passion and of jealousy. She sees no cure for heartache without becoming a monster of ingratitude, a solution repugnant to her generous and loyal nature. Naturally she has fallen in love with the wrong man, Hubert de Gange, and rejects the honest adoration of Bauge, a sculptor who has lately passed his fiftieth birthday, and has the dignified portliness of his age. Her death is one of the most touching scenes the French stage has produced. Polaire in the death scene rises above the Dame aux Camélias, or Frou-frou, as rendered by Desclée. She owes nothing to sumptuosity. Nor does the play, as all the interest is bound up in Polaire.

Le Friquet is the only personage of any account. We first see her behind the scenes of Jacobson's wandering circus. Jacobson is not declared a Jew, but he and his *haute école écuyère* smell of the brimstone with which Gyp likes to sprinkle the Chosen People. Le Friquet (sometimes called Friquette) is a foundling. Mafflu, the clown, picked her up an infant in swaddling clothes in a field, pitied her, and took her home, and found a nurse for her in a learned goat which communicated to the nursling some of its capriciousness and wilful ways. Her liveliness suggested the name she goes by in the circus. *Bouches inutiles* have no more business there than in a besieged city. The agility of Friquet and her whimsicality make her a valuable adjunct to Jacobson's company, to the pride and delight of the good Mafflu. But all that is bright has in this world its dark side. Friquet's success excited the jealousy of the *haute école* rider who reigns over the manager. Tired of snubs and rebuffs and fines, the poor foundling makes up her mind to run away and to appeal to the friendship of Hubert de Gange and Bauge. Hubert is a provincial beau, and mayor of the rural commune where the circus has halted to take advantage of local fêtes. Bauge is a visitor at the château of the wealthy banker Schlemmer, whom Willy has debaptised and to whom in the play he gives the name of Claparon and a Christian varnish. De Gange and Bauge have been chance admirers of Le Friquet. They receive her well enough. But De Gange is thinking of the opulent beauty of Mme. Claparon. Bauge is not in his own home. Both, however, promise to do what they can for her. They persuade Mme. Claparon, who is vain and not devoid of generosity, that the active and generous patronage of genius under a cloud becomes the *grande dame*. Claparon, who slily admires the circus-girl, has no objection, and proposed that his wife should

adopt her. Friquet has brought nothing from the circus but the clothes on her back and a spring knife that Mafflu gave her as a parting souvenir. He used it in simulating suicide to stab a wine bag hidden under his motley garments.

We next have Le Friquet *nature*, in fashionable dress with marvellous *dessous*, but retaining her circus vocabulary and frankness. The friends of M. and Mme Claparon who come on visits to their château are generally *nouveaux enrichis*. Le Friquet does her best to become a young lady, and is not aware of her mistakes and solecisms until she finds herself laughed at. She has not in the wealthy riff-raff a single friend save her protectress. Bauge, who becomes a reserved adorer, is not rich. Claparon's passion is enterprising. Madame winks at it. She hopes that he may become too busy with Le Friquet to notice the gallant attentions she herself receives from the fatuous De Gange. The wild flower under her care, in love with him, nearly breaks her heart when the liaison is forced on her attention. De Gange has been acquainted with the opulent beauty before her marriage, which might be termed a sale by her needy father and mother. The husband appears at a disadvantage in his château beside De Gange. Friquet's delicate nature prompts her to absent herself from the salon each time M. le Maire calls on Mme. Claparon. When she slips away into the park, Bauge converses with her *pour le bon motif*. This bores her. A visit from Mafflu rouses her drooping spirits. He cannot believe the elegantly-attired young lady can be the circus *gamine*. To prove her identity and find an outlet for her joy she performs the "wheel" exercise with incredible agility.

Bauge offers marriage to Le Friquet. She refuses, but accepts a present of money to provide for Mafflu and to keep in another circus her horse Charlemagne. When she suddenly quits the château to look for an engagement at Le Nouveau Cirque she takes these two old friends with her. Though still a utility, she finds herself a star. Le Friquet in a *haute école* and in a trapeze performance takes the country town by storm. The Claparons, Bauge, and De Gange come in their autocar to her. Her former protectress visits her in her dressing-room. She whispers to the star to retain Claparon there as long as she can when he comes to see her. The reason you may suspect, De Gange being of the Claparon party. As to Bauge, he wanders round the stables. Claparon has been concealed behind a screen. He thinks of divorce and marriage with Le Friquet, and rushes to clasp her in his arms. She, in the most natural and matter-of-course way, stabs him with Mafflu's knife, and then answers to the call-boy. After a short interval a cry of horror is heard, and the star reappears, but this time she is carried in by Bauge and De Gange and poor Mafflu, who sobs and pours forth verbal lamentations. She is in her green tights. It appears that in the trapeze part of the business she casts her eyes at the box of Mme. Claparon, saw her and De Gange in sentimental conversation, and missed the crossbar, and in her fall met with fatal injuries. She dies with a grace and pathos that bring tears to eyes and turn the spectators into votaries. When the curtain falls all feel sorry that the flimsy play is ended.

The Nationalists look with the mind of a Gaboriau or a Sue at the sudden death of M. Syveton. Coppée cries aloud that his friend's death is a crime of the Freemasons. They knew he would be acquitted by any Paris jury, and so got rid of him. The poet's words are taken up and echoed by Jules Lemaître, Léon Daudet, and the whole band of their friends in the Chamber of Deputies. Had he died at night in his bed, the assertions and insinuations that Combes or the Freemasons suffocated him with gas might stand water. But he must have died at about one o'clock in the afternoon, in a flat facing a busy thoroughfare, and as his wife helped to prepare a delayed déjeuner. The servants had been given orders to admit no visitor whatsoever. Syveton wanted to prepare his speech for the trial, which was to begin next day before the assize court. He took the precaution against disturbance of having the receivers of his telephone taken off. Mme. Syveton repeated to the concierge the instructions given to the servants. No visitor had been allowed to ascend to the Syvetons' flat. Two called, and were sent away, though the concierge knew them to be intimate friends. Some fellow-deputies of Syveton at first imagined that he had committed suicide by letting on the gas until it filled his study. He might have done so to bother the Government by giving his party a corpse. In a moment of angry brooding impulse he would stop at nothing. In this respect he resembled Ravachol, the anarchist, also a native of the Forez district. No other part of France produces so many cranks. Harsh, arrogant, headlong in their resentment, and prone to nurse their grievances, they easily run into fanaticism and are generally men of action. Dupuis, who trumped up the claim for 15,000,000 fr. against the Mandarin Government of Tonquin came from the Forez part of the Loire. So did Lafayette and the late Duc de Persigny.

As the old legend of M. Félix Faure's "assassination" is again cropping up, I may mention some facts with which I became acquainted the day after his death. The President had been dining with Mlle. S——, an actress of rare beauty—of course, in the strictest incognito. According to one report, he was actually dead when he was brought back to the Elysée. This is not true. I learnt all about the last moments of M. Félix Faure in a curious way. A few hours before his death a medical student of my acquaintance told me casually that he was expecting country relatives that week, and he would take them to a ball at the Elysée. A friend of his, Dr. Humbert (of Rambouillet, I think), had a brother, a captain, attached as orderly to the military household of President Faure. The Doctor had applied for tickets to his brother the day before, and was going that evening to the Elysée to fetch them, after which he and the medical student had agreed to dine together at a Rue Royale restaurant.

The Doctor, on sending in his card to his brother at the Elysée, was immediately received. (The medical student came and told me the whole story on the day

following.) Captain Humbert caught his brother by the sleeve and dragged him down a corridor. "You are the only medical man in the house; come at once, there is something seriously the matter with the President." The Doctor saw M. Faure lying on a mattress in his room, in a state of collapse, probably from heart rupture. Stimulants (sparteine, etc.) were injected hypodermically, although there was no hope. Dr. Humbert had done everything he could when the shining lights of the Academy of Medicine, called by telephone, made their appearance. They took possession of their patient without addressing a single word to the general practitioner who had committed the crime of being on the spot when help was wanted. They affected even to ignore his presence. Dr. Humbert, finding himself treated as an intruder and almost a trespasser, and suspecting they wanted the advertisement such a "case" would give them, put on his hat and walked out. At the Rue Royale restaurant he had to explain to the medical student why he was nearly an hour late, and thus it was I came to know about the last moments of Félix Faure.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE New World, dear Lady Betty, is no longer only on the other side of the Atlantic; it is a new world everywhere to-day. Especially is it that in this country, where the influences of the institutions and developments of the English-speaking peoples in the United States and the self-governing Colonies are naturally first felt.

Here, nevertheless, our leaders are obstinately endeavouring to keep the donkey-cart before the motor-car!

We live in a new world, and there has developed a new danger, which is that in England we are all educated now but the educated classes.

The ordinary well-connected English boy is sent to a celebrated public school, where he is surrounded with magnificent buildings, and they, together with traditions that have accumulated for centuries, enable the masters to shape him after a pattern which generation upon generation of our predecessors have labelled "A gentleman." At such a school the first object is to cast him in the many-century-old college mould; the second, to instruct him. But is a "gentleman" to-day merely a courteous, classical-minded man, who never offends against the upper-ten commandments?

It is assumed that this boy will have enough money, or influence, to enable him to pass through life more or less smoothly, and that his store of knowledge will not be the main material which he will have to use to earn a livelihood.

Little has changed at the public schools; almost everything has elsewhere.

The ordinary upper-lower or middle-class boy is sent to a more modern school to acquire as much knowledge as he can assimilate. He is told by his parents, and the masters, that the knowledge he accumulates here will be his chief means of earning a livelihood, and, in these days, may help him to rise to the higher rungs of the social ladder. He works strenuously, and the masters earnestly with him, he wins prizes, passes examinations, and even obtains scholarships. The masters, moreover, being aware that his store of knowledge will be his main capital, teach him particularly those modern developments which will be useful to him, especially at the beginning of his career.

At the one class of school it is manners first, mind second; at the other, mind first, manners second.

The two men are launched into the outside world eventually, the first shaped after a pattern which was, probably, admirably designed for times when only the few had any education, when knowledge was a form of polish, not necessary for practical purposes in every direction; when there were no competitive examinations; when most of the employment under Government was given to favourites or supporters; and when the bulk of the influence or money was in the hands of the upper class; the other, soundly, and highly, educated. The new danger is that, whilst the upper-class men have the titles and the honourable traditions, claim to govern the country, and cling to power obstinately, arguing, as they did centuries ago, that it is their right to manage public affairs because they are the educated men, it will soon be obvious to the whole community that they are ignorant and unintelligent.

"But we shall soon change the system at our public schools." That is possible, but there will be no alteration in the "tone." Where it is unbecoming to be poor and studious, there, to the end, application will be discouraged. Moreover, most of the boys who go to those schools are the sons of well-to-do parents. "In any case, for generations we have provided the men who have ruled the country." That is true, but they were the men for whom the opportunities, and the appointments, were reserved; it is comparatively easy to make a great name when placed in a great position.

. . . . . .

That thought branches off here in this direction. It appears to have escaped attention that the upper-class man is rapidly taking less and less interest in politics. A hundred and fifty years ago the ordinary upper-class man in this country had comparatively little to do, and less to occupy his mind. Did he live in London, for instance, there was the Mall in St. James's Park to walk in; there were the few theatres; there were the clubs and gambling; and politics. The poets or prose writers wrote political satires or treatises; there were many shops in the West End the windows of which were filled with political caricatures; there were hundreds of political pamphlets published every year; the clergyman in the pulpit was often a political partisan; the club was a centre, generally, of political activity; and it must not be forgotten that the ordinary well-connected man in those days had much to hope for from his political allies—power, place, advancement, pensions, sinecures, concessions, and bribes.

His successor, however, can obtain little or nothing from the Government, and has a thousand private interests to attend to. His time and his mind are fully occupied. He has investments in different undertakings throughout the world, and every item of news may directly or indirectly affect one or the other of them. He is compelled to endeavour to make money; has, probably, to be at an office in the City. He visits friends in every part of the country; has an enormous acquaintance to cultivate; and travels to the remotest end of the earth. See how this decreasing interest in political matters in this direction has affected the production of political poetry, prose treatises, pamphlets, caricatures; has moderated the political bitterness which existed in the ordinary club and "society": and has diminished the importance of the political "leading article."

The successful, or would-be successful, middle-class man, however, now endeavours to take a prominent part in the political struggle, for by that means he may get into touch with a Minister, and may obtain a Knighthood, a Baronetcy, or a Peerage, any of which titles will "establish" him. What contempt, what unmerited disrespect, what inconveniences, he has had to endure through life as Mr. Smithers the manufacturer or tradesman! What respect he will at once command as Sir Onesiphorus Smithers!

On every side, therefore, the well-connected men are

dropping off the topmost branches of the social tree in England, and with them must inevitably go the institutions, abuses, and privileges which had been established, and are maintained, mainly for their benefit. We are in the throes of a revolution, and no one attends to it!

At some of the theatres they lower the lights whilst they change the scenery; so we seem to be in darkness whilst the social and political stages are being re-arranged.

* * * * *

The British public is satiated with sensationalism. Mr. Joseph Chamberlain had carefully studied the road over which he was to drive his Protection coach to the point he had in view. At every yard he had posted his adherents. He had, however, never imagined that the British public would not take any interest in the journey, and, after all, without their co-operation it must become a funeral procession. The British public has developed so great a love for "The Short Story" in real life that it will not attend to the three-volume novel—to change the metaphor. "Terrible Slaughter," "Horrible Discovery," "Appalling Accident," "Marylebone Mystery," "Crisis in the City," or "Society Scandal," that is the style of news which alone can now attract public attention in this country—short, sensational, and not requiring any great effort to assimilate. The Anti-Free Trade campaign, like the Russo-Japanese war, is of the three-volume order, and both have long ago ceased to excite interest. The fall of Port Arthur will re-direct attention on the latter; the fall of Arthur Balfour might revive interest in the former.

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In a fortnight from this date the annual exhibition at the galleries of Messrs. Thomas Agnew and Sons will close, and those who have not yet seen the twenty-two magnificent pictures contained in the collection should do so at once. There are two works by Gainsborough, side by side, which show that artist at his best in portrait painting and in landscape, and there is a picture by Crome that is one of the most celebrated works by this master. The profits of the winter exhibition are, as has been the case annually for the last ten years, handed by the Messrs. Agnew to the Council of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

THE only really good racing during the "back-end" period was seen at Liverpool and at Derby. The Aintree meeting has lost ground of late years, since the resurrection of Derby. In the sixties and early seventies Shrewsbury was the most successful of all the late autumn fixtures, but it suddenly dropped out, and the course is now covered with houses. Racing was carried on at Shrewsbury from noon until dark on five days, and the meeting was sometimes extended over the Saturday. Fully half the events were gambling races, and the betting was enormously heavy. An animal would often be backed to win from £10,000 to £20,000 over a paltry £50 plate. The "enterprise" of Mr. John Frail was boundless, and one season he started a race for yearlings, the distance being two furlongs. There was a large entry, and a good field came to the post. The winner was the late Lord Stamford's Little Lady, and the betting was so extensive that he won £22,000 over the race. Little Lady was not injured by being so prematurely raced, as she afterwards won a number of T.Y.C. events, and at the stud she became the dam of Camballo, who was a horse of the highest class, and Matthew Dawson could remember nothing better than his trial with Thunder before the Two Thousand of 1875, which he won for the late Mr. Clare Vyner. Races were most audaciously "got up" at Shrewsbury for the relief of defeated plungers by the obliging C.C. if necessary, and there is an amusing account of how one of these "retrievers" was managed in Mr. Hodgman's "Fifty Years on the Turf." Early in the seventies Mr. Frail resolved to endow the Great Shropshire Handicap with £500, and the same amount was given to the Shrewsbury Cup, the one race being run over a mile, and the other over two miles. At the same time he devised the £3 entrance system, which has since been so largely extended. This device originated with the Shrewsbury Handicap. While the Shrewsbury fixture is gone and forgotten, Warwick stills drags on, but this meeting is only the ghost of the shadow of what it was in the days of the late Mr. S. Merry. Warwick arrangements were even more harum-scarum than were those of Shrewsbury, and such handicaps as were produced by the C.C. were never seen anywhere else, and have certainly never been seen since his demise. Several of Mr. Merry's handicaps were "cups" of various values, but he had no idea of parting with the pieces of plate, and when Captain Machell won a cup he only succeeded in obtaining possession after a prolonged wrangle and a threat of an appeal to the Stewards of the Jockey Club. Handicaps at these meetings were always compiled on the "flattering" system. A man, looking first for his own horse, found the animal thrown in with a ridiculous weight, and was delighted. His joy, however, did not endure for long, as directly he glanced over the weights he found that half a dozen other horses at least were still more favourably treated. Everything in those days was thoroughly chaotic, as meetings were not licensed, and the C.C. was able to pocket all profits derived from the races, including the surplus over the advertised value of any event. At Warwick, as at Shrewsbury, an extra day was sometimes added to the meeting, and additional races over and above the number which had been advertised in the *Calendar* were a regular thing. On the concluding day the races would commence at eleven o'clock in the morning. Meetings which disappear are quickly forgotten, and in a year or two very few people will remember what an important place Northampton filled in the *Calendar* when the Spencer Plate was a spring Stewards' Cup, the Great Northamptonshire Stakes was one of the most important of the spring handicaps, and the Althorp Park Stakes was a race over which £20,000 could be won by betting at the post. There were then large parties for the races at Althorp, Deene, Kimbolton, Fawsley, and other country houses in the neighbourhood; and it was the first real blow to the meeting when these hospitalities were discontinued. At the present time Derby owes a great debt of gratitude to the Duke of Devonshire and to Lord Burton, whose immense race parties at Chatsworth and at Rangemore are of enormous benefit to the meeting.

I referred last week to the entries for the Two Thousand and the One Thousand for 1906. The fact that these events continue to flourish proves that at the present time owners are pervaded by a morbid fondness for running for their own money. It is not likely, however, that this state of affairs will long continue. The forfeits for the Two Thousand actually amount to £4,000 as the race now stands, while those for the One Thousand are £4,300. For starting any animal which has been entered an extra payment of £50 must be made. Of course, these are rich men's races, but the contrast between the conditions of the great English three-year-old stakes and those of the principal French events is decidedly startling. If the Newmarket authorities followed the Protectionist policy which finds favour in France, we should see foreign horses excluded from these events, and in that case next year's Two Thousand would be an exceptionally open race, but as matters stand it appears to be at the mercy of whichever of M. E. Blanc's colts (Jardy and Val d'Or) he may think fit to start at Newmarket.

Mr. King's colt Comedian, by Orme out of Blare, who was certainly one of the best two-year-olds of last season, has been mentioned lately in connection with the Derby. Comedian was entered for the Derby, but the colt was unluckily withdrawn from this race when

the minor forfeit was declared on March 29. This was a most unfortunate blunder. Comedian is mentioned for the Two Thousand, and he will no doubt undergo a special preparation for the Newmarket Stakes at the Second Spring meeting. He is engaged in the St. Leger.

I hear that Cicero has been doing very well at Newmarket during the last few weeks, and he appears to have already made a considerable improvement. He is entered for the Newmarket Biennial, but he will no doubt be reserved for the Newmarket Stakes, and perhaps Lord Rosebery may decide to keep him for the Derby. Cicero won his races easily, but he never beat any animal of much merit, and I do not believe that he will be found capable of defeating either of the French colts which are engaged in the Derby.

A writer in the *Sportsman*, discoursing upon El Diablo, asserts that he was "the second-best horse of his year, and once upon a time he beat Orme." If El Diablo was "the second-best horse of his year" (Orme being the first), perhaps the writer will be good enough to explain how it came about that he was unplaced in the Two Thousand to Bona Vista and St. Angelo, and that he was then fit and well is proved by the fact that he started first favourite for that race. El Diablo, "the second-best horse of his year," according to this wiseacre, was again unplaced in the Derby to Sir Hugo and La Flèche. Next day he ran nowhere in the race for the Epsom Grand Prize, there being a field of exceedingly poor class. In the St. Leger El Diablo was again unplaced to La Flèche and Sir Hugo, and he did no better in the Lancashire Plate at Manchester, where La Flèche was the winner. At Newmarket, on the first day of the Houghton meeting, Orme gave 9 lb. to El Diablo, and defeated him easily by three lengths. "He once upon a time beat Orme," writes the *Sportsman*. This is a flagrant and most anserous case of *suppressio veri*. The writer does not mention the fact that Orme was giving 16 lb. to El Diablo, the course being A.F., and it was thought that the Duke of Westminster's horse (who had been all to pieces during the greater part of the season) was not up to the mark on the Thursday at Newmarket, and this theory was probably correct, as on Tuesday's running he was obviously certain to defeat El Diablo without an effort.

The negotiation for sending Duke of Westminster to France, to which I referred last week, has broken down, and Mr. Faber's horse remains at Newmarket for the present.

The Duke of Devonshire has sold Cheers for £1,500 to go to Russia. Cheers is a very well-bred horse, being by Persimmon out of Applause II., and he is a good-looking animal, and is quite likely to turn out a success at the stud. He had no pretensions to be regarded as a racer of really high class, but he has nice speed and could stay well. His victory over Rising Glass in the Eclipse Stakes of 1902 was an arrant fluke.

Mr. Buchanan, who was a large purchaser at the Newmarket Sales, has recently bought the beautiful estate of Wool-Lavington, in West Sussex, between Petworth and Goodwood. Wool-Lavington House was the residence of Bishop Samuel Wilberforce, whose wife was the heiress of the Sargent family, and it is their eldest son, Mr. Reginald Wilberforce, who has sold the estate to Mr. Buchanan. Wool-Lavington is situated in a picturesque and diversified district of woods, downs, hills, and heathery commons. I hear that Mr. Buchanan intends to keep his breeding stud there.

A few weeks ago I stated that Mr. Bass intended to send Sceptre to Gallinule. This piece of news was copied next day into the *Sportsman*, which soon afterwards announced that Mr. Bass had come to no decision on the subject, that Truth's statement was incorrect, and a great deal more contradictory twaddle. I did not trouble myself to notice the *Sportsman's* sour comments, knowing them to be thoroughly asinine, and founded on audacious and absolute ignorance, as Mr. Bass had made no secret of his wish to patronise Gallinule. That I was justified in this opinion is proved by the following paragraph, which appeared in the *Sportsman* last week:—

> Mr. Wm. Bass, having failed to obtain a subscription to Gallinule, has decided to mate Sceptre with Cyllene, who stands at Egerton House, Newmarket.

Further comment is needless. In my opinion Mr. Bass is to be congratulated on his failure to obtain a subscription to Gallinule, as Cyllene seems to me to be a much preferable choice for Sceptre. It may be hoped that this mare will not prove a failure at the stud, like so many others which have greatly distinguished themselves on the Turf, notably Jannette, Wheel of Fortune, Memoir, and a score of others, for which a brilliant success was confidently expected. A mare which has been the best animal of her year often produces nothing that can win a selling race, although she is sent year after year to the most fashionable (*i.e.*, expensive) sires, while a despised plater, which has been picked up for a mere trifle, becomes the dam of flyers of the highest class.

The Newmarket Sales dragged direfully, like Pharaoh's chariot in the Red Sea. On Monday only one lot ran into four figures, and this was Lord Harewood's useful horse Almscliff, who was sold to his trainer, George Chaloner, for 1,950 gs., and I am disposed to regard him as being decidedly cheap at that price, if he really changes hands. On Tuesday a lot of terrible trash was offered, and the best price was 600 gs., which Major Roberts gave for Mr. Douglas Baird's three-year-old colt Pomegranate. On Wednesday the stock was of better class (as well it might be), and business was more brisk. Mr. Buchanan certainly got Ravensberg a bargain at 1,200 gs. She is by Bend Or out of Ravensbourne, only three years old, and in foal to Persimmon, the sire's fee being 300 gs. Ravensberg was the only animal in Captain Greville's lot which reached four figures. A very handsome filly foal by Orme out of Flowerdale realised 510 gs., Sir E. Cassel being the purchaser. The sale of this team was the consummation of the dispersal of the Burghley Stud, where Captain Greville succeeded the late Lord Rosslyn. I hear there is a possibility of Lord Exeter presently establishing a small breeding stud in his hereditary paddocks, and hope the report may be correct. Major Loder's best price was 610 gs., which Mr. Weatherby paid for St. Matilda, by St. Simon, in foal to Isinglass. She is eight years old, and would certainly have realised double the money if she had been sold at Newmarket in July. Merry Wife, by Merry Hampton, the dam of Santoi, is thirteen years old, but she was not dear to Mr. Buchanan at 840 gs. if she is in foal to Isinglass. The same purchaser gave 1,300 gs. for Pensée Fugitive (seven years), by Hackler or Enthusiast, in foal to Gallinule. Of the two mares from the Sandringham Stud, the reserve of La Carolina was not reached, and Wheatley, by Orme out of Shotover, in foal to Diamond Jubilee, was a really preposterous bargain to M. Conet at 500 gs. This grandly-bred mare is nine years old, and in foal to Diamond Jubilee, whose fee is 300 gs. I suppose, however, there is some good reason for weeding Wheatley out of the Royal stud, as she cost 1,850 gs. only three years ago, and she may prove a mere whited sepulchre. She goes to France. Mr. Buchanan gave 2,600 gs. for Santry and 2,400 gs. for Vril, and Lord Carnarvon may be congratulated on obtaining these prices for animals which are thoroughly exposed, and are therefore sure to be heavily weighted in handicaps, while they are not good enough for weight-for-age races. On Thursday prices as a rule were miserably low, but the reserves on many lots were exorbitant, considering the circumstances. Mary Seaton, for example, being run up to 2,700 gs., without changing hands. The most remarkable transaction of the week was the sale of Palmy Days at the extravagant price of 3,000 gs. to Mr. Henning. The vendor is to be congratulated. The Melton Constable mares, sold without reserve by the executors of the late Lord Hastings, realised but poor prices, the highest lot being Semitone, by Lowland Chief, covered by Avington, for whom Mr.

Standon gave 620 gs., which appeared her full value, as she is eleven years old. The great bargain from this team was St. Audrey (five years), own sister to St. Patrick's Day, in foal to Avington, and she was really given away at 80 gs. The Duke of Portland's draft realised wretched prices, but they were not remarkably tempting. If the Duke had offered the two-year-olds Ormsby (by Orme out of La Roche) and Cantrae (by Ladas out of Modwena) for sale as yearlings, it is probable that their pedigrees would have run them up to 1,000 gs. each beast, but now the pair realised only the paltry sum of 145 gs. The two-year-old filly by St. Simon out of Garda was cheap to Mr. Dalgleish at 310 gs., if only as a brood mare. The stallion Avington was a great bargain to Captain Hopkins at 120 gs. Alimony, dam of Winkfield's Pride, did not reach her reserve at the auction on Tuesday, but she was afterwards sold privately to Mr. Buchanan for 1,000 gs.

The *Sporting Times* observes that "for some reason or other we fail to understand, Truth has made a dead set against the Newbury meeting." Truth does not care a potato peeling about the Newbury meeting in particular, but strongly protests against the licensing of any new fixtures whatever, as the official list is already outrageously overcrowded. There is no room for such a fixture, and it is any odds that the simpletons who have been so infatuated as to finance the speculation will lose every penny of their money, in spite of the pertinacious puffing of the sporting papers, many of which would be thrown into their usual ecstasies of enthusiasm (after the customary generous luncheon to "the Press") if a course was projected through an Irish bog or up a Scotch mountain.

It was in November, 1868 (or was it 1867?) that the public Press announced that certain gentlemen of the Thames Rowing Club and one or two other athletic clubs would hold a hare and hounds cross-country run from the King's Head at Roehampton. Some thirty runners turned out. They were dressed in sweaters and flannel trousers and laced boots. Three to four thousand of the public are said to have turned up to see the start of club cross-country racing. The number of spectators may be exaggerated. Veterans' fancies may conjure up large numbers. At all events, there was a crowd which would have gladdened by its numbers the secretary of most modern athletic meetings. They ran over practically the same line of country as that over which the Thames Hare and Hounds now run. Over Putney Heath and Wimbledon Common the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge ran their annual cross-country race last Saturday. It was a miserable afternoon. Although the rain to some extent dispersed the fog there was still plenty of gloom left. The going was very heavy, and the men ran home against a driving rain. Cross-country running is certainly more popular than it used to be at Cambridge a few years ago. The University Athletic Club regards the sport with favour, and this is a good sign. Churchill repeated last year's win, and came home an easy winner by a quarter of a mile in record time. Next to him was Edwards, a freshman, who won the mile and three miles at the Freshmen's sports. He is a little fellow with a big chest and long legs. He is a strong runner, and he should certainly be a long distance runner of no mean merit. Next came Welsh, the Cambridge captain. Well behind were the two Oxford men, Godby and Schutt, a Rhodes scholar. By the way, the "ch" is pronounced hard, like the Greek "chi." After them were two more Light Blues, with three Oxford men well behind them. And so the Dark Blues were badly beaten. Churchill's time was just over half a minute faster than the previous best by Dawson, of Oxford.

The coxswains who steered in the Cambridge University Trials were so heavy that I venture to call the attention of the C.U.B.C. authorities to the fact that Pearson, who ran for Cambridge, only scales 1 lb. over 8 st. when stripped. It does not take a man a very long time to learn to steer. He is an old Westminster boy.

I hear that the London Athletic Club will in all probability secure a new ground, practically on their old site. The purchaser of the old ground also owns the ground on the left. The new track will be partly on the old and partly on the new site. The hundred yards course will be taken as a railway siding. The new ground will also be laid out as a football ground, and there will be up-to-date accommodation both for members and spectators. No doubt every attention will be given to see that the track is suitably laid out. In that event the University sports might well take place there. The track at Queen's, with two sharp corners, makes it about as unsuitable a course for a quarter-mile race as one could find anywhere.

The Green Waves is a Plymouth football club which achieved a temporary notoriety by beating the full strength of Swindon, a Southern League team, in an Association Cup tie. However, the triumph was short-lived, for Gainsborough Trinity, a club well up in the second division of the League, sent its reserves down to Plymouth, and they had little difficulty in beating the local team by three goals to one. Many people wonder that clubs of the class of the Green Waves, and of even lesser merit, should waste their own and other clubs' time by entering for the Association Cup. They have no more chance of winning than they have of flying. One cannot be surprised that professional clubs which are not in the selected few that go straight into the competition proper should complain of the expense that they are put to in meeting such opponents. This is purely the business side of the question, and on business grounds only I can to a certain extent sympathise with those who complain. But it would be a bad day for Association football if a cup which is open to all comers should be closed except to a favoured few professional teams. I have not the slightest doubt that many minor clubs enter because of the rivalry which exists amongst local teams. In fostering such a spirit of competition the cup tie system is excellent. No doubt these ties produce better gates in a small way than mere local competitions. Then there is a chance of a club coming off with an unexpected win, as the Green Waves did. A victory like that adds to a club's reputation and helps to increase the local popularity of the game. The present trend of opinion in the Football Association seems to be that the professional clubs should be left to make their own business terms as to their engagements with players. I have no doubt that councillors who are of this opinion will consider that it is no part of their duty to look at the football cup ties purely from a trade standpoint. They will surely let the competition continue an open one, and leave clubs to rise by the merit of their play to positions in which they will be entitled to escape the expense of meeting the small fry, which have at times a happy knack of proving themselves conquerors.

Woolwich Arsenal had the satisfaction of beating the Cup-holders, Manchester City, in their League match last week by a goal scored in the last ten minutes. If only the Arsenal attack were anything like as good as their defence they would be pretty nearly the best team in the League. Their goal record is a remarkable one. No club in the League has scored so few goals. Bury, which is the last on the list, has scored 23 goals in 15 matches. The Arsenal has only scored 12 times in 14 games. The team has had 12 goals scored against it. The leaders of the League, Newcastle United, alone show a better record in this respect. They have only had 11 goals kicked against them in 15 games.

There is no doubt that the position of the youngster who would like to play Rugby football is a difficult one, if he happens to live in the neighbourhood of the district in which the Northern Union holds sway. For the Rugby Union has ruled that a player may take no part in Rugby football if he has played in a Northern Union match, or if he has signed a form to play for a Northern Union club, even though he may never have played the game. It is surely very hard lines on such young fellows to treat them as though they were outside the pale of amateur players. I cannot see that the exigencies of Rugby football demand such treatment.

The matter is being taken up by Mr. Harnett, and it is to be hoped that he will be successful in his crusade.

In spite of the wretched weather and the inconvenience of the railway journey, some 8,000 people went to Blackheath to see the Heathens play Cardiff. The prospect of a good game with something of an international character in the match proved a sufficient attraction. The Blackheath forwards were unfortunately not at full strength. They were, however, stronger than the Welshmen, and they very nearly pulled the game out of the fire. The Welshmen started scoring in the old way with a punt over the full back's head. At half-time the visitors led by two tries to a goal, and in the second half they were rather lucky to score a goal and a try to a try. Their halves were rather too good for the home team. Considering the state of the ground, the passing on both sides was wonderfully good. But the home three-quarters played too near the scrimmage.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Less Active—The Slump in Yankees—And the Moral—Position Improving Again—New Year Expectations.

STOCK EXCHANGE business during the week has been on a reduced scale. People outside the "House" have paid less attention to the bargains on offer, and the professional element has been slack, partly because of the imminence of another settlement and partly because the Christmas season is approaching when no man feels inclined to work. The week has, however, not been uneventful; we were treated to a sharp reaction in Americans, which was reflected upon practically every other market in the House. This little excitement bears out what I have said a dozen times or more in "Mammon"—that the influence of Yankees is altogether disproportionate to the actual value of the market to us. The English public takes next to no interest in Americans, having learned wisdom from past (and bitter) experiences, and having more promising ventures to choose from. But all the same, the adverse effect upon the rest of the House was immediate and striking, and the professionals from other markets who are fond of a flutter in Yankees will have considerable differences to meet at this week's settlement. Incidentally, the slump gives point to the warnings which I have given about the dangers of the Yankee market. The set-back was inevitable, failing a rush on the part of the great American public because of the big advance in prices down to the Presidential election. There were no "Bears" left in the market, and much of the "Bull" speculation was carried through on very narrow margins. The moment was favourable, therefore, for a wholesale banging of prices, and whether the loud-tongued gentleman from Boston who precipitated the crash through the incongruous medium of Amalgamated Copper was playing his own game alone, or was acting in conjunction with any of the big Wall Street interests, there is no room to doubt that these latter quickly came in and sold, towards the end that they might come by their own again on a more reasonable basis. Luckily, the shake out of weak "Bulls" was rapid and complete, and as good support was given on the fall, the market strengthened again; and seeing that the fears of another panic were not fulfilled, the rest of the House picked up, and at the time of writing the tone all round is firm once more. Whether much activity will develop during the Christmas account may be doubted, but business in the New Year should be cheerful and profitable.

Money Plentiful and Cheap—Chilian Treasury Bills Repayments—Borrowers Rushing In—The New Russian Loan—Position of the Bank.

Money remains abundant and cheap. Floating credits are large, being increased by the considerable discount business done at the Bank by the recent distributions of dividends, by the repayment of a million and a half of Chilian Treasury Bills, and by the heavy purchase of English Treasury Bills on behalf of the Japanese Government. Call money can be obtained under 2 per cent., and fixtures for a week, which covers the Stock Exchange settlement, are arranged at 2¼ per cent. Discounts are affected by the ease of money, and three months' fine paper is taken by the brokers at 2¾ per cent. Holders of bills are not anxious to part with them, because the outlook seems to indicate a lower level of rates. Lombard Street has convinced itself that the Bank Rate will not be touched, and the year-end scramble for cash will not, they argue, be very keen, and the stringency will certainly not exceed a week or ten days. With the turn of the year, money threatens to be in superabundant supply, and already the hungry horde of Colonial and other borrowers is preparing to take all the advantage possible of the situation. The one disturbing element is the forthcoming Russian Loan, which will be for £52,000,000, of which £20,000,000 will be offered early in the year in Germany and Holland, and the balance of £32,000,000 in France somewhat later. The steady buying of gold in the open market on German account is no doubt in connection with this loan, and it is possible that some of the French millions employed upon the London market may in due course be transferred to Paris in the same connection. But we can spare this foreign money better than we could a year or two ago, since our own resources are increased again. Incidentally to the season of the year, the strength of the Bank is being reduced. This past week saw a loss of £424,000 in the reserve, though, owing to some decrease in the liabilities, the ratio is rather higher at close upon 46 per cent.

Consols Heavy—The Effects of New Issues and the Yankee Slump—Tone Improving—Other Government Stocks Quiet—New Zealand Loan Success—Natal New Issue—Foreigners Dullish—"War" Stocks—Peruvians Falling.

There has been less animation in the gilt-edged market during the past week, and the tone generally may be described as somewhat heavy, the impending issues of new high-class stocks not being an inspiring influence, while the big slump in American Rails has exercised some adverse effect, though that factor operated only for a comparatively brief period. There no longer seems to be any apprehension on the score of the Bank rate, however, in view of the gold shipments from India, and towards the finish the tone is distinctly better, the Funds making a little headway which serves to neutralise to a slight extent the earlier losses. Nevertheless, they are just a trifle lower on balance, and the majority of the other Government stocks, though they have been for the most part rather quiescent, are likewise a little easier. In the Colonial group the New Zealand issue, to which I referred last week, has been a success, and is quoted at a slight premium. Thinking the moment opportune, Natal, too, has come to Lombard Street for the mere trifle of £2,000,000 in Three and a Half per Cent. Consolidated stock, to be applied for public works generally, as well as for the payment to the Transvaal Government of expenses involved in the annexation of the northern districts of Natal, and the encouragement of the agricultural development of the country. The issue price is fixed at 95 per cent., which makes the yield £3 13s. 8d. per cent., in addition to which there is a modest bonus in the first payment of interest, the last instalment being due on February 22, whereas a full six months' interest is payable on February 1. Foreigners have been rather quiet and dullish, Paris being a seller when the American slump seemed at its worst. Movements generally have been within narrow limits, Argentine and Brazilians being at about the same level on balance, while Spanish, Turkish, and Egyptian Unified, after reacting rather sharply, turned on the upgrade towards the finish. In regard to the "war" stocks, Russians maintain their position as a result of the usual inspired support, not-

withstanding that the new loan for £52,000,000 will probably make its appearance early in the year. Despite the annihilation of the remnants of the Russian Port Arthur fleet and the evidently satisfactory progress of the siege operations, Japanese do not exhibit a particularly buoyant tendency, and as a rule are slightly lower. Finding that there is but little left to "go for," operators in Peruvian Corporation issues are disposed to allow the stocks to slip back, but the losses are not very appreciable.

HOME RAILS STEADY—GOOD TRAFFICS AND TRADE RETURNS—SOME INVESTMENT SELECTIONS—DIVIDEND PROSPECTS—RUMOURED METROPOLITAN ISSUE.

Considering the unsettlement wrought by the recent break in American Rails, the course of the Home Railway market during the last few days has not been unsatisfactory. The possibility of trouble arising out of the Yankee slump, coupled with the usual desire on the part of some people to clear up speculative commitments in view of the approaching end of the year, was responsible for rather more selling than fresh buying, but prices have held their own as well as in any market throughout the House, and, seeing that we are within a month of the dividend period—when coincidently monetary conditions should be tending towards greater ease—I am still of opinion that a revival of Home Rails is not far off. The past week has furnished two points that are well worth bearing in mind by the speculative investor. In the first place, the traffic returns, for the first time for many weeks, made an almost uniformly good showing. Even the Great Northern managed to break the long spell of decreases, and with several of the Companies it was a case of traffic increases coming on top of increases in the corresponding week of 1903 This will be seen from my traffic table, which follows:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	+ 608	+ 115	+ 14,997
Caledonian	+ 1,085	+ 3,711	+ 4,325
Great Central	+ 2,612	+ 950	+ 20,926
Great Eastern	+ 100	- 3,000	+ 4,300
Great Northern	+ 2,012	+ 2,672	- 56,023
Great Western	+10,300	+ 6,100	+ 48,300
Lancashire and Yorkshire	- 180	- 2,102	+ 44,265
London and North-Western	- 5,000	+17,000	-120,000
London and South-Western	+ 1,300	+ 5,300	+ 16,400
Midland	+ 9,576	+ 2,438	-117,328
North British	+ 3,155	+ 1,091	+ 25,900
North-Eastern	-11,350	- 3,475	- 45,486
South-Eastern and Chatham	+ 111	+ 511	+ 13,807

In the second place, the Board of Trade returns for November made an almost sensationally fine exhibit. Our foreign trade for the period increased by £3,000,000, equal to over 13 per cent. One-half of this improvement was contributed by the cotton and woollen industries, and such a decided revival in textiles affords ample justification for my predictions of a few months ago, made with the object of directing attention to the possibilities of the Heavy stocks. The attractions which this group presents to the speculative investor are still good. Traffics to date have, it is true, not been all they might have been, but only in the case of the North-Western and Midland are the decreases at all large, and in both these instances under-publication has no doubt been as usual indulged in to an extent that will materially reduce the actual declines in gross revenue. Even should a slight reduction in dividends be necessary, it will probably be found to have been already discounted, for a yield of nearly 4 per cent.—which is the return obtainable on the best Home Railway Ordinary stocks, taking the last two half-years' dividends as a basis—is sufficiently generous, even allowing for the higher rates of interest current upon investment stocks during the last year or so. Speaking individually, Great Western seem to me the pick of the Heavies on dividend prospects, although, looking a little farther ahead, there is plenty of scope for a rise in Brums, in view of the revival in the textile trade, and the likelihood of a spread of that revival to other industries. Great Northern Deferred has hitherto been kept back by disappointing traffics, but there is still a good prospect of the dividend being increased by ½ per cent, owing to the wiping out of the permanent way suspension account a year ago. This would make the dividend on York Deferred 1½ per cent. for the year as against 1 per cent. for the previous twelvemonth Regarding Great Central stocks, it is interesting to notice how tightly those who have lately been buying cling to their holdings. There is no doubt that the steady manner in which the revenue of this line is expanding justifies a great deal of the faith that is being placed in the ability of the junior stocks to return to the dividend stage. The Preferred and Deferred must, I am afraid, be classed for many years to come as nothing more than gambling counters; but as lock-away purchases for dividends in the less remote future a good deal might be said for the several Preferences ranking ahead. The Preferences of 1876 and 1879, which are now receiving their full 5 per cent., are cheap as investments, seeing that they both yield nearly 4 per cent., with a growing margin behind them. In the Southern group Brighton "A" is receiving attention in the hope of an increased dividend, a careful calculation pointing to the payment of 5½ on the stock for the year, as against 4½ per cent. for 1903. A rise in this stock could, however, be predicted with more confidence were it not for the large capital issue known to be impending. The South-Eastern and Chatham joint lines have done well during the current half-year, but while a larger sum should be available in net revenue, it is unlikely that dividends will in either case be increased. On the present basis, however, a purchase of South-Eastern "B" strikes me as attractive. This stock is now receiving 5 per cent., and at the existing price the yield is 3¾ per cent., while the interest will be increased to 6 per cent. as soon as earnings permit. Dover "A" and Little Chathams must still be left to the speculator pure and simple, for dividend possibilities are too remote to be worth discussing. Perhaps the arrangements to be made next year in the direction of a complete amalgamation of the South-Eastern and Chatham systems—including a fusion of capital—will give the "Bulls" of Doras and Little Chats their opportunity. Regarding the Underground stocks, there has lately been a fair amount of selling of Metropolitan Ordinary on the belief that Debentures for half a million will be issued in the New Year. This issue, added to the 1¼ million of capital stock raised since last March, would involve an increase of £60,000 in interest charges, arising out of the work of electrification, and evidently some people regard it as wise to transfer from the Ordinary into the new Convertible Preference. This latter at present yields £3 6s. 6d. per cent., and a holder possesses a perpetual option to exchange into the Ordinary, stock for stock. The week's movements are shown below:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Dec. 3.	Price, Dec. 10	Movement
Caledonian Pref.	75¼	75½	76½	77¼	+1
Do. Def.	28	32⅝	33	32⅝	- ⅜
City and S. London	43	46½	46½	46½	—
Central London	94	94	94	91	-3
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	57	57	—
Do. "B"	25½	31	30⅜	30⅜	—
Do. "A"	13⅜	17	16⅝	17	+ ⅜
Great Eastern	85½	91½	91	90	-1
Great Northern Pref.	100½	100	100½	100	- ½
Do. Def	37½	40½	40⅝	40⅜	—
Great Western	138¼	139	139½	139¼	—
Hull and Barnsley	42	43	42½	40½	-2
Lancashire and Yorkshire	98	107½	108	108½	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	105½	122½	124½	124	- ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅜	16⅜	17½	17½	- ⅜
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	92	99½	101	100½	- ¼
Do. 2nd Pref.	54	65	67½	66¼	-1
London and North-Western	148	149½	152	152¼	+ ¼
London and South-Western Def.	52	52	53½	53½	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	87¾	100⅜	100	98	-2
Metropolitan District	36	41½	41½	40½	-1
Midland Pref.	67	67	67	67	
Do. Def.	63½	64	64½	64	- ¼
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	77	77	77½	77¼	- ¼
Do. Def.	41¼	47¼	47⅜	47¼	- ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	137	138½	138½	137¾	- ¾
South-Eastern "A"	49½	57⅛	57⅜	57⅛	- ¼

Violent Yankee Fluctuations—Bad Break in Prices—A Demonstration of Market Top-heaviness—Fall Arrested, but Public Confidence Badly Shaken—A Sagging Market Predicted.

The American market has had its full share of excitement during the past week. For the first time since its inauguration last spring, the "Bull" enthusiasm per meating this department has received a decisive check, and although the semi-panic that seized the market at one time has been dispelled for the time being by the prompt support given by powerful interests, its effects upon the public mind will not so easily be wiped out. It has been a bad week for the "Bull" forced to close by the running off of too slender a margin, but a still worse one for the big financial houses on the other side of the Atlantic, who had been patiently biding the time when they could make a renewed attempt to lighten their long-held and heavy burden of undigested as well as indigestible securities, and who had just commenced to achieve that object. For weeks past I have tried to impress upon my readers the dangerous extent to which the "Bull" movement in Yankees had been allowed to develop, and recent events may serve to give emphasis to these warnings. Much has been said during the last few days as to the probable cause or causes of the fall in American shares; we have heard of the bold and startling attack delivered by Mr. T. W. Lawson, of Amalgamated Copper fame, of renewed attempts by a New York clique to smash the Gates party, and of a drive by the Standard Oil interests with the object of affecting public sentiment against President Roosevelt's proposals for the regulation of railroad rates—proposals which it is said do not find favour with the leading railroad magnates. There is no doubt that it was Mr. Lawson's sensational "Bear" campaign, conducted as it was by violently worded four-column advertisements in all the principal American papers and by the widespread circulation of alarmist telegrams, that precipitated the break, and it may be that the other two reasons given had also some foundation of fact, but to get at the primary cause of last week's flurry we must come back to the simple admission that the market was top-heavy. I have no wish to quarrel with those who contend that general conditions in the United States have of late shown improvement in many important directions. It is beyond question that the iron and steel industry has begun to reawaken—the fact is seen in steadily advancing prices for the raw products and in the expanding earnings of the United States Steel Corporation. Then again the Southern States, according to Government estimates, are to enjoy a record cotton crop, which should, from a national point of view, do much to off-set this year's indifferent wheat harvest. There is nothing to find fault with in railroad earnings, for, taking as an instance the month of October, sixty railroads showed a net increase in receipts of nearly 10 per cent. Meanwhile money remains comparatively cheap, and although New York has been called upon to send several millions in gold to Europe it has been able, thanks to the beginning of the usual winter reflux of currency from the interior, to avoid anything like stringency. Over and above the satisfactory conditions of money and trade there was nothing in the Presidential message to Congress delivered the other day to which the leading vested interests could take serious exception. There had been just the chance that Mr. Roosevelt would startle the Trusts by a threat of legislative action upon the tariff question, but the fear has proved baseless, and those who have waxed fat upon the maintenance of a high tariff wall may possess their souls in peace. It is, however, beside the real issue to dwell too much upon considerations such as these. To the unbiassed spectator the improvement in market conditions to date seemed to have been amply discounted some time ago, and of late Wall Street appears to have renewed its old attempt to discount the millennium. A comparison of prices on the week, disregarding intermediate fluctuations, does not disclose anything like an adequate restoration of the price level to the normal. Declines of from $3 to $5 are not very severe if the rise that preceded the fall extended to $20 or $30. For the time being, as I hinted above, the "Bull" leaders have succeeded by energetic buying to contest the fall; but the stocks they acquired will have to be distributed sooner or later, and the shock that has been administered to the public has materially damaged the chances of such distribution being effected at anything like existing quotations. In many quarters it is believed that the rally seen at the end of last week will be followed by a long period of dwindling prices. This may or may not be, but it looks as if the back of the "Bull" movement had been broken, and the public on this side, at any rate, will be more disposed than ever to give Yankee shares a wide berth. To a large number of the leading Railroad bonds, of course, the objections that apply to the junior issues do not extend. In the Bond group there are plenty of securities that can be bought to return from 3½ to 4 per cent., and may be regarded as quite suitable for the investor who wishes as high a yield as is compatible with practical safety. My usual table is appended:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price. Nov. 26, 1904.	Closing Price. Dec. 3, 1904.	Closing Price. Dec. 10, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56¹	91¼xd	91¼	89
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅝	88⅜	106¼	106¼	105¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73⅜	99	102⅜	103⅛
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	50½xd	51⅛	49⅛
Denver	43¾	18⅜	33½	34	32½
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅞	87½	89¼	88¼
Erie	43⅞	23⅛	40¼	41	39½
Do. First Pref.....	75½	64¼	75¼	75⅝	77⅜
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	142⅜	150⅝	146½
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	178	181	176
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	35	34⅜	33⅝
Norfolk Pref.	92¼	87	94	95	94
Do. Common	78⅝	55⅜	77	78¼	74⅝xd
New York Central	158	116⅜	139	144½	142⅝
Ontario	36	19⅜	43	44¼	45
Pennsylvania	80⅛	57½	69½	71⅛	70¼
Reading.....	35½	20	39⅜	40¼	40¼
Do. First Pref.....	45⅛	36⅜	45	45½	46
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	35⅜	37½	36⅜
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	97½	98	98¼
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39¼	69	68⅝	66½
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅛	119⅜	119½	114¹
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	97	97½	97½
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	47½	47¾	46
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅜	55½	70	71	70
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	30½	33⅜	30½
Do. Pref.	—	—	97¼xd	96¾	93½

Canadian Railways—The Influence of Yankees—Grand Trunks — Argentine Railways and the Labour Troubles—Mexican Railways.

Although earnings are remarkably good, Canadian Pacific shares show a considerable decline on the week. The situation has not changed for the worse—if anything the latest traffic makes it better—but the shares possess a very close affinity with Americans, and the setback is attributable to the weakness of that market. People who hold the shares as an investment have no reason for worry. The shake-out in Yankees was a foregone conclusion so long as the American people showed no disposition to take over the burden of the professionals who had been hoisting prices—very successfully, too—down to the date of the Presidential election, and the inherent situation being healthy—as regards Canadian Pacifics, at least—a recovery is certain to take place. It may be days or it may be weeks before this happens, but happen it will (failing some altogether unexpected contingency) in due course, and in the meantime holders of "Canadas" are assured of their dividend. In the matter of Grand Trunks, the position shows virtually no change. Values were put lower on the slump in Americans, out of sympathy, but of real sales there were none worth speaking about, and as the few adventurous "Bears" will have to buy back, and as the immediate as well as the more remote prospects are encouraging, there ought to be an early recovery in prices. Thirds and the Ordinary are worth buying on any appreciable decline, provided the purchaser is in

a position to hold into the new year, when—given a moderate sort of winter—earnings will be contrasting with the big decreases of the earlier months of the current year. It is not contended that the junior Trunk stocks are strikingly attractive investments on the basis of yield—they give no yield, in fact, in a direct sense; but they are very promising speculative counters, regarded as a short-term holding, and they are an excellent lock-up. For investment the First Preference stock is all right, and while there is some slight doubt as to the payment of the full 5 per cent. for the year on the Second Preference stock, the Company ought, as I pointed out last week, to save enough to meet this charge. The future of the Grand Trunk Company is promising, and those who buy its junior stocks to hold for developments can scarcely do badly. My table of Colonial and foreign railway stocks is appended:—

—	A Year Ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Dec. 10.
Canadian Pacific	122¾	138	135
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	–	102½
Grand Trunks	15⅛	21	20⅜
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	101¾	98½	98
,, 1st Preference	111¼	107	107¼
,, 2nd ,,	97¾	95½	95½
,, 3rd ,,	45¾	49	48¾
Bengal and North-West	132½	147	145xd
Bombay Baroda	156	148	148
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126½	127½	127½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	103	103½	103
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	109	118	116
,, ,, 1st Preference	100	107	108
,, ,, 2nd ,,	93	94	90½
,, Great Southern	135½	135	134¾
,, Western	130¾	126	125½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	63½	71	76
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	90¾	100	99½
Costa Rica Railway	1/2	2¼	2¼
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	90½	98
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	85	83	83
Mexican Railway	15½	28¾	26¼
,, 1st Preference	64¼	108	105½
,, 2nd ,,	23¼	51¼	48¼
Nitrate Rails	7/6	9⅞	10¼

In the Argentine Railway market dealings have been on a poor scale. The labour troubles are reflected in decreases of £7,838 in the earnings of the Great Southern and £5,538 of the Buenos Ayres Western. The first company has suffered by the interruption of business in the Buenos Ayres Produce Market, and the second has had, in addition, to contend with a strike of freight handlers at two of its stations. The threatened general strike in Argentina appears to have fizzled out with ignominy, and as the new wheat is now beginning to move the outlook is fairly satisfactory. At the same time, the situation is somewhat uncertain, and while the course of values promises to be upwards, or, at the least, to be maintained, I see little prospect of a really active market this side of the New Year. Argentine Railway stocks have had such a big advance during the course of the past few months that there does not seem to be room for much further appreciation. Mexican Railway stocks have moved with a good deal of freedom, and show improvements on balance, it being now tolerably certain that the threatened rate war will be averted.

Kaffirs Easier with Americans—Dealings Less Active—Influence of Christmas—Inherent Conditions Sound—November Gold Output—Labour Position—More Stamps Dropping—Eastern Rand Shares—Mr. Robinson's Chastened Optimism—Jagers Splitting Scheme—Deep Level Developments.

The bad break in Americans had an adverse effect upon the South African market, but it was only temporary. The immediate affinity between the two is not close, but both are of the speculative order, and the Kaffir dealers usually have a small line open in Americans as well, and when a break occurs in the latter it is frequently necessary to get rid of South Africans to make good the losses in the other market. So far as actual merits and real influences go, the condition of the Yankee market counts for nothing in relation to mines on the Rand, but the two move very much in sympathy all the same, for the reason stated. But there was no particular pressure to sell Kaffirs, even when Americans looked at their worst, and the recovery since has been substantial. Dealings have not been on a large scale, however; the public interest is not keen; another settlement has been imminent, and as Christmas approaches there is generally a slackening of transactions. The undertone of the market keeps strong enough, because the condition of the mining industry is improving, because there is not much stock about, because holders are not keen about selling, but are more bent upon holding for higher values, and because the big houses are working more in concert. The tendency of prices is decidedly upwards, and as the outlook is good, I see no reason why a further recovery should not be witnessed soon, if not (to a striking extent, at all events) during the course of the Christmas account, at the latest after the turn of the year, when all promises to be plain sailing, apart from a few riots, which do not count for much. The mining industry, now that a sufficiency of labour is guaranteed, is going ahead; more stamps are being dropped; and, what is the ultimate measure of prosperity, the production of gold is going up steadily. For November the total was 336,167 oz. of fine gold, of the value of £1,427,947, an increase of 10,542 oz. in weight and of £44,780 in value as compared with October. The result is the more satisfactory since the preceding month had one day more, and that day, I calculate, was equivalent to about 11,000 oz. There is no quarrelling, therefore, with the progress that is being made. We are still some way short of the record of August, 1899, but, considering all things, the process of recuperation is satisfactory, and it is because of this and of the possibilities of further expansion that Kaffirs appeal to me as a promising market, the more especially as prices are still at a very moderate level—as gauged by sheer merits, and without regard to the speculative element which impels men to toy with mining shares of the promising sort, whether they be high or low. As the *Financial News* puts it, "What has brought about the recent strong demand for the leading counters and shares in Companies belonging to the important groups is the certainty that in the future big increases in the outputs month after month will result from the plentiful supply of unskilled labour which is being rapidly accumulated." This is the great point to be kept in mind. Meantime, more and more Companies are producing. The Witwatersrand Deep, at which mine 1,500 coolies arrived at the end of September, has commenced crushing with sixty stamps. The Robinson Central Deep is dropping 20 additional stamps borrowed from the Crown Deep, which is at present using only 145 out of its complement of 200 stamps. A number of other Companies are ready to start when the labourers arrive, and, as usual on a good market, favourable developments are being reported. It is announced that the Village Deep, whose west shaft had been sunk several hundred feet before the war, has now struck the reef at about 2,350 ft. On the Aurora West the Main Reef leader has been intersected in the east incline shaft, and shows satisfactory assays. The May Consolidated is cheering its shareholders with a dividend of 20 per cent., which compares with 17½ per cent. at the corresponding date of last year. East Rand Mining Estates are well maintained, and so also are Geduld, African Farms, Apex, and Cloverfields. Some realisations caused a slight set-back in Van Dyks, but these have hardened again, and Rand Collieries have continued in quiet request. There has been buying also of British Transvaal Mines on the statements made at the meeting. Welgedachts have been strong as a result of the cable stating that the coal seam 54 ft. wide, to which I referred last week, is of good quality. The Randfontein Group has kept almost where it was, Mr. Robinson's speech at the Robinson Bank meeting being pitched in a tone of somewhat chastened optimism. Barnato descriptions are among the promising things of the market; an official announcement is made that the partnership with Mr. Carl Hanau is

dissolved by effluxion of time, and that that gentleman takes over the firm's holding in the Coronation Syndicate, and that his Barnato interests are taken over by the firm. In the Diamond group the feature has been the strength of Jagersfonteins on long-expected splitting proposals. After the general meeting at Kimberley on January 7, a resolution will be submitted for the purposes of sub-dividing the existing 200,000 shares of £5 each fully paid-up into 500,000 Preference shares of £1 each fully paid-up, and 500,000 Deferred shares of £1 each fully paid-up. The Preference shares will be entitled to a fixed cumulative Preferential dividend at the rate of 25 per cent. per annum, and to rank as regards capital to the extent of £5 per share in priority to the Deferred shares. Subject to the rights of the holders of the Preference shares, as mentioned above, the whole of the profits of the Company will be divisible among the holders of the Deferred shares. Premier Diamonds have risen to 60, and De Beers have been rather favoured by Paris. Vaal Rivers are well maintained. My table shows the movements on the week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 12, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9½	6	7⅞	7¼	7⅛
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅛	3⅜	4⅜	4½	4½
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅝	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝
Buffelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	⅛	1⅝	1½	1⅝
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2⅛	2⅜	3	2⅞
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7⅜	5½	6⅜	6½	6⅜
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10½	4⅜	7⅛	8⅛	8
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1½	2	2	2
Crown Reef	12⅜	18½	16½	15½	15⅜	15⅜
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅜	18⅛	18½
Do. Def.	—	26⅜	18⅜	18½	18¼	18⅛
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	5⅛	5¼	5⅛
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6¾	5¼	5⅜	4⅜	4½
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1½	2⅜	3	2⅛
East Rands	12	10⅞	6⅜	8⅜	9⅛	9
Ferreira	22	26	18	22½	23¼	23¼
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	2⅞	2½	2½
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	7⅛	7⅜	7⅛
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2½	2⅞	2⅞
Goch (New)	3⅜	4⅜	2½	3⅜	3½	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5¼	5½	5⅛
,, Main Reef	1⅜	⅜	⅛	¼	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅛	2⅞	1½	1½	1⅝	1⅝
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	2⅜	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Henderson	5⅜	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8½	8½	8½
Heriot	12½	8½	3⅜	4⅜	4½	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	28⅜	29½	29½
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4⅜	2½	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	1	1⅛	1⅛
Jubilee	12½	7½	4½	4½	4	4
Jumpers	8⅜	5⅜	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1½	1⅜	1⅜
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅛	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6⅛	6⅜	6⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1⅞	⅜	1	1	1
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅞	3⅜	4⅛	3⅝	3⅝
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4½	3⅜	2⅞	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2⅞	1⅜	2	2½	2½
May Consolidated	4⅛	5⅞	2⅜	4½	4⅛	4⅛
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4⅛	5⅜	5⅛	5⅛
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14⅜	7⅛	10⅞	10⅝	10⅝
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1½	1½	1⅛	1½
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/6	⅜	17/6
Nigel	8⅛	4	2⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
New African	—	3⅜	1½	2	2⅜	2⅛
New Comet	4⅜	4	2	3½	3½	3½
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2⅜	3	3
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2⅞	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅞	⅜	1	1½	1½
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅜	1⅞	1½	1½
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅛	8⅛	11⅛	11⅜	10⅛
Randfontein	4⅜	4⅛	2⅛	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
,, Robinson	2⅞	2⅜	1	2⅛	2	2
,, North	—	2⅜	1½	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1½	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	10⅜	10½	10⅜
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅜	2½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	8⅜	9½	9½
S. A. Gold Trust	12⅛	9⅜	4⅜	6	6¼	6⅜
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅜	1½	2	2⅜	2⅜
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	15/6	15/9	15/9
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	4⅛	4½	4½
Transvaal Development	2⅜	2⅞	24/-	12½	1⅜	1⅜
Transvaal Explng.	—	¾	¼	8/-	9/6	9/6
Transvaal Goldfield	8⅛	3½	2⅜	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4½	4	4½
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	2½	4½	4½	4½
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅜	7½	7½	7½
Violet	—	3½	2	3⅛	3⅜	3⅜
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1½
Welgedacht		8⅜	6⅜	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10½	11	10⅜
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅝
,, (New)	—	2⅜	⅛	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Wolhuter	12	6⅜	3	4⅜	4⅜	4
Worcester	6½	3¼	1½	1	1½	1⅜

* £5 shares.

While I look for an upward movement, it is not to be expected that the whole market will participate to an equal extent. Generally speaking, the best proportionate advances will be scored by the moderate-priced shares, and in particular I should recommend Barneys and Johnnies, General Mining and Finance, Rand Collieries, Goerz, Randfonteins, and Hendersons. The recent arrivals, such as Van Dyks, Brakpans, and New South Rands, are likely to be supported by the "shops" until public interest of an unmistakable kind is developed in them, and therefore they are worth buying, especially on a market which looks good. H.E. Props. always make a good gamble, and before long New Reef Developments, recently brought out under the same auspices, will probably be taken in hand. The African and European Investment issue, introduced last week by Messrs. Lewis and Marks, has been an unqualified success. Attention has been paid, especially by Paris, to Deep Level shares, in view of the developments referred to above. My table shows the net movements on the week:—

—	1900. High'st.	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 12, 1904.
Bonanza	4½	6⅞	3⅞	1¼	1½	1½
Cent. Nigel Deep	⅝	1	¼	⅜	⅝	⅝
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2⅜	3½	3½
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13⅜	13½	13½
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4⅜	2	3½	3⅜	3⅜
Ferreira Deep	6⅞	8½	5	6⅛	6⅛	6⅛
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4⅜	5⅛	5½
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8⅜	11½	11½	11½
Jumpers Deep	5⅜	6½	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3⅜	3½	3⅜	3½
Knight's Central Deep	3⅜	4⅞	2½	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2½	2½	2⅞
Do. West	2⅜	3	1⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
New Steyn Estates	2½	5⅛	2½	3½	4⅜	4½
Nourse Deep	5⅞	6⅜	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅛
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅝	¾	¾	¾
Rand Victoria	3⅛	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜	2
Robinson Deep	5½	6⅜	4½	5½	6⅛	5⅞
Do Cent Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅜	4⅜	5	5
Rose Deep	10	10⅜	6½	8⅜	8⅛	9
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2⅞	3½	1⅜	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4½	2	2½	2½	2⅜
South Geld. Deep	3⅜	4⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3⅜	4⅜	3⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅜	2⅜	4⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	⅞	⅞
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4⅛	2⅜	4⅜	4⅛	4⅛

Below will be found my monthly table, which permits of a comparison of last month's output of gold with the figures of previous months:—

—	1899. Bullion. oz.	1901. Fine. oz.	1902. Fine. oz.	1903. Fine. oz.	1904. Fine. oz.
January	410,145	—	70,340	199,279	288,824
February	404,335	—	81,405	196,513	289,500
March	441,578	—	104,127	217,465	308,24[illegible]
April	439,111	—	119,588	227,871	305,946
May	444,933	7,478	138,602	234,125	314,480
June	445,763	19,779	142,780	238,320	308,219
July	456,474	25,960	149,179	251,643	307,340
August	459,709	28,474	162,750	271,918	312,97[illegible]
September	411,762	31,936	170,802	276,197	312,286
October	26,904	33,393	181,439	284,544	325,625
November	55,941	39,075	187,575	279,813	336,16[illegible]
December	68,525	52,897	196,023	286,061	—
Total	4,065,180	238,992	1,704,410	2,963,749	3,409,408

Values are indicated in the next table:—

—	1899. £	1901. £	1902. £	1903. £	1904. £
January	1,534,583	—	298,786	846,489	1,226,846
February	1,512,860	—	345,782	834,739	1,229,720
March	1,654,258	—	442,303	923,739	1,309,[illegible]
April	1,689,340	—	507,980	967,936	1,299,576
May	1,668,268	31,271	588,746	994,505	1,335,826
June	1,665,715	84,014	606,496	1,012,322	1,309,[illegible]
July	1,711,447	110,269	663,674	1,068,917	1,307,621
August	1,720,907	120,953	691,322	1,155,039	1,326,468
September	1,657,205	135,654	725,522	1,173,211	1,329,[illegible]
October	1,028,057	141,848	770,706	1,208,669	1,383,167
November		165,986	795,922	1,188,571	1,427,947
December		224,692	832,652	1,215,110	—
Totals	15,782,640	1,014,687	7,269,888	12,589,247	14,482,243

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

The next table shows the contributions of individual properties:—

—	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz
Angelo (110; 90)	7,691	7,880	7,469	7,291	7,324	6,570
Bonanza (55; 55)	5,367	5,429	5,584	5,465	5,523	5,401
City and Sub'n (160; 160)	8,273	8,329	9,065	9,2 0	—	—
Cons. Main Rf. (120; 60)	3,882	4,160	4,218	4,508	5,137	5,023
Crown Deep (200; 45)	8,996	8,909	8,986	9,229	9,994	10,106
Crown Reef (120; 120)	10,669	11,031	10,802	10,692	—	11,307
Driefontein (110; 110)	8,156	8,244	8,086	7,644	7,344	7,503
Durban R'dep'rt 80; 75	4,140	3,928	3,935	3,955	4,057	4,272
Do. Deep (60; 50	3,751	3,787	3,760	3,865	4,012	4,005
Ferreira (150; 120)	11,381	11,634	11,321	11,072	—	11,007
Ferreira Deep 100; 80)	6,959	7,167	7,215	7,204	8,489	8,512
French Rand 120; 36)	3,546	3,451	3,304	3,044	—	—
G'ld'nhuis Dp (2:0; 180)	9,688	9,676	10,417	10,411	10,703	10,284
Geldenhuis E. (120; 85)	5,221	5,287	5,398	5,394	5,481	5,527
Ginsberg (60; 60)	3,184	3,307	3,387	3,381	3,373	3,875
Glencairn (100; 95)	4,126	3,937	3,878	3,705	3,949	3,999
Glen Deep (100; 95)	5,023	5,620	5,853	5,288	6,023	6,178
Henry Nourse (80; 75)	6,454	5,131	5,174	5,060	—	—
Heriot (80; 70)	3,358	3,435	3,046	2,907	—	—
Jumpers (100; 75)	2,460	2,747	2,710	3,200	3,465	3,745
Jumpers Deep (100; 95)	5,220	5,614	5,263	5,639	5,817	5,560
Knight's Deep (400; 115)	6,816	6,734	6,526	6,024	7,311	7,363
Lancaster (100; 60)	3,223	3,341	3,370	3,333	3,431	3,434
Lancaster West (40; 40)	2,530	2,438	2,541	2,435	2,606	2,597
Langlaagte Dp (120; 120	6,139	6,281	6,391	6,119	6,343	6,499
Langl'gte Est (200; 165	8,348	8,505	8,556	8,350	8,650	8,869
May Consldtd. (100; 100	5,542	5,776	5,741	5,731	5,989	5,956
Meyer & Ch lton (80; 60)	4,237	4,044	4,683	4,792	4,723	4,530
New Comet (100; 70)	—	—	1,380	3,137	3,560	4,210
New Goch (60; 60)	3,802	3,970	3,731	3,538	3,850	3,719
New M dd'rf nt'n (60; 60	3,662	3,585	3,607	3,660	3,488	3,590
New Primrose (160; 120	6,489	6,460	6,614	6,441	6,332	6,629
New Unified M.R. (60; 60	2,965	3,166	3,226	2,888	2,912	3,043
Nigel (50; 45)	2,869	2,976	2,890	2,798	—	—
Nourse Deep. (100; 85)	4,847	4,799	4,849	5,123	5,394	5,587
Rietfontein A (60; 35)	3,132	2,887	2,826	2,856	2,937	3,148
Robinson (200; 190)	15,148	15,521	14,790	16,133	15,240	15,129
Robinson Cent. Deep (50; 50)	2,534	2,123	3,767	4,434	4,722	4,987
Robinson Deep (200; 195)	12,748	13,239	12,341	12,861	13,331	13,879
Robinson Randfontein (100; 1 0)	4,526	4,725	4,745	4,812	5,302	5,326
Roodepoort Cent. Deep (50; 40)	2,237	2,270	2,321	2,261	2,323	2,467
Roodepoort United Mn. Reef (110; 70)	3,969	3,879	4,234	4,145	3,948	3,035
Rose Deep (200; 135)	8,854	8,726	9,000	8,151	8,063	8,079
Simmer & Jack (320; 200)	11,167	9,854	10,566	10,801	9,295	11,586
Sth. R'ndf nt'n (100; 100)	4,826	5,016	5,946	5,062	5,251	5,353
Transvaal Gold Mining Estates (60; 60)	3,175	3,289	3,119	3,186	3,235	3,261
Treasury (60; 60)	3,724	3,713	3,651	3,655	3,710	3,729
Van Ryn (160; 140)	4,241	4,313	4,499	4,508	5,262	6,937
Village Mn. Rf. (160; 160)	8,875	9,216	9,447	9,290	9,318	9,004
Wemmer (60; 60)	5,545	6,231	5,819	5,345	—	—
Wolhuter (100; 100)	4,928	4,822	4,693	4,988	5,161	5,100

It may be pointed out that in the above table the figures in parentheses indicate the total number of stamps erected and the number at present working. The report of the Barnato Consolidated Mines for the year to October states that the Company has acquired the freehold rights of a portion of the farm Cyferfontein No. 128, situate in the district of Heidelberg, in extent 794 morgen 418 square roods, for the sum of £4,000. At the annual meeting the chairman said:—"With unskilled labour, with the confidence of investors which a sufficiency of both classes of labour will establish, all the capital called for will be plentifully forthcoming, and the valuable assets of such Companies as the Barnato Consolidated Mines will all become productive, and, though there seems to be some opinion that Mining Companies do not concern themselves much about the welfare of the Colony, I am sure that the most severe of our critics cannot be of opinion that we should regret to see the country benefited so materially as it must be by the coming rapid increase in the progress of the gold mining industry." The report of the Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Company has also come to hand. The year's profit amounted to £219,015, and with £394,480 brought in, the sum available is £613,495. The dividend of 10 per cent. will absorb £270,989, so that a balance of £342,505 remains to be carried forward. The total of the Company's investments in real estate in South Africa is £538,000. At the meeting of the Robinson South African Banking Company, the chairman dealt at some length with the general position and prospects in South Africa, and he referred particularly to the Randfontein group of mines. The Randfontein, a very large property, has been most seriously handicapped on account of the scarcity of labour. The directors at Johannesburg have not been in a position to do justice to this large area of ground—the mines that are working there at the present moment, and the mines that are to be worked. Mr. Robinson added:—"For instance, we have already, as you know, twelve Companies formed. Out of the twelve subsidiaries three are now working. There is South Randfontein, Robinson-Randfontein, and North Randfontein, which has just started. North Randfontein, I may tell you, has got about 1,900 Chinese. That was the first importation of Chinese. The next mine that is going to work is Porges. We are making now a very great effort to get natives to start that mine. It is ready, and the additional machinery has been erected. There are 100 stamps ready, and all the surface works are also ready. The mine has been developed, and the only thing we want is labour, and, as I have told you, we are really beginning to hope that we shall be able to get sufficient natives to work the Porges Mine. With regard to South Randfontein the position is now gradually getting better. We have had great difficulties there. I have told you that throughout the whole winter it was a terrible struggle to get sufficient boys to keep the mill going. That applies also to Robinson-Randfontein; but now the increased supply of natives will facilitate matters, and I believe our position will become very much better."

Rhodesians Quieter and Dullish—Another Discovery—Chartered Easier—The Smaller Shares and Reconstruction Gossip—Willoughby Denial—Mining and Finance and Clark's Consol.—Banket Descriptions Dull—Northern Group Easier—Zambesia Report.

What might be described as an epidemic of gold discoveries is raging in Rhodesia, for in addition to the wonderful banket reef recently unearthed and the equally potential alluvial area stumbled across quite accidentally by a lonesome prospector within the past two or three weeks, the Administrator of Southern Rhodesia is in the happy position to announce another surprise in the shape of an auriferous banket "exactly similar to the Black Reef, Johannesburg," existing in the vicinity of Victoria. A rather tired market, however, swallowed this with indifference, and it exercised practically no effect, perhaps because it is recognised that there are Black Reefs and black reefs; but it will be interesting to have the further particulars which will no doubt be sent along in due course. At present operators are waiting with commendable patience for the result of the investigations into the alluvial deposits, and it is to be hoped that, pending the arrival of this information, the Chartered Company will see fit not to increase the tension by announcing any further "strikes" which would lead one to the conclusion that Rhodesia is something more than a common or garden variety of El Dorado. As a fact, Rhodesians have been quieter, and rather more subdued than of late, the effect of the dulness prevalent in the "House" generally being reflected in the somewhat weaker tendency exhibited. Chartered, however, continue active, and after fluctuating within narrow limits, show a slight loss on the week. In regard to the smaller descriptions the persistent gossip hinting at recontruction schemes as an outcome of the better prospects promised by the alluvial discovery has been quite sufficient to bring about lower values, though the Directors of the Willoughby refute these rumours, saying that the financial position of the Company "does not necessitate such a step." One of the schemes so far announced is that having as its object the fusion of the Rhodesian Mining and Finance, with Clark's Consolidated, which has resulted in the calling together of a number of disappointed shareholders for Wednesday next at the Great Eastern Hotel, E.C., to discuss the methods to be adopted to oppose any such scheme. The issued capital of the Rhodesian Mining Company is £242,033, and that of the other Company £269,210. The new concern is to be registered with a capital of £300,000, divided into 300,000 shares of £1 each. Clark's shareholders will be entitled to an allotment of 134,605 shares of £1 each, 14s. paid (being in the ratio

of one new share for every two shares now held), and holders of Rhodesian Minings to an allotment of 145,220 shares of £1 each, 14s. paid (being in the ratio of three new shares for every five shares now held). A total of 279,825 shares will thus be absorbed, and the assessment of 6s. per share, provided the whole of the shares are taken up, will realise a sum of £83,947, which will pay directors' fees and salaries for quite a considerable period. Though displaying a somewhat more cheerful disposition towards the close, the banket descriptions have on the whole been distinctly depressed, more especially the New Banket shares, in which a considerable amount of profit-taking resulted from the approach of the special settlement. In the Northern group there has been an absence of any violent fluctuations, the tone being, in fact, decidedly dullish, Tanganyikas sagging away persistently. Zambesias have not been helped by the report, which cannot be described as a very informing document. Many properties which did not show any promise were abandoned on the recommendation of the engineers, while, as soon as apportunity occurs, arrangements have been made to work some of the others on tribute. Both Northern Coppers and Rhodesia Coppers have moved on the downgrade almost throughout, but Rhodesia Broken Hills shares, the latter Company's recently-floated subsidiary keep steady. My usual table of movements is appended:—

—	Capitals. Authorised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3	Make-up, Dec 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 12, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele) ..	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1 1/16	1 1/16
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2?	1 3/16	1 3/16
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4 1/4	2 1/4	2 3/16
Bulnwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	7/16	7/16
Bulnwayo Syndicate ..	200,000	194,028	1	f.p.	1 5/8	3/16	3/16
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	3/16	1/4
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 7/8	1/4	1/4
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1 3/4	3/16	1/4
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2 1/2	1/6	1/4
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5 7/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6 1/4	2 1/8	2 1/16
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3 1/16	1 1/4	1 1/4
Matabele G.R. (New)..	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4 1/4	1/4	1/16
N rth'n Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	8 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/16
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/8	1/4
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	5 1/2	5	4 15/16
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.) ..	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2 1/16	1/8	1/16
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	3 1/2	2 1/2	2 7/8
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	—	—
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2 1/4	1/8	1/8
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26 1/2	5 1/4	5 1/16
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1/4	1/4
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	1/4	1/4
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	3/4	4.6	4.6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1 1/8	3/16	3/16
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16

WEST AFRICANS TOLERABLY FIRM—BETTER GOLD RETURNS—ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS' REPORT—MISCELLANEOUS MINES—COPPER SHARES—CHAMPION REEF—EGYPTIANS.

Quite a fair amount of animation has been noticeable in the Jungle throughout the week, but with the dulness which developed in other departments towards the close it is not surprising to find that most of the earlier gains are more than neutralisd. In fact, the majority of the leading descriptions are slightly lower on balance, but despite this the tone generally appears to be just a trifle better, thanks chiefly to the persistent efforts of the professionals, who are doing their utmost to tempt the outsiders, though so far without much success. On the whole the gold returns for November are somewhat better, the Wassau's 2,392 oz. being an increase of 225 oz., while the Ashanti Sansu's total is 200 oz. higher, and the Ashanti Goldfields has increased its aggregate by about 30 oz. at 4,530 oz., in spite of a much reduced tonnage treated, an office note explaining the low grade by the fact that only 44 per cent. of the gold contents could be extracted owing to the cyaniding plant not working. The dullest spot in the whole market has been Ashanti Goldfields, the report being rather unsatisfactory. Nothing is said about any new issue of debentures, concerning which rumour has been busy recently, but the accounts seem to indicate that it will not be long before the Company is compelled to ask for more money. In the first place, the amounts paid in dividends in the first half of the last financial year exceeded the profits earned throughout the twelve months, and there remains a debit balance to go forward. The record of operations is not particularly inspiring, it being obvious that more attention has been paid to gold production in the richer portion of the mine rather than to the proper development of the property. To sum up the position, I may be permitted to make use of Mr. Daw's own report, brought up to the beginning of November, in which he states that "in all the mines development work has been neglected. No sinking has been done at any of the mines (excepting the pioneer shaft lately started at Cote d'Or), whereby the mines can be opened in depth, while several other important points have received but little attention. We are making arrangements to resume this important work, and shall not hesitate to push it vigorously, so as to increase our ore reserves." My usual table of prices is appended:—

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 12, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1 1/8	1
Ashanti Consols ..	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4 9 dis	1/4 dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Attasi Mines.. ...	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5/-	5/-
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1 1/4	1 1/4
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,607	1	f.p.	1 1/16	1 1/16
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1/-	1/-
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p	2 1/2	2 1/8
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	1/4	1/4
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	3/8	3/8
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/9	13/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f.p.	3/-	2/8
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1 1/8	1 1/16
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	2 1/16	2 1/16

The feature of the Miscellaneous Mining section has been the slump in Copper shares arising out of a semi-panic in New York, which led to heavy realisations of Tintos, etc., on account of Paris. The shares are now above the worst. In the Indian group the general tendency is tolerably satisfactory, though at one time Champion Reefs suffered slightly from dissatisfaction over the report. Perhaps the most significant feature of this document is the statement of ore reserves, which have been increased by only 53,858 tons as compared with 121,037 tons during the previous year. Otherwise there is little to cavil at, though the total distribution is 5 per cent. less than for the previous twelve months at 160 per cent., owing to the full participation of the new shares created. Profit-taking has resulted in a slight setback in Egyptian shares, but the tendency still remains buoyant, and Nile Valleys should soon go ahead once more. Among New Zealanders, Waihi Grand Junctions are still creeping upwards, some further support being induced by the cable that good ore has been encountered in one of the winzes sunk in the No. 2 level. Mount Lyells relapsed rather sharply as a result of Colonial sales, which were evidently induced by the subsequent cable pointing out that at the 600 ft. level the driving continues in barren ground.

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Make-up Dec. 12,	Closing Price. Dec. 12
Anaconda Copper	7 1/16	3 3/8	—	5 7/8
Balaghat Gold	1 3/4	1 1/16	1 7/8	1 7/8
Broken Hill Props.	1 1/8	1 1/4	3/8	4 3/8
Cape Copper	5	3	—	4 1/2
Champion Reef	7	5 3/4	1 1/16	3 3/8
Le Roi	9 1/2	8	8	8
Mason and Barry	4 1/2	3 1/2	—	3 1/4
Mount Lyell Mining	4 1/4	2	1 3/8	1 1/4
Mysore Gold	7 1/8	5 1/2	6 1/2	6 1/2
Namaqua Copper	4 3/4	2 3/4	3 3/4	3 3/4
Nundydroog	2 3/8	1 5/8	2 3/8	1 3/4
Oregum	24 1/2	21.9	1.9 6	2.0 6
Rio Tinto	63 1/2	58 1/4	—	61 1/2
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7 1/8	5 3/8	—	5 3/8
Waihi Gold	6 1/2	4 3/8	0	6 1/2

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr LUNN'S EXCURSIONS." Medi erranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

Westralians Neglected and Featureless—Tendency Dullish—Fingalls Easier—Kalgurli Results—Associated Firmer—"Little Kangaroos" in the Background.

Very little interest continues to be manifested towards Westralians, either on the part of the professionals or the outside public, and as a consequence marked idleness prevails throughout the whole department. The tendency, too, is not very brilliant, the majority of the shares being inclined to sag away slightly in the absence of any support, while of features there have been practically none. Fingalls relapsed rather sharply at one time, as a result of the somewhat unsatisfactory return for last month, attributable to a great extent to trouble with some part of the machinery, while there has been persistent selling of Perseverance. Kalgurlis, too, participated in the general downward movement, despite the satisfactory report showing a net profit of £82,541, as compared with £67,451. The ore treated aggregated 54,056 tons, yielding 49,524 standard oz., or an average of 18.40 dwts., which is slightly lower than during the previous period, when 44,261 oz. were recovered from 45,127 tons, an average of 19.6 dwts., but it must be remembered that the working costs have been appreciably lessened, the expenses per ton being only 27s. 3d., as against 32s. 1d. It is hoped that by March next the enlarged plant will be able to cope with about 3,100 additional tons a month, and it is encouraging to note that the cost of this new machinery will be paid for out of the surplus profits. A rather encouraging cable from the property induced some support for Associated, as well as for Central and West Boulder and Boulder No. 1, but otherwise the section has been devoid of interest. The "Little Kangaroos" remain neglected in the background, while there has been less attention paid to the Deep Leads. My usual table of movements follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 12 1904.
Associated G.M.	7¼	3⅞	1	1⅛	1 3/16	1⅛
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 3/16	1 3/16	1⅛	1⅛
Brownhill Ext.	3¾	1¾	⅛	¼	¼	⅛
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/-	6/6	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11½	7	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Golden Link	3½	15/3	6/-	4/-	3/3	3/-
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	22/9	22/-	22/6
Do. Main Reef	2⅞	1½	8/6	4/-	3/-	3/-
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 11/16	1⅛	12/3	11/-	11/-
Do. South	3½	1⅜	⅛	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 15/16	9 3/16	5 7/16	8 5/16	8 5/16	8¼
Hainault	1¾	⅜	¼	⅜	¼	⅜
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	16½	10½	6¾	7 15/16	7 29/32	7⅞
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 13/16	⅛	⅜	31/32	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅛	4½	2 13/16	5 5/16	6 5/16	6 7/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6¾	1⅜	1½	1½	1⅜
L. & W. A. Exploration	1 5/16	1 5/16	½	8/3	9/-	9/-
North Kalgurli	1 3/16	10/-	4/-	5/6	5/6	5/9
Oroya Brownhill	—	4⅛	2	3¾	3⅞	3⅞
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅛	5/6	3/3	7/16
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/16	2 5/16	1	2⅛	2 1/16	2 1/16
South Kalgurli	6½	2 7/16	¼	1 5/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 3/16	⅛	5/16	5/16	5/16

London and Paris Exchange.

After a suspension of about a week, the London and Paris Exchange has opened its doors again, and is presumably carrying on the old business in the old style. The Managing Director sent out an official statement of the origin of the difficulties, but I confess that to me the explanation is unconvincing. The fact is, however, that whether for good or only temporarily, disaster has been averted, and an issue of Five per Cent. debentures to the amount of £500,000 is being made, and will be redeemable in three years at 10 per cent. premium. I should like to know what are the assets securing these debentures, but on this matter Mr. A. M. Mandeville is not particularly communicative. The offer of debentures is made in order "that the Company may have ample working capital to carry on its business, which is undoubtedly a progressive one and to enable it to exercise certain options which it holds, and to develop its business." The trust deed, it is stated, will constitute a floating charge "upon all the assets and undertaking of the Company, including its uncalled capital"—the amount of which last, if any, it would be interesting to know. The debentures are not offered to the general public as a business proposition, but only to clients and friends who have faith in the concern. In connection with the London and Paris Exchange, I have received a number of letters for which I have no room, owing to the heavy calls upon my space; but, without dealing further with the concern, it will be sufficient if I say that the debentures might well be left to the friends and clients, including the Press representatives, who have been so kind.

New Issue.

The following prospectus has been published:—

Westralian Estates and Timber Company.—Capital. £110,000, of which £60,000 is in Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares and £50,000 in Ordinary shares. There are now offered 30,000 Preference shares and Six per Cent. First Debentures to the amount of £25,000. The Company has been formed to acquire and develop two freehold estates in Western Australia.

"Truth" Toy Fund.

Once again it is my pleasure to ask those readers of Truth who have benefited by the perusal of "Mammon" to send me contributions for the annual Toy Fund, an institution which gives great pleasure to thousands of children at the Christmas season. Business has shown a distinct improvement during the latter part of the year, but the Fund has not so far received the same support as in 1903. I am sure, however, that I have only to bring this fact to the attention of my readers for the defect to be remedied promptly and handsomely. I have already received the following contributions, for which I offer my best thanks:—H. Halford and Co., £1 1s.; D. B., £1 1s.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Careful.—Five per cent. cannot be obtained with absolute security comparable to that of the Funds, but reasonably safe securities can be secured. Chinese Fives, Japanese Sixes (first issue), Mexican Fives, Chilians (1885), Argentine Four and a Half per Cent. External, and Egyptian State Domain bonds will give an average of rather more than 5 per cent. *Derby Castle.*—In time, Consols will no doubt get near to par, but there are several factors operating against an early return to that figure. They are good for a greater advance than the Irish Land stock or Transvaal Threes, because they possess a sentimental value which the others lack, and because they have suffered badly through the war expenditure and the enormous accumulation of gilt-edged securities entailed thereby. *Mex.*—The Cuban Five per Cent. Bonds make a reasonably good purchase. The Japanese Sixes are also very satisfactory on the basis of the yield, coupled with the security of the Customs upon which they are a direct and first charge. *Chingford.*—I should hold on to the New South Wales and Victoria stocks for the present, since the interest is assured, and there should be some recovery when conditions allow the gilt-edged market to go ahead unchecked. At the same time, I do not think I should buy more. The Colonies—for sins which are only too well known—are not in favour just now.

Railways.

Boulter.—I suggest Great Central Five per Cent. Preference stock of 1872 and Brighton Preferred Ordinary stock, which will give you over 3¾ per cent. The other investments are good. *E. H. F.*—You should hold on to the Egyptian Delta Light Railways

Preference shares, as the Company is likely to go on advancing. The arrears should be paid gradually. Behind the Preference shares are £10 Deferred shares to the amount of £110,000. The Preference have a priority as to capital, and rank before the Deferred for cumulative dividends of 5½ per cent. per annum. After payment of this, the profits are to be employed towards a cumulative sinking fund of 10s. 9d. per cent. per annum to replace the capital in seventy years, and the surplus then remaining is to be divided—one-half amongst the Preference, and one-half amongst the Deferred. The Preference should go higher. *Seafarer.*—There is next to no doubt that the Grand Trunk Second Preference stock will receive its full 5 per cent. for the past year. *Tulip.*—I should prefer Home Railways to Industrials, and among Home Railways I should choose North Westerns, Great Westerns, Brighton "A," Great Northern Deferred, and North British.

MINES.

Navi.—In the circumstances you had no right to put your money into anything so speculative as mines, but hold on to Heriots and Jubilees for more active conditions in the Kaffir market, which condition should come early in the new year at the latest. *Operative.*—Sons of Gwalia ought to be kept, and the Oroyas are a good holding for dividends, and some ultimate appreciation. *Cavendish.*—E.R. Mining Estates, Nile Valleys, Welgedachts, Rand Collieries, and H.E. Props. make a good selection, but take them up and get out when you see a moderate profit. Rhodesia Coppers should have a big rise ultimately—when, for instance, there is an early prospect of the full exploitation of its resources. *P. R. T.*—Nile Valleys are a promising speculation if you get in on any fall. *Martha.*—I fear you would only be throwing good money after bad by joining the amalgamation. *Armour.*—A very poor lot, but 1, 2, and 3 might be kept on the chance of some improvement on a good Kaffir market. *A. B. C., Sale.*—Charter Trusts, Oceanas, and Transvaal Developments ought to be held for an advance. The other share is unpromising. *Afric.*—Banket shares will, no doubt, go ahead again after their rest. You might safely hold Simmer and Jack for 3. *Hythe.*—The Pretoria District Diamond Company is distinct from the Pretoria Proprietary Diamonds, Limited. It owns the western portion of 871 morgen of the farm Elandsfontein, near to the Premier Diamond Company, which has done so remarkably well. There is not much market in the shares in this country. *Kismet.*—You might hold for 15s. Strathcona. Johannesburg Consolidated would suit you nicely. *Thos. Johnson.*—I do not recommend a purchase of Stratton's Independence shares. *Ignoramus.*—Egypt and Soudan Mining and Nile Valleys are likely to go ahead in the near future. I am told that the United African Exploration has sold its holding of Nile Valleys, but nothing official has been announced. *Box.*—Brilliant and St. George are anything but a bad gamble, but, judging from the Colonial selling, it seems probable that recent developments have not been altogether satisfactory. *Zeta.*—The note merely had reference to the quotation of the shares, which it has been decided to eliminate because the dealings in them are reduced to next to nothing. *Cymro.*—Niekirks would suit you. *Broomassie.*—It would be best to sell the Cosmopolitans. The West Africans I do not care for. Bibianis are more hopeful. *Patricia.*—1. Try Barneys or Rand Collieries. 2. I do not look for an early rise in S.A. Territories. 3. The thing is quite unattractive. *Strandtown, Belfast.*—Matabele Reefs might be bought for a moderate rise in the price. The other I do not recommend. I should prefer Balkis Lands. *Hagen.*—1. Vogelstruis Deep might be bought if you can afford to hold. 2. I have been unable to obtain a quotation. 3. Klerksdorp Gold and Diamonds are quoted at about 2s. 6d. They are unattractive. *Retsyl.*—Charter Trusts are worth taking up. I do not recommend Salisbury Buildings. *Midlands.*—The Directors will do nothing beyond take their fees so long as the concern possesses cash resources. When these are exhausted, they will no doubt reconstruct. The price of the shares, about 3s., suggests that this step is not very remote. The shareholders, I suppose, are incapable of amalgamating for their own protection. *A. B. C., Edgbaston.*—A number of adverse rumours were circulated about the Jubilee, but a cable has been received from Johannesburg stating that the position is quite satisfactory, and a dividend of 5s. per share has been declared. *H. P.*—I do not recommend dealings with C. Eastwood and Co., of 81, Gracechurch-street, E.C., or any other outside broker in Kaffirs or anything else. *Country Saw Bones.*—The South Africans are all of the good sort, and worth keeping for higher prices. The Egyptians should be good for a further rise. *Islam.*—No reliable information is available regarding the life of the mine. There is much development work yet to do. *New Yorker.*—The shares are likely to go to your buying prices early in the new year. *Spero.*—The issue of the report has not altered my opinion. *Wathen.*—Keep Jubilees, New Primrose, and Estate Finance and Minings. The others are not attractive. *Anon.*—The Rand Roodepoort is still in existence, but I do not regard it as a hopeful venture, and you might get out if a buyer can be found. The Directors are stated, in Mahson's "Mines of the Transvaal" to be Messrs. N. Tronoon (Chairman), W. H. D. Tyler, and C. W. Atkins. *Barton.*—Barbertons are worth holding. Shansis are also a hopeful purchase on any setback. As the others give you a profit take it, and place the proceeds as you suggest in Robinson Rands. *Red Hand.*—1. Egyptian Mines Explorations have much promise. The Company is interested in a very large area on which several series of gold-bearing reefs have been discovered. One property, the Um Rus, has been formed into a separate Company. The capital is £250,000. 2. I do not know the American mines, which is not dealt in on our market. *Plumbago.*—I am unable to trace the concern. Possibly the Agent-General for Canada in London would be able to help you. *Prince.*—The shares are a moderately good speculation. *Bann.*—Waterfall Estates stand at 2s. The prospects are not encouraging.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Constant Reader, Hoylake.—I cannot recommend it, and would advise you to leave it alone. *Jag.*—TRUTH had occasion to refer to the National Old Age Pension Trust some time ago, and came to the conclusion that it is actuarially unsound. *Igd-i-Gul.*—The address of the Prudential is Holborn Bars, London. *Sceptical.*—I believe the concern to be quite sound and reliable. *Regular Writer.*—I would not recommend a purchase of the shares mentioned. With the turn of the year there may possibly be a revival in Industrials, but these are not among the attractive things of the market. *Query.*—They are legal points upon which I regret I cannot enlighten you. *North.*—Better send the query to the secretary of the insurance Company. *Taylor, Lancaster.*—This is just a sample of the many evils arising out of dealings with "smart" American Companies. The best thing to do is to continue the payments on the same basis, in the hope of eventually getting a decent return. *Cymro.*—It is a new concern which is to be conducted conscientiously, and I think you do not run much risk in depositing money therein. *Walker Legge.*—I would not recommend any dealings with the institution. *Gwynne.*—Many thanks for your communication dealing with Stephens and Henderson, which is very interesting. I hope to take up this matter shortly. *F. R.*—I am obliged for the Isle of Thanet tram ticket advertising Howard, Marshall, and Co. Perhaps if the attention of the management was drawn to the true nature of the business they would exercise a little more caution in the future. *Mancunian.*—I think you might hold on to the textiles a little longer in the hope of the Companies benefiting by the better conditions prevailing. *Inquisitive, Peckham.*—Of course, nothing definite is known, but the general impression is that as the trade of the Port, as indicated in the quarterly returns, has been good, the Deferred stock of the London and India Docks Company will receive the full 4 per cent., in which case the yield at the present price is about 5 per cent. *Stones.*—My thanks for your kindness. I am repeatedly warning readers of TRUTH against Stephens and Henderson and their risky cotton-future gambling. *Alviso.*—I believe the concern is still in existence somewhere, but I cannot trace it now. *Iris.*—To some extent the fall is traceable to the depression prevailing in the brewery division. You will probably remember that just prior to the last dividend a lot of selling took place, though the distribution proved to be all right. I do not know of any cause for alarm. *Constant Reader.*—Of their class they are quite a good holding, but I should not be disposed to buy more at the current price. *Doubtful, Huddersfield.*—Leave the London and New York Exchange severely alone and it will be to your great advantage. *Timor.*—South Metropolitan Gas is worth keeping as an investment, and I should not advise a sale. *Jackson, Burnley.*—Do not join the reconstruction. You are entitled to your share of the assets. *Camden.*—I do not think you could do much better. They will probably advance within a few months. *Ignoramus, Walsall.*—Currie and Crisp seem to be an offshoot of another bucket-shop. Leave them alone. *Sell, Surrey.*—I would not advise a purchase of Barrett's Brewing and Bottling shares. You can do infinitely letter. *T. R.*—Of their class Bovrils make a tolerably fair holding. I have a poor opinion of Gramophones. Try J. Lyons.

MIXED INVESTMENTS.

West.—1. North Metropolitan Tramway debentures are a good investment security, but whether they are suitable for your case depends upon the terms of the trust. They are redeemable in 1909, and at the present quotation would bring in about £5 16s per cent. Interest is payable half-yearly in January and July. 2. I should prefer the Chinese Five per Cent. Loan. 3. Johnnies are well worth holding for a rise. 4. National Telephone Four per Cent. new debentures make a good investment. *Athenæum.*—1. Mysores and Champion Reefs are good mining investments. 2. I should keep the Uruguays for a higher price. The country is in a peaceful state again. *Yarrow.*—1. Better sell the Missouris. 2. The new Anglo-French Exploration Preference shares ought to be taken up. *St. Kilda.*—Cotton and Wool Dyers shares will probably go better. I am not very hopeful about the other. My thanks for the enclosures. *A. Z., ed.*—1. I look for higher prices in the Home Railway market within the next month or two, and Brighton "A," Coras, and British are not likely to be left behind. 2. Grand Trunk Ordinary should also go better in the new year, when the earnings will be comparing with very poor figures for the early part of the current year. 3. Of the mines I should choose Egyptian Mines, Chartereds, and Lomagundas. Of Kaffir Consols and Salisbury Buildings I do not think highly. *Mexico.*—All the railway stocks are good to hold. Chilian Four and a Half per Cent. and Japanese Sixes (May issue) give cause for no anxiety, and the New South Wales and Queensland shares might be kept for dividends and some recovery, along with other gilt-edged stocks. Most of the Industrials are safe, but Beyer Peacock Preference shares are not up to the same standard as the others, and as to St. Ermyns and the Mansions Proprietary I am not in a position to say much, though interest is paid regularly, and that is a good point. *Teaman.*—1. Now that the freight outlook is improving, the prospects of India General Navigation shares

are brighter, but I should not buy any more. Try the Preference, which will give 6 per cent. 2. Consolidated Tea and Land First Preference shares might be bought as a speculation. The other tea shares are fairly promising, especially Nuwara Eliya. 3. The charges on the Orange Diamonds were all right. *H. Belfort.*—The mining share might be held for better conditions, but with more competition ahead, you would do well to sell the various cycle shares. *Speculator.*—If the Orange Diamonds give you a fair profit, take it. Lace Diamonds might be held for a better profit. Boksburgs ought to go to 2. Sewing Cotton Ordinary is promising now that the cotton trade is likely to have a run of prosperity.

INDUSTRIALS QUIETER—TONE DULLISH—A FEW BRIGHT SPOTS—TRUSTS STILL IMPROVING—TELEGRAPHS FIRM—TEXTILES HELPED BY THE CROP REPORT—BREWERIES DEPRESSED—GAS STOCKS—MEAT SHARES DOWN AGAIN—ARGENTINE LAND RESULTS—HUDSON BAYS IMPROVE—CHINA SHARES EASIER.

Dealings in the Miscellaneous market have been rather less active, and the dulness which pervaded the House generally almost throughout the week seems to have spread to this department as well, though it must not be imagined that there have not been one or two bright spots. Trust stocks, for instance, remain quite buoyant, and as the supply does not seem to be equal to the demand the tendency have been upwards still, further improvements having been registered by Foreign and Colonial Trust, General and Commercial, London, Scottish and American, Alliance, Guardian, amongst many others. The Iron and Steel group, too, contrives to present a fairly cheerful appearance, Pease and Partners, Pearson and Knowles, South Durhams, and one or two other shares making a little progress, while Armament descriptions remain tolerably firm, more especially Vickers Maxims and Armstrongs. Apart from Anglo-American Deferred, which have moved somewhat erratically, the Telegraph division remains firm, Easterns, Westerns, Globe Trusts, and Cuba Submarines coming in for a fair amount of attention, while investors have been picking up Telephone stocks, all of which show slight appreciations. On the strength of the American cotton crop report, further support has been forthcoming for textiles, more especially for Calico Printers, though with but little effect upon the price of the shares. Coats have improved, and Fine Spinners are steadier, while Bleachers and British Cotton and Wool Dyers are more buoyant. Dulness pervades the Brewery section, City of London descriptions remaining a particularly weak spot, the Ordinary losing four or five points, while Allsopps have turned on the downgrade again. In the American group also the tone is easier, Milwaukee and Chicago, City of Chicago, and St. Louis issues receding, and Bieckerts are dull. Quite a considerable investment demand has sprung up for lighting shares, Continental Union and Commercials more particularly, while South Metropolitan and Gas Light and Coke are not neglected, and for the benefit of those of my readers who are on the look-out for good stocks of this sort, I append the following table:—

	Price.	Yield per Cent.
Bournemouth 10 per cent. A (£10)	29½	£4 11 6
Brighton and Hove Stock	220	4 13 6
British Gas (£20)	41	4 18 9
European Gas (£10)	20½	5 10 0
Gas Light and Coke Stock	98	4 9 6
Imperial Continental Stock	207	4 16 6
San Paulo (£10)	12¼	5 14 0
South Metropolitan Stock	130	4 3 0

Apart from Royal Mails, which are still offered, the Shipping group continues more cheerful, P. and O. Deferred and Preferred advancing further on the strength of the recent satisfactory showing, and Leyland issues have recovered further. Among "bunshops," Aerated Bread, after slumping further, contrived to pick up again, but Lyons remain dull, and in the Meat class a somewhat less hopeful feeling is discernible, Nelsons declining steadily. My remarks made some time ago that the prosperity of Argentina would certainly be reflected in the increased earnings of many of the Land Companies operating in the country, are by no means falsified by the showings of the Santa Fé and the Argentine Southern Land Companies, both of which tell of more satisactory receipts. In the case of the former, the net profits amounted to £28,300, as against £24,000, and a dividend of 3½ per cent., or 1½ per cent. more than a year ago, is recommended, while the receipts from the timber business would have been far greater had not the Company been handicapped by the lack of transportation facilities. The net results of the Argentine Southern Land Company is £8,100 better than a year ago at £14,700, but the dividend is at the same rate 4 per cent., the amount carried forward being £4,000 greater. Nitrates continue fairly active and buoyant, but Traction shares are disposed to be dullish, London United Trams and Road Cars both declining. After a period of profit-taking, during which the shares lost a good deal of ground, Hudson's Bays have turned smartly on the upgrade, and optimists are not wanting to express the opinion that within the next week or so they will establish another record in the matter of price. Realisations on home as well as Continental account have also materially affected Chinese shares, Pekin Syndicates, Shansis, and Yangstse Valleys moving downwards almost consistently. The unsatisfactory nature of the report is reflected in the lower level of Ilford shares.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

SOCIAL CAMPAIGNERS.

MR. AND MRS. ALFRED WILLWAY kept up, during the season, a well-appointed establishment in Mayfair, and also entertained frequent week-end parties at their country villa, the Rowans, near Maidenhead.

Willway was a rich man of palpably plebeian extraction, who was understood to have made his fortune by speculating largely in Egyptian bonds at the time of the Arabi Pasha insurrection. At any rate, he had made it, which was the main consideration. And, in due course, he bought the house in Mayfair and began his social campaign, with the able assistance of his young and extremely pretty wife.

It was to the latter almost entirely that he owed whatever success he achieved in this campaign; for—truth to tell—Willway himself, despite his wealth and the lavishness of his entertainments, was but ill-qualified to shine in society. A common-looking man, of coarse manners, very florid in his dress, with an undue predilection for fancy waistcoats and diamond rings and scarf pins, given to boasting of his money, and generally addicted to vulgar ostentation, he was regarded by the denizens of the sacred pale as an objectionable outsider. (You must bear in mind, of course, that this was twenty years ago, when such qualities, so far from being positive credentials, as they are nowadays, were—strange as it may seem—actually drawbacks.)

But Mrs. Willway was the antithesis of her husband. In the first place, she was twenty years his junior. In the next, she was beautiful, ladylike, refined, vivacious, and witty. Whether in looks, manner, or conversation, she was alike charming. All men who met her were captivated by her; and before long the spell of her fascinations had fallen upon a certain distinguished nobleman, who occupied a prominent position in her Majesty's Government.

Not, mind you, that there was anything scandalous about it. Nobody suggested that—even at the clubs. The noble lord was a staid family man, whose solid domestic virtues were a standing guarantee of his perfect respectability. But he was susceptible, in a strictly decorous way, to the charms, both facial and conversational, of pretty and witty women; so that he soon became one of the most persistent admirers of Mrs. Willway, who combined both the prettiness and the wittiness in an unusual degree.

From this many social advantages accrued to the fascinating little lady. Men who might otherwise have held aloof from her receptions came and paid her homage from interested motives. They knew the value

of being on good terms with a pretty woman who had the ear of a leading Cabinet Minister. A word from her, in season, might do for them in the way of rapid promotion what all their mere "d——d merit" (to use Lord Melbourne's historic phrase) would never achieve. The noble lord, indeed, was not a conscious jobber. He was even conscientious—as Cabinet Ministers go. All the same, when at least fifty men were equally qualified, or (as was more probable) disqualified, for a vacant post, it was only natural that the name suggested by the dame whom he most wished to please should be the name that was eventually gazetted.

The menfolk, then, courted Mrs. Willway for their own sakes; and by-and-by the women began to be civil to her for their menfolks' sakes. They called upon her. They came to her parties, and, when they were there, they enjoyed them. Mrs. Willway was an admirable hostess. She knew how to make things pleasant for her guests, and she had Willway's cheque-book behind her to enable her to turn her knowledge to the best practical account.

Thus, within twelve months of the opening of their campaign the Willways were more or less securely established in society, and had the *entrée* of all houses except a few of the very exclusive.

Among those who were most frequently to be met at their Mayfair mansion was young Reggie Bowdale, of the Treasury. Bowdale was a handsome, gentlemanly young fellow, who made no secret of his admiration for pretty Mrs. Willway. He quickly became one of her favourites; and when, after a while, he got his step, sooner than in the ordinary course might have been expected, everybody said that Ethel Willway had worked the oracle for him.

He himself was of the same opinion. He thanked her for her good offices in grateful terms.

She tapped his arm with her fan, in a playful gesture, and smiled at him kindly.

"Foolish boy," she said. "What makes you think that I had anything to do with it? Are you not aware" (with a comically demure look) "that in this country everything goes by merit, and that it is always the best man who gets the berth."

"Don't seem to me that the best man has anything to do with it," answered Reggie, laughing. "It's the man who has the best woman behind him—as I've had, in this case."

And he fixed his large boyish eyes upon her in a glance of ardent gratitude and admiration.

"So you persist in ascribing your promotion to me?" she said, toying with her fan and looking down at the carpet.

"Yes; because I know it was you. It was. Wasn't it?" he demanded, eagerly.

"I will not deny that I put in a good word for you with Lord X.," she answered. "But, then, my influence in that quarter is very slight, after all."

"Slight?" he exclaimed. "Why, they all say that you can turn Lord X. round your little finger, and I'm sure I believe it. Indeed, it is impossible to conceive how any man of mere flesh and blood could refuse you anything."

He spoke fervently, with a strong emphasis on the second personal pronoun. His eyes were fastened hungrily upon her beautiful face, as it were devouring it.

"Do you know I am quite jealous of Lord X.?" he went on.

"Jealous?" cried she, with an air of mild surprise. "Jealous? What should make you jealous of him, you foolish boy?"

"Because I am half afraid that you care for him more than you do for me," he replied, bending forward and fixing his eyes on hers in eager questioning.

"What? May I not be friends with you both?" she inquired, with tantalising evasion.

"Friends!" he ejaculated, scornfully. "Friends!"

"Eh? Do you not wish to be friends with me, then?" was her provoking rejoinder.

"You know—you must have seen!" he cried, in fierce, eager tones, now losing his self-restraint and casting discretion to the winds, "that I can no longer content myself with being your friend—that—oh, Ethel! You know that I love you!"

"Oh! Hush!" she exclaimed, very shocked and distressed. "You must not say these things to me. I—I—am not free to listen to them. It is not right."

"I cannot help it," he answered, wildly. "There are limits to a fellow's self-restraint. I can keep silence no longer! Oh! Ethel—Ethel—say that you—you—care for me a little!"

"Oh! oh! What would my husband say if he knew it?" she sobbed, covering her face with her hands.

"I do not believe that your husband loves you half as much as I do," he declared, passionately.

"That is the hardest ——. I mean, leave me, Reggie—leave me, I entreat you!"

He did not leave her. On the contrary, he bent forward, and clasping either little wrist in his strong grasp, drew her hands from her face and looked searchingly into her eyes.

"You do love me! You do! You cannot deny it!" he cried, triumphantly.

She made no attempt to deny it. She only continued imploring him to leave her.

"Nothing but misery and unhappiness could come of it," she said.

"Nay! How can we be unhappy if we both love one another?" he cried, in ardent tones.

She gently freed her wrists from his detaining hands and, rising from her chair, stood confronting him. Her face was very pale. Traces of tears still glistened in her dark eyes, but she had recovered command of herself.

"Reggie," she said, firmly, though her voice trembled a little. "For your sake, as much as for mine, you must never speak to me like this again. We must both forget what has just passed between us as though it had never been. We have stood, this afternoon, you and I, perilously near the brink of madness and ruin; but, thank Heaven! the realisation of danger has come in time for us to draw back. Leave me now, Reggie—in the name of my self-respect and of your own, I adjure you. And when we next meet, let it be on the footing of friends and comrades—dear, dear friends, if you will—but only friends, for we can never be anything more."

Her words, her look, her tone were well calculated to appeal to what was best in the young man's impulsive nature. He took her hand and raised it, reverently, to his lips.

"You are right," he answered in a husky voice. "I was mad to say what I did. Tell me you forgive me, and I will go."

"There is nothing to forgive," she answered, deprecatingly. "I have been as much to blame as you. Let us shake hands, Reggie. And you will be my friend, will you not?"

"Till death," answered the lad, fervently. "If you are in any difficulty, any trouble, any danger, in which I can assist you, you have only to lift your finger to me, and I will come. You will not forget, Ethel, will you?" he demanded, earnestly.

His eyes were full of tears.

"No, Reggie, I will not forget. And, now, good-bye!"

He took her little hand, pressed it to his lips once more, then he turned and was gone.

It was a week or two later, when Reggie Bowdale, coming down to breakfast one morning, found a little heap of letters lying on his plate.

He took the top one and opened it. Evidently a bill. "To account rendered. . . . . The favour of your cheque will oblige."

He tossed it carelessly aside, and took up the next. "Mrs. Laneton-Lorkie at home," etc., etc.

He stuck this up in the chimney-glass.

Then he opened the next: "If at any time you should require an immediate advance of cash——"

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"Bah!" he said. "How these touting usurers do pester a fellow with their confounded circulars."

And he threw it, impatiently, on one side. Then he took up the next letter. It was enclosed in a small, delicately-scented envelope and addressed in a handwriting the sight of which brought the colour to his cheeks and the flutters to his heart. He tore it open with eager fingers.

700, Curzon Street, W.,
April 11, 18—.

Dear Reggie,—I am in trouble and urgently need a friend's assistance. Will you come to me? I shall be alone this morning from 10 to 12.—Yours most sincerely, Ethel Willways.

The young man read this note through several times, while his eyes sparkled and his pulses throbbed. Ethel was in trouble, and she had sent for him. He kissed the note passionately more than once; then placed it in his breast pocket.

At ten minutes to ten he left his rooms. By ten o'clock he was standing on the Willways' doorstep.

"Mrs. Willway at home?" he inquired of the solemn butler who answered the bell.

"Yes, sir. Will you walk this way, sir?" and he was ushered into the cosy morning-room where Ethel Willway sat.

She rose to greet him, with heightened colour, holding out both hands.

"This is good of you, Reggie. But I knew you would come. I am really in an awful difficulty. Sit down, and let me tell you all about it."

He sat down, and listened to her sympathetically, as she confided her trouble to him.

"It is about money," she said. "I suppose everybody thinks that I have as much as I possibly want. But this is not the case. My husband makes me a most inadequate allowance, considering all that he expects me to do; and if I ask him for more (this is between you and me, Reggie) he always puts himself in a terrible passion. It is a miserable state of affairs. I assure you that I often do not know where to turn for a shilling, and I subject myself to all sorts of inconveniences and humiliations rather than ask Mr. Willway. But now a climax has come. I am heavily in debt to my dressmaker, who is pressing me for payment. A horrid man came and served me with a writ yesterday. I went round to see the woman at once, and begged for time; but she says that unless she has £500 by noon to-morrow she shall proceed with her action. But if she gets her £500 she will wait for the balance. I was so desperate that I didn't know what to do. I simply dared not tell my husband, and that is why I wrote to you. Reggie, dear friend, can you, will you, lend me £500?" she cried, in imploring tones.

"By Jove, if I'd got it, you should have it like a shot, Ethel," he answered, warmly. "But, unhappily, at the moment I've hardly £20 to my name."

"But can't you get it for me somehow?" she persisted, with desperate entreaty, fixing her tearful eyes anxiously upon his face. "Wouldn't some of your friends lend you the money? I wouldn't ask you, dear fellow, if it wasn't really urgent. If my husband gets to know of the debt" (she covered her face with her hands and began to sob) "I—I—tremble to think of the consequences. Last time he had to pay a bill for me (and it was a much smaller one than this) he struck me—yes! struck me!" she cried, her bosom heaving. "I have told no one else. I would tell no one but you. I bear the marks of his violence now. See!"

And she drew back the loose sleeve of her morning gown, revealing a livid bruise upon her white arm between the shoulder and the elbow.

"The brute!" ejaculated Reggie, starting up, with clenched fists. "He ought to be thrashed within an inch of his life."

"He deserves it. But unfortunately I am in his power. Besides, he is not always like that. Generally he treats me well enough. It is only when I ask him for money. Then he gets beside himself. I really think he hardly knows what he is doing. But I cannot face another such scene with him—Reggie, I can't. Oh, help me, Reggie! Save me!" she cried, breaking down again and sobbing in wild abandonment.

Reggie scratched his head and looked very much distressed and perplexed.

"Don't cry, dear," he said. "I'll see what I can do. I'll try to get the money somehow. It will mean going to the Jews, I fancy. But I'd rather do that than fail you in your hour of need."

"Oh, thank you, Reggie. You are good," she murmured, gratefully.

"I have not got you the money yet," he answered, smiling. "But if I can get it by hook or by crook, I'll bring it round to you in good time to-morrow morning."

As he walked back to his lodgings, he turned over in his mind the names of all his friends who might have either the inclination or the ability to lend him £500. He could not think of one.

"It will have to be the Jews," he said, with a sigh, as he let himself in with his latch-key.

His breakfast things had been cleared away, but the servant had left his letters, as he had thrown them down, still lying on the table.

The open circular of the moneylender caught his eye at once. He picked it up and glanced over it.

"I suppose this fellow is as good, or bad, as any other," he mused. "They are all much of a muchness. Let me see. What's his name? James Johnson, 500, Sackville-street. Well, I'll go at once and look the worthy Johnson up."

He acted on this resolve. He saw Mr. Johnson, a bland and plausible gentleman, with an unmistakably Israelitish nose, who, though very pleased to do business, made some demur about lending so large a sum as £500 without a second name. However, after looking Reggie up in the Directory, and ascertaining that he had an assured income of £500, he agreed to waive the condition and to lend him the money on his own promissory note.

So Reggie got his £500, and left behind him his autograph upon stamped paper, undertaking to pay James Johnson the sum of £600, three months after date, for value received.

He took the cash round to Ethel Willway at ten o'clock next morning, and gave it into her own hands.

He was aware that he had done what men of the world would call a very foolish thing. But Ethel's unfeigned and rapturous gratitude was, for the moment, an all-sufficient compensation.

However, when the three months had expired and he found himself in the position of having to take up his promissory note for £600, and only about £50 to do it with, he began to realise more fully the hobble in which his impulsive generosity had landed him.

He went to see James Johnson and asked for time. Johnson, who was considerably less bland than he had been on the occasion of his former visit, scouted the suggestion. Mr. Bowdale might renew for another three months by paying £100 for interest. But unless that amount were paid within twenty-four hours—the days of grace having already expired—he should sue for the recovery of his £600, without further notice.

Reggie, naturally in a great state of anxiety, went off to see if he could raise the extra £50 he needed among his friends.

The first one he applied to was Tom Jenkinson, a pal of his in the Foreign Office. He told Jenkinson the whole story of his trouble, so far as was consistent with keeping Ethel Willway's secret, and ended by asking him to lend him £50.

Jenkinson's answer astonished him.

"Awfully sorry, old man," he said. "But I'm in Queer Street myself. And—oddly enough—my hobble is the very same as yours. I mean I've gone and borrowed money from an infernal Jew, a rascal named Johnson, of Sackville-street——"

"Johnson, of Sackville-street!" ejaculated Reggie, in great surprise. "Why that's my man!"

"Eh?" cried Jenkinson, surprised in his turn. "Well, this is a rum go, I must confess. And what

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makes it still more rum is that Dick Fullerton, of the W.O.—you know him?—to whom I applied only yesterday for a loan of a few pounds, tells me that he, too, is stony broke owing to his being in Johnson's clutches."

"By Jove! But this is devilish odd," cried Reggie, in great amazement. "I say, Jenkinson, you don't mind my asking," he added, quickly, "but what the deuce did you want to go borrowing money from a usurer for?"

Jenkinson coloured and looked embarrassed.

"I did it to help a friend," he answered, a trifle stiffly.

"A lady friend?" demanded Reggie, with a startled, almost a frightened, expression in his boyish eyes.

"I must decline to answer you. It is my private affair," replied Jenkinson, with huffy dignity.

"It makes no difference," said Reggie; while something like a cold hand seemed to grasp and freeze his very heart. "I know your friend's name already, Jenkinson; unless I am very much mistaken."

"You do? Who is it?"

"Ethel Willway!"

* * * * *

It ended in their consulting a capable solicitor, by whose inquiries the following facts were conclusively established:—

Alfred Willway, alias James Johnson, operating through his wife and decoy, Ethel, had long been reaping a rich harvest among the young men of their acquaintance, particularly those in Government offices. But the masterpiece of the whole scheme was that, while ostensibly lending money in large sums, he had not, in effect, lent a halfpenny; since the whole of each so-called advance had gone straight back, viâ his wife, into his own pocket.

It remains to add that, upon the pricking of the bubble, Alfred and Ethel Willway promptly disappeared from the scene of their social and pecuniary successes. And it was only a mistaken sense of chivalry on the part of Ethel's victims (upon which, in event of exposure, that astute little woman had doubtless calculated) that saved them from the criminal prosecution they so richly deserved.

MUSIC.

THE WAY TO NATIONAL OPERA.

THE recent success of the San Carlo Company at Covent Garden has naturally set people talking of national opera again, and among others Dr. Cowen has been confiding his views on the subject to the *Daily Express*. Rightly enough, he deprecates what he calls "any wonderful and ambitious scheme for a national English opera-house," suggesting instead that a beginning should be made in a less pretentious fashion:—

> The proper way to begin is undoubtedly to start a small but thoroughly representative concern, on the lines, broadly speaking, of the Paris Opéra Comique. The repertory, to begin with, might consist of such works as "The Marriage of Figaro," and some of the best of Auber. The "books" should be newly translated, and the production mounted with all the care for effect and brightness that is lavished on so-called musical comedy. It should be called, for purposes of identification, the English Light Opera House, and, of course, the opera should be varied each night.

It is manifest that a scheme of this kind would involve infinitely less risk and outlay than any attempt to establish full-fledged grand opera right away. More, there is warrant for the hope that the near future will actually witness an attempt on the very lines indicated, or something closely resembling them. Some months ago, at any rate, it was definitely stated that Mr. George Edwardes was meditating a project of this very nature, and recent information goes to indicate that it has not by any means been abandoned. At this very moment, indeed, Mr. Edwardes is running a work, in M. Messager's "Véronique," which almost answers to the type which Dr. Cowen refers to. Then, before this, he was responsible for "The Duchess of Dantzic," still running in the provinces, which, whether it did or did not repay in London the heavy cost which it entailed, enjoyed beyond question great popularity. Mr. Leoni's "Ib and Little Christina" was yet another production of the same order whose success, when given experimentally under the same management not long ago, was equally significant; while two other works which Mr. Edwardes has commissioned, one to be composed by M. Messager and the other by Dr. Hugo Felix (with M. Sardou as his librettist), are, it is said, already on the stocks.

It is, indeed, quite impossible to doubt that if such a light opera enterprise as that which Dr. Cowen suggests were set on foot by the right people it would enjoy the hearty support of the public. But it would, of course, be an essential condition of success that the thing should be done in absolutely first-class style. That is one reason why Mr. George Edwardes would tackle the enterprise with such exceptional likelihood of success, since no one appreciates more fully the wisdom of the open-handed policy. It cannot be repeated too often in this connection that London audiences will never tolerate second-rate performances. Again and again the failure to recognise this fact has wrecked attempts at the provision of cheap opera in London in the past. The performances offered have almost invariably been second-rate. Those recently witnessed at Covent Garden, on the other hand, were nothing of the kind, and the public responded immediately. Let Mr. George Edwardes mount legitimate light opera as tastefully and sumptuously as he has mounted "The Orchid" and "The Cingalee," and the public will patronise it just as readily as it flocks to pieces of the latter type. This is by no means to imply that pretty dresses and bright scenery are more important than the music, but obviously when offering the public something new which has yet to establish itself in popular favour it is beyond all things essential that it should not be presented in a dingy or univiting fashion.

Obviously, too, the utmost circumspection would be called for in regard to the choice of works. Here, again, it would be essential to bear in mind that a more or less non-opera-going public was being appealed to, and to select the works presented accordingly. Then, light opera once fairly established, the advance to "grand" opera would be a natural step—not in the sense that the same theatre and organisation would do for both undertakings, but in the sense that, as Dr. Cowen suggests, the educational influence of the lighter works would prepare the way for those of a more serious order. It is pleasant to note, too, that the same common-sense view of the matter is taken by Sir Charles Stanford, who has been so prominently identified before now with proposals of a more ambitious kind:—"As an Opéra Comique will if carried out on really artistic lines create a taste which will ask for more, and as its inception involves less expenditure than grand opera, it ought to be an easy matter to found it." In which connection it is hardly needful to say that Stanford's own delightful "Shamus O'Brien" ought to be one of the earliest works from native pens to find a place in the répertoire of any such house as that proposed. Then, in due course, other new works from pens both native and foreign, would certainly be forthcoming, and with the thing once fairly floated and established as a going concern, a step forward would have been accomplished for the like of which we might wait till the crack of doom if proceeding on the old impracticable lines of founding right away a full-blown national opera with the aid of subventions from the public purse.

Mr. Richard Peyton's gift of £10,000 for the endowment of a chair of music at Birmingham University is a very munificent act, which loses nothing of its interest for musicians in general from the fact that the first occupant of the post is to be Sir Edward Elgar. Certainly no better choice could have been made, and the appointment has all the more to commend it, perhaps,

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from the circumstance that the composer of "The Apostles" has owed so little himself to academic influences. It is true that he is entitled to write himself Mus.D.Cantab., but that degree was conferred, of course, *honoris causâ*, and in general Sir Edward Elgar certainly has little in common with the average musical academic, who has so often been the subject of more or less well-merited gibes and jeers. There is obvious appropriateness, too, in the selection of Sir Edward in view of the fact, not only that some of his most important works have been produced in Birmingham, but that he has his residence in the Midlands, and altogether it will not be surprising if many are induced to pursue their musical studies at Birmingham by reason of his presence at the head of affairs. Perhaps in time, indeed, a Birmingham School may result which will do as much for British music as the Glasgow School has done in extending the fame of British painting. It will at any rate be highly interesting to note the lines on which Sir Edward Elgar sets to work, and one and all will certainly wish him every success.

There is indeed only one fear. It would be infinitely regrettable if the acceptance of this position meant any serious absorption of the time and energy at Sir Edward's disposal for creative work. It is one of the most unfortunate circumstances in connection with music in this country that so many of our best composers are perforce compelled to devote the greater part of their lives to the duties of academic and kindred posts—in default of living on their means or on nothing at all. Sir Edward Elgar, however, after a hard struggle at the outset of his career, has since been mercifully free from any such entanglement, and the result has been forthcoming in the works which he has produced. It is sincerely to be hoped, therefore, that this happy state of things may not be seriously modified by any academic or other non-creative work which he may be induced to undertake. Sir Edward must not go giving to Birmingham what is meant for mankind.

Dr. Richard Strauss, who is to appear at the Queen's Hall in conjunction with the Queen's Hall Orchestra on Monday next, when the programme will include his symphonic poem, "Tod und Verklärung," must emphatically be regarded as the champion hustler among modern musicians. Clearly the cloistered life has small charms for one who keeps himself so constantly in the public eye. In the course of three weeks, recently, he is said to have conducted at one place and another no less than fifteen concerts. At the same time he has his duties as chief conductor of the Royal Opera at Berlin to attend to, besides finding time now and again, it may be supposed, to compose. There are those who criticise Strauss severely for dissipating his energies to such an extent in this way, for the sake, as it must be supposed, of the large fees which he obtains. The principle of art for art's sake, indeed, finds no friend in Strauss, who is one of the few living composers making a really big income out of serious music. But there is of course another side to the question. After all, the labourer is worthy of his hire, and if Dr. Strauss places a proper valuation upon himself and his work, who shall blame him for doing this? The bigger composers have been content too long to give to the world the fruits of their genius without adequate reward. In Strauss's case his notion is said to be to amass a sufficient sum to enable him to retire in comfort and thenceforward to devote himself without a care in the world to the unfettered cultivation of his art. Meanwhile his enemies accuse him of adopting a policy of deliberate sensationalism expressly to spread his name and fame and hasten the happy advent of his release. Yet it is certain that Strauss could obtain far greater popularity for his works if he chose to write music more agreeable to the average ear—and, be it added, more readily played by the average orchestra. Besides appearing at Queen's Hall, Dr. Strauss will be entertained at a soirée to be given by the Concert-goers' Club at the Prince's Galleries on Sunday evening.

The announcement that Dr. Joachim is engaged in the preparation of a new School of Violin, to be published in three volumes, is interesting. It has been said of Dr. Joachim, indeed, that he is not a great teacher, and many will recall the stir created some years ago by the assertions under this head of one of his most famous pupils, who roundly declared that the great master had cramped his individuality and taught him nothing. But this, even if true, which many other pupils took leave to doubt, would not affect, of course, the value of such a treatise from his pen as that referred to, which may, indeed, be expected to rank among the most important productions of its kind. Professor Andreas Moser, one of his former pupils, who was responsible also for a Life of him published a few years ago, is to assist Dr. Joachim, it is understood, in the preparation of the work, which will be published next January by Messrs. Simrock in Berlin, and in this country by A. Lengnick. It is a famous artistic lineage which Joachim boasts, the line of descent running right back from himself through Böhm, Rode, Viotti, Pugnani, and Somis to Corelli and Vivaldi. Sarasate is another of to-day's great violinists through whom the traditions of the Turin school are preserved in a manner not less remarkable—he having been taught by Alard, who was a pupil of Habeneck, who studied with Baillot, who learnt of Viotti.

From a well-known teacher of singing I have received the following on the subject of British *v.* Continental vocal training:—

> I am with Mr. Visetti that on principle there is no necessity for English students of singing to go to "foreign parts," in order to acquire pure and distinct enunciation in various languages. For there have been and are still boats plying across the Channel, which have brought, and can still bring, "efficient" teachers to England. The root of the evil is, that so many incompetent singers overcrowd the concert platform and operatic stage, and that in England—with the exception of a comparatively small number—every singer teaches, and every teacher sings, so that most of them divide their time, attention, and bodily strength (which one pursuit alone would take up entirely) between the two. Abroad the state of affairs is very different. The teaching of singing, and singing in public, are mostly two distinct professions. If this distinction were practised in England, a very different result in the training of singers would be obtained. In England, even "students" undertake both, viz., singing and teaching, and very often, singers and even instrumentalists, who are a failure as public performers, take to teaching singing as a *faute de mieux*, and simply to make a living somehow. How can these incompetent teachers impart to their pupils all that is necessary to make a good singer? How can they teach a branch of the art of music which wants such manifold knowledge? And, besides, how is it possible that a singer can train a pupil systematically when he or she is on tour, singing, and the student is left for weeks without tuition? There is nothing more important than the regular "supervision" of the student by the teacher. In England students think it is a great deal, if they have two lessons per week of half an hour's duration, abroad they have to take certainly three, and often more, lessons per week, besides having other instruction belonging to the art of singing.

All of which goes rather to bear out the opinion which I ventured to express that British vocal teaching too often leaves a good deal to be desired.

An event of no ordinary interest was the recital given on Saturday by M. Maurel. The famous artist is getting on in years now, and if it is impossible to forget this when he sings, the perfection of his method and the rare distinction of his style still impart wonderful fascination to his art, so that the recital as a whole was quite uncommonly enjoyable. Such things as Massenet's "Marquise" and the "Credo" from "Otello" he gave with consummate art, while even the one or two entirely worthless pieces in his programme he contrived to invest with interest and charm. On the other hand, he was at his worst beyond question in Lotti's "Pur dicesti," which he chose to embellish with some entirely uncalled for *fioriture* very indifferently executed. Miss Alice Nielsen also contributed to the programme, giving Tosti's "Goodbye" and "Ah! fors' è lui," among other things, with considerable success, though a greater contrast to the subtle and finished art of M. Maurel than her well-schooled and con-

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

scientious but eminently uninspired performances could hardly be imagined. At the Queen's Hall on the same afternoon a concert of entirely familiar fare was vastly enjoyed by an enormous audience, Miss Maud MacCarthy, formerly a prodigy, but now a young lady of twenty, taking the solo part in Beethoven's violin concerto. She plays with neatness and intelligence, but her tone is lacking in volume, and the whole performance could hardly be reckoned a very great one. Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, the "Trauermarsch" from "Götterdämmerung," and "Till Eulenspiegel" were the other works heard, all of which were given in good style, though the quality of the brass in the Wagnerian item was once again sadly open to criticism. At the Bechstein Hall, Busoni was heard at his best in Rubinstein's seldom-played "Variations on an Original Theme," among other things, giving also César Franck's "Prélude, Chorale, et Fugue" in brilliant style, though his audience was smaller than it should have been—and would have been, no doubt, but for counter attractions elsewhere.

Another fine pianist lately heard has been Mr. Leonard Borwick, who likewise deserved a better house than he obtained. His playing came as near to perfection in its own particular style as the most critical could desire. Miss Adela Verne has also given further demonstration of her abilities under the same head, Mme. Albani, Mr. Santley, and an orchestra assisting. A new violinist of some promise, Mr. Arthur Catterall, appeared at the Stock Exchange Orchestral Society's Concert, while a new vocalist, Miss Olive Hilder, has also made a successful début. The second of the Palmer Fund Concerts given on Tuesday week is somewhat ancient history now, but several works of interest by young British composers were brought to a hearing thereat—among which a set of pianoforte preludes by Mr. Paul Corder and a string quartet by Mr. W. Y. Hurlstone were perhaps as promising as any.

A thrilling ghost story by "Sir Frederic H. Cowen" is a feature of the Christmas Number of *M.A.P.* Is this a case of intelligent anticipation? Dr. Cowen's many friends will, I am sure, be glad to think so.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. O'BRIEN,—Though I cannot be sufficiently grateful to you for the pains you have been at to furnish me with the necessary information to enable me to supply my young acquaintances with seasonable literature, yet I hope you will forgive me for remarking one omission. What have the elders done that they should be forgotten? Surely there are men, certainly there are women, to whom the book daintily bound and beautifully illustrated is a perpetual joy. Let me, then, briefly attempt to remedy your omission. Have you seen Mr. Charles Dana Gibson's new volume? Mr. Gibson's delightful humour has long since secured for him an admiring audience on this side of the Atlantic, and his admirers will owe him a further debt of gratitude for "Everyday People" (Lane). I have also seen two handsome volumes which would make a most desirable present in a new edition of Cary's "Dante" published by Messrs. Cassell. In this we have Dante's poetry wedded to the Doré illustrations, and all that type, paper, and binding can do lavished on the production. Then the lover of quaint old songs and beautiful printing would assuredly be made happy for a year by Mr. Graham Robertson's "French Songs of Old Canada" (Heinemann, 31s. 6d.). Mr. Robertson has so keen an eye for decorative effect that every page is a thing of beauty, and the colour of his illustrations is a triumph of artistic reticence. Another book which makes a special appeal to women is Lady Russell's "Three Generations of Fascinating Women" (Longmans, 31s. 6d. net). It is a chatty book of family gossip about the Hon. Mary Bellenden, Caroline, Countess of Ailesbury, and the Hon. Mrs. Damer, enriched with numerous reproductions of contemporary portraits and sketches. Quite another audience is appealed to by the series of portraits by Mr. E. C. Elliott, contained in the sumptuous volume. "Fifty Leaders of British Sport" (Lane). A finer series of characteristic photographs was never gathered together in one cover, and the biographical notes by Mr. Aflalo are far and away beyond the usual standard in such productions. Altogether, it is an ideal presentation volume for a sportsman, unless, of course, he is so big that he is inclined to feel jealous by reason of his non-inclusion in the distinguished company. But of all the publishers who devote their attention to the production of finely illustrated books, there is none who provide more lavishly than Messrs. Adam and Charles Black. Take the interesting volume published for the Fine Art Society of "British Water-Colour Art" (20s. net), containing reproductions in colour of the collection of drawings dedicated by the Royal Society of Painters in Water-Colours to their Majesties the King and Queen as a souvenir of the Coronation. Here we have an adequate history of the progress of the art of water-colour painting during the course of a century, adequately illustrated by reproduction of the work of the masters of that art. Ten years ago it would have been impossible to have obtained colour-printing of this quality in the United Kingdom, but to-day this is only one volume of a whole series of equal excellence printed in England. Many of them take the form of pen and paint pictures of other countries, and a more delightful souvenir of a visit abroad than one of these volumes could not be in any one's possession. Numbered amongst them is Sir Martin Conway's "The Alps" (20s. net), painted by Mr. A. D. McCormick, an association of author and artist, blessed with the happiest results. Indeed, one of the remarkable points about this series of Beautiful Books is the success which in each case has attended the choice of the collaborators in each volume. One expects sympathetic understanding, of course, when, as in "Venice" (20s. net), Mr. Mortimer Menpes and Miss Dorothy Menpes are jointly responsible for the book, or again in "Naples" (20s. net), of which Mr. A. Fitzgerald paints such charming pictures, and Mrs. Fitzgerald no less delightfully describes the place. But the happy choice is no less apparent in the volume about "Morocco" (20s. net), of which Mr. A. S. Forest as artist and Mr. S. L. Bensusan as author, give a brilliant, realistic picture of the near East.—I am, etc.,

WILFRED C. WYNDHAM.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were in the Royal box at the Savoy on the first night of "Pagliacci." The Duke looked remarkably well, in spite of what the papers say about his still suffering from the effects of his motor accident. Mrs. Brown Potter's "Columbine" gown is lovely, all soft white frillery, with an overskirt sparkling with silver. There were so many interesting things to look at that our heads were seldom still. A lady in the stalls had the most wonderful pearls, rows upon rows of them. A very pretty girl with dark eyes, hair, and eye-lashes sat in front of us, with a dainty little fair-haired mother whom everybody knew as a dramatic favourite. The scene in the second act was exactly like one of Mr. Mortimer Menpes' pictures. It was a good idea to put the little girl in front of the crowd and make her lay her doll down on the step of the little theatre. It was such a natural touch. The music was lovely.

We called at the Langham Hotel one afternoon last week to see a friend, and were much struck by the magnificent rooms, the spacious corridors, and the very

WEDDING PRESENTS.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. MORTLOCKS, LTD., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard-st., W. Inspection solicited.

handsome dining-room to which an annexe has quite recently been added, very light and bright and pretty, and capable of dining forty persons in addition to the 200 whom the dining-room proper accommodates. The view right up Portland-place to Regent's Park is a fine vista, and one of the advantages of the hotel is the wide and roomy porch which completely shelters those who alight, stretching quite across the pavement. The L.C.C. does not allow this convenient feature in more recently-erected hotels. The thick carpets and wide staircase with its easy, shallow steps, give a luxurious appearance to the hotel, and add to the quiet and freedom from noise which are among its advantages. The place is eloquent of real, substantial comfort, and is much patronised by English county families as well as by our Colonial visitors. They appreciate the position, which is close to all the principal West-End shops. The manager has brought out a very interesting guide to London calculated to be very useful to visitors with its map and quantity of general information. The illustrations are beautifully done, more particularly one of the river by night, on p. 121.

I had never been inside Robinson and Cleaver's doors until one day last week, when I felt as if I had made a great discovery. Never have I seen anything so beautiful as the interior. Alabaster pillars support the roof, which is in opaque glass painted in beautiful designs. The capitals of these pillars are in the most glorious colour, the alabaster deepening into a soft pinkish orange tan. Can you make anything of that? If not, think of the evening sky when a glow overspreads it from the west after the sun has disappeared. Well, the alabaster suggests solidified sunset. The great staircase, too, is white veined marble, with alabaster balustrades. Here again the colour waxes and wanes, sometimes as soft and delicate as a magnolia petal, and again as deep and glowing as an azalea leaf. I could hardly attend to the business in hand for gazing at all this beauty overhead, but matters of the moment had to have their way, and I was soon immersed in Christmas presents. Whether to choose a box of gloves, a case of embroidered handkerchiefs, a set of Irish crochet d'oyleys, hand-embroidered cushion covers or table centres, lace and linen bedspreads frilled all round, or a purse, a bag, a miniature or photograph frame, a smoking set, or an inkstand, silver brush tray, or case for scent bottle, occupied some time. In the dress department I admired very much a little monk's gown for a child, forming the sweetest little dressing-gown with hood, just the thing for toddling to the bathroom in these cold mornings. The taffeta silk petticoats struck me as being very cheap, and the furs remarkably so, and all of the most up-to-date shapes, quite the right present for a girl. In fact, there is everything under this splendid canopy of ornamental glass. Robinson and Cleaver's is by far the most spacious and most beautiful shop I have ever seen.

I learned the other day from a visit to Spinks and Sons' galleries in Piccadilly that the little Egyptians played tipcat as far back as the year 1500 B.C., and probably at a still remoter date. Their marbles were larger than those our modern boys play with. Does that indicate larger fingers and, on the *ex pede Herculem* system, a bigger frame than our boys enjoy? The ancient Egyptians had cleverer targets than ours. Why do we not copy them? Each ring is detached from the rest and slung from above, so that the exact position of each shot can be told, and, besides, the target lasts for ever, being made of iron. There are thousands of curios, large and small, in the galleries, most of them marked at very moderate prices. For instance, a present for a child of bead armlets 1,500 years old can be bought for 5s. 6d. Nor are the exhibits confined to any one period. There is a bronze jug from the Roman tomb of a Gallic chief, and there are Jacobean relics and a great number of specimens of silver articles from the reign of Elizabeth onward through the Georgian era. The complete silver toilet set of George II., for instance, with inscription, and dated 1758, is there in its own original case. The very table on which Napoleon played draughts on the *Undaunted*, on his way to Elba, and the actual draughtmen that he used, are among the interesting historical relics. Who will buy it? Napoleon gave it to Captain Usher, who commanded the *Undaunted* on that memorable occasion. But he found time to play draughts with his famous passenger, as an inscription on the table shows. Napoleon had a habit of continually fidgeting with his fingers, and on the underside of the table are the marks left by his restless scratchings and rubbings. A silver bowl from one of the vessels of the Spanish Armada, picked up by some English fishermen, is another ancient relic. Unique examples of ivory carving by Moritz Keller occupy a prominent position in this fascinating collection, which includes a number of pictures by well-known artists. Several are by old masters. It is a polite education to examine the contents of the rooms, and any one wishing to give a unique present should not fail to pay them a visit.

The two youngest Vice-Presidents of the League of Mercy, Miss Irene Hentschel and Miss Doris Joel, are organising a children's fancy-dress ball in aid of the funds of the League, to be held at the Hotel Cecil on the 29th of this month from 6.30 to 10.30. The young impresarii are receiving every encouragement in their maiden effort. Mr. Alfred de Rothschild is lending his private band, under the direction of Mr. Carl Heubert. As President of the Strand district of the League, Mr. Carl Hentschel, father of one of these enterprising young ladies, has formed an influential committee. Prizes will be given for the best fancy dresses, and entertainments will be provided between the dances. Mrs. Wordsworth has arranged a display of fancy dancing by her pupils. The ball is sure to be a great success.

There was a time when barrels of oysters were highly appreciated as Christmas gifts, but the poor bivalves are rather in disgrace at present, and those who like to bestow good fare have to send cases of wine and delicacies of the table. I hear that there is a demand this year for parcels of the Escoffier Carlton preparations, and a guinea box of these must be a boon indeed in the country, where the delicious sauces, chutneys, poivrons, and pimientos are comparatively unknown. Anything more handy than their Catalane sauce for ragouts and stews you cannot imagine. One has only to put in the chicken or game, and let it slowly simmer.

The only really nice perfumes are those that smell of flowers. Is not that so? The most perfectly delicious that I know of is Mülhens' Violetta Graziella. A few drops scattered on one's handkerchief or muff make one's friends say "Oh, violets! Where have you hidden them away?" And the bottles are in themselves so pretty with violets on the label, a violet engraved on the glass stopper, which is tied down with a bit of ribbon in violet colours—viz., green, white, and purple. The box in which it is sent out is in the shape of a cradle lined with green silk and fitted with a fluffed-up pillow for its little stopper to rest on. There are soap and sachets of this delicious perfume at 62, New Bond-street, where we are always discovering pretty things when we go for our 4711 Eau de Cologne, now become one of the necessities of life. Our bathroom would not know itself without a bottle or two with the familiar blue and gold label. By the way, this Eau de Cologne has been the recipient of that very sincere but equally inconvenient form of flattery—imitation, even to the very colour of the label. So make sure that the numbers 4711 are on any that you buy. You must never be without a bottle of it on the toilet table. It is useful in many different ways. After the hair has been shampooed

Redfern's special offer for Xmas Presents. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

a good way of avoiding chill is to rub in a little 4711 among the roots. This makes the whole head in a glow of heat, and also helps to stimulate the skin and keep it up to the mark in the matter of raising a fine crop of hair for future use. And when one has toothache—but I must have told you that before, for the 4711 is my sovereign palliative for the disagreeable ailment that good old Sarah calls "the teethache, drat it!"

I told you a few weeks ago about the new clock that has neither dial nor hands, and yet tells the time much more distinctly than any other kind of chronometer. I have been so often asked about it that I went to Vickery's, in Regent-street, in order to equip myself with all information on the subject. They are not expensive, those in sterling silver costing but three guineas, others in gilt or oxidised steel being much lower in price. They stand five inches high, apart from the handles, and the figures that tell the time are so large and bold that one can see them right across the room. The hour is indicated by the upper line of figures, the minutes by those below, and it is amusing to watch the latter turn over to a new minute when the sixty seconds have run round. There are all kinds of other clocks there, and the daintiest possible watches, many of them hung from smart little pins and pendants. A particularly sweet little gold watch is ornamented with a diamond, ruby, and sapphire shamrock on the back. A very new idea is carried out in the flat watch cases, which are not what they seem, but contain a mirror and a tiny powder puff. Another useful combination is a silver-gilt oblong case, which contains a card case, mirror, powder puff, and sovereign purse. Some of them are set with jewels. The jewelled hat-pins, sold in a case containing a pair, make pleasing presents, being gold or silver set with rubies, or rubies, pearls, and turquoises. A little hammered gold mirror that can be carried in the glove is both cheap and useful. It can be hung on the chain of a châtelaine, but nestles very comfortably in the palm of the hand inside the glove. Among the pretty charms for the watch chain is a copy of the little greenstone Maori god sent to the owner of St. Amant just before the Derby this year by an anonymous correspondent, who implored him to wear it, as it was a pledge of victory.

And yet another novelty of Vickery's is a necklet of platinum and fine gold worked in a design of points, the central one quite deep and the others graduated. Each vandyke is pointed with a pearl drop. Some of them are studded with precious stones. The gold chain necklets, with pearl and turquoise slide and tassels to match, are becoming, and very new are the gold and turquoise necklets, with mother-o'-pearl drops, each drop having a ruby set in it. Other stones are used in the same way. I do not know when I have seen so many novelties. There are inkstands with clocks attached, tea tables with spirit lamp, kettle, and plate or cakestands all in one; birthday spoon with correct sign of the zodiac for each month, claret jugs with ice-well centres, umbrellas with watches in the very ornamental handles, hand-painted china photograph frames, patented lock-up letter trays that can be used upon the knees, so comfortable for travelling, etc., dog or pussy baskets, with divisions for its collars, ribbons, handkerchiefs (every self-respecting dog and cat has pocket handkerchiefs nowadays, and even table-napkins marked with their monograms), double post-boxes for the hall table, with accommodation for small parcels, and a

THE CURE OF CONSUMPTION.—The following is an extract from a letter written by Mr. J. Lock, Rowborough, and proves beyond doubt the statement that Consumption (even in its latest and apparently hopeless cases) is perfectly curable: "I write to say that Dr. Alabone undertook my son's case when other doctors had given up all hope in the matter. Dr. B——, senior physician of the —— Hospital, said a few weeks—five or six—will 'end it.' In six weeks my son had reached Sandown; four months later he was walking ten to twelve miles. He is now roughing it in South Africa, and is in excellent health."—"The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

ROBINSON SOUTH AFRICAN BANKING COMPANY.

The Ordinary General Meeting was held on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, at the Offices, 1, Bank Buildings, Mr. J. B. Robinson presiding.

THE CHAIRMAN said that, taking into consideration the depressed state of business during the period covered by the report, he thought that the shareholders would agree with the board in considering it a satisfactory document. As compared with the previous year's accounts the totals were smaller. That was to say, their liabilities and assets had been reduced, but in view of the almost general decline in all branches of business he did not suppose they would have expected to find it otherwise. Restrictions had been the order of the day on all sides. The board were of opinion that in such times as they had been going through a very substantial proportion of the bank's assets ought to be kept in a liquid form. The cash in hand and on short loans—which was for all practical purposes also cash—and native gold in transit amounted together to £2,520,808, being an increase of £397,265 as compared with these items in the previous balance-sheet, and the amount was greater than the whole of their liability on deposit accounts. This rather unusual state of affairs, from a banking point of view, was partly explained by the decision of the directors to close the Port Elizabeth and Durban branches, this resulting in the advances made by these branches being called in. The gross profit of the year was £154,657. That it had been necessary to make a substantial provision for bad and doubtful debts was a regrettable fact. Deducting the charges from the gross profit, and adding the sum brought forward, there remained £133,514 available for dividend and other purposes. An interim distribution of 2½ per cent. was made last April, and a further payment of 2½ per cent. was now recommended, making 5 per cent. for the year, and leaving £58,514 to be carried forward. They would, he felt sure, admit that this was a wise provision to make against the dull times which had exercised such a baneful influence upon all banking transactions throughout South Africa. During the past two years the position of affairs generally in that country had been most unsatisfactory. It had been a most trying period to the board, and great efforts had had to be made to protect the interests of the bank. To give an idea of the terrible state of things that had prevailed since the termination of the war, he might mention that fully one-half of the bills of exchange drawn through their bank on South Africa were dishonoured, and they had had to fall back upon the drawers of the bills, which, in many instances, caused a considerable amount of embarrassment. There were now indications which led him to believe that there would be a great improvement in the general position of affairs in South Africa before very long. Labour with which to carry on work at the mines was the great factor at the moment, and it would appear that there was a large number of unskilled labourers arriving on the Rand. This should lead to a considerable increase in the production of gold. In the circumstances the board did not deem it advisable to pay a larger dividend than 5 per cent. for the year. The position of the bank was sound, and when they considered the great depression in all departments of trade, both in this country and in South Africa, he felt that the results obtained during the past year must be regarded as very satisfactory. He drew attention to the fact that the shareholders had no liability, as the shares were fully paid. The assets, as shown in the balance-sheet, exceeded the amount of the liabilities by £165,000. When they further took into consideration the auditors' note, to the effect that the assets had been taken at or under cost price, and that their aggregate market value at the lowest figures quoted on September 30 last was in excess of the amount at which they stood in the accounts, he thought that the shareholders would realise the strong position held by the bank at present, and how great were its possibilities in respect of future operations. With care, and the certainty of better times, they might reasonably look forward to an expansion of trade and an increase in their banking transactions. He then moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Charles F. Carrington having seconded the motion, the report was adopted and the proposed dividend was agreed to.

The Chairman, in the course of further remarks, said that the position of the mines on the Rand had been one of great difficulty. It was the general opinion that when the war was over the natives would come down from the interior in large numbers and seek work under the British flag. But they did not do so. He now began to see a prospect of the mines being got to work at full speed. The shareholders must not be carried away by what he said. So many previous calculations in this matter had been falsified that he did not wish to convey the idea that there was a certainty of the necessary labour being obtained. There were, however, favourable indications. The Chinese were coming freely, and in the past two months the number of natives at the mines had increased. He personally preferred natives to Chinese. It was a bitter thing to him to have to import Chinese. There was an enormous black population in South Africa, and it seemed a pity that so much of the money paid in wages should be taken out of the country. He had been asked questions with regard to the South Randfontein Mine. Three months ago they had the greatest difficulty in keeping it going. The "boys'" time had expired, and they wanted to return to their brothers. It was astonishing how fond they were of their brothers when they wished to leave the mines. However, the management succeeded in inducing some of them to remain, and crushing was continued, but the results from crushing rock in a haphazard way were very different from what they were when it was done systematically. In conclusion, he remarked that nothing would be wanting on the part of the directors to protect and promote the interests of the shareholders.

Having briefly referred to the outlook in Rhodesia, the Chairman moved the adoption of the report.

Dr. Hans Sauer seconded the motion, which, after a short discussion, was adopted, and a resolution was afterwards passed electing Mr. Julius Jeppe a director of the company.

telegram drawer, luncheon and tea baskets, and a score of other neat and ingenious devices.

Science has done great things for the invalid, even putting on one side the skill of doctors and surgeons and the discoveries of remedial and alleviative medicines. Take the case of furniture alone. Could a better form of Christmas gift be chosen than one or other of those appliances which remove so much of the discomfort and dependence on others so often inseparable from illness? A chair, for instance, in which the patient can move himself from one room to another, is a boon that can be appreciated fully only by those who have known for weeks what it is to be entirely dependent on others for the slightest change of position. A look at Carter's catalogue of the appliances to be found at 6A, New Cavendish-street, W., shows these wheeled chairs and couches adapted to every form of illness. The Orthopædic spinal chair, especially when fitted with the literary machine, is skilfully and accurately adapted to the needs of sufferers from curvature or weakness of the spine. And equally merciful is the Aseptic mechanical bedstead, by means of which the very heaviest patient can be raised without noise or vibration. One need not be an invalid to properly appreciate the adjustable sun umbrella, which can be fastened on a chair, a carriage, or in the sands and adjusted at any angle. It, too, can be fitted with the reading table. One of the First Aid sets ought to be in every house

When you are choosing crackers do not fail to get Tom Smith's Russo-Japanese. They are very clever, and with them is given a sheaf of paper pictures showing the course of shells from vessel to vessel, and finishing with a tiny explosion. The Louis Wain cats are good, too, and you will admire the Dutch china box, with the quaint pictures of Dutch children and the pretty bits of china contained inside each.

I shall have some nice recipes for you next week

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IMMEDIATELY RELIEVE
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· TRUTH ·

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No. 1460. Vol. LVI. Thursday, December 22, 1904. Price Sixpence.

NOTICE.

THE

Twenty-Eighth Christmas Number of TRUTH,

ENTITLED

A MODERN BLUE BEARD

AND OTHER STORIES,

IS NOW READY.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

It is profusely illustrated by

MR. ROLAND HILL ("Rip.").

The Illustrations include (besides Text Illustrations) Four Double-Paged Coloured Cartoons, entitled

A Modern Blue Beard—I.
A Modern Blue Beard—II.
Marriage à la Mode.
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ENTRE NOUS.

A FULL detailed account of the Twenty-fifth Truth Toy and Doll Show, held at the Royal Albert Hall last week, will be found at pp. 1599-1607 of this issue. I think it is universally agreed that the Show itself was an unqualified success, and my heartiest thanks are due to all those ladies and gentlemen who have contributed to that result by their donations and by their personal work in the manufacture of toys and the dressing of dolls. On the conclusion of the Show, the exhibits were despatched in the usual course to the various London Hospitals, Workhouses, Workhouse Schools and Infirmaries on my list, so far as the number would allow; and the 11,000 new sixpences will this week be handed over to the managers of the various institutions entitled to them for distribution in accordance with the wishes of the anonymous donor. In all some 30,000 children, most of them poor and friendless, and many of them sick and suffering, will have something to help them towards a merry Christmas, and I hope that those who have contributed towards this end may find their own Christmas the merrier for what they have done.

In one respect, however, this year's Toy Show was very unfortunate. The downpour of rain throughout the first day of the Show naturally reduced the attendance far below the usual numbers; and, although the attendance on Thursday was a record one, the surplus on that day was not sufficient to extinguish the deficit on the other. The total amount paid for admission on Wednesday was £46 10s.; and on Thursday £89 2s.—in spite of the fact that admission was free after 5 p.m. The visitors did not, I regret to say, avail themselves liberally of the collecting boxes, and only £8 15s. 2½d. was obtained from this source. The total proceeds of the Toy Show were £144 7s. 2½d., as against £172 0s. 3d. last year; this result is the more unfortunate, as the contributions to the Toy Fund are also considerably below the usual amount. The final accounts, however, cannot be made up for another week or two; and I still venture to hope that, as has nearly always hitherto happened, those of my readers who have not yet assisted will come to the rescue in sufficient numbers to prevent the Fund being closed this year with a deficit.

Apropos of the Truth Toy Show, I was much concerned to learn that Messrs. Catesby and Sons had been summoned for creating an obstruction in Tottenham Court-road in connection with an exhibition they were holding at the headquarters of Cork Lino. In default of any better means of assisting the Albert Hall Show, the firm had kindly undertaken to exhibit for me some special advertisements during their own exhibition; so that it looks as if I might have indirectly contributed to the offence complained of. However, as I have not been summoned, I conclude that the police thought that

Cork Lino was what the crowd round Messrs. Catesby's premises was really in search of. And I dare say that they were right.

An incident that occurred at the Albert Hall last week may interest some of my American friends. Among other toys exhibited was a large monkey, which had been decorated with a flag—I suppose the first that came handy. A small boy, about 4 ft. 6 in. high, was observed to bestow a great deal of attention on this exhibit, after which he consulted a policeman. He went back to the monkey, looked at it anxiously for some time, and then went off to another policeman. Policeman No. 2 referred him to my manager. "I say," said the youth, in the accents of the great Republic of the West, "what's that monkey doing with the Amurrkan flag, anyhow?" The manager pleaded ignorance. "Guess there ain't any connection between the Amurrkan flag and monkeys, is there?" said the youth, rather hotly. My representative, being a man of peace, hastily replied that there was none. "Hadn't you better take it down?" said the small boy. My manager, not wishing to provoke international complications at a festival of peace and goodwill, told the representative of the U.S.A. that if it would give him any pleasure, he might remove the flag himself. The youth did so promptly. "Look here," he said, in a more friendly tone, when he had possessed himself of the trophy, "if there's a bird anywhere, you might put it on *that*." My representative thanked him for the concession, and looked about anxiously for an eagle, feeling that it would not be safe to plant the Stars and Stripes on any humbler fowl. There being no eagle in the collection, he ventured to suggest a lion, and the British public will be pleased to hear that the young American Cousin readily accepted this compromise. The incident then closed.

Since my appeal in last week's issue I have received the following donations:—

H. A. P., £2; The Ward Room Officers H.M.S. *Vengeance*, £4 8s.; E. and V., 10s.; W. H. L., 10s.; C. W. L., £1; G. J., £1 1s.; Nancy, £1; J. P. M., £2 2s.; H. E., 10s.; Mrs. Sykes, £1; Sir Squire Bancroft, £2 2s.; B., £5; O. G., £2; James Britten, £1 1s.; Major A. T. Weller, £1; W. D., £2 2s.; S. M. M., £5; H. H. S., £1 1s.; Northants Rector, 10s.; Jeremiah Coleman, £5; Master and Misses Hagemann, 5s.; A. J. H., 3s.; G. D. B., £12; K. T. L., £1; Outis, £2 2s.; Miss Edith Schiff, £3 3s.; T. M. W., £1 1s.; Sir Alfred Turner, K.C.B., £1 1s.; Claude Lambton, £3; H. L., 4s.; Mary, 5s.; Elm Lodge Billiard Room, £4 6s. 9d.; F. C. H., £5 5s.; A. A. L., £1; J. C. Graham, £1 1s.; Anglo-Bavarian, 10s.; L. C., £10; Ella and Victor, £1; John Reid, £1; J. L. T., £2 2s.; Eddie and Joanie, 5s.; R. L. W., £1; J. B., 2s. 6d.; Oris, £5; White Violet, £1.

I have also received a "Welsh milkmaid" from Mrs. Nicholl, three dolls from Mrs. Jenkins, and a dressed doll from Sister Bertha.

The King and Queen, who are to spend the Christmas holidays at Sandringham, will travel direct from Wolferton to Rowsley on Monday, January 2, when they are going to Chatsworth on a visit to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. It is understood that their Majesties will arrive at Windsor Castle from Chatsworth on Saturday, January 7, for a stay of between three and four weeks, after which the Court will remove to Buckingham Palace for the opening of Parliament.

The King had three days of excellent shooting last week in Lord Cadogan's extensive preserves on the Culford Estate, between Bury St. Edmunds and Thetford. Game was very abundant, and the birds were in capital condition. On the fourth day of the Royal visit their Majesties drove through Bury St. Edmunds to Ickworth, where they drank tea with Lord and Lady Bristol. Ickworth is a magnificent house, the central part being a rotunda, with a cupola 140 ft. in height, which is connected with the two wings by curved corridors. It was built from his own designs by Frederick, fourth Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry, who had lived long in Italy. The gardens are fine, and the well-wooded and much varied park is eleven miles in circuit. The King and Queen were much interested in the collection of pictures, which includes a number of admirable portraits and two very fine works by Velasquez.

On Tuesday the Queen drove to Elveden Hall, and visited Lady Iveagh, and on Friday her Majesty spent the afternoon at Hardwicke, the picturesque old seat of the Cullums, which is now occupied by Mr. and Lady Evelyn Guinness. Hardwicke is attractive, both for the pictures, library, and antiquities, and for the beautiful gardens and pinetum.

The King will pay a visit to the King and Queen of Portugal at Lisbon during the latter part of March.

It has always been the custom to summon Parliament to meet for despatch of business at the Council which the Sovereign has invariably held about the middle of December. When Parliament has been again prorogued shortly before Christmas the arrangement has been taken to indicate either that a dissolution is intended in January, or that the Ministers are contemplating resignation. There has been considerable speculation as to the real cause of the decision again to prorogue Parliament at last week's Council. Probably it is a mere freak of the Cabinet to avoid being too soon tied down to begin at a definite date a Session which they must dread.

The Palace ceremonies before Easter will be two evening Courts at Buckingham Palace, and three Levees at St. James's Palace. One of the Courts will be held during the last week in February, and the other during the first week in March. The first two Levees are to be held about the same time as the Courts, and the hour will be noon. The third Levee will be held early in April by the Prince of Wales for the King. Their Majesties intend to receive the Corps Diplomatique at the first Court, and the Ambassadors and other Chefs de Mission will be invited in rotation to the subsequent Courts of the season.

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1620.
For Truth Educational List, see page 1617.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 1621.
For Amusements, see page 1613.
For Appeals, see page 1618.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1625.

The Prince and Princess of Wales, who are expected at York Cottage, Sandringham, on Friday, will proceed to Windsor the week after next, and they are to reside for a short time at Frogmore Lodge, where the Princess will remain during the Prince's visit to Ireland. The Princess is to arrive at Marlborough House for the season about Monday, January 30, and she will be joined there a few days later by the Prince of Wales.

H.R.H. and the Princess were the guests last week of Lord and Lady Pembroke at Wilton House, near Salisbury, from Monday until Friday evening. The Duke and Duchess of Portland, Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe, Lord Durham and Lady Anne Lambton, and Lord and Lady de Grey were included in the house party. The Prince had three days' shooting in the Hare Park, Groveley Wood, and Haddon preserves; and over 4,000 head were killed, the bag consisting principally of pheasants.

The Prince of Wales is to pay a visit to Lord and Lady Londonderry towards the end of next month at Mount Stewart, their seat near Belfast.

The sales of the Duke of Cambridge's property have realised about £110,000. The various collections disposed of were not made by the late Duke, but by the two Dukes of Gloucester and by Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, who acquired nearly all the pictures (which fetched £35,000) by bequest or purchase. It is quite certain that Princess Mary never would have left all this property to her nephew, the Duke of Cambridge, absolutely, if she had entertained the slightest suspicion that it would ultimately figure in auction rooms.

The Duke of Connaught is to leave England about January 24 for an official tour of inspection of the forces at Gibraltar and at Malta and in Egypt. The Duke, who is to be accompanied by the Duchess of Connaught, will embark at Portsmouth for Gibraltar on board the cruiser *Essex*.

The Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha is to arrive in England this week, and he will spend about a month at Claremont with his mother, the Duchess of Albany. H.R.H. has been serving during the last few months with his regiment of Prussian Foot Guards, which is stationed at Potsdam. The Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the Duchess of Albany will pay a visit to the King and Queen shortly, either at Sandringham or at Windsor Castle.

Lord and Lady Dudley returned to Dublin last week from their short visit to England, consequent on the illness of Mr. John Ward. They went to the Viceregal Lodge, where their children had been staying during their absence. Christmas, wherever spent, is a very busy Viceregal time, and not least so to Lord and Lady Dudley, who personally take an active part in making Christmas a happy time for a large number of those whose happiness depends on the benevolence of others. Lady Dudley does much Christmas shopping in Dublin, where the shops make a goodly show, and are well worthy of the capital of Ireland.

The arrangements of the Irish Viceregal Court have necessarily undergone many changes, and no doubt will be liable to others owing to the visit of the Prince of Wales to Ireland in January. The Castle season begins on February 1, the preparations for which, and for the visit of the Prince of Wales to Lord and Lady Dudley at that time, will cause the assemblage of the officials of the Viceregal household at Dublin Castle during January. The presence of the Prince of Wales at the first Levee and Drawing Room of the season will naturally give unusual éclat to these Court ceremonials. Dublin may look forward to a great muster of society, which will give a much-needed impetus to trade. Already houses are being taken and rooms being secured at the leading hotels for the "Castle season." Lord and Lady Dudley are making up a distinguished house-party for the Royal visit. Lord Ardilaun will also have a party to stay at Ashford for the shooting.

Lord Justice FitzGibbon's usual party assembles next week at his villa at Howth for Christmas. This comfortable residence was built by the Lord Justice over thirty years ago, in a picturesque situation on the north side of the Hill of Howth, everlooking Balscadden Bay, of old historic fame in connection with Grace O'Malley's raid on Howth Castle and its youthful heir. Under no roof-tree in Ireland have so many men of distinction been assembled within the last thirty years, as under the hospitable roof of the Lord Justice's villa, on the annual occasions of his unique Christmas parties. Amongst those still holding a leading position in the world who have been the Lord Justice's guests at Howth are the Prime Minister, Mr. John Morley, Lords Roberts and Wolseley, Professor Mahaffy, Mr. George Wyndham, Sir J. West-Ridgeway, Monsignor Molloy, Lords Ashbourne, Rathmore, and O'Brien.

Lord Justice FitzGibbon is possibly the cleverest of Ireland's clever men, and with the most interesting personality. His capacity for work is very great. Though no courtier, he has been the friend of successive generations of Irish Lord-Lieutenants. The Irish Church owes him a debt of gratitude greater than it owes to any other layman in Ireland. He has been its great financier. His energy in its cause, as in that of anything which he takes

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St. Thomas's Hospital ministers to the crowded poor of Lambeth and surrounding districts. £11,000 is required from Voluntary Contributions. There is a large deficit this year.

Chess for Two, Bridge for Four, Pit when the players are Five or more. Old Santa Claus is laden with Dollies and with Toys, For all good little girlies, and all good little boys. Dean's Rag and other Toy Books are bursting from his kit, But the *favourite gift* which he has brought is simply known as "It." How his eyes with joy are lit, As he sees them welcome "Pit," For Santa Claus, like all the wise, has learned that "Pit" is "It."

up, has been untiring. Last, not least, he is the personal friend of both the Catholic and Protestant Archbishops of Dublin.

Mr. Balfour has appointed Mr. J. A. Kempe to be Comptroller and Auditor-General, in the place of Mr. Richmond, who retires next week. The salary is £2,000 a year. Mr. Kempe is a son of Prebendary Kempe, who was long Vicar of St. James's, Piccadilly, and has held the office of Assistant Comptroller for some years, and he was previously Deputy Chairman of the Board of Customs. He commenced his Civil Service career as a clerk in the Treasury, and he was private secretary to the late Lord Iddesleigh (then Sir Stafford Northcote) while he was Chancellor of the Exchequer from 1874 until 1880 under Lord Beaconsfield.

Lord James of Hereford was requested by the Government to preside over the Free Church of Scotland Commission, but he declined to undertake the duty. Lord Elgin is admirably suited for the work, and he will have a very strong colleague in Lord Kinnear, who was to have been invited to assist the House of Lords in the re-hearing of the case, but for some reason or other this arrangement was given up. Sir Ralph Anstruther is a sensible, well-known, and popular country gentleman, whose interest in Church affairs is hereditary, and he thoroughly understands the complex workings of the Scottish ecclesiastical system.

Sir Frederick Fitzwygram, who has just died at the age of eighty-one, had a long military career before he entered the House of Commons as Tory Member for the Fareham Division of Hampshire in 1885, and he retained his seat until 1900, when he retired from public life. He served with the Inniskilling Dragoons in the Crimea, and afterwards he passed several years in India in command of the 15th Hussars. Sir Frederick commanded the Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot after leaving his regiment, and for five years he held the office of Inspector-General of Cavalry. He was an excellent and a very popular officer.

Sir Frederick purchased the Leigh Park estate, on the borders of Hants and Sussex, from the late Mr. Stone, M.P., about thirty-five years ago, and he had since made that place his principal residence. There was usually a large house party at Leigh during Goodwood race week. The handsome house, which was rebuilt in 1864, is in the so-called Domestic Gothic style. The gardens are very fine, and the park, which comprises seven hundred acres of woodland, contains a lake with several islands planted with rhododendrons. Leigh is one of the most attractive country seats in South-east Hants.

The late Mr. Cartwright, of Edgcote, near Banbury, owned large family estates in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire, and he was one of the best known residents in these two counties, in both of which he worked hard, both as a magistrate and in the management of all departments of public affairs. Mr. Cartwright, whose father was for some years one of the members for Oxfordshire, took a deep interest in agricultural matters. He was a pleasant, hospitable, and sensible man, and was very popular in his neighbourhood, and he will be much and long missed by all classes.

The appointment of Lord Winchester to be Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, in the place of the late Lord Northbrook has given much satisfaction. Lord Winchester (whose father held this office for many years) is a very popular landlord. He lives a great deal at Amport St. Mary's, his place near Andover, and he is the head of one of the oldest families in the county.

Lady Arthur Hervey, the widow of the late Bishop of Bath and Wells, died on Thursday at Winchester, where she had resided during the last ten years. Lady Arthur, who was a daughter of Mr. John Singleton, married Lord Arthur Hervey in 1839, and she has died at the age of ninety-one. She was a clever, sensible woman, with a strong determination of character, and it was no secret that during her husband's long episcopate she exercised considerable influence in diocesan affairs. Lady Arthur was a most genial hostess, and she dispensed generous hospitality for many years at her husband's rectory in Suffolk, and afterwards at the delightful Palace at Wells, where the liberal traditions of Lord Auckland's episcopate were worthily maintained by his successor.

The sudden death of Mr. Norman Maccoll has caused deep sorrow to a large circle of friends. When quite a young man he was selected by Sir Charles Dilke in 1869 to succeed Hepworth Dixon as editor of the *Athenæum*, and he held that position for about thirty-one years. It was an admirable choice, Mr. Maccoll was an ideal editor for such a journal. He was a man of high culture, wide reading, profound scholarship, and remarkable literary judgment, to which it may be added that he was also tactful, shrewd, cautious, and kind-hearted. He soon raised the *Athenæum* to the high position which it has held for many years, being a man of the most thorough independence, and at no time amenable to any sort of personal influence. It was with a view to emancipating his paper from either favouritism or the great objection of private pique that Sir Charles Dilke made the entirely new departure in 1869, which proved

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so brilliantly successful. It was well known that Dr. Doran had expected to succeed Hepworth Dixon, but his disappointment at being passed over vanished on his being appointed editor of *Notes and Queries*. For about a year Mr. Maccoll was joint editor of the *Athenæum* in conjunction with Sir Charles Dilke.

Lord and Lady Lansdowne, who have been entertaining some week-end parties at Bowood Park, will receive a number of guests there for the county ball at Chippenham, which is to take place on Tuesday, January 10.

The Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe will entertain a large house party during the holidays at Floors Castle, the family seat near Kelso. They spent the autumn at Floors, but have been away during the last three weeks, visiting Lord and Lady Pembroke at Wilton House; Lord and Lady Savile, at Rufford Abbey; and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilson, at Warter Priory. It is probable that the Prince and Princess of Wales will pay a visit next year to the Duke and Duchess of Roxburghe at Floors.

A few weeks back I published a curious letter, addressed to the creditors of the Maison Helbronner by the liquidator's secretary. The letter intimated that if it would be any convenience to the creditors, the liquidator himself was prepared to pay them off in cash, subject to a discount of 15 per cent., and gave at the same time a pretty plain hint that if they expected any dividends they would probably have to wait at least six months. It has since been brought to my notice that the liquidator is no other than Mr. Louis Sinclair, M.P., the principal shareholder in the insolvent company; in fact, according to the latest returns, he held all but 200 of the shares issued (9,655 out of 9,855). Practically, therefore, it comes to this, that Mr. Sinclair is offering 17s. in the £ to the creditors of his own concern. As he is himself, of course, a perfectly solvent gentleman, being a Member of Parliament, this shows the advantage of carrying on business under the Companies Acts.

The Episcopal appointments which were announced last week have given general satisfaction. It has been known for some time past that Bishop Gore would be the first Bishop of Birmingham. He sacrifices £700 a year by the transfer from Worcester, and as there is no episcopal residence for the new See, the Bishop will have to find his own house, which will probably be at Edgbaston. St. Philip's Church is to be the cathedral of the diocese, and it has been wisely decided to make no change in the services or in the position of the Rector, as the appointment of a Dean and Chapter is not contemplated. The Bishop's throne is to be placed in the church, which will be available for ordination and other episcopal functions. All Church parties at Birmingham are delighted by Dr. Gore's appointment, and he will be warmly welcomed by the Nonconformists of the city.

The Bishop Suffragan of Southwark, who is promoted to the See of Worcester, has enjoyed a large and varied experience both of organising and administrative work and of parochial duties. He has well earned his promotion. Dr. Yeatman-Biggs has laboured hard and with conspicuous success in the diocese of Rochester during the last thirteen years, and he is liked and esteemed by both clergy and laity. He has always taken a most hearty interest in educational affairs. The Bishop, who married a sister of the late Lord Dartmouth and of the Bishop of Lichfield, is a "squarson," as he owns a family estate of over 5,000 acres in Dorsetshire and Wiltshire, and Stockton, his place between Salisbury and Warminster, is a beautiful old Elizabethan manor-house, which is surrounded by fine woods. Stockton has been let for some years to Lord Clanwilliam, whose predecessor in the tenancy was Mr. E. P. Tennant. The See of Worcester is now worth £4,200 a year, and it is rumoured that the new Bishop will make Hartlebury Castle his residence. This "palace" has not been occupied by Bishop Gore, who preferred to live in Worcester in a house which he had himself purchased.

Archdeacon Diggle's promotion places the Rectory of Birmingham (of which a number of evangelical trustees are the patrons) in the gift of the Crown for this term, and Mr. Balfour will no doubt consult with Bishop Gore before he fills up the vacancy. The living is worth about £1,500 a year, with residence. The Archdeaconry of Birmingham (value £200 a year) again passes to the Crown; and it is expected in the city that Mr. Balfour will appoint the Rev. V. H. Carnegie, late Rector of Great Witley, who succeeded the Bishop of Manchester as Rector of St. Phillips, on the presentation of the Prime Minister.

Archdeacon Diggle, who recently refused the Suffragan Bishopric of Burnley in succession to the Bishop of Southwell, replaces Bishop Bardsley at Carlisle, where he will be most cordially welcome, as he made himself a great favourite in the diocese during the five years that he filled the office of Archdeacon of Westmorland and Canon Residentiary of Carlisle Cathedral. Archdeacon Diggle is an Evangelical of the Broad school, but he has never been known as a partisan. He is an admirable preacher and a most vigorous platform speaker. He has always taken a prominent part in educational matters and in social reform, and has been a zealous worker in all societies which have for their object an improvement in the condition of the poor. He will be both a popular and a busy working prelate. Archdeacon Diggle was beneficed at Liverpol for more than twenty years before he went to Carlisle, and in 1901 he was presented to the Rectory of Birmingham, where

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
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his work has been active and acceptable in both the religious and the social life of the city. Last year he was appointed to the Archdeaconry of Birmingham by Mr. Balfour, the patronage having fallen to the Crown in consequence of the promotion of Dr. Knox to the See of Manchester.

The Deanery of Rochester, which has been vacant for considerably over three months, has been accepted by Archdeacon Lane, one of the most popular and most highly esteemed ecclesiastics in the diocese of Lichfield, where he has been the sagacious and trusted adviser of three bishops. Archdeacon Lane has held the Rectory of Leigh, Staffordshire, since 1871, when he was presented to that benefice by his relative, Lord Bagot, and in 1888 Archbishop Maclagan (then Bishop of Lichfield) appointed him to the Archdeaconry of Stoke-on-Trent. He has been a useful and influential member of the Canterbury Convocation for more than twenty-four years.

Archdeacon Lane, who is a moderate High Churchman, has a great reputation as an organiser, and his abilities in this respect will be most valuable to the next Bishop of Rochester when the new See of Southwark is constituted and the present diocesan arrangement has to be altered. He belongs to an old Staffordshire family, rowed for three years at Oxford in the Balliol boat, and in 1858 and in 1859 he had a seat in the University boat. He was elected to a Fellowship of All Souls after taking his degree in 1860, and he held it until his marriage in 1879.

The Rev. H. Barrow Williams, an ornament of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Church at Llandudno, has just given a choice exhibition of Sabbatarian intolerance. The charitable public in the town have subscribed to provide every needy family with a Christmas dinner of "hot pot," and the proprietors of various bakehouses have offered to cook the "hot pots" on Christmas morning. To this arrangement the Rev. Mr. Williams has taken exception, on the ground that the baking and distribution of the dinners on the Sabbath will give "serious offence to the friends of the poor"! The poor may well pray to be delivered from such friends as this bigot. I wonder whether, if his ox or his ass fell into a pit on the Sabbath day, he would allow it to be pulled out.

I am afraid I am getting into hot water over the Welsh prophet. Just look at the following letter!—

Williston, Gelliwastad, Pontypridd,
December 9, 1904.

Sir,—You would have done well not to express your opinion of the Welsh spiritual revival, for your words exhibit both your ignorance of the character and effects of the movement, and your lack of spiritual vision.

You attempt to judge a matter which is absolutely *beyond* your poor materialistic philosophy. Behold your portrait in 1 Corinthians ii. 14.

Yours for Truth (and against Truth in this),
W. T. Evans.

For Mosquito Bites, Wasp or Bee Stings, nothing allays the irritation so quickly as Scrubb's. Insist upon Scrubb's. "Makes Home, Sweet Home in Deed."

Seldom has a more crushing indictment been presented against any Government than that contained in the article published by the *Times* last week on the re-armament of our Artillery. Early in the present year it was announced that after two and a half years of laborious inquiries and tests, the committee presided over by Sir George Marshall had at last definitely decided upon the new types of gun for Horse and Field Artillery. The delay in coming to this conclusion had undoubtedly been protracted to a most dangerous length, seeing that we had learned in the very first stage of the Boer War, five years ago, that our artillery was utterly obsolete, from which it follows that our Army is unfit to take the field against any European force. The least that could be expected, therefore, was that when the decision was arrived at steps would at once be taken to give effect to it; and most of us have been assuming in the interval that this was being done.

It now appears that we have been living in a fool's paradise. No sooner was the Army Council formed than the decision of Sir George Marshall's Committee was re-opened; and another eight or nine precious months were wasted in discussing the question before it was finally decided that the Committee was right after all. Worse than this, the Treasury has absolutely refused to find any money for the purpose, and, even had the first decision of the Committee been finally accepted, it would seem that not a penny of money would have been spent during the present year. Orders have been given for India, because India will have to pay the bill. Not an order, however, has been given for the Home Army, although it is stated that this will shortly be done.

We are, therefore, to-day in the same position as regards artillery as we were in 1899, when we found ourselves out-classed by the weapons of so distinguished a military Power as the Transvaal Republic. What is worse, we must remain more or less in this condition for a year or two to come, that being the time required to provide the whole of the Horse and Field Artillery with the new guns now about to be ordered. When one remembers that in 1895 a Liberal Government was turned out of office because the stock of cordite ammunition on hand was not considered sufficient for all possible contingencies, what ought to be done with a Government which, apart from all its other military muddling and blundering, has left the Army practically without artillery for a period which must eventually amount to something like seven years?

Not the least important point in this story for the attention of the taxpayer is the refusal of the Treasury to find money for a purpose of such vital national importance. For this refusal, of course, the Cabinet must be held responsible. From one point of view, no doubt, it is easy to understand the reluctance of the Chancellor of the Exchequer or any of his colleagues to add another two and a half millions to the bloated bill for military and naval services that they presented to Parliament last spring. But what we taxpayers have to consider is the astounding revelation that in spite of

this appalling bill, and the constant expansion of the Army—without any visible addition to our military strength—it should be impossible to find money for a purpose the imperative necessity of which can be seen at a glance by any man in the street.

In this connection I would call attention to the disclosure recently made by Mr. T. G. Bowles, M.P., in his pamphlet, "National Finance," which has not attracted the notice it calls for. It is already known—at any rate to every reader of TRUTH—that the 35½ millions voted by Parliament for the Navy in 1903 was some £4,700,000 short of the total expenditure, the additional amount being raised under the Naval Works Acts, and from other sources. What Mr. Bowles has pointed out—so far as I know, for the first time—is that precisely the same process goes on in connection with the Army; and he gives the total bill for our military service during the year 1903-4 in the following shape:—

Army and Ordnance factories, voted in Supply by the House of Commons	£36,675,000
Appropriations in aid, intercepted and not voted in Supply	6,804,489
Issues under Barracks and Military Works Acts	2,950,000
Total	£46,429,489

Ten years previously the total expenditure under the same three heads was 21½ millions. It was, therefore, after adding 25 millions to our annual Army expenditure in the course of ten years that the Government was unable to find any money at all to begin the work of re-arming the Artillery. We have been groaning over the fact that our naval expenditure alone exceeds that of most of the Great Powers on their armies and navies combined. But it now appears that our Army alone cost us last year some 12 millions more than that of the biggest and most expensive army in the world. And what have we got for our money? Sir Ian Hamilton has just given us the benefit of his observations on the war in the East. It is that our Army in its present condition is simply a national danger. That this is not a mere rhetorical flourish is now brought home to us by the fact that the Army is to-day practically without any artillery which would be of the slightest effect against the weapons of any first-class Power, and must perforce be so for the best part of two years to come. That is what we get for our 46 millions, and for the 25 millions added *annually* to our expenditure as compared with ten years ago. Nothing that has yet come to light shows so conclusively the combination of financial profligacy and administrative incompetence with which the country is at present afflicted.

With reference to what was said in last week's TRUTH about the blackballing of a batch of medical officers at the Junior United Service Club, I have been asked to mention the following facts, and I gladly comply, for it is very much to the credit of the club that this shabby proceeding has been quashed:—

1. A Special Meeting of members was held on the 16th inst., to deal with the class blackballing, and at this each medical officer proposed was *unanimously* elected.
2. The roll of signatures of fifty members, submitted to the Committee of the club to assemble the Special Meeting (under the by-laws of the club), was made up entirely of officers who are *outside* the R.A.M.C. or the A.M.S.
3. Over 200 members attended the Special Meeting, and some very nice speeches were made about the R.A.M.C. officers.
4. Not one blackballer had the courage to hold up his hand against the election of the medical officers, when the vote in each case was put by the Chairman.

Prior to the receipt of the foregoing information, I had received the following from an Army Medical officer. Although the blackballing incident is now satisfactorily wiped out, the letter may be worth the notice of the blackballing fraternity at other clubs or on other occasions:—

> Referring to the recent blackballing of officers of the R.A.M.C. at Service clubs, I, for one, have determined that whenever I am on active service in future, I shall devote my services as far as possible to non-commissioned officers and men, leaving the officers who are so fond of blackballing, and refuse to acknowledge us as comrades, to shift for themselves when wounded or sick.
>
> If this plan were generally followed, I think it not unlikely that it would lead to a change of manners for the better.

After what has happened at the Junior United Service, I hope my medical friend will renounce this drastic policy. In any case, I would point out that he would be hitting the wrong man, for it is not the officers who know what fighting means and have seen doctors at work in the field, who are likely to object to meet R.A.M.C. officers in their clubs. It is a pretty safe inference that the warriors who do the blackballing on these occasions have done a good deal more soldiering in the armchairs at the clubs than on active service.

The latest example of the grievance resulting from the use of regimental recreation rooms for sergeants' dances comes from Cairo. On the occasion of a dance given by the N.C.O.s of the 2nd Inniskilling Fusiliers, the men were not only turned out of the library, etc., but also out of their billiard-room, which is a detached room, and could not be necessary for the purpose of a dance. This incident confirms what I said the other day, namely, that if men are turned out of the Institute rooms for the benefit of the N.C.O.s, they might at least be allowed temporary use of the sergeants' rooms. For instance, if on this occasion the sergeants desired to combine billiards with dancing in their evening's entertainment, there is no reason why the men should not have been allowed to use the sergeants' billiard-table in return. As I have said before, a great deal of ill-feeling arises out of this practice, and it is a pity that some strict regulations on the subject are not laid down.

There is much grumbling among the non-commissioned officers at the Depot of the Royal Marines in regard to the distribution of promotions to colour-sergeants among representatives of the three divisions. It is said to be the rule—and if it is not it ought to be—that an equal number of colour-sergeants shall be selected from the Chatham, Portsmouth, and Plymouth divisions; but at the present moment the thirteen colour-sergeants comprise ten from Plymouth, two from Portsmouth, and one from Chatham. The favour shown to the Plymouth division is the more unjust, as several men who have recently been promoted are junior to sergeants of the other divisions who are waiting for promotion, the last case being that of a man with only

six years' seniority as sergeant, who had only joined the depot a week before he was promoted to colour-sergeant, and he would have had to wait at least three years for promotion from his own headquarters. In the depot the favouritism thus shown to the Plymouth division is attributed to the fact that the Commandant himself is an old Plymouth officer. The explanation may sound incredible, but no other appears to be forthcoming.

The legal principle that there is no wrong without a remedy has no application in the Army. The following is one of many cases that might be cited in support of that proposition. A gunner whose battery was stationed in the North-West Provinces was employed by the Cantonment Magistrate as "Conservancy Officer." As his time expired in June, 1905, and he did not think much of the outlook in the Army, he had not accepted service pay under the new rules. On hearing this, the Cantonment Magistrate, finding that he liked his employment, suggested that he should take service pay and remain on the station when his battery left. As the magistrate was a major in the Army, and assured the man that there would be no difficulty about his transfer to the relieving battery, the man fell in with the suggestion, accepted service pay, and extended his time.

This was in September last. The battery left in October, and, on putting in his name for transfer, the man was referred to a regulation which laid down that no man holding a staff billet such as his would be allowed to remain in a station when his battery or regiment left. The man complained to the C.O., who sympathised deeply, but said that he could do nothing, so the man departed with the battery, and lost his job—and his hopes of liberty. Here is a case where a soldier has been clearly induced to extend his service under a misapprehension for which he is not responsible. It is monstrous that a man should be kept in the Army under those circumstances, and there ought to be a means of correcting such mistakes.

Apropos of Latin and Greek, which have been so much under discussion lately, a parent offers a very forcible objection against the discontinuance of classics by cadets in their first year at Osborne. The point is that under the new system the boys are only in the College on probation for their first year, and a very substantial number of them are weeded out in the course of that time as unsuitable. It is very hard on these boys—most of whom are sure to be sent to public schools—to have dropped classics for a year; and under the circumstances parents may fairly ask that their Latin, at any rate, should be kept up. If the Admiralty claims the right to take boys from school "on appro." and reject those that it finds unsuitable for its purpose, it ought to see that they are not thereby prejudiced for other professions. Indeed, it is not the interest of the Admiralty that the boys should suffer in this way, for it attaches a risk to a naval cadetship which many parents may not care to take.

There are two other points in regard to Osborne which are worth the attention of the authorities—both of them parents' grievances. One is that the vacations do not coincide with those of other schools. This may seem a trifle to our naval administrators, but it is a source of widespread inconvenience to parents, and there can be no good reason for it. The other is that the feeding is not up to the mark. The father from whom I have this complaint makes no imputation upon the quality or quantity of the food; but he alleges that the meat is served in unpalatable "hunks," and is never properly hot, the result being that the boys do not eat enough, and much food is wasted. The best way of guarding against shortcomings of this kind is to let officers feed with the boys. At many public schools—if not at all—house-masters always dine with the boys in the middle of the day, and the smaller the boys the more necessity for some such arrangement.

The selection of Admiral Sir Edward Seymour to be the successor of Sir Nowell Salmon as Admiral of the Fleet will meet with general approval, for he is a most distinguished officer, and has probably seen more active service than any other naval officer. Sir Edward Seymour will vacate the command at Devonport in a few weeks, and he is to be replaced there by Vice-Admiral Beaumont, whose appointment has been a great surprise, as it was supposed that the post was intended to be filled by Sir Compton Domvile.

With reference to the wastage of condemned stores at the dockyards, a naval officer suggests that what is required in the interests of the taxpayer is a sale department, which should be always open, and at which all condemned goods should be sold in a business-like way. The present system is to throw everything, whatever its intrinsic value, on to a sort of scrap-heap, and hold a "rummage sale" every half-year. Any article, from a steam-launch or a harbour tug down to a windlass, when once condemned for the purpose which it happens to be fulfilling at the time, is put into the sale catalogue, without any regard to the possibility of utilising it in some other way, and practically without any regard to its market value, for all such goods are treated as scrap-iron, and sold at rubbish prices. There is no attempt to realise them at their true value, and, if there were, the system of holding half-yearly sales would be sufficient in itself to spoil the market. If a man were looking for a second-hand steam-launch or steam-winch, or whatever it may be, and knew that there was always a chance of finding such an article on sale at one of the dockyards, he might go there at once for it, but he is not likely to wait six months for the next sale.

There is another objection to the existing state of things which my correspondent does not mention, but

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Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. Lunn's Excursions." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

which has been repeatedly pointed out in TRUTH. It is that the dockyard sales are controlled by a very small ring, who are able to manipulate the prices as they please, under an agreement to share the profits among themselves. I have more than once given instances of this, and it is a scandal that such a state of things should be allowed to continue. The suggestion of a permanent sale department is a very useful one. But, in addition to this, every dockyard ought to have a capital account and periodical stocktaking—things absolutely unknown at present—and the present haphazard and improvident style of condemning property of all descriptions ought to be done away with. As the officer above-quoted remarks, immense quantities of articles, which, though they may not be good enough for use on an effective battleship or cruiser, would be serviceable enough on tugs, harbour-ships, store-ships, etc., are now every year treated as scrap-iron, and sold for an old song—to the immense profit of the small ring which has got this trade into its hands, and corresponding loss of the unfortunate taxpayer. I suppose that the truth is that the Board of Admiralty is too much taken up with questions of strategy and other such administrative matters to look after these details. In that case the Admiralty itself requires reform.

My attention has been called to an anomaly in the present arrangement under which naval officers can obtain cheap railway tickets when on leave. The rule is that a first-class return ticket can be obtained at single fare from any port in the Kingdom to London; but it does not apply to tickets from London. The result of this is that an officer whose ship happens to be at Cork can get a ticket at the reduced rate all the way to London and back; but if he happens to be at Chatham and wants to go, let us say, to Edinburgh or anywhere else beyond London, he can only get his cheap ticket to London, and must pay the full fare for the rest of the journey. I understand that men of the lower deck can get cheap tickets for any railway journey, and there is no reason why the same concession should not be extended to officers. Apparently there is some intention in that direction, but it has been carried out unintelligently.

A gentleman in Somerset House sends the following letter with reference to the recent remarks in TRUTH on the appointment of Mr. A. W. Soward as assistant secretary in the Estate Duty Office. Personally, of course, I know nothing of this matter. The previous paragraph reflected opinions that are held "inside"; but so does what follows, and as the more favourable opinion is likely to be the more disinterested, I cheerfully give Mr. Soward the benefit of it. I may add, that on fuller information, I believe there is no foundation for the suggestion of jobbery in connection with this gentleman's promotion, and that, be his merits what they may, he owes his advancement to them alone:—

Mr. Soward entered the service, as stated, in 1876 as a Lower Division clerk (now called the Second Division), and with very little chance of ever being anything more. He discharged his official duties with efficiency, and after about fourteen years he was promoted to the Higher Division solely on his merits. From that time he took his official work very seriously, and by much independent study made himself a thorough master of the law bearing on the Death Duties. When Sir William Harcourt brought in the now famous Act of 1894 Sir William Karslake chose Mr. Soward as his assistant in the lobby of the House to help in prompting the law officers on technical details while the Bill was passing through the House; and when the Bill was passed he certainly knew more about it than anybody else in the office. His text-book is certainly the best on the subject. He has never had any outside backing whatever.

I admit that among those he just passed over there is one extremely good man, but he has just turned sixty, and I believe the Treasury object to promoting men at that age—a very silly objection, in my opinion.

The tax-collectors are zealously carrying out the secret instructions which were given them some time ago. Throughout the country people are being bombarded with demands for payment of their taxes weeks in advance of the usual date. In some places the usual notice is accompanied by a special printed slip, headed "New Regulations, 1904-5," in which the collector intimates that he has been requested "to obtain early and prompt payment," and adds: "*payment should be remitted on receipt of this notice.*" I think that this takes the cake for impudence, seeing that the notices were being sent out in the second week in December, and that the taxes so demanded are not legally due till January 1.

The object of this hustling is notorious. It is simply to enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to get the benefit in this year's revenue of a large proportion of the taxes which in the normal course would go over into the next financial year. No doubt that is an important object from the point of view of Mr. Austen Chamberlain, more especially as the next is pretty certain to be the last Budget for which he will be responsible for many years to come. But I question myself whether the steps that are being adopted will have any great effect in accelerating the payment of taxes, and in any event Liberals will have one consolation in connection with this move. The attempt to squeeze the taxpayer is bound to add enormously to the unpopularity of the Government.

Apropos of some recent remarks in TRUTH upon the recovery of income-tax, a correspondent refers again to the inexcusable delays that frequently occur in dealing with claims for repayment. In his case a claim was sent in last July, and down to the present moment the only answer that he has been able to extract from the Department is that the matter will receive "early attention." The same taxpayer has made an identical claim in previous years, and has received payment in due course, his income being from fixed sources; so that there can be no shadow of reason for the delay, which has now extended over five months. This complaint seems to me to bear directly upon what was said in TRUTH a few weeks ago as to the extravagant expenditure upon the collection of the revenue. If the Board of Inland Revenue were suppressed, and a portion of its pay devoted to supplying a few additional clerks of proper qualifications, claims for the return of income-tax might possibly be dealt with as expeditiously as such matters would be in a private house of business.

BOLIVAR Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar Bolivar.

Somebody—it is not for me to say who—deserves to be hauled over the coals pretty roughly on account of the Hooley-Lawson prosecution. Taking into account the protracted proceedings before the magistrate, as well as the twenty-one days' trial at the Old Bailey, the case is one of the longest criminal cases of recent years, and the expense is in proportion. I hear various estimates of the amount that the prosecution must have cost; the lowest is £20,000, and the highest £10,000 more. Whatever the true figure, the money has been worse than thrown away. Giving both defendants the full benefit of the verdict, it is beyond question that a great deal of financial hocus-pocus which it ought not to be possible to carry on with impunity came to light in the course of the proceedings. The effect of the verdict is to advertise to the company-promoting world that this is possible; and such an advertisement can be nothing but mischievous. To prosecute and fail in such a case is worse than not to prosecute at all, apart altogether from the waste of public money.

In the serio-comic libel action of Fournet *v* Chapman heard last week before Mr. Justice Lawrance, a point was raised by Mr. Bankes, K.C., on behalf of the defendant, which comes to me like a message of hope. After the jury had stopped the case and found a verdict for the defendant, Mr. Bankes asked that the case should be referred under Order 65, Rule 11, to the taxing master to report to the judge whether there had been matters in the initiation and conduct of the case in respect to which the solicitor should be made to pay the costs, and Mr. Justice Lawrance referred the case accordingly. I have not previously heard of Rule 11, but if it is effective in shifting the responsibility for paying the cost of a speculative libel action from the client to the solicitor, it is obviously a most salutary rule, and one which would be warmly welcomed by newspapers which stand to be shot at by any needy adventurer who can find a Dodson and Fogg to act for him.

A tradesman has directed my attention to a report of some recent remarks by Judge Shand at the Liverpool County Court in reference to what is described as "the ticket system of credit." The system is new to me, and the report does not explain it very clearly. It appeared, however, that a pawnbroker and outfitter named George Sturla sued a working man for the value of goods supplied on the authority of a "ticket" signed by the defendant. The "ticket" contained a clause making the signatory liable for all goods obtained upon it from the defendant, and it had been used by the defendant's son and daughter who were both over twenty-one years of age. It was for goods supplied to them that the defendant was sued, but he declared that he never understood that the signing of the document would render him liable for their debts, and though the plaintiff's manager said that he called his attention to the clause at the time, the Judge refused to believe him. In giving judgment for the defendant, his Honour expressed the opinion that "a monstrous injustice was being done by such systems," and certainly a system under which it is sought to make a man responsible for any debts that his family, including grown-up sons and daughters, choose to incur with the tradesman issuing the "ticket" must be open to gross abuse.

A Norwich solicitor calls my attention to the following case of a publican in the village of Acle. In June last the police summoned a woman before the local magistrates for being drunk on the highway, and mainly in consequence of the evidence this publican gave for the defence the charge was dismissed. In July the publican received notice to quit from the owners of his house, Messrs. E. Lacon and Co., brewers, of Great Yarmouth. He learned that complaint had been made by the police, but he was refused any information as to the nature of the complaint. No proceedings had ever been taken against him by the police, though an exceptionally close watch had been kept upon the house after his appearance as a witness against the police in June. In August he discovered that a slanderous statement in regard to his wife was being circulated, and it was alleged that it originated with the village constable. The publican then put the matter into the hands of his solicitor, and the latter had an interview with the superintendent of police, who denied that the slander in question was the ground of the complaint that had been addressed to the brewers. What that complaint was, however, the superintendent declined to say, and the brewers also again declined to give any information.

When the time came for the transfer of the licence the publican's solicitor asked the magistrates to inquire into the matter, but they held that they had no power to do so, and suggested that if the brewers had done any injury to the tenant his remedy was in an action for damages. The suggestion was, of course absurd, because a landlord is not bound to assign any reason for terminating a tenancy, which was all that Messrs. Lacon and Co. had refused to do. The net result of the case is therefore that this man, who had been a licence-holder for years without any charge being openly made against him, is turned out of his house and deprived of his means of livelihood—for it will be practically impossible for him to get another licence—on the strength of a secret report by the police which he has had no opportunity of meeting. It is very necessary that the police should exercise supervision over the conduct of licence-holders, but any complaints that they have to make should be made in open court to the magistrates. That they should be allowed to go behind the publican's back with complaints to the owners of the house—and a brewery company naturally feels bound to heed anything that the police may say—seems a most dangerous and unwarrantable procedure. It places every tenant of licensed premises at the mercy of the force, and whether the complaint in this case was well founded or not, it is obvious that such a system is open to the grossest abuse.

WEYMOUTH.—The Charming Dorsetshire Seaside Resort. Temperature higher than that of any other seaside resort—see daily reports. Send six 1d. stamps Town Clerk for illus. Guide.

My Legal Pillory this week includes a decision by the Highgate J.P.s in an exceptionally bad case of cruelty to animals. Three horses belonging to the defendant, a dealer named Bertram Tasker, were allowed to starve to death in a field, and other animals of his were found in a shockingly emaciated condition. The fine imposed was a substantial one, but I have pilloried the decision because it seems to me that no pecuniary penalty whatever is an adequate punishment for such callous and systematic cruelty. The proper treatment for an offender of this kind is imprisonment without the option of a fine, and six months' hard labour would not have been a bit too severe a sentence for Mr. Bertram Tasker. There are also several further cases in the following list in which the defendants richly deserved sentences of imprisonment. It is, indeed, a travesty of justice that offenders convicted of gross cruelty or brutal and cowardly assaults should be let off with pecuniary penalties, while terms of imprisonment are inflicted for such crimes as poaching and sleeping out without visible means of subsistence:—

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. J. A. Woolley and other magistrates. Wm. Bestwick, charged with assaulting Samuel Lewis by knocking him down and kicking him. It was an unprovoked assault. Fined £2 6s. 6d., including costs.

Peterborough Police-court. Before Colonel Strong, and Messrs. W. E. Welby, O. Edmunds, J. H. Beeby, G. H. Dean, and W. Cliffe. John Moody, charged with assaulting Joseph Dore. The latter received a wound on the head which laid him up in the infirmary for a fortnight. Fined 40s.

Highgate Police-court. Bertram Tasker, described as a dealer in animals, charged with cruelty by starving and neglecting a number of animals. Three horses belonging to the defendant were found dead in a field, a fourth had to be destroyed, and a cow, two calves, and some pigs were also in a shockingly emaciated condition. Fined £10.

Huddersfield County Police-court. Before Colonel Greenwood, and other magistrates. John Kempston, mill-hand, charged with assaulting his sister. He struck her about the face and tried to strangle her. Fined 21s.

Sheffield West Riding Police-court. Before Messrs. C. Chapman and J. Moxon. Wilfrid Fagan, collier, charged with assaulting his mother and his step-father. Defendant attacked his step-father with a spear, threatening to run it through his heart, and wounding him on the arm. Upon his mother interfering defendant knocked out two of her teeth. Fined 40s. for the first, and 20s. for the second assault.

Birmingham Police-court. George Curtis, convicted of cruelty to a horse by neglecting to provide it with proper food. The horse was left in a field without sufficient food or water, and eventually it had to be destroyed. Fined 50s. and costs.

Heanor Petty Sessions. Before Mr. J. J. A. Woolley and other magistrates. Wm. Mee, charged with stealing bran and wheat, value 2s. One month.

Hereford County Police-court. Richard Charles Horner, charged with poaching. One month.

Eye Police-court. Before the Mayor and Mr. W. Short. James Clark, charged with stealing a roll of bread, value one penny. Fourteen days.

Oswestry County Police-court. Before Mr. Wm. Martin. Wm. Davies, charged with sleeping out, and having no visible means of subsistence. Seven days.

Bridgnorth County Petty Sessions. Before Captain Aston, Major Amphlett, Colonel Legh, and Mr. E. Morrall. Thomas Henry Anson and Arthur Jones, charged with poaching. Anson six weeks, Jones three weeks.

Blackburn Police-court. Joseph Clayton, charged with sleeping out and having no visible means of subsistence. Fourteen days.

Faversham County Police-court. Henry Baker and Stephen Andrews, charged with trespassing in search of rabbits. Andrews fined £1 11s., Baker £2 11s.; in default, 21 days.

Nottingham Police-court. Before Messrs. J. W. McCraith and S. W. Johnson. Arthur Clarke, charged with stealing a glass dish, value 6½d. Twenty-one days.

St. Austell Police-court. Before Messrs. A. Coode and H. Hodge. Henry Hunkin, a pauper charged with absconding from the workhouse. One month.

Long Melford Petty Sessions. Before Mr. E. Allen, Sir W. H. Parker, the Rev. A. Packer, Colonel Burke, and Colonel Barnardiston. Charles Borley, aged 17, and Frederick Tatum, aged 18, charged with stealing swedes, value fourpence. Tatum one month, Borley 14 days.

Barnsley, West Riding, Police-court. Before Mr. Pigott and other magistrates. Thomas Summerson, charged with assaulting James Batty. While the parties were in a public-house the defendant, without any provocation, struck the complainant in the face with a quart jug, so injuring his nose that nine stitches had to be put into it. Fined 40s. and costs.

Smethwick Police-court. Before Mr. Griffiths and other magistrates. Walter Tomkins, charged with assaulting Emma Ashton, age 69. It was a cowardly and brutal assault, defendant, a young man, striking the old woman about the face and knocking her down. Fined 50s.

Bedford Borough Police-court. Before the Mayor and Messrs. T. Bull, G. Haynes, E. L. Moulton, E. Ransom, Dr. Carter, and Dr. Kinsey. John McAlister, charged with stealing a coat from outside a shop. Six weeks.

Dunfermline Sheriff-court. Before Sheriff Shennan. David Robb, convicted of trespassing in pursuit of game. Fined £2 and £2 7s. 6d. costs, in default 21 days.

Dover County Petty Sessions. Before Major Monins, Major Banks, and Messrs. Burch-Rosler, Bradley, and Hart. Richard Cork, charged under the Poaching Prevention Act with being found with three rabbits in his possession. Fined £2 10s. 6d., in default 21 days.

John Bartholomew, of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, ought to be devoutly thankful that we have a Great Unpaid to administer justice. Before the Walsingham Bench last week, Bartholomew was charged with stealing a leg of mutton from a butcher's shop. He purchased some pork at the shop, and after his departure the mutton was missed. A policeman interviewed Bartholomew, who invited him to search his house. The invitation was accepted, but when the officer wanted to look into a cupboard Bartholomew refused to let him, saying that the key was lost. He eventually agreed to go back with the policeman to the shop, and on the way he remarked: "I have got the mutton, but I am too fly for you to get it." This conceit was not justified, for in the meantime Bartholomew's house was being watched by another constable, who heard some one go into the back yard and throw something outside. In the mud ten yards from the back door the stolen leg of mutton was afterwards found, and Bartholomew was arrested and charged with the theft. "Yes," he replied, "I took it." This was the gist of the evidence laid before the Walsingham Bench, over whom Mr. F. T. S. Rippingall presided. Some people might think that there was a pretty clear case against Bartholomew. Not so Mr. Rippingall and his colleagues. They dismissed the case, at the same time adding that the police had acted in a perfectly satisfactory manner. I wonder whether the police felt inclined to return the compliment.

Another example of Justices' justice in which the accused assuredly have no reason to complain is reported from Colchester. On the way to the market a horse, described by a veterinary surgeon as very emaciated and in a dropsical condition, fell down several times from weakness and exhaustion, and eventually it was shot in the street. Summonses for cruelty by travelling the animal whilst it was in an unfit state were issued against the farmer to whom it belonged and a youth in his employment. The farmer stated that the horse had been out of his possession at another farm for six weeks, and came back in a terribly poor condition; that he fed it with clover hay for two or three days; and that he then sent it to the market "to be sold to the knackers"! To feed up a horse for the knackers seemed to be an original idea, but, whatever food this animal had had, none could be found in its stomach when it was slaughtered, while, apart from this, it was obviously

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS. Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

not in a fit state to travel. Nevertheless the magistrates dismissed the summonses—a decision which suggests that their conception of cruelty to animals differs materially from that of most humane people.

At Bournemouth Police-court last week a journeyman butcher was summoned for refusing to pay a tramway fare. It seemed that he travelled by a workman's car, and tendered the reduced fare payable by workmen on such cars, but the conductor refused to accept it on the ground that he was not a workman, and this view of the matter was upheld by the magistrates, who fined the defendant 10s. Definitions of a workman are almost as varied and unsatisfactory as definitions of a gentleman. Surely, however, it is the height of absurdity to hold that a journeyman butcher is not a workman in such a case as this.

The other day, at Birmingham, two boys named Mason and Walker, the former nine and the latter ten years of age, were caught in the act of stealing a piece of toffee from a confectioner's shop. Mason confessed that they had previously been guilty of several similarly heinous crimes, their plunder from different shops comprising two apples, a bun, a bottle of sweets, and a box of figs, and it was also discovered that Walker had stolen two watches and half a sovereign from his mother's house. A school-attendance officer expressed the opinion that the dexterity and cunning displayed by the lads "would do credit to law-breakers of maturer years;" and on this officer's report, uncorroborated by any other evidence, the stipendiary committed each of the defendants to an industrial school till he is sixteen years of age. This heavy sentence, which was passed in a very off-hand manner, has excited much indignation. It was the first time either of the boys had been before a Court, and the justice of the case would surely have been met by the infliction of a birching and an admonition to their parents to keep them under better control. No juvenile offender should be committed to an industrial school except as a last resort, and children of nine or ten certainly ought not to be treated as incorrigible on the unsupported statement of any school-attendance or police officer.

I have received a number of inquiries of late concerning the Espanola Medicine Company and its wonderful preparation, "Diano," for increasing the size of the bust, from lady correspondents who have missed the previous references to this swindle of Pointing's in the columns of Truth. The "follow-up" letters with which this charlatan pursues the victims of his advertisements are the most humorous of their kind. His real purpose, he explains, is "the betterment of womankind." It is a "matter of wonderment" to him "why women who are fortunate enough to meet with such an opportunity should ignore it, and refuse to accept a woman's most glorious crown,—magnetic, entrancing beauty." He is also anxious on the subject that he has a special "consultation with our medical staff" upon the prospective customer's case. If this sort of nonsense is likely to influence any one, I would commend them to first glance at the *Lancet* where the definite assertion is made that "no rubbing of grease or taking of 'tonic tablets'" will increase the size of the bust, and the whole business is maintained to be a swindle on a par with the "Antidipso" fraud for the cure of drunkenness.

In another of his multifarious ventures in which, under the alias of "Florence Elliott," Pointing is advertising a course of lessons in the "Grecian System of Physical Culture," I am surprised to find a testimonial dated from 52, Lauderdale-mansions, Maida Vale, W., signed by "(Lady) Caroline Ogilvie-Grant." I cannot find from Kelly that any Lady Ogilvie-Grant resides at the address given, and, according to Dod, the only lady of the name is described as a daughter of the tenth Earl of Seafield, born in 1877. It may be, of course, that the testimonial is a genuine one; but even if it is Lady Caroline Ogilvie-Grant can scarcely be aware that her name is being utilised for advertising purposes by one of the most unprincipled quacks at present preying on the British public.

Meanwhile, in another department of his business Pointing is faced with competition he could hardly have expected. He had appropriated his "Magic Foot-drafts" for rheumatism—remedy, literature, and testimonials—bodily from America, and consequently the arrival of a new "Magic Foot-draft Company" from the United States claiming to possess the one and only real specific must be annoying, to say the least. The new concern is located at 63, Holborn-viaduct, and all the old balderdash about the cure of rheumatism by affixing plasters to the sole of the feet is served up again in the pamphlets and advertisements of the American quacks. With "Kinlo's Foot-drafts" also bidding for popular favour there should be no rheumatism left in the country. I have been asked to advise as to the respective merits of the "Foot-drafts" prepared by these rival firms, but Heaven forbid that I should ever be compelled to arbitrate on the value of these preparations, though I should very much like to see these rival quacks fight out the question amongst themselves.

In consequence of the last reference in Truth to that old-established itinerant quack, "Professor Richard," I have received information showing that the kind of extortion there described is the habitual practice of this disreputable old humbug. His public performances are merely given for the purpose of drawing dupes to his "free" consultations, and when they come to him, though the consultation may be "free," he charges them monstrous sums before giving anything in the nature of advice or treatment. His business is obviously as dishonest as it is mischievous, the worst feature in it being that the victims are, for the most part, very poor people. Like most rogues of the same class in the present day, he owes his success largely to the Press, and the puffing of him in local papers during his recent visit to Southampton is simply scandalous. Provincial journalists owe it to their readers to inform themselves

The Carlton Hotel. Restaurant and Grill Room
The Carlton Hotel. The most fashionable in London
The Carlton Hotel. Nat. Tel. 1598 Gerrard. Gen. Mgr. C. Ritz

about the man's record before publishing any notice of his performances. If they have not the courage to warn the public against him, they might at least hold their tongues and refuse his advertisements.

The latest application of the snowball to trading purposes is made by a concern at 31, North Frederick-street, Glasgow, called "The Scottish Tobacco Supply Company." The company advertises its desire to give as Christmas-boxes, absolutely free of charge, a box of cigars, cigarettes, or tobacco, together with a cash bonus. The offer is a gratuitous one on the company's part, for it appears that the box of cigars and the cash bonus are both to be provided by the friends of the applicant for the gift. He is simply to sell coupons to such of his friends as may be silly enough to give him sixpence apiece for them, and forward 2s. to the company for a batch of coupons to get rid of in a similar manner. The canny Scot is hardly likely to be victimised by such a stale trick as this, and those possessed of a desire to obtain a merry Christmas at their friends' expense are not to be pitied if their desires end in smoke.

"Heads I win, tails you lose," still appears to be the motto of Charles Kittell, 21, Copthall-avenue, E.C., a betting agent whom I have several times pilloried as a defaulter. In a case just brought under my notice Kittell opened an account with an employee of a West End hotel, giving him a weekly credit of £10. It was agreed that balances of less than £2 should be carried forward, and for the first fortnight this was done, the backer being credited with 17s. 6d. in the first week and debited with £1 2s. 2d. in the second week. By the third week's transactions the backer became entitled to £5 6s 9d., and a cheque for this amount was forwarded by Kittell. At the end of the fourth week the backer had won a further sum of £20 11s. 10d., and a bet on the following Monday increased it to £25 5s. 2d. Not having received a cheque for the £20 11s. 10d., the backer called on the Tuesday at Kittell's office. Kittell himself was not to be seen, but his clerk stated quite frankly that he did not mean to pay, and subsequent applications for the money proved equally unavailing.

Being advised that it would be futile to sue Kittell, as he would plead the Gaming Act, the backer at last informed him that the facts would be communicated to Truth. To this Kittell replied, through his clerk, by threatening to report the backer's betting transactions to the directors of the hotel where he is employed. The clerk who visited the hotel to deliver this message also intimated that if the backer did not take care Kittell himself would come there and kick up "a devil of a row" in the presence of the manager. If Kittell attempts any such performance, the servants of the hotel will be quite capable of dealing with him. Meanwhile, his bluster has not prevented my publication of the story as one more warning to backers against this impudent and unprincipled welsher.

A passing allusion last week to the *Midland Referee* has brought me a copy of that notorious tipster's sheet in which it says farewell to its readers. Its swan-song is a droll effusion. The gist of it is that the *Midland Referee* is dying because it has now "reached its zenith" as "the greatest guide ever issued in the interests of the punting fraternity." "Having achieved so much," says the writer, "we propose to rest on our oars and leave others to take up the strenuous struggle at the point where we drop the pen." The article proceeds to descant upon the terror the paper has inspired among "turf sharks," and to refer to the gratifying support it has received from such distinguished personages in the racing world as "Mr. Allsopp," "Mr. Dan Bruce," "Mr. Walter Hooley," "Mr. Percy Macdonald," and "Miss Flossie Beresford." My readers, at any rate, will hardly need to be told that all these names are only aliases of the man Beston, the proprietor of the *Midland Referee*, and himself the most unprincipled rascal among the touting tipsters. It would be an immense gain to the community which he has duped so long if he really were retiring from his pernicious business. But I fear that, though the *Midland Referee* may be buried now, it will be resurrected—perhaps under some new title—as soon as the arrival of another flat racing season makes flat-catching once more a profitable game.

A man has been lately going about London calling at private houses, inquiring for the lady of the house, and inviting her to pay the sum of 1s. for the insurance of her keys, etc. The man leaves behind him a printed post-card for the lady to sign in case he does not see her. One paragraph on the card runs as follows:—

> The payment of an annual premium of one shilling will insure your life for £500, fatal accident, or an allowance of £1 per week during disablement, in addition to which your keys, bags, umbrellas, or other property will, if lost with our label attached, be returned to you free of cost (the Company paying a reward of 5s. to the finder), or, in the event of keys being irrecoverably lost, we undertake to replace them to the extent of £8. On receipt of this post-card our label will be forwarded to you by our agent, C. Gray.

The singular part of this document is that the name of the company which makes this liberal offer is undisclosed. The post-card itself is addressed to C. Gray, at 3, Goldsmith-avenue, Acton. On making inquiries after him there, I found that he had moved, and inquiring for him at his new address, I found that he was not at home. As I cannot be under the trouble of hunting him further, I hereby invite Mr. Gray to communicate to me the name of the firm on whose behalf he has been collecting shillings; and pending that information, I should strongly recommend ladies to defer the insurance of their keys through this gentleman's agency.

On several occasions I have referred to a curious business, carried on by means of house to house canvassing, in which the sale of demoralising books is pushed by the offer of trashy "presents" to the purchasers. The business, which is of German origin, was introduced in London by one Eichler, and in the North of England by a so-called "company" established for the purpose at Manchester. What is seemingly another branch of the same concern has now been started by an individual rejoicing in the name of Jentzsch, and

describing himself as "publisher and importer," 12, Claypole-road, Nottingham. His agents have been canvassing in Nottingham for subscribers to a sensational story, "printed in Germany" (very badly printed on wretched paper), which is to be completed in 150 twopenny parts. Each part bears a coupon, and when 100 twopences have been paid the subscriber will be entitled to "a musical album," while for 150 he may have a rocking-chair.

It goes without saying that the story and the "present" combined are dear at the price; but the most serious objection to the business arising from the vile character of the books—apparently translations from the German—which are issued in this way. The work now being distributed by Jentzsch in Nottingham was some time ago the subject of some copyright proceedings before Mr. Justice Buckley, who pronounced it to be an obscene publication, and anybody who has glanced at it will endorse his Lordship's opinion. That samples of this disgusting stuff should be thrust through people's letter-boxes for the perusal of servant girls or anybody who picks them up is a scandal, and if the police cannot call Jentzsch to account I should not myself blame any citizen who takes the law into his own hands and horsewhips this publisher and importer of German literary garbage.

Certain warnings have been given in Truth against the advertisements of Scale and Co., of Stockport, "Publishers, Agents, and Mail Order Specialists," and the warning was repeated a fortnight ago in connection with the prosecution in London of a man who had been doing a business similar to that of Scale and Co.—that is to say, obtaining shillings under the pretence of helping people to get berths on steamships, and giving them nothing more for their money than instructions as to the firms or other parties to whom they should address their applications. No doubt the London prosecution has made Mr. Scale a little uncomfortable, and I have consequently been favoured by him with a very bulky communication designed to prove the bona fides of his business. The point of the communication will be seen in the following paragraph:—

> For the last ten or twelve weeks we have over-printed *all* circulars sent out—although we saw no necessity for doing so—with the words, "it must be distinctly understood that we do not obtain berths." Can anything be more clear? And, in addition to this (as a census), before sending the information, we have forwarded to every sender of remittance during the last few weeks the enclosed circular, asking them if they quite understand the offer we make. Ninety-eight per cent. have answered that they quite understand, including many who say we have insulted their intelligence by asking; and the remainder have had their remittances returned. Does that not show that we endeavour to prevent misunderstanding? Can any advertisers say they have gone so far? During the whole of the time we have offered these instructions and information, we have always written anyone who, from his or her letter, showed they were under the impression that we obtain berths, stating that they were under a wrong impression, and offering to return their remittance if they desired us to do so.

With this letter Mr. Scale forwards the result of his "census" in the shape of an enormous bundle of letters from his customers. As far as I have been able to judge from a cursory inspection, these letters bear out what he says. That is to say, the parties state that they clearly understood what they were paying their money for. That may be so, but it will be noted that this result is clearly due to the fact that since his advertisements were unfavourably noticed in Truth a few months ago, Mr. Scale has thought it desirable to mark all his circulars with a rubber stamp, explaining that he does not offer to obtain berths. That he has thought it desirable to add this notification is a clear admission that the circular in its original form was misleading, and therefore justified my criticism of it. However, Mr. Scale also informs me that he has decided to discontinue this branch of business altogether, and in view of the prosecution now pending in London, he is to be congratulated on this decision. Under these circumstances it is not worth while to discuss the matter further.

The inquiry which has been commenced by the *British Medical Journal* into the composition of quack medicines should have much more than the merely historical interest to be obtained by placing on record the various popular nostrums in use at the commencement of the twentieth century. The *Journal* proposes to publish exhaustive analyses of secret remedies which are widely advertised, together with an approximate calculation as to the cost price, and there could be no more useful material for use in a campaign against quackery. The first of the series of articles deals with a number of specifics advertised for the cure of epilepsy, and, as might be supposed, the composition in each case reveals that the ordinary drugs used by every medical man in treatment of the disease form the base of the secret remedy, but that from 2s. 9d. to 4s 6d. is charged for what costs no more than from 1d. to 4d. I shall watch the progress of the *Journal's* campaign with a good deal of interest, particularly when is comes to deal with the nostrums of the army of quacks whose methods of carrying on their business have been exposed in Truth.

Another instance of the vagaries of Acting-Judge Wilkinson, of the British Court at Bangkok, is reported in a recent issue of the *Siam Observer*. A young Scotsman in the employ of the Bangkok Dock Company was charged at the instance of a Chinese ex-cashier, formerly in the same employ, with misappropriating £28 belonging to the company. It was a singular feature of the proceedings that the company itself made no charge, the prosecution being instituted solely on the information of the ex-cashier, and without waiting to hear the defence the jury acquitted the accused. One of the witnesses summoned for the prosecution was the manager of the company, but it seemed that he entirely repudiated any charge against the prisoner, and had assisted him in his defence. It came out that with this object the manager had torn a page out of a private memorandum book of his own and handed it to the prisoner.

The page in question, which related to receipts and payments bearing on the case, was duly produced in court; but the Judge took the extraordinary view that in trying to help the defence the manager of the company was tampering with the course of justice, and, after a most portentous lecture on the enormity of his conduct, fined him 100 ticals (about five guineas), and ordered that the amount should be paid to a local

nursing home! The legality of the fine—to say nothing of the order that it should be given to an outside institution—is more than doubtful. But even if the Judge did not exceed his powers, the infliction of such a penalty—especially as he finally admitted that the manager "acted innocently"—was an outrageous proceeding, and I would once more commend this eccentric and arbitrary functionary to the attention of the Foreign Office.

The Guernsey Legislature has passed a Bill in regard to alien immigration which puts into the shade anything that has been advocated here. The avowed object of the measure is to check the acquisition of real estate in the island by aliens, not to bring about the exclusion of those who are paupers or criminals. No interference with the latter is proposed, but any moneyed alien wishing to buy or lease real property in Guernsey will have to submit a petition to the Royal Court setting forth "particulars of his social position"—such, for example, as "his family circumstances, his profession, the place whence he came, etc."—and it will be for the Court to decide whether he shall be permitted to become an owner or lessee. I wonder what some of the opulent aliens who settle in Park-lane would say if they were required to furnish particulars of their family circumstances before purchasing a house? The Guernsey Bill seems to be indirectly aimed against the invasion of French religious societies, and, having regard to the limited area of the island, it is perhaps only reasonable that the authorities should have power to prevent too much property falling into the hands of such bodies. But the Bill as it stands is much too drastic and wide-reaching, and the Privy Council will doubtless demand its modification before the King's sanction is given to it.

A very instructive remark fell from Dr. Coole Kneale, the chairman of the meeting which the Chancellor of the Exchequer addressed at Sparkhill last week. Sparkhill is in Mr. Austen Chamberlain's constituency, and, as most people know, there is a gun factory there. After observing that the right hon. gentleman "had not been carried away by the glamour of office, and had not forgotten his constituents," the chairman added:—

> It was thought they were going to have a serious stress during the winter in the gun trade, but they wrote to their member, and they believed that it was almost entirely through him that the gunmakers were now in full work.

The ingenuous chairman does not seem to have realised that in saying this he was casting a serious reflection upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for the statement plainly implies that he has used his official influence with the War Office to get public money spent at Sparkhill which otherwise would not have been spent there. Mr. Austen Chamberlain did not deny this soft impeachment; but he did subsequently make some observations which provide a pretty commentary upon his chairman's disclosure. In condemning the proposal that national relief works should be started for the benefit of the unemployed he said:—

> He would not dwell upon the jobbery and corruption to which such a scheme would almost inevitably lead, to the struggle between different localities and rival interests to secure the benefit of the expenditure that was going to be made.

No, Mr. Austen Chamberlain was wise not to dwell on these things.

I do not think that there is the slightest probability of the Colonies ever assenting to pay their share of our naval expenditure, unless we give them, either in meal or in malt, quite as much as their contribution. Our Colonial statesmen are not Jingoes. They very wisely object—as Sir Wilfrid Laurier well put it—to be dragged into the vortex of our militarism. They perceive that the main reason why foreign nations have increased their navies is that we have declared that we must be absolute masters on the high seas, and have proceeded to attain this aim by building more ships. These statesmen are not prepared to take a hand in this game of beggar my neighbour against all foreign nations. When they read the braggart swagger in which Mr. Chamberlain indulges, and remember his habit of bidding defiance to the Universe, they do not think that a cash partnership with a country where he is a leading factor is "good business."

The Colonies gave us help in the Boer War, although they took very good care to throw on us most of the cost of that aid. They now are of opinion that the war ought to have been avoided, and that it was waged, not for the exigencies of Empire, but for the benefit of a horde of greedy cosmopolitan speculators. Chinese slave labour has done much to open their eyes. They protested against it, but their protests have been treated with contempt. This has been an object-lesson to them. They have realised that when we have got their money on the plea of Empire, they will have no voice in the spending of it. If they contribute to the cost of the Navy, they are convinced that this will only lead us to rush into some foolish war, which we may regard as beneficial to us, but which certainly will not benefit them. They regard peace as their most essential interest. There are still too many at home who regard war with favour for them to trust us with their cash, or in any way to help us to fancy that we can bully with impunity.

What specially distinguishes our present Ministers is that they are deaf to all experience. If they make a mistake, they persist in it, for they have neither the manliness nor the honour to acknowledge an error. Every week news comes of some fresh affray between our Chinese chattels and our Kaffirs, or between the chattels and their owners. Ministers were warned that this would be the inevitable result of their folly, but they met the warnings by drawing fancy pictures of the chattels rejoicing in their labour, and cheerfully submitting to the most outrageous restrictions on their freedom. As for the Kaffirs, they told us that they would welcome the chattels, and that Chinese and Kaffirs would be united in the ties of brotherly love. Yet had they not been utterly blind to all probability, they would have known that it was a most dangerous experiment to import Chinese under labour contracts which obliged them to work in certain mines for a pittance, and at the same time subjecting them to conditions that deprived them of the liberty vouchsafed

GREY HAIR.—SEEGER'S HAIR DYE.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—HINDE'S (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

to a pariah dog. It was obvious, too, that the Kaffirs had learnt quite enough of political economy to be aware that Chinese servile labour would keep down their wages.

I have no doubt that things are far worse in the Transvaal than appears by what reaches us, for the Press there is almost entirely in the hands of the mine-owners. But what is known should lead our Government to forbid further importations of Chinese, for the greater the number the greater is the danger. Instead of this, however, the Government boasts that within a few months there will be about 80,000 Chinese chattels in the Transvaal, as though this were an exploit of which to be proud! Further importations ought to be suspended until Parliament is siting, and the question of Chinese chattel labour can be threshed out in the House of Commons by the light of present experience. This, I am afraid, is not likely.

Whether it be because the mine-owners have evidence that Mr. Chamberlain was secretly connected with the Jameson Raid, or because they are large subscribers to the Birmingham Tariff League, or because so many of the ladies and gentlemen who are supporters of the Government have shares in Transvaal mines, or because Ministers are dolts, I expect they will endeavour to introduce more thousands of Chinese into the Transvaal before the verdict of the country is taken, in the hope that a Liberal Government will not restore them to China. In this they will find themselves mistaken, for not only do Liberals believe that the Transvaal will be better without Chinese, but that we are guilty of treason to our best traditions in permitting such slavery to exist under our flag.

The latest official utterance from the Transvaal is that of the Commissioner for Native Affairs. He states that the natives have not since the war been so respectful to Europeans as they were before it, and he recommends a stricter supervision of those likely to imbibe loose and dangerous ideas. Why should a native be respectful to any loafing European who is hanging about in the drinking shops of the Transvaal, or to any of the Randlords who are there to make their fortunes? They should be taught to respect the law and its representatives, but individually they should be no more respectful to a European than a European is to them. The dangerous ideas which it would seem that they are imbibing are that they have a right to have a voice in the amount of wage for which they are prepared to work. This is a view entertained by our own working men, and I see no reason why it should not be shared by our black fellow-citizens, horrible as it seems to their employers.

I certainly am no "Nationalist," as the French crew of snobs, braggarts, fossils, and priests call themselves, who are bent on upsetting the Republic in order to make either the Duke of Orleans a King, or some Bonaparte an Emperor, and I rejoice that the present French Ministry is determined to put an end to all connection between the State and any Church, for I should be glad were an English Ministry to follow the example. But I cannot say that I approve of either employing Freemasons to denounce the politics of officers, and still less of the promotion of officers being made dependent on secret reports of their brother officers—often their subordinates. Such a state of things would never be tolerated here. French officers seem, however, to make a mistake in sending letters to these spies with a view to provoking them to fight duels. They should be cut by their brother officers, and shown the contempt felt for them by leaving them severely alone.

The bloodless duels fought over the blow dealt to General André by a Deputy, and the equally bloodless Jaurès-Déroulède duel, ought to put an end to duelling. M. Jaurès is one of the most able and respected statesmen in France. M. Déroulède is a poet of the Kipling type, bitten with a craze for notoriety, who has been turned out of the country on account of his childish attempts to revolutionise it. To attract attention to himself he wrote an impudent letter to M. Jaurès, informing him that he was a scoundrel for entertaining the political opinions that he holds. M. Jaurès, had he shown his accustomed good sense, would have consigned the letter to his waste-paper basket. Instead of this, he challenged M. Déroulède, and betook himself with seconds and reporters to the Spanish frontier, because the writer of the letter was in Spain.

When the Spanish Government forbade the duel in Spain, M. Jaurès obtained permission for M. Déroulède to cross the frontier in order to fight it out in France. This was done in the presence of an assemblage of reporters and others. The two adversaries were put up at twenty-five paces. Probably they did not aim at each other; in any case, neither was hit, upon which this bloodless duel came to an end. The mind of man can conceive nothing more utterly ridiculous. It would have been a serious loss to France had M. Jaurès been killed, and, although M. Déroulède would be no loss to his country, his case would be better met by a blister being clapped to his neck, and a copious bleeding—if not by transfer to an asylum—than by shooting him. I see no reason why any one should make himself a target for pistol practice at the bidding of any other who chooses to regard himself as offended. But, if duels there are to be, at least they ought not to be the childish farce that a French duel has become.

I know of no reason why we should interpose any difficulties in the way of belligerent nations buying coal in our ports; indeed, for my part, I would allow them without let or hindrance to buy arms, ships, or anything else that they may require for the prosecution of their war, provided always that equal rights in this respect are given to both sides. If we had a monopoly of the articles needed for fighting, there might be a good deal to urge for our refusing to sell them to belligerents. But we have not, and if we do not meet the demand, other countries will, for it must not be forgotten that there is no international obligation to desist from such sales.

Take, for instance, the case of coal. We have that best adapted for steam vessels. If we do not sell, it will be bought by belligerents elsewhere, although per-

haps of an inferior quality. The only result, therefore, of our not permitting such sales is that we lose a profitable business and others get it. I would have all contraband of war purchasable in the United Kingdom under all circumstances. It might be shipped in a British vessel or in a vessel of any other nationality from a British port. The vessel would not be liable to seizure whilst in British waters, but if it contained contraband and its destination was a belligerent port, it would remain as now, good prize on the high seas.

Our Foreign Enlistment Act was not framed with a view to hinder purchases by a belligerent. It was passed to prevent sales to people in arms against their Government. Even though we might sympathise with the insurgents, there was reasonable ground for this; they are rebels in arms against the Government that we recognise as that of the country to which the rebels belong. Legally, therefore, they are engaged in a criminal action. So long as we recognise the Government, we are bound by international courtesy not to afford aid and comfort to those engaged in an illegal act towards it. Moreover, the State where the rebellion is going on is not a belligerent; consequently its ships have no right to stop on the high seas British vessels notoriously carrying arms to the rebels.

THE ROBIN AND THE SPARROWS.

Jack Frost had laid upon the Land
The Rigour of his Iron Hand;
And Dicky Birds, in famished Mood,
Prospected, all in Vain, for Food.
'Tis then a Robin boldly comes
Up to a Window (not in Thrums),
And taps upon the Pane for Crumbs.
The Human, on the other Side,
"Oh, see that Darling Robin!" cried,
And ran and fetched, not Crumbs, to eat,
But (better!) Scraps of juicy Meat,
Far more than, if he ate all Day,
One Robin's Tum could put away.
So Bob he pecked up, merrily,
Until a crowded Bob was he,
Then flew and left that Feast Galore,
Awhile, till he had Room for more.
But, while he 's gone, some famished Sparrows,
Raining as thick as Xerxes' Arrows,
Swoop down on where the luscious Fare is,
And start to fill their Little Marys.
The Human saw. "Shoo! cheeky Cadgers!"
He cried. "Be off, you dirty Spadgers.
That Food 's for Bobby, not for you.
Be off, you little Beasts. Shoo! shoo!"
So off the hungry Sparrows flew.
But one, who 's than the Rest more Bold,
Cried: "Bob 's as full as he can hold.
But we—'tis no Exaggeration—
Are dying fast of slow Starvation!"
"Dying?" the Human said. "Don't care;
You shall not touch what 's Robin's Fare."
"But Bob 's as full as Full can be!"
"Why, that 's just it," the Man, said he,
"It 's always been my Practice steady,
To feed the Birds who're full already."

Moral.

How many Men delight to feed
Their wealthy Friends who Food don't need,
Yet never think to feed the Poor
Who starve in Thousands at their Door!

SCRUTATOR.

A CASE OF "OBSESSION."

THERE are a vast number of lunatics who are sane upon most matters. Their insanity consists in some one particular delusion. In regard to this they are incapable of weighing evidence. The delusion is part and parcel of themselves, and generally arises from some one nerve centre in the brain having got the mastery over all others. Some of these people are shut up in asylums, others are left free because their particular illusion is not dangerous to others. When once the illusion has commenced it perpetually acquires strength. Everything which would seem likely to dispel it only confirms it. Generally the origin of these delusions is exaggerated self-esteem. At first it is a mere passing opinion, but the afflicted person is so certain that he knows better than others that he is unable to conceive that he can be wrong. This, I take it, is the source of Mr. Chamberlain's Protectionist craze. He wanted some subject to keep himself well before the public. It occurred to him that this end might be effected by preaching an economic revolution. What, he thought, would be more startling than to declare himself a convert to Protection? Here we have the origin of the idea which has now mastered him. Soon he found arguments which he deemed plausible in favour of his sensational scheme. The delusion was encouraged, and the normal working of the brain thrown out of gear. He became a convert to Protection himself, and assured everybody he met that the doctrine must be sound because he believed that it was. In no other way can it be supposed, consistently with general sanity, that he would have told his countrymen to renounce Free Trade, because he pledged his word that they would all be ruined if they did not. Soon facts only were reflected on his brain in a distorted fashion. He made assertions which were notoriously incorrect. Two and two soon became either three or five as it suited his delusion. On other matters he probably can reason like any other sane individual. On all connected with his delusion he is quite crazy. Bread, according to him, at one moment will be dearer under Protection, at another minute it will be cheaper. When it is to be dearer, he explains that food generally will be cheaper, because tea or sugar will be cheaper, and bacon will remain at present quotations. The Colonists will separate from us, he asserts, if we do not tax our food for their benefit. When they indignantly deny this, he replies that he knows it, if they do not. What seems proof positive that Protection will ruin us, he assures us proves precisely the reverse. His friends ought really to induce him to live in retirement, and they should carefully avoid all reference to his delusion. This is the only chance of his cure. As it is, he will go from bad to worse, continually fall a prey to fresh delusions, and very possibly end miserably.

These were the reflections that suggested themselves to me on reading Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Limehouse last week. At the outset it appeared as if his mind were wandering, for his exordium took the

form of an essay on good manners. Mr. F. C. Gould has, I fancy, depicted him in the character of Turveydrop, but assuredly no one who takes him seriously would ever have gone to him for instruction in correctness of deportment or good taste in public life. Still less will they do so after his performance at Limehouse, for, after complaining that personalities should be infused into the fiscal controversy, he proceeded to exhort Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to try to be a gentleman, if he could not be a patriot; and at a later stage he described Lord Rosebery as a combination of gas and water. Either this *début* as a professor of good manners indicates the advent of some fresh delusion, or the atmosphere of the East End must have thrown the good Turveydrop off his balance.

In the main, however, the speech merely indicated the persistency of the old aberration, in spite of all the corrective treatment of fact and argument. The guests at the "Edinburgh Castle" were informed, just as others have been under the like circumstances, that Free Trade is a doctrine sixty years old, conceived in circumstances which are altogether different from those in which we live; that, one by one, every civilised State has rejected it; that we alone are found adhering to "this old superstition." In what way the circumstances of the present day differ from those of sixty years ago the audience were not informed. Had they been, they might have been struck by the fact that though the circumstances have changed so much, the arguments against Free Trade show no sign of change, and that the Protectionists of to-day are saying precisely the same things as their predecessors who fought against Cobden. It is certainly strange that if the times change so much they bring to light no new arguments in favour of Protection. Equally reticent was the preacher as to the names of the civilised nations which have one by one rejected Free Trade, "one by one found it wanting." The history of those nations as hitherto written contains no record of this conversion to Free Trade and subsequent relapse, no record of the trials of the system which has finally been "found wanting" and abandoned. But it is the characteristic of gentlemen in Mr. Chamberlain's unfortunate condition of mind that historical facts have no existence for them. The one historical fact which concerns us, of course, is that we have tried Protection—tried it far longer than we have tried Free Trade—and found it most unmistakably wanting, on which ground we gave it up, very wisely; and, to put it on the lowest ground, we never prospered before as we have done since. If other nations had made a similar experiment with different results, that would not prove that we were wrong, but as a matter of fact, they never have—not, at any rate, the nations from whom Mr. Chamberlain bids us learn. The most alarming thing of all is that, after all the experience that we have had, the unfortunate gentleman should attempt to convince us that he is proposing something new, and should waste his breath in inveighing against Free Trade as an "old superstition"—sixty years old. Think of that! There must have been, one would suppose, a sprinkling of people among the audience with sufficient education to know that Free Trade is a mere baby in arms beside Protection—if anything, nearer 600 years old than 60. It must have been very painful to them to see this evidence of the speaker's afflicted condition.

It seems to have been the same all through the speech. In almost the next passage Mr. Chamberlain enlarged on the way that British industry is handicapped by the tenderness of our legislation for the interests of labour. If foreign goods enter our markets on equal terms with our own, "trade will go to those foreign countries which are not hampered by any of these humanitarian considerations." What are these foreign countries? Possibly Italy, Austria, or Russia, who have not hitherto been used as bogeys by the Tariff Reformers, but hardly the United States, where labour legislation is rapidly becoming as strict as with us, and certainly not Germany, where it is in many vital matters stricter. The two chief competitors before whom the Tariff Reformer quakes are not materially behind us in "humanitarian considerations." Poor Mr. Chamberlain must have studied the labour legislation of those countries, or he would not speak as he does. Yet it will be seen that his mind is a blank as to all that he has learned. So it was when he went on to speak of the relation of protective tariffs to "unemployment." Over and over again it has been shown by authentic figures—to say nothing of the facts which every traveller can see for himself—that there are as many unemployed workers in France and Germany as there are in England—indeed, many more—and far less regularity in the general rate of employment. But still the victim of these obstinate delusions can get up before a working-class audience and promise them boldly that if they will only let him tax them "scientifically," as working men are taxed in France or Germany, Italy or Russia, there will be no more unemployed workmen in our streets.

One might go on like this almost indefinitely, tracing the *idée fixe* through its various stages and developments, for the speech lasted two full hours, and fills over five columns in the *Times*, which shows, at any rate, that the patient's physical powers remain, most happily, unimpaired. But I think the public are getting a little tired of these sad exhibitions, and I know that I am. Until a recent date, I wondered how the audiences were got together on these occasions. The wonder was removed by the publication the other day of the circulars that are being delivered in preparation for the Chamberlain meeting at Gainsborough. The local agents for the show write to farmers or others in the adjacent regions explaining that they want "bonâ-fide working men" to form an audience. The recipient of the communication is invited to say whether he can undertake to deliver such articles, just as if he were a contractor invited to supply any form of merchandise. He is not asked to quote a price, but he is told that if he can execute the order "a special reserved seat" will be kept for him. Attached is a form of tender, on which the contractor is to state particulars of the size of the consignment, the most convenient railway station for delivery, and whether he will undertake to pay carriage, and, if so, how far. This is all beautifully

businesslike, but it hardly speaks well for the spontaneity of the demonstration in favour of tariff reform to which Gainsborough will treat the world on February 1. Not to put too fine a point on it, it shows in the most convincing manner that the whole "crusade," as the great man again called it last week, is a piece of elaborate "fake." One wonders how many of the "bonâ-fide working men" who filled the Edinburgh Castle last week were got together by similar means. According to the newspapers, a goodly number of the "bonâ-fide" arrived in broughams or motor-cars. It would be interesting to know whether the carriage was paid by the contractor in these cases or by the consignees. To do Mr. Chamberlain justice, there is no sign of any failing of his powers in one direction. He is still, as of old, a pastmaster of all the arts of the political "boss." If the country can be "bluffed" into swallowing his fiscal propaganda, "bluffed" it assuredly will be. Up to the present, however, not much progress seems to have been made in that direction. The "bonâ-fide working man" has demonstrated at the polls somewhat differently from the bonâ-fide deadheads delivered by contract at Chamberlain meetings. The "boss" declared at Limehouse that he cares not how soon a general election takes place, and referred to the programme upon which he—though ostensibly only a private member of Parliament—will ask the country to vote on that occasion. Here we have something, at any rate, that can be put to the test. If Mr. Chamberlain sincerely desires a dissolution, he has the power in Parliament to bring it about, and the opportunity of using it can soon be found when Parliament meets. Will he be as good as his word, or will the event show that his anxiety to put his programme before the country is only one more bit of bluff? Time will very soon show.

NELSONS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS.

The action which is to decide the rights of Nelson and Co.'s customers and pensioners in the situation into which the pension tea business has now drifted, is now under way, and the first skirmish took place on Friday last before Mr. Justice Swinfen-Eady in the Chancery Division. As the action now stands, an express allegation of fraud is made against the company. The whole issue, therefore, is raised in a very satisfactory manner. Beyond this it is, of course, improper to make any reference to the proceedings. I am, however, receiving inquiries from all quarters as to whether it is desirable that, pending the decision of this action, the 700,000 customers of Nelson and Company should continue to purchase their tea. The question is of so much importance to so many women, most of them very poor and ignorant, that I feel bound to give my opinion upon it. The following letter, which I received last week, gives a very good indication of the sort of circumstances under which this question presents itself:—

> As a constant reader of your paper I have been greatly interested in your Nelson Pension Tea articles. Would you recommend a woman, who is "one of the 700,000," to continue to buy the tea for the next few weeks, in order that she may participate in any bona-fide scheme of restitution such as which you suggest to Mr. Emerson Bainbridge? The case of this woman is very distressing. I found the family two years ago on the verge of starvation, through no fault of their own. The husband was an old soldier, had fought at Majuba and in the Egyptian campaign, and some three years ago fell from a crane seventy feet high. He was terribly injured, and after a year in London hospitals was sent here to his native place. I was able to obtain a little light work for him this summer, but he thinks himself most fortunate if he earns 2s. a week. The wife works very hard as a charwoman, but the most she ever earns is 12s. weekly, and sometimes she has no work for weeks. The family then have to subsist on 7s., which the eldest son earns as an errand boy. . . . The mother pays weekly into a Provident Dispensary Club for them all, but *never* will she miss buying her half pound of Nelson tea. It has been impossible to dissuade her from this, though the money would be so much better invested in milk. I think you will agree with me that there are few cases in which the pension tea has proved more pernicious than this. Every penny is of the utmost importance to this family, and yet they are contributing their mite to swell the Nelson dividends, with, so far as I can see, little prospect of getting any return for their money. I do not think that the poor woman is ever likely to be left a widow, for her husband seems to improve in health; and I think that I could now persuade her to give up buying the tea, unless, in your opinion, it would be wiser for her to continue a customer until the whole affair is wound up.

It is pitiful to think of the number of people that there must be in more or less similar circumstances among the 700,000 Nelson customers. The Widows' Pension Protection Society, to which I referred last week, has issued a post-card, the first paragraph of which runs as follows:—

> Customers of Nelson and Co., Ltd., are strongly advised not to discontinue taking tea for the present, as by so doing they may lose any rights they have, or may have, against the company.

I presume that this advice, meaning so much as it does to an immense number of working-class women, has not been given without some legal authority; but I confess I do not at present understand what legal rights the 700,000 customers—except, of course, those who are already widows—have, or "can" have until their husbands die, against the company. There may be a question as to their rights against the £20,000 Government deposit, which it is now proposed to charge in favour of the new life insurances of the Nelson Trading Company. But these rights will, I presume, be effectually determined in the interests of all concerned in the action now pending; and, what is of more importance, these rights can never be of any tangible value to any customer until she becomes a widow, because until that event she has no legal claim on the company. Moreover, even among the widows, already 19,000 in number, £20,000 is worth very little. As regards the rest, if it were divided up to-morrow among the whole 700,000 it would only give to each of them about the extra cost of her tea for one week.

For these reasons I fail utterly to see what rights any woman not already a widow has, or can have against the company which would make it worth her while to go on buying the tea under the present conditions for a single week. The only motive for doing so would be that indicated by the writer of the above letter, viz., that the women might thereby participate in some "bonâ-fide scheme of restitution." I cannot think, however, that if any such restitution were made, whether by Mr. Emerson Bainbridge or any one else, any woman would be excluded from it on the ground that she had dis-

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continued taking her tea under the circumstances that have now arisen—that is to say, in view of the reduction of the widows' pensions by one-half. "A bonâ-fide scheme of restitution" implies that some of the profits that have been made out of all these unfortunate women would be handed back to them by the gentlemen into whose pockets they have gone, and such a scheme, if it is to have any show of equity about it, must embrace at least all those who have been paying their contributions up to the date of the reduction of the pensions. If Mr. Emerson Bainbridge, or any other of those gentlemen, should feel it their duty to take this course, it must be assumed, therefore, that they will allow all those women to participate.

I see, therefore, no reason for recommending any woman, not already a widow, to continue her payments under the present circumstances, whether in the hope of participating in some hypothetical restitution scheme or in any other expectation. The one expectation in which all payments have hitherto been made is that of receiving a pension on widowhood to the amount held out in the company's advertisements. That expectation is delusive, as the facts have already shown, and there is nothing in the present position of the pension fund to lead women to expect they ever will receive such pensions, or will even receive pensions of a reduced amount for any length of time. For a year and a half past I have been warning women against paying to the pension fund, and certainly nothing that has happened during the last few weeks suggests that those warnings were unfounded, or should now be withdrawn. At any rate, if any customer, not at present a widow, feels any doubt on this point, she should fortify herself with legal advice; and when the Widows' Pension Protection Association takes the step of advising all the customers to continue their payments for the present—a course which appears to be for the benefit of the company before everybody else—I think it ought to explain clearly and definitely on what grounds, or on what authority, it gives this advice.

As regards the existing widows, the position may be slightly different. By the terms of their contract they are entitled to their pensions as long as they continue purchasing their weekly packet of tea; and as they are clearly getting some value for their money as long as they are receiving pensions of more than 6d. a week, it is clearly to their interest to go on buying their tea as long as the company is in the position to pay that amount. The case of the existing widows, however, though their disappointment on the reduction of their pensions may be great, and will be still greater when, as is bound to happen, the pensions finally cease altogether, is not the most serious part of the present situation, for, as was pointed out in Truth only last week, all widows who have been paid their pensions in full for a few months, and many who have only been paid for a few weeks, have already received back as much as they paid into the pension fund. They therefore stand to lose nothing beyond the frustration of the hopes which they had been led to form. The greatest grievance against the pension scheme is that of the women who have been paying their money for any period up to the seven years that the scheme has been in operation, and who now discover that they have no prospect of ever getting the pension for which they have been paying. The grievance is perhaps worst in the case of those women—though I do not know how many of them there are—who have joined the fund as widows, on the promise that they will receive pensions after buying their tea regularly for ten years. It would be absurd to suggest that any of these women should go on paying on such conditions merely to enable the widows who have already got their money back to obtain additional payment from the company; and the company has certainly no right to ask them to do so, whether on this or any other ground; all the less so, since, by the inevitable operation of the scheme as it stands, the continuation of customers' payments brings far more profits to a handful of shareholders than it even brings to the 19,000 widows. In short, the scheme being what it is, and the financial situation being what it is, there is only one equitable solution of the difficulty—namely, to wind up the scheme at the earliest possible moment.

I credit the existing board, or, at any rate, the majority of them, with a desire to do the right thing. I understand that their only wish is to get rid of the pension scheme, and to substitute for it an honest and businesslike scheme of life insurance. If that is so they can have no desire that the 680,000 deluded customers who have not yet become entitled to pensions should go on paying their weekly money to the company under the vain delusion that they are making provision against widowhood. On that view of the matter there is one very practical suggestion that I would make it to the board. It is this, that now that the pensions have been reduced to half the amount originally held out, the purchase of tea required of customers should be reduced in proportion. This applies equally to the existing widows and to the customers who have not yet reached that condition, but more especially to the latter. If a woman has been promised 10s. a week on widowhood for so many purchases of ½ lb. of tea, now that the pensions have dropped to 5s., she ought not to be asked to buy more than ¼ lb.; while the woman who has been asked to buy ¼ lb., by the offer of a 5s. pension, should now be allowed to buy 2 oz. for a 2s. 6d. pension. One effect of this would be that the profits would be proportionately reduced, the pensions would be further reduced with them, and the final extinction of the scheme, which it must be the desire of every honest director to bring about, will be to that extent expedited. It has more than once been pointed out to me when discussing the pension scheme with the representatives of the company, that the directors are powerless to suspend payment, or to reduce pensions as long as the scheme continues to run at a profit. While the profits are there, they must continue to divide them *pro ratâ*. So they have been advised by eminent counsel, and I dare say that eminent counsel are right. But what it seems necessary to point out to the board is that it is a very simple matter for them, by letting the profits

go, to get out of this difficulty. It is no use beating about the bush in this matter. The majority of the directors know as well as I do that the pension scheme is indefensible. With the possible exception of Mr. Morris Catton, I do not believe there is a man among them who would stand up in public to-day and attempt to justify it. The most they will attempt to say for themselves is that the promoter and the original directors have set the thing going, and that the present board cannot get out of it, though they hope to do so in time. I say emphatically that this is all humbug. The only persons who are interested in the survival of this scheme for another week are (1) the shareholders in Nelson and Co. —that is to say, principally Mr. Emerson Bainbridge and Mr. Catton, (2) the parties interested in the sale of tea—again Mr. Emerson Bainbridge and Mr. Catton —and (3) the 19,000 widows, who have already for the most part got back the money they paid in, if not more. The question is, what right these parties have to expect the remaining 680,000 customers to go on with their weekly payments in the present circumstances of the company for their benefit. I say, No right whatever. It is the duty of the board to hasten the dissolution of the scheme by every means in their power. It is idle to say that this is impossible. I have indicated above one method, and a very equitable one, by which it might be done; and others might be found if there were any desire to do so. It is only the interests of those concerned in the profits that stands in the way. If the board can build up on the wreck of the pension scheme a new business by means of their new insurance scheme, they have every right to do so, and I wish them success. But beyond that they have no right to continue the old business of Nelson and Co. for a day longer; and I trust that customers will not be misled by anybody into assisting them to do so.

HINTS ON CHRISTMAS APPEALS.

So far as I can judge from my own private letter-box, the number of charitable appeals sent out indiscriminately at this season of the year increases at an alarming ratio. Not only great institutions like the leading Metropolitan hospitals, with incomes running into five figures, but the most insignificant local charities, with subscription lists of a few hundreds a year, seem now to think it their duty to post thousands of circulars during the first two or three weeks in December, mostly to people who have never heard of them, and are not in the least likely to take any interest in them; and the flood of urgent petitions for aid is swollen by the efforts of individual mendicants of all sorts and conditions. This growing practice is a serious evil, for many reasons. It implies, in the first place, a lamentable waste of money, for it is difficult to believe that one in five hundred of the supplications elicits a practical response, and the greater portion of them go unread behind the fire. It also has the effect of hardening the hearts of those who are not too charitably disposed, for a man is apt to get annoyed after opening two or three envelopes all telling the same story, and begins to toss them aside as soon as he perceives their nature; while even those who may be on the look-out for deserving objects of charity are bewildered by the multitude of applicants, and, in the difficulty of making a choice, end by giving to none.

One consequence of this state of things is that at this season of the year I am myself inundated with requests for advice about Christmas appeals. This is flattering, no doubt, but I am not exactly an expert in these matters, and that so many people should ask the assistance of a mere humble journalist in deciding how they shall give their alms at Christmas time, shows very clearly the embarrassment produced by the present system of begging by post. I have a very strong feeling myself that the mere giving away of money, because one party says he wants it, or another party recommends the case as a deserving one, has very little to do with charity in the proper sense of the word. My notion is that the truly charitable person should find out the needs of others for himself, and that his almsgiving should only be one part of the exercise of personal sympathy and care for the suffering and the needy. I am sure, at any rate, that it is the restriction of charity to the mere writing of cheques that leads to all the abuses of charity—and they are many—that I ever came across. It is only the man or woman who conceives charity to mean parting with money, and nothing more, who is likely to be imposed upon. However, the person who writes to the Editor of Truth before drawing his, or her, cheque, is a degree in advance of the person who draws and despatches it without any inquiry at all, and on this principle, when my advice is so extensively invoked, I cannot refuse to give it, within certain limits.

As regards one class of appeals—those emanating from individual mendicants—my advice is always being given; and during the last few weeks a great many inquiries that fall under this head have been given in the columns of Truth. It is not necessary, therefore, to deal with any specific appellants here. All I will offer on this point is the general observation that no one should ever give to a stranger who begs of him by post without independent information about the merits of the case. I believe it is safe to say, as a general rule, that such appeals are not even worth the trouble of inquiring into. Inquire, if you like; but, at any rate, do not give without inquiry. There is no question about the harm done by promiscuous alms-giving in this case. Much the same thing may be said of the large class of people who disguise their begging by offering articles for sale—from book-markers and babies' socks to oil-paintings. Nearly all such mendicants are mere traders, who use appeals to benevolence as a means of pushing their goods; and not a few of them are impostors of the most undeserving class. The files of Truth contain the records of any number of them.

Another general observation which I find it necessary to repeat, is that nothing but harm is done by supporting obscure charitable agencies which publish no accounts; and I would urge those who may be tempted by moving reports and appeals to give to such concerns not only to ascertain that accounts are published, but to

study them intelligently, to see that they are vouched for by chartered accountants, and to satisfy themselves that no undue proportion of the money subscribed is spent on costs of collection and on the salaries of managers and officials. If there is the slightest room for doubt on these points, shun the thing like the plague—especially where a doubtful-looking financial account is bolstered up by sensational accounts of the good work done, and hysterical appeals to the sympathies of the benevolent. These are the signs by which you may know the most audacious and the most mischievous forms of dishonest charity-mongering. Beware, too, of all "reverend" gentlemen, in clerical garb, who run quasi-religious "missions" of unknown denomination, or no denomination at all, especially if they knock at the door in person. They are the most abandoned of all their class. Be not deceived even if one should bear the title of a "Bishop," and the apron and gaiters too. I believe that only one has got as far as that, but he is as bad as any of them.

All this is, of course, negative advice, and many of my readers ask for suggestions as to the directions in which they can give their money to the best advantage. To attempt to answer this places me at once in a difficulty. I cannot pretend to judge between the respective merits of the scores of useful charities that are crying for help at the present moment; and to make out a list of even the most deserving would only place the reader in the same position as he is in when he receives a dozen postal appeals in the course of a day. He probably has no intention of giving to all, and he will have no means of discriminating between them. The most that I can attempt to do is to enumerate a few which I know something about personally, or the claims of which have been specially brought before me. As regards the London hospitals, which make, of course, by far the largest appeal to the benevolence of the public at this time of year, I would point out two things: First, that anybody who takes an interest in hospital work which goes beyond the drawing of a cheque, can easily find out by personal visits or inquiries the merits of the smaller institutions in his own neighbourhood, which he feels to have special claims upon him; secondly, that where this is impossible, by far the best way of supporting London hospitals is to subscribe to one or other of the great central funds, the Hospital Sunday Fund, or King Edward's Hospital Fund for London, with its auxiliary the League of Mercy, which can be relied upon as discreet and economical almoners of charity in this shape. Further, if any doubt is felt about the merits of any particular institution, an inquiry of the Charity Organisation Society, or the Editor of Truth, will always set it at rest. I might also refer to the special Christmas Supplement published in the *Hospital* of December 10, where the needs of all the principal hospitals are very carefully set out, and it may be taken for granted that no institution is mentioned there which is not well worthy of support. If my personal recommendation is good for anything, I might specify particularly the King's College Hospital Rebuilding Fund, the object of which is to re-erect this important general hospital on a site in South London, where it is urgently needed; the National Hospital for the Paralysed and Epileptic (Queen-square, Bloomsbury), which is about to close its valuable Convalescent Home for want of funds to maintain it; and the various children's hospitals, scattered about London, more particularly the admirable Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond-street, the smaller Paddington Green Children's Hospital, and the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease (Queen-square, Bloomsbury). I am afraid to enlarge the list, but I have been specially asked to call the attention of my readers to the pressing needs of the Charing Cross Hospital, which has been involved of late in an enormous expenditure for necessary improvements, which are at present very far from paid for.

As regards charities of a different nature, beyond the general hints given above, I cannot attempt to do more than specify two or three institutions of which I know something personally. To recommend even representative agencies of every different class would defeat the object in view. I should like to say a word, in the first place, on behalf of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation (38, Tavistock-place, W.C.). I place this in the forefront of those agencies which come to the relief of distressed gentlefolks—the class which feels poverty the most acutely, and is the very last to beg for itself. Everybody in these days must have heard something of the dire straits of many of the clergy of the Church of England, especially those holding country benefices on starvation stipends; at any rate, if anybody needs information as to the extent of their poverty—to say nothing of the needs of widows and orphans—the Secretary of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation can give him enough and to spare. While the emoluments of the Church of England are distributed as they are, it seems to me to be the duty of every Churchman and Churchwoman to support this charity, and I hope that it will not be forgotten at Christmas time. Among general charities for the benefit of people in "reduced circumstances," I may mention the United Kingdom Beneficent Association (7, Arundel-street, W.C.), which disburses annually large sums in annuities, and could well do with more. Among those which provide homes for the poor, one of the best, I believe, is the Homes for the Aged Poor (Hon. Secretary, Miss Harrison, 86, Penge-road, S.E.). This society has now fifteen houses in different parts of London, where old people of satisfactory antecedents, who are provided from any source with enough money for food and clothing, are provided with quarters rent free, and with medical attendance when necessary. But for this help the whole of them—including a number of married couples—would now be in the workhouse; and it is a kind of charity that might well be extended. On no account, however, let this institution be confounded with the South London Homes for Aged Deserving Poor, conducted by one Sergant in Kennington-road, S.E.—a very different thing indeed. As the young are too often in want of homes as well as the aged, I will also mention that I take an interest in a little institution called St. Michael's Orphanage, the address of which is Grafton House,

Beavor-lane, Hammersmith. There are forty little orphans in it now—the youngest a seven-months-old baby—and the Mother Superior tells me that she is in sore straits to provide for them. This is an Anglican institution, and does not advertise or appeal to the public in a general way, which gives me the more confidence in mentioning its needs. Another children's charity for which I am asked to say a word is the Children's Dinner Fund of the London Vegetarian Association (Memorial Hall, Farringdon-street). It has given over 330,000 meals to the poorest of the poor up to the present time, and that seems to me a form of Vegetarian propaganda which a man might support without scruple, even though he himself eats nothing but roast beef and turkey at Christmas.

I was asked the other day by a good lady who gives away a great deal of money to tell her how she could reach the poorest of the poor at Christmas time. Perhaps the answer I gave her may be found useful to others. I told her that she had better get into communication with the Sisters of Nazareth, at Nazareth House, Hammersmith, or the Little Sisters of the Poor, whose address is all over the world, but who may be found in London at St. Joseph's House, Portobello-road, W., St. Ann's House, Manor-road, Stoke Newington, and many other equally unfashionable neighbourhoods. "But," said the good lady to whom I gave this information, and who had evidently read her TRUTH attentively, "they are Romanists, and *they publish no accounts.*" I answered that this is one of those exceptions that prove the rule. It seems to me that these good Sisters give a sufficient account of their stewardships in their works. There is no question here of snug managers and officials, living with large families in comfortable houses on the charity they dispense; no question of heavy commissions to collectors, or other management expenses, absorbing a huge percentage of the funds collected. The Sisters themselves live in the meagrest fashion, little better fed or clothed than the poor for whom they work. What they receive they give without taking toll of it. In the case of the Sisters of Nazareth, they not only give, but they work like slaves among the poor. They nurse them in sickness, they wash and dress the children, they go down on their knees, and scrub the floors. They go round with their vans and collect the broken meats—the crumbs that fall from the rich man's table—at hotels, and restaurants, and any big houses that will supply them—the Houses of Parliament among the rest. They sort it and dish it up with their own hands, and feed with it the sick and the hungry. The Little Sisters of the Poor support some 30,000 old men and women in their homes in different parts of the world, and, what is more, they ask no questions about the religion of those to whom they minister. The Sisters of Nazareth have about 600 of the same class in their home at Hammersmith, which the Charity Organisation Society, after inspection, reports to be "very clean, airy, and well-kept, with excellent bathrooms and lavatories." I do not thing that any one who sees these Sisters at work, and knows how they live, remembering, too, that they are subject to visitation and inspection from the heads of their own Church, will want to see any accounts. For my part, when I see any Protestant or other denominational agency at work on the same lines, I will cheerfully grant it a dispensation from the chartered accountant. As to the Sisters being Romanists, I felt disposed to tell my lady friend, in the words of the Apostle, that though she bestowed all her goods to feed the poor, she had not charity. I refrained, however, and told her instead that she had better look out among those of her own denomination for the clergy and the district visitors, and the other devoted people who are face to face with the poor and suffering every day, and give her help to them. They are not difficult to find in any London parish, though they may not blow their own trumpets very loudly; nor are they confined to any particular denomination. Charity and denominationalism have, indeed, precious little to do with one another; and that is not the least important of the hints that I venture to offer on the subject of Christmas appeals.

THE THEATRES.

"Lady Madcap" at the Prince of Wales's.

Musical comedy may not inaptly be defined as a courtship which rarely ends in matrimony. As a rule, the librettist and the composer are not really well suited to one another, and their association turns out to be nothing better than a *liaison*, broken off at the box or registry office draped in mourning. Here, exceptionally, I am glad to welcome a happy ending to a courtship of the kind. For the light and graceful muse of Mr. Paul Rubens has found in the witty, observant, and humorous libretto of Colonel Newnham-Davis a partner round whom the floating draperies of harmony and of melody can twine and gyrate in all their native grace, a manly, sure support. The marriage was celebrated on Saturday evening, and the company who attended it constitute an essential part of its success.

To abandon the figure with which I have commenced this article is not to abandon the flowery paths of flirtation and of matrimony, for the doings of that exquisite and amiable little madcap, Lady Betty Claridge, are all of them bound up with affairs of the heart. Others will have furnished the full details of her proceedings; here I will but attempt to make a nosegay from her lapful of flowers.

All the multifarious doings of the Lady Betty and of her maid, and of her friend, Gwenny Holden, prior to the departure of her severe father, Lord Framlingham, on his wild-goose flight to London, so artfully arranged by his daughter, are aglitter with bright sayings and humorous situations; and when that Laconian parent and his portentous butler, who follows him with a goose-quilled telegram, are out of the way, how merry are the doings in Egbert Castle! Pretty unrepentant Lady Betty peeps from the window of her bedroom, and ere long reappears, deliciously travestied as her own maid, in short skirt and tenuous lace apron. She has much to attend

to, for although (as she puts it) she has only invited "one regiment," yet that regiment contains the maker of a hundred runs, Trooper Smith (with a "y" as the inimitable G. P. Huntley keeps drawlingly explaining). Trooper Smith is the man she loves, and Trooper Smith is really no trooper, but the millionaire, Oroya Brown. Then Lady Betty has also invited, for Gwenny's sake, the Count de St. Hubert, a marvellous Frenchman in pale grey, a melodiously marvellous Maurice Farkoa. Then there are the two gentlemen of industry, namely, Stony Stratford and his accomplice, Posh, who have come to Egbert Castle in reply to Lady Betty's advertisement for a millionaire husband. Here are sufficient complications to fill the small white hands of her ladyship, but there are others, and yet those little hands continue to hold them all, and the fates unravel the twisted skein, delightfully.

I have said that the witnesses of the marriage ceremony of the libretto and of the music are an essential part of its success, and I will briefly indicate some of them. First of all stands Mr. G. P. Huntley, who has returned from Transatlantic wanderings to gladden our hearts. As Trooper Smith the librettist has provided him with a part which suits him down to the ground, like those strange trousers he wears when, discarding the uniform of the trooper, he descends to the cellar to "buttle" at her winsome lady's-maidship's command. The happy conjunction of Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald's unique temperament and Colonel Newnham-Davis's witty dialogue, make of Stony Stratford's impersonation (a word which covers the whole of his doings both as actor and character in the play) a feast of laughter. His confederate, Posh Jenkins, with his coster's strut and absurd impromptus, finds in Mr. Fred Emney an excellent exponent. Of the purely military element, much can be said; I say little, but in saying that Mr. Leedham Bantock did very well as the somnolent colonel with the pretty flirtatious wife, I have yet said much. His song, "The Beetle and the Boot," with its accompaniment of gathered skirts and shrill screams from its fair auditors, was perhaps the triumph of the musically absurd on Saturday evening. Lord Framlingham's butler (the real one) found in Mr. R. St. George a very humorous exponent of the fussy old family servant.

Of the ladies, taken *en masse*, with their background of chorus in lavender dresses, and the tiny "flappers" who have their chance so well taken in their sweetly chirped song with their titanic footmen lovers, I cannot speak too favourably. They are excellently well chosen, and among the former stands out first Miss Adrienne Augarde in the title-rôle, on whom the success of the piece rested. Her little shoulders were well able to support it, and, alike in her well-played comedy scenes, in her singing, and in her girlish buoyancy, it is easy to recognise the rising star. Elegance, beauty, voice, and talent, too, I found in Miss Delia Mason, who made of her part as Lady Betty's friend a primrose path adorned with a primrose song. Miss Eva Sandford also, as Lady Betty's maid, showed fine qualities for comedy.

Among songs I heard with especial pleasure I may mention, "It's a Way we have in the Army," sung by Captain Harrington (Mr. J. Edward Fraser), Miss Delia Mason's "Who? Who? Who?" and "Nerves, Nerves," Stony Stratford's and Posh's duet, Mr. Maurice Farkoa's "I like you in velvet; I love you in plush," Miss Adrienne Augarde's "Little Dog," and, besides the Colonel's song already mentioned, that most humorous duet of Mr. G. P. Huntley and Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, where the former caps the utterance of the latter with amiable ironies.

So much, then, for "Lady Madcap" and Egbert Castle, a country seat in London which will have open doors and many visitors for many months to come.

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"Ladyland," at the Avenue, is another musical comedy which comes up for criticism this week. In this composite form of entertainment it is possible for the total effect to fail of pleasing, and yet for certain elements of it to have excellences of their own obscured through force of circumstances. Such are the performances of Miss Ethel Irving as the Queen of Ladyland, a clever burlesque of Napoleonic femininity, the singing of Miss Aline May as the Great Lady of Ladyland, of Mr. Richard Green as one of the adventurers who descends from the balloon, and the playing of Miss Kitty Lindley as the waitress. Mr. Austin Melford, too, worked hard as Professor Puddle, and Mr. George Giddens as the Miller's son. But there is no blinking the fact that the total effect of "Ladyland" was not pleasing, although Mr. Frank Lambert furnished some graceful if derivative music to the scene and Mr. Eustace Ponsonby did his best with the libretto.

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"A Little Brown Branch," produced at the Court Theatre last week, is a comedy in three acts which has considerable merit. A middle-aged sister, head of a sort of activity home for the overstrung, loves, and is loved by her manager. This lady's sister arrives, and the middle-aged manager speedily transfers to her his affections. The play develops the psychology of these three personages with very considerable skill, and the final renouncement by the elder of the sisters gave Miss Frances Ivor an opportunity for a beautiful piece of true pathos. Miss Winifred Fraser, as the younger sister, did the girlish ingenuousness of Priscilla Farquharson full justice, and Mr. Berte Thomas (the author of the comedy) played his own creation, the part of the fickle-hearted manager, with desirable conviction. Comic relief was abundantly furnished by the patients in the activity home, where all have to work hard at manual labour, and the sentimentality of the audience secured its balsam for the wounds of the elder sister in the boyish love for her of John Brown, whose courtship found in Mr. Graham Browne an able and sympathetic exponent. An interesting play, which I should be glad to see a second time.

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"Charley's Aunt" has had a successful migration to the Comedy Theatre. The author, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. Walter Beaumont, Mr. Stanley Cooke, and Mr. Sydney Compton, do well in it as Sir Francis

Chesney, the solicitor, an Oxford undergraduate, and a college scout respectively. The remainder of the cast did not strike me as particularly strong, yet the performance does not fail of many happy moments, and of the play itself enough has been said in merely naming it.

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The Germans give us this week "Die Goldene Spinne," and "Traumulus." The Great Queen-street Theatre reopens on Monday, January 2, with "Alt Heidelberg," and on the 5th will be given Hauptmann's "Die Weber." There will also be a special performance of "Alt Heidelberg" on Boxing Day.

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The benefit matinée at His Majesty's Theatre for Mrs. Edmund Phelps resulted, I am glad to say, in a net profit of over four hundred pounds, including a donation from Sir Charles Wyndham.

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE SYVETON SCANDALS.

IN their outcry against Masonic assassins and murderers suborned by Combes, the admirers of the late M. Syveton have forced the Criminal Investigations Department not to let the dead rest. The consequences have been terrible for his posthumous reputation. We now see in him a bourgeois Cenci, without a Guido to plead mitigating circumstances in an immortal portrait. In committing suicide Syveton avoided a moral pillory, and possibly the official justice of his country. The poet Coppée, Jules Lemaître, and Léon Daudet must now feel rather foolish. Comte Boni de Castellane, who attended the funeral as admirer and sympathiser, reserved expressing his opinion there on the subject of the "mysterious murder."

To write at all fully about the involved drama one would have to call a whole vocabulary from a medical dictionary, or to have the daring of a Brieux. The storm which a fortnight back had been long gathering on the horizon must have appeared black to M. and Mme. Syveton, a pair evenly matched in age, she being just turned forty, and he close upon his fortieth birthday. If they had not been apprehensive of some blow of fate they would not have gone to consult chiromancists. He went last spring to Mme. Thèbes, who professed to read on his hand proud wilfulness, irascibility, calculating impulsiveness, which she feared would lead to a tragical deadlock. She might have detected vanity in his saying as he left: "I am M. Syveton." One does not give one's address to a chiromancist, and Frenchmen are reserved in such matters from the fear of looking foolish. Had the hand-reader seen in him a Robespierre wrong side out, she would not have been at fault.

Mme. Syveton, who would still be handsome were it not for the vulgarity of her coutenance, went, on her side, to consult Mme. Fraya, the rival of Mme. Thèbes. She revealed to the pythoness a strong situation by saying, as she sat down: "I want no concealment. Mind you tell me the whole truth, however painful it may be." You can picture to yourself the chiromancist pricking her ears at this. As she spoke of second marriage and widowhood, the visitor afforded her another glimpse by saying snappishly: "You rave when you talk of second widowhood. My husband enjoys robust health." "He may be as strong as an athlete, but that will not prevent his death, and in a short time." "How will he die? Accidentally?" "No; he will commit suicide." "Don't stuff me up with such nonsense; men no longer have the pluck to commit suicide." Mme. Fraya, seeing she had to deal with a disappointed woman, unhappy in her home life, spoke soothingly. Her visitor, interrupting, asked when she might expect this tragedy. "I told you already—shortly." The lady made a gesture of incredulity and then said, "I am Mme. Syveton, wife of the deputy."

The Church forbids fortune-telling. Nevertheless, society ladies, most of whom have been educated in convents, enable pythonesses to live in opulence. It does not surprise me to hear of Baroness de Gail going to consult Mme. Fraya when Captain de Gail challenged M. Syveton. The Baroness received the comforting assurance that her husband, to whom she is attached, would come safely out of the duel, and that if he waited another month there would be no duel; Syveton would then be dead. The day following that of his death the Baroness wrote to the chiromancist asking for another appointment, this time at half-past six in the evening. She in her note congratulated Mme. Fraya on the accomplishment on the previous day of her "sinister prediction."

The person who consults a fortune-teller owns himself a waiter on chance and the sport of circumstances. There is but one way for keeping our withers unwrung. It is to make in a rational, honest way the most of the present moment. Destiny, in the main, I believe in, and I also believe that we can, as French mechanics say, *donner du jeu* to the machine, and so escape from being prematurely crushed. Look closely into the evil actions of Governments, and you will find that most of them were due to a fear of the future and a vain determination to control it. In doing simply the right thing commanded by the circumstances of the day, crimes and disaster would have been avoided. Had Macbeth kept afar from the witches, and Hamlet turned a deaf ear to the ghost, there would not have been the tragedies called after them. Saul's disastrous end followed soon on his visit to the Witch of Endor and his vision of the dead prophet Samuel. Belief in an apparition unmanned Brutus. Syveton, after his interview with Mme. Thèbes, may have imagined it was useless to war against his well-masked sensuality. He had been seeking a derivative from an unholy passion in the society of Mme. Syveton's Flemish *femme de chambre*, Anna Spilmacher, since the necessary link in the chain of untoward and tragical incidents. The wretched being had also sought distractions in the neighbourhood of the Moulin Rouge. Before the war he sometimes rubbed shoulders there with Grand Dukes studying *la vie Parisienne* at Eugénie Buffet's theatre and the Red Mill. Since he assailed General André he went to the director of a gymnastic establishment to arrange for

a course of training. He particularly desired to develop the chest, the biceps, the deltoid, and to have boxing lessons. The course was to have begun on the Monday which, as it since fell out, came next to his funeral. As he left he let fall his eye-glass and broke it. This struck him as a bad omen. He might have been dreaming of a triumphal acquittal, and regretting that the state of his muscles had not allowed him to inflict severer blows on General André. Had he not looked forward to a favourable verdict, he would not have given the professor of gymnastics an earnest of the training fees.

The intervention of Anna Spilmacher, the Flemish *femme de chambre*, has been alluded to. Syveton had sinned against her grievously. She was led into the tragedy under these circumstances. Mme. Ménard, as the storm gathered, felt it perhaps coming on, as she suffered severely from depression. She heard acquaintances speak of "Le Friquet" as amusing, and of Polaire as *impayable*. Expressing a wish to her husband to see that strange star, he took her to the Gymnase. She followed the crowd in weeping at Le Friquet's pathetic end, and returned home with a cold and feverish symptoms. The fever clung to her. Some nights later she awoke, terrified from a bad dream, and, calling for help, Anna and her husband rushed to her assistance. In Flemish Mme. Ménard told her dream to Anna. She had dreamt that she and Syveton, chained together, were in a parched desert, hot as an oven. On the other side of a road were fields that seemed cool, in which slaves worked in obedience to the lash of a cruel taskmaster. She and her companion tried to cross over to them, but were driven back by the scorching breath of a demon. He told them that from hell, where she was, there could be no redemption. The slaves she saw worked out their salvation in Purgatory. Anna, a pious Belgian, believed the dream to be sent as a warning, and urged Mme. Ménard to confess about two visits her stepfather had paid her. He could not but forgive her when he knew all. Besides, he loved her as he loved his life. Mme. Ménard broke down. Anna, confident in the moral innocence of her mistress, gave a fuller account. Ménard next morning went to Syveton to upbraid and threaten him.

The attempts of the Nationalist papers to make out Mme. Ménard a hysterical calumniator of their hero are sickening. Syveton took a high place at the École Normale des Hautes Études. He went thence to Angoulême to teach history in an upper class in the *lycée* where Taine filled the same chair. There he made the acquaintance of a fairly rich widow, to whom he became engaged. The wedding took place in Paris, and the newly-married pair went to Rheims, whither Syveton had been shifted. With her money and hospitality they soon took a leading place in Society. Syveton followed the Archbishop as a Catholic-Socialist, attended with the heads of the Right workmen's banquets, patronised pilgrimages, and noisily quarrelled with the Department of Public Instruction. His wife encouraged him to cast aside his professor's gown, go to Paris, and make a mark as Nationalist-Socialist and Republican of the Jules Lemaître shade. He took her advice. It answered. The electoral district which owes so much to Notre Dame des Victoires sent him to the Chamber. Since he went there the Right of the Academy wondered whether the time was not ripe for his candidature to a seat there. He had written a work on the diplomacy of Louis XIV. and Charles XII. of Sweden, and had collected materials for a history of Champagne which would deal with Henry V. at Troyes, his marriage there with Katharine of France, the Champenoise family of Joan of Arc and Joan's mission. He had industry, a sure scent in hunting up documents, and a cultivated style, but wanted originality and life. Nature had denied him the vivifying faculty of imagination.

Three Feminist dramatic authors have been asked by the Minister of Justice to belong to the Commission for the revision of the Code. This honour agreeably surprised them. They owe it to the feminine demonstrations against the Code on its hundredth anniversary. The three are Brieux, Marcel Prévost, and Capus. The brothers Rosny and the brothers Margueritte were thought of. The Ministers, thinking them rather artists than logicians, crossed out their names. Another objection presented itself. Each pair of brothers are inseparable. One Rosny and one Margueritte might be desirable, but not two Rosnys and two Margueritte. Capus passed through the Polytechnic, and came out a civil engineer with a tip-top number. Prévost also received a mathematical education, and was destined for the engineering profession. Brieux' forte used to be, in his apprentice days, mensuration and geometrical drawing. He began life as a carpenter. Capus brings his engineering education to bear on the framework of his plays. I look on the appointment of these authors as a great stride forward. A Commission entirely made up of jurists would have been too respectful of the dead or baleful articles of the Code. Those articles relating to women are more Corsican than French. They are the especial work of Napoleon, and reflect his barbarous spirit. He had long, when he began to legislate, been deeply wounded by Joséphine's infidelities. On the whole, Frenchwomen had a far better legal position up to 1804 than since. Equal division of parents' property between sons and daughters was universal in the bourgeoisie. In most provinces primogeniture had narrow limits. Ladies holding fiefs had a right to appear by deputy in the States-General of the Kingdom. If they did not appear in person it was to spare them long and dangerous journeys. Mahaud or Maud, Countess of Champagne in her own right, held the sword at a Royal coronation. The poetic sentiments of the Troubadours ran into feudal institutions, and guided the action of the noble class. The Abbess of Fontevrault governed more monasteries than convents, and sent representatives to General Councils of the Church. A sister of Mme. de Montespan had twenty-five monasteries under her abbatial staff, and seventeen convents. Half the recluses of her abbey were men, and laboured in the fields and in workshops "as the perpetual servants of the Lady Abbess and her daughters."

M. Bourgeois, who represents France at The Hague Peace Conference, is also to be on the Commission for the revision of the Code. He originated the idea of bringing in dramatic authors who had kept close to the conditions of modern life in writing plays. They had seen better than lawyers what shoes pinched. Is there any other country except France in which a great statesman would have proposed such a thing? M. Bourgeois is a confirmed Feminist, and so, also, is his son, who has just brought out a work on tuberculosis.

Mistral, the Provençal poet, will devote his share of the Nobel prize for poetry to a museum at Arles. The nucleus will be formed of his collection, which is in three sections, and represents Christian art in Provence before the Renaissance. Mistral is an enthusiastic partisan of Home Rule for Provence. He thinks the South of France oppressed, and, what is worse, warped by the preponderance of the North or Gallo-Frankish region. Mistral could have written in French with more pecuniary profit, but from patriotism confined himself, as a poet, to his native *patois*. His "Mireille," which inspired Gounod's opera, brought him fame, and what seems to him riches. His songs and tales have a prodigious sale all along the Rhône and Garonne, where the *langue d'oc* is understood. He lives at Maillanes, between St. Rémy and Arles, in a part of France famed for the beauty of its people. The St. Rémy women are of a purer antique type than the Arlésiennes (who are too close to the railway), and all the sickly Northerners that it dumps every winter on the sunny South. His house when I called on him many years ago was a small, low box, with a frontage of three windows with green Venetian shutters and thick carpets serving for blinds. It had shelter from the sirocco, the Alpine range lying between it and the plain of the Crau. I hear that he has since lengthened the façade by two windows and added to his garden and farm. One can judge of the disposition of the master of the house by the amiability of the dog. Mistral's dogs lick the hands of visitors whom they see for the first time. He and his wife and dog visited the 1900 Exhibition, and were made much of by the literary world and the President. The latter, patting the dog on the head, said, "C'est un vrai loubet." He then explained that the shepherds' dogs of the Cevennes, so ardent in attacking wolves, are called *loubets*. Mistral under all circumstances is faithful to the costume of his district. It is that worn by Mireille's lover in Gounod's opera. Mme. Mistral is a Dijonnaise. She promised the poet before their betrothal to dress like a Maillanes peasant from the day of her marriage. Her white neckerchief has on Sunday, and when she receives company, a deep border of old lace, and the broad black ribbon surrounding the white caul of her cap is gold-fringed and embroidered. She has thoroughly entered into the spirit of Provence.

Mistral is for international unity in diversity. The flowers in God's own garden bore fruits and flowers each after its kind, and all very good. The Emperor of Brazil, when last in the South of France, invited the *félibre* poet to come and dine with him at his hotel. Ill-health, the gentleman who took the message said, prevented his Imperial Majesty going to Maillanes to present the homage of his admiration. Mistral went. Emperor and poet conversed about the struggle for primacy among the languages of the great States of the world and for bare existence among the small States. Pedro expressed his heartiest sympathy with the *félibre* movement. He congratulated Mistral on writing his glowing and musical poems in Provençal. "In preferring that vehicle," he said, "you defend the Portuguese, Basque, Swedish, Norse, Danish, and Irish tongues, and the souls of the people who originated them."

The King of Portugal is heedless of the wet weather. He goes about in downpours in his brown suit and hat without the shelter of mackintosh or umbrella. The spray of the Atlantic has, he gaily said to a French acquaintance who remonstrated, too often ducked him for the rain of Paris to upset his habits. The King admits himself to be *très gourmand* and to have the memory of the palate. Mme. Loubet had the satisfaction of hearing from him that "on mange mieux en France que dans tout autre pays." He owns to having made attempts to penetrate the secrets of *la cuisine française*, and in different yachting tours applied his culinary lore with some success. As his experience widens his taste becomes simpler and he finds himself more appreciative of Brillat-Savarin's maxims. English meats *nature* are a delicious treat to the foreign gastronome for a week or ten days. One is then glad to return to *la cuisine travaillée* of the French *chef*. The Italians know best how to make ices and vegetable soups. What can be better than a *soupe florentine* or a *soupe milanaise?* The Condé cake is a matchless culinary triumph of Chantilly. The Duc d'Aumale spoke of it as light enough to be carried by butterflies.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THE Unemployed Upper-Ten, dear Lady Betty, are attracting general attention. The distress that exists in Mayfair, Belgravia, and South Kensington, has never been equalled, and it is the more to be regretted as it is mostly due to the obstinate refusal of the public to contribute money to spurious gold mines, and fraudulent financial and industrial undertakings.

In these democratic times we hear much of the community of interests, but the theory of community of capital is mere Socialism; all capital should be in the hands of the few.

Mr. Maurice Felberheim, the Honorary Secretary to the Unemployed Upper-Ten Relief Committee, has informed the representatives of the Press that the committee are already providing over eight hundred free luncheons, dinners, and suppers, a day to titled and prominent paupers, and are giving employment to two hundred and sixty-five young married women, the latter relief at a cost which cannot yet be accurately estimated. Over four thousand destitute dukes and duchesses, pauper peers and peeresses, and other members of the submerged Upper-Ten, have already registered their names for relief by leaving cards on the rich and prominent aliens who have recently removed from the neighbourhood of Petticoat-lane to that of Piccadilly.

It is singularly unfortunate that at such a crisis we should have to rely entirely on private effort to relieve the distress which exists, for the Government is powerless as the country hesitates to approve of the proposed return to Protection, which would compel the multitude to sacrifice itself for the benefit of the few.

MAYFAIR ARMY OPERATIONS.

Meeting at Hamburg House.

Mr. Adolph Bernhoffer took the chair yesterday afternoon at a meeting held at Hamburg House, Berkeley-square, to consider the work of the Mayfair Army to assist the Unemployed Upper Ten.

The Chairman explained that the clearance schemes elaborated by the late Mr. Gladstone (*general hissing*) had made it impossible for thousands of well-connected men to obtain the only kind of work which is suited to their ability and habits. (*Renewed hissing.*) Most of the men of this class, in consequence of their want of intelligence, ignorance, and indolence, were only fitted for the highest forms of employment under Government (*hear! hear!*), and by closing to many of them these occupations they had been thrown on the ordinary markets, where education, intelligence, industry, and occasionally even integrity, were indispensable (*cries of "Shame! shame!"*), and, of course, their services were not desired in those directions. (*A voice: "And they would not be obtained if they were." Loud cheers greeted this interruption.*) The Unionist (*a voice: "The Imperialist"*) Governments had endeavoured courageously to repair the injury caused by the late Mr. Gladstone. They had produced a war in South Africa which had for several years enormously increased the demand for inefficient and untrained officers. It was altogether an error to suppose that an officer should be a better kind of soldier; he is a better-paid (*vociferous cheers*), a better-housed, a better-fed, a better-clothed soldier, and is better respected in consequence of being better bred and better treated. (*This eloquent digression was rewarded with an outburst of cheers.*) That war, however, had disappointed them all, for since the annexation of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, South Africa had produced considerably less wealth than it did before, and had provided far less opportunities for company promoters, unscrupulous directors, concession agents, and adventurers, than it did when the corrupt Boer Governments tyrannised over the alien population, and paralysed industry and trade in those countries. Until the war South Africa had been sending gold to England; since the war England had been sending gold to South Africa. The policy of Imperialism had, of course, as it was intended, made it necessary to increase the Army and Navy, and so augmented the number of officers required, and had caused a further demand for inexperienced Governors, Colonial Secretaries, Administrators, and Colonial Office clerks; but that only provided employment for a few hundreds at the most. We must, without delay, enormously increase the Army, Navy, and the number of appointments at the disposal of the Civil Service Commissioners, so as to create high-class employment for impecunious peers and their connections. We must nail the Government to the great Tory principle, to the Unionist and Imperialist principle, which he might describe in a newly-coined phrase—a competence for the incompetent. (*Loud and prolonged cheering.*) "I am the State," said Louis XIV. "We are the community," the upper class of this country was entitled to say; and it is the duty of the millions to support the class which in return munificently contributes to provide for the multitude parish relief, workhouses, asylums, police-stations, reformatories, and prisons. (A Voice: "*Why are the warders always appointed from the lower ranks?*") Pending developments in the directions that the Chairman had mentioned, the Mayfair Army and the Relief Committee must endeavour to provide for the impecunious well-connected those luxuries which to them are the barest necessities. They must have money to bet and gamble with, and to give dinners and suppers with—not, however, to dress with. That, the Chairman said, he would not countenance for an instant; he was strenuously opposed to waste or extravagance in any form. There was no reputable well-connected man, who would not dress himself admirably, even if he had to do so at his tailor's expense. (*Prolonged and vociferous cheering, during which an unemployed director of spurious companies was detected attempting to pick pockets, and was ejected from the building. His name did not transpire, but he was understood to explain that, in his capacity of director, it was his main duty to transfer the money of others from their pockets to his, and that, therefore, he had only been occupied in the exercise of his profession. When the excitement subsided, the Chairman continued.*) Almost every reputable profession is gravely affected by the deplorable conditions that prevail. The state of the fraudulent investment markets is disheartening, and the investor of moderate means is most seriously to blame for refusing to contribute his small savings—at whatever sacrifice to himself, and any who are dependent upon him—for the benefit of those employed in such undertakings. (*Furious hissing.*) Thousands of willing hands are idle at this moment amongst the company promoters, directors, concession agents, stock-brokers' runners, insurance agents, wine-merchants' agents, tobacconists' agents, motor-car agents, horse-dealers' agents, art-dealers' agents—(*here the entire audience spontaneously rose and sang the beautiful hymn, "I want to be an Agent, And with the Agents stand"*)—ball and entertainment organisers, and "society" introducers. We must, collectively and individually, find work for those willing hands; wealth must be made to circulate. . . . (*At this moment the Chairman happened to put his hand to his waistcoat pocket, and, discovering that his watch and chain had been abstracted, leapt into the midst of the audience, and a scene of indescribable confusion ensued, the noise caused by which, however, was drowned by the enthusiastic singing of "Rule, Belgravia, Belgravia rules the knaves, Britons ever, ever, ever shall be slaves."*)

The hundreds of titled and well-connected unemployed who were present unanimously supported the motion, hastily proposed by the Vice-Chairman, that the meeting should immediately disperse, and hurriedly left the building. It was too late discovered that Hamburg House had been completely stripped of the valuable portable property it contained.

* * * * *

Circumstances have so generally altered the conditions of life in these days that we may be said to be living in a new world; there are some who are endeavouring to produce a new other world! Ghosts and ghouls, monsters and magicians, fairies, good or bad, and giants and ogres, are gradually being removed from our midst. They are generally now exposed in the pantomimes, and in the story-books for children, and are altogether ignored in the Christmas numbers of the newspapers and magazines, and in our literature. Those who are deeply attached to the imaginary world—and they are the most intelligent—will be grateful to Miss Marie Corelli for having given renewed popularity to the hobgoblin. Her "Strange Visitation of Josiah McNason" has many other attractions, of course, and one of the chief of them is the "Goblin's Hymn."

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The writer for many years past has urged the editors of English newspapers to adopt the system of colour-printed advertisements, which is in common use in the United States and throughout the Continent. A fort-night ago he directed attention to the Christmas number of the *Connoisseur*, which has some admirable colour-printed advertisements. It appears that the Editor of the *Bystander* had already adopted the suggestion, for there were coloured advertisements even in the first number of that admirable publication. It is but fair to add this to the paragraph which recently appeared.—Believe me to be, very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

I AM informed that Lord Davey has arranged to bring in a measure for the abolition of street betting directly after the meeting of Parliament, and its progress will be facilitated by the Government in both Houses. Strong protests have been addressed from influential quarters to various Ministers against the apathy with which they apparently regarded the measure of last Session, and their lack of zeal in extinguishing this "great social evil" (as I see it is described) has been severely criticised at the numerous diocesan conferences and similar gatherings which were held during the autumn. With a general election in prospect, no Ministry would be likely to resist the importunities of a powerful and active section of serious society, and on this question all parties of Churchmen and all sects of Dissenters are cordially united. I understand that Lord Davey's measure is of a drastic character, including the following provisions:—

> Any person frequenting a street, park, or garden, for himself or another person, for the purpose of bookmaking, or betting, or wagering, or agreeing to bet or wager, or paying, or receiving, or settling bets will, if this measure is accepted, be fined £10 for the first offence, £20 for a second, and £50, or six months' imprisonment, for a subsequent offence, or for carrying on a transaction with a person under sixteen years of age.

I wish most heartily that a measure could be devised to abolish starting-price betting, which is a most pernicious nuisance, and the curse of the Turf at the present time. The establishments in London and elsewhere at which this form of speculation is regularly carried on must be perfectly well known to the police, and if the law as it now stands would not justify their being closed, then the sooner the law is altered the better.

Lord Durham's salutary and well-timed attack on those sporting papers which insert the obviously mendacious advertisements of tipsters is not likely to have any practical results unless he can follow it up by taking some vigorous steps against the offending journals. *Non possumus* seems to be the reply to Lord Durham, the fact being that the papers in question cannot afford to refuse the objectionable advertisements. Mr. Corlett is vehemently denounced because he did not turn upon Lord Durham and rend him at the Gimcrack Club dinner, but I do not understand why he should be expected to undertake such an embarrassing task, especially as tipsters' advertisements have been for many years excluded from the *Sporting Times*. It would be paying the *Sportsman* writers a most extravagant compliment to describe what I suppose they consider to be their arguments on this subject as sophistical, for seldom has more abject rot been printed. The fact is that the purely sporting papers (among which I do not include the *Field*) have not a particle of influence among any section of the racing classes, from the Jockey Club downwards. Their views attract no more attention than the croaking of a frog, the sneezing of a black-beetle, or the buzzing of a bluebottle fly. One need not discuss the causes which have plunged these journals into such utter contempt. During the last twenty-five years I have received many scores of letters from all sections of racing society, beginning with members of the Jockey Club and prominent owners, in which the ignominious position of the sporting Press has been deplored, and the writer has explained that he has communicated with me simply because TRUTH is almost alone in taking an absolutely independent position when commenting upon Turf affairs. When writers are obliged to have an eye to considerations connected with their advertisement columns, they cannot be expected to indulge in any real freedom of expression. The late M. Lefevre, who was a sharp, cynical man of business, under a most genial exterior, took the measure of the English sporting Press after a few weeks, and at the end of his first season he expressed his wish to make some solid acknowledgment of the pleasing manner in which he had been treated by the various writers. Cheques, cases of champagne and claret, both of the very best, and boxes of admirable cigars were distributed with a lavish hand, and M. Lefevre, of course, continued to be an object of adoration and eulogy to the sporting papers during the remainder of his career in England. This was more than thirty years ago, and no doubt a more elevated moral tone now prevails. The irregularity of reporters "standing in" with an owner who had a good thing is now presumably an aberration of the past, but it is clear that when such transactions were common, free criticism (if there was reason for the same) could not be expected, as the writers were simply "nobbled." I remember a good story in this connection. X, a leading owner and member of the Jockey Club, was on friendly terms with Z, the sporting writer on two important papers. Z invariably "stood" from £10 to £25 with X whenever he fancied his candidate, but Z never was asked to pay when the animal lost. Of course, all references to the "astute tactics" of the very clever (*i.e.*, unscrupulous) stable in which X trained were written by Z in accordance with his wishes, and in those days of heavy betting weeks and months in advance of the race, horses could be written up or depreciated (as the case might be) with considerable ultimate profit to those behind the scenes. X had "a certainty" for a most important handicap, and had himself backed the horse (which had been "steadied" with a truly admirable audacity) to win £40,000. The good thing was just beaten owing to the stupidity of the jockey, who threw away the race. Next day Z was lachrymose in the extreme over this tragical disappointment, and his paper gushed over with sympathy for X, while the jockey was abused in every variety of invective. Settling day arrived, and X, of course, received back his account without its being credited with the £25 which Z had "stood." He was a very rich man, and the "bad week" was of not the slightest importance to him, especially as it had only followed upon many "good weeks." However, X was in a temper, and he directed the individual who settled his account to "demand" that £25, and to threaten severe proceedings unless it was forthcoming. The money was paid, and a day or two later what a commination did Z produce in his paper about the abominable misdeeds of X's stable! He "went for" them with a will, and X was held up to the scorn and contempt of the Turf. X, however, was a sensible man, and took a practical view of affairs, and he seized an early opportunity of making his peace with Z, who thereupon resumed his friendly attitude, and harmonious relations continued undisturbed until both X and Z were withdrawn to another sphere of existence.

I stated some weeks ago that Rock Sand has been undergoing a course of veterinary treatment since the beginning of October, which has proved successful, so it is hoped he will stand training again. It was thought that the last had been seen of him on the Turf after his race for the Jockey Club Stakes at Newmarket on September 29. I am informed that he will not run either at Epsom (in the Coronation Cup) or at Ascot (in the Gold Cup), but that he will undergo a special preparation for the Princess of Wales's Stakes of £10,000 at the Newmarket First July meeting. This valuable stake appears to be merely a question of health for Sir James Miller's horse, whose 14 lb. penalty is reduced to 5 lb. by a breeding allowance, which certainly ought not to be enjoyed as a perpetual benefit, but it should be extinguished in the case of the winner of any stake of the value of (say) £4,000. The entry for the Princess of Wales's Stakes now includes nothing of any note except St. Amant and John o' Gaunt. Mr. de Rothschild's horse would have 7 lb. the worse of the weights with Rock Sand, and he could not stay this severe course. John o' Gaunt is not likely to stand training, and under no circumstances would I believe in his beating Rock Sand with only 2 lb. the better of the weights. Sir James Miller's horse is also engaged in the Goodwood Cup and in the Jockey Club Stakes.

I hear that Zinfandel, who was showing a great deal of temper during the autumn, has calmed down

considerably as a result of his being judiciously exercised on the roads. He has grown into a splendid horse, and he appears to be perfectly sound. Lord Howard de Walden's steed will be trained for the Ascot Cup, and he ought of course to have won that race last season. His only important engagement for next year at present is the Hardwicke Stakes at Ascot, which will be worth £2,830, and the entry is a very poor one in point of class.

Henry the First and Admiral Breeze appear likely to train into useful four-year-olds, and both horses can stay well. If anything should happen to Rock Sand either one or other of Mr. Musker's horses would appear to have an excellent chance of winning the Princess of Wales's Stakes, and Henry the First's prospect of carrying off the Goodwood Cup is decidedly promising. Both horses are engaged in the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown Park, but that rich race is tolerably certain to be taken next season by a three-year-old, and M. E. Blanc has Adam, Jardy, and Val d'Or all entered. The Eclipse Stakes is the only engagement in England of the brother to Ajax.

Mr. Musker's costly two-year-olds Lilla and Sly Vixen are never likely to do much good on the Turf, and as they commenced last season with thirty-six engagements, there will be a heavy bill to pay for their forfeits in addition to their original cost and the training expenses. Lilla, by St. Simon out of Melody, was bred by Sir Daniel Cooper, and she cost 2,000 gs. at the sale of his yearlings in July, 1903. Sly Vixen, by Flying Fox out of Hamiltrude, was bred by Mr. R. A. Brice, and was purchased by Mr. Musker at Newmarket during the First October week for 2,000 gs. These animals are both remarkably well bred, and their owner may be compensated by their successes at the stud for their complete failure on the Turf.

The Derby betting reported in last week's sporting papers is all trash and nonsense and wholly unworthy of notice. If there were really any betting "to money" or a genuine desire in any quarter to invest largely it would be much wiser to leave the race alone for a long time to come, as everything depends upon M. E. Blanc's policy. If any one is compelled to bet on the Derby at present, the only conceivable business for any sensible person is to back the French pair coupled. I expect that M. E. Blanc will send over either Jardy or Val d'Or to Newmarket some time before the Two Thousand is run, and that if the colt selected to carry his colours in that race proves the winner, then the animal will remain in England until after the Derby, and will represent his owner also at Epsom. This will leave M. Blanc with Adam and either Val d'Or or Jardy to run for him in the great French three-year-old stakes. As to the English lot, I would most assuredly prefer to take 100 to 9 about Rouge Croix, winner of the Dewhurst Plate, rather than accept 4 to 1 about Cicero. I quite believe that if Cicero had started for the Middle Park Plate he would have been easily beaten by Jardy. The fact is that Cicero's two-year-old form does not bear the test of investigation well. Lord Rosebery's colt won his races easily, but he never beat anything of really good form. The simpletons who take 25 to 1 about such doleful candidates as Bishopscourt and Golden Measure surely ought not to be at large. In the old days, when winter betting on the Derby was a reality and not an idiotic sham, animals with such contemptible public form would have stood at 66 to 1 offered, and even at that price there would have been no backers except infatuated addle-heads. It will be full time to invest money on the Derby after the race for the Newmarket Stakes, in which Cicero, Rouge Croix, Llangibby, Polymelus, Bishopscourt, and Comedian are engaged.

The Duke of Westminster, whose colours have been exceedingly unfortunate ever since he began racing after his grandfather's death, now has thirteen horses in training at Kingsclere, of which lot eight are yearlings, all of which were bred at Eaton. Among them are Pipistrello, own brother to Flying Fox; Crown Gem, own brother to Sceptre; Rhos, own brother to Mr. Faber's horse Duke of Westminster; Rydal Fell, half-sister, by Ladas, to Rydal Head; Chondrine, by Isinglass out of Lowood; and Mary Orme, by Orme out of Princess Mary. The Duke will have to depend mainly on his two-year-olds next season, as the five older horses are exceedingly moderate. Rydal Head's three-year-old running was very poor, and the others are even worse, judging from their public form. Wetaria, the two-year-old sister to Flying Fox, is a complete failure, and it is a great pity that Vampire should have been sent for so many successive seasons to Orme. It is a repetition of the same mistake which the late Duke of Westminster committed with Lily Agnes after she had produced Ormonde, the mare being mated year after year with Bend Or, and the result was altogether disastrous.

Lord Alington and Sir Frederick Johnstone have registered a partnership in the three-year-old Plum-centre, and in three two-year-olds, one of which is a half-brother to Plum-centre, by Simontault. It is probable that Lord Alington will be put up for the Jockey Club either at the winter meeting of the members or at one of those held during the Newmarket Spring weeks. The late Lord Alington was elected to the Jockey Club as Mr. Gerard Sturt, and he was a member for more than half a century. Lord Alington, by the way, was anxious some twenty years ago that his friend, the late Mr. Bankes, of Kingston Lacy, should become a candidate for the Jockey Club, but he never cared to be put up.

A considerable disappointment of the autumn was Mr. Dresden's Galangal, who was regarded as one of the very best two-year-olds of the season after he had run a dead-heat with Verdiana for the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster, but his laurels were grievously tarnished by his subsequent displays.

Early in the season there was a great deal of chatter about Mr. James's Atlas, by Isinglass out of The Gorgon, who was expected to prove himself a veritable flyer, but he sadly disappointed the high expectations of his friends, and during the latter part of the year he more than once ran like a rogue. He is not only very moderate, but also hopelessly uncertain. It is probable that Lord Wolverton's colt by Persimmon out of Perfect Dream will ultimately turn out to be the best of the Egerton House three-year-olds, and he may win some good races if he is judiciously placed. This colt commenced last season with fifty-four engagements, and he was one of the most heavily entered two-year-olds in training.

Prior to the North and South trial match at Devonport the Rugby Union Committee had a meeting. There was some important business. The International match next year against the New Zealanders was fixed to be played in London on December 2. Then—to follow the curious wording of the report—"Mr. Crane read some correspondence from Handsworth F.C. re their having played a man named A. W. Robinson, a Northern Union player, as A. T. Pearson." Never did words more beautifully phrase the superlative contempt with which the Rugby Union regards those football outcasts—the Northern Union. To play with them, even to sign their playing forms, is to become tainted with football leprosy, and the undefiled of the Rugby Union will have nothing to do with such company. The man referred to is, I am told, the old Rugby Union international three-quarter. He went to Hull, and there they play under Northern Union rules, and he lost caste. No bacillus known to science can spread disease more effectively than he has done. Under the rules of the Rugby Union all the players of the Handsworth club and all the teams that have played against them when "the man" was playing have become tainted. I am not at all sure that all those other clubs have not in their turn infected all the teams against which they have played, and so on. For the caste rules of the Rugby Union are very strict. Did not they make every one a

professional who subscribed to the testimonial to A. J. Gould, the Welsh International, and in the list was the late Sir William Vernon Harcourt? And yet Consols never dropped a sixteenth. The Rugby Union made itself very ridiculous on that occasion. It will not now do much for its dignity if it refers in such a disdainful way to an old International, who, for anything to the contrary that I know, may be the victim of the Union's cast-iron legislation, rather than a wilful wanderer from the path of virtue. I sincerely trust that the high priests of the Union will be able to cleanse their faithful followers from the contamination of "the man." When that is done, perhaps the Union authorities will try to regard matters in a more reasonable light. Of course, I know the difficulty. The Northern Union players are paid for broken time. They are to all intents and purposes professional teams. The Rugby Union has very properly set its face against professionalism. But surely a man may remain a gentleman and even an amateur although he plays with professionals. I know that any change in the present rule is opposed on the ground that the few must suffer for the good of the many. But I have yet to learn that gross injustice should prevail in order that the many should be secured from the perils of temptation. It is surely unnecessary to debar all young fellows who live in the Northern Union districts either from any football or, at all events, from the only game that is played. The difficulty would be, to a great extent, overcome if any Rugby Union player desiring to play for the Northern Union as an amateur were first of all required to get the Rugby Union's assent. In this way a register of players would be kept, and then the Union might reserve to itself the right to call upon any player to satisfy the authorities that he had behaved as an amateur if he should at any future date desire to return to the Rugby Union. I cannot see why some such arrangement should not be arrived at. But at present the punishment in no sense whatever can be said to fit the crime.

The inter-University Rugby match resulted in rather a lucky win for Cambridge. Cheyne, the Oxford back, made one bad blunder and let in the Cambridge three-quarter. However, he did many good things, and stopped one or two apparently certain tries, so that it is rather hard lines to blame him. The game was exciting enough during the first half, when all the scoring was done—three goals to Cambridge and two goals to Oxford. The feature of the game had been the play of the four half-backs. The three-quarters were scarcely as well together as one had hoped. The forwards were below the average. The Cambridge men had weight, but did not use it, and the sublime stupidity of a forward who persistently dragged the ball back into the scrimmage instead of heeling it out smartly deserves to be commemorated. Pembroke had the largest number of blues in the team. The Reverend Master of that college recently mourned before the Senate that if Greek were abolished in the Little Go, then the curate would not be able to read the Greek Testament. I was much struck by the originality of the argument. The average curate and that forward seemed to have a similar degree of intelligence. During the second half there was much throwing of the ball hither and thither, but it was not high-class football. Raphael repeatedly saved his side. His defence was very good.

There was a comparatively small crowd at Devonport to see the North and South match. It is a long way to go for a poor gate. But no doubt it is part of the new naval mobilisation scheme to have football matches first and cruises afterwards. The South won after a match in which individualism was rampant. Raphael gets his place against Kent, the champion county. Neither he nor Stoop were playing. Divers maladies seized both players, and Edinburgh is a long way off. Invalids must not take long journeys.

Woolwich Arsenal beat Notts County by five goals to one. Notts County are last in the League. So this does not mean that Woolwich Arsenal are going to the top of the tree in the League, as one would imagine from reading some of the reports in the football press.

Henley finances are not flourishing. In fact, they are in the condition of the national exchequer. There is not enough of them. On the current expenses of last year's regatta there is a deficit of £230. This, we are told, is due to the extra expense of booming the course. In addition, the income is not so great, as the house-boats are not so many as they used to be owing to the spaces on the Oxford shore being taken up by club enclosures. The *Field* comes forward with a proposition that will turn Henley into a gate-money meeting pure and simple. Arrangements are to be made with the Thames Conservancy whereby every boat that comes on to the course is to be charged at the rate of so much a boat, or so much for each passenger on board. I quite agree that people who go to Henley might reasonably be expected to give something to the maintenance of the course if they were reasonably treated by the people of Henley. But so long as the British public is content to be bled, and to pay the exorbitant prices that prevail during Henley week, I think the indirect taxation quite sufficient. The money to be raised for the course should be provided by those who are in and about Henley. If they do not wish the public to come to Henley, let them say so. The rowing men would no doubt prefer to get through their races without the presence of such large crowds. The whole trouble would be avoided by clearing the course of all boats below bridge by 12 o'clock each day. There would be no need for piles, and it would be much cheaper. The Thames Conservancy might consider this suggestion as well as the one contained in the *Field*. Both have an equal chance of being adopted.

A successful rebellion is called a revolution. I am not at all clear which of these words should be properly applied to the recent proceedings of the Billiard Association. That body went through some curious experiences. At one moment it was practically defunct. But, so far as I can understand, the meeting that was resolved on happy despatch became so affected by the prospect of the Association's prospective demise that it adjourned for a week or more. Any association was better than none. After a period of suspended animation, the Association has been put on its legs again as an authority in the billiard world. Some such authority is absolutely necessary, and it would be well if the leading players gave the Association their ungrudging support.

MAMMON.

Stocks at First Irregular — Affected by Another Relapse in Americans—Very "Frenzied Finance"—Restoration of Confidence—Lame Ducks Helped Over — Monetary Outlook — Good Markets: The Funds—Home Railways and Kaffirs.

In the early part of the week a fresh break in Americans had an adverse effect upon the whole of the stock markets, and, although people here were inclined to smile at the fulminations of the "frenzied financier" in Boston and his declared intention to strike again, "suddenly, sharply, sensationally, and in a way that will produce effects upon prices and upon markets so much more destructive that the effects of the destruction of last week will appear by comparison as milk to vitriol," they had to remember that the first onslaught was extraordinarily successful, and that the top-heavy condition of the American market—where all were "Bulls" and none were "Bears"—was a great thing in the gentleman's favour. Happily, there is still a sense of humour left among the American people, and with very powerful interests operating against him, Lawson is now not much regarded even in his own native land. With Americans recovering, there was no reason why other markets should worry when

circumstances were nearly all in their favour. The fall in Yankees caused two or three difficulties, involving forced liquidation of South Africans and Nile Valleys, but this counted for little, and with assistance the "lame ducks" were helped over. Although the Christmas account does not promise to develop much activity in any department, there is now an air of quiet confidence throughout the House (with the exception perhaps of Americans, which are more than ever an uncertain quantity), which will make for good markets in the new year. Consols have led a general rise, money being relatively cheap, and certain to be abundant within another fortnight; and Paris has been a strong supporter not of Foreigners alone, but to a marked extent of South Africans. The sections which seem to me to be the most promising for an early rise are Consols and other gilt-edged descriptions, because of the monetary outlook, Home Railways because of cheap money added to dividend anticipations, and South Africans because of the rapid progress of the mining industry. Americans might be left severely alone.

Money Rates Harder — Bank Reduces Supplies and Takes Control—Germany Still Buying Bar Gold—Year-end Stringency—Easy Conditions Ahead.

The long period of artificial ease which the Money Market enjoyed consequent to a large extent upon the heavy discounting at the Bank of bills maturing in the New Year has been brought to an end by the Bank mopping up a considerable proportion of the supply of floating credits, and loans over the night are no longer obtainable at 1½ per cent. or less, but command 2½ to 3 per cent. No relief is obtained by the gold arriving from South Africa and elsewhere, for nearly the whole of this has gone to Germany. The action of the Old Lady in taking steps to make her existing rate effective instead of advancing it is commendable, and when all has been said, it remains that we shall get through with the year-end demands in easier style than for some years past, that the stringency will be of brief duration and not particularly marked, and that right at the beginning of next month easy conditions will return. During the last two or three days of the month the tightness will probably be relaxed by the aid of cash borrowed from the Bank. Of course, this cash will have to be repaid, and in January a number of the bills mature which were discounted by the Bank. On the other hand, the Government will have to repay Treasury bills to the amount of several millions, and in spite of the impending Russian loan for £52,000,000, which may entail the withdrawal of a portion of the French balances employed in London, the range of money rates in the New Year is likely to be low. The Bank return for last week shows the customary out-flow of cash to the country prior to Christmas, the loss being £658,000, of which £566,000 went to the provinces. But as there was a contraction of £194,000 in the note circulation, the decline in the reserve did not exceed £463,000, which brings the fund down to rather more than £22,000.000. During this week the loss will probably be £3,000,000 or so, and gold shipments may be made to Germany, but there is nothing to worry at in this, because in the New Year the domestic money will begin to filter back, and receipts from abroad are steady and considerable.

Consols Firm and Buoyant—Tendency Upwards—Other Gilt-edged Stocks Sympathise—Foreigners and Paris—A Better Tone—San Paulo Loan—Japanese and Russians Steady—New Mexican Issue—Peruvians Better.

The feeling which pervades the gilt-edged section is quite hopeful and encouraging. Though at one time some slight apprehension became apparent as a result of the conditions prevailing in the American market, this influence only operated for a brief period, and the trend of values quickly turned on the upgrade again, and that tendency is more than maintained. Monetary conditions are favourable, and there is every probability of an increased volume of business among the high-class issues in this department within the next few weeks, induced by the distribution of much Government and other dividend money. On balance Consols are appreciably higher, and in company with them Transvaal Threes, the War Loan, Local Loans, and the rest of the British Government descriptions present a better appearance, while Water Board stock has come into favour again. In the Foreign group considerable irregularity has occurred. Among the Paris favourites Rio Tintos, for instance, were adversely affected by the difficulties of a couple of operators on that bourse who have persistently "bulled" the shares; but the effect was not widespread, and both Spanish and Turkish Unified, which had previously made a fair recovery, maintain their position well. Argentines and Brazilians, too, soon threw off the effects of this development, and are comparatively strong. The State of San Paulo, in the Republic of Brazil, is desirous of raising £1,000,000 in Five per Cent. Bonds, redeemable at par in thirty years by the operation of a sinking fund, for the purpose of paying off the cost entailed in the construction of public works. A quarter's interest is payable on April 1 next, and the instalments, being spread up till February 20, the price is practically reduced to 93¾ per cent., while the yield is about £5 6s. 8d. per cent., though dealers have added a slight premium. The "War" stocks are steady, Japanese descriptions being helped by the progress of the hostilities in the vicinity of Port Arthur as well as by a small amount of "Bear" covering; while the usual inspired support is reflected in the apparent firmness of Russian bonds, in spite of the impending new issues, which, according to the latest reports, is to make its appearance simultaneously in Germany, France, Holland, and Belgium. The new Mexican Loan has at last made its appearance, but applications for only about £3,086,494 are invited, the balance of £5,140,000, making the full total of 40,000,000 U.S. dollars, being already placed. The issue price is 94 per cent, or £194 5s. 10d. per bond of £205 15s. 2d., bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. The bulk of the proceeds are to be utilised for the retirement of existing obligations, and for the purpose of public works, including the modernisation of certain harbours and the exploitation of railways which, it is expected, will greatly facilitate a cheaper Pacific Ocean traffic and compete severely with the Panama Canal, wherever that undertaking is completed. This loan is quoted at a slight premium. Some optimistic utterances at the meeting on the question of a possible settlement being arrived at with the Government has induced more interest in Peruvian Corporation issues, which exhibit a tolerably firm appearance, though, as they have had a good rise recently, they cannot be called particularly cheap even on the settlement prospects.

American Rails Again Agitated—Sharp Spasms of Weakness—An Eventual Rally—The Lawson Campaign—Distrust of Yankee Finance—The Public Badly Scared—Sudden Contraction in Business—Atchison Bond Issue.

The American market has experienced another week of violent fluctuation. It was evident at the outset that the liquidation of the previous week had not exhausted itself, and several times selling was resumed in a manner almost suggestive of a panic. Towards the end of the week, however, owing partly to the less vehement character of the Lawson campaign, and partly to the action of powerful inside groups, a large portion of the early losses was regained, and on balance, as

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the following table shows, rises and falls are pretty well divided:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price, Dec. 3, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 10 1904.	Closing Price. Dec. 17, 1904.
Atchison	92½	56½	91½	89	87⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref...	106⅜	88⅜	106¼	105½	105¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com....	106	73½	102⅜	103⅛	103⅜
Chesapeake and Ohio.....	55	28¼	51⅛	49⅛	49¼
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	34	32½	31⅝
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	89¼	88¼	90
Erie	43 9/16	23¼	41	39⅛	38½
Do. First Pref.	75½	64½	75⅜	77⅜	76¾
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	150¾	146½	144½
Milwaukee	187¼	137¼	181	176	173
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16 7/16	34⅛	33⅛	32
Norfolk Pref.	93¼	87	95	94	95
Do. Common	78⅛	55⅞	78½	79⅝xd	80½
New York Central	158	116⅜	144¼	142½	142½
Ontario	36	19⅜	44½	45½	45¾
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	71⅜	70¼	70
Reading.....	35½	20	40¼	40⅜	40⅝
Do. First Pref.....	45¼	36¾	45½	46	45½
Southern Common	37⅝	17⅜	37⅛	36⅜	36½
Do. Pref.	97 15/16	73½	98	98¼	98½
Southern Pacific	69½	39⅞	68⅞	66⅛	64⅝
Union Pacific	107 7/16	69 5/16	119⅛	114⅛	113⅓
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅝	97½	97½	97½
Wabash Pref.	55¾	30	47¾	46	45
Do. "B" Debentures.....	85⅝	55½	71	70	70
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	33⅜	30½	30⅛
Do. Pref.	—	—	96¾	93½	94

Although the market has now grown more familiar with the attacks of Mr. Lawson, its surprise at the amount of influence which this speculator has been allowed to wield has, on this side at all events, not lessened. What attention, one might ask, would be paid in this country to an individual who spent some thousands of pounds in a violent and wholesale condemnation of our leading financial organisations, and of the personal character of the men at the head? Such action here would be regarded as a strong qualification for a strait-jacket. Yet we have to allow that it is just this flaring kind of campaign, inaugurated by a man who is admittedly far removed from a philanthropist, that has lately set all America by the ears. As I said last week, the American market, without any help from Mr. Lawson, was ripe for a fall, but the collapse which his attack produced implies a grave and widespread suspicion of Yankee financial methods and officials. It has been asserted in some quarters that the recent break in prices, while ostensibly the work of an individual, was in reality engineered by the principal controlling houses in New York, which, having parted with their holdings to the public, continued to wreck the market with the object of getting back their stocks at their own prices. Such a practice is not unknown in America, but on this occasion it does not seem to square with all the circumstances. Doubtless in the boom which has been going on since the late spring the public in the United States have materially lightened the heavy burden of securities so long nursed by the finance houses, but whether to such a large extent as is sometimes supposed may be doubted, for all along the rise in prices suggested speculation more than investment buying. In any case, it is common knowledge that a number of large bond issues are in course of arrangement in New York, and the leaders there would in their own interests hardly have consented to a plan which involved scaring the public out of the market. Accepting this view, it is easy to understand why the recent spasms of weakness in prices have alternated so quickly with spasms of strength. Those who control the market are still anxious to keep alive a spirit of buoyancy in order to allow them to unload securities in existence and securities about to be created, and hence they are forced to absorb stocks offering even at the existing artificial level of values. How badly they have been checked in their designs by the Lawson episode may be gathered from the severe contraction in the volume of trading in Wall Street during the last few days. On Monday week the total volume of shares changing hands was two millions, whereas by the end of the same week the daily record had shrunk to 800,000. So far as this side is concerned, business in Yankees has dwindled to the narrowest proportions, and some authorities predict a return to the state of affairs existing just over a year ago, when the sale of even a hundred shares was often a matter of negotiation. In the general excitement of the past week little attention has been devoted to influences affecting individual stocks. Perhaps the principal of these was the announcement by the Atchison Board of a forthcoming issue of $50,000,000 Convertible bonds, involving a corresponding increase of Common stock, for the purpose of completing construction and for branches and equipment. Doubtless the stockholders will consent to the Directors' proposals at the meeting on January 24, but so large an issue must materially affect the dividend outlook for Atchison Common, in the immediate future at all events.

HOME RAILWAYS FIRM—INVESTMENT BUYING—DIVIDEND SEASON APPROACHES—"HEAVY" PROSPECTS—YORK DEFERRED—"BRUMS" AND "LEEDS"—GREAT EASTERNS AND HARWICH DOCK SCHEME—LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE THREE PER CENT. PREFERENCE STOCKS.

In the Home Railway department business has been greatly restricted. In spite, however, of indifferent traffics and the blighting influence of Americans, the prevailing feeling has been good, and there has been next to no offering of stock. The imminence of the dividend season accounts for the firm tone, and now that dividend calculations are approximately possible, it is not unreasonable to expect that interest in the market will soon reawaken—it may be before Christmas or it may be after. But the sooner the buyer comes in the better terms will he be able to secure. That is to say, the dividend outlook is, with one or two exceptions, satisfactory, earnings showing increases, and as present prices carry six months' and in a number of cases twelve months' accumulation of interest, and as moreover there is a good prospect of the sums to be deducted being recovered early in the new year under the influence of reviving trade, the market is a distinctly promising one for an early profit—one of the most promising, in fact, in all the House. Therefore, the speculator and the investor would be well advised to get in soon if they would go in at all. From the immediate point of view of dividends, the Great Western is one of the most fortunate lines. Public traffics show an increase of about £50,000, but allowing for under publication, of which all the companies are guilty in greater or lesser degree, the actual gross increase will be about double that sum. The accident in South Wales will be a special charge on this half-year, and an additional amount of Ordinary stock will rank. But working expenses are likely to be on a more moderate scale than has been the case for some time past, and the Company should have no difficulty in paying at the rate of 7 per cent., the same as a year ago, if it does not actually improve slightly upon that figure. Without taking count of this contingency, the distribution for the year will be 5½ per cent., giving a net yield of 4 per cent., which must be accounted as satisfactory. The North-Western is one of the few companies to report reduced earnings, but, allowing for under-estimation and also for economies of working, it is doubtful if the actual net reduction will necessitate a reduction of more than ¼ per cent. per annum in the distribution, thus reducing the rate to 6½ per cent., and making 5¾ per cent. for the whole year, upon which basis the yield is over 3¾ per cent. The North-Western is likely to lead in the coming railway revival, and in relation to the future there is the marked improvement in trade in the cotton district, while the pooling agreement with the Lancashire and Yorkshire in connection with the South Lancashire traffic is expected to be equal to ½ per cent. The Great Northern is another

line which has had reduced gross earnings, but the gross decrease ought not to exceed £35,000 or £40,000, and the net decrease £25,000. As against this is the saving of £40,000 from the extinguishment of the permanent way renewals suspense account, and £20,000 more was brought into the accounts. There should be no difficulty, therefore, in paying 1½ per cent. on the Deferred stock for the year in comparison with 1 per cent. for 1903. The South-Western has a modest increase, and though additional capital ranks, and will absorb £20,000 of net earnings, these promise to be sufficient for the maintenance of the dividend on the Ordinary stock at 8 per cent. per annum, which will give 2 per cent. for the Deferred, the same as last year. The Great Eastern ought to finish up its half-year (against allowing for under-estimation of traffics) with £20,000 to £25,000 to the good, and as the system is being worked very economically there should be no difficulty in paying an additional ¼ per cent., which requires less than £20,000, and which will bring the half-year's rate up to 5 per cent. per annum, making 3⅜ per cent. for the year as against 3¼ per cent. It will be seen from my table below that the movements during the week have been mostly unimportant:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Dec. 10.	Price, Dec. 17.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	77½	77½	77½	—
Do. Def.	28	32⅝	32⅝	32⅝	+ ⅛
City and S. London	48	46½	46½	46½	—
Central London	95	91½	91	91	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	57	57	—
Do. "B"	25½	30½	30¾	31	+ ¼
Do. "A"	13⅜	17	17	17	—
Great Eastern	86	90	90	91½	+1½
Great Northern Pref.	100	100	100	100½	+ ½
Do. Def	37⅜	40½	40⅜	40½	— ½
Great Western	134	139½	139½	139⅜	+ ¼
Hull and Barnsley	42	41	40½	42½	+1⅜
Lancashire and Yorkshire	97½	108⅜	108½	109	+ ½
London and Brighton "A"	107	123⅜	124	123½	— ½
London, Chatham, and Dover	14⅜	17	17½	17½	—
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	92½	100½	100½	100	— ½
Do. 2nd Pref.	56	66	66¼	66	— ¼
London and North-Western	148	152⅜	152½	153⅜	+1½
London and South-Western Def.	51	53	53½	53½	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	88½	98	98	98	—
Metropolitan District	35½	40½	40½	40	— ½
Midland Pref.	67	67	67	67	—
Do. Def.	64	64	64	64½	+ ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	77½	77½	77½	+ ½
Do. Def.	41½	47½	47¼	47⅜	+ ¼
North-Eastern Consolidated	137	138½	137⅜	139½	+1⅜
South-Eastern "A"	52⅛	57½	57⅜	57½	— ⅛

North-Western stock has benefited by the agreement above referred to with the "Leeds" in respect of the traffic in the Liverpool district, and the stock of the last-named Company also shows some improvement, following upon the earlier rise. Great Central stocks hold their ground well. Great Easterns have hardened on "Bear" covering in connection with the coming discussion of the Harwich Dock scheme. Among the Undergrounds, Metropolitans have been supported on the electrification scheme, the trial run from Baker-street to Uxbridge having been made this past week. Central Londons are weak, some selling having been induced apparently by the Company's intention to ask Parliament again for sanction to carry out the circular extension by way of Hammersmith and the Strand. Prior charge stocks are very firm, but without much feature, with the exception of Lancashire and Yorkshire Preference descriptions, in which the dealings have been considerable, in anticipation of the consolidation of the various Three per Cent. Preference stocks of the Company. There are three different securities of this description on the market, and their consolidation would provide them with a freer market, especially in the case of the small issues of 1897 and 1899.

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Canadian Railways—"Canadas" and American Affinities—Future of the Dominion—Regarding Trunk Junior Issues—Argentine Probabilities—Position of "Rosies," Mexican Centrals, and Southerns—San Paulos—South American Investments.

True to their old but sometimes awkward affinity with the American market, Canadian Pacific shares have suffered a reaction. The noisy and ridiculous fulminations of the engaging Boston gentleman sent Wall Street into a fright. At the previous carry-over "Canadas" stood at 138. On this occasion they were arranged at 132¾, but there has since been a recovery to 134½. The American outlook remains a good deal of a mystery, because the game of the Wall Street interests is not to be defined, any more than is the relation of Mr. Lawson, of Boston, towards them, and as they move more or less closely with Yankees—though, having good investment merits, they suffered less in the recent decline than the more active Americans—it seems to me that a speculative purchase of "Canadas" at the moment is fraught with some risk. The shake-out, however, will leave Americans distinctly more healthy, and, even though there should come another spasm or two in which "Canadas" may suffer, it is probable that early in the new year we shall have another "Bull" campaign in Yankees. My views as to that market are tolerably well known by this time. I regard them as too risky for the average speculator, but there is no denying the strength of the big Wall Street interests and merit, or the lack of merit, seems to be of little account with them when they are on the warpath. Not to elaborate the argument unduly, Canadian Pacific will recover to 138 and beyond, but whether soon or late is not at present to be said. The one clear fact is that as an investment the shares are safe; the earnings are on a large scale, and Canada is being opened out at a phenomenal rate; the 6 per cent. dividend basis can be easily maintained, and the chances are very much in favour of an improvement upon, rather than a falling away from, this basis. There is still nearly everything to make in Canada, and this railway, as traversing the richest agricultural and mineral parts of the country, has enormous possibilities before it. For my part, I do not see why the price of the shares should not—all in good time, go to 200. The Grand Trunk must participate along with the Canadian Pacifics in the benefits which will arise from the expansion of the Dominion, and the Pacific extension will in the long run be its best justification, even though some small sacrifices may be entailed pending its complete construction. The extension runs, not through barren, but though extraordinarily rich virgin soil with incalculable potentialities. This is the standpoint from which the Trunk junior issues should be regarded, and now that the management is earnest, intelligent, and enterprising the odds are all in favour of the man who buys for a lock-up. The immediate course of the market depends upon immediate factors, and the speculator must make himself acquainted with these—or, rather, must be in a position to anticipate them intelligently—if he would have a quick and profitable turnover of his capital. At the moment, the market is not very interesting. The latest traffic gives a gross increase of £1,425, when the market had looked for £8,000 or £9,000, but the market is quite irresponsible in its "estimates" of Trunk earnings week by week. In regard to dividends the most interesting stock is the Second Preference stock. To December 14 the Company reported a gross decrease of nearly £53,100, and to pay the full 5 per cent. for the twelve months on the First and Second Preference stocks it must have a net increase of about £30,000. Allowing for year-end sweepings—upon which the Company is always strong—the loss in gross earnings will probably prove to be small enough, but there remains the question of reductions in working expenses. For the June half, the saving was almost £100,000, and if the Company does as well as this for the December half, there will be no question as to the full 5 per cent. on the Second Prefer-

ence. In all probability it will pay at this rate, and it seems to me that the position of a Company which, after suffering extraordinary ill-fortune during last winter, can earn a twelvemonth's dividend on its First and Second Preference stocks in the second half of its year is inherently more than a little strong. My table of movements during the week is appended:—

—	A Year Ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Dec. 17.
Canadian Pacific	122¾	132¾	134⅝
,, 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	15⅝	20	20⅛
,, 4 per cent Guaranteed	101½	98	98½
,, 1st Preference	111½	107	107½
,, 2nd ,,	97½	95	95½
,, 3rd ,,	45½	47½	48½
Bengal and North-West	132½	145	145
Bombay Baroda	157	149	149
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	125½	138½	128½
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	104	102½	103
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	112	115½	116½
,, ,, 1st Preference	104	107½	117½
,, ,, 2nd ,,	94	96	97
,, Great Southern	135	134½	134½
,, Western	129½	124½	124½
Entre Rios Railway Preference	64	75	75
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	90½	99½	101
Costa Rica Railway	1⅜	2⅜	3 1/16
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	97½	97
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	86	83	83
Mexican Railway	15⅜	26⅜	26⅜
,, 1st Preference	65	105½	106½
,, 2nd ,,	23½	48½	49
Nitrate Rails	7⅜	10⅜	10⅝

Dealings in Argentine Railways are on a poor scale. But Rosarios keep a good market, and the earnings are on a remarkable scale considering that they are going against very large figures a year ago. For forty-nine weeks of the year the Company is no less than £470,385 to the good, and the traffic outlook is as bright as ever. But having had their rise to over par, and bearing in mind their dependence upon and the uncertainty of the crops, "Rosies" no longer possess the speculative qualities which were theirs a few months ago, and the Deferred at 95 is rather different from the same stock at between 40 and 50, when it was first recommended for a purchase by me. B. A. Westerns are promised a run before long, now that the new shares have been got out of the way; and for investment there is no fault to find with Great Southerns, this Company being in a strong financial position, with nearly £150,000 advance in gross earnings since July, and certain to go on benefiting increasingly from the new works and extensions which are becoming productive. The Pacific is doing moderately well, and in its smaller way the Argentine Great Western is reporting steady progress, while there are considerable possibilities attaching to the Company's transandine interests. Among Mexicans, the stock of the old Mexican Railway have, as usual, been most in evidence. They reacted at first on an indifferent traffic—fancy figures are required to keep the large "Bull" operators in hopeful spirits—but have since been bought again, and I fancy that the dealing is very largely professional, there being nothing much to go for just now in the stocks. From the speculative point of view, Mexican Centrals and Mexican Southerns are in reality more attractive at the moment. In the Brazilian group the tit-bit—which happens to be at the same time the most substantial morsel—is San Paulos, which is worth looking at for investment (giving a 7 per cent. yield), coupled with a probable early rise in values.

KAFFIRS UPSET BY YANKEES—NOW QUIETLY CONFIDENT AGAIN—PARIS SUPPORTING—FRENCH KAFFIR TRUST—ANOTHER BATCH OF DIVIDENDS—LABOUR SUPPLY IMPROVING—A RARE CHANCE FOR BARGAINS—KAFFIRS V. YANKEES—A COMPARISON OF VALUES—PREMIER DIAMONDS—DEEP LEVELS.

At the last settlement one or two "lame ducks" who had been caught by the sharp relapse in Americans had to be helped over, and the liquidation of their South African holdings caused a certain amount of weakness in the Kaffir market. That, however, was only partial and of very brief duration, though those operators who have lines open in Yankees are still a little apprehensive concerning the early course of that market, and are wondering if they will have to sacrifice more good shares to make up further losses. If they would stick to their last, they would be spared these misgivings. The American slump left its mark upon Paris as well. The attack on Amalgamated Copper brought about a relapse in Rio Tintos, and this meant two or three small failures in Paris, with some offering of Kaffirs as well as Foreigners. Paris, however, remains a tower of strength in regard to South Africans. It lifted a very large number of shares off the market at the last settlement, including about 100,000 Simmer and Jacks, and now it is paying particular attention to Goldfields, and will follow this up with similar attention to the other shares dealt in on the Bourse. There is plenty of idle capital in France, and the French people have always been well disposed towards Kaffirs when the market has been buoyant and active—like the average Englishman, they do not care to buy when shares are depressed in order to hold them until the return of better times, though that is the best way to make money in mines, as in everything else. Their interest in the market will be greatly stimulated by the formation of a new French Kaffir Trust, with a capital of £1,000,000, a venture of unusual promise. Its shares are to be quoted in the Parquet official list—a distinction hitherto enjoyed by no gold share whatever. The Paris correspondent of the *Financial Times* says that, although the Chambre Syndicale des Agents de Change is not openly or officially interested in the promotion of the new Trust, it is generally known that official brokers are practically responsible for the formation, and important members of the corporation are subscribing to the capital in their private capacity. Hitherto the Agents de Change have been quite out of the running as regards market business in gold shares, none of which are quoted on the Parquet, and all transactions in them have been done through the Coulissiers. The creation of the new Trust is considered of great importance, for it is probable that the shares are destined to become a kind of official barometer of the Kaffir market in Paris. In London the management of the Trust will be in the hands of Messrs. S. Neumann and Co. The formation of this concern is a very strong "Bull" point for Kaffirs, and I think it ought to be better realised that the recent recovery in prices has been helped very materially by the miscellaneous support which Paris has given. As strengthening the good undertone of the market, the week has witnessed a batch of dividends which, while somewhat mixed—as they could scarcely help being with an insufficiency of labour, and the disabilities entailed thereby—are quite encouraging. Moreover, labour continues to come along in plentiful numbers, giving encouragement for the future, especially in relation to the Chinese, who now number over 19,000, and whose services will be available for three years. Thus it happens that what little stock comes on offer is quickly absorbed, it being recognised that the mining industry is now afforded a fair chance of making continuous headway, and that prices are at a very moderate level. Possibly there may be no material improvement before the turn of the year, the market being overshadowed by fears as to end-of-the year options, which mature on the eve of the vacation. But a man can make no mistake who puts his money into well-established and sound shares, and cares to wait a little while for a good profit, and for choice the shares of the land and finance Companies and of the more moderate-priced mines might be selected. New ventures, mostly to work properties in the outlying parts of the Eastern Rand, are making their appearance almost day by day, and the various "shops" are supporting, pending the development of a public demand. It seems to me, however, that our worthy friends the magnates might, with advantage to themselves and to all others concerned, go more slowly in this matter. If they do not, they will prevent the well-established things

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from receiving a fair chance, and will defeat their own best intentions. Meantime, my table shows the movements since last week:—

—	High. in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price Dec. 17, 1904.
Angelo	7⅞	9½	6	7 3/16	7 1/16	7 3/16
Anglo-French	7⅞	5 11/16	3⅜	4⅜	4 5/16	4 5/16
Aurora West	3⅜	2	1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Buffelsdoorn	—	1 3/16	7/16	¾	¾	¾
Bantjes	7⅜	2½	1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16	1 1/16
Barnato Consols	5 1/16	4⅜	2 3/16	2 15/16	3	3 1/16
City & Suburban (£4)	8	7½	5¼	6⅜	6⅛	6⅛
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10¼	4 13/16	7 1/16	8 1/16	8 1/16
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	2	2	2
Crown Reef	12⅞	18½	16½	15½	15½	16
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18½	18⅝	18⅜	18
Do. Def.	—	26½	18¾	18¼	18¼	18
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	5 5/16	5¼	5 7/16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	6¼	5¼	6⅜	4 7/16	5
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2 9/16	3	3
East Rands	12	10 5/16	6⅜	8 13/16	9 1/16	9¼
Ferreira	22	26	18	22⅜	23½	23½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1 1/16	2 7/16	2¼	2⅜
Geduld	—	9½	5	7 3/16	7 5/16	7 5/16
Ginsberg (New)	2¼	4½	3	2¼	2¼	2⅛
Goch (New)	3⅞	4⅜	2¼	3⅜	3 3/16	3 3/16
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	7⅜	5⅜	5¼	5⅜	5 1/16
,, Main Reef	1 13/16	¾	¼	¼	¼	¼
Glencairn	4⅜	2⅜	1¼	1 11/16	1 5/16	1⅜
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4 3/16	2 5/16	3 1/16	3⅛	3 1/16
Henderson	5⅜	2 7/16	1	1 3/16	1 3/16	1½
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	10½	7⅜	8¼	8½	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8¼	3¾	4⅜	4½	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	28⅜	29¼	28⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	4 3/16	2¼	3 1/16	3 1/16	3 1/16
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1½	1½
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅜	1	1 1/16	1⅛
Jubilee	12½	7¼	4½	4½	4	4
Jumpers	8⅞	5⅞	2⅜	2½	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1 13/16	1 5/16	1½
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16	1⅛	2½	2⅜	2 1/16
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6½	6⅜	6⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3 1/16	1⅞	⅜	1	1	1
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5 1/16	3 5/16	4 1/16	3 15/16	3 15/16
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3¼	2 5/16	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Viel (New)	2¾	2⅞	1 5/16	2	2¼	2¼
May Consolidated	4 3/16	5 1/16	2¾	4⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Meyer and Charlton	8½	6½	4¾	5⅜	5 7/16	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	14 3/16	7 11/16	10¾	10¾	10 3/16
Mozambique	3 1/16	2⅜	1½	1¼	1 1/16	1¼
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/6	¾	17/6
Nigel	8 5/16	4	2¾	2 11/16	2 5/16	2 3/16
New African	—	3 3/16	1½	2	2 1/16	2⅛
New Comet	4¾	¾	2	3½	3¼	3 1/16
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2¾	3	3 1/16
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¾	1 1/16	1 13/16	1 13/16	1½
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1 1/16	⅜	1	1½	1½
Primrose New)	8 5/16	5 1/16	3 3/16	3⅜	3 7/16	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	⅞	1 7/16	1½	1 7/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13 3/16	8 7/16	11 5/16	11 7/16	11 7/16
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3⅜	3⅜	3 5/16
Randfontein Porges	3½	3½	1 7/16	1 13/16	1⅞	1⅞
,, Robinson	2 7/16	2 3/16	1	2 1/16	2	2
,, North	—	2 1/16	1⅛	2 3/16	2 3/16	2 3/16
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1 7/16	1 5/16	1 5/16
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1½	1	1
Robinson (£5)	11½	12	9½	10 3/16	10½	10 3/16
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅞	2½	3⅞	3¾	3¾
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14¾	6½	8¼	9½	9½
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	9⅜	4⅝	6	6½	6 1/16
Simmer and Jack	*8½	2⅝	1⅜	2	2 5/16	2 5/16
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	15/6	15/9	16/3
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3 5/16	4 1/16	4⅛	4⅛
Transvaal Development	2½	2 5/16	24/-	1 13/16	1 15/16	1⅞
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅝	½	8/-	9/6	9/9
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3½	2⅜	2 15/16	3 1/16	3½
Treasury	5	6⅝	4½	4¼	4	4⅛
Van Ryn	11	4 5/16	2½	4¼	4¼	4 3/16
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7⅛	7¼	7¼	7¼
Violet	—	3⅞	2	3 5/16	3 5/16	3 5/16
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Welgedacht	—	8¼	6½	7 3/16	7 7/16	8 1/16
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅞	11	11
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅝	1 3/16	1 1/16	1 3/16
,, (New)	—	2⅜	1 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16	2 1/16
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	4 3/16	4 1/16	3¾
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1	1½	1½

* £5 shares.

Reference is made above to the ill effects upon the Kaffir market of the wild slump in Americans. It is not easy to see why a well-deserved set-back in Yankees should cause a non-deserved set-back in South Africans. The two are about as widely opposed as they could very well be. Both are speculative, it is true; but other markets are speculative, and yet they respond little to American influences. I do not for a moment believe that genuine holders of South Africans throw out their shares because Yankees happen to come over flat. It is the professionals, who must have a hand in something else, and this fact ought to be generally recognised, as it will serve to remove misapprehensions. When you buy a Kaffir share of the good sort you have something substantial for your money—a mine whose potentialities of output and of profit can be approximately ascertained, and a little calculation will show you what return you will receive on your money plus ultimate redemption of the capital. When you buy a cheap Yankee you are indulging in a blind gamble, and the events of the last year or two have proved also that a deal even in the dividend-paying group is attended with much risk, and that movements are controlled by anything but merits. Instead of being an overhanging menace to South Africans, the state of the American market ought to strengthen them by convincing people of the hopelessness of a fair run in Yankees, which fair run is furnished in Kaffirs. It may prove instructive if I place in close juxtaposition the present prices of the representative Kaffirs with the highest figures touched in the past—in 1895, the year of the great Kaffir boom:—

—	High. in 1895.	Closing price Dec. 17, 1904.
Angelo	7⅞	7 3/16
Anglo-French	7⅞	4 5/16
Barnarto Consols	5 11/16	1⅞
City and Suburban (£4)	8	3 1/16
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	6½
Crown Reef	12⅞	8½
Driefontein	4⅜	16
Durban-Roodepoort	8 13/16	5 7/16
East Rands	12	5
Ferreira	22	9¼
Geldenhuis Estate	7⅛	23½
Henderson	5⅜	5 1/16
Henry Nourse	8 1/16	1½
Heriot	12½	8⅜
Jagersfontein (New)	12	28⅜
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅞	3 1/16
Jubilee	12½	4
Jumpers	8⅞	2⅜
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2 1/16
Knight's	11½	6⅜
Langlaagte Estate	7½	3 15/16
May Consolidated	4 3/16	4⅛
Meyer and Charlton	8½	5½
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅞	10 3/16
Nigel	8 5/16	2 3/16
New Comet	4¾	—
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3½
Primrose (New)	8 5/16	3 1/16
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	11 7/16
Randfontein	4⅜	3⅜
Robinson (£5)	11½	10 3/16
Roodepoorte United	8½	3¾
S. A. Gold Mines	14¾†	14¾
S. A. Gold Trust	12 1/16	6 1/16
Simmer and Jack	8½*	2 5/16
Transvaal Goldfield	8¾	3⅜
Treasury	5	4⅛
Van Ryn	11	4 3/16
Village Main Reef	9½	7¼
Vogelstruis	6⅜	1⅜
Wemmer	13½	11
Wolhuter	12	3¾
Worcester	6½	1½

* £5 Shores. † 1902.

Mining values are gauged by speculations in which the imagination plays a more or less active part, or by cold calculations based upon the ascertained gold contents of a particular property. The opening out of a goldfield is accompanied by much speculation, as a result of which values are carried to an extravagant level. This was no doubt the case with Kaffirs in 1895, as it was with Rhodesians, Westralians, and West Africans in more recent years, and the inevitable reaction occurred. But for a long time now we have been in the second stage of the mining history of South Africans, and as regards a number of properties at least the anticipatory prices of nine years ago are now justified by accomplishments and definitely ascertained prospects. Further than this, it is only necessary to say that we are a long way from the top of the upward movement inaugurated a month or so back. With the one exception of Premiers, which have been taken in hand by Paris and have now advanced to within a fraction of 70, the Diamond group is disposed to go back, De Beers being especially depressed. The opinion is growing that with the many diamondiferous discoveries in other parts of South Africa and elsewhere, the Company will not be able to maintain its monopoly, despite its own belief in its ability to do so, and its lofty scorn of all other producers. It has been forced to reduce its dividend, and personally I should not care to be a holder of De Beers a couple of years hence at the latest. The Deep Level gold mines have received attention, and have remained strong throughout. Crown Deeps have jumped to 14¼, and South Nourse—a particularly promising purchase—to 3 3-16,

while advances have been scored by nearly all shares in the group, including Bonanzas, which are helped by the dividend, although I regard the shares as unattractive, seeing that the property is almost worked out. For a purchase in this list, in addition to South Nourse, I recommend Cinderella Deeps, Simmer East, Simmer West, Village Main Reefs, Rand Victorias, and Jumper Deeps. My table is appended: —

—	1900. Highest	1902-03. High.	1902-03. Lowest	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 17, 1904.
Bonanza	4¼	6⅞	3¾	1½	1¼	1⅜
Cent Nigel Deep	⅜	1	½	⅜	⅜	⅜
Cinderella Deep	—	4	1⅞	2⅞	3⅛	3⅛
Crown Deep	13½	18½	12	13½	13½	14½
Durb. Rood Deep	4½	4¾	2	3½	3⅞	3⅞
Ferreira Deep	6⅜	8½	5	6⅝	6¾	6⅞
Glen Deep	5	6⅞	3½	4⅜	5⅛	5⅜
Geldenhuis Deep	10⅜	12½	8¾	11½	11¼	11½
Jumpers Deep	5⅛	6¼	3½	4⅜	4⅞	4⅞
Knight's Deep	4½	5½	3¾	3⅝	3⅞	3⅝
Knight's Central Deep	3¾	4⅞	2½	2½	2⅝	2⅝
Lancaster	3⅜	3⅜	2	2½	2½	2⅞
Do. West	2¾	3	1¾	2⅝	2⅝	2⅞
New Steyn Estates	2¼	5⅛	2½	3⅛	4⅛	4⅜
Nourse Deep	5¾	6¾	3½	4⅜	4⅜	4⅛
Nigel Deep	2	1⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅛
Rand Victoria	3⅜	4¼	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜	3⅛
Robinson Deep	5¼	6⅜	4½	5¼	5⅛	6⅛
Do Cent Deep	4½	5⅜	2⅜	4¾	5	5
Rose Deep	10	10¾	6¾	8⅝	8½	9
Roodepoort Cent. Deep	2¾	3½	1⅜	1⅜	2⅛	2⅛
South Rose Deep	3⅜	4⅜		2½	2¼	2⅜
South Geld. Deep	3¾	4⅜	2⅜	2⅛	2¾	2⅜
Simmer and Jack East	3½	4⅜	3¼	2⅜	2¾	2⅜
Simmer and Jack West	4⅜	5⅜	2⅜	3⅛	4⅛	4⅛
Vogelstruis Deep	1⅜	2¼	1⅛	1⅛	⅛	⅛
Witwatersrand Deep	2⅜	4⅛	2⅛	4⅜	4⅛	4⅛

The report of the Welgedacht Exploration Company for the year to June states that, generally speaking, the position of the Company to-day, with regard to the farm Welgedacht, is that the Directors are waiting the decision of the mining authorities on the question of whether they would allow them to alter the sites of their mynpachts, etc., should the engineers consider such alteration advisable. Every day brings further information as to the depth and trend of the reef, yet, if the Company were allowed and decide to shift its mynpachts, still another borehole may be necessary on the farm, which would mean further delay in starting shaft-sinking. The Directors hope that the investment in the New South Rand, Limited, will prove to be a good one. This Company is formed to exploit an idea that has been long existent in many local engineering minds to the effect that the Main-Reef series of reefs may exist at workable depths quite a long way from what is now termed the outcrop.

WEST AFRICANS FIRM—QUOTATIONS PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED —AN ENCOURAGING ATTASI REPORT—ASHANTI MEETING —MISCELLANEOUS MINES—COPPER DESCRIPTIONS LOWER —EGYPTIANS GOOD—MOUNT LYELLS.

In the Jungle the tone remains fairly satisfactory, and, though the animation during the past week has not been very pronounced, the leading descriptions have contrived to hold their ground fairly well as a result of the attention of the professional element, who are still working heroically with a view to rousing the public interest in the section. So far their efforts are fruitless, and I would reiterate what I have already said time and again, that it is useless for them to expect the outsiders to manifest a predilection for speculation in West Africans so long as the industry remains in its present state. The Attasi mine seems to be an exception to the general rule, for the reports indicate that quite a fair amount of headway has been made in the matter of development. The ore exposed approximates to 125,000 tons, of which 111,000 are of payable grade, containing an average of 11½ dwt. gold, an estimate which, as those responsible are at great pains to emphasise, has been arrived at after very elaborate and careful calculations. The mine has been opened to the 300 ft. level, and all shafts, winzes, etc., have been kept in thorough working order, while the reef exposed at the 400 ft. level gives every indication of permanency as a strong and payable body. Negotiations for the construction of a branch railway line have been unsuccessful, but it is proposed to equip a private tram-line in its place, and when this is completed it is hoped that the stamp and cyanide plant will be ready. Nothing of exceptional interest transpired at the Ashanti Goldfields meeting beyond the usual optimism. A cable had been received stating that the cyanide plant is in working order, and no difficulty is anticipated in getting from the Obbuassi section an all-round extraction of 1 oz. per ton. At the Taquah and Abosso gathering the general utterances were of the same cheerful character. My usual table is appended: —

—	Capital. Authorised.	Capital. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 17, 1904.
	£		£			
AshantiGldf'lds(4/-)	250,000	775,000	4/-	f.p.	1⅛	1
Ashanti Consols	500,000	410,000	1	3/- p.	4/9 dis	¼ dis
AshantiSansuM'ne	315 000	315,000	1	f.p.	⅜	⅜
Attasi Mines	250,000	200,000	1	f p.	5/-	5 -
Bibiani Goldfields	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	1½	1¼
British Gold Coast	100,000	91,507	1	f.p.	1⅜	1⅛
Gold Coast Agency	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	⅛	⅛
Gold Coast Amalgamated Mines	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	3⅛	3⅛
Himan Concessions	300,000	300,000	1	f.p.	½	½
ObbuassiSyndicate	25,000	25,130	1	f.p.	⅜	⅜
Prestea Mines	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	12/9	12/6
Sekondi & Tarkwa	200,000	120,000	1	f p.	3 -	⅞
Taquah & Abosso	350,000	310,175	1	f.p.	1⅞	1½
Wassau (G. Coast)	260,000	246,800	1	f.p.	2⅛	2⅛

In the Miscellaneous Mining section, Copper shares still monopolise the bulk of the attention, and after many erratic movements, generally finish easier under the lead of Rio Tinto, which have been adversely affected by troubles on the Paris bourse, arising chiefly out of the manœuvring in Wall Street. Though a full point to the bad, they are nevertheless well above the worst, and the same applies to Anacondas, which are widely affected in New York, and the rest of the shares in the group. Egyptians move less violently, though they still exhibit a fair amount of strength, being well supported. Mount Lyells remain fairly steady, being helped by the report, which seems to indicate that quite a fair amount of exploratory work has been carried out. It is said that after re-estimating the ore bodies previously reported upon, including the main body down to the 600 ft. level as far as explored, the new ore bodies revealed during the half-year give an additional 15,000 tons to the total tonnage estimated as available at the end of the previous half-year. Indians keep quietly firm, without any change of consequence, though some favourable statements made at the meeting served to help Champion Reefs somewhat. Among New Zealanders, both Waihis and Waihi Grand Junctions are easier, but in the Charters Towers group Queen's Cross Reefs strengthened on a rather encouraging cable alluding to the discovery of an ore body. Here is my customary table: —

	1902-3. Highest.	1902-3. Lowest	Make-up Dec. 12,	Closing Price, Dec. 17.
Anaconda Copper	7⅞	8⅜	—	5¼
Balaghat Gold	1½	14/-	17 -	17 6
Broken Hill Props.	1⅞	1¼	43/-	43 6
Cape Copper	5	2	—	4⅛
Champion Reef	7	3⅜	1⅛	34/-
Le Roi	⅝	⅜	⅜	⅜
Mason and Barry	4½	3⅜	—	3¾
Mount Lyell Mining	4⅝	2	16/3	15/-xd
Mysore Gold	7⅝	5⅛	6/-	6
Namaqua Copper	4⅜	2¼	3¾	3¼ xd
Nundydroog	2⅜	1⅜	32/9	14
Oregum	1⅜	21/9	19/6	21/6 xd
Rio Tinto	57⅞	55⅛	-	56⅛
Tharsis Sulphur and Copper	7⅜	6⅜	—	5⅛
Waihi Gold	6½	4⅝	6	6xd

FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR FAMILIES OR PROVISION FOR OLD AGE. The public is invited to apply for the new Prospectus of the SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND Funds £17,000,000. Participating Life Assurances by Annual Premiums effected before December 31st next, will, at the next Division of Profits (1908) rank for Five years' Bonus Additions. Applications for such Assurances should not be delayed. 28, Cornhill, E.C., and 5, Waterloo Place, S.W.

Rhodesians Firm—Another Record Output—Individual Returns—Banket Description Dullish—Northern Group Devoid of Interest—A Chance for Wankie Coal.

If Rhodesia contrives to maintain its present rate of progress in the matter of monthly gold output, it is quite clear that within a short space of time no one will be able to cavil on that score. The November return is exceedingly encouraging, because it establishes another record, the aggregate being 26,183 oz., as against a previous highest of 26,029 oz. a couple of months earlier, and another phase of the matter which is undoubtedly encouraging is that for the eleven months the total is 7,764 oz. greater than the quantity recovered throughout the whole of last year. This served to influence Chartered shares, in which dealings have been on a large scale, and on balance they show quite a fair appreciation. With them the rest of the market continues to present a firmer front. Nothing fresh has transpired in regard to the alluvial discovery, but the feeling which pervades the department seems to be distinctly more hopeful, which is not surprising after a perusal of the following table showing the returns during the last four years:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
January	5,242	10,787	15,955	16,245	19,360
February	6 233	12,237	13,204	17,090	18,673
March	6,286	14,289	16,891	19,626	17,776
April	5,456	14,998	17,559	20,727	17,862
May	6 554	14,469	19,598	22,137	19,424
June	6,185	14 863	15 842	22,166	20 402
July	5,737	15,651	15,226	23,571	24,339
August	10,137	14,734	15,747	19,187	24,669
September	10,718	13,958	15,164	18,741	26,029
October	10,725	14,503	16,849	17,918	24,919
November	9,170	16,487	15,923	15,714	26,183
December	9,373	15,174	16,210	18,750	—
Total	91,816	172,150	194,168	231,872	239,636

In regard to the individual returns of the various mines, it is encouraging to observe that the Selukwe has turned on the upgrade again, which seems to indicate that the difficulty arising out of the inaccessibility of higher-grade ore is being surmounted. The Wanderer, too, has made some progress, and the Morven property is advancing:—

—	June.	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.	Oz.
Antenior	747	777	805	863	834	†476
Ayrshire	2,160	3,038	3,050	4,016	3,648	1,00
Bechuanaland Exploration	—	46	51	46	—	—
Bonsor	333	50	101	296	468	—
Dumbleton	408	445	405	425	408	269
Dunraven	—	515	478	379	356	—
Eagle-Vulture	—	—	—	—	—	—
Empress	1,205	1,154	1,220	386	—	
Globe and Phœnix	3,029	3,792	3,599	3,368	4,002	3,817
Golden Valley (Mashonaland)	259	259	277	411	383	547
Imani	382	—	—	—	—	—
Matabele Sheba	308	497	—	—	—	—
Morven	703	701	731	715	700	1,050
North Bonsor	—	1,297	1,321	1,770	1,206	—
Penhalonga Proprietary	*1,047	1,142	*1,147	*1,183	*1,232	*1,093
Red and White Rose	303	282	266	287	216	—
Rezende	1,240	1,819	1,942	1,665	1,290	*1,082
Rhodesia Consolidated	—	—	—	300	427	615
Selukwe	2,334	2,810	2,773	2,831	‡2,172	2,396
Surprise	1,005	1,406	1,715	1,475	1,528	1,510
Tanganyika	420	544	512	428	310	—
Wanderer	1,431	1,588	1,475	2,075	1,957	2,116
Wareleigh	730	367	387	327	464	350
Willoughby's Consol	—	—	—	133	—	—
Zambesia Exploration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	2,341	1,810	2,414	2,644	—	—
Official total	20,402	24,339	24,669	26,029	24,919	26,183

* Fine gold. † Short run, owing to scarcity of water. ‡ Decreased yield due to higher-grade ore not accessible.

There is still a paucity of news dealing with the wonderful banket, and the tendency exhibited by the banket descriptions has been rather dullish, more especially in the case of the New Bankets, against which the imminence of the special settlement has operated detrimentally. There is, however, no doubt that within a short space of time a good deal of support will be forthcoming for all of these shares, as it is the avowed intention of those interested to twist them considerably higher. In the Northern group there has been an absence of sensational fluctuations, and prices have manifested an inclination to sag away slightly, though an exception has been Wankie Coal shares. These have shown quite a fair amount of strength, for the reason that the hopes which were at first prophesied in regard to its widespread use in the country, but which have hitherto been falsified in reality, seem to be on the point of being realised. Primarily the fault lies with the railways in charging a prohibitive rate for transportation, but the lines have now agreed to establish a uniform rate over their systems, for Wankie coal, of ½d. per ton per mile, to come into operation at the beginning of the new year. As this represents a reduction of from 20 per cent. to 50 per cent., it is anticipated that the area within which the fuel can be marketed economically will be considerably enlarged. My table is appended:—

—	Capitals. Autho-rised.	Capitals. Shares Issued.	Denom. of Shares.	Amount Paid.	Highest 1902-3.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 17, 1904.
	£		£				
Antenior (Matabele)	120,000	120,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	1/1	1/1
Bechuanaland Ex.	400,000	400,000	1	f.p.	2½	1½	1⅝
British S. Africa	5,000,000	4,436,019	1	f.p.	4½	2½	2½
Buluwayo Explorat'n	100,000	100,000	1	f.p.	2½	⅞	⅞
Buluwayo Syndicate	200,000	194,028	1	f.p.	⅞	⅝	⅝
Charterland Goldfields	500,000	322,000	1	f.p.	1	⅞	⅞
Chicago Gaika	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2⅞	¾	¾
Exploring L. & M	500,000	325,905	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅜	⅜
Geelong	250,000	200,000	1	f.p.	2½	1/6	1/6
Globe & Phœnix	200,000	200,000	1	f.p.	5⅞	1⅛	1⅛
Lomagunda Dev	250,000	250,000	1	f.p.	6⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Mashon. Agency	400,000	393,477	1	f.p.	3⅛	1¼	1⅜
Matabele G.R. (New)	500,000	467,105	1	f.p.	4½	⅛	⅛
Northern Copper (B.S.A.)	250,000	160,500	1	f.p.	3⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Rhodesia, Ltd.	600,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅛	⅛	⅛
Rhodesia Expl.	175,000	174,000	1	f.p.	9½	5	4⅛
Rhodesia Glds. (f.p.)	500,000	421,111	1	f.p.	2⅛	⅛	⅛
Rice Hamilton	60,000	50,000	1	f.p.	8½	2½	2⅝
Salisbury Districts	50,000	50,000	1	f.p.	—	—	—
Selukwe	350,000	315,000	1	f.p.	2¼	⅜	⅜
Tanganyika Conc.	100,000	80,000	1	f.p.	26½	5¼	5⅜
Tati Concessions	500,000	500,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	¾	¼
United Rhodesia	750,000	660,900	1	f.p.	1	⅛	⅛
White's Con	500,000	336,450	1	f.p.	¾	4/6	4/6
Willoughby Con.	1,000,000	930,000	1	f.p.	1⅜	⅜	¼
Zambesia Explor.	270,000	233,317	1	f.p.	6⅞	2⅞	2½

Westralians Quiet and Generally Steady—No Change in the Public Attitude—Associated Management—Lake Views in Request—"Little Kangaroos" Idle.

The condition of the Westralian section remains practically the same as it was when I wrote last. The carry-over revealed nothing of exceptional interest, and the activity is of a very subdued character, owing to the aloofness of the public and the scantiness of professional operations. The former seem to prefer to dabble in Kaffirs now that they show a disposition to move ahead, while in the absence of any interesting developments the professionals are not encouraged to operate very freely. The tone is firmish on the whole, and quotations after moving within very narrow limits, show little alteration, except in the case of Associated, for which some active bidding occurred towards the close as the result of a report that the contemplated change of management refered to by me some time ago had at last become a reality. Northern Blocks, too, contrived to present a firmer appearance on the dividend announcement, and Great Fingalls moved up sharply to experience an equally smart relapse. Other leading descriptions where they have moved at all, have done so within very narrow limits, though Lake Views have been the centre of a great deal of interest as a result of a cable dealing with developments on the 1,600 ft. level, an ore body assaying 1 oz. to the ton over a width of 5 ft. being encountered. The "Little Kangaroos" continue idle and devoid of interest, practically the only lively spot being Bellevues, but these have gone back again on the statement that owing to the insufficient supply of fresh water, only twenty-five stamps will run temporarily, instead of forty. Northern Terrors picked up

Savoy Hotel & Restaurant, London.—The most beautiful garden and river view in Europe. The Restaurant of the world. Hotel rooms bright, fresh, and delightfully quiet.

slightly on the sanctioning of the Debenture issue by the shareholders. My usual table follows:—

—	1900. High.	1902-3. High.	1902-3. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904.	Make-up, Dec. 12, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 17, 1904.
Associated G.M.	7⅛	3⅜	1	1 3/32	1 3/32	2¼
Assoc. Nth. Blocks	3⅜	4½	1 7/8	1 3/32	1⅜	1 7/8
Brownhill Ext.	3½	1⅜	⅝	1 1/32	1 1/32	⅝
Cosmopolitan	30/3	36/3	12/-	6/-	6/6	6/6
Golden Horseshoe	15	11½	7	7⅜	7 7/8	7
Golden Link	3⅛	15/3	6/-	4/-	3/3	3/3
Great Boulder Prop.	37/6	30/-	17/9	22/9	22/-	22/-
Do. Main Reef	2¾	1½	8/6	4/-	3/-	2/6
Do. Perseverance	13½	1 15/16	1⅛	12/3	11/-	10/6
Do. South	3⅛	1⅜	⅞	—	—	—
Gt. Fingall Cons.	6 11/16	9 11/16	5 1/16	8 5/16	8 5/16	8 1/16
Hainault	1⅜	⅜	¼	⅜	¼	5/16
Ida H. Gold (17/6 pd.)	—	8/9	3/6	4/9	4/9	5/-
Ivanhoe (£5)	15½	10	6⅜	7 1/16	7 3/16	7 1/16
Ivanhoe South Extnd.	4⅜	1 1/8	⅜	⅜	⅜	⅜
Kalgurli	9⅛	4½	2 1/16	5 1/16	6 1/16	6 1/16
Lake View Consols	5⅜	6⅜	1⅜	1½	1⅜	1 5/16
L. & W. A. Exploration	1½	1⅜	¼	8/3	9/-	10/-
North Kalgurli	1 11/16	10/-	4/-	5/6	5/6	5/3
Oroya Brownhill	—	4½	2	3⅜	3¼	3 1/16
Peak Hill	5⅜	2¼	⅜	5/6	4/3	4/-
Sons of Gwalia	6 1/16	2 9/16	1	2⅛	2 1/16	2⅛
South Kalgurli	6½	2 1/16	¼	1 3/16	1 1/16	1⅛
Westralia Mt. Morgans	—	1 3/16	⅜	⅝	⅝	⅜

Truth Toy Fund.

I have to acknowledge, with my best thanks, the following contributions to the Truth Toy Fund:—Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons, £10 10s.; J. B. Robinson, Esq., £10; Anonymous, £5; S. Neumann, Esq., £5; Messrs. Lewis and Marks, £2 2s.; Messrs. Lazarus Bros., £3 3s.; Count Reginald Ward, £1 1s.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Granton.—As the Peruvians give you a good profit you might take it. The negotiations with the Government for the settlement of the long-standing claims are not likely to come to an end soon, and by realising now you may have the opportunity of coming in at a lower figure later on. *Peter.*—One of the Chilian or Argentine stocks would be preferable. *Safety.*—It is impossible to hazard a date when Consols will touch par again. With the war over and the return of the Rand gold industry to normal conditions a good step would be taken that way. *Tommy Atkins.*—The new Japanese 6 per cent. loan is worth buying. It has only a limited number of years to run, but the interest is secured on the Customs revenue of the country, and there need be no question about the ultimate redemption of the issue. *W. R. G.*—Mexican Fives must be counted cheap at the current quotation with the country able to borrow on a 4 per cent. basis at 94 per cent. Chinese Fives are also attractive, being secured upon the revenue of the Imperial Maritime Customs, which are under European control.

Railways.

H. H., Bradford.—1. Norfolk and Western Six per Cent. Improvement and Northern Pacific General Lien bonds would suit. They yield close upon 4 per cent. Keep the Pennsylvania shares; the Company's prospects are quite good. *Sheraton.*—I see no reason why you should sell the Rhodesian Railway debentures. *Meroz.*—Southern Brazilian Rio Grande debentures, Rhodesia Railway debentures, and Mashonaland Railway debentures are a trio of fairly good class investments. *Imperial.*—Keep the Mexican Southern Ordinary for a better price. The Grand Trunk Thirds should harden early in the new year. The Second Preference is tolerably sure of its full 5 per cent for the current year. *S. T. L.*—Argentine Great Western Preference, Canadian Pacific Ordinary, San Paulo, and Rio Claro Ordinary would suit your purpose. *A. B. C., Bideford.*—The Home Railway market is hardening in accordance with my reiterated expectations. The present is a favourable moment for a purchase, and anyway buy before the new year and wait for the dividend season. In its favour the market has low prices, stocks full of dividend, improving trade, evidences of better relations between the companies (meaning the elimination of much unnecessary competition), and cheap money in view. Most of the "heavy" stock are promising, and Brighton A, South-Western Deferred, Great Easterns, and York Deferred are desirable. *B. A. D.*—The shares of the South Austrian Railway are not a good lock-up purchase. *Exul.*—Grand Trunk Third stock is not to be bought for immediate dividends. It is a favourite speculative medium, and will probably go considerably higher in the new year, because earnings will then be looking better. The stock is worth buying, apart from this, to keep for the development of the Dominion. *C. H. A.*—Chatham First Preference will almost certainly receive its full 4½ per cent. for the year; but the Second will have to wait.

Mines.

King William.—My view is that the shares will rise to 2, when Kaffir conditions improve further. At the same time they are not among the best, even of the medium-priced shares. *Aerolite.*—1. Hold for £4. 2. Good for £8. 3. Sell at £3. 4. Fair speculation. 5. Recent developments have, I understand, not been altogether encouraging. 6. Not much is made known here, but judging from the selling from Queensland, and the heavy fall in the price of the shares, developments are not satisfactory. The London offices are at 88, Bishopsgate Street Within, E.C. 7. A moderately promising speculation. *R. H. A.*—I prefer Bibianis and Sansus of those named, but I think you would do best to go for an early profit in Kaffirs rather than the possibility of a remote one in West Africans. *Bags.*—The most promising Westralians, are Fingalls, Oroyas, Kalgurlis, Ivanhoes, and Horseshoes. I hear good accounts from the Colonies of Sons of Gwalia, and poor accounts of Perseverance, Northern Blocks, Associated, and Hainaults. *S. C. H.*—Anacondas are too risky for people on this side, who are quite ignorant of the position, to have any dealings in. *Muscle.*—1. I should not care for a gamble in East Fingalls. It has recently been decided to reconstruct (the Company was only formed in July, 1902) with a liability of 1s. per share. 2. Golden Links are a poor holding, and you might sell. 3. Boulder Perseverance have indifferent prospects, and Lady Lochs and Paringas seem to me to be hopeless. *Bards.*—Sudan Goldfields, Murchison Associated, Great Boulder No. 1, Sansus, and Wankie Coals. *Cavendish.*—Rhodesia Coppers and Egyptian Mines are to be preferred. I do not recommend dealings with either of the outside brokers named. Go to a member of the Stock Exchange. *Bute.*—You might average on Rhodesian Bankets, which ought to go ahead again before long. *Anxious.*—You should hold into the new year at all events. You will have seen that the market is picking up quickly, and it would be a pity to get out now that good markets are in sight. *Onlooker, Waterford.*—The option promises to be a profitable one, but be careful with whom you place it. *Cork.*—Likely to advance before long and to give you a profit. *Viator.*—Balaghats are a fair purchase, and Nundydroogs are a better. Le Rois I should not touch. *Mourne.*—Nile Valleys are talked much higher, and there are strong people behind them. *David.*—I do not look for much improvement—rather the reverse—in Mount Lyells unless developments at the 600 ft. level prove encouraging enough to give the assurance of a big supply of ore in the near future. *Nelson.*—Porges Randfonteins and Consolidated Langlaagte ought to waken up before long. Better hold. *R. F.*—Do not join the reconstruction. *North.*—1. Worth holding in view of alluvial discovery and the Company's interest in the district. 2 and 3. No good. 4. Dubious. 5, 6, and 7. Fair speculative holdings, which ought to give a profit in time. 8. Poor; do not join the reconstruction. 9. Good to hold. 10. Same as No. 5. 11. Should be kept for the development of the copper districts of Northern Rhodesia. 12. Not promising. 13. As you have a good profit better sell—certainly if 2¾ be reached, and you will probably be able to get in lower later on. *Greenhorn.*—Prince's Estates, Johannesburg Consolidated, and Vogelstruis are best. I should sell Perseverance. *Retired Pay.*—I should not join the reconstruction. *Apex.*—I do not advise a purchase of Boulder Perseverance on recent developments and present indications. The shares are £1 each. *Heracles.*—1. You are within your rights in repudiating the contract. 2. The prospects do not justify you in paying a further 5s. You can claim your share of the assets. 3. Get rid of the Rossland-Kootenay shares. *Ajax, Haymarket.*—Rand Collieries and Barnatos should give you an early profit. Then you might invest the proceeds in the industrial. *Aberdeen.*—I should not choose Mount Lyells in view of the very uncertain outlook. Niekerks might be bought to put away for a time. *C. G., Weston-super-Mare.*—Hold for 2 and 5½ respectively. *Sapper.*—The shares are promised an early advance, and you might well wait for 4. The property is a very promising one. 2. You should average. *Anxious Martha.*—Do not put any more money into the concern. *P. M. B. B.*—Rand Mines, East Rands, and Goldfields Deferred. *Radium.*—Camp Birds and Waihis are good mining propositions, and Waihi Grand Junctions are a promising speculation. *Jupiter.*—Peak Hills stand at 15-32 and Venture Corporations at 2s. Both had better be sold. The others are hopeless. *Vulcan.*—Hold French Rands for 4, but sell Tati Concessions.

Mixed Investments.

Winter.—1. Ashanti Goldfields will no doubt recover ultimately, but not until the mines do better. If you do not care to hold on indefinitely, realise and try one of the standard Kaffirs. 2. North British stock should be good for a

respectable improvement in the new year along with the rest of the Home Railway section. I am very hopeful as to an early rise in this market. *Opifex.*—1. Vickers might be bought, and Armstrongs are also a very promising selection. 2. I see no reason why Cape Coppers should be sold, any more than Tharsis. 3. Raphael Tuck Preference are quite a good Industrial investment, and Waterlow and Sons Deferred make a promising purchase. *L. E. O.*—1. I know no special reason for the decline, which I attribute to the dulness of business generally. It is possible that the dividend may be reduced further. 2. Nitrate Railways are promising, but you propose to come in rather late. 3. St. James's and Pall Mall and Westminster Electrics are worth buying. The first will bring in 5 per cent., and the second just over 5¼ per cent. *Ella.*—1.Not of much account, I fear. 2. A good speculation, but not an investment in the proper sense of the word. 3. Although not doing well itself, it owns some good patents which the other Companies desire. The shares have had a good recovery, and you might consider the advisability of realising. *Kelpie.*—1, 2, and 3. You are not likely to obtain better price by waiting, at all events not in the near future, and as you do not wish to provide for posterity you had better realise, certainly on Nos. 2 and 3. The Brewery dividend (4) will probably be reduced further, owing to poor trade. *Veritas.*—1. Great Boulder Props., Oroyas, Consolidated Langlaagte, Langlaagte Royal, and Chartered might be held for better prices in the next three months. 2. I should not buy Linotypes in view of the uncertainties of the situation. *Shah Doula.*—I should counsel the retention of Argentine Great Westerns and Grand Trunk Thirds. Read my remarks in this issue concerning the last-named. 2. The rise in Kaffirs has only just begun. I recommend Barneys, New South Rand, Randfonteins, and General Mining and Finance. 3. The stocks have for the most part had their rise, but Mexican Southerns are still interesting, as well as Cordoba Central Incomes. *Dolphine.*—Bradford Dyers Preference and Gamage Preference are worth buying as well-established Industrials. *Stafford.*—1. South London Electrics are promising. 2. I do not anticipate much advance in the price of Direct Spanish Telegraph Preference shares, which have had a fair rise recently. The shares are worth buying for the yield and a probable maintenance at least of the present figure. *X. C. V.*—1. Aux Classes Laborieuses are a fair Industrial. 2. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway stock should go higher within another month or two. 3. The American outlook is very uncertain, but in good quarters a further rise is looked for in the new year, and New York Centrals are good enough to hold on to for investment. 4. The Kaffirs are safe to keep for a further advance.—*John.*—1. A bucket shop of a disreputable type, which sends shrieking messages about the profits you might have had by following its tips—which tips it omitted to send in the first instance. 2. I know nothing against the firm. 3. I regard Wall Paper manufacturer's shares as a respectable industrial. For a gamble, the least unpromising in your list is Harmony Props. *Nemo.*—1. Argentine Great Western Railway Preference Stock and Westminster Electric shares would suit, the yield being rather over 5¼ per cent. 2. It would be best to hold on to the Midland Deferred for the present. 3. Brighton A. *Investor, Bristol.*—1. Japanese Sixes are a good investment. 2. African and European Investments are a speculation 3 The Argentine railways are likely to go better. 4. All the Kaffirs are good, and keep for better prices.

Miscellaneous.

Cautious Investor.—Of their kind, I consider Wall Papers quite satisfactory, because the concern is doing well and the profits are good. *T. E. F.*—I would not recommend any dealings with the United Kingdom Savings Investment Corporation. *Cigarette.*—1. You should not be influenced by such an organ. 2. Not at all reliable. Go to an inside broker, and operate in the light. *A. A. M.*—I think you might join the reconstruction. *Farrago.*—I am sending you the name of the Paris solicitor, and leave it for you to decide whether it is worth while going to the trouble of recovering such a small sum. A principle is, of course, involved, and you are sure to recover something. *Alpha.*—They are quite desirable holdings, and you might keep them. *M. Y.*—The claims of Stephens and Henderson in connection with their cotton-future system are really too good. Leave the Company severely alone. *Lieut.-Colonel.*—I have not much faith in Anglo-American breweries, and though there is just ground for complaint, as you say, I do not think your suggestion will appeal to the directors. *W. E. I.*—You would be well advised to leave the so-called investment bonds severely alone if you desire not to risk your savings. The idea is being worked rather energetically at present, but the bubble will burst before long. *Furniture.*—It is rather doubtful whether you will be able to get out without a loss later on, consequently I do not regard it as a particularly desirable investment. *Babu.*—You might hold on to Bleachers for a little while, as the concern seems to be making a little more progress. On the strength of the last report there is no sound reason why Sweetmeats should be kept. The novelty which was at first so profitable is no longer remunerative, and, besides, competition is springing up. *Blackpool.*—Hold on to your Dunderland Iron shares. Do not be influenced by the utterances of the Industrial Share Exchange. *Ireland.*—The Nitrate Syndicate's wonderful offer appears to me to be extremely undesirable, and I would not recommend you to avail yourself of it. *Sphinx.*—The Army and Navy Dairy has no connection with the Army and Navy Stores, and you ought to refuse the offers unhesitatingly. *Haughton, Bolton.*—In inferring that these wicked bucket-shops live upon the weakness of "gulls" you are quite right, but, still, this does not help to a solution of the question relating to their existence. *Wewitzer.*—The concern is an unreliable bucket-shop, and ought to be avoided. *Cave Canem.*—It is; and if you value your money you will leave it alone. *Ballurichard.*—Though I cannot trace it in any of the usual works of reference, I am inclined to suspect that the concern is of the same nature as the other oil companies which "flourished" a short time ago, but are no longer in evidence. *Yates.*—In dumping Mr. McKenzie's precious circular into the waste-paper basket the recipient acted wisely. If everybody were to do the same such gentlemen would soon cease to trouble, but unfortunately the gulls are very numerous. *Elmo, Worcester.*—I have repeatedly warned readers against dealing with Cunliffe, Russell and Co., because they charge exorbitantly for bonds which, in many cases, possess no actual merit beyond the infinitesimal chance of winning in a lottery. They may be purchased for 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. less in London. Communicate with N. Keizer and Co., 29, Threadneedle-street, E.C., if you are intent upon indulging your fancy. *M. J. H., Cork.*—Many thanks for the literature and comments. *G. Richards, Hove.*—I have frequently had occasion to warn readers against the London and New York Exchange, and you will find it to your advantage to leave the concern to its own devices. *Devereux.*—I am obliged. *Northerner.*—There has been the usual delay in completing the place, but the prospects ought to be good. You might keep the shares. *Speculator.*—The loss is limited to the amount of deposit and no more. You must remember that the operations are merely gambles, on which there can be no recovery beyond the amount of "cover," and there is further the express repudiation by the broker of any liability on the part of his client beyond the amount of deposit. *Douglas.*—A reply will appear next week.

Industrials Quiet but Generally Good—Approach of Christmas Hinders Business—Telephones in Considerable Favour—Textiles Active—Satisfactory Bleaching Results—Woolcombers—Iron and Steel Shares Quiet—Trusts—Breweries—Slump in Salts—Lighting Descriptions Good—Hudson's Bays Up Again.

The approach of Christmas is scarcely conducive to any expansion of business in this department, which is essentially the small investor's market, and dealings are naturally on a somewhat restricted scale. On the whole, however, the tone is satisfactory, and with the turn of the year it should improve, provided that no untoward developments arise to act as a deterrent. During the past week perhaps the outstanding feature has been the strong demand for National Telephone stocks, on the strength of reports that the Company's earnings will show a considerable increase this year. Though the buying slackened off towards the finish and the earlier gains are somewhat neutralised by the indulgence in profit-taking, both the Deferred and Preferred issues are materially higher on balance, more especially the former. Throughout the whole of the telegraph division the feeling has been more cheerful, Easterns, Westerns, and Commercial Cables making some headway, while Anglo-American, after having developed a little further dulness, has turned on the upgrade. Considerable attention, too, is being directed towards Textiles, in consequence of the better outlook for the industry foreshadowed in the United States Government's large crop report, Fine Spinners, Coats, and Bradford Dyers being harder. Bleachers also improved, as a result of the more encouraging figures relating to the trading during the half-year. After appropriating sufficient for prior charges and depreciation, etc., profits amount to £98,980, out of which sum £15,000 has been transferred to a special reserve fund; and provision being made for the Preference interest to September 30, the net balance remaining to be carried forward is £36,859, or £9,200 better than on the last occasion. Woolcombers, Limited, otherwise the Yorkshire Woolcombers' Association, in its reconstructed form, is asking for £535,000 to enable it to acquire the assets of the old Company and commence operations as from the end of this year. The capitalisation of the new concern is £625,000, of which £325,000 is Four and a Half per Cent. Debenture stock, £250,000 in Seven per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares, and £50,000 in Ordinary shares, of which £210,000 of the Preference and the whole of the Debentures are offered to the public. The fault in the old Company was

primarily over-capitalisation, aggravated by a period of depression, but as the total now is only £625,000, as compared with £1,965,000, the concern stands in a far more advantageous position; and though the sanguine expectations of the promoters may not be fully realised, the new Board seems capable enough, and ought to pilot the Company better than has been done heretofore. Iron and steel shares present a tolerably firm appearance, without material alteration in values apart from Hotchkiss Guns, which are helped by rumours that the Company is to be taken over by Vickers Maxim, which explains in some measure the recent buoyancy of the shares, though as yet nothing definite is known on the subject. The demand for Trust stocks continues on the same quiet scale, and a good many issues have made further progress, the approach of the dividend season helping matters. Among breweries, a somewhat sensational drop of about 20 points occurred in Thomas Salt "B" debentures within a very brief space of time. Though unmistakably significant, the fall is attributable to the forced liquidation of a deceased account taking place in a market not willing to absorb any large quantity of stock. The recovery almost to the previous level was equally sharp, and I do not think there is any cause for serious alarm on the part of holders. City of London issues remain depressed, and the whole of the market is disposed to be quietly dullish. A few losses occurred in the American group, but not of exceptional importance. Investors are quietly picking up lighting shares, and a fair number of improvements in quotations are noticeable, particularly in respect of Continental Unions, Commercial Ordinary, Imperial Continental, Gas Light and Coke, and South Metropolitan. Refreshment descriptions are not particularly buoyant, but Meat shares, after evincing a sagging tendency, improved slightly towards the finish. Hudson's Bays suffered from profit-taking at one time, and then spurted up sharply, and the general impression seems to be that they will go higher, favourable gossip relating to the Company's prospects being still indulged in. China shares, including Pekin Syndicates and Shansis, are also better, and despite the monthly revenue statement telling of a further loss of £701, bringing the adverse balance down to £2,975, Sweetmeat Automatics are firmer.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

HOW THE GLUMPKINS KEPT CHRISTMAS.

I DO not quite know how it was—whether the cold had got hold of his liver, whether things had been going badly at the office, or whether it was merely the pent-up bile of a disposition naturally cross-grained and saturnine now at length come a head and breaking out. Whether, I say, it was any one of these things or whether it was all combined, I do not quite know. At any rate, Richard Glumpkin reached home at three o'clock on the afternoon of that Christmas Eve in an unholy temper.

As if to add to his irritation, his latch-key, for some reason or other, would not act. With many muttered maledictions, he forced it in, furiously. It stuck halfway, and jammed. Then, for the first time, he realised that it was the wrong key—the key, in fact, of his office door.

"Deuce take you!" he stormed. "Always in the way when you're not wanted, and always out of the way when you are. Come out of that!"

He grasped and wrenched at it with such violence that the key broke off short in the lock. Richard Glumpkin said things that it is not well to repeat in cold blood. Then he rang the bell, savagely, and, because it was not answered in three seconds, he rang it again and again without intermission.

Jane, the housemaid, came running to the door in an apprehensive fluster.

"Why the —— can't you answer the bell, you jade?" demanded Glumpkin, savagely. "Am I to be kept standing on my own doorstep for half an hour?"

"If you please, sir——"

"That will do. I don't want to hear any excuses. If it ever happens again, I'll discharge you."

And Glumpkin, striding past her into the hall, tugged off his overcoat with truculent energy, and rammed his umbrella into the stand as though he might have been stabbing his worst enemy.

Then he marched into the drawing-room. Here he found his wife busily decorating the walls with holly and mistletoe. She was standing on a chair, disposing behind the pictures various sprigs of evergreen from a bunch that she held in her hand.

Richard Glumpkin stamped—like a naughty child. It was the impact of his foot upon the floor that first made her aware of his presence. She turned round with a start, nearly falling off her chair.

"What the —— are you scratching the paper and damaging the picture-frames with that beastly holly for?" he demanded. "Take it down again, this instant!"

"Oh! Richard!" she replied (she was a mild, innocent-looking creature), regarding her lord and master with deprecating eyes. "Have you forgotten? It is Christmas Day to-morrow, and I am just decorating——"

"Forgotten!" broke in Richard Glumpkin, with a withering laugh. "Forgotten that it is Christmas? Ha! ha! That's a good one! When everybody one meets, everything one sees, every letter one gets, reeks—yes, *reeks*, I repeat—of the hateful season——"

"Hateful season? Oh! Richard! How can you say such dreadful things?"

"I say hateful, madam, and I mean hateful," persisted Glumpkin, glaring at her, savagely. "Yes, you needn't look shocked. I mean it, I tell you. Christmas may be all very well for children and idiots, or for tradesmen's men, lamplighters, and such-like worms, who naturally nurse and cultivate the observance of a festival—a *festival*, good Lord!—which is endeared to their material souls by the pernicious associations of boozing and Christmas-boxes; but to the average, sane, sensible, grown person, like myself, what, I ask you, does Christmas mean? Nothing more nor less than an excuse for shameless bleeding and bestial feeding; for emptying one's purse and overloading one's stomach; for pretending merriment which one doesn't feel; for expressing hypocritical good wishes which one doesn't entertain; for giving trumpery, twopenny-ha'penny presents which the recipients would far rather be without. It is all a wretched farce—a hollow mockery. I am sick of it."

"Oh! Richard!"

"Don't 'Oh! Richard!' me, madam," retorted Mr. Glumpkin, with increased wrathfulness, working himself up as he went on. "I tell you Christmas is a sham—a snare—a delusion—a mere obsolete convention, which has long ago lost its meaning—if it ever had any. And this year I mean to make a stand against it. I won't be a victim to childish custom and hide-bound precedent any longer. To-morrow shall be observed in *my* house in a sensible manner—that is, just like any other day, which, in point of fact, it is," he asserted, growing a little mixed in his phraseology. "Like any other day, I repeat. Come! take down those absurd sprigs of holly and mistletoe at once! I won't have *my* walls made to look ridiculous. Take them down! Do you hear me?"

"Oh! Richard!" expostulated his wife; "at Christmas——"

"Christmas? Christmas? You have already heard my opinion of Christmas. I hate Christmas! Damn Christmas!" stormed Mr. Glumpkin, in quite an ecstasy of childish temper.

"You don't mean that, Richard?"

"Mean it? Indeed I do. Take those ridiculous sprigs down at once, or I'll make you."

His wife, seeing that her lord and master was not in a temper to be argued with just then, obeyed his com-

mands without saying another word, though, like the immortal parrot, she thought a good deal.

Mr. Glumpkin stood regarding her with baleful eyes. When she had finished her task of dismantling the walls and had gathered all the sprigs of evergreen into a sheet of newspaper, he took them up, and, with venomous violence, threw the whole lot upon the fire, striking them again and again with the poker, as they sputtered and crackled in the flames.

"Christmas!" he ejaculated, scathingly. "I'll Christmas you! There, madam!"—turning to his wife—"that's what I'd do to all Christmas observances. Eh? What are you grinning at now?" he demanded, suspiciously, noticing that her face wore an unlooked-for smile.

"I was smiling," she answered, quietly, "because, though I was a little vexed at first with you for making me take down my Christmas decorations, it has since dawned upon me that, after all, when one comes to think of it, your opinion of this so-called festive season is really very sound and sensible. Grown persons, like you and me, do *not* enjoy Christmas, and it is sheer hypocrisy to pretend that we do. Yes, I dare say you are right, Richard, in calling it a hollow sham, a snare, and a delusion. It means an endless amount of trouble, expense, and forced merriment, out of which we get not only no satisfaction, but even a good deal of unnecessary discomfort. I am bound to say, upon thinking it over, that I admire you for having the courage of your convictions, and for making a stand against this stupid, obsolete custom. By all means let us treat Christmas this year as just an ordinary day."

"Oh, I'm glad you have the sense to acknowledge that," replied Mr. Glumpkin, still, however, looking rather suspicious, and perhaps hardly so glad as he asserted.

The truth was that, to a man in his present cross-grained humour, half the fun of making himself nasty was taken out of the thing by this smiling acquiescence on the part of the object of his ill-humour, and he felt very much as a schoolmaster feels who, having caned a boy viciously, and having imagined that he has hurt him, finds the urchin serene and smiling as though he had rather enjoyed it than otherwise.

"Not only have I the sense to acknowledge it, Richard," said Mrs. Glumpkin, cheerfully, "but I have the sense to act upon it. I will gladly co-operate with you in your sensible resolve. You may take my word for it that to-morrow—let me see, it is Wednesday, isn't it?—shall be observed in this house just like any other Wednesday, and——"

"It had better be, madam. It had better be; that's all," interrupted Mr. Glumpkin, with a portentous scowl, as he marched out of the room and retreated to his study.

All that evening he remained in the worst of humours. At dinner, he swore at the soup, the roast mutton, the apple-tart, the toasted cheese; after dinner, he swore at the coffee, and at bedtime he swore at his hot water because it wasn't hot enough, and, after sending down for a fresh supply, swore at that fresh supply because it was too hot. Altogether he was in such a temper that nothing could please him. But when, at length, he went to bed, mercifully for Mrs. Glumpkin he slept the sleep of the sluggish-livered.

Next morning, Jane called them early, as usual. Mrs. Glumpkin sat up, and rubbed her eyes, preparatory to rising.

"Whad's time?" murmured the sleepy voice of the semi-conscious Glumpkin, from under the clothes.

"Half-past seven, Richard. I am just going to get up."

"Har-par-sev'n. No need—ged up—yet. Not going busnez—'day."

"No, but we always do get up at half-past seven on ordinary weekdays, and we've both agreed to treat this as an ordinary week day, you know. Of course, you can do as you like, dear. But I shall certainly get up—on principle."

So saying, she jumped out of bed, donned her dressing-gown, and repaired to the bath-room, whence she presently returned, and completed her toilet. Then she went downstairs to breakfast, leaving Glumpkin still snoozing.

But he was not left long undisturbed. About nine o'clock, there came a thumping rap at the door, and Jane's shrill voice was heard, exclaiming:

"If you please, it's after nine, sir, and me and Cook wants to come in and make the bed."

"Bother the bed! You can't make it with me in it!" cried out Glumpkin, irritably. "Go downstairs again, and wait till I'm ready."

But he had been thoroughly aroused, and he now got up. In about half an hour's time he made his appearance at the breakfast table. He found his wife sitting in front of the gas-stove (with which the room was warmed), reading the paper. The uninviting remains of some cold kidneys and bacon met his fastidious gaze.

"I am afraid you will find it all rather cold and nasty, dear," remarked Mrs. Glumpkin, just glancing up casually from her paper; "but you see it has been waiting more than an hour."

"Why didn't you keep it hot for me?" demanded Richard Glumpkin, angrily.

His wife raised her eyebrows in calm surprise.

"My dear Richard, do I *ever* keep your breakfast hot for you on ordinary weekdays?"

Then she quietly went on reading.

"Well, I can't eat this disgusting congealed mess, anyhow," he answered, sulkily. "Ring the bell, and tell Cook to fry me some more."

"Impossible, Richard. Cook and Jane are both upstairs making the beds. They are very late already, and will hardly get the cleaning done before luncheon. Wednesday is their regular day for cleaning, you know."

"I don't care. I will have my breakfast hot!" declared Mr. Glumpkin, stamping his foot.

"Oh, of course, if you didn't mean what you said last night, and if you really don't wish to-day to be treated as an ordinary day——"

"There, that will do!" snapped out Mr. Glumpkin, tartly.

He realised that further argument on this point would lead to his own stultification, and would not bear pursuing. So he made the best of his cold breakfast in sulky silence.

As soon as he had finished, his wife got up and turned out the gas in the stove.

"Hi! What are you doing that for?" he said. "I want to sit here a bit, while I smoke my pipe and read the paper."

"Very sorry, Richard," replied Mrs. Glumpkin, "but on week days, I always turn out the stove between breakfast and luncheon, to save the gas. There is a fire, however, in the drawing-room. Now I must go and interview Cook." And she left the room, Mr. Glumpkin looking after her, and thinking things about her (for having taken him so literally at his word) that will not bear translating into language.

He took up the paper, and went to the drawing-room, where, having lighted his pipe, he sat down in front of the fire, and began to read. He had not been reading many minutes when his wife came in, seated herself at the piano, and began to practise finger exercises that quavered and semi-quavered and demi-semi-quavered with maddening din and rapidity.

"Hi! Confound it! Stop that!" cried the exasperated Glumpkin. "Do you think I can read the paper with that deafening row going on?"

Mrs. Glumpkin did not stop playing. She merely replied, raising her voice above the sound of the piano:

"I always practise for two hours every Wednesday morning."

"Confound it! Then I'll go to my study," said Richard Glumpkin.

Mrs. Glumpkin smiled, and the reason why she smiled will be made apparent by following Richard Glumpkin to his study. There he found the chairs upon the tables, and the coal-scuttle on the sofa, and the books from the shelves standing in piles about the floor, while amid them all, in a cloud of dust, moved Jane, her head

swathed in a towel, her sleeves turned back to the elbow, and her skirts turned up so as to display an almost indecorous amount of black stocking, dusting, rubbing, scrubbing, with an energy that can only be described as desperate.

"Hi! Hang it all! What do you mean, girl, by doing this on Chr—ahem!—on a day when you know that I'm at home?" demanded her master, angrily.

"If you please, sir," answered Jane, in breathless jerks, never desisting for a moment from her dusting, "missus said as I was to go on with my work to-day as usual, sir. And I always turns out your study of a Wednesday, sir."

Richard Glumpkin beat a retreat, coughing and choking with the dust, and thinking many unutterable thoughts.

It was evident that there was no place for the sole of his foot in his own house on a Wednesday morning. He put on his hat and went out for a walk.

He walked for nearly three hours, in the course of which he walked off some of his liver and the worst of his temper. The unwonted exercise, too, created in him a healthy appetite; so that, when he returned home, he felt just in the mood to enjoy his mid-day meal. His appetite was further whetted by various savoury odours arising from the kitchen—a gratifying earnest of good things to come. He went upstairs, washed his hands, then came down and stood on the drawing-room hearth-rug, waiting impatiently for Jane to ring the bell.

In due course the bell rang. With a "Come along, Emily," Richard Glumpkin hurried to the dining-room. As his eyes took in the details of the repast prepared for him, his face fell.

Two dishes, and two only, graced the festal board. A cold shoulder of mutton—the remains of last night's dinner—and a rice-pudding.

"Cold mutton? Rice-pudding?" he ejaculated, scowling.

"Yes, dear. I always have the mutton cold on Wednesdays for luncheon. By the way, I hope you don't mind there being no potatoes. But Cook is always so busy cleaning on Wednesday morning that she has no time to boil any."

"Hem! hem!" growled Richard Glumpkin, clearing his throat. "There was something cooking when I came in, Emily. I distinctly smelt it."

"Ah, to be sure!" answered Mrs. Glumpkin, calmly, "You see, the turkey and sausages had come, and, as they wouldn't keep, I told the servants they might have them for their dinner. The mince-pies and the plum-pudding had been made, too. So I said they had better have them also. It will save the mutton and the rice-pudding, you see, and leave enough to be warmed up for our dinner to-night."

Mr. Glumpkin was too much overcome by his feelings to make any immediate reply. A Titanic struggle was raging in his breast—a struggle between cold mutton with principle, on the one hand, and turkey and sausages with humiliating surrender, on the other.

For a while, the event of the tremendous conflict—like that between the Russians and the Japs at Liao-yang—hung in the balance. But the turkey and sausages, on the top of a ten-mile walk, carried too heavy guns for the opposing forces, and cold mutton with principle abandoned its positions and fled.

Richard Glumpkin rose from his chair, and, Kuropatkin-like, putting the best face he could upon the situation, and speaking with assumed unconcern, remarked:

"My dear, I am about to ring the bell."

"To ring for what?" inquired his wife.

"For the turkey and sausages, with the plum-pudding and mince-pies to follow," said Richard Glumpkin, meekly.

* * * * *

Next day, Mrs. Glumpkin wrote a long letter to one of her many dearest women friends, which concluded with the following significant passage:

I do bless the day when my dear father taught me how to cure a horse of running away. His method was to let the brute gallop itself to a standstill, and then to flog it mercilessly and make it continue galloping until it dropped. He said he had never known it fail. Nor have I.—Ever your affectionate friend,

Emily Glumpkin.

THE TWENTY-FIFTH "TRUTH" TOY AND DOLL SHOW.

In all its main features the Truth Toy and Doll Show of 1904 resembled the previous Exhibitions that have of late years taken place at the Albert Hall. Once more had the interior of the building, which so well suits the purpose to which it is annually turned shortly before Christmas, been virtually transformed by the labour of many willing hands. What was but a week before an arena occupied by rows of fauteuils had been in a comparatively short space of time changed into one of the most densely populated provinces of the wide-spreading Empire of Lilliput. On the floor devoted usually to the requirements of well-placed concert-goers had arisen, as though by magic, an undulating table-land, punctuated, so to speak, by a series of pyramids which as usual were literally faced on all sides with closely-arranged rows of Truth Dolls. Enclosing the space thus occupied an elliptical frontier of cases of assorted Toys had been constructed, behind which more dolls—dolls in rows, dolls in companies, in battalions, in brigades, in army-corps—were symmetrically arranged, as though they were a garrison resolved to hold this outlying dependency of Lilliput against any force that the Emperor of Blefuscu could hurl upon its battlements. As on many former occasions, too, the central plateau was made to serve as a kind of citadel, within the limits of which were arranged in coigns of 'vantage those Truth Dolls of a larger growth, and a more famous descent, which may be said to have formed the aristocracy of the province. Here, highly placed, and far removed from the frontier lined by the mere "Tommies" of the Lilliputian Army, were to be found the *crème de la crème* of Dolldom occupying their dominant positions with all that serenity of repose which marks the caste of waxen Vere de Veres!—the Queen roses of a rosebud garden of dolls, to paraphrase the well-known line of the bard. As though to make the safety of these superior dolls all the more assured, the pyramids to which I have already alluded had been reared at intervals, like watch-towers, or links in the chain of block-houses with which Lord Kitchener held the veldt but a year or two ago. For these pyramids, too, were garrisoned by smaller dolls, all ready, it may fairly be supposed, to defend the aristocracy of their race with their very last grain of sawdust!

In strict accordance with precedent, also, the great organ at the Albert Hall had been well-nigh blotted out of sight, so completely masked was it by the fan-like trophy of Toys of all descriptions arranged in front of it. Here was to be found, in fact, a sort of apotheosis of the latest, the newest, the most elaborate playthings of the present Season. That screen of Toys was, indeed, as an enthusiastic little spectator exclaimed to the "grown-ups" who were personally conducting her through the Show, like the Lowther Arcade come to life again! Just as good Americans are said to go to Paris when they die, so to the imaginative did it seem that all the Toys of the now abolished Lowther Arcade which deserved preservation must have been spirited away to the Albert Hall when Mammon, in the eminently respectable forms of the partners in Messrs. Coutts and Co., annexed what had so long been the vaunted possession of the Tykoon of Toyland in the Strand.

Never, I venture to say, has the cream of the Christmas Toy market been more successfully skimmed for the delectation of Truth's little protégées. Could Caleb Plummer, whose anxiety to make the dappled steeds he produced for his taciturn employer, Mr. Tackleton, as nearly like Nature as he possibly could for ninepence, should certainly be accounted unto him

for righteousness—could Caleb Plummer, I say, have taken stock of that marvellous collection of recreative masterpieces, he would assuredly have thrown up the Toy business then and there in despair. For whilst he was content to get as near to equine nature as he could for ninepence, he would now find artistic up-to-date toymakers ready to surpass Nature on its own ground, and to charge twice as many shillings for doing it. Great indeed is the revolution that has taken place in what I may call the Tackletonian business. Compare, for example, the rocking-horse of the Plummerian period—that stiff and awkward quadruped, with a highly-polished wooden epidermis, more suggestive of the imitation marble of a bathroom than of a Bucephalus, with bulging eyes and with his nostrils turned completely inside out—indicative of Blood!—compare this mottled abortion with the correctly-modelled steed with a real hide and perfectly natural attitude that now is put upon the market by every self-respecting toy-maker! Compare, again, the Tackletonian Noah's Ark, in which the animals were crammed in at the roof and had to have their legs well shaken down before the trap-door would shut—that prehistoric, topheavy Ark which, as many of us knew by sticky experience was *not* seaworthy when sailed in the bath-tub, and in which, so lacking was all sense of due proportion in the maker, the house-fly was only a size or two smaller than the elephant, whilst, as we all remember, the goose used to be so indifferently balanced on its too small feet that it was for ever falling over and involving in common ruin all the fauna within range of its beak! Compare such a Noah's Ark as this with the sumptuous kind which is now put upon the market, every animal correctly modelled out of white wood so that it can be sucked with impunity, and with the skipper and his family no longer shaped like idiotic tobacco-stoppers, but clothed appropriately in gabardine-like garments—old man Noah himself being even differentiated carefully from his sons by the addition of a patriarchal tow beard!

Compare again—but stay, comparisons are not only odious, they are in the present case particularly inopportune, for they are taking up, to small effective purpose, the space that could be more usefully filled with positive facts as to the Twenty-fifth Truth Toy and Doll Show. Very briefly, then, let me refer to the other more prominent features of the display of which I am writing. Tearing ourselves away from the Toy Screen, where in coruscating array were set out all the more expensive toys of the exhibition—the full-sized Punch and Judy shows, the woolly sheep that "Baa'd" like life; the appropriately topical bear that stood on its hind legs and beat, when duly wound up, such a devil's tattoo upon the side drum! Leaving also the dolls' houses, in which the entire house-front no longer comes open, as it used to, on a hinge, but which the prevailing love of realism has now furnished with a real front door and a practicable staircase; and the mailcarts, big enough for orphans to ride in; and the weird pantomime masks, which make all face of the enterprising children who wear them; and the musical boxes which play a répertoire of the latest popular tunes; and the practicable cannon, for the reduction of toy Port Arthurs; and the delightful dolls'-tea-sets and dinner services; and Army uniforms, for happy and extremely militant little boys; we move on, only to find ourselves soon brought to a standstill again by other fascinating features in that Show of Unending Pleasure!

Thus, turning to the right, our progress was at once challenged by a Nankin-Tower-like structure built—think of it, dream of it, little ones, do!—from base to apex of Tom Smith's Christmas crackers! Surely, since Hans and Grettel found that chocolate cottage in the wood, with its marzipan roof and its barley-sugar casements, nothing quite so utterly entrancing to the juvenile taste as that Tower of Bon-bons has been devised. And then, avoiding this "cracker" barricade, one found oneself brought up in front of a sort of entrenched laager formed of enormous packing-cases, provisioned with those toothsome wares which it is the life's purpose of Messrs. J. S. Fry and Co., of Bristol, and Messrs. Callard and Bowser, of Duke's-road, W.C., to disseminate through the world! And so, retreat in that direction also being cut off, one passed into a newly-settled district which a number of amateur "Fullers" had made their own by right of occupation. Of the marvellous confections which were here to be found I shall have more to say later on. For the present, also, I must reserve anything more than a passing reference to the portion of the plateau or tableland that was occupied by the Home-made Toys, the Models of various kinds—not forgetting another welcome consignment of Mr. J. Richardson's admirable toy engines—and the charmingly diversified groups of dolls dressed and posed to represent certain familiar scenes from Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales. Of many of the items thus comprehensively referred to I hope to speak more particularly in the course of this article. For the nonce, I am merely endeavouring briefly to describe, for the benefit of those kind helpers who were debarred by distance from looking on the spectacle that they had helped so appreciably to create, what they would have seen had they been able to visit the Albert Hall last week. I am anxious that Truth's staunch and faithful friends at Bagdad and Tokio, at Calcutta and Singapore, at Mandalay and Melbourne, should arrive at some notion—however imperfect it may be—of what people flocked to see at Kensington Gore a few short days ago. It is very unfortunate that I can at most suggest in a very perfunctory way what I should like to bring vividly home to the absent. I cannot reproduce the atmosphere of the scene I have so barely described. No one who has not actually seen the Albert Hall at the climax of a Truth Show can hope to obtain more than a faint notion of the spectacle—its excitement, its brilliant chromatic effects, its wide-spreading significance. But if it is hopeless to attempt to reproduce the scene as a bright, vivid, palpitating whole, it is at least within my powers to describe with some attempt at deliberation the many "mickles" that served to make up the indescribable "muckle" of the display. And this, at a length which I hope will not, in the circumstances, be considered too prolix, I will now proceed to do.

Though not inclined to carry respect for precedent to anything like an extreme point, I do not propose to depart from it in the present instance. It is my intention, that is to say, to deal first with the interesting personalities of the large Truth Dolls, on whose behalf size, cost, position, and, in many cases, character combine to plead. And of all these large Dolls, first mention may be appropriately given to those dressed and sent to the Show by Mrs. G. Barclay, of the British Legation at Tokio. For several reasons these dolls, and there were six of them, possessed a special interest. They were, for one thing, amongst those which, owing to a chapter of accidents, failed to get to Japan last year in time to be returned for the Show of 1903. Several parcels of Dolls met a similar fate, and it would be most interesting, were space available, to give at length the adventures by flood and field which some of these globe-trotting Dolls, if I may so call them, went through. "The Odyssey of a Truth Doll" could, I am sure, be made into a highly interesting narrative. In the present instance, however, the delay which occurred in the arrival of the dolls at Tokio has proved to be a fortunate mishap, for it enabled Mrs. Barclay, a lady who has previously done such excellent work for Truth's Shows, to deal with a subject steeped in actuality. Last year, had they come to hand as expected, they could not have dealt, as they now do, with the War at present raging in Manchuria. As it is, Mrs. Barclay had a chance of dressing the six dolls as Japanese ladies, who, grouped at a bamboo table, evidently of native manufacture, were busily engaged in preparing bandages for the wounded! Arranged with great skill, these dolls were seen—some winding the bandages, some cutting them in lengths, and all clad in a spotless white garb. There could be no doubt as to their vocation, for on the dainty white cap each lady was wearing a tiny red cross had been embroidered. It is not strange, perhaps, that these dolls should have proved one of the chief attractions of the Show. There was just that touch of actuality about their task which tends to make the whole world kin. It is interesting to know that these amateur helpers of the Japanese "Tommies" were dressed exactly as the native princesses and European ladies of the Legations are when they meet at each other's houses on given days, and on an average prepare 700 bandages at each Bandage-rolling "Bee." The ingenious little machine for rolling them is one of the results of the War with China, which Japan was engaged in a few years ago.

Of large dolls referring directly or indirectly to the Russo-Japanese War there were no other specimens, but current

dramatic topics were suggested in several cases. Thus Mrs. J. A. Kennedy recalled a far from successful experiment on the part of Mrs. Brown-Potter at the Savoy Theatre, when, it will be remembered, the puff preliminary informed the world that a histrionic revolution was to be brought about by means of the "Emotional Gowns" that the heroine of the play was to wear. As a matter of fact, these "Emotional Gowns" were, I believe, worn for two nights only. But for Mrs. Kennedy's action they would have probably been forgotten by now; but it pleased this ingenious lady to revivify the notion by presenting at the Truth Show a large doll in an "emotional" dress. But for the fact that Miss Dolly Daydream, as this waxen exponent of sartorial emotion was called, was stated on the accompanying label to be typical of "The Dawn of Love," I, for one, should certainly not have guessed what particular emotional sentiment was expressed by her long green cloak with its silver lining. Nor did the fact that Miss Dolly Daydream was admonished not to wear her heart on her sleeve for every daw to peck at make the interpretation of her attire more facile; whilst the presence of the bird in question on an adjacent bough only served to darken counsel. There was probably something symbolic in the fact that the doll was wearing pink chiffon to an inordinate extent; whilst the natural bower in which she was posed was bright with the leaves of autumn. But what this something was, I must admit, I failed to discover. It is not at all surprising that so charming a musical play as "Véronique" should have inspired several exhibitors. Of the scene from Act 1, presented in an elaborate tableau by the Misses B. and F. Glave, I shall have much to say later; but there was another "Véronique," dressed by three sisters, the Misses Lucy, Adèle, and Edith Broad, aged respectively fifteen, thirteen, and eight, which made a charming picture with her golden hair and the apple-green dress she wore with such fascinating *chic*. A delightful companion picture was furnished by Miss M. Sinnett, who chose, with much appropriateness, the doll-like heroine of "La Poupée." Alesia, as dressed by her, also, in apple-green—a bewitching dress trimmed with roses—was, indeed, a dainty darling!

When I said just now there were no dolls other than Mrs. Barclay's which referred directly or indirectly to the War, I had for the moment forgotten the very interesting Chinese boy which had been dressed for this Show by the scholars at the Chinese Girls' School at Singapore. This was a doll that well repaid the closest examination, for it was easy to see what pains had been lavished on this lucky youth by the girls who combined to show the English children what a really nice China-boy should be like. I was especially struck with Master Ah Sin's pigtail. Clearly its plaiting with intertwisted floss silk, and the elaborate arrangement of the numerous partings shown in the arrangement of the hair on the boy's scalp, to say nothing of the fringe plastered down on his forehead, must have been a labour of love for many deft and nimble fingers. As to his rose-pink pantalettes, they were a dream! And the embroidered slippers and the chromatic richness of the loose brocaded silk tunic! Anything more delightfully "Chinesy" it would be hard to imagine; and anything less like the garb of the average English public schoolboy of about the same age it would, I am certain, be impossible to conceive. And I am sure Truth's sincerest thanks are due to Mrs. Lemon, the Head Mistress of the Singapore Chinese Girls' School, for that very "happy thought" of hers which resulted in the presence of so interesting a doll at the recent Show at the Albert Hall.

Another doll that met with numerous adventures between the hour it first left Carteret-street and the day it again arrived there from Bagdad, was that sent by Mrs. Langbridge, and dressed by her as a Mahommedan lady of that city would be. Here, again, it was clear, from even a slight scrutiny, that the greatest care had been taken in securing native stuffs of the right description for the various articles of attire, the electric-blue loose cloak, the black coif, the quaint head-dress, the Turkish shoes, and all the rest of it. I have not missed a Truth Doll Show since the first was held a quarter of a century ago, and I think I can confidently say that at no one of the series has a specimen of the typical Spanish Beauty been wanting. This year it was from Mrs. A. Auerbach that the inevitable Juanita came, black-eyed and black-haired, with red petticoat, lace mantilla, fan, and high-back comb, and all the other inevitable "properties" of the Seville or Cadiz *belle*. So, too, speaking generally, it may be said that at Truth Doll Shows the Continental peasant, like the poor, is always with us. This year none of the usual picturesque group was lacking. From "Yoko," who supplemented her 400 small dolls with half a dozen large ones, came another of those Norwegian country girls she dresses with such facility, and the front breadth of whose gown is always a triumph of art needlework. Equally clever in its way was her "Sister of Mercy," with coif, and rosary, and medal: whilst another of her large dolls, in knitted garments of much warmth, went out into the world excellently equipped to go through the winter, however cold it may prove. Notable, too, for her faithful rendering of a costume that most of us now know well, Miss Koch sent a Swedish Peasantess—the headwork on whose bodice was particularly elaborate; whilst that faithful supporter of Truth Shows, Mrs. A. B. Appleby, had evidently studied to excellent purpose the holiday costume of the Breton peasant girls when last she toured in Brittany. I know of few neater dresses than the blue bodice trimmed with black braid, and the white mob cap, which go so well with the quaint golden ornaments that are worn with them. But even more plentiful amongst the large dolls than Peasantesses were the Red Riding Hoods. Of all the nursery heroines, it is "Bo Peep" that, if my memory does not betray me, holds the record. In 1892 there were seven "Bo Peeps" coloured on the card—by which I mean, of course, placed in position on the doll-stand. This year I thought for a long time that this total had been beaten by Red Riding Hood. But, in the end, I discovered that the competition had resulted in a tie. There were only seven of the last-named characters. It will be for the judges to announce next week which of these were worthy of most commendation. For my own part, I should unhesitatingly place Miss J. Kittke's Red Riding Hood at the top of the class. True, the basket the latter was bearing to her grandmother contained no eggs—a pointed comment this on the present prohibitive price of new-laid ones; but, on the other hand, she was in one of the most "comfy" looking costumes you ever saw—a red cloak, a white overall, and a blue petticoat, all of them knitted or crocheted—and looking charming enough to touch the heart of the grimmest old wolf ever cubbed. Another Red Riding Hood that I should place near the top was that sent by Lady Fry—one of the six large dolls she dressed with such marked good taste—though I am not sure that Mrs. J. B. Brown's would not tie with her for second place, with her hat tied under her chin in the style now so popular. Two other "R. R. H.s" I must mention are those sent by Miss Burfield and Miss E. R. Godden, the basket of the former having been filled with rosy-cheeked apples instead of eggs. But perhaps the most charming of all the Nursery Heroines was Mrs. J. B. Brown's "Bo Peep." More than ever was I inclined to believe in the congenital idiocy of the sheep when I looked at this fascinating young lady. Surely no sheep which were not idiots would ever have been stupid enough to get lost by so charming a shepherdess! She was an Arcadian to the very top of her crook—which was bound round with ribbon—and dressed in the most dainty of costumes. A third large doll sent by Mrs. J. B. Brown, labelled Dolly Varden, was attired in a way not usually associated with the good Gabriel's daughter.

The names of the Misses Jacomb Hood will recur many times before I complete this article. You know those maps of the world on which all the British possessions are coloured red. Well, a somewhat similar effect would be produced if a plan of the Albert Hall could be prepared on which all the spaces annexed by the Misses Jacomb Hood were marked by a distinctive colour. For this year, these industrious young ladies, instead of concentrating their exhibits in one place, had secured space in various parts of the Show, here planting a fairy-tale group, there massing a score or two of small dolls, and, in a third place, posing a quartet of the large Truth dolls they had dressed. Thus one was continually coming on Jacomb Hood exhibits, until one wondered when the signs of their busy enterprise were to cease. For the moment, it is only to the large dolls dressed by them that I would refer. Occupying a prominent place on the central stand were the Four Seasons, dressed by Miss Jacomb Hood. At few Truth Shows has a set of Seasons been lacking. At none do I remember seeing a more effective set than at the Show of 1904. The leading characteristics of Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter had surely been thought out and combined with marked care and good taste. To mention all the symbols of the Seasons which were worked in would take up too much space. It is enough to say that Miss Jacomb Hood had apparently forgotten none of them. Robin Redbreasts and holly were used in the adornment of the Winter doll with admirable effect. Very pretty, too, was the picture she made of Autumn, with her wreath of wheat and poppies. Not far away was an artistic Juliet, dressed by the same young lady, in a striking robe of electric blue, and with a girdle of pearls. Near at hand, too, was a delightful Fairy Godmother who, thanks to the happy notion of Miss Louisa Jacomb Hood, has carried much joy with her wherever she went, for she was literally laden with toys and knick-knacks of all sorts, which had turned her into a sort of fairy Autolycus. It is not easy to over-estimate the joy that the advent of such a doll will cause in the hospital ward or workhouse school to which it will be taken. It was Miss Louisa's skilful and nimble fingers, too, which dressed the Olivia Primrose, and, by the way, as I omitted to state just now, were answerable for yet another of the numerous Red Riding Hoods. In dressing this doll, Miss Louise Jacomb Hood showed considerable sartorial daring, for she was unconventional enough to discard the scarlet cloak so generally associated with the heroine in question, and to attire her instead in a garment of a much more sombre hue. After this we shall actually expect to come at some future Doll Show on a Boy Blue who carries a pipe instead of a horn, and a Little Lord Fauntleroy whose neck is not encircled by a lace collar! Miss Jacomb Hood's "Juliet" reminds me of another dramatic heroine who figured conspicuously at the recent Show. I refer to Lady Teazle, dressed with much elaboration and care by Miss E. Wyvill. I noticed that fair critics were much impressed by the sumptuosity of the decorative adornment of the front breadth of this doll's beautiful gown. It was positively plastered with seed pearls. Great attention had been paid to accessories by Miss Wyvill, and Lady Teazle's fan, her mittens, her furbelows, her frills, and her flounces left nothing to be desired. Not for the first time did a masculine competitor enter the doll-dressing lists last week. On this occasion it was a boy, Master Gordon D Crabbe, who challenged attention with a spick-and-span young Jack Tar, belonging, if his hat riband chronicled a fact, to H.M.S. *Truth*. I am sure that Master Crabbe deserves warm congratulation on his success, for a neater and handier "A.B." surely never piped his eye, or spliced the mainbrace, or hoisted his slacks, or engaged in any other of those mysterious nautical exercises in which Jack Tars habitually indulge. Taut and trim,

indeed, was he, with his pipeclayed lanyard and neatly fitting blouse.

I have only one thing to suggest about Miss Wrigley's Jack and Molly, known also as "The Twins," viz., that they should have changed names, seeing that Jack looked more than a little bit of a molly-coddle, whilst Molly had all the dash of a tom-boy. Mrs. W. Bates, in sending in the large doll she dressed so appropriately, showed her instinctive knowledge of what children really like by attaching to that doll's pinafore a pleasant little note to her prospective owners informing them that she was going to the seaside, that all her clothes would take off and wash, and that she had brought with her in a bag, inscribed with her initials "N. D.," what, according to Rita, smart ladies invariably call their "nighties"! Now I know as a fact that a doll thus furnished, as it were, with an introduction to its new little mistresses is always especially welcome. Even the presence of the initials "N. D." will set the children wondering whether her proper name is Nora Daisy, or Nita Dora, or, possibly, though it is to be sincerely hoped not, Nancy Deborah! Mrs. Kent, in sending her "Poppy" doll, adopted another plan which invariably gives pleasure. Her "Poppy" carried with her, pinned safely to her skirt, a cabinet photograph of herself, accompanied by the request, "May I be sent to the 'Elizabeth' Ward, please, at Bartholomew's Hospital?" [I may here parenthetically remark that although it is not always practicable to carry out requests of the above sort, attention is always paid to them when possible.] "Poppy," I may add, would be welcome at any hospital, for she had been dressed by Mrs. Kent with exceptional taste and care. The wreath she wore of wheatear, poppies, and marguerites was simply delightful! Equally effective in its way was Mrs. Kent's "Folly," with her quaintly-shaped cap of green and gold, not unlike an ace of clubs. As somewhat of an expert in the comparative merits of various dolls in the eyes of the girls who play with them, I should unhesitatingly say that it is a baby-doll, not yet short-coated, which commands the warmest and most cordial reception. Such a baby-doll, for example, as Lady Fry sent would very quickly be hugged and cuddled to pieces were it to be left unwatched amongst the tiny convalescents of a hospital ward, or the stronger and therefore still more destructive girl-scholars of a workhouse! Nor is this to be wondered at when I tell you that there were "grown ups" at the Truth Show who fell in love with the long-robed doll I refer to, and rhapsodised as only mothers can over the little innocent in white and old gold, with its bottle, its rattle, and those other mysterious articles which go to make up the modern infant's complete bag of tricks. A third large doll, contributed by Lady Fry, was a Kate Greenaway little girl in pale lemon and white. Lady Fry's baby-doll did not hold her position unchallenged, however. There was another of these mysteries in long clothes dressed by Lady Cooper, which, in pure white and swansdown, was what I once heard a well-known actor say the saddle of mutton was that he was engaged in sampling at a well-known restaurant, "a perfect dream"! From Lady Cooper also came two other exquisitely-dressed large dolls, one in red trimmed with swansdown, and the other with a bonnet of the shape we should associate with Mary Queen of Scots whilst we still regarded her as a plaster saint, and *before* we read Mr. Maurice Hewlett's "Queen's Quair." Miss Mitchell Molyneux, to whom long experience in doll dressing has now taught so much, was also represented by a trio of large dolls, all of familiar characters, but, none the less, all stamped with a style and a distinction that removed them far from the more conventional types they were supposed to repeat. What a dashing Merry Gitana, for example, was Miss Molyneux's—how chromatically effective, how full of the dash and fervour that we associate with the Esmeraldas, and Carmens, and Zingari of the sunny south! What a romantic "Little Girl Blue," too, she had sent to keep her gipsy girl in countenance; whilst it is difficult to mention her "Violets" without going off into a metrical rhapsody over her poetic realisation of the modest little flower it pleased her to make her third doll represent.

For reasons I cannot stay even briefly to discuss, there was amongst the large Truth Dolls an exceptional paucity of heroes to pair off with the heroines which clustered round by scores. Thus the few "he's" that were in the Show were, indeed, Jacks amongst the maidens! They had only to flutter their handkerchiefs to bring round them a bevy of fascinating damsels such as Miss Greaves's charmer in pink and white, that wore a wreath of roses with such fascinating effect; Miss Connell's dainty little maiden in book muslin and amber; Miss Pearce's fresh and breezy Fisher Girl, in the neatest of blue serge costumes; and the "Blue Girl" so prettily realised in the doll dressed by the Misses Rotherham and Miss Cuffe! From the place the Chinese boy from Singapore occupied he could feast his eyes on the charms of Miss M. Gardner's smart lassie in her early Victorian bonnet; a young lady of evident forethought and prudence, seeing that she had brought with her to the Albert Hall, in view of coming eventualities, her *robe de nuit* in a prettily-embroidered *sachet*-like bag.

It fell to my lot in assuring myself that I had missed no large doll of special interest and importance to emulate the upward tendency of the late Mr. Longfellow's flag-bearing Alpine tourist. I had to climb up amongst the dominant crags and headlands occupied by the dolls in the higher latitudes, and not without risk, thanks to the presence of a weak plank or the sudden descent of an avalanche of small dolls from the pyramidal heights I trod, were my investigations made. But let me be fair and admit that I was amply repaid by the dolls which my ascent made it possible for me to see at close quarters. Not being possessed of a telescope it was impossible to discern from the floor of the Hall the most effective points of the large dolls, which, for want of space upon the line, had to be more or less skied. But having once climbed up to the highest peaks, beauties were forthwith revealed of whose existence I had no previous adequate conception. Thus I could then note to advantage the charm of Miss A. Hill's "Bo Beep," the innocent grace of Mrs. Capon's Kathleen, and the demure loveliness of Mrs. Weidemann's "Cavalier's Daughter," who, if Lavater is right in his facial theories, must have been the most thorough-going little Puritan at heart. Thanks to my motto of "Excelsior," I was also in a position to appreciate the fancy dress of Miss Bull's elegant doll, with her rich brocade skirt, looped up round a waist not much thicker than a walking stick, the "smart" terra-cotta costume of Miss Ruffler's doll; and the graceful demeanour of Miss N. M. Hone's doll, which the long blue cloak, with its bewitching swansdown trimmed hood, that it was wearing, could not conceal.

But with all my pains it is certain that some other of the large Truth Dolls deserving mention must have escaped my notice. A last look round brought several additional entries into my note book. It revealed, for example, Miss E. H. Cave's doll in a long blue and white cloak and a Greenaway bonnet, and the simple girlish dress of pink and white muslin which Miss M. Gordon Laird had designed for hers. For a moment I was inclined to resent the fact that Miss Godwin's large doll had no shoes nor stockings; but then I, of course, remembered that in "smart" circles to be shoeless and stockingless is to be exceptionally up to date. But, even allowing this, I am afraid that the exiguity of this particular doll's skirts would be a fatal bar to any claim for fashionable notice she might be tempted to assert, and unless to be swathed in one's dress as though it were a bandage is to be ultra fashionable, Miss Godwin's large doll must be considered altogether out "of the movement," so far as her gown is concerned. If to be peculiar is to be fashionable, Miss A. W. Hancock's doll in her sombre grey and black deserved a more prominent position that it received. But at any rate it challenged attention by being altogether unlike any other doll in the Show. Miss Runcliffe's large doll might well have been christened "Rosy-fingered Dawn," so ethereally pink was her costume, a curious contrast, indeed, to Miss Radcliffe's doll in sealing-wax red and amber, which was its near neighbour. Miss Koch's doll was another harmony in pink, well worth attention; and to Miss Rose Shepherd's large doll belonged the distinction of having been the only one in the Show that was arrayed in a tea gown; whilst to Lady Constance Combe's doll in white and blue may advisedly be granted the distinction of closing the long procession of the large Truth Dolls which I have, in a somewhat disjointed and imperfect way, brought to the reader's attention. That I have omitted some large dolls I ought to have noticed is certain; that I have noticed some that might have been advisedly omitted is also fairly sure; but mistakes will happen, even at the most carefully conducted of Doll Shows. I can at best only plead good intentions and throw myself on the mercy of the Court.

At the Truth Doll Show itself, it is, I think, in front of the groups of dolls that the visitors linger longest. At the Hospitals and Workhouses it is the dolls and toys that become the children's own that are most highly appreciated. But so long as the Truth distribution is preceded by a Show, to which the public is invited, the popularity of the display depends largely upon the Groups on which such interminable labour is lavished by those who undertake to assist in this section of the Exhibition. Leaving for the moment the Tableaux or Groups which were designed, dressed, and arranged by those invaluable friends of Truth, the Misses Glave, who, unwilling to turn to account as prize-winners the phenomenal skill they annually display, have long insisted, in the kindest manner, on having their handiwork considered as "*Hors Concours*," I come naturally to the Group in which once more Miss May Streatfeild shows that patience, that skill, that good taste, that valuable sense of humour, which, though I have now seen them exercised for so many years, strike me with a feeling of intense admiration which no lapse of time and no repetition of the surprising effects witnessed suffice to modify or to check. Still do I find myself wondering, year after year, how one exhibitor, let her be as indefatigable and as earnest as she may, can prolong indefinitely the series of successes she has attained since she first, as a schoolgirl, achieved distinction in the line she has made her own. What that line is visitors to the Truth Shows know well. Miss Streatfeild year after year has given, in a series of admirably-arranged *tableaux*, what I may call a concrete version of some well-known nursery classic. There are few Nursery Rhymes of unchallenged popularity that she has not thus dealt with. In a similar way she has treated the leading contents of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass." On the same lines she has illustrated all the best-known "Learics" of the Book of Nonsense; the adventures of Shock-headed Peter; the story of the Man and the Mad Dog, from Oliver Goldsmith—the humours of those particular *tableaux* I always recall with especial delight—the quaint inconsequential nonsense of Foote's "Aldiborontophoskophorniostikos," the moving history of John Gilpin, and other well-known masterpieces of Nursery literature, too numerous to mention. And year by year, as the series has extended, have I wondered what next this facile young lady would present for London's amusement. Hitherto, fortunately, her selection, tact, and inventive powers have never failed her, and this season she has surprised us all by boldly attacking a children's book which one would have thought would have presented insurmountable obstacles to treatment in the Streatfeildian manner. This will be recognised at once when I say that her choice fell this year upon Charles Kingsley's "Water Babies," a story, or allegory, or fable, or morality, or whatever

you choose to call it, which bristles with difficulties. But Miss Streatfeild has two mottoes, "*Nil desperandum!*" and "Thorough!" and never has she more fully acted up to them than in this present year of grace. The way in which she has, as it were, developed the fifty-six TRUTH dolls which were sent to her into what is virtually the whole of the more salient contents of Kingsley's fantastic story is simply marvellous. There really seems to be no incident of importance which she has not represented with all the minute attention to detail which is characteristic of a realistic dramatist. Beginning at the very beginning of the story, we see the hero, Tom, and his brutal master, Grimes the sweep, on their way to Hartover Hall, where, in an early set-scene, we are shown Tom standing amazed and admiring in Ellie's bedroom, down the chimney of which he has found his way by mistake. Then, discovered, as he soon was, we see him start on the adventurous journey in which most of the servants and retainers of the Squire vigorously pursue him. Off he races, and after him run the ploughboy, the groom, the gamekeeper, the milkmaid, the gardener—each a doll dressed for the part with a rare sense of characterisation by the clever Miss Streatfeild. How Tom finds himself at length in the dame's school in the village is depicted in another set-scene full of dry and quiet humour. Off he starts again, till he finds himself at that crucial part of his adventures when he comes to the river, and diving under the silvery stream straightway becomes a Water Baby. In another scene we are shown Ellie shrimping, and watch her as she also undergoes an ingeniously devised sea change, and, being beconed by the Fairies, becomes a Water Baby like Tom.

But this is by no means all that is shown us of Kingsley's narrative. Tom and Ellie in future share their adventures, and we see them successively at Peace Pool—a really surprisingly clever realisation of what the bottom of the sea may be supposed to reveal; At-the-end-of-nowhere, where we are introduced to Mrs. Be-done-by-as-you-did; to Mother Carey's Chicken; and so on, through various other quaint submarine experiences, till the pretty pair reach the Fairy Island, where, having made the acquaintance of Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by, they live happily ever after. This, be it understood, is but the baldest outline of the eventful history which Miss May Streatfeild has set forth with such surprising dramatic effect. The young lady in question possesses, in fact, as I have more than once pointed out, the dramatic instinct to a very great extent. She has the power of "thinking concretely," to use a suggestive phrase, and has fixed on just those incidents in "The Water Babies" which most effectively lend themselves to the kind of illustration she is able to give them. Clever, too, with her brush, she has painted a long series of backgrounds for the more important of her scenes. Nor will it surprise those who saw her elaborate series of groups that on the Tuesday before the Show Miss Streatfeild was busily engaged for several hours merely in arranging on the space allotted to her the series of figures and "properties" which she employed in her complete *mise en scène*. The space in question is that which for so many years Mrs. H. P. Truefitt filled with her dainty dolls, and when it was settled that the said lady could no longer render the TRUTH Show that active assistance which was always forthcoming so long as her health permitted it, what was rightly considered one of the places of honour was put at Miss Streatfeild's disposition by acclamation. Of how worthily she has filled it we have now had repeated proof, and if she had overheard, as I did, the praises called forth from visitors to the TRUTH Show by her skill and ingenuity, she could not fail, I am sure, to have been vastly pleased with the result of her untiring efforts.

Moving round the corner of the central stand, one came just opposite the fan-like screen of toys that masked the organ, on the group of another young lady who, since she first won a prize some years ago, has season by season developed the talent she possesses for making an effective tableau. Miss Grace Scholfield—for that is the young lady's name—chose this year as the subject of her spirited group, one which amply justified its comprehensive title of "At the Seaside." Her group was, in effect, a somewhat condensed and up-to-date version of that once-famous picture by Mr. Frith, the veteran Academician, known as "On Ramsgate Sands." With twenty-four TRUTH Dolls as her *dramatis personæ*, Miss Scholfield had, in fact, arranged a sort of still life representation of seaside amusements and amenities, of the truth of which to nature every visitor to a South-coast watering-place was well able to judge. Of all the common objects of the seashore in August, not one, I think, had been forgotten. We saw trippers picnic-ing on the beach, children paddling, bathers issuing from their tents, nurses doing plain needlework while their juvenile charges filled their buckets or collected shells. Girls and boys of a riper age were making the inevitable sand castle, toy boats were being sailed in convenient pools, papers were being hawked, and mail-carts trundled. Nor had the inevitable nigger troupe been forgotten. Miss Grace Scholfield's tableau revealed more and more items, in fact, the longer you gazed at it, and you at last left it almost fancying, as you did so, that you could sniff ozone in the air, so impregnated was the scene with what I may call a watering-place atmosphere.

A scene planned on an equally elaborate scale, but which unfortunately suffered somewhat in effect by the too straitened area on which it was set out, was the one designed by Madame M. Gilson, who had taken infinite pains to represent a "Recreation Ground for Nurses and Children Only." For the purpose of maintaining order amongst the latter, who were to be counted by scores, Madame Gilson, with the assistance of her friends, Mesdames A. Peyrot and G. Migot, had dressed three of the large RUTH Dolls as French *bonnes*, whilst a fourth large doll had been dressed as an almost aggressively English nurse by Miss S. Barker. These four domestics had all their work cut out for them, seeing that there was about fifty girls and boys under their tutelary care. For the proper display of all these juvenile recreationists there was, unfortunately, as I have said, insufficient space, the result being a congestion of dolls, which took much from the effectiveness of the scene. Thus there was scarcely enough space for setting up the croquet hoops, with which one party of the children was provided, and far from sufficient room for the trundling of the wooden hoops many of the little boys and girls carried in their hands. As for the organ grinder who had been admitted to the Recreation Enclosure to provide the music for an impromptu *bal des enfants* in the open air, he was positively so mobbed that he could have scarcely continued to turn the handle of his instrument, let him have tried as he might. But it was not difficult to imagine what was the effect that Madame Gilson had intended to produce, and perfectly easy to see how striking her *tableau* would have appeared if only more space had been at her disposal. But, unfortunately, the superficial area available for exhibition at the Albert Hall is not elastic, and with every wish in the world to oblige the exhibitor, whose plans were to a certain extent cramped and disarranged through no fault of her own, it was found impossible at the last moment to amplify one square yard into three. No doubt, however, should Madame Gilson again lend the TRUTH Show her aid a little previous consultation will prevent such an overcrowding as that which, to everybody's regret, has this year interfered with the complete success of what might have been made one of the most effective features of the exhibition, and which, even as it was, gave evidence of the effective skill with which it had been designed.

There was luckily no such regrettable incident in connection with Miss Pearson's "Fancy Dress Ball," in which no less than fifty of the small TRUTH Dolls were engaged. Miss Pearson has had much experience of the TRUTH Shows, and she knew exactly how much space she could reckon on securing for her dancing floor. She was thus able to set out her fancy-dressed dolls to the very best advantage, and a bright, lively scene it was that she arranged. Being another of those ladies that make "Thorough!" their watchword, she had even provided for her dancers a section of floor specially prepared for them with what looked like a veneer of *parquet*. On this, to the music of the Blue Hungarians, a minuet was being danced by some of the most effectively dressed of the dancers, whilst others, by that licence which surely the tableau-maker should share with the poet, seemed to be simultaneously romping through the Lancers. Amongst the more elegant of the worshippers at the shrine of Terpsichore (as "Jeames" would probably phrase it) we noticed a British Fox-hunter in pink, several dashing French cavalry officers, a Folly, a Pierrot and a Pierrette, a doll dressed as *L'Entente Cordiale*, several picturesque peasantesses, a capital *chef*, a pretty Welsh girl, and a conventionally-dressed Mary Queen of Scots. On a somewhat smaller scale Miss F. Brendon gave a spirited rendering of a game of "Blind Man's Buff," arranged so as to form a lively tableau, which Mr. Arthur Morrison, who has been complaining that we "grown-ups" are not nearly so childish as we ought to be, would doubtless have noted with warm approval as one of the ways in which "society" might show itself unconventional.

But it is about time we came again on the name of Jacomb Hood, and, surely enough, having passed the part of the central stand which Miss Streatfeild occupied so worthily, one quickly came upon several groups which bore unmistakable signs of their origin. All these groups were characterised by their artistic design and elaborately picturesque execution, and it is difficult to differentiate between the work of the three sisters. I may be allowed, however, to specially approve the tableau in which Miss Jacomb Hood had pictured the well-known incident in the story of the Yellow Dwarf as told in Mr. Andrew Lang's Blue Fairy Book, where the Princess Bellissima, walking one day in her garden, sees the Yellow Dwarf perched confidently on the highest bough of an orange tree. There is little else in the tableau, which is exceptionally simple and direct in its conception, but the little there is is of a very high class. The Yellow Dwarf himself is a trim mannikin with a gnome-like face, clad in a yellow suit, which seems to have grown upon him, so exquisitely does it fit; whilst the Princess is a lovely creature, well deserving to be called Bellissima. The corner of the garden in which the meeting of the oddly-assorted pair takes place was realised with admirable effect, too, the orange tree being an arboreal masterpiece. This particular tableau seemed to me, indeed, to possess an artistic merit of a higher order than any of the others sent by this talented trio of sisters, effective though many of those others undoubtedly were. Pretty in quite a different sort of way was "Ring a ring of roses, a pocket full of posies!" of which Miss Jacomb Hood was also the clever designer. Developing a somewhat similar notion, Miss Florence Jacomb Hood had a group illustrating the refrain:

> Here we go round the mulberry bush—
> The mulberry bush, the mulberry bush!
> Here we go round the mulberry bush
> On a cold and frosty morning!

Very spirited is this arrangement and it is with evident gusto that the merry party is suiting its action to the words of its chorus. To Miss Florence also belongs the credit of the series of *tableaux* in which, with minute elaboration, the well-known lines of "Sing a Song of Sixpence" were represented. The scene

that amused the juvenile visitors to the Toy Show most, was that in which as soon as the pie was opened the four-and-twenty blackbirds were depicted fluttering out from under the pie-crust in which they had been baked, without so much as turning a feather. But all the scenes were characterised by a quaint realism which proved very effective—the King in his counting house, the Queen in her parlour, and the Maid in the garden, being alike humorous conceptions which the children were delighted to recognise. The laundrymaid, by the way, must have seriously handicapped the blackbird that like a sort of Nemesis went for her nose, for that particular feature in the clothes-hanging doll was—probably with intent—of the sketchiest and snubbiest sort, and one at which it must have been most difficult for the avenging bird to get a good vicious peck. It was Miss Florence again who presented us with a concrete rendering of the strange diversity of tastes that was to be found in the "Jack Sprat" household, and a capital little *tableau* did she succeed in making out of what was probably a not uncommon incident at the Sprat's dinner-table.

In another part of the Show a considerable quantity of space had been annexed by Miss Louisa Jacomb Hood, for the setting out of four scenes dealing with the Yuletide of a hundred years ago—Christmas 1804 to speak by the card. These scenes dealt with the expected visit by Father Christmas, the opening of the Christmas stocking—a delightful *tableau* this of the children's bedroom, with their little beds already littered with toys and gifts taken out of what appeared the inexhaustible stocking. Then came the scene of the Christmas Dinner, the menu for which it would seem must have been devised in the nursery, seeing that all the *pièces de résistance* with which the table was spread were apparently cakes of assorted kinds, with a monster pudding, of course, in the place of honour. But it was the fourth *tableau* which charmed me most. "Going to Church" it was called, and Miss Louisa, with an excellent eye to effect, had set it out in the village churchyard—in itself a delightful picture of country life, with its moss covered lychgate, its time worn tombstones, and a cleverly suggested church as its background. And in this picturesque environment were grouped all the more typical of the parishioners, the old squire himself, the young squire and his *fiancée*, as well as Farmer Stiles and those thoroughly English children who, in a previous group of the series we had seen emptying their Christmas stockings with such pleasant excitement. Even now I have not finally disposed of Miss Louisa's exhibits, for in yet another *tableau*, perhaps the most elaborate and successful of all she attempted, she had reproduced on a small scale much of the pomp, and clamour, and movement, and excitement of a mediæval Tournament. To even catalogue the host of characters represented as taking part in it would occupy more space than I am able to spare, and my readers must be content to accept my assurance that all the persons and things that one expects to find in the Lists at such a time, Miss Louisa had forgotten no one and omitted nothing. Knights on gaily caparisoned steeds were "Having" at each other with their long lances in the most chivalrous fashion. High enthroned in the Pavilion sat the Queen of Beauty. Drawn up to their full height in order to "fan-fare" with proper effect, were the trumpeters; while looking exactly like animated knaves of hearts and diamonds, stood the heralds. On all sides flags were flapping, and pennants "frenetic to be free," as Browning puts it, "made one red stretch for home!" Visitors, with ample time to scrutinise, were able to note the scrupulous care taken to make the scene, even down to the smallest details, historically and sartorially, and chronologically correct. I overheard one lady rhapsodising over the quantity of pains expended on the housings of some of the knights' chargers and their pages' palfreys. For myself, the more I study such elaborate scenes as are now to be found at each successive Truth Show, the more do I wonder at the amount of industry and patience, and artistic knowledge, and above all at the infinite capacity for taking pains to which the many of the exhibited *tableaux* and groups bear evidence. It is simply marvellous. I am not at all sure that I have mentioned all the Jacomb Hood groups even now. At all events I have only alluded casually in passing to the scores of small Truth Dolls that the three sisters dressed in ordinary costumes. These were piled up in profusion on one of the tables, and the sight of them kept one wondering more than ever how thirty fingers and thumbs, however nimble and industrious—could have effected so much.

And now for what was really the *bonne-bouche* amongst the "Doll Groups"—the tableaux designed and produced by those staunch friends and supporters of Truth Shows, the Misses B. and F. Glave. Those who prove equal to the task of reading through my necessarily long annual descriptive articles cannot fail to remember in what superlative terms I have year after year written of the Glave exhibits. Time after time have I announced the attainment of a climax of taste and artistic effect only to admit that in due course the Misses Glave have again and again beaten their own record, and again and again surpassed the high standard they have so repeatedly set up. Last December, however, it was generally recognised that in the gorgeous tableau in which they dealt with the Coronation Fêtes of King Edward VII. on the plains of Delhi, a consummation of splendour had been arrived at. It seemed impossible to imagine any scene which could surpass in opulence of colour and dazzling effects the representation on a reduced scale of one of the most splendid pageants which even the Orient could produce. Never shall I forget the blazing brilliance of the saddlecloths that covered the flanks of the Rajahs' elephants which made such prominent objects in the Misses Glave's procession. A more magnificent "group" had certainly never been seen at any previous Truth Show, and I repeatedly found myself wondering in what direction its designers would turn for the new world they were eager to conquer. But I might have spared myself the trouble, for, as visitors to the Albert Hall last week quickly discovered, the problem presented was solved by the ladies most directly concerned in its solution in a way that it must be at once admitted was as effective as it was unexpected. Appreciating the fact that a climax of magnificence had been reached in their Delhi Procession, the Misses Glave, with a promptitude and decision on which they are to be congratulated forthwith proceeded to switch themselves on to an altogether different line, if I may use a simile with which railway travelling has made us all familiar. In other words, knowing the risk they ran of bringing about an anti-climax, they made a new departure and resolved this year, instead of eating visitors to the Albert Hall with any more chromatic triumphs such as they had often achieved, to go in for a tableau which should be quaintly picturesque and oddly interesting. And thus it came about that a considerable portion of the place of honour their dolls occupy as a right was, at the recent Show, devoted to the setting out of a scene which in its entirety was called "A Bit of Dutch." This implied that within a space of a few square feet we saw a sort of microcosm of the characteristic national life of our Dutch neighbours. Determined to be as eclectic and comprehensive as possible, the Misses Glave set themselves to embody in their tableau just those oddities of dress and manners which most strike the tourist in Holland. It was much, indeed, as though they had selected for their purpose just those Dutch types of which Mr. Tom Browne and Mr. George Haite draw and paint with such humour. As a background for the scene the tanned sails of a number of Dutch fishing luggers or "pinks," as they are called, had been utilised with a charming result. Blommers himself could not have painted a more appropriate background than that which had been thus provided. In front of it, posed in the most characteristic fashion were all the familiar Dutch types—the Schevening fishermen in the baggiest of unmentionables, the Zeeland peasantess with her elaborate cap and still more elaborate silver and gold hairpins and head ornaments, the Amsterdam *gamin* in his clattering sabots puffing away at a cheap and rank cigar, almost long enough and strong enough to serve as a mast for a canal barge, the farmer's wife on her way to market with eggs and butter and poultry, the country boor with his top hat of an antediluvian shape and a green "gamp," more like the furled tent of the Prophet that goes annually to Mecca, than the average umbrella of the period—these are only a few of the more prominent types that made up the general picture. How the Misses Glave revelled in the elaboration of its details can be readily imagined. I know my Holland pretty thoroughly, and of the odd head dresses affected by the wives and daughters in the various provinces I can bear witness that none had been omitted in the "Glavian" picture. The variations in the fishermen's garb, too, had been marked with the utmost care. Some of the dolls were irresistibly comical in appearance, and I doubt if types more humorous in an unforced way have ever been seen at a Truth Show. And not content with giving us this peep at what seems quaint and odd to us in Holland, the Misses Glave arranged and dressed a second tableau, in which they were able to give rein to their love of bright colour and pretty sentiment. This second picture was indeed a close copy in miniature of that scene in Act 1 of "Véronique," which, it will be remembered, passes at Coquinard's flower shop with its adjoining garden. And just as "A Bit of Dutch" was full of quaint humour, so was the scene from "Véronique" a sort of floral fantasy in which bright colours and fascinatingly pretty faces and daintily coquettish costumes were so delightfully combined. The *mise-en scène* had been arranged with the greatest care, and charming indeed was that part of the tableau in which we saw the fair heroine disporting herself in a flower decked swing. Both the scenes, as I have already intimated, are exhibited *Hors Concours*. Glad as the proprietor of Truth would be to award a special prize to the Misses Glave if they would take it, it is their wish that all the available prizes should go to other competitors, a piece of disinterested consideration which makes Truth's gratitude to the clever young ladies, to whom so many thanks are due, all the warmer and more sincere.

I now come to a section of the Truth Show which I always write of with a somewhat overwhelming sense of responsibility; for it becomes my duty to say what I feel to be entirely inadequate in eulogising those ladies who provide what is after all the backbone of the Truth Exhibition by dressing close upon four thousand small dolls for the Christmas distribution to the children in the workhouses and hospitals of the Metropolitan area. The simple fact of the matter is that familiarity with the task they annually undertake and carry through, so far from producing anything like an underestimation of their labour of love, leaves me each successive year more and more impressed by the amount of work they do. It may be remembered that a year or two ago I suggested, half jestingly possibly, that there should be kept amongst the archives at Truth offices a Register of Honour, a sort of *Libro d'Oro*, in which should be inserted, season after season, the names of any lady, say, who had dressed a hundred small dolls and upwards for a Truth Show, and really I am beginning seriously to think that some such step should be taken. It would at best be but a trifling acknowledgment of services which, from the point of view of our Truth Shows, are virtually invaluable; for let us praise, as one may, the taste and ingenuity shown in dressing, say, two or three large Truth dolls; and let us admit, as I for one am ready to do, that it is the "Doll Groups," which London flocks to the Albert Hall

especially to see, it is still after all on the provision of the desiderated thousands of dressed Truth dolls that the ultimate success of each successive Show indubitably depends. The large dolls and the groups would go but a very small way towards meeting the demands made on Truth's resources; and it is the large reserve of small dolls we are in a position to draw upon which enables the Christmas distribution to be carried out in its entirety. This being so, it will be interesting to see who are the ladies who this year have dressed not less than a hundred Truth dolls. I find the list runs in this way, the figure after each name being that of the total of small dolls dressed by the ladies mentioned. At the top of the list, of course, comes "Yoko," who again guaranteed to dress no less than four hundred dolls, and who, by this time, I have little doubt, is already busily engaged in dressing the contingent she means to present for the Truth Show of 1905. This year the above total has also been attained by Miss B. Skinner, another specially staunch friend of the children. Four hundred dolls is also that lady's total. Then we come to Miss Ruffer, with three hundred and seventy-five; the Misses Jacomb Hood, a hundred and sixty-nine; Mrs. F. Comyns and Miss Pearson, a hundred and fifty each; Madame Gilson, a hundred and forty-eight; Mrs. Stern, a hundred and forty-four; Mrs. E. G. and the Misses Beynon, a hundred and eight; and Miss B. Finlinson, Mrs. Vickers, Mrs. Oakley, Mrs. Picciatto, and Miss A. E. Smith a hundred each. Thus the ladies above-named have to be thanked for dressing no less than 2,444 Truth dolls between them. I also found from the list that Mrs. Combe, Mrs. Pilcher, Miss M. Streatfeild, Mrs. E. J. Auerbach, Mrs. A. N. Carpenter, Mrs. A. Auerbach, Miss A. Lockwood, and Miss Mitchell Molyneux dressed four hundred and thirty more between them, so that the first-named total is thus increased to over two thousand eight hundred. But these figures set down here in cold black printing ink do not perhaps greatly stir the imagination. It is only those who understand what dressing a doll really means that can fully appreciate what is involved in dressing a hundred say, or fifty, or, for that matter, even twenty. For it must be remembered that the Truth dolls are, as a rule, dressed with a surprising amount of care. I have seen a doll "dressed" by swathing it in a strip of crinkly lamp-shade paper secured by a tin tack deftly hammered into the doll's vitals. But you will find nothing of that kind at Truth Show, where, in nine cases out of ten, I should think, the clothes worn by the doll can be taken off and put on with the utmost ease. This is notoriously the case with "Yoko's" dolls, every one of which is provided with five garments guaranteed to take off and on with equal facility. Four hundred dolls and two thousand garments! Try and realise for a minute what this means—what hours of cutting and what days of fitting, what weeks and months of persistent sewing! Fancy yourself shut into a room with four hundred dolls clothed only in an elusive tissue paper garment, and realising that every doll of this lot would have to be clothed in five well-fitting articles of wearing apparel before your task could be considered at an end. Why, the discontented pendulum would not be in it with you.

It is only in some such way as this that the task which is accomplished year after year can be realised. To attempt to bring home the facts to you by elaborately describing the hundreds of different costumes in which the dolls are attired would be useless. How can one be critical or analytic in a hasty scrutiny of some four thousand dolls? To what good purpose can I again praise "Yoko" for her thoroughness and compliment her on the striking chromatic effects she produced at the Show by dividing her 400 dolls into some dozen or so blocks and dressing each block in some distinctive colour? At the most I can make mention of some of the more distinctive features of the doll dresses which I saw all about me. Thus Mrs. B. Skinner was happily inspired to give each of her four hundred dolls a necklace of beads, and to dress all of them with bows and chiffons. A strong point in Miss Ruffer's dolls which I noticed was the up-to-dateness of their millinery. Never until I saw her dolls massed on two of the pyramids did I realise what an infinite variety of shapes and styles dolls' hats and bonnets could assume. Miss Carpenter's dolls, all dressed, as they were, in most comfortable looking worsted garments, went out into the wintry world well fortified against the worst that Jack Frost could do. Mrs. Picciotto varied the prevalence of dolls of the softer sex by mingling with her smartly dressed contingent a fair proportion of boy-dolls; whilst Mrs. Vickers gave an exceptionally bright and pantomimic look to the corner where her dolls were set out by dressing them all as sprites and fairies. Perhaps the most novel feature of "Yoko's" four hundred was the presence amongst them of a strong contingent dressed in funereal black. The effect was certainly very striking, though I am not sure that the innovation is one to be generally fostered. Mrs. F. Comyns, of Watford, has once more done much to make known the Truth Show in her own neighbourhood by holding a preliminary Doll Show, at which the dolls were on view, which she ultimately sent to the Albert Hall. In this way, since she held the first of her Local Shows, she has induced so many of her friends and neighbours to take an interest in Truth's annual distribution that she was this year able to guarantee the dressing of no less than 150 of the small Truth Dolls. In addition to this her daughter, Miss E. Comyns, dressed a large doll in quilted satin, which was much admired. Amongst Mrs. Comyns' small dolls, for which an excellent place was reserved, which was well merited, were a number of stylishly dressed young ladies, that looked particularly smart. Being in an experimental mood, apparently, Mrs. Stern took the trouble to dress the hair of a number of her small dolls in the ringlets which were not uncommon in the late fifties, and which rumour says will not improbably come into fashion again. It cannot be said, however, that the style is quite worth while reviving. "Tommy Atkins" is no longer the popular hero he was in 1902, when the troopship was in the bay and the band began to play, but that the Misses Beynon have not forgotten him is evident from the way in which the military doll recurs in the collection dressed by them. Both Miss Ruffer and Miss Lockwood paid special attention to the hats and bonnets their dolls wore; a matter about which Miss Mumford also took considerable trouble. It was a charming idea of Mrs. E. Auerbach to make each of her fifty dolls the bearer of a Christmas card; whilst, following her own precedent, Miss B. Finlinson saw to it that none of her hundred dolls went to its new mistress without a little basket in its hand and a pretty necklace about its throat. Each doll in the Show came more or less directly under my notice, and I find I have made numerous notes as to various points in which certain batches excelled certain others, and diverse ways in which ladies sought to invest their exhibits with exceptional interest. But I am already finding that difficulty as to space which is becoming chronic in Truth, and the most I can now hope to do is to mention some of the ladies' names whose work seemed to me to be worthy, for some reason or another, of special eulogy. The names of those kind helpers who dressed no less than fifty dolls have already been mentioned, and to these I am anxious to add those of Miss Sharpe and friends, the Hon. Mrs. Durant, Mrs. Bentley Rudd, Miss G. Bangham, Mrs. J. Wright, Mrs. M. E. Phillips, Miss D. Creagh, Miss Greaney, Miss V. M. Page, Mrs. Tonkin, Miss J. F. Walker, Miss C. Binfield, Miss F. Boughey, Miss D. Bradley, Mrs. T. Brendon, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Delgardo, Miss Moulton, Miss C. Dunston, Mrs. Falkner, Mrs. Kittke, Miss MacMichael, Miss Wilson, Mrs. G. Hallam, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. J. A. Marsh, Miss W. Poole, Miss C. Rivington, Miss J. Pridmore, Mrs. P. G. Symington, Mrs. D. G. Watson, Miss Wilson, Miss F. S. Lewis, Mrs. Weidemann, Miss Rivington, Miss Lathom, Miss A. Fenton, and Lady Fry.

And here I think I shall have to leave the matter. Gladly would I more emphatically express if I could the thanks that are due to the ladies named and to those to whom I have no space to refer; but I feel convinced that nothing I can say can really adequately convey what we all feel at Truth Office. Besides, it is not Truth's thanks that our kind friends are anxious to get. The prizes offered by the Proprietor can at most fall into the hands of but a few. But the reward which all will receive and all appreciate is the thanks of the children whose Christmas they will help to make happy, and whose New Year will be all the gladder when it comes owing to the hearty way in which they have assisted to make the Twenty-fifth Truth Toy and Doll Show and the subsequent distribution such unmistakable successes. Yes, it is not, after all, inserting their names in Truth's *Libro d'Oro* that will recompense those who have used their time and money, their patience, and good taste, their energy, and their ingenuity to make others happy. It will be the satisfactory self-assurance that they have succeeded in this endeavour that will be their recompense; for, as our bard reminded the readers of Truth last week:

"Of all the luxuries that man can feel,
The sweetest one is that of doing good."

Though there was no Home-made Toy this year of such pre-eminent importance as the Church and the Doll's House which are associated with the name of Mr. Frank Rawson, there was no falling off, I was glad to find, in the number of model toys and other home-made playthings. So numerous were these, indeed, that additional table space had to be improvised at the last moment. I more than once felt glad, as I carefully examined the exhibits, that my task was simply to describe them and not to act also as judge of their comparative merits. On certain points, however, there need certainly be no doubt, and I am sure that all who saw Mr. George Duncan's model of a piano-organ will be ready to accord him unstinted praise for an excellent piece of work. A close examination of the instrument showed how carefully he must have studied the original of his model, which by the turning of its handle was made to play several lively tunes. It was in charge of an Italian and his wife, and provided with an excellent pair of lamps, and its handle, I venture to predict, will have little rest during the coming Christmas festivities. For the third time the Stationmaster at Ben Rhydding has sent a consignment of his toy Engines, made, as he truly remarks in an accompanying letter, for use, not ornament. Mr. Richardson, in fact, turns out models of the most substantial kind, and I am glad to be able to assure him that the engines included in his first gift to Truth are still wearing well and serving to amuse those to whom they were so long ago presented. The number of engines sent by him this year was eighteen, all made, I may mention, after the stationmaster's long spell of daily duties is over. I will not say that Mr. Richardson has a friendly rival in Mr. H. Reynolds, but the latter has been impelled, possibly by his example, to send to the Show a well-made model of a Midland Railway express engine and tender, constructed entirely of cardboard and painted in the well-known Midland Company's colours. It was somewhat difficult to classify the "Fox Hunt" sent by Mr. Harry H. W. Sparham, who is clearly an artist possessed of no small skill. Very cleverly indeed had he drawn, painted, and cut out the horses, hunters, and hounds engaged in the chase of Master Reynard; whilst the background, showing a wide stretch of what seemed to be a capital hunting country, was sketched with considerable ability. I was most struck, however, with the natural and successful way in which the attitudes of the horses and their riders had been varied. The only matter for regret was

the fragile character of the whole thing, which was essentially something to be looked at rather than to be handled.

Particularly quaint and clever were some groups of large wooden Dutch dolls, dressed and posed by Mrs. J. D. Brown, of whose large Truth dolls I have already written. These Dutch dolls, which were the quaintest oddities, had been specially purchased to illustrate some of the verses in a little book of rhymes called "Dutch Doll Ditties," published by Longmans and Co., who had given Mrs. Brown their permission to reproduce in a concrete fashion some of the pictures the volume in question contained. Thus one of the little tableaux illustrated the lines:—

She was a little wooden doll,
And ditto, ditto he;
He lost his head at sight of her,
And ditto ditto she.

A second, and even quainter picture, was that which realised the position of affairs suggested by this stanza:—

Sambo was a negro.
Though not a negro quite;
For though his face was very black,
His body it was white.
His hair, as well, was almost white,
Which made the people scoff;
So he scrubbed his face with Windsor soap,
But his smile alone came off!

But, alas! the end was sad, for finally we read:—

But later he his temper showed,
And ditto, ditto she;
And she walked off and left him,
And ditto, ditto he!

The Dutch dolls which took part in the accompanying *tableaux* were some of the oddest I have seen, and quite different from any others in the Show. From the lady who presented them (Mrs. J. D. Brown) came also two capital scrap-books, one of them mainly compiled by her little son, aged five and a half, and the other the freewill offering of a little girl of four—the youngest contributor, so far as my observation told me, who assisted in making the Truth Show a success.

A model, in the construction of which much ingenuity and taste were displayed, was that of "Prospero's Magic Cave," sent by Mrs. E. L. Cummins. The cave itself was made of some plastic material which, after having been modelled and hardened, had been painted very effectively. Inside the cave, which was furnished as a magic cave ought to be, were to be seen Ferdinand and Miranda playing chess in one corner, whilst in another stood the wizard Prospero himself, looking duly weird and uncanny. Outside, on the topmost peak of the cavern Ariel was perched ready to do his master's bidding, and possibly on the point of starting off to put a girdle round the earth before he could ejaculate "Jack Robinson!" or whatever may have been its Elizabethan equivalent. Another thoroughly up-to-date model toy was Master Norman Porter's effective representation of a scene from Captain Scott's "Antarctic Expedition." As the work of a boy of eleven the whole of the thing was well done, the arctic severity of the surroundings being suggested with considerable skill. Glittering with snow and ice was the scene where above the frozen-in *Discovery* flew the Union Jack. A well lined tent, a sledge laden with numerous cases of sugar and tea; sailors fishing through a hole in the ice, and, if I mistake not, a polar bear behind an ice-floe in the background, helped to give a realistic appearance to the landscape, if, indeed, the word ice scape would not better express the surroundings of the picture. A much younger competitor, Master L. Samuel, aged five, contributed the model of a garden, which, for so young a competitor, was not at all bad.

The practice of making copies of popular pictures continues to be popular, and several excellent results were obtained in this direction. Mrs. F. Green sent three such contributions, and one of these, "The First Sermon," after Millais's well-known painting, must be specially commended for the remarkable manner in which the small doll in the *tableau* resembled the little red-cloaked girl who is seen in the picture. So closely did the former resemble the latter that people, on first looking at it, rubbed their eyes in amazement. It almost seemed as though the doll had been cut out of Sir John Millais's original canvas, so like was it, not only in size and dress, but in features of expression also. Another popular reproduction by Mrs. F. Green was "The Old Window Seat," suggested by a picture painted by Mr. James N. Dealy. The text for this pretty little romance were certain lines, beginning:—

"In the nursery window seat
They played one happy day."

The "they" being a charming little girl and her playmate, a boy of some ten or twelve years of age, who, as they gaze together on the sea outside the window where they sit, exclaims:—

"And I will be a sailor, too,
And sail the stormy sea!"

"And what am I to do at home when you are gone?" asks the girl. This is the episode which Mrs. Green's doll picture illustrated. In the wide-cushioned window-seat were seen the girl and boy gazing out at the distant sea. Their toys and books were heaped up beside them or scattered on the floor at their feet. Naturally, as we looked at the pretty pair, we wondered what answer the future would give to the girl's question; and we were pleased to note that the reply had been furnished in a supplementary stanza. For "after long years had passed," it seems they again stood in the window-seat and gazed "on the bay, the ships,,and the wheat." Then, as "he" bends over her golden head, "she" lifts her eyes of blue

"The nursery land is best, he said,
Because it gave me you."

Surely a pretty and pathetic little idyll, and one that, thus sympathetically told, can hardly fail to delight the children amongst whose corporate possessions "The Old Window Seat" is now included. The third of Mrs. Green's pictorial reproductions was entitled "Carriage Folk," and consisted mainly of a pretty little girl-doll picturesquely posed in a wheelbarrow, as originally painted by Fräulein Menda.

Let me congratulate Miss M. M. Bayly on a reproduction of a much more widely known oil painting, the "Harmony" which was one of the earliest successes of Mr. Frank Dicksee, the R.A. This reproduction was a doll-picture of the most elaborate and finished kind. The utmost care had been lavished on the organ and its accessories, and the stained glass window in the background was most skilfully suggested. The figures of the damsel sitting at the keyboard and her attendant lover were represented by two dolls dressed in close imitation of the pair which appear in the original painting. Still more full of detail was Mrs. Foulger's reproduction of Mr. Stanhope Forbes' well-known picture, "The Health of the Bride," in which a crowd of guests sitting with the newly-married pair round a well-spread Cornish table recalled all the more prominent figures to be found in the original painting. Coming to the more miscellaneous of the home-made Toys, etc., let me say how warmly welcomed the soft worsted balls made by "S. B." will be at the hospital whither they have been sent. Such balls as these can be tossed about even by children obliged to lie prone in their cots, and cannot possibly do any damage. The neatly-made purses sent by Mrs. F. Crabb will come in most usefully for the new sixpences which the workhouse children will receive in due course. And Miss L. Chapman may be assured that the six little dolls' bedsteads made and contributed by her will give more pleasure to their recipients than Toys of a much more elaborate and expensive kind. Experience shows that the delight felt by a small child in dressing a doll is only surpassed by the charm of undressing it and putting it to "by-by."

The presented dolls were, as usual, of all sorts and sizes. Exceptional interest attached to the real Russian specimens sent from Moscow by Miss Judge and Miss Hastie, whilst Miss Potter, of Pau, again sent several fascinating specimens of the French *poupée*. Very quaint were the tiny native dolls, dressed in national costumes and sent from Arequipa, in Peru, by Mr. G. Barker. Most interesting was the doll sent by Mrs. Baynes, dressed as a Queen's District Nurse, her garments being exact models of those worn by the real nurses. In the bag this doll carried I found, on investigation, a supply of lint, plaster, etc., with scissors, and even a threepenny bit thoughtfully added by Mrs. Baynes to her outfit in order to pay her tram fare to her new home! Miss Richards also contributed a capital-dressed doll, and Miss F. M. Page one charmingly arrayed in pink, and provided with a sensible carte de visite in the shape of her own photograph. There were two very comical dolls labelled "East and West," typified by a "Tommy" with exceptionally large feet and a Mandalay damsel, who, to say the least, appeared to be a tremendous flirt, but I know not whom to thank for this odd couple, as they were sent anonymously. Miss Jameson's Imperial Russian nurse—Prascovia, as she would be called in Russia—was also a very popular exhibit, and from the same lady came a most comely Donna Elvira. Some pretty dolls from Mrs. G. Beetham also merit a special line of commendation, and these, I think, virtually complete the list of presented dolls to which I wish to call attention.

There was fortunately a good number of Scrap Books sent in. Miss G. Rawson, not by any means for the first time, set an excellent example by contributing fifty, whilst a further supply, in addition to several already referred to, was received from Lady Constance Shaw Lefevre, Miss E. Thompson, Miss C. Dunston, Miss K. Howard, Mrs. E. Oakley, Miss L. Hurst, Miss Martin-Edwards, and "Ethel and Marjorie." Nor must I forget that Lucy, Albert, and Harold Auerbach sent no less than a dozen of these always welcome books.

The number of contributors of Home-made Sweets showed a considerable increase on the total of last year, but there is still room for the further development of what might, I am sure, be made a more popular section of the Truth Show. Of the more prominent competitors Miss E. C. Baker and Miss J. F. Walker contributed the largest collections. From the former clever young lady came no less than twenty-four boxes, twelve of which were filled with mixed creams, and twelve with peppermint creams. Miss Walker's contribution was on a similar extensive scale, and Miss Bucknall also distinguished herself in this department. That there will be some difficulty in deciding as to the relative merits of the various amateur "Fullers" is certain, for there was not one of the judges who was ready and willing, even at the bidding of duty, to taste with critical intent the many sorts of home-made confections submitted for competition. I believe it was ultimately decided to attach a tasting girl to the judge's committee to assist as an expert assessor. Meanwhile if appearances were not deceptive, there can be little doubt about the excellence of the "sweet meats" sent by the young ladies already mentioned, and by such skilful manipulators of sugar in its daintiest forms as Miss W. Sayer, Mrs. Foulger, Miss Bucknall, and Miss F. M. Williams,

One of the pleasantest of the many paragraphs I write annually on the Truth Shows is that in which I thank, on behalf of the 29,000 interested children, all those who have so willingly helped us in making the Truth Exhibition and Distribution an unequivocal success. The ladies who have worked so indefatigably at doll-dressing I have already thanked. Let me now in a similar way thank all the contributors and competitors, masculine as well as feminine, who have assisted in the good work we had in hand. To the kind friends who have sent donations to the Toy Fund I would also express the children's gratitude. Nor can I forget the efforts of those who so generously volunteered to provide the Truth Show with that musical programme which always proves so popular. As soon as the dates of the Show were settled Mr. H. C. Tonking, in the most willing way, volunteered his services, and as a result duly gave a series of organ recitals which were most thoroughly enjoyed. He selected a programme which apparently gave universal satisfaction, and greatly enhanced the pleasure of many of the visitors who after strolling through the Show were only too happy to be able to sit in a comfortable stall and hear such an excellent selection of music. Mr. Tonking deserves, and is hereby presented with, Truth's sincerest thanks. To Mr. S. M. Jenkins, also, who brought his Mandoline Band—the largest in the world—on Thursday evening to the Albert Hall, Truth's acknowledgments are most assuredly due. The concert in which his numerous instrumentalists took part was a most enjoyable one, and was greatly appreciated. It is once more my pleasing duty to thank my printers for the generous way in which they did all the necessary printing for the recent Show without charge, thus in effect, making a handsome donation to the Truth Toy Fund. To the Metropolitan District Railway for displaying posters of the Show at their stations, Truth's thanks are also gratefully accorded. In short I would include every one who helped in any way, either with their time or their money, or both, in the thanks which are undoubtedly due. Need I say that amongst those thus included, are the ladies who worked so hard at arranging the dolls and toys at the Albert Hall; the committee of experts who have not yet reached the end of their onerous duties as judges of the comparative merits of the various exhibits; the staff at the Albert Hall, and last, though by no means least, Mr. Hilton Carter and the executive who for a week placed their commodious building at Truth's disposal for a fee which was not much more than nominal when compared with what the full charge would have been had no special concession been made in the case of Truth.

There is another paragraph which it is also necessary to print, and always will be so long as we humans are fallible mortals and not perfectly-regulated machines. So certain is it that mistakes will occur, even at the best-constituted Toy and Doll Show, that the lines I am about to write might with safety be stereotyped and kept ready for use each successive year. My purpose, then, in writing this is briefly to apologise in anticipation for the mistakes which are to a certain extent inevitable, and to promise in advance that any errors that may be pointed out shall be corrected with all possible completeness and promptitude. It is, for example, certain that in some cases the prefix "Mrs." has been printed instead of "Miss," and *vice versâ*. A certain number of errors, also, must have been made in the spelling of surnames. The action of the law of averages makes the presence of such mistakes inevitable. In the hurry and bustle, too, of packing and unpacking and arranging the numerous articles which are exhibited, cards and labels are apt to get torn off or mislaid, or in some cases changed. But it ought not to be difficult to put any such little matters as these straight, and if any readers who notice any mistakes of this or any other kind, all that is asked of them is that they will at once communicate with Truth Office so that the errors may be corrected before the Prize list is finally made out. As usual, in addition to the prizes which proved such an attractive feature at the Show, it is the intention of the proprietor of Truth to present every lady who dressed a large Truth doll or not less than twelve small ones with a Truth brooch as a small memento of their association with the recent Show. These Truth brooches are of silver, and of an appropriate design, and next week it is intended to print a list of those exhibitors to whom one will be presented.

I meant to have alluded to faults of omission as well as of commission. It is tolerably certain that no mention was in some cases made of dolls and other exhibits which well deserved attention. That some things should have escaped notice is only what might be expected when it is understood under what unfavourable conditions as to time and space much of the work at the Albert Hall has to be done. But here again I trust it may be possible to put right the things that have temporarily gone wrong.

The following list, which is intended to be a complete one, will undoubtedly be found to some extent imperfect. It purports to contain the names of all the ladies who dressed either large or small Truth Dolls, but it has been found impossible to check it thoroughly. Will any dresser of dolls, therefore, whose name does not appear in the said list be good enough to send a card or letter pointing out the omission without delay? Here is the list as it stands at present:—

Mrs. E. J. Auerbach, 50 s., 1 l.; Mrs. G. Ayling, 1 l.; Mrs. Appleby, 1 l.; Miss C. Burfield, 12 s.; Miss Burfield, 1 l.; Mrs. Bentley-Rudd, 12 s.; Miss F. Boughey, 29 s.; Mrs. B. Barclay, 6 l.; Mrs. M. G Bourne, 6 s.; Miss D. Bradley, 20 s.; Miss M. Baugham, 12 s.; Miss G. Baugham, 12 s.; Miss K. M. Burr, 15 s.; Mrs. F. Brendon, 12 s.; Mrs. E. G. Beynon, 48 s.; The Misses Beynon, 60 s.; Mrs. J. D. Brown, 2 l.; Mrs. A. W. Broad's Daughters, 1 l.; Mrs. W. Bates, 1 l.; Mrs. Combe, 60 s.; Mrs. F. Comyns, 150 s., 1 l.; Miss E. Comyns, 1 l.; Mrs. A. N. Carpenter, 50 s.; Miss Cave, 6 s.; Miss Connell, 12 s.; Mrs. F. Crabb, 1 l.; Mrs. Creagh, 1 s.; Miss E. H. Cave, 1 l.; Miss Connell, 1 l.; Lady C. Combe, 1 l.; Lady Cooper, 4 l.; Mrs. F. Capon, 1 l.; Miss C. Dunston, 12 s.; The Hon. Mrs. Durant, 24 s.; Miss Delgado, 24 s.; The Misses Evans, 6 s.; Mrs. Falkner, 12 s., Miss A. Fenton, 12 s.; Miss B. Finlinson, 100 s.; Mrs. Fry, 2 l.; Lady Fry, 6 l.; Miss M. Foster-Barham, 1 l.; Mme. M. Gilson, 148 s., 3 l.; Miss Godwin, 1 s., 1 l.; Miss Greaves, 12 s., 1 l.; The Misses Glave, 36 s.; Mrs. Grant, 24 s.; Miss M. Gardner, 1 l.; Miss E. K. Gordon, 1 l.; Miss A. M. Hancock, 2 l. 1 s.; Miss L. J. Hood, 169, s.. 8 l.; Mrs. G. Hallam, 12 s.; Mrs. A. Hill, 1 l.; Miss A. L. Hone, 1 l.; Mrs. Kittke, 2 s.; Miss J. Kittke, 1 l.; Miss Koch, 6 s., 2 l.; Mrs. J. A. Kennedy, 1 l.; Mrs. nd Miss Kent, 2 l.; Miss A. Lay, 2 s.; Mrs. M. Lathom, 6 s.; Miss F. S. Lewis, 6 s.; Miss A. Lockwood, 50s.; Miss Van Lessen, 6 s.; Mrs. Laird, 1 l.; Miss Moulton, 25 s.; Miss Mitchell Molyneux, 50 s., 4 l.; Miss Mac Michael, 7 s.; Miss A. Mumford, 24 s.; Mrs. G. A. Marsh, 9 s.; Mrs. Picciotto, 100 s.; Mrs. Pilcher, 60 s.; Miss W. Poole, 12 s.; Miss C. Pearson, 150 s.; Mrs. M. E. Phillips, 3 s.; Mrs. J. Pridmore, 6 s.; Mrs. W. R. Poole, 1 l.; Miss Pearse, 1 l.; Miss N. Rein, 2 s.; Miss Ruffer, 325s.; Miss V. Ruffer, 1 l.; Miss Rawson, 400 s., 6 l.; Miss S. F. Rowcliffe, 1 l.; Miss C. Rivington, 12 s.; The Misses Stevenson, 2 s. 1 l.; Miss J. Slardman, 1 l.; Miss M. Streatfeild, 60 s., 1 l.; Mrs. Stern, 144 s.; Miss A. E. Smith, 100 s.; Mrs. B. Skinner, 400 s.; Mrs. P. G. Symington, 24 s.; Miss G. Scholefield, 24 s.; Miss Sharpe and Friends, 24 s.; Miss M. A. Sinnott, 1 l.; Miss M. Thompson, 12 s.; Mrs. Tonkin, 18 s.; Mrs. Vickers, 100 s.; Miss J. F. Walker, 24 s.; Miss E. Wyvill, 1 l.; Mrs. Whitehead, 12 s., 1 l.; Mrs. D. G. Watson, 12 s.; Miss Wilson, 12 s.; Mrs. M. Wright, 6 s.; Miss V. M. Wrigley, 2 l.; Mrs. Weidemann, 3 s., 1 l.; Mrs. D. Wake, 1 l.

MUSIC.

A DEFENCE OF THE DEADHEAD.

THEY have been discussing our old friend the deadhead in France, and M. Jules Claretie has, it seems, come out with a bold suggestion. This is nothing less than a Deadhead Theatre—or Théâtre Libre, as it might perhaps be more gracefully described—which should be devoted entirely to that deserving section of the theatre- and concert-going public. Obviously it would need to be a large one, but sagacious M. Claretie has no doubts, it appears, as to the feasibility of the project. There would be no charge for admission, but the expenses would be defrayed by means of the advertisements which would decorate the auditorium. Obviously, too, these could be introduced with excellent effect in the course of the dialogue. The heroine would confide to her friend the name of the establishment at which she obtained her hats, while her lover would be equally communicative respecting the cigars he smoked, the boots he wore, and other details of like nature. Up to a point no doubt the play-bill supplies such information at present, but manifestly the practice could be greatly extended in the manner suggested. Possibly it might be questioned whether deadheads represent precisely the class to which your advertiser desires most to appeal. Yet a moment's thought reveals the injustice of that implied reflection upon the deadhead's social and economic status.

For, after all, which of us is not a deadhead when the occasion presents itself? Nay, have we not lately seen an entire audience of deadheads, embracing great, wise, and eminent of every order, one and all assembled at the bidding of a spirited contemporary to see justice done to an entertainment which a brutal paying public had contemned? Perish the thought, therefore, that should impute discredit to the deadhead or derogate from his position as an important and self-respecting member of the community. Is there not on record, indeed, the case of one such who took his functions so seriously, and had so lofty a conception of his duty to himself and the community, that when a certain production failed to win his approbation he solemnly rose in his stall, gathered up hat and coat, and, making his way to the box-office, sternly demanded the return of his visiting card? Even more impressive, perhaps, was the action of him who, similarly circumstanced, vacated his free fauteuil and positively paid for re-admission for the purpose of giving free vent to those expressions of disapproval which his native delicacy had compelled him, while a guest of the management, to withhold. In the light of such incidents, who shall venture to asperse the character and belittle the importance of a class to whom the character of our drama is so dear?

Musicians know the deadhead too. How, indeed, our concert-givers would subsist without his loyal support it is impossible to surmise. The truth is that in these days no self-respecting concert-goer with the smallest pretensions to musical or social distinction dreams of paying for his seat. The humble occupants of the gallery and other inferior places may do this if so minded, but stallites scorn recourse to such humiliating and plebeian practices. For them the policy of the open door and the free admission. Misguided attempts have been made at times by daring managers to oppose a custom so manifestly designed in the interests of the greatest happiness of the greatest number, but, needless to say, without result—nay, in certain cases with results all too tragical. What killed the "Pops," for example? The absence of the deadhead. Professor Kruse deemed him inessential, indulged the fond and foolish fancy that his presence could be dispensed with, and in this absurd belief went so far as actually to exclude him. Rash man! He little realised the force which he thus antagonised. But his awakening was swift. For the deadhead arose in his might and—the "Pops" were no more. How was it accomplished? In the most dignified manner possible. The deadhead simply stayed away in his thousands, and left the Professor and his colleagues to fiddle to empty benches.

Never again will Professor Kruse venture to give concerts without the co-operation of the deadhead. The thing cannot really be done in this country. On the contrary, the deadhead's market value is steadily rising, and in the height of the season it is only the privileged few who can command his attendance. The device has even been attempted before now of offering him tea as an additional inducement to attend afternoon performances, and this, perhaps, is only a beginning of what may follow. One obvious development suggests itself, for instance. London is a large place, and the cost of locomotion is considerable. Why should the deadhead be put to this expense? The question may well be asked. Let concert-givers see to it, therefore, and provide a vehicular service to convey him, even as the reluctant voter is carried to the poll, to the appointed place of meeting. And various other ways in which his lot might be ameliorated will readily suggest themselves. But whether this Claretie scheme will be reckoned by him worthy of encouragement is, perhaps, open to question. It must always be remembered that the deadhead is nothing if not critical, and this Free Theatre—well, what would be the quality of the performances? Would they be worthy of the deadhead's support? Would they be such that he could attend them without loss of dignity and artistic self-respect? Upon the answer to such questions would hang the issue of the venture.

The most interesting of last week's concerts was that of the London Symphony Orchestra, with Herr Steinbach as conductor. This was the second appearance which Herr Steinbach, who is now conductor at Cologne, has made in this country, and once more he proved himself an orchestral chief of the first order. Perhaps in some ways he recalls Herr Mottl more than any other of his contemporaries, particularly in respect of the sledge-hammer force which he knows how to obtain, and also in the vigour of his gestures, which at times are almost alarmingly energetic. Yet it is in the music of Brahms that he particularly excels, and his reading of that master's fourth symphony—in which he was heard, it will be remembered, on the occasion of his previous visit—was again a superb achievement. The prodigious vitality and vigour which he infused into the cryptic finale constituted, indeed, a brilliant refutation of the ancient belief, still entertained by not a few, that Brahms's music is lacking in emotional qualities. At the same time, while so forceful, he can also roar as gently as any sucking dove, and some of the pianissimi which he obtained were as wonderful in their way as his terrific climaxes. He is certainly the greatest of living Brahms conductors.

At the same time the suggestion is quite absurd that those who have previously liked their Brahms when interpreted in more humdrum fashion are made to look foolish by Steinbach's readings of his works. The argument seems to be that because Steinbach's readings differ to some extent from those of less gifted conductors, therefore all who have professed to have enjoyed the latter are either debarred from appreciating Steinbach's or convicted of insincerity. This, however, is ridiculous. It is, in fact, another variant of the old fallacy, recently referred to here, of exaggerating the conductor's powers and functions. Steinbach interprets Brahms supremely well, but he does not alter the character of his music; and it is the music in itself, as it stands in the score, and apart from this or that particular performance of it which Brahms-lovers enjoy.

The Concert-goers' Club reception at the Princes' Galleries on Sunday evening in honour of Dr. Richard Strauss was a very pleasant affair which brought together a large number of well-known musical folk, with Sir Edward Elgar as a worthy representative of our native art at the head of them. Many would doubtless have found the musical programme more attractive if it had included some of Strauss's own songs, but there was, it seems, a difficulty here. Strauss, it appears, cannot endure hearing his songs sung and played unless he has had a chance of coaching singer and accompanist, while he does not care to accompany a strange vocalist himself without previous rehearsal, and since his other engagements—for he has been as busy as ever during his brief stay in our midst—did not admit of this being arranged, those present had to be content instead with a capital performance by the composer and Professor Kruse of his early, but very brilliant and effective, sonata for violin and piano in E flat. On Monday evening Dr. Strauss conducted an orchestral concert given by Miss Ethel Newcomb, a clever young American pianist, who thus made her début under exceptionally interesting conditions.

The New York *Musical Courier* has an amusing story, by the way, of Strauss and a young Polish composer, Ludomir Rozycki by name, who recently called on him in Berlin with a letter of introduction. Strauss was, it seems, at the time in the kitchen investigating some derangement of the cooking stove (a task quite in the spirit of the "Sinfonia Domestica") and awaiting the advent of a sweep who had been summoned to give his professional attention to the matter. By some misunderstanding Rozycki made his way in by the back entrance, and, arriving at the psychological moment when the stove was behaving worse than ever, was accorded a warm reception by Strauss on the supposition that he was the belated sweep. Explanations ensued, of course, and eventually, we read, after perusal of the scores which his visitor had brought, Strauss telephoned to his publisher, Herr Bock, that he had found some new compositions that must be published, so it was a case of all's well that ends well.

Other recent concerts have not been very remarkable, apart from that directed by Herr Steinbach already referred to. There was, however, a very large audience, responsive as ever to an all-Wagner programme, at the Newman benefit concert given by the Queen's Hall orchestra. Two novelties of some interest were produced also at Mr. Arthur Newstead's recent concert—a prelude by Sir A. C. Mackenzie, entitled "Astarte" (written originally for a projected revival of "Manfred," by Sir Henry Irving), and a showy concert-overture by Mr. A. von Ahn Carse. At the Sunderland-Thistleton chamber concert on Friday a newly-discovered sonata by Purcell—by all accounts a delightful work—was an attractive feature of an exclusively British programme, while Mr. Frederic Lamond, at his Chopin recital on Saturday, proved himself once again a pianist of rare

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distinction. The National Sunday League concert on Sunday evening was interesting from the fact that the London Symphony Orchestra was conducted on this occasion by Mr. Landon Ronald. Mr. Ronald is one of the cleverest and most versatile of our younger musicians, and, in the opinion of many, has in him the makings of a really fine conductor. But the difficulty, of course, for such as he is to find the opportunity of practising and developing their powers. I understand, however, in Mr. Ronald's case that he is directing a series of concerts in Birmingham next year, which should help to this end.

The production of "Tristan und Isolde" in Paris last week for the first time at the National Opera points a moral for those who run away with the notion that only a fat subvention and a national opera-house are needed to solve the opera problem in this country. The Paris Opera enjoys a subsidy of £32,000 a year. "Tristan und Isolde" is generally regarded, perhaps, as the greatest of all Wagner's works; yet Parisians have never had a chance of hearing it given by their State-supported Opera until last week. In London, on the other hand, it has received numberless performances of the highest excellence. Could one find a more striking instance of that lack of initiative almost inevitably characteristic of your State-supported establishment? One of the correspondents, I notice, puts the thing down to Chauvinistic influences, but seeing that, as he also recalls, other Wagnerian works, such as "Lohengrin" and the "Meistersinger," have not been similarly tabooed, this explanation of the matter will hardly serve.

The delay in the production of "Tristan" is, in point of fact, all the more surprising since it is an opera which one might have thought would have appealed especially to French tastes, and doubtless most French music-lovers would, in fact, have been delighted long since to accord it welcome. State-supported officialdom stood in the way, however, and only now, forty years after the first performance of the work at Munich, have their wishes been gratified. In further disproof of the Chauvinistic theory, as the supposed explanation of what is perfectly explicable on other grounds, one may point to the fact that precisely similar treatment has been extended to the works of other countries. I should be surprised to learn, for example, that a single Russian opera has ever been produced at the Paris Opera, while the many notable works which living Italian composers have produced—"La Bohême," "Pagliacci," "Cavalleria," etc.—have been equally unsuccessful, it appears, in gaining admission through the sacred portals which M. Gailhard guards.

Mr. Frank Rendle's letter to a contemporary respecting the financial results of the recent San Carlo season at Covent Garden is interesting. According to his statement, after providing for his proportion of the expenses and paying his rent to the Grand Opera Syndicate, his profit was represented by the fact that he had the use of the theatre for balls on three occasions practically rent free. "On the other hand," he adds, "I had been paying rent for the theatre from August 25 to October 17 without deriving any return from my tenancy," which suggests at once the obvious advantages of a cheap opera season from the point of view of the lessee of the theatre, even if it does no more than pay the rent. It is wonderful, indeed, that it should be practicable to keep such a costly theatre as Covent Garden going at all by the agency of occasional fancy-dress balls alone. Meanwhile, the air is thick with rumours of future developments—a new opera-house to replace Covent Garden, a rival Italian season next summer to that of the Syndicate, a second new opera-house to be run in opposition to that which succeeds Covent Garden, and the establishment of light opera on the lines referred to in these notes last week at a theatre already in existence, being only a few of several projects concerning which gossip is busy.

Great Northern Central Hospital, Holloway. Very poor and in urgent need of funds. Only £4,000 a year reliable income. Expenditure £14,000.—L. H. Glenton-Kerr, Secretary.

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—It is Hobbes, I think, who says that "if there were any interest of appetite or passion inclining men to deny that the three angles of a triangle are together equal to two right angles, men would be found to deny it." I fancy that if Mr. Samuel Hussey could be induced to read Mr. Justin McCarthy's "The Story of an Irishman" (1) he would still persist in the assertion I quoted last week from his "Reminiscences" that Parnell was the "Veiled Prophet" of Fenianism, and "The Old Man of the Mountains" of Moonlightism. The whole story of "The Parnell Commission" and again of the "Committee Room Fifteen" revolt from Parnell, is told in Mr. McCarthy's autobiography with a judicial impartiality characteristic of that most modest and moderate of the Irish leaders. No less characteristic of Mr. McCarthy is his fast personal friendship with Parnell after he had himself become the leader of the anti-Parnellites:—

> Meanwhile, my personal relations with Parnell continued to be on a friendly footing, and he always received me with old-time cordiality. On one occasion we went together to a banking-house in the City to make new arrangements about the appropriation of some funds which had been deposited there in his name in the days when he was leader of the united party. I only mention this incident because of the astonishment created in Palace Yard when Parnell and I drove up in the same hansom to the members' entrance of the House of Commons. It was the talk of the lobby for hours after, that we two, who were now regarded as deadly enemies, should have come to the House together in this way, as if we had never been separated by disunion of any kind. I had heard from many friends that Parnell was doing serious injury to his health by rushing from place to place in Ireland during a dreary winter, and, furthermore, taxing his strength by the incessant making of speeches to great open-air meetings. I remonstrated with him and urged him not to over-tax his strength. He listened quietly to all my remonstrances and thanked me for them, but assured me that the incessant movement was at the present crisis likely to do him more good than harm, as it kept him from brooding too much over the troubles that had come upon the country and upon him.

When I made the same remonstrance to Parnell in those days, and warned him that he would kill himself by rushing back and forward from Brighton to the remotest corners of Ireland, he said, with a genial smile, "Nothing but the bad whiskey I get down there will ever kill me." But a fortnight later he was dead. Perhaps I ought to guard against any matter-of-fact misconstruction of this playful speech of Parnell's by saying what, indeed, Mr. McCarthy also says, that the Irish leader was temperate almost to teetotalism. I remember another speech of Parnell's to me at this time because of its unconscious humour. A prominent English politician and journalist, having asked him to put him in for an Irish seat for a purpose Parnell held to be unworthy, "I told him," said Parnell to me, "to go to the devil, and he then went to Tim Healy." Talking of jokes, this was not a bad interpolation to an anti-Parnellite speech which Mr. McCarthy records. "I deeply regret," said the anti-Parnellite orator at Cork,

(1) "The Story of an Irishman." By Justin McCarthy. (London: Chatto & Windus. 12s.)

(2) "The Duke of Devonshire." By Henry Leach. (London: Methuen. 12s. 6d. net.)

(3) "The Silken East." By V. C. Scott O'Connor. (London: Hutchinson. 42s. net.)

(4) "My Chinese Note Book." By Lady Susan Townley. (London: Methuen. 10s. 6d. net.)

(5) "The Channel Islands." Painted by H. B. Winbush. Described by Edith F. Carey. (London: A. and C. Black. 20s. net.)

(6) "Bonnie Scotland." Painted by Sutton Palmer. Described by A. R. Hope Moncrieff. (London: A. and C. Black. 20s. net.)

(7) "Familiar London." Painted by Rose Barton. (London: A. and C. Black. 20s. net.)

(8) "Adventures among Pictures." By C. Lewis Hind. (London: A. and C. Black. 7s. 6d. net.)

(9) "Paris and its Story." By Thomas Okey. (London: Dent. 21s. net.)

(10) "Rome and its Story." By St. Clair Baddeley and Lina Duff Gordon. Illustrated by Aubrey Waterfield. (London: Dent. 21s. net.)

(11) "John Chilcote, M.P." By Katherine Cecil Thurston. (London: William) Blackwood & Sons. 6s.)

(12) "The Truants." By A. E. W. Mason. (London: Smith, Elder, & Co. 6s.

(13) "The Heart of Penelope." By Mrs. Belloc Lowndes. (London: William Heinemann. 6s.)

(14) "The Lady Electra." By Robert Barr. (London: Methuen & Co. 6s.)

"having to oppose Parnell, whom I have known since he was in petticoats." "Ah," cried the wit, "if he had only left 'em alone after that!" I cannot resist giving one other extract from this calm and kindly retrospect of an honourable and admirable life, describing Mr. McCarthy's farewell interview with Gladstone:—

On March 5, 1894, I had my last interview with Mr. Gladstone, who welcomed me with the kindness and cordiality which I had ever experienced from him since I came to be personally known to him. We had a long talk on political subjects and on many other subjects as well. He assured me, with all the earnestness and the emphasis so characteristic of him when he felt deeply on any question, that he was thoroughly devoted to the cause of Home Rule for Ireland, and perfectly satisfied in his mind that the Home Rule cause was destined to come, and before very long, to a triumphant issue. He spoke of Parnell in language of generous appreciation, and expressed his profound regret that so really great a career should have come to so sudden and disastrous an end.

"My husband is so good-natured," says Mrs. Cadwallader in "Middlemarch," "that he even speaks well of his bishop, which no other beneficed clergyman was ever known to do"; and Mr. McCarthy is so full of the milk of human kindness that he even speaks well of his publishers!

Another book of very considerable interest, both from the political and personal point of view, is the biography of the Duke of Devonshire (2) which Mr. Leach has written. As the author justly remarks, the career of the Duke has been much less discussed in contemporary literature than those of persons of much less importance and interest, and his effort to fill the blank is both judicious and complete, and well repays perusal. You were telling me quite recently of some beautifully-illustrated books, but I am quite certain that though you may have found some to equal, it would be impossible to find anything to excel "The Silken East" (3). These two gorgeous volumes, diversely illustrated with photographs and colour plates, tell the history of Burma, describe its scenery, its architecture, its peoples and their lives, habits, and customs, with a completeness which has hitherto rarely, if ever, been equalled by any enthusiastic resident in any of our dependencies. Less distinguished for its illustrations is another volume dealing with the Far East which I have been perusing with much pleasure. There is not much that is absolutely new in Lady Susan Townley's "Chinese Note Book" (4), but to any one who likes to get a first-hand impression of sights and scenes they have no opportunity of viewing for themselves, this note-book is to be thoroughly recommended. It is just a bright and chatty record of a clever and observant woman's experience amongst the Celestials. But to return to the volumes in which the illustrations are the principal feature. Coming nearer home, "The Channel Islands" (5) find a capable historian in Miss Edith F. Carey, and a chronicler of their beauty spots in Mr. H. B. Winbush; and "Bonnie Scotland" (6) has full regard paid to her wealth of beauty by Mr. Sutton Palmer, with whom as author Mr. A. B. Hope Moncrieff is worthily associated. And, again, "Familiar London" (7), painted by Miss Rose Barton, has all the elements of popularity. It is a sentimental London, a picture of the West End, which Miss Barton produces, but of the great East and still greater South one learns nothing. The painter of an unfamiliar London would, I fancy, do a real public service, but he has not at present made his appearance. The publishers of these last three books do not, however, confine themselves to the production of highly-priced volumes, and to mention only one amongst the many cheaper illustrated books which betray evidences of earnest care in the production, Mr. Lewis Hind's "Adventures Among Pictures" (8) must needs appeal irresistibly to any one with a scrap of love for art. Nor are Messrs. Black the only publishers who bring knowledge and care to the making of beautiful books. Messrs. Dent and Co. have an honourable record in this direction, and fully is their reputation sustained in the story of "Paris" (9), told by Mr. Thomas Okey and illustrated by Miss Katherine Kimball and Mr. O. F. M. Ward. Mr. Okey brings knowledge as well as enthusiasm to his work, and the result is a volume which, adorned with fine colour plates, dainty pen-and-ink drawings, and many half-tone reproductions of pictures, is one of the most complete of its kind. A companion volume to the "Paris" is the "Rome" (10), in which the great task of presenting within the compass of a single volume a satisfactory history of the Eternal City from classical times until the Sack of Rome, is successfully—even brilliantly—performed.

Now as regards fiction, Mrs. Thurston's intensely interesting "John Chilcote, M.P." (11) reminds me of a madman's reasoning—irrefragable, if you accept the premises. But the premises are difficult to accept, and this very difficulty is the best measure of the success of the author who has overcome it so completely. Two men are so indistinguishably alike that they can play Jekyll and Hyde to each other. The one an M.P. with the most promising prospects and the most charming, beautiful, and accomplished wife, so despairs of himself as the hopeless and helpless victim of the drug habit, that he induces the other to take his place in the world, the House, and the home. Unfortunately, however, the Hyde of the story is always turning up, or telegraphing to the imminent risk of the exposure of Jekyll's impersonation of him. The tangle is complicated by the mutual passion which grows up between Jekyll and the wife of the derelict Hyde. How the story ends I shall leave you to find out for yourself, merely assuring you that your interest, which is perhaps more psychological even than dramatic, never falters and never ceases to grow to the end. When "Vanity Fair" was appearing in numbers, Mrs. Liddell, the wife of the Dean, said to Thackeray, "Oh, Mr. Thackeray, you *must* let Dobbin marry Amelia." "So he shall," replied Thackeray, "and when he does he shall find her not worth the having." That is precisely your feeling about all that the hero of Mr. Mason's "The Truants" (12) undergoes to win the love and respect of his silly little wife. Pamela, the other principal lady, also disappoints you a little by her resolute refusal to give the hero her reasons for advising him on no account to leave his wife. However, your interest in the hero and his adventures make well up to you for your lack of interest in the lady for whom they were undergone. "The Heart of Penelope" (13) is capacious and capricious, and, indeed, is best described by the second or, perhaps, third hero of the novel, Lord Wantley: "Penelope is never content, never even approximately happy, unless she is—well, unless she has some man, or, better still, several men in play. With her it has always been a game, and a game only becomes absorbing and exciting when there is present an element of danger." Truth to say, I do not care for Penelope and her prurient confidences to each of her lovers that her first marriage to the millionaire was merely nominal. Cecily, the second heroine, is, however, a charming girl, and the novel is true to life and admirably written. I do not know when I read a set of short stories—chiefly American—of such uniform interest and excellence as Mr. Robert Barr's "The Lady Elect" (14). Perhaps the most interesting is "The Great Mogul," the most amusing "Two of a Trade," and the most improbable "Long Distance Telephone."—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND B. O'BRIEN.

P.S.—Messrs. Hutchinson, you will be glad to hear, have just commenced the issue of a new series of standard fiction, of which the first volumes are "Tom Jones," "Roderick Random," "Joseph Andrews," and "Peregrine Pickle." In well printed, daintily bound volumes, at 1s. 6d. in cloth and half-a-crown bound in leather, they could not be improved upon.

P.P.S.—Try "Bed-Time Fairy Tales" (Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., 3s. 6d.) on the youngsters. They are just the type of stories which never fail in their appeal to the sprouting intelligence; bright, clear, and with a sufficient admixture of the wonder element in their composition.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—As you know, we have dearly loved the Dutch ever since our visit to The Hague and Scheveningen one glorious August. So it is joyful to us to see that, for some reason, Holland and its people are in very great favour this Christmas, on cards and on crackers. The quaint garb and curious headgear make the pictures what they should always be, picturesque. Anything sweeter than a small, white-capped Dutch child, laughing at a rabbit washing its absurd face you cannot imagine, unless it be the pretty girl to whose skirt she is clinging, and who is laughing with her. This card was sent us by the charming friend with the lovely voice and glorious hair, whose high notes are sweet and clear as a thrush's, and whose tremolo is a delicate thrill on a note instead of the unsteady wobbling that the majority of singers make of it. And, more proof of the popularity of the Dutch, one of the most successful of the doll groups at the great TRUTH Toy Show at the Albert Hall was one sent by the Misses Glave, representing a seashore in Holland—probably our beloved Scheveningen itself—with brown-sailed fishing boats riding on the (paper) waves, and a crowd of Dutch fisher-folk on the sands. They are buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage, and the skill and ingenuity testified in this composition are beyond praise.

Miss Streatfeild's lovely dolls, all so beautifully dressed, were engaged in every kind of amusement. Above them were the baby and the nurses, one of the latter French, one German, and one Italian, all dressed in their national costume. From far Tokio came a number of nurses, dressed in costume by Mrs. C. Barclay, and all making bandages for the wounded in this ghastly war.

A very pretty and beautifully-dressed set of dolls was contributed by Mme. Clematis, of South Molton-street. Naturally, the hats were quite exquisite and up to date. So many of the large dolls were beautifully dressed that I cannot pick out even one for special praise, but I must just mention the lovely groups representing the first act of "Véronique," the successful comic opera.

The eleven thousand sixpences, again anonymously contributed this year, were always surrounded. In these hard times the very sight of a little ready money attracts spectators, even if they know perfectly well that they cannot have it!

A funny thing happened the other day. The aunts were staying with us in town for their Christmas shopping, and after luncheon the elder, who is a perfect prima donna in snoring, fell asleep and began a most extraordinary performance, partly whistling, partly grunting, and partly choking. Our nice Puff, fearfully distressed, by this, and evidently thinking poor Aunt Tabitha in danger of strangling, behaved just as the dear idiot of a dog would behave and seated himself in front of her chair, sobbing with misery and concern. Bee was giggling, of course, and the climax came when, upon our esteemed relative finishing an elaborate passage with a gurgling cadenza poor Puff, screaming with anguish and bent on saving her from disaster, jumped on her knee and nearly killed her with fright. It was really difficult to answer Aunt Tabitha's many questions with becoming seriousness.

She and Aunt Jemima are going to live for ever. They have taken a house at Cheltenham, where old ladies and gentlemen live on and on. I suppose it is the odour of intense respectability pervading the place that keeps them alive. It acts as a preservative, perhaps, or as a prophylactic. And another thing that almost guarantees our aunts a good spell of longevity is the fact that they have sunk in annuities every penny they possess. Is it the resultant peace of mind and freedom from worry that keep annuitants alive? Or is is that persons who are capable of such selfishness (Richard calls it selfish) as depriving their proper heirs of legacies in order to make sure of comfort in their own old age, must be of a pachydermatous construction not to be easily assailed by illness or worry?

Richard condemns them, but I do not. I think it is only considerate of the old aunts to provide for their own old age. Think of the thousands and thousands who do *not* buy themselves annuities and who fall into poverty through ill-judged speculation, or through overgenerosity. What a burden they are to themselves and their friends. One pities them sincerely, but one also commiserates their relatives.

We saw some very fascinating old glass the other day at Mortlock's. The long stems and trumpet-bowls of these early designs are most graceful. Some of them—in fact, the majority—have curious spiral designs in opaque or semi-opaque white, within the stems. These patterns are occasionally most complicated, like a very Laocoon of corkscrews; and with every movement of the glass they seem to stir in a most weird manner. We were told that this effect was obtained by bubbles, but our minds were as much exercised as to how they came thus as George IV was puzzled about the apple in the dumpling. We saw a half-yard glass for ale, and many dumpy Flemish and Belgian glasses. An English one has the Stuart rose beautifully engraved on it. There is a refinement about engraved glass which enhances its beauty, and the old pieces are most excellent works of art. We did not care for the gilded Spanish glass, nor for those with intimate sacred scenes engraved upon them, though all were interesting. Would it not be delightful if one could have a separate consciousness to keep at work all the time learning about such things as pictures and glass, carvings, prints, engravings, silver, china, and all the other executive technical arts that are as difficult to appreciate as they are worth understanding.

Is it not a good idea to have "Forget-me-Not" on one's umbrella-stand? We saw one of these in repoussé copper at Hewetson's, in Tottenham Court-road, when we went to choose a nice, comfortable armchair for the dear pater. Their furniture always lasts so well and never develops moth, and their chairs and couches are of the most luxurious character—veritable sleepy hollows. One sinks into them with almost aggressive contentment, so downy the stuffing, and so excellent the springs. I also found an "occasional" chair there that is just the right height and shape for sewing in, or doing some bit of fancy work. It has a shape that really supports the human back without permitting it to lounge, and though it has arms, they are not high enough to interfere with the energetic movement of the hands when busily employed. I also found an easy chair for good old Sarah, which will add a joy to her comfortable declining years. The luxury of supplying her with it and seeing her comfortable in it is very cheap at four pounds, I think.

We are off to-morrow to spend Christmas in our riverside cottage. It is so nice to leave the poor maids all the trouble of sweeps and cleaning house, and to come back and find it all done. "You won't forget to leave us plenty of Scrubb, m'm, please," said Ada to me this morning. By this she means our friend in need, Scrubbs' Cloudy Ammonia, a treasure to the cleanly housewife, and a boon in the bathroom. A little in the bath imparts a most delightful sensation of refreshment. It makes an excellent hairwash, too, producing a lustrous gloss. As to hair-brushes it cleanses them in a few seconds. Mim cleans all her trinkets with it, and in the laundry it is, if possible, more valuable even than elsewhere.

We bade farewell to our adored London at a little dinner in the beautiful East Room at the Criterion. Our table was in the window, and we could look out on the wonderful triangle in which the lights of London appear to be concentrated, and where the pulse of the

REDFERN'S special offer for XMAS PRESENTS. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

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great city beats fastest. There was liquid mud outside, but it added to the picture by reflecting all the lights—the white, the red, the blue. Over our heads was a blue sky with white clouds, "like lambs in a meadow." It was but painted on the ceiling, yet we enjoyed its festive aspect and its contrast to the murky sky outside. Jim always says that the Criterion chef pleases his (Jim's) palate better than any other in London. Three things in the menu he selected for very special praise, the suprême de turbotin Rachel, the wild duck à la presse, and the celery with marrow. And then the music is so nice and soft that one can enjoy it as an accompaniment to conversation without having to tire oneself by shouting to make oneself heard.

This is a lovely Christmas cake:—

Beat 1 lb. of butter with 1 lb. of sugar until it is very light, then beat in nine eggs separately, adding a glass of old brandy and half a glass of rum, a little at a time. Then mix in 1 lb. of flour, 4 oz. of almonds blanched, chopped, and baked a fawn colour, ½ lb. of raisins stoned and chopped, ½ lb. of currants, ½ lb. of sultanas, ½ lb. of chopped mixed peel, the grated rind of two fresh lemons, and a grated nutmeg. Mix thoroughly together and bake it in a large tin or stewpan that is lined with thick paper, well greased, and bake it in a moderate oven for four hours. Mix 1 lb. of ground almonds with 2 lb. of icing and castor sugar mixed, the juice of a large lemon, and the yolks of four eggs. Mix it into a stiff paste and put it evenly on the top of the cake. Then put two coatings of icing on the cake, allowing one to dry before putting on the second, which latter should be a little thinner. After it is dry, pipe it with white icing and decorate it wth silver argentines and leaves. Put a frill round the bottom.

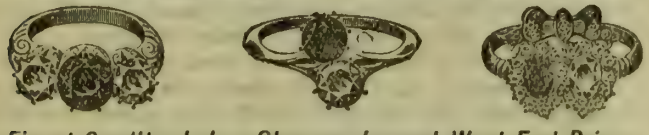
To Make White Icing.—Put 1 lb. of sifted icing sugar into a basin, make a well in the centre, in which put the whites of two fresh eggs and the juice of a lemon, then work it gradually at first, increasing the speed, until it is quite stiff and perfectly white.

Ever your loving cousin, MADGE.

P.S.—Lady Bancroft shed a few tears—how could she help it?—when opening the Scala Theatre on Monday afternoon on the site of the dear old Prince of Wales's. It is a beautiful playhouse.

Apropos of theatres, you will be glad to hear that the matinée capotes are going strong. Their home is at 41, Conduit-street, and there is to be a sale on there beginning on the 2nd, with gowns, furs, etc. *Verbum sap.!*

DIAMOND RINGS & ORNAMENTS



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NOTICE.

THE

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ENTRE NOUS

THE following contributions to the Toy Fund have been received during the past week:—

Anon., 5s.; George S. Snelgrove, £5; T. P., £2; Anon., £1 1s.; Lieut.-General Sir Henry Moore, £2 2s.; Walter E. Johnston, £1 1s.; In memory of A .D. B., Cadet R.N., £4; Cornubia, 5s.; H. M. Bourne, £1; Twins, £1 1s.; Mrs. Godfrey, 10s.

I regret to have to add that these contributions are not sufficient to wipe out the deficit with which the fund is confronted. The account, however, will be kept open for another week, in the hope that further subscriptions will still be forthcoming, and that the two sides of the account may be satisfactorily balanced. The usual financial statement will be published as soon as practicable.

The King and Queen will spend the latter part of January at Windsor Castle, and on Sunday, the 22nd, there is to be a memorial service in the Frogmore Mausoleum, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dean of Windsor will officiate. The Prince and Princess of Wales, who will then be in residence at Frogmore House, and most of the other members of the Royal Family who are in England will be present at this service.

The Royal yacht *Victoria and Albert* is to be docked at Portsmouth in order that she may undergo an overhaul and refit. The King will proceed to the Mediterranean in the *Victoria and Albert* early in March, and it is expected that his Majesty will be away from England between six and seven weeks. If the King decides not to embark at Portsmouth he will travel overland to Lisbon, where his Majesty will join the *Victoria and Albert*, and he is to visit Gibraltar, Malta, Palermo, Naples, Athens, Corfu, and Venice, where the cruise will probably terminate. The King will then return home overland. His Majesty will probably leave England about Saturday, March 11.

The Queen will leave England about the middle of March on a visit to King Christian at Copenhagen, where the Empress Marie of Russia is then also expected for a stay of several weeks. Princess Charles of Denmark, who is residing at Appleton House, near Sandringham, will accompany her mother to Copenhagen, where Prince Charles is expected to return about the same time from the Mediterranean, where he is now cruising on board the Danish corvette *Heimdal*, of which his uncle, Prince Waldemar, is the commander.

The King has made an important change in the regulations for Investitures. Hitherto the order has been: "No Insignia are worn by gentlemen who are to be invested." In future, however, the recipients of honours are to wear any Orders, decorations, or medals which they may have received. Investitures are now State ceremonials. Queen Victoria observed semi-State if the function was at Windsor Castle, but at Osborne there was a considerable reduction in the ceremonial, with fewer members of the Court in attendance. It is understood that next year the periodical Investitures of the Bath, the St. Michael and

St. George, the Indian Orders, and the military decorations will be held by the King in the Throne Room at St. James's Palace. Queen Victoria usually conferred Investitures to the higher classes of the several Orders—*i.e.*, Knights Grand Crosses and Knights Commanders. The King, however, has kindly consented to invest the Companions of the Orders, who are introduced into his Majesty's presence in single file, as at a Levee.

I understand that much annoyance has been caused at Court by the statement of a weekly journal that the late Lord Hardwicke received a letter from Queen Victoria in which she thanked him for his opposition to the proposal that a statue of Cromwell should be erected at Westminster, which her late Majesty regarded as "a gratuitous insult to her person, her Crown, and her people." If such a letter is really in existence, the publication of any part of the contents is a gross and flagrant breach not only of etiquette, but of ordinary propriety. Everybody knows, or ought to know, that all Royal letters are supposed to be treated as strictly private and confidential communications, the contents of which are not to be divulged, much less published, without a special permission. The executors of a deceased person who has received letters from a Sovereign are expected to return any such letters either to the writer or to the reigning Monarch.

Some of the morning papers published a telegram from Lisbon last week, containing crazy announcements about the approaching marriage of the Crown Prince of Portugal to "a granddaughter of King Edward." The only granddaughters of his Majesty are the daughters of the Duke and Duchess of Fife, the eldest of whom is in her fourteenth year; and Princess Victoria of Wales, who is not yet eight. The Crown Prince of Portugal can only marry a Roman Catholic, and his bride will certainly be expected to bring a large *dot* with her to Lisbon. It is much more likely that the King and Queen of Portugal will try to find a wife in Austria for their eldest son. One of the daughters of the Archduke Frederick and the Archduchess Isabella would be in all respects an excellent match for him.

It is probable that Prince Arthur of Connaught will go to Darmstadt to represent the Court at the marriage of his cousin, the Grand Duke of Hesse, and Princess Eleonore of Solms-Lich, which is to take place there in the Lutheran Church on Thursday, February 2. The Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, who is first cousin both of the Queen and of the Duchess of Connaught, is at present next heir to the Grand Duchy of Hesse, the ultimate heir being his younger brother, Prince Frederick Charles, who is married to Princess Margaret of Prussia, youngest sister of the Emperor William.

The two elder sons of the Prince of Wales are going to Osborne in the spring. Prince Edward will enter the Army later on, but it is considered desirable that he should previously receive some naval training. Prince Albert is to enter the Navy, and after the usual preliminary education he will become a midshipman, and in the first instance he will probably be appointed to the Royal yacht.

The Dowager Duchess of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, who died on Wednesday at Callenberg, her dower house in the Thuringian Forest, was the eldest daughter of Leopold Grand Duke of Baden, and widow of Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, elder brother of Prince Albert. The Duchess Alexandrine was a very clever and sensible woman, highly accomplished, and keenly interested in literature and art. She was always on terms of warm friendship with her sister-in-law, Queen Victoria, and they maintained a regular and very confidential correspondence for nearly forty years.

King Oscar has recently conferred the Swedish Order of the Seraphim upon Lord Breadalbane, who is the first British subject that has ever received that famous decoration. The Seraphim is one of the oldest Orders in Europe, having been founded in 1334 by Magnus IV. The insignia consists of an eight-pointed star of white enamel and gold, with a Jerusalem cross at the end of each ray, and the head of a winged seraph between every two rays. The ribbon is blue, and etiquette prescribes that it must be worn from right to left.

The Empress Eugénie, who has been residing for several months at Farnborough Hill, will leave England early in January for the Riviera. The Empress will make a short stay in Paris before going to the Villa Cyrnos, where she intends to reside until the beginning of May. The Prince de Lucinge and the Comte de Montfort have been on a visit at Farnborough Hill, and Princess Henry of Battenberg and her daughter, Princess Ena, are to spend a few days there early next month.

The Duke of Richmond and Gordon, who spent the autumn at Gordon Castle, Banffshire, has been visiting their Majesties at Sandringham, Sir John and Lady Evelyn Cotterell at Garnons, Herefordshire, and Mr. and Lady Violet Brassey at Apethorpe Hall, Northamptonshire, since he came up from Scotland. The Duke is now residing at Molecomb, the family dower-house in Goodwood Park. Extensive improvements are being carried out at Goodwood House, which is to be lighted by electricity, and the Duke will return there when the work is completed.

Lord and Lady Ancaster, who have been residing at Grimsthorpe Castle since the middle of October, have removed to Normanton Park, their place in Rutlandshire, intending to stay there until after Easter. There will be a party next month at Normanton for the county ball at Stamford. Normanton Park, which is the old seat of the Heathcotes, of whom Lord Ancaster is the representative, is large and well wooded, and stretches along a range of high ground, from which

For the Truth Hotel List, see page 1678.
For Truth Educational List, see page 1678.
For Foreign Hotels, see page 1680.
For Amusements, see page 1675.
For Appeals, see page 1677.
For Our Puzzles, see page 1681.

there are fine views. The house is modern, and of no great interest. At Grimsthorpe there is one of the finest galleries of pictures in England, and superb collections of old furniture, china, and antique gold and silver plate.

Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks, who died about seven years ago, bequeathed his rare and splendid collection of book-plates, which is generally considered to be the finest and most comprehensive ever formed, to the British Museum. The collection, which consists of about seventy thousand examples (forty thousand British and thirty thousand foreign), has been arranged and catalogued by Mr. Gambier Howe, the well-known expert on this subject, and is displayed in the Print Room. The Franks collection commences with the plate of Sir Thomas Tresame, dated 1585. Sir Augustus Franks never was able to obtain an impression of the famous plate which was engraved in 1574 for the books presented to Cambridge University by Sir Nicholas Bacon.

Mrs. Meynell-Ingram, who died last week after a long illness, was a sister of Lord Halifax, and she was married in 1863 to Mr. Hugo Meynell-Ingram, M.P. for West Staffordshire, who died in 1871, leaving her the whole of his estates, the net rental of which is nearly £100,000 a year. She was Lady of the Manor of Leeds. Mr. Meynell-Ingram was the heir of Lord Irvine, one of whose daughters was Elizabeth Marchioness of Hertford, who exercised great political and social influence during the first twenty years of the last century. Lady Hertford died in 1835, and the Irvine estates (which were then worth over £40,000 a year) passed to her nephew, Mr. Hugo Meynell, who assumed the name of Ingram, and was the father-in-law of the late Mrs. Meynell-Ingram. Temple Newsam, the family seat near Leeds, is a magnificent Jacobean house, which is famous in Yorkshire for the large and valuable collection of pictures which it contains, and it is surrounded by an extensive and well-wooded deer park. The place was sold during the reign of James I. by the Duke of Lennox to Sir Arthur Ingram, who built the present house early in the reign of Charles I. Mrs. Meynell-Ingram was very liberal to her tenants, exceedingly hospitable and most charitable. She was a staunch Churchwoman, and untiring and munificent in good works.

Lord Tollemache owned large estates in Cheshire and Suffolk, and he was well known as a generous and considerate landlord. Indeed, the Tollemache estates have always been managed with equal good judgment and liberality. Lord Tollemache sat in Parliament as Tory member for West Cheshire for thirteen years, retiring in 1885. He had replaced his father who represented the constituency from 1841 until 1872. The Suffolk and Cheshire estates came to this family by the marriage of Lady Jane Tollemache, sister and co-heir of Wilbraham Earl of Dysart, to Mr. John Halliday, and their grandson, the late Lord Tollemache, assumed the name of Tollemache in 1837. The first Lord Tollemache also inherited the estates of his maternal grandfather, the Earl of Aldborough. Helmingham Hall, the family seat in Suffolk, is a stately brick house, built during the reign of Henry VIII., and surrounded by a moat, which is crossed by a drawbridge. The hall is full of superb old furniture and panelling of black oak. The library was once famous for its rare and splendid collection of early printed books, but many of these have been sold. The park, which is one of the finest in East Anglia, is richly wooded, and the oaks are remarkable for age and size

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A very prominent Edinburgh citizen has passed away in the person of Mr. Donald Macgregor, of Ardgartan. He was for nearly fifty years the proprietor of the well-known Royal Hotel in Princes-street, which was originally a very small hostelry, but it was extended until it became the largest establishment in Edinburgh. Mr. Macgregor, who was all his life a most zealous Liberal, obtained great fame early in the sixties by successfully resisting the alleged right of the War Office to billet soldiers in Edinburgh, as he triumphantly proved his contention that the city has the privilege of exemption from that tax. For his public services in defeating the War Office he was presented with some handsome testimonials. About twenty years ago Mr. Macgregor, who was in many respects a typical Highlander, purchased the beautiful estate of Ardgartan, which is in the heart of the old Macgregor country, and at the same time he acquired two of the islands on Loch Lomond.

During the past year there have been thirty-four sales of Shorthorns, and 1,767 beasts have been thus disposed of, the average price being £45 17s. 6d. This is a very satisfactory result, as last year the average for 1,960 lots was only £36 3s. 4d., and in 1902 and in 1901 there were much lower averages. The great event of the year was the sale of the late Mr. Marr's famous herd at Upper Mill, Aberdeenshire, when the average for the 113 lots was £156, the highest price being 1,200 gs., which was paid for the celebrated young bull Bapton Favourite, who was sold to go to South America, along with twenty-three more of the best lots.

A copy of the famous "Psalmorum Codex" of Füst and Schöffer, of 1459, printed upon vellum on 136 folio leaves in large Gothic characters, was sold at Sotheby's the other day for £4,000 to Messrs. Bar, of Frankfort, Mr. Quaritch being the under-bidder. This copy came from the library of Schloss Freuenthum, in Carinthia, where it had been preserved since 1781. Only twelve copies of this Psalter were printed, all at the expense of the Carthusian Monastery of St. James in Mentz. Four copies have been sold in England. The first (Ralph Willett's) realised £63 at the dispersal of the Merlby library in 1813. The second belonged to that celebrated collector, Sir Mark Masterman Sykes, and

Scrubb & Co., Ltd., caution the public against the many injurious imitations of their Cloudy Fluid Ammonia that are being offered, and draw attention to their having affixed the signature of Scrubb & Co. to each bottle, without which none is genuine.

at his sale in 1824 it was purchased for £136 10s. by Sir John Thorold. This copy came up again at the dispersal of the Syston Park library in 1884, when it fetched £4,950. The fourth copy was George Hibbert's and it realised £90 6s. in 1829. This was Count Macarthy's copy, which had been purchased at Paris in 1815 for £134.

Sir William Beechey's fine portrait of George IV., when Prince of Wales, which realised 1,600 gs. at the sale of the Duke of Cambridge's collection, has passed into the possession of the King, and it will be hung in one of the State apartments at Buckingham Palace, where there is a splendid gallery of portraits by Gainsborough, Reynolds, and Hoppner. This portrait, which is considered to be Beechey's best work, represents the Prince in the uniform of the 10th Hussars, with the Star of the Garter, and in powdered hair. This picture was given by George IV. during his last illness to his sister, Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, who left it to the Duke of Cambridge.

Mr. George W. E. Russell is writing a monograph on Sydney Smith for the English Men of Letters Series. The chief authorities as to Sydney Smith's career are Lady Holland's biography and his own letters, which were edited for publication by Mr. Austen. Nothing better has been written about Sydney Smith than Hayward's excellent article, which was published in the *Edinburgh Review* in July, 1855. A great deal, however, yet remains to be written. Mr. Russell is a grandson of the sixth Duke of Bedford, who was beset with petitions in 1816 that he would give the vacant and then valuable living of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, to Sydney Smith, who was at that time settled in Yorkshire as Rector of Foston, and could have held both benefices together.

A fourth volume of Sir Horace Rumbold's very entertaining reminiscences is to be published by Mr. Edward Arnold early next year, entitled "Final Recollections of a Diplomatist," and it will deal with his residences at Athens, The Hague, and Vienna.

I see that Mr. G. R. Hatton, latest address Ormonde, Hythe, Kent, is still seeking, by post-card, particulars of your life for "Men of the Day," from anybody who is disposed to supply the same. I hear of him last through a Yorkshire doctor, who has received one of these attentions, and who rightly surmises that Hatton's object is to obtain a subscription. As a general rule, people absolutely unknown beyond their family circle, who are ready to pay money for the printing of their biographies, are not deserving of much sympathy; but as there may be individuals here and there who, from ignorance of the publication in question, look upon Hatton's invitation as a compliment, it may be as well to mention again that to have your biography published in "Men of the Day" is equivalent to being written down an ass. This, I imagine, nobody knows better than Mr. G. R. Hatton.

A lady journalist lately wrote to me thus from Johannesburg:—

> During a spell of illness, when my only recreation was reading, and kind friends brought me all the current magazines to while away the time, I was most impressed by the number of the aristocracy who have entered the field of literature, and at the space which their contributions occupy in some of the leading reviews and magazines.
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> The unfairness of their competition must be palpable to any one. The glamour of their titles appeals to editors and readers alike. The former evidently know the commercial value of such adornments, or they would not publish large quantities of stuff, which, if it came unlabelled, would be promptly consigned to the W.P.B.
>
> If a woman has a message to the world, whether educational, political, or philanthropic, then, whether she be a woman of means or not, she is only doing her duty in uttering it. But it is the numbers that write for vanity's sake that deserve condemnation. Very few of them have any spark of literary talent. Most of their short stories are feeble *réchauffés* of old tales, which would never see the light on their own merits. But these society ladies are anxious to pose as clever women and literary geniuses, and their titles gain them their desire, to the detriment of the woman who can write. If they want literary notoriety, let them publish in book form, and pay the cost themselves, leaving the book-stall public to crown them with glory, or the reverse. It is not right that a title should gain them entrance into an important review or expensive magazine, side by side with the noted writers of the world; and it is not fair that they should occupy valuable space that would otherwise be given to those whose living depends on the acceptance of their work.

There was a discussion going on in one of the papers lately, as to whether women of means should work for pay. I gather that the writer of the above letter has no objection to titled ladies scribbling, or to their being paid for it. Her grievance is simply that the title confers an undue value upon their scribblings in the eyes of editors and readers. As far as editors are concerned, I should think this is true. As for the readers, I can only say that whenever I myself see an article in one of the leading monthlies with a titled name appended to it, I always pass it over, and I should think most other readers do the same. I have always supposed that certain editors encourage aristocratic contributors for their own personal ends. Certainly, if I myself published an article by a peer, I should think that the least he ought to do was to ask me to dinner and introduce me to his friends. I do not see any other way in which I could be recompensed for the sacrifice.

Of course, the grievance of my correspondent is a perfectly genuine one. What, however, she seems to me to have overlooked is that it is merely a particular instance of a much larger grievance. It is one of the chief objections to titles, at any rate hereditary titles, that they confer on the wearer a position in all walks of life, quite independent of merit. Look at the number of peers and baronets who earn handsome salaries as company directors, to the exclusion of experienced business men. Look at the places they fill in Cabinets and Government Offices, to the exclusion of commoners very much more competent. Even going back to journalism, look at the space given to the portraits of titled ladies in the illustrated papers. The prettiest and best-dressed woman in London has no chance against them, unless she happens to be an actress. Are all these exalted personages to be dragged down from their

Economical Dentistry.—Set of Teeth from 1 guinea. "One of the largest practices in the world" *Vide* Mr. Labouchere, in *Truth*.—Goodman's, Ltd., 2, Ludgate-hill, & 61, Seymour-st., W.

pedestals to make way for mere merit? It is a pity that this lady journalist did not think to what lengths her argument tends before she asked me to publish it.

There is one point in the letter with which I regret I cannot agree. If, says my correspondent, a woman has a message to the world, "she is only doing her duty in uttering it." I know this is a common idea, but I cannot precisely see how the alleged duty arises. There is no lack of such messages, and the world does not seem much the better for them. Should this meet the eye of any woman who feels that she has a message to the world, I would earnestly entreat her not to cast her pearls before swine.

The Provost and Fellows of Oriel College have presented the Rev. Roger Hayes Robinson, domestic chaplain to the Bishop of Bath and Wells, to the Vicarage of Twerton, Bath, vacant by the resignation of Prebendary Shaw after an incumbency of twenty-eight years. The parish is a large one, and the work is very hard. There is an excellent house, but the outgoings are heavy, and the net stipend is practically nil. Mr. Hayes Robinson is not an Oriel man, and it is understood that as nobody connected with the college would accept the living the Provost requested the Bishop of the diocese to make the appointment. The new Vicar, who is wide-minded in his Church views, is quite a young man, but he is an excellent preacher. He has already got through a lot of good work, and his zeal and energy will find ample scope in this parish, the population consisting principally of the working classes.

The advowson of Twerton was purchased by Oriel early in the twenties of the last century for £6,000. It was desired by the High Churchmen in the College to obtain a footing for their party in Bath, which was then a stronghold of the most austere section of the Evangelicals. Twerton was a small suburb of Bath, pleasantly situated on the Avon, with an adequate income and a good church. The advowson was sold for an exceptionally large sum, because the incumbent had been for some time in failing health, and was supposed to be dying. No sooner had Oriel concluded the transaction than the Vicar's health took a turn for the better, and he actually survived for thirty years. When at last the living was vacated in 1852, not a single Fellow of Oriel would accept it, but Provost Hawkins ultimately induced his brother-in-law, Mr. Buckle, to undertake the charge. He laboured hard at Twerton for twenty-four years, and was then transferred to Weston-super-Mare, and he ended his life as Canon of Wells. When Mr. Buckle left Twerton the living was very properly given by Oriel to the late Vicar, who had been curate of the parish for some years.

The Rev. E. K. Elliott, who has been Rector of Broadwater (the mother church of Worthing) for nearly fifty-two years, and whose father also held this living for over half a century, is about to resign the benefice, and he has presented his son, the Rev. E. J. Elliott, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Wakefield. The living of Broadwater is of the net value of about £400 a year, with residence.

The Dean and Canons of Christ Church have presented the Rev. Alfred Beedle, Chaplain of Christ Church, and curate of St. Cross, Holywell, Oxford, to the living of Floore, Northamptonshire, which was formerly worth about £800 a year, with residence, but the stipend is now considerably reduced, and the net stipend does not exceed £300 a year.

Canon Scott Holland is to be the Canon-in-residence and Sunday afternoon preacher at St. Paul's Cathedral during January, replacing Chancellor Newbolt, whose claims for a bishopric are being zealously urged upon Mr. Balfour by a number of influential High Churchmen.

A particularly interesting specimen of the begging letter was sent to me some two or three weeks ago. The writer's name is Octavius Drewell. He professes to be an artist, and dates from 442, London Road, South Lowestoft. He does not actually ask for alms—on the contrary, he is at pains to explain that what he requires is professional assistance in the shape of purchase of his pictures, and he encloses with his letter a catalogue of a few paintings by himself "in heavy handsome gilt frames," price from 2 gs. to £3 8s. As the frames alone represent a considerable amount of realisable property, he very carefully explains that only a few of the pictures are already framed, but his frame-maker has promised to supply what is required as soon as he can find a purchaser. The pictures themselves include such familiar subjects as: "Moonrise on the River," £5; "Old Suffolk Water-mill—Sunset," £4 4s.; "View in Norfolk—Woody Landscape," £4 4s.; "Quiet Nook—Cows in Meadow," £5; "Misty Morning at Sea," large, £10; etc., etc. The whole lot may be purchased for £50.

The following extracts will indicate the style of the letter in which these works are offered:—

I hope you will forgive me for writing. It is after seeing your name mentioned in my paper I have decided to do so after much hesitation, in my trouble. *I am in no sense whatever intending to beg or anything of that kind.*

I am an artist by profession, married, and have one son, and while out sketching on the Norfolk rivers contracted a chill, which ended in a most cruel and protracted illness (inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy combined) lasting over twelve months. This has left me terribly weak, and as yet unable to get to work, as I am so anxious to do. During this long time we soon exhausted what little I had saved, and were compelled to part with almost everything we possessed, just to keep out of debt, and I write to ask if you will help us in our present difficulties by purchasing what few paintings I have on hand. . . .

I am so handicapped it is of no use sending paintings to dealers. They only take advantage of my absence. . . .

I assure you I am induced to write far more for the sake of my dear wife than myself. She has indeed had a cruel time, sometimes nursing day and night, as for weeks I could not even lie down in bed, doing all the house work without any assistance to spare expenses. This, amidst so much anxiety, I grieve to say, has sadly told on her health, and to see her suffer further in the future when so little would avoid it would cause me far more pain than all my illness. I do not ask you to send me anything until you have seen my paintings.

Although I feel sure my paintings would please, if not in every way to your taste I would paint others expressly, and exchange

Grey Hair.—Seeger's Hair Dye.—Dyes the hair by merely combing through with it.—2s. the Case, everywhere. Yearly sale 362,000 bottles.—Hinde's (Curlers), Limited, Finsbury, London.

so soon as ever I felt equal to doing justice to same, and guarantee to leave you satisfied. You could lose nothing, as the paintings would improve in value with age.

Letters very much in the same style as this have been written by Mr. Octavius Drewell at intervals for at least ten years past. In 1894 and 1895 he was living at Hammersmith. Strange to say, in December of the last-mentioned year, when writing for the same purpose, he was just recovering from "an exceptionally cruel and protracted illness—inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy combined." He also mentioned on that occasion that he was married and had one son, and explained that he was "in no sense intending to beg." From this it would seem that he keeps a form of letter in stock for use whenever he has one of his cruel and protracted illnesses, from a combination of inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy. In 1895 also he was offering for sale landscapes, entitled "Sunrise on River —Norfolk and Suffolk Broads," and "Sunset," in the same locality. He also had on hand "Morning—Cows in Meadow" and "Evening—View in Norfolk," and "Old Water-mill—Moonlight," from which it would seem that there is as much sameness in the productions of this artist's brush as in those of his pen. I have generally noticed that all artists of this class have a tendency to repeat themselves.

What, however, chiefly strikes me about Mr. Octavius Drewell is his family resemblance to another old friend, best known as Leigh Sampson, though this was only one of about a dozen names under which he took refuge at different periods of his career. Possibly some of my readers may remember that gentleman. It is several years since I heard of him, but for a long period his doings were constantly under notice in the columns of Truth. Very shady doings they were for the most part. The essential fact about all of them was that, while posing as an artist, and trumping up an endless variety of fictions in order to secure patronage for his brush, he was, in fact, nothing but a dealer, who traded in other men's work, and adopted this trick for disposing of it.

One notable feature of Leigh Sampson's art work was his extraordinary facility in disguising his handwriting to suit the different characters he assumed. He sometimes wrote with great effect in the style of a lady. The handwriting of Mr. Octavius Drewell is very striking and characteristic. I am no expert in this line myself, but after looking at all the specimens of Leigh Sampson's work in my possession, I think it by no means impossible that the above letter is the work of the same artist. At any rate, there can be no question that it belongs to the same school, and from their titles I should judge that the pictures do, too. Both of them may possibly be the work of a promising pupil, or one of those "ghosts" who used to work in the Leigh Sampson studio. I need not remind those who are learned in art of the difficulty that frequently arises in distinguishing the work of the master from that of an accomplished pupil, even in the case of the greatest artists. For these reasons I should recommend art patrons to fight shy of Mr. Octavius Drewell's "Moonshine," and kindred productions.

One of my readers forwards a leaflet soliciting help for an orphanage in London, which was handed to him the other day in the stalls of one of the Liverpool theatres. The leaflet announces that "the children will collect before the curtain rises, and during one interval"; which presumably means the children from the homes. In this case it seems that shortly after the leaflets had been distributed a little girl about fifteen years of age came round with a tambourine to make a collection. The orphanage in question is situated at 337, Harrow-road, and the leaflet appealing for help states that "nearly 800 boys and girls from all parts of Great Britain are now in the homes." Beyond the name "Homes for Destitute Children," at the head of the leaflet, no information is given as to the nature of the charity, or who is responsible for the management.

I believe that the homes referred to are under Roman Catholic management, and that there are some three or four of them in and around London, besides the one in the Harrow-road; but if my information is correct, all these homes, including the one in the Harrow-road, contain boys only. In that case neither the wording of the leaflet nor the sending round of little girls to collect in the character of inmates of the home appears particularly straightforward. I should hardly think that the manager of the homes, whoever he may be, has the approval of the authorities of the Roman Catholic Church in taking this course, for the practice of sending little girls round the theatres to beg from the audience is open to very obvious objections. If this is a sample of the discretion with which children are managed in these institutions, I cannot say that I think very much of them.

It is rather odd that any theatrical manager should allow begging of this kind in his theatre; but the practice appears to be common, for the leaflet is evidently worded in such a way that it may be used at any theatre where the manager will give permission. Apart from the introduction of this new terror into theatre-going, it is not obvious why a Liverpool audience should be especially solicited to support a London orphanage. On the one hand, there are, I take it, plenty of orphanages in Liverpool in need of help, and, on the other hand, there are in London enough well-to-do people to support London charities, if the case is put before them in the right way.

I am curious to know more of the "Sunshine Mission," which appears to be managed by Mrs. or Miss Denison, of 5, Queen's-terrace, Otley, Yorkshire. In leaflets which have been distributed by canvassers very many miles from Otley, and, indeed, beyond the boundaries of Yorkshire, Miss Denison announces her desire

Special Notice.—A 10s. 6d. Dinner is now served daily at Princes', Piccadilly, the Most Fashionable Restaurant in London. Best Grill Room in London.

to "give 100,000 meals this winter to slum children in the following towns:—London, Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, Sunderland, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham, and Bradford." This desire does the lady much credit, but I cannot say as much for the means taken to realise it, for it appears that a considerable number of collectors have been sent round the country to beg on behalf of the Sunshine Mission, and that they are paid a commission of 25 per cent. on what they collect. In other words, out of every £4 collected £1 goes to the collectors. If the other managerial expenses are on the same scale, it will take a big sum of money to give free meals all through the winter to 100,000 children. While giving the promotors of the Sunshine Mission every credit for their admirable motives, it appears to me high time that some legal restraint was placed on the right of any enthusiastic individual to start begging on these lines for work of which little or nothing is known.

The remarkable facts to which the Prince of Wales drew attention at the meeting of the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund last week show how much room there is for the exercise of economy in the management of some of the London hospitals. The discrepancies in the prices paid for food, for drugs, and for household articles, at different hospitals, are really amazing. In the matter of the food supply, for example, it has been found that some hospitals pay 3½d. per lb. more than others for mutton of the same quality, 3¼d. per lb. more for beef, 1s. 1d. more for fowls, 2½d. per gallon more for milk, and 7d. per lb. more for tea. If it is a question of the size of the contract, it would surely be practicable, as his Royal Highness suggested, for a group of the smaller hospitals to combine to make a large contract, and then divide up the goods as required. Anyhow, it is evident that the present method of buying in certain hospitals is wasteful and extravagant, and the Council of the Fund are doing good service in impressing the managers with the need for retrenchment.

A Sussex gentleman, viewing with dismay the increasing invasion of the country by motor "scorchers," proposes the establishment of an Anti-speed Motor League, and offers £100 to start it. I do not quite understand from his letter whether his idea is to agitate for a reduction of the present statutory limit of speed for motor cars or only to oppose any further extension of the limit which may be demanded when the question next comes before Parliament. In either case I fear that such an organisation would merely result in a waste of money and energy. Everybody is anxious that a stop should be put to reckless and dangerous driving. The proper way of doing this, however, is by punishing those who so jeopardise the safety of other users of the roads, not by seeking to restrict the speed of every motorist, regardless of the place and the circumstances.

A cavalry officer sends me the following notes on cavalry depots. They seem to me very much to the point. Seeing that one of the cardinal features of Mr. Arnold-Forster's promised reforms is a new system of infantry depots which will be real training schools for recruits, it is impossible to understand why at the same time the number of cavalry depots should be reduced, for there is room for at least three, as my correspondent suggests. Several of the points mentioned below would apply to infantry as well as cavalry depots, more particularly the suggestion as to training cadets at the depots in conjunction with squads for their own regiments:—

The Cavalry Depot at Canterbury has now been done away with. This step seems to me entirely in the wrong direction. In my opinion the number of depots should have been increased to three—one at Aldershot, one at the Curragh, and one at Canterbury. The object of the depots should be to supply regiments abroad with recruits, carefully selected as regards aptitude for riding, physique, and intelligence, and thoroughly trained in the rudiments of a cavalry trooper's business. I would suggest the following as some steps by which these results could be arrived at.

Officers commanding depots should have previously commanded cavalry regiments in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. The length of the appointment should not be more than four years, and the age of the commandant should not exceed forty-eight on appointment. The depot staff should comprise a quarter-master, riding-master, adjutant, and a riding-school staff of N.C.O.s and rough-riders, who should be old soldiers of good character, thoroughly up to the work of training both recruits and young horses.

As regards the recruits, they should be taught (1) to ride; (2) to look after their horses intelligently and efficiently under all possible circumstances; and (3) to take care of their arms and saddlery. Gymnastics and drill could be postponed until they joined their regiments, but they should be put through a course of musketry. The recruit should stay at the depot one year, and if he prove to be a bad rider but a good shot he should be transferred to the infantry. If neither the one nor the other, his services should be dispensed with.

The depot should be run as much as possible on the lines of Sandhurst, where the cadets are treated more or less like school boys, and the recruits should be kept as far apart as possible from soldiers of regiments stationed in the neighbourhood. For the first six months the recruit should be mounted on a quiet, well-behaved troop horse, but for the last six months he should be employed in assisting the riding-master and his staff in training remounts. I know by experience that nothing turns a man into a horseman so thoroughly as putting him on to an untrained animal. The horses so trained should be exchanged periodically for quiet old horses from the cavalry regiments at home.

A year at one of the depots, or perhaps two, if he did not rapidly pick up his work, would be beneficial to the young officer on leaving Sandhurst. He would find a squad of recruits for his own regiment at the depot. He would be placed in charge of it, and be encouraged to take an interest in the men, and if possible he should take a squad of his own recruits with him when he embarks for foreign service.

If army reform is ever to be effective it seems to me that we must start at the very root of the whole matter, and select and train our raw material from the very first.

I have been much impressed by a photograph forwarded to this office representing a Government building which is let for the purpose of an officers' mess to the officers of a wing of the Border Regiment quartered at some hill station in Burma with an undecipherable name. To the British eye the premises resemble an unusually spacious barn or cow-shed, with a thatched roof and sides. The photographer describes it as an ancient, weather-beaten structure, built chiefly of grass matting, with a roof that allows the free passage of the frequent and generous rain showers, and floors that secure the ventilation of the room by cracks anything up to an inch wide between the boards. The interesting point about the thing is that the Government, in its solicitude for the pockets as

CLARIDGE'S HOTEL, BROOK-STREET, Grosvenor-square.—Over 300 rooms; nearly 100 bathrooms. Royal suite, private entrance. Situation ensures perfect quiet.

PARIS.—MERCEDES HOTEL, Place de l'Etoile. Most modern hotel in Paris. Opened April, 1904. Situated in healthiest and most select quarter. Luxuriously furnished.

well as the personal comfort of officers, charges Rs.45 per month for the rent of this commodious edifice. This is really worse than some of the stories one hears about the charge for officers' bungalows in India.

From the same part of the world come the following comments upon recent changes of uniform. The writer jests over his afflictions in the light-hearted way that soldiers do; but it is a most scandalous thing that this tomfoolery is allowed to go on month after month and year after year, in spite of ridicule and protest, notwithstanding all the empty talk about lightening officers' expenses:—

Imagine the feelings of one of your exiled defenders under these circumstances: A friend "in the know" writes from England: "Whatever you do, do not get a frock coat; nobody wears them, and by all accounts they will soon be abolished." Simultaneously, the Commanding Officer intimates that he wishes all officers to provide themselves with the regulation frock coat without delay. Bang goes another eight guineas! Then one gets the drab cloth service cap (or staff cap)—a sweet creation at two guineas only, and *so* becoming. Upon this, one is immediately told, "Oh, oh, oh! You mustn't wear that, it is obsolete. You must wear your blue one with the khaki cover, of course!" I can tell you we *do* have a fine time with our emotional frock coats in the golden sunshine of Burma. No frost about our appearance.

The last thing we hear is that the curry-powder service dress is to be changed for an artistic shade of grey. Well, well, "There's changes and changes," as Mrs. Gamp observed, but there's no change, so far as I can see, in the size of tailors' bills. A British officer of to-day feels very much like Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Moss, who announce that "having left off clothing, they now await inspection." If the worst comes to the worst one might retire and start in that line of business. Judging, however, from the prices to sellers, the market for cast-off uniforms is very flat at present.

A subaltern serving in India was lately much gratified by the receipt of the following communication, not having previously been aware that he was a well-known and illustrious person. Even now he does not quite understand to what he is indebted for the invitation, but he suspects that Mr. Jeejeebhoy is engaged in the free portrait business in imitation of the "well-known and illustrious" Tanquerey, of Paris, which, I should think, is very likely:—

Tardeo Castle, Bombay.

My Dear Sir,—I shall be very thankful to you by your kindly obliging me with a copy of your full-sized photograph.

I have already made a vast collection of photos of many well-known and illustrious persons, and I shall be delighted to put yours along with them.—Yours truly,

Byramjee Jeejeebhoy.

At one time and another a good deal has been said in these columns as to the length of time, beyond twenty-one years, for which men should be allowed to serve on in the Army. The following particulars given to me respecting three N.C.O.s now serving at the headquarters of one of the regimental districts seems to show that there are cases where men are allowed to continue in the Service on other grounds than those of efficiency. As the particulars are of a somewhat personal nature, I refrain from mentioning any names, but if there is any one at the War Office who care for further and better particulars, I shall be pleased to furnish them:—

1. Quartermaster-sergeant ——. Has twenty-five years' service or over. Is very lame, and made 28 points in his annual course of musketry. He is in receipt of service pay.

2. Quartermaster-sergeant ——. Has over thirty years' service, almost entirely in the orderly-room. No record of his having done a parade of any sort. Manages to walk daily from his house to his chair in the office. Is in receipt of service pay.

3. Colour-sergeant ——. Several years back extended his service beyond twenty-one years. Has a very loud voice, but cannot double, nor march any distance. Combines soldiering with retail trade, his wife keeping a small shop just outside the gate.

There are a good many district headquarters at which similar lists might be compiled, and not a few would probably make a worse show. Why does not the War Office institute a thorough turn-out of all these establishments?

There seems to be a good deal of force in a protest that I have received from Jamaica with reference to the appointment of non-commissioned officers to the post of caterer to the garrison-sergeants' mess, while having other duties to perform. The men have to take this duty by turns, for a month at a time. They all belong to different corps, and in many cases their duties prevent their getting to the mess at all during the day, and in some, *e.g.*, the R.A.M.C., they are often unable to do so at night. The mess is open from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m., so that the caterer ought to pass a good deal of his time there, and his position is the more undesirable because he is held responsible for the money taken, and has to make good any deficiencies that occur. I do not know whether this system is general, but it seems radically wrong.

I was rather surprised to hear the other day that it is in contemplation to appoint a civilian as bandmaster of the Royal Engineers, but on inquiry there seems to be no doubt that this is about to be done. Lieutenant Sommer, the present bandmaster, who has brought the R.E. band to a high pitch of excellence, is shortly retiring. A civilian has been chosen to succeed him, I believe on the advice of Sir Frederick Bridge, and he is now going through a course at Kneller Hall, being given rank as a sapper for the purpose. This arrangement is a very extraordinary one; indeed, the Regulations appear to have been suspended to give effect to it, for I understand it to be laid down that a man must be a non-commissioned officer with at least seven years' total service before he can enter Kneller Hall. It is the reverse of flattering to Army musicians that none of them should be deemed competent to undertake the R.E. bandmastership; and suggests that the country is not getting better value for the money spent on military musical training than for that spent on preparation for war.

Two or three letters have recently reached me from South Africa asking for information about the fate of the Royal Garrison Regiment. I know, of course, as little on this subject as my correspondents. The fate of the regiment is a secret between Mr. Arnold-Forster and the Army Council. It may be that there is no secret at all, for the simple reason that nothing has been definitely decided. But, however, that may be, it does seem a highly inconsiderate proceeding to announce a reform on which the future arrangements in life of a good many hundreds of officers and men depend, and then to hang it up for the best part of a year, leaving the parties in complete ignorance as to what they are to expect and when they are to expect it.

The case of the militia and the volunteers is much the same. Presumably some time after Parliament meets the Secretary of State will announce definitely

his intention with regard to all these troops. But if all these matters are to be left in obscurity till then, what point was there in making the announcement twelve months earlier? It is hoped that Mr. Arnold-Forster will not announce any more reforms until he sees his way to carry them out, and to do so within a reasonable time.

A non-commissioned officer writes from the Transvaal protesting against soldiers being compelled to travel third class on South African railways. He points out that the third class is, at any rate in Natal, practically used by Kaffirs only, and any white man travelling in a carriage with Kaffirs would feel degraded in his own eyes, and would be regarded with contempt by his fellows. That this is so is, I suppose, beyond question. It may be a melancholy thing that such feelings should prevail between different races of mankind; but there they are, and as long as they are there, to compel soldiers to do what no white man will voluntarily do, seems unfair to the soldier, and impolitic from the point of view of the Government. My correspondent asserts that soldiers travelling on the Natal railways are subject to every kind of slight and insult from railway officials and passengers, and are treated, in fact, more or less like Kaffirs. If the Government sets the example of so treating them, what else can it expect?

It is deplorable to read that the contempt and loathing manifested by the whites in South Africa towards the blacks is extended indiscriminately to Asiatics whose skins are not of the right colour. Practically, a South African colonist seems unable to distinguish between a nigger and a Hindu, although the latter may be by comparison with the British colonist an educated gentleman. In a recent letter from Natal the writer describes how he saw a party of white men board an electric tram-car in Durban. The car was full, and among the passengers were three Hindus. All three were forcibly hauled out of their seats by the Englishmen, who threatened to pitch them off the car if they made any resistance, and then appropriated their places. My correspondent, being a stranger, was so disgusted at this assault, that he was disposed to interfere, but refrained on finding that neither the conductor nor any one else took the slightest notice of the incident.

A recent letter from Burma describes the very scandalous conditions under which troops are conveyed by river in that country. The troops are stowed on two-decked flats, towed by a steamer which carries the officers. A couple of these flats are considered sufficient for a regiment over 800 strong. The men are packed so tightly that at night there is little more than room for all of them to lie down upon the decks; and the necessary accommodation for cooking and all other purposes is of the most primitive and limited description. The 1st Middlesex Regiment, which travelled from Rangoon to Thayetmyo last month, was eight days on the voyage, and during this time the men were only once allowed on shore. The conditions of life on board under these circumstances are not merely uncomfortable, but disgusting and insanitary; and there can be no excuse whatever for requiring troops to perform long journeys under such circumstances in time of peace.

A bitter growl reaches me from Mauritius, with reference to the detention on that island of a number of time-expired men of the Royal Engineers. How long they have been there does not appear, but as the men in question served in the South African war, it is evident that they must have been abroad a very long time. A few weeks ago a ship called at Mauritius, by which the sappers had been led to expect that reliefs would arrive, and the men's transfer documents were actually got ready on that assumption; but it turned out that reliefs had come for every other corps on the island except the R.E. Perhaps the War Office has forgotten their existence. Knowing what the War Office is, I often wonder whether a regiment or company ever gets mislaid in some out of the way corner of the world, and what its ultimate fate is under those circumstances.

An Anglo-Indian correspondent sends me an edifying story of an official squabble over a question of precedence which arose in connection with the annual conference of the leading lights of the I.C.S. in the Central Provinces. It seems that one of the little tin gods took dire offence because his name figured below instead of above some one else's in a list drawn up by the junior civilian who was acting as secretary of the Committee of Management. It was an insignificant and innocent mistake, but it caused no end of bother, and the unhappy secretary was severely reprimanded. Judging from what my correspondent says, this storm in a teacup is an appropriate incident of the conference. Ostensibly this gathering is held to enable members of the Indian Civil Service in the Central Provinces to exchange views on matters of administration, and on that understanding the week or so it occupies is not deducted from their annual leave. In point of fact, however, it is not a meeting for the discussion of public business, but for the pursuit of pleasure, those attending it devoting themselves almost exclusively to the enjoyment of dinners, dances, races, gymkhanas, cricket matches, etc.

Meanwhile much of the machinery of the Government is put out of gear by the absence of important officials from their posts. In some places trials of civil and criminal cases have to be postponed, the tours of their districts by Deputy Commissioners are suspended, and in innumerable ways the administration suffers. The officers of other departments of the public service are not permitted to indulge in a week's holiday on the pretence of taking part in a conference, and it is not creditable to the Administration of the Central Provinces that this abuse should be tolerated in the case of the Civil Service.

A reference some time ago to the exclusion of Indians from the Mall in Simla during the hours when Europeans congregate there elicited a defence of the order

on the ground that it only applied to coolies and other natives of low degree and objectionable habits. It will be interesting to learn what justification is attempted for the regulation which, according to the *Bengalee*, is now being enforced in the Red-road, Calcutta. Here, at any rate, it is not simply a question of the exclusion of the ill-clad and malodorous coolie, for recently a native gentleman of wealth and position, who left his carriage and pair to take a stroll in this fashionable promenade, was peremptorily ordered away by a European police constable. The constable stated that the Commissioner of Police had prohibited the use of the road by Indian gentlemen. In matters of this kind British administration in India appears to be distinctly reactionary, and measures are adopted which years ago would have been deemed odious and contemptible exhibitions of racial prejudice.

Several letters have reached me from members of the Railway Clearing House Superannuation Fund in reference to the alarming report of the actuaries which has been discussed in one of the daily papers. The Fund is maintained under the sanction of an Act of Parliament, partly by compulsory deductions from the salaries of some 15,000 clerks and officials, and partly by the contributions of the railway companies, whose representatives have the controlling power over the management. Ten years back a surplus of £98,000 existed. A change was then made in the method of computing pensions, and the disastrous result is that this surplus has now been converted into a prospective deficiency, estimated by the actuaries at no less than £483,000.

Under the scheme adopted in 1893, pensions have been based on the average of the pensioner's salary for the last seven years of his service, instead of on the average for the whole period of his employment, which was the former basis of computation. The new scheme applied, of course, to all members, but it is asserted—indeed, it seems indisputable—that it has worked out enormously to the advantage of the higher-paid officials, one or two of whom have retired and drawn as much as £2,000 a year from the fund. With their last cheques all the pensioners received notice that their pensions will be forthwith reduced. It would appear, however, that the reductions now recommended by the actuaries will only mean a postponement of the difficulty which the managers of the fund have to meet. "In all probability," the actuaries say, "five years hence it will be found that the deficiency still exists, even if it has not increased, and to preserve the stability of the fund it must then be dealt with." With all respect to the actuaries, this proposal for putting off the evil day seems scarcely sound or business-like. In justice to those who will be compelled to go on contributing to the fund the crisis surely ought to be dealt with now. There is said to be a possibility that the railway companies concerned will come to the rescue by guaranteeing the solvency of the fund if the reductions suggested are agreed to, and it is to be hoped that this will be done.

The ratepayers of Hereford have just had a costly experience of the unreliability of building estimates. The Corporation decided to build a new Town Hall, and the ratepayers were assured that the total expenditure would not exceed £25,000. Now that the hall is erected the unwelcome disclosure has been made that the contractors for the building will have to be paid "extras" to the amount of no less than £5,700, chiefly in respect of "additional foundations" and a "basement story" not included in the contract. Estimates for public buildings are almost invariably exceeded, but such a huge excess as this seems inexcusable.

The prosecution of Sir William Grantham by the Chailey District Council is an idiotic proceeding from beginning to end, and the abortive verdict—or whatever it is to be called—of the Lewes Bench is quite in harmony with all that preceded it. As far as I can make out, the learned Judge was "hauled before the beaks" solely for the offence of *lèse majesté* against the Chailey Council, and even this offence was not proved, for Sir William seems to have done everything that a man could be expected to do in the way of showing deference to the local Bumbles. There does not seem to have been any serious attempt to prove that the cottages which Sir William proposed to erect were structurally defective, and it seems to have been proved that the plans conformed to the by-laws. The question would never have been heard of at all, but for the fact that the District Council did not consider Sir William's plans were drawn with such scientific precision or technical skill, as is requisite in documents deposited before so august a tribunal as theirs. It is a great pity, therefore, that the Lewes Bench did not dismiss the summons, by way of a lesson to all such swollen-headed Jacks-in-Office.

The public, however, are indebted to Sir William Grantham for the fight he has made in this case—no doubt very much against his own inclination—because it has served to draw universal attention to the important matter of rural housing. The discussion to which the case has given rise shows clearly that the existing by-laws of the local authorities, for the form of which the Local Government Board is responsible, tend to defeat rather than gain the end which ought to be the only one in view, namely, the provision of decent habitable cottages for rural labourers. No one disputes—certainly I should be the last to do so—the need for some official authority to stand between the speculative builder and the unfortunate victims who have no choice but to inhabit such houses as he provides for them. It may be that in these days, when the cost of building is so high, there is need for such an authority even to look after landlords, who may be tempted to cut down expenditure to the point at which the sanitary qualities of the building begin to suffer. But the existing by-laws go far beyond this. They seem to be mainly modelled upon what has been found necessary for the safeguarding of the public health in towns, and to have little intelligent consideration for the totally different conditions of life in rural districts. The

result of these pedantic rules, coupled with the progressive rise in the cost of building, is rapidly bringing about the result that the rural labourer can find nowhere to live, notwithstanding the depopulation of the country districts.

Mr. Jesse Fletcher, proprietor of the *Great North Magazine*, River View, Seacombe, Liverpool, turned up in the West Bromwich County Court last week as plaintiff in an action against a local firm of ironfounders. I have frequently explained the method on which Fletcher conducts his so-called magazine. He writes to a tradesman or manufacturer intimating that he will be pleased to publish an article descriptive of his business or works. No direct charge is to be made for the article, but if the tradesman or manufacturer desires its appearance, he is asked to buy a certain number of copies of the magazine, and also to pay what is represented as the cost of the blocks to illustrate the article. As a matter of fact, however, the blocks are charged for at a price per square inch so much in excess of the actual cost that it gives Fletcher a very handsome profit on the whole transaction.

In the case at West Bromwich the defendants were led to believe that altogether they would not have to pay Fletcher more than £10, but after the article was published he sent in a bill for no less than £46, of which £3 15s. was for 100 copies of his precious magazine, and the rest for blocks at the exorbitant price of 1s. 6d. per square inch. It was to recover this £46 that he brought his action. The defendants alleged that the order they gave was obtained by fraudulent misrepresentations with regard both to the extent and character of the circulation of the *Great North Magazine* and the cost of the blocks; and the jury came to the conclusion that such misrepresentations had been made. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendants, with costs—a result which should encourage other parties who have been bamboozled by Mr. Jesse Fletcher to refuse payment of his bill. The business which he carries on was characterised by the defendant's solicitor as an "advertisement swindle," and that is what it really is.

A very harsh sentence by the Daventry Divisional J.P.s was brought to light at an inquest on the body of a prisoner in Northampton Gaol last week. Being very ill and destitute, and failing to get charitable relief, the deceased, an elderly tramp, broke a window in order that he might be arrested. The seriousness of his illness was apparent to everybody, and the police suggested to the magistrates that the man should be discharged and removed to the workhouse infirmary. Instead of taking this humane course, however, the Daventry Dracos committed the poor fellow to Northampton Gaol for fourteen days. This necessitated a twelve miles' railway journey which he was manifestly unfit to bear, and the result was that by the time he reached the gaol his condition had become very much worse, and two days later he died. In view of these facts, the magistrates have certainly been fortunate in escaping with a mild censure from the coroner's jury.

In pleasant contrast to this merciless sentence at Daventry was the action of the Norwich City Bench the other day, when two tramps were charged with refusing to do their allotted task at the workhouse. The allotted task was the breaking of 7 cwt. of stone, and it was obvious that both the prisoners were physically incapable of getting through such a job. There are plenty of magistrates who readily pass sentences of imprisoment in cases of this kind, regardless of the health and strength of the accused—indeed, the report of the Commissioners of Prisons calls attention every year to the lack of discrimination and humanity which is displayed in punishing men charged with this offence. The Norwich Bench, to their credit, discharged these prisoners, and at the same time expressed the opinion that more discretion ought to be shown in the allotment of tasks to "casuals" at the workhouse. The point is one that has been repeatedly pressed upon the attention of Bumble, but he declines to make any change, though it is clearly cruel to inflict the one uniform task upon all sorts and conditions of men.

My attention has been called by several of my readers to the observations of a Mr. Oswald Hanson, in some recent proceedings at West London Police-court. The charge was one of assault, brought by a man named Allen Davis, of 524, High-road, Chiswick, and, in reply to an allusion to what has been said in Truth about this individual, Mr. Hanson, his solicitor, observed that his client paid no attention to "nonsense written by irresponsible idiots in an irresponsible paper." I hope that this man of law has not advised his client that Truth is an irresponsible paper; but if he has, Davis had better look for another lawyer. It is news to me that such a thing as an irresponsible paper exists; at any rate I have never yet known any lawyer suggest that Truth was in that blessed condition. So far as I know, the only people who can fling about defamatory observations without being held responsible are advocates in law-courts; and the only people who abuse their irresponsible position are police-court solicitors.

The man Davis, on the foregoing occasion, alleged that a schoolmaster who had been taken in by one of his advertisements, and had come to the shop to try to get his money back, had assaulted him. The schoolmaster replied that Davis was drunk and had assaulted him most savagely. Two independent witnesses corroborated this allegation. The magistrate contented himself with observing that there had evidently been an affray between the two men, and, as the defendant had apparently got the worst of it, and had merely committed the trivial assault of pushing his bicycle against the complainant's legs, he did no more than bind him over for six months. It is a wonder to my mind that men like Davis, whose trade consists in palming off rubbishy goods by means of deceptive advertisements, do not get assaulted by their customers a good deal oftener.

St. Thomas's Hospital ministers to the crowded poor of Lambeth and surrounding districts. £11,000 is required from Voluntary Contributions. There is a large deficit this year.

By way of marking the Christmas season I have this week again proclaimed an amnesty for the Great Unpaid; being inspired by the hope that they, on their part, have exhibited a similar tenderness in their decisions in this time of peace and goodwill.

At Birmingham Assizes the other day, Mr. Justice Channell remarked that not a single verdict in the civil actions in his court had satisfied him. One of the jurymen on whom this rebuke fell, writes to me in a very impenitent mood. He says he is not at all surprised that the Judge was dissatisfied with the verdicts; what does astonish him is that anybody should expect any better result from a system under which men are torn from their own business for days together, and called upon to apply their minds, without fee or reward, to the settlement of other people's disputes. In his own case he had to leave his business for three days, and he argues that if satisfactory verdicts are desired jurymen must be suitably remunerated for their services. I suppose that I ought to lecture this gentleman on the duties of citizenship, and to remind him that trial by jury is one of the most sacred of our institutions, the palladium of our liberties, and so on. But really I have a great deal of sympathy with his views. To most men, service on a jury must always be inconvenient and irksome, and to many it means a serious pecuniary loss. The reasonableness of allowing a fee is already recognised in the case of special juries, and in fairness common jurymen should also be paid.

I have before me some further correspondence, in which Mr. H. M. Hardy, of the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company, Manchester, describes himself as "the sole owner of this business," says that he has been there for months managing every department, and denies that he has any partners. He also emphatically repudiates having ever had any business dealings with a former customer of the defunct Home and Colonial Knitting Company, of London, adding: "You will find that it is quite useless to try and frighten money out of me by threats." I would suggest to Hardy that he should explain why under these circumstances he promptly paid up claims which were made against his firm in respect of dealings with the said Home and Colonial Knitting Company. He would also do well to explain at the same time what is the precise connection of the two men Bennett and Hunter with the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company.

As my readers are aware, Bennett and Hunter are somewhat under a cloud as vendors of knitting machines for home employment, in consequence of a County Court Judge having stigmatised the business of the Home and Colonial Knitting Company as a "gross and cruel fraud." Mr. Horace M. Hardy must clearly understand that it is not to his advantage to have these gentlemen associated with the Hardy Machine and Woollen Company. It must be still more disadvantageous for him to be personally suspected of being either Bennett or Hunter. Under these circumstances I once again suggest to Hardy that he should explain what Bennett and Hunter have to do with the Hardy Company, and also why the Hardy Company has on former occasions discharged liabilities incurred by Bennett and Hunter in the course of their previous swindle.

A correspondent forwards an interesting collection, made during the last five years, of advertisements and letters in connection with the second-hand piano trick. The collection appears to relate exclusively to the individual who carries on this business in the name of "Reginald Gratton," from various addresses in the S.E. postal district. The attentive reader of TRUTH knows all about Gratton, as well as other parties in the same line of business in other districts of London—all of them, of course, agents for unknown makers, posing as private individuals who are disposing of their pianos second-hand. This collection, however, affords striking proof of the extent to which this trick is practised, no doubt most profitably. Among the addresses used during the last five years are 85, Catford-hill, 193, New Cross-gate, 191, Queen's-road, Peckham, Morgan's Library, Bushey-green, S.E., and 358, Stanstead-road, Catford, which appears to be Gratton's latest address. The different characters assumed by the agent may be seen from the following extracts:—

Medical gentlemen leaving for South Africa offers supremely beautiful walnut and marqueterie piano, etc.

Bank clerk, out of berth, desires immediate buyer for most superb seven-octave check-action walnut-wood piano. Exquisitely designed marqueterie front; brilliant tone, etc.

Lady going to join her husband in Bombay, offers supremely elegant upright iron grand, etc.

Lady nurse, leaving for Johannesburg, offers for sale supremely beautiful upright iron grand, with all latest improvements, etc.

Through failure of bank, gentleman must sell lovely upright grand piano, etc.

Lady leaving to join her husband in South Africa, offers supremely elegant upright iron grand, etc. . . .

Gentleman leaving for foreign mission work, must dispose of supremely beautiful walnut and marqueterie, etc. . . .

Lady leaving to join her husband, a minister in India, seeks purchaser for lovely walnut and marqueterie, etc. . . .

Side by side with these advertisements it is interesting to read Gratton's answers to correspondents. His descriptions of the instrument are almost always the same, and the maker is in all cases Rowland Warner of Kentish Town, but formerly of and more recently of Stoke Newington. The condition of the piano is always "same as new," or "just as new," which is no doubt true enough, the instrument being sent direct from the works to Gratton's quarters for the purpose of sale. In 1899 Gratton was acting for "my sister, Mrs. Gould," who was "away at mother's home in Scotland." In 1902 the alleged owner of the piano was "my sister, Miss L. Gratton," while so recently as last month the lady had become once more "my sister, Mrs. Gould," and was again "away at mother's home in Scotland." It is worthy of note that nearly all the advertisements above mentioned appeared in the same newspaper, and it seems to me that newspaper managers might with advantage exercise a little more discretion about the publication of advertisements of this character, the trick being notorious.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, Upwards of 8,000 convictions annually. Complaints marked "Private" absolutely confidential. Anonymous complaints are treated as WASTE PAPER.—SECRETARY, 105, Jermyn-st., London.

I spoke last week of the scandalous puffing in certain provincial newspapers of the disreputable quack who travels about the country under the name of "Professor Richard." I am indebted to the *Army and Navy Gazette* and one or two other contemporaries for information which shows very usefully how this puffing is brought about. A printed communication is sent round to the Press, signed by Mrs. Alice Renault, of 57, Chantry-road, Southampton. In it Mrs. Renault states that, having been "almost miraculously cured," she would like to give publicity to the means by which the miracle was wrought, "if you could of your good nature publish the following paragraph gratis in your widely-circulated journal." She adds: "Could I afford it, I would have been only too pleased to pay for the favour." The following paragraph purports to be an extract from the *Midland Free Press*, of Leicester, and begins in this strain:—

PROFESSOR RICHARD'S TRIUMPH.
THE QUEEN AND THE DEAF WOMAN.

Some of our readers will be interested to learn that Professor Richard, the Medical Electrician who recently visited Southampton for the treatment of patients, has lately been attracting a good deal of attention. According to the local newspaper report Queen Alexandra was interested in the case of a poor woman, named Alice Renault, of 57, Chantry Road, Southampton, who had suffered from deafness for seven years, etc., etc.

There is a great deal more in this strain, but it gives little or no information, beyond the interesting fact that Mrs. Renault reported her experience to the Queen, and received an acknowledgment of her communication.

Without going into further details, it will be seen that the whole thing is a piece of elaborate "fake," with the object of obtaining a free advertisement for Richard. It is, of course, Richard, not Mrs. Renault, who is sending out this letter and the accompanying paragraph; and he gives himself away hopelessly by making the woman say that she cannot afford to pay for an advertisement, seeing the amount she must have expended on printing and distributing these circulars. That they have been distributed widely is evident from the fact that the very envelope in which they are posted bears the printed words: "To the Editor of ——." I have seen this advertisement in a number of papers in different parts of England, from which it would appear that, transparent as the trick is, it is deep enough to impose upon a good many people who are considered competent to edit newspapers. Really this is very humiliating.

No doubt the worthy Richard is aware by this time that I have once more got my eye upon him. I beg him, therefore, to note that if I catch him again at his swindling tricks I shall be under the painful necessity of calling the attention of the police to his past record, and suggesting that he should be turned out of any town in which he makes his appearance, which has already been his fate in India and the Colonies. Out of mistaken consideration for his age and misfortunes I have for a long time allowed him to go on his way without interference, on his solemn promise that he would do nothing open to objection. He appears to be grossly abusing this indulgence, and if he does not drop his roguery spontaneously a little compulsion will have to be employed.

Among a batch of home-employment circulars sent to me the other day I came across a new name, that of "F. Morgan and Co.," 233, Lavender Hill, S.W. The name is the only novelty about the circular, which merely promises payment for envelope addressing, and requires a remittance of 1s. 6d. as a "condition precedent." Either Morgan and Co. is identical with that old-established firm, T. Smith and Co., of Elm Lodge, Southall, or Morgan has been making very free with Smith's stock-in-trade, for the front page of his circular is identical with the front page of Smith's, word for word, and the family likeness continues throughout. The second page in both of them contains a batch of alleged testimonials, headed: "Proof—As the genuineness of our offer has on different occasions been called in question by prejudiced persons, etc., etc.," and the only wonder is that the same testimonials are not reproduced in both circulars.

However, all the firms in this shady line of business imitate one another very closely in the wording of their circulars. Several paragraphs, both in Smith's and Morgan's circulars, may be found also in that of H. E. Nicholls and Co., of 10, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn. This is another home-employment "proposition" of the envelope-addressing class. It would not surprise me to learn that all three firms are the same individual. At any rate, all three should be equally shunned by persons in search of work, and, I may add, by the managers of newspaper advertisement offices. Both Morgan's and Smith's advertisements offer a salary of £3 weekly, or 10s. daily, which is enough in itself to stamp the thing as humbug. Nicholls and Co. are more modest, though probably not less delusive. Their advertisement only offers 30s. a week.

There has been a wholesale distribution in India lately of books of tickets for a racing sweepstake which is represented as being held for the benefit of the Young People's Club, Bajeh Shibpur, Howrah. An accompanying circular says that the object of the club is "to encourage the moral and intellectual culture of young men" at Bajeh Shibpur. It would seem, however, that the Babu promoter of the scheme also has at heart the moral and intellectual culture of the wider public whom he invites to join in his gamble, for he gives prominence to an announcement that all persons subscribing for two complete books of tickets (thirty-six at two annas each) "are supplied with a copy of weekly newspapar (*sic*) TRUTH free of charge, and disposers of more than two books are supplied with additional copies of TRUTH if so desired." Naturally, I am loth to say a word in disparagement of any proposal to increase the circulation of TRUTH. To prevent any misunderstanding, however, I think is desirable to explain that I know nothing of this scheme, and to add that people in India who want to read TRUTH will probably find it more satisfactory to subscribe in the ordinary way.

CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). The Original Brand.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Beware of imitations.
CHERRY WHISKY FREMY FILS (CHESKY). Sold everywhere.

B

My latest information respecting the swindle calling itself the United Press Association, of 15 and 16, St. Dunstan's-hill, E.C., comes from a gentleman who answered one of the advertisements in a South African paper. Happily he was a cautious gentleman. Noticing that the circulars stated that "483 newspapers are members of the United Press Association in Great Britain," he wrote and asked for the names of the papers referred to. Naturally the information was not forthcoming; and the reply was simply an insolent letter intimating that the U.P.A. cared not whether their correspondent joined them or not. Notwithstanding that, within a few weeks one of the usual "follow-up" letters was addressed to the same person, offering him instruction, at reduced terms, and pointing out that these terms are peculiarly reasonable, "when it is considered that our instructors must possess the highest degree of skill and be paid salaries accordingly."

As it appears that there are a great many people who are still in the dark as to the character of this business, it seems desirable to point out again that the whole thing is an impudent "ramp," which was only started in this country after it had been squelched, largely by the action of the Press, in America. It is not necessary to look further than the headings of the stationery now in use for evidence of the dishonesty of the thing. To the unsuspecting observer the concern appears to be described as "The Press Association," the word "United" being inscribed in a flourish up above, without any indication that it is part of the title. The intention, of course, is to suggest that the concern is identical with the old-established news and literary agency which is universally known under the name of the Press Association.

Again, below the title of the Association appears the announcement: "Political, general, and dramatic news service, by cable, mail, and stereotype," and the statement that "483 newspapers are members of the United Press Association in Great Britain," is obviously intended to be read with these words, and to convey to the ignorant boys and girls to whom the advertisements are addressed that this is a bona-fide news and literary agency, doing a very large business. In point of fact all that it does is to retail a few utterly worthless hints and instructions to the victims, under the pretence of teaching them journalism. It seems to me that the whole thing is sufficiently fraudulent to be reached by the criminal law, if the victims would bestir themselves for the purpose. I might add that the gang engaged in this business combine with it a medical quack business, of much the same character, under the titles of "The Diabetic Institute," and "The Diabetes Flour Company."

What astonishes me about the advertisements of the United Press Association is that any respectable newspaper should be found ready to publish them. This is not a case where any newspaper can plead ignorance of the nature of the advertisements offered to it, for every practical journalist must know perfectly well that the pretence of training young people in journalism by correspondence is nonsense. One might suppose that any journalist with a regard for the credit of his own profession would do his best to save beginners from being trapped by such devices; but as a matter of fact there are papers in all parts of the Empire—though I am glad to say they seem to be more now in the Colonies than in the United Kingdom—who are ready to play the game of these impostors as long as the requisite payment for the purpose is forthcoming.

Cannot the Commissioners of Inland Revenue take steps to prevent the improper use of the name of the Inland Revenue—to say nothing of the Royal Arms—by such harpies as the man Todd, otherwise Leicester and Co., of Twickenham? One of the tricks of this individual in bamboozling servant girls, farm labourers, and other innocents into the purchase of cheap watches at excessive prices is to offer a "warranty" printed on blue paper with the Royal arms and the words "Licensed by his Majesty's Inland Revenue" in bold type at the top. There is not the least doubt that this "warranty," like the bogus County Court notices issued in connection with the same business, is got up to impress ignorant people with the idea that it is an official document, and the Inland Revenue should surely be able to stop such an imposition. Todd, of course, only possesses the ordinary licence to deal in plate, and in view of the misuse which he makes of the fact, it is a matter for consideration at Somerset House whether this licence ought not to be withdrawn.

A good example of the mischief done by this kind of trading with servant girls is given by a correspondent in Lancashire. A girl in his service was humbugged by a travelling agent into buying a "gold" watch at £3 15s.—payable by 5s. a month. The vendors were a firm in Bristol; he does not mention the name, but I think I know it. The watch was valued subsequently, and pronounced to be worth 12s. 6d. It was returned to the vendors, and sent back by them to the girl, but not accepted when delivered; and though representatives of the firm called and endeavoured to frighten the girl into keeping the thing, they fortunately failed. Now, this girl was paying out of her small wages £1 a month for the support of an invalid mother, and had she kept to the bargain into which she was tricked, the payment must have come out of the mother's money. No doubt this is often the result when girls are tricked into buying goods of the rapacious swindlers in this line of business.

My attention was called the other day to a catalogue of modern books distributed by a firm called Holland Brothers, of Birmingham, and I should think that the Birmingham police might make a little inspection of this firm's premises with advantage, for though it is quite true that the greater part of the stock offered is unobjectionable, interspersed with it is a great deal of literature of the lowest class, including several of the

"privately printed" works, which are usually offered from Paris rather than Birmingham. One of these catalogues reaches me from a junior master in a public school to whom it was addressed—a fact which is not insignificant.

Esteemed Recipient,—I want the opportunity to grow hair upon your head. I know that a person of your excellent position in life can fully appreciate the many beneficial results that would follow the attainment of the growth of nice natural hair.

This is the exordium of a communication addressed to a young lady aged eleven years by the individual calling himself "John Craven-Burleigh," whose advertisements are to be seen in every direction. Like most little girls of her age, the "esteemed recipient" has no opening for any additional growth of hair on her head; and it is a mystery how gentry of the John Craven-Burleigh class can get at the names of children for the purpose of such circulars. The document goes on to inform the "esteemed recipient" that John Craven-Burleigh has decided to make her "a special offer" to the following effect:—

I purpose selling you three of the large 5s. size boxes at half-price, namely, 7s. 6d., and I guarantee to you that if this quantity is not sufficient to produce hair one inch in length, I will continue to supply you with my pomade until the growth is actually accomplished. . . .

The precise value of this guarantee may be judged from the request made in a P.S.—"Please return this letter with your reply." While making his "special offer"—which, of course, is contained in a printed circular sent out broadcast, and not intended for little girls of eleven years old—the advertiser is careful to take steps to deprive his bald-headed dupes of any evidence that the offer was ever made.

"John Craven-Burleigh" is one of the numerous trade aliases of a very 'cute Yankee named Scott, who has for the last few years found this country a more comfortable residence than his own, and has been preying on the more gullible section of the British public by "smart advertising" of the most undesirable American pattern. He is most familiar under the name of "Symonds' London Stores," and simultaneously with the above communication the little girl receives another from the establishment, which shows how closely the two concerns are connected. In the second document the "Esteemed Recipient"—Scott's mode of address does not vary with his aliases—is asked, "Do you want a bicycle?" and is led to suppose that she may acquire such an article "free" by wasting her time over one of the Symonds' Stores bogus competitions, with which readers of Truth are already familiar.

Further evidence of the insidious blarney with which children, or other persons of imperfect understanding, are gammoned in these circulars may be seen in the following passage:—

You may wonder why it is that we select you as a person to whom we offer the privilege of gaining such a gift as a ten-guinea bicycle by this competition. The reason is that you will naturally prove very useful to us, as you will speak about us to your friends. We issue several catalogues, and deal by post all over the United Kingdom.

The last statement is doubtless true, and the fact shows how desirable it is that the "mail order" business in the United Kingdom should be subjected to some of those wholesome restrictions applied to it in the United States, with the result that Yankees of the Scott type find it prudent to transfer their operations to this side of the Atlantic. This is one of the cases in which I am all in favour of restricting American imports.

The other day a gentleman who had passed a shorthand examination, and whose name had been mentioned in that connection in the *Phonetic Journal*, was gratified by the receipt of a communication from the "Society of Commerce," of Dollar, N.B., inviting him to become a fellow of that society. As the communication intimated that the fellowship would cost him a guinea, and as he was unable to learn anything about the Society of Commerce, he applied to me for advice before accepting the proffered distinction. I know nothing of this society myself, nor have I been able to find any one who does. So far as I can gather from the literature accompanying the above communication, the society consists of three gentlemen—Mr. Robert Mackenzie, M.A., who is President; Mr. Alexander L. Curr, of St. Andrews, who is called the Registrar; and Mr. J. B. Wyles, of Dollar, N.B., who is the General Secretary and Treasurer. These gentlemen are, of course, within their rights in offering to confer fellowships on their fellow creatures, but only a hopeless flat would pay them a guinea for this compliment.

Mr. Carl Hentschel calls my attention to an experiment tried the other day at the annual dinner of the Bartholomew Club, and I think I cannot do better than commend it to the attention of all gentlemen who get up public dinners. On this occasion all the speeches were "taken as read"—that is to say, they were printed in a little book, which was distributed to the guests. This is nothing less than "epoch-making." If the idea is generally adopted, as I sincerely hope it may be, a public dinner may cease to be a terror to the people who have to make the speeches, and to the people who have to listen to them. It also seems likely to tend to the elevation of after-dinner oratory. At any rate, the Bartholomew Club speeches, so far as I have studied them, reach a much higher standard than one is accustomed to on these occasions. This bears out what I said the other day as to the difference between spoken orations and those which are carefully written out and prepared for publication in book form.

There are signs at last of an awakening in Trinidad and Jamaica to the injustice of the system of coolie immigration which burdens the community at large with a heavy expenditure for the special benefit of the sugar planters. It has often been pointed out in Truth that the system under which men and women from East India are transported to the West Indies to become "indentured" labourers on the sugar estates is virtually one of slavery, and not infrequently reproduces the same abuses of cruelty and oppression. But the agitation now arising in the Colonies where the system prevails is based on economic grounds, rather than on

any humanitarian consideration for the coolies, or any objection on principle to the practice of slavery.

In the Trinidad Legislative Council recently a motion for the importation of 2,400 coolies from India in the coming year evoked a vigorous, though unsuccessful, protest. The Council were reminded that in the past four years the colony had spent upwards of £200,000 on coolie immigration, solely in the interests of the sugar planters. Other employers have no difficulty in obtaining the labour they require in the island, and the sugar planters would have as little if they would pay a fair wage. Not unnaturally, however, they are disinclined to do this so long as a benevolent administration is good enough to provide them with alien coolies, who are "indentured" to work on their estates for a term of five years at what are practically starvation wages.

The fact that any opposition whatever should have been offered to the motion in the Trinidad Council is full of significance, for the sugar planters wield so much influence over the administration of the colony that such motions have usually been passed *nem. con.* In Jamaica also people are beginning to cry out against the system of coolie immigration. That colony has not merely a sufficiency but a superabundance of local labour; yet, while the native unemployed question is becoming more acute, coolies are still being imported to work on the sugar estates. For years the proprietors of the West Indian sugar estates wailed about the bounties their European competitors were getting, and at last their lamentations were heeded by Mr. Chamberlain, the outcome being that disastrous Brussels Convention for which every English family is now paying so dearly. But all the time the West Indian planters were receiving a very substantial indirect bounty in the shape of this system of State-supported coolie immigration, and though bounties elsewhere have been abolished, this is still being continued. It is no wonder that the inhabitants of the colonies concerned are growing restive under this imposition, more especially as the profits of the sugar industry are mainly pocketed by absentee landlords. The wonder rather is that the system has been tolerated so long.

By way of showing that some of the performances of the highly salaried magistrates in the Transvaal equal those of our own Great Unpaid, one of my Colonial readers sends me an account of a recent decision in a case of cruelty to a horse at Potchefstroom. The horse would not or could not pull a load, whereupon the driver, an Englishman in the employ of a local brewery company, first thrashed the animal, and then burnt it under the stomach and under the tail with a shovelful of live coals. The horse was badly injured, but though the defendant pleaded guilty, the acting resident magistrate discharged him without any penalty. The Transvaal Government seems to have regarded this decision with approval, for the magistrate in question has since been promoted to a more lucrative post at Pretoria.

When a direct attack fails it is the practice of military strategists to concentrate their efforts on some outlying position which commands the fortress which they are seeking to capture. So it is when politicians are attempting to hustle a country into a policy of which it does not approve. Mr. Chamberlain makes the direct attack upon the Free Trade fortress, though his tactical idea seems to be that the walls, like those of Jericho, can be overturned by the braying of brazen trumpets. In the meantime, while Mr. Chamberlain is braying and trumpeting, Mr. Balfour seeks to effect an entrance by more artful manœuvres. With this object he proposed to call a Colonial Conference, at which the merits of Free Trade and Protection are to be discussed in the abstract. He knows, however, that the country would look upon this as merely an attempt to insert the thin end of the wedge, so his latest move is to wheedle the country into assenting to such a conference, on the ground that it will afford an opportunity of persuading the Colonies to pay their quota towards the cost of the Navy.

According to Mr. Balfour, circumstances render it necessary that we should maintain our present expenditure on the Navy, and in all probability we shall have to increase it in future. He admits that we cannot afford this, so he would have us go, hat in hand, to the Colonies, imploring them to relieve us of a portion of our burden. Mr. Chamberlain proclaims that if we do not tax food for their benefit, the Colonies will separate from us, and that the Empire will perish by disintegration. Mr. Balfour proclaims that the Empire will be destroyed by a foreign attack, unless the Colonies will pay for its defence. Our only chance of safety, therefore, lies in a conference, at which Mr. Balfour will coax the Colonials to share the cost of the Navy, while Mr. Chamberlain will arrange with them taxes on our food for their benefit, while allowing them to maintain tariff walls against our goods for the benefit of their own manufacturers. This, so far as I can make it out, is the latest plan of campaign between these two worthies.

It is by no means so easy a task to give representative government to Russia as some seem to suppose. The vast Empire contains many races that are hardly civilised, and the Czar is the only tie that binds them together. Nor is this the only difficulty. In Russia that middle class which is the ballast in representative government is non-existent. There are large merchants and manufacturers, but politically there are no shopkeepers. The artisan class seldom troubles itself with politics, provided that its Artels are not interfered with. The mass of the population lives on the land. The nobility own the soil, and are what we should call country gentlemen. The village pays a rent to the owner and the taxes to the Government. The villagers portion out the land between themselves. There is no legal fixity of tenure, but the villager retains his plot by usage, provided that he cultivates it. In each province there is a Local Council, which is

elected by the landowners, and on which practically landowners alone sit. The Council has the right to petition the Czar directly if it has to complain of the Minister of the Interior or of his local representatives, and this right it occasionally exercises.

In the main, the Councils act fairly to the peasants. There is, however, a certain amount of friction between the two, and the peasants have generally a superstitious respect for the Csar, whom they believe to be their protection against injustice on the part of the country gentlemen. At one word from him they would rise against the latter and burn their houses. The beauracracy is ill paid, and is thoroughly corrupt. So are the lower law courts. Both in towns and in country districts there are Anarchists and Nihilists. These are, however, comparatively few in number. They meet together secretly, have passwords, know how to keep their secrets, and their main idea of promoting the cause of reform is to blow up somebody or something. Up to a point many are in sympathy with them, because they are, in a general way, discontented with their lot; but I doubt whether many approve of their methods, or are hostile to the Czar. When there are riots, they are generally due to some local grievance.

All hate the Jews, not on account of their religion, but because they insist upon living apart from the rest of the community, and are given to usury. They are to Russia what the gombeen men are to Ireland. Russians of all classes have many excellent qualities. But they are more or less Orientals, too dreamy to be practical, apt to rush into extremes at one moment and to be lethargic and indifferent to everything at another. They have no sustained energy, either for good or bad.

With such elements it seems to me to be necessary not to make a sudden plunge from an Oriental autocracy into a free representative government. Such a plunge might lead to anarchy and to a return eventually to despotism. The Emperor should commence by giving more liberty of action to provincial Councils and to municipalities, and by introducing a popular element into both. These Councils and the great municipalities might send delegates to a General Council at St. Petersburg, and this general council might by degrees be expanded into a Parliament. If the present Emperor were as able and experienced as he is well intentioned, he might retain a good deal of control during the process of building up a representative scheme of rule. As he is not, he should act through a Council of State, composed of men honestly desirous of free institutions and with some experience of governing.

Financial Protection for Families or Provision for Old Age. The public is invited to apply for the new Prospectus of the Scottish Widows' Fund. Funds £17,000,000. Participating Life Assurances by Annual Premiums effected before December 31st next, will, at the next Division of Profits (1903) rank for Five years' Bonus Additions. Applications for such Assurances should not be delayed. 28, Cornhill, E.C., and 5, Waterloo Place, S.W.

It has taken us millions on millions of years to develop into what we are from protoplasmic mud, and, looking to the future, twenty years would not be too much to convert Russia into a self-governing country. Such a period is nothing in the life of a nation. I abominate autocracies. I am for the rule of the people by the people in Russia as elsewhere. But I would risk nothing by too much haste. I would grind my corn before I tried to make my loaf. There is nothing easier than to draw up a cut-and-dried Constitution, perfect on paper. The Empress Catherine invited the philosopher D'Alembert to visit her, and begged him to draw up a Constitution for her Empire. The sage cheerfully accepted the task, but when that astute, but disreputable, female read his Constitution, she ridiculed it, for it assumed that Russia was inhabited by French philosophers, and nothing more was heard of the Constitution. Bad as her government in many respects was, Russia would probably have prospered less under the theories of this sage.

The war correspondents tell terrible tales of the effect of the hand grenades used by Russians and Japanese in their hand-to-hand struggles, and some of them suggest that they are more harmful than the dum-dum bullets, forbidden at present by the International War Code. I fail to see the distinction between a shell and an explosive bullet, nor do I understand why, in a life-and-death struggle, any mode of taking life should be forbidden. If it be said that a bullet that only temporarily wounds ought to be preferred to one that kills, I disagree with this view, for in a war of considerable duration the object is not only to disable temporarily, but to reduce the number of available combatants of the enemy. Moreover, the fact of knowing in an assault or in the defence of a position that a wound will probably cause death must have a certain moral effect on the combatants, which may lead to their retreating.

In the fifteenth century bands of mercenary soldiers used to hire themselves out to the highest bidder. With them war was a trade, and as they did not wish to render it dangerous, there were rules which protected them from many of its risks. The result was that States were always fighting, and in one great battle it is recounted that the only person killed on either side was smothered by the weight of his armour. I hold that the more destructive to life and property war is made, the less probability is there that people will be dragged into wars by "statesmen" and by the Bobadils of the Press, who are always stirring up strife without themselves having any intention to risk their skins. Nothing would conduce more to peace than the certainty that a battle would result in the death of almost all the combatants.

I respect bravery. A soldier who runs away is a contemptible creature. In the present state of the world armies are a necessity. But I cannot say that I have any exceptional respect for men who become soldiers from a love of adventure and from the pleasure of fighting. There is nothing noble in the desire to kill one's fellow-creatures, regardless of any cause of quarrel with

them. The citizen who loves peace, and who yet is prepared to risk his life in defence of his country, stands on a far higher plane. Bravery under arms is almost universal, though some races possess it in a higher degree than others. After a soldier has been once or twice under fire, he is seldom afraid of it. He acquires a sort of fatalistic belief that he will not be injured—or, perhaps it would be more correct to say, that he does not think whether he will be or not.

YE FOXEY-CHAPPE ANDE YE LYON.

Ye Foxe, as Antient Wryters saye,
Syck of ye Toyl of huntinge Preye,
Bethoughte hym if he can't devise
Some bettere Waye to gayn Supplyes;
Id est, hys Burthen coollie shuntinge,
To eate whyle otheres didde ye huntinge.
Ande firste didde he resolve to try on
Hys artfull Game with olde Dan Lyon.
"Sith Lyon's Hearte," sayd he, "'tis playn,
Is more developed than hys Brayn.
Witnesse ye Waye in wych, you knowe,
He meltes at everie Tale of Woe;
Ande, swayed alone by gen'rouse Ruthe,
Doth never thynk to syft itts Truthe.
Aye, sans a Doubte," thys Foxe, sayd he,
"Dan Lyon 's juste ye Boye for me!"
So to Dan Lyon see hym goe,
And pytch a prettie Tale of Woe,
Comprysinge everie dire Mishappe
That *cold* befalle a Foxey-Chappe.
"I 'm lame from Trappes, I 'm weake from Woundes,
Inflycted by remorseless Houndes,
Wych keep me (cruell!) alltogethere
From active Chace of Furre or Feather;
Aye, three Dayes nowe, in desp'rate Moode,
I've soughte, ande soughte in vayn, for Foode;
Yette, if were *mine* alone ye Payn,
I 'd beare it, scorninge to complayn;
Butte yestreene—by ironick Fate—
My Vixen-Wyfe gave Birthe to Eighte.
She, helplesse with her Lytter lyinge,
Her half-starved Duggs theyr Mylk denyinge,
For Meate, in piteouse Tones, is cryinge."
Thatte tale of Damme and Cubbes distrest,
With Pitye wrunge ye Lyon's Breaste;
And, sure, for Foxe, he strayght hadde made
On Farmer Jones hys Chicks a Rayd;
Butte at thys Momente Fox hys Dame—
In Ign'rance of her Spouse hys Game—
Rushed past, a Turkye-Poulte pursuinge,
Ande compassed thus her Lorde's undoinge.
For whenne ye Lyon saw her so,
Active ande stronge, ande full of Goe,
In Sooth, itte gave awaye ye Showe.
"Howe dare you," angrie Lyon cryes,
"Telle me thatte Packe of shamelesse Lyes?"
Foxe answered notte, but promptlie beate—
Nowe lame no more—a swyft Retreate.
Thenne Lyon, in hys Wrath, he swore
He 'd have a tendere Hearte no more,
Butte wold hys Breaste in Future steel
'Gaynst everie Fellow-Beaste's Appeale.
Butte Elephante (who 'd hearde), replyes,
With thys exceedinge sounde Advice:
"Be notte so hastie, Dan, I begge,
'Cause Foxey-Chappe hath pulled your Legge;
Still helpe who Helpe do neede, in Truthe,
But eke let Judgmente blende with Ruthe;
And, ere you give a Beaste a Lyfte,
Hys seeminge Woes take Heede to syfte."
Sayd Lyon: "Aye! thatte 's verie welle;
Butte, prithee, howe am I to telle
Ye True from False—t'othère from wych—
When Foxey-Chappe's Romaunts are sych?"
Ye Elephante, he, smylinge, cryed:
"One certayn Teste may be applyed.
Who come ande pytch a piteouse Tale,
And trye, by whyninge, to prevaile,
Know *these* for Knaves that pulle your Legge;
Sith honeste Woefulls nevere begge."

Moral.

Itte is notte always playn to see
What Folkes *do* neede our Charitie;
Butte those, atte leaste, do NOT, 'tis sure,
Who Whyne and snivell atte our Doore.

SCRUTATOR.

A NEW BRITISH CONSTITUTION.

WERE I invested with full powers to amend our present scheme of representative government, I should begin with the following reforms:—

1. The human body is renewed every few years, but it remains the same body. So it should be with the British Parliament, except that, whereas the body eventually disappears, the House of Commons should ever exist. This might be effected by each member of the House of Commons being elected for three years, and an election of one-third of the members being held every year. Thus the House of Commons would never die, or be recreated, and yet it would as a rule represent the well-considered opinion of the country, whilst if a Ministry in any year showed an abnormal incapacity, or deliberately ran counter to the views of the electorate, there would be an opportunity to get rid of it. These annual elections, coupled with by-elections, would keep the People's House in perpetual touch with the People. A House thus constituted would prove a better legislating and controlling Council than that which we have now. A new Parliament generally takes a year to shake itself into shape. The chance of sudden extinction always hangs over it. On one side there is the desire to slay it, on the other to keep it alive. It often happens that the Ministry in office has lost the confidence of the country, and even of its own supporters. In such cases all is reduced to stagnation. Its supporters only vote with it on condition that it does nothing, and because they wish to put off as long as possible a General Election. The less a House of Commons is in harmony with the country, the stronger is the effort to put off consulting it. The minority is always asserting that the country has altered its views since the last General Election, whether it be so or not. The majority replies by a denial, although it may know that it is so. As a Ministry may choose the time for an election, frequently one is delayed or rushed to catch some temporary gust of popular favour. My plan is, of course, open to objections. But such is the case with all political institutions, and always will be until the millennium. What I claim for it is that it would make Parliament far more than at present the mirror of well-considered public opinion; that it would strengthen popular control; and that this control would be perpetually exercised, and not, as now, spasmodically. It is almost unnecessary to add that during the first three years of this never-dying Parliament certain temporary arrangements would be necessary. In the election of the first new House of Commons all the constituencies

would be polled at the same time. So soon as elected a Committee would have to divide the constituencies into three categories, each category representing the views of the entire country collectively, and, so far as possible, all parts of it. A ballot would have to decide which category of members should sit for one year, which for two, and which for three. After this the categories would remain unchanged, and each elected member would sit automatically for three years.

2. The House of Lords would cease to exist. It would be replaced by a Senate thus constituted: Every person who had sat for twenty years in the House of Commons would be entitled to become a Senator. But if he did so, he could never again occupy any other post in the service of the country, nor receive any public mark of distinction. Thus we should have a body of independent men, in whom the constituencies had already several times signified their confidence. The House of Commons should, in addition, elect as Senators three ex-judges, three financial experts, three manufacturers, three wholesale merchants, three retail traders, three admirals, three generals, three literary men, three architects or painters, and twelve artisans. The term of office would be three years, and each year one-third of each category would be renewed by election. The functions of this Senate would be limited to discussion of all public matters, and to passing resolutions (*quantum valeant*) thereon, and to the right of a suspensory veto on Bills sent up by the House of Commons. All Bills would originate in the House of Commons. If the Senate passed them, when sent up to it, without modifications, they would become law. If thrown out by the Senate, or if altered, provided the House of Commons declined to agree to the alterations, the Bills could not be reintroduced that Session. But in this case they might be again brought into the House of Commons after the next annual election. If passed by an "aye" or "no" vote without discussion, they would become law on the Royal assent being given.

3. There would be a manhood Parliamentary franchise, subject to a three months' term of residence in a constituency. But if any person during these three months had bonâ-fide changed his abode, his vote might be transferred to this other constituency, provided that he had not exercised it in either of the two previous annual elections, and that proper notice of removal had been given to the registration authorities.

4. All costs incident to registration, and all necessary costs incident to an election, would be defrayed from public funds.

5. There are at present 670 M.P.s. Half could do better work. I should therefore reduce the number to 335.

6. A redistribution of seats would be necessary. It would be based upon the equality of electors in each constituency, but this rule would not be absolute, for other circumstances would be taken into consideration.

7. The date of the annual election would be the same each year. All elections would be held on that day. If any one candidate did not poll a majority over all others combined, there would be a second election that day week, when the two who were at the head of the poll would be the only candidates.

8. All M.P.s and all members of the Senate would receive £250 per annum, and in the case of the former an allowance would be added for travelling expenses, based upon the distance between the Metropolis and the constituency that each represented.

9. Not more than twenty members of the House of Commons should be allowed to occupy paid posts in an Administration, and in no case should any one of them receive more than £500 per annum, with the exception of the Premier and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who might be given an additional allowance to cover the cost of official entertainments. Such a reform as this is needed. At present the number of M.P.s who receive huge salaries so long as their Party is in office is a serious danger to the independence of the House. Politics should not be a profession. The only ground for giving M.P.s a salary is that poor as well as rich men should be able to sit in the House. But the amount should be small. If £500 per annum be added to a member's salary for any additional costs incident to being a Minister, this is quite enough. I hear it sometimes said that members of an Administration have to maintain the dignity of that position. Provided that they have enough decently to maintain themselves and their families, no one asks for more. No one cares whether they live in a big house or a small one, drive in a carriage or in a cab, or have a footman instead of a parlour maid. If people want to make money they should take to money-making. No member can be worth his salt if the amount of the salt is a consideration to him.

10. If there be one thing that has been more clearly proved by experience than another, it is that the House of Commons has at present more work thrown on it than it can properly perform. Rules have been made which, though professedly aimed at obstruction, render it impossible either adequately to discuss Bills of great importance during their Committee stage, or to bring before the House, without the permission of the Government, questions that, although perhaps not quite ripe for solution, might with public advantage be debated in the Great Council of the nation. The plan of delegating Bills to what are called Grand Committees has not proved successful when the Bill is of a controversial character and involves issues on which party differences prevail. We ought, therefore, frankly to recognise that "Home Rule all round" is the only true solution. The United Kingdom consists of four kingdoms—or, to speak more exactly, three kingdoms and a principality—each having its own nationality, and whose inhabitants view domestic matters often differently. We ought to have one Imperial Parliament and four local Parliaments. In regard to the proper division of power, we should do well to take the constitution of the United States as our model. The line there between the powers of a State Legislature and of the Federal Legislature are clearly laid down, and if there be a difference as to inter-

pretation, a high judicial tribunal decides. What the objection to our adopting this system may be, I never have understood. It works exceedingly well in the United States. Why should it not work equally well with us? It certainly cannot work worse than our system. The Imperial Parliament cannot do the work thrown upon it. Every year the complaints are louder. I know of no other remedy for this except relieving it of some of its work.

There are very few of these reforms to which the entire rank and file of the Liberal Party would not assent; indeed, they have declared that they are in favour of most of them again and again. They recognise that they would be in the public interest, and they have the sense to see that reforms, and especially Liberal reforms, are hopeless, so long as the legislative machine does not suffice for the work thrown on it. Why, then, for the moment is little said about them? In part, because of our leaders, and in part because of the rank and file. The leaders prefer to seek to obtain place by reviling their opponents and by professing that they will carry some one particular reform—generally the one for which the shouting is loudest. So soon as they do get into office, they look to the line of least resistance to their retaining office. They find the Party label more useful than the Party principles. The Radicalism of our Leaders is only skin-deep, and many of them are Liberals by accident and Conservatives by temperament. The very last thing that they desire is that any real democratic progress should be made. The rank and file of the Liberal Party has vague aspirations on most matters, whilst each section of them has its own grievance that it would have removed. This militates against their subordinating particular reforms to a reform of the machinery of legislation, and it is very difficult to induce them to take a large, broad view of the situation. They are satisfied with some immediate dividend, like shareholders in a public company, without troubling themselves whether capital be safe and future dividends assured. If the advanced Radicals would only act together, they could enforce their will on a Liberal Ministry, for most of its supporters are advanced Radicals. Democrats should have the sense to act together in matters on which they are all agreed, and when they have carried these, it will be time enough for them to fall out. One would suppose that all of them would have the sense to see that until the legislature is democratised it is as vain to expect democratic legislation as figs from thorn bushes. The Conservatives used to be called the stupid Party. Of late they have fully justified this definition of them. Leaders and followers seem to have lost their heads. They only have to see a precipice before them to rush over it like the Gadarene swine possessed by demons. But if some impartial judge were asked to decide between the relative stupidity of Democrats and Conservatives, he would have some doubts as to his decision. Generally speaking, in all connected with securing a majority, the Conservatives are a good deal more intelligent than the Democrats. The former have the smaller force, but it is (except when, as now, some Chamberlain gets the upper hand in the Conservative counsels) far better organised, and far more homogeneous, than the army of democracy. Win we sometimes do. But we gain but little by our victory. We pull down what our opponents have built up. But when we come to constructive policy, we fall to pieces, and if we do manage to carry a reform, we let the Lords emasculate it.

BANK CLERKS AND BLOODSUCKERS.

There are several different species of the sharks of usury. Some prey indiscriminately upon all sorts and conditions of people, others devote themselves to the pursuit of a particular class. I know of West-End sharks whose victims are drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of gilded youth. Their touts are ever on the look-out for the prodigal son and spendthrift heir. Others of the tribe deal mainly with professional and business men. One extortioner whom I have frequently pilloried has for years past concentrated his attention upon the medical profession and another marks down the beneficed clergy for his own. Then there are those who pose as the friends in need of the struggling tradesman, the distressed agriculturist, and even the impecunious artisan—in fact, every section of the community seems to attract some specialists in usury, besides being a hunting-ground for the general practitioners. Of all these vampires the vilest, I think, are those who batten upon the class typified by the bank clerk. From time to time during the past ten years, I have referred to individuals and firms in the City who make a specialty of this business. Some interesting evidence on the subject was given before the Select Committee on Moneylending in 1897 and light is thrown upon it occasionally by actions in the City of London Court. I doubt, however, whether the directors of banking companies and other employers, let alone the public at large, have any conception of the wholesale way in which this sort of bloodsucking is carried on.

The average bank clerkship is so lean and ill-fed a berth that at first sight it may seem strange that any usurer should deem the clerk worth his attention. The lot of the bank clerk is, indeed, one of life's ironies. Banking is the pivot on which the trade and commerce of the country turn, and itself the most stable and prosperous of businesses. No self-respecting banking company pays less than a steady 10 per cent. dividend. In the popular imagination the bank clerk doubtless gains a reflected glory from the wealth with which he is surrounded. He is pictured shovelling up heaps of gold and handling bundles of notes, and on the principle that he who drives fat oxen should himself be fat, it might be supposed that such an occupation would be well paid. The truth is, of course, that it is the reverse of well paid. The banker's clerk is as the muzzled ox which treadeth out the corn. The youth fresh from school, just entering a bank, is, perhaps, passing rich on £40 a year. The start is not so bad, but progress afterwards is painfully slow. There are exceptions, but in most of the joint-stock banks it takes a clerk a long time to reach a salary of £100 a year, and it is often twenty years before he is getting as much as £3 a week. Very likely he has a wife and children, and the family must

live, or make a show of living, in the style considered necessary for the social class to which they belong. In London many a mechanic has as big a wage as the average bank clerk, and he is infinitely better off, for the reason that he and his family have not to keep up the same appearances. It may be said that the bank clerk should cut his coat according to his cloth, but sentiment is stronger than reason in these matters, and it is as absurd to expect the bank clerk to live in the manner of the working man as it would be to ask the working man to wear a frockcoat and silk hat when he goes to his daily toil. On previous occasions when I have expressed the opinion that bank clerks as a body are disgracefully underpaid I have been met with the reply that the bankers never have any difficulty in getting plenty of men at the price, but on the contrary are overwhelmed with applications for every vacancy. I daresay this is so, but the East End sweater uses very much the same argument, and it is not regarded as a justification of his sweating. Whatever their employers may say, however, it is a well-known fact that no class of men have a harder struggle to make both ends meet than bank clerks, and when a difficulty arises they are as prone as others to succumb to the temptation of an offer of "cash accommodation" without pausing to consider the price that will have to be paid for it. The temptation is all the greater in their case because the usurer is so ready to accept a promissory note without further security or sureties. In practically every bank from the Bank of England downwards a clerk is liable to instant dismissal if he is found to have been borrowing from a professional moneylender or backing a bill for a friend. The rule is as good a security as the bloodsucker needs. He knows that the clerk who has fallen into his clutches will submit to any extortion and make any sacrifice rather than run the risk of losing his situation through the disclosure of the transaction which is threatened the moment he gets behind with his payments. By means of what is virtually a system of blackmailing the usurer reduces his risk of loss to a minimum, and on a comparatively small capital he makes an enormous profit. Nor is this system confined to clerks in banks, those in some of the large insurance companies' offices and in various branches of the public service being similarly squeezed.

At the present time the most active of the harpies engaged in this nefarious business are two brothers named William Herbert Whiteman and Arthur George Whiteman, trading at 32, Walbrook, E.C., as Seymour and Whiteman. On several occasions, examples of their extortion and their blackmailing have been given in Truth. In one case a bank clerk, who was being charged 160 per cent. on a small loan, was compelled, under a threat of exposure to his employers, to sign a fresh bill increasing the interest to 300 per cent. Another clerk, in the service of the London County Council, obtained a loan of £7 10s., and in twelve months paid back £13 14s. 6d. This still left him indebted to these unconscionable usurers, and he was then told that if he did not give a fresh bill for £15 the Chairman of the Council would be informed of the transaction. William Henry Burgess, who uses the registered alias of "Richards and Co.," 39, Lombard-street, is another of the usurers doing business with clerks and others in permanent positions—indeed, he issues a special circular offering such persons what he calls "advances in anticipation of salaries." An accountant in the City assured me the other day that there is scarcely a bank or large office in London which does not yield its quota of victims to the rapacity of the Whitemans, Burgess, and other rascals of the same kidney. No doubt some of the borrowers are only paying the penalty for their own folly and extravagance, but there are many more whose position is due to sheer misfortune. Through an expensive illness or some such unavoidable cause they have fallen into the toils of the moneylender, and once enmeshed have found it impossible to extricate themselves. A notable case of the kind came before the City of London Court a year or so back, when it appeared that a borrower of £20 from Burgess had paid £3 a quarter for interest until his payments amounted to £60, but was still indebted for the principal. The accountant referred to above suggested that if bank directors and other employers were aware of the extent of this evil they would perhaps do something to abate it. The obvious remedy for much of this borrowing by clerks would be to pay the borrowers a better wage. Failing this, however, a sort of amnesty might surely be granted to those clerks who are already in the clutches of Shylock. There are hundreds of cases of "harsh and unconscionable" usury in which relief could be obtained from a court of law if the victims were not under fear of dismissal. The rule on the subject, in fact, does nothing to stop borrowing by clerks, but simply places them at the mercy of unscrupulous lenders. It is really, therefore, a mischievous rule, and might well be abolished.

A LAST CHANCE FOR THE RICH.

At this season of the year many appeals are addressed, as I mentioned only last week, to those who have this world's goods. As a rule, the object of these appeals is to get a portion of those goods out of the possession of the present holders. Far different is the aim of a series of appeals that I have had lying before me for the last few weeks, awaiting a suitable notice, for which I have not yet been able to find an opportunity. The noble object of the appellant in this case is to help the rich man to keep his riches, to warn him of the dangers that threaten him on every side, to show him the simple safeguard which will insure him against destruction. The reader will perhaps have guessed already the name of the rich man's friend. It is the Rev. George Brooks again. Neglect, indifference, misfortune, poverty—for I regret to say that the financial crisis is again acute—are powerless to daunt this devoted man. He will save the rich in spite of themselves. With that object the type-writer has been again at work, and whole batches of stirring declamation were posted to the more improvident of our rich men in the course of November. There seems also to have been an appeal in August, prompted by that significant event, the murder of M. de Plehve, and the old stock

was used again in the later edition of the appeal. Listen to the opening passage:—

Sir,—The murder of M. de Plehve, the latest fruit of Socialism, shows that the danger from that source is as great as ever, and that such work as I have been doing for ten years past is more needed than ever. In two articles in the *Fortnightly Review* I have dealt very fully with the nature and effects of Socialism and Anarchism.

By doing this sort of work, work in the interests of British property-owners, employers, Irish landlords, etc.—which is really work in the interests of the whole community—I have beggared myself. Perhaps I was a fool to do it. But surely it is a virtuous folly!

There is something fine, I think, in this half-contemptuous self-depreciation, instantly qualified by the proud self-assertion of conscious virtue. "Call me fool," he says, "if you will; but not knave, I implore you." In this cynical age, how many would prefer to have it the other way about!

After this impressive exordium, we come at once to business:—

I may have sent you a copy of my latest work—The Shadow of England's Doom, and also a copy of my latest pamphlet—The Return to Sanity. I enclose another copy of the latter Earl Egerton and Sir William Lewis each took 1,000 copies at £10. Will you do likewise? This would help me greatly.

And help you also, of course, at the same time. The first stage of the argument has been disclosed in the previous paragraph, and this clinches it. George Brooks is working in the interests of the British property owners, employers, and Irish landlords. These interests are identical with "the interests of the whole community." By taking 1,000 copies of England's Doom at £10 you will greatly help the work of George Brooks. *Ergo*, your £10 will go direct to the property-owners, the employers, the Irish landlords, and the whole community. Nothing could be simpler.

Then we get the little personal touch for which the connoisseur of Brooks' literature never looks in vain:—

I am about to move into a cheaper house. . . . .

Oh, the pathos of it! For ten years or more, the world has known this gifted man, and all that time he has been on the move. Too frequently the removal has been aggravated by a sale. Always it has marked another stage in the downward path. Did anybody ever hear that George Brooks was about to move into a more expensive house? Not I, at any rate, and I think I have the record by me of nearly all these flittings. One of the makers of our proverbs has told us that two moves are worse than a fire. Yet here we have this devoted man, labouring only for the benefit of those who have more money than they know what to do with, hurling his household gods into the pantechnicon van, not twice, but a dozen times in as many years. And the pity of it is that there has not been a single occasion when a £10 note invested in *Industry and Property* or *England's Doom*, would not have averted the domestic calamity. Think of that, property-owners and others, whose ingratitude, not to say stinginess, involves every few months a fresh dislocation of the Brooks household. I ask pardon for this digression. Let us resume:—

I am about to move into a cheaper house, and I have important new literary work on hand. If I could sell some books now it would be a godsend. I have £200 worth of the 3s. 6d. edition of Industry and Property on hand. Will you take 100 of these for £10? This work is pronounced by Sir Theodore Martin, Sir Gabriel Stokes, and others, to be . . . .

But my readers know what Sir Theodore Martin and the other critics think of *Industry and Property*. I pass therefore to the concluding passage:—

May I request an early response to this letter, as things are most pressing and urgent with me? The response I should best like would be £20 for 1,000 copies of the pamphlet and 100 copies of the book. But far be it from me to dictate, or even suggest *how* you should help. For assistance in any form or measure I shall be sincerely grateful, as I am for all past sympathy and aid.—I beg to remain, Sir, Your obedient servant,

George Brooks.

As I have already said, this appeal was originally penned in August, but it was being sent out again in November. One is forced to the painful conclusion that the response Brooks would have liked best—a mere matter of £20—was not forthcoming. Three months have elapsed, and the situation has not altered. The rich man's friend is still about to move into a new house. The £200 worth of *Industry and Property* is still on hand. A £20 order is still what the author would like best, but in his pathetic meekness he is still far from presuming to dictate his own terms, still ready to leave it to you. Where, I would ask, has the rich man been all this time? Maybe at Cowes, or Homburg, or in Scotland, living his empty life without a thought of England's Doom, or the humble benefactor bravely struggling to avert it. It is a tragic picture, and shows human nature in an ugly light.

But does it dishearten Mr. Brooks? Not a bit of it. At the end of the three months he is at the rich man again, not to be denied. The appeal is reinforced by a red leaflet, containing the latest sympathetic messages of Sir Theodore Martin and the Marquis of Bristol. Let it be remembered, to their credit, that these two good and wise men, almost alone among their class, have never failed in their perception of the dangers hanging over them and their duty to the rich man's friend. Even when they are not taking any more copies of *Industry and Property*, they are always ready with a testimonial, and, as for Sir Theodore Martin, he must have laid in a sufficient store of Brooks's works to stock all the Carnegie libraries. Together with their sympathetic utterances the rich man is favoured with another tract of a more drastic nature, entitled "Can Ye not Discern the Signs of the Times?" It gives a terrible picture of the parlous plight of the propertied class, and the weak-kneed attitude of those who should be its defenders:—

A third article on Socialism and Murder has just been returned to me by a magazine editor—a Conservative, forsooth!—with the remark that the assassination of M. de Plehve could not "reasonably be attributed to Socialism, but was *an inevitable fruit of absolutism*." That is to say, because Russia has not yet got Constitutional government (which, by the way, they would have had years ago but for the Socialists), *therefore* the murder of Russian Ministers is inevitable, *therefore* necessary, *therefore* natural, *therefore* not to be condemned.

My Conservative contemporary little thought what he was saying when he penned that unfortunate sentence. It is only when a George Brooks turns his luminous intellect on to the words—like an acute pleader dissecting an alleged libel with his remorseless "meaning thereby"—that we see what the ruffian really had in his mind all the time. Having got his wretched meaning out of him, Mr. Brooks has no difficulty in showing its lurid significance:—

This spirit is a far graver symptom than the thirty assassinations which have taken place during the last century.

It is the spirit which sought to justify the shooting of Irish landlords.

It is the spirit which singles out rich men as targets of envy, malice, and hatred.

The other day a crowd of labourers, armed with scythes, forks, etc., surrounded the castle of a Hungarian Count, and demanded that he should divide his estate among them equally!

Yes; but that was in Hungary!

Well, the other day, also, a crowd of loafers were invited to make a raid on the Leeds Town Hall, and an organised movement against Capital is on foot in that town. "Why should any one else have anything while we have nothing?" these fools ask. And then the Knaves add: "Why shouldn't we take by force what anybody else has?" It's only a repetition in a mild form of what has been done in London.

WHEN WILL OUR RICH MEN DISCERN THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES?

G. B.

Yes; that is evidently the question. It may be that ere this it has been satisfactorily answered, that a rich man has been found who, discerning the signs of the times, has given the response that Brooks would like best—£20 for 1,000 copies of the pamphlet and 100 copies of the book—or, failing that, has given assistance in some other "form or measure." There comes a time when even the closest of rich men can hold out no longer against unremitting, indomitable cadging. But if it is not so, I humbly suggest to Mr. Brooks that the time has come to give up the game. Why, even Sir Theodore Martin says "You have too long for your own good pursued the thankless task of trying to stem the tide of Socialism," meaning, of course, "too long for your own good"—not that Brooks has been pursuing the task for his own good. The fact is that our rich men are hopeless. The best proof I can give of that is that every time a fresh batch of these appeals goes out, a considerable percentage of them is promptly forwarded on to TRUTH Office. There is only one inference from that, and it is that our rich men do not want to be saved—at any rate, by George Brooks. It may be that they do not believe in ENGLAND'S DOOM, or, it may be, that they grudge the investment of a paltry £5 or £10 in copies of *Industry and Property*. But, either way, the result is the same. It is no use arguing with them. *Quem Deus vult perdere*. . . . Brooks has done all that a man can, more than ninety-nine out of a hundred would have the—let us call it perseverance to do. I recommend him to sell the typewriter, buy a spade or a pick-axe, or some useful implement, and let things take their course. I admit that I may not appear disinterested in this matter. It is my blessed privilege to be numbered among the creditors of the Brooks' estate, and if the rich men would only discern the signs of the times in a liberal spirit, something in the pound might possibly come my way. But I am not thinking about that. So far as I am concerned, my little debt is "not expected to rank." All such expectations have vanished long ago. And I do not want Sir Theodore Martin's money, nor my Lord Bristol's either; neither have I any expectations from Sir William Lewis. I am moved merely by human sympathy for poor George Brooks, ploughing his lonely furrow so heroically, and raising such a pitiful crop. The soil may look rich, but it is not worth the labour. I should really like to see Brooks doing something useful in the world, with all his talents, and that is why I recommend him to begin at once.

THE THEATRES.

"LITTLE BLACK SAMBO AND LITTLE WHITE BARBARA," AT THE GARRICK.

The Garrick matinées for children are now in full swing, and one may truthfully say that there is nothing in them which can appeal to the bloated grown-ups. They are infantine, and may thus be held to have secured their purpose. Far be it from me to say that "Lady Jane's Christmas Party," the "old-fashioned episode" which precedes the medley in black and white, is not a masterpiece of its kind. Yet I must candidly admit that the sitting out of both plays irked me considerably. Lover as I am of "Alice in Wonderland" and of such works as "The Golden Age," I suppose that what one felt the want of was that touch of poetic imagination which makes the sixty and the six-year-old kin.

The psychology of children is a difficult subject, and my own boredom at these plays recalls to me an episode which I read lately in some learned work, where a professor was at much pains to prove, against the present fashion, the inveterate stupidity of children. It was a question of building sand castles, and the professor described how he had frequented the sea-shore where some children of his acquaintance were in the habit of erecting their crumbling edifices. The professor watched them for some time, and then interposed with his maturer wisdom. Having pointed out that they were building them all wrong, and that they could not withstand the onslaught of the lightest wave as they then stood, he proceeded to reconstruct the crumbling castles upon a more scientific plan. He made a beautiful moat first, and then proceeded to lay firm foundations, and was just proceeding to erect the fortified parapet round the first castle, when he looked up from his engrossing work to find that the children had slipped away and were in the act of constructing a new set of castles in their old *wrong* way a few yards off. Poor professor!

Well, I suppose I must write myself down in agreement with that guileless professor as regards this entertainment, but I am perfectly ready to admit that Mr. Tom Gallon and Mr. Rutland Barrington, the adapter of the "Dumpy Books," from which Mr. Wilfrid Bendall and Mr. Frederick Rosse have extracted the music of this medley in black and white, are quite right. I dare say childish hearts will throb and childish palms will meet over the little adventure of (Lady) Jane and Charlie. It is fun, no doubt, to entertain clowns unaware, and I am sure it is much more fun than the entertainment of angels.

Miss Nellie Bowman played the part of Jane in the first, of Little Black Sambo in the second, part with verve and the skill that comes from experience. In the latter play there is a dear little white heroine, to amuse whom we are taken to Black Jumbo's cabin at the edge of the jungle. Her white name is Little Barbara, and her right name is Iris Hawkins. Then there is sweet Miss Madge Titheradge, who is disguised as Liza the Quadroon. She sings to us, she trips a measure, delightfully. Pompey, too, is a personage. He whistles and cake-walks and coon-sings, and, in fact, is in himself a

variety entertainment. Miss Nellie Bowman is also active and excellent, as I have said, in what she has to do. As to Plantagenet the black, Mammy Mumbo, and a congeries of dusky atoms who start, one by one, into restless activity, I think that, as this journal is perused less in the nursery than elsewhere, it will be kindness to my readers, fathers of families, if I do not dilate upon their merits. They will have more than ample time to do so themselves when, at the clarionet call of duty, they sit through the performance with their ecstatic progeny.

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The opening of the Scala Theatre last week was an interesting event, both as an actuality and as a revival of semi-historic memories. The latter associations were all with the Bancrofts, and Lady Bancroft gave to them an emotional reality which brought them up to the present. In her little speech she reminded her hearers of the first opening of the old Prince of Wales's Theatre, of her nailing up of the last lace curtain before the curtain rose on the first night, of the dolorous prophecies of her friends as to the improbability of the West End coming so far afield, of her triumphant proof that their prophecies were wrong, and of several other touching little incidents concerning bygone days. Not the least of these was the naming of those who had trodden its boards, so many of whom have ceased to tread the solid globe of earth.

A large number of theatrical, literary, and journalistic celebrities thronged the house or stood on the stage, from which the best view of the whole was obtainable. The proprietor, Mr. Distin Maddick, has been well served by his architect, Mr. Verity, who has erected for him a very handsome building. The main variation from the usual plan is the spacious marble staircase, from which the theatre takes its name of the Scala. Next to that come the boxes, which are limited to two, but these two in their aristocratic splendour give a dignity to that symbol of the democracy which are the serried seats of the playhouse. Some one remarked that the fitting occupants of the two boxes would be the King in full robes in the one, who should occasionally bow to the Pope in complete Apostolicals in the other. The other places seem well arranged; ingress and egress is everywhere easy. The stalls are on the same model as those of the New Gaiety, but felt rather less roomy than those.

A theatre with so great a past behind it should also (in the words of Heine) have a great past before it.

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The Royal Italian Circus (Hengler's) has opened with a performance by a troupe of Cingalese dancers, and an interesting show revealing the native pastimes of Ceylon. The success of the initial performances has been such as to encourage the management to give three full performances daily.

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The Mermaid Society is producing "The Knight of the Burning Pestle" for four weeks. Mrs. Theodore Wright, whose excellent performance as the citizen's wife I have here had occasion to praise, will play that part. For a like period in the afternoon will be given the children's fairy play, "Snowdrop and the Seven Little Men," preceded now by an adaptation from another of Grimm's fairy stories entitled "Rumpelstiltzkin."

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Mr. Robert Arthur sends me a long list of pantomimes under his management to be produced on Christmas Eve at the Kennington, Coronet, Camden, and Fulham Theatres. They are, in the order of the theatres, "Aladdin," "Red Riding Hood," "Robinson Crusoe," and "The Forty Thieves."

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At the Palace Theatre there is a remarkable programme for Christmas. I notice several items of especial interest, and hope to test ere long the excellence of the vintage there.

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In my notice of "Lady Madcap" last week I credited Colonel Newnham-Davis with the authorship of "the book" of that extremely amusing musical comedy. Colonel Newnham-Davis has written to point out that this was not correct. "Mr. Paul Rubens and I," he says, "are jointly responsible for the libretto. Mr. Rubens wrote all the music and the words of many of the songs."

NOTES FROM PARIS.

THE LATE DUCHESS ALEXANDRINE.

THE venerable Duchess Alexandrine of Saxe-Coburg narrowly missed being Empress of Russia. She had been marked out from infancy for the Czarewitch Alexander Nicholaievitch. The widow of Alexander I. obtained a promise from Nicholas to prefer her niece, the godchild of her departed husband, to any other Princess, if possible. This sentimental wish concurred with a general policy which led Nicholas to patronise the Vasas against the Bernadottes and to establish Russian influence at the Court of Carlsruhe. Alexandrine's mother, as a daughter of the dethroned King of Sweden, was *persona grata* to Nicholas. The Grand Duchy of Baden commanded the road from St. Petersburg to revolutionary Paris. Cupid, who so often plays pranks with professors of statecraft, upset the matrimonial scheme of Nicholas. The Czarewitch Alexander obeyed his father in setting out for Baden to make the acquaintance of his appointed fiancée. On the way, however, he halted at Darmstadt, and there, quite by chance, had a glimpse of the Princess Maximiliana, and fell violently in love with her on the spot. He felt it would be misery to marry any one else. The object of his passion was undoubtedly the daughter of the divorced Grand Duchess of Hesse-Darmstadt. But serious doubts had been expressed as to Grand Ducal paternity, and she had been brought up in neglect. If tyrannical in most respects, Nicholas yielded to the romantic current of his time in suffering his two eldest children to make love matches. Alexandrine of Baden found herself thrust aside to make way for the all-but-disowned daughter of the Grand Duke of Hesse-Darmstadt.

This misfortune coincided with Queen Victoria's marriage, which shed so much lustre on the House of Saxe-

Coburg. Alexandrine fell back on Ernest of Saxe-Coburg, her late Majesty's brother-in-law. He and she spent, in the summer of 1842, their honeymoon at Claremont and with King Leopold at Ostend. They took Paris on the way home. Quite a network of matrimonial alliances had drawn the Saxe-Coburg and Orléans families together. The newly-married pair found at the Tuileries Prince Philippe of Wurtemberg, son of Antoinetta of Saxe-Coburg, and nephew of the Duchess Dowager of Coburg, as son-in-law of the Citizen King. Victoire of Saxe-Coburg had entered the Royal Family as Duchess de Nemours. The Princess Clementine had made up her mind to accept Duke August of Coburg-Kohary. The Nestor of the Coburg family, Leopold of Belgium, had, as another son-in-law of Louis-Philippe, rooms at the Tuileries. These brilliant connections would have been some compensation to a German Princess for what she had lost. Still life at Saxe-Coburg must have been widely different from the grand career at St. Petersburg to which Duchess Alexandrine had looked forward. In high Russian society they imitate French manners, and courtiers pride themselves on a chivalrous attitude towards women. Russian ladies had equal rights with men long before they had been talked of in the Western World. In the eighteenth century no less than four Empresses reigned almost successively. The Empress Consort owed to custom the widest influence. The Empress Mother ranked with the Validé Sultana in standing almost above the Emperor. The despotic Nicholas I. did not feel ashamed of being a submissive husband. His wife, a skinny Prussian Princess, might tire out all the young *aides-de-camp* in the palace at waltzing. She made, in splendid State, trips to German watering-places, to Italy, to Sicily, and led as enjoyable a life as her health allowed.

The Czarewitch who married the Hesse-Darmstadt Princess followed for years the paternal example. He had only eyes for her until he came under the spell of Catherine Dolgourouky, the eldest of three sisters who supplanted each other in his favour. He bought for his wife a residence in a picturesque part of the Odenwald. She could go there every summer to rusticate among the friends of her youth. Family affection tempered Imperial grandeur. Saxe-Coburg lies at no great distance from the Odenwald. The brilliant and full life of the Empress Marie Feodorovna could not have sweetened the lot of Alexandrine. A feature of that lot was to be married to a restlessly vain and egotistical man. In no respect was he a bad man, but he practised masculine despotism according to the German way, allowing German bluntness to come out in his domestic relations. He had a mania for proving elaborately that he was right each time that his opinion clashed with his wife's. A fancy for this, that, or the other stage star never melted him into amiable gallantry. The Duchess had but little money to spend. As she had no children, her interests were sadly limited. The Duke rarely took the Duchess with him when he went on foreign tours and pleasure trips. The frequent disappointments his ambitions met with kept alive a hepatic affection. This made him uncompanionable. At one time of his life he had hoped to be offered the Imperial Crown. He thought his musical talents amounted to genius, and spent heavily in trying to force his countrymen to recognise in him a great composer. They preferred Wagner. These wounds of *amour propre* reacted on the Duchess. "Memoirs" that he wrote with the assistance of Professor Ottaker, of Jena, failed to meet with a good reception.

The Duchess had the good fortune to be much among her own people. Two of her sisters married Hohenlohe and Leiningen grandsons of the Duchess of Kent, and lived in middle Germany. She greatly lost touch with Baden after her brother married a Prussian Princess. She kept the connection with the Court of Russia through her sister, the Grand Duchess Michael, wife of the youngest son of Nicholas I. As a descendant of George II. of Great Britain she claimed to stand so far as blood went on as high a plane as Queen Victoria. This birthright she traced to Louisa of Great Britain, whose daughter, Magdalen of Denmark, married Gustavus III., and was mother of Gustavus IV., grandfather of the Duchess.

After Duke Ernest's death his widow contracted her dower establishment into the merest skeleton of a household. She resided at the Callenberg with her single Lady of Honour, Fräulein Roper, who had no title other than Von. The Court of the Grand Duchess Marie stood on another footing. It comprises a Grand Chamberlain and Chamberlain (M. de Vignau), an official secretary, Baron de Menghen, who is also attached to the Russian Legation at Darmstadt, a pope acting as chaplain, a secretary and a private secretary, a lady and a maid of honour, a physician, and a treasurer. The Duchess Marie learned at Tegern See of the illness of her venerable aunt-in-law, and hastened back to Coburg to stay near her. The Duchess Alexandrine died at the Callenberg, an ancient castle which Duke Ernest restored in the forties.

There could have been no doubt that the Conseil d'Administration of the Français Company would elect Mlle. Pierat a member. She comes in at an earlier age than any of her predecessors. Her age is given in the papers as nineteen on September 18 last. She is really a year older. Her mother, Mme. Alice Parrot, formerly of the Odéon, neglected to register the birth for twelve months, owing to the hurry of her theatrical and other engagements. The devotion of that comédienne to her daughter, her settled determination to make her a paragon, and the way she went about it remind one of the maternal care that Mme. Poisson bestowed on her daughter Antoinette, who had come down to us as Mme. de Pompadour. Mlle. Pierat's father left her £16,000, which Mme. Parrot carefully and advantageously invested. As she had herself become almost well off, she let interests accumulate, or, rather, so managed them as to make them to fructify on a compound scale. She gave every possible advantage to the future Princesse de la Rampe, attended with the most enlightened care to adornment of

mind, health of body, to the development of artistic and intellectual capacities, and sunk herself as the girl grew up into a *mère de théâtre*. The success has been so extraordinary that one is reminded of those mediæval pacts with I must not say whom. Gymnastics, dancing, swimming baths, horseback exercise, entered into the beauty-cultural part of the programme. No course of training was to be pushed far enough to break down elasticity or quench natural gaiety. Temperance in all things was to be induced, and within the limits of theatrical freedom, self-respect, and a sense of honour. As all the arts are closely connected, Mlle. Pierat learned to paint as an artist, to draw, and to play pianoforte music at sight. The devoted parent took her to London to see the Rotten Row equestrians, and missed no opportunities to show her at the circus the stars of *haute école* performances. No day passed without its appointed tasks. The accretion of accomplishments became incredibly great ere it was time to enter the Conservatoire, for which Mme. Parrot herself, helped by Feraudy, prepared the young paragon. She had had the very best professors of literature, of diction, of foreign and ancient languages, and could play in a Greek or Latin tragedy or comedy.

Her appearance is that of a slim and finely formed blond, with a modernised and slightly saucy Greek head. The small mouth, a little pouting, but delicately so, emits with ease a sweet voice. The eyes, while often ingenuous, are always intelligent, and sometimes strike one as gaily and slyly watchful. But no expression is ever underscored, and effects are smooth and natural. The hair is of a lovely blond *cendré* shade. To find its match one must go back to the first Duchesse de Morny, *née* Sophie Troubetskoi. Mlle. Pierat might be a very charming American girl who never loses her head, has made up her mind as to a course of life, and is not to be turned from it. She will not be at the trouble of marrying unless some magnificent, and in all respects desirable, match offers. The world is before her, and under the most favourable circumstances. She likes liberty and hard work. She is ambitious, and her pecuniary means secure her against managerial despotism. Of almost aristocratic birth on one side, she flatters herself that she has native refinement. By her mother she comes of a stock that had to face the severest realities of life. She greatly distinguished herself in "L'Autre Danger" and "Notre Jeunesse." There are situations in the former which called for the most delicate tact. Otherwise they might have shocked and been thought unfit for the stage. In "Notre Jeunesse" she played the part of Lucienne with a ladylike grace and the sweet charm of youth, to which I strove in former notes to do justice. She left the Conservatoire with a first prize for comedy. I forgot to mention that she obtained a first-class teacher's brevet at the Hôtel de Ville. She is therefore qualified, should the humour take her, to take charge of an elementary school. I should like to see her in a comedy as "the New Woman." It would not surprise me if a little later she looked on marriage *en philosophe*, and just married from intellectual sympathy, and to clear away the thorns and briars from the path of some great soul and mind that she loved. I do not believe that a golden dream could satisfy her. The realisation of that dream, as in the case of Mlle. Croizette, and retirement from the stage, is the only reasonable course for a theatrical star of the first magnitude. She refuses to let her photo be paraded in the shop windows. I should fancy that her delicate features must be at a disadvantage on the best negatives.

The other newly-elected members of the Français are M. Henri Mayer, the born image of M. Jules Claretie, and M. Delaunay, son of the late perpetual walking gentleman of the same name. M. Mayer has a convex profile, and brows that rise high above the bridge of the nose and descend low at the temples. He has a fine voice, capable of a great variety of intonations. The facial peculiarity I speak of prevents him being at his best in profile. This is a pity. At the Français, more than any other theatre, the players show the side face. Delaunay keeps in his father's footsteps, is conscientious, gentlemanly, and knows how to interest lady spectators.

When the electoral business had been gone through, the Council betook themselves to that of raising salaries. Six Sociétaires obtained a twelfth of a share each, the share being this year 21,000 fr. To seven were given half a share. Besides their dividends, M. Berr and Mmes. Weber, Du Minil, Lecomte, Sorel, and Kolb received a twelfth part each, and MM. Truffier, Laugier (now a veteran player), Duflos, Dehelly, and Mmes. Muller and Lara half a share each. Mlle. Sorel is quoted high as a beauty, and makes all the hay she can while the sun shines. The unconcealed admiration of M. Félix Faure for her Marie Antoinette profile, under lip, and air placed her on a pedestal. She may be said to be *hors du texte*, not merely in the grand illustrated papers, but on the stage of the Français. The members who reaped this time full parts are Mounet-Sully, Coquelin *cadet*, or, as Thérésa calls him, Coq. II., Silvain, Paul Mounet, Le Bargy, De Feraudy, Leloir, Lambert. The ladies equally favoured are Mmes. Bartet, Dudlay, and Pierson. They only pocket 12,000 fr. apiece. The rest is paid into the retiring fund. It is now thought doing well to receive a share of 24,000 fr., less the deduction I have mentioned. Attendance to rehearse or play assures a fee of 10 fr. This gives over and above the augmentation about 1,500 fr. annually. Hirelings are not allowed this extra. Under Perrin the shares at the Français came so high that any first-class actor there was said to be as well paid as the President of the Chamber of Deputies. All this has changed since Sarah Bernhardt broke away. She now has a theatre of her own, which, so far, has been highly successful. So has Coquelin the elder; so had Réjane as long as she and her husband kept out of the divorce court. Le Bargy threatens to set up with his wife a playhouse in a new part of Paris. She has a wealthy mother, a fortune of her own, talent, and ambition, and she has now the habit of the scene. She is very clever, and at her best in intense parts, requiring auto-suggestion, sometimes up almost to the maddening point.

Réjane, who has been on a theatrical tour in the West Indies, and has visited the Mississippi cities and Chicago on her way home, finds that her stock of plays is not satisfactory. Havana is no longer the place it was under a Spanish Captain-General. She must now think of the susceptibility and respectability of the ladies who patronise the theatre. The Señores who have seen life in Paris are so particular about the subject of the play when they take wives and daughters to the playhouse. Réjane personally met with applause. But the plaudits were reserved for her entrances and exits. She appeared in nine pieces in all, and in eight as a heroine who, the audience thought, deserved to be locked up in a convent, or in Doctor Pierson's Lindenhof madhouse. The Press blamed her impresario for selecting immoral works, which had not the recommendation, excepting "Sapho" and "Tartuffe," of being written by masters of French style. Nearly every time the gifted actress came on the stage, she could not avoid calling blushes to young cheeks. To drown the dialogue mothers talked as if in their own drawing rooms. The répertoire embraced, besides the plays already mentioned, "Petite Marquise," "Zaza," "L'Hirondelle," "La Passerelle," "La Robe Rouge," which horrified those who well understood French, "La Douloureuse," "La Dame aux Camélias," which the public thought demoralising and, socially speaking, dangerous, "Amoureuse," and "Lolote."

They now want at Havana classical plays or plays with a high moral or social interest which tell a story and keep clear of thesis and psychological refinings and introspections that delay the action.

I see among the Christmas books of the season the Life of Joan of Arc by Monsignor Nordez, who does not call himself ex-Bishop of Dijon. The price in wrapper is 20 fr., and in shagreen binding 30 fr. We are not used here to prices so high. There are illustrations. I do not care for the author as a historian. He financed Joan of Arc splendidly when Suffragan of Verdun and Bishop of Dijon. I suppose this biography is the aftermath.

We expect a row, riot, noise, in the Chamber of Deputies about a circular of the Inspector-General of Elementary Instruction to the city schoolmasters. He ordered these teachers not to express views against Joan in schoolrooms. Some of them had addressed letters of sympathy to M. Thalamas. I think myself that the Maid of Orleans had been overdone. As I had been acquainted with her leading votaries, Henri Martin, Michelet, Wallon, and Fabre, I do not attach great historical importance to what they wrote about her. Michelet fell too utterly in love with every heroine he wrote about to preserve the critical faculty in dealing with her. Henri Martin had lost an only daughter, a painter of no ordinary talent, who left him a Joan of Arc in an ecstatic vision. It was simply nobly and naturally beautiful. Henri Martin had it before his eyes as he wrote of the reign of Charles VII. He persuaded himself that Joan was not a Catholic but a free-thought heroine, struggling against ecclesiastical authority for the leading of the spirit. She might have been as he saw her, a precursor of the father of Quakerism, George Fox. I never for a moment doubted of the good faith of Michelet or Henri Martin. Wallon, a pasty writer, had no insight nor divining power. Fabre—perfectly honest also—was an emotional, imaginative, idolatrous Southern. He adored Joan as he might, had he been a believing Catholic, have worshipped Mary Magdalen.

Il y a à boire et à manger is all we know of the rehabilitation of Joan d'Arc. She had to be rehabilitated for a political reason, and her mother brought in as intervenant. For a similar reason the prosecution of Blue Beard had been ordered for dealing in the black art and murdering infants. Historians now believe him to have been innocent of the latter crime. He treated that of sorcery with contempt, refused to defend himself, and asked as a last favour to be suffered as stage manager to arrange his own procession to the place of execution.

The ex-Queen of Portugal paid the President and Mme. Loubet the compliment of going to bid them good-bye at the Elysée. She also sent donations of money and toys to the Villepinte Hospital for Consumptive Children, which she visited last year. The Queen hopes soon to pass an examination for a medical degree. She is only an officer of health. Her resemblance to the late Comte de Paris becomes striking. When at the Hôtel Bristol she took care not to let her Royalist friends make use of her for political demonstrations, but went about with the Marquise d'Harcourt, and spent a day at the château of the Duchesse d'Uzès. The King did not go farther Right than to accept an invitation to shoot at Boisdrain from Comte de Greffuhle. While a Conservative, the Comte affects political scepticism. Through his daughter's marriage with the Duc de Guiche, he is connected with the Rothschilds. Someone at the shooting party who takes an interest in a coming water-colour exhibition asked Dom Carlos to exhibit there. He declined, giving the following as his reason: "Were I to exhibit as *hors de concours* it might appear fatuous. Not to do so would be worse. I should certainly, from motives of courtesy, be awarded some high prize. This would be an injustice to the professional artists. They ought to hate me for snatching, perhaps quite undeservedly, a reward from them. I am very fond of painting, or punting, yachting, singing, *pour me distraire.*

Carolus Duran, who never studied at the Villa Medici, has gone there as director. He is a rolling stone that has gathered moss, and can afford to live in a palace of his own in the Place de Iéna. In his roving early life he fell in love successively with the old Venetian masters and Velasquez, and assimilated both. It is said that he might have been a great portrait painter had he not devoted his best talents to the dressmaking side of his art. Yes, he is, above everything else, a costumier. I suppose this is because he is a son of Lille and of the same race as Froissart. The historical pro-

cessions there are marvels of sumptuosity, and still worthy of being described by that old Flemish chronicler. One might look in vain for their match in any other European city. A rich Lillois thinks nothing of giving fifteen hundred pounds for the costume in which he is to figure in a cavalcade. One does not find a note that jars in the magnificent harmony of a Lille cortège. A parallel might be found in the robes and jewels of the late Mrs. Ayer as represented in a full-length portrait of that lady. This work is, of course, by Carolus Duran. Nobody else could have thrown so much *brio* into the painting of an uninspiring old lady ever solicitous to please by making up her face and neck. This artist could have been a great musical composer, a great actor, a great operatic singer, a dashing cavalry officer, and beaten in *robes et manteaux* every couturier in the Rue de la Paix. His wife is the only sister of the late Mme. Jacques Stern (Mlle. Croizette). Had the latter lived a few years longer, Mme. Carolus Duran would have come into the great Stern fortune, and taken a foremost place as a multi-millionaire. They are both hospitable, fond of society, rich, proud of their daughter's beauty, and of his rendering of it in a portrait taken as she entered her sixteenth year. That would have been in the eighties. I saw her soon after it appeared at the Salon at a fancy ball given by the late M. Cernuschi. She entered in a 'ricksha drawn by Carolus, wearing a Japanese costume, and with her hair dressed *à la mode de Tokyo*. A hum of admiration greeted her. She had something Asiatic in the contour and a soft, amiable slyness which one might expect to find in a mousmee. The Ecole de Rome will be under their direction a brilliant social centre.

LETTER FROM THE LINKMAN.

THERE are to be more knights and mid-knights, dear Lady Betty, at the New Year! There are now winter knights, spring knights, summer knights, and autumn knights; long knights and short knights; light knights and dark knights; knights-on, that are frisky, and knights-off, that are crazy; and all of them imagine they are men of "light and leading"! They are; they are our knight-lights.

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There is a notice in the window at a Government Office in Whitehall which says: "Call for Orders." The heads of the Department declare that it is altogether unnecessary, as more than half the visits they have from their subordinates are for the purpose.

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Scene.—A Yeomanry anniversary dinner.

Colonel: ". . . . . and, gentlemen, your expedition to South Africa has not been fruitless; for most of you have obtained the D.S.O." *(General interruption)* "Certainly, but what we wanted was the L.S.D."

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Dr. Morrison died with a box of his own pills in his hand, and calling loudly for more. There is a companion picture to that, for John Bull is dying with South Africa in his hand, and calling loudly for more colonies.

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The craze for old furniture has reached such a height that Lord —— has turned his wife out of doors to make room for a Louis XVI. cabinet.

An alien millionaire has described the luncheons he gives as "Half-hours with the Half-starved."

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It is a singular age, for whilst we have the higher education for the lower classes, we have the lower education for the higher classes; whilst we teach the former the classics and hydrostatics, we teach the latter cooking and house-cleaning.

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The Tory windmill-system of governing is easily described. First, get the wind to blow, then the mill grinds; first mislead the public, then misgovern it.

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At Rome you live in the past; at Paris, in the present; at New York, in the future. In London you do not live; you exist.

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A reputation is made in many ways; occasionally for merit.

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The new way to make a reputation: First catch your Public.

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Feed woman on forbidden fruit; she has never lost the taste for it.

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A presentation at Court may be described as: The launch of a butterfly.

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A blind old lady recently said: "How things have changed! When I went to Court I was accompanied by my sister; when my daughter goes to Court she is accompanied by her solicitor."

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How much can liberty and independence accomplish! Three hundred years ago the Pilgrim Fathers emigrated to America, and now the Americans are buying up England!

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A wittily expressed sarcasm may be expressed as: Tinted venom.

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It is not our bitter enemies that do us the most harm; it is our bitter friends.

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In this world we worry about that which others think; in the next we shall worry about that which they know. —Believe me to be very truly yours,

MARMADUKE.

SPORTING NOTES.

TUESDAY next is one of the most important nomination days during the year. Entries will then have to be made for all the spring handicaps, and for a great number of very important weight-for-age events to be run during the next three seasons.

I am glad to see that a change which had been more than once recommended in Truth has at last been carried out in the conditions of the Gold Cup at Ascot. This event has been for some years past endowed with £3,000 of added money, and the winner also received a piece of plate value £1,000. It was suggested in Truth that it would be a popular change if the value of the piece of plate was reduced, the amount thus saved being added to the pecuniary endowment of the race. This

Wedding Presents.—A choice selection of beautiful Dinner and Dessert Services, Breakfast, Luncheon, and Tea Sets, exclusive designs. Mortlocks, Ltd., the Old Pottery Galleries, Oxford-st., and Orchard st., W. Inspection solicited.

year's Cup will be of the value of £500 only, and there is to be £3,500 of added money. The fact is that modern owners do not care for gorgeous and unwieldy pieces of plate, but much prefer more money, and a cup or salver of moderate value, which will serve as an adequate memento. It is a certain fact, moreover, that whenever a piece of racing plate has come into the market the amount realised has been far below the advertised value of the article. The winner of the Gold Cup will now receive £2,500 in money, besides the piece of plate, while the second horse gets £700, and £300 goes to the third. I dare say we shall find one at least of M. E. Blanc's three-year-olds entered for the Ascot Cup, which will be run on Thursday, June 22, eleven days after the race for the Grand Prix de Paris, so that next year there will be nothing to keep the best of the French horses away from Ascot.

The Coventry Stakes, which closes on Tuesday, has the same conditions as usual—£1,000 of added money, and a sweepstakes of £10 each. The All-aged Stakes would be a more successful race in all respects if the added money was increased from £300 to £600, and the endowment of the Windsor Castle Stakes (the only two-year-old race on the Friday) ought to be raised from £300 to £1,000. It is a pity that £1,500 should still be thrown away on the Alexandra Plate, which would be every bit as successful a race if it was endowed with only £1,000. It is very seldom that this event produces an interesting contest. The Alexandra Plate is either at the mercy of the winner of the Gold Cup, or the field is made up out of the tagrag and bobtail of the Cup entry, either animals which have been beaten in Thursday's race, or those which are so moderate that it was not thought worth while to start them.

There are fourteen events which close and name at Newmarket, including the Biennial for 1906 and 1907, which failed to fill when it was originally advertised, and it has been reopened. Thirty entries are required. There are six of next season's two-year-old races, including the Criterion Stakes, which will be run over the Bretby Stakes Course. The only handicap is the Babraham Plate of £1,000 at the Craven meeting, to run over the last mile and a half of the Cesarewitch Course.

The only events at Goodwood are the Ham Stakes for 1907 (open to mares in foal), and the Gratwicke Stakes for 1908 (also for mares in foal).

The City and Suburban Handicap and other events at the Epsom Spring meeting have the same conditions as usual. The most important event closing at Epsom is the Coronation Cup (£1,000 in money and a piece of plate value £200) on the third day of the Summer meeting, to run over the Derby Course. We shall no doubt find Pretty Polly entered for this race, also Zinfandel, who won it last season, defeating Sceptre and Rock Sand.

There are numerous events at Liverpool, including the Spring Cup of £1,000, the St. George's Stakes of £2,000 (for now foals), to run at three years old, and the Great Lancashire Breeders' Produce Stakes of £2,000 (for mares now in foal), to run at two years old. Both these events are to be decided in July, 1907.

The pig-headed stupidity of race managers has long been proverbial, and when they have once decided on a particular policy they persevere in it, even if the result is disastrous, with a truly asinine pertinacity. The Manchester Cup was a complete and ignominious failure last season, although it was, I believe, the richest handicap of the year, there being £3,000 of added money, and the sweepstakes also going to the winner. The race, however, was killed owing to the inconceivably idiotic arrangement of closing it in January, although it was not run until the end of May. Can the managers of the meeting be so hopelessly infatuated as to suppose that when the race failed with last year's liberal conditions it can possibly be expected to succeed now that it has been converted into a subscription handicap, with an entrance of £5, an additional £15 for acceptors, or £30 for starters? Here we have a handicap for which the weights are to be published on May 11, the race being run on June 16, and, if you please, entries are to be made next Tuesday! What can be the object of this fatuous haste to close the race? It would have been more in accordance with common sense to have kept it open until May 16, and to have published the weights after the Epsom Summer meeting. If the sixty entries which are stipulated for should be forthcoming next week, I shall be vastly surprised; and my sentiments will be shared by all persons who know anything about such matters, and who regard racing affairs in a practical way.

Only twenty-two entries have been obtained for next year's Champion Stakes at the Newmarket Second October meeting, and a small subscription could only be expected, considering the singularly unattractive pecuniary conditions. The class of the entry, however, is very good, and there are the materials for a most interesting race. Major Loder has engaged Pretty Polly, and among the other three-year-olds are Mr. de Rothschild's St. Amant, Mr. Musker's Henry the First, Mr. Alexander's Andover, and Mr. Gilpin's Delaunay. The only four-year-olds are Captain Forester's Hackler's Pride and Lord Howard de Walden's Zinfandel. Among the two-year-olds are Plum-centre (nominated by Lord Alington), Lord Rosebery's Cicero, Mr. Fenton's Vedas, Mr. Henning's Rouge Croix, Captain Orr-Ewing's Thrush, and Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx and Shah Jehan.

The entry for the Newmarket Triennial, 1907-1908-1909, has been published. Among the notable mares are the Duke of Portland's Memoir, covered by Orme; Mr. Theobalds's La Reine (dam of Volodyovski), covered by Florizel II.; Mr. Musker's Minera, covered by Chevening; Duke of Devonshire's Lady Villikins (dam of Full Cry), covered by Orme; and Lord Howard de Walden's Golden Blaze, covered by Cyllene; and Glass Jug, by St. Maclou.

The foreigners are very anxious to buy Cyllene, whose price, I hear, is £40,000. Mr. Rose's horse, who is certainly the most successful of the younger sires (putting aside Flying Fox), is now in his tenth year, and his breeding is quite perfect. Cyllene and Flying Fox both descend from Stockwell, but M. E. Blanc's horse inherits the excitable blood of Galopin; whereas Cyllene comes, on the dam's side, from a quieter line. Cyllene, indeed, represents what many good judges consider to be the ideal cross of Stockwell and Touchstone, as, on the dam's side, he descends from Hermit, who was a son of Newminster and a grandson of Touchstone. Cyllene has two strains of the Touchstone blood, while Flying Fox is similarly endowed with the Galopin blood.

I observe that a gushing enthusiast has become excited about the mating of Sceptre with Cyllene, and asks what the yearling will be worth. I dare say that if a yearling thus bred came into the market there would be plenty of mooncalves ready to bid in thousands for the animal, on the strength of its pedigree. The creature might prove a flyer, or (just as likely) it might not be able to win a selling plate. The first produce of Memoir was expected to achieve great things, solely on account of its pedigree; but it turned out worthless for racing, and she has been a most abject failure at the stud. Considering Memoir's high breeding and her excellent performances on the Turf, it is certain that she would have sold for £10,000 if the Duke of Portland had parted with her at the end of her racing career. As matters have turned out she must have cost her owner at least £6,000 in keep, stallion fees, and forfeits for the produce. Again it was the same with La Roche, another of the Duke of Portland's Oaks winners, who went to Orme after she broke down when running for the Chester Cup. It was then remarked in more than one sporting paper that bidding would run high for the

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yearling if it came into the market. As a matter of fact, the produce proved to be utterly worthless, and La Roche seems likely to turn out as doleful a disappointment as Memoir.

St. Amant, who is now in Hampshire, is being practised over hurdles in the hope that his temper may be thereby benefited. Mr. de Rothschild's horse is heavily engaged next year, but in my opinion he will never do any good over a longer distance than six furlongs. The descendants of St. Simon can usually race, but they are a dreadfully nervous breed, and are often cursed with execrable tempers. By the way, it would be well if the Stewards of the Jockey Club prohibited the new and objectionable practice of excusing bad-tempered horses from taking part in the preliminary canter before the race. The production of such brutes is a pernicious nuisance on all accounts, and certainly should not be encouraged. They are a dangerous pest when on the Turf, and on retiring to the stud they usually become the sires of animals of the same odious disposition. If a horse is upset by taking part in the usual gallop before the race, then he must be upset, and there is an end of the matter. The authorities are really over-considerate to the point of imbecility, for it is preposterous to grant any privilege to an owner because his beast behaves like a mad savage. The number of bad-tempered horses has greatly increased of late years, and it would be more to the purpose if steps were taken to discourage them, instead of their being constantly and ostentatiously favoured. By the way, what a torrent of florid laudation there was about St. Amant after the Derby, and how clear it is now (as was maintained after Epsom in Truth) that it was an utterly false-run race. With the usual weather, Gouvernant would have won the Derby, but M. E. Blanc's colt was so hopelessly demoralised and upset that he might just as well have been in his stable. It is a curious fact, remembering all the eulogistic ding-dong about the merits of the placed horses in the Derby, that not one of them has won a race since Epsom.

The Jockey Club does not often receive presents, and it is odd that members have not made a habit of giving the society a picture of any of their horses which have exceptionally distinguished themselves. Sir James Miller has lately given the Club a portrait of Rock Sand. The members received a handsome snuff-box from William the Fourth, which was made from one of the hoofs of Eclipse, and mounted in gold. The Club possesses an admirable portrait of Admiral Rous, by Weigall. It is strange that there should be no memorial at Newmarket of Frederick Duke of York, who was long a member of the Jockey Club, and a most staunch supporter of the meetings, which he regularly attended during the spring and autumn. After racing all day on the Heath, the Duke of York was in the habit of playing whist all night at Cheveley, where he usually stayed with the Duke of Rutland. He was the only Bishop who was ever a member of the Jockey Club. When only a few months old the Duke was given the Bishopric of Osnaburgh, a very rich piece of preferment, which was tenable by a layman.

There was an excellent and most praiseworthy new departure at Newmarket during the Second October meeting, when the Stewards called a jockey before them for foul riding, not in consequence of a complaint, but because they had themselves observed the wrongdoing. It may be hoped that this precedent will be generally followed, as nothing imaginable could be more calculated to stop the frequent misdeeds of jockeys. During the past season rumours of foul riding have been scandalously frequent, but if Stewards will only keep their eyes open, and do their duty, this evil will assuredly be abated before long.

The Duke of Portland was assuredly very lucky in winning the Eclipse Stakes with such a moderate colt as Darley Dale, but his colours have been exceedingly unfortunate for some years past, and they certainly deserved a good turn. However, if the Duke's racing stud has been carried on at a considerable loss he has all the time been compensated by drawing a large annual revenue from his breeding stud in the form of stallions' fees. The Duke of Portland's interest in racing affairs is now exceedingly languid, and Epsom Summer, Ascot, and Goodwood were, I believe, the only meetings at which he has been present this year. Every one round Welbeck would be glad to see a decided turn in the Duke's racing luck, as a large sum out of his winnings on the Turf in the late eighties was devoted to building an extensive range of almshouses, and his country neighbours benefited in other ways by his successes. It was rumoured lately that the Duke of Portland had decided to give up racing, but that the breeding stud at Hunciecroft would be carried on as usual, the yearlings being sold at Newmarket every summer. However, the Duke at present has fourteen horses in training at Kingsclere, including Darley Dale. The most promising of the six older animals is Pamflete, by St. Simon out of Mneme, who was a really smart two-year-old last season when at her best. Pamflete has nineteen engagements in the future, the first of which is the One Thousand, and for this race the filly seems to have an excellent prospect of success, as the public lot which are entered are by no means animals of very high class, there being, indeed, nothing better in the list than Verdiana, Full Cry, Galantine, Queen of the Earth, Amitié, and Wetaria. Of course, Adula may turn out a flyer when she makes her appearance on the Turf, and Monarda, half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant, is expected to improve enormously on her miserable two-year-old performances. Pamflete is also in the Newmarket Stakes and in the Oaks, but she will meet all the best English colts in the former race, while the Epsom event seems likely to fall to M. E. Blanc's filly Muskerry, who is very smart, and probably considerably superior to any of the English two-year-olds. The Duke has eight two-year-olds, all bred by himself, including fillies by St. Simon out of Settlement, and by Orme out of Memoir, and colts by Isinglass out of Mrs. Butterwick (winner of the Oaks) and by St. Simon out of Ismay, the latter being own brother to Darley Dale.

So far as the Derby is concerned, the hopes of the Kingsclere stable will be limited to Plum-centre and to Polymelus, but neither of these animals need be thought of in connection with Epsom while the French colts, Cicero, and Rouge Croix are on their legs. Lord Crewe has a yearling own sister to Polymelus, named Lady Cynosure.

The Dullingham Plate at the Newmarket Second July meeting, which failed to fill when originally advertised, has closed with thirty-eight entries after being reopened. The only present interest in the list lies in the entry of three-year-olds and upwards, and it is most satisfactory to find that Zinfandel has been engaged by Lord Howard de Walden. The King's horse Mead is also entered, and among the other now four-year-olds is Lord Ellesmere's Kroonstad, who was one of the disappointments of last season. Among the now three-year-olds are Sir J. Thursby's John o' Gaunt, Captain Forester's Queen's Holiday, Mr. Joel's St. Denis, and Mr. Musker's Admiral Breeze.

Twenty-three two-year-olds are entered for the Chippenham Plate of £500 at the Newmarket First Spring meeting, including Mr. King's Comedian, Sir E. Vincent's Rievaulx, Lord Wolverton's colt by Persimmon out of Perfect Dream, Sir E. Cassel's Prudent King, and Mr. L. de Rothschild's Khammurabi. There is really no room for a race of this class during the First Spring meeting, which already has an ample number of events for three-year-olds, what with the Two Thousand, the One Thousand, and the Hastings Plate.

The Tudor Plate of £1,000 at the Sandown Park Spring meeting has obtained forty-three entries. This is a race for then three-year-olds which were maidens at the time of entry. There are some notable animals in the list, including Major Loder's dark filly Adula, own sister to Pretty Polly; Mr. L. de Rothschild's Monarda, half-sister, by Florizel II., to St. Amant;

and Sir F. Johnstone's Plum-centre, who was much fancied for the Dewhurst Plate, but he was palpably backward when he ran for that race.

Mr. Vyner's colours have been seldom to the fore during the past season. He at present has sixteen horses in training at Newby, his place on the Ure, near Ripon, eleven of which are yearlings, all of which were bred by their owner. Mint Mark is a colt by Queen's Birthday out of Minthe, Curracha is a filly by Tarporley out of Fallow Chat, and Brook Mint is a filly by Crowberry out of Watermint. Three of the yearlings are sired by King Crow. Minting, who is the sire of a filly out of Orthoryx, was not named after the herb, as has so often been stated, but after a Lincolnshire parish in the neighbourhood of Gautby Hall, the old seat of the Vyner family.

Sir Richard Waldie-Griffith's colt by Ladas out of St. Ia was expected a few months ago to prove himself an animal of very high class, and when his owner's racehorses were offered for sale at the Newmarket First October meeting, he was reserved at 5,000 gs. The colt did not change hands, and his autumn form was so poor that I do not believe he would have fetched 1,000 gs. if he had been put up at Newmarket last week. The St. Ia colt has nearly twenty engagements in the future, but he need not be thought of in connection with any of the classic stakes. It is indeed highly probable that the dark colt Shilfa, by Isinglass out of Merle, will turn out to be Sir R. Waldie-Griffith's best three-year-old. This great slashing colt was so backward, and he so evidently wanted time to develop, that it was wisely decided not to train him as a two-year-old. He is altogether a most promising colt, and has remarkably good action. Shilfa forfeited no fewer than nineteen engagements last season, and he is entered for twenty-one races still to come. His first engagement as a three-year-old is the Newmarket Biennial, and he is entered also for the Craven Stakes, which race is run two days later. Shilfa has two nice engagements at Ascot in the Ascot Derby and the St. James's Palace Stakes, with a maiden allowance in each race. As the colt needs plenty of time in order that he may grow to maturity without being knocked about, he will no doubt be treated easily during the early part of next year, which renders it probable that he will not be seen out before Ascot.

The Duke of Devonshire at present has twenty-two horses in training at Newmarket, of which ten are untried yearlings. Of the older horses the two-year-olds Full Cry and Quick are probably the best. Full Cry, by Flying Fox out of Lady Villikins, was very unlucky last season. She had been tried a certainty for the Princess's Plate at the Newmarket First July meeting, but she got off badly, and was beaten by a head by Galangal. Full Cry won the Prince of Wales's Sweepstakes at Goodwood (one of the richest two-year-old races of the season) and she was then looked upon as an animal of high class, and was regarded as likely to win the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster. She, however, unluckily went amiss, and was out of form during the remainder of the season. I am told that the Duke's filly is to undergo a special preparation for the One Thousand, and every one would be pleased to see his colours successful in so important a stake, as they certainly have been singularly unfortunate for several years past. A high opinion was entertained of the two-year-old Mon Roy, by Orme out of Mon Droit (dam of Dieudonné), when he was a yearling, and he was entered for no fewer than forty-eight races, but he has never yet started, and there is no reason for expecting that he will ever much distinguish himself on the Turf. The yearling relative to Full Cry is a colt by Marco. There are two Galeazzo colts among the yearlings, and colts by Persimmon out of Claque, by Isinglass out of Burgonet, and by Diamond Jubilee out of Lady Sneerwell. The Duke of Devonshire spares no expense in the management of his breeding stud, but I doubt whether East Sussex is a good district for rearing thoroughbred stock.

In Ireland there exists a body called the Committee Controlling Irish Representative Cricket. The hon. sec. of this body is Mr. Gillman. He has tilted a pretty joust of the pen with Mr. Lacey, the Secretary of the M.C.C. The Irishman is an easy winner. In this island folk are complaining that cricket matches are becoming dull, and that there is no life in the old game. The remedy is at hand. Get a few Irish county secretaries, and there will be any amount of fun. This Committee's sole duty is to look after Irish representative cricket. In July Mr. Gillman wrote to the M.C.C. asking if the two matches between the Gentlemen of Ireland and Cambridge University, and the one against the South Africans would count as first-class fixtures. "No," said Mr. Lacey; "the team should be All Ireland." Mr. Gillman replied: "The side was representative of All Ireland, the teams sent were first-class, the matches were for three days. All your requirements are satisfied." Mr. Lacey tried to get out of the hole by saying that the side was not played as a representative side of "All Ireland." But Mr. Gillman never gave him a chance. "If," he asked, "the words 'All Ireland' are required, how came you (the M.C.C.) to recognise as first-class matches, the matches played by the Gentlemen of Ireland team sent over by our Viceroy two years ago?" In September I commented at some length on this correspondence, and I expressed a desire to see how the M.C.C. would get out of the corner. Well, the Committee of the M.C.C. met on November 7 at Lords, and on its instructions Mr. Lacey replied that the Committee regretted that they had not been told that the teams were representative of All Ireland cricket. Primâ facie they represented only amateur cricket. There was no evidence to show that there were no professional cricketers in Ireland. In arriving at their decision a precedent was followed which had worked satisfactorily. "The recollection of what they had done in the past should refute the idea that they were unwilling to encourage Irish cricket." Now, in the whole of the correspondence there is not a shred of evidence to show that the matter was ever considered by the Committee before November 7. This letter was the first intimation. So Mr. Gillman writes back: "What was the decision of your Committee? What was the precedent referred to?" Thereto Mr. Lacey answers: "I have sent my Committee's answer. Unofficially, I suggest that the teams should be called 'All Ireland.'" Whereupon the Committee of Irish Representative Cricket arose in its wrath and resolved in a portentous resolution that it regretted the inconclusive character of the reply of the secretary, that the Irish Committee was still unaware of what the decision and precedent referred to were, and that it had no recollection of the M.C.C. ever having done anything to help Irish cricket. I must say that the M.C.C. deserves all that the Irishmen have given. They have certainly given freely. A more stupid, tactless piece of bungling it would be difficult to imagine. Having made a bad mistake, the Committee could have corrected it. They erred owing to their colossal ignorance of Irish history, Irish geography, and Irish natural history. Any child knows that there are neither snakes nor professional cricketers in Ireland. But that knowledge comes not from compulsory Greek which the Committee of the M.C.C. learned. When, too, will officialdom learn to say "We have made a mistake?" The M.C.C. should clearly have said: "Those matches are first-class matches. Owing to our mistake we regret that the scores were not included in this year's averages."

I am glad to say Mr. Gillman was invited to come to the meeting of first-class county secretaries. Matches have been arranged for Dublin University and the

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Gentlemen of Ireland against Essex. I am very glad that the Essex team has been able to do this. The M.C.C. will also help any leading cricketer taking a team over there. I hope the Irishmen will stick to the title "Gentlemen of Ireland." Their gentlemen players do not hold posts as deputy-sub-assistant-county secretaries.

The fifth test match of the Australian tour is to last to the end of the season if necessary. It is to be played to a finish if its decision involves the winning of the rubber. A correspondent wrote to the Marquis of Granby to know if there will be a sixth match, if, as a result of the game being finished in three days, each side has won one match. The Marquis has replied that the county fixture list renders this additional match impossible. The query that is raised shows the utter absurdity of playing so many test matches. The business is overdone from a cricketing, though not, I admit, from a gate-money, standpoint. Three test matches and one each against really representative teams of the Gentlemen and the Players is the arrangement I should like to see carried out. These test games have too much importance attached to them. It is mere dust and ashes worship. And the last one, if it is a deciding one, is to be played under entirely different conditions to all the others. A new test is to be applied for the deciding test match!

I do not know to what extent the Amateur Rowing Association is affected by political influence. At the same time, there is no doubt that its decisions ought to be accepted with the greatest possible respect. There is one decision that should recommend itself to the tribunal of The Hague, the North Sea Commission at Paris, and, above all, to the Russian Government. It has decided that there is no such thing as neutral water. International complications need not be feared. It has limited its decision to boat-racing. I am glad of this, for I once asked a leading oarsman what was meant by neutral water. Did it mean water into which neither or either crew could go, and, if so, when a crew took another crew's water, wholly or in part, to what extent was either, and, if so, which crew in neutral water? He was very much annoyed. He will not be worried again, and I shall have to take rowing legislation quite seriously.

To the man who hopes to get away to Sweden or Switzerland for skiing, skating, or tobogganning at Christmas time, I can imagine nothing more distressing than to be laid up with a touch of influenza that is bad enough to keep him indoors if not in bed, and just alarming enough to make his physician warn him of lung troubles if he attempts to get out and about before he is fit. I am moved to this expression of sympathy from a note a friend sends me. He had promised me a long description of a trip he was making to Sweden for skiing. And now he has nothing to look forward to but a round of fog and damp until next term begins. I can only cheer him by reminding him that there are others.

It is very satisfactory to know that the Home Office will look with favourable eye upon any private member bringing in a Universal Lights Bill. At present the variations in different districts and counties are simply absurd. The cyclist and motorist would rejoice if such a Bill were passed. The Home Office will not take action because of the farmer's cart. Why the farmer's cart, going from one field to another, should excite so much sympathy I do not know. It is better, I suppose, that a dozen cyclists or drivers of traps should be smashed than that one cart should show a light. By the way, I know of a parsimonious and wealthy squire who drives late every afternoon into a neighbouring township. When he gets into the boundary of the town he lights his candles, and carefully blows them out on leaving the town. His ambition is to die very wealthy. A universal lighting-up Bill would be a terrible shock to him. The Treasury might get certain duties.

MAMMON.

Stock Markets Inactive — Christmas Influences — Generally Good—The Russian Bogey.

OWING to the occurrence of the Christmas holidays, which necessitates the printing of this issue of Truth earlier than usual, my article will for a change be short. As very little business has transacted I am the better able to compress my remarks. General conditions continue good, and all the indications—with one possible exception—point to a resumption of active markets at rising prices as soon as the holidays are numbered among the things of the past. The one possible exception arises out of the Russo-Japanese war and the attitude of Paris. In the early part of the year I drew attention to the chance of a fright on the part of French holders of Russian securities, and at one time, when a panic broke out on the Paris Bourse on a Saturday afternoon, it looked as though such a contingency was not remote. We in this country do not regard Russian bonds with favour, but small investors up and down France, and (to a smaller extent) other parts of the Continent are holders of these securities to the extent of over £400,000,000, having bought round about par, under the impression that they were acquiring the stocks of a strong—an impregnable—country. But for the support of the Russian Government and of the big French banks (which could not afford to see a smash if it was possible to avoid one) we would probably have witnessed a heavy slump in Russians. Thanks to that support quotations have been maintained in the neighbourhood of 92, when by all the rules, the disasters of the war and the raising of fresh loans should have sent them down perhaps to 75 or even lower. The French investor has not been buying Russians since the war—has, on the contrary, been realising quietly, and what with this and the enormous quantity of new scrip with which they have been loaded, the banks have become more heavily loaded than they can afford to hold. In the circumstances it will be seen that the situation is an ugly one. It is aggravated by the revolutionary outbreaks in Russia itself, and though this may be converted into a "Bull" point if it necessitates the retention of troops at home instead of their despatch to far-off Manchuria, the immediate prospect is not good. Any heavy selling of Russian bonds by the French people would demoralise the Paris Bourse, and as I have before had occasion to point out, that market has been buying very freely of Kaffirs and other things from us, helping to a return of buoyant conditions. The Russian menace apart—and I would not emphasise it, although it cannot be ignored altogether—the outlook is good. The slackening of business just prior to Christmas is only in accordance with custom and the condition of things. In the New Year the abundance of money will be a very potent factor for good, and if we see any sign pointing to the early cessation of the war, our markets will not be slow to accept the omen. In the meantime I wish my readers the compliments of the season, and a profitable year in 1905.

Railways, Home and Foreign.

Some feeling of dulness, occasioned by the absence of general business, the poor traffics, and the foggy weather, has come over the Home Railway section. It

The Cure of Consumption.—The weighty testimony reproduced below should go far to influence sufferers from this terrible disease to place themselves in Dr. Alabone's care:—Sir Edward Buck, LL.D., K.C.S.I., writes:—"I have recently witnessed the rescue from the brink of the grave to a sound and happy life of one who had been condemned by all experts and friends, who knew the sufferer, to an early death. Your columns have been filled with similar evidence of the efficacy of the Alabone treatment in many cases pronounced desperate by the highest authorities." "The Cure of Consumption, Chronic Bronchitis, Asthma, and Catarrh," price 2s. 6d., by E. W. Alabone, Lynton House, Highbury-quadrant, N.

must be confessed that the earnings are at the moment indifferent, but this fact is due to temporary causes, and with only four exceptions the earnings of the leading lines for the half-year will show increases. The position to date is shown in my table below:—

—	1904.	1903.	Aggregate to Date.
	£	£	£
Brighton	– 3,370	+ 32	+ 10,647
Caledonian	– 1,243	– 1,808	+ 3,227
Great Central	– 245	+ 822	+ 22,693
Great Eastern	– 700	– 2,600	+ 4,600
Great Northern	– 4,529	– 1,205	– 61,992
Great Western	– 2,500	+ 1,000	+ 46,900
Lancashire and Yorkshire	– 1,527	+ 1,254	+ 44,051
London and North-Western	–15,000	– 1,000	–147,000
London and South-Western	– 2,900	– 900	+ 11,900
Midland	– 2,411	– 6,430	–118,661
North British	– 4,691	+ 345	+ 18,805
North-Eastern	– 9,675	– 3,876	– 54,846
South-Eastern and Chatham	– 2,725	– 352	+ 11,167

With the aid of economies of working, which seem reasonably assured, the dividend showing will prove to be relatively satisfactory—a maintenance of rates in nearly all instances and increases in one or two cases. Early in January there ought to be considerable activity in the market because of the dividend speculations and the release of much Government and other interest payments, some of this money invariably finding its way into Home Railway investment stocks. There are few items of interest to which attention can be drawn. Values have shaded to some extent here and there, but the losses are insignificant. North-Westerns have eased owing to profit-taking after the announcement of the working agreement with the "Leeds" Company for the pooling of traffic in the South Lancashire district; but being full of a half-year's dividend, and likely to lead the forward movement which will soon be induced by the improving condition of trade, "Brums" make a promising purchase for investment. Metropolitans are lower, consequent upon the publication of details of the new capital requirements, in respect of which a Parliamentary Bill has been deposited. Powers are to be asked for £800,000 in Preference or Ordinary stock, with £260,000 of Debentures. It seems a fair inference, having regard to the recent issue of Convertible Preference stock, that the electrification of the system is costing more than had been thought. On the other hand, the Company appears to have made an excellent bargain with the Great Central, the terms of the agreement being issued this week. The Great Central will pay £20,000 a year as rent for the Metropolitan line from Canfield Place to Harrow for continued use in respect of its through traffic; but it will not compete for local traffic between Marylebone and Harrow. A further rental of £44,000 a year will be payable by the new Great Central and Metropolitan Joint Committee in respect of the present Metropolitan line north of Harrow. Towards earning this rent the Great Central agrees to provide through traffic to the value of £45,500 a year gross. If any profit be earned beyond this rental it all goes to the Metropolitan up to £5,500 a year, and afterwards is divided equally. The Metropolitan will receive a rental of, in all, £64,000 a year, and still be left in sole control of the local traffic from London to Harrow. At a meeting of the Chatham Company this week the shareholders approved the issue of Three and a Half per Cent. Debentures to the amount of £1,250,000. In case it should be thought that it is in contemplation to add £43,750 a year to the Preference charges, it may be pointed out that the new stock is mainly required to liquidate the existing debit balance on capital account, which on June 30 last reached a total of nearly a million sterling. Of this sum about half represents the amount due to the South-Eastern Company, whilst further, the Company had Lloyd's Bonds outstanding to an amount of £182,485 and a temporary loan of £60,000. The substitution of Debenture stock for floating debt may in the long run produce an actual saving in interest charges. My table follows:—

Home Rails.	A year ago.	Last Make-up.	Price, Dec. 17.	Price, Dec. 22.	Movement.
Caledonian Pref.	75½	77½	77½	78	+ ½
Do. Def.	27⅜	32⅝	32⅜	32⅝	+ ⅜
City and S. London	48	46½	46½	46½	—
Central London	95	91½	91	91	—
Great Central '94 Pref.	45½	—	57	57	—
Do. "B"	25½	30½	31	30⅜	– ⅛
Do. "A"	13⅜	17	17	16⅞	– ⅛
Great Eastern	85	90	91½	91	– ½
Great Northern Pref.	99½	100	100½	102	+1½
Do. Def	37½	40½	40½	39⅝	– ⅜
Great Western	138½	139½	139⅜	140	+ ½
Hull and Barnsley	41½	41	42½	42	+1⅛
Lancashire and Yorkshire	97½	108⅜	109	109	—
London and Brighton "A"	106½	123⅜	123½	123½	– ¼
London, Chatham, and Dover	14½	17	17⅛	16⅞	– ¼
Do. 4½ p.c. Pref.	92	100½	100	100	—
Do. 2nd Pref.	57	66	66	65	– 1
London and North-Western	145	152⅜	153⅜	153	– ⅜
London and South-Western Def.	49	53	53½	53½	—
Metropolitan Consolidated	86	93	98	96¾	–1¼
Metropolitan District	34½	40½	40	40	—
Midland Pref.	66½	67	67	67	—
Do. Def.	62½	64	64½	63⅜	– ½
North British 3 p.c. Pref.	76½	77½	77½	77¼	—
Do. Def.	40⅜	47½	47⅜	47½	– ⅛
North-Eastern Consolidated	136	138½	139½	138⅜	– ⅜
South-Eastern "A"	50⅜	57½	57½	56½	–1⅛

It is probably unnecessary to say that there have been very few dealings in the American Railway market, at the instance of the British public, and the professionals here and in New York appear to have given themselves over to the debilitating effects of Christmas. The tone of the market, however, shows a further improvement, the effect of the Lawson scare having worn off pretty well despite the further and horrible revelations of frenzied finance which the gentleman has published. The outlook for Americans is uncertain. The situation has been rendered much healthier by the reduction of the top-heavy "Bull" account, and in some good quarters they are talking of a resumption of the upward movement early in the new year, the reasons being found in the rapid improvement in the trade of the country, and the absence of tariff legislation. On the other hand, the people who are behind Mr. Lawson may think it advisable to bring about a lower level in order that they may resume on better terms the "Bull" pool tactics, which were so successful last autumn. The whole market is one which a prudent speculator will be well advised to avoid. My table shows the movements during the week:—

—	Highest	Lowest.	Closing Price, Dec. 10, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 17, 1904.	Closing Price, Dec. 22, 1904.
Atchison	92¼	56½	89	87¾	87⅝
Do. Five per Cent. Pref.	106⅜	88⅜	105½	105½	106¼
Baltimore and Ohio Com.	106	73½	103⅛	103⅜	102¼
Chesapeake and Ohio	55	28¼	49⅛	49½	48½
Denver	43⅞	18⅜	32½	31⅞	31½
Do. Pref.	93½	66⅜	88¼	90	90
Erie	43⅞	23¼	39½	38½	37½
Do. First Pref.	75⅛	64½	77⅜	76⅜	76
Louisville	134⅝	98⅜	146½	144½	143
Milwaukee	187½	137¼	176	173	173⅜
Mo., Kan., and Texas	30⅜	16⅞	33⅝	32	31⅛
Norfolk Pref.	93½	87	94	95	94½
Do. Common	78½	55⅝	79⅝xd	80½	80⅝
New York Central	158	116⅜	142½	142½	143½
Ontario	36	19⅜	45½	45⅝	44½
Pennsylvania	80½	57½	70½	70	69⅜
Reading	35½	20	40⅜	40⅝	39⅝
Do. First Pref.	45½	36⅜	46	45½	45⅜
Southern Common	37⅜	17⅜	36⅜	36½	34⅝
Do. Pref.	97⅛	73½	98½	98⅜	99
Southern Pacific	69⅜	39⅜	66⅛	64⅝	64⅝
Union Pacific	107⅞	69⅜	114½	113½	112⅜
Do. Pref.	97½	86⅜	97½	97½	98
Wabash Pref.	55⅜	30	46	45	43½
Do. "B" Debentures	85⅝	55½	70	70	69
U.S. Steel Corp. Com.	—	—	30½	30½	29½
Do. Pref.	—	—	93½	94	93⅜

Dealings in Steel Trust stocks have been fairly active, but mostly on American account, and the Preference is talked to par on the strength of the improvement in the steel trade of the United States. Southern Pacifics

Truth writes: "I have never heard anything but favourable accounts of Dr. LUNN'S EXCURSIONS." Mediterranean Cruises. Swiss Skating Tours.—Secretary, 5, Endsleigh-gardens, N.W.

were bid for at one time by the Gates clique, but they have lost much of their rise. There are no other features, but at the time of writing the sentiment on Wall Street is "Bearish." Canadian Pacifics have moved up and down with Americans without much business being done in them. They are worth buying now because in time they will go higher on sheer merits, and if the "Bull" movement in Americans is removed in the new year they will be good for an early advance. You might buy on this last assumption if you are prepared to hold, should the movement not come about. Concerning Grand Trunks there is not much to say. The financing proposals in connection with the Pacific extension scheme were confirmed at the meeting on Monday, when the President said optimistic things about the new line. The market, not caring to look very far ahead, scarcely liked the possibility of present sacrifice, and the Company's junior stocks, after hardening at first, now show a reactionary tendency. Otherwise there is no change in the position. The chief interest of the moment centres round the junior stocks and their prospects of improvement in the new year. These prospects seem to me to be quite good—given a moderate sort of winter—for comparison of earnings will be with small totals in the first quarter of the current year. Mexican and Argentine railway stocks have shown scarcely any fluctuation, but the latter have been firm, Rosarios in particular on a continuance of the very excellent earnings.

—	A Year Ago.	Last Make-up.	Closing Price, Dec. 22.
Canadian Pacific	122⅝	132⅜	133⅛
" 4 per cent. Preference	105	—	102½
Grand Trunks	14⅜	20	20⅛
" 4 per cent Guaranteed	101	98	98⅛
" 1st Preference	111½	107	107½
" 2nd "	97	95	95⅛
" 3rd "	44½	47⅜	48
Bengal and North-West	130	145	146
Bombay Baroda	156½	149	150
Madras Railway 5 per cent.	126½	138½	129
Argentine Great Western Ordinary	101	102½	103½
Buenos Ayres and Pacific	110½	115½	116½
" " 1st Preference	101	107½	107½
" " 2nd "	91	96	98⅝
" Great Southern	132	134½	134½
" Western	127	124½	124⅜
Entre Rios Railway Preference	69	75	79
Rosario Consolidated Ordinary	87⅜	99½	101
Costa Rica Railway	1⅜	2⅜	3
Mashonaland Railway Debentures	100	97½	97
Rhodesia 4 per cent. Railway Debentures	86	83	83
Mexican Railway	15½	26¾	26½
" 1st Preference	63	105½	106½
" 2nd "	23	48½	48½
Nitrate Rails	7⅛	10⅜	10⅜

Gambling on the Stock Exchange.

I agree with the writer of the appended letter that stockbrokers who engage in operations involving large "differences" with men whom they know to be salaried clerks ought to be made an example of by the Stock Exchange Committee. Happily I am glad to think that, for their own sakes, there are few brokers willing to take the risk—apart from the higher question of the morality of the thing:—

Dear Sir,—In the Wednesday's issue of the *Daily Telegraph* in reporting the heavy defalcations to the extent of £22,000 by the Secretary of a Company, it is mentioned that the Recorder expressed his surprise that the prisoner, as the well-known servant of a limited company, should have found it possible to carry on such extensive speculations on the Stock Exchange. The general public will no doubt join the Recorder in his surprise, especially as an impression seems to exist throughout the City that the Committee of the Stock Exchange do all in their power to suppress gambling on the part of salaried servants. But my experience does not exactly confirm this. As Manager of a Company I discovered that one of its clerks carried on extensive speculations with a firm of brokers. His time was more taken up with these speculations than with his duties, and the consequence was that he lost his situation.

I wrote to the Committee of the Stock Exchange drawing their attention to the facts and giving the name of the brokers. I received a very courteous reply, stating that they had interviewed the broker and that he had given them a very satisfactory account. Not being content with this "very satisfactory account," I wrote again to the Committee and pointed out that the dealings amounted to hundreds, if not thousands, of shares every account, and that the clerk not only had lost all his money, but had become heavily involved with money-lenders. In reply to my second letter, the Committee replied briefly that they had nothing further to add to their previous communication.

Stock Exchange brokers are not novices in the City, and are generally pretty cute. I should think that a firm of brokers who receive for differences £22,000 from a man whom they know to be a salaried clerk, should have their suspicions aroused.

It would be very interesting for the community to know whether the firm of brokers who acted for the Secretary before the Recorder have been called before the Committee of the Stock Exchange.

In my opinion this gambling will never be put a stop to until some energetic measures are adopted against brokers who do the transactions for the class of persons referred to. I remember a case as far back as 1883 in which the Secretary of a Bank abstracted securities to a very large amount, and in that instance the broker was placed in the dock with the Secretary, and the sentences were twelve years and fourteen years respectively. Until such exemplary treatment is more generally adopted, I fear that dishonest clerks will continue to rob their employers with impunity to pay the losses incurred with their brokers. I should like to know whether others have had experience similar to mine.—Yours faithfully,

Manager of a Public Company.

Kaffirs Bought from Paris—Quietening Down Towards the End—More Dividends—Labour Position—Mr. Wernher and the Coolies—Premier Diamonds Lower—Jagers Strong—Deep Levels.

Business in Kaffirs as in other descriptions has been curtailed by the approach of the holiday, and by the imminence of another settlement, the carry-over in the Mining sections commencing immediately on the re-assembling of the House on Tuesday. In these circumstances the disinclination to open further commitments can be readily understood. At first the market displayed something like animation, a lot of good buying orders being sent over from Paris. Towards the end, the Continental interest slackened off, and thus the hopes of those who calculated that the week would finish on Friday (the House was closed on Saturday) with a display of buoyancy were disappointed. Instead there was an easier tendency, a few selling orders coming over from Paris towards the end. Still, the under-tone of the whole market remains remarkably firm, and provided nothing untoward develops in Paris as a consequence of the weakness of Russians, the new account is likely to prove an active one. The inherent position is strong — the mining industry continues to make headway, thanks to the assurance of a proper labour supply, domestic and alien, the open account is of quite moderate dimensions, prices are at a level which ought to tempt speculators, and the ease in money which will come with the turn of the year. Another batch of dividends is announced—27s. 6d. per share by the Ferreira, 3s. per share by the Ginsberg and New Primrose, 1s. 6d. per share by the Rietfontein "A," and 4s. per share by the Village Main Reef. These amounts compare with 22s. 6d. by the Ferreira, 3s. by the Ginsberg and New Primrose, 2s. by the Rietfontein "A," and 3s. by the Village Main Reef last December. Considering the disabilities ruling until quite recently, these results can only be regarded as very satisfactory. A favourable impression was created by Mr. Julius Wernher's statements respecting Chinese labour at the recent Fraser and Chalmers meeting. Mr. Wernher said he was informed that by the end of the year there would be 27,000 coolies in South Africa, and that a cablegram just received from China intimated that it was hoped two more shipments would be despatched this month and five more in January. Meantime, a small consignment of 236 coolies have left Hong Kong on board the *Ikbal*. Among the older favourites, Goldfields have again been most in request, but support has come along for Rand Mines, Modders, Gold Trusts and some others. Barnato descriptions have held their ground, and New Primrose have been bought on the official statement that instead of four years only, the life of the mine is, as a result of a recent re-survey, estimated at ten years. General Mining and Finance have improved on the introduction of the shares on to the Paris Bourse (where they have been well received), coupled with the good results for last year, a cable stating that the profits amount to £450,000,

and that a dividend of 20 per cent. will be paid. In the Diamond group Premiers have reacted slightly on profit-taking, but De Beers, after being dull on the reduced dividend, are now being supported, and there is strong buying also of Jagers. Deep Levels have held their position well—improved it in a number of instances—in spite of slack business. My table is appended:—

—	High in 1895.	1902-1903. Highest.	1902-1903. Lowest.	Make-up, Nov. 25, 1904	Make-up, Dec 12, 1904.	Closing Price Dec. 22, 1904.
Angelo	7⅜	9½	6	7⅛	7½	7½
Anglo-French	7⅜	5⅜	3⅜	4⅜	4⅛	4⅛
Aurora West	3⅜	2	⅝	1⅞	1⅝	1½
Bulfelsdoorn	—	1⅜	⅜	½	⅛	⅛
Bantjes	7⅜	2¼	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Barnato Consols	5⅛	4⅜	2⅜	2⅜	3	2⅜
City & Suburban (£4)	—	7½	5½	6⅛	6½	6½
Cons. Goldfields Def.	19⅜	10⅛	4⅜	7⅛	8⅛	8⅛
Cons. Main Reef	—	3	1¼	2	2	1⅜
Crown Reef	12¼	18½	10½	15¼	15½	16
De Beers Pref.	—	20½	18¼	18⅜	18⅛	18
Do. Def.	—	20½	18¼	18⅜	18½	18¼
Driefontein	4⅜	6¼	4⅜	5⅛	5½	5⅜
Durban-Roodepoort	8⅜	6½	5½	5⅜	4⅞	5¼
East Rand Ext.	—	4⅜	1¼	2⅜	3	2⅝
East Rands	12	10⅝	6⅜	8⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Ferreira	22	26	18	22½	23½	23½
Frank Smith Diamond	—	5	1⅜	2⅞	2½	2¼
Geduld	—	9⅜	5	7⅛	7⅜	7⅜
Ginsberg (New)	2½	4⅜	3	2¼	2½	2½
Goch (New)	3⅜	4½	2¼	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Geldenhuis Estate	7½	7⅜	5⅜	5¾	5⅞	5⅛
,, Main Reef	1⅜	¾	½	½	½	½
Glencairn	4⅛	2½	1½	1⅝	1⅝	1⅝
Goerz, A., & Co., Ltd.	—	4⅜	3	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Henderson	5⅜	2⅜	1	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Henry Nourse	8⅛	10½	7⅜	8½	8½	8⅜
Heriot	12½	8¼	3⅜	4⅜	4½	4½
Jagersfontein (New)	12	30	24	28⅜	29¼	29¼xd
Joh. Con. Invest.	6⅜	4⅜	2½	3⅜	3⅜	3 xd
Johannesburg Est.	—	2	1½	1½	1¼	1⅛
,, Goldfields	—	1⅜	⅝	1	1⅜	1¼
Jubilee	12⅜	7¼	4½	4⅜	4	4
Jumpers	8⅜	6⅜	2⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Kaffir Cons.	—	—	—	1⅛	1⅛	1¼
Kleinfontein (New)	6⅜	2⅛	1⅜	2¼	2⅜	2⅜
Knight's	11½	9⅜	4⅜	6⅛	6¼	6⅜
Langlaagte, Block "B"	3⅜	1¾	⅝	1	1	1
Langlaagte Estate	7½	5⅛	3⅛	4⅜	3⅜	4
Langlaagte Exp. & Building	—	4¼	3⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Luipaard's Vlei (New)	2⅜	2¼	1⅜	2	2¼	2¼
May Consolidated	4⅜	5⅞	3⅜	4¼	4⅜	4⅛
Meyer and Charlton	8¼	6¼	4⅛	5⅜	6⅛	5⅝
Modderfontein (£4)	17⅜	14⅜	7⅛	10⅜	10¼	10⅛
Mozambique	3⅛	2⅜	1½	1½	1⅜	1½
Niekerk	—	18/-	7/6	17/6	¾	17/6
Nigel	8¼	4	2⅜	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
New African	—	3⅜	1½	2	2	2⅛
New Comet	—	¾	⅜	2¼	3¼	3⅛
New Rietfontein	6⅜	3¼	1⅜	2⅜	3	2¾
Oceana Cons.	1⅜	2¼	1⅛	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
Orange Free State Diamond	—	1⅜	⅜	1	1½	1½
Primrose (New)	8⅛	5⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Princess Estate	4½	2	¾	1⅜	1½	1⅜
Rand Mines (5/-)	11⅜	13⅜	8⅜	11⅛	11⅜	11⅜
Randfontein	4⅜	4½	2½	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Randfontein Porges	3⅜	3½	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
,, Robinson	2⅜	2⅜	1	2¼	2	2
,, North	—	2⅜	1½	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Randfontein Block "A"	—	2	¾	1⅜	1⅛	1⅜
,, Mynpacht	—	—	—	1½	1	1
Robinson (£6)	11½	12	9¼	10⅜	10½	10½
Roodepoort United	8½	4⅜	2⅞	3⅜	3⅜	3½
S. A. Gold Mines	—	14⅜	6½	8⅜	9½	9½
S. A. Gold Trust	12/6	9⅜	4⅜	6	6½	6⅜
Simmer and Jack	*8½	3⅜	1½	2	2⅜	2⅜
South-West Africa	—	25/-	12/-	15/6	15/9	16/-
Transvaal Con. Lands	4⅜	6⅜	3⅜	4⅛	4¼	4⅜
Transvaal Development	2½	2⅞	24/-	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝
Transvaal Exploring	—	⅜	¼	8/-	9/6	9/9
Transvaal Goldfield	8½	3½	2⅜	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Treasury	5	6⅜	4½	4½	4	4½
Van Ryn	11	4⅜	2½	4¼	4½	4½
Village Main Reef	9½	9¾	7½	7½	7½	7½
Violet	—	3⅜	2	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Vogelstruis	6⅜	2⅜	1½	1⅜	1⅜	1½
Welgedacht	—	8⅞	6⅜	7⅜	7⅜	8⅛
Wemmer	13½	15	9½	10⅞	11	11
W. Rand Central	—	1½	⅜	⅝	⅞	⅞
,, (New)	—	2½	⅛	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Wolhuter	12	6½	3	4⅜	4⅜	3¾
Worcester	6½	3⅜	1½	1	1¼	1½

* £5 shares.

RHODESIANS QUIET—MORE ABOUT ALLUVIAL—CHARTEREDS STIMULATED—BANKET SETTLEMENT DIFFICULTY—MOLE ATTENTION TO WESTRALIANS—TONE BETTER—ASSOCIATED RECOVER—LAKE VIEWS—L. AND W. A. EXPLORATION TO THE FRONT—WEST AFRICANS IDLE—BIBIANIS—MISCELLANEOUS MINES.

The Yule-tide atmosphere which has pervaded the Stock Exchange during the past week has naturally restricted dealings, and there has hardly been any pretence at business in the Rhodesian, West Australian, West African, and Miscellaneous mining markets. But the tone generally is fairly satisfactory, and in regard to Rhodesians, the mail advices from Sir William Milton confirming his cables served to help Chartered shares. It must be confessed that there is nothing that could be termed definite in his communication, nor anything exhaustive, but the tenor of the document is optimistic as the "possibilities appear to be enormous." The specimens of the gold are extremely small, and it may be remarked that this report seems to indicate a much greater area of alluvial than was at first thought, but, of course, it must not be forgotten that these utterances are more or less inconclusive, and that before any estimate of its value can be arrived at the Chartered Company's engineer's scientific investigation into the find must first come to hand, and this is not likely to happen for some considerable time. However, this report seems to stimulate Chartered shares, which maintain their position well, and, except for a few of the lower priced things, other Rhodesians are fairly steady. Among the Banket descriptions, both Exploration and Lomagundas have manifested an easier tendency in the absence of support, and the New Banket shares developed some weakness at the special settlement owing to the difficulty experienced in carrying over. Considerable offering resulted, but later on they exhibited quite a fair amount of strength. The Northern group has been devoid of interest. More attention has been paid to Westralians, speculators evidently being attracted by lower values prevailing, and, the supply of stock being somewhat short, this has served to assist a slight upward movement. Associated, after a somewhat dull start, picked up smartly, and all the other leading descriptions show slight gains. A small Colonial demand sprang up for Lake Views, as a result, no doubt, of the recent strike, but on receipt of less satisfactory advices the shares reacted. Among the "Little Kangaroos," Northern Terrors have turned on the down-grade again in consequence of a circular from the management implying that the response to the appeal for the new Debentures is small, and if it does not improve, reconstruction seems inevitable. Rather favourable statements uttered at the meeting concerning the value of the Company's investments led to a smart advance in London and West Australian Exploration shares, which maintain their higher level fairly well. In the West African, the tendency continues somewhat firm, but business has been virtually non-existent, consequently features are scarce, and where movements have occurred they are small and insignificant. Very little encouragement was forthcoming at the Bibiani meeting, but, on the other hand, the mere trifle of £25,000 is asked for to enable a continuance of operations, though it may be remarked that the Company is "now relying entirely on the proceeds of gold to meet the whole of the expenses and obligations." The ore reserves are estimated to total 150,000 tons of an average value of 15 dwt., and though it is hoped that working costs will eventually be reduced to 30s. per ton, the margin of profit does not seem very inspiring, having regard to the market valuation of the shares.

In the Miscellaneous Mining market, Copper descriptions have moved erratically within narrow limits, and exhibit no feature of especial interest. Renewed weakness has occurred in Etruscans as the result of another discouraging return from the property. Indians have been disposed to droop fractionally, Champion Reefs, Nundydroog, and Ooregums being all lower, but on the other hand New Zealanders have turned on the upgrade again, more especially Waihi Grand Junctions. Egyptians remain idle and somewhat dull, the report of the Nile Valleys helping a set-back in the Company's share, notwithstanding that it covers the year to July last, and as it will be remembered that many encouraging developments have occurred since then, the value of the document is not very great. It is anticipated that the balance of the shares unissued—46,993—will be issued during the next few months, and that the capital necessary for thoroughly testing the propositions will thus be obtainable, but otherwise no statements of importance are made.

American Exploration Company.

About a month ago I devoted some columns of Truth to a consideration of the affairs of the American Exploration Company, and the conclusion I arrived at after an investigation of the facts—including a number of interesting details which I did not think it necessary to emphasise at present—was that the whole affair was a poor sort of American fraud, worked by and for the benefit of a San Francisco gentleman of the suggestive name of Gammon, the Exploration Company existing as a kind of agent for the placing among fools in the United Kingdom of the shares of the concern's syndicates—companies formed for the ostensible purpose of working promising mining propositions in the State of California, which propositions I have every reason for believing to be abandoned holes in the ground of an altogether hopeless character. A correspondent who drew the attention of the Exploration Company to my two articles, and asked for an explanation, tells me that the answer given to him was that a reply to my criticism had been sent. I have only to say that no reply has been received by me, and the further my inquiries go, the more convinced I am that the people who have been deluded by the gentleman Gammon into taking up the shares of the La Fiesta and Eclipse Syndicates should make a point of getting their money back—if necessary, by calling in the aid of the law towards that end. Gammon is an American adventurer who is over here in order to make money out of what he calls "fool Britishers" by peddling shares in the rotten subsidiaries of the American Exploration Company. If he has anything to say on the subject of my recent remarks, the columns of Truth are once again at his disposal. Meantime, Mr. Gammon is sending out screeching circulars of the old misleading type. The latest of these resembles the bucket-shop literature of such eminent firms as Mayward, Grant, and Co. or Herbert Smith in the emphasis which it lays upon possibilities and in the prominence which it gives to dissimilar analogies—similes unlike, in the phrase of the poet. For instance, it sets out in prominent type that "developing prospects is the most profitable business on earth," that 2s. 6d. invested in developing Belcher—nothing is said as to what Belcher is, or where it is, or why it is—returned over £300; and that colossal fortunes are being quickly made by developing prospects in the goldfields of Western America. It appears from the *Mining and Engineering Review* of October 1 that "last week four hardy-looking miners registered at the Merchants' Hotel at Tonopah from Goldfields: each of these men had accumulated over $1,000,000 in the incredibly short time of ninety days from the ledges of Goldfields." But I do not see what this interesting fact has to do with the American Exploration Company. The new mining district of Goldfields is situated nowhere near the places in California where the La Fiesta and Eclipse are said to be located—I believe it is in quite another State; and to suggest that what has happened several hundred miles away is happening, or will happen, on a couple of worked-out and bleak holes in California is to convey an altogether erroneous impression and to lay oneself open to a prosecution for the obtaining of money by false pretences. I have not the space to deal here with all the select tit-bits out of the latest circular which the engaging Gammon has sent out, but there are some things which I would not like readers of Truth to miss. You all know Senator Jones and Seth Cook? Well, a small sum spent in developing Crown Point when it was a prospect made these men millionaires, and the shares of the prospect advanced from $1 to $2,200 in a few months. In case you may be deluded into supposing that the shares of any of the American Exploration Company's syndicates will give similar returns, I think it desirable to state that the La Fiesta has been in existence for more than three years, and has found nothing of any consequence or promise. Says the egregious Gammon:—

A share in an American Exploration Company Syndicate is worth from 20 to 50 times as much as it would be were our syndicates organised on the usual plan

I do not care to dispute the contention. I only know that an American Exploration Company Syndicate share has so far not been proved to be worth a cent, and if it is all the same to the fascinating Gammon I would much rather have a few shares in, say, the Crown Point prospect, or even in the Tonopah affair, out of which each of the four hardy-looking miners who registered at the Merchants' Hotel in that leading city made a modest quarter of a million sterling while a three months' bill was maturing.

"Truth" Letter Box.

Correspondents will oblige by observing the following rules:—

Name and address, which must accompany all inquiries, should be written on the communication; cards are apt to be lost or misplaced, causing unnecessary trouble.

Anonymous letters will not in any case be attended to.

I cannot reply to inquiries by letter or telegram.

A nom-de-plume or initials (the former preferably) should be given if it is desired that the real name shall not appear in the paper.

Inquiries should be put as briefly as possible, plainly written, and numbered.

Communications received after Friday may not be replied to in the following issue. Delay may also occur where an exceptionally long list of securities is submitted.

I do not recommend brokers.

Government Securities.

Ingens.—The best selection of Foreign Government stocks which I can suggest to bring in about 5 per cent. are Argentine B.A. Water, Chilian 1892, Chinese Fives 1896, Cuban bonds, and Mexican Fives. *R. E. E.*—1. The San Paulo loan is fairly attractive. 2. Greek Monopoly bonds might be kept. *V. L. S.* The Johannesburg Fours are a good purchase. The stock brings in rather over 4⅛ per cent. City of Melbourne stock ought to be held. Against the 5 per cent. issue of the Melbourne Harbour Trust is the fact that it is redeemable in 1908-9. *E. D.*—There is no need to worry over the interest on your Japanese bonds, and if the war comes to a satisfactory termination there will be a good recovery in values.

Railways.

J. McLaggan.—There seems room for a material appreciation in North British Deferred during the coming year, but I would rather not commit myself to the assertion that it will touch 60. *Chilterns.*—The highest figure touched by North Western Ordinary Stock this year was 159¼, and last year 170¾. I do not see why it should not go again to the latter figure with trade improving. But you must not expect it to get there with a rush. *Wykamist.*—Cuban Central Railway Ordinary £10 shares look cheap at the current price, and might be bought for a small turn, as the country is prospering. *Athenæum.*—I recommend Great Central, 1872, Preference, Grand Trunk Guaranteed, Canadian Pacific Preference, and B. A. and Pacific 1st Preference Stocks, which will give an average of over 4 per cent. *D. D., Bournemouth.*—Antofagastas and San Paulos are good of their class. *Major, R.E.*—You can obtain a more attractive Home Railway Stock than Furness Ordinary. Try Great Northern Deferred or Highland.

Mines.

Independent.—1. Your Kaffirs are not a particularly bright lot, but they might be kept for the present. They will probably have some appreciation when the market goes ahead. 2. I am sorry that I cannot help you. *St. James's.*—Nile Valleys and United Africans will probably harden again before long. Daggafontein Prospecting shares are a promising speculation. Pigg's Peaks are good to hold. *Sea Wave.*—The Kaffirs should have an average rise of 20 or 25 per cent. within another two months. The life of the Meyer and Charlton is estimated in Mr. Mabson's "Mines of the Transvaal" at eight years. *Thornhill.*—Great Eastern Collieries are a fair speculative purchase. The present price is 15s. I cannot give you the "life" of the property. *M. Moody.*—Kalgurlis, Oroyas, and Sons of Gwalia might be chosen with Great Boulders if you want a fourth. *Lock.*—The Great Mount Lyell Copper Company has been reconstructed as the Ballarat and Lyell. I am unable to ascertain the value of the shares. Write to the Secretary at 39, Broad-street House, E.C. *Earlstown.*—The offices of the North Nile Valley Company are at 68-74, Palmerston House, E.C., and the offices of the Egyptian Mines Exploration Company at 15, Great St. Helens, E.C. *Douglas.*—Hold your South Africans for the present. Transvaal Goldfields should be kept for 4, South African Gold Trusts for 8, Johnnies for 4, and Simmer and Jack for 3½. Other good speculations are Rand Collieries, General Mining and Finance, and (among Westralians) Sons of Gwalia.

Miscellaneous.

Castleman.—I do not regard them as at all reliable, and would not recommend dealings. Merely a bucket shop. *Shrewd.*—1. There is nothing attractive in the offer, and you ought not to

accept it. 2. The high rate of interest offered is not compatible with the security of your money, and I would not recommend the institution. 3. With your capital you ought to be able to obtain a fairly remunerative partnership, but you must exercise a great deal of caution in the matter. *Ansley.*—I do not consider the practice satisfactory, and would not recommend dealings with any outside brokers. *Dubious, Bristol.*—There is not much cause for alarm in regard to your holdings. The depression which has been noticeable in the brewery division is the result of the realisations of deceased account, etc., and before long the tendency ought to improve. *W. H. H., Walsall.*—1. After the recent experience you ought not to dabble further. 2. I see no great attraction in Gramophones. 3. At the present price, Pryce Jones Preference return about 4¾ per cent. and the Debentures just 4⅝ per cent. *Chronos.*—The first is a very notorious bucket-shop, which you ought to avoid, and the second is equally unsatisfactory. *Staleybridge.*—You might hold on to your Nitrate shares. The prospects seem favourable enough, and they may go higher before very long. *Devereux.*—Again many thanks for Stephens and Henderson's latest circular. They are still working on the old lines, I see. *W. R. A.*—Leave the London and New York Exchange severely alone. I have frequently had occasion to discuss their fatuous systems in the columns of this paper. *Beatrice.*—In the circumstances I think you might as well hold on for a higher level of values and then cut your loss. J. Lyons make a fairly good holding, as the business is progressive and profitable. *Grouse.*—The concern is one of the most unreliable as well as undesirable bucket-shops in existence, and you and your friends ought not to be misled. The second concern alluded to is equally untrustworthy, and both ought to be avoided. *Verax.*—Fairly good as a lock-up investment for a couple of years. *L. W. R., Norfolk.*—I have not much faith in the institution. *R. G. Cope.*—It is highly amusing if one is conversant with such matters, but there are so many innocent people who are misled by the fanciful figures put forward that the joke is spoiled. I have already dealt with the system. *Adalletta.*—You ought not to pay any attention to the institution's circulars. Leave your money where it is, and it will be safer, because you cannot expect security when such a high rate of interest is offered in order to attract the simple. *John Wilson.*—The concern is very much over-capitalised, and I do not think it would be wise to increase your holding. *Hindu.*—Many of the shares in the lighting group make good investments, and are worth picking up. The yields are good, Metropolitan Electrics, for instance, yielding practically 5⅝ per cent., St. James's and Pall Mall 4⅞ per cent., and Westminster just over 5 per cent.

Mixed Investments.

Hallthorpe.—1. Send the certificates direct. 2. Close your "Bear" account in Kaffirs. *M. E. L.*—1. St. James's and Pall Mall and Chelsea Electrics would suit, the former giving 5 per cent. and the latter 4⅜ per cent. 2. Liptons might be kept for the present. The shares are on the upgrade, and might be good for a further rise of a shilling or two. 3. The Irish Land stock is a highly desirable investment. *Piffer.*—1. Babcock and Wilcox Ordinary and Threlfalls Ordinary should be held. 2. Lever Bros. Preference, Anglo-Argentine Trams Preference, River Plate Gas Debentures, and Fine Cotton Spinners Preference. 3. The process of recovery will, I fear, be slow, but it should be steady. *O. H. C.*—Whiteley's debs., Terminal Rotherham debs., Great Northern Preferred Ordinary, Bryant and May debs., and De Keyser debs. *Chelt.*—1. I understand that the business of one or two of the affiliated hotels is not good. In addition the reserve is small, and recent issues of capital have been rather large. 2. *Illustrated London News* debs. are well secured. 3. Peak Hills might be kept. The other is dead. *Sabretache.*—1. The concern is not known here. 2 and 3. I am unable to trace either concern. *Kohinoor.*—I should choose Antwerp Water shares, which give nearly 5⅔ per cent., and C. A. Pearson Preference, which give 5⅜ per cent. *Pendennis.*—Dick Kerr Preference, American Freehold Land and Mortgage Preference, and Cape Town District Gas Preference. *Sniped.*—1. I should not join the reconstruction. 2. The two Kaffirs are poor. 3. South-Western Deferred and Great Northern Deferred are worth buying now. *Holland Park.*—1. You did well to sell the Cosmopolitans. You might buy Sons of Gwalia. 2. Globe and Phœnix might be kept for a better price on a better market. 3. The selection is a good one. The South Africans should be good for a profit soon, and the new year ought to see a revival in Nile Valleys. 4. Ashanti Goldfields might be bought for a lock-up. 5. Sell Steel Common if you have a moderate profit. 6. Americans seem ripe for a further reaction before another "boom" is inaugurated. *Speculator.*—1. Orange Diamonds and Boksburgs might be held. 2. Sewing Cotton Ordinary shares are a fair speculative purchase with the condition of trade improving.

Industrials Idle—Waiting for the New Year—Tone Satisfactory—Textiles Again Active—Woolcombers' Successor—Iron and Steel Shares Firm—Trust Stocks Still Buoyant—Telegraphs and Telephones—Hudson's Bays—China Shares Strong Again.

Though business has been on a very modest scale, owing to the disturbing influence of the Christmas season, the tone of this section is tolerably good, and this seems to indicate that, provided no untoward events arise to administer another check to public confidence, the New Year will witness an encouraging revival of outside interest, which in its turn is almost sure to be reflected in a higher level of values. Perhaps the only approach to a feature worthy of mention has been the renewed bidding for Textile descriptions, arising out of the good reports concerning the American cotton crop, which is expected, as I have before hinted, to assist materially the various Companies engaged in one way or another in the industry. Coats improved to a slight extent, and with them Fine Spinners and English Sewing Cottons hardened, while Bradford Dyers have been well supported, and Bleachers, after being disposed to ease away, recovered again. From all accounts it would seem that Woolcombers, Limited, the successors to the unfortunate Yorkshire Woolcombers' Association, has done fairly well in the matter of subscriptions for the new capital, and the shares are quoted at a slight premium. In the Iron and Steel group, considerable support has been forthcoming for Pease and Partners, and John Browns present a better appearance; while in the armament division both Vickers and Armstrong maintain their ground well. The stream of investment buying of Trust stocks continues in the same quiet way, and is reflected in the slight improvements registered by a number of stocks, including Anglo-American Debenture Corporation, Colonial Securities Trust, Mercantile Investment, and Consolidated Trust. No material change is noticeable in the Brewery Section, where the tone remains heavy, and though movements have been somewhat irregular, slight losses easily outnumber the gains. Among Telegraphs, Easterns were twisted up a couple of points, and apart from Anglo-American Deferred, which continues to droop away, other stocks present a pretty firm front, and National Telephone issues remain buoyant. Lighting descriptions are very firm, no doubt the recent foggy weather inducing some support; and Dock stocks are tolerably steady; while, save for General Omnibus, which have reacted slightly, the traction group shows little change. Meat shares have been dull for choice, though Liptons, for an exception, have continued to make a little headway. Hudson's Bays are not quite so good, as a result of profit-taking; but renewed attention has been directed towards China shares, both Pekin Syndicates and Shansis making fair advances on balance.

VIGILANT.

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QUEER STORY.

CHARLES EDRIDGE'S DISAPPEARANCE.

[Some forty years ago the mysterious disappearance of a hospital student was one of the Press sensations of the day. To the general public that mystery remained a mystery at that time, but the explanation has long been known to the family primarily concerned, and as all the actors are now dead there is no reason why it should not be published. It is given below, accompanied by extracts from the files of the newspaper which devoted most attention to the affair, the names alone having been altered by the present editor.]

* * * * *

(*From the "London Daily Post" of June* 11, 186—.)

"MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF A MEDICAL STUDENT.

"SOME stir has been occasioned in the neighbourhood of St. Philip's Hospital by the sudden disappearance, under mysterious circumstances, of a medical student attached to that institution. The young gentleman left the hospital at about half-past seven on Monday evening last, the 7th inst., to go to his lodgings, and he has not been seen or heard of since. On Tuesday, his relatives were communicated with, but they were unable to throw any light on the matter. The police now have the case in hand, and are prosecuting inquiries."

(*From the same journal of June* 12.)

"NO NEWS OF THE MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT.

"Our representative, who called at St. Philip's Hospital late last evening, was informed that nothing had up till then, been heard of the missing man. The Secretary, whom our correspondent saw, was very reticent, and declined to enter into any details. We understand, however, from another source that there had been some friction between the missing student and the authorities, of which we hope to print full particulars in our to-morrow's issue."

* * * * *

(*From the same journal, June* 14.)

"THE MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT.

"STILL NO NEWS.

"IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION MADE BY A FELLOW STUDENT.

"Nothing has yet been heard of the missing student. But our representative has seen a fellow-student of his, who has supplied him with the following important information:

"It appears that the name of the missing young gentleman is Mr. Charles Edridge. His age is twenty-two. Both his parents are dead, and his nearest living relative is an uncle, with whom he seems not to have been on the best of terms. Mr. Edridge is a young man of great parts and promise, as is witnessed by the fact that he had recently won the Beckwith Clinical Exhibition of £150 a year for three years. But a recent thoughtless escapade of his, which resulted in his being fined at the Marlborough-street Police Court, brought him under the unfavourable notice of the hospital authorities. They took the somewhat stringent measure of depriving him of his exhibition. Mr. Edridge's friend, who communicated these facts to our representative, did not conceal his opinion that the young man had been very hardly dealt with. For he was entirely dependent upon his exhibition for his support while walking the hospital, and the deprivation of it meant professional ruin to him. The unfortunate young man applied to his uncle, who declined to assist him. And all this preyed upon his mind to such an extent that his friend is strongly of opinion that he has made away with himself.

"While in no wise condoning young Mr. Edridge's conduct in respect of the matter which brought him up at Marlborough-street, we nevertheless entirely agree with our informant that the punishment meted out to him by the hospital authorities was unreasonable and excessive.

"It is, of course, possible that they may be able to put a different complexion on the matter. If so, we shall be pleased to publish their explanation."

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(*Same journal, June* 15.)

"STILL NO NEWS OF MR. EDRIDGE.

"LETTER FROM THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES.

"LETTER FROM THE MISSING STUDENT'S UNCLE.

"The eighth day has come and gone, and still there is no news of Mr. Edridge. The presumption of suicide, to which we referred yesterday, gains ground. We print below letters received from the hospital authorities and from Mr. Edridge's uncle—with our own comments subjoined:

St. Philip's Hospital, June 13, 186—.

SIR,—Referring to the remarks made by you in to-day's issue of your paper, I am directed by the Board of the Hospital to inform you that it is their invariable practice to deprive of his scholarship, or exhibition, any scholar or exhibitioner who misbehaves himself in the manner in which Mr. Edridge did, thereby bringing discredit upon himself and upon the hospital. Such cases, indeed, are fortunately rare. But when they do occur, the Board always adopt the course which they have adopted towards Mr. Edridge; and they are astonished that a journal of your standing and respectability should have supposed any other line of conduct possible.

Mr. Edridge's friends among the medical students may think he has been hardly dealt with. Young men of that age, however, are not the best judges of these matters.

Moreover, the Board, in dealing with such a case, *do not consider it their business to inquire whether the culprit has private means or not.* (The italics are ours.—Ed. *London Daily Post.*)

That is his concern, not theirs. In any case, they claim the right to manage their own institution in their own way—without the doubtless well intentioned, but in their opinion uncalled for, interference of the press.

The Board, in conclusion, desire me to add that while they deeply deplore any rash act into which the unfortunate young man may have been led (something of the crocodile about this.—Ed. *London Daily Post*), they cannot hold themselves in any degree responsible for what is, after all, purely the result of his own previous misconduct.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN THOMPSON, Secretary.

The Editor of the *London Daily Post.*

"We, in our turn, are no less astonished by the above letter than are the worthy Board by our strictures upon them in our yesterday's issue. In particular, the statement that "in dealing with such a case the Board do not consider it their business to inquire whether the culprit has private means or not," strikes us as particularly amazing. To a young man who has private means, or well-to-do relatives, to fall back upon, the deprivation of his exhibition is nothing more than a sharp and salutary lesson. Whereas, to one not thus fortunately situated, it spells ruin. In other words, the punishment in the latter case is out of all proportion more severe than in the former. Yet the Board, when sitting in judgment, do not consider it their business to discriminate between the two. It does strike us as marvellous that a body of men, presumably sane, should solemnly put forward so monstrous a proposition.

"In spite of these gentlemen's disclaimer of responsibility for Mr. Edridge's fate, we still hold that if it proves, unhappily, that he has committed suicide, his death will be at their door, and we are of opinion that the majority of our readers will endorse this view. We now give the letter of Mr. Edridge's uncle:—

907, Chepstow Villas, Bayswater, W.,
June 13, 186—.

SIR,—As you have dragged me, publicly, into this unfortunate affair of my nephew's, Mr. Charles Edridge's, disappearance from St. Philip's Hospital, thereby subjecting me to the greatest possible annoyance, I beg to inform you that I declined to assist my nephew on grounds which, in my opinion, were adequate. Whether that is so or not, I do not see that the matter is of sufficient public interest for discussion in the Press.—Your obedient servant,

HENRY TALBOYS.

The Editor of the *London Daily Post.*

"Before publishing this letter, which reached us yesterday afternoon, we sent a representative to interview Mr. Talboys. Our representative made it clear to him that, when stating that he had declined to assist his nephew, we had purposely abstained from making any comment, until we were more conversant with the circumstances; but that, if he would satisfy us in confidence, that he had had good grounds for his refusal, we were willing to publish a statement exonerating him from blame, without specifying (if he should prefer this) what those grounds were. Mr. Talboys curtly referred our representative to his letter, saying that he had nothing further to add, and upon our representative pointing out to him that his letter, in fact, contained no explanation at all, he flew into a rage, said he was d——d if he was going to be dictated to or interfered with in the management of his private affairs, and that our representative might go back and write as many lies as he pleased.

"From this, it will be seen that Mr. Talboys is a somewhat 'harbitrary gent.' We are, further, able to state, upon unquestioned authority, that he is a wealthy man, without children, and that he has never assisted Mr. Edridge (who is his godson as well as his nephew) even to the extent of a £5 note.

"In view of these facts, which we challenge him to dispute, we now express the deliberate opinion that this gentleman shares with the hospital authorities the moral responsibility for whatever fate has overtaken his unhappy nephew."

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(*Same journal, June* 16.)

"THE MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT.

"SUPPOSED CLUE.

"REWARD OF £100 OFFERED BY THE HOSPITAL.

"MR. TALBOYS MOBBED.

"The detectives who have charge of the case were informed last evening that a young man, answering

closely to the published description of the missing student, had offered himself at the Guards Depot for enlistment in the Grenadiers. A gentleman from the hospital at once started for the Depot to identify the man, who stoutly maintains that his name is White, and that he hails from Camberwell. Up to the present, the result of the identification has not reached us.

"We understand that a reward of £100 has been offered by the Governors of the hospital for any information that will lead to the discovery of the missing student.

"At about seven o'clock last night, an excited crowd assembled round Mr. Talboys' house in Chepstow Villas, booing, hooting, and making other hostile demonstrations. The attitude of the crowd became so threatening that extra police had to be sent for, who had some difficulty in dispersing the mob.

"We cannot but condemn the conduct of these misguided demonstrators; at the same time it would be idle to deny that they have some reason for their indignation. We understand that Mr. Talboys has applied for police protection."

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(*From a later edition, same journal.*)

"STOP PRESS NEWS.

"The man who offered himself for enlistment in the Guards proves not to be the missing medical student. The name and address which he gave have been verified as perfectly correct."

* * * * *

(*Same journal, June* 18.)

"THE MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT.

"STILL NO NEWS—POLICE BAFFLED.

"A FURTHER REWARD OF £100 OFFERED.

"It is now nearly a fortnight since Mr. Edridge disappeared, and nothing has been heard of him. In spite of their utmost efforts, the police are completely baffled. Mr. Talboys, the missing student's uncle, has offered a further reward of £100, in addition to that offered by the hospital authorities. We congratulate him upon this tardy act of reparation, which we take to be tantamount to an admission that he has now begun dimly to recognise his responsibilities towards his unfortunate relative.

"If the young man is still alive, it is certain that one or more persons must be cognisant of his whereabouts. And we should think that a reward of £200 ought to prove an irresistible temptation to them to speak out. May it be so."

* * * * *

(*Same journal, June* 19.)

"THE MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT.

"IMPORTANT CLUE.

"Just as we are going to press, we learn that the hospital authorities have obtained an important clue to Mr. Edridge's whereabouts. We are unable to say more at present, but we hope to give full particulars in our to-morrow's issue."

* * * * *

(*Same journal, June* 21.)

"MISSING MEDICAL STUDENT DISCOVERED.

"SENSATIONAL DETAILS.

"Mr. Charles Edridge has, at length, we are pleased to say, been restored to his friends, alive and well. He has had a remarkable experience.

"It appears that the day before yesterday an elderly man, of somewhat ruffianly appearance, called at St. Philip's Hospital, and asked to see the Secretary. Upon being admitted into that gentleman's office, he hinted that he knew where the missing student was, and that he was willing to earn the advertised reward by delivering him up to his friends, on certain conditions. These conditions were that no questions were to be asked, and that the reward was to be paid him in cash, as soon as the missing man was handed over to the hospital authorities, alive and well. He further stipulated that no intimation of this offer should be made to the police. Unless he was assured upon these points, he should keep his knowledge to himself, in which event it was extremely improbable that the mystery of Mr. Edridge's disappearance would ever be solved. The Secretary, being somewhat perplexed how to act, said that he must have time to consult the young man's relatives and the governors of the hospital before he could give a definite reply; and it was eventually agreed that an answer should be addressed to the stranger in the Agony Column of next morning's *Times*.

When the man had left, the Secretary lost no time in seeing those of the hospital governors who were immediately accessible and also the uncle, Mr. Henry Talboys. The upshot was that a hasty conference of these gentlemen was convened at the hospital, at which Mr. Talboy's solicitor was also present. And it was finally agreed that, as the safe recovery of the young man, rather than the punishment of those who had been responsible for his disappearance, was the first and chief *desideratum*, the Secretary should be instructed to comply with the conditions demanded. A notice to that effect was at once despatched for insertion in the *Times*.

"The result was that, about noon next day, the ruffianly-looking stranger brought Mr. Edridge in a four-wheeler to the hospital, and handed him over to the Secretary. The young man appeared to be somewhat dazed and stupefied, as though he were just recovering from the effect of an anæsthetic. Otherwise he was perfectly well, and in no way the worse for his experience.

"His companion, having been paid the promised reward in Bank of England notes, hastily took his departure.

"Interviewed by our representative, Mr. Edridge told the following story:—

'When I left the hospital on June 7 to go to my lodgings, I took, as I have often done, the short cut through Bear-lane. About half-way along it, I encountered a knot of rough-looking men, standing outside a tavern, who stared at me hard, but allowed me to pass without attempting any interference. I had not, however, proceeded many paces before I suddenly felt myself seized from behind, a chloroformed handkerchief was pressed to my mouth and nose, and I lost consciousness.

'When I recovered, I found myself seated in a chair in a mean and dirty room. The window of the apartment was boarded up, and a couple of candles stuck in the necks of empty bottles, afforded the only light. One of the men, whom I had noticed in Bear-lane, was standing over me. At first, I was apprehensive that their object in kidnapping me might be personal violence or perhaps murder. But, to my relief, this proved not to be the case.

'I was known, it appeared, as one of the students from St. Philip's Hospital, and I was required to exercise my medical skill upon a member of their gang, who had been badly damaged in some criminal enterprise. If I complied with their demands, I was to be well-treated, though kept prisoner as long as they deemed convenient. But if I declined, there was a disused well at the back of the premises, at the bottom of which my corpse would be lying before midnight.

'Of course I had no option but to accept the terms. I found my patient in a very critical state, his skull being slightly fractured, while he also had a bullet in his abdomen, which necessitated an immediate operation. As I had no instruments with me, I suggested that I should be allowed to return to the hospital for them. But they laughed at me, saying that if I would tell them what instruments were required, they should be procured for me at once from a surgical-instrument maker's. This was done, and I performed the operation. It turned out successful, though for nearly a fortnight the patient's condition was critical, and he required the closest attention and watching.

'All that time, I was kept under rigid surveillance by one or more of my captors. I cannot, however, complain of any ill-usage. I was well treated, well fed, and, except for the dirt that prevailed everywhere, well-

lodged. But they would not allow me to set foot outside the house, nor even to send a reassuring message to my friends, on any condition. And to this moment I have no idea at all as to whereabouts in London my prison was situated.

'A few days ago, I overheard two of the men talking about a reward which had been offered for my recovery, and soon afterwards one of them came to me and said that as the patient was now out of danger, they purposed restoring me to my friends.

'"But," said the fellow, "it's got to be done in our way. We ain't going to run no risk of having the coppers put on our track. So look'ee here. You must submit to be chloroformed, so as we can take you back to your friends without no risk of your spotting the locality of this here little crib."

'In spite of my assurances that this precaution was unnecessary and that, if I were allowed to go quietly, I would swear not to betray them, they insisted upon their own method. I was accordingly chloroformed, nor did I recover my senses until a few minutes before I reached the hospital. The man who was in the cab with me was a total stranger. I had never set eyes on him before. But, of course, he must have been one of the gang.'

"Such is Mr. Edridge's remarkable story, told in his own words. All, of course, is well that ends well, and the young gentleman has our cordial congratulations upon this happy termination of his adventures. At the same time, there is something rather appalling in the ease with which an unoffending citizen can be kidnapped in broad daylight in the public streets of the Metropolis. And while we entirely sympathise with the motives which led the hospital authorities and Mr. Talboys to act as they did, and to postpone every other consideration to that of Mr. Edridge's safe recovery, yet we cannot but regret that the criminals have been enabled to escape scot free.

"Perhaps, however, the police may even yet manage to run them to earth."

* * * * *

(*Same journal, June* 24.)

"THE CASE OF MR. EDRIDGE.

"We are delighted to learn that Mr. Charles Edridge, with whose strange story our readers are familiar, has been reinstated in his Clinical Exhibition by the authorities of St. Philip's Hospital."

* * * * *

Here, so far as the public and the Press were concerned, the matter terminated, and was soon forgotten. Some time afterwards, however, the Secretary of St. Philip's Hospital and Mr. Henry Talboys received each on the same day, through the post, a bank-note for £100. Either remittance was accompanied by this brief note:—

"Conshence munney from the chap wot blackmaled yu over the missin meddical stoodent."

The recipients of the money naturally supposed that this was a rare and signal example of penitence in a hardened criminal. But they never guessed that that ruffianly-looking personage was a humble friend of our medical student (a dock labourer, whose gratitude he had earned by some previous act of kindness) and that the whole affair had been a put-up job, the object of which was that Charles Edridge himself might earn the reward which he surmised would be offered, and so be enabled to continue his medical studies.

The young fellow no doubt reconciled himself to the imposture by reasoning that to make the hospital authorities and his churlish uncle bleed to the tune of a handsome reward would be an act of rough justice for their harsh behaviour towards him.

This is said rather by way of explanation than of justification, for the writer does not deny that young Edridge's device, ingenious though it was, was morally inexcusable. At any rate, upon being reinstated in his exhibition, he had the grace to send back the £200 (as from his ruffianly-looking friend), and he subsequently achieved high professional eminence.

MUSIC.

MUSIC IN 1904.

MUSICALLY the past year has been one of exceptional activity and interest, and this although, from the concert-goer's point of view, it has not perhaps been a very good one. Concerts have certainly been numerous enough—but that has been one of the difficulties. Few have paid. The concert given frankly for advertising purposes and without hope of its paying is becoming indeed commoner in London every year, though such entertainments can never be other than depressing for those who attend them. There have been special causes, moreover, to handicap ordinary artists giving concerts in London during the past twelve months—in the first place the boom in prodigies, and secondly the unprecedented number of charity concerts with "star" casts which the summer witnessed. In regard to the prodigies, it is certain that such an epidemic of juvenile geniuses has never been known before, though how many of them will "stay the course" time will tell. But two at least, in the persons of the twelve-year-old Von Vecsey, whose violin-playing seems to know no limitations, and Florizel von Reuter, who not only plays the fiddle, but also composes and conducts, are manifestly children of altogether abnormal endowments; while Sybil Keymer, Mabel Harrison, Paula Hegner, and "Carmen Sylva" are the names of others who have appeared in various capacities with more or less success, some of whom will doubtless develop in the course of time into artists of real note, as others will almost as certainly suffer early extinction from the premature exploiting of their talents. Nor do those who have been heard in London by any means exhaust the list, since several others, by all accounts equally gifted, have appeared on the Continent, and will doubtless visit us in due course. In the matter of its prodigies, 1904 must certainly be reckoned an *annus mirabilis*.

As to the charity concerts, this is a grievance of old standing, from which all but the most eminent of the profession suffer severely. In the first place, their own concerts, given on a commercial basis, cannot hope to compete with entertainments in which half a dozen "stars" join forces without fee or reward to attract the public. Secondly, they suffer by being compelled, or virtually compelled, to give their own services gratuitously. The remedy is for all performers appearing on such occasions to be paid at least half fees for their services, and a movement set on foot to this end last summer will, it is hoped, take effect next year. But such drawbacks notwithstanding, innumerable distinguished artists of one sort and another have, of course, been heard in London during the year, though, apart from the babes and sucklings named, there has been a curious absence of any newcomers of conspicuous note.

It has been in other ways, rather, that the year has been chiefly noteworthy. In the Elgar Festival given in March at Covent Garden there was, for instance, an event of real significance. There had, indeed, never been anything quite like it in this country before. Beethoven Festivals and Wagner Festivals, and even Richard Strauss Festivals, there had been, but never before had such an honour been paid to a native composer, and it testified forcibly to the amount of living interest which Elgar has succeeded in exciting in his music that the undertaking should have proved such an unqualified success. Later Elgar received his knighthood, and more recently still he has been appointed first Professor of Music at Birmingham University, so that in many ways his star has been in the ascendant.

But if the Elgar Festival concerts were a success, too many others, as already noted, were less fortunate. Those of the Kruse Festival, for instance, at Queen's Hall, though Weingarten was the conductor, and some splendid programmes were presented, attracted nothing like the audiences which they deserved; while serial concerts of such fame and standing as the "Pops" and the

"Richters" have also both ceased for lack of adequate support. The Joachim Quartet concerts, on the other hand, were once again well patronised, as have been, too, among other recently-established chamber concerts, those run by Messrs. Broadwood. Then there have been the concerts of the newly-formed London Choral Society, which, under the energetic and enterprising direction of Mr. Arthur Fagge, has given many interesting performances, while in the matter of instrumental music, an event of the first importance has been the split in the Queen's Hall band over the deputy question, and the resulting formation of the splendid London Symphony Orchestra. Whether there will be work enough for two fine permanent orchestras such as London now possesses as a consequence remains to be seen. All will hope, at any rate, that such may prove the case. Meanwhile the first of the concerts given by the London Symphony players, under the direction of Dr. Cowen, Herr Nikisch, and Herr Steinbach respectively, have had an interest all their own.

In the case of opera the most noteworthy feature of the summer's doings in this way was undoubtedly Mr. Manners' plucky attempt to run an English season at Drury Lane concurrently with that of Covent Garden. The venture did not succeed, but at least much bigger audiences were obtained than many had ever expected to see. At Covent Garden a series of special performances under Richter were again a feature of note, but otherwise the season ran a sufficiently ordinary course. True, many fine singers—Melba, Calvé, and Caruso among them—once again appeared, and Saint-Saëns' "Hélène" and Massenet's "Salomé" were new works heard, but neither of the latter proved much to the taste of London opera-goers. The season was, however, understood once again to have paid its way, and that at least was something. Then more recently, of course, there have been the performances of the San Carlo Company, given under conditions and with results still fresh in the minds of all. In this instance, again, it is pleasant to know that at least some one contrived to make a profit, and there is talk already of a like season next year, which shall demonstrate still further the London public's readiness to patronise grand opera when it has the chance of getting this both cheap and good. Nor does this by any means exhaust, if rumour may be trusted, the operatic possibilities of the future—though to consider these further just now would be beside my present purpose. Enough that the recent venture certainly constituted a very notable sign of the times, and may, in due course, beget results of enduring value.

Another subject of consuming interest to many which has been greatly to the fore during recent months has been the question of musical copyright. At one time, indeed, it even looked as though legislative redress of a gross and admitted wrong would actually be obtained. The doughty opposition, however, of Mr. Caldwell, M.P., who constituted himself the champion of the oppressed and persecuted "pirate," averted this result, and the priceless boon of cheap stolen music is still enjoyed without let or hindrance by the multitude. How much longer Parliament in its wisdom will allow this happy state of things to exist is a question which continues to exercise many minds. Nor must I mention be omitted in this connection of that other and more legitimate boom in cheap music which, as though still further to increase the unhappy music-dealers' burdens, Messrs. Pearson, Cassell, and Harmsworth have, within the last few months, initiated. Here again is a development wherein, perhaps, the discerning may espy no little significance. An interesting event of another kind has been the institution of the Palmer Patronage Fund for the encouragement of young British musicians, while the celebration of Dr. Joachim's artistic diamond jubilee, the re-editing of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern," the issue of a revised "Grove," the opening of the Æolian Hall, and the foundation of the Concert-goers' Club have been other more or less notable occurrences of the year whose course will soon be run.

As to the actual music of the year, produced and performed, I do not know that there is a very great deal to say, or that any very distinctive tendencies have disclosed themselves either in the one case or the other. Among living composers Richard Strauss continues beyond all question the most interesting personality of the time, though we have not yet had the opportunity of hearing in England his most recent big work, the "Sinfonia Domestica," and generally his music has perhaps been less played in 1904 than during the year before. The attempt to create a Strauss boom has, in fact, so far failed, for the simple reason that his music is at present beyond the understanding of the multitude, who have only just succeeded in catching up "by painful steps and slow" with Wagner, and who are still a generation or so behind Brahms. Perhaps a certain amount of reaction on the part of some who were at first among Strauss's sworn adherents in this country has also been discernible; but, generally speaking, it is probably safe to say that his works continue steadily to gain admirers, as further hearing brings clearer comprehension of them, and the prediction may even be ventured that fifty or a hundred years hence they will be positively popular.

Next in interest to Richard Strauss stands undoubtedly, at all events for British musicians, Sir Edward Elgar, whose fame continues to extend both at home and abroad, with the result that practically for the first time for centuries we may now be said to possess at least one composer of international repute. If Sir Edward Elgar never wrote another line, therefore, he would have accomplished more than any other British musician in modern times, though it is the hope of one and all, of course, that he will go a great deal further before his course is run. In France, Germany, Russia, and elsewhere it is also the case, no doubt, that many of the younger men are doing important work of which we may learn more in time, but at present none has made any particular impression by means of such works as we have so far heard in London; and this is really the outstanding feature of the musical outlook as viewed from the threshold of 1905. Unless he be found in Richard Strauss, that eagerly awaited Messiah of universal acceptance, whose advent has now been looked for so long, has still to make his appearance.

The holiday season has brought the usual lull in the musical world and, save for the Sunday concerts, and one or two of a special character, the concert-goer's occupation will be gone, for some little time to come. There will doubtless be a good attendance, however, at the New Year's concert announced by the Queen's Hall Orchestra for Monday next, when Wagner's three early overtures, "Polonia," "Christopher Columbus," and "Rule Britannia," will be given for the first time in this country. Curiously, little seems known concerning any of these works. They were all composed in Wagner's youth, long before he had made his name, and thereafter either actually lost or completely forgotten—though that entitled "Polonia," composed in 1836 and inspired by the Polish troubles of 1832, was played at Palermo in the 'eighties, under Wagner's own direction in honour of his wife's birthday. Wagner's oft-quoted remark that all the energy of the British character seemed to be contained in the first upward run of our own "Rule Britannia," may also be recalled in this connection. On the same evening the "Messiah" will be given as usual at the Albert Hall with Miss Evangeline Florence, Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. William Green, and Mr. Watkin Mills as soloists, while the Sousa band is announced to begin a fortnight's engagement at the Queen's Hall on the following Monday.

Precisely why concerts in general should dry up so completely at this season of the year is, perhaps, not altogether obvious. With so many people making holiday, one would have thought that at least a moderate number of musical entertainments would find support. Concert-givers, as a class, are, however, the most con-

servative of folk, and since it never has been the custom for concerts in any number to be given at this period of the year, it is perhaps foolish to suppose that under any circumstances the rule could conceivably be broken.

A digest of the question of musical copyright and musical piracy, at once very concise and very complete, by Dr. Charles Maclean, is a useful feature of the monthly magazine of the International Musical Society (Breitkopf and Härtel) for December. The number also contains an interesting article on "A Lost Work by J. S. Bach"; another, by Fr. Niecks, on "Liszt as Pianoforte Writer"; and a third on "The Bach Motetts, to be Accompanied or Unaccompanied"? by Alfred Heuss, besides the usual careful summary of recent musical happenings all over Europe and other articles.

Talking of the piracy question, an amusing story reaches me of an encounter recently witnessed in a west-end thoroughfare between one of the members of the Corsair fraternity and the husband of a certain popular composer, in whose songs the former was doing a brisk sale. In the result, after an amicable interview the pirate bold was persuaded to enter a cab with all his stock-in-trade, and I understand that eventually not a little useful information was obtained from him. The man happened to be superior in education to some of his fellows, and acknowledged readily enough the nefarious character of his calling. But, of course, he had his excuse pat enough. How else could he make his 5s. or 10s. a day so easily? At the festive season the pirates' business is, of course, particularly brisk, and, for my own part, I confess I think these poor wretches far less blameworthy than the thousands of so-called respectable folk who deliberately buy the stolen goods.

Christmas has come and gone and with it its carols, but it is not too late, perhaps, to take note of some remarks regarding the latter recently ascribed to a worthy country clergyman (Archdeacon MacCarthy, Vicar of Gainsborough), who appears to take anything but a genial view of this form of Christian worship:—

> Bands of squalling singers often combine for begging purposes, and squall outside doors, desecrating beautiful hymns, and adding the horrors of strident, discordant shoutings or whinings to the darkness of our winter evenings. It is a peculiarly disreputable form of begging.

There is no doubt, considerable justice in the Archdeacon's observations. At the same time, one should distinguish. There are many beautiful old carol tunes still being sung entirely by ear and by tradition in our country districts, and so far from suppressing these, such tunes are often well worthy of being noted down and preserved. There is the more reason for preserving these genuine old specimens since the carol is an art form which it is impossible to reproduce nowadays. Both words and music alike defy the modern imitator. A certain naïveté of thought and speech is an essential element of the carol proper, and this is seldom to be captured by the most deliberate striving. Your carol can be simple, naïf, rustic as you like, but never "literary" or elaborate, and this is why so few good carols have been written in modern times.

And the true carol music is equally hard to imitate. The music of the carol has come from all sources, and just as the words have ranged from the solemnly devout to the riotously secular, so one finds the tunes drawn now from *Piæ Cantiones*, and now from the popular folk songs of the time. In France the best carol tunes have nearly all come from the songs or choruses of comic operas and popular dances. Even when Church tunes have been adopted for the purpose one finds them often most quaintly transformed to make them suitably lively for carol singing. The great fault of modern composers when they have attempted to write carol tunes has lain in making them too much like hymns. There are no carols like the old ones. It is quite a mistake also to suppose that carols originally were exclusively confined to Christmas. There were also spring carols, Easter carols, and summer carols (sung on the feast of St. John, Midsummer Day). But the carols of Christmastime were, of course, always the most numerous and important.

"The Exile Returns," a pleasing song whose words and music are by Helen Pearl Humphry (Monte Carlo Publishing Co.), of which I have received a copy, is interesting not only on its own account, but by reason of the fact that it is printed in two keys under one cover. The key difficulty is so often a source of trouble to the amateur who in choosing a song does not quite know whether this one or that will suit his (or her) voice best, that it is surprising that no one before has hit upon this simple device of meeting the case, and the practice might well be more generally adopted.

An Italian impresario has, I read, hit upon a novel method of suppressing the encore nuisance. This takes the form of the following notice posted up in the theatre: "Persons desiring encores of a piece in the opera, or a fragment of ballet, are requested to inscribe their names in the office, when the performance is over, and in consideration of the purchase of a second ticket by the inscribing persons, all the encores they wish for will be given." What is most surprising about this is perhaps the suggestion that Italian performers find encores a nuisance. Certainly if they do, those who were recently with us at Covent Garden dissembled their feelings on the subject with remarkable success.

Why are certain composers' names invariably misprinted? In the account of a recent concert I see the name "Rubenstein," thus spelt, twice over. And this is only one of many like enormities which printers of musical "copy" love to perpetrate. Thus "Glück" for Gluck is another for which they have an ineradicable weakness, though "Handel" for "Händel," a converse error, has of couse endured so long, that now it has become in England the accepted form. "Greig" for "Grieg" is another highly popular transposition (excusable perhaps in view of the composer's Scottish ancestry, while it is very rarely that Dvořák gets his full share of accents. As to Tchaikovsky, the choice of possibilities is bewildering indeed—the result, of course, of divers attempts to give phonetic value to the Russian original; it may be noted, however, in this connection that the form above adopted appears the one most generally accepted nowadays by the best authorities. Dargomijsky, Moussorgsky, and Rimsky-Korsakov are some other Russian composers whose names offer obvious temptations to the easy-going in such matters.

New York critics seem to have been considerably divided in opinion concerning Sir Edward Elgar's overture "In the South," some praising unreservedly what others found considerably wanting. "A powerful work highly coloured," says one; "Sir Edward Elgar might have more appropriately called it 'hay' music," is the verdict of another. "Melodies of sunny skies and Italian landscapes," comments a third; a fourth, on the other hand, observing that "Just what South the composer had in mind it is difficult to tell . . . perhaps the rigours of South Africa during the Boer campaign." The outsider may well wonder where is truth among these conflicting judgments.

Some correspondence which has recently appeared in the *Musical News*, under the heading "The Value of Degrees in Music," suggests that Sir Edward Elgar, when he comes into power as professor at Birmingham, will have ample scope in which to exercise his reforming instincts. Here is one question, for example, which it appears was recently set in a Musical History paper at Durham:—"Name the important work in which Handel has used both alto and tenor clefs for his violas." One may well agree with the correspondent who supplies this example of academic foolishness that it can hardly be an inspiring thought to a Mus.Bac. to reflect that he secured his degree on the strength of his ability to answer such questions as this. According to another correspondent the following was a paper set recently for A.R.C.M. (Theory)—the time allowed for its execution being three hours only:—

> (*a*) Write a canon in three or four parts (the subject was far from easy).
> (*b*) Write a canon in two parts with free bass.

(*c*) Analyse the first movement of Beethoven's Op. 110.
(*d*) Score for orchestra the slow movement of the same composer's Op. 106.

It is hardly surprising to read that in the result only three passed out of twenty-eight. Certainly he would be an accomplished and facile musician who could acquit himself with credit of such a task as that allotted in the course of a fleeting forenoon.

The late Mr. Arthur Chappell, whose death has been so widely regretted, could have desired no happier epitaph than the sonnet which Browning, one of the staunchest supporters of the "Pops," in the olden days, wrote in his honour on the occasion of the thousandth concert of that famous series—now, alas! at an end; and as these lines are very little known, not being included in Browning's published works, they may perhaps be appropriately reproduced just now:—

"Enter my palace," if a prince should say—
"Feast with the Painters! See, in bounteous row,
They range from Titian up to Angelo!"
Could we be silent at the rich survey?
A host so kindly, in as great a way
Invites to banquet, substitutes, for show,
Sound that's diviner still, and bids us know
Bach like Beethoven; are we thankless, pray?

Thanks, then, to Arthur Chappell—thanks to him
Whose every guest henceforth not idly vaunts,
"Sense has received the utmost Nature grants,
My cup is filled with rapture to the brim,
When, night by night—ah, memory, how it haunts!
Music was poured by perfect ministrants,
By Hallé, Schumann, Piatti, Joachim."

Of the great artists named Joachim alone survives to-day, and now Mr. Chappell has gone too, while the "Pops" are at an end and St. James's Hall is marked for destruction. *Sic transit.*

LETTERS ON BOOKS.

MY DEAR MR. WYNDHAM,—Mr. Samuel M. Hussey's "Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent" (1) is over-consciously amusing and unconsciously instructive. It gives you an *advocatus diaboli* view of Ireland, while vehemently protesting a passionate love for its people. "It's the proudest boast of my life," says Mr. Hussey, "that I'm an Irishman, and the compliment which I have most appreciated in my time was being called 'the poor man's friend,' for I love Paddy dearly." That he should love such a cowardly, corrupt, ungrateful and murderous people is creditable rather to his Christianity than to his common sense. He endorses Judge Keogh's judgment of his fellow-countrymen: "Sir, I have the most implicit confidence in the invincible cowardice of my fellow-countrymen." He assures you that "Of course an Irishman would take a bribe one way and calmly vote another;" and that, "While one-half of the sons of farmers in Ireland have been or are members of the Irish Constabulary, a large proportion of the other, at least in the eighties, made up the bulk of the ignoble army of moonlighters, cattle maimers, and cowardly assassins crouching behind stone walls to shoot at an unsuspected victim in the opening." By the way, Mr. Hussey, with Pigott, classes Parnell with the moonlighters. "In all moonlighting affrays no one scoundrel ever became personally conspicuous as leader, and all the wisest leaders, such as Stephens, Tynan, and Parnell, shrouded their movements in mystery." Of the base ingratitude of the Irish Mr. Hussey gives an amazing instance: "To show you how short-lived Irish gratitude is, ponder over this: When Mr. Daniel O'Connell, son of the great Dan, stood for West Kerry as an Unionist, he was warned by the police officer that he could not be answerable for his life if he came into Cahirciveen." What ingratitude! To stand by the cause to which O'Connell gave his life when his apostate son forsook it! Indeed, Mr. Hussey is so eager to beat his dearly-beloved Paddy with any stick that he spoils an uncommonly good story in order to get another blow home on Paddy's skull: "Very true," he says, "is Sheridan Le Fanu's division of an Irishman's life into three parts:—The first is that in which he is plannin' and conthriving' all sorts of villainy and rascality—that is the period of youth and innocence. The second is that in which he is puttin' into practice the villainy and rascality he conthrived before—that is the prime of life and flower of manhood. The third and last period is that in which he is makin' his soul and preparin' for another world—that is the period of dotage." That would be a silly essay certainly from the pen of a grown man and notable novelist. The true version of the story, which I had from Lord Dufferin himself (who was a Sheridan) is that Sheridan Le Fanu, when a child of eight, came down late for breakfast, as usual, but even later than usual, to the scandal of his stern Puritan father, the Dean of Emly: "Sheridan, I ask you, sir, is this right?" cried his angry father, holding out a reproachful watch. "No, Pa, it's fast," replied that young gentleman; and for this flippancy he was condemned to write an essay on a subject of his own choosing, and wrote the above—not, of course, of Irishmen particularly, but of the human race at large. As the essay of a young scapegrace of eight, presented to an unco' guid father and Dean, it really is delightful. But Mr. Hussey could not resist the temptation to fling it as a stone at his fellow-countrymen. One more instance of his passionate love for "dear Paddy" I must give, before I say a word of the anecdotage of the book. "I think it was to Sir Henry Howorth that I recommended another panacea for the evils of Ireland, namely, that it would be a good plan to exchange Ireland for Holland, for the Dutch would reclaim Ireland, and the Irish would neglect the banks of Holland with the eventual result that the living Irish question would be washed away." "'Mrs. Harris,' says I, 'if I could afford to lay out all my fellow-critters for nothin', I would gladly do it—*sech is the love I bears em*,' said Mrs. Gamp." Mr. Hussey's stories suggest that there is a kind of tontine in witticisms whereby the last wit gets the credit of all the sallies of his predecessors. Certainly I heard in my boyhood many of the witticisms Mr. Hussey puts into the mouths of the latest generation of wags. However, there are many new to me, and probably legitimately fathered—especially those attributed to Judge Morris:—"There was an action brought against a veterinary surgeon for killing a man's horse. Lord Morris knew something of medicine and asked if the dose given would not have killed the devil himself. The vet., drawing himself up pompously, said, 'I never had the honour of attending that gentleman.' 'That's a pity, doctor,' replied Morris, 'for he's alive still.'" Here are two witticisms of the Dublin gods:—"'Would there were a mirror in my side,' said the heroine of the piece to her lover, 'that you could see my heart.' 'Wouldn't a pain in your stomach do as well? It's myself has wan to spare,' shouted a voice from the gods." "Lord Chancellor Brady, who was a convivial soul, was gazing at Jenny Lind through a portentously enormous *lorgnette*. 'Brady, me jewel,' shouted down one of the gods, 'I'm glad to see ye're fond of a big glass yet.'" Perhaps the most really characteristic story Mr. Hussey tells of the Irish peasantry is that of two farmers who stood security for the discounting of a bill presented by a drunken priest, who was soon after unfrocked. Next day the two farmers walked back into the bank with the money. "What's the meaning of this?" cried the manager. "Well, yere honour, we couldn't stay in the parish if we refused his riverence, though we knew it would be a bad business for us. So we got him a little hearty on the way home at his own expense, and then picked his pocket of the money, and here it is. He'll ax the congrega-

(1) "Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent." Being those of S. M. Hussey. Compiled by Home Gordon. With two portraits. (London: Duckworth & Co. 12s. 6d. net.)
(2) "Major Weir." By K. L. Montgomery. Illustrated. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 6s.)
(3) "Glencairly Castle." By Horace G. Hutchinson. (London: Smith Elder & Co. 6s.)
(4) "Traffics and Discoveries." By Rudyard Kipling. (London: Macmillan & Co. 6s.)
(5) "The Heart of the Vicar." By Hugh Tuite. (London: John Long. 6s.)

tion to make up the amount next Sunday." I confess that one of the stories that tickled me most was the Dublin detective's shadowing Mr. Hussey's wife all over Cork under the impression that she was the Fenian leader, Stephens, disguised as a woman! I do not know when I read a story that held me so breathless from start to finish as "Major Weir" (2). Every element that ever was heaped and packed into a melodramatic tale seems crowded into Miss Montgomery's novel; but the masterly handling of these sensational elements is the reverse of melodramatic. Any other contemporary novelist, I really think, would have been overwhelmed by the immense mass and distracting variety of the material employed in the structure of "Major Weir"; but it is handled by Miss Montgomery with an ease and effect that are wonderful in a second novel. If, as critics hold, a second novel is the crucial test of the staying power of an author, there is no doubt at all that Miss Montgomery has come to stay. Much of the power of this fine novel, I ought to say, is due to its style, racy, idiomatic, and vigorous, if occasionally too precious for my taste. If you like a book of sport, and good sport, too, in the disguise of a novel, I can recommend you "Glencairly Castle" (3); but the story is to the shooting and fishing as Falstaff's ha-porth of bread to an intolerable deal of sack. Mr. Rudyard Kipling stands where he did and where he has stood since he wrote "Plain Tales from the Hills." He has never advanced one inch, if he has not, indeed, occasionally retrograded. In his last book, "Traffics and Discoveries" (4), he is at his best when he is not preaching; but alas! he cannot resist blowing a Big England bugle blast under the pretence of playing a tune, whether merry or plaintive. It is no doubt a credit to the sincerity and fervour of his patriotism or imperialism, but it spoils his stories. If only he would write more of such exquisite stories as "They," and less of such tracts as "The Army of a Dream"! You think of Elia's "Dream Children" that had never been, as you read of "They," the children that had been, and were not and still are. There are often discords in Mr. Kipling's best work; but in the "Return of the Children" scene, scenery and personages—everything is in perfect tune with this idyll of the *revenants*. What shall I say of "The Heart of the Vicar" (5)? It is the vulgarest book in thought, talk, incidents, and personages I have had the misfortune to glance through for a long time.—Believe me, my dear Mr. Wyndham, ever yours very sincerely,

DESMOND O'BRIEN.

GIRLS' GOSSIP.

DEAREST AMY,—A happy New Year to you! Have you had some hundreds of cards? The nicest wishes we received were the following:—

A lyttle health, a lyttle wealth,
A lyttle house and freedom,
And at the end a lyttle friend,
And lyttle cause to need him.

and another runs:—

Remembrance for the Past,
Good wishes for the Present,
Bright hopes for the Future.

Is not that nice? It came from a very celebrated friend. A third good wish is very good indeed, as well as comprehensive:—

To wish you joy, good health, and great success,
And everything on earth that adds to happiness.

I borrow all of these, and wish them all to you!

I paid a visit to Mr. John Kirk at the Ragged School Union in John-street, Theobalds-road, and saw whole roomfuls of useful and amusing things being sent away to poor children in every part of London. There were clothes, shoes, boots, go-carts, perambulators, toys of every kind, including some from the nurseries and schoolrooms at Marlborough House. But with all these quantities of things many requests for toys have to be refused. Why do not wealthy people follow the example of the Princess of Wales, and send away the overflow of their own children's abundance for the enjoyment and benefit of the poor? It is so easy. Packages of cast-off clothing, of old boots and shoes, of picture-books, toys, balls, slates, games, bricks, and so on. The addressing of them is not difficult;—Ragged School Union, 32, John-street, Theobalds-road, London, W.C.

It does not matter how shabby the footgear may be, for a few of the poor cripples at work in a room off Farringdon-street turn them out like new. We went and saw the boys at work, and admired, indeed, the hearty energy the poor fellows put into their occupation. All are cripples, two have curvature of the spine, one is paralysed. Yet they were knocking and hammering away as busily as bees. These boys are paid by the R.S.U. from 5s. to 9s. a week, according to their earnings, and they are receiving what is of far greater value than money—viz., training in discipline, punctuality, and obedience. Their teacher, quite a young man, keeps them well up to the mark, and is in this way doing for them more than he divines.

Mr. Kirk gave me a copy of a book just published, "Sixty Years in Waifdom," which gives an account of the Ragged School Movement in English history, beginning from the day when Lord Shaftesbury made his successful speech in the House upon the condition of the nation's children. That was the beginning. Since then what a wonderful development. Barnardo's Homes, industrial schools, Board schools, technical schools, and now imminent Free Education for the masses. The book is as interesting as any novel. Do send for a copy to the publishers, Chas. Murray and Co., Ludgate-square, E.C.

One of the rooms in the grand old house in John-street (there is a magnificent Adams ceiling in the erstwhile drawing-room) is devoted to the correspondence kept up between the children of the rich and the youngsters of the ragged schools. Some of the letters come from China, India, Japan, all over the world. Each young correspondent writes to a child of her own age, and sometimes the bond develops into a lifelong kindness and goodwill. I wish I had time to tell you more about it.

Betty is joining a delightful tour got up by a lady of position, and leaving London on February 1. It is planned to last three months, and all the principal towns of interest in Italy will be visited, finishing up with the Italian lakes. One or two more ladies are wanted to complete the lucky number seven, the lady who is organising it being the eighth. With that number she is able to arrange good terms at hotels and pensions, and in that way keep expenses low. The tour will work out very moderate in price. The tours organised by Messrs. Cook and Lunn are admirable, but there are many who do not care to go so quickly over the interesting ground as is necessary with these tours. Mothers would be delighted to hear of a means of giving a daughter a charming trip under the chaperonage of a gentlewoman. Find somebody, for Betty is most anxious to have all arranged so that her thoughts may cluster round the trip as bees do round lime-blossoms. It is so nice to be able to enjoy a pleasant thing in advance.

Here is a new way of earning money, and, in my opinion, a very good one. A young lady living at Streatham, and obliged to work at home because she cannot stand the long hours, has undergone a course of training at a good milliner's, and now undertakes the renovation of hats, toques, and bonnets. She brings them smartly up to date, and has a whole crowd of letters from clients who have been pleased with results. This young lady also goes into the country and renovates any number of hats she can manage in the time, using ladies' own materials. Good idea, is it not?

REDFERN'S special offer for XMAS PRESENTS. A Russian Sable & Lace Tie for 10 gns., a Persian Lamb Stole, very elegant, for 12 gns., a Mink Muff, 6½ gns.—26, Conduit-street, W.

An acquaintance who lives near Bishop's Stortford has been telling us about the so-called Macedonian gypsies who are being personally conducted through several south-eastern English counties by an attentive escort of police. Our friend asked us if we had ever heard Louie Freear sing a song with a recurrent indignant refrain, "Blowed if father ain't begun to work," to which she gave much scornful emphasis. Equally amazed and disdainful were the aliens (neither Macedonians nor gypsies, by the way, but Germans) when asked what work they could do. "*We* don't *work*," they said, in the queerest patois. "We like to go about and do nothing. We heard that England is the best place for that." A Hertfordshire paper describes them as being very picturesque, but a "shock-headed, shackle-backed, slovenly lot, with habits approximating to those of the beasts of the field." When they are ill they put on leeches. When they are hungry they steal any food they can get. It is a primitive method, and they complain that it is not understood in England. And yet a return to their own country is the last thing they desire.

I see by a wine-merchant's circular that claret is going rapidly out of favour, and Colonel Newnham-Davis has just been telling the world that wine is not understood nowadays. Cigarette smoking has destroyed men's palates. Would it not be a strange reversal of things if we women, because we do not smoke (it is rapidly going out, you know) should become the arbiters of excellence in wines and chatter knowingly of vintages? What a revolution that would be!

The English brocades I told you of are of great beauty, and I am glad you are going to look at some samples. Those I chose for you are, I think, perfectly lovely, especially the rather Japanese design of miniature hydrangeas in pale green and gold colour or pearl grey shot with orange. Perhaps you will prefer the Marshal Niel roses with pale green foliage on pearl grey. It is certainly lovely and very soft and supple in texture. You must, before choosing, remember that brocades are either rich and imposing or exquisitely soft. One of the samples in your parcel belongs to the former category. Is it not magnificent, with its snowy cyclamens and pale gold stems on a ground of pearl-white, backed with gold? For your cousin's wedding-gown you will, I think, like the lovely white brocade scattered over with roses and wild flowers and straying ribbons, all pure white.

Alys has just had a lovely theatre bodice made of a very similar white brocade, trimmed with her beautiful old Alençon lace, and paste buttons. She has had a little sable tail introduced, and has achieved an artistic triumph.

I have also asked Liberty and Co. to include in their samples of brocade some patterns of their soft satins, now so much worn, and their brocaded silk crêpes. The colours are so tempting that you will probably begin by wanting about twenty dress lengths of both materials.

In Lady Broome's interesting and amusing "Colonial Memories" (published by Smith, Elder, and Co.) she says that when the babies were christened in the Island of Rodriguez, a black relative of the infant's remarked, when it cried: "C'est peut-être Monsieur le Diable qui s'en va?" The superfluously polite way in which the native woman spoke of the enemy of man seems rather out of place. When Lady Broome was a child a gipsy fortune-teller on Cannock Chase insisted on looking at the sole of her foot, and pronounced that it would wander up and down the earth, north and south, east and west. How copiously this prophecy was verified you must read in the book itself. In the chapters on Trinidad a unique table decoration is described, an apparently endless procession of ants climbing up one table leg, each appropriating a bit of scarlet flower from the table, flinging it across his shoulder, and carrying it off down another leg of the table.

"Tom! you've been cooking something," I said when, calling one afternoon last week at his office, I noticed that he was turning down his turned-back cuffs and perceived a delicious smell. "Yes," he said with great enjoyment, "*something good*." You know the way he says it, with a long-drawn-outness that makes you quite hungry in a moment. "Let me taste," I begged. "You can't," said Tom. "It's only preparatory, a stuffing for a steak that I'm going to do for supper," and he took me into his absolutely perfect little kitchen, all rigged up by himself, and showed me his Ardent cooker, with three angular granite stewpans, fitting into each other on the top, and making a circle. I begged him to tell me what on earth the stuffing was made of that it smelt so very tempting. He was a little vague, and merely dropped out some words such as kidneys, mushrooms, truffles, chopped, mixed, string, marrow, and then he faded off into mere mumbling. So that I knew that he did not mean me to have the recipe. But I shall try chopping all those nice things and stuffing a steak with them and letting it roast before the fire, and will let you know the result.

Tom is never happier than when cooking. His kitchen is about 10 ft. square, and every implement that a cook could need is hung from a crossway piece of wood by a pulley that lets it down and swings it up again when done with. You will be amused to hear that he prefers a wine bottle to the ordinary rolling-pin. His reason is that it is far more easily cleaned. He is quite right, and you will also laugh when I tell you that he makes the pattern round the edge of his pies and tarts with a tortoiseshell hairpin. The association of ideas is not agreeable, but the pin in question had never been used except culinarily.

This reminds me to tell you that you must do your hair in the Grecian style, if you want to be very fashionable, though I do not quite see how you will keep your hat on when you have done it. But there is something magical about Greek coiffures, or else how could they have done their hair in those wonderful clusters before the advent of hairpins? I saw Clara the other day: she is looking very well, but I do hope she will not try to do her hair this way. It would not suit her one bit, but that is the worst of fashions—we all try to follow them whether they suit us or not.

Caroline has made some wonderful ornaments with the help of cigar labels, so there is a new occupation for us poor, idle women in the long winter evenings. A gold-fish bowl, or any other shaped receptacle in plain glass will do, and then the labels are gummed on on the inside so as to quite cover the surface. Then their own backs are painted to hide what they really are, and, lo! there is the effect of exquisite glowing hues, such as might have come from dusky Fez or some strange Persian city. Cigar labels are the last things you would guess it to be made of, until you examined it closely. You had better begin to collect from Uncle Jack. They do not want much arranging, though the handsomest should go in the middle.

When writing to Aimée last I asked her to tell me what Christmas is like at Johannesburg. She replies:—

Oh, Kaffirs have been firm or booming for two months past. Christmas this year will be a bright season in Johannesburg. I believe the New Year is to give us all improving times, and in any case we are confident with better cause than we have had since the war. Last Christmas such gaiety as then was, was forced, for the year opened under gathering and very ominous clouds. Christmas is midsummer in the Transvaal, you know, and the Rand has a climate that many an old traveller has declared to be the best in the world.

How do we spend Christmas? Well, we buy Christmas cards and feverishly despatch them by the Christmas mail for "Home" early in December; then up to Christmas Eve one buys toys for all the children one knows or whose parents one likes; when that day comes you hire a victoria (the cab and hansom of Johannesburg) and leave your gifts at the different houses of your friends. You are sure to be dining out on Christmas Eve, and after the party you turn in at midnight to mass in the Roman Catholic church in Kerk Street. It is crammed, and there is brilliance and music, and reverence in the minds of the worshippers, as one sees in the faces of all kinds. For this is a far-off country! You walk home blinking lazily under the gleaming bright firmament of the Southern Cross. Service at the Church of England on Christmas morning is attended by Lord Milner and his suite.

and the world and his wife, with the sons and daughters who are not at school in England, and others, make a packed congregation. "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," bursts in volume out through the open doors and windows of the too barnlike building, into the sun-filled and now quiet streets.

The Christmas dinner following church is tradition's own, and every house includes guests. "Park Town" dines in the evening, and may take a picnic luncheon out on the hills that are round about Johannesburg, but by preference the fashionable suburb sits at home all afternoon with open doors, and receives its friends. All day you are meeting and congratulating friends, for the place is not scattered, and on the morrow (Boxing Day) there is a ball at the Wanderers' Club, to follow the Race Meeting at Turffontein. Demands of public charities and hospitable private hostesses are innumerable. Rich and poor, vulgar and gentle, even official British society is gay and glad, for the season is the Britisher's own festival as much in an outland as at home, and *the market is firm!!*

Here is a seasonable recipe for you. Try this turkey à la St. Maurice:—

Have a plump hen turkey duly cleansed and trussed. Pound 4 oz. of scraped veal until it is soft, add 4 oz. of scraped fat bacon, 4 oz. of cold, braised sweetbread, 4 oz. of butter, and a tablespoonful of very thick white sauce. Pound the ingredients well together, add two whole eggs and a yolk, season with salt and pepper, and rub it through a coarse wire sieve. Mix in two tablespoonfuls of chopped truffle and a spoonful of chopped red tongue, and stuff all into the breast of the turkey. Cover the breast with slices of carrot, onion, and celery; on this tie a thick sheet of buttered paper, and then braise the bird in good stock.

Make a pint of sauce from the liquor in which the bird was braised, seasoned with salt, pepper, a squeeze of lemon juice, and a gill of cream. Remove the string and vegetables from the turkey, pour the sauce over it, and garnish it with alternate groups of cardoons and chestnuts.

To Prepare the Cardoons.—Take the white part of two heads of cardoons, cut them into pieces three inches long, and adding a tablespoonful of vinegar; blanch them in salted water for 15 or 20 minutes. Then remove them from the fire and wash them thoroughly with cold water; after which put them on to braise for two hours with good stock, a little salt, a squeeze of lemon juice, and a good-sized piece of butter; cover them with buttered paper, and replace the lid. When they are done remove the paper and reduce the stock to demi-glaze.

To Braise Chestnuts.—Remove the outer shell and the inner skin of about twenty-five large chestnuts, which is done after boiling them ten minutes in salted water. Then stew them in good stock until they are the consistency of a mealy potato, after which reduce the liquor to demi-glaze

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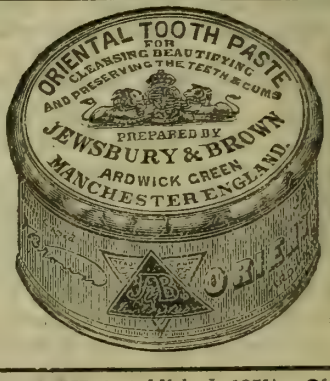

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